

Letter of Mr. Rufus W. Stimson to Dr. C. H. Lane, March 10, 1931

"The F.F.A. Constitution, Section C, reads in part," .... adopt a constitution not in conflict with the national constitution ...."; and our State Constitution membership article reads in part, but vital part, "....any student of vocational agriculture, who is regularly enrolled in a part-time, day unit, or all day class, is eligible to active membership ....".

"We draw no lines here at creed, color, or sex. Does this debar us?"

---

Letter of Dr. C. H. Lane to Mr. Rufus W. Stimson, March 14, 1931

"This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 10, and would say that there is only one line drawn in connection with the F.F.A. organization, and that is, it is a boy and man organization. It was so ordered by the boys in Annual Convention at Kansas City last fall. I think it would be well for you to bring this up at the regional conference for general discussion."

---

Letter of Mr. R. W. Stimson to Dr. C. H. Lane, September 5, 1931

"You will notice that we are reserving the right to a reasonable measure of home rule in the matter of membership. At the same time, we are guaranteeing you absolute protection against any intrusion of our principle into the affairs of your national organization.

"The situation is the one I presented at your last Regional conference in Boston. All our State contests sponsored by our State F.F.A. will be open to all our vocational pupils who can otherwise qualify, regardless of whether they are F.F.A. members or not. In spreading our F.F.A. faith, our method will be persuasion, not pressure. But we accept the restriction you impose as it applies to your national F. F. A. affairs. To this latter end, our guaranteeing statement, in our revised Constitution, ARTICLE III, Section B, reads:

"It is expressly provided that only male members shall be proposed for office, honors, or participation in contests, controlled by the National Association of Future Farmers of America."

---

Letter from Dr. C. H. Lane to Mr. Rufus W. Stimson, September 11, 1931

"All the flexibility possible is provided for States and local chapters in the F. F. A. as regards programs of work, the activities undertaken and the general operation of these units. However, the work of these units must not be in conflict with the provisions of the national constitution.

"The delegates to the national F.F.A. convention last year voted unanimously and with enthusiasm to make their organization one which is composed only of male members. This amendment to the constitution gave the National Board of Trustees no alternative in its interpretation of membership in the organization. It is simply one composed of male persons.

"This provision for male F.F.A. membership does not and should not interfere with the opening of your State contests to all students of vocational agriculture. It simply provides in a direct way for limiting recognition in regional and national F.F.A. contests to members only.

"I hope that you appreciate the position the Board of Trustees is placed in with reference to your special provision in granting an F.F.A. charter to Massachusetts.

---

Letter to Mr. W. A. Ross from Rufus W. Stimson, September 14, 1931

". . . . In all essentials so far as your National F. F. A. and its activities, offices, and honors, are concerned, our State Association is restricted to males.

"Our purely local or State affairs we ourselves are to govern.

"Take a broad view of this situation. Meet us in the spirit in which I presented the merits of your movement to our own people in my letter dated May 2, 1931, a copy of which I enclose."

---

Telegram  
~~Letter~~ to Rufus W. Stimson from W. A. Ross, September 21, 1931

"Since the National Constitution of the Future Farmers of America provides for and recognizes male members only it is with this interpretation and understanding of your constitution that the National Board of Trustees is willing to accept Massachusetts application and grant charter immediately."

---

Letter from Mr. Wm. L. Stimson to W. A. Ross, March 8, 1932

"As secretary of the Mass. Assn. of F.F.A. I have been requested to notify you: (1) that a constitution, revised so as to be in accord with your requests, was adopted at the last annual meeting; (2) that your telegram of September 21, 1931, to Mr. R. W. Stimson, has been incorporated in the records of the meeting at which this action was taken; (3) that the State charter has been accepted and the revised constitution adopted in the light of the telegram, and in the cooperative spirit it manifests on your part and presumes on ours; (4) to complete the record I am enclosing a copy of the Constitution and By Laws."

---

\* \* \*

Letter to Mr. W. A. Ross from R. W. Stimson, April 28, 1933

".... You will bear in mind that this is our largest chapter with a membership of 205. As your eye runs down the various committees, a folder for each of which is in the package I am sending you, you will find now and then the name of a girl. We have not juggled the records at all, desiring that the exhibit should represent exactly what is being done and by whom. Nevertheless, we are mindful of the note in our constitution, ARTICLE III. Membership, N.B.: "It is expressly provided that only male members shall be proposed for office, honors, or participation in contests, controlled by the National Association of Future Farmers of America."

"For purposes of this contest, may we not submit the material as it stands, simply asking that you consider erased the names of two or three girls which appear on some of the sheets?"

---

✓ Letter to R. W. Stimson from Vernon Howell, June 16, 1933

"It is impossible for the National Board of Trustees to accept the entry of the Essex Chapter of F.F.A. in the National Chapter contest. The National chapter contest is strictly a contest sponsored by the National organization, and since you have indicated you have five girls who have membership in the Essex Chapter, it will be impossible to accept the entry.

"I am greatly surprised that girls have been allowed membership in the Future Farmers of America organization in Massachusetts. We have in our files the copy of a telegram sent to you September 21, 1931, which reads as follows:

"Since the National constitution of the F.F.A. provides and recognizes male members only it is with this interpretation and understanding of your constitution that the National Board of Trustees is willing to accept Massachusetts application and grant charter immediately.  
W. A. Ross"

"No girl student in vocational agriculture will be allowed active membership in the Future Farmers of America organization, and unless Massachusetts complies with this article of the constitution drastic action by the National Board of Trustees will be necessary."

Letter from Rufus W. Stimson to Vernon Howell, July 12, 1933

Returning from two weeks of vacation, I have found a letter dated at Washington, D. C. June 16, 1933, and received here twelve days later over your official signature. This letter declares that F.F.A. membership must be limited to male members only. To the telegram quoted in that letter, I replied, September 22, 1931, by telegraph, to Mr. Ross as follows:

"THANKS FOR TELEGRAM SAYING MASSACHUSETTS HAS BEEN GRANTED A FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA CHARTER. WILL SUBMIT THIS TELEGRAM TO OUR BOYS FOR THEIR INTERPRETATION AND ACTION AT THEIR FIRST LEGALLY HELD MEETING."

Dr. Lane, Mr. Ross, Mr. W. J. Weaver, recently elected North Atlantic Region Representative in the National F.F.A. Advisory Council, and other F.F.A. wellwishers, knew of our opposition to restricting our Massachusetts Association membership to narrower limits than those governing admission to vocational agricultural education schools and departments in Massachusetts. We had been urged to organize an F.F.A. State Association, apply to the National F.F.A. for a Charter with this reservation, and "see what happens." We had proceeded to do so under the name Massachusetts Young Farmers Association, and the active membership section in our Constitution was modelled on Article III, Section B of the original F.F.A. Constitution, published in the revised Manual for Future Farmers of America and copyrighted as of the dates April 1930 and January 1931. You will recall that this paragraph begins as follows: "Any student of vocational agriculture, who is regularly enrolled in a part-time, day unit, or all-day class, is entitled to active membership in the Future Farmers of America organization ..."

We incorporated our F.F.A. activities, as an important addition, into the instructional program of our vocational agricultural education service. In no other way could we have justified expenditure of public funds for performance of the advisory activities involved in our F.F.A. organization and connections. To us the F.F.A. was not, and is not, "Just another private fraternity for high school pupils." Being part of our public vocational education service, we could not approve any other membership arrangement.

Our Constitution as submitted was perfectly plain in this regard. In its first form it was returned for certain revisions suggested by Executive Secretary Ross, including the change of name, and set-up of membership grades which we were very glad to concede. It was finally forwarded with our application for a Charter in the form you will find herewith. See Exhibit B, Article III, Section B, and "Note."

Letter from Rufus W. Stimson to Vernon Howell, July 12, 1933 - contd.

"To help your Board of Trustees see the situation and meet it as we saw it and are meeting it, I wrote Mr. Ross September 14, 1931 a letter, a copy of which you will find herewith. See Exhibit C.

For our State purposes, we definitely agreed not to propose for office, honors, or participation in contests controlled by the National Association of the Future Farmers of America any but male members.

The Note in our Constitution was proposed and has been adhered to in good faith. When we, like all State Associations, were asked to enter three chapters in the National Chapter Contest, and I was authorized at the Annual meeting of our Association to enter our Dartmouth, Essex, and West Springfield Chapters, I asked Executive Secretary Ross to treat as if erased from all consideration the name of any girl who might appear in the roster of the Essex Chapter, or, if he found this would not be acceptable, to notify me soon in order that the Essex Chapter might be spared any extra expense for photographs and the like. There are no girls in either of the other two chapters. In the Essex membership of 205, there is a non-male dilution of  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ . The non-male dilution for the State is probably less than 1%. Is it not enough for the Board of Trustees, since it is not willing to treat those names as if erased, to return this Essex Chapter entry and let the matter rest?

I will advise our boys to support the "Note" above mentioned by the further procedure of omitting all but male members in reporting membership statistics to the National Executive Secretary, and of restricting payment of dues to the National Treasury to male members only.

It seems to us only reasonable that your Board of Trustees allow us this latitude. Our boys, when Mr. Ross's telegram which you quote and my telegram to Mr. Ross above quoted, were submitted to them, put this interpretation upon the granting of the Charter. The Constitution submitted exactly in the form shown in Exhibit B herewith was ratified. Your telegram did not read: "Constitution not approved. Your application, therefore, rejected." We have never put before your Board of Trustees any other form of Constitution since, nor have we been called upon to do so. Our boys and their advisers believed that this latitude had been allowed. Hence our active F.F.A. work.

We have held our local, district, and State public speaking contest eliminations. They have been sponsored by the F.F.A., but have been open to all vocational agricultural pupils. At the final contest, the speaker ranked highest by the judges was a member of the recently organized Reading High School Chapter of F.F.A. We were among the pioneers among vocational agricultural schools and departments in starting public speaking contests, and were only too glad to swing our contests into line for regional and national F.F.A. contests by making them a means of nominating a creditable F.F.A. member for participation. We have been to considerable trouble and expense in helping to find regional contest judges, quarters, and prizes. Our great aim has been to help those in charge of your F.F.A. public speaking contests to keep them to the highest possible levels of competitive excellence. The boy we have chosen and now hold in readiness to enter at the proper time

this year, we think, will creditably contribute toward maintaining the best traditions in this field of activity. He happens to be from a chapter which is made up of male members only.

You may ask why such an ado about straight vocational agricultural membership. It is simply a matter of fair play and sound vocational education policy with us. Women own and profitably operate farms in Massachusetts. Girls who can profit from the instruction and who desire to do so are admitted to our vocational agricultural departments on equal terms with boys. That is why we admit them for our State purposes on equal terms with boys to this association, on the management of which we have to spend vocational education money. 4-H clubs, supported by public funds; here as everywhere, are open on equal terms to boys and girls. Our Department of Agriculture for many years had made a feature at its big annual meeting of awarding gold medals. Women farmers of Massachusetts have been awarded gold medals by our Department of Agriculture, because of their outstanding agricultural achievements. Gold medals have not been confined to male members only.

The enrollment in our vocational agricultural schools and departments includes racial stocks in the widest variety. Old-time Yankees, Scandinavians, Irish, French, Polish, Portuguese, Negro, and Indian, to mention a few. Our enrollment includes Roman Catholics, Protestants, Hebrews; and for aught we know, since we never ask anybody what his religious relationships are, some who may be without denominational religious affiliations. Just as there is no discrimination here as to race, or religion, so there is none with relation to sex in our educational program.

Our loyalty with reference to the activities of the National F.F.A. cannot be questioned. We pay our dues. We have responded to requests that we enter competitions. Very recently on my request, our Governor commissioned one of our fine farm boys to represent us officially at the dedication of an F.F.A. room at the Thomas Jefferson shrine, in connection with the much advertised F.F.A. Pilgrimage to Monticello; and he was accompanied by two other boys and two advisers at no small expense, and in a highly hazardous year for such an undertaking.

You have everything to gain and nothing to lose by permitting us to continue membership in the National F.F.A. in accordance with the terms explicitly stated in the membership paragraph and Note to which reference has been made.

We thought you would be more interested in the splendid F.F.A. accomplishments of our largest Chapter, the Essex Chapter, than you would be disturbed by the negligible non-male dilution in its membership. In this we were mistaken. We are willing to accept your slap on the wrist for the error. You need have no fear of ever being disturbed again by a similar offering from our State.

There is nothing in the situation, as we see it, to necessitate the interruption of work and the considerable expense of calling a State F.F.A. meeting. Only such a meeting, called with the necessary 30 days notice, would have authority to make any change in our State F.F.A. Constitution.

If we have been mistaken, our mistake has been born of the belief that the National Board of Trustees had decided to permit to a State, in its purely internal affairs, the minimum of self-determination embodied in our State F.F.A. Constitution. If the Board feels itself debarred from favorable action, why not amend the National F.F.A. Constitution so as to permit the reasonable degree of self-determination in purely internal State F.F.A. matters we had supposed had been granted.

If we have been mistaken, and your last paragraph is final, what drastic action do you propose? If we are to be disciplined by suspension of all F.F.A. privileges until a State F.F.A. meeting has been held for review and final action, or if summary expulsion is considered necessary, why not let it date from July 1, 1933? There will, then, be no fragment of a new fiscal year to bother with.

We hope your Board of Trustees will decide to allow us the modest degree of self-determination our present Constitution establishes, or put through a Constitutional amendment that will permit it. Having again restated our case for the information of any new comers on the Board, we await your final ruling on our present status, or your advice as to future procedure."

---

Letter from Vernon Howell to Rufus W. Stimson, August 1, 1933

"In reply to your letter of July 12, I say again that due to the clause in our national constitution which limits our membership to male students of vocational agriculture, it is impossible to accept the names or dues of girl students upon our national list of membership in the F.F.A. This is a boys organization!

We, the executive committee, appreciate the efforts of the Massachusetts F.F.A. to cooperate with the National organization and hope to continue pleasant associations with you.

I will take the matter up again with the executive committee at Kansas City in November and will advise you immediately of their further pleasure in allowing you to keep the names of girl students upon your State roll."

---

Letter from W. A. Ross to Vernon Howell, August 9, 1933

"Your letter of August 1 is acknowledged. It is too bad about the Massachusetts situation, but I think you wrote a very good answer to Mr. Stimson's letter. The only thing we can do is to put this matter up to the boys and let them settle it at the national convention."

---



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Education

Division of Vocational Education

State House, Boston

July 12, 1933.

Mr. Vernon Howell, National President, - 5th National FFA President (1932-33)
Future Farmers of America,
1800 E Street, Northwest,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Howell:

Returning from two weeks of vacation, I have found a letter dated at Washington, D. C., June 16, 1933, and received here twelve days later over your official signature. This letter declares that F. F. A. membership must be limited to male members only. To the telegram quoted in that letter, I replied, September 22, 1931, by telegraph, to Mr. Ross as follows:

"THANKS FOR TELEGRAM SAYING MASSACHUSETTS HAS BEEN GRANTED A FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA CHARTER. WILL SUBMIT THIS TELEGRAM TO OUR BOYS FOR THEIR INTERPRETATION AND ACTION AT THEIR FIRST LEGALLY HELD MEETING."

Dr. Lane, Mr. Ross, Mr. W. J. Weaver, recently elected North Atlantic Region Representative in the National F. F. A. Advisory Council, and other F. F. A. wellwishers, knew of our opposition to restricting our Massachusetts Association membership to narrower limits than those governing admission to vocational agricultural education schools and departments in Massachusetts. We had been urged to organize an F. F. A. State Association, apply to the National F. F. A. for a Charter with this reservation, and "see what happens." We had proceeded to do so under the name Massachusetts Young Farmers Association, and the active membership section in our Constitution was modelled on Article III, Section B of the original F. F. A. Constitution, published in the revised Manual for Future Farmers of America and copyrighted as of the dates April 1930 and January 1931. You will recall that this paragraph begins as follows: "Any student of vocational agriculture, who is regularly enrolled in a part-time, day-unit, or all-day class, is entitled to active membership in the Future Farmers of America organization . . ."

We incorporated our F. F. A. activities, as an important addition, into the instructional program of our voca-



tional agricultural education service. In no other way could we have justified expenditure of public funds for performance of the advisory activities involved in our F. F. A. organization and connections. To us the F. F. A. was not, and is not, "Just another private fraternity for high school pupils." Being part of our public vocational education service, we could not approve any other membership arrangement.

Our Constitution as submitted was perfectly plain in this regard. In its first form it was returned for certain revisions suggested by Executive Secretary Ross, including the change of name, and set-up of membership grades which we were very glad to concede. It was finally forwarded with our application for a Charter in the form you will find herewith. See Exhibit B, Article III, Section B, and "Note."

To help your Board of Trustees see the situation and meet it as we saw it and are meeting it, I wrote Mr. Ross September 14, 1931, a letter, a copy of which you will find herewith. See Exhibit C.

For our State purposes, we definitely reserved the right of extending membership to any vocational agricultural pupil in good standing.

For your National purposes, we definitely agreed not to propose for office, honors, or participation in contests controlled by the National Association of the Future Farmers of America any but male members.

The Note in our constitution was proposed and has been adhered to in good faith. When we, like all State Associations, were asked to enter three chapters in the National Chapter Contest, and I was authorized at the Annual Meeting of our Association to enter our Dartmouth, Essex, and West Springfield Chapters, I asked Executive Secretary Ross to treat as if erased from all consideration the name of any girl who might appear in the roster of the Essex Chapter, or, if he found this would not be acceptable, to notify me soon in order that the Essex Chapter might be spared any extra expense for photographs and the like. There are no girls in either of the other two chapters. In the Essex membership of 205, there is a non-male dilution of 24%. The non-male dilution for the State is probably less than 1%. Is it not enough for the Board of Trustees, since it is not willing to treat those names as if erased, to return this Essex Chapter entry and let the matter rest?

I will advise our boys to support the "Note" above mentioned by the further procedure of omitting all but male members in reporting membership statistics to the National Executive Secretary, and of restricting payment of dues to the National Treasury to male members only.

It seems to us only reasonable that your Board of Trustees allow us this latitude. Our boys, when Mr. Ross's telegram which you quote and my telegram to Mr. Ross above quoted, were submitted to them, put this interpretation upon the granting of the Charter. The Constitution submitted exactly in the form shown in Exhibit B herewith was ratified. Your telegram did not read: "Constitution not approved. Your application, therefore, rejected." We have never put before your Board of Trustees any other form of Constitution since, nor have we been called upon to do so. Our boys and their advisers believed that this latitude had been allowed. Hence our active F. F. A. work.

We have held our local, district, and State public speaking contest eliminations. They have been sponsored by the F. F. A., but have been open to all vocational agricultural pupils. At the final contest, the speaker ranked highest by the judges was a member of the recently organized Reading High School Chapter of F. F. A. We were among the pioneers among vocational agricultural schools and departments in starting public speaking contests, and were only too glad to swing our contests into line for regional and national F. F. A. contests by making them a means of nominating a creditable F. F. A. member for participation. We have been to considerable trouble and expense in helping to find regional contest judges, quarters, and prizes. Our great aim has been to help those in charge of your F. F. A. public speaking contests to keep them to the highest possible levels of competitive excellence. The boy we have chosen and now hold in readiness to enter at the proper time this year, we think, will creditably contribute toward maintaining the best traditions in this field of activity. He happens to be from a chapter which is made up of male members only.

You may ask why such an ado about straight vocational agricultural membership. It is simply a matter of fair play and sound vocational education policy with us. Women own and profitably operate farms in Massachusetts. Girls who can profit from the instruction and who desire to do so are admitted to our vocational agricultural departments on equal terms with boys. That is why we admit them for our State purposes on equal terms with boys to this association, on the management of which we have to spend vocational education money. 4-H clubs, supported by public funds, here as everywhere, are open on equal terms to boys and girls. Our Department of Agriculture for many years has made a feature at its big annual meeting of awarding gold medals. Women farmers of Massachusetts have been awarded gold medals by our Department of Agriculture, because of their outstanding agricultural achievements. Gold medals have not been confined to male farmers only.

The enrollment in our vocational agricultural schools and departments includes racial stocks in the widest variety.

Old-time Yankees, Scandinavians, Irish, French, Polish, Portuguese, Negro, and Indian, to mention a few. Our enrollment includes Roman Catholics, Protestants, Hebrews; and for aught we know, since we never ask anybody what his religious relationships are, some who may be without denominational religious affiliations. Just as there is no discrimination here as to race, or religion, so there is none with relation to sex in our educational program.

Our loyalty with reference to the activities of the National F. F. A. can not be questioned. We pay our dues. We have responded to requests that we enter competitions. Very recently on my request, our Governor commissioned one of our fine farm boys to represent us officially at the dedication of an F. F. A. room at the Thomas Jefferson shrine, in connection with the much advertised F. F. A. Pilgrimage to Monticello; and he was accompanied by two other boys and two advisers at no small expense, and in a highly hazardous year for such an undertaking.

You have everything to gain and nothing to lose by permitting us to continue membership in the National F. F. A. in accordance with the terms explicitly stated in the membership paragraph and Note to which reference above has been made.

We thought you would be more interested in the splendid F. F. A. accomplishments of our largest Chapter, the Essex Chapter, than you would be disturbed by the negligible non-male dilution in its membership. In this we were mistaken. We are willing to accept your slap on the wrist for the error. You need have no fear of ever being disturbed again by a similar offering from our State.

There is nothing in the situation, as we see it, to necessitate the interruption of work and the considerable expense of calling a State F. F. A. meeting. Only such a meeting, called with the necessary thirty days notice, would have authority to make any change in our State F. F. A. Constitution.

If we have been mistaken, our mistake has been born of the belief that the National Board of Trustees had decided to permit to a State, in its purely internal affairs, the minimum of self-determination embodied in our State F. F. A. Constitution. If the Board feels itself debarred from favorable action, why not amend the National F. F. A. Constitution so as to permit the reasonable degree of self-determination in purely internal State F. F. A. matters we had supposed had been granted?

If we have been mistaken, and your last paragraph is final, what drastic action do you propose? If we are to be disciplined by suspension of all F. F. A. privileges until a State F. F. A. meeting has been held for review and final action,

Mr. Vernon Howell,

- 5 -

6/12/33.

or if summary expulsion is considered necessary, why not let it date from July 1, 1933? There will, then, be no fragment of a new fiscal year to bother with.

We hope your Board of Trustees will decide to allow us the modest degree of self-determination our present Constitution establishes, or put through a Constitutional amendment that will permit it. Having again restated our case for the information of any new comers on the Board, we await your final ruling on our present status, or your advice as to future procedure.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ RUFUS W. STIMSON.

Supervisor of Agricultural Education,  
and State F. F. Adviser.

RWS/MFT  
Enc.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL TEACHER-TRAINING OFFICE

203 STOCKBRIDGE HALL  
AMHERST, MASS.

July 17, 1933

Mr. Rufus W. Stimson  
Supervisor of Vocational Education  
Room 213, State House  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Stimson:

The only "drastic action" that the national organization of the F.F.A. can take, (as suggested by the letter of Mr. Howell) is to kick Massachusetts out of the union. How that will affect the general welfare of vocational education in these troublesome times remains to be seen.

The charter for the Massachusetts Association was granted after the State reservations regarding membership had been fully explained and with the proviso that sex, race or creed could not be required as a credential for local membership in this state.

If the trustees of the national group repudiate this agreement, the sooner Massachusetts is out, the better. I certainly advise no modification of that fundamental principle. We can go alone as we did without "Young Farmers' Association."

This illustrates an inherent weakness in the whole plan. Mr. Howell and his associates had no part in the earlier understanding three years ago. Today they are officious and full of power. Three years hence they will cease to be active members.

In other words, constructive growth and increasing harmony may any year be upset by new comers. Mr. Small is right in saying that "Ballyhoo" plays too large a part and real cooperative, constructive effort too little. The strength of the organization is in its local units and its weakness in the national federation.

Because of the benefits I have seen at places like Essex County and West Springfield, I hope this little flurry will blow over. Otherwise, I should say, "Withdraw at once."

I understand that the rule against the participation of girls is a bit of snobbishness entirely out of line with the purposes of the organization. However, I realize that few states have real vocational girl members in their agricultural departments in the sense we do here. At any rate, I am sure our whole family will stand together, though I am sure this present action at Washington will result in delaying other chapters in Massachusetts

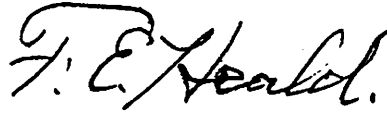
Mr. Stimson

July 17, 1933

which we thought were about to organize.

The address used by Mr. Howell appears to be that of the Federal Board for Vocational Education.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. E. Heald".

F. E. Heald, Supervisor  
Teacher-Training Agricultural Education

FEH:IHP

The State Education Department  
Albany

Agricultural Education Bureau

Arthur K. Getman, Chief  
W. Jack Weaver, Supervisor

November 28, 1933.

Mr. Rufus W. Stimson,  
State House,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Mr. Stimson:

I have just returned from the Kansas City National F.F.A. Meeting and I want to take this occasion to congratulate you on the very fine success of Richardson in the National Speaking Contest. He gave his talk in a very excellent manner and was clearly, correctly placed as the winner.

I am sorry that I cannot report an equal degree of success with the National Board of Trustees in the matter of an amendment to the Constitution, whereby a State would be permitted to determine its own procedure in respect to female members, in relation to its own State affairs.

The 1932 Convention of delegates appointed the Board of Trustees as a committee to bring in a revised Constitution for approval of the delegates at the 1933 meeting. The Board of Trustees, as you know, is made up of the six student officers, the National Adviser, the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer. Mr. Groseclose, the Treasurer, was ill and unable to be at the meeting.

It seemed to be very difficult for the members of the Board of Trustees and the delegates to differentiate between the two problems, (1) the desirability of females as members of the F.F.A., on a national basis, and (2) the right of any State to determine upon its own procedure in all matters relating to its purely local or internal affairs.

I defended, in the Advisory Council Meeting, the amendment to the Constitution covering this matter which I had proposed in my letter of November 14, to Dr. Lane. The Advisory Council meeting was attended by Dr. Lane, Mr. Pollom of Kansas and myself.

Later, I was invited by Dr. Lane to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees, which was attended by the six student officers, Mr. Ross and Dr. Lane, and again defended the matter on the grounds that all local and State affairs within a State should be left for the different States to determine.

This was as far as I could go. At the delegate meeting, only delegates, student officers, National Adviser, Executive Secretary and Treasurer have the right to speak, except as requested to do so by the President.

At the delegate meeting, Richardson presented the case very well, I thought, in defending the right of any State to determine its own local procedures, but the delegates could not view it on this broader basis and seemed to discuss it from their own personal feelings that they did not want girls in the F.F.A. organization.

The outcome of the whole matter is that the Constitution was not liberalized in this respect to the extent that you and I believe desirable, and also, a motion was made and passed to the effect that Massachusetts be given three months to comply with the National Constitution under penalty of suspension of the F.F.A. Charter by the Board of Trustees, if the conditions of the Constitution were not met.

It is likely that you will hear from Mr. Ross, Executive Secretary, sometime in the near future.

I am reciting this to you in fulfilling what I believe to be my obligation as a member of the Advisory Council representing the North Atlantic Region.

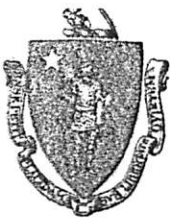
Sincerely yours,

/s/ W. J. Weaver

W. J. Weaver

WJW:HAS





*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Department of Education*

*State House, Boston* December 22, 1933.

Mr. W. Jack Weaver, Supervisor,  
State Education Department,  
University of the State of New York,  
Albany, New York.

My dear Mr. Weaver:

Mr. Williams has had no funds from which to pay the necessary expenses of those who have been invited to judge at the Regional Public Speaking Contests, held at Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts men who could take care of their own travel have been his sole reliance.

To insure impartial judging, under these circumstances, you may remember that I made strong representations to Mr. Williams in favor of keeping off the programs, distributed at these events, and not placing in the hands of the judges, anything which might indicate the States represented by the speakers. He had a feeling that the program would be much more interesting if the audience knew the States represented by the several participants. I argued, however, that not merely in fairness to boys in other States but in fairness to the boy from Massachusetts, change to the type of program recommended ought to be made. A boy with a Massachusetts label on him would have to be twice as good as a boy from almost any other State in order to win recognition in an event judged solely by men from Massachusetts. Such men would be in constant fear lest they show, or be charged with showing, partiality to a boy from their own state.

It seems to me that the change made has justified itself. Any Massachusetts boy who has been placed first has "brought home the bacon" from the final at Kansas City. In spite of this precaution, however, which has more recently been in effect, I heard a whisper after the Regional Contest last September indicating unrest among the coaches with boys in the contest over confinement to judges to Massachusetts residents. This being the case, I was doubly delighted to have Richardson rise to first place at Kansas City. This achievement must have done something to establish in the minds of the whisperers a feeling that the boy had really been placed first at Springfield on merit.

No one can with equanimity contemplate continuance of such whisperings. Hence this letter, in which I wish to urge that you, as a member of the Advisory Council from the North Atlantic Region, make every effort to have National F.F.A. funds put at the disposal of Mr. Williams for travel expenses of judges, no two of whom, following such action, shall come from a single State.

P.S. The copy of the tentative draft of a possible letter to Dr. Lane, which you requested, is enclosed herewith. This letter has not yet been signed. Dr. Lane's reply to you may make it unnecessary.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ R. W. STIMSON.

Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

RWS/ETK

*Sullivan*

December 22, 1933

Mr. D. M. Clements  
State Department of Education  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Clements:

You will probably recall that the Future Farmers of America constitution originally permitted girls to be members of the organization. Later the delegates in annual convention amended the constitution making it a male organization.

This last year it was found that Massachusetts had girls who were members of the organization, and as I recall one chapter had as its secretary a girl, who of course was taking vocational agriculture in the school. The Board of Trustees was advised of this apparent violation of the constitution by Massachusetts, the question was discussed fully and was then brought to the attention of the delegates, without any recommendations, on the floor of the convention. I wish you could have been there to witness the enthusiastic and at some times hot discussion of the question. It was perfectly evident to everyone listening in that the delegates felt that Massachusetts had violated the constitution. She was defended by a Massachusetts delegate, who by the way was Albert Richardson the winner of the public speaking contest. After hours of heated discussion the delegates voted that "Massachusetts Association be given three months to conform to the national constitution or the Board of Trustees be instructed to suspend them." If there was any voting against this it was not so recorded.

Mr. W. J. Weaver, member of the National Advisory Council writes me under date of December 18 as follows: "In the interest of fairness and in the interest of building a sound organization that cannot be attacked as something private and outside of the vocational agricultural education program, as chairman of the Council I suggest that you poll the other members of the Council, explain the situation to them and obtain a veto vote. This would allow you to stay action until the next annual convention when the matter may be brought up again and properly set up." You will observe that there are two implications in this paragraph. First that the National Advisory Council will veto the action of the delegates and second, that the whole proposition was not set up properly to the delegates.

Mr. Weaver was present and heard the discussion referred to above. So was I, and if I ever witnessed a group that I thought was for a proposition it was those delegates who were absolutely convinced in their minds that Massachusetts had violated the constitution and "should be punished" as one delegate said.

Please let me have your reaction as soon as possible in accordance with your responsibility under the by-laws concerning the duties of the members of the National Advisory Council.

Sincerely yours,

CHL:wj  
C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1933 DEC-27- AM 9:37

December 26, 1933

Mr. W. J. Weaver  
State Department of Education  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Weaver:

Replying to your letter of December 18, I am glad to know that you felt that on the whole the entire vocational program at Kansas City was carried through satisfactorily.

I see that you are not satisfied with the way the Advisory Council is functioning. I shall be glad to have your outline in detail on paper of what you believe to be sound procedure for this body to follow.

I thoroughly agree with you that there could be more than one meeting of the Advisory Council each year. One meeting a year with 2 or 3 members out of the 5 always absent, is far from satisfactory, but I appreciate what some of the State men are confronted with from the standpoint of travel outside the State. The vocational congress comes near the time of the A.V.A. meeting and members of the Advisory Council are those which have their choice of attending the convention at Kansas City or the annual convention of the A.V.A. I know one member of the Council chose the latter this year and another member had planned to but for some unknown reason did not make it.

Your proposed amendment with reference to male membership in the Future Farmers of America constitution was presented to the Board of Trustees with the advantages and disadvantages of the amendment as I saw it and as members of the National Advisory Council saw the situation. I don't know where you got the notion that your amendment "would have been satisfactory to every State." Perhaps you were thinking of the supervisors in the North Atlantic Region because I have yet to have a State supervisor except you and Mr. Stimson object to the constitution as it now reads with reference to male membership.

I have already explained the situation with reference to Massachusetts protest on the male membership proposition to the other members of the Advisory Council. This matter was brought to their attention before the convention in Chicago and they all voted to go along with the present constitution except you.

I am rather interested in the last sentence of your letter where you imply that this matter was not properly set up at the last Future Farmer convention. I would be glad to get your idea as to how it should be set up in order that I might check it against what was actually done. You understand I have no corner on procedures to be followed in performing my duties as national adviser of the F.F.A. My mind is wide open for suggestions.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

CHL:rwj

C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

TOPEKA, KANSAS

Dec. 27, 1933

FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1933 DEC-20 PM 1:20

Dr. C.H. Lane, Chief,  
Agricultural Edu. Service,  
Office of Education,  
Hurley-Wright Bldg.,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Lane:

I was not at the meeting of delegates at which the Massachusetts matter came up but Professor Davidson of our state was in attendance and his description of the discussion compared favorably with yours.

I do not see how we could contend that the Future Farmers of America is an organization belonging to its members should an Advisory Council of four members over-ride their best judgment in the matter. While their action may cause the loss of Massachusetts to the Future Farmer program, and to that extent injure the program, in my opinion not nearly as much harm would be done as would be done in over-riding or attempting to over-ride the vote of the delegates.

Moreover, thousands of Future Farmer boys would lose their respect for the organization if girls are admitted, thereby doing far more injury than the dropping out of one or two states. The whole affair has the appearance of one state attempting to dictate to the other forty-seven. I am not in favor of attempting a veto of the action taken by the boys.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,



Lester B. Pollom,  
Supervisor, Vocational Agriculture.

LP:R



*Department of Education*

*State House, Boston* December 28, 1933.

Mr. Bobby Jones, President,  
Future Farmers of America,  
Radnor, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Jones:

Your letter of the 26th instant needs correction. The action you report was not unanimous. Richardson of Massachusetts opposed it. And I am told that there were other sympathizers with our cause present.

It needs correction in another particular. You do not state that the action threatening to oust Massachusetts has been approved by the National Advisory Council of the F. F. A. Until so approved, no action by your Board of Trustees or delegates to a National F. F. A. Convention can be official.

Ground for the foregoing statements you will find in the following two paragraphs from your National F.F.A. By-Laws:

"This National Advisory Council shall cooperate with and serve in an advisory capacity to the National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America on the administrative direction and leadership of the organization.

"The National Advisory Council shall possess the power of approval at all times, of the actions of the Board of Trustees and delegates to the National Convention."

In our Massachusetts Vocational Agricultural Education program, including what we view as certain very important F. F. A. educational activities within that program, no lines can be drawn of race, religion, color or sex.

The original National F. F. A. Constitution was sound in this respect. In its present amended form it is unsound.

We have not <sup>made</sup> a public issue of this, and hope not to be forced to do so. We have not demanded that the National F. F. A. Constitution be restored to its first form.

All we have asked has been the right to control our State and local F. F. A. affairs in such ways as to be in accord with the Constitution of our Commonwealth.

Mr. Bobby Jones.

December 28, 1933.

If you will line up on this issue with Mr. W. J. Weaver, our North Atlantic Region representative in the National Adgisory Council, I believe that you will be acting in the best interests of public education, as well as the permanent welfare of your National F. F. A.

Having met you and heard you speak at Springfield, I feel ahmost as if we were personally acquainted. We all felt a warm glow of satisfaction when news of your elevation to your present high office was flashed to us.

You, as President of the F. F. A., will, I am confident, try to be just and fair.

We hope for better news from you before our Annual F. F. A. Meeting, March 24, 1934.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ R. W. STIMSON

Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

RWS/ETK



# Department of Education

Vocational Education

Nashville

Dec. 29, 1933.

FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1934 JAN - 2 - AM 9 : 18

Dr. C. H. Lane,  
U.S. Dept. of Interior,  
Office of Education,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Lane:

I have your letter in regard to  
the situation in Massachusetts.

As a member of the Advisory Com-  
mittee of the South, I wish to accept the action  
of the delegates at the National Convention to  
the effect that Massachusetts not be given more  
than three months to conform to the National Con-  
stitution.

Very truly yours,

*D. M. Clements*

DMC/F

D.M. Clements  
State Supervisor of Vocational  
Agriculture.



CRIC STATE TEACHERS COLLE  
EDWARD W. EVERETT  
LOS ANGELES OFFICE  
HOWARD F. CHAPPELL  
SACRAMENTO OFFICE  
B. R. DENBIGH  
FRESNO STATE TEACHERS COLLE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**Department of Education**

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

517 LIBRARY AND COURTS BUILDING  
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

California Polytechnic School  
San Luis Obispo, California

December 29, 1933

FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1934 JAN - 3 - AM 11:36

Dr. C. H. Lane  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Education  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Lane:

I received your letter of December 22 with reference to the action of the Board of Trustees and delegates of the 1933 F. F. A. Convention regarding Massachusetts' violation of the constitution in permitting girls to become members of their organization.

I concur in the action of the Board of Trustees and delegates that the "Massachusetts Association be given three months to conform to the national constitution or the Board of Trustees be instructed to suspend them".

Very sincerely yours,

*Julian A. McPhee*  
Chief, Bureau of  
Agricultural Education

20:58



Department of Education

State House, Boston December 30, 1933.

1934 JAN - 2 - AM 9:13  
FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Dr. C. H. Lane, Chief,  
Agricultural Education Service,  
Office of Education,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Lane:

Travel to Boston on the F. F. A. issue would be a waste of time and money.

Either we are using public funds in operating the F. F. A. as part of our publicly supported and controlled system of vocational agricultural education, or we are not.


If we are, use the same means of getting out of the National F. F. A. Constitution the present unsound membership restriction, which you used effectively in getting it into that Constitution. That will stop this trouble.

Or, get the Weaver amendment passed. This would permit Massachusetts to continue its F. F. A. associations and activities, in spite of that still unsound membership restriction.

I shall not approve expenditure of public funds for the support of any program in Massachusetts which draws a line against race, religion, color, or sex that would operate to exclude any otherwise eligible person from full participation in our State-aided program of vocational agricultural education.

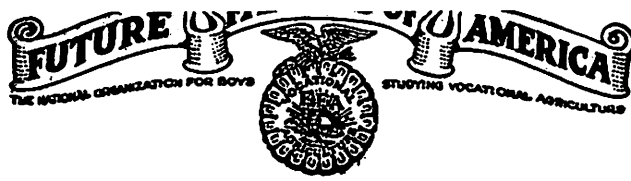
This is my answer to your suggestion, in a letter to Mr. Stimson dated December 28, 1933, that you come to Boston for a conference in my office on this subject.

Respectfully yours,

  
Director,  
Division of Vocational Education.

RWS/MFF

Small



December 30, 1912  
Radnor, Ohio.

Mr. Rufus W. Stimson.  
State Advisor  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Stimson:

You probably have been informed of the action taken by the National Convention in Kansas City by your delegate Mr. Richardson in connection with F.F.A. membership qualifications.

"Delegate Stewart of Montana moved that the Massachusetts Association be given three months to conform to the national constitution or the Board of Trustees be instructed to suspend Massachusetts. Motion seconded and carried unanimously."

I think it is only fair that you be officially notified of such action. As president of the National Organization I wish to make the notification official. I sincerely hope that the state of Massachusetts may continue in the National Organization.

Yours respectfully  
Bobby Jones  
Pres. Natl. F.F.A.

*Handwritten initials/signature*

January 2, 1934

FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

1934 JAN - 2 - PM 3 : 35

Mr. L. B. Pollon  
Supervisor, Vocational Agriculture  
Topeka, Kansas - *77A*

Dear Mr. Pollon:

Replying to your letter of December 27 the National F. F. A. Advisory Council is designed really for one purpose, and that is to disapprove or veto any action taken by the delegates in annual convention which is in conflict with the policies set up by the Federal Board in its administration of vocational education in cooperation with the 48 State boards. I can't see that the action taken by the delegates in any way violates these policies and therefore, concur in your opinion on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

CHL:wj

January 8, 1934

Dr. R. C. Small, Director  
Division of Vocational Education  
Department of Education  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear friend Small:

I have a copy of your letter of December 30 to Dr. Lane. I wish that I had a copy of Lane's letter to you before me. In all kindness, friend Small, I wish to state that I believe that you are incorrect in your position. In the first place there is an implication in the letter that some one has influenced the Future Farmer of America boys to make their organization exclusively a boys' organization. I have been present at the meeting at Kansas City and have heard the discussions of the boys. I feel that the boys are overwhelmingly back of an organization for boys. I, personally, would look with alarm on any vocational organization in vocational agriculture that would attract any considerable number of girls. West Virginia has not a single girl taking Vocational Agriculture in our white schools at the present time. Our schools are fast approaching real vocational agriculture schools. When we had girls taking the work they were nothing more than practicalized general education.

In the second place the tone of your letter would indicate that you in Massachusetts as representing one of 48 states, want to enter a baseball game, figuratively speaking, as one of the players, but you wish to make your own rules for running the game, and insist that all the others let you do it. I see no particular reason why Massachusetts should have ever received a National Charter since she did not subscribe full-heartedly to the constitution and by-laws of the National Organization. In most things friend Weaver and I agree, but I most certainly do not agree with the compromise measure proposed by Mr. Weaver.

Now, good friend Small, there is yet one outlet for your Vocational Agriculture boys and girls, and that is the 4-H Clubs. I would commend them to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. V. Ankeney  
State Supervisor of  
Vocational Agriculture

JVA:cb

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
ALBANY

LEWIS A. WILSON  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR VOCATIONAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION

1934 JAN - 18 - AM 11:15  
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BUREAU  
ARTHUR K. GETMAN, CHIEF  
W. J. WEAVER, SUPERVISOR  
FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

January 13, 1934

Dr C. H. Lane  
Office of Education  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Doctor Lane:

I want to urge you again to employ any legitimate way that may be open, in order to stay action on the proposition passed at the National F.F.A. convention, which, if carried out, would unjustly deprive Massachusetts of membership in the national organization of F.F.A.

In my letter of December 18, I made the suggestion that a veto vote by the Advisory Council would give the National Officers constitutional backing whereby action could be held up until further consideration could be given to the matter at the next delegate meeting. If there are other ways open to the National Adviser and National Officers, whereby the same result may be obtained, it would be equally satisfactory to me.

Dr Lane, my seeming insistence on this point is not in any sense a personal matter. It is based on the discharge of duty as a member of the Advisory Council, a body charged with the responsibility of guiding and approving the actions of the National F.F.A., which impels me to do all in my power to see that policies put into operation are sound.

The phrase which I used in my letter of December 18 and referred to in yours of December 28, "properly set up", was not intended to refer to any method followed at the last F.F.A. Convention. It was intended to refer solely to the present ruling in the matter of restriction of membership based on sex.

I have considered further the amendment concerning this matter, which I proposed in my letter of November 14, 1933. In my letter of December 18, I commented upon this proposed amendment, pointing out where even it, was unsound. Now, I

Dr C. H. Lane

-2-

1/13/34

would like to propose for your consideration, the following, as a substitute for the amendment previously proposed. If this is acceptable and properly set up, such amendment should be placed before the 1934 Convention.

Provided that in any State where no lines of race, religion, or sex can legally be drawn in its system of vocational agricultural education, membership in the State and local F.F.A. associations shall be open to all vocational agricultural students in good standing who desire to share in it; but provided further, that only male members may be proposed for national or regional offices, contests, or honors, that only male members shall be sent as delegates to National F.F.A. Conventions, that only male members shall be included in the statistics furnished the National Association of F.F.A., and that payment of dues to the National Association of F.F.A. shall be solely on male membership accounts.

If this wording is not just right, it can be changed so as to express the intent more exactly. This proposed amendment is merely permissive. It is not compulsory on any state. There is no reason why any state would need to change its own present procedure because of it, and, therefore, it should have the entire backing of every state adviser.

From the National angle, it accomplishes the purpose of keeping the F.F.A. representatives that appear before the public eye and enter into national and inter-state activities, confined to the boys group. It was this last thought, possibly more than any other, which actuated the delegate vote on this matter at the last convention.

It is my very earnest desire for the future good of the organization, that as National Adviser, you may find a way to hold definite action in the specific case of Massachusetts, for a year and give your support to the intent of this proposition at the time of the next F.F.A. Convention.

Sincerely yours

  
W. J. Weaver

WJW:HAS





STATE OF OHIO  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

B. O. SKINNER, DIRECTOR

COLUMBUS

January 18, 1939

DIVISION STATE BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SERVICE  
RAY FIFE, SUPERVISOR  
J. B. McCLELLAND, ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR  
R. A. HOWARD, ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR  
C. S. HUTCHISON, DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

COOPY

Mr. Rufus F. Stinson, Supervisor  
Agriculture Education  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts

FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

JAN - 18 - AM 8:39

Dear Mr. Stinson:

When Bobby Jones, President of the F. F. A., received a copy of your letter of December 28, he immediately brought it to our office so that he might discuss it with Mr. Howard, Assistant Supervisor, and myself. Mr. Howard and I have discussed this matter at considerable length. May I state that my comments in this letter are personal comments? I have no official relation to the National Organization of F. F. A. except in the capacity of State Supervisor of our State Association.

Permit me to say, in the beginning, that Bobby Jones is placed in a rather difficult position in the matter as the National F. F. A. President. Bobby is a very remarkable boy of excellent standards and high moral outlook. He holds the position personally that the F. F. A. should be a boy's organization. In his letter to your State Association, however, he was carrying out the mandate of the National Organization, as he interpreted them. May I say that I was not present at the National Conference at Kansas City this year? Mr. Howard was present, however, and attended the session when the discussion was held and also the afternoon session when the vote was taken. I secured a separate report on the situation also, from Mr. Warner, Bobby's teacher, who is a man of experience and very careful judgment. Both Mr. Howard and Mr. Warner drew practically the same conclusions from the Kansas City meeting. Both were of the opinion that your representative, Mr. Richardson, was not in attendance at the meeting when the vote was taken. Both were of the opinion that the actual vote was unanimous. I participated in the two previous meetings at Kansas City. In my estimation this question in your state is one which is fraught with many possibilities from the standpoint of the National F. F. A. Organization.

I note that you say that you regard the F. F. A. as a very important activity within the Vocational Agriculture Program in your state. I agree with you on that point of view. When I come to a consideration of the conduct of an F. F. A. program I regard it from an entirely different point of view, however, than when I regard the familiar program of Agriculture Education conducted through class instruction. I view the National Agriculture Education program in the same manner. As a part of the public education program of the Nation,

Mr. Rufus W. Stinson  
Page 2

January 18, 1934

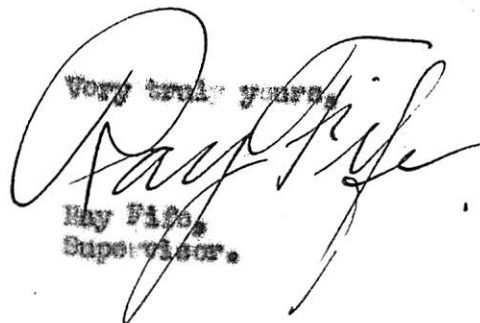
as well as each state, we certainly cannot make any discrimination on account of race, religion, color or sex. In both national and state F. F. A. organizations, however, I think there should be as much right of self determination on the part of boys as possible. If the F. F. A. becomes an adult organization, however, instead of a boys organization, then I believe it loses much of its effectiveness. So far as I have observed the advisory relations of Dr. Lane and Mr. Ross, to the National Association, they have acted wisely.

Mr. Howard and I agree that there are certain national requirements with which we are not in accord. These requirements, however, seem to represent the opinion of the majority of the delegates in the national congress and also the opinion of the majority of the states. The National Constitution for any organization, naturally, cannot satisfy all the states. Mr. Howard and Mr. Warner both reported that while the delegates at Kansas City were perfectly willing for girls to be enrolled in Vocational Agriculture, they wanted the F. F. A. to be a boy's organization. The laws in Ohio are very strict with regard to the discrimination on account of race, religion, color or sex. There has never been any question, however, with regard to the Future Farmer Organizations, or the Hi-Y Organizations, in limiting the membership to boys.

I trust that you will understand my position in this matter. I am writing because of the fact that Bobby is located in Ohio and naturally comes to our office on various questions which arise. I wish that it might be possible for you to attend the next meeting of the State Advisers at Kansas City next year, in connection with the National Congress, at which time, I hope this question will be submitted for further discussion.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



Ray Fife,  
Supervisor.

January 20, 1934

Mr. Ray Fife, Supervisor,  
Department of Education,  
State of Ohio,  
Columbus, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Fife:

Mr. W. J. Weaver, member of the Advisory Council of the F.F.A. is handling our case with the National Adviser and others responsible for the administration of the National Association of F.F.A.

I have seen it intimated that Massachusetts is willing to "play the F.F.A. game" but is not willing to abide by the rules. The implication is that we are "poor sports".

Sportsmanship is not the issue.

The issue is the question as to whether our expenditure of public funds for this enterprise is to continue to be legal, or not.

In order to give us the legal status necessary for continuance, Mr. Weaver is now asking that the National Association pass the following amendment:

Provided that in any State where no lines of race, religion, or sex can legally be drawn in its system of vocational agricultural education, membership in the State and local F.F.A. associations shall be open to all vocational agricultural students in good standing who desire to share in it; but provided further, that only male members may be proposed for national or regional offices, contests, or honors, that only male members shall be sent as delegates to National F.F.A. Conventions, that only male members shall be included in the statistics furnished the National Association of F.F.A., and that payment of dues to the National Association of F.F.A. shall be solely on male membership accounts.

We are not trying to dominate the country. Other States may do what their Constitutions and laws permit. Massachusetts simply requests the modest measure of self-determination in its purely internal affairs which this amendment would grant.

Parts of the enclosed copy of my letter of the 9th instant to Mr. Dennis may interest you.

Be sure that I appreciate your letter of the 16th instant, in which you spoke unofficially but very clearly for Bobby Jones, President of the F.F.A.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ R. W. Stimson

Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

RWS:MS  
Encs.

*Swanson*

February 15, 1934

Mr. W. J. Weaver  
State Department of Education  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Weaver:

In checking up on my correspondence I find that your letter of January 13 has not been attended to. I have employed every legitimate means that I know of to stay action on the proposition passed at the national F.F.A. convention, which if carried out will deprive Massachusetts of membership in the national organization of F. F. A.

I followed your suggestion made on December 18 and polled the members of the national advisory council and find that the other three members voted to uphold the action of the delegates at the convention in regard to action taken on the Massachusetts situation.

Do you think it advisable for me to write the other members of the national advisory council suggesting that we ask the Board of Trustees of the F.F.A. to stay final action on Massachusetts until the next annual convention at which time this matter could be made the first order of business? In the meantime your proposed amendment could be considered at each of the four regional conferences to be held by the Office of Education. At these conferences the State advisers may see fit to take action and if favorable I am inclined to think that this would be a very wholesome influence upon the decision reached by the delegates at the next annual convention, which will be in October this year instead of November, as the American Royal has been changed to October 20-27.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

CHL:j

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
ALBANY

LEWIS A. WILSON  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR VOCATIONAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BUREAU  
ARTHUR K. GETMAN, CHIEF  
W. JACK WEAVER, SUPERVISOR  
FEB - 23 - AM 8:45  
FEDERAL BOARD FOR  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

February 21, 1934

Dr C. H. Lane  
Office of Education  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D. C.

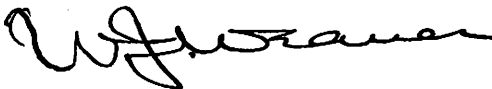
My dear Doctor Lane:

I have your letter of February 15.

Consistent with all my previous letters on this subject, I would urge that you adopt whatever means may be open to you in harmony with the F.F.A. constitution and by-laws, so as to stay action on the proposition passed at the National F.F.A. convention, which puts up a membership restriction that is illegal in Massachusetts, New York and very likely, in many other states as well, until all facts in the matter can be placed before the Advisory Council, supervisors, and delegates, prior to and at the next annual meeting.

If it is your plan to have the supervisors discuss the matter and express their views as regional groups, some means should be devised to see that all the facts in the case are presented for consideration. Anything that you feel that you would like to have me do, I shall be glad to undertake, as far as I have the ability.

Sincerely yours



W. J. Weaver

WJW:HAS

*Lane*

February 27, 1934

Mr. Julian A. McPhee  
California Polytechnic School  
San Luis Obispo, California

Dear Mr. McPhee:

Following up your letter to me under date of December 29 with reference to the situation in Massachusetts on F.F.A. matters, I am writing to say that although three out of the four State members of the Council went along with the action of the F.F.A. delegates at Kansas City, it is my opinion that the members of the Council should reconsider their decisions to the extent of asking that the Board of Trustees of the F.F.A. stay final action on Massachusetts until the next annual convention in October at Kansas City, at which time problem of disposing of Massachusetts may be made the first order of business.

My opinion is based on the developments which have transpired in the last two months in regard to policies and relationships between State Directors and the program of vocational education in agriculture. I have talked with a good many State men about the matter and everyone seems to be of the opinion that we should not go too hastily in the elimination of any State from the national organization. I believe the Board of Trustees will go along with the recommendation of the Advisory Council that final action be stayed until the next convention and I trust you will see the wisdom of this procedure and let me hear from you at once. I believe it is in the best interests of the F.F.A. organization.

Sincerely yours,

CHI:j  
C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

Lane

February 27, 1934

Mr. L. B. Pollom  
State Department of Education  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Pollom:

Following up your letter to me under date of December 27 with reference to the situation in Massachusetts on F.F.A. matters, I am writing to say that although three out of the four State members of the Council went along with the action of the F.F.A. delegates at Kansas City, it is my opinion that the members of the Council should reconsider their decisions to the extent of asking that the Board of Trustees of the F.F.A. stay final action on Massachusetts until the next annual convention in October at Kansas City, at which time problem of disposing of Massachusetts may be made the first order of business.

My opinion is based on the developments which have transpired in the last two months in regard to policies and relationships between State Directors and the program of vocational education in agriculture. I have talked with a good many State men about the matter and everyone seems to be of the opinion that we should not go too hastily in the elimination of any State from the national organization. I believe the Board of Trustees will go along with the recommendation of the Advisory Council that final action be stayed until the next convention and I trust you will see the wisdom of this procedure and let me hear from you at once. I believe it is in the best interests of the F.F.A. organization.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

CHL:j

*Lane*

February 27, 1934

Mr. D. H. Clements  
State Department of Education  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Clements:

Following up your letter to me under date of December 29, with reference to the situation in Massachusetts on F.F.A. matters, I am writing to say that although three out of the four State members of the Council went along with the action of the F.F.A. delegates at Kansas City, it is my opinion that the members of the Council should reconsider their decisions to the extent of asking that the Board of Trustees of the F.F.A. stay final action on Massachusetts until the next annual convention in October at Kansas City, at which time problem of disposing of Massachusetts may be made the first order of business.

My opinion is based on the developments which have transpired in the last two months in regard to policies and relationships between State Directors and the program of vocational education in agriculture. I have talked with a good many State men about the matter and everyone seems to be of the opinion that we should not go too hastily in the elimination of any State from the national organization. I believe the Board of Trustees will go along with the recommendation of the Advisory Council that final action be stayed until the next convention and I trust you will see the wisdom of this procedure and let me hear from you at once. I believe it is in the best interests of the F.F.A. organization.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. LANE

Chief, Agricultural Education Service

CHL:j



*Stinson*

February 28, 1934

Mr. W. J. Weaver  
State Department of Education  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Weaver:

Replying to your letter of February 21, I wrote the other members of the Advisory Council yesterday in line with your suggestions to stay action on the proposition passed at the National F.F.A. Convention which proposes to drop Massachusetts from membership in the F.F.A. I am hoping that the men will see this situation in the same light that we do and that the matter can be postponed until the next F.F.A. convention.

Although we had not planned to have the supervisors discuss the matter and express their views at regional groups, I am not certain but what this would be a good plan because after all is said and done, the State supervisors should exercise, and do I believe, enough influence on the action of delegates at Kansas City.

I understand that Mr. Stinson has asked Mr. Williams to not bring the matter up at the North Atlantic Regional Conference.

Sincerely yours,

CHL:j  
C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

Mr. Lane

Letters to same effect written  
your Federal Agents for  
the other three Regions.

Thank you.

3-12-34

RWS.

March 12, 1934.

N.B. Since issue is to  
be discussed at  
Conference of other  
three Regions, I  
have no objection  
to its discussion at  
Conf. of No. Atlantic Reg.  
RWS.

Mr. J. A. Linke,  
Office of Education,  
United States Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Linke:

Dr. Lane wrote Mr. Weaver, February 28, 1934, as follows:

"I wrote the other members of the Advisory Council yesterday in line with your suggestion to stay action on the proposition passed at the National F.F.A. Convention which proposed to drop Massachusetts from membership in the F.F.A. I am hoping the men will see this situation in the same light that we do and that the matter can be postponed until the next F.F.A. Convention."

In that letter Dr. Lane appeared to intend to have this matter discussed, also, at each of the four Regional Conferences.

With this second possibility in mind, I am enclosing a copy of my report on our F.F.A. Membership Status, prepared for our Annual F.F.A. Meeting to be held at H.S.C. the 23-24 instant. This so clearly states our case that I hope you will keep it at hand for the information, if needed, of those who discuss this matter at the Regional Conference over which you will be called upon to preside.

Please note particularly the proposed Amendment, and the excerpt from the Constitution of our Commonwealth.

Sincerely yours,

Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

RWS  
MS  
Enc.

42

March 21, 1934

Mr. Bobby Jones  
President, Future Farmers of America  
Radnor, Ohio

Dear Bobby:

It is needless for me to review with you the situation that has arisen between the national organization and the Massachusetts Association of Future Farmers of America. You all heard the discussion at Kansas City which led up to a vote by the delegates authorizing the Board of Trustees to suspend Massachusetts from the organization beginning April 1. This was because the delegates agreed that they had violated the constitution by permitting girls to be members of the Massachusetts Association of F.F.A.

The National Advisory Council, as you know, possesses the power of approval at all times of the actions of the Board of Trustees and delegates to the national congress. The Advisory Council has no desire to dictate to the Board of Trustees or the delegates in annual convention. However, after a careful study of the Massachusetts situation, the Council is unanimous in asking the Board of Trustees to stay final action on the suspension of Massachusetts from the organization until further consideration may be given to the question at the next annual convention of the F.F.A. at Kansas City in October. As chairman of the National Advisory Council, I respectfully request that this be done and that the Massachusetts situation be made the first order of business by the delegates at the next convention in October.

Sincerely yours,

CHL:sj  
C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

*Jane*

March 21, 1934

Mr. R. W. Stimson  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Stimson:

I am glad to advise you this morning that the National Advisory Council is unanimous in requesting the Board of Trustees of the F. P. A. to stay final action on the vote taken by the delegates at Kansas City, with reference to Massachusetts, until further consideration can be given to the question at the next annual convention at Kansas City in October.

So far the agents have not contemplated discussing this matter at the regional conferences this spring, but I am inclined to think now that it should be given consideration. I am therefore, calling it to the attention of each agent who is responsible for conferences this spring.

Sincerely yours,

CHL:jj                      C. H. LANE  
Chief, Agricultural Education Service

*Rec'd about  
4/2/34*

Resolution in respect to  
Membership in the F.F.A.:

It is the sense of the North Atlantic Regional Conference, that the Future Farmers of America should be recognized as a boy's organization. It is recognized further, however, that both National and State Associations of Future Farmers of America must respect legal limitations within the Nation and respective states, regarding membership of all regularly enrolled students in vocational agriculture public school classes.

It is therefore recommended that at the 1934 Congress of the National Association of Future Farmers of America, the Board of Trustees of such organization propose for approval an amendment to the National constitution that shall recognize the legal limitations mentioned above and that shall enable individual states to organize and maintain state and local chapters of Future Farmers of America in a manner not inconsistent with the provisions of such amendment.

Committee:--Hahn, Connecticut  
Fife, Ohio  
Mowlds, Delaware

"WHEREAS the Future Farmers of America is fundamentally a boys' organization; and whereas, the national constitution of that organization specifically states that membership shall be confined to male students; and whereas, it has come to the attention of the National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America that due to circumstances within certain States, girls have been admitted to certain local and State organizations,

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the National Board of Trustees recommends to the F. F. A. delegates in annual convention at Kansas City, Missouri, October 23, that this practice be confined to local and State membership only and with the permission of the National Board of Trustees based upon satisfactory evidence. It is further recommended to the delegates that no national dues be collected from girls and that no national or regional membership or recognition be extended to them. F.F.A. chapters with girls as members are not eligible for participation in the National F.F.A. Chapter Contest nor is a State with girls as members entitled to participate in the State Association Contest."

212 State House, Boston, Mass.

To Directors and In-  
structors in Charge of  
Vocational Agricultural  
Schools and Departments  
in Massachusetts.

SPECIAL REPORT

FOR

OCTOBER 1934

N.B. You will be inter-  
ested in this information.  
Have you any suggestions?  
R.W.S.

BY

RUFUS W. STIMSON

Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

---

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

MEMBERSHIP STATUS STILL

UNSETTLED

The Future Farmers of America, - the national association of farm boys studying vocational agriculture, - met in annual convention at Kansas City, October 25. The publicity bureau of the Convention reported that the organization now totals 82,000 boys. This membership has been attained in only six years and includes one out of every two boys taking vocational agriculture in 5,000 high schools.

A year ago the 1933 convention voted to suspend our Massachusetts Chapter from the national organization, because now and then a girl member was included in our Local and State Associations. We protested against this action, on the ground that the F.F.A. program had been absorbed into the official State and National programs of vocational agricultural education, and that such education in Massachusetts must be open to all without discrimination as to race, religion, or sex. The Advisory Council halted the execution of the suspension, and submitted to the 1934 convention, just held, the following resolutions.

"Whereas the Future Farmers of America is fundamentally a boys' organization; and whereas, the national constitution of that organization specifically states that membership shall be confined to male students; and whereas, it has come to the attention of the National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America that due to circumstances within certain States, girls have been admitted to certain local and State organizations,

"Now therefore, be it resolved, that the National Board of Trustees recommends to the F.F.A. delegates in annual convention at Kansas City, Missouri, October 23, that this practice be confined to local and State membership only and with the permission of the National Board of Trustees based upon satisfactory evidence. It is further recommended to the delegates that no national dues be collected from girls and that no national or regional membership or recognition be extended to them. F.F.A. Chapters with girls as members are not eligible for participation in the National F.F.A. Chapter Contest nor is a State with girls as members entitled to participate in the State Association Contest."

The 1934 Advisory Council is divided two and two on adoption of this resolution, with the fifth and deciding vote in the hands of Mr. J. A. Linke, Acting Chief, Agricultural Education Service, Office of Education, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Linke, now the National F.F.A. Adviser, intends to come to Massachusetts early in December, to take this matter up with President Potter of our Massachusetts Association of F.F.A., and our State F.F.A. Adviser. Every effort will be made to bring Mr. Linke and Mr. Small into conference also, on this matter.

President Potter writes:

"I would like to say that I had a most wonderful trip and was very glad that I had the opportunity to represent Massachusetts at the Convention."

The most interesting item in my field this month is the news of the above action brought back by the President of our Massachusetts Association, who, with most his expenses paid from the National F.F.A. Treasury, attended the Convention as our official delegate.

/s/ R. W. S.



March 12, 1955

Mr. J. A. Linko, Chief,  
Agricultural Education Service,  
U. S. Office of Education,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Linko:

We have reviewed, thoroughly, the situation with regard to the question of girl membership in the Massachusetts Association of F. F. A. We have heard your report as the National Advisor covering the results of a recent trip to Massachusetts in which you talked with the vocational education authorities there. In view of the whole situation we feel that it is only fair that you have a statement from the Board of Trustees regarding our position in the matter.

In investigating the question we find first that the original national F. F. A. constitution did not make specific reference to this organization being a male organization. We find, however, that at the national convention of F. F. A. held in November, 1930 at Kansas City several revisions in the constitution were made. Among these changes was one dealing with membership qualifications. These new provisions under Article III which stand unchanged at the present time, and which were operative when an offer to grant the Massachusetts Association a charter was made on September 21, 1931, read as follows:

**"B. Active Membership.**

Any male student who is regularly enrolled in an all-day, day-unit, or part-time vocational agriculture class is entitled to active membership in the F. F. A. organization upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any regular chapter meeting. A member may retain his active membership for 3 years after completing his systematic instruction in vocational agriculture."

**"C. Associate Membership.**

After three years active membership following the completion of his systematic instruction in vocational agriculture a member automatically becomes an associate member of the F. F. A. Any former male student of vocational agriculture may be elected to associate membership upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any regular chapter meeting."

March 12, 1935

We find also that in a letter from Dr. Lane to Mr. E. V. Stinson, under date of January 23, 1931, that he was notified that the F. F. A. Manual had been revised. The Manual carried these changes made in the national constitution. It is evident from these changes made in 1930 in the national F. F. A. Constitution that the intent and spirit was to keep the F. F. A. a boy organization. These provisions were later upheld with reference to the Massachusetts situation at both the 1933 and 1934 national conventions when the delegates present voted overwhelmingly, without influence or pressure, that this action should be upheld and that no change to admit girl members should be made in the national constitution.

In looking through the correspondence on file at the national office between Mr. E. V. Stinson, Dr. G. H. Lane, and Mr. W. A. Ross, prior to the granting of the Massachusetts charter, we find that it was plainly brought out, time after time, that the F. F. A. was a male organization and that this was practically the only restriction made with regard to F. F. A. membership. We note particularly in the replies to Dr. Lane and Mr. Ross from Mr. E. V. Stinson that the Board of Trustees was urged to take a "broad view" of the situation; to meet Massachusetts in the spirit in which she was making application; and to assist in every way to make it possible to extend F. F. A. advantages to Massachusetts. We note further, however, that in no instance does this correspondence (including telegrams) show that there was any disposition on the part of the national officers acting as a Board of Trustees to grant Massachusetts a charter unless they complied with the provision relating to male membership.

The telegram of Mr. Ross to Mr. E. V. Stinson under date of September 22, 1931 reads as follows:

"Since the National Constitution of the F. F. A. provides for and recognizes male members only it is with this interpretation and understanding of your constitution that the National Board of Trustees is willing to accept Massachusetts' application and grant charter immediately."

This telegram was sent at the close of a Board of Trustees meeting at which Massachusetts' application had been considered. We feel that the contents of this telegram were perfectly clear, and in view of the preceding telegram (September 22, 1931) from Mr. E. V. Stinson and letter (March 8, 1932) from Mr. W. L. Stinson, then State Secretary of the Massachusetts Association, no misinterpretation was evident. We note, however, that Massachusetts took it upon themselves to interpret Mr. Ross's telegram as accepting girl members, even in the face of all previous correspondence to the contrary. Nevertheless it was stated in Mr. W. L. Stinson's letter of March 8, 1932, that "(3) 'the State charter has been accepted and the revised constitution adopted in light of the telegram, and in the cooperative spirit it manifests on your part and presence on ours'.

At the last annual meeting, the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, that the Board of Directors be authorized to issue bonds in the amount of \$1,000,000, in such denominations and with such interest and maturity as the Board may deem proper, for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works." (1)

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

It is the policy of the Board of Directors to issue bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

The Board of Directors has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works. The Board has also authorized the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the construction of the proposed water works.

to Mr. E. W. Stinson, has been incorporated in the records of the meeting at which this action was taken." It would certainly seem that the national F.F.A. office had every reason to believe that Massachusetts boys intend, in a reasonable length of time, to confine the membership of their F. F.A. chapters to boys although the constitution submitted did not show that particular change. Perhaps the national officers took too much for granted but certainly that Massachusetts took considerable liberty in interpreting the conditions under which a charter was being granted with regard to male membership with all the previous correspondence between the Massachusetts State Office and the national F. F. A. office setting forth clearly that this would not be done.

Evidently it was only in connection with the 1933 Chapter Contest that the national officers became certain of the fact that girls were still being permitted to become members of the F. F. A. in Massachusetts. It was on the basis of girls names appearing on a chapter contest entry roll that Vernon Howell, President, wrote to Mr. E. W. Stinson, under date of June 16, 1933, expressing surprise that the question of membership had not been cleared up in the 21 months which had elapsed since the granting of the charter. It is the duty of the National Board of Trustees to see that the national constitution is adhered to and advise the delegates of any cases where it is apparent that the constitution is being violated. It seems proper, therefore, that Massachusetts should have been notified of the fact that the provision regarding membership had not been carried out as was expected.

Some of us who are now national officers were present as delegates at both the 1933 and 1934 national conventions of F. F. A. We heard and participated in the discussions. We feel that the national organization has been very patient with regard to an unfortunate circumstance, regardless of where the fault lies. However, that is not the question now. The national organization have further choice open in the matter. The majority vote of the delegates by which the affairs of the organization are governed will not admit of a change in the constitution to admit girls to active membership. Further, the national organization should not be expected to change the constitution because one state either can not or will not conform.

You will recall the following action which was taken at the national convention in 1934. The National Adviser, Mr. Link, was called upon for an explanation of the attitude of the present National Advisory Council regarding the policy to follow in connection with this problem. Upon a motion of Loren of Tennessee and by a vote of 70 - 1 the following resolution, recommended by the Board of Trustees, was adopted; but it was plainly brought out that this resolution was only a temporary measure to allow the National Adviser time to further investigate the legal restrictions which it was reported prevented Massachusetts from conforming to the membership regulations.

**WHEREAS** the Future Farmers of America is fundamentally a boys' organization; and whereas, the national constitution of that organization specifically states that membership shall be confined to male students; and whereas, it has come to the attention of the National Board of Trustees of the Future Farmers of America that due to cir-

circumstances within certain States, girls have been admitted to certain local and State organizations.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the National Board of Trustees recommends to the F. F. A. delegates in annual convention at Kansas City, Missouri, in October, 1934, that this practice be confined to local and State membership only and with the permission of the National Board of Trustees based upon satisfactory evidence. It is further recommended to the delegates that no national dues be collected from girls and that no national or regional membership or recognition be extended to them. F. F. A. chapters with girls as members are not eligible for participation in the National F. F. A. Chapter Contest nor is a State with girls as members entitled to participate in the State Association Contest."

We believe that it is up to Massachusetts as to what she can and will do in the matter. We do not believe that the girls would stand in the way of Massachusetts' affiliation. We believe also that Massachusetts can solve the problem through an Auxiliary organization for girls or special type of membership which is not in conflict with the national active membership provision. We feel that the F. F. A. members in Massachusetts want to continue to enjoy the contact with this great national farm youth organization and should be willing to make adjustments to enable other Massachusetts boys and young men to enjoy the training advantages offered.

The national organization wants to see this matter settled and will be disappointed if Massachusetts finds it necessary to drop out of the F. F. A. ranks.

Very truly yours,

ANDREW SUNDBROM,  
National F. F. A. President.

For the 1935 National Board of Trustees.

**REPORT OF  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**AGRICULTURE**

Washington, D. C.  
April 8-10, 1935

Issued by the U. S. Department of Interior  
Office of Education Vocational Education  
Washington, DC

MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THE F.F.A.

W. J. Weaver  
Assistant State Supervisor, New York.

1935

At our last regional conference, this group decided that at each succeeding meeting it would like to have some time on the program for discussion of the problems that might come up in connection with the F.F.A. organization. It seems to me that two things might well be discussed briefly today: (1) A report of the major happenings of the year so far as your representative on the Advisory Council is concerned; and, (2) a discussion of such problems as you may care to bring up concerning the F.F.A. affairs of the region.

My report of what has happened for the year in the Advisory Council is going to be short. I think that progress has been made in that a greater recognition is being given to the Council as a part of the functioning F.F.A. organization. In the four years that I have been your representative on that Council I have seen the part that it has played increase in importance from year to year. Last year for the first time a meeting was held where every member was present. Many matters were discussed in connection with the conduct of the F.F.A. association and to that extent real progress was made. Probably the chief item that was discussed at that time was the matter that is up at the present time concerning the status of the Massachusetts organization in connection with girls in its membership. You recall the action taken by this group last year in which you supported the thought that within a State organization it should be the right of the State Adviser and his own organization to determine how the program within the State should be conducted. You supported this thought and I took that general stand at the time of the Council meeting. You will also recall that your vote in this matter was placed before the Southern Regional Conference and the Southern group took similar action. At the Advisory Council meeting at Kansas City, two regions were in favor of liberalization of membership, and two voted strictly male membership. That rather left the matter up to Mr. Linke, and it is still up to him. You will recall on the report sent you from the National meeting it was reported that the status remains unchanged. I suspect this year further consideration will be given to the matter and doubtless we will hear more of the final disposition at the Kansas City meeting this fall.

Progress had been made in the Advisory Council in its being recognized by the Executive Secretary and the Adviser as capable of giving some worthwhile suggestions concerning the policies of the organization.

When the letter came out last fall as a report of the F.F.A. delegate meeting entitled, "Some High Lights, etc." Service Letter 86, I noted one item where it was mentioned that the national dues for 1954-55 were 10 cents, but that for 1955-56 they would be 15 cents. This matter of increasing dues never came up in the Advisory Council and I believe was not very well considered. At any rate I thought it was my duty to find out what had happened. I wrote to Mr. Linke on December 10, and sent each of you a copy of that letter, and a copy to each other member of the Advisory Council. Most of you responded and the general reaction was in agreement with the stand that there did not seem to be any justifiable reason for increase in dues. One of the State supervisors suggested that some group action be taken. If you see fit to take such action, it may help our representative next year on the stand that we want him to take on this matter.

\* We are a little handicapped in the matter of being able to give you the complete official report of the F.F.A. delegate meeting. It is now April and we have not yet received the report of the proceedings of the F.F.A. meeting held last fall. It would seem as though it would be desirable to get that F.F.A. report out a little more promptly. It is not so interesting at this delayed date as it would have been to the local chapters in the States if it could be given to them earlier.

Do you want to take any action to express your thought in regard to dues?

Mr. Howlds: I think we should take such action.

It is moved that this body go on record as opposing the increase in national F.F.A. dues from 10 to 15 cents as proposed by the delegates at the Kansas City Convention. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

I think that one of the big accomplishments of the year was the fact that every State of this region, except Rhode Island, was represented at the national meeting at Kansas City. That doubtless was due largely to the move toward equalizing the opportunity as between States by paying transportation expense of one delegate to the national meeting. I suggested in the Advisory Council that this plan be extended as rapidly as possible, looking forward to travel expense of 2 delegates from each State to be paid by the National F.F.A. organization.

Since our allotted ten-minute period of this conference seems to be over, we will not have time to enter into any discussion of the State F.F.A. problems which many of you have suggested. I think we should have a much longer period assigned for a matter as important as the F.F.A. organization is in our State and National programs in vocational agriculture.



June 4, 1935.

Sent to: Mr. Linke.

Subject: The Massachusetts Situation.

The occasion for this Memo was a discussion of the Massachusetts situation at the Western Regional conference. This discussion indicated that the facts in the situation are not completely known. For example, it was pointed out that continued membership of Massachusetts means girls participating in the national contests. Of course, there is nothing in this argument because Massachusetts has agreed not to enter girls in national contests.

The sentiment of the group ran strong against the Massachusetts state supervisor. The expulsion of the 600 boys, who are, in a way, innocent-by-standers, did not enter into the discussion.

I believe that little progress is being made in this case because personal considerations have clouded the issue. I wish to submit to you a line of reasoning which seems to offer a solution of this problem, which will be for the best interests of the F.F.A. Moreover, I request that you will absolve me from any personal bias in this matter. I am interested in the welfare of the boys in Massachusetts as I am in the boys of any other state.

My understanding is that Massachusetts has agreed not to enter girls in national contests. This means that the few girls in two Massachusetts chapters will participate in the local and state activities but not in national activities.

There are two arguments in favor of accepting this agreement as a solution of the problem. The first is that it will eliminate girls from national contests and permit 600 boys to retain membership in the F.F.A. The second argument is that this solution will avoid raising what seems to me a very serious question, i.e., whether the constitution of the F.F.A. should discriminate between sexes.

The expulsion of Massachusetts would raise the question whether an organization which functions as a part of the public school and on which persons employed by communities, states and the U. S. Government spend time and travel, may make a membership discrimination between sexes. There is a distinction between limiting the membership of an organization according to the functions of the organization and discrimination between sexes. A local F.F.A. chapter may limit its membership to students enrolled in vocational agriculture because this organization is a means of teaching cooperation and leadership to those who are to engage in farming occupations. But discrimination between sexes within this limited membership is another question entirely.

It seems to me that we would have a similar situation if the English or science clubs in high schools were to form a national organization and insert an article in their constitution excluding girls from membership.

My suggestion is that you consider this reasoning. If it is sound, we need to do some missionary work with those persons who are to decide this matter and seem now to be under the sway of personal biases.

In brief, the agreement of Massachusetts not to enter girls in national contests seems to me to offer the best possible solution of the problem. It meets the objections raised in other states and would avoid raising the question whether the F.F.A. constitution can eliminate girls even from national contests and still maintain its present relationship to public education.



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Education*

*State House, Boston* February 28, 1936.

1936 MAR - 2 - AM 9:02  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

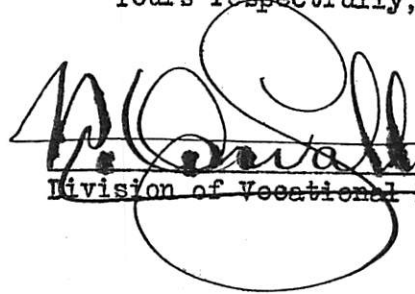
REC'D

Mr. J. C. Wright,  
Assistant Commissioner for Vocational  
Education,  
U. S. Department of the Interior,  
Office of Education,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wright:

Enclosed I send you a copy of one of our local school papers, with a marked article which simply emphasizes the fact that girls' membership in the Future Farmers' organization is not simply a dream, but is a very real situation with which we should have to reckon.

Yours respectfully,

  
Director,  
Division of Vocational Education

ROS/MAV  
Enc.

# ESSEX FARMER AND HOME MAKER

Published Monthly by the Essex County Agricultural School

VOL. 17

HATHORNE, MASS., FEBRUARY, 1936

NO. 2



## WINTER SCENE

### Dora Winchester, Farmerette

A lover of horses and keenly interested in horticultural pursuits, Dora Winchester, of Saugus, accepted a scholarship in September 1930 at the Essex County Agricultural School. Enrolling as a four-year student she at once set the pace in practical farm work as well as in academic studies for her male companions. In November 1934 she graduated, one of 3 girls in a class numbering forty. During her course she carried on four successful projects in vegetable gardening and floriculture which enabled her to maintain herself in school and establish herself in business.

While an undergraduate, Miss Winchester took an active interest in the Future Farmers of America, being elected secretary of the local chapter and the state association. Her work in the latter office merited the following comment from the state adviser: "Miss Winchester has been the best secretary we have ever had in the state association."

Miss Winchester won the coveted Honors' E awarded only to those students who reach a high standard in loyalty, scholarship and achievement. She won this letter twice during her four year course.

She has demonstrated that girl students are entitled to everything vocational agricultural has to offer.

Dora's first ventures in gardening were confined to a small plot of land in the rear of her home. Here she constructed hot beds, raised her own seedlings, and did her own garden work even to marketing the products. She carried on this work for two seasons realizing substantial profits.

After taking up floriculture she accepted positions in commercial greenhouses in Wakefield and Saugus thereby getting real business ex-

### Farmers' and Home- makers' Day

Christmas and New Year's have shed their festive cloaks. The birthdays of Lincoln and Washington have been commemorated. And St. Valentine has had his day. But in with the March winds comes another day, historic in the minds of Essex County farmers and their families. To these people the third Wednesday of March has come to mean something vital and entertaining. For twenty-one years Farmers' and Homemakers' Day, instituted by this School, has been set aside in the interest of advancing agricultural knowledge.

This year, on March 18, friends will come to hear Professor J. H. Frandsen of the Massachusetts State College, whose travels in Denmark enable him to compare the agricultural practices of the Danes with our own.

Assisted by Professor H. G. Lindquist he will discuss milk and cheese problems, illustrating the lecture with slides.

Homemakers will hear, after lunch, Mrs. Ada Danforth of the Suffolk Consumers' Council for the United State Department of Labor, and Mrs. Louisa Skilton, Household Editor of the "American Cookery Magazine" and Assistant Director of the Home Information Center at Jordan Marsh Company.

Adhering to a schedule of past years, sectional meetings will occupy the afternoon. Each section will learn the agricultural outlook in its particular field.

Poultrymen, in addition to a discussion by Professor F. H. Branch, may anticipate a baby chick show and auction.

Fruit men and market gardeners will meet together to hear the manager and auctioneer of the new Re-

### Pruning Suggestions

Many people think every tree and flowering shrub should receive annual pruning. Some would do it only in winter or early spring; others during summer and fall, keeping in mind only the thought that it must be done.

With many of our plants some pruning is essential at times, but feeding, careful cultivation or mulching and protection against insect or disease infestation are in many cases of more importance.

Far too common is hedge shear pruning, leaving the shrubs with their tips snipped off regularly, involving an artificial symmetry and loss of natural grace.

Prune to regulate height but not to destroy natural form. Remove interfering, injured, diseased, or dead branches; renovate or rejuvenate old plants; encourage a smaller number of larger flowers, or encourage branching and an abundance of smaller flowers. The result is always worth the effort. Because ornamental plants are never over-supplied with flowers for the plant lover the real problem is to preserve all the buds nature makes to produce these flowers.

Remember that early flowering shrubs and trees produce their flowers and fruits from buds formed on wood grown after bloom and before winter. What will happen if these plants are winter—or spring-pruned? Each live piece removed takes with it buds that were intended for flowers. Forsythia, white-flowering spirea and mock oranges fall into this class. These plants may be pruned severely, if it is desired that their size be reduced, within a week after their bloom is complete. Follow this pruning a few weeks later by pinching off the tips of those shoots which are growing too fast.

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)

60

~~John~~  
Rose

March 6, 1936.

Mr. R. W. Stimson  
State Supervisor, Agricultural Education  
State House  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Stimson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 29, asking for a ruling on eligibility of participants in the Regional F.F.A. Public Speaking Contest.

I have talked with Mr. Linko and Mr. Ross about your request and I am advised that a decision can not be rendered until the matter is presented to the National F.F.A. Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees. A decision in the matter will probably not be reached until some time in April.

My suggestion is that you go ahead with your State F.F.A. Speaking Contest for March 20, because I am expecting that there will be no difficulty with any of the States so far as participation in the Regional F.F.A. Speaking Contests are concerned.

Sincerely yours,

G. H. Lane  
Agent, Agricultural Education

CHL/me

(Look up minutes  
Meeting April 1936  
Re Trustees)

OK



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Education*

*State House, Boston*      March 14, 1936.

For Mr. Linke

Directors and Instructors in Charge  
of Vocational Agricultural Education  
in Massachusetts.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Harold A. Mostrom, Educational Manager at Essex County Agricultural School, like other F. F. A. Advisers in Massachusetts and members of our Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Instructors, has given careful thought to what probably ought to be our next step toward holding a place for Massachusetts in the National Association of F. F. A. and its program; also, to what alternative action should be taken toward an independent State Association and program of work, intended to insure 100% participation by all our Massachusetts Vocational Agricultural Schools and Departments, in case the voting is against continued F. F. A. affiliation.

Mr. Mostrom, also, has discussed the F. F. A. situation with various Advisers of the Essex Chapter.

Yesterday Mr. Mostrom responded to my suggestion of some weeks ago that he let me have his ideas in writing. I offer them to you attached to this letter, in advance of our Annual F. F. A. Meeting, to be held at Massachusetts State College, in Stockbridge Hall, Room 201-A, at 1:00 P.M., March 21, 1936, as aids to discussion and sensible action.

The Essex Chapter, as you may know, is the largest and strongest in our State. It probably has few, if any, superiors anywhere. It is fully convinced of the merits of the F. F. A. movement, (1) as a valuable feature of our teaching and extra-curricular activities; and (2) as a disarming and effective means of arousing and sustaining national interest in, and the support by the general public of, our whole program of Vocational Agricultural Education in America.

I hope, with Mr. Small, that wise counsel will prevail in our action at this meeting.

All of you as directors and instructors are warmly invited to be present for a full and free expression of opinion and preference. I am sure that the delegates and their advisers will be grateful for all the help you can give them, before they cast their deciding votes on this momentous issue.

Please bring this letter with you for ready reference.

Or, if you cannot come, please write us your suggestions or requests.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russell W. Stinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Supervisor of Agricultural Education and  
State E. F. A. Adviser.

RWS  
EF  
Enc.

Some Notes on Present F.F.A. Situation

1. We do not care to be placed in the position of voluntarily withdrawing our membership in the National Organization of F. F. A.

There would seem to be real gains and prestige from being associated, in the minds of the public, with the organization which stands, in their minds, for vocational instruction in agriculture in this country.

2. We do not care to "pay taxes without representation". If we are not to be permitted to enjoy the normal privileges of participation in contests and meetings of a regional or national character we feel that our dues should be reduced or withheld.
3. Why not officially notify the organization

- a. That we feel that we have complied in good faith with the national program as originally stated in its constitution?
- b. That we believe sincerely the action of the last national convention to be a violation of our rights and privileges as a state unit within the organization?

NOTE: - We do not dictate to another state saying, "You must open your membership to girls or you must not draw the color line, etc., etc.," much as we may regret the action of those states which do.

- c. That we decline to forward our dues and will decline to surrender our charter until this matter is given a thorough review by a committee of national and state advisors?

/s/ HAROLD A. MOSTROM.

March 13, 1936.

64



DARTMOUTH ASSOCIATION OF F. F. A.

RESOLUTION

Proposed

Secretary Clifton Allen says the Dartmouth Association of F. F. A. has instructed its delegate to present the following resolution. This information, dated March 16, came just as the Mostrom proposal and my letter of transmittal were on the point of being put into the mail.

Both the Mostrom and Dartmouth items are here presented for your sober consideration as the hour for action on this important issue nears.

"Whereas, the National Convention of the Future Farmers of America on October 24, 1935, voted to restrict the activities of those states having girls on their rolls, and

"Whereas, we do not believe that any organization of this kind, partly supported by public funds, should have restrictions on its membership that would prevent anyone regularly enrolled in a publicly supported vocational agricultural school or department from joining and participating in its activities.

"Be it resolved that Massachusetts withdraw from the national organization known as the Future Farmers of America and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Future Farmers of America, Mr. Linke, chief of the bureau of vocational agriculture education, Mr. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, and to President Roosevelt."



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Department of Education*

*State House, Boston*

*Division of Vocational Education*  
*R. C. Small, Director*

RECORDED  
1936 MAY 11 - AM 7:13  
April 26, 1936.

For Mr. John C. Wright

To National F. F. A. Adviser, Mr. J. A. Linke  
National F. F. A. Executive-Secretary W. A. Ross  
State F. F. A. Chapter Advisers  
And Others Interested or Responsible

Gentlemen:

The following resolutions were unanimously passed at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Future Farmers of America, held at Massachusetts State College, April 11, 1936.

The "N.B." quoted below in item 2 makes this Massachusetts Association of Future Farmers of America, for all distinctively national purposes and activities of the F. F. A., an association of boys; while, for all distinctively state purposes and activities, the educational benefits of this Association are held open to all vocational agricultural pupils in this state. This N.B. was intended to provide legally for any degree of more or less intimate connection between vocational agricultural education and F. F. A. programs in this Commonwealth which local vocational agricultural schools and departments might desire.

The foregoing remarks and the following resolutions are to be taken strictly at their face value. They are not official pronouncements of the Massachusetts Department of Education. The Massachusetts Department of Education has never taken any official cognizance of any of the matters herein touched upon. As State F. F. A. Adviser, I am simply taking this means of carrying out the wishes of the Massachusetts Association of Future Farmers of America, as expressed below in item 8.

RESOLUTIONS ON RELATIONSHIP OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER, F. F. A.  
TO NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

1. WHEREAS:

We believe that we have complied in good faith with the National program as originally stated in its Constitution; and

2. WHEREAS:

Our Constitution is modeled on the original F. F. A. Constitution and in it Article III, Section B, has an N.B. which, for the fullest possible compliance with the present National Constitution, reads

"N.B. It is expressly provided that only male members shall be proposed for office, honors, or participation in contests, controlled by the National Association of Future Farmers of America;" and

3. WHEREAS:

We are unable to comply with the ruling discriminating against female membership even if we found it otherwise desirable, because it is contrary to the constitutional provisions of Massachusetts governing the use of public funds in public education and any organizations identified there-with (See footnote 1); and

4. WHEREAS:

We do not care, for good and sufficient reasons, to be placed in the position of voluntarily withdrawing our membership in the National Organization of F. F. A.; and

5. WHEREAS:

We do not care to pay dues without representation and participation in the normal privileges of the organization, therefore

6. BE IT RESOLVED:

That our Treasurer be instructed to draw a check covering our membership dues for the F. F. A. fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, and

7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That we decline to forward dues after June 30, 1936, or to surrender our charter, until this matter has been thoroughly reviewed by an impartial committee of National and State advisers (See footnote 2); and

8. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the National Secretary, the National Adviser, and the advisers of other State Chapters in the discretion of our State adviser; and that a copy be spread upon our official records.

Footnote 1 We respectfully point out that this is undoubtedly true in other States; and we believe that immeasurable harm would result to vocational agricultural work throughout the country, if this action of the National organization were to become known to either our State or National representatives.

Footnote 2 We suggest that the proper action to take would be: to rescind the vote of the last National Convention; and to take such action as would permit every State the right to incorporate in its Constitution such rules as shall make it conform to the laws of the Commonwealth, or rules laid down by the State Commissioner of Education.

Respectfully submitted,



RUFUS W. STIMSON  
Massachusetts Association of F. F. A. Adviser



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Education*

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
 R. O. SMALL, DIRECTOR

*State House, Boston*

June 8, 1936.

Mr. J. B. Rutland, State Adviser,  
 Texas Association of F. F. A.,  
 State Board for Vocational Education,  
 Austin, Texas.

Dear Mr. Rutland:

With the F. F. A. principles and program of work I am intimately familiar.

From the moment Dr. Lane took the F. F. A. away from Groseclose, and began to spot light its advantages as an integral feature of the National Vocational Agricultural Education program, he put all possible pressure on me to bring Massachusetts into the fold. The impossibility of legally so doing was explained to him; until, finally, at a Regional Conference here in Boston, the plan of adjustment shown by the "N.B." in the copy of the recent resolutions was hit upon, and I was told by those present to send our plan along, including a constitution with that N.B. and "see what would happen".

We sent the constitution so set up. We were not told it had been rejected. We assumed it had been accepted as a sufficient compliance with National Association of F. F. A. purposes. We knew it would be legal here.

You see, we have women in Massachusetts who own and operate farms. We also have women who are homemakers. Your Future Homemakers' organization would be for the latter. Vocational Agricultural Education, in all its privileges and advantages in Massachusetts, must be kept open to the former. Our Essex County Agricultural School, for example, has a homemaking school for girls under a woman educational manager; and a vocational agricultural school for boys and girls, men and women, with a man as educational manager. There is a separate program for each school.

There has been no year in which girls have not been admitted to our vocational agricultural education classes. The statistics you quote to the contrary are in error. Potentially there always will be girls in our vocational agricultural education classes. They are admitted and must be admitted, on equal terms with boys.

Our schools and departments in general have been resentful. They have felt that a phase of the Federal Vocational Agricultural Education service on which so much public time and public money are being spent ought to be open to all who are eligible to attend vocational agricultural classes in any State. It has been impossible to develop any considerable degree of

June 8, 1936.

enthusiasm for membership in the National Association, or in a State Association affiliated with the National Association at whose hands our State is considered to have suffered. This will explain the small numbers, even at our largest membership figure and our dwindling numbers. Until this situation is cleared up in such manner as to permit us to carry on legally our program of Vocational Agricultural Education in this State, including F. F. A. activities urged upon us by the Federal Office of Education, it is too much to expect any increase of enthusiasm, or enlargement of membership.

The boys and their advisers all thought all of you ought to have our facts before you, Hence the set of resolutions you have received and mentioned in this letter to me.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) RUFUS W. STIMSON

Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

FOR: Mr. John C. Wright, Assistant Commissioner for Vocational Education. *17a.*

Explanation of the occasion for, and point of, this memorandum, if desired, may be found attached hereto. These statements are sent for your information and convenient reference.

*Rufus W. Stimson*  
/s/ RUFUS W. STIMSON  
Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

M E M O R A N D U M

FROM: Mr. Small

DATE: August 19, 1937.

TO: Mr. Stimson

SUBJECT: 1936 Proceedings of the F. F. A. Convention.

Reading the statement on page 21 of the 1936 Proceedings of the F. F. A. Convention, I do not gather that they actually expect us to ask formal opinion of the Attorney General on this specific question, but that they desire to understand the bases upon which we take our stand.

Let us get the issue involved squarely before us.

I do this in no argumentative mood and with no provincial interest. I do it no more in the interest of our chapters than in the interest of this useful national organization.

The issue is the principle of complete public control. This is covered by our State Constitution and laws; particularly by the "anti-aid amendment", so called, which in part provides:

Article 46. - - - no - - - use of public money - - - shall be made - - - for - - - maintaining or aiding any school - - - not - - - under the exclusive control, order and superintendence of - - - public agents authorized by the commonwealth - - - .

This is also covered by the fundamental "Smith-Hughes" Act which provides that "such education shall be under public supervision or control".

A line of opinions, court cases, and court decisions involving the "anti-aid amendment", control of school organizations, use of school property, jurisdiction of Boards of Control, have determined beyond further debate that an activity not under complete direction and control of the constituted Board of Control, has no place in the school; an activity which is not educationally a part of the school is an activity that instructors as such have no right directing and advising on school time and on school property.

Any question we could frame would in effect ask whether a boys' national organization, privately controlled, meeting in convention, could determine membership in an activity carried on by one of our State-aided Agricultural Schools, in which activity our instructors, paid from public funds, participate and exercise educational leadership.

In light of the above, it would be ridiculous for us to ask the Attorney General a question to which the answer is so elementary and patent.

We and those in direct charge of these schools are responsible public servants in charge of schools all activities of which are open, under regulations, to "minors" enrolled therein. There can be no activity in a school which is not completely subject to constituted public control, There can be no activity in which, subject to regulations of the Board of Control, membership does not include all pupils.

We would not only be ridiculous, but we would be unwise. We could precipitate trouble for all concerned. We could start a line of attack upon an enterprise full of merit and educational value. I must not do this.

Dear Mr. Stimson:

I am in receipt of the memorandum dated August 19, 1937, from Mr. Small to you entitled "1936 Proceedings of the F. F. A. Convention."

I note Mr. Small's remark concerning the statement on page twenty-one of the Proceedings of the National F. F. A. Convention. I also note the statement by Mr. Small as follows: "I do not gather that they actually expect us to ask formal opinion of the Attorney General on this specific question." I want to assume the entire responsibility for asking, in the National Convention, that Massachusetts give us the interpretations of the law by the Attorney General, since, in your letter to me dated September 22, 1936 in paragraph three you make a statement as follows: "Mr. Small has explained to you in person why more complete compliance is impossible. I also have so done in person and by letter. Our position is necessitated by our laws and by rulings of our Attorney Generals governing expenditures of public funds in our State."

Since you had stated in your letter to me that your Attorney Generals had made rulings governing expenditures of public funds in Massachusetts, I felt it would help in our conclusions concerning procedures in solving the problem in Massachusetts in connection with the national F. F. A.

On page two of the memorandum dated August 19, it is stated: "In the light of the above it would be ridiculous



for us to ask the Attorney General a question to which the answer is so elementary and patent." Further, "We would not only be ridiculous but we would be unwise. We could precipitate trouble for all concerned." Also, in your memorandum of August 25, 1937, you stated that in a letter of the 23rd instant written to Executive Secretary Ross about what I had just done you said: "It is unthinkable that this action as recorded contemplates any further procedure. You can not have intended that a boy from Massachusetts, or any other State, should go over the head of the Director of Vocational Education of that State to the Attorney General for interpretations of the law as bearing upon a feature of that State's program of instruction." I am like you, I believe it is unthinkable, especially in Massachusetts, that a boy would be permitted to go over the head of the Director of Vocational Education to its Attorney General for an interpretation of the law, but from your letter of September 22, 1936 to me you indicate that rulings of the Attorney Generals have already been made governing expenditures of public funds in the State of Massachusetts.

If you will refer to my letter addressed to you November 7, 1936, paragraph two, you will understand that we had no intention of any one going over the head of the State authority to get an opinion from the Attorney General. I raised this question in the convention because I thought it would be a step forward in really solving the problem which is found on page twenty-one of the Proceedings as a recommendation of the National Advisory Council.

It is as follows: "Recommended that since the present national F. F. A. constitution is being revised that during this process of revision consideration be given to the making of satisfactory provision for meeting State constitution requirements with respect to membership in the Future Farmers of America."

I have made an honest effort to solve this problem, but it seems that I have two opposing sides that are not willing in any way to compromise. However, I am still in hopes that something can be done by which Massachusetts can still retain her membership in the national organization. As I have told you, I inherited this whole controversy and am trying to work at it in a fair-minded way and in the interest of the larger organization.

I am sorry that you have seen fit to make public your side of the case, since, in my judgment, it has seriously handicapped my plans in bringing about a solution of the problem. We have never made public, from this office, anything for or against Massachusetts. Although your memorandum of August 19 may create some favorable sentiment in some States, <sup>I fear</sup> it will tend to arouse the opposition in other States. We have a plan under way which will be brought before the Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees at Kansas City. If it fails ~~it will be necessary for you to assume a large part of the~~ <sup>I hope you will help me find a solution to the prob</sup> ~~blame~~

I hope you will accept this in the spirit in which it is written.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. LINKE

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 VOCATIONAL DIVISION  
 VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SERVICE  
 212 STATE HOUSE  
 BOSTON, MASS.

August 25, 1937.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Those Responsible for Sound Vocational Agricultural Education and Future Farmers of America Policy and Procedure.

FROM: Rufus W. Stimson, Supervisor of Vocational Agricultural Education, and State F. F. A. Adviser in Massachusetts.

SUBJECT: Revision of the National F. F. A. Constitution with Reference to Membership.

Page 21 of "1936 Proceedings of the Ninth National Convention of Future Farmers of America", reads in part:

"Delegate Clinch of Massachusetts was then recognized and spoke briefly concerning the - - - membership situation - - - after which the Student-Secretary was called upon to read the recent recommendation of the National Advisory Council concerning this situation which was as follows:

"Recommended that since the present National F. F. A. Constitution is being revised, that during this process of revision, consideration be given to the making of a satisfactory provision for meeting State Constitution requirements with respect to membership in the F. F. A."

"Moved by Maddox of Tennessee and seconded that the recommendation of the Advisory Council be accepted. Poucher of Florida offered an amendment to the effect that the existing resolution adopted in 1935 at the National F. F. A. Convention be continued until next year and that the Massachusetts Attorney General's interpretation be obtained. The motion as amended was carried."

+.

The Constitution of the Massachusetts Association of F. F. A. was modeled as closely as possible on the first Constitution of the National Association of F. F. A. Its membership Article, Section B, opened membership, as did the original Constitution, to any student regularly enrolled in an all-day, day-unit or part-time class, as to all activities in the State program; but included the following "N.B." as to the out-of-the State, or National, F. F. A. educational activities and honors:

"N.B.: It is expressly provided that only male members shall be proposed for office, honors, or participation in contests, controlled by the National Association of Future Farmers of America."

Thus, within the State there was strict conformity to the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth. Thus, also, it was believed, there was sufficiently strict conformity outside the State, to the more recent restriction of all National F. F. A. educational activities and benefits solely to male members. At a Regional Conference Massachusetts had been urged to join the F. F. A. with exactly such latitude in State affairs safeguarded, and had acted in good faith accordingly.

Our F. F. A. membership in Massachusetts must continue to remain open to all who are admitted to the all-day, day-unit, or part-time privileges of Vocational Agricultural Education. And Massachusetts should not be penalized therefor.

It was upon this express understanding that Massachusetts applied for, and accepted, a Charter in the National Association of Future Farmers of America.

For the possible assistance of Mr. Sampson, representative of the North East Region on the National F. F. A. Advisory Council, and on his request, a possible footnote to the membership section has been submitted for consideration by those in charge of the revision of the National F. F. A. Constitution now in progress.

The National F. F. A. Program is so completely sponsored, so strongly promoted, and so strictly guided by the Vocational Agricultural Education Service of the United States Office of Education, and its activities entail such heavy expenditure of public funds, including office work, travel of agents, the use of the franking privilege, and the like, that not to open all National F. F. A. education activities and benefits to all active male F. F. A. members of any and every state, as factors in an official vocational agricultural education program maintained by funds raised by public taxation, would be indefensible.

The 1935 resolution should be rescinded. A footnote or other amendment, to the effect of the "N.B." above quoted, should be incorporated in the National F. F. A. Constitution now in process of revision.

The recommendation, in short, of the National F. F. A. Advisory Council, above quoted, is in the interests of sound Vocational Agricultural Education and F. F. A. policy and procedure.

No request for action pursuant to the Maddox motion and Poucher amendment having been received, but page 21 of the 1936 Proceedings having been read, I took the liberty of handing a marked copy of the latter to Director Small, with the following note of transmittal:

"Now that I have guilty knowledge of the exact wording of the membership motion referring to Massachusetts, in the printed 'Proceedings' recently received, I presume it is my duty to call it to your attention."

The 23rd instant, writing Executive-Secretary Ross about what I had just done, I said:

"It is unthinkable that this action, as recorded, contemplated any other procedure. You cannot have intended that a boy from Massachusetts, or any other state, should go over the head of the Director of Vocational Education of that state, to its Attorney General, for an interpretation of the law as bearing upon a feature included in that state's program of instruction."

Mr. Small's memorandum to me dated the 19th instant was prompted by this reference, has the background above indicated, and is released herewith for your information by his authority.