

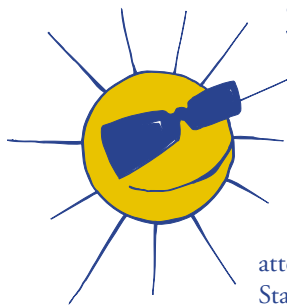
NEW VISIONS



Volume 7, Issue 1
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For more information, visit
our website at www.ffa.org.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Seek Adventures in Florida 2002 State Leaders Conference

The National FFA Alumni Association invites you to attend the 2002 State Leaders

Conference (SLC) at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City, Florida.

Every Member Welcome to Attend

Each State Association is entitled to one SLC grant (\$250) for its official state

representative to attend the conference. Additional representatives and Alumni members are encouraged to attend. Spouses and children are welcome and may attend the conference as “non-participants.”

Each representative (participant) will pay a registration fee. “Early Bird Registration” (postmarked by June 15) is \$100; any registration postmarked after June 15 is \$125.

Conference Information

Conference attendees should make

travel arrangements, so they will arrive prior to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23 and depart anytime on Sunday, July 28. Transportation to and from the Orlando Airport will be provided. The conference kickoff is slated to begin Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. with a dinner and opening session.

If you are an FFA Alumni member who desires to attend this year’s conference, consider approaching your state FFA Alumni Council or securing a state sponsor to fund your transportation needs.

State FFA Alumni leaders received a fee schedule for state representatives, spouses, and other attendees, including one-day participants.

Council Continues Membership Incentives

In an effort to charter new affiliates and increase membership, the National FFA Alumni Council is offering these activities to agriculture instructors and existing Alumni affiliate leaders.

Incentives for New/ Re-activating Affiliates

Each agriculture instructor who charters a new or re-activates an Alumni affiliate with the National FFA Alumni Association during the current membership year, from September 1 through August 31, will be entered into a \$1,000 drawing. The agriculture instructor whose name is drawn will receive \$500 and his or her Alumni affiliate will receive \$500. The winner will be drawn on November 1, 2002, during the National FFA Alumni Convention. The program will be in effect until further notice.

Legion of Merit Incentive Program

Starting with the 2002 membership year, Alumni affiliates will receive a \$25

rebate for each Legion of Merit Award submitted by members from those respective affiliates. Visit the FFA Alumni website at www.ffa.org/alumni/manual/index.html or contact the national office for a revised version of the Legion of Merit application.

American FFA Degree Scholarship Program

Special scholarship opportunities will be available this year again for American FFA Degree recipients who are Alumni members. FFA members, who will be receiving their American FFA Degrees at the 2002 National FFA Convention and who are currently National FFA Alumni members, prepay their national dues, or pay their dues at the national convention, will be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship drawing. The winner of the \$1000 scholarship will be announced at the American FFA Degree luncheon on November 2. Letters and membership application forms will be mailed to American FFA Degree recipients.

For more information on these programs, contact the National FFA Alumni office at (317) 802-4293 or via e-mail at bhaig@ffa.org.

CALENDAR *Year 2002*

Deadlines listed below are postmark dates.

June 15

State Leaders Conference
Earlybird Registration

July 1

Outstanding Affiliate, Outstanding Achievement Applications and Scrapbooks

Council Nomination Applications

July 15

Auction Items to Appear in Catalog

July 23-28

State Leaders Conference
Haines City, Florida

August 15

Legion of Merit Applications

Rosters Due to the National Office to Qualify for Awards

September 15

Chapter Grant Applications

November 1

National FFA Alumni Convention and Live/Silent Auctions

FFA Alumni *New Visions* is prepared and published quarterly by the National FFA Alumni Association as an affiliate of the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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Pam Jumper
National FFA Alumni Vice President

ROUND TABLE

The Power to Change a Child's Life

As adults and Alumni members, we have the power to change the life of a child. Alumni volunteers who work with children of whatever age at local schools can pave the way for change where it is needed. As "FFA Alumni," we have one of the most respected names in America. But, with that name comes a responsibility to see that our children have the quality of life that helps them to grow and learn to become leaders and citizens of this great country of ours.

Our children are our most precious resource and the next generation to determine the future of our country. Our children are mirrors of us. They learn how to interact with society through the way we as parents, grandparents, educators, or men-

tors live our lives. If we want a certain quality of life for our children, we as adults must set specific priorities and goals.

What are your goals for supporting

As "FFA Alumni," we have a responsibility to see that our children have the quality of life that helps them to grow and learn to become leaders.

FFA members and the local teachers this year? Maybe now is the time to evaluate how to use your power to change a child's life. We can help FFA members to set goals for their future. We can show and help them to take advantage of the opportunities available

through the FFA.

Here are some ways we can help FFA members:

- Serve as a mentor or student advisor.
- Volunteer as a chaperone for field trips or conventions.
- Serve as a judge for competitive events.



The Gifts of Membership

Robin Niehaus
National FFA
Secretary

I love the county fair. I have fond memories of traipsing through the barns, watching mud volleyball tournaments, and enjoying the carnival with my friends. But my favorite segments of the fair were the FFA petting zoo and the FFA Alumni homemade ice cream stand. As an advisor's daughter, my responsibilities included making ice cream and cleaning up, which usually meant sharing the leftovers.

As a young girl, I saw FFA Alumni

membership as something that was fun and as an opportunity to enjoy one of my favorite foods. But as I grew older, I realized that the benefits of membership reached far beyond fun. Membership helps communities, FFA chapters, and FFA members grow stronger.



FFA Alumni give gifts of sharing through their belief in and encouragement of FFA members.

The Alumni organization provides its members with opportunities to network within the community, remember their own FFA experiences, serve talented young leaders, and have a lot of fun. FFA members benefit from

their community support, financial aid, and simple encouragement.

You are part of a powerhouse organization that is fueled by two simple words: "I believe." You show your belief in the future of agriculture and in the future of our great nation through your support of the FFA. Whether you belong to a strong Alumni affiliate or are a member-at-large, you make a difference.

Shortly after I was elected as a national officer, an FFA supporter from a neighboring town wrote me a congratulatory note. As small as the gesture might seem, that card travels with me wherever I go and serves as a constant reminder of the gift each of you can give. FFA Alumni give gifts of sharing through their belief in and encouragement of FFA members. Keep sharing those gifts in your home and community. Thank you for believing in the blue and gold.



A Fond Farewell to *Gene Starr*



By now most of you are aware, that as of December 14, 2001, Gene Starr resigned as Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association. Gene, a man with deep faith and strong family convictions, felt that he needed to return to his roots in Florida, where he could be near his and his wife's parents. Those of you who were fortunate enough to work with him bore witness to his selfless devotion to our organization.

Gene's career began as an agriculture teacher. It was the daily opportunity of interacting with agriculture students and FFA members that he missed in accepting the position of Alumni Executive Director. However, he made the decision to move to Indianapolis with a predetermined mission of turning our organization around.

Gene will be sorely missed! Under his guidance, the National FFA Alumni rebuilt and grew into the 45,000-member strong organization it is today. Gene accepted his former position knowing that the Association faced certain financial perils. His financial savvy and attention-to-detail enabled the Association to now boast financial stability, maintain strong investments, and eliminate debt.

Gene's five-year tenure was highlighted by many outstanding achievements. Examples include the initiation of the Chapter Grant and American Degree Recipient Scholarship programs. He instituted the Rotating State Leaders Conference and many other noteworthy endeavors.

Submitted by the National FFA Alumni Council



Gene's five-year tenure was highlighted by many outstanding achievements. Above Gene receives a Legion of Merit Citation from Linda Story, former National FFA Alumni President.



(From left) Gene, Geavonna, Schvonnia, and Aaron.



The Alumni Council wishes Gene, Schvonnia, Aaron, and Geavonna the best that life has to offer. Our loss is certainly Florida's gain as Gene is again in the classroom doing what he loves best and what FFA Alumni embraces: shaping young people's lives.



A Faith Born of Deeds

*Dane White
National FFA
President*

I believe. These two simple words found throughout our creed capture the essence of what it means to be an FFA Alumni member. The word "Alumni" often brings to mind meanings such as past, retired, or completed. The FFA is fortunate, however, because the FFA Alumni is open to anyone who desires to support youth, agricultural education, and the FFA.

One particular group of potential members deserves some attention. Former FFA members can still make a positive difference

for youth. This group of individuals, though no longer active members, has the ability to give and help. Many are just waiting to be asked to join the FFA Alumni or support the local program.

Some of the greatest achievements of my chapter were made possible by FFA Alumni. Their contributions of labor, time, and resources greatly benefited our members, along with our school and community. The members of my home chapter had an enriching agricultural education experience as a direct result of the commitment of former FFA members who shared their expertise in the selection of dairy cattle or volunteered tire-

less hours for fund-raising,

As FFA Alumni, you help ensure that FFA members throughout our nation have those same enlightening, life-changing experiences. Your support is a testimony to your belief in our organization and its mission of student success. By pledging your support to the FFA, whether on the chapter, state, or

national level, you can maintain an active role in our organization, which is imperative to the success of our mission. Without your faith in agricultural education, many of our programs, activities, and special projects would cease.

Thank you for all that you do to ensure the success of the FFA. You make a difference in students' lives. Your belief helps make that possible.

Many former FFA members are just waiting to be asked to join the Alumni. The support of Alumni is a testimony to your belief in our organization and its mission of student success.

Among Friends

These activities are provided as a service in the hope that they might inspire other Alumni members in their support of agricultural education and the FFA.

Outstanding Affiliate Shares Ideas, Activities That Build Success

The Denmark, Wisconsin, FFA Alumni affiliate has had a long record of successfully supporting agricultural education and FFA members locally. At the 2001 National FFA Alumni Convention, the affiliate was chosen as the top affiliate in the nation for its efforts.

With more than 460 paid members, 416 of which are life members, the affiliate's main objective is "to assist students enrolled in the middle and high schools and provide leadership opportunities for all FFA members."

Listed below are some of the Denmark affiliate's key activities. These activities are provided as a service in hope that they might inspire other Alumni members in their support of agricultural education and the FFA.

Instructional Activities

- Awarded purebred dairy calf grants
- Offered educational scholarships
- Coached/judged 12 FFA team events
- Sponsored the state FFA equine entrepreneurship proficiency award
- Sponsored awards at the parent-member banquet
- Conducted SAE job stations for production/agribusiness experiences
- Sponsored a new milk machine and cooler at the high school
- Chaperoned FFA workshops, seminars, and conferences
- Sponsored 72 FFA members to attend 10 workshops, conferences, and conventions
- Judged SAE record books
- Assisted with an outdoor lab and nature center
- Provided substitute teachers and classroom speakers for animal science, mechanics, and other courses
- Conducted farm tours, promotions, food pantry, Breakfast on Farm for the Food for America program

Cooperative Activities (those conducted with the chapter)

- Served lunch after monthly chapter meetings and promoted membership
- Promoted and purchased market animals at the livestock show
- Sponsored the district speaking events during National FFA Week
- Operated tractor safety and certification course for 12-14 year old students

- Purchased farm books for elementary school library and four accompanying VCR tapes
- Assisted with developing a 48-page National FFA Week newspaper supplement
- Distributed trees, shrubs, and pheasants for Department of Natural Resources
- Provided projects for students to build/construct in agricultural shop course

Fund-raising Activities

- Conducted a Danish Day booth to serve Danish dogs as prepared in Denmark, Europe
- Held a nut and bolt sale
- Sponsored a golf outing with profits used for scholarships
- Operate an Alumni auction with profits used for scholarships
- Sold Annual affiliate raffle tickets with 98 prizes on the ticket
- Conducted Whitetails Unlimited raffle and auction
- Resold animals purchased at livestock show
- Donated gifts for state FFA Alumni Convention and Foundation auction

Social Activities

- Steak and shrimp Night
- Halloween Appreciation Night with costume judging and brat feed
- Meal for Rider nut and bolt sale participants
- Spanferkle "pig roast" served family style for members
- Affiliate board of directors hayride and appreciation party

Recruitment Activities

- Constructed a float for Denmark Lions Parade promoting the Alumni
- Published an FFA Alumni newsletter six times per year (also sent to FFA members' parents)
- Conducted an FFA Alumni banquet for members and supporters
- Purchased Alumni road signs for village and memorial park entrances
- Sponsored life membership for outgoing FFA chapter president
- Purchased videos/books for area elementary and parochial schools
- Purchased an advertisement in state convention highlights and National FFA Week newspaper supplement
- Conducted radio promotions with various radio stations and newspapers, netting over 200 articles or programs
- Donated funds for state and national FFA convention expenses



Grant Program Boosts Learning, SAE Experiences

For instructor Jeff Papke of Prineville, Oregon, the FFA Alumni Chapter Grant Program provided more than just new learning opportunities for students.

The Crook County FFA Chapter submitted an application for funds to renovate a 50-year-old cattle barn located on the Crook County Fairgrounds for student use. It received \$1,000 to purchase supplies to remodel the facility.

Students Learn Construction Skills

As a part of a class project, students upgraded the building's animal pens, enclosed it with plywood sheeting to make it more secure, and applied a fresh coat of



paint to its new walls. Students also installed a concrete slab for an electronic scale to weigh animals. The project allowed students to take ownership in the building and give back to the community, Papke said.

Results Show Value of Grant Program

Nearly two years later, Papke is satisfied with the project's results: "Besides improving the quality of SAEs for students, the renovated facility has given FFA members who have nowhere else to board their market animals a place to house them for a few months."

Participation in FFA fair activities immediately increased by 10 students because of the new facility. Thirteen market animals—sheep, beef, or swine—were housed at the facility last year. Instead of driving miles to feed their market animals, FFA members can now take care of their animals before arriving at school (since the renovated barn is just 100 yards from the high school).

Renovated Facility Boosts Learning

In addition, Papke and his students have utilized the facility for animal feed trials. Because the facility and the new electronic scale are in close proximity to the school, Papke can more closely supervise students' feeding regimens. By regularly monitoring rate of gain, students can adjust their market animals' rations appropriately to match their intended goals for showing their animals.

For more information on the Crook County FFA project, contact Jeff Papke at jeff.papke@crookcounty.k12.or.us.

"Besides improving the quality of SAEs for students, the renovated facility has given FFA members who have nowhere else to board their market animals a place to house them for a few months."



Grant Application Deadline

In 2001, 20 chapters from across the nation received a total of \$19,629 for various projects and learning opportunities as part of the Chapter Grant Program. The deadline for submitting applications for the 2002 Chapter Grant Program is September 15. Applications are available online at ffa.org or from the National FFA Alumni office by phoning (317) 802-4293.

We Need Your Help!

New Visions is looking for successful ideas, activities, and tips that have been used at the local or state level. Newsletter staff would like to feature your ideas and your success. If you or your affiliate would like to share your ideas, please send them to the National Office via



e-mail to bhaig@ffa.org or



fax to (317) 802-5293.

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Newsletter



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2002 Alumni Auction Gearing Up

The following items are already on hand:

- Gift certificates to restaurants and attractions in the Louisville area
- Miraco Livestock Water Feeder
- Large selection of Union Tools
- Dyna Glo Heaters
- Cedar rabbit hutches
- Ertl collectibles
- Limited edition framed art

Silent Auction and Social

The Silent Auction opens Wed., Oct. 30, at 12:30 p.m. and continues through 4 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1. The Auction Social will commence at 6 p.m. on Nov. 1, allowing everyone to enjoy food and refreshments and to visit with fellow Alumni members, supporters, and bidders. The Live Auction will begin at 7 p.m. and will continue until the last item is sold.

For more information regarding the Alumni Auction, visit our website at www.ffa.org, then select the Alumni tab. If you would like more information on how you

can become an auction donor, contact us at (317) 802-4293 or via email at bhaig@ffa.org.

State Basket Contest

Every state FFA Association and state FFA Alumni Association is encouraged to enter the State Basket Contest and to donate as many baskets to the auction as possible. (Only one basket per state FFA Association and one basket per state FFA Alumni Association will be eligible for prizes.)

Criteria for Judging

- Best showcase of the FFA/Alumni
- Best representation of products native to state
- Most creative use of the term "basket"
- Most attractive
- Most unusual
- Best representation of agriculture
- Distinct items of interest

Prizes

- **Best Overall:** \$450.00 Washington Leadership Scholarship
- **President's Choice:** \$125.00 Registration Fee to State Alumni Leaders Conference
- **People's Choice:** 100 tickets for the Alumni Giveaway

Contest Rules

- All items must fit securely into the basket.
- The bottom of the basket cannot be larger than 3' x 4'.
- A list of the items included in the basket must be clearly visible.
- State name should be clearly labeled on the basket.
- The basket can be of any creation.

Baskets must be in place by 5:00 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 31, 2002, to be eligible for judging. State Associations that wish to enter a basket should request a donation form and mark it official entry. Entry forms must be returned by July 15 to be included in the auction catalog. Baskets can be shipped to the National FFA Center or brought to the auction site. Winning baskets will be announced and moved to the auction area for further bidding during the Live Auction.