



Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

April 1, 2014

Note from the President...

Hello to all our FFA Alumni members across the state. My name is Bryan Whitman and I recently took the reigns as President of the Iowa FFA Alumni Association at our Annual Alumni Conference this past January. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those who were unable to attend our conference. I reside in Eastern Iowa where I work as a full-time Agricultural Engineer for Hardi North America and part-time as a crop/cattle farmer with my father and brother. My history with the FFA organization includes being an Iowa Degree and American Degree recipient from the DeWitt Central FFA Chapter and I've been an active member of the DeWitt FFA Alumni since my high school graduation. This is my fourth year as a member of the Iowa FFA Alumni Board of Directors and it's my honor to be able to serve you as President of this great organization throughout 2014.

I truly believe that an alumni is a great way to organize volunteers and contributors to our local FFA chapters. They can be an extremely beneficial and supportive tool as FFA chapters carry out their yearly activities. As you think about this remember that the state board of directors has been elected to serve our current affiliates as well as promote the creation of new affiliates throughout our state. If you have a question or would like to find out how to start a new affiliate please contact your district representative.

Bryan Whitman, 2014 Iowa FFA Alumni President

February Board Meeting

The State Alumni board met February 15th for our first meeting with new board members. Reports were given by State FFA president Josh Earll and National FFA Alumni President-Elect Dan Classen. New District Representatives and At-Large Representatives were given an explanation of their duties as well as what the expectations are for the coming year. 2014 committees were formed and committee chairmen-

Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar

April 12- State Board of Directors Meeting @ 1pm

April 16- Alumni Membership Dues Deadline to be included in 2014-15 Member Rosters

April 27- Lee Cole's Magic Comedy Show

April 28/29- Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference

April 29- Iowa FFA Degree College Scholarship Deadline

May 1- Iowa FFA Alumni College Scholarship Deadline

May- State Board of Directors Blast-Off Meal with State Officers- TBD

June 1- Outstanding Affiliate Award Application Deadline

June 1- Iowa/National Outstanding Achievement Award Application Deadline

June 1- Iowa/National Distinguished Contributor Award Application Deadline



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appointed and they are already working hard on their items of business. It was voted on that we offer two WLC scholarships for the 2014 Washington Leadership Conference in June. It was also voted on that we would revert back to every other month meetings for the foreseeable future. Anyone interested in coming to our next meeting is welcome. It will be held April 12th at 1pm at the Enrichment Center.

Amy Classen, Secretary

Alumni at SLC

Student Leadership Conference is approaching quickly and the Iowa FFA Alumni has been working hard to prepare for our activities. We have many exciting things planned for FFA members this year. Sunday night we will be hosting our Student entrainment night at Hilton Coliseum. **Lee Cole** is a **Magic Comedian** who comes to us from West Des Moines, Iowa. He's an Iowan who has performed in comedy clubs, for cruise lines and thousands of corporate events, and as far away as Australia. Lee's Playful and lively presentation lifts spirits and turns a roomful of strangers into friends. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by sending an email to director@iowaffaalumni.com for \$10.00 per person.

The Iowa FFA Alumni will also be hosting our FFA Supply Shop. There will be new t-shirt designs, ties, suspenders, belt buckles, hats, nylon bags, degree chains and many more items. Stop by and take a look or come and chat with us at our Career Fair booth and we can talk about the activities you have going on in your local alumni affiliates. Maybe you can even grab something to snack on.

For those of you interested in learning more about the use of ACN, come join us for a workshop that will be presented by members from the National FFA Alumni. It won't be long before SLC is upon us. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Ann Bassett, Past Iowa FFA Alumni President

Apply for Scholarships!

If you haven't already, it's time to look into the scholarships offered by the Iowa FFA Alumni. The deadline for WLC scholarships has passed but there are still a number of scholarships we are accepting applicants for at this time.

FFA members who are Iowa FFA Degree recipients and are also Iowa FFA Alumni members are eligible to participate in a drawing for a \$250 college scholarship at the Iowa FFA Convention. Find the entry form online at www.iowaffaalumni.com and either postmark by April 7, or fill out the form and personally deliver it to the Iowa FFA Alumni booth at the Career Fair during SLC. There are also two Iowa FFA Alumni college scholarships worth \$500 each. To apply, the applicant must either be an FFA Alumni member or from a chapter that currently has an active FFA Alumni affiliate. The scholarship application can be found on our website and is due May 1.

Please take time to visit the Iowa FFA Alumni website and get acquainted with the scholarships, grants, and awards that are offered annually. Deadlines occur throughout the year and we don't want to see any chapter miss out on an opportunity!



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Iowa FFA Alumni Conference

This past January the Iowa FFA Alumni held their annual conference at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. Alumni members and guests attended the event filled day where we recognized award winners, shared presentations of local alumni activities, and conducted the official business session of 2014 including voting in new board members.

It was exciting to listen to the WLC scholarship recipients as they shared with us their life changing experiences. We were also honored to have the Iowa FFA State Officer team share with us their reflections on how FFA has changed their lives and continues to shape them into young successful adults.

A wonderful lunch sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers was served as we were entertained by Iowa State University's own Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival Improv Comedy group. At the end of lunch, awards were presented, closing remarks given, and the gavel was officially handed over to incoming President Bryan Whitman. At the end of the conference, the Alumni once again held their always entertaining live auction. Thank you to all who made bids at our fundraising auctions this year as we made over \$4,000. If you have never joined the Alumni at the annual conference please make plans to join us for some fun in January of 2015!

Membership Deadline

The 2013-2014 Alumni membership year will soon be coming to a close as April 16 is the deadline for members that want to be included on the 2014-2015 Alumni membership rosters. Currently Iowa has 2192 FFA Alumni members with 1798 of those being life members and the rest being annual members. Just a friendly reminder that dues for annual members are \$15 with \$10 going to Nationals. Life membership dues are \$250 with \$200 of that going to Nationals. The \$50 that the Iowa Alumni receives from life memberships is put into a savings account to be used to fund leadership training activities throughout the state. The remaining money from your membership dues is used to promote and advocate for agricultural education and help grow the Alumni association through providing support to existing alumni affiliates and those FFA chapters who have identified a need for a support organization like the Alumni.

Keep in mind that all state and national alumni grants and scholarships require your local affiliate to be classified as Active. To be an active affiliate you must have at least 10 paid annual members, life members, or a mix of both equal to 10. As an active affiliate you also receive voting rights at the state and national alumni conferences and can help shape the future of this great organization.

Importance of ACN

ACN, short for Ag Career Network, is a tool that may be used by FFA Alumni members. It can be found on



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the National FFA website. Any FFA Alumni Member whose dues are current may receive an invitation to join ACN by e-mailing the Iowa Alumni Executive Director at director@iowaffaalumni.com. By filling out the basic profiles and interests it is possible for state staff to use ACN as a database for locating potential judges and contact people for various CDE's and SAE's. ACN also has tools to help build resumes and locate potential new jobs. We encourage all Alumni members to use ACN as it will only improve the effectiveness of this tool!!

Dan Classen, Nat'l FFA Alumni President-Elect

2014-2015 Board Members

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