The 104th Annual Meeting of the Fulton County Farm Bureau was held Thursday, February 11th at the Farm Bureau Building in Lewistown, IL. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Barry Fisher, and Rob Janssen led the Pledge of Allegiance. Julie Serven, Secretary, read the official notice of the meeting and then declared by actual count 65 proxies of the delegates were accounted for and declared that a quorum was present.

President Fisher called everyone’s attention to the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes, printed in the program booklet. Robert Vohland, Treasurer, presented the financial report in written form in the booklet. Vice-President Wes Strode noted his report on Farm Bureau membership was also included in the book. President Fisher called attention to the President’s report printed in the program booklet.

He then entertained a motion to accept a resolution to accept all of the reports. The motion was properly made, seconded, and affirmed.

Retiring director Wes Strode was recognized with a pin and plaque for serving as director and Board Vice President. Retiring director Delson Wilcoxen was recognized with a pin and plaque for serving as director and as Marketing Chair. They were both thanked for their leadership and involvement with Farm Bureau and will be missed.

Barry asked members to note the scholarship recipients for the 2021 Awards, listed in the program booklet.

Elections then commenced. Wes Strode, Vice-President conducted the election of President. Nominations for President, a one-year term, were accepted. Barry Fisher was again nominated. A motion was made to close nominations and ask that a unanimous ballot be cast for Barry Fisher as President was made. It was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Re-elected president, Barry Fisher, continued with the elections. Nominations for four individuals were needed for Directors to the Fulton County Farm Bureau. Both Wes Strode’s and Delson Wilcoxen’s second terms were up and due to tenure limitations, they were unable to run for another term. Robert Vohland and Keely Egelhoff both completed their first 3-year term. They were both eligible to be elected for an additional 3-year term and both agreed to do so.

There were 4 individuals nominated for 4 openings on the Board. Nominations were accepted for: Keely Egelhoff, Robert Vohland, Jeff Shelby, and Nicholas Cleer.

New Directors Elected to Board

Two new Directors have been elected to our Board of Directors. In this is issue, we introduce them and welcome them to the Board!

Nick Cleer farms near Ipava with his wife Kathy, who also works for the McDonough County Health Department. They are the parents of daughter Amanda, who works at Graham Prompt Care, and son Justin who works at Pella. They have a 14-month old grandson, Ryker.

Nick is a graduate of VIT schools and has an Associates Degree in Diesel Mechanics from Spoon River College. Nick and Kathy farm with his parents, Richard and (also) Kathy, raising corn, beans, wheat and hay. His wife Kathy raises chickens, turkeys, ducks, peacocks, geese and guineas. They also raise pumpkins to sell on the Spoon River Scenic Drive.

They attend Berean Christian Church. Nick enjoys restoring antique tractors, collecting farm toys, and taking road trips on his motorcycle.

Nick says that he was asked by retiring Director Delson Wilcoxen to consider running for the position of Director, he decided that he did want to do it and see what he could do for his farm community and the organization.

Also newly-elected to the Board is Jeff Shelby of Farmington. Jeff and wife Emily are the parents of Noah (11), Lane (9), and Jackson (5). Jeff graduated from Lewistown High School and holds an Associates Degree from Spoon River College. He graduated from the University of Illinois C-U with a degree in Agronomy. He is a Pioneer sales rep in North Fulton County and farms with the Shelby Family.

Jeff and Emily and the boys attend Northwoods Church in Canton. When he finds the time, Jeff enjoys hunting and golfing.

Jeff says he looks forward to advancing his knowledge from the local, state, and national legislative front. He wants to be a part of how Farm Bureau helps farmers and players a role in the programs that help them succeed.

We welcome both Nick and Jeff to the Board. We appreciate these (and our current) Directors who have agreed to volunteer their valuable time to advance and improve the well-being of our farmers and to improve our agriculture industry.

A motion was made asking the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for those 4. It was properly seconded and carried.

The final election of the evening was to name 2 at-large delegates to represent Fulton County at the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Nominated were Wes Strode, Wayne Ridle, and Raymond Porter. A motion was made to close nominations and name the top 2 vote getters delegates and the next as alternate. The motion was properly seconded and carried. Delegates to the 2021 IAA Annual Meeting are Wes Strode and Raymond Porter. Alternate is Wayne Ridle. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.
February Board Highlights
The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in regular session on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at the Farm Bureau office in Lewistown at 7:00 p.m. p.m. in order to due notice given. The meeting was called to order and presid- ed over by President Barry Fisher. Other board members present were Julie Serven, Wes Strode, Robin Fisher, Linda Rock, Seth Vohland, Delson Wilcoxen, Levi Porter, Keely Egelhoff, Bob Vohland, David Tolley, and Rob Janssen (via Zoom). Also present was Roger Egelhoff.

Correspondences: We received a thank you from the Fisher family for the memori- al given to Fulton County 4-H when Fran Fisher passed away.

Affiliate Reports: Jim McNelly zoomed in to report on West Central FS business. He stated that they had one of the best falls in recent memory. Jim talked about the on- line procedure to take the private pesticide applicator’s test. Farmers who apply their own anhydrous must be certified by April 2022.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes from the December meeting were email and mailed out before the meeting for the board members to read. A couple of corrections were made. These were placed on file with corrections.

Treasurer’s Report: Bob discussed the financial statements. Board members directed management to continue researching investment options. The reports were placed on file for audit.

Membership Report: In total, we have 986 Regular Members, 8 Profession- al Members, 1508 Associates for a total of 2506 members. The report was placed on file.

Committee Reports:
Young Leaders – “Fill a Ford Food Drive” collected over 400 pounds of food for Saint Mary’s Food pantry in Canton.
Ag in the Classroom – Jamie had few items to report for the month of Decem- ber for AITC, except for a couple of Zoom meetings. Barry will write to the class in January, Julie will write in February and Robin will write to Robin in March.

Local Issues – Wes discussed a survey that IL FB gave us to about Broadband ac- cess as of December 2019, most of Fulton County does not have access. Broadband is a download speed of 25MB and an upload speed of 3MB. Directors voted to conduct the broadband survey among our members, delivering it with dues notices. We have been in talks with Fulton Co ESDB about making up a list of rural individuals that would be willing to be given the COVID vac- cine. Wes also talked about the wind farm planned for northern Fulton County and into Peoria County.

Legislative – Dave reported that IL Farm Bureau helped conduct the Govern- mental Affairs and Legislative Conference via Zoom meetings on February 16, 17 and 18. Voting to noon on 1pm each day, covering 3 dif- ferent topics. Directors also discussed the HB 3635. Directors were hopeful that the governor would lift some of the restrictions the followings the day as was anticipated. Illinois has a new speaker of the house.

Marketing – Delson reported on the lo- cal grain and livestock markets. The grain market is up!

Business service – We are going to or- der the 65” MondoPad for the board room.

The furniture by the kitchen is not working. Elaine has been working with Spoon River Mechanical to figure out what is the next move.

Promotion and Education – Keely re- ported that CRP sign ups is open. Elaine provided a written manager’s re- port. Kevin Semlow would like to have live interactive policy development meetings, dates are TBD.

New Business:
A. County annual meeting director nomi- nations were discussed. Wes and Delson, who’s second terms are up, are working on their replacements. 
B. County annual meeting delegate/alter- nate nominations were discussed. Directors would like to nominate those who were elect- ed last year’s County Annual Meeting, due to the current situation, directors would participate as they normally would work.

New Business:
A. The County Annual meeting was approved the 2021 Fulton County Farm Bureau Holiday Schedule.
B. The Executive Committee will meet to discuss the 2021 County board. Thursday, January 26th at the Farm Bureau building.
C. Ag Week is March 21-27. We plan to do the Ag Week Baby Basket, and a trivia call-in promotion on Q98.1 radio station.
D. A long-term Food Pantry assistance program was discussed. More details need to be collected.
E. The Monday Morning Moment Face- book segment is going to be revamped to fo- cus on ag committee each month.
F. IAA Partnership Grant requests are due March 1st. Elaine will work with the Direc- tors to develop a list of programs that we may request funding assistance for.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.
Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth $4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty-ninth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, program manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via email at dgallivan@ilfb.org.