

New VISIONS



The Official Newsletter of the National FFA Alumni Association

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FFA and Alumni Convention Meet for First Time in Indianapolis

This year marks the first time FFA and FFA Alumni members will meet for their national conventions in Indianapolis, Indiana. The National FFA Alumni Association will hold its 35th annual convention in conjunction with the 79th National FFA Convention. Leaders from the city's business, volunteer, and community sectors have tirelessly worked together to host the conventions. Their efforts truly reflect the theme of the upcoming National FFA Alumni Convention, which is the "Power of Partnership."

Everything will be new and exciting at this year's convention! Alumni events will begin with the opening of the 2006 Silent Benefit Auction on Wednesday, October 25, 2006.

See convention schedule below for more details.

This year's awards session will again honor the association's outstanding members. Alumni convention speaker Chad Hymas will provide his popular presentation, "Who Needs Legs When You Have Wings." Chad will discuss the tools attendees need to face their challenges with enthusiasm and how to find new opportunity amidst the constant change in their personal and professional lives. Through his inspirational, entertaining, and humorous approach, he will illustrate how accepting, adapting, and acting on change can allow convention goers to "fly higher" than they ever thought possible.



Chad Hymas

Audiences will find themselves laughing one minute and holding back tears the next as Chad shares his personal experience of becoming paralyzed and how it allowed him to achieve the impossible.

Delegates at this year's business session will elect council members and vote on proposed amendments to the National Bylaws.



More convention details:
Bylaws Amendments, see page 2
Benefit Auctions, see page 4-5
Council Nominees, see page 7-8

2006 National FFA Alumni Association Convention Schedule

National FFA Alumni Convention

Thursday, October 26

4-6 p.m.	FFA Alumni Awards Session	ICC* 205-207
6-7:30 p.m.	Awards Appreciation Reception	ICC 205-207

Friday, October 27

8-9 a.m.	Meet the Candidates	ICC 205-207
8-9:30 a.m.	FFA Alumni Delegate Registration	Outside ICC 205-207
9:30 a.m.-Noon	FFA Alumni Business Session	ICC 205-207

National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions

Wednesday, October 25

1-6 p.m.	Silent Auction Open for Bidding	ICC - White River Ballroom
1-6 p.m.	Live Auction Items on Display	ICC - White River Ballroom

Thursday, October 26

9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Silent Auction Open for Bidding	ICC - White River Ballroom
9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Live Auction Items on Display	ICC - White River Ballroom

Friday, October 27

9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Silent Auction Open for Bidding	ICC - White River Ballroom
4-10 p.m.	Silent Auction Payment/Pickup	ICC - White River Ballroom
5-6 p.m.	Live Auction Social	ICC - 500 Ballroom
6 p.m.	Live Auction Begins	ICC - 500 Ballroom

Saturday, October 28

8-10 a.m.	Auction Payment/Pickup	ICC - White River Ballroom
10 a.m.	Mini-Auction for Unclaimed Items	ICC - White River Ballroom

2006 Hypnotist Shows

Proceeds from the following events benefit the National FFA Alumni Association. Members and advisors of local FFA chapters are encouraged to attend, enjoy, and support the FFA Alumni!

Wednesday, October 25

Shows at 6, 8, and 10 p.m. in Sagamore Ballroom 3-5

Thursday, October 26

Shows at 6, 8, and 10 p.m. in Sagamore Ballroom 3-5

Friday, October 27

Shows at 2, 4, 6, and 10 p.m. in ICC 205-207

* ICC - Indiana Convention Center

For additional convention information/updates, visit www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_alumni.html.

To obtain tickets for hypnotist shows and other FFA convention events, visit the online convention registration at www.ffa.org/convention/index.html.

ROUND TABLE

The Year in Review

As I reflect on this year, I would like to share several highlights with you.

Last year's convention was a huge success! We had a record number of bidders who generated close to \$100,000 and a record number of voting delegates at the business session. The year just kept getting better.



Norman Gay

In February, we hosted an Alumni track at the breakout sessions at the Ag Ed Inservice. This was the first year the inservice featured these sessions and we were pleased with the turnout. At their February board meeting, Council members began discussions on an advocacy program and how to implement it in cooperation with NAAE, ACTE, and The Council for Agriculture Education.

In March, Kristina, Frank, and I met in the nation's capital for the ACTE policy seminar where we were able to establish some good contacts and generate some more ideas about our advocacy program.

In May, I was in Indianapolis meeting with the 10x15 committee to discuss how Team Ag Ed could achieve its goal of establishing

10,000 quality agricultural education programs by 2015. You will be hearing much more about this project as the National FFA Alumni Association will be playing a major role.

This has been a great year to be an Alumni member. Our national association has given back to state associations and local members in excess of \$111,000. We hired our first intern for the national office in Indianapolis, who has helped tremendously with the workload and allowed staff to focus on other priorities. Our investments exceed \$2.9 million and Alumni leaders have agreed to help fund the Local Program Success staff at the National FFA Center in return for them spending part of their time promoting the Alumni.

The State Leaders Conference held in July in Nashville had a record attendance and raised enough funds to sponsor 10 Washington Leadership Conference scholarships.

The listing above reflects our growing emphasis this past year on working with others to build quality agricultural education programs. In short, the "Power of Partnership."

Norman Gay

National FFA Alumni Association President

Council Proposes Bylaws Changes

Delegates will vote on the following proposed changes to the National Bylaws at the business session at this year's convention:

ARTICLE VI Executive Board

- Section II. The *Council* shall consist of the following:
- F. Two Business and Industry representatives – three (3) year term each.
- Section VI. *Procedure for Selection of members of the Council*
- B. Non-Elected Members
4. Two (2) representatives from Business and Industry to be appointed by the Executive Committee.*

*Proviso to bylaws amendment of ARTICLE VI, Section VI, B:

Initially one member will be appointed in the year 2006 and the second member will be appointed in the year 2007.

For more details on the proposed Bylaws changes, contact J. Frank Saldaña at 317-802-4292 or fsaldana@ffa.org.



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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



Principals Form a Pillar of Program Support

For Alumni members, a working relationship with principals is vital to the success of a local program. Mike McConville, a vice principal of Sabin-Schellenberg Skill Center in the North Clackamas School District near Portland, Ore., shared his insights on how Alumni can build lasting partnerships with their local principals.

Q: What role do principals and vice principals play in the success of local agricultural education programs?

A: My belief is that we as administrators take on a role of support. Fortunately in my case it is something that I choose to do rather than have to do. The people I work with are all top professional technical instructors that have a passion for their profession. They make my job easy.

Q: Why is it important for volunteers and Alumni to develop working relationships with school principals and vice principals?

A: Volunteers are the backbone of the school. We depend on their support and dedication to help us help their kids. Without them, some programs would not exist.

Q: How important are these relationships to you personally as a member of the leadership team for the local high school?

A: They keep me abreast of the public's concerns and help me to maintain a pulse of the community.

Q: How can these relationships affect the quality and the success of a local program?

A: They can make or break a program. We depend on their support and welcome it. Without them there wouldn't be enough hours in the day to do the things we need to do for our students.

Q: What can local volunteers or Alumni do to foster better relationships with their school principals and vice principals?

A: The daily administrative duties of running a school are never ending. Aside from us joining their programs and supporting them, I would like it if they would drop by occasionally just to say hello. They might phone to set up an appointment so I could give them my undivided attention. It might just be 10-15 minutes. They could join the advisory committees, or volunteer outside of their area so they can see how other programs work. They could write a note or an e-mail reinforcing the great things that are happening in their organization. They could also invite the principal or assistant principal to speak at one of their meetings or as a guest to meet the other parents and volunteers. The North Clackamas FFA leadership is a great example of how it can be done.

Q: How important is it for the local affiliate to invite and pay for a principal's stay at the national convention and annual membership?

A: With the funding situation in Oregon, we are constantly stretching dollars to save programs. Travel is limited unless paid for by the individual. This makes it very important that associations and local affiliates support their administrators. I have been fortunate the past two years to be supported by our Alumni and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to attend conventions. I attend in more of a support role. I have been able to get to know the students more as individuals and share in their successes and disappointments. This experience alone helps me in my job as an administrator. The students see me as a supporter and view me as more than just their assistant principal. I am encouraged by the opportunities our

students have through FFA. It is also important for administrators to be part of these programs so they can encourage support from the school district.

Q: How can such outreach on the part of affiliate leaders and members affect a principal's perception of a local program?

A: It can only add to an already successful support system. Two years ago I didn't have a clue about FFA. Now after attending two national conventions, I can speak volumes about our agriculture program and the support of FFA.

Q: Any other advice for local Alumni members and/or affiliate leaders?

A: Be understanding of the schedule of your administrators. In our school, we have 23 programs to support. As much as we would like to attend all programs all the time, it just isn't possible. Other programs that have affiliates such as DECA, Skills USA, and advisory committees keep us on a pretty tight schedule. Our FFA group has been understanding and considerate of my time. This only makes me want to support them more. Finally, don't be afraid to ask. The worst answer administrators can offer is "no." But if you don't ask you'll never know.

For more information, contact Mike McConville at mconvillem@nclack.k12.or.us.

McConville has been an educator for 30 years. He has taught at all levels, elementary through high school. He has been an administrator for about 15 years and for the past two years he has been assistant principal at the Sabin-Schellenberg Center near Portland, Ore., and a member of the local FFA Alumni. McConville supervises various vocational-technical programs, including agri-science. Serving in this capacity has encouraged him to become involved with the FFA and FFA Alumni. While McConville believes all of these programs encourage the best in students, he considers agricultural education and FFA as one of the front runners for providing a safe learning environment for students.

2006 National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions: Raising Funds for Student Scholarships

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

When:

Silent Auction: Wednesday-Friday, October 25-27 in ICC* – White River Ballroom (see convention schedule on page 1 for hours)

Live Auction Social: 5-6 p.m., Friday, October 27 in ICC – 500 Ballroom

Live Auction: 6 p.m., Friday, October 27 in ICC – 500 Ballroom

For each bid number issued there will be a \$5 charge, which will be applied toward each bidder's auction purchase.

Why:

The National FFA Alumni Association has set a goal of generating \$117,000 at the benefit auctions. The funds will provide scholarships to FFA members to attend the Washington Leadership Conference and collegiate scholarships to students to pursue a career in agricultural education.



What:

Generous donors have provided an array of exciting items on which to bid! Auction categories include art/collectibles; celebrity items; clothing/jewelry; food, fun, and travel; gift baskets; items for the home; and tools/equipment. Convention attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorite state basket contest entry. Each state FFA and state FFA Alumni association is eligible to enter a basket representing their respective state.

Review the auction catalog inside this issue or visit www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_alumni.html to view all donations.

Where:

National FFA and FFA Alumni Conventions, Indianapolis, Indiana

*ICC – Indiana Convention Center

State Leaders Conference Produces Amazing Fundraising Results

Alumni members demonstrate their commitment to FFA members

Prior to the kick-off of the 2006 State Leaders Conference (SLC), the National FFA Alumni Council set a goal to raise money for two Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) scholarships during the week-long event. To generate funds and lots of laughter, attendees and guests were fined for their "criminal" behavior. Participants who slept during a presentation, arrived late to a session, held a ringing cell phone, and wore the wrong color socks were required to pay a fine for these and other comical offenses. At the close of the kick-off dinner, \$670 had already been raised. Group members were further challenged to raise enough money for five scholarships, one for each day of the conference. One council member volunteered to pay for a sixth scholarship if the group was able to secure the first five.

At the close of Saturday evening's banquet, enough money had been raised to provide 10 WLC scholarships! Contributions from conference participants and guests funded six scholarships. The commitment from the council member financed a seventh. A second participant then wrote a check, providing the funds for an eighth scholarship. Jerry Brase of



National FFA Alumni Council Central Region Representative Sam Atherton (center) holds the pig in which conference participants paid their "fines." These fines were used to generate money for WLC scholarships. Enough money for a total of 10 scholarships was raised over the week-long conference. Also pictured from left: National FFA COO Doug Loudenslager, National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Ryan Peterson, National FFA Advisor and CEO Dr. Larry Case, and National FFA Alumni President Norman Gay.

Tractor Supply Company graciously listened as his list of "offenses" was read. He then generously offered to pay more than the amount of his fines, which provided the funds for a ninth scholarship.

The auction and purchase of a souvenir guitar autographed by all conference participants raised \$600 for the 10th scholarship. About 90 participants generated \$5,500 in total over a five-day period.

SLC participants decided to present three of the scholarships to the FFA chapters in Tennessee that hosted meals and activities for conference participants. The name of every state association represented at the conference was entered in a drawing for the remaining seven scholarships. WLC scholarships will be awarded for 2007 to the following chapters and associations:

- Riverside, TN FFA
- Portland, TN FFA
- Lebanon, TN FFA
- Connecticut FFA Alumni Association
- Illinois FFA Alumni Association
- Louisiana FFA Alumni Association
- Mississippi FFA Alumni Association
- Montana FFA Alumni Association
- South Carolina FFA Alumni Association
- Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association

"It was an amazing week," says Amber Smyer, National FFA Alumni staff member. "Moments like this make you proud to be a part of the FFA family and to encounter people whose passion for FFA and agricultural education runs so deeply that they continue to max their resources, even when they've given and given."



Ford Donates Best-selling Pickup to Live Benefit Auction

For the first time ever, Ford Motor Company has generously donated a 2007 F-150 SuperCrew XLT pickup to the National FFA Alumni live benefit auction. The pickup is the flagship of America's best-selling line of trucks with best-in-class cargo volume, and payload and towing capabilities. It surpasses Ford's high standards of refinement and safety.



2007 Ford F-150 SuperCrew XLT Styleside

2007 Ford F-150 SuperCrew XLT Styleside

This tough, smooth-riding icon of hardwork features:

- Incredible ease in entering with four full-sized doors and even has plenty of room to haul all of your tools and gear in a 6.5' box.
- Purebred power under the hood with a 4.6L eight-cylinder engine.
- Rugged good looks with a black honeycomb style grill with chrome surround, chrome front and rear step bumpers, and 17" chrome-clad steel wheels.
- Available for pickup at your local Ford dealership with interior/exterior color options.
- Approximate retail value is \$32,000.

New Holland Again Offers Haymaking Combo

For the third consecutive year, New Holland has donated a great haymaking combo, which consists of this package:

- 300 hours' use of a 105 PTO-HP New Holland TS125A tractor and
- One season's use (up to 3,000 bales) of the winning bidder's choice of either a New Holland BR740A Roll-Belt™ round baler equipped with CropCutter™ **OR** a BR780A Roll-Belt™ round baler equipped with the BaleSlice™ crop cutting option.

Approximate retail value of the lease is \$10,000. The tractor/round baler combination will be available for use between April 1, 2007, and October 31, 2007.

New Holland TS125A Tractor:

New Holland's TS-A series tractors are a natural choice for haying operations and are equipped with a long list of performance-boosting features:

- A SuperSteer™ front axle, cab suspension, and power boost to increase productivity when performing a wide variety of jobs.
- The SuperSteer™ front axle, a New Holland exclusive, provides increased traction for tough working conditions, makes maneuvering in tight spaces easier, and saves time when turning on headlands.
- The Horizon™ cab, equipped with Comfort Ride™ cab suspension, offers smooth rides, a panoramic view, a deluxe air-suspension seat, and intuitive controls placed conveniently at the driver's fingertips.
- The rugged six-cylinder New Holland engine provides 105 HP at the PTO with a torque rise of 41 percent.

- Electronic engine management provides fuel efficiency and an added power boost of up to 25 HP during PTO operation.

New Holland Roll-Belt Round Balers:

New Holland Roll-Belt™ round balers have a proven reputation for forming tight, dense, and uniform bales in virtually any crop condition:

- New Holland's patented design, which incorporates a unique combination of belts, floor roll, and bale-forming rolls, forms and tightly packs the bale as it is made so it will stand up to the elements and transport well.
- With either the CropCutter™ or BaleSlice™ cutting options, bales are processed as they are formed to further increase density, which results in fewer bales to haul or feed, increased leaf retention, and less waste in bunk or ring feeding.
- With the 81.5" wide XtraSweep™ pickup and Edge Wrap™ net wrapping option, haymaking goes from being a hard, dirty job to an easy afternoon drive.



NEW HOLLAND



Proxy bids are now being accepted for the Ford pickup and the New Holland haymaking combo to allow more members and supporters who cannot attend the live benefit auction to submit bids.

For more details or to request a proxy form, contact Amber Smyer at 317-802-4294 or asmeyer@ffa.org.

For more details on these and other benefit auction items, visit www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_alumni.html.

Experiencing the Power of Partnership in Nashville

By Kristina Watson

What happens when more than 80 FFA Alumni members from 25 states descend upon a city? For five days in July, Music City USA became FFA Central as Alumni members realized the “Power of Partnership.”

The National FFA Alumni Association is comprised of people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences—yet each shares a common love of the FFA. Never was this more apparent than during the 2006 State Leaders Conference (SLC) as participants had an opportunity to learn, network, and grow through workshops, sightseeing, and sharing sessions.

The Power of Partnership was evident throughout the week, especially at the opening banquet as numbers swelled to more than 100 with the addition of key sponsors, guests, and supporters including National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case, FFA COO Doug Loudenslager, National Eastern Region Vice President Ryan Peterson, Tennessee FFA President Matthew McBride, Joe Fell, Division Vice President, Consumer Products, Tractor Supply Company, and other representatives of Tennessee’s agricultural community.

Alumni members enjoyed playing “tourists” on trips around Tennessee. Some of the activities included a trip to the Ellington Ag Center; a lesson on alternative fuels and a tour of the equestrian center at Middle Tennessee State University; a look into the past at President Andrew Jackson’s home, the Hermitage; learning about Music City during a bus tour of Nashville and the Country Music Hall of Fame; and touring the beautiful

Opryland Hotel Gardens. In addition, participants enjoyed a presentation, tour, and dinner at the headquarters of Tractor Supply Company, one of the key SLC sponsors.

Another great aspect of the SLC was interacting with Alumni affiliates and FFA members within the host state. This year, participants enjoyed meals hosted by the Riverside and West Tennessee Alumni affiliates, meals and bingo at Lebanon High School, and a fish fry and tour at Portland High School’s wildlife department.

This year’s conference focused on advocacy, volunteer management, and building partnerships. Morning and informal learning sessions offered Alumni members much insight during the week. Workshop topics included creating strategic plans, the importance of liability insurance, the National FFA Organization’s Community Service and Ag Ambassador programs, the Alumni’s role in agricultural advocacy, and volunteer management training. Participants also learned more about the national association’s Excel-based membership system, which is designed to streamline the annual membership process.

Rhedonna Rose of the Tennessee Farm Bureau led participants in one of the most exciting workshops, *Congressional Insight*, where teams had the opportunity to simulate the experiences of a freshman legislator in Congress. Players were faced with tough decisions on issues, votes, staffing, and fundraising—with an end goal of being reelected. This workshop served as an excellent tool in helping Alumni members to realize the constraints upon lawmakers’ time.

One of the historic features of SLC is “Swap Shop,” a workshop where everyone shares

innovative ideas on fundraising, membership recruitment and retention, scholarships, and other state-related activities. The workshop was particularly valuable for new state representatives, helping them gain insight and perspective.

Alumni members annually travel around the country wherever the SLC has been held. Corpus Christi, Omaha, and Columbus are just a few of the cities visited in recent years. New faces help add to the diversity of the State Leaders Conference experience. Each year at the conclusion of the closing banquet, participants can often be overheard saying how they felt like they were truly part of a family bonded by the love of the FFA. If you feel the same way, then consider traveling to Oregon in 2007!

A special thanks and appreciation is extended to Michael Vestal and the Tennessee FFA Alumni Association and the conference’s sponsors:



Faces of SLC: Images of SLC participants having fun throughout the week



State Leaders Conference participants toured the Portland High School’s agricultural science and aquaculture lab in Portland, TN. Guests were also treated to a fish-fry.

Meet the 2006 Council Candidates

The following FFA Alumni members are listed on the ballot for National FFA Alumni Council positions. Delegates will cast their votes at this year's national convention business session. Members are encouraged to contact their state FFA Alumni leaders to express their candidate preferences.

Southern Region Representative

Joy Carter

State: Georgia



Occupation: Communications specialist with the Georgia Peanut Commission; photography and web site design entrepreneur

Alumni: Lifetime member since 1993

Joy currently serves as president elect of the Georgia FFA Alumni Association. She has assisted the association with planning leadership workshops and judging contests, maintaining its website, and chairing the state basket contest. She helped to charter the Lowndes FFA Alumni affiliate and has served as its president. She has also attended two State Leaders Conferences and served as a voting delegate to the National FFA Alumni Convention.

Joy served as vice president for the Georgia FFA Association in 1992-93. As an FFA member, she won four state proficiency awards and received her American FFA Degree in 1994.

She is actively involved in many organizations including the American Agricultural Editors Association, Organization of Professional Women, Georgia Club Calf Producers Association, and the Georgia Young Farmers Association. In 2001, she received a first place in the National Young Farmers Spokesperson for Agriculture Contest for her speech on agroterrorism. She was selected as the Outstanding Women for Agriculture by the Southeast Ag Coalition.

Joy is currently publicity director for the Organization of Professional Women and a member of the local Church of Christ, where she assists with a youth program.

Michael Vestal

State: Tennessee



Occupation: Agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor; raised on a beef and swine farm

Alumni: Lifetime member since 1992

Michael currently serves as Tennessee FFA Alumni Association president. He was the association's vice-president for four years. He is secretary of the Riverside FFA Alumni affiliate in Decatur County, Tennessee, and also chairman of the West Tennessee Alumni Organization, which he estab-

lished. He has organized the annual Christmas event, which has raised funds for Washington Leadership Conference scholarships. He also assisted in planning events for this year's State Leaders Conference held in Tennessee.

Michael was an active FFA member, competing in state and national events and receiving multiple awards. He served as chapter president and earned the American FFA Degree.

Michael is a board member of the state agriculture teachers association. He is active in county and regional fair associations. For two years, he has been named as his high school's outstanding teacher and Tennessee's outstanding young teacher by the NAAE. He has earned his university's recognition as an outstanding teacher, and a young teacher award from a national career and technical association. His agriculture program has been recognized as one of the most outstanding in west Tennessee.

Eastern Region Representative

David A. Miller

State: Maryland



Occupation: Currently state director of secondary/post secondary education for agricultural education; retired school assistant superintendent; former agriculture teacher and state executive secretary/agricultural education supervisor

Alumni: Lifetime member since 1971

David is a charter member of the Maryland and National FFA Alumni Association. He also chartered the first affiliate and the first life affiliate in Maryland. He has attended several National FFA Alumni conventions. David has served as the National FFA Treasurer, and is a former member of the National FFA Foundation board of trustees and the National FFA Organization board of directors.

Professionally, David has served as vice president of the national associations for both the agricultural educators and secondary agricultural educators. He has served in key leadership positions for alumni associations for the University of Maryland, its college of agriculture, and the university's Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.

David is an active member of his community. He serves as vice president of the local

Rotary Club, the chair of the Elks Lodge board of trustees, a board member for Goodwill Industries, and as a member of the local workforce development board. He was president of the local and state Ag Councils, and has served as president of the local Lions Club.

For his service and commitment to the profession and agricultural education, David has received several honorary degrees, including the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees. In addition, he has earned the National Blue and Gold Service Award.

Charles L. Snyder

State: Michigan



Occupation: Retired; former Michigan FFA projects consultant, agriculture teacher, FFA advisor

Alumni: Lifetime member since 1986

Charles was appointed to the National FFA Alumni Council in March 2006 to serve as the Eastern Region Representative. He is a state Alumni council member, serving as a regional vice president. Charles' legacy will be his almost single-handed restoration of Michigan's FFA programs, including the integrity and quality of its officer teams. He moved the state convention from an aging and cramped venue to a more stately center. Charles was the driving force behind the organization of the Michigan FFA Foundation and its continued financial success and support of FFA.

Even in retirement, Charles has continued to serve by mentoring the agriculture teacher, coaching the parliamentary procedure team, and acting as the catalyst in the chartering of an affiliate for the Alcona, Mich., program.

As a teacher, Charles maintained an impressive record of success, mentoring two state FFA presidents, and numerous state and American degree recipients. He served as president of the state agriscience educators organization and later received its outstanding service award. The National FFA Organization has given him the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Honorary American FFA Degree for his service.

Charles is active in his church, serves as a volunteer fireman, and donates blood to the American Red Cross. He has served as the legislative liaison and treasurer for the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel.



Convention Issue

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2006 National FFA Alumni Council Candidates

President-Elect

Ronnie Ansley

State: North Carolina

Occupation: Attorney-at-law; former livestock feed and health products sales representative

Alumni: Lifetime member since 1982



Ronnie was elected to serve as Southern Region Representative to the National FFA Alumni Council in 2005. He is a member of two affiliates and vice president of the North Carolina FFA Alumni Council. Besides serving as a state contest judge, he has supported the FFA by sponsoring the state creed contest and a state leadership school.

As an FFA member, Ronnie served as state vice president, a national convention delegate, and a camp counselor. He received both the State and American FFA Degrees, and was a participant in various speaking, forestry, and land judging events.

Ronnie is a member of various professional groups and community groups, and is involved with several volunteer lawyers programs. He serves as a parliamentarian for local community groups, and is a sponsor of the Special Olympics and Shrine Circus. He is an Eagle Scout and works with the local fatherhood development planning committee and teen medical service.

Dennis Ettestad

State: Oregon

Occupation: Assistant teacher and land-lab manager for 50-acre school farm; self-employed contractor

Alumni: Lifetime member since 1999



Dennis currently serves as the Western Region Representative to the National FFA Alumni Council. He also is the central region representative for the Oregon FFA Alumni Association and a member of the state's foundation board. Dennis helped to establish the Molalla, Ore., FFA Alumni about 15 years ago and served as its president for 10 years. He has served as the auction and banquet chairman of 14 years and has helped to raise more than \$200,000 for the local program.

Dennis has helped to build the Molalla agriculture program from a one to a two teacher department, and was instrumental in the construction of its \$400,000 teaching facility. He has built a buddy system with John Deere and other business and industry leaders to provide employment for local students.

As an assistant teacher, Dennis supervises student agriculture projects and assists with FFA contests (parliamentary procedure, speaking, and SAE projects). In recognition of his service, he has received the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees. Three chapters have also awarded him with the honorary chapter degrees.

See page 7 to read about the candidates for the Southern and Eastern Region Representative positions to the National FFA Alumni Council.