

Maryland FFA Board of Directors

April 12, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Board Members in attendance: Karen Nicklas, Lori Mayhew, Bridget Nicholson, Laura Ramsburg, Terrie Shank, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Scott Page, Naomi Knight, Tom Mazzone, Jason Watt, Quinn Martin, Emily Muller, Stephanie Moore, Susanne Richards, Brenda White, Robert Densmore, Tom Hawthorne. State FFA Officer Team: Cassie Bell, Helen Leadingham, McKayla Kiernan, Kyle Schulze, Morgan DeFriece, Elsie, McKenzie. Guest Speaker: Mr. Mike Levengood, Perdue

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Karen Nicklas at 6:03 p.m.

The minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting were presented. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to approve the minutes of the meeting. Tom Mazzone seconded the motion and the Motion passed. The minutes from the January 11, 2021 Annual Meeting were also shared. Tom Mazzone moved to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting. Amy Jo Poffenberger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Laura Ramsburg. Quinn Martin moved to approve the report and file it for audit. Jason Watt seconded the motion and the motion passed, and the report will be filed for audit.

Financial update a report on Chapter Outstanding Invoices was shared by Naomi Knight. She shared that on \$4,305.80 is currently outstanding and that amount is for Spring Judging events and second semester chapter dues.

State Officer Report was presented by Cassie Bell. She highlighted the virtual activities of the team, their preparation for the upcoming State CDE/LDE and convention.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Mike Levengood, Perdue Corporation. He has worked with Perdue for 37 years as the VP Chief Animal Care Officer & Farmer Relations. Mike shared information about the Perdue Company, a 4th generation privately owned company, including their four pillars of animal care. He shared his vision for building partnerships with the Maryland FFA Association and career opportunities for FFA members. He noted that he would be willing to host virtual and possibly in person tours for FFA Chapters, Agriculture classes of Perdue Foods and Agribusiness. He shares virtual talks and promotes local producers through their "Follow the Flock" posts on social media which teachers can access to use in their classrooms. Susanne Richards asked about the use of "viewing houses" on Delmarva as a way for the public to see and learn more about the poultry industry. Mike shared that remodeling or building "viewing" sites within the poultry houses is a choice for each individual producer to make. Karen Nicklas thanked Mike for attending our meeting and sharing these unique opportunities for our members and the Association.

Committee Reports:

Auditing Committee- Stephanie Moore chaired the auditing committee this year. She shared that the auditing committee met on Monday, January 18, 2021 and found all accounts to be in order. They commended Laura Ramsburg on the outstanding job that she does managing the finances and keeping the records. The committee members included Karen Nicklas and Kyle Schulze.

Strategic Planning Committee-Susanne Richards shared that she would schedule a time for the committee to meet in July.

FFA Membership Report-Naomi Knight shared that this year, there are 42 Active Chapters with 1,963 members. These numbers are down from previous years due to the changes in school schedules and the virtual offering of programs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfinished Business:

Virtual Maryland Spring Judging- Naomi Knight

Events will be held the week of April 19-24 virtually through the UMCP College of Agriculture ELMS platform. A special thank you to Dr. Melissa Welsh and Lauren Argabrite for their work in formatting and inputting all the materials for the events. There are 260 FFA members (44 teams and 87 individuals) from 24 Chapters registered to participate. The following week, FFA members who are registered to participate can select a career event to try to gain experience and knowledge in that competitive area. The top teams will be announced following the event. The individual results will be shared during the State FFA Convention sessions.

New Business:

FFA Foundation- Jason Watt, Foundation Chairman, shared that 87 new FFA jackets were presented to members. The FFA Foundation received \$6035.00 in support through the National FFA Give FFA Day.

State FFA Convention Planning- Registration is posted on the Maryland FFA website at www.mdffa.org Under the State Convention tab. The Registration is through the Blue Panda platform again this year. All CDE/LDE will take place June 7-11th via zoom virtual platforms. The State FFA Officers have filmed the convention sessions. The final preview and voice overs will be completed on June 14th. An in-person Convention watch social is planned for Friday, June 25th from 4-8 p.m. in the Dairy Exhibition area at the Great Frederick Fair. There will be activities, food and sharing as State Officers, members, advisors, and parents view the last session of the Convention together.

National FFA Convention- National FFA has announced that an in-person Convention will be held October 26-30, 2021 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Emily Muller shared her concerns that at the present time, travel is still being restricted by the school system. Will students who qualify through the CDE/LDE events be able to participate? Lori Mayhew and Amy Jo Poffenberger also shared Emily's concerns about travel and student ability to participate above the State level. More information is needed and should be forthcoming from National FFA as summer approaches.

Nominating committee-Susanne Richards was appointed to serve as the FFA Association representative to the committee which will meet May 18th.

Karen Nicklas reminded everyone of the next meeting to be held on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via zoom meetings.

Emily Muller moved to adjourn the meeting. Jason Watt seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Shank

Terrie Shank, Secretary