



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education  
200 Riverview Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

*“Connected with Purpose”*

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

FROM: Kathryn Giovanelli, State FFA President  
Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist  
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: August 14, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting  
**Monday, September 8, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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 2025-2026.

### AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the August State Meeting
- III. Treasurer’s Report
- IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance
- V. Committee Reports
  - A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program of Activities – Kayla Romero
  - B. Membership & Chapter Relations – Abigale DiGiamberardino
  - C. State Leadership Activities – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
  - D. State Applications – Peter DelCollo
  - E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation and Review – Aaron Foote
  - F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review – Kathryn Giovanelli
  - G. State Convention Evaluation – Breanna Rosmarin
- VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report – Kathryn Giovanelli
- VII. Executive Committee Report – Abrianna Portillo

**VIII. Foundation Report – Breanna Rosmarin**

**IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report – Aaron Foote**

**X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report – Kayla Romero**

**XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report – Kathryn Giovanelli**

**XII. Equine Advisory Board – Peter DelCollo**

**XIII. New Jersey Association of Agriculture Educators – Mr. Dale Cruzan**

**XIV. Unfinished Business**

- A. Association Budget – Abigale DiGiamberardino
- B. Eastern States Exposition (September 12-13, 2025) – Kayla Romero
- C. Leadership Experience and Development Conference (October 3-4, 2025)
  - a. Impact Conference
    - 1. Chapter Officer Leadership Training – Kayla Romero
    - 2. Leadership Opportunities Conference – Tyler Murnaghan
  - b. State Greenhand Conference – Abrianna Portillo
  - c. Timeline – Breanna Rosmarin
- D. 98<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention (October 29 – November 1, 2025)
  - a. Delegates – Kathryn Giovanelli
    - 1. Delegate Process Written/Oral Testimony – Kathryn Giovanelli
    - 2. National FFA Board of Directors Dues Recommendation – Breanna Rosmarin
  - b. Flag Bearer – Aaron Foote
  - c. State Suite – Abigale DiGiamberardino
  - d. Recognition Program – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- E. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers – Peter DelCollo

**XV. New Business**

- A. Team Goal Action Plan – Breanna Rosmarin
- B. Calendar of Events – Kayla Romero
- C. Chapter Visits – Peter DelCollo
- D. #SpeakAg Pioneers – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- E. Fall Ag Ed Conference (September 26, 2025) – Kathryn Giovanelli
- F. Checkpoint #2 (November 14-15, 2025) – Ivanelisse Pena Rivera
- G. Fall Career Development Events (November 20, 2025) – Aaron Foote
- H. Agriculture/Agricultural Education Issues Discussion – Abigale DiGiamberardino
- I. Member of the Month – Abrianna Portillo
- J. State Officer Mileage – Abigale DiGiamberardino

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting- October 6, 2025  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
4:00 p.m.*

**New Jersey FFA Association  
Minutes from the August 4, 2025 Meeting**

**I. Opening Ceremonies**

Kathryn Giovanelli called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The voting members in attendance were Kathryn Giovanelli, Breanna Rosmarin, Kayla Romero, Abigale DiGiamberardino, Ivanelisse Pena Rivera, Peter DelCollo, Aaron Foote, Tyler Murnaghan, Nina Weiland, and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen, and Ms. McCluskey.

**II. Minutes from July State Meeting**

**Motion by Kaya Romero** to dispense with the reading of the meeting minutes and approve them as distributed.

**Seconded by Aaron Foote. Motion passed.**

**III. Treasurer's Report**

The opening balance for the month was \$128,300.66 and the closing balance was \$151,786.08.

**Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino** to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

**Motion passed pending audit.**

**IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance**

No guests were present at this meeting.

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** to accept the absence of Abrianna Portillo.

**Seconded by Peter DelCollo. Motion failed.**

*Breanna Rosmarin assumed the duties of the chair.*

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program Activities**

Aaron shared the committee report from the July meeting where they discussed the important expectations of the committee and its members. For the committee members to understand bylaws and also review any changes. Convention report priority are adopting the revised HO Sampson participation award. The committee goals are to stress the importance of wearing proper official dress to members, evaluation of state POA to ensure members are following the criteria of events and evaluate State Officer job descriptions in the Constitution to confirm that all officers are completing their responsibilities. They also identified a potential advisor for their committee.

**Motion by Aaron Foote** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

**B. Membership & Chapter Relations**

Abigale shared the committee report from the July meeting. She discussed sending out the chapter highlights and encourage member to fill out the form for their chapter, encourage more Spanish inclusion through social media, and to refine the NJ Voices Program. They also identified a potential advisor for their committee.

**Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Abigale DiGiamberardino** to send of the Chapter Highlights Form to teachers starting in September.

**Seconded by Kathryn Giovanelli. Motion passed.**

### **C. State Leadership Activities**

Ivanelisse shared the committee report from the July meeting. She spoke about the committee reevaluating the MegaE Conference to create a more detailed foundation and overview of the event, review the evaluation forms as well as identified a potential advisor for their committee.

**Motion by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

### **D. State Applications**

Ivanelisse shared the committee report from the July meeting. She discussed converting JotForm applications to AET in order to increase ease of application for members, continue advertising applications through social media posts, and they also identified a potential advisor for their committee.

**Motion by Ivanelisse Pena Rivera** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

Mrs. Noble shared the applications will be January 1<sup>st</sup> ready on AET. There are a few applications that AET can't do.

### **E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review**

Aaron shared the committee report from the July meeting. Priorities identified were enforcing stricter supervisions during CDEs, transition PA CDE's over to NJ, and promote CDEs on social media. They also identified a potential advisor for their committee.

**Motion by Aaron Foote** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

Mrs. Noble suggested this committee reviews the Conduct of Chapter Meetings event to have only one division instead of two, how the Quiz Bowl event can be conducted, and number of applicants from each chapter for the Essay Event. She also provided insight Food Science & Technology will be a part of the Winter CDEs, Poultry Evaluation will be a part of Spring CDEs tentatively, and Livestock Evaluation will be at DelVal in April.

### **F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review**

Kathryn shared the committee report from the July meeting. She spoke about revising all class descriptions stating the size requirements and price limits to reflect industry standards, consider offering more workshops and connecting with MCCC clubs, and consider adding Kwanza to classes offered. They also identified a potential advisor for their committee.

**Motion by Kathryn Giovanelli** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

Ms. Allen shared all changes to classes, descriptions, additions, and removals are due for the November State FFA Meeting.

### **G. State Convention Evaluation & Review**

Aaron shared the committee report from the July meeting. He discussed the committee wants to make the State Convention evaluation forms more accessible to members during convention, advertise on social media before convention registration is due and to evaluate the social at State Convention on Wednesday evening. They also identified a potential advisor for their committee..

**Motion by Aaron Foote** to accept the report as read.

**There is an implied second. Motion passed.**

*Kathryn Giovanelli re-assumed the duties of the chair.*

- VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report**  
Kathryn Giovanelli demonstrated the use of Division of the Assembly. Division of the Assembly is a method by which any member can require a verification of a voice vote when they doubt its accuracy. A member does not need to be recognized by the chair; they simply rise and call "Division". It must be immediately done after the result is announced. This is not debatable and does not require a second.
- VII. Executive Committee Report**  
Nina Weiland asked the State Officers to reflect on Summit and Checkpoint #1 with 3 things they learned, 2 things they found interesting, and 1 question they still had.
- VIII. Foundation Report**  
No report. Their next meeting will be on August 5, 2025.
- X. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report**  
No report. Their next meeting will be on August 13, 2025.
- XI. Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report**  
No report. Their next meeting will be during the New Jersey State Ag Convention.
- XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report**  
No report. Their next meeting will be on July 9, 2025.
- XII. Equine Advisory Board**  
No report, as their last meeting was during State Officer Summit. Their next meeting will be on August 20, 2025.
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators**  
Mr. Cruzan discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NJAAE Summer Teachers Professional Development Conference, held at Northern Burlington Middle School from July 31- August 1. There were twelve teachers who attended. In the summer of 2026, the conference will be hosted in the northern region. On that Thursday evening NJAAE hosted a New Jersey Ag Teachers Dinner to recognize teachers for their years of service and to continue to build their Ag Teacher Networking. Their next meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> following the Fall Ag Ed conference.
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
- A. State Officer Summit**  
State Officer Summit will be held in Washington, DC from July 14-18, 2025. State Officers learned about the advocacy processes and how to be a better advocate. This event also started the delegate process for the National Convention. The team met State Officers from all across the country, conducted legislative visits about the National FFA Caucus, and toured the National Monuments.
- B. Summer CDE- Safe Tractor Operations Event**  
Breanna Rosmarin and Kayla Romero attended for NJ FFA, and the event ran smoothly. There were ten competitors from three chapters. Congratulations to all and to Codey Fleetwood from the Cumberland Regional FFA Chapter for placing 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. Checkpoint #1**  
Checkpoint #1 was held July 29 – August 1, 2025 at the Rutgers EcoComplex. The State Officers learned about Conversation Skills and Workshop Facilitation.

**D. Impact Training**

Immediately following Checkpoint #1, the State Officers received direct training on the Impact Curriculum and started planning their workshops for LEAD.

**E. 97<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention**

**a. Delegates**

Kathryn Giovanelli, Breanna Rosmarin, and Kayla Romero are the delegates for National Convention. Kathryn will be serving on the Enhancement of Marketing and Messaging Committee, Breanna will be serving on the Evaluation of Degree Program Structure Committee, and Kayla will be serving on the Reviewing the Process of the Delegate Experience Committee.

**b. Flag Bearer**

Aaron Foote will serve as the New Jersey flag bearer at National Convention.

**c. State Suite**

We will have a State Suite at this year's National Convention and Abigale DiGiamberardino will serve as the host.

**d. Recognition Program**

We recognize people who are getting the honorary degree, American degrees, Agriscience Fair finalists, CDE/LDE winners, and there is breakfast. Ivanelisse also reminded that each officer will present on their selected topic areas to let our members and guests know more about the 98th National FFA Convention. Ivanelisse informed the officers she would like their paragraphs completed by August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**F. State Theme T-Shirt and Thank You Gift**

The State Officers decided on light blue for the shirts with the Connected with Purpose logo in the middle of the shirt. The thank you gift that was decided on is a coffee mug: blue with the logo in white as the first choice and white with the logo in blue as the second color choice.

**G. Eastern States Exposition**

Kayla Romero will be attending to assist with events. Representing New Jersey will be the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter in Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Aaron Foote in Star Farmer, and Codey Fleetwood in Safe Tractor Operations.

**XV. New Business**

**A. Association Budget**

The State Association Budget report has been tabled till the September meeting.

**B. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers**

ILSSO this year is being held in Spain from January 3-16, 2025. This trip gives State Officers an awareness of global agriculture. Peter DelCollo and Aaron Foote both applied.

**C. Leadership Experience and Development Conference**

**a. Impact Conference**

**i. Chapter Officer Leadership Training**

Chapter Officer Leadership Training is designed to show chapter officers about what it's like to be a leader in their chapter, create the POA and provide state officer perspectives about NJ FFA.

**ii. Leadership Opportunities Conference**

Leadership Opportunities Conference is geared for members who are not first-year members and not chapter officers. Participants will explore opportunities available to them in FFA and gain additional leadership skills.

**b. State Greenhand Conference**

Abrianna, Tyler, and Nina will facilitate the State Greenhand Conference for first year members in grades 7-10. At the conclusion of the event, participants will have satisfied most requirements of earning the Greenhand Degree.

**c. Timeline**

It is important for all state officers to follow the timeline of items due. This will help everyone manage the large workload ahead of us all.

**D. Agriculture/ Agricultural Education Issues Discussion**

Kayla Romero discussed Wildlife Management and Conservation and updates on the bald eagle and osprey population.

**E. State Officer Milage**

Kathryn, Breanna, Abigale, Ivanelisse, Peter, Aaron, and Abrianna submitted for the month of July. All mileage reports are due each month prior to the start of the state meeting.

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am. The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

1:42 PM

July 31, 2025

Cash Basis

**NJ FFA Association**  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
**As of July 31, 2025**

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
<b>FFA</b>							128,300.66 <b>1</b>
Deposit	07/01/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-	16,052.75	16,052.75	144,353.41
Check	07/03/2025	National FFA Org	state officer official attire	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-325.00	-325.00	144,028.41
Check	07/03/2025	DJ Nebbs Entertainment	Convention DJ	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-450.00	-450.00	143,578.41
Check	07/09/2025	NJ Agricultural Society	renewal	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-75.00	-75.00	143,503.41
Check	07/09/2025	NJ FFA Foundation	donation towards convention awards	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-2,000.00	-2,000.00	141,503.41
Check	07/10/2025	National FFA Org	Summit registration	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-3,150.00	-3,150.00	138,353.41
Check	07/10/2025	National FFA Org	SO official attire	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-340.00	-340.00	138,013.41
Check	07/10/2025	National FFA Org	Agriscience Fair awards	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-194.00	-194.00	137,819.41
Check	07/11/2025	NJ FFA Foundation	reim for Floriculture supplies	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-1,207.83	-1,207.83	136,611.58
Check	07/14/2025	US Bank	Motorclub: 4 state officers	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-656.00	-656.00	135,955.58
Check	07/14/2025	US Bank	stage backdrop	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-196.63	-196.63	135,758.95
Check	07/14/2025	US Bank	state officer unofficial official dress	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-519.27	-519.27	135,239.68
Check	07/14/2025	US Bank	Shoprite - checkpoint 1 lunch items	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-195.79	-195.79	135,043.89
Deposit	07/23/2025		Deposit	P6 State Convention (Income)	7,017.00	7,017.00	142,060.89
Deposit	07/23/2025		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	8,143.00	8,143.00	150,203.89
Deposit	07/23/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-	2,980.00	2,980.00	153,183.89
Check	07/24/2025	Bergen County Technic...		Accounts Receivable	-6.00	-6.00	153,177.89
Check	07/24/2025	Tyler Murnaghan	Jan - June mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-215.79	-215.79	152,962.10
Check	07/24/2025	William Rutherford	Jan - June mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-670.53	-670.53	152,291.57
Check	07/24/2025	Nina Weiland	Jan - June mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-758.67	-758.67	151,532.90
Check	07/24/2025	Abrianna Portillo	Jan - June mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-791.25	-791.25	150,741.65
Check	07/24/2025	Niccolo Conte	Jan - June mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-279.87	-279.87	150,461.78
Check	07/24/2025	US Bank	Basecamp lodging	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-1,451.52	-1,451.52	149,010.26
Check	07/24/2025	American Income Life I...	Jan-June event insurance	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-811.00	-811.00	148,199.26
Check	07/25/2025	Pennsylvannia Associa...	PA Day registration	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-45.00	-45.00	148,154.26
Deposit	07/25/2025		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	960.00	960.00	149,114.26
Deposit	07/25/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-	3,183.00	3,183.00	152,297.26
Check	07/29/2025	US Bank	China Grill - Basecamp dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-225.10	-225.10	152,072.16
Check	07/29/2025	US Bank	Selective Insurance	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-286.08	-286.08	151,786.08
Total FFA						23,485.42	151,786.08 <b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>23,485.42</b>	<b>151,786.08 <b>3</b></b>



NJ FFA Association  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
As of July 31, 2025

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- 1. Opening Balance on July 1, 2025 was \$128,300.66  
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- 2. Closing Balance on July 31, 2025 was \$151,786.08  
.....
- 3. Treasurers Report passes pending audit  
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Thursday, July 10, 2025

# Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email** aaronfoote999@gmail.com

**Committee Name** Constitution, Bylaws & POA

**Date** Thursday, July 10, 2025

**Committee Members Present**  
Aaron Foote (Vice Chair), Breanna Rosmarin (member), Nina Weiland (member)

**Committee Members Absent** Kayla Romero (Chair)

**Purpose of Meeting**  
To outline important expectations of the committee and its members. For committee members to understand bylaws and also review any changes. Convention report priority are adopting the revised HO Sampson participation award. The committee goals are to stress the importance of wearing proper official dress to members, evaluation of state POA to ensure members are following the criteria of events, and evaluate State Officer job descriptions in the Constitution to confirm that all officers are completing their responsibilities.

**Recommended Actions**  
N/A

**Comments**  
The committee identified potential advisors to serve on the committee.

**Chairperson** Kayla Romero (absent)

**Secretary** Aaron Foote

**Chairperson Signature** 



Monday, July 7, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

swimmerabu11@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

Membership & Chapter Relations

**Date**

Monday, July 7, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

Abigale DiGiamberardino - Chair

Kathryn Giovanelli - Vice Chair

**Purpose of Meeting**

To establish expectations , set goals , review the State Convention report, and select potential committee advisors.

**Recommended Actions**

Send out the chapter highlights and encourage members to fill out the form and make sure advisors are aware.

Encourage more Spanish inclusion. (Social Media)

Refine the NJ Voices Program

**Comments**

The committee identified potential advisors to serve on the committee.

**Chairperson**

Abigale DiGiamberardino

**Secretary**

Kathryn Giovanelli

**Chairperson Signature**



Monday, July 7, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

ivanelisse28@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

State Leadership Activities

**Date**

Monday, July 7, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

Ivy Pena Rivera - Chair

Abi DiGiamberardino - Member

Nina Weiland - Member

**Committee Members Absent**

Breanna Rosmarin

**Purpose of Meeting**

To establish expectations, set goals, review the State Convention report, and select potential committee advisors.

**Recommended Actions**

Goals:

Reevaluate the MegaE Conference to create a more detailed foundation and overview of the event.  
Review evaluation forms and analyze to make improvements.

**Comments**

The committee identified potential advisors to serve on the committee.

**Chairperson**

Ivanelisse Pena Rivera

**Secretary**

Abi DiGiamberardino

**Chairperson Signature**



Monday, July 7, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

### Email

ivanelisse28@gmail.com

### Committee Name

State Applications

### Date

Monday, July 7, 2025

### Committee Members Present

Abbey Portillo - member  
Ivy Pena Rivera - vice chair

### Committee Members Absent

Peter Delcollo

### Purpose of Meeting

To establish expectations, set goals, review the convention report, and select advisors for the committee.

### Recommended Actions

Convert Jotforms to AET in order to increase ease of applications.  
Continue advertising applications through social media posts.

### Comments

The committee identified potential advisors to serve on the committee.

### Chairperson

Ivanelisse Pena Rivera

### Secretary

Abbey Portillo

### Chairperson Signature



Monday, July 7, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

aaronfoote999@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

**Date**

Monday, July 7, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

Aaron Foote (chair)

Abbey Poritillo (member)

**Committee Members Absent**

Kayla Romero (vice-Chair)

**Purpose of Meeting**

To set expectations to have a full committee show up and provide insight and opinions to improve CDE's to the best abilities. Convention report priority areas are to enforce stricter supervision during CDE's. The committee goals are to transition PA CDE's over to NJ and promote CDE's on social media.

**Recommended Actions**

N/A

**Comments**

The committee identified potential advisors to serve on the committee.

**Chairperson**

Aaron Foote

**Secretary**

Absent

**Chairperson Signature**

Aaron Foote



Monday, July 7, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

k.giovanelli140@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

**Date**

Monday, July 7, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

Kathryn Giovanelli, Chair  
Breanna Rosmarin, Member

**Committee Members Absent**

Peter DelCollo, Vice-Chair and Tyler Murnaghan, Member

**Purpose of Meeting**

During the meeting, we set expectations for the committee, reviewed the convention report to determine priority areas, set goals for the committee and determined potential advisors to serve on the committee.

**Recommended Actions**

- Revise the descriptions for all classes to explicitly state size requirements and price limits to reflect industry standards (specifically baby arrangement classes)
- Consider offering more workshops and connecting with MCCC clubs to achieve this
- Consider adding Kwanza to classes offered

**Comments**

The committee identified potential advisors to serve on the committee.

**Chairperson**

Kathryn Giovanelli

**Secretary**

Absent

**Chairperson Signature**

Dear  
Friend