As the National FFA Convention enjoyed perhaps its finest hour with a nationally-televised address by the President of the United States, FFA Alumni members from across the nation met for their Third Annual Meeting. The two half-day sessions were scheduled to allow the participating Alumni members to enjoy the FFA Convention in addition to their own program.

The tremendous strides being made in the Alumni's development and the positive contributions being made to the FFA programs resulted in a markedly positive attitude among those in attendance. The overflowing crowd at the opening session caused a change in meeting rooms for the final session.

Those in attendance learned of the 57% growth in total membership this past year, and of the 134% growth in life members. "It's the individual effort on the part of many," said National FFA Alumni Council Chairman, Gus R. Douglass, in his opening remarks, "that is fast building this organization, whose goal is the perpetual well being of agricultural youth."

Featured speaker, Orion Samuelson, famed agricultural spokesman from WGN in Chicago, challenged FFA Alumni members to make a total commitment to build the FFA Alumni Association and make a major contribution to the FFA and American agriculture.

Interest was high among the 93 official delegates.

Dr. James Clouse was elected National Chairman of the FFA Alumni Association, with Mr. Richard Waybright as Vice-Chairman. Dr. Clouse, formerly of Purdue University, is the Head of Agriculture Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Virginia. Mr. Waybright owns an extensive dairy operation, including production, processing and distribution, near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. David Thomas of Columbia, Missouri, and Mr. Jerry Goolsby of Guthrie, Oklahoma, were elected to serve a three-year term on the National FFA Alumni Council from the Central and Southern Regions, respectively. Their election came following a mail ballot of the membership.

"More Drive in '75" was announced as the membership slogan for the coming year. The FFA Alumni slide presentation, "It's Happening" was previewed for those interested in using it in membership promotion.

Much of the Alumni business was hammered out in committee sessions. Each committee made recommendations to the general assembly as guides to state and local associations, as well as the National FFA Alumni Council.
RECOGNITION PROGRAM INITIATED

National FFA Vice President Keith Mohler (left) congratulates the first "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award" recipients Mr. Jerry Litton, Mr. Orion Samuelson, and Mr. William Kuhfuss.

The first presentation of the "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards" highlighted the final session. This initiated an entirely new awards program to be conducted at local, state, and national levels. The aim is to recognize FFA Alumni members for leadership and outstanding achievement in service to agriculture. The award will be presented annually to inspire current FFA members by reflecting the accomplishments of outstanding former members. The achievements of this year's recipients truly set a fitting example for which FFA members can strive.

Jerry Litton is serving a first term in the U. S. Congress. He was instrumental in spearheading the formation of the Agriculture Council of America to unite agriculture behind one voice to close the gap between the producer and consumer. Before entering politics, he was co-owner of the Litton Charolais Ranch. Jerry was an American Farmer in the FFA and served as the Missouri State President and National Secretary.

Orion Samuelson is Farm Service Director for WGN radio and television in Chicago. He is nationally recognized as an agricultural spokesman to both farm and urban publics. Orion is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade and is a past president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Orion began his speaking as an FFA member where he was winner of numerous FFA Public Speaking Contests and has continued his involvement.

William Kuhfuss is serving as President of the nation's largest farm organization, the American Farm Bureau Federation. He is actively involved in the promotion of international trade for American farm products and serves as chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee to the Federal Energy Office. Bill was a charter member and first president of his local FFA chapter and has been actively involved in support of FFA.

In acceptance of the award, each man hailed the FFA for giving him a chance for growth.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ADOPTED

The constitutional amendment which had been submitted to the membership by mail ballot was adopted by nearly a four-to-one majority. The amendment defines membership eligibility by allowing parents of FFA members and others interested in the FFA to join the FFA Alumni Association. It provides flexibility in the constitution to allow for the Associate Class membership contained in many state and local constitutions, and removes the burden of proof of being a former FFA member.

The amendment became effective upon adoption. Revised copies of the FFA Alumni Constitution and By-Laws are available upon request.

KEPT OPTIONAL

Delegate action kept optional the proposed inclusion of the National Future Farmer magazine as part of national FFA Alumni dues, which would increase dues by $1. Considerable discussion preceded the action. Ironically, the action came following a membership survey which favored the inclusion by nearly a two-to-one majority with only one state not in favor.

The action gives members the prerogative to subscribe individually to the magazine and keeps annual national dues at $4. Life members already receive a life-time subscription to the magazine. State FFA Alumni Associations do have the option of including a subscription to the magazine as part of their state dues.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

"A chance for GROWTH" is the 1975 National FFA Week theme. The date is February 15-22, 1975. The main purpose of celebrating National FFA Week is to focus public attention on vocational agriculture and the FFA. It is traditionally celebrated beginning the Saturday before George Washington's Birthday (February 22) and ending the following Saturday.

FFA Week activities are an ideal way for FFA Alumni Affiliates to improve public relations in their communities. An Idea Booklet with promotional materials, billboards, sample news releases, radio spots, along with other miscellaneous ideas has been sent to all FFA Chapters. This may just be what your FFA Alumni Affiliate has been looking for to improve community public relations.

THANK YOU!

The FFA Alumni Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis (each season of the year). We invite your comments and suggestions at all times. If you have questions about the FFA Alumni or have a change of address, please write to: FFA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.
ACTIVE LEADERS HONORED

One hundred sixty-five individuals from 31 states were presented the active leadership award, the "Legion of Merit Citation," as part of the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

The "Legion of Merit Citation" is aimed at honoring personal effort and initiative in building the FFA Alumni Association. Special recognition is given those who repeat achieving this award.

To earn the "Legion of Merit Citation" one must enroll 10 or more new FFA Alumni members. All members are encouraged to become a part of the growth of the FFA Alumni Association by joining the ranks of the "Legion of Merit Citation" recipients. Applications are available from the Alumni Office.

The 1974 "Legion of Merit Citation" recipients are:

Alabama
Elton Bouldin*
California
Nicholas S. Bavaro
Colorado
Jim Knight
Lori Wunderlich
Connecticut
D. A. Digilio
Hugh J. Ripper
Florida
Cecil Cordell
Jimmy Edwards
Georgia
David P. Forrest
J. P. Henry
C. Fred Ingram
Roscoe Nash
Westley H. Patrick
Illinois
Mark Akers
Lloyd Bohl
David Booth
Larry Bowhay
Ronald Bross
Gary Clausen
Dennis Crouch
George Diedrich
Richard Drendel
Larry Firkin
Todd Graham
Darrell Hall
Mark Hodel
Dean Johnson
Paul Johnson
John Kearns
Tom Kohley
Dennis Lasswell
Illinois, cont'd
Doug Lindgren
Gary Long
Curtis Merrifield
Mike McMahon
Vernon L. Rhorscheib
Mark Wilson
Roger Windish
Iowa
Becky Daniels
Larry L. Haas
Mohamed W. Khan
Dan Leinen
Randy Sayre
Duane Wessel
Mississippi
Sammy Mathis
Charles F. Rye
Jerry Smith
Missouri
David C. Thomas*
Terry Traxler
John Wise
Montana
Harold E. Stepper
Nebraska
Fred Dubs
Jan Katt
Jan Mendoza
Jim Vach
New Mexico
Ross Burchard
Joe Gilmore
Bub Graham
Sandy Jones
North Carolina
Richard N. Vaughan
Mike Wilton
Ohio
Carl L. Casey
Robert A. Givens
Gayle K. Grimes
Mike Johnson
Jorge Munoz
Bill Maness*
Julius Rouse
William H. Teague*
Oklahoma
Phil Berkenbile
Henry J. Bowlan
Maurice Bray
George Carter
Jim Colpitt
Jimmie Dee Cook
Charlie Ferguson
David Fleming
Jack Foran
Kenneth Hayes
Cliff Henagar
Troy Don Henry*
Katherine A. Holman
Oliver Kinzie
Jerry Kobyluk
Marvin J. Lindsey
Bob Listen
Randall Long
Oklahoma, cont'd
Richard Melot
Buster McNatt
Gerald Parsons
Randy Ray
Weldon N. Rodgers
Joe D. Skinner
D. M. Sokolosky
Estel Standridge
Fred Stanley
Darrell Stiles
William T. Thomas
Mike W. Turner
Dale Turner
Robert Willis
Paul Wood
Ken York
Oregon
Mike S. Macnam
Pennsylvania
Delmas Hernley
Rhode Island
Norman Hammond
Tennessee
Terry Horn
L. M. McIlwain
Steve Stafford
Beauford Wilson
Randall Yarbro
Texas
Lyndia Bartlett
Larry Ermis
Donald M. Hensley
Virginia
Larry R. Jewell
Wisconsin
David J. Bloomer
Kim Erickson
Douglas Hull
John Joestgen
Rudolph Kolarik
Becky L. Miller
John Olsen
Roger Rasmussen
John R. Ronk
Hollii Schauer
Kenneth Seering
William Steinhorst
Richard Templon, Sr.
Erwin Zweifel
Wyoming
Kelly Burch*
Walter Ferguson, Jr.
Joe Navrath*
Darrell Repshire
Stan Stowe

*Second Year Recipient
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 now receive a lifetime subscription to the National Future Farmer magazine along with other benefits. Why not make this the year your name is added to this growing list of loyal supporters?

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