



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 J. Allen, State FFA Specialist
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: August 15, 2024

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting
Monday, September 9, 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 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 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 – Julia Moreno

- 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. Dairy Handlers Event Results – Abrianna Portillo
 - B. Eastern States Exposition (September 13-14, 2024) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - C. Leadership Experience and Development Conference (October 4-5, 2024)
 - a. I AM Conference
 - i. Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) – Tyler Murnaghan
 - ii. Leadership Opportunities Conference (LOC) – Allison Josielewski
 - b. State Greenhand Conference (SGC) – Julia Moreno
 - c. Timeline – Niccolo Conte
 - D. 96th National FFA Convention (October 23-26, 2024)
 - a. Delegates – Niccolo Conte
 - b. Flag Bearer – Abrianna Portillo
 - c. State Suite – William Rutherford
 - d. Recognition Program – Nina Weiland
 - E. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers – Allison Josielewski
- XV. New Business**
 - A. Team Goal Action Plan – Niccolo Conte
 - B. Calendar of Events – Tyler Murnaghan
 - C. Chapter Visits – William Rutherford
 - D. Delegate Process Written/Oral Testimony – Allison Josielewski
 - E. Fall Ag Ed Conference (September 27, 2024) – William Rutherford
 - F. Fall Career Development Events (November 21, 2024) – Nina Weiland
 - G. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Abrianna Portillo
 - H. Member of the Month – Julia Moreno
 - I. State Officer Mileage – Abrianna Portillo
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

Next State Meeting – October 7, 2024
1st Floor NJDA Conference Room, Trenton, NJ
4:00 p.m.

**New Jersey FFA Association
Minutes from the August 5, 2024 Meeting**

I. Opening Ceremonies

Niccolo Conte called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. 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 July State Meeting

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

Seconded by Abrianna Portillo. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the month was \$148, 289.55 and the closing balance was \$148,840.78.

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

Motion passed pending audit.

IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance

There were no guests present.

Allison Josielewski assumed the duties of the chair.

V. Committee Reports

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

Nicco shared the committee report from the July meeting where they discussed expectations and reviewed previous State Convention reports. They identified advisors for the committee and came up with ways to make sessions at the State Convention more exciting and relatable for members.

Motion by Niccolo Conte to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

B. Membership & Chapter Relations

Nina shared the committee report from the July meeting. She spoke about their expectations regarding social media, feedback evaluation, and middle school outreach and involvement. They plan to meet once a month to further discuss and plan for these topics.

Motion by Nina Weiland to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

C. State Leadership Activities

Tyler shared the committee report from the July meeting. Priorities identified were the recognition of attendees at LEAD who exemplified premier leadership, choosing an advisor for their committee, and stressing the themes of leadership and responsibility across events and speeches throughout the year.

Motion by Tyler Murnaghan to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

D. State Applications

William shared the committee report from the July meeting where they identified possible additions and revisions of applications, increased accessibility and awareness of state applications, and to improve and advertise these applications for members.

Motion by William Rutherford to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

E. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

Abrianna shared the committee report from the July meeting. She discussed the committee's plans to review current CDE and LDE curriculums in order to better reflect the national standard. They discussed better promotions and advertisements for CDE LDE participation. The committee brought up the struggles between the Floral Design and Floriculture CDEs.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

F. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

Abrianna shared the committee report from the July meeting. Priorities identified were increasing awareness and participation in the event, reducing expenses, and improving its appeal to members. Abrianna brought up the difficulty of continuing to run Floral Design and Floriculture as separate CDEs and talked about the benefits of a combination.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the report as read.

There is an implied second. Motion passed.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to combine the Floral Design and Floriculture CDEs at the Horticultural Exposition.

Seconded by Nina Weiland.

Abrianna spoke about the challenges of running Floral Design regarding cost and participation. Mr. Cruzan gave a teacher's perspective saying that Floral Design loses money and would be better integrated to be smarter with our resources.

Motion passed.

Motion by Niccolo Conte to host LDE preliminaries in March.

Seconded by William Rutherford.

Prelims for LDEs would be hosted in the last week of March in the Northern, Central and Southern regions. In order to provide an organized extra level of competition for State Convention LDEs in order to keep the convention running smoothly.

Motion passed.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to have an Agricultural Communications CDE.

Seconded by Nina Weiland.

Nicco talked about the benefits of encompassing technology and communications in agriculture. Mr. Cruzan spoke about how from experience many members and teachers want an Agricultural Communications CDE.

Motion passed.

Niccolo Conte reassumed the duties of the chair.

- VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report**
Niccolo demonstrated the parliamentary procedure of Call for the Orders of the Day. This would be used when the meeting is not following the agenda. For example: Opening ceremonies have been completed then they move into the treasurer's report. A member can interrupt to call for the orders of the day; the minutes from the previous meeting were skipped.
- VII. Executive Committee Report**
Julia challenged the officers to sum up July in one word. This led to discussion about their experiences throughout July.
- VIII. State FFA Foundation Report**
No report.
- X. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report**
No report. The next meeting is August 14 at 6pm at NJDA.
- X. Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report**
No report.
- XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report**
Niccolo reported that he attended the meeting which was held at Fernbrook Farm. He was able to meet with those who were attendance and spoke with others at the dinner about Agricultural Education and FFA.
- XII. Equine Advisory Board Report**
No report.
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators Report**
Mr. Cruzan talked about the first ever NJAAE Summer Teachers Professional Development Conference, held at Vineland High School from July 31 – August 1. Twelve teachers attended to work and plan, going through committee meetings and workshops. NJAAE restarted its Facebook account and a representative from Rowan University spoke at the conference. The teachers toured farms and spoke about veterinary science and milk quality and performed a shellfish dissection. In the summer of 2025, the conference will be hosted in the Central Region. NAAE award recipients from New Jersey are Patty Smith from Warren Hills for being the Outstanding Early Career Teacher and Cynthia and Jacques Roszel from Allentown for the Lifetime Achievement Award. The next meeting will be after the Fall Ag Ed Conference in September.
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
A. Summer CDE Results
a. Safe Tractor Operations – Julia Moreno attended for NJ FFA, and the event ran smoothly. There were eight competitors from four chapters. Congratulations all and to Brayden Jany from the Allentown FFA Chapter for placing 1st.
b. Dairy Handlers – Abrianna Portillo will attend for NJ FFA, and the event will take place on Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

B. Check Point #1

Checkpoint was held July 16-19 at the Rutgers EcoComplex. The State officers learned about conversation skills and workshop facilitation. Immediately following Check Point #1, the state officers received direct training on the I AM curriculum and started planning their workshops for LEAD.

C. State Officer Summit

State Officer Summit was held July 22-26 in Washington, DC. Nina delivered the New Jersey FFA Association's delegate proposal on non-traditional agriculture which was accepted as a committee and combined with another proposal. 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 Farm Bill, toured the National Monuments and visited the zoo.

D. 96th National FFA Convention

- a. Delegates-** Niccolo, Allison and Tyler are delegates at National Convention. Niccolo will be serving on the 100th Anniversary Committee, Allison will be serving on the Re-evaluation of National Program and events with a Shared Focus on Nontraditional and Traditional Agriculture Committee and Tyler will be serving on the Opportunities for Younger Members at the National Level (5th-8th Grade) Committee.
- b. Flag Bearer-** Abrianna Portillo 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 William Rutherford 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. Nina also reminded that each officer will present on their selected topic areas to let our members and guests know more about the 97th National FFA Convention.

F. State Theme and Thank You Gift

The State Officers decided on orchid for the shirts with the Grow Beyond logo in the middle of the shirt. A thank you gift was decided a reusable cooler bag: yellow as the first color choice and purple as the second color choice.

G. Eastern States Exposition

Some of the New Jersey FFA members will be heading up to Massachusetts in September to represent the state.

XV. New Business

A. Association Budget

The board reviewed the proposed Association Budget.

Motion by Abrianna Portillo to accept the 2024-2025 State FFA Association Budget.

Seconded by Nina Weiland. Motion passed.

B. International Leadership Seminar for State Officers

ILSSO this year is being held in Spain and Portugal from January 4-17, 2025. This trip gives State Officers an awareness of global agriculture. Niccolo and Allison have plans to apply.

C. Leadership Experiences and Development Conference

a. I AM Conference

- i. **COLT** - 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. **LOC** - 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

Julia and Chase will facilitate 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. Agricultural Education/Agriculture Issues Discussion

Tyler discussed about how a diversity in agricultural educational topics beyond monocultures can be beneficial for a healthier and more sustainable agricultural industry in the future.

E. State Officer Mileage

Mileage for July has been calculated. August mileages are due September 9th, 2024. Typically, mileage reports are due by 2:00 pm the day of the state meeting (except meetings that start at 9:00 am).

XVI. Closing Ceremonies

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am. The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

9:06 AM

August 2, 2024

Cash Basis

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of July 24, 2024

	Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
FFA								148,289.55 1
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	final invoice (juice) & cc fee	P10 (ALLD-Expense)	-74.70	-74.70	148,214.85
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	Lands End - Unofficial official attire	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-646.51	-646.51	147,568.34
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	Vistaprint - business cards for new SO team	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-176.92	-176.92	147,391.42
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	Allstate - T. Mumghan motorclub	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-164.00	-164.00	147,227.42
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	Allstate - A. Portillo motorclub	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-164.00	-164.00	147,063.42
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	Shoprite - Basecamp lunch items	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-186.53	-186.53	146,876.89
	Check	07/01/2024	Bank of America	Texas Roadhouse - basecamp dinner	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-178.82	-178.82	146,698.07
	Deposit	07/02/2024		Deposit	Undeposited Funds	1,187.00	1,187.00	147,885.07
	Check	07/02/2024	Bank of America	Basecamp lodging - female state officers	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-324.00	-324.00	147,561.07
	Check	07/02/2024	Bank of America	Basecamp lodging - male state officers	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-324.00	-324.00	147,237.07
	Check	07/02/2024	Bank of America	Basecamp lodging - facilitator	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-466.56	-466.56	146,770.51
	Check	07/03/2024	American Income Life I...	supp event insurance	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-745.00	-745.00	146,025.51
	Check	07/05/2024	National FFA Org	Summit registration	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-2,700.00	-2,700.00	143,325.51
	Deposit	07/10/2024		Deposit	P6 State Convention (Income)	833.67	833.67	144,159.18
	Deposit	07/10/2024		Deposit	P6 State Convention (Income)	4,734.10	4,734.10	148,893.28
	Check	07/10/2024	American Income Life I...	supp state officer insurance	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-52.50	-52.50	148,840.78
	Total FFA						551.23	148,840.78 2
TOTAL							551.23	148,840.78 3

NJ FFA Association
Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger
As of July 24, 2024

- 1. Opening Balance on July 1, 2024 was \$148,289.55

- 2. Closing Balance on July 31, 2024 was \$148,840.78

- 3. I move to pass the Treasurer's report pending audit



Monday, July 1, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

niccoconte@gmail.com

Committee Name

Constitution, Bylaws & POA, State Convention Evaluation, and State Applications

Date

Monday, July 1, 2024

Committee Members Present

Niccolo Conte, Nina Weiland

Purpose of Meeting

First committee meeting. Getting committee expectations established, reviewing convention committee reports, setting goals for the committee, and identifying 2-3 advisors that could serve as the advisor representative on said committee.

Recommended Actions

Create short activities such as Kahoots to engage members at the start of each State Convention session.

Contact Mr. Rudderow asking if he would like to serve as the advisor on the Constitution, Bylaws, POA, and State convention Eval. Committee. If not, contact Ms. Miller or Ms. Tallamy.

Comments

The Kahoots or any activity that keeps members engaged during session downtime could consist of National FFA and New Jersey FFA facts. This could be history, Officer related, CDEs, LDEs, etc.

The expectations for this committee are as listed:

- Have POA done and reviewed in a timely fashion
- Review and revise bylaws if needed to coincide with National FFA
- Review State Convention and feedback to determine what went wrong and why
- Review convention committee report

Committee goals are as listed:

- Getting the NJ constitution and by-laws in line with the National FFA
- Use feedback to improve State Convention for previous years
- Meeting during Oct. Dec, Feb, March, and April.

Chairperson

Niccolo Conte

Secretary

Nina Weiland

Chairperson Signature

Nicola
Conel



Monday, July 1, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

nweilandearther@gmail.com

Committee Name

Membership & Chapter Relations and State Leadership Activities

Date

Monday, July 1, 2024

Committee Members Present

Nina Weiland and William Rutherford

Purpose of Meeting

To establish the expectations, goals, and advisors for this committee.

Recommended Actions

The committee recommends the development of a public relations and social media plan for the year and future use. They also recommend evaluating and improving the collection of feedback from events. The committee wishes to improve and increase middle school chapter resources and outreach programs. They would like to meet at least once a month in order to review weekly and monthly social media posts, feedback, and middle school chapter outreach. In addition, the committee identified three potential advisors, Dr. McLean from Northern Burlington Middle, Ms. Toft from Cape May Tech, and Ms. Ruggieri from Hunterdon County Polytech.

Comments

The development of a clear social media and public relations plan will allow State Officers to develop social media posts with ease as well as making them as clear as possible for the members, supporters, and advisors to gather information from. Improving and evaluating chapter, member, advisor, and supporter feedback will allow us to develop more engaging and successful New Jersey FFA events. The increase and improvement of middle school FFA outreach and resources will help increase FFA recruitment and involvement in the younger students. If the committee meets at least once a month, then all of the plans will be more organized and fluid which allows for improvement.

Chairperson

Nina Weiland

Secretary

William Rutherford

Chairperson Signature



Monday, July 15, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

tymurnaghan@gmail.com

Committee Name

State Leadership Activities

Date

Monday, July 1, 2024

Committee Members Present

Tyler Murnaghan, Niccolo Conte

Purpose of Meeting

To open up the discussion about leadership in the New Jersey FFA Association and come up with ways to continue to promote premier leadership through activities, events, and incentives.

Recommended Actions

We came up with ideas to recognize attendees at LEAD who exemplified leadership with a gift at the end.

We hope to select our advisor for the committee which requires research.

We want to speak about and promote leadership in our speeches, workshops, and events.

Comments

This meeting went very well and I am glad we were able to lay a foundation for leadership activities across our year of service.

Chairperson

Tyler Murnaghan

Secretary

Niccolo Conte

Chairperson Signature



Thursday, July 4, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

wrutherford1017@gmail.com

Committee Name

State Applications

Date

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Committee Members Present

William Rutherford
Tyler Murnaghan

Committee Members Absent

Nina Weiland (In separate meeting with Nicco at the time)

Purpose of Meeting

To establish expectations for the committee, go over the state convention report, focus on priority areas, set goals for the coming year, and identify possible advisors for the committee.

Recommended Actions

Expectations established were to review and make suggestions to revise state applications, and meet once a month.

Went over the State Convention report and made a goal to increase the accessibility of state applications. Made a priority towards revising the member of the month and most improved chapter awards.

Goals set were to outline state scholarships that can be awarded, revise at least 2-3 applications, make videos on how to complete the state degree and make it more accessible, advertise the applications more throughout our social media platforms, and advertising the requirements of the state degree through social media.

Advisors that were identified as candidates for the committee are: Mr. Cruzan - Allentown (First choice), Mrs. Thorne - Cumberland (Second choice), and Mrs. Miller - Woodstown (Third choice)

Comments

N/A

Chairperson

William Rutherford

Secretary

Tyler Murnaghan

Chairperson Signature



Monday, July 15, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

allijos101@gmail.com

Committee Name

Career and Leadership Development Evaluation & Review

Date

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Committee Members Present

Allison Josielewski, Abriana Portillo

Purpose of Meeting

Review comments and evaluations from participating FFA members, set goals, determine advisors for the committee.

Recommended Actions

Floral Design and Floriculture CDE, change CDE/LDE curriculums, promote details on upcoming CDEs and LDEs more.

Comments

There needs to be a sufficient fundraising campaign to allow both the Floriculture and Floral Design CDE to remain separate as these CDEs both determine the engagement of members all over the state. Many comments included the curriculum of CDEs. Members want the state CDEs to align better with national CDEs. This will have to be reviewed more in depth to determine what needs to be added, removed, or altered in anyway.

Promoting CDEs and LDEs would be most effective via social media and regular website updates regarding the upcoming CDEs and LDEs.

Chairperson

Allison Josielewski

Secretary

Abrianna Portillo

Chairperson Signature



Monday, July 15, 2024

Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

Email

abriannap8@gmail.com

Committee Name

Horticultural Exposition Evaluation & Review

Date

Monday, July 1, 2024

Committee Members Present

Abrianna Portillo and Allison Josielewski.

Committee Members Absent

0

Purpose of Meeting

Establish expectations of the committee. Look over the convention report and review priority areas from the report. Brainstorm and establish goals for the committee to accomplish. Create a list of possible advisors that could potentially work with the committee.

Recommended Actions

Improve the quality of Horticulture Exposition and review classes, rules, and manage judges. As well, promote the competition and details of the event. After reviewing the convention report from the past meeting we decided to pick out priority areas to focus on and edit areas in the rules and classes. The committee set a few goals for the upcoming year such as to promote the event more on social media, creating new classes, and finding ways to reduce expenses when running the event.

Comments

Possible committee advisors that were compiled were Patti Smith (Warren Hills), Jessica Heritage (Phillipsburg), Annaliese Castellini (Vineland).

Chairperson

Abrianna Portillo

Secretary

N/A

Chairperson Signature