

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FFA**  
**STATE FFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**FFA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**ADULT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting of the State FFA Executive Committee, State Adult Board of Directors and the State FFA Advisory Committee was called to order by President Jesse Garcia at 9:04 a.m. on September 26, 2006 in the Conference Room at the California Farm Bureau Office in Sacramento, California. Present were Nessie Early, State Vice President; Kaytlin Smith, State Secretary; Ryan Amaral, State Treasurer; Ellie Titus, State Reporter; Matthew Johnson, State Sentinel; Jesse Garcia, State President; Jimmy Pierce, Past State President; David Jones, Central Region President; Sienna Fry, North Coast Region President; Vernon Clark, San Joaquin Region President; Michelle Jimenez, South Coast Region President; Levy Randolph, Southern Region President; Brian Vorhis, Superior Region President; Charles Parker, Assistant State Advisor; Bob Heuval, State Advisor; Rosco Vaughn, Teacher Educator at Fresno State; Angie Barnes, FFA Financial Services Director; Steve DeRose, Arroyo Grande; Kristi Mattes, Fresno-Central; Rosemary Vernon, Capital Campaign Director; Hugh Mooney, Galt; Larry Wright, Rio Vista; David Caetano, Tulare Union; Sherri Freeman, Warner Springs; Jim Aschwanden, CATA Executive Director; Roy Beck, Altaville-Bret Harte; Kathy Gassen, Chino-Don Lugo; George Green, Arubckle-Pierce; Kim Arnst, Petaluma; Ralph Mendes, Bakersfield-Foothill; Johnny Esquer, Calexico; Dick Piersma, Hilmar; Brittany Parahm, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley FFA; John Moffatt, FFA Adult Board; Jody Baker, Hemet FFA Advisor; Jeff Rhiner, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley FFA Advisor; Miguel Guerra, Santa Maria-Righetti; Katie Alling, Grass Valley-Nevada Union; Beau Williamson, National Officer Candidate; Denise Skidmore, FFA Adult Board; and Michael Clifford, Lompoc.

The meeting began with a welcome from Jesse Garcia, State FFA President, and introductions by each individual present.

**FFA Advisor Committee Minutes**

Kathy Gassen, Southern Region, moved and it was seconded to accept the minutes from the June 20, 2006 State Advisory Committee meeting. Motion passed by a voice vote.

**State FFA Executive Committee Minutes**

Vernon Clark, San Joaquin Region FFA President, moved and it was seconded to accept the minutes from the April 20, 2006 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed by a voice vote.

**State Leadership Conference Minutes**

Nessie Early, State FFA Vice President, moved and it was seconded to accept the minutes from the 78<sup>th</sup> State FFA Leadership Conference. Motion passed by a voice vote.

### **State Advisor Report**

Mr. Heuval gave a report highlighting key points within the FFA and Department of Education. Mr. Heuvel shared updates on funding, membership, and the staffing within the Agricultural Education Unit. Mr. Heuvel reviewed the AB8 funding “pie cutting” process. One half of the base was split equally between the various student organizations. The remaining one half was awarded based on national membership numbers.

Numbers are up in the various leadership activities. Not only is the quantity up, but according to the student evaluations, the quality is getting better.

Mr. Heuvel highlighted the recent visit by the National FFA leadership staff. Among those in attendance were Doug Loudenslager, National FFA COO and Dr. Larry Case, National FFA Advisor. While in California State Staff, Teacher Educators, Agricultural Teachers, and Foundation members visited with the National Staff on issues ranging from FFA membership to agricultural education curriculum. While in California they were also able to visit Galt High School and Florin High School.

As with every year, there will also be a few challenges. One challenge is the continued effort to utilize staff in monitoring Perkins Plans and other state wide initiatives. A second challenge is to continue to focus on ALL students and that ALL students have the same opportunities to learn, grow, and become leaders.

### **FFA Center**

Rosemary Vernon presented a brief report on the progress of the FFA center. The Capital Campaign Committee is continuing to identify potential sponsors. Construction is well ahead of schedule. Through a slide show, Rosemary shared the progress of construction. A large stain glass FFA emblem will be placed in the center window on the front side of the entry. The final inspection date is scheduled for December 26, 2006. However, according to the construction foreman, construction is four to five weeks ahead of schedule.

### **FFA Advisory Committee Report**

David Caetano, Chairman, gave a quick update on the Advisory Committee. He also wanted to commend the officers for scheduling a meeting where all of the various groups can get together and develop uniform positions.

Kim Arnst, shared with the committee a change in the North Coast representation, Laura Mendes, St. Helena will be taking the place of Donelle McCallister. Katy Alling, Grass Valley-Nevada Union, was in attendance as the replacement for Heather Thomas, Colusa.

### **State Conference Report**

Kaytlin Smith, State FFA Secretary, reviewed the recommendations made by the various committees which operated during the 2006 State Leadership Conference. Mr. Mooney recommended that the conference promotion poster be distributed to all chapters prior to January for maximum impact. Finally, a video of the 2006 conference was shown.

### **Central Region FFA Report**

David Jones, Central Region President, provided details of the various activities the officers have participated in and a look ahead to those upcoming events. The Central Region theme for 2006-07 is "Where the Heart Is."

### **Hometown Leadership Program**

Mr. Heuvel shared the update on the Leadership Program. The number of chapters involved is up as compared to last year. The brightest improvement is in communication. The funds earned through this program that are forwarded to the FFA are identified as that chapter's donation to the FFA Center. Larry Wright raised a question relative to the breakdown of funds and what percentage stays in the local program and what percentage is forwarded to the FFA for the FFA Center. It was suggested that the topic be discussed as part of the Adult Board of Directors meeting.

### **Board of Directors Report**

Dick Piersma, Chairman of the Board, presented the Board of Directors Report. He discussed the increase in surplus of the budget and commended the past state officers for their service to the members in California as well as Angie Barnes for maintaining the FFA finances. Dick also highlighted the continued increase in FFA membership as well as the latest details related to the FFA Center.

### **Superior Region FFA Report**

Brian Vorhis, Superior Region President, provided an update on the happenings within the Superior Region. Brian shared what the regional officers have completed as well as reviewed upcoming events.

### **National Convention Delegate Training**

Nessie Early, State FFA Vice President, shared that on September 25, 2006 the national convention delegates had their delegate training. During the training the fifty-one delegates discussed the six issues they will be discussing at the upcoming National Convention. After some lengthy debates, the delegates developed the following recommendations for California. The issues and recommendations are as follows:

1. Institute Start-Up Grants for New Chapters  
Delegates Voted to Support Issue One
2. Award an American Star Greenhand and Provide Resources for Beginning SAE Projects  
Delegates Voted to Support Issue Two
3. Provide Materials and Resources in Both English and Spanish  
Delegates Voted to Support Issue Three
4. Increase Opportunities for Middle School Members  
Delegates Voted to Take a No Stance on Issue Four
5. Career Development Events Innovations and Process Evaluation  
Delegates Voted to Support Issue Five
6. Female Official Dress  
Delegates Voted to Support Issue Six

It was suggested that the committee look on the web site for additional information on the delegate issues. The site to look at is [www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/delegates/](http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/so/delegates/)

### **San Joaquin Region FFA Report**

Vernon Clark, San Joaquin Region FFA President, gave a quick update on the region activities, regional officer experiences, and highlighted upcoming events. Vernon shared the region theme for 2006-07, "Discover Your Opportunities...Explore."

### **National Convention Report**

Matthew Johnson, State FFA Sentinel, presented the report on National Convention. There are nearly 500 members going to national convention as part of the California sponsored trip. Thirty-two will be traveling to New York while 190 Californians will visit Washington DC. California has two Agri-Entrepreneurship Winners, Agriscience Student Finalist, H.O. Sargent Award Finalist, two Choir members, one Band member, four Talent participants, and 13 Proficiency Award finalists. California has 51 official delegates who will be taking part in the business sessions at the convention. Daniel Bays, Past State Treasurer, will be serving on the National Nominating Committee with Beau Williamson, Past State FFA Sentinel, striving to be a National FFA Officer.

### **National Officer Candidate Report**

Beau Williamson, Past State FFA Sentinel, gave a brief review of his training to date and his participation in conferences throughout the state. He spoke highly of his experience thus far and was looking forward to continued growth and representing California in the process.

### **FFA Foundation Report**

Jim Aschwanden, Executive Director, reported on the happenings with the State FFA Foundation. Jim reviewed the membership of the Foundation Board pointing out those in the room who are currently serving on the Board. Currently the Board is still seeking sponsorship for awards. The major fund raising effort for the Foundation is the FFA Center. Although the Board is raising the funds, Jim pointed out that the actual building will be owned by the FFA. The eventual opening of the FFA Center will be a catalyst for growth within the FFA Foundation and the giving of supporters.

### **North Coast Region FFA Report**

Sienna Fry, Regional FFA President, took a few moments to share with the group the happenings in the North Coast Region. Sienna highlighted the theme, "Capture the Moment" and shared the 2006-07 goals.

### **New Horizons Report**

Ellie Titus, State FFA Reporter, presented a report on the California Insert in the New Horizons. The insert has 16 pages of articles, news briefs, award recipients and chapter scoop. The State Officers are working with Megan Brownell on submitting articles.

### **Southern Region FFA Report**

Levy Randolph, Southern Region FFA President, gave a brief update on what is going on in the Southern Region. "Raising the Bar" was presented as the Southern Region theme.

### **Fresno State Awards**

Dave Caetano brought up the issue of bringing together the awards programs at the Fresno State Field Day. With this discussion, it was mentioned that the gymnasium will no longer be available for use and creates a potential problem. Approximately 2,000 annually attend the two award programs offered in the past. Recommendation was to hold the awards ceremony at Selland Arena. Other alternatives include the Softball Field, Baseball Field, and Saroyan Theatre.

### **Chapter Status Report**

Ryan Amaral moved and it was seconded to suspend/revoke the charters at Anza-Hamilton, Fort Bragg, Hesperia, Oakland-Castlemont, Sacramento-Valley, and San Fernando. Motion passed by a voice vote.

Jimmy Pierce moved and it was seconded to place Bell on probation with the stipulation that they have a minimum of two delegates present at the South Coast Chapter Officer Leadership Conference to be held in Hollister and that the participation be verified by attendance records to be submitted prior to the Winter Executive Committee. Motion passed by voice vote.

Matthew Johnson moved and it was seconded to place Riverbank on probation with the stipulation that they have two delegates present at the 2007 State Leadership Conference. Ellie Titus moved and it was seconded to amend the motion by striking two and inserting four. Amendment failed by voice vote. Jimmy Pierce moved and it was seconded to amend the motion by inserting at the end that they meet the criteria as submitted in the letter submitted to Mr. Parker. Amendment passed by voice vote. Matthew Johnson moved and it was seconded to strike out two delegates present at the 2007 State Leadership Conference. Amendment passed by voice vote. Main motion passed by voice vote.

### **South Coast Region FFA Report**

The South Coast Report was presented by Michelle Jimenez, Regional FFA President. Michelle shared what the South Coast has been doing and what is in their future plans as well as their theme "Life is a Jungle...Just LEAD It."

### **Expense Claims**

Ryan Amaral, State FFA Treasurer, shared the expense claim process to all Regional Presidents. Expense claims are to be submitted to Mr. Parker as soon as possible.

### **State Officer Reports**

A presentation was prepared highlighting the State Officer travels to date. Activities included Blast-Off Training, CATA Conference, NLCSO, ROLC, SOLS, SPC, State Fair, Industry Visits and State Officer Training.

### **Expansion of State Officer Team**

Michael Clifford moved and it was seconded that the FFA Advisory Committee put together a short survey to be conducted by teachers at Fall Regional Meetings. These survey results would be submitted at the February meeting. Motion passed by voice vote. Advisory committee members present are to meet at the conclusion of the meeting to develop questions for the survey.

**Additional Items**

FFA Theme Shirts were shown with the idea of having them available for purchase with \$1 per shirt being contributed to the FFA Center.

**Next Meeting**

The next FFA Advisory meeting was set for February 21, 2007 to be in conjunction with the ribbon cutting of the FFA Center. The State FFA Executive Committee meeting was set for February 20-21, 2007 in conjunction with all regional officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.