

Iowa FFA Alumni

April Newsletter



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Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers during the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference on April 23rd and 24th! Each shift is only two hours. There are two ways you can help:

- **Supply Stand** - Help the FFA Alumni sell merchandise to FFA members and guests. The booth will be located within the trade show in the Scheman Building at Iowa State University. Feel free to wear an FFA shirt or a polo/dress shirt.
- **Trade Show Booth** - Promote the FFA Alumni by passing out brochures, giveaways, newsletters, etc. Feel free to wear any FFA Alumni shirt. The booth will be located in the trade show during the Iowa FFA Conference in the Scheman Building at Iowa State University.

SIGN UP HERE

Sign up to judge Career Development Events at State FFA Conference on April 24th. Help is needed with Team Ag Sales.

- Registration at 7:15 AM
- Judging from 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM
- A light breakfast and lunch will be provided

[CLICK HERE](#) or email libby.fisher@iowaffa.com



IOWA FFA ALUMNI



@IAFFAALUMNI



@IAFFAALUMNI

WWW.IOWAFFAALUMNI.COM

1055 SW PRAIRIE TRAIL PARKWAY ANKENY, IA 50023

Change

It's all in what you make of it.

By Joshua Rusk, National FFA Alumni Council

*Excerpt from March edition of Leader2Leader,
the National FFA Alumni & Supporters newsletter.*

Happy spring everyone! Since the last issue, a lot of change has occurred. On my way into the office this morning, I noticed how some plants begin to change with the season, while others take a little longer to change. With the recent changes, I want to reassure you that our focus remains the same. We are committed to helping students and positively impacting local programs.

Over the past several months, we have received many questions on how to engage our younger members now that they make up over 66 percent of our membership. Just this past week I saw an article titled “59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out – And They’re Trying to Tell Us Why” by Sam Eaton. As I read the article, it hit me that 11 of the 12 reasons why millennials are leaving the church could easily fit our organization. The following have been edited to reflect our organization and are things that we all should listen to and consider to engage more young people in any organization.

1. Nobody’s Listening to Them
2. The “You Can’t Sit With Us” Effect
3. Young People Want to Be Mentored, Not Talked At
4. Young People Want to Feel Valued
5. Stop Talking About Them (Unless You’re Going to Do Something)
6. Organizations Are Failing to Adapt

Continue reading in Leader2Leader [HERE](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Iowa FFA Leadership Conference

April 22 - 24

Iowa State University

Summer Ag Ed Conference

June 25 - 27

Iowa FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

Iowa State Fair

August 9 - 19

National FFA Convention

October 24 - 27

Indianapolis, IN

2018 State Alumni Conference

This year has been another roller coaster winter in Iowa, but luckily, the weather came out in our favor for the 2018 Iowa FFA Alumni Conference in January! We enjoyed a third straight year of record attendance, proving that support of Iowa FFA is stronger than ever. Attendees enjoyed workshops covering Building Leadership, Engaging Young People, and The Benefits of Being Alumni.



happening across Iowa to grow FFA students and encourage them to dream big.

The Pleasantville FFA Alumni received this year's Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award, and Steve Diedrich of the DeWitt Central FFA Alumni was honored as the Outstanding Achievement Award winner. Both of these awards will represent Iowa at National FFA Convention in October.

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In between workshops, Kemin Industries took us on a tour of their facility, featuring the newest innovations in animal and human health worldwide. Thank you to Kemin for your hospitality and support of Iowa FFA Alumni.

The evening was buzzing as members from across the state and nation came together to share ideas and connect. The banquet and awards ceremony highlighted the amazing work



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Our 2018 Distinguished Contributor recipient was Terry Wicks of the Rockford FFA Alumni. We were also proud to induct Scott Frank of the Belle Plaine FFA Alumni into the Iowa FFA Alumni Hall of Fame. The Hawkeye West Bend FFA Alumni won the Essay Contest after describing their partnership with other community organizations during RAGBRAI. Finally, the New Alumni Chapter Grant was received by the IKM-Manning FFA Alumni to support their new commitment to students in their community.

After reviewing dozens of applications, three FFA members were awarded college scholarships to help them further their education. Two additional students were selected to attend Washington Leadership Conference this summer in D.C. None of these awards and opportunities would be possible without the support of CHS Foundation, Growmark Inc., Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Finance Authority, and Iowa Soybean Association. Thank you for your continued support of Iowa FFA Alumni.



During the banquet, we welcomed guest speaker Scott Siepker, better known as the Iowa Nice Guy, as he reflected on his connection to agriculture today. Our live auction was a huge success, and we send our sincere thanks to all those that donated items.

As we rounded out the evening, we said goodbye to our retiring board members and welcomed the new editions to our team. The hours of dedication from these individuals is appreciated by alumni and FFA members across the state. Thank you to everyone who attended this year's event. We can't wait to see you back in 2019!



Proficiency Judging

By Annie Wallin - State Reporter, Iowa FFA Association

On February 17th, 100 volunteers converged on the Enrichment Center in Ankeny to serve as Proficiency Award judges. Agriculture Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their Supervised Agricultural Experience programs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply towards their future careers. Students can compete for awards in a variety of areas, such as Agricultural Communications, Diversified Agriculture, Nursery Operations, and Wildlife Management.

This year, 230 applications were submitted in 48 different areas. The top members in each area will be recognized at the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference. Winners at the state level will advance to nationals in July. National finalists are interviewed and recognized at National Convention.

This year's State Leadership Conference will be held on April 22nd through the 24th at Hilton Coliseum. FFA members and guests will have a chance to hear inspiring words from several keynote speakers, as well as retiring addresses from the current state officer team. The state officers have already begun to hold practices and look forward to once again having a great State Conference!

District Conventions

Alumni members from across the state donated their time at sub-district and district conventions throughout February and March. Some local alumni hosted workshops to help students prepare for various Leadership CDE competitions. Drawing on professional skills and sharing past experiences is a simple, yet essential way to create a learning opportunity for FFA members.



FFA Alumni and supporters also dedicated their weekends to facilitate district convention activities. Whether it be providing thoughtful feedback as CDE judges, or helping keep things organized as room chairs, these local events are only made possible through the help of these wonderful volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to students on a local and state level! If you want to learn more about possible opportunities in your area, contact your district representative on the Alumni Board of Directors.



Board of Directors

North Central Representative

Clyde Johnson

ncdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com

At-Large Representative

Andy Edson

andrewedson73@gmail.com

Southwest Representative

Steve Dolch

swdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com

At-Large Representative

Karen Whitman

kmw32013@gmail.com

At-Large Representative

Colton Beals

beals.colton@gmail.com

South Central Representative

Bryon Weesner

scdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com

Southeast Representative

Samantha Grunwald

sedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com

Iowa FFA Alumni Assoc. Advisor

Ron Zelle

ron.zelle@iowaffa.com

Northeast Representative

Celina Young

nedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com

At-Large Representative

Kimberly Bullock

kimberly.jean115@gmail.com

National FFA Alumni Council

Zach Classen

classencattle@gmail.com

Past Alumni President

Ashley Fitzgerald

afitz1206@gmail.com

President

Patrick Diedrich

president@iowaffaalumni.com

President-Elect

Nate Gibson

gibsondraft@gmail.com

We need a representative from the Northwest District!

Contact Patrick for more information.