



# FFA Alumni Association

## NEWSLETTER

WINTER -- 1977

Dear FFA Alumni:

"FFA Alumni . . . Supporting Vocational Agriculture" is our 1977 motto. In our acceptance speech as your National Chairman, we outlined two realistic and attainable goals in 1977.

First, to increase active membership by fifty percent as the FFA celebrates their 50th Anniversary. Our current active membership is approximately 12,000. Therefore, November 1, 1977, we should have 18,000 active FFA Alumni members.

Second, to have 1,000 Alumni members in attendance at the 1977 Annual FFA Alumni Convention.

Participation and involvement is the name of the game. Mr. H. N. Hunsicker, National FFA Advisor, indicated in his remarks to this year's National Convention that the FFA Alumni is here to stay as a viable supportive body of the FFA and vocational agriculture. We need unified involvement of individuals who are wanting to support the FFA through local FFA Alumni Affiliates.

A team effort is needed in serving our nation's greatest youth organization . . . the FFA. We welcome recommendations, suggestions, and input from you into your organization.

We are looking forward to working with you during the coming months in supporting vocational agriculture, secondary and post secondary.

Sincerely,

David C. Thomas  
National Chairman  
FFA Alumni Association



David C. Thomas was elected the 1976-77 National FFA Alumni Chairman during the Fifth Annual Meeting in Kansas City. Mr. Thomas is Vice President of Member Relations of the Midcontinent Farmers Association (MFA) located in Columbia, Missouri. He is a former State FFA Officer, American Farmer, and teacher of Vocational Agriculture.



William Paul Gray



Donald N. McDowell

#### HIGHEST AWARDS PRESENTED

Mr. William Paul Gray and Mr. Donald N. McDowell were named the 1976 "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award" winners. The presentation came as part of the National FFA Alumni Association Meeting held in Kansas City, Missouri in November.

Mr. William Paul Gray recently retired as the National Executive Secretary of the Future Farmers of America and as Program Specialist for Health, Education, and Welfare. He retired after serving 19 years as Executive Secretary. He previously served as Assistant Professor of Agriculture Education at Colorado State University, Executive Secretary of the Colorado FFA Association, Assistant State Supervisor of Colorado Agriculture Education, and a Teacher of Agriculture at Hillside, Wyoming; Saguache, Colorado; and Eaton, Colorado. He has planned and coordinated the National FFA Convention which is attended by over 20,000 FFA members, parents, and guests annually. He has distinguished himself as both an outstanding educator and agriculturist.

Mr. Donald N. McDowell is currently the Executive Director of the National FFA Foundation. As the first full-time director, Mr. McDowell has developed a dynamic success story. During the past seven years under the direction of Mr. McDowell, the FFA Foundation's sponsors have increased their support of the FFA and Vocational Agriculture tremendously. The FFA Foundation has collected over \$828,000 during 1976. Mr. McDowell previously served as Secretary of Agriculture in Wisconsin for 19 years and Teacher of Agriculture for nine years. He is a former member of the FFA and received the FFA's highest degree, American Farmer. He is the past president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and an active member of the National Vocational Education Advisory Committee.

The achievements of these distinguished men exemplifies the ideals, reflects honor upon the FFA, and provides inspiration to current members.

#### NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED

Mr. Terry Horn, Tennessee, representing the Southern Region and Mr. Odell Miller, Ohio, representing the Eastern Region were elected three-year terms on the National Council. Mr. Horn is the owner and president of the Terry Horn Seed Company, and Mr. Miller is the coordinator of internship programs for the Agriculture Education Department at Ohio State University.

Mr. Al Timmerman, Jr. of Texas has been appointed the representative of the National Vocational Agriculture Teacher Organization for a two-year term. Dr. H. Robert Terry of Oklahoma State University was appointed as the representative of the National Agriculture Teacher Educators Association for a three-year term. The Council also welcomes Dr. Ted Ward of Nebraska as the FFA Executive Secretary Representative.

#### FFA ALUMNI . . . SUPPORTING VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

This year's FFA Alumni slogan is "FFA Alumni . . . Supporting Vocational Agriculture." The importance of community, state, and national support of the vocational agriculture program is becoming increasingly important. The emphasis of the FFA Alumni will be placed on unifying persons through Alumni membership and developing strong and viable programs of support.

#### NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCEDURE

The National FFA Alumni has converted to a computer roster system. All states have received copies of their local affiliate membership rosters and state membership roster. States and local affiliates are asked to renew their members and return one copy of the roster to the National Office. The FFA Alumni membership year will coincide with the calendar year of 1977.

#### 1976 FFA ALUMNI OUTSTANDING AFFILIATES

The Evansville, Wisconsin FFA Alumni Affiliate was selected as the 1976 Outstanding Affiliate of the National FFA Alumni Association. The presentation came as part of the National Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

This prestigious award recognized the FFA Alumni for their outstanding accomplishments in supporting and serving the FFA and vocational agriculture. The Evansville Affiliate with 47 Life members and 31 other active members accomplished 31 activities in support of the FFA and vocational agriculture.

Other Affiliates recognized and awarded for their outstanding service were: Silver Emblem (Davies Vo-Tech, Rhode Island, and West Greene, Tennessee; Gold Emblem - Marysville, Ohio, Sun Valley, North Carolina, Hoven, South Dakota, and Roanoke-Benson, Illinois.



# ACTIVE LEADERS HONORED

One of the highlights of the National FFA Alumni Convention was the presentation of the "Legion of Merit Citations." One hundred and ninety-seven individuals from 33 states were presented this active leadership award. The "Legion of Merit Citation" recognizes the personal efforts and initiative of those actively involved in building the FFA Alumni Association. Special recognition is given for persons repeating this award.

To earn the "Legion of Merit Citation," one must enroll 10 or more new FFA Alumni members. Join this group of persons showing their interest in the FFA Alumni. Applications and information are available from the Alumni office.

The 1976 "Legion of Merit Citation" recipients are:

<u>California</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>
Robert Mailand	Elvis J. Cavalier
<u>Florida</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Kathy Albritton	Ronald L. Houser
Barbara Alford	<u>Michigan</u>
Charles Back	Richard Coston
Rick Bezanilla	Clifford Fether
Archie L. Matthews	Lloyd Fether
Ronnie Sauls, Jr. (2)	Harry J. Moore
Marty Ward	Lee Nofziger
Amy Lee Williams	Richard Wortman
<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>
Gary W. Black	Patricia Brugman
H. A. Fleming	Rodney Hebrink
Thomas W. Graves	Greg Holte
David Hawks	John McCracken
Glenn Smith	Ronald G. Nelsen
John T. Swindle	Randy Olson
Ed Tolbert	Rod Osvold
<u>Illinois</u>	Marlin W. Wacholz
Kent Armstrong	<u>Mississippi</u>
Terry Baker	Cindy Chapman
Everett Biggar	<u>Missouri</u>
Greg Bogner	Steve Baird
Torrey Conard	Scott Bilyeu
Kenny Elsasser	Patti Brookshire
Larry Firkins **	Renee Cox
Everett W. Moeller	Duane Deffenderfer
David Ratliff	Dwight Deffenderfer
Don Smith	Donald A. Elbert
Arley Van Doren	Tim George
<u>Indiana</u>	Gina Glidewell
Mark Elsbury	Robert Stemmons
Edward Lusk	<u>Nebraska</u>
<u>Iowa</u>	Norlin Cooper
Wayne A. Nattress	Steve Schreiber
<u>Kansas</u>	<u>New Jersey</u>
R. Dwight Claassen	Dan Jameson
Craig Clark	William H. Snyder
Wayne Crum	<u>New York</u>
Eleanor Mayfield	Brian Hazen
<u>Kentucky</u>	Frank Hedges
Lawrence T. Bell	John H. Ross *

<u>New York, cont'd</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>
Robert C. Watson	Ann Charles
<u>North Carolina</u>	Jimmy Joyner
Walter C. Jones	Harold Lineberry
Oliver O. Manning	Joe Neisler
Bruce L. Miller *	Russell Watson
William H. Teague ***	<u>Texas</u>
Charles Williamson, Jr.	Ray Carson
<u>North Dakota</u>	Russ Lakey
Greg Mack	<u>Utah</u>
<u>Ohio</u>	James Whicker
Ed Bailey	<u>Virginia</u>
Sue Clarke	Martin Auville
Tim Cotterman	Mark Byerly
John P. Hamill	James P. Clouse *
Douglas Jelley	Jane J. Light
Charlie Laird	Harry R. Lloyd
Charles Shirk	Jesse W. Morgan
Frank Tomaino	Jay S. Poole
<u>Oklahoma</u>	Jack L. Schinstock
Don E. Abernathy	David D. See
Richard Couffer	<u>Washington</u>
Howard Datin	Harry T. Argetes
Ricky Davis	David W. Kunze
Scott Dean	Julie Smiley
Floyd Dias	<u>West Virginia</u>
Bill Doyle	Stephan Cronin
Sidney H. Farquhar	<u>Wisconsin</u>
Debbie Gordon	Richard Aide
Teddy Graham	Steven Anderson
Ronald L. Graves	Walter Christoff
Donnie Harp	Mark Cieslewicz
Bill R. Henry	Donald M. Condon
Troy D. Henry	Wallace Erickson
Jim Holland	Gary J. Evans
Kevin Kellogg	Clifford Fisher *
Earl Krumsiek	Wayne Ganser
Charles R. Lawson	Danny George
Terry L. Martin	Randy Guzman
Rick McDaniel	Ronald Heeg
Kent Metcalf	Kenneth Janes
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Russell Rogers	Mike McCarthy
Keith Schroder	Allen Meyer
Kenny L. Schroeder	Randy Meyer
Noble Sokolosky	Brett Miller
Jim Steward	Oliver Miller
Martin Van Meter	Gene Nehls
Elaine Wall	Robert Oliver
Mark Wall	Bill Outhouse
Charlie Wilson	Raymond Pagel
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	Terry Pickett
Bryan Bell	Russell Pinnow
Arthur L. Cummins	Robert A. Quest
Dale Maulfair	Paul R. Redig
<u>Rhode Island</u>	Tom Ronk
Norman Hammond **	Robert Schleis
<u>South Carolina</u>	Ron Schwartzlow
J. T. Black	Todd Seeley
<u>South Dakota</u>	Kenneth Seering **
Craig A. Hansen	Mel Shotliff, Jr.

The 1976 "Legion of Merit Citation" recipients continued:

Wisconsin, cont'd.

Debby Sickinger  
Jim Sickinger  
Jerry Thompson  
Jerome Uher  
Michael VanLanen  
Guy Vogel  
Dave Von Ruden

Wisconsin, cont'd.

Dennis Weis  
Robert Wolfe, Sr.  
Linda Ziemer  
Wyoming  
Kelly J. Burch \*\*\*  
Mitch Gassaway

- \* Two consecutive years  
\*\* Three consecutive years  
\*\*\* Four consecutive years

WELCOME - NEW LIFE MEMBERS!

A hearty welcome to the newest Life Members who have added their names to the prestigious roster of lifetime supporters. Life Members receive a lifetime subscription to The National FUTURE FARMER magazine along with all the other benefits. Why not make this the year your name joins this growing list of loyal supporters?

Wiley Dawson	Kinston, North Carolina
William F. Edwards	Dade City, Florida
Warren Clark	Ames, Iowa
Ronald Heeg	Marshfield, Wisconsin
Irene Heeg	Marshfield, Wisconsin
Daniel Steinhorst	Denmark, Wisconsin
James Sipiorski	Green Bay, Wisconsin
Mark Jahnke	Maribel, Wisconsin
Robert R. Bold	Big Sandy, Montana
Victor Voigt	Reedsville, Wisconsin
Jerome Sickinger	Cato, Wisconsin
Audrey Sickinger	Cato, Wisconsin
Joe Peplinski	Edgerton, Wisconsin
John Arneson	Stoughton, Wisconsin
Fenton Abrahms	Oregon, Wisconsin

Life Members (cont'd)

Konrad Shriner  
Gerald Landeen  
Tim Montgomery  
Noble Sokolosky  
Swanson L. Bennett  
Chas. N. Kinnard  
Kim A. Havens  
Debby Sickinger  
Arthur R. Kurtz  
Robert E. Rexroth  
Gladys R. Tinney  
F. C. Avril  
William Sledge  
Gerald L. Duvall, Jr.  
Paul J. Lefeld  
Dennis J. VanDaele  
Reuel M. Crum  
Charles B. Wheeler  
H. C. Clovett  
Dayton H. Matlick  
Jerry C. Alexander  
Verlin E. Koenig  
LeRoy M. Jeske  
Richard Meske  
Glen N. Holman  
Bruno Santorum  
Michael Trivette  
Phillip McLain  
Reid Ledbetter  
James D. Douglas  
David M. Johnson  
David L. Teague  
Larry Bayless  
Edward Oplinger  
Roy Saunders, Jr.  
Melvin Spencer  
Joseph Stockheimer  
Roland Hagen  
James Hewitt  
James C. Goodman

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Beresford, South Dakota  
Auburn, Georgia  
Owasso, Oklahoma  
McMinnville, Tennessee  
Dawsonville, Georgia  
Janesville, Wisconsin  
Cato, Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Santa Margarita, California  
Juneau, Alaska  
Illiama, Alaska  
Sumner, Georgia  
Damascus, Maryland  
Coldwater, Ohio  
Milan, Illinois  
Frankfort, Indiana  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Alamo, Tennessee  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Yazoo City, Mississippi  
Chinook, Montana  
Sobieski, Wisconsin  
South Wayne, Wisconsin  
Darien, Wisconsin  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Union Grove, North Carolina  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Clinton, Tennessee  
Weidman, Michigan  
Clinton, Tennessee  
Marshfield, Wisconsin  
Stratford, Wisconsin  
Marshfield, Wisconsin  
Marshfield, Wisconsin  
Statesville, North Carolina



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**Newsletter**

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