

# Iowa FFA Alumni

## Newsletter

### Iowa FFA Alumni Annual Conference



*Distinguished Contributor  
Award Recipient  
Steve Ferguson  
Iowa Finance Authority*



*Hall of Fame  
Award Recipient  
Ann Bassett*



April 1, 2016

### Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar

#### April 17–19

Iowa FFA Conference  
Ames, IA

#### July 14–16

National FFA Alumni  
Development Conference  
Kansas City, MO

#### August 5–6

Regional FFA Alumni  
Development Conference  
Ankeny, IA

#### August 11–21

Iowa State Fair  
Des Moines, IA

#### October 19–22

National FFA Alumni Conven-  
tion  
Indianapolis, IN

\*Various award deadlines for  
state conference are listed on  
the Association and Alumni  
website.

\*\*If your chapter has an event  
they want posted to the State  
FFA Alumni's Calendar send  
an email with event details to:  
director@iowaffaalumni.com

### 2016 Iowa FFA Alumni Board of Directors

#### Voting Members

President.....	Bryon Weesner .....	president@iowaffaalumni.com
President-Elect .....	Ashley Fitzgerald.....	afitz1206@gmail.com
North Central Representative .....	Amy Classen .....	ncdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
Northeast Representative.....	Debra Zelle .....	nedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
Northwest Representative .....	Melanie Bloom .....	nwdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
South Central Representative .....	Colton Beals.....	scdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
Southeast Representative .....	Bob Goodall.....	sedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
Southwest Representative .....	Steve Dolch .....	swdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com
At Large Representative .....	Andy Edson .....	andrewedson73@gmail.com
At Large Representative .....	Patrick Diedrich.....	diedrichpatrick@gmail.com
At Large Representative .....	Ann Bassett .....	acbassett316@gmail.com
At Large Representative .....	Keisha Thompson .....	kthompson7x@gmail.com
Iowa FFA President .....	Michael Tupper.....	mtupper@iowaffa.com
IAAE President .....	Jeff Mayes .....	majesj@ahst.k12.ia.us
Past Iowa FFA Alumni President .....	Zach Classen .....	classencattle@gmail.com

#### Ex-Officio

Iowa FFA Alumni Foundation Representative .....	Ron Zelle .....	rzelle@nashua-plainfield.k12.ia.us
National FFA Alumni Council .....	Dan Classen.....	midwayfarms@ncn.net
Iowa FFA Alumni Advisor .....	Scott Johnson .....	scott.johnson@iowaffa.com
Iowa FFA Alumni Executive Director .....		director@iowaffaalumni.com



## President's Corner

Spring is a wonderful time of year! The first few flowers start to peek out from the brownness of winter and it becomes a time filled with baby animals catching our fancy. It is also a wonderful time of the year as we work through the "CDE Contest" season and move into FFA Banquet time. These are the days when those of us in production agriculture put in long hours and tend to forget where we are from time to time while trying to juggle work and life at home. In a small way what we go through in the spring mirrors the life of an Ag Education Instructor/FFA Advisor most of the year. It is important as Alumni members for us to continue to ask our FFA Advisors and Ag Educators what we can do to help them.

We also look upon this time as a season of change. FFA chapters across the state are in the process of selecting new officer teams and preparing for summer and Fair time. But before those wonderful warm days arrive another change will be taking place at State FFA Leadership Conference and at FFA chapters all over the land, as graduating seniors will be taking of those blue corduroy jackets for the final time and embarking on their journey into adulthood. Just as spring is a season of rebirth, so it is for those members. The bittersweet feeling of placing ones FFA jacket away for safekeeping should also be a time of excitement as they transition into the FFA Alumni.

Those of you dealing with rosters will notice that graduating FFA members are now showing up on your membership as Associate Members. This free membership is given to these students for five years. It is our task to convert them to Full membership and for those Alumni Chapters moving away from dues with the change in Affiliation Fees this allows you to convert these new members quickly. If possible log into your membership roster and convert them to full membership by May 1 so they can be counted towards delegate totals at this year's National FFA Alumni meeting.

Also remember to track your volunteer hours and donations received as your chapters work throughout this year. The data collected is extremely important as we approach donors and legislators in this state. If you need assistance or would like more information contact your area Alumni representative.

I want to thank each one of you for the work you do in helping young people reach goals they never thought possible and continue to advocate for Ag Education and FFA in Iowa. If you are at the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference in Ames or the Iowa State Fair stop at the Alumni booth and say "Hello"! Have a safe and productive spring.

Forever Blue,

Bryon Weesner

Iowa FFA Alumni President

## WLC Scholarship Winners



*Brittany Woods*

The FFA Alumni is dedicated to helping young adults develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. While National FFA offers hundreds if not millions of opportunities, Washington Leadership Conference is arguably the most impactful.

Every year the Iowa FFA Alumni sends students on the life altering experience known as WLC and this year is no different. After meticulously reviewing 10 applications the Awards Committee has selected Nathan Manternach and Brittany Woods to receive our full ride scholarship to this amazing conference. The Iowa FFA Alumni has many awards and grants with due dates fast approaching!

For details and deadlines please visit [iowaffaalumni.com/awards](http://iowaffaalumni.com/awards)



*Nathan Manternach*



## 2016 Iowa FFA Alumni Annual Conference



*2015 Iowa FFA Alumni Board  
President Zach Classen*

of Directors President, Zach Classen. He dismissed conference goers to a variety of workshops. These workshops in the morning session included Alumni from an Advisor's view, How to Judge CDE's, and Farm Financial Planning. In the afternoon the attendee's enjoyed another wonderful selection of workshops such as Strategic Planning and You, and Drones and Agriculture.

These Alumni represent your districts. They are there to be used as tools and resources for questions that you may have concerning your own Alumni Affiliates. Thank you to the 2016 Board of Directors for investing your time in the future of FFA and Agricultural Education in the state of Iowa.



*Dan Classen*

so passionately about.

Finally we heard from Iowa's National FFA Officer, Abrah Meyer. She announced that the national officer team's legacy project is going to be focused on Alumni. So this is truly our time to shine and show the chapters that we serve what

On January 16, 2016 at the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa the 43<sup>rd</sup> Iowa FFA Alumni Conference was held. Alumni members from all over the state attended the conference to mingle, network, trade ideas, and most importantly obtain skills to take back to their affiliates to make them the best that they can be! The day began with a warm welcome from the 2015 Board

we are all about.

The FFA Mission Statement and the Alumni Mission Statement goes as follows:

"FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."



*Barb Clawson  
CDE Judging Workshop*

Notice they are both the same that means that we are one united force. At the national level they are trying to change our vocabulary a little bit. Rather than calling it Alumni Affiliates they just want to call them Alumni Chapters. Since we both have the same mission statement shouldn't we be considered the same group? The answer is yes! At the National FFA Alumni headquarters in Indianapolis they believe this is a necessary change that will help to bridge that gap between the FFA Chapters and their Alumni.

Dr. Larry Case was the Keynote Speaker for the night. He is the National FFA Alumni President Elect and former National FFA Advisor. It was truly an honor to have him present with us!

Congratulations to Ann Bassett, Hall of Fame Award Recipient, and Steve Ferguson with Iowa Finance Authority, Recipient of the Distinguished Contributor Award!

The 2016 FFA Alumni Conference was a wonderful learning opportunity. All Alumni members should be working toward making their chapters the absolute best that they can be. If you did not get to attend this year's convention mark your calendars for next year's! It will be held in **January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. If you would like more information regarding this event or have any questions contact your district representative or the FFA Enrichment Center.



*Dr. Larry Case*



*Jim Check  
former National FFA  
Alumni Council Member  
from Wisconsin*