



Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

September 1, 2014

Note from the President...

Hello again to all our alumni and volunteers helping to make Iowa FFA such a great organization in 2014! By now you have probably heard that the membership in the Iowa FFA organization has grown to historical numbers in 2014 with 14,207 members in 219 high schools across the state of Iowa. This is wonderful news! I take pride in knowing that an organization that has helped mold me into the person I am today is pumping out more leaders than ever before. With this news come great opportunity and a growing need for supportive individuals and volunteers to help our advisors as they continue to offer so many opportunities to our FFA members.

I can tell you that with this growth in membership, an increased interest in organizing support groups for our chapters and advisors has followed. I applaud those who see the need to lend a helping hand to our hardworking students and advisors. As our new membership year begins in the Iowa FFA Alumni Association please continue to get the word out about what the Alumni aspires to accomplish. Each one of our FFA chapters deserves to have a group of people they can look to when they come across that need for help. As always, our board is here to serve and support our current and future alumni affiliates. Let's continue this growth into the new year!

Bryan Whitman, 2014 Iowa FFA Alumni President

Congrats Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to this year's WLC scholarship winners! Tate Carlson from East Sac and Alana Platte from Wapsie Valley received scholarships to attend WLC this past June. We hope to have them give a short presentation at Alumni conference in January. Also want to give a shout out to Aaron Montag of West Bend. Aaron received a \$250 scholarship after receiving his State Degree at this year's Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference. Good Work Aaron! To find out more about scholarships offered by the State Alumni Association, check out our website at www.iowaffaalumni.com.

Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar

September 1- 2014-15 Alumni membership year begins

September 20- State Board of Directors Meeting @ Enrichment Center

October 29- National FFA Convention, Louisville, Ky.

October 30- National Alumni Convention Awards Session, Louisville, Ky. @ 4:30pm

October 30- National Alumni Convention Auction, Louisville, Ky. @ 8:00pm

October 31- National Alumni Convention Business Session, Louisville, Ky @ 9:30am

November- State Board of Directors Meeting @ Enrichment Center

January 17- Iowa FFA Alumni Conference @ Enrichment Center



Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

September 1, 2014

May Board Meeting

A board meeting was held May 12 in conjunction with the Blast-off meal provided for the newly elected Iowa FFA Officer team by the State Alumni board. At this meeting the board agreed on funding requests we would take to the foundation for the 2014-2015 year. It was also agreed to sponsor a hole for \$250 at the Iowa FFA Foundation golf tournament held on June 12. Plans were made for board members that would be attending the Alumni Development Conference in Michigan along with sponsoring Iowa's 2014-15 National FFA Officer Candidate to attend.

Amy Classen, Secretary

out before the end of conference. We always enjoy outfitting Iowa FFA members with the blue and gold!

The Alumni also manned a booth where we were available to answer membership questions and talk with FFA members. For some fun we had a sucker tree and gave away prizes to FFA members who stopped by to say hi. This year the Iowa Alumni board of directors is also selling raffle tickets for a FFA Quilt which we debuted at state leadership conference. Tickets are still available with the drawing of the winning ticket to be held at our annual conference Jan 17, 2015. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact your district board representative or attend alumni conference in January!

Ann Bassett, Past Iowa FFA Alumni President

Alumni at SLC

Our Iowa FFA Alumni board had a number of activities at the 2014 Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference. It all started Sunday night when we sponsored comedic magician and Des Moines native Lee Cole to perform for student entertainment night at Hilton Coliseum. Lee involved many of the students and even a few advisors in his act. It was fun for all the chapters and alumni that attended and if you ask you might even find a couple of entertaining pictures floating around. Monday and Tuesday featured the Alumni ran FFA supply service store as part of the FFA tradeshow. A large variety of merchandise from unique t-shirts to suspenders & belt buckles, and even keepsakes like FFA teddy bears were available. This was a busy place throughout conference with many items being sold

Alumni Development Conference 2014

This year the alumni development conference was held in Grand Rapids Michigan July 9-12. Those who attended from Iowa were Dan and Amy Classen, Ann and Vick Bassett, and Clyde Johnson. It was an informational packed few days!

There were workshops related to business and organization in your affiliate like "Data Collection," "Affiliate tax exemption," "Affiliate Financial Records," and "Affiliate Investments." Other workshops taught us how to be stronger advocates for the FFA and Alumni like "Affiliate Membership-Growing Affiliates in your State," "Being the Strongest Link," "FFA Branding and Licensing," and



Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

September 1, 2014

"Habitudes for Communication." If any of these workshop topics spark your interest please contact one of the attending board members and they will be happy to fill you in on what the workshop was all about.

The conference also offered a number of tours of local agriculturally based businesses. We participated in tours of a Blueberry Farm, Swiss Lane Dairy Farms which utilizes a robotic milking system, Robinette's Apple Haus and Winery, Clarksville Research Center, and we also toured what a local FFA chapter was doing in there greenhouse and research plots at Cedar Springs High school.

On the last night of ADC, a banquet was held and we were able to network with other alumni members around the country. As you can tell it was a very fun and educational few days!

Amy Classen, Secretary

A Word on our Finances

The Iowa FFA Alumni Board had another strong year with our FFA apparel sales at State Leadership conference. Over \$10,000 of profit was made.

You may be wondering how this money gets utilized? This past spring we offered Washington Leadership Conference scholarships and college scholarships. We sponsored the award for Scrap Book at State Leadership conference and recently sponsored a hole at the foundation Golf

Tournament. We will also be paying for Lifetime Alumni Memberships for the 2014-15 FFA State Officer Team. Throughout the year we have various activities that require funds as well such as our annual alumni state conference, a supper for the new state officer team, and advertisement at the Farm Progress Show and Iowa State Fair. Furthermore into the future, we have goals to sponsor leadership activities for FFA members throughout the state. Suffice it to say that every dollar we raise gets reinvested into developing and growing the Iowa FFA Alumni Association and supporting our FFA students.

Zach Classen, President-Elect

Membership Notes

Alumni membership continues to be updated as the 2013-14 membership year comes to a close. Five new affiliates have been activated this past year. They include West Central Valley, Baxter, Nasuha-Plainfield, Agri Power at Eddyville and Earlham FFA Alumni. Several affiliates have also updated their annual and life members to move from Inactive to Active membership status. (Requiring 10 paid members) All affiliates should now be using their EIN numbers from the IRS to report their financial activities each year.

Membership Totals for 2013-14*

Annual Membership	413
Lifetime Membership	88



Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

September 1, 2014

Collegiate Membership	3
Associate Membership	33
Totals for the Year	537

*There will be a few adjustments on these numbers as we continue to correct membership issues with local affiliates.

Total Iowa FFA Alumni membership:

Annual Memberships	423*
Lifetime Memberships	1882
Collegiate Membership	3
Associate Memberships	33
Total Membership	2341

*This number includes some annual memberships submitted at the local level but not submitted to the state FFA Alumni Association.

Alumni Affiliate Totals:

Active Affiliates	57	(26.0%)
Process of Being Chartered	5	(2.3%)
In-Active Affiliates	45	(20.5%)
At-Large & Past State Officers	2	
Not Chartered	112	(51.1%)
Total Chapters	219	

The 2014-15 FFA Alumni membership year will begin on September 1, 2014. It is important for our affiliates to try to collect their membership at their

earliest convenience so that members and FFA chapters can gain the benefit of membership as it is received. According to our constitution and bylaws, all FFA membership should be submitted to the state prior to the last day of the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference in April. This is important so that Iowa can seat delegates to the National FFA Alumni Convention and earn any membership awards given by the National FFA Alumni Association.

As membership chairperson, I appreciate everyone's willingness and cooperation in working with the Ag Career Network membership program on the National FFA website. If you are a local alumni leader and need additional information in regards to AgCN, please contact me at cljdejohnson@lm.k12.ia.us.

Clyde Johnson, Membership Chairman

A Word from Nationals

If anyone is going to National FFA Convention and has some free time, please go to the National FFA website and check out the volunteer possibilities. If you are willing to work two shifts you will receive a discounted registration fee. It takes many volunteers to make convention happen so please if you have some time to spare look into helping out. The schedule of all actives at national convention is on the National website so please check that out!

If you have not done your Personal Profile Page on the Ag Career Network you now have a new reason to get to it and get it done. Anyone who has their



Iowa FFA Alumni Newsletter

September 1, 2014

page done by October 1, 2014 will be eligible for the drawing of a Yamaha Viking ATV. This machine has a list of over \$10,000.00. Don't know what Ag CN is? Ag CN, short for Ag Career Network, is a networking tool that may be used by FFA Alumni members. It can be found on 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.

In case you didn't know **ALL** FFA Alumni members now qualify for \$500.00 off certain Dodge Vehicles. Alumni members are also being offered a 10% discount on rooms at La Quinta Inn Nationwide.

Dan Classen, Nat'l FFA Alumni President-Elect

2014-2015 Board Members

Bryan Whitman, President
Bwhitman86@gmail.com

Zach Classen, President-Elect
Classencattle@gmail.com

Ann Basset, Past President
Acbasset316@gmail.com

Vick Basset, NC District VP
Vrbasset80@gmail.com

Sarah Doese, NE District VP
sdoese@iowaffa.com

Brian Vanderhoff, NW District VP
Brianpat1984@hotmail.com

Bryon Weesner, SC District VP
Bryon.weesner@gmail.com

Bob Goodall, SE District VP
bgoodall@guardian.com

Lindsay Calvert, SW District VP
lcalvert@iastate.edu

Ashley Fitzgerald, At-large
Afitz1206@gmail.com

Clyde Johnson, At-large
clydejohnson@lm.k1.ia.us

Patrick Diedrich, At-large
diedrichpatrick@gmail.com

Amy Classen, Secretary
midwayfarms@ncn.net

Jeff Mayes, IAAE Rep.
Jeff.mayes@gr-rebel.net

Abrah Meyer, Iowa FFA President

Dan Classen, National FFA Alumni Rep.



Save the Date **Iowa FFA Alumni Conference**

**Same great date,
January 17, 2015
Same great location,
FFA Enrichment Center**



Totally NEW Program!



Winning Workshops

CDE's, How to train & judge winning teams
Ag Career Network, How it works?
Fundraising, Making dough for your Chapter

Super Socialization

Networking with Alumni across the Midwest
Idea sharing with other affiliates

Fantastic Fun

Great Banquet Meal
Silent & Live Auctions
A great day of FFA Support!

*Don't miss your
chance to get
involved!*

For More Information

Connect with Us

www.iowaffaalumni.com

