

**Maryland FFA Association Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 14, 2020 6:00 PM**  
Zoom Conference Meeting

**Those in attendance:** Karen Nicklas, Susanne Zilberfarb, Stephanie Moore, Karen Myers, Jason Watt, Laura Ramsburg, Brenda White, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Quinn Cashell-Martin, Tom Mazzone, Naomi Knight, Terrie Shank, Cassie Bell, Helen Leadingham, McKayla Kiernan, Kyle Schulze, Morgan DeFriece and Elsie McKenzie

The Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chairperson, Karen Nicklas.

**The Minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting** were presented. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the minutes as presented. Jason Watt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**The Treasurer's Report** was shared by Laura Ramsburg. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the report and file it for audit. Susanne Zilberfarb seconded the motion. The motion passed and the report will be filed for audit.

**Membership/Chapter Report**-Naomi Knight shared that with the schools being closed and programs being held virtually, teachers are just starting to collect membership. As of today, there are 846 student memberships from 21 Chapters entered in the membership system. This is just over 1700 members less than last year at the end of November when memberships are due.

**State Officer Team Report** was given by Cassie Bell, President. She highlighted the activities that the team has participated in since October. Helen Leadingham and Elsie McKenzie recently joined the Catocin FFA Chapter at their virtual chapter meeting. All Officers contributed to the published report.

#### **Committee Reports**

**A Strategic Plan Framework for the Maryland FFA Association**- Susanne Zilberfarb, Committee Chairperson shared that the committee appointed by Karen Nicklas to further review the strategic plan and report back to the Board has not yet met. Those serving on the Committee will be meetings prior to the February Board meeting. Committee members are Emily Muller, Tom Mazzone, Karen Nicklas, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Cassie Bell and Terrie Shank.

#### **Old Business**

**Maryland FFA Programs:** The Maryland FFA State Officers hosted five leadership workshops in November. Kyle Schulze, Elsie McKenzie & McKayla Kiernan shared feedback from the members. Highlights included using technology through quiz games like Kahoot, idea sharing using Jab Boards, team building of towers and music. Members were engaged throughout the workshop session. Cassie Bell also shared plans of the Officer team to host individual Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) workshops in December.

**Spring Judging Career Development Events:** Naomi Knight gave an update on the work being done to host Maryland FFA CDE/LDE exams virtually in partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park. Meetings have been held with Superintendents of Spring events to plan the areas in which students will be tested. The events are following the National FFA CDE format as closely as possible. Dr. Melissa Welsh, Superintendent of the Agronomy CDE has started to input information and skill practicums for the Agronomy event into the system. She will be offering a workshop in January to demonstrate the format to Advisors and answer any questions that they may have about the testing platform. There was discussion as to when to have the events, times, etc. Amy Jo Poffenberger suggested that the events be open for at least 48 hours and on consecutive days. Tom Mazzone shared that afternoon hours would work best. Quinn Martin shared that for teachers they are being asked not to hold extra meetings or activities during the instructional day. Karen Nicklas felt that adequate time needs to be allotted for students to complete the event. Susanne Zilberfarb recommended that we be flexible this year and open the events for more than one day each. Amy Jo Poffenberger asked if a student starts an event, can they take a break between sections of the exam or do they have to work straight through? Naomi Knight will check with Dr. Welsh to answer this concern. Amy Jo Poffenberger also asked if students in the agriculture classes who might not be a member of the Chapter team would have an opportunity to try their skill in completing a CDE.

Karen Nicklas summarized the discussions held with Board members. The Board members agreed on the following: there will be one team per chapter allowed to participate in each State event. The team will consist of 3 or 4 members as outlined in the National FFA CDE handbook for that specific event. The official qualifying state events will be held the week of April 19-14, 2021 and each event will be open for 48 hours utilizing the canvas ELM platform. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the recommendation for participation in Spring Judging Career Development Events. Jason Watt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Quinn Martin moved that a second week of CDE events be available at no cost to the students. Amy Jo Poffenberger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Board members agreed that the open CDE for student participation will be held the week of April 26-30, 2021.

### **New Business**

**2021-Budget:** Treasurer, Laura Ramsburg presented a balanced budget for the Maryland FFA Association during the 2021 year. Board members are asked to review and be ready to vote on the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting of the Association in January.

**Auditing Committee:** Chairman, Karen Nicklas appointed Stephanie Moore, Kyle Schulze, and herself to serve as the committee members this year. Laura Ramsburg, Naomi Knight and Terrie Shank will also be present for the audit.

**Annual Meeting:** Karen Nicklas reminded the Board members that the Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6pm via zoom conferencing. A nominating committee was appointed by Chairman Nicklas. Those serving are Jason Watt, Chairman, Karen Myers, Brenda White, Helen Leadingham.

**State Convention-**Karen Nicklas shared that with the current COVID-19 pandemic, we should be planning to continue virtual events through the school year including the State Convention. Brenda White asked if there was any place that was open and willing to host the Convention. Naomi Knight shared that the UMES campus is still closed to groups at this time. Karen Nicklas offered the Frederick Fair Grounds for filming of Convention content and possibly a watch event for recognition of students. Quinn Martin suggested that Chapters pre-record welcomes, pledges, etc. to share during the convention or hold a live event for announcing CDE/LDE winners, chapter awards during the convention. Susanne Zilberfarb suggested holding the CDE/LDE prior to the convention and then announcing scholarships, awards during the convention with the students live. Laura Ramsburg shared that it added to the National Convention when the new officers were announced with the candidates live to see and build the excitement. She also shared that possibly events like Public Speaking could be held in person at the Fairgrounds with participants and judges spaced out for everyone's safety. Cassie Bell shared that the Officer team would like to be allowed to physically be together to film the sessions and their speeches ahead of the convention.

**Meeting dates for the Board through 2021.** All meeting will be held virtually as of this time.

Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6pm- Annual Meeting

Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6pm

Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6pm

Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Monday, August 9, 2021 at 3pm.

With no further business to be discussed, Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen Myers seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terrie Shank*

Terrie Shank, Executive Director  
Maryland FFA Association