



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER - 1974

"FIRST LIFE MEMBER AFFILIATE CHARTERED"



Collinsville, Oklahoma charts nation's first "Life Member FFA Alumni Affiliate." With 40 Life Members, Collinsville becomes the NUMBER 1 "Life Member Affiliate" chartered by the FFA Alumni Association.

"We are proud of the FFA," said Bill Thomas, Collinsville FFA Alumni Chairman and Board of Education President, "and we are pleased to have an opportunity to be bonded together in a common belief to show the FFA members in our community we are behind them, united, and ready to assist when needed."

"We wanted to do it right and go all the way for FFA," said Mrs. O. H. Holman who in 1973 became the first woman Life Member of the FFA Alumni Association.

After a few weeks of recruiting and organizing, a special "Charter Night" banquet was held for presentation of the prestigious Charter along with the Life Member certificates and gold membership cards. Being NUMBER 1 is nothing new for the Collinsville FFA Chapter which was also the first FFA Chapter chartered in Oklahoma in 1928.

For details on how you can charter a "Life Member Affiliate" in your community, write the FFA Alumni Office.

INFORMED FOR LIFE

Life Members of the FFA Alumni Association will now receive the National Future Farmer magazine as part of their Lifetime membership. This action by the FFA Alumni Council will be retroactive to include all current Life Members as well as all who join in the future. The first issue to be received will be the October-November issue.

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

FFA Alumni members will now play an active part in increasing FFA members' participation in leadership development activities. Beginning next year, Leadership Scholarships will be presented to State FFA Alumni Associations for presentation to FFA members within their state. The Leadership Scholarships will cover the registration fee for the National Leadership Conferences in Washington, D. C.

The number of Leadership Scholarships going to a State will be based upon the State's active FFA Alumni membership. - One scholarship will be presented to a State for every 500 active FFA Alumni members. Each State FFA Alumni Association will select the recipients and make the presentation within their state.

The purpose of the Washington Conferences are to develop leadership confidences and skills, provide new ideas for FFA Chapter action, and develop citizenship and an appreciation of our nation's heritage.

Your FFA Alumni membership helps FFA members gain valuable experiences and leadership ability. Why not ask a friend to join in helping FFA members grow?

A STEP FORWARD

The first Program of Action is released by the FFA Alumni Association. Its aim is to conduct activities to accomplish the objectives of the organization.

Until recently, all previous efforts have been primarily directed towards building this young organization. To ensure a grass roots development of the FFA Alumni Association, the Alumni Council had waited for inputs from the states before embarking on any program of activities. As the organization unfolded, many ideas evolved, and each item contained in the initial Program of Action came from people within various states.

The Program of Action in its entirety is too lengthy to be contained in this Newsletter, but excerpts from it are contained throughout. Complete copies are available from the FFA Alumni Office.

REMEMBER!

Cast your ballot. The deadline for your FFA Alumni ballot is September 15, 1974. Alumni members are being asked to vote on three items: two Alumni Council Representatives, a Constitutional Amendment, and a Membership Survey. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

For the election of the National FFA Alumni Council Representatives from the Central and Southern Regions, the following candidates have been nominated. From the Central Region, Mr. David Thomas of Missouri, and Mr. Arthur Kurtz of Wisconsin. From the Southern Region, Mr. Jerry Goolsby of Oklahoma, and Mr. O. B. Roller of Virginia.

The proposed Constitutional Amendment is aimed at defining membership eligibility. The amendment is to provide flexibility for the Associate Class of membership contained in many state and local constitutions, allow for all interested persons to join, and remove the burden of proof of being a former FFA member. Affirmation by two-thirds of those voting is necessary to adopt an amendment.

The Membership Survey is to obtain the feeling of the membership on including the National Future Farmer magazine with FFA Alumni membership which would increase annual dues by \$1. Since the delegates at the Annual Meeting will vote on the issue, the Membership Survey is being taken for their benefit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The 1974 National FFA Alumni Meeting will be held October 17th and 18th at the Muelbach Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. It is held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention which convenes October 15th and runs through the 18th.

The two-day Alumni Meeting convenes with an Opening Session at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning October 17th, with Committee Sessions being from 9:00 til 11:00. The afternoon is free for Alumni members to attend the FFA Convention. The final session will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Friday morning, October 18th. The rest of the day is free to hear the United States Secretary of Agriculture and attend the American Royal.

Plan now to attend! Check with your FFA Advisor to see if any FFA members need transportation. You may be able to make it possible for some FFA member to attend who could not otherwise do so.

LODGING INFORMATION

It is not too early to be making reservations for hotel accommodations for the National FFA Alumni Meeting. Word is they are rapidly being filled. For assistance, write: 1974 Housing Chairman, National FFA Convention, 1221 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

THANK YOU!

The excellent response to the "Emphasis--Local Activities Issue" of the FFA Alumni Newsletter is greatly appreciated, along with the suggestions for future issues.

The FFA Alumni Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis (each season of the year). Its aim is to be a medium for the exchange of ideas. We invite your comments and suggestions at all times and solicit news of events, activities, and other interesting items. What may be common knowledge in your area may be a new idea somewhere else.

The FFA Alumni Newsletter is not returned for incorrect address. It is important to report any change of address. If you have questions about the FFA Alumni Association, or have a change of address, please write to: FFA Alumni Association, P. O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

A DROUGHT OF TEACHERS

The most severe shortage of vocational agriculture teachers this nation has ever faced is currently plaguing agricultural education programs across the nation. Virtually every state has felt the affects of this critical lack of trained instructors. Some states have instituted crash programs through short courses to temporarily qualify agricultural college graduates for teaching positions. Others have sought help from industry. But even these measures have not produced the needed numbers to fill the vacancies, and to many would be students the door to vocational agriculture is closed this fall.

With students being deprived the opportunity of enrolling in vocational agriculture and being FFA members, the National FFA Alumni Council voted unanimously for the FFA Alumni Association to make a major thrust to help alleviate the situation. The basic problem is there needs to be an increase in the number of persons entering the vocational agriculture teaching profession. Thus, more students are needed to prepare themselves by majoring in agricultural education in the teacher training institutions. Ironically, this severe teacher shortage is occurring at a time when vocational agriculture teacher's salaries are at an all time high, and when the starting salaries of beginning teachers is above that of most other agriculture professions.

The FFA Alumni plans to assemble a Task Force to thoroughly examine the problem of the shortage of teachers and make recommendations for solving the problem. The FFA Alumni plans to publicize the shortage and work with others in coordinating activities to secure scholarships or student loan programs which provide special incentives for students to become vocational agriculture instructors.

FFA Alumni members are urged to spread the word and be alert to the situation. You can play an important part in encouraging current students towards a teaching career. Perhaps you should consider it yourself. Former students are often found to be the best teachers because of their firsthand understanding and knowledge of the program.

The publicity of the over supply of teachers in general occurred at a time the supply of vocational agriculture teachers was barely able to supply the needs. The result was college students were discouraged from pursuing teaching careers and the numbers decreased. This decrease coupled with an already strained supply contributed to the shortage. From 1970 until 1973, the number of vocational agriculture teachers being

"OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS"

The FFA Alumni Association is initiating a national leaders recognition program to recognize outstanding accomplishments and achievements. The purpose of the awards program is to recognize Alumni members for outstanding service to agriculture. The award will be named the "FFA Outstanding Achievement Award."

The first presentations of the "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards" will be made at this year's National FFA Convention. The complete awards program will also include recognition at the local and state levels. Guidelines are currently being developed to be made available at the National Meeting.

APPLAUDING A TEAM EFFORT

A state and national recognition program to recognize "Outstanding Local Affiliates" is being instituted by the FFA Alumni Association. The purpose is to stimulate and recognize outstanding accomplishments and achievements for efforts on behalf of the FFA and vocational agriculture programs.

Guidelines for the program will be introduced at the Program of Activities Committee Meeting on Thursday morning at the National Meeting. The guidelines will incorporate and complement the efforts of states already presenting an Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate award into one similar program.

SLIDE SERIES

A new slide series explaining the FFA Alumni Association is now available for purchase. It portrays what the FFA Alumni Association is, shows what it can do while showing many local activities, and explains how it operates. It's designed to help in organizing new affiliates but also offers many ideas and suggestions for existing ones. It was created by Mr. Dan Reuwee, Director of Information for the FFA Organization.

trained actually declined by about one hundred at a time when the number employed increased nearly 1,500. The increase is primarily due to implementation of new programs, adding additional teachers in existing departments, and replacing those retiring or leaving the profession. According to Mr. H. N. Hunsicker, head of agricultural education for the U. S. Office of Education, the number of teachers needed will continue to increase for the next five years. So the future is bright. Spread the word. Help provide a chance for growth for youth!

A SALUTE TO NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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

David I. Roderick
Kerry L. Kaucher
Robert A. Givens
Norman L. Hammond
Lowell L. Gilman
Eugene Paulsrud
Jim Colpitt
Glen Just
Lewis H. Keith, Jr.
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FFA Alumni Association

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Newsletter

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