



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

### *"Radiate"*

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

FROM: Chase Sherburne, State FFA President  
Jenny Allen, State FFA Specialist  
Erin Noble, State FFA Advisor

DATE: March 18, 2024

RE: State FFA Executive Board Meeting  
**Monday, April 8, 2024 – 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 2023-2024.

### AGENDA FOR THE APRIL STATE MEETING

- I. **Opening Ceremonies**
- II. **Minutes from the March State Meeting**
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
- IV. **Guest Introductions and Attendance**
- V. **Committee Reports**
  - A. Constitution, Bylaws & Program of Activities, State Convention Evaluation & State Applications – Jonathan Finney
  - B. Membership, Chapter & Relations and State Leadership Activities – Chase Sherburne
  - C. Career and Leadership Development Evaluation and Review – Julia Moreno
  - D. Horticultural Exposition Evaluation and Review – Maisie Shimko
- VI. **Parliamentary Procedure Report** – Chase Sherburne
- VII. **Executive Committee Report** – Jonathan Finney
- VIII. **State FFA Foundation Report** – Julia Moreno

- IX. State FFA Alumni & Supporters Report – Chase Sherburne**
- X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report – Maisie Shimko**
- XI. New Jersey Agricultural Society Report – Jonathan Finney**
- XII. Equine Advisory Board Report – Maisie Shimko**
- XIII. New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators Report – Mr. Dale Cruzan**
- XIV. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Horticultural Exposition and Floral Design CDE (March 15-16, 2024) – Maisie Shimko
  - B. National Ag Day (March 19, 2024) – Julia Moreno
  - C. State Applications Judging (April 4-7, 2024) – Maisie Shimko
  - D. Horse Evaluation CDE (April 7, 2024) – Chase Sherburne
  - E. Retiring Address Workshop (April 10, 2024) – Chase Sherburne
  - F. PA Day CDEs (April 16, 2024) – Julia Moreno
  - G. Spring CDEs (April 18, 2024) – Julia Moreno
  - H. Agriscience Fair (April 24, 2024) – Chase Sherburne
  - I. Dairy Cattle Evaluation (May 4, 2024) – Maisie Shimko
  - J. State Convention (May 22-24, 2024)
    - a. Timeline – Maisie Shimko
    - b. Video Shoot – Chase Sherburne
    - c. Potential State Officers/Nom Com – Julia Moreno
    - d. Statewide Community Service Project – Maisie Shimko
  - K. Team Goal Action Plan – Chase Sherburne
- XV. New Business**
  - A. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion – Chase Sherburne
  - B. Member of the Month – Jonathan Finney
  - C. State Officer Mileage – Julia Moreno
- XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

*Next State Meeting – May 6, 2024  
New Jersey Department of Ag Building  
4:00 pm*

**New Jersey FFA Association  
Minutes from the March 4, 2024 Meeting**

**I. Opening Ceremonies**

Chase Sherburne called the meeting to order at 3:57 pm. The voting members in attendance were Chase Sherburne, Maisie Shimko, Julia Moreno, Jonathan Finney and Mr. Cruzan. State Staff in attendance were Mrs. Noble, Ms. Allen and Ms. McCluskey.

**II. Minutes from February State Meeting**

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

**Seconded by Maisie Shimko. Motion passes.**

**III. Treasurer's Report**

The opening balance for the month was \$87,903.58 and the closing balance was \$81,785.59.

**Motion by Jonathan Finney** to accept the treasurer's report pending audit.

**Motion passed pending audit.**

**IV. Guest Introductions and Attendance**

William Rutherford and Tyler Murnaghan from the Cape May Tech FFA Chapter was present at this month's meeting.

*Maisie Shimko assumed the duties of the chair.*

**V. Committee Reports**

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

The Committee met to discuss the State Convention topics, relating to continually improving the quality and enjoyment of State Convention, and displaying the winners on screen during the announcement of the art competition. They also mentioned inviting out-of-state State Officers and Alumni to give workshops at State Convention. The committee recommended to adopt the following amendment to the State FFA Association Bylaws under Degrees for Student Members. Currently reads: Article 2, Section E, Part 5a Performing 10 parliamentary procedure activities to include or completing the parliamentary procedure quiz available on the Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET).

**Motion by Jonathan Finney** to accept the committee report as presented.

**Implied Second. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Jonathan Finney** to accept the amendment that reads: Article 2, Section E, Part 5a Performing 10 parliamentary procedure activities or earning 80% or better on the Parliamentary Law Test in AET.

**Seconded by Chase Sherburne. 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.

*Chase Sherburne re-assumed the duties of the chair.*

#### **VI. Parliamentary Procedure Report**

Chase discussed “a privileged motion.” These are motions that take priority over anything else that is happening in the meeting. This includes raising a question, calling for orders of the day, and calling recess.

#### **VII. Executive Committee Report**

Jonathan Finney asked the state officers their word for the current moment would be. He also asked them what was the most interesting FFA Week activity they went to and what was their biggest take away from it.

#### **VIII. Foundation Report**

No report. The next meeting is April 9, 2024.

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

Cape May Tech is in the process of starting an Alumni Chapter. Alumni Chapters are invited to attend the state meetings and provide reports. They are looking into Raymour and Flanigan fundraiser event information. The State Alumni discussed Banquet Speech Workshop that took place on Friday, February 2, 2024. The Blue Corduroy Connections Event will be on Friday, February 23, 2024 at Mercer Oaks Golf Course. The annual golf tournament will be on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at Mercer Oaks Golf Course. The next meeting is April 10, 2024.

#### **X. Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Education Advisory Council Report – Maisie Shimko**

They met during the NJ State Agricultural Convention on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Ms. Allen, Mr. Delcher and Mrs. Noble presented their EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Collaboration presentation. After the presentation the floor was open for feedback and created good conversations for the next steps in completing the EDI work. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at Monmouth University during the 95<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention.

#### **XI. New Jersey Agriculture Society Report**

Northern Burlington FFA Officers attended the gala. The next meeting is in April 2024.

#### **XII. Equine Advisory Board**

Their financial reports came in and they did well this past year and are looking to donate. Horse shows are happening all over the state in April 2024. New board members were elected.

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

They are looking to add a Summer Conference this year at the end of July in the Woodstown/Salem area. They are working on their constitution. NJAAE members can apply for various awards that are due May 1<sup>st</sup>. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

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

##### **A. Winter Career Development Events**

Winter Career Development Events were held in person for the first time on February 7th at the Harrah's Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. The first-place teams include: Hunterdon County ESEA for Farm and Agribusiness Management and Newton for Meat Evaluation and Technology.

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

The NJ State Ag Convention was held on February 7th at the Harrah's Waterfront Conference in Atlantic City. All state officers were present and explored the Trade Show meeting new people. Chase Sherburne delivered his speech. All officers attended the banquet where they saw Mr. Frank Yesalavich receive the Distinguished Service Award.

##### **C. Fuel Up Retreat**

The State Officers spent time together on February 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. They planned for State Convention, worked on sessions titles and begin to plan their retiring addresses.

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

ALLD was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at The College of New Jersey, the theme for this year's event is "A New Era in Agriculture." There were 255 members, advisors and guest present this year. The members heard from four legislators, a panel of industry professionals, and participated in a large group workshop presented by the State Officers. From there members were broken up into three break out groups (The Advocacy Model, Ag Issues & You and Keys to good messages) and those who registered for the Teach Ag Event learned more about the Teach Ag LDE and how to write lesson plans.

##### **E. National FFA Week**

National FFA Week took place during February 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. The State Officers had a full week of chapter visits from attending chapter breakfasts to Ag Olympics to banquets. The events they attended showed how chapters throughout the state celebrate their stakeholders and supporters. The State Officers shared about the chapters they visited with.

##### **F. New Jersey Agricultural Society Gala**

This event took place on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Northern Burlington FFA Officers were present at the gala.

##### **G. Horticultural Exposition**

The Horticultural Exposition will take place from March 15th to March 16th at Mercer County Community College. FFA members can participate in creating arrangements for the Horticultural Exposition, participate in the Floral Design CDE, attend industry based workshops and take a campus tour. Set up will take place on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 4:00 pm. A schedule of the Hort Expo flow was provided and it was suggested they bring a lunch for Friday.

**H. National Ag Day (March 19,2024)**

The National Ag Day will take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. This year's theme is Agriculture: "Growing a Climate for Tomorrow." State Officers can sign up to be an Ag Day Influencer. There is an on-demand training series they complete and then they are encouraged to schedule visits (virtual would be best) with their congresspeople on/around National Ag Day.

**I. Horse Evaluation CDE**

The Horse Evaluation CDE will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at Gloucester DREAM Park. Chase Sherburne will be the state officer in attendance with Ms. McCluskey.

**J. PA Day CDEs**

PA Day CDEs will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Lebanon Expo Center in Lebanon, PA. Chase Sherburne and Julia Moreno will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. McCluskey.

**K. Spring CDEs**

Spring CDEs will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at Rutgers University. Events include: Agronomy, Agricultural Mechanics and Technology, Agricultural Sales, Environmental and Natural Resources, Floriculture, Nursery Landscape and Veterinary Science. State Officers are responsible for helping with registration, organizing students and teachers, proctoring and taking pictures of the event.

**L. State Convention**

**1. Delegate Issues**

The executive board discussed adding in the Parliamentary Law Test on AET and adding the FFA Value Statements. Both will be in the delegate packet.

**2. Statewide Community Service**

The project for this year is Confidence Closets, we are looking for chapters to collect items that are on the flyer posted on social media.

**3. T-Shirt Design Contest**

There were six designs that were submitted and evaluated by the executive board. This year's winner is Lilly Haines from the Allentown FFA Chapter. She will be recognized on stage during the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Session with a certificate, a free t-shirt and a \$25.00 gift certificate to Alumni Nation (FFA store at State Convention).

**M. Chapter Visits**

The State Officers have been completing their goal of visiting all chapters.

**N. Team Goal Action Plan**

The Board went over each goal and how well each goal was getting completed. They are working on spending more time in person outside of their meeting.

**XV. New Business**

**A. State Applications Judging**

The executive board will evaluate applications that come in on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Judging will take place virtually from April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>. All applications must be judged by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

**B. Retiring Address Workshop**

This event will take place on April 10, 2024 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. State Officers will be evaluated on their retiring address and will be paired up with an Alumni member to receive feedback on their retiring address.

**C. Agriscience Fair**

The Agriscience Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Rutgers Eco Complex. FFA members can show off their projects to judges. Chase Sherburne and Julia Moreno will be the state officers in attendance with Ms. Allen.

**D. Dairy Cattle Evaluation**

Currently there is no date for the Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE.

**E. Agricultural Education/Agricultural Issues Discussion**

According to the U.S. Chamber of Congress, there are 1.7 million fewer American workers in the labor force compared to February 2020. From farming to the manufacturing side of agribusiness, employers will have difficulty running operations due to a lack of employees. Labor shortages and even walkouts have beset food and beverage makers and will continue to do so in 2024. According to HUB's Outlook Executive Survey, about 70% of the respondents from the agribusiness sector noted that talent recruitment, employee "upskilling" and training will be crucial to the vitality of the workforce.

**F. Member of the Month**

The Executive Board evaluated Member of the Month applications.

**Motion by Jonathan Finney** to select Abigail Biederman of the Newton FFA Chapter as March's Member of the Month.

**Seconded by Maisie Shimko. Motion passes.**

**G. State Officer Mileage**

Chase, Maisie, Julia and Jon have turned in their mileage for the month of February.

**XVI. Closing Ceremonies**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference room, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Building.

1:30 PM

March 1, 2024

Cash Basis

**NJ FFA Association**  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
**As of February 29, 2024**

Type	Date	Name	Memo	Split	Original Amount	Paid Amount	Balance
<b>FFA</b>							87,903.58 <b>1</b>
Check	02/05/2024	Bank of America	Westin - lodging for Naitonal Convention	P7 (National Conven. - Expense)	-3,032.64	-3,032.64	84,870.94
Deposit	02/06/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	309.00	309.00	85,179.94
Check	02/07/2024	Davison, Eastman & M...	additional legal work	P3 (General Supplies - Expense)	-380.00	-380.00	84,799.94
Check	02/10/2024	Bank of America	Staats - Hort Expo ribbons	P8 (Hort Expo - Expense)	-206.02	-206.02	84,593.92
Check	02/10/2024	Bank of America	Judging Card - Winter CDEs	P2 (CDEs - Expense)	-70.00	-70.00	84,523.92
Check	02/10/2024	Bank of America	Shoprite - SOCS meal supplies	P 12 (SOCS-Expense)	-115.15	-115.15	84,408.77
Check	02/10/2024	Bank of America	Via Roma - pizza for SOCS participants	P 12 (SOCS-Expense)	-219.78	-219.78	84,188.99
Deposit	02/21/2024		Deposit	-SPLIT-	3,968.00	3,968.00	88,156.99
Check	02/29/2024	Vegetable Growers Ass...	State Officers meal registration for Ag Conv...	P4 (State Officers - Expense)	-140.00	-140.00	88,016.99
Check	02/29/2024	The College of New Jer...		P10 (ALLD-Expense)	-6,231.40	-6,231.40	81,785.59
Total FFA						-6,117.99	81,785.59
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>-6,117.99</b>	<b>81,785.59 <b>2</b></b>



1:30 PM

March 1, 2024

Cash Basis

**NJ FFA Association**  
**Monthly State Meetings - General Ledger**  
As of February 29, 2024

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1. Opening Balance on February 1, 2024 was \$87,903.58
  
2. Closing Balance on February 29, 2024 was \$81,785.59



Monday, March 4, 2024

## Committee Report

New Jersey FFA Association Standing Committees

**Email**

jontfinney@gmail.com

**Committee Name**

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

**Date**

Friday, March 1, 2024

**Committee Members Present**

Jonathan Finney, Chase Sherburne, Maisie Shimko

**Committee Members Absent**

Mrs. Ditzio

**Purpose of Meeting**

Discuss State Convention topics, access the State Officer process, and draft an amendment for the State Degree concerning the parliamentary procedure requirement.

**Recommended Actions**

Continually improve the quality and enjoyment of State Convention.  
Allow for a time of Advisor input during the process.  
Adopt Amendment provided.

**Comments**

Display winners during the announcement of art competitions  
Explore the idea of having regional LDEs before State Convention  
Invite out-of-state State Officers or Alumni to give workshops at State Convention

**Chairperson**

Jonathan Finney

**Secretary**

N/A

**Chairperson Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Finney".