Sunday, July 13, 1997
Reports included NYFEA, Board Retreat, P.L. 81-740 and FFA Headquarters, Ag Ed Headquarters, items related to the move, President’s Summit on America’s Future, and the 1997-98 Organization budget and dues.

Monday, July 14, 1997
A Committee/Educational Session was held at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This session included meetings of the Finance and the Policy, Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committees.

Opening Session:
The meeting of the Board of Directors and National Officers of the National FFA Organization was called to order at 1 p.m. in the Washington Room of the National FFA Center, Alexandria, Virginia by Corey Rosenbusch, National FFA President. Following is a listing of all Board members who were present:

Board of Directors:
Belinda G. Chason, State Supervisor, Agribusiness & Natural Resources Education, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL
Barbara Kirby, (USDE Representative), Associate Professor, Agricultural and Extension Education, North Carolina State University, NC
David B. Hopson, (USDE Representative), Program Coordinator, Regional School District #7 (Winsted, Connecticut), Blandford, MA
Les A. Olsen, Education Program Consultant, Technical Education Team, Kansas State Board of Education, Topeka, KS
Ernie Gill, Program Manager, Agricultural Education, Colorado Community College & Occupational Education System, CO
Karen Hutchison, Education Associate, Agricultural Occupations, State Department of Public Instruction, DE
Edgar A. Watkins, Jr., (USDE Representative), Agricultural Education Teacher, Armwood High School, Seffner, FL
John K. Wilkinson, (USDE Representative), State FFA Executive Secretary, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**Officers of the Board of Directors:**
C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary; and Education Program Specialist, Agriculture, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
K. Eugene Eulinger, National FFA Treasurer; and District Supervisor, Agricultural Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jefferson City, MO

**Board of National FFA Officers:**
Corey Rosenbusch, National FFA President, Glen Rose, TX
Holly Bentley, National FFA Secretary, Sabina, OH
Brad Montgomery, National FFA Vice President, Central Region, McDonald, KS
Ray Starling, National FFA Vice President, Eastern Region, Autryville, NC
Charlie Jones, National FFA Vice President, Southern Region, Billingsley, AL
Rachel Fehringer, National FFA Vice President, Western Region, Peetz, CO

**Consultants:**
Following is a listing of all Consultants who were present:

MeeCee Baker, President, NVATA, Port Royal, PA
Shirley Carte, President, FFA Alumni Association, Live Oak, FL
Duane M. Fisher, President-Elect, NVATA, Mt. Auburn, IA
Tom Heffernan, Past President, NVATA, Poteet, TX
Jerry L. Peters, Professor, Agricultural Education, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Linda Story, Vice President, FFA Alumni Association, Livermore, KY

James Connors was unable to attend this Board of Directors meeting.

**Others present for all or portions of the meeting:**
FFA, Foundation and AERO staff participated throughout the week.
Steve A. Brown, District Supervisor, Agricultural Educaiton, Department of Elementary and Secondary Educaiton, Jefferson City, MO (Member, Foundation Board of Trustees)
Judy Mayfield, Executive Director, Oregon FFA Association, Salem, OR (Member, Foundation Board of Trustees)

1. **Reflections** - Rachel Fehringer

2. **Seating of Newly Elected Officers and Consultants**
Chairperson Case introduced and welcomed to the Board the new National FFA Officers (Board of National FFA Officers is listed above) and consultants.

3. **Review of Board Operating Procedures**

Chairperson Case explained the Board’s function and purpose and he reviewed a document entitled, *Life of a Board Motion*. Dr. Case also explained the voting procedures and invited full participation by the National FFA Officers and members of the Board, as well as the consultants and staff.

4. **Overview of National Officer Activities**

Corey Rosenbusch led a review of the activities of the National FFA Officer Team; “what day is it?” is the theme for their travel experiences. Each officer spoke about their experiences and especially, their trip to Japan and the importance of American agriculture.

Key messages are an important aspect of reaching out the “Partners” and sponsors. The national officers reached 67,000 members through their experiences with state conventions and leadership conferences. “A Time to Beat” was the theme for NLCSOs (8 states so far); SPC and the National Officer Team Retreat in Montana are the upcoming events for the team.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Belinda Chason, seconded by David Hopson and carried to accept the report of the National FFA Officers. The national officers were commended for a job well done and a round of applause followed.

5. **Reports - Consultants to the Board**

Reports and remarks were given by Consultants:
- Teachers — MeeCee Baker
- Agricultural Teacher Educators — Blannie Bowen
- FFA Alumni Association — Shirley Carte

All expressed appreciation at being part of the group.

6. **Reports on Matters as Related to FFA Board Operations**

   a. NASAE — Kevin Keith
   b. NVAATA — MeeCee Baker (Attachment 1)
   c. PAS — Kimberly Perry, internet site (Attachment 2)
   d. The Council — Bryan Daniel (Attachment 3)

7. **Review of and Adjustments to Agenda**

An informal meeting will be held Monday night at 8 pm in the Madison room of the Key Bridge Marriott which will include Board members, national officers and alumni.

8. **Approval of Minutes**
MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (Ernie Gill) and carried to approve the January 28, 1997 minutes and the conference call minutes from March 17, April 17, and May 1, 1997. Brad Montgomery indicated that on page 3 of the January 1997 Board meeting, the national officer team them is “experience excellence”, not “team excellence”.

Gene Euglinger reviewed the current financial report. The Organization is in good financial shape and we are doing better than budgeted. Dr. Euglinger commended Sue Springirth, Comptroller, for her hard work and assistance. Dr. Eulinger would like to see board proposals that would be funded through the Research and Development Reserves. A new column on page 4 was added for the Capital Campaign project.

MOTION: It was moved by Brad Montgomery (Barbara Kirby), seconded by Charlie Jones (Les Olsen) and carried to accept the report of the National FFA Treasurer.

10. Report from Awards Selection (Special Committees)
Ernie Gill presented the report for the American Degree, Star Farmer and Star in Agribusiness Selections.

MOTION: It was moved by Charlie Jones (John Wilkinson), seconded by Holly Bentley (Belinda Chason) and carried to approve for receipt of the American FFA Degree; 1677 of the 1719 applications have been received for consideration this year. Further, that the National FFA Staff conduct the American FFA Degree appeal process and present a report to the Governing Committee of the Board of Directors for consideration for receipt of the degree, as per board policy.

MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (Les Olsen), seconded by Brad Montgomery (David Hopson) and carried to accept Travis Barret (KS), John David McFerrin (TX), Mike McIntyre (SD), and Ryan Michael Seeney (CA) as the four national finalists for the American Star Farmer award. The finalists for the American Star in Agribusiness award for 1997 are Mark Dudgeon (OH), Jon Jason Herrick (NE), Steven Mickels (CT), and Jason Warzinik (WI).

David Hopson, chairperson, presented the report for the Honorary Teacher, Honorary Other and VIP Selections.

MOTION: It was moved by Brad Montgomery (Belinda Chason), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (Eddie Watkins) and carried to bestow the Honorary American FFA Degree to the 56 nominees as listed, at the 1997 National FFA Convention (Attachment 4).
MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (Les Olsen), seconded by Ray Starling (Karen Hutchison) and carried to bestow the VIP Award to Victor Bekkum (IA), William Bushmeyer (MO), Mr. Douglas Butler (WI), Harry Cleberg, (MO), Raymond Cockrum (OK), Jerry Crowover (MO), Lennie Gamage (VA), Jack Justus (AR), C.R. Karelse (MI), Edwin Lamberth (TN), Hal Moon (MO), Calvin Stark (CA), and Dennis Stewart (MO) at the 1997 National FFA Convention.

Eddie Watkins, chairperson, presented the report for the DSC, Hall of Achievement and the H.O. Sargent selections and recommended that the H.O. Sargent is under advisement.

MOTION: It was moved by Rachel Fehringer (Ernie Gill), seconded by Charlie Jones (Karen Hutchison) and carried to accept the report of the DSC, Hall of Achievement and the H.O. Sargent Selections Committee.

Second Session:

11. Program Development and Direction

Bernie Staller summarized the procedure for Program Development and Direction presentations. Team Leaders are to focus on major accomplishments, major issues and any funding request(s) which should be in the Board notebooks.

a. Sue Springirth presented the report for the Human and Fiscal Resources Team. Proposals were submitted through the Finance Committee. (Attachment 6) Dr. Eulinger presented a certificate “Honorary Greenhand for Thinking Out of the Box” to Sue Springirth.

b. Dennis Shafer presented the report for the Ventures Team. No proposals for new activities were presented. Mr. Shafer indicated that the Wyoming FFA Association is using a vest style of the official FFA jacket.

c. Janet Lewis presented the report for the Distribution Resources Team. No proposals for new activities were presented. The team is trying out a new software system from Macola.

d. C. Coleman Harris and Scott Stump presented the report for the Convention Team. Mr. Stump, Convention Manager, quickly reviewed the changes for the two remaining conventions at Kansas City. Housing remains a challenge, although the leadership at the Kansas City Convention Bureau is committed to making the best of the situation. Escalators will be shut off during the noon hour in Bartle 200 for safety reasons. Entering the Arena will be prohibited at the front doors; attendees must enter through the mezzanine entrance. American Degree recipients will have reserved seating on Saturday. Pre-registration will be handled next year through the call center; this year it is on a trial basis. Mr. Stump reviewed the Long Range Planning Status Report and the National Convention Host Committee document that will be presented as a policy addition at a later date.
e. Bill Stagg presented the report for the Communications Resources Team. Mr. Stagg indicated that the dedication ceremony will be held at the new National FFA Center in Indianapolis mid-year. Also, a project has been initiated to encourage FFA staff to join organizations to communicate the value of FFA and agricultural education and develop networks and contacts for opportunities for project development. The name of the National FFA Organization continues to be a concern regarding media’s use of the acronym “FFA”. The recommendation is to approach the State Presidents’ Conference attendees and take it to the delegates at convention, if necessary. The Communications Team will work with other FFA teams to recover costs from the special-funded projects, including salary, benefits and overhead which will be implemented over the next year. A project with Channel Earth will yield exciting benefits from that relationship. Mr. Stagg congratulated Jan Brown for a phenomenal job in coordinating the internet activities. Discussion ended with the proposal for IUPUI to manage the historical records of the National FFA Organization. Mr. Stagg saluted the service of Linda Flint as she retired last week and Jennifer Messenger, as she will be moving on to Atlanta to work for another non-profit organization. He also saluted Roni Horan’s service to the National FFA Organization of 44 years, who passed away in May 1997. A tribute to her will materialize with an internship for a student to work in the press room at the convention.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Holly Bentley (Les Olsen), seconded by Ray Starling (Belinda Chason) and carried to accept the proposal “Managing Historical Records of the National FFA Organization” (Attachment 7).

f. Joyce Winterton presented the report for the Partner Development Team. Dr. Winterton reviewed the 1997 Goals and Initiatives of the team. The accomplishments of the team included the American School Counselors’ Association (ASCA) luncheon in Nashville, a follow up report of the Best Practices, and the summer teacher internship program (Julie Baggett (TX)). The Agricultural Education Inservice Workshop is currently scheduled for the week of February 21, 1998 (FFA Week) and it poses some scheduling problems for attendees. The student board congratulated the Partner Development Team for their outstanding work. A round of applause followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 15, 1997 — Second Session (continued)**

The meeting of the Board of Directors and National Officers of the National FFA Organization was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. with all members of the Board present.

g. Randy Bernhardt presented the report for the Teacher Services Team. He reviewed the programs that the Teacher Services Team manages. The team consists of 15 different individuals, including summer interns, Barbara Lemmer (IA) and Carlos Lopez (CA), and the summer co-op student, Bridget Carter. Of special interest, is the landscape competition
for the six plots at the new FFA Center in Indianapolis; the competition will be advertised in Making a Difference. Unclaimed schedolarships since 1984 were awarded in 1997; special thanks to Marti Lindell and Vicki Settle for their assistance. The board members were encouraged to look at the FFA website; wonderful things are happening with the internet. Mr. Bernhardt reviewed the Teacher Services Team future program revision plans for the year 2001. He also extended his appreciation to the team for their hard work.

MOTION: It was moved by Rachel Fehringer (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Brad Montgomery (Ernie Gill) and carried to approve the proposal “Linding Learning to Life (Career Pathway) Event Implementation.”

MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (Les Olsen), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (Barbara Kirby), and carried to approve the proposal “Agricultural Communications and Job Interview Career Development Events.” This was a 1996 Delegate and CDE Committee recommendation.

MOTION: It was moved by Rachel Fehringer (Belinda Chason), seconded by Ray Starling (David Hopson) and carried to accept the proposal “Environmental/Natural Resource Career Development Event.”

MOTION: It was moved by Rachel Fehringer (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Holly Bentley (John Wilkinson) and carried to approve the proposal “Membership Benefit Care - Additional Value/Benefit for FFA Membership”. There is no need for action at this meeting, a proposal will be provided at the January 1998 Board meeting.

h. Jim Scott presented the report for the Student Services Team. He introduced and praised his staff members, as well as the summer interns, Andrea Ball and Julie Baggett, and shared this team’s “wins.” Overall, 42 employees, including seasonal staff, support the operations. All programs have increased participation due to the excellent leadership fo the team. new initiatives include NLCSO re-alignment for 1998, foreign ag service international program, nominating committee 10-year report, and Leadership Continuum meeting to be held in August 1997.

MOTION: It was moved by Ray Starling (Eddie Watkins), seconded by Holly Bentley (John Wilkinson) and carried to accept the proposal “Prevention Through Service” Alliance Resolution Agreement.

MOTION: It was moved by Ray Starling (Belinda Chason), seconded by Brad Montgomery (Ernie Gill) and carried to appoint John Wilkinson as the Board Consultant to the Nominating Committee.

Bryan Daniel added a report on the Risk Management Awareness Campaign of the National Council for Agricultural Education (Attachment 8).
Tuesday, July 15, 1997 — Third Session

12. **Standing Committee Report — Finance**
Les Olsen, Chairperson, presented the report for the Finance Committee.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Rachel Fehringer (Belinda Chason), seconded by Charlie Jones (David Hopson) **and carried** to approve the proposal “Current FFA Property” which authorizes staff to seek legal advice as needed and appropriate.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Brad Montgomery (John Wilkinson), seconded by Ray Starling (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** to approve the proposal “Builder’s Contract” which in effect, hires F.A. Wilhelm Inc. to build the new FFA Center in Indianapolis.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ray Starling (John Wilkins), seconded by Charlie Jones (Belinda Chason) **and carried** to approve the proposal “Meal Reimbursement Rate” which would approve a daily meal reimbursement rate for approved travel not to exceed $33 per day. Further move to encourage the FFA Foundation to adopt a similar reimbursement rate.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Brad Montgomery (Barbara Kirby), seconded by Holly Bentley (David Hopson) **and carried** to approve the proposal “1998-99 Dues”. The recommendation to the delegates that the 1998-99 member dues remain at $5.00.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Brad Montgomery (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (John Wilkinson) **and carried** to approve the National FFA Organization budget.

13. **Standing Committee Report — Policy, Constitution and Bylaws**
Belinda Chason, Chairperson, presented the report for the Policy, Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Holly Bentley (Les Olsen), seconded by Charlie Jones (Karen Hutchison) **and carried** that the National FFA Organization strike Division I, Section F., Item 02., a. Further that Policies b. and c. under the same Item be made items a. and b., respectively. Further that the following policy be instituted as Divison I., J. “General Program Policy”, Item 01., “Membership and Eligibility”, a. If National FFA staff determines that any participant submitted by state or local affiliates as eligible for an activity, award or program is not a dues paying member, that student’s back dues must be paid immediately along with an administrative fee of $25 per participant to reinstate membership.”

**MOTION:** It was moved by Brad Montgomery (John Wilkinson), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (Ernie Gill) **and carried** “To accept the recommendations of the Board appointed Review Committee for the Nominating Committee process and the National Officer Candidate
interview process. A motion from the Student Services Team to develop a proposal to identify the skills of a national officer will be developed for the January 1998 Board meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (Eddie Watkins), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (Karen Hutchison) and carried that the National FFA Organization add the item to the Policy handbook, page 72, III. Personnel, A. General, 01. Benefits, item h.” which will state: “Retirement age for life insurance purposes is defined as age 65. The employee must have completed 10 year of service. Employees taking early retirement between the ages of 55 and 65, must have completed 10 years of service, and will have their post-retirement insurance reduced by 5% for each year that they are under age 65. Examples: Employee at age 55 would receive an insurance benefit of 50% of annual salary, and at age 60 would receive 75% of annual salary.”

MOTION: It was moved by Ray Starling (Les Olsen), seconded by Brad Montgomery (Barbara Kirby) and carried that the Board appoint a committee consisting of representatives from the current Board members, consultants, national officers and one immediate past Board member to review the Red Line Draft of P.L. 81-740 (dates January 23, 1996) and the two AVA Ag Ed Division recommendations submitted to the policy committee for consideration and report back at the November Board meeting. The intent is to have representation from all groups of agricultural education.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. for the official photo and lunch. The meeting of the Board of Directors and National Officers of the National FFA Organization was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with all members of the Board present.

MOTION: It was moved by Rachel Fehringer (Ernie Gill), seconded by Charlie Jones (Karen Hutchison) and carried that the Board recommends that the authority for Agricultural Education remain with USDE at this time. Amended to strike from the motion: “and that the Board does not recommend pursuing a transfer to USDA” after “USDE” and before “at this time.”

MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (David Hopson), seconded by Charlie Jones (Eddie Watkins) and carried that the Appendix 4., section III. Implementation, Number 4. OVAE will select one teacher from among three nominees submitted by the teachers from regions beginning with National Vocational Agricultural Teachers’ Association (NVATA) Region VI and then proceeding numerically with Region I through VI.

Dr. Case indicated that USDE must agree with this recommendation, although he doesn’t see that it will be a problem.

Kevin Keith presented the scholarship program for AERO staff; he proposed a contribution form if they want to contribute.
14. **National FFA Foundation**

Glenn Sims, co-team leader, presented the report for the National FFA Foundation which included the 1997 Foundation Campaign Update (Attachments 10 & 11); the Foundation is already above the bottom line of last year, due to the Capital Campaign. Also, Mr. Sims indicated that Pioneer Hi-Bred and American Cyanamid, Inc. will present a check for the Capital Campaign at a special dinner on Wednesday, July 1 at the Key Bridge Marriott. Individual donors have contributed a total of $76,134 as of July 6, 1997 and commitments from all sponsors total $2,500,000. A portion of the fundraising video was shown for the new center, which highlighted the groundbreaking ceremony. He distributed the Summer 1997 Foundation newsletter which includes the contribution form on page 4. Mr. Sims thanked the Communications team and Marie Peterson of the FFA Foundation. Kent Schescke and Glenn Sims have accepted the challenge of becoming co-team leaders. The reorganization of the Foundation staff will be complete by July 1998. Mr. Sims announced that Lynn Campbell will join the staff on August 18. She is a former agriculture teacher and has experience with sales territory management. A six-star category will be added at the $200,000 and above level. The other star levels will be re-evaluated. Charlie Fischer, DowElanco and Howard Minigh, American Cyanamid, each from the Executive Sponsors’ Board, will be in attendance at the Trustees meeting.

15. **National FFA Alumni Association Business and Issues**

Shirley Carte, president of the National FFA Alumni Association, presented the report for the National FFA Alumni Association. Ms. Carte indicated that Kimberley Rigol will be responsible for the day-to-day activities on behalf of the Council until the vacancy for the executive director position is filled. Ms. Carte handed out the agenda for the FFA Alumni State Leaders’ Conference, to be held on July 21-27, 1997, at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA.

16. **Administrative and Legal Matters**

Bernie Staller gave an update on administrative and legal issues. No legal issues are pending. Mr. Staller discussed the current plan for the relocation of staff. Health insurance costs are needed by program staff in order to make decisions for the move; this should not pose a problem prior to the move date. Training seminars will be available for staff who will not be moving. Mr. Staller explained the benefits packages for those who are moving or not moving. Mr. Staller explained that joining the Organization and Foundation staffs in the same location will provide opportunities for career pathways and institutional knowledge. In addition, operating costs will be reduced for health, retirement plans etc., although the organization and foundation staffs will not be able to have the same plan. A recommendation is not being made, although he wants the Board to consider any options, ideas and thoughts. Mr. Staller offered his thanks to the Board and shared that the staff has been very dedicated. Mr. Staller shared with the group that Dr. Kirby has been inducted into the North Carolina State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers for the 1996-97 academic year.

17. **Unfinished Business**
MOTION: It was moved by Brad Montgomery (Karen Hutchison), seconded by Rachel Fehringer (Les Olsen) and carried that the Board approve the amended list of “Honorary American FFA Degree” to include the parents of the national officers (total list to include 115 nominees).

MOTION: It was moved by Holly Bentley (Les Olsen), seconded by Charlie Jones (John Wilkinson) and carried that the Board approve the proposal “National Officer and Nominating Committee Characteristic Skills and Knowledge Review”. The board motion was amended to strike “Characteristic” from the proposal and the motion should read: Recommend that the Student Services Team develop, through research and careful consideration, a list of skills and knowledge national officers should possess to effectively serve the National FFA Organization. Concurrently, through a similar process, the qualities of an effective Nominating Committee member should be determined and presented to national officers before “Convention season”. Specifically, there should be emphasis on gathering this information from teachers, state staff, national staff, business and industry representatives, and past and current national officers.

Tuesday, July 15, 1997 — Final Session

18. Recognition of Retiring FFA Board Consultants and Foundation Trustees
The Board recognized Linda Story, Ray Herren, Tom Heffeman, Judy Mayfield, Blannie Bowen, MeeCee Baker and Wayne Beck for their service with the Board of Directors. Chairperson Case asked each one to make comments. A round of applause followed for the retiring Consultants and Foundation Trustees.

19. Recognition of Retiring FFA Board Members and Foundation Trustees
The Board recognized David Hopson and Les Olsen for their service with the Board of Directors.

20. January 1998 FFA Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees Meetings
The January 1998 FFA Board of Directors meeting will be held January 25-28, 1998, with a social event on Saturday night (January 24th). The January 1998 Foundation Board of Trustees meeting will be held on January 28, 1998.

21. Adjournment
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

22. Executive Session with Senior Management
No motions in the Executive Session of the Board.