



# FFA Alumni Association

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1974

### FFA ALUMNI MOVES FORWARD

The FFA Alumni Association moved ahead with it's Second Annual Meeting on the final day of the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Those present learned of the progress of the young FFA Alumni Association. Membership has shown a 61% growth within the past year, the number of Life Members has tripled, and the number of chartered State FFA Alumni Associations has increased to 45.

Five states were presented their State FFA Alumni Charters. Those states, listed in order of chartering, are: Arkansas, New York, Washington, New Mexico, and Vermont.

Congressman Jerry Litton of Missouri, a former National FFA Secretary and one of FFA's most distinguished Alumni, was the keynote speaker. He cited the tremendous communication gap between the farm producer and the consumer and challenged FFA Alumni members to take an active role in closing this gap in their communities.

Dwight Seegmiller, National FFA President, brought greetings from the FFA, "The FFA Alumni has a tremendous responsibility to not only lend support to the FFA and agricultural education but to lift the image of agriculture." He told of the FFA Organization's unanimous vote earlier in the week to add the "Alumni Relations Committee" as the Eleventh Area of its National Program of Work to provide a means for every FFA Chapter in the country to participate in the FFA Alumni movement.

Mr. Harry Epler of Hillsdale, Wyoming, and Mr. Richard Waybright of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, were elected to serve on the National FFA Alumni Council from the Pacific and North Atlantic Regions, respectively. The announcement was made at the Annual Meeting following an election by mail ballot of the membership. The National FFA Alumni Constitution amendment which had also been submitted to the membership for vote was adopted by a 98% majority vote. The amendment establishes a representative system of voting at the Annual Meeting in proportion to state Alumni membership.

### *Attention: FFA Alumni Members*

A special membership thrust called "Every Member--Get A Member" is planned to double the size of the FFA Alumni Association.

For the first time, FFA Alumni members are being asked to join together in a one-time, united team effort to build the FFA Alumni Association. All FFA Alumni members will soon receive their special invitation and application to sign up one new member.

The goal is to double membership by the end of March. Each FFA Alumni member is asked to simply sign up one other member. So BE READY--and decide now who you will enlist. If we all do a little, think what we can do together.

Much of the business of the Alumni was hammered out in Committee sessions. Each Committee brought their recommendations to the general assembly as guides to state and local groups as well as the National FFA Alumni Council.

### RE-ELECTED

Mr. Gus Douglass, Commissioner of Agriculture in West Virginia, was re-elected to serve as Chairman of the National FFA Alumni Council for the year. Re-elected as Vice Chairman was Dr. James Clouse, Program Leader of Agricultural Education at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Both Mr. Douglass and Dr. Clouse provide a wealth of experience to the leadership of the FFA Alumni Association. Both were involved in the early development and subsequent formation of the organization and have continued an active leadership role. Their re-election serves as a vote of confidence in their leadership.



## RESULTS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEES

### Membership Development

The Membership Development Committee was chaired by Mr. Millard Gundlach. Numerous items for consideration were presented with the following being recommended: (1) Each state set an FFA Alumni membership goal of 10% of its active FFA membership. (2) This membership goal be increased by 5% each year thereafter. (3) Awards be developed for FFA Chapters whose FFA Alumni membership exceeds active FFA membership. (4) Membership promotion campaigns be conducted such as: (a) Operation Teamwork, (b) Every Member--Get A Member (to Alumni members), (c) Legion of Merit Citation, (d) Open The Door In '74. (5) The Legion of Merit Citation be commended as an outstanding membership promotion program.

### National Program Committee

With Dr. James Clouse serving as Chairman the Committee presented a primary statement that at this time membership development should continue to be the major thrust of the National program and that strong visibility of action in support of the FFA at the local level should continue. Among the many recommendations made the following were included: (1) Consideration be given to providing all Alumni members a subscription to the National FFA Magazine as part of their dues. (2) The FFA Alumni Newsletter be continued with a high level of quality and the number of issues be increased when appropriate. (3) The FFA Alumni Association develop a theme for each year supporting the FFA theme. (4) A special Alumni recognition program become an integral part of the FFA Convention program both at the state and national levels to acquaint degree recipients with the FFA Alumni organization. (5) A plan be considered for making the membership year the same for all members within a state.

### Local Activities Committee

Mr. Harry Epler served as Committee Chairman with the following recommendations: (1) The primary goal should be to establish local affiliates to increase membership---state and national membership is for the most part only the summation of local membership. (2) A better selling job be done at state and local levels--it is currently inadequate or nonexistent in too many areas. (3) News releases be sent by state associations to local newspapers and radio stations to acquaint people about the FFA Alumni--the word is not currently reaching the potential members. (4) Chartered affiliates help organize affiliates in nearby areas and recognition be given to those who do so. (5) That local activities continue to depend upon areas needs and a report of local activities be sent to the Alumni office for distribution in the Alumni Newsletter.

### Public Relations Committee

Mr. Ken McMillan and Mr. E. C. "Dick" Weekley served as Committee Co-Chairmen. The basic premise presented by the Committee was the FFA Alumni Association's sole function is to support the FFA and not for the direct benefit of the Alumni Association. Therefore, Alumni public relations should be directed towards the specialized FFA Alumni audience to avoid conflict with the FFA's public relations. Numerous recommendations were presented with the following among the highest priority: (1) Large FFA Alumni emblems be made available for use at State Conventions and local activities. (2) FFA Alumni decals be provided each Alumni member. (3) State FFA Officers be urged to promote the FFA Alumni membership wherever appropriate and assistance be provided for leadership training of State Officers. (4) States prepare slide presentations on local affiliates and activities for use in their state. (5) Major farm publications be contacted to feature the FFA Alumni organization.

### State Activities Committee

With Mr. Billy Conner and Mr. Tim Burke as Committee Co-Chairmen the following recommendations were made: (1) State Alumni meetings be held concurrently with State FFA Conventions. (2) Campaigns should be developed to insure personal contact in membership promotion. (3) States hold sub-state level meetings to inform and promote Alumni Activities. (4) States publicize local affiliates activities. (5) An awards program be established for outstanding local affiliates to reflect the support of the FFA and its members. (6) Vocational agriculture teachers serve on Alumni Councils at all levels but not in the capacity of chairmen.

(Detailed copies of all reports are available upon request.)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget to renew your FFA Alumni membership! Annual dues are for a 12-month period. Membership renewal statements are currently sent directly to members on their "anniversary month" of joining unless the state association undertakes the billing within the state. State dues are included in the renewal statements to provide a single dues package.

Multiple year memberships of 3 and 5 years have now been made available due to popular demand. A second reminder is now being sent to those who fail to renew within 60 days. Membership renewals continue to show a change to Life Memberships. You too may want to join with those who choose to pay dues only once by joining as a Life Member.



## NATIONAL FFA WEEK

"For tomorrow's agriculture" is this year's National FFA Week theme. The date is February 16-23, 1974. The main purpose of celebrating National FFA Week is to focus public attention on vocational agriculture and FFA. It is traditionally celebrated beginning the Saturday before George Washington's Birthday and ending the following Saturday.

Conducting FFA Week Activities is an ideal way for FFA Alumni Affiliates to build public relations in their communities. An Idea Booklet full of sample news articles, radio spots, promotional materials and other miscellaneous ideas has been sent to all FFA Chapters. This may just be the idea your FFA Alumni Affiliate has been looking for to improve community public relations.

### "ONE-FOR-ONE"

The Illinois FFA and FFA Alumni Association have joined together in an extensive effort to build FFA Alumni membership. Their theme is "One-for-One." The idea is to obtain one FFA Alumni member for each FFA member. FFA Chapters are challenged to build FFA Alumni membership to equal or exceed their FFA membership.

All FFA Chapters who are successful in this "One-for-One" program will be recognized at the 1974 State FFA Convention. A handsome walnut plaque will be presented to their Chapter President or representative in recognition of their achievement.

### ACTIVITIES HONORED

Two outstanding FFA Alumni activities were recognized at the Annual Meeting. The Oklahoma FFA Alumni Association was recognized for its leadership training camp for FFA Chapter Officers. The Central Laramie County FFA Alumni Affiliate of Burns, Wyoming, was recognized for its exceptional program of activities.

Mr. Monte Reese, State FFA Alumni Chairman, gave a slide presentation outlining the program of activities of the 3-day event. A unique feature about the camp was that each FFA Chapter having an FFA Alumni Affiliate could send one FFA Officer for each 10 FFA Alumni members free of charge. Additional officers could be sent but were charged. The success of the camp was overwhelming as it has been hailed as one of the best leadership training efforts ever within the state.

Mr. Joe Navrath, FFA Advisor at Burns, Wyoming, told of the numerous projects and activities their FFA Alumni Affiliate has conducted to benefit and improve the FFA Chapter and vocational agriculture department as well as the community. It was a true testimony by an FFA Advisor to the value of an active FFA Alumni Affiliate to his program.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The aim of the FFA Alumni Newsletter is to exchange ideas and the next issue is planned to emphasize state and local activities. We solicit news of your events, activities, and other interesting items.

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.

### NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS HONORED

A hearty welcome to the newest Life Members who have added their names to the roster of life-time supporters. Why not make this the year your name is added to this prestigious list of loyal supporters?

Donald G. Robinson, Sr.	Castile, New York
Kenneth R. Madden	Richmond, Ohio
Simon Lipton	Somers, Connecticut
Kendall H. Severy	Cornwall, Vermont
Scott Bill Hirst	Ashaway, Rhode Island
Jeff A. Coburn	Arkansas City, Kansas
James A. Carruth	Winder, Georgia
Jerry Anderson	Elberon, Iowa
Duaine L. Mowrey	Reynoldsville, Pa.
Leon A. Brown	Westtown, New York
Roy R. Turner	Cassville, Missouri
Carl I. Wenger	Myerstown, Pa.
Melvin L. Pitman	Kilmarnock, Virginia
William E. Overton	Fort Sumner, N. M.
Richard N. Vaughan	Fort Sumner, N. M.
Mike Corey	Easton, Maine
Marvin D. Thompson	River Falls, Wisconsin
Wilfred E. Kaney	Colton, California
William H. Morgan, Jr.	Greenwood, Miss.
Douglas M. Durant	Derwood, Maryland
Darrel E. Repshire	Hillsdale, Wyoming
M. Geneva Altfather	Berlin, Pennsylvania
Alex S. Stewart	Van Wert, Ohio
Thomas Denham	Grafton, Ohio
James E. Stone	Weatherford, Texas
Coleman Harris	Alexandria, Virginia
Donald K. Shinn	Columbus, New Jersey
G. Mark Mayfield	Caney, Kansas
Howard J. Lukassen	Kimball, Nebraska
Paul F. Pulse II	Scott AFB, Illinois
John M. Evans	New Carlisle, Ohio
Robert D. Smith	Belvidere, New Jersey
R. Fletcher Pearson	Clinton, N. C.
Harold R. Binkley	Lexington, Kentucky
Robert W. Cox	Frankfort, Kentucky
J. H. Copenhaver	Bristol, Virginia
Steve Redgate	Waynoka, Oklahoma
Charles R. Boring	Thornville, Ohio
Lowell Peppers	Boaz, Alabama
Nelson E. Martin	East Earl, Pa.
E. Oscar Robertson	Harrogate, Tennessee
Charnia L. Cheatwood, Jr.	Alexandria, Louisiana
Robert L. Keys	Pleasantville, N. J.
David D. Emery	Macy, Indiana



## THE FIRST PRESENTATION

Ninety-eight individuals from 30 states received the first "Legion of Merit Citations." The presentation was made as part of the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

The "Legion of Merit Citation" is an active Leadership award aimed at recognizing personal effort and initiative in demonstrating the pioneering spirit to foster the growth of the FFA Alumni Association. Its presentation will be made each year at the Annual Meeting. Special recognition will be given those who achieve this award more than once.

To qualify for 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 at the Alumni Office and must be received 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Those who were among the nation's first to receive the "Legion of Merit Citation" are:

<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Idaho</u>
Elton Bouldin	Zane Hansen
Sammy Peebles	<u>Illinois</u>
<u>Arizona</u>	Darwin Hall
Cliff Saylor	Dave Rothermel
<u>Arkansas</u>	Tom Scheider
Dudley Johnson	Gene Schwarm
Charles Looper	<u>Iowa</u>
<u>Connecticut</u>	Steve Altheide
Carla Chenette	Dan Behaunek
Pat Jepson	Tim Burke
Judi Lipton	Lonnice P. Horn
<u>Delaware</u>	Dwight Seegmiller
E. Mark Phillips	<u>Kansas</u>
<u>Florida</u>	Robert Broeckelman
Ted Edwards	Ron Wilson
Walter Graham	<u>Kentucky</u>
Robert Hinton	Joe Keith
Charles A. Tuggle	Paul Long

<u>Maryland</u>	<u>Ohio, cont'd.</u>
Kevin Hall	Diane Pullins
<u>Michigan</u>	George Ruble
Mike Kovacic	Rod Spohn
Michael Martindale	Larry Starling
<u>Mississippi</u>	J. E. Vogt
Keith Carr	Mike Wise
<u>Missouri</u>	Dennis Sergeant
Jeff Cooper	<u>Oklahoma</u>
Tim Daugherty	Bart Brashears
David Horner	William Brower
David Samnel	Jerry D. Goolsby
David Thomas	Mike Goolsby
<u>Montana</u>	Bill Harrison
Henry Gordon	Troy Henry
<u>Nebraska</u>	James Johndrow
Phil Johnson	Mike Kastl
<u>New Hampshire</u>	Phillip Meade
William Annis	Paul Newlin
<u>New Mexico</u>	Monte Reese
Max Best	Dale Teeters
<u>New York</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
Bruce Erath	Ted Amick
<u>North Carolina</u>	<u>Vermont</u>
Rick French	Michael Tetreault
Randall Lanier	<u>Virginia</u>
Bill Maness	Wayne Comer
Tommy Smith	Philip Cubbage
William H. Teague	Dan Reuwee
<u>North Dakota</u>	Harold Wampler
Leon Olson	<u>Washington</u>
<u>Ohio</u>	George P. Jungel
David Barrett, Jr.	<u>West Virginia</u>
Kirby Barrick, Jr.	Carl S. Thomas
Clyde Beougher	W. H. Wayman
Betty Bratton	<u>Wisconsin</u>
James Bratton	Fenton Abrams
Thomas Brown	Ralph A. Kramer
Jerome Donovan	<u>Wyoming</u>
Scott Gottfried	Clark Allen
John Jess	Kelly Burch
Earl Kantner	Harry Epler
Joe Koch	Glen Johnson
Rick McDaniel	Robert Meredith
James Papritan II	Joe Navrath
James L. Poorman	Jack Sorenson



### FFA Alumni Association

P. O. Box 15058

Alexandria, Virginia 22309

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 143  
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

# Newsletter

PLEASE FORWARD