

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

Washington, D. C.
January 23 - 25, 1956

January 23, 1956

The meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room G-759 A, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Building, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Those present included:

Board of Directors

Mr. John W. Bunten, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education,
Carson City, Nevada;
Mr. H. M. McDonald, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education,
Baltimore, Maryland;
Mr. Warren G. Weiler, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education,
Columbus, Ohio;
Mr. H. E. Wood, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education,
Tallahassee, Florida;
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

Daniel Dunham, National FFA President, Lakeview, Oregon;
Lennie Gamage, National FFA Vice President, Cartersville,
Virginia;
Dale Ring, National FFA Vice President, Wooster, Ohio;
Allen Colebank, National FFA Vice President, Morgantown,
West Virginia;
Lynn Loosli, National FFA Vice President; Ashton, Idaho; and
Terrell Benton, Jr., National FFA Student Secretary,
Jefferson, Georgia.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. WEILER, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried, that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with and the minutes be accepted as mimeographed and distributed.

Dr. Spanton called for a report of items suggested by the representatives of the States. Mr. Bunten raised the question as to the progress on a guide to State Associations relating to awards for members of the FFA. Copies of the tentative guide, which had been developed earlier and given limited consideration at the October meeting were distributed. Lynn Loosli asked if State Associations will be required

to follow the guide as established by the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors. Dr. Spanton replied that no enforcement was provided but that the guide is intended as a set of principles, which the national boards endorse and which they feel most State Associations should follow. After considerable discussion, editorial changes were made in the tentative guide and it was approved as follows:

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

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.

Since the FFA is an integral part of the public school system, it is the responsibility of State Associations to develop and evaluate FFA award programs. Local chapters should be given guidance in the use of awards.

The following guides for State Associations were developed by the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors.

1. Design and use awards as a means to improve educational programs.
2. Plan the award program so it will be fair to organizations and companies concerned.
3. Develop policies and practices in connection with award programs to protect FFA members and chapters.
4. Review the award program periodically to determine whether desired goals are being achieved.
5. Review and accept or reject all proposed awards bearing the name "Future Farmers of America".
6. Funds received by the FFA from any company, organization, or individual should be accepted without reservations or restrictions from the donors.
7. Plan and conduct the award program so that it will help to maintain a balanced program of instruction.
8. Plan the award program so that it does not permit or imply the endorsement of products being manufactured, distributed or sold by an award donor.

9. Obtain counsel from cooperating groups concerning the improvement and further development of the award program.
 10. Consider the development of a State FFA Foundation to consolidate and improve the award program as a further aid in the development of agriculture and leadership.
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Mr. Bunten stated that one State in his region had questioned the items in the national chapter contest which require that a superior chapter must have membership equal to 100 percent of the enrollment in vocational agriculture, and that they must average 80 percent of members attendance at meetings. It was pointed out that in some areas where all boys in the high school are required to take vocational agriculture, the local chapter does not encourage FFA membership by those who appear to be lacking in facilities for a supervised farming program and establishment in farming. Mr. Naugher suggested this be reviewed carefully in July and that the Boards come up with something that will stand for a period of three years.

After considerable discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY DALE RING, seconded by Lennie Gamage and carried that Items 2 and 14, under Requirements for Superior Chapter Award, in the Announcement, Rules and Application Forms for the National Chapter Award, remain as they are. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MCDONALD, seconded by Mr. Wood, and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Mr. Wood read a letter he had received from Dr. M. C. Gaar, Professor of Agricultural Education at the Louisiana State University, in which Dr. Gaar recommended that money be set aside in the National FFA Budget to pay the expenses of perhaps five or six principals or superintendents from each State to attend the National FFA Convention.

After some discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried that the Boards recommend to the States that they invite their principals and superintendents to attend the National FFA Convention, but that their expenses not be paid by the National FFA nor by the FFA Foundation. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MR. BUNTEN, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Mr. Weiler reported he had received the suggestion from his State officers, that cuff links be added to the list of items sold by the Supply Service. Mr. Naugher suggested that since they could not be put in the Supply Service catalog this year, that samples be submitted to the Boards at the July meeting and if they are agreeable, action be taken at that time. Terrell Benton and Dale Ring both felt that the only way there would be a large sale on this item would be to sell it as a set with a matching tie clasp.

IT WAS MOVED BY DALE RING, seconded by Lynn Loosli and carried that a set including cuff links and tie clasp be sold by the Future Farmers Supply Service, as a part of the official jewelry. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MR. WEILER, seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained, subject to the submission of desirable samples at the July meeting, and further canvassing of the situation between now and the July meeting.

Mr. Weiler said he had received requests from some States regarding the booklet, "You.....and Your National FFA Convention", which had been given to all those attending the national convention. They were wondering if this booklet could not be changed slightly so it could be used at the State conventions and also the national convention. Mr. Johnson said that several of the State supervisors had come to him at the convention asking that he set aside 200 or 300 of the booklets for them, and that judging from comments made, most of the States would like to have this booklet, or one similar to it, made available. Since the booklet as it now stands can be used only for the National FFA Convention, it was felt that States wanting something on this order could use it as a guide in preparing one for their own use.

Dr. Tenney asked if the distribution of this booklet at the national convention should be made an annual custom. Dan Dunham said he thought it should be sent to the States before the convention so boys would have them before arriving in Kansas City. He also liked the idea of the booklet since it was the only way the national officers could greet, in written form, those who attend the convention.

Mr. Weiler had received the suggestion from one State that a new degree, possibly District Farmer, be added between the Chapter Farmer Degree and State Farmer Degree. Dale Ring said he did not think that this was a good idea since the organization was founded at four levels of membership, and he thought that it should be left that way.

Mr. Weiler then said he believed there had been some comment that the awarding of the Honorary American Farmer Degree to State staff members be discussed at the various regional conferences. The following statement came from the Central Regional Conference:

"The regional committee select one supervisor and one teacher trainer to recommend to the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree each year."

Mr. Naugher said that if this were done, the quota of 50 honorary degrees per year would have to be raised to 60. Mr. Buntten thought that since the members of the Boards represented each of the four regions, they were in a position to know who should receive the degree. Mr. Naugher then suggested that possibly a committee could be appointed and charged

with the responsibility of developing some type of guide or score card that could be used in connection with awarding the degree to teacher trainers, executive secretaries and other State staff members. Dr. Tenney said the major problem in preparing a score card is how to divide responsibilities. This problem, he said, had been encountered in preparing the score card for teachers of vocational agriculture, and had been solved pretty well, but that it would be more difficult on a State level. Dan Dunham stated he did not believe the Student Officers were familiar enough with the situation to come up with any intelligent conclusion. After further discussion, Dr. Spanton suggested discussion on this matter be discontinued until the officers have an opportunity to talk about it among themselves or with the member of the Board of Directors from their respective regions.

A discussion was then held concerning hotel reservations for the national convention. States had been complaining because the Housing Bureau of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce had not been acknowledging requests for reservations for the convention. Dr. Tenney stated he had written Mr. Coyner, Manager of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, concerning this problem and suggested that a mimeographed card or letter be prepared so acknowledgment of reservations could be made promptly. Mr. Coyner's reply stated this was being done. Mr. Naugher suggested this problem be discussed with the supervisors at the various regional conferences to get their opinions, and that the information received at the conferences be given to Dr. Spanton and Dr. Tenney so they would have it when they visited Kansas City in May. Dr. Spanton suggested the supervisors be asked to write either to him or Dr. Tenney concerning this situation so they would have the letters to show to the people at the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Spanton read a letter he received from Mr. Walter Jacoby, Consultant of Agricultural Education in Connecticut, in which Mr. Jacoby, suggested that the State FFA Exhibits at the national convention be judged and appropriate awards given. Mr. Jacoby said they felt this would result in wider participation in the exhibits, would provide excellent stories for use in the various States, and the cash awards given would help pay the transportation costs of such exhibits to Kansas City.

In the discussion which followed, Dan Dunham felt that if the national organization started giving awards for these exhibits they would get to such a high point of competition they would not be of the same quality they are now. Terrell Benton felt if the exhibits were put on a competitive basis, States would enter just to win and the exhibits might not have the educational value they now have. Lennie Gamage thought if more States would send in exhibits then more space would be needed in the Municipal Auditorium. Mr. Bunten asked why the organization could not allow a certain amount of money for the transportation of exhibits say every other year. That would then limit the exhibits to about 25 each year. After further discussion it was agreed that no action would be taken at this time.

In Mr. Jacoby's letter he also stated that the Connecticut Association wished to sponsor Mr. Joseph N. Giles, State Commissioner of Agriculture, to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree at the 1956 national convention. It was agreed that no action would be taken on this until the July meeting when other recommendations for the Honorary American Farmer Degree would be taken up by the Boards.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

January 24, 1956

The meeting was called to order in Room G-759 A by the Chairman at 9:30 a.m., all members of the Boards being present.

At the July meetings of the Boards, a motion was passed giving Mr. Lano Barron, Editor of The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine authority to take over the publication of the Official FFA Calendar beginning in 1958. However, Mr. Fred Seely, Vice President of the Osborne Company, appeared before the Boards and requested them to re-consider their previous action. After discussing the calendar situation, it was agreed to uphold the action taken at the July meeting.

Mr. Barron then made a financial report on the National FFA Magazine for the first half of the fiscal year, July 1, 1955 to June 30, 1956, and a statement on advertising income.

He then recommended that inasmuch as a foreign subscription costs the magazine approximately \$1.50 without adding to the advertising potential income, that the foreign subscription rate be raised to one dollar per year. Mr. Naugher asked if the public relations value was enough to continue the present subscription rate. Dr. Spanton asked Mr. Swanson his opinion on this. Mr. Swanson stated he did not know how much it was worth to the FFA but it was worth a lot to other countries. Mr. Hunsicker suggested that a one-year subscription be given to those foreign visitors who attend the national convention in Kansas City, and after that first year if they wish to continue receiving the magazine they pay the one dollar subscription fee. Mr. Swanson was asked approximately how many foreign visitors attend the convention. He said in 1955 there were 54, but in 1953 there were only 13 and in 1954 only 15.

IT WAS THEN MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried that Mr. Barron be authorized to increase the foreign subscription rate to one dollar per year, but that foreign visitors attending the national convention be given a one-year subscription without cost. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. BUNTEN, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

IT WAS MOVED BY ALLEN COLEBANK, seconded by Lynn Loosli and carried that Mr. Barron's report be accepted. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MR. BUNTEN, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Mr. Edward Hawkins, Manager of the Supply Service, appeared before the group and gave the operating statement of the Supply Service as of December 31, 1955. Mr. Hawkins recommended that the sale of the blue and gold T-shirts be discontinued because of the small demand after the present stock is depleted. He stated they were coming out with a new T-shirt which he believed would be more suitable. Mr. Hawkins also recommended that the sale of the basketball uniforms, cattle and sheep blankets, and the Christmas cards be discontinued.

IT WAS MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried that the T-shirts, basketball uniforms, and Christmas cards be discontinued for sale at the Supply Service. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MR. WELLER, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

It was agreed that the sheep and cattle blankets remain on sale but that they not be pictured in the catalog unless extra space is available.

Mr. Hawkins said he had received requests to include a gavel and gavel block as a part of the official FFA paraphernalia. He said he had also received a request from Alabama for an Honorary Chapter Farmer Certificate. Mr. Buntten asked if an Honorary State Farmer Certificate could also be developed.

IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Lynn Loosli and carried that Honorary Chapter Farmer and Honorary State Farmer Certificates, and also a gavel and gavel block be added to items sold by the Supply Service. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

January 25, 1956

The morning session was called to order at 9:00 a.m., in Room G-759 A by the Chairman, at which time Mr. Hawkins continued with his report of the Supply Service.

Considerable discussion was held in regard to the Supply Service stocking "show-shirts" for FFA members to wear in various contests throughout the country. Dr. Spanton wanted to know why the present T-shirts wouldn't do for this, but Mr. Hawkins pointed out that a heavier material was wanted by most boys. Mr. Buntten thought that a good quality white shirt would be nice. IT WAS MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Lynn Loosli, and carried that Mr. Hawkins look into the

matter of a heavier "show-shirt" for FFA members. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. Hawkins then brought up the question as to how contracts for large quantities of merchandise, such as the FFA jackets, should be handled, and whether or not the contracts should be brought before the Boards. Dr. Spanton asked Mr. Hawkins what he would recommend. Mr. Hawkins suggested that sealed bids on large contracts, such as those for jackets, should come into his office and then he would open them in front of the Governing Committee or Board of Directors. He stated further that this would eliminate any possible criticism of his showing favoritism to any particular firm. Mr. Hawkins further stated that many times firms submitting the lowest bid don't always get the contract because there are many other points to be considered before favoring a firm with a contract, such as, a guaranteed delivery date, making sure the firm is a reputable one, etc.

Mr. Hawkins stated that he would handle bids on smaller items, but with the large contracts he thinks the Boards should give final authorization. It was agreed that bids on the big contracts should be passed on by the two Boards.

Dr. Spanton suggested that the sealed bids be sent to Mr. Hawkins and that he open them before the Governing Committee, and then the Governing Committee could make recommendations, and present them to the two Boards for final consideration. Mr. Bunten thought that the Governing Committee should be able to handle it all, but Dr. Spanton pointed out that he wanted to eliminate all possible criticism. IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Lennie Gamage and carried that sealed bids for large quantities of merchandise be submitted to the Supply Service Manager, opened before the Governing Committee, then the Governing Committee could make recommendations to the Boards for final consideration. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. WEILER, seconded by Mr. Bunten and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Mr. Hawkins finished his report and IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried that Mr. Hawkins' report be accepted as submitted. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Mr. Bunten and carried, that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

After a long discussion on the proposed site for the new FFA Building, it was decided that it would be best for the members of the two Boards to visit the property and take a "first-hand" look at the sites in question. There were three different locations proposed. Mr. Hunsicker thought it should be a building of which the FFA would be proud, and that it should be a memorial to the FFA. Mr. Weiler stated that we weren't justified in tying up another \$100,000 just to make a shrine out of the building when it is not absolutely necessary.

After considerable discussion most members seemed to favor a "site on top of the knoll" including the purchase of the two adjacent lots which are in front of our property and face the Mt. Vernon Highway and which Dr. Tenney reported were for sale at \$11,000. Dr. Spanton explained that the property fronting on Highway No. 1 would be sold by action taken by a previous Board. After further discussion, IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried that the "site on top of the knoll" be accepted with the understanding that we obtain the two lots adjacent to and in front of our property, but that we bring in a member from the National Board of Student Officers and one of the members from the Board of Directors to act as guides to the Governing Committee when we actually stake out the site of the building. IT WAS MOVED BY DALE RING, seconded by Lynn Loosli, and carried that the Board of Student Officers sustain the action of the Board of Directors.

IT WAS THEN MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried that the Board be authorized to buy the property adjacent to and in front of our property facing on Mt. Vernon Highway. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. WEILER, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried that the Board of Directors sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Lennie Gamage and carried that we recommend that action taken by a previous board be rescinded and that we strike out the amount of \$200,000 as a maximum to be spent on a new building and leave the amount up to the Governing Committee, but that every effort be made to reduce the cost to a minimum and that final action be left up to the Governing Committee plus two advisors—one from the Board of Directors and one from the Board of Student Officers. IT WAS MOVED BY DR. TENNEY, seconded by Mr. Weiler and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

After discussion on how the building would be financed, IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried that the National Treasurer be authorized (when and if funds are necessary) to cash the Government Bonds in the FFA Reserve Fund and use the funds for the building. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried that the Board of Directors sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers. Mr. Buntin then wanted to know when we were going to start on the building? Dr. Tenney explained that we needed a permit to build, and said that we would probably get the permit around the latter part of February. Dr. Spanton said if possible, we would start just as soon as we get the permit.

Copies of the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures of the FFA for a six-month period from July 1, 1955 to Dec. 31, 1955 were distributed by Mrs. Coiner. While reviewing the statement in detail a few points were discussed: Dr. Spanton explained the large amount of unexpended balance

under Special Travel (National Office) was due to the fact that this past year the Government paid the travel expenses of those on the Washington staff to Kansas City and Waterloo. Mr. Naugher questioned Item No. VII--"Judging Expenses", and Mr. Johnson explained that the money was used as travel awards to the States. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried that the National Treasurer's report be accepted as submitted. IT WAS MOVED BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained. Mrs. Coiner then pointed out that before long a couple of our Government Bonds will be maturing and she wanted to know whether or not she should reinvest them. Dr. Spanton said that when they came due we would probably ask her to put them in the Reserve Fund and not reinvest them. IT WAS MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Terrell Benton and carried that the Government Bonds be cashed and placed in the Reserve Fund. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Dr. Tenney then read a letter from Mr. T. O. Beech of Arizona requesting us to adopt an official Sweetheart plaque. Dan Dunham's view was that he thought that local chapters were carrying it plenty far and he was completely opposed to it. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY LYNN LOOSLI, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried that they reject the idea of a Sweetheart Plaque. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. JOHNSON, seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Dan Dunham then read a letter from Miss Elizabeth Copeland of the Custom Cal Caompany giving her report for the last half of 1955 and enclosing a check in the amount of \$1,277.00 for the national FFA organization in accordance with the agreement on the "Official FFA Chapter Fund Raising Calendar."

Dan also read a letter from Ed Sullivan requesting the FFA to endorse the American Cancer Program and send a letter to our chapters throughout the country urging the need for financial and volunteer support in the fight against cancer. IT WAS MOVED BY TERRELL BENTON, seconded by Allen Colebank and carried to reject this request. It was pointed out that if we endorsed this one program then we would have to endorse them all. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. NAUGHER, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. Johnson then read the report of the 1955 Annual Meeting of the Special Study Committee for National FFA Judging Contests which met in Kansas City, Missouri, October 14 right after the national FFA convention. Action was taken by the committee that a national "Safe Tractor Driving, Operation, and Maintenance Contest" be conducted in 1956 on a trial run basis without cost to the FFA. Terrell Benton thought that no contests should be set up on a permanent basis. IT WAS THEN MOVED BY LENNIE GAMAGE, seconded by Terrell Benton, and carried that we approve the trial plan of a "Safe Tractor Driving, Operation, and Maintenance Contest" but that the two Boards take final action in establishing any permanent national contests in the future. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. HUNSICKER, seconded by Dr. Tenney and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

With no further business to come before the two Boards, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

A. W. Tenney

A. W. Tenney, Secretary

W. T. Spanton

W. T. Spanton, Chairman