



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

*"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: February 13, 2025

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting  
**Monday, March 3, 2025 – 4:00 pm.**  
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) 457-2373 and give the reason for receiving an excused absence. Mr. Dale Cruzan will fill the teacher representative on the Executive Board and have voting power at each meeting in 2024-2025.

### AGENDA FOR THE MARCH STATE MEETING

- I. Opening Ceremonies
- II. Minutes from the February 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. State FFA 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 Agricultural Educators Report – Mr. Dale Cruzan**
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Winter CDEs (February 5, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
  - B. New Jersey Agricultural Convention (February 5, 2024) – Niccolo Conte
  - C. Fuel Up Retreat (February 13-16, 2025) – William Rutherford
  - D. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day (February 20, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - E. National FFA Week (February 15-22, 2025) – Nina Weiland
  - F. Horticultural Exposition (March 14-15, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
  - G. National Ag Day (March 18, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - H. Preliminary LDEs (March 25-27, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
  - I. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala (March 29, 2025) – Niccolo Conte
  - J. Horse Evaluation CDE (April 6, 2025) – Nina Weiland
  - K. PA Day CDEs (April 8, 2025) – William Rutherford
  - L. Spring CDEs (April 10, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - M. State Convention (May 21-23, 2025)
    - a. Delegate Issues – Allison Josielewski
    - b. Statewide Community Service Project – Nina Weiland
  - N. Chapter Visit Updates – William Rutherford
  - O. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. New Business**
  - A. Selection of the State Convention T-Shirt Design – Niccolo Conte
  - B. State Applications Judging (April 3-6, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
  - C. Retiring Address Workshop (April 9, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
  - D. Agriscience Fair (April 30, 2025) – Nina Weiland
  - E. Dairy Cattle Evaluation (May 3, 2025) – Allison Josielewski
  - E. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Abrianna Portillo
  - F. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
  - G. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting – April 7, 2025  
New Jersey Department of Ag Building  
4:00 pm*

**New Jersey FFA Association  
Minutes from the February 3, 2025 Meeting**

**I. Opening Ceremonies**

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 3:47 pm. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, William Rutherford, and Mr. Dale Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble and Ms. Allen.

**II. Minutes from January's State Meeting**

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** 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 \$62,551.54 and the closing balance was \$58,814.80.

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

**Motion passes pending audit.**

**IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance**

There were no guests present at this month's meeting.

*Allison Josielewski assumed the duties of the chair.*

**V. Committee Reports**

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

The committee discussed the Quiz Bowl and National FFA precedents. The committee considered making the State FFA Talent event a competition and thought about ways to better promote talent submissions.

**Motion by Niccolo Conte** to accept the committee report as read.

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

**B. Membership & Chapter Review**

The committee suggested that new State Officer teams complete media training in regard to creating social media posts, etiquette, and sharing. They proposed a pause on the Middle School Outreach Program based on its infeasibility. In an effort to better share what NJ FFA Chapters are up to, a New Jersey FFA Chapter Reporter and Historian Program can be started similar to FFA in the USA program where Chapter reporters can write stories and have them posted by the NJ FFA Association.

**Motion by Nina Weiland** to accept the committee report as read.

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

**C. State Leadership Activities**

The committee went through the Proposed Changes to New Jersey FFA Leadership Conferences including the implementation of a 'MegaE' conference. They also discussed how events would be moved around and scheduled under this new framework. The idea for a Chapter Visit Workshop was brought up to give State Officers practice and time to develop workshops and ensure quality.

**Motion by Tyler Murnaghan** to accept the committee report as read.

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

**D. State Applications**

The committee proposed adding a short paragraph about the winner of the Member of the Month as well as congratulating them. They also put forth application ideas for the Chapter Reporter and Historian Program. Creating a NextGen application off of the WLC one would be beneficial. Adding an access link to applications on the state website can help members better access applications.

**Motion by William Rutherford** to accept the committee 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 and the state officers demonstrated the use of rescinding a motion. This action cancels or revokes a previous action from a meeting you had before and reverts the outcome of a motion. It requires a majority vote.

**VII. Executive Committee Report**

No report.

**VIII. Foundation Report**

Allison delivered a report to the Foundation of events from October to the present. They went over new business, and they are searching for different platforms for their meetings as well as more board members. The next meeting will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 6:00 pm.

**IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report**

No report as the next meeting is on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm via zoom.

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

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

**XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report**

No report.

**XII. Equine Advisory Board**

No report.

**XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators**

The Association worked on putting together committees to tackle issues like advocacy, professional development, teacher recruitment and retention, and more. Mrs. Castellini will present a resolution for Agricultural Education. The NJAAE will be attending ALLD, and they are currently working on updating their constitution and bylaws.

#### **XIV. Unfinished Business**

##### **A. Banquet Speech Workshop**

Alumni and Supporters hosted this year's Banquet Speech Workshop on Friday, January 17, 2025 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. State Officers read their speeches to Alumni, parents, advisors, state staff and fellow officers to receive feedback to be prepared for chapter banquets.

##### **B. State Officer Candidate School**

State Officer Candidates' School was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown. There were 28 FFA members in attendance to learn more about the process of becoming a state officer and being a part of the nominating committee process.

##### **C. New Jersey State Ag Convention**

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

**Motion by Abrianna Portillo** to donate \$200 to the Vegetable Growers for their convention.

**Seconded by Tyler Murnaghan. Motion passed.**

##### **D. Winter CDEs**

Winter Career Development Events will be held in person on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Harrah's Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. The CDEs that are being held are Meat Evaluation and Technology and Farm and Agribusiness Management. State Officers and State Staff arrive at 8:00am.

##### **E. Fuel Up Retreat**

The State Officers will be spending time together on February 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. They will be planning for State Convention and begin working on their retiring addresses. They discussed meals they will be having to develop the grocery list.

##### **F. Advocacy and Legislative Leadership Day**

ALLD will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at The College of New Jersey, the theme for this year's event is "It's all Ag." There will be legislators, guest speakers, and a panel of individuals from diverse areas who work with different career areas in the agricultural industry. The state officers will be presented a large group workshop and their own individual workshops.

##### **G. National FFA Week**

National FFA Week is February 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, this is where we celebrate FFA. The State Officers have been requested for various chapter functions to celebrate National FFA Week. They are excited to visit their respective chapters and participate in their activities.

**H. Horticultural Exposition**

The Horticultural Exposition will take place from March 14<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> at Mercer County Community College. FFA members can participate in creating arrangements for the Horticultural Exposition, participate in the Floriculture CDE, attend industry-based workshops and take a campus tour. State Officers will set up on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

**I. National Ag Day**

The National Ag Day is March 18, 2025. This year's theme is Agriculture: "Together We Grow." There is an Ag Day Essay students in grades 9-12 are invited to enter in the National Ag Day Video Essay Contest. Participants are encouraged to explore the future of agriculture and present their thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

**J. Statewide Community Service Project**

A Sensory Garden will be constructed with the Miracle League of Mercer County through the efforts of FFA members including raised garden beds, putting together gardening kits, and designing tiles, murals, and art to celebrate agriculture. A grant was received for the operation and bracelets will be used as an additional fundraiser.

**K. Chapter Visit Updates**

The State Officers have been completing their chapter visits accordingly and only have a few visits to complete. Before the meeting, Middlesex Piscataway was charted as the 38<sup>th</sup> FFA Chapter in New Jersey.

**L. Team Goal Action Plan**

The State Officers reflected on their goals they have set to continue to complete for the remainder of their year of service.

**XV. New Business**

**A. Selection of Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Recipients**

The executive board evaluated the 2025 Honorary State Degree and Distinguished Service Award application.

**Motion by Nina Weiland** to select Cathy Lubbe, Denise Foote, Ashley Sanguiliano, Assemblyman William Spearman, Daniel Delcher and David DeFrango.

**Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Abrianna Portillo** to select Allentown Presbyterian Church, Amwell Valley Fire Company, Hampton Inn Bordentown and Rutgers Continuing Education.

**Seconded by Allison Josielewski. Motion passed.**

**B. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala**

This event will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

**C. Horse Evaluation CDE**

The Horse Evaluation CDE will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ. Nina Weiland will be the state officer in attendance with Ms. Allen.

**D. PA Day CDEs**

PA Day CDEs are being held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Lebanon Expo Center in Lebanon, PA. Niccolo Conte and William Rutherford will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. McCluskey.

**E. Spring CDEs**

Spring CDEs are being held on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at Rutgers University. Events include Agronomy, Agricultural Mechanics and Technology, Agricultural Sales, Environmental and Natural Resources, Nursery Landscape and Veterinary Science. State Officers are responsible for helping with registration, organizing students and teachers, proctoring and taking pictures of the event.

**F. State Convention**

**i. Cost Analysis**

Cost analysis sheets were provided for State Convention. The board looked at the cost analysis. They marked an increase price for the full package to \$194 and the partial package to \$60.

**Motion by Abrianna Portillo** to adopt a \$10 increase to both the full and partial packages for State Convention.

**Seconded by William Rutherford. Motion passed.**

**ii. Delegate Issues**

The executive board went over the delegate issues for State Convention and items that have to be prepared for the delegates.

**G. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion**

Tyler Murnaghan spoke about the recent amendments made by the Murphy administration to the Farmland Assessment. They hope to prevent people from pretending to be farmers who sneakily benefit from property tax breaks. They hope to enlarge the threshold of earnings to qualify for the tax break so that it is only applicable to farmers but not at a level which could discourage small scale farmers. Murphy's administration hopes to implement a \$4,000 minimum earnings qualification for a farmer's first five acres, but the Farm Bureau opposes hoping for a lower qualification.

**H. Member of the Month**

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

**Motion by William Rutherford** to select Jacob Bramble of the Delsea FFA Chapter as February's Member of the Month.

**Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passes.**

**I. State Officer Mileage**

Niccolo and William turned in their mileage for the month of January.

Ms. Allen mentioned to the State Officers Lifetime FFA Membership. Ms. McCluskey would need a response by the March meeting and payment by the April meeting. The cost is \$200.00 and a payment plan can be set up.

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 3, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference room, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Building.

8:48 AM

January 31, 2025

Cash Basis

# NJ FFA Association

## Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger

### As of January 31, 2025

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split
<b>FFA</b>					
	Check	01/02/2025	William Rutherford	July-Dec mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)
	Check	01/02/2025	Tyler Murnaghan	July-Dec mileage reim	P4 (State Officers - Expense)
	Check	01/03/2025	Davison, Eastman & ...	additional legal	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)
	Deposit	01/06/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-
	Check	01/08/2025	Bank of America	Staats - ribbons	P8 (Hort Expo - Expense)
	Check	01/08/2025	Bank of America	Ewell Educational -Hort Expo registration s...	P8 (Hort Expo - Expense)
	Check	01/08/2025	Bank of America	Rutgers Gardens room rental for Fall CDE	P2 (CDEs - Expense)
	Check	01/08/2025	Bank of America	Jotform	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)
	Deposit	01/08/2025	Bank of America	Allstate credit for Moreno cancellation	P4 State Officers (Income)
	Check	01/08/2025	National FFA Org	event mataerials	P5 (LEAD - Expense)
	Check	01/08/2025	National FFA Organiz...	materials	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)
	Check	01/08/2025	Rutgers, The State Un...	room rental for CDEs	P2 (CDEs - Expense)
	Check	01/08/2025	Rutgers, The State Un...	room rental for MLS Conference	P11 (Mission Conf-Expense)
	Check	01/10/2025	American Income Life ...	event insurance July-Dec	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)
	Deposit	01/21/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-
	Check	01/23/2025	National FFA Organiz...	gavel for Middlesex Piscataway	P1 (Dues/Memberships-Expense)
	Deposit	01/24/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-
	Deposit	01/31/2025		Deposit	-SPLIT-

Total FFA

**TOTAL**



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

Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
		62,551.54 1
-320.25	-320.25	62,231.29
-693.70	-693.70	61,537.59
-460.00	-460.00	61,077.59
4,493.00	4,493.00	65,570.59
-248.34	-248.34	65,322.25
-100.00	-100.00	65,222.25
-705.00	-705.00	64,517.25
-159.00	-159.00	64,358.25
90.95	90.95	64,449.20
-2,855.00	-2,855.00	61,594.20
-2,580.00	-2,580.00	59,014.20
-1,620.00	-1,620.00	57,394.20
-1,761.00	-1,761.00	55,633.20
-500.40	-500.40	55,132.80
385.00	385.00	55,517.80
-47.00	-47.00	55,470.80
2,226.00	2,226.00	57,696.80
1,118.00	1,118.00	58,814.80
	-3,736.74	58,814.80 2
	-3,736.74	58,814.80 3

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

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- 1.    Opening Balance on January 1, 2025 was \$62,551.54  
.....
- 2.    Closing Balance on January 31, 2025 was \$58,814.80  
.....
- 3.    Treasurer's report passes pending audit  
.....



Saturday, February 1, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

niccoconte@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

Constitution, Bylaws & POA, State Convention Evaluation

**Date**

Friday, January 31, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

Nicco Conte, Mr. Rudderow, Nina Weiland

**Committee Members Absent**

Abbey Portillo

**Purpose of Meeting**

FFA Quiz Bowl; State FFA Talent

**Recommended Actions**

Quiz Bowl should not be aligned with the national contest.

Possibility of making State Talent a competition.

**Comments**

Members don't want to stress about the Quiz Bowl. The agreement is that the National FFA is just making a test, not a fun competition. Discussion about making State FFA Talent a competition. Audience members will vote for their favorite performer, and all participants will receive a gift determined by the officers.

**Chairperson**

Niccolo Conte

**Secretary**

Nina Weiland

**Chairperson Signature**



Wednesday, January 22, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

nweilandearther@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

Membership & Chapter Relations

**Date**

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

Nina Weiland, Chair  
William Rutherford, Vice Chair  
Dr. McLean, Advisor

**Committee Members Absent**

Niccolo Conte, Member

**Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Middle School Outreach plan, the State Officer Media Training, and more ways that we can connect members across New Jersey and how they can share their voices.

**Recommended Actions**

The committee is recommending to move away from the Middle School outreach program, as it is unrealistic for the Association to focus on due to the small amount of Middle School chapters in the state. We would also like to recommend that each State Officer Team complete a media training which would include, creating social media posts, videos, being interviewed, and in-depth social media etiquette (Please see State Officer Media Training Document for review). Finally, in order to better connect and include the stories of members and chapters all across the state, the committee recommends the development of a New Jersey FFA Chapter Reporter and Historian program. This would be similar to the FFA in the USA program that National FFA provides. Chapter Officers from all over New Jersey will be given the opportunity to share their stories with the State Association. These members and their stories can then be posted on social media. In addition, the program would also require 1-2 short virtual trainings for Chapter Officers in the program to learn more about advocacy, utilizing tools (Canva, Instagram, Facebook, etc.), and storytelling to properly communicate their stories.

**Comments**

The purpose of the New Jersey FFA Chapter Reporter and Historian Program is to allow FFA members across New Jersey to connect and learn about what each other is doing. As an association, we serve as a voice for the members. Meaning it is our job to give them the tools they need to succeed. This program would be giving these members the tools to be heard.

**Chairperson**

Nina Weiland

**Secretary**

William Rutherford

**Chairperson Signature**



Sunday, February 2, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

### Email

tymurnaghan@gmail.com

### Committee Name

State Leadership Activities

### Date

Sunday, February 2, 2025

### Committee Members Present

Tyler Murnaghan,  
Nicco Conte,  
Allison Josielewski

### Committee Members Absent

Mr. Delcher

### Purpose of Meeting

To review the results of SOCS, discuss the leadership influences of the upcoming ALLD event, and most importantly address and review the proposed changes to New Jersey FFA leadership conferences including 'MegaE' and more.

### Recommended Actions

1. Host a "Chapter Officer Training Day" in place of L.E.A.D. as a way to prepare Chapter Officers for their year and give State Officers practice in facilitation and workshop skills. (L.E.A.D. National curriculum would be done in MegaE)
2. Host SOCS in late November / early December as a broad interest event "SOCS 1" and a more focused and serious "SOCS 2" at MegaE for those who are adamant about candidacy.
3. A zoom meeting day could be held some time around April as a small check in / Q&A for SOCS candidates.
4. A one day "Chapter Visit Workshop" event for State Officers could be held in August or September operating much like the Banquet and Retiring speech workshops where State Officers develop an actionable draft for chapter visits critiqued and applauded by State Staff and former State Officers.

### Comments

"Chapter Officer Training Day" can focus on team dynamics, leadership traits, the POA, and general wisdom and advice for Chapter Officers.

ALLD should remain separate from MegaE.

A "Chapter Visit Workshop" in addition to the "Chapter Officer Training Day" would give State Officers experience of facilitation with advice in preparation for MegaE.

MegaE may be more beneficial because it gives a foretaste of State Convention to State Officers.

### Chairperson

Tyler Murnaghan

### Secretary

Niccolo Conte

**Chairperson Signature**

*Tyler Murrough*



Tuesday, January 28, 2025

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

wrutherford1017@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

State Applications

**Date**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

**Committee Members Present**

William Rutherford  
Tyler Murnaghan  
Nina Weiland  
Ms. Tallamy

**Committee Members Absent**

N/A

**Purpose of Meeting**

To look over some of the things we couldn't during the last meeting due to technical issues with time limit for online meetings. We also looked over the things Mrs. Noble had requested to look through during the State Meeting.

**Recommended Actions**

In the Member of the Month posts, add a little blurb in the caption about the member, as well as congratulating them. Maybe something about their SAE or what they are involved in.

Create a FFA in the USA for the State, this way members and chapters can share what they have been up to all throughout the year.

Depending on how possible it could be, coming up with a tab on the State Website for all applications to be placed. When we were looking for some of the applications, it wasn't easy to find all of them.

We brought up the idea of looking at an application for NextGen, modeling the WLC application.

**Comments**

Ms. Tallamy had commented on how well the Social Media posts have been working. Many of her members are going up to her asking how to attend for the events or access some of the applications. She had also recommended for us not to suggest for more emails to be sent to the advisors, as they already receive a lot. We believe it's good to continue on coming up with the social media posts for the applications, just like the one that was sent out a few days ago and that continue to be reposted on our story.

**Chairperson**

William Rutherford

**Secretary**

Tyler Murnaghan

**Chairperson Signature**