

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF STUDENT OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Kansas City, Missouri
October 8-9, 1955

October 8, 1955

The meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors of the FFA was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, October 8, 1955, in Room 341 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Those present included:

1. Board of Directors -- Mr. John W. Buntin, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Carson City, Nevada; Mr. H. E. Wood, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Tallahassee, Florida; Mr. Warren G. Weiler, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Columbus, Ohio; Mr. H. M. McDonald, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Baltimore, Maryland; Mr. E. J. Johnson; Mr. H. N. Hunsicker; Mr. R. E. Naugher; and Dr. A. W. Tenney, all of the Office of Education, Washington, D. C. Dr. D. J. Howard, National Treasurer of the Future Farmers of America, Richmond, Virginia; and Mr. H. B. Swanson, of the Office of Education, were also present.

2. Board of Student Officers -- William D. Gunter, Jr., National FFA President; Jay Wright, Pacific Vice President; Robert H. Futrelle, Southern Vice President; Lowell Gisselbeck, Central Vice President; Charles W. Anken, North Atlantic Vice President; and L. Philip Brouillette, Student Secretary.

IT WAS MOVED BY Philip Brouillette, seconded by Lowell Gisselbeck and carried, that the reading of the Minutes of the July meeting be dispensed with and that the minutes be accepted as mimeographed and previously distributed. This motion was approved by the Board of Directors without objection.

The chairman then called for any items of business which might need to be presented for consideration by the two Boards on matters submitted by the States. Mr. Weiler brought up the problem with which his State has been confronted in securing housing accommodations in Kansas City for their State delegation. He stated that when they write to the hotels for reservations, they are referred to the Convention Bureau. When they write to the Convention Bureau, they receive no acknowledgment of any kind. This, very naturally, leaves them in doubt as to whether or not their boys will be properly housed when they arrive in Kansas City. Dr. Spanton promised that he would discuss this matter with the Manager of the Convention Bureau before leaving Kansas City, in the hope that this situation will be corrected next year.

Mr. Wood announced that the Honorable Nathan Mayo, Commissioner of Agriculture, Tallahassee, Florida, who had been granted the Honorary American Farmer Degree this year, would be unable to come to Kansas City to receive the Degree because of the serious illness of his wife. Mr. Wood requested, therefore, that Mr. Mayo be granted the Degree in absentia.

It was also pointed out that Mr. A. L. Teachey, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in North Carolina, who was to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree this year, would be unable to attend the convention due to convalescence from an operation; that Mr. Ross Edward Smith, of Monkton, Maryland (father of the North Atlantic Regional Star American Farmer) had suffered a heart attack and would be unable to attend the convention; and that Mr. George H. Futrelle, father of Robert Futrelle, would not be in attendance because of a recent operation.

IT WAS MOVED BY JAY WRIGHT, seconded by Philip Brouillette and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the Honorary American Farmer Degree be conferred in absentia upon the Honorable Nathan Mayo, Mr. A. L. Teachey, Mr. Ross Edward Smith, and Mr. George Futrelle because of illness. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Mr. Weiler suggested that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors of the FFA be sent to Head Teacher Trainers throughout the United States -- as well as to the Head State Supervisors of Agricultural Education. He expressed the belief that the teacher training departments are interested in action taken by these Boards and that they would appreciate receiving copies of the Minutes. It was agreed that this would be done.

Mr. Wood stated that, in his opinion, all four Regions should be represented in the pictures appearing on the official calendar. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that considerable difficulty has been encountered in securing suitable photographs for the calendar. Many of the photos which are sent in are not acceptable -- either because of the subject, or the quality of the photography. The States are paid \$50.00 for each picture selected for use in the calendar. Mr. Weiler suggested that a mimeographed note be sent to the States, giving them all the necessary information in connection with submitting photographs for the calendar. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dr. Spanton then called for a report on the recommendation which the Board of Student Officers will make to the delegates assembled in National Convention in connection with the proposed amendment to the National FFA Constitution, which was submitted by the South Carolina Association of FFA. The amendment reads as follows:

Amend Article XI, Section B, of the Constitution, by inserting "and one additional delegate for each 5,000 active members or major fraction thereof, over the first 5,000 members" in line 4 after "convention". The rest of Section B would remain the same.

After considerable discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY JAY WRIGHT, seconded by Lowell Gisselbeck and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegate body that the Proposed Amendment to the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the South Carolina Association of FFA, be rejected. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, and seconded by Mr. Bunten, that

the Board of Directors approve the action taken by the Board of Student Officers, namely, that the Proposed Amendment to Article XI, Section B, be rejected. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Bunten again pointed out that he had polled the States in the Pacific Region on this proposed amendment, and most of the States were not in favor of adding to the delegate body of the National Convention. Mr. Naugher stated that he would be in favor of the proposed amendment, if and when Public Law 740 is amended so as to provide more State representatives on the Board of Directors. The motion, as made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Bunten, carried.

The next matter for consideration was the proposed amendment to Article VIII of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Florida Association, which would add the "Office of Chaplain". This proposed amendment also included suggested ceremonies in which the Chaplain might participate, as well as a Symbol for the Station of Chaplain -- it being the "Book of Life" (the Holy Bible opened before a Cross). In the discussion which followed, some doubt was expressed as to the constitutionality of such an amendment -- in view of previous rulings made by the Supreme Court on the question of conducting religious periods, or classes, in the public schools. Mr. Bunten stated that the Nevada State Attorney General has ruled against the use of any school busses or buildings for religious instruction. Dr. Howard stated that the Attorney General in the Commonwealth of Virginia has issued a somewhat similar ruling -- namely, that the public schools in Virginia can assume no responsibility whatsoever for religious instruction of any kind. Jay Wright pointed out that members of the FFA represent every denomination and faith. Some might not agree with the proposed ceremonies and symbol of the Station of Chaplain. He suggested that perhaps it might be worked out on a Chapter level, but did not feel that the Office of Chaplain should be added on a State or National level. Philip Brouillette concurred in this opinion. Bill Gunter thought perhaps this was a matter which should be decided by each State. Mr. Weiler suggested that somewhere in the ritual, there should be some mention made of "God".

After rather complete discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY LOWELL GISSELBECK seconded by Charles Anken and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegate body that the Proposed Amendment to the National FFA Constitution, as submitted by the Florida Association of FFA, be rejected. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be approved by the Board of Directors.

The members of the two Boards next reviewed the Revised Statement of "Suggested Official Policies Regarding the Use and Authorization for Use of the Name and Emblem of the FFA". It was pointed out by the Chairman that these policies have already been approved by both Boards, but they must now be presented to the delegate body for action. Copies have been mailed to the Head State Supervisors of Agricultural Education and FFA Executive Secretaries for their study and recommendations to the convention delegates.

The next item to come before the two Boards was a review of the Criteria and Scoring System for Selecting Vocational Agriculture Teachers for the Honorary American Farmer Degree. By way of explanation, the Chairman pointed out that the National Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors on January 29, 1954, approved certain Criteria and a Scoring System for this purpose, which was used in 1954 and 1955. The Boards, however, recommended at that time that this Criteria be discussed at the Regional Conferences for possible further improvement. Since then, several suggestions have been made to improve the present score card. Copies of a revised score card, incorporating these suggestions for Criteria and points, were distributed to the members of the two Boards for their consideration. After considerable discussion, the following Criteria was agreed upon by both Boards:

Criteria For Selecting Teachers Of Vocational Agriculture
To Receive The
Honorary American Farmer Degree

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
* 1. For each Star Farmer of America	125
* 2. For each Regional Star American Farmer placing second, third or fourth nationally	100
* 3. For each American Farmer	90
* 4. For each Star State Farmer	40
* 5. For each State Farmer	20
* 6. For each American Farmer established in farming	90
* 7. For each State Farmer established in farming	30
* 8. For each National FFA Officer	90
* 9. For each official State FFA officer	20
*10. For each National first place winner of FFA Foundation Award (Farm Electrification, Farm Mechanics, Farm Safety, Dairy Farming, Soil & Water Management)	75
*11. For each Regional winner of FFA Foundation Award placing second, third or fourth nationally (Farm Electrification, Farm Mechanics, Farm Safety, Dairy Farming, Soil & Water Management)	60
*12. For each first place State winner of National FFA Foundation Award (Farm Electrification, Farm Mechanics, Farm Safety, Dairy Farming, Soil & Water Management)	20
13. For each year as advisor of chapter winning Gold Emblem in National Chapter Contest since January, 1954	100
14. For each year as advisor of chapter winning Silver Emblem in National Chapter Contest	60
15. For each year as advisor of chapter winning Bronze Emblem in National Chapter Contest	30
16. For each year as winner of superior award or similar top award in State FFA Chapter Contest	20

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<u>Criteria (Continued)</u>	<u>Points</u>
17. For each speaker winning National FFA Public Speaking Contest at Kansas City	75
18. For each speaker participating in National FFA Public Speaking Contest at Kansas City, and placing second, third, fourth or fifth	60
19. For each State winner in official National FFA Public Speaking Contest	20
20. For each student on winning team of Gold Emblem Award in National Judging Contest since 1947	20
21. For each student on winning team of Silver Emblem Award in National Judging Contest since 1947	10
22. For each student on winning team of Bronze Emblem Award in National Judging Contest since 1947	5
23. For each team winning Gold Emblem or first place in State Judging Contest	10
24. For serving as an officer in NVATA, except president who receives the degree at present	40
25. For serving as an officer in State VATA	10
26. For each year on (FFA or Vo-Ag) State Advisory Council	10
27. For each year of service as Teacher of Vocational Agriculture	10
28. For each student participating in National FFA Band or Chorus	15
29. For attendance at a National FFA Convention	10

* NOTE: When considering the first twelve items where more than one teacher helped to develop the award winner or officer, each teacher should claim points in proportion to the number of years he served the Future Farmer, as compared to the number of years the Future Farmer was served by other teachers.

IT WAS MOVED BY PHILIP BROUILLETTE, seconded by Lowell Gisselbeck and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the above "Criteria For Selecting Teachers Of Vocational Agriculture To Receive The Honorary American Farmer Degree" be approved. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. McDONALD, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained,

Mr. Farrar was called into the meeting to present further information on plans for a retirement program for FFA employees, particularly as regards costs of the program, as requested at the July meeting. Copies of the proposal made by the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York were distributed to the Officers and Board Members, and a discussion of the proposal followed. Essentially, the plan provided life insurance for all

employees who had been working for the organization one year or longer, with funding of retirement to begin at age 30 after three years service. Retirement, at age 65, including expected Social Security retirement, would be approximately one-half salary, except that those employees who had worked for the FFA less than 35 years, at age 65 would have deducted from their FFA retirement 1/35th for each year less than 35 they served. Employee contributions are set on a schedule which varies with the amount of retirement expected, and the employee's age.

The cost of the program was estimated at \$580 per month, with employees contributing \$195, and the organization \$385. The net cost, monthly, to the National Office budget would be \$92.90; to the Magazine, \$118.98, and to the FFA Supply Service, \$173.12. These costs would vary from year to year, depending upon the number of employees covered, the amount of refunds recovered from employees who leave FFA employment, and dividends paid by the insurance company. Any employee, upon leaving FFA service before retirement age, would be entitled to have a full refund of his contributions to the plan, returned by the insurance company.

After full and complete discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY CHARLES ANKEN, seconded by Robert Futrelle and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the retirement and insurance plan be put into effect as soon as feasible. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. McDONALD, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

The question arose as to whether or not provisions had been made in the current Budgets of the National FFA Organization, the Future Farmers Supply Service, and The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine to finance this retirement and insurance plan. The Chairman advised to the contrary.

ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS MOVED BY JAY WRIGHT, seconded by Philip Brouillette and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the present Budget of the National FFA Organization be increased in the amount of \$750 to provide for the financing of the retirement and insurance plan. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BUNTEN, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be approved.

IT WAS MOVED BY LOWELL GISSELBECK, seconded by Charles Anken and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend that Mr. Lano Barron, Editor of The National FUTURE FARMER, and Mr. Edward Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service, be authorized to increase the budgets of their respective organizations to provide for the financing of the retirement and insurance plan for their employees. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MR. WOOD, seconded by Mr. Weiler and carried, that the Board of Directors adopt the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers.

Dr. Tenney told of a conversation which he had with Professor Melvin Henderson, Head, Department of Vocational Agriculture Service, at the University of Illinois, concerning the possibility of preparing a series of film strips, or 35 mm. slides, which would tell the story of the Future Farmers of America. It has been felt for sometime that there

is a definite need for such a device which would explain the work and activities of the FFA. It could be shown to students beginning their study of vocational agriculture -- as well as to Service Clubs and other interested outsiders. Professor Henderson advised that the University of Illinois would be willing to produce such film strips. It was thought that appropriate pictures could be secured from the various States and the film strips might be made available to FFA Chapters through the Future Farmers Supply Service. It was also suggested that a similar type of film strip be prepared for the different kinds of National FFA Judging events.

IT WAS THEREFORE MOVED BY CHARLES ANKEN, seconded by Jay Wright and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that Dr. Tenney be authorized to proceed with plans for having such film strips and/or slides prepared, showing activities, including judging contests, of the Future Farmers of America, and that they be handled through the Future Farmers Supply Service. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BUNTEN, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the Board of Directors adopt the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. Weiler indicated that the States have, for sometime, felt the need of a Guide, or set of policies, which they could follow in dealing with individuals or companies which submit proposals offering award programs, in which they are especially interested, for members of the Future Farmers of America. These individuals or companies, of course, expect recognition and specific identification with their particular award program. Other members of the Board expressed concern over this same problem. This is a matter which has been discussed at previous Board meetings, action having been taken at the July meeting that a guide, or set of suggested policies, be drawn up and presented for further consideration at the January meeting. Since some work has already been done on the preparation of such a set of suggested policies, the tentative draft, as shown below, was presented to members of the Boards for their review:

GUIDES TO STATE ASSOCIATIONS RELATING TO AWARDS FOR MEMBERS
OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Since the Future Farmers of America was organized in 1928, many awards have been made available to chapters and members. Awards stimulate members to greater achievement and are generally beneficial. They give publicity and are used to recognize worthy accomplishments.

It is the responsibility of State Associations to develop and evaluate award programs. Local chapters should be given guidance in the use of awards.

The following guides were written by the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors.

1. Use awards as a means to improve educational programs.
2. Design the award program to aid in the further development and improvement of agriculture and leadership.

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3. Plan the award program so it will be fair to organizations and companies concerned,
 4. Develop policies and practices in connection with award programs to protect FFA members and chapters.
 5. Review the award program periodically to determine whether desired goals are being achieved.
 6. Review and accept or reject all proposed awards bearing the name "Future Farmers of America".
 7. Sound public relations demand that all funds accepted by the organization from any company, organization, or individual be used without reservations or restrictions by the donors.
 8. Plan and conduct the award program so that it will help to maintain a balanced program of instruction.
 9. The award program shall not permit or imply the endorsement of products being manufactured, distributed or sold by an award donor.
 10. Obtain counsel from cooperating groups concerning the improvement and further development of the award program.
 11. Consider the development of an FFA Foundation if membership is large enough to merit such an award program.
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It was suggested that further thought be given to this tentative draft of suggested policies, and that the matter be considered further at the January meeting of the two Boards. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Weiler told of a situation which has arisen in the State of Ohio concerning a request for permission to use the FFA emblem on a proposed bulletin to be put out by Nationwide Insurance Company, formerly the Farm Bureau Insurance Company. Mr. Weiler stated that for several years the Ohio Farm Bureau Insurance Company has sponsored many activities for the Future Farmers in Ohio, one being a "Community Improvement Project" where FFA Chapters visit and inspect farms in their communities. Now that the Farm Bureau Insurance Company has become the "Nationwide Insurance Company" they have proposed that their "Community Improvement Project" be conducted in all 48 States under their sponsorship. Sometime ago one of the officials of the company visited Mr. Weiler, outlined plans for this project, and requested permission to use the FFA emblem on a bulletin which they desire to publish. Mr. Weiler asked members of the Board for their opinions on this. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of opinion that the National Organization of FFA can not give approval for the use of the FFA emblem for such a purpose.

Dr. C. E. Turner, of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, appeared before the Board and expressed appreciation to the members of the FFA for the work they have done, through their chapters, in fighting infantile paralysis. He cited statistics on the work done by the National Foundation last year, and said they are confronted now with the problem of securing additional funds to provide the needed vaccine before the next polio season. He asked the members of the Future Farmers of America to support the March of Dimes through participation in their "Teens Against Polio" Campaign. The young people can join in organizing special events as their part in community service. Dr. Turner announced that if the Board gave approval to this campaign, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis would arrange to send to the respective State Offices the story on what youth is doing in the "Teens Against Polio" Campaign, giving them a chance to secure kits of materials.

IT WAS MOVED BY JAY WRIGHT, seconded by Lowell Gisselbeck and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend the endorsement of the program of "Teens Against Polio" and that the FFA Chapters continue to cooperate in the fight against polio.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

October 9, 1955

An early morning session was called to order by the Chairman, at which time plans for the convention were reviewed. At 9:00 A.M. the meeting was adjourned until 1:30 P.M. to enable the Board members to attend church services in which the National FFA Band and Chorus were to participate.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 P.M., all members of the Board being present. Dr. Spanton announced that two candidates for the American Farmer Degree, whose applications were rejected at the July meeting of the Boards, had requested permission to appeal their cases. They were Melvin L. Fahning, of Wells, Minnesota (Freeborn Chapter, FFA); and Paul Lightly, of Oakland, Minnesota (Austin Chapter of FFA).

The members of the Boards again reviewed the application of Melvin L. Fahning, and the reason for its rejection. The candidate, accompanied by Mr. George R. Cochran, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Minnesota, and Mr. LeRoy Asche, his vocational agriculture instructor, appeared before the Boards. After Melvin presented his case, members of the Boards thanked him for his interest in coming before them, and for the fine presentation that he had made.

The members of the Boards next reviewed the application of Paul Lightly, of Oakland Minnesota (Austin Chapter of FFA) and the reason for its rejection. The candidate, accompanied by Mr. Cochran and Mr. Leland Arneson, the vocational agriculture teacher from Austin, Minnesota, appeared before the Boards to explain the discrepancies on his application. After questioning, the members of the Boards thanked Paul for his appearance before the two Boards.

After considerable discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY LOWELL GISSELBECK, seconded by Jay Wright and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the application of Mel Fahning for the American Farmer Degree be rejected; and that the application of Paul Lightly be accepted, in view of the facts presented.

MR. WEILER MOVED that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers, namely, that the application of Mel Fahning for the American Farmer Degree be rejected; and that the application of Paul Lightly be accepted. This motion was seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in working out, in detail, plans for conducting the National FFA Convention, and assigning specific duties to the individual members of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors for the entire week.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

A. W. Tenney

A. W. Tenney, Secretary

W. T. Spanton

W. T. Spanton, Chairman