

Maryland FFA Association Board of Directors
Annual Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2021 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, Joe Linthicum, Diane Herndon, Stacy Eckles, Robert Dinsmore, Terrie Shank, Cassie Bell, Helen Leadingham, Kyle Schulze, Morgan DeFriece and Elsie McKenzie

The Annual Meeting of the Maryland FFA Association was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairperson, Karen Nicklas.

The Minutes of the January 2020 Annual Meeting were presented for review. The minutes were approved at the February 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer's Report was shared by Laura Ramsburg. Susanne Zilberfarb moved to accept the report and file it for audit. Karen Myers 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 Kyle Schulze, Maryland FFA State Treasurer. State Vice-President, Helen Leadingham shared the virtual hosting of the Maryland FFA COLT workshops. State Reporter, Morgan DeFriece shared information about the National FFA Checkpoint #2 Training that the State officers has just completed with their facilitator, Trey Elizondo.

Maryland FFA Alumni Update was presented by Chairman, Joe Linthicum. Joe shared that the Maryland FFA Alumni hosted National FFA Alumni & Supporter Executive Director, Mr. Josh Rusk at their December meeting. Josh spoke about the new Forever Blue website and how it is connecting former members back to their States and to the National FFA. It is also a site where employment opportunities can be listed and state events. Joe also shared that the Maryland FFA Alumni presented a new Gavel and Block to the Maurice McDonough FFA Chapter upon their chartering in November. Joe informed the group that the Gwynn Park Alumni received a Grant to support their local chapter and the Past MD FFA State Officers all received their Life Membership in the FFA Alumni & Supporters organization.

Maryland FFA Foundation Update was presented by Chairman, Jason Watt. Jason informed the group that the Maryland FFA Foundation was joining with the National FFA Foundation in promoting National Give FFA Day to be held on February 25, 2021. He also shared that Mark Milby has been hired to serve as the Executive Director of the Maryland FFA Alumni.

Budget Proposal- Treasurer, Laura Ramsburg presented a balanced budget for consideration by the Board for the operations of the Association in 2021. She noted that the budget was based on current and projected activities of the Association based on the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions still in place. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the proposed budget as presented. Susanne Zilberfarb seconded the motion and the Budget for 2021 was approved.

4-H/FFA Statement of Relations- Terrie Shank reported that she and Dr. Nia Fields, Maryland 4-H Executive Director have signed a Statement of Relations which shares how the two youth organizations are going to work together and support the programming of both organizations. Copies of the Statement of Relations were shared with the Board.

Maryland FFA Programs-Naomi Knight, Maryland FFA Program Coordinator gave an update on the Maryland FFA student membership thus far in 2021. As of today, there are 918 student members from 25 Chapters who are active members. In 2020, there were 2565 student members from 46 Chapters. Chapter Advisors still have until February 15, 2021 to submit their Chapter membership for the 2020-2021 school year. Naomi also shared information about the Spring Judging virtual Career Development Events and the planning for a virtual State FFA Convention.

Strategic Planning Committee-Susanne Zilberfarb shared that the committee has not yet scheduled a time to meet. She asked that each member of the Board of Directors think of three strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the Maryland FFA Association which they, as Board members, may see and share them with her or one of the committee members.

Auditing Committee- Karen Nicklas appointed an Auditing Committee to review the financial records of the Association. Those serving will be Stephanie Moore, Chairman; Kyle Schulze, MD FFA Treasurer and Karen Nicklas. They will meet prior to the next Board of Directors meeting.

Projected funding- Susanne Zilberfarb shared her concerns as to funding for the Association. She noted that the Association may see a decline in funding from the Maryland Ag Fair Board due to the changes in sports wagering in Maryland. Jason Watt shared that the Maryland Farm Bureau is working to develop legislation which would move funding for agricultural organizations away from unclaimed funds to a line item within the State budget.

Nominating Committee Report- Those serving on the committee were Jason Watt, Chairman, Karen Myers, Brenda White, Helen Leadingham. Jason shared the following report: Chairman-Karen Nicklas, Vice-Chairman-Robert Dinsmore. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the Nominating Committee report. Karen Myers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Karen Nicklas thanked the Board for their continued support. She reminded the members of the upcoming meetings scheduled in 2021.

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

Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6pm

Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6pm

Monday, June 14th at 6pm

Monday, August 9, 2021 at 3pm.

With no further business to be discussed, Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to adjourn the meeting. Susanne Zilberfarb seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Shank

Terrie Shank, Executive Director

Maryland FFA Association