



NEBRASKA FFA

ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

Nebraska FFA Alumni and Supporters Council
January 16th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The January 16th meeting of the Nebraska FFA Alumni & Supporters Council was called to order by President Matt Schulz at 8:02 a.m. at the Niobrara Lodge in Valentine, Nebraska.

Those in attendance are as follows; Jill Goedeken, Jenny Meyer, Rachel Tagge, Stan Heyen, Kevin Henrichson, Brett Nunnenkamp, Tammie Steinhauer, Monty Larsen, Kenny Reinke, Matt Scholz and Valentine guest Christina Boone. Those attending via zoom were Matt McElfresh, Lori Walla and Melissa Hagemeister.

Brett Nunnenkamp gave a report on our finances. The reported income was \$65,033.08. Expenses were \$54,926.03, giving us a checkbook balance of \$26,114.47. The total assests are \$366,443.50 We have a few CD's that will roll over at 3.7% rate for 7 months.

State Officer Jake Rezac sent a report that stated they are focusing on chapter visits, LDE's and the State convention.

UNL representative, Monty Larsen, said this is the largest freshman class. ALEC remains the largest outreach teacher prep program in the nation, with 9 staffers. 9 Ag Education students graduated in December. 10 students will graduate in May. A shortage of Ag teachers candidates continues to be a challenge. Transitional Certification Program through ALEC is one way they are increasing the pool.

The Department of Education position is still open.

Kaydie Brandl, NAEA representative, sent a report noting 10 Nebraska teachers attended the NAAE/ ACTE Vision conference. She said there are several CDE events occurring.

Nebraska State FFA Advisor, Sarah Heideman's report said they will continue to embrace our assistance with the PBA activities at the State Convention. 2026 Convention will be March 25-27. She noted the State Degree Ceremony will be moved to Wednesday evening this year.

Post- Secondary Representative, Courtney Nelson, did not submit a report.

Melissa Hagemeister, Nebraska FFA Foundation representative, said there is nothing new to report from the fall. Their next meeting is February 6th.

Council members gave reports on activities occurring in chapters across the state.

Tammie Steinhauer, Membership Chair, reported there are 47 active chapters, with 7 that have yet to submit a roster and dues. The membership account has a checkbook balance of \$9,361.59. There are 9 new life members. First Year affiliates are Kearney, Leigh, North Platte and Southern Valley. Palmer is a 2nd year affiliate. National dues are increasing to \$125, however, we will remain at \$100.

Awards chairperson, Rachel Tagge, said the awards application deadline will continue to be December 1. There is one remaining slot on the Al Sick Award. We will order a new plaque and it will now be named the Distinguished Service Award.

Social Media Committee report: Jill continues to update Facebook as Rachel and Melissa update the website. The Shoot & Swing has soft launched on the website. The website will also advertise for State Convention judges and provide a Blue & Gold Magazine pdf link. Rachel may add a button to the website to allow Alumni Chapters to add activities and ideas. Our account qualifies for a free website design from Fire Spring. More discussion about their possible assistance with future brochures.

The Nominating Committee reported the following members have expiring terms and would like to be on the ballot: Jenny Meyer, Kenny Reinke, Lori Walla, Stan Heyen

Blue & Gold Spotlight: Tammie Steinhauer said few businesses need to pay for their advertisement. Wayne State students may write articles in the future. Printing was done by a different printer this year. We will try to gain more magazine advertisers next year.

Local Chapter Golden Idea Event Competition: Rachel Tagge said we will use our Zoom link to allow Osceola and Lakeview to present their proposals.

The By-Law Committee , Matt, Kenny, Tom, Lori, will start collaborating after convention. They plan to split the by-laws into sections for each to review.

Old Business:

The 2027 State FFA Alumni & Supporters Convention will be held in Omaha on January 15 & 16, 2027. Holiday Inn Express on 102nd street is reserved as well as the VFW for banquet. We are looking at possible Saturday urban agriculture tours such as Wenninghoffs, The Big Garden, City Sprouts. We are collaborating with Bryan and Ralston High School Ag teachers.

We will hold a Shoot-N-Swing in Crete, on May 23rd \$80 a person. We will utilize liability waivers. Meal tickets will be used and Dars kitchen will provide food. Each council member will



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provide a pin prize. There is a 36 team limit. We will be raffling for one team's free admittance to the Shoot and Swing at the banquet tonight.

Teacher Retention Incentive Program – Jill continues to work with this committee.

Nebraska Ag Expo Recap: The attendance was slow the first day, but the second day, had a great number of students and alumni visit the booth. We will continue to attend this next year.

Jill moved and Kenny seconded the motion that we pay the Convention registration fee for Ag teachers and FFA Advisors. Motion carried.

New Business:

Jacket Scholarship: In 2025, we paid \$300 (2- \$150 jackets). This will continue to be in the budget.

The Foundation is requesting \$8600 in sponsorship in the following areas: \$1000 towards Automotive Technology Proficiency, \$1000 for Health and Human Service Proficiency, \$1000 for Conduct of Chapter Meetings, \$1000 towards LDE's, \$350 for Livestock Management CDE Sheep, \$4,000 for Premier Chapter/National Chapter Awards, \$250 for the Middle School Academy and \$1,000 for State fair sponsorships.

Jill motioned and Brett seconded that we approve the foundation request for \$8600.

Motion carried

The Nebraska FFA Convention will be March 25-27, 2026. We may order more hoodies and sweatshirts. We would like to put FFA Alumni & Supporters on the shirt sleeves/ or backside of shirt. Jill will look into costs for this. The t-shirt registration will be available once Jill receives design and color information.

Official Dress items such as chains, ties, belt buckles, claw clip, and gift items will be sold at our booth. We will continue to provide games for The Cube on Friday, April 3 from 2:00-3:30. Rachel will coordinate FFA Activities that we host at The Cube and create a website link for Booth & Cube Volunteers.

Jill moved and Kenny seconded that we reimburse Brett \$123.42 for the booth Square.

NCE will be held in Kearney on June 8-10. Jill will provide the presentation submission. "From Learning to Earning" is the theme. Jill, Bret, Lori and Stan plan to present this summer. We currently sponsor a few NCE awards and will present our Student Teacher Scholarships.

Remote Development Conference: April 20-23 at 11:00 CT. Daily 1 hour session.

Regional Development Conference: in Wilbur, Minnesota on March 20 & 21, 2026.

Other business:

Items added to the 2027 budget are Shoot and Swing, New Chapter Incentive and Golden Idea Event.

Bret said our accountant is retiring. We will be looking for her replacement and recognize her services at our Omaha banquet.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kenny Reinke, and was seconded by Kevin. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Leadership Center in Aurora, NE. This will be our goal setting meeting for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Meyer, Secretary