

**Michigan FFA Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023**

5:30 PM Dinner Available - Room 338 Natural Resources

5:30 to 6:00 PM Committee Meeting - Please see below

**6:00 to 8:00 PM Board Meeting
338 Natural Resources**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023, by Clara Milarch, the State President. 29 members and guests were present: Clara M. Milarch, Jenna Stanton, Amanda L. Johnson, Mckenna Morton, Samara Dowding, Peyton Kuhn, Austin Smego, Dakota Spink, Blaine Cords, Hailie Hall, Lillian Houtteman, Nathan Snow, Scott Corrin, Charles Scovill, Haley Cucinello, Becca Gulliver, Jennifer Smith, Matt Jakubik, Jason Griffith, Aaron McKim, Henry Reinart, Travis Jones, Chase Bos, Amara Jackson, Beth Wilson, Katie Holt, Michelle Sidel, Mark Forbush, and Tiffany Rogers-Randolph.

- II. Opening Ceremonies - FFA State Officers

- III. Secretary's Report - Amanda Johnson
 1. 29 members and guests were present. March minutes were presented.
 - a. Charles Scovill moved to approve the Secretary's Minutes as written. Haley Cucinello seconded. Motion carries.
 - b. Blaine Cords moved to sustain. Dakota Spink seconded. Motion passes.

- IV. Treasurer's Report - Mckenna Morton
 1. The FFA's Association account balance as of March 31, 2023, is \$133,613.86. There are approximately \$25,000 in outstanding payments for State Convention monetary awards to chapters and for Ag Skills Contests. The balance in our contingency fund as of March 31, 2023, is \$633,259.54.
 - a. Haley Cucinello moved to receive the Treasurer's Report. Katie Holt seconded. Motion carries.
 - b. Dakota Spink moved to sustain. Blaine Cords seconded. Motion passes.

- V. Michigan FFA Association
 1. State Officer Report - Clara Milarch
 - a. April Events: Horse Judging Contest, Ag Skills Contest
 - b. Upcoming Events: Regional Camps, Chapter Banquets, Rabbit Contest, Meat Judging Contest, Retirement of State Officers

2. State Advisor Report - Mark Forbush
 - a. A few transitions in teaching positions have occurred thus far:
 - i. Jessi Spry from Beal City will be relocating to Chippewa Hills
 - ii. Katie Courtade from Muskegon Career Tech Center will be relocating to a new program, Mecosta Osceola Career Center
 - b. Current open teaching positions include Beal City, Muskegon Career Tech Center, Breckenridge, Thornapple Kellogg, and Springport
 - i. These positions have been posted on the Michigan FFA website underneath FFA Association; Resources; AFNRE Teaching Positions
 - c. The Career Prep Grant is moving forward with the credentials necessary for AET. Training will still be available in the fall.
 - i. Note: Chapters will be able to use this change in AET at no cost to them
3. State Executive Secretary Report - Dr. Tiffany Rogers-Randolph
 - i. Recent Events: Base Camp for incoming State Officers, Skills Contest
 1. Note: Ag Skills Contest had record attendance, with 2,717 competitors, which is 300 more than last year
 - a. Thank you to all who helped make this event possible
 - ii. Upcoming Events: Rabbit Contest, Capstone (for current State Officers), Meats Evaluation Contest, National Officer Candidate Selection Interviews

VI. DEI Committee - Katie Holt

1. There is an upcoming meeting that will be occurring soon - if we have anything in mind for the committee to take a look at, please let them know

VII. Michigan FFA Alumni - Becca Gulliver

1. The Michigan FFA Alumni and Friends Annual Meeting will be held on August 16, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at Agro Expo
2. Alumni Award Deadlines:
 - a. MSU/FFA Alumni Scholarship (CANR or CVS): May 1
 - b. Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter Application Award: May 1
 - c. Outstanding Achievement Award: May 1
 - d. Floyd Beneker Michigan FFA Alumni Hall of Fame Award: May 15
3. Reminders:

- a. Raffle Tickets are and will still be available until next year's State Convention
- b. For those attending the National Convention Experience Trip, be on the lookout for announcements
- c. The Nominating Committee is seeking future council members - if you are interested or you know someone, please let Becca Gulliver or Burt Henry know

IX. Past State Officers - Henry Reinart

- 1. No report

X. Michigan FFA Foundation - Kyle Schaberg (Report provided by Charles Scovill)

- 1. The FFA Foundation is preparing for the annual golf outing
- 2. The Foundation will continue to support the Alumni and Friends with the ongoing raffle

XI. Ag Ed Club - Nathan Snow

- 1. Elections have been held for the officer team (8 new individuals)
 - a. Note: Sarah Albrecht will be replacing Nathan Snow as the Ag Ed Club's representative and board consultant member
- 2. The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences visit went well, with 14 students attending
- 3. The apparel sale has been completed and orders are being processed for those who ordered

XII. Call To The Public

XIII. Standing Committee's Report

- Vision and Special Topics Committee (**338 Nat Res**)
 - Chairperson Beth Wilson
- Awards and Activities Committee (**320A Nat Res**)
 - Chairperson Jennifer Smith
- Career Development and Event Committee (**338 Nat Res**)
 - Chairperson Haley Cucinello
- State Officer Policy Committee (**320A Nat Res**)
 - Chairperson Doug Pennington
- Governing Committee (**149 Nat Res**)
 - Chairperson Jason Griffith

XIV. Old Business

1. Michigan FFA State Officer Task Force: Update

- a. Below is an update on the individuals who will be representing the State Officer Task Force

Role	#	Specifications	Names
Current State Officer	1	Member from the 2023-2024 team	1. Maze Guza
Past State Officer	2	At least one PSO will have served in the last three years At least one PSO will have served as a member of Convention Staff and worked in the FFA Office <i>(Those qualifications could be covered by the same individual)</i>	1. Sydney Masters 2. Casie Stiles
FFA Advisor	2	At least one advisor will have experience at a career center At least one advisor will have experience at a comprehensive high school <i>(Advisors will be from different regions)</i>	1. Chase Bos 2. Doug Pennington
Past Adult Nominating Committee Member - State Level	2	At least one nom com member will have served on the committee in the last three years	1. Becca Gulliver 2. Ramey Lunceford
<i>Michigan FFA State Staff will serve as resources and coordinators for task force activities. Work of the task force/proposal will be shared routinely with the DEI Committee for feedback/input.</i>			

- b. The task force will begin work and will be scheduling meetings to take place virtually
- i. Be mindful of opportunities to provide feedback that will be available in the future
 - ii. Thank you to the Governance Committee for their intentional dedication to decisions and for reading letters of interest

XV. New Business

1. Proposal:

- a. Issue: Currently, there are no written expectations and clear processing for State Degree Star Selection Process
- b. Proposal Recommended from State Officer Policy Committee:

Recommended Solution

Provide the following information to clarify the selection process:

Eligibility:

Each year, Star Candidates are selected only from the current year's State FFA Degree Candidates. Candidates must have a successful Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) connected to agriculture, food, or natural resources. An applicant may only apply in one of the following categories.

Star Categories:

Star Farmer (Production): Candidates must have an entrepreneurship type SAE in production agriculture.

Star in Agribusiness: Candidates must have an entrepreneurship type SAE in a non-production area. Examples include but are not limited to: lawn care services, crop consulting services, and services marketing agricultural products.

Star in Agricultural Placement: Candidates must have a placement type SAE working for an agricultural producer or agribusiness. This placement does not have to be a paid position, although the applicant must have enough earnings and investment from their SAE to qualify to receive the State FFA Degree.

Star in Agriscience: Candidates must have an SAE program that involves planning and conducting scientific research utilizing the scientific method of investigation. This may include qualitative research, quantitative research, experimental research, descriptive research, or quasi-experimental research. Members who work for agricultural laboratories but are not performing their own research should apply in the Agricultural Placement category.

Star Selection Process:

1) Applications:

- a. Applicants will submit 1) State FFA Degree and 2) Star Battery application
- b. **State FFA Degree Application:** The completed State Degree application should reflect applicant's entire SAE program and all leadership experiences.

Information

from all SAE types may be included in the State Degree application.

- c. **Star Battery Application: (Labeled in AET as Generic Chapter/GH/State Star Application)** Applicants must select only one star category to apply under.

Candidates who have SAE projects of multiple types must decide which their strongest type is and complete the Star Battery application with only that information. The Star Battery application should only contain records and narratives that focus on the SAE enterprises that fall under the selected category.

- d. To be considered:
 - i. Both applications must be complete and of high quality
 - ii. Description of SAE specified in Star Battery application (Performance Review A – 1) must clearly relate to agriculture, food, or natural resources
- 2) Application Review:
- a. Five industry representatives and/or retired AFNR educators will review Star Applications in every category
 - i. These industry representatives may include individuals conducting onsite visits
 - b. Rubrics modeled after the following examples will be created to score all applications depending on category:
 - i. Star in Agribusiness Written Application Rubric
 - ii. Star in Agriscience Written Application Rubric
 - iii. Star in Placement Written Application Rubric
 - iv. Star in Production Written Application Rubric
 - v. Adaptations will be made to rubrics to fit state level selection process.
 - c. When evaluating State Degree applications, the committee shall only consider SAE records that correspond to the enterprises specified in the Star Battery application. Leadership/FFA activities and community service records will not be taken into consideration.
 - d. Based on rubric scores, each judge will individually rank the applications in each category – highest score receiving a “1.”
 - e. All judge rankings are compiled and totaled.
 - f. Applicants with the lowest total ranking (placing highest for the most judges) will be invited to take part in an onsite visit.
 - i. If a tie occurs, the committee will confer to break the tie
 - g. Up to six applicants in a category can be selected for an onsite visit.
 - h. No applicant is automatically granted an onsite visit, regardless of ranking or number of applicants in the category. The committee must determine that an onsite visit is warranted based on the SAE represented in the application.
- 3) Onsite Visit
- a. One industry representative or retired AFNR educator will visit the SAE site for each applicant in this round.
 - b. This visit will consist of an interview/tour with the applicant, review of records, and discussions with advisor(s), administrator(s), and employer(s) (if applicable).

- c. Based on the onsite visits, the industry representative will recommend the top three applicants in each category to advance to the Final Star Interviews.
- 4) Final Star Interviews
- a. The top three applicants in each category will be invited to take part in the Final Star Interviews.
 - b. Applicants in each category will be interviewed by a panel of three industry representatives.
 - c. The panel will receive the candidate’s application materials before the interviews to review.
 - d. Interview Structure:
 - i. Each candidate will meet with the panel individually to deliver a three minute introduction. The introduction should include:
 - 1. Clear and detailed description of the SAE project related to the category area.
 - 2. What the candidate personally did to start the project and the project’s current status.
 - 3. Outline candidate’s personal ownership and responsibility.
 - 4. No questions will be asked from the panel during the introduction.
 - ii. Each candidate will then meet with the panel individually for a 20-30 minute interview:
 - 1. Questions may focus on any aspect of the candidate’s application materials and SAE project.
 - 2. Emphasis should be placed on questions relating to the following application sections:
 - a. Learning Outcomes and Efficiency Factors
 - b. Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge
 - e. A rubric modeled after the following will be utilized by the panel to score all interviews:
 - i. Star Interview Rubric
 - ii. Adaptations will be made to rubric to fit state level selection process.
 - f. Based on rubric scores, each judge will individually rank applicants in each category – highest score receiving a “1”.
 - g. All judge rankings are compiled and totaled.
- 5) Final Star Selection
- a. Final Star Awards will be determined by combining the total judge rankings from:
 - i. Application Review
 - ii. Final Star Interviews
 - b. Applicant with the lowest combined ranking (placing highest for the most judges) will be named the category Star.
 - i. If a tie occurs, the applicant ranking highest in the Final Star Interviews

will be named the category Star.”

- i. Moved by Committee to accept proposal with recommended updates.
 1. Motion passes.
 2. Haley Cucinello moved to sustain. Charles Scovill seconded. Motion carries.

XVI. Announcements

1. Recognition of Board Members whose term has ended
 - a. Industry Representative, Region I and II Representatives, State Officers
2. Contests that will be reviewed are listed below; these will be reviewed during SLCRO/SLCCO
3. Note: Be sure to look at your calendar to keep updated on FFA activities/events
 - a. National Convention, Broiler Contests, District and Regional Contests, and State Convention will be transitioning dates to earlier in the calendar year
 - b. The tentative schedule for the incoming year can be viewed online at the Michigan FFA website, under FFA Association; Calendar; Future Calendars

XVII. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

1. Adjourned through closing ceremonies

XVIII. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be September 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm in Room 338 Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted for the last time,

Amanda Johnson

State Secretary

FYI: 2023-24 contests slated to be reviewed are:

- Ag Communications
- Jr. High Quiz Bowl
- Ag Issues
- Public Speaking
- Livestock Judging
- Broiler Contest
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking

FYI: Positions that will be completing their three years of service include:

- Ag Industry Representative (currently Deb Schmucker)

- Region I Advisor (currently Doug Pennington)
- Region II Advisor (currently Jennifer Smith)

2023-2024 Meeting Dates:

September 14, 2023

December 7, 2023

February 15, 2024

April 11, 2024