



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1981

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Phyllis Sokolosky, Owasso, Oklahoma

I extend congratulations to each of you for a successful year of support for vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America.

We have added many new affiliates, increased our overall membership, and local affiliates are engaged in more activities than ever before.

Each of us should ask ourselves the question, "What have I personally done as an Alumni member to make this a successful year?"

My first greeting to you as your new president is one of gratitude and joy. I sensed the support and encouragement from those I met at our National Convention in Kansas City. With such inspired and informed Alumni affiliates across the nation, I am expecting a productive year in 1981.

Many members said they were going to become life members and encourage others to do the same. Others are going to become executive sponsors for the first time. One affiliate pledged to organize ten new affiliates in their state. Some pledged to bring more members to the National Convention next year, and several were overheard to say, "We are going to be the outstanding affiliate next year."

I am certain you have set some obtainable goals for you and your affiliate. The only way to reach those goals is through determination and hard work.

The FFA Alumni has been compared to a box of assorted nails. For each kind of nail there is a specific purpose, just as there are definite tasks for every member. The really important thing is that every nail be used in its unique way. As an Alumni member each is essential in his own field. Just as it takes good strong nails to build any structure, it also takes strong individuals to build our tomorrows for the FFA Alumni.

It's up to us to choose the nail from the assorted box that we want to be. I challenge you to *Press On For The FFA Alumni*.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PASSED

The Constitutional Amendments included on the ballot mailed to all Alumni in September were approved for adoption. The first change was to require State Associations to maintain fifty members and Local Affiliates to maintain ten members for active status with the FFA Alumni Association. The second amendment was to clarify that any group using the name "FFA Alumni" must affiliate and charter with the National FFA Alumni Association. The third change was to clarify that the immediate past National FFA Alumni President serves one year on the National FFA Alumni Council.

PRESS ON FOR THE FFA ALUMNI



PHYLLIS SOKOLOSKY

NEW FFA ALUMNI OFFICERS

Phyllis Sokolosky of Owasso, Oklahoma, was elected President of the National FFA Alumni for 1981. Phyllis has four children, two served as State FFA Presidents and Dee served as a National Vice-President of the FFA. She was selected as the 1980 Oklahoma Mother of the Year.

Harold P. Lineberry of Nashville, Tennessee, was elected to the President-elect position on the National FFA Alumni Council. Harold is Field Director for the Tennessee Education Association and was a former teacher of agriculture. He served as Tennessee Alumni President before his election to the National Council.

FARMERS TO FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY

The FFA Alumni has been invited to participate in a trip to France and West Germany from July 24 to August 11, 1981. The French-American Foundation and the Carl Duisberg Society are offering this tour of farms, cooperatives, agribusiness, and historic sites. Twenty young farmers, professionals, and students in agriculture-agribusiness fields will be selected to participate. Married couples are welcome. Applications are required to be returned before May 1. Cost of the trip will be a participant's fee which will be approximately one-third of the total trip cost from New York City. Grants from the French-American Foundation and the Carl Duisberg Society will cover the other costs. This trip is an educational experience and has received outstanding comments from past FFA Alumni participants. Information and application forms can be obtained from: Ms. Cynthia Kass, The French-American Foundation, 680 Park Avenue, New York City, New York 10021.

WE DID IT!

"We Did It," reports Harold Lineberry, our national membership chairman. Not only did we reach our 1980 membership goal of 18,000, but we surpassed it in proud fashion with 18,565 members. Twenty-three states increased membership this year. Five states surpassed the 1,000 member mark: Wisconsin 4,744; Oklahoma 2,113; Ohio 1,638; Missouri 1,346; and Illinois 1,336. In addition, two local affiliates surpassed the 500 member mark: Denmark, Wisconsin, with 568 members and Ozark, Missouri, with 521 members. We also congratulate Mississippi for increasing membership 283% and Iowa for a 260% increase. We challenge each FFA Alumni to help prove 1981 to be the best year ever. We are striving to see that the FFA Alumni continues to grow and serve in our support of vocational agriculture-FFA.

DUES INCREASE FOR 1982

The FFA Alumni delegates voted to increase Alumni national dues from \$4 to \$5 starting in 1982. The increased dues income will help cover inflation costs and will allow new programs in support of vocational agriculture-FFA. The life membership fee of \$100 was not changed.

THE 1980 OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE

New Lexington, Ohio, FFA Alumni Affiliate was selected as the 1980 Outstanding Affiliate of the National FFA Alumni Association. The presentation was made as part of the Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

This prestigious award recognizes the New Lexington FFA Alumni for the second consecutive year for their outstanding accomplishments in supporting and serving the vocational agriculture-FFA program. The New Lexington FFA Alumni has a total of 232 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.

A list of 46 different activities were conducted by this unified group of interested adult supporters. The largest single project was construction of a new agriculture shop. An FFA Alumni committee was appointed in January, 1980, to develop plans in cooperation with the agriculture teacher and school system. In April the committee reported complete plans and cost figures. Construction started in June on the forty by seventy-two foot shop. The building is presently in use by vocational agriculture-FFA students with only electrical work and some insulation and heating remaining to be completed. Another FFA Alumni project was to serve as security guards at the Perry County Fair. This community service project called for six to eight Alumni members working a security detail each night of the fair. It is reported that this project was extremely successful and appreciated by the Fair Board and exhibitors at the Fair. This local affiliate has a budget of \$25,000. The largest money-raising projects were a tractor pull and a nut and bolt sale. This FFA Alumni has not only been strong locally but has been very active at the state and national levels. It has sponsored area Alumni training sessions, had six representatives at the State Alumni Convention, and several members traveled 1,500 miles to the National Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. The group also prepared and staffed an outstanding exhibit at the 1980 National Career Show depicting how the FFA Alumni can support.

The FFA Alumni Chairman at New Lexington was Keith Luzadder.

HIGHEST FFA ALUMNI AWARDS PRESENTED

J. Lamar Branch and Thomas E. Stine have been named the 1980 FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recipients. The presentation came as part of the National FFA Alumni Convention. The FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recognized FFA Alumni members for outstanding leadership and accomplishments in service to agriculture.

J. Lamar Branch of Tifton, Georgia, was Georgia's Director of Secondary Schools Vocational Program from 1972 until 1976 when he retired. Prior to his State Director's position, he was Assistant Supervisor and Supervisor of Agriculture Education in Georgia. He also taught vocational agriculture at Miller County High School in Georgia. He has served as the Georgia FFA Alumni President for the past two years. He has received many honors in Agriculture Education for his outstanding leadership to include the Southern Region Agriculture Education Distinguished Service Award, President of the Southern Region Agriculture Education Workers Conference, and Outstanding Service Resolutions from Georgia's House of Representatives and Senate. Mr. Branch has also found time to serve as President of the Tifton Rotary Club and presently is District Governor-Elect of the Rotary. He is a Sunday School Teacher, past Vice-President of the Tifton County Chamber of Commerce, and Vice-President of the Board of South Georgia's Retirement Center.

Thomas E. Stine of Ozark, Missouri, is presently a dairy farmer. He worked for several years in agribusiness before deciding to establish his dairy operation which has grown to about 100 cows and 100 heifers. He was the Vice-President of the FFA in 1958-59. Since his involvement with the FFA Alumni, he has served as the Ozark and Missouri FFA Alumni President. The Ozark FFA Alumni Affiliate has been recognized as the largest affiliate in the nation for the past four years with a present active Alumni membership of 521 active members. Mr. Stine serves on the local Board of Education and presently is on the State Board of Education Arbitration Committee. He is co-founder of the County Fair Board, co-founder of the local 4-H Foundation, and serves on U.S. Senator Eagleton's Agriculture Advisory Committee. He is active in the Baptist Church.

The achievements of these distinguished Alumni exemplify the high ideals, reflect honor upon the FFA, and provide inspiration to current FFA members.

FFA ALUMNI -- "IT'S WORKING"

The FFA Alumni slide-tape presentation entitled "It's Working" was premiered at the National Meeting and given to each state with fifty or more active members. It was prepared and distributed by a special contribution from **The Ace Bolt and Nut Company**. This slide-tape program tells how the National FFA Alumni is supporting vocational agriculture-FFA.

The script was written by Dan Reuwee, American Soybean Association. The audible portion was prepared by Orion Samuelson, Vice-President and Farm Director of WGN Radio/Television in Chicago. The slides were prepared by Rich Bennett, FFA Intern in Public Relations, with the music background prepared by Art Mitchell of NRECA.

This is the second slide-tape presentation prepared by the National. The first presentation, "It's Happening," should be used for chartering affiliates and our new production, "It's Working," for established affiliates. Additional copies of the new production can be purchased for \$30.00 plus handling charges.

WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The prestigious roster of Life Members continues to grow. As a Life Member, you may designate that upon your death the \$100 lifetime dues be presented as a memorial scholarship to an FFA member in a chapter or state of your choice, or as a permanent trust for the FFA Alumni. For those Life Members who do not designate otherwise, their \$100 will automatically be designated to the permanent trust fund as a memorial to the Life Member upon his/her death. As a Life Member, you will 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 2,450 Life Members by sending your one-time fee of \$100.

Joyce B. Hawley	Swansboro, North Carolina	Robert T. Warcup	Ava, New York	Larry Schorno	Yelm, Washington
Curt Jacobson	Missoula, Montana	Cary D. Foster	Cinton, Oklahoma	F. Wilcox	Roy, Washington
Larry Pratt	Cropsey, Illinois	Mary Sickinger	Cato, Wisconsin	Douglas C. Rinker	Winchester, Virginia
John Kraft	Princeville, Illinois	Mike Sickinger	Cato, Wisconsin	Hilding, C. Nelson	Mt. Vernon, Washington
John Wieland	Princeville, Illinois	Sandy Sickinger	Cato, Wisconsin	Matthew M. David	Daniel, Wyoming
Ted W. Novak	Elberon, Iowa	Robert J. Simmons	Napoleonville, Louisiana	Dale E. Sprunger	Berne, Indiana
Philip Kahler	Woden, Iowa	Nicky Rodrigue	Paincourtville, Louisiana	Sherman C. Beard, Jr.	Martinsburg, West Virginia
Pete Knutson	Clyde Park, Montana	Steven Rowland	Gretna, Virginia	Jack W. Pritchard	Stillwater, Oklahoma
Harry Schnieber	Belvidere, New Jersey	Ronald L. Bray	Glen Burnie, Maryland	Harlan R. Schley	Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin
Cola D. Watson	South Hero, Vermont	Jesse A. Taft	Mendon, Massachusetts	Lowell J. Robertson	Stillwater, Oklahoma
Elmer C. Denis	Kansas City, Missouri	Josiah Phelps	Fort Valley, Georgia	Carl C. Helmich	Gratiot, Wisconsin
Francis Kenkal	Defiance, Iowa	Robert C. Neal	Canaan, Connecticut	Paul R. Poffenberger	Silver Spring, Maryland
Joe Mazna	Denmark, Wisconsin	Benjamin J. Freund	East Canaan, Connecticut	James K. McDonald	Martinsburg, West Virginia
Don Noack	Kellnersville, Wisconsin	Eugene Freund	North Canaan, Connecticut	Joe Strickland	Inavale, Nebraska
Bob Bunker	Platteville, Wisconsin	Harrell H. Phillips	Williston, Florida	Bob Ahlschwede	Crete, Nebraska
Frank Francis	Livingston, Wisconsin	Claud C. Marion	Princess Anne, Maryland	Jim Howard	Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Dale Danielson	Fairview, Montana	Donald E. Balderson	Arlington, Virginia	Denver J. Kaiser	Barnesville, Ohio
Arland McKittrick	Viola, Wisconsin	Harry Darby	Kansas City, Kansas	Andy Smith	Ruther Glen, Virginia
Dorothy McKittrick	Viola, Wisconsin	Gary D. Albrandt	Shoshoni, Wyoming	Hal C. Hudson	Casey, Illinois
E. H. Abraham	Waunakee, Wisconsin	Chivous Bradley	Rutherfordton, North Carolina	John D. Jones	Mansfield, Louisiana
Clarke A. Nelson	Los Angeles, California	Edgar Spicer	Forest City, North Carolina	Alan D. Wolff	Wittenberg, Wisconsin
Stephen N. Fleury	Richford, Vermont	Jerry Sutton	Franklin, North Carolina	David Beck	Thomas, Oklahoma
Virginia M. Pebley	Kansas City, Missouri	Earl Braddy	Washington, North Carolina	Pete Bonny	Thomas, Oklahoma
James A. Means	Winder, Georgia	Benjie Forrest	Grimesland, North Carolina	Wade Christensen	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Robert E. Wood	Swainsboro, Georgia	Haywood Everett	Washington, North Carolina	Gordon Combs	Thomas, Oklahoma
Byron Kirkland	Atlanta, Georgia	Jamie Garris	Washington, North Carolina	Brian Hamar	Thomas, Oklahoma
John Barnes	Jasper, Georgia	Mark B. Corriher	Mooresville, North Carolina	Don M. Herring	Thomas, Oklahoma
Truman J. Wakeman	Stephens City, Virginia	William Waller	Mooresville, North Carolina	Bert Humphreys, Jr.	Thomas, Oklahoma
Wes Watkins	Ada, Oklahoma	Richard Deal	China Grove, North Carolina	Scott Paty	Thomas, Oklahoma
Carolyn S. Clubine	Havana, Kansas	Dennis Corriher	China Grove, North Carolina	Jerry Taylor	Thomas, Oklahoma
Frank P. Clubine	Havana, Kansas	Richard Yost	China Grove, North Carolina	Terry Thomson	Thomas, Oklahoma
Eddie G. Fleming	Collinsville, Oklahoma	Douglas E. Prevette	Olin, North Carolina	R. Kirby Barrick, Jr.	Orient, Ohio
Steve Gratz	Bluffton, Ohio	Tim Wood	Caledonia, Ohio	James P. Key	Stillwater, Oklahoma
J. G. Fulton, III	Weyers Cave, Virginia	Tamy Wood	Marion, Ohio	Marty Clayton	Alexandria, Virginia
Mary Simmons	Bridgewater, Virginia	O. W. Randolph	Quincy, Illinois	Roger Jones	Thomas, Oklahoma
Charles Curry	Mt. Solon, Virginia	Patricia Hoopengartner	Kinross, Wyoming		

FFA ALUMNI SALUTES THE 1980 EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

The following have contributed \$100 since our last newsletter 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.

A. J. Adolfi	Greensboro, North Carolina	Greenlaw Grupe, Jr.	Stockton, California	David D. Milligan	Evanston, Illinois
M. Geneva Alfather	Berlin, Pennsylvania	Kenneth E. Guebert	St. Louis, Missouri	George E. Powell	Shawnee Mission, Kansas
L. L. Augenstein	Poway, California	Barbara Hansen	Hesston, Kansas	Albert & Gretchen Quil	St. Paul, Minnesota
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Robert M. Book	Carmel, Indiana	Larry Herington	Withee, Wisconsin	Paul Sargent	McPherson, Kansas
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Bruce J. Boyle	Des Moines, Iowa	Richard Hrdlicka	Newton, Kansas	John Siemens, Jr.	Hesston, Kansas
Howard Brenneman	Hesston, Kansas	H. Neville Hunsicker	McLean, Virginia	Phyllis J. Sokolosky	Owasso, Oklahoma
James A. Campbell	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Dr. Hilmer L. Jones	Colts Neck, New Jersey	Jerry S. Speir	Woodbury, Minnesota
Clayton & Joyce Coffey	Canton, Ohio	James Kent	Madison, Wisconsin	W. B. Suhrke	Plymouth, Wisconsin
John E. Cooper	Ozark, Missouri	Mark H. Kerschensteiner	Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin	L. William Templeton	Grandview, Missouri
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Joseph Dain	Moline, Illinois	Marlin D. Kleckner	Plainwell, Michigan	Melvin H. Voth	Hesston, Kansas
Paul M. Day	Northfield, Minnesota	Thomas H. Lake	Carmel, Indiana	Dwane L. Wallace	Wichita, Kansas
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John R. Ford	Reisterstown, Maryland	Glenn H. LeDyot	Omaha, Nebraska	Ron Wilson	Alexandria, Virginia
Donald E. Fricker	Hales Corners, Wisconsin	Robert H. Maxwell	Morgantown, West Virginia	Richard A. Wright	Fox Lake, Illinois
		J. W. McGillis	Lowden, Washington		

NEW FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Western Region Council position will be filled by LaVerne R. Nelson of Graham, Washington, and the Central Region Council position will be filled by Kenneth G. Seering of Denmark, Wisconsin. Both of these individuals won their election to the Council by the ballot mailed to all FFA Alumni members in September.

Art Ives of Oxford, New York, has been appointed for a two-year term on the National Alumni Council to represent the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association.

Raymond Cockrum of Stillwater, Oklahoma, has been appointed for a three-year term to represent the National Association of Supervisors of Agriculture Education.

We also welcome Mark Herndon, the 1980-81 National FFA President from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to the National FFA Alumni Council.

ESTATE PLANNING

As the old saying goes, "When a person needs a will, it's too late to write one."

The truth of the matter is that most of the people who are thinking today, "I should go ahead and write my will," will not get around to it. The fact is, more people will die intestate (without a will), than with one.

Every man and woman reading this newsletter needs a will. Without a will, we forfeit our legal right to control the disposition of the property we have accumulated with a lifetime of effort.

The disposition of property requires deliberate, careful, and in-depth thinking. If part of your thinking includes the Future Farmers of America, we will be happy to work with you in planning a bequest that will be satisfying, economical, and effective in carrying out the important efforts of helping FFA members throughout the United States "learn by doing."

For information in planning your bequest to FFA, ask for our brochure, "Your Will. . .and FFA," by writing to or calling:

National FFA Foundation
Sponsoring Committee Office
P.O. Box 5117
Madison, Wisconsin 53705
1-608-238-4222



FFA Alumni Association
P. O. Box 15058
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

1980 AFFILIATES RECEIVING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The outstanding affiliates for 1980 were New Lexington, Ohio (see separate article), with Denmark, Wisconsin, placing second.

The 26 affiliates receiving national rankings in 1980 are: (list does not indicate order of ranking)

GOLD

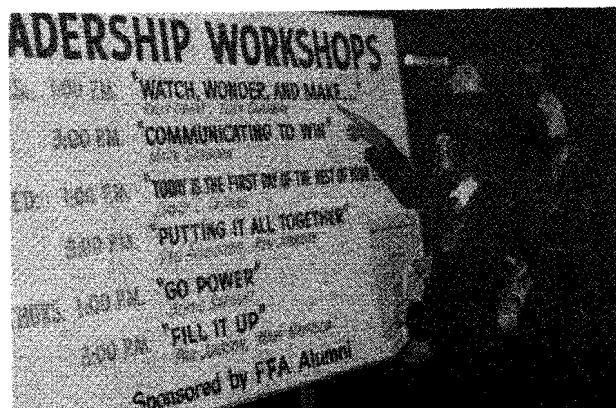
LeRoy, Illinois
Walkersville, Maryland
Ozark, Missouri
East Butler, Nebraska
New Lexington, Ohio
Sheridan, Ohio
Denmark, Wisconsin

SILVER

Bushnell-Prairie City, Illinois
Forrest-Strawn-Wing, Illinois
Delta, Indiana
Hill City, Kansas
Cassopolis, Michigan
Bertha-Hewitt, Minnesota
South Rowan, North Carolina
Warren County, Tennessee
Granton, Wisconsin
Marshfield, Wisconsin
Westby, Wisconsin

BRONZE

Buckley-Loda, Illinois
Marissa, Illinois
R.O.V.A., Illinois
Tri-Valley, Illinois
Perry, Michigan
Hoven, South Dakota
Anderson County, Tennessee
Bolivar, Tennessee



Leadership Workshops at National Convention were attended by over 5,000 FFA members. Tapes of each Workshop are available from the FFA Alumni at \$6.00 each.

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1980-81 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

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Harold D. Lineberg, VP 1015 Percy Warner Blvd. Nashville, TN 37205	Art Ives 51 Greene Street Oxford, NY 13830	Raymond Cockrum 1515 West Sixth Avenue Stillwater, OK 74074
Floyd J. Doering Past President State Dept. of Public Instr. 125 South Webster St. Madison, WI 53702	Eldon E. Witt State FFA Executive Sec. Box 466 Roanoke, IL 61561	Mark Herndon National FFA President 10013 Lakeshore Dr. Ok. City, OK 73120
Ms. LaVerne R. Nelson 2212 - 30th Street E. Graham, WA 98338	Dr. D. S. Gilbertson 302 Agricultural Hall East Campus, Univ. Neb. Lincoln, NE 68583	Buron Bask National FFA Advisor P.O. Box 15160 Alexandria, VA 22309
Mr. Phillip Alampi RR 1 Box 59 Parsippany, NJ 08854	Robert W. Cox P.O. Box 15058 Alexandria, VA 22309	

Newsletter

PLEASE FORWARD