

New VISIONS



The Official Newsletter of the National FFA Alumni Association

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2006 Vacancies for National FFA Alumni Council

Applications are currently being accepted for the following National FFA Alumni Council positions: Eastern Region Representative and Southern Region Representative. Both three-year terms run from October 2006 to October 2009.

The Alumni Council is responsible for the policies and strategic planning of the National FFA Alumni Association. It serves as its executive body and is subordinate to the National FFA Board of Directors. Council members do not receive salaries for their work, but are reimbursed for travel expenses as established by Alumni policies. Council members are required to attend three annual meetings.

As their schedules permit, Council members may be asked to represent the National FFA Alumni Association at local, state, regional, and national activities.

Elections for both positions will be held at the national convention business session on Friday, October 27, 2006. **All nominations must be postmarked by July 1, 2006**, for consideration by

the national nominating committee. For more information, contact J. Frank Saldaña at 317-802-4292. To obtain an application, visit the Alumni website at www.ffa.org/alumni/, send requests to bhaig@ffa.org, or phone **317-802-4293**.

Required Annual Meetings

1. Alumni Council meeting in February (required) in conjunction with State Staff Inservice (a recommended, but not required activity) in Indianapolis, Indiana.
2. Alumni Council meeting in July (required) in conjunction with State Leaders Conference (a recommended, but not required activity) in selected location for the current year.
3. Alumni Council meeting in October in conjunction with National FFA/National FFA Alumni Conventions in Indianapolis, Indiana (both events required).

During the conference, participants will visit several places of special interest: The Parthenon, Opry Mills, Ryman Auditorium, downtown Nashville, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Middle Tennessee University, and the Grand Ole Opry!

Now is the time to reserve your spot for the State Leaders Conference held July 11-16 in Nashville, Tennessee. Accommodations will be provided at the Holiday Inn Brentwood located off I-65 at exit 74A). Total cost of the conference is \$400 per participant, which covers conference supplies, local transportation, five nights/six days of hotel stay (double occupancy), and the majority of meals. Spouses and family members (non-participants) are welcome to attend at a special reduced rate, which includes lodging, tours, group meals, and social activities.

Calendar 2006

Dates listed are when items must be postmarked to the National Office

July 1

Local Program Support Grant applications

Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate, Outstanding State Affiliate, Outstanding Achievement, and National Distinguished Contributor Nomination applications; and Scrapbooks

National Alumni Council nominations

July 15

Auction donation forms for items to appear in catalog

July 11-16

State Leaders Conference, Nashville, TN

October 25-27

Alumni Silent Auction, Indianapolis, IN

October 26-27

Alumni Convention, Indianapolis, IN

October 27

Alumni Live Auction, Indianapolis, IN

Visit our website at www.ffa.org/alumni/ to download updated award applications. Send requests for forms to bhaig@ffa.org or phone 317-802-4293 to have forms mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

2006 State Leaders Conference: July 11-16

The "Power of Partnership!" is the theme for the 2006 National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference in Nashville, Tenn. The conference permits Alumni leaders from across the nation to explore how to build partnerships that support agricultural education and the FFA.

This year's workshops will focus on advocacy, volunteer management, and building relationships. In addition, Alumni staff will present a special workshop to debut the national association's new Excel-based membership system.



Participants must register with the National FFA Alumni Association no later than June 1.

For details and registration forms, contact Betsy Haig at bhaig@ffa.org or 317-802-4293.

ROUND TABLE

Creating Successful Partnerships



J. Frank Saldaña

The art of building partnerships is vital to the growth and success of any group. In order for local, state, and national Alumni groups to grow and successfully support agricultural education programs, they must foster enduring and beneficial partnerships.

Generally speaking, growth (and success) of local affiliates is as easy as A, B, C:

- A. Analyze your affiliate's needs thoughtfully and objectively.
- B. Be sure to set your goals first.
- C. Cooperate by devising a joint affiliate-partner strategy to accomplish your goals.

As stated earlier, partnerships are a crucial element to the goal-setting process and long-term affiliate success. Some steps to consider when creating partnerships:

1. Identify potential partners who can help you accomplish your goals. Targeting the right partners can make the difference in whether a project fails or succeeds. Start by conducting research to identify partner groups, particularly those community residents who have the interests, abilities, talents, and resources needed to help you achieve your goals.

2. Recruit and cultivate potential partners. Partnerships need nurturing through continuous contact and interaction. Keep potential partners informed. Convey to them how priceless their service is to the affiliate; their names and reputations are also at stake. Encourage feedback from them.

3. Involve partners once they join your effort. You should have already determined what abilities partners bring to the proverbial table. Any partner relationship involves close, active cooperation between parties and shared responsibility. Assign specific tasks that match their interests and talents. Remember they have a limited amount of time to contribute. Make the experience worthwhile and memorable, so as to create repeat partners!

4. Recognize partners after your goals have been met. Recognition can foster relationships, leading to a lasting benefit for both Alumni and partners.

J. Frank Saldaña
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2006 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions

"Come join us. We don't want to hog all the fun!"

Indianapolis, Indiana

Silent Auction: Wednesday-Friday, October 25-27

Live Auction: Friday, October 27

Auction Preview

The 2006 National FFA and FFA Alumni Conventions are moving to Indianapolis, Indiana. The National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions will offer convention attendees entertainment and excitement, while generating funds for student scholarships! (See sidebar article at bottom of page.) The silent auction features more than 1,000 items and offers a large selection of products from art and collectibles to tools and equipment. A pre-auction social with appetizers will occur at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 27, allowing convention attendees to study items for bid prior to the fun and excitement of the live auction! There will be a \$5 charge for each bid number issued, which will be applied towards each bidder's auction purchase.

Generous donors have already provided these exciting items: Ford F-150 XLT, 42" Cub Cadet Tractor, New Holland tractor/baler lease, Manco PowerSports Fun Kart, Delta Consolidated Tools, Tractor Supply Company vendor products, including quality brands such as Husqvarna, Ertl, Ingersoll Rand, Mr. Heater, Oster Professional Products, Schleich, and Tricam Industries. There is sure to be something to catch everyone's eye!

Donations Needed!

Auction Items: Show your support for the FFA by donating to the 2006 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions. Donated products, gift certificates, travel packages, and gift baskets are needed to reach the goal of raising \$100,000 for student scholarships. Consider donating an item personally or as an Alumni affiliate. Soliciting donations

from FFA backers in your community is another way to show your support.

State Basket Contest:

State FFA and state FFA Alumni associations are invited to enter a basket contest held as part of the auction. Create a fun and inventive basket filled with your state's products and specialties. Visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ for official contest rules. Don't miss this opportunity to show state pride and support the FFA!

Student Involvement: Local agricultural education programs can assist the auction fundraising efforts by donating outstanding student projects. This auction segment showcases student talents and skills. Needed are projects that represent the diverse areas taught in local agriculture classes, including welding, woodworking, floral design, supervised agricultural experience program products, and everything in between!

Visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ to complete a donation form or contact asmyer@ffa.org or **317-802-4294** for more information. Donation forms must be received by **July 15** for items to be listed in the auction catalog, which appears in the convention issue of *New Visions*.



BUILT Ford TOUGH **Need a new truck?** Bidders, get ready to start this engine! The National FFA Alumni Live Auction will feature a **Ford F-150 XLT**. Thank you to Ford Trucks for this generous donation! National FFA Foundation staff are to be congratulated for their assistance in securing this donation.

Who Benefits from the FFA Alumni Auctions?

This summer more than 2,300 FFA members will travel to Washington, D.C., to attend the FFA Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). Their focus will be on building their leadership skills and developing their character for service. Student registration for the conference is \$550.



The National FFA Alumni Association recognizes the positive difference WLC makes in the lives of students who attend the conference. These positive effects are transferred to hundreds of communities as these new leaders return to their local chapters. Since 1985, FFA Alumni have raised funds for student scholarships through the live and silent benefit auctions at National FFA Alumni Convention. Due to the success of the 2005 benefit auctions, 126 WLC scholarships totaling almost \$61,400 were presented to state associations and local FFA

Alumni affiliates. Five \$1,000 collegiate scholarships were also awarded through the 2006 National FFA Scholarship program to students pursuing careers in agricultural education.

National FFA Alumni Association leaders have set a goal of raising more than \$100,000 at this year's benefit auctions, which will be held during National FFA Alumni Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana! Please consider donating items, soliciting donations, or attending the benefit auctions during national convention and submitting a bid!

2006 Benefit Auctions



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2006 National FFA Alumni Association Convention Schedule

Wednesday, October 25

Time	Event
1-6 p.m.	Silent Auction

Thursday, October 26

Time	Event
9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Silent Auction
4-6 p.m.	Alumni Awards Session
6-7:30 p.m.	Awards Appreciation Reception

Friday, October 27

Time	Event
8-9:30 a.m.	Delegate Registration
9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Silent Auction
9:30 a.m.-Noon	Alumni Business Session
5-6 p.m.	Auction Social
6 p.m.	Live Auction
4-10 p.m.	Auction Pickup and Payment

Saturday, October 28

Time	Event
8-10 a.m.	Auction Pickup and Payment
10 a.m.	Mini-Auction for Unclaimed Items

(All events occur in the Indiana Convention Center; specific locations will be provided in next issue.)



Offering valuable and timely information to support agricultural education.

Oklahoma Alumni Member Named Citizen of the Year

Alumni life member Sharon Vanorsdol was recently named Citizen of the Year by the Bristow, Okla., Chamber of Commerce. Vanorsdol is a life-long resident of the community. She has worked at the local bank for almost 30 years, and now serves as its vice president.

To read more about Vanorsdol's amazing service to the Bristow community, visit the *Sapulpa Daily Herald* web site at www.sapulpadailyherald.com/news/local_story_100151817.html?keyword=topstory.

Update: Volunteer Development Resource

The March 2006 issue of *New Visions* introduced a new resource for use by FFA Alumni, agricultural educators, and teacher educators in working with and developing volunteers. During the summer of 2006, state FFA associations will distribute this volunteerism CD-ROM as part of the "REV It Up!" kit to every agricultural education program. As supporters, Alumni can

inform their local teachers this valuable resource will be included in the kit! The volunteer development modules on the CD-ROM can also be accessed online at www.ffa.org/alumni/html/alum_volunteerism.htm. Training sessions on volunteer management will be held at the State Leaders Conference in Nashville, Tenn.



For more information, contact 317-802-4292.

