

MINUTES

F.F.A. NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 30 - May 4, 1937

Friday, April 30th

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Joe Black, President, with the following Board members in attendance: Julian Pierce, first Vice-President; Clark Nicholson, second Vice-President; J. Phelon Malouf, third Vice-President; Roy Martin, fourth Vice-President; Elmo Johnson, Student Secretary; J. A. Linke, Adviser; H. C. Groseclose, Treasurer; W. A. Ross, Executive Secretary.

The following schedule was discussed and then adopted by unanimous action:

Friday, April 30

8:30 a.m. Assemble and meet staff members  
8:45 a.m. First session  
12:00 Noon Lunch (Interior Cafeteria)  
1:00 p.m. Second session  
8:00 p.m. Visit Library of Congress

Saturday, May 1

8:30 a.m. Third session  
12:00 Noon Lunch (Tally-Ho)  
1:00 p.m. Fourth session

Sunday, May 2

11:00 a.m. Attend Old Christ Church, Alexandria, Va.  
Lunch (George Mason Hotel, Alexandria)  
Visit Arlington, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mt. Vernon, and other points of interest.

Monday, May 3

8:30 a.m. Fifth session  
12:00 Noon Lunch (Interior Cafeteria)  
1:00 p.m. Sixth session  
4:30 p.m. Visit Army Band headquarters and meet officials

Tuesday, May 4

8:30 a.m. Seventh session  
12:00 Noon Lunch (Interior Cafeteria)  
1:00 p.m. Eighth session

Wednesday, May 5

8:30 a.m. Ninth session  
1:00 p.m. Sight seeing - Capital, Smithsonian  
Institute, Congress, Zoo, etc.

Opinion was expressed that the French-Bray Printing Company should have an official representative at the Tenth Convention with a complete supply of F.F.A. printed materials for display and sale.

The Executive Secretary was instructed to issue a service letter on "Thrift" and another on "Chapter Libraries". It was the sense of the meeting that these items were not receiving sufficient consideration by the local chapters.

Pest eradication and conservation were discussed. It was brought out that some question had been raised as to what extent the F.F.A. should engage in organized pest eradication since in some instances this had become a destructive sport and thereby trespassed to some degree upon conservation activities. The Board felt that due consideration be given to this matter before including the item of pest eradication in the 1937-38 National Program of Work. An effort will be made to have informed speakers on this subject to appear on the program of the Tenth National Convention.

There was some discussion on familiarizing the local chapter officers and members with the F.F.A. organization. It was decided that the local chapters assume the responsibility of keeping their members informed of the organization's purposes and activities.

Requests by several southern States for national officers to attend State conventions was discussed. It was decided that Julian Pierce, Roy Martin, and Elmo Johnson divide these visits and cover as many States as advisable. The Executive Secretary exhibited a chart showing the extent to which the States had been serviced thus far.

Saturday, May 1

By unanimous consent Mr. Ross, Mr. Linke, Mr. Groseclose, and Bill Shaffer were designated to act as a committee to work with the L. G. Balfour Company in preparing the design for a past national officer's pin to be presented to past and present national F.F.A. officers at the time of the Tenth Convention.

The matter of revising the National F.F.A. Constitution received considerable attention and was discussed at length by the members of the Board and members of the Staff of the Agricultural Education Service. By unanimous vote it was decided that the word "male" be included in the "active membership" section and at any other appropriate or necessary places in the entire proposed revision of the Constitution. It was the sense of the meeting that the following, or similar provision, be made in the by-laws:

In case any commonwealth's constitution will not allow discrimination between the sexes in secondary school organizations, exception will be made when the State F.F.A. Association involved furnishes the national organization with a written and signed opinion of the Attorney General to the effect that such a condition exists in said constitution, providing the activities of female members be limited to the specific State concerned and that no national dues be collected from said female members.

Moved and seconded that the financial requirements for the respective degrees in the revised constitution remain as they are at present. Motion lost. Motion made and seconded that the requirements be \$50, \$250, \$500, and \$1000 respectively for the Future Farmer, State Farmer, "X" Farmer, and American Farmer degrees. Motion amended and carried to require \$25 for Future Farmer degree. Motion carried as amended.

Moved, seconded, and carried that a member be in the upper half of his class in scholarship to qualify for the State Farmer and "X" Farmer degrees.

Moved, seconded, and carried that a maximum of three conventions be allowed a member after graduation from or leaving high school in connection with applications for the American Farmer degree.

Sunday, May 2

The members of the Board attended services in Old Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, at 11 a.m., where they occupied George Washington's pew. The afternoon was spent sightseeing in and near Washington. While at Mt. Vernon an F.F.A. wreath was placed at the tomb of Washington.

In order to meet certain difficulties encountered in having the present national F.F.A. emblem trade marked, the Board felt that the arrows, shield, and olive branch could be replaced by some agricultural design which would be equally suitable. The suggestion of sheaves of grain met with favorable reaction. It was pointed out that possibly certain alterations in the eagle would be required. The Executive Secretary was instructed to investigate further this matter and report to the Board.

The Board went on record favoring that State dues be raised sufficiently to the point that a broader and more inclusive program of work can be conducted.

The matter of conferring the honorary American Farmer degree upon Mr. D. J. Howard of Virginia for the Association Award of 1935-36 was discussed. It was decided that this matter be referred to the delegates at the forthcoming convention without recommendation.

The Board recommended that the treasurer shift enough of the national funds to some bank other than the one now used in order that all F.F.A. money will be adequately covered by the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Motion made, seconded, and carried that the Executive Secretary be given the privilege of securing legal counsel on F.F.A. matters when and as necessary. Such service to be allowed from the national treasury.

The Board recommended that the music to "On Wisconsin" be removed from the Manual immediately.

The Board felt that the matter of a "Creed Book" as proposed by Mr. J. W. Brimm of Tennessee was not a matter for the national organization to act upon but that it might prove to be a good idea for local chapters and individual members.

The "official year" covered by the national Chapter Contest was designated as from September 1 to August 30.

Due to some dissension on the present scoring system for the public speaking contest Mr. Ross was designated to determine what the proposed changes would be.

The matter of formulating a score card for the State Association Award was referred to the National Advisory Council.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Board go on record as being hesitant concerning the proposition submitted by Swift and Company for trips for F.F.A. members. Mr. Ross was designated to discuss the matter with staff members and final disposal to be based upon their decision. It was the sense of the meeting that if such a trip were made that invitations be extended to every State and not merely a select few.\*

The Board favored the new F.F.A. song books retailing at 25¢ for single copies with a sliding scale down to 20¢ on larger quantities.

Action on the Activity Guide was deferred pending further accomplishment and facts relative to publication.

In general, the Board did not favor distribution of the Chapter Directory to commercial concerns.

The Board referred action on a "radio aids" book to the next Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer was authorized to send letters to all States urging prompt payment of dues.

Monday, May 3

The matter of revising the constitution claimed the attention of the Board for the entire day. (Copy of constitution as proposed is included at the end of these minutes).

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 4 - 5

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Board go on record opposing any connection of the F.F.A. whatsoever with the forthcoming American Youth Congress.

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\* See later action

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Board favor the continuance of holding the national F.F.A. conventions in Kansas City.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Board go on record as favoring the Danforth Camp and granting permission for any Board member to attend. Joe Black and Stanley Tschantz were indicated as most likely to attend.

Moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Ross and Mr. Linke be given authority to further investigate "Town Planning" and submit recommendations to the Board at Kansas City.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Board go on record as not favoring any connection with a Fire Insurance Company operated by or through the F.F.A.

It was the sense of the meeting that no further provision through the national office be made for phonograph records at this time.

By unanimous action the Board went on record as opposing the matter of financially aiding stricken members in the flood areas, believing that this matter should be handled by the respective States. The Board went on record as favoring a survey of loss in farm livestock.

It was decided that the Board members should be in Kansas City ready to hold their first meeting on the morning of Wednesday, October 13, 1937.

The Board authorized Mr. Ross to dispose of Tenth Convention banquet contributions as was deemed advisable.

It was decided that all former national F.F.A. officers be reimbursed for one-half of the railroad fare from their respective State capitals in attending the Tenth Convention. (The basis will be the same as used in delegate reimbursement). A maximum of \$900 was set aside for this item.

It was the sense of the meeting that no action be taken with regard to F.F.A. participation in the Fisher Body Model contest.

Moved, seconded, and carried that a plaque be placed in the Pompeian Room of the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City commemorating the founding of the F.F.A. there and that dedicatory exercises be included as a feature of the Tenth Convention Celebration.

The Board went on record in favor of having only three official bands at the Tenth Convention Celebration. The bands selected and the approximate national appropriations were:

Texas .....	\$ 500
Missouri ...	150
Utah .....	850

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Executive Secretary investigate the matter of having a stenographic record of the forthcoming convention sessions made and that he be empowered to act as he sees fit regarding this item.

Moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Ross arrange plans, if possible, to include one engagement for the Solomon, Kansas, F.F.A. orchestra to play during the convention.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the celebration and commemoration features of the forthcoming convention be officially called the "Tenth Convention Celebration".

It was the opinion of the members of the Board that the F.F.A. should not secure the services of Axel Christensen or any other professional entertainer for the Tenth Convention Celebration.

It was decided that no street parade would be held in connection with the Tenth Convention Celebration.

Moved, seconded, and carried that a historical pageant of F.F.A. origin and growth be presented if it fits into the plans for vocational agriculture day.

The Board favored the plan for having each State bring one or two representative products to be placed on exhibit during the Tenth Convention.

The Board recommended that all delegates wear the official jackets if possible.

The Board decided that a National F.F.A. Leadership Training Conference could not be successfully held in connection with the Tenth Convention.

Authorization of special Tenth Convention posters for local chapters was made by the Board.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Board members that we formulate no score card for State Advisers in order that they may be considered for receiving the American Farmer Degree.

The Board favored providing a cheaper charter for local chapters where desired but recommended that charters be available in various quantities.

Relative to the signing of chapter charters and other documents sent in from the States, it was the opinion of the members of the Board that Mr. Ross sign only when the signature of "Executive Secretary" is specified. The designation of "Secretary" shall apply in all instances to the Student Secretary.

The Board recommended that efforts be made to cooperate with the N.F.A. in States where segregated racial schools exist to the end that colored students of vocational agriculture might be entitled to wear the N.F.A. emblem instead of the F.F.A. emblem.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Board act as a committee on the emblem and submit recommendations at the next convention.

Mr. Ross was designated to draw up a merchandising contract for the submission to the James River Potteries accepting the new royalty rate of 33  $\frac{1}{3}$ %.

Moved, seconded, and carried that action on the "Rising Sun" reproduction be deferred until next year and that States be notified accordingly.

Moved, seconded, and carried that certificates be provided members of bands who have officially participated at all previous and future national conventions.

\* Reconsideration of the action on Swift and Company's proposed trips was deferred until 1938.

Attention was called to the fact that the Universal Uniform Company was using some green lettering on the emblems placed on jackets. The above company was to be notified that this is not official, since the color should be blue. The Board feels that the price of the jacket is too high and should be reduced.

Moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Ross investigate the feasibility of holding the 1939 Convention in California.

It was the sense of the meeting that if, and when, a national publication is issued, the following fundamentals should be observed:

1. That the editorial policy should be in the national office.
2. That the publication should be printed through the national office.
3. That the magazine be as nearly self-sustaining as possible to start with but that provision be made for assistance from the national treasury and advertising, if possible, to arrange for and carry it.
4. That the magazine be printed and distributed outside the Department of the Interior.
5. That an editor be supplied to work from the national office, salary to be paid from F.F.A. funds.
6. That a guarantee of at least one copy to every chapter in the organization or the equal thereof be secured at the outset.
7. That the single subscription rate be set tentatively at \$1.00 per year.
8. That group subscription rates be provided so that several copies can be sent in a roll to chapters at a reduced rate (below \$1.00).
9. That the size be approximately the present size of the Farm Journal.
10. That a suitable illustrated cover be used.
11. That the approximate number of pages be 64 - 72.
12. That the sections in each issue include the following:
  - a. Feature stories
  - b. Outstanding State and chapter activities
  - c. Individual achievements
  - d. Section on national events
13. That a suitable name be selected.

Moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Ross and Mr. Linke draw up tentative plans for submission to the proper authorities and investigate the possibility of publishing such a magazine through the present national office, making a report of progress at the next convention.

Moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Ross, Mr. Linke, Bill Shaffer, and the Federal Agents finish the proposed constitution revision, and all other items left unfinished from this meeting.

The rough draft of the proposed 1937 revision of the constitution follows.