

MINUTES

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

Kansas City, Missouri  
October 12-13, 1957

October 12

The meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 441 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Board members present, in addition to Dr. Spanton, included:

Board of Directors

Mr. Emory M. Howard, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Board of Vocational Education, Boise, Idaho;  
Mr. Harold F. Duis, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Board of Vocational Education, Lincoln, Nebraska;  
Mr. Owen E. Kiser, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, New Brunswick, New Jersey;  
Mr. George F. Sullards, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas  
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.

Board of Student Officers

John M. Haid, Jr., National FFA President, Siloam Springs, Ark;  
Jerry Ringo, National FFA Vice President, Rothwell, Ky;  
Victor Cappucci, Jr., National FFA Vice President, Mehoopany, Penna;  
Pete Knutson, National FFA Vice President, Livingston, Mont;  
James Quincey, National FFA Vice President, Trenton, Fla;  
Jerry Litton, National FFA Student Secretary, Chillicothe, Mo.

Mr. R. E. Bass, National FFA Treasurer, Richmond, Virginia; and Mr. Wm. Paul Gray, National FFA Executive Secretary, Office of Education, Washington, D. C., were also present.

It was moved by Pete Knutson, seconded by Victor Cappucci and carried, that the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with, and the Minutes be accepted as previously mimeographed and distributed. It was moved by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the motion made by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.



Dr. Spanton called attention to the fact that this year, for the first time, no appeals for review of rejected applications for the American Farmer Degree, had been received in the National Office.

*He recommended a 25¢ increase per jacket to the mfg (effective Jan 1, 1958) and further recommended we reduce the 10% discount to 5% on 10 or more jackets - but the cost per jacket be the same.*

Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service, appeared before the Boards and gave a report on the Supply Service. ~~Because of increased manufacturing costs,~~ <sup>to FFA's</sup> ~~he recommended~~ a 25 cent increase in the price of the official FFA Jacket, effective January 1, 1958, and also recommended that the 10% discount on 10 or more jackets be discontinued.

*we reduced it 5% "*

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Jerry Ringo, seconded by Pete Knutson and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the recommendations made by Mr. Hawkins, concerning the increase in price of FFA jackets and the discontinuance of the 10% discount, be adopted. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Duis and carried, to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

*changed*

Mr. Hawkins gave a report on the new FFA Building and announced that the Supply Service personnel had just moved into the building. Mr. Hawkins presented to Dr. Spanton a check for \$30,000.00 from the Supply Service, which is to be placed in the Building Fund. He also gave Dr. Spanton a "Master Key" to the new building.

Dr. Spanton called for reports from the four regional representatives on the Board -- concerning any matters which they wished to present to the Boards.

Mr. Kiser, of the North Atlantic Region, reported on the FFA contests and activities at the Annual Exposition of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, held October 7-9 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Kiser stated that he was very much impressed with the fine cooperation extended to the FFA by NEPPCO officials, and that they apparently held the FFA in high esteem, since virtually all of their publicity carried sub headlines about FFA activities for the week -- especially the selection of the Best FFA Poultry Boy of the year. NEPPCO is comprised of Poultry Organizations in 14 States, including the North Atlantic Region, Ohio, and Virginia. Mr. Kiser urged that the National Organization of FFA send a National Officer to NEPPCO each year, and that a member of the Agricultural Education staff in the U. S. Office of Education serve as coordinator of vocational education and FFA activities at this Exposition.

Mr. Sullards advised that he had nothing to discuss on behalf of the Southern Region.

Mr. Duis reported that he had written to the States in the Central Region, but had received no complaints from them.

Mr. Howard, of the Pacific Region, stated that he believed the Boards should clarify the intent of the action taken at the July meeting of the Board of Directors with reference to FFA members who participate in the exchange program with the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs of Great Britain not being considered eligible for a National FFA Office. Mr. Howard wondered if the Board also should have specified that Past National Officers should not be considered for exchange programs to other countries.



Considerable discussion was held concerning this matter, both pro and con. It was felt by some that perhaps it was better to have the FFA represented in foreign countries by older boys who were more mature in their thinking and actions. It was suggested that it was a good idea to have at least one Past National Officer accompany the others on these trips, to act as a "stabilizer" to his colleagues. Jerry Ringo felt that a Past National Officer would be in much better position to represent the FFA than a member who had not had the experience and knowledge gained through holding a National Office. On the other hand, John Haid felt that his experiences in Great Britain were of great help to him in holding a National Office. Dr. Spanton pointed out that we must not lose sight of the fact that it is necessary to observe "rotation" among the States in selecting these participants so that all sections of the country might benefit from these opportunities.

After further discussion, it was moved by James Quincey, seconded by Jerry Litton and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the action taken at the July meeting, concerning the matter of youth exchange programs, be further clarified by adding the following statement: "It shall be the policy of the National Organization to select FFA members, or former members, for the exchange program with Great Britain, by giving preference to those who have not held a National Office."

It was moved by Mr. Duis, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained by the Board of Directors.

Dr. Spanton announced that the next meeting of the Board will be held during the week of January 27, 1958. The Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation will meet the first three days, January 27-28-29; and the Board of Directors of the FFA will remain through the 30th and 31st.

*Next Convention*  
Dr. Spanton read a telegram from Dr. C. E. Turner, Assistant to the President, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, New York City, requesting permission to present a plaque to the National Organization of Future Farmers of America, at their next National Convention, in recognition of services rendered in connection with the March of Dimes.

It was moved by Victor Cappucci, seconded by James Quincey and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the FFA go on record as favoring acceptance of a plaque offered by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. It was moved by Mr. Sullards, seconded by Mr. Kiser and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

John Haid read a letter from Mr. V. A. Martin, of Pennsylvania, expressing regret that, due to circumstances beyond his control, he would be unable to come to Kansas City to receive his Honorary American Farmer Degree.



The next matter to come before the Board was consideration of an Amendment to Article V, Section D, No. 9, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Tennessee Association of FFA. This proposed amendment would change the percentage of Future Farmer boys who would be eligible to receive the State Farmer Degree, from 2% to 3% of the total State membership. Their proposed amendment would provide that:

"Article V, Section D, No. 9, of the National FFA Constitution be changed to read: '..... where State membership exceeds 500, a number in excess of ten, but not more than 3% of the total State membership, may be elected (fractions counted to the nearest whole number)'."

After due consideration, it was moved by Pete Knutson, seconded by James Quincey and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as recommending to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to Article V, Section D, No. 9, of the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Tennessee Association of FFA, be rejected. It was moved by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Kiser and carried, that the Board of Directors approve the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

It was moved by Jerry Litton, seconded by Jerry Ringo and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend that the following gentlemen, all of whom are to address the Convention, receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree at the 1957 National FFA Convention:

Hon. Harry S. Truman, Former President of the United States,  
Independence, Missouri

Hon. Edward Foss Wilson, Assistant Secretary, Department of  
Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C.

Hon. Edward J. Thye, United States Senator from Minnesota,  
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Cecil Underwood, Governor of West Virginia,  
Charleston, West Virginia

His Excellency, Erik Boheman, Swedish Ambassador to  
the United States, Washington, D. C.

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors approve the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in going over plans and assignments of convention responsibilities.

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



October 13

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 p.m., the morning hours having been given over to attendance at church services in which the National FFA Band and Chorus participated.

Mr. Weiler, of Ohio, Chairman of the newly created "Courtesy Corps", appeared before the Board and reported on final plans of the "Courtesy Corps" for assisting with the FFA Convention. He stated, among other things, that boys attending the convention will be asked to stay within an area bounded by 10th and Broadway; and 14th and McGee Streets. He also stated that the "Courtesy Corps" would set up an office in the outer foyer of the Municipal Auditorium.

Mr. Howard, of Idaho, who will serve as Chairman of the Committee on Ushers, stated that his group was well organized and ready to assume its duties during the convention.

A discussion was held concerning the new type registration card, which is being used for the first time this year. It was reported that some States found, too late, that they needed additional cards. This raised the question as to what should be done about boys who come to the convention without the registration cards, properly signed by their parents and teachers. It was suggested that perhaps they should be admitted if their State Supervisors, or some other State staff member, would vouch for them.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Jerry Ringo, seconded by Victor Cappucci and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that boys coming in to the Convention without official registration cards should be required to sign a register entitled "Unofficial Authorization to Attend the FFA Convention". This register will call for the boy's name, his address, place of residence while in Kansas City, his signature, and the signature of one adult from his State. It was moved by Dr. Tenney that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers. Mr. Duis seconded Dr. Tenney's motion.

Mr. Hunsicker then moved that Dr. Tenney's motion be amended by striking the word "Unofficial" from the title of the register. This motion was seconded by Mr. Kiser, but failed to carry. Dr. Tenney's motion was then carried.

Because it is expected that a considerable number of boys will be in Kansas City whose parents and teachers have not signed cards, to vouch for their good behavior while in Kansas City, the question arose as to the degree of authority which should be delegated to the Courtesy Corps in handling disciplinary matters.

It was moved by Jerry Litton, seconded by Jerry Ringo and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that authority be delegated to the Courtesy Corps Committee to handle any disciplinary matters that might arise during the convention --



even to sending boys home if it became necessary to take such drastic action. One member of the Board of Student Officers suggested that it might be a good idea to have an FFA member, or former member, appointed to the Courtesy Corps Committee, so that an offender would feel that he had been fairly represented. The name of Fred Reed, a Past National Officer, was suggested for this assignment. Without objection, it was ordered that he be appointed to serve as a member of the Courtesy Corps. Mr. Duis stated that the Courtesy Corps would contact the State staff before sending any boy home. That would place the matter in the hands of the State officials.

It was moved by Mr. Sullards, seconded by Mr. Howard and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

It was moved by James Quincey, seconded by Victor Cappucci and carried, that the Board of Student Officers go on record as commending Mr. Weiler and the members of the Courtesy Corps for the fine job they have done in setting up this important new committee; Mr. Howard and the members of his Committee on Ushers, for their fine cooperation and assistance in conducting the convention; and that the Board of Student Officers further pledges its cooperation in assisting these two Committees in every possible way. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried, that the Board of Directors approve the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. Gray, National Executive Secretary of the FFA, presented and explained the Proposed Budget for the Future Farmers of America for 1957-1958. The Proposed Budget totals \$250,850.00 and was reviewed, item by item.

It was moved by Pete Knutson, seconded by Jerry Ringo and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the Proposed Budget for 1957-1958, as presented by Mr. Gray, be accepted. It was moved by Mr. Naugher, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

In line with action taken at the July meeting of the two Boards, Mr. Gray reported on proposed revisions in the wording of certain sections of the 1958 application form for the American Farmer Degree. These revisions are as follows:

At the top of Page 2 of the application form:

A. Summary of the In-School Supervised Farming Program of the Candidate

A candidate must list his farming program for the first two years, indicating scope, per cent owned by the candidate, his share of credits, debits, and labor income for each enterprise. For the last year, or years, he must indicate scope of each enterprise, and he may list total credits, debits, and labor income for all enterprises combined where records are kept on a farm account basis.



At the top of Page 3 of the application form:

B. Summary of the Out-of-School Supervised Farming Program of the Candidate

The candidate must list his farming program for each year by farm enterprises, indicating scope and per cent owned by candidate. The candidate may show his share of credits, debits, and labor income for each enterprise or list total credits, debits and labor income for all enterprises combined when records are kept on a farm account basis. List the productive projects and their scope for the current farming program but do not show estimates of credits, debits and labor income.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Victor Cappucci, seconded by James Quincey and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the proposed revisions in the 1958 application form for the American Farmer Degree, as presented by Mr. Gray, be adopted. It was moved by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Duis and carried, that the action taken by the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Jerry Ringo mentioned the fact that throughout the years, many persons have given unselfishly of their time and efforts in serving on both the Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America, and the Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation, but have nothing tangible to show for it. He felt that persons who serve in this capacity should receive something tangible from the National Organization in recognition of their services. He also thought this might apply to Past National Officers.

Accordingly, it was moved by Jerry Ringo, seconded by Victor Cappucci and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that a special plaque be designed and presented to retiring members on the Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America, the Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation, and Past National FFA Officers -- to be effective this year -- and that Mr. Hawkins secure an appropriate plaque for this purpose.

Mr. Howard inquired as to the probable cost of such a plaque. He stated he would not be in favor of this if the cost to the National Organization would be excessive. In the discussion which followed, it was felt that an appropriate plaque could be furnished for about \$10.00.

It was therefore moved by Mr. Naugher, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

It was explained that at the July meeting of the Board, it was agreed that Mr. Clyde Sullivan, of Livingston, Montana, receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree because of the help and assistance he has rendered to Pete Knutson. Because of the fact that Pete has resided

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Service  
Plaques  
for Nat.  
Officers

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There is  
Tangible  
evidence  
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for many years with Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, it was Pete's wish that Mrs. Sullivan be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, as is customary in the case of Mothers of all National FFA Officers. It was also suggested that a Certificate of Appreciation be presented to the wife of Victor Cappucci, and to wives of National Officers in the future. These suggestions met with the approval of all members of the Board of Student Officers and they so recommended to the Board of Directors.

It was moved by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Kiser and carried, that the Board of Directors accept the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers with respect to presenting Certificates of Appreciation to Mrs. Clyde Sullivan and to Mrs. Victor Cappucci -- and to wives of National FFA Officers in the future.

Dr. Spanton raised the question of whether the standards for the American Farmer Degree should be raised. He asked members of the Board of Directors to give serious thought to this matter between now and the January meeting of the Board. He also suggested that the Board members contact the State staffs in their respective Regions for their reactions and ideas concerning this matter. Dr. Spanton stated that new application forms are now in the process of being revised and printed -- but a one-year supply will be printed, rather than the usual three-year supply, so that consideration can be given to revising the standards.


James Quincey brought out the fact that the annual Goodwill Tours taken by newly elected FFA National Officers, do not usually call for itineraries through the South. He stated that in traveling through the Southern Region this past year, he has found that men on the State and local levels are very much interested in the FFA and are ready and willing to go "all out" for them. Jim felt that future tours should include visits to Business and Industry, as well as farm organizations, throughout the South.

It was moved by Victor Cappucci, seconded by Jerry Ringo and carried, that the matter of scheduling visits to the South, on the annual Goodwill Tour, be looked into by the National Office and the Board of Directors. It was moved by Mr. Naugher, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

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



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

  
Wm. Paul Gray, Secretary

  
W. T. Spanton, Chairman