

MINUTES

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

Kansas City, Missouri
October 6-7, 1963

October 6, 1963

The meeting of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors of the Future Farmers of America was called to order at 8:00 a.m., in Room M-4 of the Hotel President, Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. A. W. Tenney, Chairman. Board members present, in addition to Dr. Tenney, included:

Board of Directors

N. D. Andrew, State Director, Agricultural Education, Concord, N. H.;
J. G. Bryant, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, Atlanta, Ga.;
C. C. Eustace, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, Topeka, Kan.;
Tamotsu Horii, Program Specialist, Agricultural Education, Honolulu, Hawaii;
E. J. Johnson, H. N. Hunsicker, H. F. Düis; and M. C. Gaar, all of the
Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Board of Student Officers

Kenny McMillan, National FFA President, Macomb, Illinois;
Vern France, National FFA Student Secretary, Gooding, Idaho;
Duane Leach, National FFA Vice President, Winnebago, Minnesota;
Richard Mottolo, National FFA Vice President, Andover, Massachusetts;
Larry Whittington, National FFA Vice President, Angier, North Carolina; and
Jerry Diefenderfer, National FFA Vice President, San Luis Obispo, California.

R. E. Naugher, Assistant Director of the Agricultural Education Branch, Washington, D. C.; Wm. Paul Gray, National FFA Executive Secretary, Washington, D. C.; John Farrar, Director of Information and Public Relations for the FFA, Washington, D. C.; and J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, and National FFA Treasurer, Richmond, Virginia, also were present.

The Chairman called upon Mr. J. G. Bryant who opened the meeting with prayer.

It was moved by Larry Whittington, seconded by Vern France and carried, that the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with, and the Minutes be accepted as mimeographed and previously distributed to the States. It was moved by Dr. Gaar, seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Approval
of Previous
Minutes

Report on
Peace Corps
Develop-
ments

Before considering matters on the agenda, Dr. Tenney gave a brief report on developments relative to cooperation with the Peace Corps since the last Board meeting. These developments included the following: A contract has been signed with the Peace Corps for an FFA-NFA project in West Pakistan. Dr. J. H. Lintner, from the State of Ohio, has been selected as the Director of the project. The contract calls for 30 FFA-NFA members, plus a few women, and non-FFA members. The applicants must pass a rigid test in order to be selected for training. From a total of 70 persons taking the first test, 25 passed. Another screening will be held. Possibly 18 or 20 persons will finally be sent abroad. The approved budget provides the sum of \$200.00 for each volunteer, for seeds, supplies, etc. Local chapters may assist if they are requested by the volunteers to do so.

Dr. Tenney reported that an official request has been received from the Ministry of Education in Colombia for FFA assistance through the Peace Corps. However, it is not known at this time when, and if, such a program will be implemented.

Dr. Tenney pointed out that because of the signing of the contract with the Peace Corps, the Governing Committee of the FFA held a meeting on Thursday, September 19, 1963, at which time the following action was taken:

Action Taken
by Governing
Committee -
Re: Financing
of FFA-NFA
Peace Corps
Project in
W. Pakistan -
Approved

"It was moved by Mr. Hunsicker, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried, that the National FFA Treasurer be authorized to transfer \$10,000.00 from the National FFA account in the Shenandoah Valley National Bank, Winchester, Virginia, to the American Security and Trust Company, Washington, D. C., for the purpose of serving as a revolving fund to finance the FFA-NFA Peace Corps project in West Pakistan, with the understanding that such funds will be replaced by the Peace Corps at the termination of the project. It is further understood that the checks on the new account will be signed by at least two of the following members of the Agricultural Education Branch: A. W. Tenney, R. E. Naugher, and/or E. J. Johnson."

It was moved by Richard Mottolo, seconded by Larry Whittington and carried, that the action taken by the Governing Committee of the FFA be approved. It was moved by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Andrew and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers, be sustained.

Reports from
Regional
Representatives
and Student
Officers

The Chairman then called for reports from the Regional members of the Board, asking for ideas and suggestions they have received from the States in their respective Regions, relative to the FFA. They had no items to add to those already on the agenda. Members of the Board of Student Officers offered several suggestions for discussion, and the agenda was revised accordingly.

The first matter considered by the Board was the proposed amendment to the FFA Constitution, submitted by the California Association of FFA, as shown below:

Proposed
Amendment
to FFA
Constitution -
Submitted by
California
Association -
Approved

That Article X - "Procedure for Electing National Officers" - Section A, be amended by inserting after the words "approved by his State Advisor for consideration as a national officer" the following sentence: "A State may recommend only one candidate per year for national office".

After careful consideration of the proposed amendment, it was moved by Duane Leach, seconded by Larry Whittington and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to the FFA Constitution, submitted by the California Association of FFA, be adopted. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Duis and carried, that the FFA Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

The meeting was recessed at 10:15 a.m. to permit members of the Board to attend church services.

Review of
Convention
Plans

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with a review of National Convention plans and the specific responsibilities of individual members of the Board.

Report on
FFA Supply
Service

Mr. Edward Hawkins, Manager of the FFA Supply Service, was present and gave a brief report. He stated that business at the Supply Service is running 5% ahead of the same time last year. Five companies have been invited to submit sealed bids for jewelry contracts. Two companies have already complied, and it is expected that at least one more company will submit a bid before the expiration of the deadline date.

Possibility
of Stocking
"Blazer-Type"
Jackets

Mr. Hawkins stated that he has been requested to develop a "blazer-type" jacket for possible sale through the FFA Supply Service. He promised to secure a sample jacket for presentation at the next meeting of the Boards.

Possibility
of Stocking
Calling
Cards

Jerry Diefenderfer stated it had been suggested to him that the Supply Service might stock a standardized calling card. Mr. Hawkins pointed out some of the problems and costs that would be involved, such as embossing, the use of one, or two, colors on the card, securing the specific printing information for each order, etc. However, he agreed to investigate the possibilities and present information to the Board members at their next meeting.

Report on
The National
FUTURE FARMER
Magazine

Mr. Wilson Carnes, Editor of The National FUTURE FARMER, was present and gave a brief report on the status of the magazine. He reported excellent cooperation from the States since last July. It is hoped that subscriptions will reach the 275,000 figure in the near future. Advertising in the magazine, for the first five issues of this year, was up 7.1% over the same period of a year ago. The first five issues of this year also contained 38 more pages of articles and photographs than issues of the same period last year.

Report on
Official
FFA
Calendar

Mr. Howard Carter, Associate Editor, who heads the magazine's calendar department, appeared before the group and gave a report on the official FFA Calendar program. He stated that orders for the calendar are arriving daily, since the peak period for calendar orders ties in with the school year. Bids for the next contract period are now being received, and they will be presented at the January meeting of the Boards. At that time, the calendar department will be interested in a theme for the 1966 calendar.

At the completion of these reports, the Board of Student Officers requested that the following statement be inserted in the Minutes:

Expression
of Thanks
from the
National
FFA Officers

"We, the National FFA Officers, wish to express our gratitude to the individual staff members of The National FUTURE FARMER, the Official FFA Calendar, and the Future Farmers Supply Service, for performing service above and beyond the call of duty; for your dedication, versatility, energy, and working under unique and difficult conditions in serving each and every FFA member in a most commendable manner."

Action on
Honorary
American
Farmer Degree
to Holders of
American
Farmer Degree

The next matter for consideration was the question of whether or not holders of the American Farmer Degree should also be awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree. This situation has arisen several times, and the Chairman asked for discussion.

It was moved by Jerry Diefenderfer, seconded by Vern France and carried, that the Honorary American Farmer Degree be granted to those persons eligible to receive it, regardless of active American Farmer Degrees previously awarded. It was moved by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Andrew and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Honorary
American
Farmer
Degree to
C. E. Elwell

Dr. Tenney read a letter from Mr. R. C. S. Sutliff, Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Education in New York State, recommending that the Honorary American Farmer Degree be granted to Mr. Clifford E. Elwell, of Warsaw, New York. Mr. Elwell is the cooperating farmer with whom the North Atlantic Regional Star Farmer, Robert Cummins, has worked and developed his farming program throughout the years.

It was moved by Jerry Diefenderfer, seconded by Duane Leach and carried, that Mr. Clifford E. Elwell, of Warsaw, New York, be awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree, It was moved by Mr. Andrew, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the FFA Board of Directors accept the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Discussion
on Make-Up
of Judging
Panel for
Star Farmer
of America
Award

A discussion was held on the methods followed in the past on the selection of judges for the Star Farmer of America award. Dr. Tenney gave a brief description of the manner in which this has been handled in the past. The National Officers expressed the opinion that persons close to Agriculture should be asked to serve on the panel of judges. Dr. Tenney replied that a number of the judges either operate farms, or have had farming backgrounds. It was also suggested that a "successful farmer" be included on the panel. Mr. Gray thought perhaps the President of the NVATA should be invited to participate. No specific action was taken.

Next, a discussion was held on the actual mechanics of the Star Farmer judging. Dr. Tenney explained that a score card has been developed for evaluating the American Farmer applications submitted by the four Regional Star American Farmers, and in 1962, for the first time, the candidates were personally interviewed by the judges following completion of the scoring.

Star Farmer
Candidates
To Be
Interviewed
by Judges

It was moved by Jerry Diefenderfer, seconded by Richard Mottolo and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as favoring the use of the existing Star Farmer score card; furthermore that, upon completion of the scoring of the application forms, each candidate be granted a personal interview with the judges; that the questions pertain to the application; that the length of the interview be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes; with the final decision to be rendered upon completion of the interviews. It was moved by Mr. Horii, seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Financial
Provisions
for National
FFA Officers

The next matter on the agenda was the question of financial provisions for the National FFA Officers. Present arrangements provide for actual expenses while in travel status -- but members of the Board of Student Officers felt, from their experiences of the past year, that the National FFA Organization should strengthen its plan for financial assistance to the National Officers in the future. They pointed out that they found it difficult to keep up with the large amount of correspondence involved in connection with their official duties -- and felt that some provisions should be made for obtaining secretarial assistance. Another added expense was that of hiring additional help on the home farm, due to their prolonged absence from home. Some stated they had been compelled to ask their parents for assistance. It was also pointed out that it was necessary to purchase additional clothing in connection with their official duties, and this entailed large laundry and dry cleaning bills. One member of the Board of Student Officers proposed that, in the future, the Officers be placed on per diem -- and that the National Vice Presidents and the Student Secretary each be provided the sum of \$1,000.00, and the National President the sum of \$2,000.00, for unusual expenses incurred in connection with their service as National Officers. Other members of the Board stated they would not wish to accept a cash sum, but they did feel that some provisions should be made to relieve the burden of extra expenses, such as secretarial services. This matter was discussed at some length.

It was moved by Richard Mottolo, and seconded by Vern France, that adjustments be made in the FFA Budget, starting with the term for the 1964 National FFA Officers, for the following, while in travel status on official business, for which the officers were not otherwise being reimbursed:

- \$20.00 per diem
- Needed funds for secretarial services
- White shirts
- FFA paraphernalia

with the funds being advanced well ahead of the time actually needed during the year.

The National President called for discussion on the motion, and it was the consensus of opinion that this action should be referred to a committee for further study.

Committee
To Study
Financial
Provisions
For National
FFA Officers

Therefore, it was moved by Larry Whittington, seconded by Richard Mottolo and carried, that the matter of financial provisions for National FFA Officers be referred to a committee, to be appointed by Dr. Tenney, for further study, with definite action to be taken at the January meeting of the Boards. It was moved by Mr. Horii, seconded by Mr. Andrew and carried, that the action just taken by the Board of Student Officers be accepted by the Board of Directors.

Dr. Tenney then announced the appointment of a committee, to be headed by Mr. Bryant, as Chairman, and Messrs. Eustace and Johnson -- with Mr. Campbell and Mr. Gray to serve as consultants to the Committee.

The meeting was recessed at 5:30 p.m.

October 7, 1963

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, October 7, 1963, in the Hotel President, all members of the Boards being present.

No Action
Taken on
D-Con
"Save-A-Top"
Campaign

Dr. Tenney read a letter from one of the State Supervisors concerning the Save-A-Top campaign being conducted through the FFA Chapters by the D-Con Company. It was claimed that some D-Con representatives have been making strong statements concerning the relationship of the FFA to the campaign, and that some of the advertising at times gives the wrong impression. It was also called to the attention of members of the Boards that a specialist from one of the universities was critical of the FFA, and implied that the rat bait being sold by the D-Con Company does not have the latest and most effective ingredient for the control of rats. Members of the Board of Directors emphasized the fact that the State Supervisors oppose the FFA being identified with the promotion and sale of various commercial products. However, Dr. Tenney stated that the National Office does not have authority to control such matters -- it is up to the States and the local chapters. It was the consensus of opinion that the staffs in the States and local chapters should continue present policies, always exercising their best judgment.

Members of the Board of Student Officers raised the question of what might be done to regulate the practice of smoking by FFA members. Dr. Tenney stated that, while he deplored the fact that many FFA members do smoke, this matter is a personal one, and he felt that it could not be effectively controlled by the Boards. The National Officers were of the opinion that the younger boys look to the older ones for guidance, and that a National stand on the issue might help. Members of the Board of Directors suggested that a positive approach might be used, with the suggestion that members refrain from smoking while wearing the FFA jacket or officially representing the organization.

Motion
That FFA
Members
Refrain
From
Smoking

It was moved by Duane Leach, seconded by Jerry Diefenderfer and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending that FFA members refrain from smoking while wearing the official FFA jacket, or officially representing the organization. It is recommended that this be included in the Code of Ethics and the instructions given on wearing the FFA jacket. It was moved by Mr. Andrew, seconded by Mr. Horii and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Members of the Board of Student Officers stated that during their term as National FFA Officers, they felt the need of being kept better informed on the latest FFA developments.

Monthly
Newsletter
To Be Sent
To National
FFA Officers
and Members
of FFA Board
of Directors

It was moved by Jerry Diefenderfer, seconded by Larry Whittington and carried, that a monthly Newsletter, containing pertinent information on the FFA, be sent out from the office of the National FFA Executive Secretary, to the National FFA Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the FFA. It was moved by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Letters
to Parents
of National
FFA Officers
and Regional
Star Farmers
Re: Convention

It was recommended by members of the Board of Student Officers that, in the future, the parents of National Officers and Regional Star American Farmers be informed, in advance, concerning various activities at the National FFA Convention. It was agreed that this would be taken care of by letters sent over the signature of the National FFA Advisor.

Another suggestion offered by the National FFA Officers was the need for some form of communication between the National FFA Officers and the State Officers.

Possibility
of Editorial
Page in NFF --
Written by
Officers

It was moved by Larry Whittington, seconded by Richard Mottolo and carried, that the National Office contact Mr. Wilson Carnes and explore the possibility of having an editorial page placed in each issue of The National FUTURE FARMER, to be written by the Officers. This would afford an excellent means of communication between the National FFA Officers and the State Officers. It was moved by Dr. Gaar, seconded by Mr. Andrew and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

No Action
Taken on
Extending
Length of
Board
Meetings

It was suggested by members of the Board of Student Officers that perhaps the Board meetings should be extended by one day or two, since it is difficult to transact all the necessary business in the allotted time. No action was taken on this suggestion, since it was the consensus of opinion among members of the Board of Directors that the State representatives could not take additional time from their duties at home.

No Action on
Strengthening
Role of the
National FFA
Officers

It was also suggested by a member of the Board of Student Officers that the National FFA Constitution should be amended to strengthen the role of the National Officers. He proposed that some State Supervisor should sponsor such an amendment. No action was taken on this suggestion.

At the July, 1962, meeting of the Board of Directors, it was authorized that a policy on International Relations be set up to help the National Staff and Boards of Student Officers and Directors design a blueprint for the FFA in this field of endeavor. This was also briefly discussed at the July, 1963, meeting.

Motion on
International
Travel

It was moved by Vern France, seconded by Richard Mottolo and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors the acceptance of Recommendations for International Activities in Travel, as shown on the next succeeding page. It was moved by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Horii and carried, that the Board of Directors accept the recommendations made by the Board of Student Officers.

(See next page for Recommendations for
International Activities in Travel)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN TRAVEL

The National Boards of Student Officers and Directors favor FFA members participating in International Activities and Travel, and further recommends the following suggestions to be followed by State Associations:

1. The State supervisors review and make recommendations relative to the approval of such programs before State Association FFA members would participate.
2. The State Association should recommend youth leaders for such tours.
3. There be no soliciting of FFA members across State lines without the approval of the State supervisors of the States concerned.
4. Where there is an insufficient number of FFA members from one State to make up the tour group, two or more States may organize a tour under the direction of the State supervisors of the States concerned.
5. The FFA members who participate should make every effort to practice the FFA Code of Ethics, dress properly in FFA apparel and refrain from wearing "gaudy" items of clothing.
6. Participants should be properly oriented to develop a good understanding of:
 - a. Contents of the brochure "Vo-Ag and FFA".
 - b. The place of the FFA in the vocational agriculture program.
 - c. The purposes of such programs and how these may be accomplished in the countries to be visited.
 - d. The agricultural, social, cultural, religious and governmental aspects of the countries to be visited.
7. The meaning of democracy and HOW the FFA is training members for responsible citizenship.
8. The State Associations orient the participants on "how to be a good-will ambassador" and develop a better understanding between America and the countries to be visited.
9. Obtain travel cost information from travel agencies in addition to Maupintour. The State Associations may obtain assistance from The Council on Student Travel, Trans-Service, 179 Broadway, New York, New York, on rates, services and other factors to compare costs of different travel agencies.

Further consideration was given to a "Proposed Plan of Action for the FFA in International Activities". Considerable discussion took place with reference to this matter.

National
Office
Authorized
to Proceed
with
International
Activities

It was moved by Jerry Diefenderfer, seconded by Larry Whittington and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend that the National Office be authorized to explore the possibilities and proceed with the activities, as shown below; that particular emphasis be given to Items 7 and 8; and that the program should not exceed the amounts indicated in the proposed budget. It was moved by Dr. Gaar, seconded by Mr. Horii and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE FFA IN INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

1. Explore possibility of co-sponsoring exchange program through the assistance of AID.
2. Provide complimentary subscriptions to The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine to developing countries (one copy per chapter or group).
3. Prepare FFA color slides (film) on FFA activities, with script in several different languages.
4. Develop leadership training instruction material in several languages to use in rural youth organizations in developing countries.
5. Contribute technical assistance in agricultural education where possible, when requested.
6. When requested, program selected youth and adults from developing countries to observe and engage in participating experiences in leadership training programs and agricultural development. Preference to be given to Colombia, Peru, Costa Rico and Panama.
7. When requested and advisable, make provision for outstanding FFA officers and adult specialists to work with youth and adults in other countries that are interested in Future Farmer organizations. (Informal requests have been received from Colombia, Peru, Costa Rico, Ethiopia, Mexico and Panama).
8. When requested and advisable, make provision for outstanding FFA members to participate in an exchange program with other friendly countries that have organized Young Farmer or other similar organizations.

(Continued)

- a. Such a program has already been discussed with R. F. Greger, Secretary, Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs of Edinburgh; P. S. Okkalides, Business Manager of American Farm School, Tessononiki, Greece; and Miss Barbara Tilden, Secretary of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Great Britain.
 - b. An activity of this nature would be a reciprocal educational exchange program of approximately three to four months in duration.
9. Upon request and when advisable, make provision for outstanding FFA officer and adult specialist to visit Future Farmer organizations in Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand.
10. Prepare budget of "FFA International Activities Program".

International Activities

Travel	\$3,300.00
Subsistence (per diem)	2,300.00
Printing FFA Materials (foreign language)	600.00
Color Slides of FFA Activities - 50	200.00
Complimentary FFA Magazine Subscriptions - 200	200.00
Incidentals (Medical Insurance, etc.)	100.00
Miscellaneous	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$6,800.00

Implications
of Pending
Legislation

Dr. Tenney took a few minutes to discuss the implications of new legislation which is pending in the Congress. If passed and signed into law, the new legislation will call for expansion of the agricultural education program to include training programs for off-farm agricultural occupations. He stated that we should also be thinking in terms of broadening the agricultural education program in the future to include training programs for persons beyond the high school level. This will necessarily affect the National Organization of FFA -- and it would seem that there are two courses which could be followed:

1. Create another youth organization

or

2. Enlarge the "tent" to include, in addition to students preparing for farming, those who are studying to enter other agricultural occupations.

This poses three questions:

Implications
of Pending
Legislation
(Cont'd.)

1. What name should be given to the organization if it is enlarged to encompass all groups?
2. What changes will be necessary in the National FFA Constitution, By-Laws, the Creed, etc?
3. What changes will become necessary in the awards program? Will it have to be changed?

Dr. Tenney stated that it has been suggested that the name of the organization be changed to "Future Farmers and Agriculturalists" -- thereby retaining the letters "FFA" and the emblem. He requested that no action be taken at this meeting.


Considerable discussion ensued. Members of the Board of Student Officers were against changing the name of the organization. They were also against changing the Constitution and the Creed -- and expressed the hope that we will be able to maintain the love and tradition for farm life. They favored Sub-Regional Leadership Programs -- and suggested "affiliate memberships" in the FFA. No action was taken.

Dr. Tenney pointed out that if changes should become necessary in the FFA Constitution, it will affect the Manual. Mr. Gray stated that we have a 3-year contract on the printing of the Manual, which provides for necessary revisions within that period. The French-Bray Printing Company has the present contract which expires this year. It was suggested that perhaps the contract should be renewed for one year only.

Authorization
to Renew
Contract for
FFA Manual
for One Year
Only

It was moved by Jerry Diefenderfer, seconded by Richard Mottolo and carried, that the Board of Student Officers authorize the Governing Committee of the FFA to renegotiate the contract for the FFA Manual, for one year only. It was moved by Mr. Horii, seconded by Dr. Gaar and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


Wm. Paul Gray, Secretary


A. W. Tenney, Chairman