

MINUTES OF THE F.F.A. NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Washington, D. C. January 31, 1944

The meeting was called to order in the office of the Executive Secretary at 9:30 a.m. Those present were: President, Robert Bowman; 1st Vice President, Beverly Roller; 2nd Vice President, Ralph Salzman; 3rd Vice President, Arthur Clifford; 4th Vice President, Bob Barthelmess; Student Secretary, Byron Freeman; Adviser, Dr. W. T. Spanton; and Acting Executive Secretary, A. W. Tenney.

A letter was presented from Mr. DeAlton, North Dakota, requesting the privilege of electing State farmers for the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 at the convention that will be held this year. Ralph moved that the executive secretary be authorized to write Mr. DeAlton and explain to him that it is impossible to elect more than two percent of the State membership in any one year and to make further necessary explanations. The motion was seconded and passed.

A letter from Mr. DeAlton was presented. This letter raised the question of the eligibility of boys in service for active membership and asked if membership cards should be sent to these boys. Byron moved that the Board of Trustees go on record as interpreting the constitution to mean that the boys in service would be kept in good standing, and the time elapsed until they return and become active members by paying their dues, would not be held against them. The motion was seconded and passed.

A letter from H. F. Linde of the John Deere and Company concerning an award to be made to Future Farmers of America was read and discussed. Bob moved that the John Deere Award be a farm mechanics award and that details of this should be left to Dr. Spanton and Mr. Tenney. The motion was seconded and passed.

A request from the New Farmers of America to adopt the same motto used by the F.F.A. was presented and discussed. Beverly moved that Dr. Spanton and Mr. Tenney talk with the officials of the N.F.A. and advise that a new motto be prepared, but that if a new motto could not be found that would be satisfactory, the F.F.A. would not prohibit the N.F.A. from using their motto. The motion was seconded and passed.

A brief discussion was held concerning the Harvey S. Firestone Award. Arthur moved that we accept this award and make the necessary plans for administering it. The motion was seconded and passed.

Byron moved that we make further plans for an F.F.A. foundation and that Dr. Spanton and Mr. Tenney have these plans ready for the meeting of the Board of Trustees in July. The motion was seconded and passed.

It was announced that there were sufficient funds in the National F.F.A. Treasury to purchase another war bond. Bob moved that Dr. Spanton, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Tenney be authorized to purchase a bond if they deemed it advisable. The motion was seconded and passed.

A letter from Mr. Gibson of the Hawaiian Association of the Future Farmers of America was read. Mr. Gibson requested assistance from a national organization in staging a public speaking contest for the territory. He requested that their Association be given the funds that would normally be used to defray the expenses from Hawaii to the National Convention. Ralph moved that the request from Hawaii for assistance in staging their public speaking contest be granted. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Board of Trustees recommended unanimously the following:

"The National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America urgently request that our National Adviser and National Executive Secretary give consideration to the employment of a full-time individual trained and experienced in newspaper and public relations work. Such an individual should be employed by the national organization of the F.F.A. but should serve in the national headquarters offices in the U. S. Office of Education. His salary, travel, secretarial, and other office expenses should be paid from funds in the National Future Farmers of America Treasury.

"We further recommend that after this proposal has been thoroughly investigated and considered, the National Adviser should present to the National Board of Trustees and National Advisory Council at their joint meeting in July a definite proposal for the employment and establishment of such an F.F.A. publicity man in the offices of the Agricultural Education Service, including an estimated budget for same."

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. Tenney  
Acting National Executive Secretary, F.F.A.