



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: October 15, 2024

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, November 4, 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 NOVEMBER STATE MEETING

- I. **Opening Ceremonies**
- II. **Minutes from the October 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. 96th National FFA Convention – Abrianna Portillo
 - B. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention (November 18-19, 2024) – Niccolo Conte
 - C. Fall Career Development Events (November 21, 2024) – Nina Weiland
 - D. Chapter Visit Updates – William Rutherford
 - E. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
- XV. **New Business**
 - A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy – Niccolo Conte
 - B. Checkpoint #2 (November 8-9, 2023) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - C. “Member Leadership Series” (December 14, 2024) – Allison Josielewski
 - C. Holiday Party – Nina Weiland
 - D. Banquet Speech Workshop (January 17, 2025) – Abrianna Portillo
 - E. State Officer Candidates’ School (January 25, 2025) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - F. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – William Rutherford
 - G. Member of the Month – William Rutherford
 - H. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. **Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting- December 2, 2024
New Jersey Department of Ag Building
4:00 pm.*

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the October 7, 2024 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The voting members in attendance were Niccolo Conte, Allison Josielewski, Tyler Murnaghan, Abrianna Portillo, Nina Weiland, William Rutherford, Julia Moreno, and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen and Ms. McCluskey.

II. Minutes from September 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 \$142,371.39 and the closing balance was \$28,662.26

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

Motion passed pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

There was one guest present at this meeting, Chase Sherburne.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the resignation of Julia Moreno, Executive Committee Chair.

Seconded by Allison Josielewski. Motion passed.

Allison Josielewski assumed the duties of the chair.

V. Committee Reports

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

The committee met on October 2, 2024 to discuss their committee goals and review state convention evaluations and actions.

Motion by Niccolo Conte to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

B. Membership, Chapter & Relations, and State Leadership Activities

No report.

C. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

No report.

D. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

No report.

Niccolo Conte reassumed the duties of the chair.

VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report

Niccolo went over the use of "Question of Privilege". This allows a member to ask a question which is not debatable, amendable, and does not require a second.

VII. Executive Committee Report

Chase Sherburne asked the State Officers to use a cartoon character to describe their L.E.A.D. experience.

VIII. Foundation Report

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6 pm at the NJDA.

IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6 pm at the NJDA.

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

No report.

XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report

The Agriculture Society met on September 11th at the Rutgers EcoComplex where they elected a new President and spoke about the future of agriculture. Membership has declined across the past few years so initiatives were put forward to change the trend. The next meeting will be held on November 10th at the Rutgers EcoComplex.

XII. Equine Advisory Board

No report.

XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators

The Fall Ag Ed conference was held September 27 at the Rutgers EcoComplex. Where Agricultural Educators across the state come to participate in various professional development activities throughout the day. Some topics included highlighting Work-Based Learning, SAE for ALL and FFA educator resources. At their meeting, they began working on committee work as well as deciding on their delegates for the NAAE conference in San Antonio, TX. The next meeting is November 12th virtually.

XIV. Unfinished Business

A. Eastern State Exposition

On September 13-14, 2024 William Rutherford attended the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. There he represented New Jersey FFA Association as the flag bearer during their flag ceremony, assisted at various CDEs, LDEs and the awards banquet.

B. Fall Ag Ed Conference

Agricultural teachers from across the state came together for a day of professional development activities on September 27th. Niccolo Conte had the opportunity to attend and deliver a speech about the state theme, "Grow Beyond". He tasked the teachers by how they can embody its message in and out of the classroom through the year.

C. Leadership Experience and Development Conference

a. I AM Conference

i. Chapter Officer Leadership(COLT)

The State Officers conducted sessions at LEAD where they went over chapter and officer responsibilities in large and individual group workshops and taught the members about team building.

ii. Leadership Opportunities Conference(LOC)

Twenty-five FFA members participated facilitated by Alumni President-Elect, Talia Priore, and Leadership Director, Abigail Goodenough.

b. State Greenhand Conference(SGC)

Chase Sherburne and Julia Moreno facilitated the State Greenhand Conference. This is where new FFA members learned about the FFA history, the opportunities that FFA has to offer them as well as sample a few CDEs.

c. Timeline

The timeline was completed on time.

D. 96th National FFA Convention

a. Delegates

Niccolo, Allison and Tyler are all delegates for the convention, William Rutherford is an alternate delegate.

b. Flag Bearer

Abrianna Portillo will be the flag bearer at National Convention and has received information regarding her duties.

c. State Suite

We will have a State Suite this year where we will welcome our chapters to partake in viewing the sessions. This is also an opportunity to get to know the members and build relationships with those attending the National FFA Convention.

d. Recognition Program

We will recognize those who are receiving their honorary degrees, CDE winners, provide inspirational remarks and encourage members to engage with all of the convention's offerings while enjoying a breakfast sponsored by Rutgers.

E. Delegate Process Written/Oral Testimony

The state officers are expected to prepare written testimony for all of the committees and prepare oral testimony for the committees that NJ is not represented on. They are due to Ms. Allen by October 10th.

F. Fall Career Development Events

The fall CDE's will be held at Rutgers University on November 21. The day will consist of Milk Quality and Products, Fruits and Vegetables, Land Judging, Turf Management, and Forestry.

G. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events has been finalized and can be found on the state website under the section titled calendar of events. It has the dates of all the events and meetings being held this year.

H. Chapter Visits

The state officers updated the chapter visit spread sheet. Officers were reminded to send follow-up emails to teachers who have not responded. The State Officers are also

expected to send a thank you email containing the chapter visit evaluation form, take photos while at their visits, and follow up with the chapter, the member and the advisors throughout their year of service.

I. Team Goal Action Plan

The team went over their goals and decided who would be putting in an action plan for each goal. There are still some goals and action steps missing.

XV. New Business

A. SOCS Cost Analysis

The cost analysis for the 2025 State Officer Candidates' School (SOCS) was presented to the executive board.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to set the attendance cost to \$12.00 for SOCS.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.

B. New Jersey State Grange Annual Meeting

The State Officers have been invited to the annual meeting, October 25-27, 2024. This is the same timing as National FFA Convention.

C. New Jersey Farm Bureau Convention

Members of the Farm Bureau will be discussing different ag topics in the State. They will also be preparing for the National Farm Conference, and Niccolo will be speaking at the State meeting.

D. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion

Nina talked about her experience at #SpeakAg Pioneers. There she learned about how to better use social media to advocate for agriculture. Many people have surface level understandings of the industry and how to get their food. It is important to show how essential agriculture is as the Garden State by highlighting all of the careers New Jersey has to offer.

E. Member of the Month

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to select Emma Wuerthner of the Hunterdon County ESEA FFA Chapter as October's Member of the Month.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passes.

F. State Officer Mileage

State Officers were reminded to turn in their mileage to get reimbursed.

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 pm. The next meeting will be held November 4, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

12:31 PM

October 1, 2024

Cash Basis

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

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
FFA								142,371.39 1
	Check	09/04/2024	Davison, Eastman & M...	additional legal work	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-1,321.85	-1,321.85	141,049.54
	Deposit	09/06/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	2,390.00	2,390.00	143,439.54
	Check	09/10/2024	Bank of America	Selective Insurance (partial payment) suppl...	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-251.10	-251.10	143,188.44
	Check	09/10/2024	Bank of America	Ewell Educational-CDE registration	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-100.00	-100.00	143,088.44
	Check	09/10/2024	Bank of America	checkpoint 1 lodging	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-349.92	-349.92	142,738.52
	Check	09/10/2024	Bank of America	checkpoint 1 lodging	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-354.92	-354.92	142,383.60
	Check	09/10/2024	Bank of America	checkpoint 1 lodging	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-583.20	-583.20	141,800.40
	Deposit	09/11/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	928.00	928.00	142,728.40
	Check	09/19/2024	Monmouth University	lodging & meals	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-92,380.70	-92,380.70	50,347.70
	Check	09/19/2024	Monmouth University	facilities	P6 (State Convention - Expense)	-4,368.99	-4,368.99	45,978.71
	Check	09/19/2024	National FFA Organizat...	annual affiliation	P1 (Dues/Memberships-Expense)	-17,316.45	-17,316.45	28,662.26
	Total FFA						-113,709.13	28,662.26 2
TOTAL							-113,709.13	28,662.26 3

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

-
1. Opening Balance on September 1, 2024 was \$142,371.39
 2. Closing Balance on September 30, 2024 was \$28,662.26
 3. Treasurer's Report passes pending audit
-



Monday, October 7, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

niccoconte@gmail.com

Committee Name

Constitution, Bylaws & POA, State Convention Evaluation

Date

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Committee Members Present

Niccolo Conte
Nina Weiland
Joel Rudderow

Committee Members Absent

Abrianna Portillo, Julia Moreno

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the committee's goals and review the state convention evaluation.

Recommended Actions

- Continue with LDE preliminary rounds.
- Make it more apparent to students and advisors that there are multiple food lines at the State Convention and not just one giant line.
- Remove the State Talent section from the State Convention Eval Google form.

Comments

It is apparent that students and advisors do not know that there are multiple different food lines in the dining hall during the convention so either putting up signs or reminding advisors before the convention would be best.

State talent had more negative feedback than other sections of the convention we believe this section should be removed from the form due to students most likely rating it based on the talent itself rather than how it was set up as a whole.

Chairperson

Niccolo Conte

Secretary

Nina Weiland

Chairperson Signature