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FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN - 1974

STEADILY PROGRESSING!

As the National FFA Convention enjoyed perhaps its finest hour with a nationally-televised address by the President of the United States, FFA Alumni members from across the nation met for their Third Annual Meeting. The two half-day sessions were scheduled to allow the participating Alumni members to enjoy the FFA Convention in addition to their own program.

The tremendous strides being made in the Alumni's development and the positive contributions being made to the FFA programs resulted in a markedly positive attitude among those in attendance. The overflowing crowd at the opening session caused a change in meeting rooms for the final session.

Those in attendance learned of the 57% growth in total membership this past year, and of the 134% growth in life members. "It's the individual effort on the part of many," said National FFA Alumni Council Chairman, Gus R. Douglass, in his opening remarks, "that is fast building this organization, whose goal is the perpetual well being of agricultural youth."

Featured speaker, Orion Samuelson, famed agricultural spokesman from WGN in Chicago, challenged FFA Alumni members to make a total commitment to build the FFA Alumni Association and make a major contribution to the FFA and American agriculture.



Interest was high among the 93 official delegates.



Dr. James Clouse, left, succeeds Mr. Gus Douglass as National Council Chairman and presents him with a retiring plaque.

Dr. James Clouse was elected National Chairman of the FFA Alumni Association, with Mr. Richard Waybright as Vice-Chairman. Dr. Clouse, formerly of Purdue University, is the Head of Agriculture Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Virginia. Mr. Waybright owns an extensive dairy operation, including production, processing and distribution, near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Jim Clouse becomes National Council Chairman after serving two terms as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. David Thomas of Columbia, Missouri, and Mr. Jerry Goolsby of Guthrie, Oklahoma, were elected to serve a three-year term on the National FFA Alumni Council from the Central and Southern Regions, respectively. Their election came following a mail ballot of the membership.

"More Drive in '75" was announced as the membership slogan for the coming year. The FFA Alumni slide presentation, "It's Happening" was previewed for those interested in using it in membership promotion.

Much of the Alumni business was hammered out in committee sessions. Each committee made recommendations to the general assembly as guides to state and local associations, as well as the National FFA Alumni Council.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM INITIATED



National FFA Vice President Keith Mohler (left) congratulates the first "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award" recipients Mr. Jerry Litton, Mr. Orion Samuelson, and Mr. William Kuhfuss.

The first presentation of the "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards" highlighted the final session. This initiated an entirely new awards program to be conducted at local, state, and national levels. The aim is to recognize FFA Alumni members for leadership and outstanding achievement in service to agriculture. The award will be presented annually to inspire current FFA members by reflecting the accomplishments of outstanding former members. The achievements of this year's recipients truly set a fitting example for which FFA members can strive.

Jerry Litton is serving a first term in the U. S. Congress. He was instrumental in spearheading the formation of the Agriculture Council of America to unite agriculture behind one voice to close the gap between the producer and consumer. Before entering politics, he was co-owner of the Litton Charolais Ranch. Jerry was an American Farmer in the FFA and served as the Missouri State President and National Secretary.

Orion Samuelson is Farm Service Director for WGN radio and television in Chicago. He is nationally recognized as an agricultural spokesman to both farm and urban publics. Orion is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade and is a past president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. Orion began his speaking as an FFA member where he was winner of numerous FFA Public Speaking Contests and has continued his involvement.

William Kuhfuss is serving as President of the nation's largest farm organization, the American Farm Bureau Federation. He is actively involved in the promotion of international trade for American farm products and serves as chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee to the Federal Energy Office. Bill was a charter member and first president of his local FFA chapter and has been actively involved in support of FFA.

In acceptance of the award, each man hailed the FFA for giving him a chance for growth.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ADOPTED

The constitutional amendment which had been submitted to the membership by mail ballot was adopted by nearly a four-to-one majority. The amendment defines membership eligibility by allowing parents of FFA members and others interested in the FFA to join the FFA Alumni Association. It provides flexibility in the constitution to allow for the Associate Class membership contained in many state and local constitutions, and removes the burden of proof of being a former FFA member.

The amendment became effective upon adoption. Revised copies of the FFA Alumni Constitution and By-Laws are available upon request.

KEPT OPTIONAL

Delegate action kept optional the proposed inclusion of the National Future Farmer magazine as part of national FFA Alumni dues, which would increase dues by \$1. Considerable discussion preceded the action. Ironically, the action came following a membership survey which favored the inclusion by nearly a two-to-one majority with only one state not in favor.

The action gives members the prerogative to subscribe individually to the magazine and keeps annual national dues at \$4. Life members already receive a life-time subscription to the magazine. State FFA Alumni Associations do have the option of including a subscription to the magazine as part of their state dues.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

"A chance for GROWTH" is the 1975 National FFA Week theme. The date is February 15-22, 1975. The main purpose of celebrating National FFA Week is to focus public attention on vocational agriculture and the FFA. It is traditionally celebrated beginning the Saturday before George Washington's Birthday (February 22) and ending the following Saturday.

FFA Week activities are an ideal way for FFA Alumni Affiliates to improve public relations in their communities. An Idea Booklet with promotional materials, billboards, sample news releases, radio spots, along with other miscellaneous ideas has been sent to all FFA Chapters. This may just be what your FFA Alumni Affiliate has been looking for to improve community public relations.

THANK YOU!

The FFA Alumni Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis (each season of the year). 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.

ACTIVE LEADERS HONORED

One hundred sixty-five individuals from 31 states were presented the active leadership award, the "Legion of Merit Citation," as part of the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

The "Legion of Merit Citation" is aimed at honoring personal effort and initiative in building the FFA Alumni Association. Special recognition is given those who repeat achieving this award.

To earn 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 from the Alumni Office.

The 1974 "Legion of Merit Citation" recipients are:

Alabama

Elton Bouldin*

California

Nicholas S. Bavaro

Colorado

Jim Knight

Lori Wunderlich

Connecticut

D. A. DiGiulio

Hugh J. Ripper

Florida

Cecil Cordell

Jimmy Edwards

Georgia

David P. Forrest

J. P. Henry

C. Fred Ingram

Roscoe Nash

Westley H. Patrick

Illinois

Mark Akers

Lloyd Bohl

David Booth

Larry Bowhay

Ronald Bross

Gary Clausen

Dennis Crouch

George Diedrich

Richard Drendel

Larry Firkins

Todd Graham

Idaho

Mark Hodel

Dean Johnson

Paul Johnson

John Kearns

Tom Kohley

Dennis Lasswell

Illinois, cont'd

Doug Lindgren

Gary Long

Marty May

Curtiss Merrifield

Mike McMahon

Craig Miller

Vernon L. Rhorscheib

Vicki Shaw

Bruce Trubach

Mark Wilson

Roger Windish

Iowa

Becky Daniels

Larry L. Haas

Mohamad W. Khan

Dan Leinen

Randy Sayre

Duane Wessel

Kansas

Robert J. Broeckelman*

Alva Burch

Ron Wilson*

Kentucky

George E. Collier

Mary Ann Damron

Joe Roberts

Richard White

Louisiana

Richard C. Weber

Massachusetts

Sherwood W. Webber

Michigan

Wayne Cook

Jim Graves

Minnesota

Andrew Lurth

John McCracken

Mississippi

Sammy Mathis

Charles F. Rye

Jerry Smith

Missouri

David C. Thomas*

Terry Traxler

John Wise

Montana

Harold E. Stepper

Nebraska

Fred Dubs

Jon Katt

Jan Mengedoh

Jim Vach

New Mexico

Ross Burchard

Joe Gilmore

Bub Graham

Sandy Jones

James Thompson

Richard N. Vaughan

Mike Wilton

North Carolina

Rickey Buckner

Paul G. Copeland

Harold Edwards

Roy A. Eubanks

Cedric K. Jones

Gary Kennedy

Bill Maness*

Julius Rouse

William H. Teague*

Ohio

Carl L. Casey

Robert A. Givens

Gayle K. Grimes

Mike Johnson

Jorge Munoz

Georgiene Ponce

John Rausch

James Richard

Thomas F. Walter

Daniel Wunderlich

Oklahoma

Phil Berkenbile

Henry J. Bowlan

Maurice Bray

George Carter

Jim Colpitt

Jimmie Dee Cook

Charlie Ferguson

David Fleming

Jack Foran

Kenneth Hayes

Cliff Henagar

Troy Don Henry*

Katherine A. Holman

Oliver Kinzie

Jerry Kobyluk

Marvin J. Lindsey

Bob Listen

Randall Long

Oklahoma, cont'd

Richard Melot

Buster McNatt

Gerald Parsons

Randy Ray

Weldon N. Rodgers

Joe D. Skinner

Larry D. Smith

D. M. Sokolosky

Estel Standridge

Fred Stanley

Darrell Stiles

William T. Thomas

Mike W. Turner

Dale Turner

Robert Willis

Paul Wood

Ken York

Oregon

Mike S. Macnab

Pennsylvania

Delmas Hernley

Rhode Island

Norman Hammond

Tennessee

Terry Horn

L. M. McIlwain

Steve Stafford

Beauford Wilson

Randy Yarbro

Texas

Lyndia Bartlett

Larry Ermis

Donald M. Hensley

Virginia

Larry R. Jewell

Wisconsin

David J. Bloomer

Kim Erickson

Douglass Hull

John Joestgen

Rudolph Kolarik

Becky L. Miller

John Olsen

Roger Rasmussen

John R. Ronk

Hollis Schauer

Kenneth Seering

William Steinhurst

Richard Templeton, Sr.

Erwin Zweifel

Wyoming

Kelly Burch*

Walter Ferguson, Jr.

Joe Navrath *

Darrell Repshire

Stan Stowe

*Second Year Recipient

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

A hearty welcome to the newest Life Members who have added their names to the prestigious roster of lifetime supporters. Life Members now receive a lifetime subscription to the National Future Farmer magazine along with other benefits. Why not make this the year your name is added to this growing list of loyal supporters?

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