



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
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In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

NEW JERSEY FFA ASSOCIATION

"Grow Beyond"

TO: State Executive Board Members, NJ FFA Chapter Advisors, Officers, and Members

FROM: Niccolo Conte, State FFA President
Jenny Allen, State FFA Specialist
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: November 13, 2024

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
1st Floor NJDA Conference Room, Trenton, NJ

All State Executive Board Members must attend this meeting. If these individuals cannot attend, they should call Ms. Allen at (609) 475-2373 and give the reason to receive an excused absence. Mr. Dale Cruzan will fill the teacher representative on the Executive Board and will have voting power at each meeting in 2024-2025.

AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER STATE MEETING

- I. **Opening Ceremonies**
- II. **Minutes from the November State Meeting**
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
- IV. **Guest Introductions and Attendance**
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program of Activities and State Convention Evaluation – Niccolo Conte
 - B. Membership & Chapter Relations – Nina Weiland
 - C. State Leadership Activities – Tyler Murnaghan
 - D. State Applications – William Rutherford
 - E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation and Review – Allison Josielewski
 - F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review – Abrianna Portillo
- VI. **Parliamentary Procedure Report – Niccolo Conte**
- VII. **Executive Committee Report**
- VIII. **Foundation Report – Allison Josielewski**

- IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report – Tyler Murnaghan**
- X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report – William Rutherford**
- XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report – Niccolo Conte**
- XII. Equine Advisory Board – Nina Weiland**
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agriculture Educators – Mr. Dale Cruzan**
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Checkpoint #2 (November 8-9, 2024) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - B. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention (November 18-19, 2024) – Niccolo Conte
 - C. Fall Career Development Events (November 21, 2024) – Nina Weiland
 - D. Connect Conference “Member Leadership Series” (December 14, 2024) – Allison Josielewski
 - E. Teach Ag Event (December 14, 2024) – William Rutherford
 - F. Holiday Party (December 16, 2024) – Nina Weiland
 - G. Banquet Speech Workshop (January 17, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - H. State Officer Candidates’ School (January 25, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - I. Chapter Visit Updates – William Rutherford
 - J. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. New Business**
 - A. Event Cost Analysis – Abrianna Portillo
 - 1. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day
 - 2. Horticultural Exposition
 - B. New Jersey State Ag Convention (February 5-6, 2025) – Niccolo Conte
 - C. Winter CDEs (February 5, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - D. Fuel Up Retreat (February 13-16, 2025) – William Rutherford
 - D. National FFA Week (February 15-22, 2025) – Nina Weiland
 - E. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (February 20, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
 - F. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Niccolo Conte
 - G. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
 - H. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting - January 6, 2025
New Jersey Department of Ag Building
9:00 am*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the November 4, 2024 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 3:58 pm. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Tyler Murnaghan, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, William Rutherford, and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen and Ms. McCluskey.

II. Minutes from October State Meeting

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to dispense with the reading of the meeting minutes and approve them as distributed.

Seconded by William Rutherford. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the month was \$28,662.26 and the closing balance was \$56,563.47.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

Motion passed pending audit.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept Adam's Rental as the vendor for the Horticultural Exposition as they were the lowest quote and could meet all of the event requirements.

Seconded by Allison Josielewski. Motion Passes.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to accept Monmouth University as the vender 96th State FFA Convention as they were the lowest quote and could meet all the event requirements.

Seconded by Allison Josielewski. Motion Passes.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

The guests present at this month's meeting were Mr. David McNair, CTE Program Specialist from the New Jersey Department of Education and Chase Sherburne.

Allison Josielewski assumed the duties of the chair.

V. Committee Reports

A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program Activities and State Convention Evaluation

No report.

B. Membership & Chapter Review

No report.

C. State Leadership Activities

The committee discussed the use of Grow Beyond application to leadership plans in the future. They reviewed evaluations from L.E.A.D. and National Convention to take tips for upcoming events. State Officer Candidates' School and Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day were brought up in ways to enhance the experience and takeaway from the events regarding leadership.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

D. State Applications

No report.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

No report.

F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review

This committee met to discuss the classes that are offered at the Horticultural Expo. They also discussed what classes have low attendance numbers and which classes they could remove or add.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the committee report as presented.

There is an implied Second. Motion passed.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to alter the description of the Administrative Professional Clas; change the name of “Puppy Dog Tails” and “Sugar and Spice” to, “It’s a Boy” and It’s a Girl”; remove the Flat of Bedding Plant category; and implement a new class called “Wearable Pieces”.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.

Niccolo Conte reassumed the duties of the chair.

VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report

Niccolo demonstrated the use of the “postpone indefinitely” motion with the help of the State Officers. This motion is debatable and requires a second and blocks further discussion of a topic. This requires a majority vote.

VII. Executive Committee Report

No report.

VIII. Foundation Report

The Foundation discussed the yearly income for the fiscal school year. Allison shared an overview of L.E.A.D. and upcoming events. The next meeting will be on January 8th at 6 pm at the NJDA.

IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report

The New Jersey FFA Alumni & Supporters met on October 9th to discuss the direction for 2025. The committee planned for the National Convention, the NJ State Ag Convention, and hosting an Alumni and Supporter Regional Development Conference. The Blue Corduroy Connection was chosen to be held at O’Connors in early April. The next meeting will be on December 11th at 6 pm at the NJDA.

X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report – Maisie Shimko

No report.

XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report

No report. The next meeting will be on November 13th.

XII. Equine Advisory Board

No report. The next meeting will be on November 20th.

XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators

NAAE Convention will be in San Antonio, TX from December 3rd – 7th where NJAAE members will participant in various workshops, general sessions and delegate business sessions. The NJAAE is continuing their book club and the “New Crop Who Dis” series for the ag teachers. The next meeting is virtual on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

XIV. Unfinished Business

a. 97th National FFA Convention and Expo

The National FFA Convention and Expo was held on October 23 – 26, 2024. At the convention the state officers participated in the delegate process and helped to make decisions to advance National FFA on behalf of NJ’s members. State Officers invited members from the suite down to the delegate floor during each session for them to view convention from a different angle. The state officers also participated in a day of service activity, attended workshops, explored the Expo and attended award banquets for the chapters who competed at National Convention.

b. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention

The New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention will be held from November 18th to the 19th in Cherry Hill where members and county boards come together for delegate work and discuss policies that the Farm Bureau should advocate for and support before the state legislature. Niccolo Conte will be present as a keynote speaker representing the New Jersey FFA Association.

c. Fall Career Development Events

The 100th annual Fall CDEs are being held on November 21st at Rutgers University. Events include Milk Quality and Products, Turf Management, Land Judging, Fruits and Vegetables, and Forestry. State officers are responsible for helping with registration, organizing students and teachers, proctoring, and taking pictures of the event.

d. Chapter Visits

Chapter visits have been run successfully with great feedback. State Officers are encouraged to keep up the good work and engage with members.

e. Team Goal Action Plan

The State Officers are committed to achieving the Team Goal Action Plan for 2024-2025.

XV. New Business

a. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The executive board and state staff discussed the standard operating procedures on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for National Programs and events to come to a consensus about its adoption.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to implement the National FFA Organization’s standards for Artificial Intelligence use in the New Jersey FFA Association.

Seconded by Tyler Murnaghan. Motion passed.

b. Checkpoint #2

Checkpoint 2 will be held at the Rutgers EcoComplex on November 8th and 9th for State Officers to conduct banquet speech writing and team dynamics workshops facilitated by Luc Sproles.

c. Connect Conference “Member Leadership Series”

This conference is being held on December 14th at Rutgers University. The conference will be facilitated by two national facilitators. The state officers are responsible for being a host for the members, getting them excited and being a helping hand for the facilitators. Officers are to arrive at 7:30 am to set up.

d. Holiday Party

State Officers are having a holiday party at Mrs. Noble’s house on December 16th at 6:00 pm following the month’s work session meeting. They will be having a potluck where officers signed up to bring a side dish or dessert.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to hold a ‘Secret Santa’ among the state officers with a reasonable price limit.

Amendment by Abrianna Portillo to have a secret Santa with a price limit of \$15.00.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Amendment passed.

Main Motion now reads: to hold a ‘Secret Santa’ at the Holiday Party with a price limit of \$15.00.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.

e. Banquet Speech Workshop

The Alumni is holding a banquet speech workshop for the State Officers on January 17th. This is where the State Officers deliver their speeches and get feedback from the Alumni to better their speeches. State Officers were assigned their introduction of another teammate and chapter banquet greetings.

f. State Officer Candidates’ School

State Officer Candidate School is being held on January 25th at Stonebridge Middle School. This is for members who are looking into becoming State Officers to get familiar with the interview process and for the members interested in the nominating committee to learn the process as well. The theme for this year is “Beach Day”. Niccolo, Allison, Nina and William will set up on January 24th.

g. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion

William Rutherford discussed the issue of prospective agricultural educators being dissuaded from taking up teaching jobs because of stereotypes and lack of awareness about the position, its importance, and opportunities.

h. Member of the Month

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

Motion by William Rutherford to select Aaron Foote of the Woodstown FFA Chapter as November’s Member of the Month.

Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passed.

i. State Officer Mileage

Allison, Tyler and Abrianna have turned in their mileage for the month of October.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm. The next meeting will be held December 2, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger

Cash Basis As of October 31, 2024

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
FFA							28,662.26
Deposit	10/01/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	2,730.00	2,730.00	31,392.26
Deposit	10/01/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	3,063.00	3,063.00	34,455.26
Deposit	10/01/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	8,708.00	8,708.00	43,163.26
Check	10/16/2024	National FFA Org	National Convention registration	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	-510.00	-510.00	42,653.26
Check	10/16/2024	DJ Nebbs Entertain...	LEA D - leadership activities	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-425.00	-425.00	42,228.26
Check	10/16/2024	National FFA Org	LEAD awards	P5 (LEAD - Expense)	-195.25	-195.25	42,033.01
Check	10/16/2024	Big E Planning Com...	Big E registration	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	-70.00	-70.00	41,963.01
Deposit	10/18/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	2,805.00	2,805.00	44,768.01
Deposit	10/18/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	8,393.60	8,393.60	53,161.61
Deposit	10/18/2024		Deposit	P6 State Convention (Income)	309.63	309.63	53,471.24
Deposit	10/18/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	3,854.00	3,854.00	57,325.24
Check	10/31/2024	Davison, Eastman & ...	additional legal work	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-761.77	-761.77	56,563.47
Total FFA						27,901.21	56,563.47
TOTAL						27,901.21	56,563.47

1. Opening Balance on October 1, 2024 was \$28,662.26
2. Closing Balance on October 31, 2024 was \$56,563.47
3. Treasurer's report passes pending audit



Thursday, October 31, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

tymurnaghan@gmail.com

Committee Name

State Leadership Activities

Date

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Committee Members Present

Tyler Murnaghan
Mr. Delcher
Allison Josielewski

Committee Members Absent

Nicco Conte

Purpose of Meeting

To introduce members to the committee, discuss the previous report, talk about 'Grow Beyond's application to leadership, review the Team Goal Action Plan, evaluate the successes and areas of improvement from LEAD and National Convention, and plan strategies for SOCS and ALLD in relation to leadership.

Recommended Actions

Use 'Grow Beyond' motifs throughout association speeches and events discussing personal interpretations and applications to leadership.

Encourage and promote State Officer candidacy to members through authentic conversations to reach the 10 applicants goal. Stressing the value of SOCS and personal growth will assist in this area.

Engaging students with more activities throughout LEAD to captivate members and maximize the event's leadership education.

Continue with welcoming and inviting conversation like that seen at the State Breakfast during National Convention. Attending awards ceremonies was touching to members and advisors, keep up this initiative.

Design the ALLD experience and theme to ensure that attendees leave feeling supported and confident about their future careers and aspirations.

Comments

This committee meeting was a productive discussion about using the theme to promote leadership, census the efficacy of previous events, and planning for future events with these values in mind.

Chairperson

Tyler Murnaghan

Secretary

Tyler Murnaghan

Chairperson Signature

Tyler Murnighan



Friday, November 1, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

abriannap8@gmail.com

Committee Name

Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

Date

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Committee Members Present

Tyler Murnaghan and Allison Josielewski

Committee Members Absent

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Purpose of Meeting

Improve the quality of Horticulture Exposition and review classes, rules, and manage judges. As well, promote the competition and details of the event.

Recommended Actions

- Alter the description of the Administrative Professional Class to state:
"An arrangement suitable for placement on the desk of an administrative professional. Must include a minimum of three (3) keepsake items (stationary/office supplies), not including the container. Size limit 16" X 16" X 16". "
- Change the name of Puppy Dog Tails and Sugar and Spice to, "It's a Boy" and "It's a Girl".
- Removal of Flat of Bedding Plants Category.
- Implement a new class which is "Headpiece/Crown". This class would include both silk and fresh divisions. These pieces would be full functional and wearable head wear made out of floral material.

Comments

The Flat of Bedding Plants Category in recent years has seen less participation and a decline in the quality of submissions which lead to the consensus.

We will use the New Jersey FFA social media pages to promote the Horticulture Exposition in the months leading up to the event.

Chairperson

Abrianna Portillo

Secretary

N/A

Chairperson Signature