

MINUTES

F.F.A. NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Room 2347, New Interior Building
Washington, D. C. May 19-26, 1940

The Board of Trustees met during the period indicated for the primary purpose of reviewing 1940 applications for the American Farmer Degree, to plan the 13th National Convention, to dispose of regular routine business. Those present were: Ivan Kindschi, Wisconsin; Billy Bryan, Arkansas; Ervin Denisen, Minnesota; Elmer Denis, West Virginia; Edgar Spiekerman, Oregon; Kenneth Julian, Arizona; Robert Elwell, Maine; J. A. Linke, Henry Groseclose, and W. A. Ross.

President Kindschi presided at all meetings which were informal. The Regional Agents for Agricultural Education of the Agricultural Education Service of the United States Office of Education had been at work the week previous reviewing all applications for American Farmers in their respective regions. These in turn were reviewed by the members of the Board of Trustees on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the week. On Monday the members of the Board also participated in the national F.F.A. radio program.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday joint sessions were held with the F.F.A. National Advisory Council and Mr. Linke in an effort to come to an agreement on those members who were to be recommended for the American Farmer Degree in November 1940. There was considerable difference of opinion as to the eligibility and fitness of certain candidates. Lengthy discussions followed and finally the matter of completing the eligible list was left in the hands of Mr. Linke as National Adviser. It was understood that a list made up by Mr. Linke would be submitted later for reaction of both Board and Council members.

The members of the Board of Trustees were in thorough agreement on the procedure of the National Adviser informing the States as to just why certain American Farmer candidates failed to be recommended, as well as informing the States in advance of the Convention as to the candidates who would be recommended for the Degree. It was also agreed that the applications of candidates failing to be recommended should be returned to the States at an early date. 212 applications were reviewed.

It seemed to be the opinion of the members of the Board with reference to the American Farmer Degree:

1. That mistakes over \$10.00 not be allowed.
2. That the Board could not go back beyond the State Farmer Degree in checking the length of time each previous Degree was held by the candidate.

3. That in checking on leadership ability, candidate participation should be on a county, district, State, and national basis which would take it beyond the activities of the local chapter.
4. That a record should be kept of the problems encountered in passing on applications for the American Farmer Degree in order to improve the applications and the system year by year.

A tentative program for the 13th National Convention prepared by the Executive Secretary was submitted for consideration. Various items were discussed and questions asked. The general program finally agreed upon follows. It was understood that the Executive Secretary would have to make certain shifts and changes where necessary in light of new developments prior to the convention.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, THROUGH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Executive Sessions, F.F.A. National Board of Trustees
President Hotel

Saturday, November 9

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium
to
8:00 p.m.
- 8:00 a.m. - Judging calves exhibited by Vocational Agricultural Students, Maine Arena, American Royal Building
- 11:00 a.m. - Judging Swine and Sheep exhibited by Vocational Agricultural Students, Swine and Sheep Pavilion, American Royal Building
- 2:00 p.m. - Matinee Horse Show, Maine Arena, American Royal Building. Parade of vocational agricultural students' livestock.
- 5:30 p.m. - Banquet for vocational agricultural livestock exhibitors and members of vocational judging teams; the Kansas City, Kansas, Chamber of Commerce, host. Assemble at Agricultural Chautauqua Booth, ground floor, American Royal Building.

8:00 p.m. - Horse Show, Arena, American Royal Building.
 Vocational agricultural livestock exhibitors
 and members of vocational agricultural judging
 teams are guests of the American Royal. Reserved
 seat tickets given out at the Kansas City, Kansas,
 banquet.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:00 a.m. - Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium

8:00 a.m. - Executive Session, F.F.A. National Advisory
 Council, President Hotel.

10:45 a.m. - Attend church.

12:30 p.m. - Luncheon meeting of National A.V.A. Committee for
 Judging Contests, President Hotel.

2:30 p.m. - Meeting of F.F.A. State Advisers, President Hotel.

5:30 p.m. - Get-together dinner for national F.F.A. officers
 and delegates. Aztec Room, President Hotel.

6:30 p.m. - Meeting of Coaches of the Livestock, Dairy Cattle,
 Meats, and Poultry Judging teams with respective
 superintendents, President Hotel.

7:30 p.m. - Concert by Minnesota State F.F.A. Band, Arena,
 Municipal Auditorium.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

7:30 a.m. - Dairy Cattle Judging (assemble at Municipal
 to Auditorium)
 12:00 noon

7:45 a.m. - Livestock Judging, Arena of American Royal
 to Building.
 10:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. - Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium.
 to
 10:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - Opening session, 13th National F.F.A. Convention,
Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium

Opening ceremony
 Invocation
 Music or entertainment
 Report on delegate credentials
 Roll call of States and seating of delegates
 Address of welcome
 Minutes of 12th Convention
 Officers' reports -
 President
 Vice Presidents (in the order of seniority)
 Student Secretary
 Treasurer
 Executive Secretary
 Adviser
 Nominations for American Farmer Degree
 Distribution of State reports
 Appointment of constitutional committees
 Announcements

11:30 a.m. - Radio Broadcast from Convention Floor, N.B.C. Farm
and Home Hour.

1:00 p.m. - Poultry Judging Contest, Poultry Department,
American Royal Building.

1:15 p.m. - Viewing Carlot Fat and Feeder Cattle and tour of
stock yards. Assemble at Agricultural Chautauqua,
American Royal Building.

1:30 p.m. - Second Session, National F.F.A. Convention.
Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium

Call to order
 Music or entertainment
 Address
 Special reports
 Greetings from guests
 Unfinished business
 Discussion of American Farmer applications
 Election and raising of active members to
 the American Farmer Degree
 Announcements
 Closing ceremony

2:30 p.m. - Matinee Horse Show, Arena, American Royal Building.

- 3:00 p.m. - Meat Judging Contest (quality), Cudahy Packing Company, Kansas City, Kansas.
- 5:00 p.m. - Meeting of Coaches of Milk Judging Teams with respective superintendents, President Hotel.
- 7:15 p.m. - National F.F.A. Public Speaking Contest, preceded by Concert by the Minnesota F.F.A. Band, Arena of the Municipal Auditorium.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE - F.F.A. DAY

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium
to
6:00 p.m.
- 9:00 a.m. - Third Session, National F.F.A. Convention, Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium
Opening ceremony
Music or entertainment
Address
Announcements
Appointment of Special Committees
Special Reports (continued)
Unfinished business (continued)
- 9:30 a.m. - Milk Judging Contest, Chapman Dairy, 1207 Locust Street.
- 10:00 a.m. - Meat Judging Contest (identification), American Royal Building.
- 11:00 a.m. - Radio Broadcast, N.B.C. Farm and Home Hour.
- 1:00 p.m. - Assemble for Arena Parade.
F.F.A. bands, national officers, delegates, American Farmers, and public speakers assemble at Municipal Auditorium. All vocational judging teams assemble at Chautauqua Booth, ground floor, American Royal Building.
- 1:45 p.m. - Parade in Arena of American Royal, led by Minnesota and Texas F.F.A. Bands.
- 2:00 p.m. - Presentation of Star Farmer Awards (Broadcast).

- 2:30 p.m. - Attend American Royal Matinee Horse Show.
"Official Family" guests of American Royal.
- 7:15 p.m. - Special F.F.A. Program. Arena Municipal Auditorium.
Minnesota and Texas Bands. Announcement of Chapter
and State Association winners; conferring of Honorary
American Farmer Degrees; presentation of prizes,
awards, and certificates of merit.
Special music, stunts, and entertainment by F.F.A.
members.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration, Grand Foyer, Municipal Auditorium
to
6:00 p.m.
- 9:00 a.m. - Fourth Session, National F.F.A. Convention,
Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium
- Opening ceremony
Music or entertainment
Address
New business
- 11:30 a.m. - Radio Broadcast, N.B.C. Farm and Home Hour.
- 1:30 p.m. - Fifth Session, National F.F.A. Convention,
Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium
- Call to order
Music or entertainment
New business (continued)
Committee work
Closing ceremony
- 2:30 p.m. - Matinee Horse Show, Arena, American Royal Building.
- 6:00 p.m. - Annual Vocational Agricultural Banquet, Arena of
the Municipal Auditorium. Guests of Kansas City,
Missouri, Chamber of Commerce. (Tickets obtained
at time of registration)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration, American Royal Building, Wyoming
to
Street entrance.
6:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - Sixth Session, National F.F.A. Convention,
Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium

Opening ceremony
Music or entertainment
Committee reports

1:30 p.m. - Closing Session, National F.F.A. Convention,
Exhibition Hall, Municipal Auditorium

Call to order
New business (continued)
Address by retiring president
Election of officers
Signing of scroll by new officers
Greetings by incoming officers
Presentation of past officer pins and
certificates
Closing ceremony and convention adjournment

4:30 p.m. - Joint Executive Session 1939-40 and 1940-41
F.F.A. National Board of Trustees. (Place to
be announced).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:00 a.m. - Registration, American Royal Building, Wyoming
to
Street entrance.

6:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. - Auction sale of lambs exhibited by Vocational
Agricultural Students, American Royal Annex
No. 1.

10:00 a.m. - Auction sale of fat calves exhibited by Voca-
tional Agricultural Students, American Royal
Sales Pavilion, North of American Royal Annex
No. 1.

The following detailed suggestions were made by various
members of the Board regarding the 1940 national convention program:

1. That we secure, if possible, as speakers the National
Commander of the American Legion, a representative of
the National Education Association, a representative
of the Audubon Society, and the State Superintendent
of Public Instruction in Wisconsin.

2. That we secure magician William Garrison of West Virginia for a performance either Tuesday or Wednesday night of convention week.
3. That we show the "Green Hand" film on Tuesday night.
4. That the Texas band be allowed \$100.00 for expenses.
5. That an attempt be made to have newsreel companies cover the convention.
6. That the national organization of F.F.A. bear the expense of having 500 premium lists printed for the "National Livestock Show and Sale for Students of Vocational Agriculture" to be held in conjunction with the convention.

Considerable time was taken up with each officer reporting on F.F.A. conditions as he had observed them from recent visits to States. From this discussion the following list of organization problems was compiled as a basis for future improvement:

1. More members and advisers need to know more about F.F.A.
2. The public still needs to know more about F.F.A.
3. Closer contact is needed between the various units of organization - local, district, area, federation, State, Region, and the national organization.
4. More activities, better organized, as needed on a district and federation basis.
5. There is still some lack of enthusiasm both on the part of boys and advisers.
6. Not enough time is allowed for State Conventions.
7. There is a general lack of member participation at State Conventions.
8. Officers are not as carefully selected as they should be.
9. Time at State Conventions is not well utilized.
10. Delegates are not well informed prior to State Conventions.

11. Not enough systematic leadership training in the States.
12. Not enough correlation between chapter, district, State Association, and the national organization.
13. Contests are not well enough organized in chapters and States.
14. Not enough contests in some States and too many in others.
15. There is a need for fuller utilization of a national officer's time when at conventions.
16. There is a need for more officer travel in all units of the F.F.A.
17. There is a need for national officer news articles for State publications.
18. There is a need for more national officer travel with a better distribution of his time.
19. A test for State Farmer Degree is needed.
20. Unofficial merchandise is a real problem.
21. Some States are not inviting national officers to assist them.
22. Some States do not have enough dues to operate a good program.
23. There is a need for F.F.A. paraphernalia in many local chapters.

A suggested list of books suitable for F.F.A. chapter libraries was reviewed by the group. This compilation had been in the making over a period of years and appeared to contain an excellent selection of reading material for members. It was explained that the list was the result of cooperation between librarians, State advisers, book concerns, and members of the F.F.A. It was agreed that the list should be printed in the name of the Board of Trustees and that the expense be borne from the national treasury. It was suggested that some sort of statement to encourage chapters to build libraries be included.

A revision of the official Manual was presented by the Executive Secretary. Considerable time was taken with the ceremonies to be included in this revision as well as other proposed changes which were based on experience over a period from 1933 to 1940. It was explained that suggestions had been solicited from all States and that a list of desirable changes had been kept by the Executive Secretary year by year from the beginning of the organization. The proposed form and content of the new Manual was accepted with certain minor alterations here and there throughout the manuscript. The Executive Secretary was directed to proceed with the Manual revision and have it in printed form as soon as possible.

A new scorecard for the 1940 State Association awards was developed, and agreed upon. It is as follows:

- I - Organization 100 points
- II - Growth, Membership, Advancement,
and Status 100 points
- III - Participation in the National
Program of Work 500 points
- IV - Savings and Investments 150 points
- V - Collegiate Chapters 100 points
- VI - General 50 points

The rules for the Chapter Contest were reviewed and it was agreed that the scoring procedure for both the State Association Award and the Chapter Contest should be similar. A wording for the plates on the plaques to be awarded was developed and turned over to the Executive Secretary.

Representatives of the Virginia Conservation Commission were interviewed and what appeared to be satisfactory preliminary plans for taking over Washington's Old Grist Mill were developed. The details were left to the National Adviser, Executive Secretary, and members of the Agricultural Education Staff of the United States Office of Education.

The development of the National F.F.A. Camp in general was discussed. It was pointed out that the Camp could not be ready for occupancy during the summer of 1940. It was agreed that a preliminary sketch of proposed camp development be prepared for presentation at the 1940 national convention.

Attention was called to the new national constitution in printed form which had been distributed to States several months previous. Two suggestions from States regarding needed changes were read but all members of the Board felt that it would be unwise to make any changes in the national F.F.A. constitution at the 1940 convention. This included any proposed changes in the date for accepting American Farmer applications.

The matter of replacing American Farmer and other certificates was discussed and it was the sense of the meeting that a charge should be made for such service in the future.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that certain States had requested consideration of delegate representation at the national convention on the basis of membership rather than two delegates from each State. Members of the Board went on record as being unalterably opposed to such a move.

It was agreed that no new business should come up before the 1940 convention directly from the floor but that all proposals from States through delegates would have to be reviewed by the National Board of Trustees. This was thought advisable in order to prevent certain hasty and ill-advised action as has been taken at previous conventions, especially in the closing hours of the convention.

Attention was called to the fact that certain States had suggested that the number of American Farmer Degrees per State be increased. The members of the Board went on record as being unalterably opposed to such a move.

The Executive Secretary called attention to the fact that some of the officers' expense accounts were not being filed in the best form. He stated that there must be some misunderstanding about the procedure as explained in the January meeting. Time was taken therefore to check over accounts with each individual boy officer and the following guides were set down for further reference:

1. Put down each reimbursable item as you spend the money.
2. Itemize your accounts day by day and total the expense by days.
3. Check each expense book over carefully for mistakes before sending it in and enter items so they can be easily understood.

4. Explain briefly the reason for any unusual or very expensive item.
5. Return all expense books to the Executive Secretary promptly after each trip made.
6. Be sure to include on the outside cover of the little expense book, your name, dates covered by the trip, and the States into which the trip extended.
7. Always state the amount of travel money left on hand when sending in expense books.

It was agreed that the policy should be changed on boy officer expense accounts dealing with cleaning and pressing suits and that each officer in the future be allowed one cleaning and pressing and one other pressing, if necessary, per week while on the road.

The officers voted to have Mr. Ross send to Mrs. Kenneth Julian, Route 1, Box 204, Chandler, Arizona, a set of F.F.A. dishes at the expense of the national organization.

The meeting was brought to a close about 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 25.



W. A. Ross
National Executive Secretary

The minutes were compiled from the notes kept by Kenneth Julian, Student Secretary.