

Maryland FFA Board of Directors
August 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Via zoom conferencing

In attendance: Karen Nicklas, Robert Densmore, Karen Myers, Laura Ramsburg, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Bridget Nicholson, Jason Watt, Stacy Eckles, Brenda White, Susanne Richards, Naomi Knight, Terrie Shank, State FFA Officers Jayci Mitchell and Samantha Wilt.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Karen Nicklas at 6:06 p.m.

The minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Susanne Richards moved to accept the minutes. Robert Densmore seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was shared prior to the meeting by Laura Ramsburg. Susanne Richards moved to accept the Treasurer's report and file it for audit. Jason Watt seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chapter Financial updates-Naomi Knight informed the Board that as of July 31st, all outstanding accounts from FFA Chapters to the Association had been paid. All Chapters are starting the 2021 school year in good standing with the Association.

State FFA Officer Report- State President, Jayci Mitchell and State Secretary, Samantha Wilt shared their report which was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. They highlighted that the team had completed the first of three leadership trainings through National FFA. They recently attended the National FFA Summit for State Officers in Washington, D.C. where they met with Officers from across the United States to develop policy for the National FFA Organization and held virtual meetings with the Maryland Senatorial staff to discuss the issue of Broadband access for schools and communities. The officers also informed the Board members that their theme for the Maryland FFA this year is "Pursue Your Passion."

Committee Reports

State FFA Officer Nominating Committee- Susanne Richards served as the FFA Board to the Committee. She, along with Jason Watt, shared that the process of interviewing the three candidates went well. The five FFA Members who served on the committee were prepared and did an outstanding job with their questions and deliberation.

Strategic Planning Committee- Susanne Richards reported that the committee has not yet met to set a direction for doing the planning process. She has been working with Mary Ellen Waltemire, to develop a strategic plan for MAEF and suggested the Mary Ellen be asked to assist in working with the FFA Board to develop our strategic plan.

Unfinished Business

Review of the 2021 Virtual CDE/LDE and Convention- Karen Nicklas shared that she was pleased with the convention recording and how professionally it was presented. Amy Jo Poffenberger and Stacy Eckles shared that they and their students attended the Convention watch party on Friday, June 25th for the last convention session. The students enjoyed the activities, food and having the chance to meet with the State FFA Officers at a state event. Terrie Shank shared that 40 FFA members/Advisors attended the event held at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Jason Watt shared that the Sponsor recognition before each convention session and the spotlight on the major sponsors was well done and should be continued. A special thank you to Dr. Melissa Welsh and Lauren Argabrite, University of Maryland, College of Agriculture for hosting the virtual Career events in April.

National FFA program highlights- Terrie Shank shared that the National FFA has published the results from the summer awards judging.

- National Chapter awards were presented to Parkside CTE-2 Star Award and to the Boonsboro FFA-3 Star Award.
- Boonsboro Middle School FFA Chapter has received a \$2,200 Living to Serve Grant to support their year-long community partnership project.
- Oakland FFA Chapter received a \$3,100 Grants for Growing to make repairs in their greenhouse and purchase growing materials.
- Maryland submitted three applications for National Proficiency Award Recognition. Elizabeth Anderson, Boonsboro, received a participation ranking in Agricultural Services, Madeline Magruder, North Garrett, received a bronze award in Sheep Production and Abigail Wimmer, Westminster, received a silver award in Veterinary Science Placement.
- Parkside FFA Members Zoey Bradley and Allison Tribeck were recognized as National Finalists (top 10) in the Agriscience Fair for their Plant science project. They will be invited to present their research at the National FFA Convention.

New Business

2021 National FFA Convention- Terrie Shank shared that as of today, the National FFA is planning to hold an in-person convention October 26-30, 2021 in Indianapolis, Indiana. All Maryland CDE/LDE teams and individuals have been certified to participate in their respective events. Judges have been identified for the three speaking events. All CDE/LDE will have a virtual component this year prior to the convention that students must complete. Teams with scores in the top 50% of their events, will be invited to continue in the event at the Convention. The only exceptions are Meats, Livestock, Dairy, Poultry and Horse Evaluation and Dairy Handler, in which all teams will be invited to complete the event in person. Maryland has rooms in a housing block at the Courtyard by Marriott, Capitol on Senate Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. Rooms are available for Chapters to book until September 8th. A bus has been contracted through Atlantic Coast Charters for Chapters to travel to the convention. The deadline for registering to use the bus is September 1st. The National FFA plans to broadcast/live stream the convention sessions so those not attending in person can be a part of the Convention. On-line Convention registration will open on September 15th for those planning to attend.

Concern was shared by the Regional Coordinators that with the COVID-19 virus and variants, some school districts may not allow the students to travel to the convention. There is still a lot of unknowns at this date about out of state travel.

State Events for 2021-2022- Terrie Shank shared that planning has begun for holding MD FFA State Events. She asked for feedback from the Board as to the opportunity for students to attend in person events and/or should virtual events be planned for this school year.

- Susanne Richards shared that she was following the CDC recommendations and noted that the COVID rates were rising across the U.S. and changing daily. She suggested that the events be planned for virtual presentations at least throughout the fall.
- Stacy Eckels shared that she has not received any guidance from her local school system but has doubt if students and staff would be released to attend in-person events such as a one-day leadership conference or a weekend COLT conference. Virtual presentations would be best at least for this fall.
- Amy Jo Poffenberger shared that FCPS will be resuming fieldtrips as normal, so a one-day regional leadership event may be possible. She suggested that the COLT Conference be held virtually again this year. Amy Jo also recommended that the Regional Leadership Conference program be presented virtually for those students/chapters who cannot attend an in-person event.
- Bridget Nicholson commented that no status on fieldtrips or students attending events has been shared through her school system as of today.
- Naomi Knight asked if separate workshop sessions for Chapter officers should be held during the Leadership Conferences. These could be in place of the COLT conference for this year. The teachers thought that may work if Maryland FFA had enough facilitators to do additional workshops and there were enough rooms at the host sites to accommodate them.
- Suggestions for State activities were shared. Bridget Nicholson suggested regional events such as a social night be held for FFA members within each region. Holding the activity in the evening or weekend, students would be responsible for providing their own transportation and they and their parents would decide if they could attend. Stacy Eckels shared that her Chapter held a Movie Night for members. They all watched the same movie on their computers at the same time, but in their homes. The activity was well received by her students.

2022 Maryland FFA State Convention- Naomi Knight shared with the Board, that she has been working with Stephon Fitzpatrick from UMES on a proposal from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, to host the 2022 Maryland FFA Convention. She reminded the Board members that the University hosted the 2019 Maryland FFA State Convention and plans were underway for the 2022 Convention to be held at UMES until the COVID-19 pandemic and all activities on the campus were cancelled. Naomi shared a presentation of the costs and revenues for the 2022 convention. The proposed dates for the Convention are June 26-30, 2022. Naomi also shared that Stephon has taken a new job outside of Maryland and would not be employed by UMES at the time of our Convention but is willing to assist as he can. Laura Ramsburg asked Naomi how comfortable she was with planning the convention with the UMES staff. Naomi shared that she has all the various departmental contacts and that Dr. Jurgen Schwarz, Chairman in the College of Agriculture would be her go to person on campus. Karen Nicklas asked if a deposit was needed ahead of time and if there would be a cancellation policy included in the contract so that any

monies deposited could be refunded should the University not be able to host the Convention. Naomi will work with the University to make sure a cancellation policy was included. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved that the Maryland FFA plan to hold an in-person convention June 26-30, 2022 on the campus of the University of Maryland, Eastern shore. Susanne Richards seconded the motion and the motion passed. Naomi Knight requested that the State convention Planning Committee assist with the planning process moving forward. Members of this committee are Karen Myers, Laura Ramsburg, Karen Nicklas and Jayci Mitchell. Board members are asked to share ideas for workshops, tours and community service activities with Naomi or any member of the planning committee. Amy Jo Poffenberger suggested a tour and meeting with a Veterinarian at the Salisbury Zoo. A tour of the Poultry industry was also suggested.

2021-2022 Meeting Dates- The Board of Directors have been meeting bi-monthly on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Board members agreed that those days/times were best in their schedules. Susanne Richards asked that virtual options to attend the meeting be available for Board Members. Karen Nicklas offered the Great Frederick Fair Conference Room for Board meetings to be held if those members living or working in the area wanted to meet in-person. Terrie Shank will set up zoom meetings for each date with the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.

The dates are- Monday, October 11, 2021
Monday, December 13, 2021
Monday, January 10, 2022-Annual Meeting
Monday, February 7, 2022-Moved to the first Monday so not to be on Valentine's Day
Monday, April 11, 2022
Monday, June 13, 2022
Monday, August 8, 2022

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/82260374607?pwd=K1pkRnhmL2FvWGdlcEEejZlc1F0dz09D0qGdORhmARpwQAIoc-nwtildjbdykR62BHh4TxfkLOloC6ZcFvfo>

Join Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82260374607?pwd=K1pkRnhmL2FvWGdlcEEejZlc1F0dz09>

Meeting ID: 822 6037 4607 Passcode: 637485

One tap mobile +13017158592, 82260374607#,,,,*637485# US (Washington DC)

Karen Nicklas thanked everyone for their support and participation in the meeting. With no further business to be discussed, she entertained a motion to adjourn. Robert Densmore moved to adjourn the meeting. Jason Watt seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting of the Maryland FFA Board of Directors was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Shank

Terrie Shank, Secretary