



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1981

PRESIDENT SOKOLOSKY'S SALUTE AND CHALLENGE

The Vincent Blakley family of Oologah, Oklahoma, believes in doing things as a family—even in matters of the FFA Alumni.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakley, son Lyle, and eight-year-old daughter Lynda each received the Legion of Merit Citation on stage at last year's National FFA Alumni Convention in Kansas City.



Pictured above with me are Mr. and Mrs. Blakley and Lynda. The FFA Advisor, Mr. Carl Boyd, pictured at far right, is a life Alumni member who also received the Legion of Merit Citation last year.

We have several family members within the states who are all members of the Alumni. The Blakleys and I challenge other families to get behind their local FFA Alumni affiliate and each one sign up new members in your community and earn the Legion of Merit Citation. Your certificate will be presented on stage at the National FFA Alumni Convention. While in Kansas City, take the family to visit the FFA Convention, American Royal, Kansas City Chiefs, and points of interest in the "Heart of America."

Whether you are eight or 98 you can earn the Legion of Merit Citation by signing up 10 new annual members, or five new life members or five Executive Sponsors.

What better way to keep the family unit together than working through the FFA Alumni Association?

I congratulate Vincent, Nancy, Lynda, and Lyle on their accomplishments and challenge each of our new members to become actively involved in an organization that supports the vocational agriculture program in its role of preparing individuals for careers in the agriculture industry.

Your investment in our youth will provide competent leaders for tomorrow.

I am extremely pleased with our growth in membership, especially the "life" membership. But we can not be satisfied with our present status.

I challenge you to "Press On" in your local Alumni affiliate to gain new members and organize affiliates in neighboring communities that do not have an Alumni.

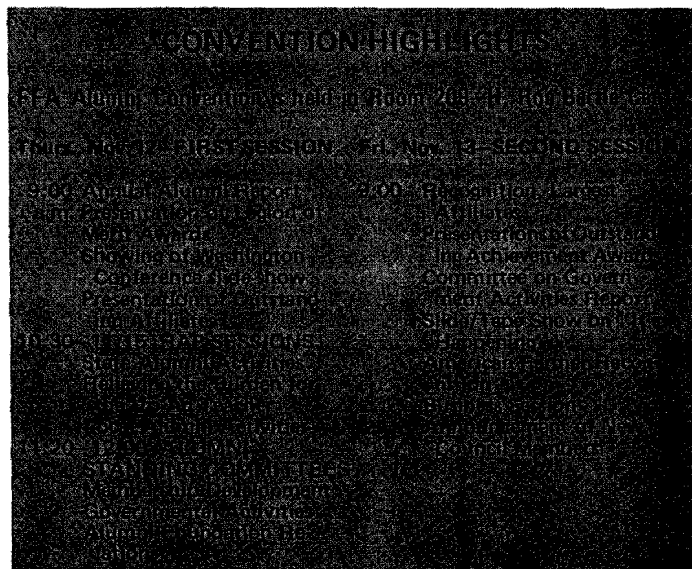
PLAN TO ATTEND ALUMNI CONVENTION

The National FFA Alumni Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 12 and 13, in the H. Ross Bartle Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

The FFA Alumni meeting will be coordinated as part of the FFA Convention. The FFA Convention, with an expected attendance of over 22,000, will be November 12-14.

SPECIAL RECEPTION FOR FFA ALUMNI DELEGATES

A special reception for FFA Alumni Convention delegates has been scheduled for Thursday afternoon of the National Convention. The reception will be sponsored by the Kansas City Board of Trade. The approximately 200 Alumni delegates will be given the opportunity to visit with the National FFA Alumni Council members and other Alumni delegates during the reception. Invitations listing times will be given to the delegates when they register for the Alumni Convention.



\$2,000 IN GRANTS FOR STATE FFA ALUMNI

The National FFA Alumni Council voted to provide four grants of up to \$500 each to state FFA Alumni associations to better support Vocational Agriculture—FFA. Each proposal must be no more than two single-spaced, type-written, 8½ x 11 sheets. The proposal must be a specific plan or idea including projected budget. The grant is intended to assist in getting an idea off the ground. It is intended to be for only one year and that subsequent activity will become a state responsibility. Preference will be given to projects which could be applied in other states. Proposal applications will be due February 1, 1982, with announcement of the grant winners in March. The \$2,000 for the grant program is sponsored by The Ace Bolt and Nut Company.

ONE OF MANY THANK-YOU LETTERS

Dear FFA Alumni:

As the recipient of a National FFA Alumni Association scholarship for the Washington Conference Program this year, I would like to say "thank you." I attended the July 20-25 Conference at the Olde Colony, and can honestly say that it was one of the most beneficial and fun—not to mention shortest—weeks of my life.

I am sure that the \$225 Conference fee would be considered a bargain by every person that ever attended a session of the Washington Conference Program, but your scholarships make a great week even better. Your scholarships give many people a chance to attend the Conference who might have been unable to do so, under normal circumstances, because of monetary problems. I encourage you to continue this program because of its national scope and great benefit to members of the FFA.

The beautiful scholarship trophy came as a complete—but welcome—surprise. It will occupy a proud place in our home, I assure you.

Thank you again for providing the FFA Alumni sponsorship for the Washington Conference Program. The Conference I attended was a terrific experience, and I will never forget it, or your part in bringing it about.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ David Hill
Smithville, Missouri

NEW AFFILIATE STARTS WITH GREAT ACTIVITIES

The Blacksburg, Virginia, FFA Alumni Chapter was formed June 1, 1980, with 29 members. This Alumni affiliate had five executive council meetings and five regular meetings. For a fund raising project they sold citrus fruit in conjunction with the local chapter. The members helped provide transportation to contests and to the West Virginia State Fair. The affiliate also attended local school board meetings representing vocational agriculture.

They have helped train members for local, Federation and State contests. They provided a scholarship for the president to attend the Washington Conference Program. This young affiliate is supporting vocational agriculture-FFA.



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

GREAT AFFILIATE ACTIVITY

The Lamar-Terry FFA Alumni Association in Rosenberg, Texas, sponsored a two-day rodeo for high school students and faculty throughout the county in order to raise money, involve school administrators and community in an FFA activity as well as create friendly competition between chapters.

The Lamar FFA Alumni Association was formed three years ago, before Lamar High School was split into two schools. Instead of breaking and having two separate Alumni affiliates, the group decided to remain as one strong association and support both the Lamar FFA and the Terry FFA.

The very successful Rodeo was the first big project for the Lamar-Terry FFA Alumni Association. The community showed their support by taking ads in the Rodeo program, and by purchasing box seat and general admission tickets for the Rodeo. A large crowd assembled at the county fairgrounds to watch students compete in such events as bare-back riding, bullriding, and barrel racing. There were also events for those with little previous rodeo experience like wild horse riding and steer saddling. The faculty was invited to exhibit their expertise by participating in the branding contest, which was the highlight of the rodeo. School administrators participated in the Grand Entry of the Rodeo.

The Alumni Association set up committees including concession, box seat, program, general admission, and advanced ticket to handle specific aspects of the Rodeo. The program committee sold ads to businesses and individuals in the community at a net profit of \$1,300.

Advanced ticket, box seat, and general admission sales netted \$2,531 profit, programs which sold for 50 cents at the gate netted \$200, the concession stand sold hamburgers, soft drinks, and candy and netted \$1,564. Entry fees provided another source of profit.

The Lamar-Terry FFA Alumni Association is proud of the outcome of the Rodeo. The first use of this money was to send the profit of each of the two FFA chapters to the Washington Conference Program.

MORE SUCCESSES

Brattleboro, Vermont, FFA Alumni Chapter reports a very active first year. Several fundraising activities—such as chicken barbecues and sale of ice cream and milk at parades—have provided a \$250 scholarship for an FFA member. The alumni provided coaches for various judging teams, one of which—milk products—will compete at the national level.

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1980-81 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

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Newsletter

PLEASE FORWARD

BALLOT

VOTE AND RETURN
BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 1981

NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National FFA Alumni Association, members of the FFA Alumni Council shall be elected by mail vote of the membership. The Council member for the member-at-large position will be elected in 1981 for a three-year term. The candidates marked on the Official Ballot were selected by a Nominating Committee.

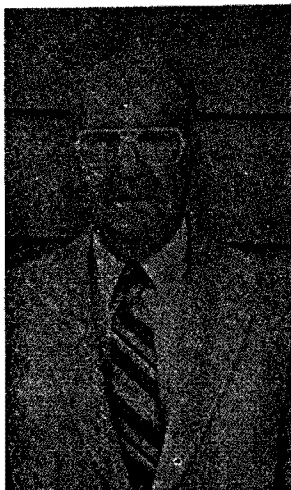
(Vote for *one candidate*. Ballots improperly marked are invalid.)

MEMBER AT LARGE



JOHN HOWELL—COLLINSVILLE, OKLAHOMA

John Howell of Collinsville, Oklahoma, is a vocational agriculture instructor at Collinsville High School. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Education from Oklahoma State University in 1977 and has taught vocational agriculture four years. He was a participant in the 1981 Vocational Technical Teachers Extern Program. John has twice been a voting delegate to the National FFA Alumni Convention, is a lifetime Alumni member, is presently serving as the state vice president of the Oklahoma Alumni Association, and has been a member of the state Alumni council the past two years. John holds membership in the Oklahoma Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, the Masonic Lodge and the Lions Club. John was awarded the Honorary Chapter Farmer Degree by the Owasso FFA Chapter and was listed in the 1980 Outstanding Young Men of America. He has served as advisor of FFA chapters receiving National Gold and Silver Emblem honors, and received the Legion of Merit Award from the National FFA Alumni in 1980. John and his wife Mary have two children.



ALFRED SICK JR.—FREMONT, NEBRASKA

Alfred Sick Jr., of Fremont, Nebraska, was born and reared on a farm near Fremont and is a charter member of the Hooper, Nebraska, FFA Chapter. Three years were spent in the Armed Forces during World War II. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a major in Agriculture Education. Al started the vocational agriculture program at Pender, Nebraska, and taught there for eight years, serving as state Agriculture Teachers president in 1956-57. Al joined the J. C. Robinson Seed Co. (Golden Harvest Seeds) in 1958 and has been director of research since 1961. He has served as a judge at district FFA leadership contests for 23 years, has served on the Nebraska FFA Alumni Council since it was organized in 1972, served four years as state FFA Alumni vice president, and is currently Nebraska president. Al received the Nebraska Honorary State Farmer Degree in 1970 and the Honorary American Farmer Degree in 1980. In 1981 he was presented the Outstanding Service Award by the Nebraska Vocational Agriculture Association. A member of the Salem Lutheran Church in Fremont, Al has served 12 years on the church council, is a member of the American Legion, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Dodge County Agricultural Society Association. Al and his wife Alberta have two sons.

