



N E W S L E T T E R

August 1930

Alabama Association Future Farmers of America

Montgomery, Alabama

MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Auburn, Alabama  
July 11 and 12, 1930

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the Alabama Association of Future Farmers of America met at Auburn on July 11. There was a full attendance of the Committee. Those present were: Earl Solomon, President; Kilmer Page, Vice-President; Oliver Manning, Secretary; Jim Espy, Treasurer; Lloyd Ezell, Reporter; R. E. Cammack, Adviser.

The first order of business was the consideration of a budget for the ensuing year. A budget was worked out and adopted on the basis of a total membership for the coming year of 1550 as a minimum. The Executive Committee anticipated an increase in the number of chapters from 69 to at least 100. All estimated expenditures were agreed upon and approved.

The Committee considered three amendments to the constitution and agreed that these amendments would be recommended to the House of Delegates for consideration.

Nine applications for the State Farmer degree were reviewed. The qualifications of the applicants for this degree were found satisfactory and it was agreed to recommend them for this degree to the House of Delegates the following day.

House of Delegates

The meeting was called to order at eight o'clock on Saturday morning, July 12, in Langdon Hall by the President, Mr. Earl Solomon. This was followed by the singing of America. Invocation was pronounced by Mr. Earle Thomas, local adviser for the Isabella chapter.

The President then gave his annual address, after which he introduced Dr. Bradford Knapp, President of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, who spoke on cooperative effort among farmers. During the course of his address he welcomed the meeting to Auburn and expressed a hope that the Executive Committee would decide upon Auburn as a permanent meeting place. He also offered every facility at Auburn for entertaining this organization at its annual meeting. He expressed a hope that at some date not too far distant Auburn might have camping and outdoor swimming facilities to offer the Future Farmers during their annual session.

The next number on the program was an address by Dean Funchess, in which he outlined things of interest on Experiment Station.

At 10:15 the meeting adjourned for a tour of the grounds, buildings, and Experiment Station.

At 12:05 the following address was broadcast by the President of the Association.

"We are now holding at Auburn our first state meeting of a new organization for high school farm boys. The name of this organization is the F. F. A. It means the Future Farmers of America.

"I shall attempt to give you a few facts relative to the growth and accomplishments of the past year and some of our plans for the future.

"This organization started in Virginia five years ago. From the F. F. V., Future Farmers of Virginia, it soon grew into the F. F. A., Future Farmers of America. Forty out of forty-eight states of the Union have statewide organizations. There have been held two national conventions.

"The purpose of this meeting is to get our statewide organization going; to exchange ideas; to develop fellowship; and to go back to our local chapters with new ideas and enthusiasm and with some conception of the bigness of our organization.

"In Alabama there are 113 departments of vocational agriculture. Sixty-nine of them have F. F. A. chapters with a total enrollment of 1249 boys. It is probable that this meeting will cause other departments to organize F. F. A. chapters.

"The rapid growth of our organization is explained by the fact that it meets a need of the farm boy. Every boy has a certain amount of social or fraternal craving which must be satisfied in some way or other. There are Boy Scout organizations in the towns which take care of this need of town boys. There has been no similar organization for country boys. Through the F. F. A. the farm boy will get many things which the town boy gets through scout work.

"The organization will make more cordial and effective the relation between the boy and the teacher of agriculture. It will make possible better agricultural instruction; because it is a part of the member's obligation to promise when he joins to work out a good agricultural project and to keep a neat, accurate record of the same. This is a part of the first degree or as we call it the "Green Hand" degree. The next degree is known as the "Future Farmer" degree. In this the boy obligates himself to help the teacher in various ways in building up and working out an agricultural program for the community. The organization promotes thrift, too, in that the different degrees require different amounts of money productively invested. The first degree called "Green Hand" requires no investment. The second degree called "Future Farmer" requires members to have \$25.00 invested in some productive farm enterprise. The third degree "State Farmer" requires that the boy have \$200.00 so invested. Thrift is also promoted by cooperative buying and selling of farm commodities.

"One purpose of the club is to develop leadership among farm people. Many of our farm organizations in the past have gone on the rocks for lack of rural leaders. In this club boys are trained for leadership by actively taking part in whatever the club sponsors; by holding offices in the local chapters; by being thrown on their own initiative in working out the undertakings proposed by the club; by being active in initiating movements in the club; and, too, the members develop leadership by doing. They learn by doing. This is seen in the local program of work. Most every club undertakes something that will make farm life better. Among such movements are: screening farm houses, building sanitary toilets, installing waterworks. Such jobs as these, and many others, are done as a part of class instruction.

"This club furnishes recreation of the highest type for the boys. This may be in the form of judging contests, agricultural tours, father and son banquets, athletic contests, socials, etc. This develops as part of cooperation. The boys learn that if they pull together it is much easier to accomplish things. A state program has been set up which contains eleven very worthwhile items. Thus we have a plan for our development.

"We feel that the Future Farmers of America is sure of steady advancement:

"First, because it is lively organizations with regular meetings in local, state and national chapters.

"Second, we are on a sound financial basis. We have operated on a budget for the first year and go into our second year with a small balance.

"Third, it has a splendid creed. Listen to it. 'I believe in the beauty of God's open country and that life out of doors and in touch with nature is the natural life of man.

'I believe that work is work wherever we find it but work with nature is more inspiring and challenging.

'I believe that opportunity comes to a boy on the farm as often as the boy in the city. I believe that my success depends not upon my location but upon myself; not upon my dreams but what I actually do; not upon luck but upon pluck.

'I believe in working when I work and playing when I play, giving and demanding a square deal at all times.'

"The outlook for the future is bright. I think we will have 100 chapters in Alabama by the end of 1930. About five boys will graduate from each club yearly. So we shall soon have 500 Future Farmers of America going out into the life of our state every year. May we not expect that they will carry with them some of the values they learned in this club? They will be active. They will pull together for the betterment of rural conditions, for they will have learned that 'a mule can't pull while kicking, neither can he kick while pulling.' "

Luncheon was served at the college cafeteria from 12:00 until 1:30. At 1:30 the meeting was called to order and the President introduced Mr. L. N. Duncan, Director of Extension Service, who spoke to the meeting on the value of cooperative effort among farm boys and farmers.

At 2:00 the following delegates from local chapters were seated:

Athens - Garner Sims, Philip Thomas  
Blountsville - Odell Black, Cecil Black  
Jackson - Roland Smith  
Sylacauga - C. R. Lee  
Leighton - John Keys, Eddie McCreless  
Ozark - Loftin Flowers, Travis Johnson  
Rogersville - Newton Haraway, Homer Bryan  
Marion - Stewart Hiley, Edward Aultman  
Reform - Woodrow Bonner - Sam Cummins  
Alliance - Lonnie Stevenson  
Beauregard - Winston Bennett, Ellis Waller  
Belgreen - Homer Britton, Walter Ezell  
Berry - Herman Westbrook, Kermit Hudson  
Columbiana - Dennis Stonecypher, Jesse Hughes  
Cherokee - Robert Clingan, Whorley Barnett  
Collinsville - Samuel Jones, Ralph Jones  
Danville - G. D. Sims, Phil Wasson  
Daviston - Ray Hodge, Clyde Bishop  
Dixons Mills - Oris Dunn  
Excel - S. T. Williamson  
Falkville - Thomas Hodges, James Morris  
Gorgas - Theron Dyer, Tierce Deal  
Haleyville - James Benford, Henry McNutt  
Isabella - James Deason, R. C. Veazey  
Lexington - W. M. Reeder  
Midland City - Jim Espy  
McKenzie - Bruce Jones, Enzer Loyd  
Mount Hope - Harold Pickett, Leon Warren  
New Hope - Edward Hill  
New Market - R. O. Armstrong, Harvey Neely  
Ramer - Ben Spear, Harvey Milligan  
Robertsdale - J. W. Clark, Albert Waulk  
Slocomb - William Eubanks  
Sweet Water - M. V. Hallman  
Uriah - Oscar White, Lawrence Quimby  
Vincent - Robert Hunt, Tom Clinkscales  
Wadley - Randall Moncus, William Watson  
White Plains - Leon Plains, J. W. Locke  
Walnut Grove - Herschel Terrell, Wilbur Payne

The following matters of business were transacted by the House of Delegates and passed by unanimous vote:

1. State colors.

It was decided at the meeting of the Executive Committee to submit to the House of Delegates for its consideration the adoption of the colors of the state agricultural college as the colors of the Future Farmers of Alabama. The colors are orange and blue.

2. F. F. A. chapter at Auburn.

The Executive Committee recommends that an F. F. A. chapter be established at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, to be composed of active members of F. F. A. who are enrolled in agricultural courses at the college. It is further recommended that the details of the organization and the conduct of the chapter shall meet the approval of the State Adviser.

3. State and national dues -- time of payment.

It is recommended by the Executive Committee that Article VIII, Sec. A, of the State Constitution be amended to read as follows:

"Active state dues shall be 25¢ per member per year, and national dues, 10¢ per member per year. The total, 35¢ per member per year, to be paid to the state treasurer not later than November 1 for all active members on that date, and April 1 for all who become active members following November 1."

4. Method of electing officers.

The Executive Committee recommends that the State Constitution be amended to read as follows:

"The State President shall appoint a nominating committee each year at the first session of the annual meeting to nominate officers for the incoming year."

5. A synopsis of records of candidates for the State Farmer degree was presented to the House of Delegates and all candidates were approved for the degree.

Announcements by President

1. Delegates to national meeting.

Due to the lack of funds the President announced that the expenses of representatives to the national meeting could not be paid by the State Association. However, he encouraged those to go who felt they could do so, and suggested that they notify the State Adviser of their decision.

2. Policy with reference to news letter.

The President stated that during the coming year news letters are to be issued August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1. Information for news letters should be mailed in by local chapters on request of the State Reporter. After the State Reporter has gone over this material he will mail it to the clerical secretary to be worked into a news letter.

3. Policy with reference to dues.

The President announced that state and national dues are to be paid on or before November 1 for all members of local chapters who are in school before that date, and on or before April 1 for all those who become members of local chapters after November 1.

4. Contests.

It was agreed that due to the expense of state and national contests and the time which they consume, it would be unwise for the State Association to encourage such during the coming year.

5. Camps.

Due to the expense attached to a state camp and the inability of a large number to take advantage of such a camp, it was decided to confine the attendance upon camps to the local chapters, or to two or three local chapters coming together for a county camp. The hope was expressed, based on Dr. Knapp's address, that within a few years a state encampment might be combined with the annual meeting and both held at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

6. Policies of local chapters with reference to electing honorary members.

The President suggested that local chapters not overlook the importance of electing to honorary membership local advisers and influential and helpful members of the communities in which the chapters are located.

The Future Farmer song was sung several times during the meeting, led by Mr. C. R. Lee, local advisor, Sylacauga, Alabama.

The Treasurer, Mr. Jim Espy, reported that during the past year the total receipts were: \$438.60. The disbursements amounted to \$374.39, leaving a balance of \$64.21.

The Secretary, Mr. Oliver Manning, gave the following report:

"As secretary of the Alabama Association of Future Farmers of America during the past year, I have the following brief report to make:

"Alabama has secured its charter from the national organization and has in turn chartered 69 local chapters. There are 1249 active members in the organization.

"During January, the Executive Committee met at the State Department of Education and planned a program for the remainder of the year. In accordance with the plan of the Executive Committee, there have been issued three news letters since January.

"There has been set up an office with a part-time secretary. We have secured a typewriter, a typewriter table, and a file. You will be interested to know that a member of the Future Farmers of Alabama in the chapter at Ramer constructed the typewriter table. Permanent records will be kept from the date of the organization of the Association. Valuable information pertaining to the organization is available for members.

"From my contact and observations of the organization's activities during the past year, I am frank to say to you that I am very optimistic about the future of this very fine organization of boys throughout the State of Alabama. I look forward with confidence to another year, believing that the membership will have a decided increase and that the work done by the various local chapters as well as by the state organization will increase in both quality and quantity."

The meeting adjourned at five o'clock to the gymnasium where all attending the meeting had an opportunity to swim.

An evening session was held beginning at 7:30, at which time the State Farmer degree keys were awarded to the following:

Earl Solomon, Uriah  
Oliver Manning, Isabella  
Lloyd Ezell, Ozark  
Marvin M. Durbin, Isabella  
Joe Jennings, Reform  
Ralph Jones, Collinsville  
Sam Cummins, Reform  
Woodrow Bonner, Reform  
Curtis Elmore, Reform

The following persons were given the honorary degree of State Farmer and were awarded the State Farmer keys:

Dr. Bradford Knapp, Auburn  
Mr. R. E. Cammack, Montgomery

The following resolution was read and adopted:

"Report of Resolutions Committee, Alabama Association  
Future Farmers of America, July 12, 1930

"BE IT RESOLVED by the Alabama Association of Future Farmers of America in its first annual meeting held at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, July 11 and 12, that we extend to the following our most sincere thanks and appreciation for the courtesies extended:

"1. To Dr. Bradford Knapp, President, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, for his courtesy in extending to us the use of buildings and grounds and other facilities of the college in making our annual meeting a success.

"2. To Dean Funchess for providing an opportunity to visit the Experiment Station.

"3. To the Interfraternity Council for making available the fraternity houses in Auburn.

"4. To the college cafeteria for its consideration in furnishing meals at a reduced price.

"5. To the Tiger Theater for its courtesy in giving reduced prices on picture show and also showing the reel entitled, "The Boy with a Vision."

"6. To WAPI for giving time on its noon-day program for the broadcasting of the president's speech.

"Signed - Resolutions Committee, Future Farmers of Ala.  
W. L. Walsh, Chairman  
Oliver Manning  
Joo Jennings"

The following officers were elected for the year 1930-31:

President ..... Julous Connell, Blountsville  
Vice-President ..... C. W. Mason, Cherokee  
Secretary ..... Harvey Milligan, Ramer  
Treasurer ..... Philip Thomas, Athens  
Reporter ..... Marvin M. Durbin, Isabella  
Advisor ..... R. E. Cammack

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 o'clock. Just prior to the adjournment the President called on the State Advisor for a few remarks.