Rochelle FFA

2023 Banquet

Script

5:30 (promptly)

Opening Ceremonies

Ricardo -

(Series of taps from the gavel) The banquet hall will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the Rochelle FFA Chapter. Madame Vice President, are all officers at their stations?

Megan -

I shall call the role of officers, determine if they are at their stations, and report back to you, Mister President.

The Sentinel.

Abbey -

Stationed by the door.

Megan-

Your duties there?

Abbey -

Through this door pass many friends of the FFA, it is my duty to make sure that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order.

Megan-

The Reporter.

Emily-

The reporter is stationed by the flag.

Megan-

Why by the flag?

Emily-

As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man, woman, and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii.

Megan-

The Treasurer

Tommy-

Stationed by the emblem of Washington

Megan-

Your duties there?

Tommy-

I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts, carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.

Megan-

The Secretary

Trent-

Stationed by the ear of corn.

Megan-

Your duties there?

Trent-

I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet.

Megan-

The Advisor.

Mrs. Jacobs-

Here by the owl.

Megan-

Why stationed by the owl?

Mrs. Jacobs-

The owl is a time honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, we are asked to advise you from time to time, as the need arises. We hope that our advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom.

Madam Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?

Megan-

The plow is a symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun.

Mrs. Jacobs-

Why is the president so stationed?

Megan-

The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness, and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation.

Megan- all officers are at their stations.

Ricardo-

Thank you, Madam Vice President. (tap the gavel once) The secretary will call the roll of members.

Trent-

There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ members and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ guests present Mister President.

Ricardo-

Thank you, FFA members, why are we here? (tap gavel 3 times)

ALL-

To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.

Ricardo-

May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this banquet of the Rochelle FFA Chapter duly open for the transaction of business, or attention to any matter which may be properly presented.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our annual parent-member banquet. We know that this time of the year is especially busy but knowing that our parents, siblings, and friends have taken time out of their day to come see and celebrate our successes is truly an honor. I would also like to thank everyone for their support of our chapter this year. The food looks delicious, and it’s about time to eat, so I will call on Veronica to say the invocation.

Veronica-

Please assume an attitude of prayer.

PRAYER

Amen

Ricardo-

Tonight, we are going to start here at the head table, followed by the….

(When most are finished eating…)

Ricardo-

At this time we are going to continue with the banquet. You are more than welcome to go up and get seconds-or thirds but in the essence of time we are going to move forward…

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize some very important people who are in attendance tonight. First of all, any members of the Rochelle Township High School Board of Education, please stand and be recognized. Next, Mr. Jason Harper, RTHS Superintendent, Mr. Tony Doyle, RTHS Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Chris Lewis, RTHS Principal, Mr. Brett Zick, and Dr. Dave Perrin RTHS Assistant Principals. Our chapter would like to thank the RTHS Board of Education and Administration for all of the support that they have given us this year.

At this time, we ask Alayna Smardo to come forward and present the FFA creed.

Alayna- FFA Creed

Tommy- (Treasurer) At this time we will be honoring some of our members with their Greenhand and Chapter Degrees.

Ricardo- President

The first degree of membership in the FFA is the Greenhand Degree. The requirements to become a Greenhand are: the person has to be enrolled in an agriculture course, they must be familiar with the FFA Creed and Constitution, and they must have some type of supervised agriculture experience program. At this time we would like to present each First-Year Member with their Greenhand degree pin. Would you please come forward as I read your name and remain in front until all have been presented.

* Paloma Arrez
* Ryelee Bogle
* Meredith Bruns
* Logan Crawford
* Jaydin Dickey
* Alison Dyer
* Junior Guzman
* Audyn Kemp
* Samantha Overton
* Maycie Powell
* Cambrey Rodeghero
* Deegan Schabacker
* Aubry Simms
* Alayna Smardo
* Rylin Tabor

Emily - Reporter

The second degree of membership in the FFA is that of the Chapter FFA Degree. The requirements are: a student must be enrolled in an agriculture education course for the second year, have successfully completed their first year of their supervised agricultural experience program, and have demonstrated leadership, citizenship and cooperation qualities. The Chapter FFA Degree pin is a silver pin and will replace the bronze Greenhand pin.

Would you come forward as I read your name and remain here in front until all have been presented.

* Trent Kreider
* Makayla Ludwig
* Veronica Vaughn

Ricardo -

We are now going to move to the honorary FFA degree portion of the banquet. This year the chapter decided to continue a tradition, bestowing the honorary chapter degree upon those who have helped us out along the way.

Ricardo -

It is always a pleasure to receive honorary members into the FFA. The purpose of this ceremony is to recognize, from time to time, the efforts of others made in our behalf.

Mister Secretary, please read the section of the national constitution which provides for honorary membership.

Trent - Secretary

Honorary membership-farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people, and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA, and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members at any regular meeting or convention.

Ricardo -

Mister Secretary, will you introduce those who are to receive this honor?

Trent - Secretary

Mister President, members and guests, I am pleased to read the following names:

* Starbucks
* Dr. Lewis
* Emily Reif

Ricardo -

Will the officers take their place beside me? Will the ushers please present the candidates?

Tommy -

Chris Lewis, is part of a very supporting administration. We are very grateful for all the support we receive from them.Without them we would not be able to do the things we do. He will come in and check to see what we are doing no matter how big or small. Overall he is a great person and very supported. That's why we would like to grant him this award.

Trent -

Starbucks, thank you for supporting the Rochelle FFA chapter such as donating gift cards as gifts and donating food to our past events and in many other unnamed ways that we are so appreciative of.

Megan -

Emily Reif, thank you for always being here to help our chapter. Over the years, you have helped us at concessions, in practice proficiency interviews, judging proficiencies, and being an active alumni member.

Abbey -

I welcome you as friends of the FFA. It is my privilege as sentinel to extend to each of you the symbolic handclasp of friendship and brotherhood. (Shake hands)

Emily-

As reporter, I am pleased to inform you that the FFA is a national youth organization whose purpose is to develop agricultural leaders. Welcome to membership. (Shake hands)

Tommy-

Your contribution as a useful citizen in our democracy serves as an example for our members to follow. As treasurer, I welcome you to our organization. (Shake hands)

Trent-

The FFA needs counsel and guidance from recognized leaders. It is my pleasure as secretary to add your name to our roll of honorary members. (Shake hands)

Megan-

As vice president, I welcome you to the FFA. I would inform you that our members learn to appreciate the dignity of labor. Without labor neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. (Shake hands)

Ricardo-

On behalf of every member, I wish to say we are proud to have you as honorary members. May this affiliation prove valuable to all. I impress upon you that we look to you for counsel and guidance. It is because of the great respect we have for you that you have been elected to honorary membership. May we always cooperate for the benefit of all. I now confer upon you honorary membership in the Rochelle FFA Chapter and present you with this token of friendship. (Shake hands)

Fellow members and guests, please join me in congratulating these individuals. (Clapping)

Ricardo-

Now we are going to turn it over to Mrs. Page and Mrs. Jacobs for the awards portion of the evening.

ADVISOR- Jacobs

This year one of our members applied for and was recommended to receive the state FFA degree. To be eligible for the state FFA degree members must have worked 750 hours or actively invested $1500 in their SAE over at least two years. Members also must have completed at least 25 hours of community service through at least two separate activities. Members complete an application and go through an interview process in order to be recommended to receive their degree. This year, Megan Seebach has been recommended to receive her state FFA degree at the State FFA Convention in June.

In addition to our state FFA degree this year the Rochelle FFA chapter is proud to announce that we have one candidate for the American FFA Degree, the highest degree that a member can attain. In order to qualify for the American Degree a member must have earned and productively invested at least $7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least $1,500 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time in their SAE. They also must have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the National Convention in which the degree will be awarded and completed at least 50 hours of community service in at least three different activities. Members then complete an application and go through an interview process with a committee at the state level. This year we have had one student who has been recommended by the state committee to receive his degree at the National FFA Convention in October in Indianapolis. Congratulations to Jack Richolson on being recommended for the American FFA Degree.

ADVISOR-Page

We have had an amazing year this year! It has been a rebuilding year but our members have made the most of it, we had three members compete with their SAEs, and our most active member competition was extremely competitive.

This year we had a few members compete with their SAE’s. They are:

* Makayla Ludwig - SOE Arts and Communications
* [Ricardo Rodriguez](mailto:23rodriguezr@rthsd212.org)- Food Service Placement
* [Megan Seebach](mailto:24seebachm@rthsd212.org)- Equine Science and Agriculture Processing
* Veronica Vaughn - Grain Production, Fiber and Oil Crop Production, and Diversified Crop Production

All four of our members placed first at section with the following SAEs and advanced to the District I competition in March in Geneseo.

* Makyla in SOE Arts and Communications
* Ricardo in Food Service Placement
* Megan in Equine Science Entrepreneurship

and Veronica in Grain Production

From there, Makayla, Ricardo, and Megan won the District competition and advanced to the state level.

At the state level, Ricardo placed second in food service placement.

Congratulations to all of these individuals who competed with their SAEs this year and we look forward to continued success next year!

One of the pillars of the FFA is scholarship. Not only does the FFA promote leadership but it also promotes learning. We would now like to recognize those members that made the honor roll this year. If you were named onto the honor roll at any point during this year, please stand.

We would also like to recognize the FFA member from each class that has exhibited leadership and scholarship.

Freshman class-Cambrey Rodeghero

Sophomore class-Abbey Jarvis

Junior class- Emily Lovett

Senior class- Rylee Jackson

At this time, we would like to welcome Emily Reif, a representative from the Rochelle FFA Alumni to the podium for a special presentation.

Jacobs?

This year we had a very successful fruit fundraiser.

The top 10 salespeople were as follows:

10. Lauren Basilio-Henry 10 items

9. Cambrey Rodeghero 12 items

8. Elijah Metzger 16 items

8. Emily Lovett 16 items

7. Veronica Vaughn 19 items

6. Trent Kreider 24 items

5. Josey Weber 25 items

4. Alayna Smardo 31items

3. Meredith Bruns 34 items

2. Aubry Simms 38 items

1. Makayla Ludwig 203 items

Thanks to the work of our dedicated and hardworking members we raised over $4,000!

At this point, if you were on any CDE competition team please stand. These FFA members worked diligently to prepare for the competitions they participated in and they represented Rochelle extremely well. The Career Development Events list is in your program and it has also been displayed throughout the banquet this evening on the screen. Please join me in congratulating these members for their various accomplishments.

Page?

We are very fortunate to have great students here at RTHS-and especially here in the FFA! This year we had a pretty tough competition for our chapter activity points awards!!!!

The members who hold the top 10 points totals are:

10. Meredith Bruns - 308

9. Paloma Arrez - 330

9. Lauren Basilio Henry - 330

8. Alayna Smardo - 337

7. Samantha Overton - 382

6. Trent Kreider - 548

5. Veronica Vaughn-683

4. Emily Lovett-712

3. Ricardo Rodriguez - 780

2. Megan Seebach-1029

And…

Receiving the most active member award is…

1. Makayla Ludwig- 1106

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!!!!

We now have some very important awards to present to two of our most active members-the Star Greenhand and the DeKalb Award!

Greenhand- Samantha Overton

DeKalb Agriculture Award-Ricardo Rodriguez

Senior Recognition

ADVISOR?-

At this time, please direct your attention to the screen at the left for a very special presentation.

SLIDE SHOW

Hailey-

At this time we would like to install our 2023-2024 officer team.

Ricardo-

As officers-elect, you have been selected by your fellow members to be leaders of our chapter for the coming year. You are therefore responsible for guiding our chapter in all its worthy undertakings; including ensuring committees work effectively, minutes of meetings are taken and correspondence from our chapter takes place.

Tommy-

You are also tasked with maintaining a close relationship with news-media to share the story of the Rochelle FFA and ensure all are welcome in our chapter. May you work intelligently and seriously to fulfill the responsibilities of your office.

Abbey-

It is an honor to be an officer in the FFA. From time to time during the year, you may encounter difficult problems, but through cooperation, hard work, and dedication, you will succeed and the FFA will prosper. Do each of you accept the responsibilities of being an officer, and will you do your best to uphold the ideals and principles of the FFA? If so, answer “We do.”

Trent-

I now declare each of your properly and duly installed officers of the Rochelle FFA Chapter. May your year of service be marked by integrity, dedication, and a cooperative spirit. Seek harmony among your fellow officers and set high standards of leadership for all chapter members. Retiring officers, will you please escort the newly installed officers to their stations?”

Closing Ceremonies

Megan-

Madame Secretary, do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?

Veronica-

(Rises, replies, and then is seated)

I have none Madame President

Megan-

Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting?

We are about to adjourn this banquet of the Rochelle FFA Chapter. As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life. Fellow members and guests, join me in a salute to our flag. (3 taps of the gavel)

Pledge

Megan-

I now declare this banquet adjourned.