



# FFA Alumni Association

## *NEWSLETTER*

SUMMER 1972

### THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A mood of optimism and enthusiasm prevailed as representatives from 33 states met to launch the National FFA Alumni Association.

May 12 was a beautiful day in Chicago as FFA Alumni Council Chairman Gus R. Douglass, West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner, called the meeting to order. "Today we stand face to face with an opportunity offered to few people," he said in his opening remarks, "What we do with it can affect agriculture positively for generations." "The FFA Alumni Association is needed for the advancement of agriculture and to help provide youth with a purpose through agriculture," Mr. Douglass continued, "FFA Alumni members can help agricultural education by applying their practical experiences to fresh, innovative programs to give agribusiness its rightful stature in our society."

The dedication, enthusiasm and aspirations of those present could be felt for the new organization. The group included blue-jacketed FFA members, FFA Advisors, vocational agriculture supervisors, farmers, businessmen, and professionals from other endeavors.

State FFA Alumni Association Charters were presented to 22 states. This brought the total of chartered states to 31 since 9 had been presented at the National FFA Convention. Life members in attendance were presented their special life membership cards and certificates.

A progress report explaining the early development was given which showed momentum building. Membership growth the first 12 days of May exceeded that of the entire 1971 year. The report stressed the need for building membership and organizing state and local affiliates.

Aimed at "Planning for the Future" the assembly broke into 6 working sessions. The areas were: Constitution, Membership Development, National Activities, State Activities, Local Activities, and Nominating Committee.

The noon luncheon included a live broadcast on 50,000 watt WGN Chicago of the Orion Samuelson Farm Show directly from the Alumni meeting. Mr. Samuelson, a former FFA member, told the group, "I would not be in the pleasant spot I am today if it had not been for FFA."

The afternoon business session contained reports and recommendations to the Council from the working sessions with an open discussion from the membership as to the direction they thought the FFA Alumni Association should take.

The election of the next FFA Alumni Council is to be held by mail ballot. The results are to be announced at the next Alumni meeting.

The next meeting is to be held on Friday afternoon, October 13, 1972, in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

In adjourning remarks, Chairman Douglass expressed a hope that everyone in attendance would make a sincere effort to be for what is good for their state and community in building the FFA Alumni; and that the flame kindled at the Organizational Meeting will grow larger with each person in attendance igniting someone else in their community to become a part and join this new organization.

#### NOTICE

The first Annual Meeting of the FFA Alumni Association is to be held at 1:00 PM on October 13, 1973, in the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. All members are urged to attend this historic meeting.



## A CALL TO THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

By Alumni Council Chairman Gus R. Douglass

The date of Friday, October 13, 1972, could go down in history as one of the most important to the agri-business industry in this Nation. It is the date of the National FFA Alumni Meeting in Kansas City.

Those of you who have seen fit to become Charter Members, or have joined in the first year, can take an active part in developing the foundation of this most important organization. Just as when a building is constructed, it will never be any stronger nor will it endure any longer than the foundation that you put under it.

The past several years have been trying times for those individuals engaged in agriculture, and those associated with the agribusiness segment of the industry, as well as those in governmental circles of agriculture. I feel that we have "turned the corner" now and that greater prominence and emphasis will be placed upon providing the nutritional needs of this Nation and other countries as the population in our world expands.

Those of us who are presently members of your Alumni Council, and those many individuals who have advised from without, feel that we have a good Constitution and By-Laws which will help project the organization.

I, together with the other Council members, ask that you review our thinking and give us the benefit of your thoughts, whether you feel that we are right or wrong. The method for doing this is to join with us and support the 1st Annual Meeting of this organization by your presence on Friday afternoon of October 13th!

This organization will be no stronger, nor more prestigious than you desire it to be! I hope you will encourage your neighbors who qualify to join this organization, to support us in the days and years ahead - so, I call upon you to come to this first Annual Meeting!

## THANK YOU

We appreciate your excellent response to the first issue of the FFA Alumni Newsletter and the suggestions you gave for future issues. We invite your comments and suggestions and solicit news of events, activities, and other interesting items about FFA Alumni Associations for future use.

If you have questions about the FFA Alumni Association or have a change of address, please write to: FFA Alumni Association, P. O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

## NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 45th National FFA Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 10, 11, 12 and 13. More than 14,000 FFA members and guests are expected to attend.

The Convention begins with the Tuesday evening Vesper Services. Business meetings and the finals of the National Proficiency Contests are held on Wednesday. The evening session will feature the finals of the National Public Speaking Contest.

Dr. Earl Butz, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, will highlight the Thursday morning session. The American Farmer Degree will be conferred on 471 FFA members Thursday afternoon and the National Award winners will be named. The evening session will feature the traditional naming of the Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.

Friday morning is a business session and international guests and contest winners are recognized. The afternoon features the first Annual FFA Alumni Association Meeting and FFA Day at the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show. The traditional Firestone Show will signal the ending of the convention.

### ATTENTION LOCAL AFFILIATES!

FFA Alumni affiliates are needed to conduct Farm-City Week activities. The National Farm-City Council has informed us they are anxious to work with local FFA Alumni affiliates to conduct Farm-City Week events in your area. It is not too early to make plans since National Farm-City Week is November 17-23. The theme is "Quality of Life--Our Mutual Responsibility." Write for a kit of suggestions for community action to: National Farm-City Council, Inc., 101 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

### NOW AVAILABLE

Several FFA Alumni members have expressed an interest in receiving The National Future Farmer Magazine. Now, arrangements have been made for FFA Alumni members to subscribe through the FFA Alumni Association. The subscription rate for the FFA Magazine is \$1.00 per year for six issues mailed directly to the home. To subscribe, send your name, payment and complete address to: FFA Alumni Association, Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The "grace period" for the early FFA Alumni members has ended as annual membership renewal statements are sent. Annual membership dues are for a 12-month period and should be renewed on the "anniversary month" of their membership. Dues statements shall be sent unless the state association undertakes the billing within the state.



## SPRINGING UP!

The number of local FFA Alumni affiliates continues to grow. Local affiliates are the heart of the FFA Alumni Association. To recognize those who lead the way, the newsletter will attempt to list in order those who charter local FFA Alumni affiliates.

<u>CHAPTER NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Masontown Valley	Masontown, West Virginia
Dover	Dover, New Hampshire
Richmond County	Warsaw, Virginia
Clyde A. Erwin	Asheville, North Carolina
Watertown	Watertown, South Dakota
Bloomer	Bloomer, Wisconsin
James A. Reardon	Ledyard, Connecticut
White Mountains Reg.	Whitefield, New Hampshire
Tri-County Community	Thornburg, Iowa
Wood County	Parkersburg, West Virginia
Murray State Univ.	Murray, Kentucky
Hoven	Hoven, South Dakota
Willow Lake	Willow Lake, South Dakota
Preston	Preston, Idaho
Walnut	Walnut, Mississippi
Delaware County	Manchester, Iowa
West Fannin	Blue Ridge, Georgia
Tyler County	Middlebourne, West Virginia
Ripley	Ripley, Tennessee
Clark	Clark, South Dakota
Forest Grove	Forest Grove, Oregon
Mid-Prairie	Wellman, Iowa
Clarkson	Clarkson, Kentucky
National Center	Alexandria, Virginia
Turner Ashby	Dayton, Virginia
Cortez	Cortez, Colorado
White House	White House, Tennessee
Osage	Osage, Iowa
Kenton	Kenton, Ohio
Auburndale	Auburndale, Florida
Leon	Tallahassee, Florida
Capac	Capac, Michigan
Hagerstown	Hagerstown, Indiana
Belvidere	Belvidere, New Jersey
Linganore	Union Bridge, Maryland
Shelley	Shelley, Idaho
St. Ansgar	St. Ansgar, Iowa
Jennings County	North Vernon, Indiana
Caledonia	Caledonia, Michigan
Buffalo Center Bison	Buffalo Center, Iowa
Fife	Tacoma, Washington
Chinook	Chinook, Montana
North Elk	Howard, Kansas
Sabetha	Sabetha, Kansas
Barry County	Cassville, Missouri
West Carteret	Newport, North Carolina
Limestone	Limestone, Maine
Eastern Lebanon Co.	Pennsylvania
Berlin Brothersvalley	Berlin, Pennsylvania
Woodstock	Woodstock, Illinois
Princeville	Illinois
Sycamore	Sycamore, Illinois
Mansfield	Mansfield, Arkansas
Hannan Trace	Crown City, Ohio

## CHARTERING A LOCAL AFFILIATE

In answer to a number of inquiries, YOU can be the one to pioneer the effort to charter an FFA Alumni affiliate in your area. The first step is for someone to act as chairman to initiate the action. Most FFA Chapters are now in the process of looking for a chairman.

Local affiliates can be chartered on a school, county, or other area basis. Three steps are required to charter: (1) to have at least 10 dues-paying members, (2) to have purposes in harmony with the FFA Alumni Association, and (3) to have a designated chairman (which could be you).

### ACT NOW AND MAKE HISTORY

If you act now you can write your chapter's name in history. The names of all local affiliates chartered on or before October 13th will be recorded in the official minutes of the first Annual Meeting. For more information contact your FFA Advisor or write to: FFA Alumni Association, Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

### FOUNDING STATES

The following are the 31 states which had chartered state FFA Alumni Associations by the Organizational Meeting, listed in the order chartered:

<u>No.</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>State Chairman</u>
1	Kansas	Lauren Libby
2	Louisiana	Richard Weber
3	Indiana	G. Allen Ullom
4	Ohio	Jerome Donovan
5	Oregon	David E. Hall
6	Texas	Dennis Engelke
7	Oklahoma	Monte Reese
8	Wyoming	Joe Navrath
9	Tennessee	John T. Leeman
10	Illinois	Kenneth Cheatham
11	Virginia	Dwight Houff
12	Montana	George Larson, Jr.
13	Nebraska	Roger Sandman
14	West Virginia	Alvin Cox
15	Pennsylvania	Richard Waybright
16	Kentucky	Edward O'Nan
17	Georgia	C. Horace Forshee, Jr.
18	New Hampshire	William Annis
19	Wisconsin	Arthur Kurtz
20	Maryland	Kevin Hall
21	Mississippi	Jasper S. Lee
22	North Carolina	Fred Burt
23	Iowa	Wayne Chelf
24	South Dakota	Lowell Gisselbeck
25	Delaware	Willis Kirk
26	Alabama	Kenny Morrow
27	Florida	W. R. Jeffries
28	North Dakota	Lowell Anderson
29	California	Dan Dooley
30	Michigan	Earl Fox
31	New Jersey	Richard Chumney



## RESULTS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEES

### Constitution:

The Constitution Committee was chaired by Dr. James Clouse with Mr. Gordon Galbraith, the recorder. It recommended the following be added to the purposes: (1) To promote and maintain an appreciation of the American free enterprise system of free men; and (2) To promote the personal development aspect of the FFA. Other constitutional revisions were also suggested for future consideration.

### Membership Development:

With Mr. Tim Burke as chairman and Mr. Edward O'Nan as recorder, many items were considered with the following two recommended: (1) That, to provide incentive for states to build membership, a state be reimbursed at the rate of \$1.00 per Alumni member when the Alumni membership meets or exceeds the active FFA membership in a given year. (2) That a Memorial Fund be established, and upon the death of a life member, their \$100.00 life member dues be placed into the fund where memorial scholarships in the name of the life member can be given.

### National Activities Committee:

Mr. Ed Hadlock served as chairman, with Mr. Coleman Harris as secretary. Numerous activities were suggested for future consideration. A primary concern was to develop better public relations for vocational agriculture, FFA, and agricultural industry by disseminating information in various forms. It was also recommended that a source of supporting materials, membership pin, etc., be made available to local and state affiliates.

### State Activities Committee:

With Mr. Kenneth McMillan as chairman, and Mr. Billy Conner as recorder, a number of suggestions were made for the operation procedures of state organizations. It was recommended that states have the key responsibility for getting local alumni groups functioning.

### Local Activities Committee:

Mr. Dan Lehmann was chairman and Mr. Ed McMillan was secretary. Among the many items considered by this committee, three recommendations were made as follows: (1) That a guideline of local affiliate activities be made available; (2) That local affiliates place special emphasis on specific areas; and (3) That the present local affiliates send their activities to the national for distribution in the newsletter.

### Nomination Committee:

Mr. Millard Gundlach served as chairman and Mr. Dennis Sargent as secretary of this committee. A slate of candidates were nominated for the five Council members to be elected. Two were nominated from each of the four FFA regions and four candidates for the member-at-large. Those nominated were: Pacific Region-Harry Epler, Wyoming; Dan Dooley, California; Central Region-Kenneth McMillan, Illinois; Jerome Donovan, Ohio; North Atlantic Region-Ed Hadlock, New York; Phillip Alampi, New Jersey; Southern Region-W.T. Ellis, North Carolina; Dick Weekley, Texas; Member-at-Large - Gus Douglass, West Virginia; Larry Craig, Idaho; Roger Sandman, Nebraska; and Oliver Kinzie, Oklahoma.

An election by mail ballot of all members will be held. The results will be announced at the next meeting.

(\*Detailed copies of the reports and copies of the constitution are available upon request.)

## **FFA Alumni Association**

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Alexandria, Virginia 22309

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