



# FFA Alumni Association

## NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1980

### LET'S THINK BIG IN 1980

In November it was my privilege to become the 7th National President of the FFA Alumni. Andrew Jackson was the 7th President of the United States, but I sought in vain to find any positive similarities between myself and President Jackson. Yet, one similarity stands out: We both have a reputation for being outspoken, opinionated, biased and prejudiced—for which I have no intention of apologizing. For my bias lies with vocational agriculture/FFA/FFA Alumni. When I started school many years ago, my mother pinned a note to the front of my shirt which simply stated, "Opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his family." And so it has been.

My (our) theme for 1980 will simply be, "SUPPORT THE FFA—THINK BIG, ALUMNI." I am sincere in believing that never before in history do our schools need our help more than they do today. A common term in usage today is "teacher burnout." That's stress brought about by hassles with kids, abusive language, physical assault, pure exhaustion, and a lack of appreciation for what the teacher is trying to do. This is equated with "battle fatigue," a familiar term to those of us who served in World War II and since.

When did all this happen? It seems to me it began to happen when we asked schools to be all things to all people. About the time it became the schools' responsibility to see to it our kids got a balanced diet, about the time sex education became the school's problem, about the time that schools taught kids how to drive, about the time that kids could only get exercise in the schools, about the time that dress codes went out the window, and about the time that kids had to get their moral values, responsibilities, and discipline from the schools. Our schools compounded the problem in the sixties and seventies by giving these same kids more freedom than they could handle.

Vocational Agriculture/FFA cannot go blameless in all of this. With a dramatic increase in numbers during this same period, we increased the work load of our teachers. We added to FFA programs, we added to curriculum, we added, added, added—but we never subtracted. As a result, the most important part of our program was downgraded. I'm speaking of Supervised Occupational Experience Programs, the heart of the vocational agriculture program. I'm speaking of summer programs that made for a complete program and are so necessary to the SOE Programs. We need to build these Programs back up; how are we going to do it?

The answer, my friends, is self-evident. Agriculture education has added an important ingredient—that no other program (save perhaps athletics) has offered. Dedicated people in the community who are willing and eager to help the agriculture instructor and the FFA. There are literally thousands of ways the FFA Alumni can serve the FFA, and our theme for 1980 is "THINK BIG." The SOE Program can be supported by assisting teachers with other responsibilities, freeing them to supervise the occupational experience programs, assisting with placements, providing assistance with supervision, and providing additional reimbursement to teachers for supervision of students by local Alumni will help the teacher in this inflationary economy.

Think beyond just buying or handing out plaques to FFA award winners. The FFA Alumni in several locations has bought vans, pick-ups, shop equipment, and even built a greenhouse. Think big in 1980, establish a goal, and start now.

George Washington once said, "The right training of a single youth is a greater acquisition than the taking of a city, for when the great struggle shall have passed into myth, or tradition, the influence of one well-trained brain and heart will be going on and on, contributing to the uplifting and redemption of the planet." With your help, FFA Alumni, we can provide youth who will have a positive influence on our society, who will have that balance of judgment to accept what has to be accepted and reject what has to be rejected. FFA ALUMNI "THINK BIG IN 1980."



Floyd Doering

### FFA ALUMNI GIVES \$3,705 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The National FFA Alumni presented nineteen scholarships to FFA members for the 1980 Washington FFA Leadership Conference during the National Convention. The scholarships, each worth \$195, pay the full registration fee for the week-long Conference. The Conference includes visits to U. S. Congressmen, sightseeing in Washington, D. C., and excellent leadership training. A scholarship is provided by the National FFA Alumni for each 500 active FFA Alumni members in a state.

### SECOND ALUMNI INTERN PROGRAM

The National FFA Alumni Council, at their November meeting, approved the intern program for the area of governmental affairs during the Summer of 1980. The intern will provide visibility for vocational agriculture—FFA and assist with securing and communicating information on vocational agriculture—FFA. Howard C. Morrison, past National FFA Secretary, served as an outstanding intern in 1979 to start this new program of support for vocational agriculture—FFA.

The French-American Foundation in cooperation with the FFA Alumni Association announces that a group of twenty farmers and agriculture teachers from different areas of the United States (in the age range of 25-35) will have the opportunity to tour France for two weeks in late July and return in early August.

The group will travel throughout France to visit selected farms, fairs, cooperatives, agricultural equipment factories, agribusiness, and agronomy research centers in the dairy, wine, truck farming, poultry, grain and cereal, cattle and other major agricultural districts.

The program is designed to enable young American farmers and spouses to meet young French farmers at work, to let each side become acquainted with the other's problems, to observe French farming techniques and to discuss American and French national agricultural policies.

Participants will be asked to contribute \$750 of the overall expense of the program. This includes all travel, lodging, and most meal expenses. Total program cost is over \$2,000 per person of which the remaining will be absorbed by the French-American Foundation through its own corporate, foundation, and private supporters.

For applications, information, and detailed itinerary, write or call the National FFA Alumni Office or The French-American Foundation, 680 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, or phone (212) 734-7344. The final date for postmark of applications will be May 15, 1980.

### **OUTSTANDING ALUMNI MEMBERS**

Howard R. Bradley, Gus R. Douglass, and James W. Guilinger were named the 1979 FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recipients. The presentation came as part of the National FFA Alumni Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in November.

The FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes FFA Alumni members for outstanding leadership in service to agriculture. The award is the highest presented by the FFA Alumni Association and is awarded on the national level to not more than three individuals annually.

*Howard R. Bradley* of Manhattan, Kansas, has served vocational agriculture for forty-nine years. He was a Kansas teacher from 1930-1951 and an agriculture teacher educator at Kansas State University from 1951-1977. Since retirement he has served as Kansas FFA Alumni Executive Secretary. He has had a profound influence on over seven hundred college students whom he taught and advised. Eighteen former students have served as agriculture teacher educators at universities and six former students are serving as state supervisors of agriculture education. Professor Bradley, during his term of office with the FFA Alumni in Kansas, has been a part of a 53 percent increase in active Alumni members.

*Gus R. Douglass* of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, has served as West Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture for fifteen years. He also owns a 418-acre farm at Point Pleasant. He was the West Virginia Star Farmer of the FFA and served as National FFA President. He has served as Chairman of the Interstate Pest Control Compact, Chairman of Environmental Quality, and President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Commissioner Douglass was instrumental in the founding of the FFA Alumni Association and served as National Chairman during its first two years. He presently serves on the National FFA Alumni Committee on Government.

*James W. Guilinger* of Sycamore, Illinois, has served as a vocational agriculture teacher for twenty-seven years. He taught at Williamsfield, Illinois, for fifteen years and for the past twelve years at Sycamore. His program at Sycamore has been used as a model by the State of Illinois. The Sycamore vocational agriculture-FFA program has grown from 38 to 224 students in the past ten years. Mr. Guilinger served as President of the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association in 1977.

The FFA Alumni Leadership Workshops, sponsored by the National FFA Alumni, were again considered very successful. The Alumni sponsored six workshops with over 5,000 FFA members attending.



### **OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AFFILIATES**

New Lexington, Ohio, FFA Alumni Affiliate was selected as the 1979 Outstanding Affiliate of the National FFA Alumni Association.

This prestigious award recognizes the New Lexington FFA Alumni for their outstanding accomplishments in supporting and serving the vocational agriculture-FFA program. The New Lexington FFA Alumni has a total of 200 active FFA Alumni members working in a unified support effort. One of the purposes as stated by the New Lexington group is to help those enrolled in vocational agriculture to obtain a fuller and richer experience in the agriculture program.

Some of the forty-seven different activities conducted by the FFA Alumni included: providing security at the County Fair from midnight to 6:00 a.m., providing seed, spray, etc., for vocational agriculture crops, providing transportation to FFA Camp and other FFA events, purchasing of livestock for FFA members, and providing support for truck-tractor pull. Over thirty Alumni directly worked with the agriculture instructor in the conducting of adult education programs in the community. The New Lexington FFA Alumni raised money by selling fence posts, sponsoring a gun raffle, sponsoring chicken barbecue, selling nuts and bolts, sponsoring turkey shoot, and sponsoring tractor-truck pull. The FFA Alumni purchased a new van in 1978 for the FFA costing \$6,669. The van was totally paid off on May 1, 1979. The FFA Alumni has not only been strong locally but has been of active support at the state and national levels. This affiliate had eleven members attend the State FFA Alumni Convention, and fourteen Alumni members traveled the 1,500 miles to the National FFA and FFA Alumni Conventions.

The second place affiliate was East Butler, Nebraska. The East Butler affiliate has 91 active members. One of their many support activities was to finance and renovate a sixty passenger bus for the FFA Chapter.

Other national winners were: Gold—Cassopolis, Michigan; Ozark, Missouri; Denmark, Wisconsin. Silver: Forrest—Strawn—Wing, Illinois; Wamego, Kansas; Catocin Area, Maryland; Eagle Bend, Minnesota; South Rowan, North Carolina; Warren County, Tennessee. Bronze—Early County, Georgia; Barren County, Kentucky; Pine Grove, Mississippi; Empire State, New York.

# A TRIBUTE TO ARMIN FRUECHTE

by Arthur R. Kurtz—on behalf of the National FFA Council

An afterglow is a happening following an event. The event we speak of is the life of Armin Fruechte and his service to Wisconsin agriculture and, specifically, to vocational agriculture, FFA, and FFA Alumni. That life came to a sudden and abrupt end on Christmas night, 1979.

The happening is the feeling of warmth that overwhelms us as we recall the happy associations we had with Armin as a fellow member of the National FFA Alumni Council and his work at Tri-State Breeders Cooperative, his church, and his community.

The sadness and remorse we feel for his family is heavy on our hearts, but it is overshadowed by the joy we have had of knowing and working with a man like Armin. The "Big A," as he was fondly called by his friends, was not just a giant in stature, but a giant in what he did in services to others. He combined his innovative and creative abilities with boundless enthusiasm, giving of himself unselfishly. Above all, he was a God-fearing man who was the first to acknowledge his own human frailties. Armin will be missed, most of all by his family, but also by his many friends and associates. We remember him as he wished to be, in the simple but beautiful poem by Carol Mirkel that spoke to the multitude of friends and associates who gathered at his home church in Westby for the Memorial Service.

*I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow  
of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When life is done."*

## EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

The FFA Alumni salutes the 1979 Executive Sponsors received after August. The following have contributed \$100 as an investment toward the vocational agriculture—FFA program. The Executive Sponsor funds directly support the prestigious Star Greenhand, Star Farmer, and Star Agribusinessman Award Programs and the FFA Alumni Association. We hope you will become an Executive Sponsor during 1980. Your \$100 investment is a personal commitment to FFA, to FFA Alumni, and to the FFA Foundation.

Arkansas Bruce Maloch	Magnolia	Maryland John R. Ford	Reisterstown	Ohio Clayton and Joyce Coffey	Canton
California Lawrence L. Augenstein Edward S. Murakami Clarke A. Nelson	Poway Monterey Los Angeles	Michigan Marlin D. Kleckner	Plainwell	Lynn Miller Kim Wells	Raymond Columbus
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Kentucky Robert E. Hicks	Owensboro			Virginia Robert W. Cox Ron Wilson	Alexandria Alexandria
Louisiana F. Vernon Wright	New Orleans			West Virginia W. H. Wayman	Charleston
				Wisconsin Allan Haukom Clark and Doris Lelle Ivan H. Kindschi	Fort Atkinson South Wayne Madison

## 1980 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

Floyd Doering, Pres. State Dept Public Instr 126 Langdon Street Madison, WI 53702	Eldon E. Witt State FFA Ex Sec Box 466 Roanoke, IL 61561	Phillip Alampi R. R. 1, Box 59 Pennington, NJ 08534
Phyllis Sokolosky, VP Box 8 Owasso, OK 74055	Mark Sanborn Past Nat'l FFA Pres 1905 Rt. 322 East Orwell, OH 44034	Doug Rinker, FFA Prs Route 2, Box 44 Winchester, VA 22601
Odell Miller, Past Pres Ohio State Univ 2120 Fyffe Road Columbus, OH 43210	Layton G. Peters 605 North Highland New Ulm, MN 56073	Arthur Kurtz 126 Langdon Street Madison, WI 53713
Harold D. Lineberry 1015 Percy Warner Nashville, TN 37205	Robert H. Holloway Rt. 1, Box 141 Medical Lake, WA 99022	Byron Rawls National FFA Advisor P. O. Box 15160 Alexandria, VA 22309
Dr. O. S. Gilbertson 302 Agric Hall E Campus Univ Neb Lincoln, NE 68583		Robert W. Cox P. O. Box 15160 Alexandria, VA 22309

THE NATIONAL FFA AND FFA ALUMNI  
CONVENTIONS WILL BE NOVEMBER  
12-14, 1980, IN KANSAS CITY, MO.

## HOW NATIONAL DUES ARE SPENT

The FFA Alumni has attempted to clarify how the \$4 annual membership dues are spent. Using our present \$84,780 projected balanced budget, we arrived at the following breakdown:

Salary (Executive Director and secretarial help)	\$1.88
Leadership Conferences—scholarships and workshops	.28
Advertising and promotion	.27
Membership list maintenance	.22
Cost of newsletter and membership costs	.20
Council costs, expenses for meetings, etc.	.20
Freight and postage	.19
Travel expense	.17
Payroll taxes	.11
State Life Reimbursements for dues	.10
FFA magazine to Life Members	.08
Insurance	.08
Retirement Expense for Staff	.05
National Convention Expense	.07
Telephone and Telegraph	.05
Office Expense—Misc.	.04
Legal Expense	.01

## WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The prestigious roster of Life Members continues to grow. Life Members can designate a Memorial Scholarship to be presented to an FFA member in the name of the Life Member upon his/her death, and receive a special life membership card, life membership certificate, and lifetime subscription to *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. Why not join this list of over 1,961 Life Members and send your one-time lifetime fee of only \$100.00.

John Augustine	Poway, California	Robert E. Evans	Union City, Indiana	Jerry D. Rulon	Cicero, Tennessee
Rick Adams	Strawn, Illinois	Dan Herald	Hooker, Oklahoma	Lawrence Bauer	Overland Park, Kansas
Teri Adams	Strawn, Illinois	Marian Duncan	Hooker, Oklahoma	Harold D. Garver	Merriam, Kansas
Doug Benway	Strawn, Illinois	John B. Metcalf	Hooker, Oklahoma	Edward Moody	Olathe, Kansas
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Tom Stephens	Forrest, Illinois	Alfred W. Driscoll	Thomas, Oklahoma	Ken B. Butler	Kiowa, Kansas
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Paul Harms	Forrest, Illinois	Steve Morris	Thomas, Oklahoma	Fred Dumler	Kiowa, Kansas
Johnny D. Hawks	Commerce, Georgia	Terry Vowell	Thomas, Oklahoma	James L. Gue Jr.	Union Bridge, Maryland
Sherrri Daugherty	Salem, Missouri	Barton Wherritt	Custer, Oklahoma	Tony Glavin	Vancouver, Washington
Theron P. Paulsen	Chinook, Montana	Alveta Taylor	Thomas, Oklahoma	Maurice Ward	Auburn, Nebraska
David A. Miller	Frederick, Maryland	Cary Taylor	Thomas, Oklahoma	Eldon Grimme	West Alexandria, Ohio
Dicky J. Hodges	Boise City, Oklahoma	Lyndon Taylor	Thomas, Oklahoma	Carroll Courtright	Fairfield, Illinois
Lewis C. Huston	Boise City, Oklahoma	Jerry V. Buster	Thomas, Oklahoma	Estell Stewart	Fairfield, Illinois
Jeff Taylor	Guthrie, Oklahoma	C. L. Keller	Thomas, Oklahoma	Riley Wagner	Bridgewater, Virginia
Gene Smith	Newcastle, Oklahoma	C. B. Graft	Clinton, Oklahoma	Larry J. Wills	Weyers Cave, Virginia
Dutch Wiley	Newcastle, Oklahoma	American State Bank	Thomas, Oklahoma	Kevin Phillips	Waynesboro, Virginia
Anton Kammlocher	Norman, Oklahoma	Harold Gleason	Thomas, Oklahoma	John Spencer	Perry, New York
Thomas K. McDonald	Blanchard, Oklahoma	Phil McNeill	Thomas, Oklahoma	Morgan Ott Jr.,	Bealeton, Virginia
W. R. Griffith	Newcastle, Oklahoma	Gary T. Wray	Courtland, Mississippi	Dale Dick	Warrenton, Virginia
Juanita Griffith	Newcastle, Oklahoma	Arlene Moore	Pope, Mississippi	Charles Herbst	Gratiot, Wisconsin
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Gloria J. Kirby	Owasso, Oklahoma	Richard Miller	Thomas, Oklahoma	Kristine O'Conner	South Wayne, Wisconsin
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Rick Dossett	Owasso, Oklahoma	Daniel H. Wedekind	Lindsay, Nebraska	David Ohayon	Apple Valley, California
Wylie Morton	Owasso, Oklahoma	Scott C. Morrison	Gilbert, Arizona	Pamela Knowlton	Haverhill, Massachusetts
Aubrey Thomas	Owasso, Oklahoma	Willis Brandyberry	Hill City, Kansas	Tony Ackley	Marysville, Ohio
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David Woods	Maysville, Oklahoma	Bill Gobon	Casey, Illinois	Rick L. Metzger	Grand Rapids, Ohio
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Gary Ross	Wayne, Oklahoma	J. C. Trotter	Lavaca, Arkansas	Bernard J. Scott	Tontogany, Ohio
Elved Luttrell	Lindsay, Oklahoma	Paul N. Stevenson	St. George, Kansas	Eric Etzel	Canby, Oregon



### FFA Alumni Association

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# Newsletter

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