



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
200 Riverview Plaza, 3rd Floor | P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 | 877-AgEdFFA | jerseyageducation.nj.gov

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: December 13, 2024

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, January 6, 2025 – 9:00 a.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 JANUARY STATE MEETING

- I. **Opening Ceremonies**
- II. **Minutes from the December 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 Report – Nina Weiland**
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agriculture Educators Report – Mr. Dale Cruzan**
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Connect Conference “Member Leadership Series” (December 14, 2024) – Allison Josielewski
 - B. Teach Ag Event (December 14, 2024) – William Rutherford
 - C. Holiday Party (December 16, 2024) – Nina Weiland
 - D. Banquet Speech Workshop (January 17, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - E. State Officer Candidates’ School (January 25, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - F. New Jersey State Ag Convention (February 5-6, 2025) – Niccolo Conte
 - G. Winter CDEs (February 5, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - H. Fuel Up Retreat (February 13-16, 2025) – William Rutherford
 - I. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (February 20, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
 - J. National FFA Week (February 15-22, 2025) – Nina Weiland
 - K. Chapter Visit Updates – William Rutherford
 - L. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. New Business**
 - A. Horticultural Exposition (March 14-15, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - B. National Ag Day (March 18, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
 - C. Preliminary LDEs (March 25-27, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - D. Statewide Community Service Project – Nina Weiland
 - E. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Allison Josielewski
 - F. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
 - G. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting - February 3, 2025
New Jersey Department of Ag Building
4:00 pm*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the December 2, 2024 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 3:59 pm. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, William Rutherford, and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen and Ms. McCluskey.

II. Minutes from November State Meeting

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

Seconded by Allison Josielewski. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the month was \$56,563.47 and the closing balance was \$54,910.61.

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

Motion passes pending audit.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to utilize the Crowne Plaza Edison for the 2025 L.E.A.D. (Leadership Experience and Development) location as they were the lowest quote and could meet all the event requirements.

Seconded by William Rutherford. Motion Passed.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

Chase Sherburne was present at this month's meeting.

Motion by Nina Weiland to accept Tyler Murnaghan's absence as excused.

Seconded by William Rutherford. Motion passed.

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

The committee discussed the FFA Chapter Highlights program and suggests that for the remainder of this FFA year (after its approval) the Chapter Highlight posts will be a trial run in order to see what works and what doesn't for future development or redevelopment. The potential video/film training for State Officers stems from creating state videos, vlogs, etc. in order to capture events like chapter visits, convention, and other state events. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 5 PM.

Motion by Nina Weiland to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

Motion by Nina Weiland to accept the Chapter Highlight form pending edits.

Seconded by Niccolo Conte. Motion passed.

C. State Leadership Activities

No report.

D. State Applications

The committee came together for introductions and an opening of business. State scholarships, applications, and member of the month applications were reviewed. Suggestions included the addition of a segment where the applicant inputs their actions from the month in the chapter, school, or community. Increasing advertisement of the State Degree and its requirements through 'Takeover Tuesdays' and countdowns for events and applications on Instagram.

Motion by William Rutherford to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

No report.

F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review

No report.

Niccolo Conte re-assumed the duties of the chair.

VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report

Niccolo demonstrated how to "Fix the Time in Which to Adjourn." This action sets the time for an adjourned meeting, which is a continuation of the current meeting held at another time before the next regular meeting. This is a privileged motion, not debatable and you move straight into voting.

VII. Executive Committee Report

No report.

VIII. Foundation Report

No report as the next meeting is on January 7th at 6 pm at the NJDA.

IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report

No report as the next meeting is on December 11th at 6:00 pm at the NJDA.

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

No report as the next meeting is on February 5th at the New Jersey State Ag Convention.

XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report

The Ag Society met on November 13th. At this meeting they established their committees, looked at how they can increase membership, social media strategies (Niccolo had mentioned to them about using Instagram), agricultural issues, their budget, Farm Bureau Convention as well as their January Board Dinner. They were having a Thanksgiving packing event, to pack over 500 Thanksgiving dinners.

XII. Equine Advisory Board

The Equine Advisory Board will be re-electing officers soon. They are currently developing the Youth Horse Person of the Year award information. Sadi said we are wonderful and everything we are doing is wonderful. They would like information about the “Blue Jackets. Bright Futures” program as soon as it is available. Ann Dorsett mentioned, “We know we are so proud of our FFA youth. It’s nice to know the rest of the world knows there IS a future for agriculture in New Jersey.” Rutgers University is planning a Horse Management Seminar. Rutgers is inviting non-profit organizations to have a table at the event, email Dr. Carey Williams for more information. This event will take place after January 15th.

XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators

NAAE Convention was held in San Antonio, TX this week. The last meeting was held on November 12th where they began setting up committees. They are continuing their book club and the “New Crop Who Dis” series for the ag teachers. They are looking at the Agricultural Convention resolutions. The summer 2025 conference will be held in the central region. The next meeting will be on January 14th at 5:00 pm via zoom.

XIV. Unfinished Business

A. Checkpoint #2

State Officer Checkpoint #2 was held November 8-9, 2024 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. Luc Sproles was the facilitator. State officers learned about team dynamics, speech writing and delivery, and relearned the magic formula. They also began the process of writing their banquet speeches.

B. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention

The New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention was held on November 18-19, 2024. Niccolo Conte had the opportunity to speak at this convention. He shared his agricultural story and how he can put his love for agriculture and cybersecurity together. He met the members of the Farm Bureau and talked to them about agriculture.

C. Fall Career Development Events

Fall CDE’s were held on November 21, 2024 at Rutgers University. The first-place teams include: Newton for Forestry, Somerset County for Fruits and Vegetables, Newton for Land Judging, Newton for Milk Quality and Products and Monmouth County for Turf Management.

D. Connect Conference “Member Leadership Series”

This conference is being held on December 14th at Rutgers University. State Officers are to arrive at 7:30 am to set up in official dress and be prepared to help the national facilitators throughout the day.

E. Teach Ag Event

Teach Ag Recruitment Event will be going on at the same time as the Connect Conference. At the Teach Ag Event, FFA members and Rutgers University students will be able to learn more about the profession through workshops facilitated by State Officers and Alumni and have conversations with current ag teachers.

F. 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. The officers will be bringing either a side dish or dessert based on their sign-ups at the last meetings. The state officers are also doing a secret Santa with each other.

G. Banquet Speech Workshop

The Alumni will host the Banquet Speech Workshop for the State Officer on January 17th at 6:00 pm at the Rutgers Eco Complex. This event is where the State Officers read their speeches in front of Alumni, parents, state staff, and each other to get feedback before the banquet season.

H. State Officer Candidate School

State Officer Candidates' School is being held on January 25th at Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown. State Officers have begun preparing their workshops for this event and are excited to meet all the possible candidates. Niccolo, Allison, Nina and William will set up on January 24th.

I. Chapter Visits

The State Officers have been completing their chapter visits accordingly.

J. Team Goal Action Plan

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

XV. New Business

A. Event Cost Analysis

Cost analysis sheets were provided for Advocacy Day and the Horticultural Exposition. The board looked at the cost analysis for both events.

1. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to increase the cost of Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day to \$30.00.

Seconded by William Rutherford. Motion Passed.

2. Horticultural Exposition

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to keep the cost of the Horticultural Expo entries at \$7.00 each.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion Passes.

B. New Jersey State Agricultural Convention

The NJ State Ag Convention will be held February 5th at the Harrah's Resort and Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. All state officers will be present, and Niccolo Conte will be delivering a speech.

C. Winter CDEs

Winter CDEs will be held February 5th at the Harrah's Resort and Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. The CDEs that are being held are Farm and Agribusiness Management and Meat Evaluation and Technology. State Officers selected which CDE they will be assisting with.

D. Fuel Up Retreat

The State Officers will be spending time together on February 13th – 16th at a beach house in Wildwood. They will be planning for State Convention and begin working on their retiring addresses.

E. National FFA Week

National FFA Week is February 15th – 22nd, this is where we celebrate FFA. The chapters hold their own events and themed days, as well as invite the State Officers to be a part of their events. The National FFA Week social media challenges are as follows: 2/15: Post how your chapter will celebrate National FFA Week, 2/16: Share a photo and your SAE story, 2/17/: Share what your chapter is doing to serve your community, 2/18: Connect with an FFA Alum who inspires you. Tell them why, 2/19: Share how an ag teacher or advisor has impacted your life, 2/20: Ask friends and family to give to FFA today, 2/21: Post a selfie wearing your blue today and 2/22: Share photos from your #FFAWeek celebration.

F. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day

ALLD will be held on February 20th at The College of New Jersey, the theme for this year's event is "It's all Ag."

G. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion

Niccolo discussed the recent New Jersey drought and the issues in agriculture that arise from it.

H. Member of the Month

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

Motion by William Rutherford to select Peter DelCollo of the Cumberland Regional FFA Chapter as December's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passed.

I. State Officer Mileage

Niccolo, Abrianna and Nina have turned in their mileage for the month of November.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm. The next meeting will be held January 6, 2025 at 9:00 am in the NJDA 3rd floor conference room.

9:28 AM

December 2, 2024

Cash Basis

NJ FFA Association

Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger

As of November 30, 2024

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split
FFA					
	Check	11/07/2024	Crowne Plaza	final LEAD invoice	P5 (LEAD - Expense)
	Deposit	11/08/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-
	Deposit	11/08/2024		Deposit	Undeposited Funds
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	PayPal - annual 990 tax filing	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Selective Insurance - supplemental event i...	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	The Webstaurant Store - MQP supplies -	P2 (CDEs - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Indiana Convention Center - Welcome Bre...	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	NASCO - MQP CDE supplies	P2 (CDEs - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Crowne Plaza Edison - conferece deposit	P5 (LEAD - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Crowne Plaza Edison LEAD conference lo...	P5 (LEAD - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Crowne Plaza Edison LEAD conference lo...	P5 (LEAD - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Westin - National Convention lodging	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Westin - National Convention lodging	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Hampton Inn - way home from National Co...	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Hampton Inn - way home from National Co...	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)
	Check	11/15/2024	Bank of America	Rutgers U - MLS Conference facilitators lo...	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)
	Deposit	11/20/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-
	Deposit	11/20/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-
	Check	11/26/2024	First Coast Promotions	thank you gifts	P2 (CDEs - Expense)
Total FFA					
TOTAL					

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of November 30, 2024

Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
		56,563.47 1
-8,358.17	-8,358.17	48,205.30
6,088.00	6,088.00	54,293.30
1,100.00	1,100.00	55,393.30
-41.00	-41.00	55,352.30
-743.00	-743.00	54,609.30
-100.41	-100.41	54,508.89
-3,573.91	-3,573.91	50,934.98
-120.39	-120.39	50,814.59
-2,000.00	-2,000.00	48,814.59
-236.00	-236.00	48,578.59
-236.00	-236.00	48,342.59
-1,544.40	-1,544.40	46,798.19
-1,544.40	-1,544.40	45,253.79
-118.77	-118.77	45,135.02
-118.77	-118.77	45,016.25
-224.64	-224.64	44,791.61
9,316.00	9,316.00	54,107.61
2,328.00	2,328.00	56,435.61
-1,525.00	-1,525.00	54,910.61
	-1,652.86	54,910.61 2
	-1,652.86	54,910.61 3

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of November 30, 2024

- 1. Opening Balance on November 1, 2024 was \$56,56.47
.....
- 2. Closing Balance on November 30, 2024 was \$54,910.61
.....
- 3. Treasurer's report passes pending audit
.....



Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

nweilandearther@gmail.com

Committee Name

Membership & Chapter Relations

Date

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Committee Members Present

Nina Weiland, Chair
Billy Rutherford, Vice Chair
Dr. McLean, Committee Advisor

Committee Members Absent

Niccolo Conte, Member

Purpose of Meeting

To review and edit the Social Media Plan Draft, the High School to Middle School Outreach Program Draft, and approve the FFA Chapter Highlights Information Form.

Recommended Actions

The committee recommends the approval of the "FFA Chapter Highlights Information Form" by the board. They also recommend considering the High School to Middle School Outreach Program to be approved at the end of this year as an application for next year, as it is too late to carry out. We discussed the National FFA Week daily social media challenge and if we should use National FFA's challenge or if the State Officers should create a more inclusive challenge in order to incorporate all New Jersey FFA members (Middle School and High School). Finally, the committee recommended and discussed potentially developing a video/film training for State Officers.

Comments

The committee discussed the FFA Chapter Highlights program and suggests that for the remainder of this FFA year (after its approval) the Chapter Highlight posts will be a trial run in order to see what works and what doesn't for future development or redevelopment.

the potential video/film training for State Officers stems off of creating state videos, vlogs, etc. in order to capture events like chapter visits, convention, and other State events.

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 5 PM.

Chairperson

Nina Weiland

Secretary

Billy Rutherford

Chairperson Signature



Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

wrutherford1017@gmail.com

Committee Name

State Applications

Date

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Committee Members Present

Tyler Murnaghan
Nina Weiland
Ms. Tallamy

Committee Members Absent

N/A

Purpose of Meeting

The first meeting since the August meeting. Introductory for Ms. Tallamy of what the committee was, and recommended actions we could take. We invited her to talk on an advisor's standpoint on different topics to see the other side of things. We also discussed on things touched on through the previous meeting, such as the social media plan, the outline of state scholarships for members, advertisement of the applications and their requirements, and member of the month. We reviewed expectations for the committee as well.

Recommended Actions

A few recommended actions we took were member of the month, how we can use the social media plan, and how we can advertise requirements of degrees and application due dates. For member of the month, we wanted to see how we could implement a factor of "what have you done this month" question vs how it already is. We did look at the inclusion factor of it as well, because some chapters are quiet in some months rather than the other. Just trying to add another question to it we see could gear it more towards member of the month, such as what have you done in the chapter or in the community? We looked at ways to advertise the State Degree. Instead of your usual post on social media, we look more towards how we can make it into a fun little skit to see how we can motivate individuals, kind of like the "Take Over Tuesdays". For the advertisement of application due dates, we saw ways that we can add it into our chapter visits and personal connections. Mentioned was how our Instagram Note has a countdown until Fall CDE's, so we saw ways to use that as advertisement.

Comments

N/A

Chairperson

William Rutherford

Secretary

Tyler Murnaghan

Chairperson Signature