

NEW VISIONS



Volume 7, Issue 2
April-June 2002

For more information, visit
our website at www.ffa.org.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

National FFA Organization Selects Site for 2006-2012 Conventions

The National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers recently chose Indianapolis as the site for the 2006-2012 national FFA conventions. The location of the FFA Alumni national convention for those years will likewise be affected by the decision. The National FFA Alumni Association has traditionally held its conventions in conjunction with the national FFA convention. The unanimous decision, made in a meeting April 5, followed a recommendation from the board's convention site selection committee.

The site evaluation process included representatives of teachers, past national FFA officers, and state agricultural education leaders. A "scorecard" used to rank the competing cities contained evaluation criteria and priorities determined by teachers, students, and state FFA leaders. It reflected the projected needs for

capacity, lodging, transportation, facilities, security, location, and expense. While no one city involved in the bidding process scored "best" in every category, the committee gathered information and made several site visits to the four finalist cities to inspect facilities and discuss issues with local representatives.

The FFA Alumni and FFA will hold the next four national conventions at the current site in Louisville, Kentucky, including the upcoming 75th anniversary FFA and 30th anniversary FFA Alumni conventions this coming October. The selection committee considered both Louisville and Indianapolis as the top two cities and ideal sites to host the national FFA convention from 2006-2012. However, the committee determined Indianapolis represented the most balanced and advantageous approach to providing for the needs of students and teachers in the years under consideration.

A news release with further details is available on the FFA website, www.ffa.org. Questions can be directed to Bill Stagg, team leader for marketing and communication services, bstagg@ffa.org or (317) 802-4243.

FFA/Alumni Celebrate Milestones

2002 marks the 75th anniversary of the National FFA Organization. Despite dramatic changes in agriculture, education, technology, the economy, social structures and globalization, one thing remains constant—FFA still has kept its eye on one mission: student success. The National FFA Alumni Association celebrates its 30th anniversary this year with three decades of empowering volunteers who support agricultural education and FFA. Watch for more details as we draw nearer to this year's conventions.



Deadlines listed below are postmark dates.

CALENDAR Year 2002

July 1
Outstanding Affiliate, Outstanding Achievement Applications and Scrapbooks

July 15
Auction Items to Appear in Catalog

Council Nomination Applications

July 23-28
State Leaders Conference
Haines City, Florida

August 15
Legion of Merit Applications

Rosters Due to the National Office to Qualify for Awards

September 15
Chapter Grant Applications

November 1
National FFA Alumni Convention and Live/Silent Auctions

Council and FFA Seek New Alumni Executive Director

The National FFA Alumni Association and National FFA Organization are conducting a joint search for a new Alumni executive director, who will share responsibilities between both organizations. The new director will spend 70 percent of his or her time managing the day-to-day operations and developing membership of the National FFA Alumni Association. The director will be responsible for planning and coordinating national Alumni meetings, conventions, and major activities.

The remainder of the joint position's duties will focus on volunteerism: recruiting, retaining, and recognizing Alumni/volunteers as a critical resource for local program success.



As coordinator for the organizations' volunteerism efforts, the new Alumni director will develop and implement programs, materials, and workshops that mobilize and assist local teachers in the management of volunteers. Organizational leaders hope that this outreach will provide agricultural educators with volunteer management tools and training through pre- and in-service programs.

Interviews for this position are currently being conducted. *New Visions* will highlight the new director in a future issue.

FFA Alumni *New Visions* is prepared and published quarterly by the National FFA Alumni Association as an affiliate of the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

The official address for the National FFA Alumni Association is
6060 FFA Drive, P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
(317) 802-4292
bhaig@ffa.org



National FFA Alumni Council

- President, Cindy Ertestad, *Oregon*
P.O. Box 262 • Molalla, OR 97038
- Vice President, Pam Jumper, *Arkansas*
177 Greene Rd. 721 • Paragould, AR 72450
- Past President, Jim Allsup, *Texas*
Rt. 5, Box 94 • Robstown, TX 78380
- Western Region Representative,
Pam Gilmore, *Oregon*
- Central Region Representative, Dale Beaty, *Wisconsin*
- Southern Region Representative, Norman Gay, *Georgia*
- Eastern Region Representative,
Tracy Kitchel, *Ohio*
- Past National FFA Officer, Ronnie Simmons, *Florida*
- National FFA Representative, A.J. Davis, *Georgia*
- Member-At-Large, Jodi Geiger, *Florida*
- Member-At-Large, Dan Bliss, *Kansas*
- NASAE Representative, Toni Gilmore, *Oregon*
- NAAE Representative, Gary Geswein, *Indiana*
- AAAE Representative, Dr. Jim Knight, *Arizona*

Ex-Officio Members:

National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry Case

CORRESPONDENCE: Address all correspondence to
FFA Alumni *New Visions*, 6060 FFA Drive,
P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960



Petra Communications

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*Jim Allsup
National FFA Alumni Past President*

ROUND TABLE

Our Mission Guides Our Search for a New Director

As this article is being written, the National FFA Alumni Executive Committee is sitting in the National FFA Center in Indianapolis. Why you might ask? The three of us have been given the difficult task of selecting a new FFA Alumni Executive Director.

The first question that is foremost on our minds is what qualities would our Association's members want and desire in a new director. Should it be leadership potential, communication skills, management strategies, financial savvy, or something totally different?

As we consider all things, we realize that the new director needs to possess all of these qualities. It is our concern that the new FFA Alumni Executive Director understand the importance of FFA Alumni and volunteerism. The new director needs to position the association as the role model for the new volunteerism program that National FFA and FFA Alumni are working toward. The result, we hope, will be new affiliates.

We know there are many questions about the FFA Alumni Council's decision to split the position with the new volunteerism program. As a Council, we have embraced this idea and need the support of all of the FFA Alumni affiliates nationwide. As we are about to hire the person that will coordinate the FFA Alumni and the volunteer program, we want to reassure you, the members, that this is a positive move that will advance our association.

Whether you are an FFA Alumni member or a volunteer, the ultimate mission of our organization still remains the same.

Our mission is to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.



Carry on the Legacy

*Elio Chiarelli Jr.
National FFA
Eastern Region
Vice President*

In 1928, 33 students from 18 states gathered in Kansas City, Missouri, to share a common interest and to create a vision that resulted in the formation of an organization for high school agricultural education students. Today, the FFA is the world's premier intra-curricular youth leadership organization. Though the FFA has expanded from a primary focus on production to include members with interests in every aspect of

agriculture, its underlying goal has remained the same: To enhance formal classroom education in an effort to develop premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

Becoming a national FFA officer has been a true blessing to me in more ways than I can count. The opportunity to serve members and to help this 75-year-old organization grow has truly been remarkable. A solid foundation in the industry of life and in education provides agricultural education students with the extraordinary opportunity to become successful in all facets of life. Although the FFA membership is at an 18-year high, I continue to witness in my travels across this nation diminished funding and cut programs.

Your gift of time and support will allow thousands of students to have the same experience I have had in this organization.

This is where the National FFA Alumni can play a vital and key role to the future of our organization. Alumni have the knowledge, belief, and skills to support each and every program that exists. You must take a stand for our students, and share with them one of the most valuable gifts you can bestow...the gift of time!

Through the FFA, I have undergone a metamorphosis from that of an average high school student to an individual with the desire to make a positive difference, not only in my life, but also in the lives of those around me. Your gift of time and support will allow thousands of students to have the same experience I have had in this organization. Help carry on the legacy of those 33 students in 1928!



Alumnus' Efforts Improve State Fair for FFA and 4-H

Leo Tsimbinos nearly jumped out of his seat when the final vote on the state budget bill was counted in the Wyoming House of Representatives in early March.

Tsimbinos, a Cheyenne resident and National FFA Alumni life member, left the 2001 National FFA Alumni Convention inspired to do something for Wyoming youth. About three months later, an opportunity presented itself. He lobbied long and hard for an amendment to the appropriations bill authorizing \$67,600 for four new swamp coolers and 952 mattresses in dormitories for FFA and 4-H exhibitors at the Wyoming State Fair.

When the House voted 44-16 for the bill, about an hour after the Senate approved it 18-12, Tsimbinos' goal was a major step closer to reality.

"Justice has been done," said Tsimbinos as a testament to the power of one person. He deflected credit for his efforts, which included testifying before the Joint Appropriations Committee and lobbying senators and representatives to resist an amendment in the House to erase the state fair improvements. During his testimony to the committee, Tsimbinos stressed the economic impact created by FFA and 4-H students as a reason for maintaining the authorization.

"The credit should go to the kids who work so hard," he said. "The kids told me, 'The mattresses stink. We can't sleep [in the dormitories]. It's so hot.'"



Member Spotlight

On March 13, Governor Jim Geringer signed the compromise bill, which had been hammered out by a conference committee of opposing sides.

Written with excerpts from Associated Press writer Robert Black.



Remember the Blue Corduroy!

*Abbie Kammerzell
National FFA
Western Region
Vice President*

Blue corduroy... This classic and enduring symbol of the National FFA Organization is something that each of us, whether current or former FFA members, have at one time or another owned and proudly worn. As current and past members, we have had opportunity to travel, meet people, challenge ourselves, and excel beyond all what we thought was possible.

If you are an Alumni member, you may still have your jacket hanging in a closet somewhere or packed in a box. Hopefully, you have not lost track of it over the years. The skills and memories that were associated with that unique piece of clothing are most likely serving you and still alive in the recesses of your mind.

While wearing your jacket, you may have overcome a fear of public speaking or earned enough money to pay for college tuition.

Maybe your jacket went with you to the national convention in either Kansas City or Louisville where you met lifelong friends. As you wore your jacket, you probably felt that you truly belonged to a group. No matter where your jacket traveled during your years in the FFA, it was there with you, as you grew, and became the person you are today.

As national officers, we encounter past members throughout our travels. There are two common questions that we ask: "Who was your advisor?" and "Do you still have your jacket?" Most members can answer both questions. Over its 75-year-old history, the FFA has witnessed the tremendous impact advisors and the tradition the FFA jacket have had on its members!

Remember the adventures you had while wearing your jacket and the lessons you learned. Think about how you can help our current members experience those same adventures. You can make a huge impact on those students who are still wearing their corduroy jackets.

As the 75th anniversary draws near, you will have the chance as an Alumni member to dust off your FFA jacket. Let it see the light of day again and sift through the articles still stored in the pockets that were so important when you put them there. Remember the adventures you had while

wearing your jacket and the lessons you learned. Think about how you can help our current members experience those same adventures. Whether it's volunteering at a local contest or helping students with their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, you can make a huge impact on those students who are still wearing their corduroy jackets on a day-to-day basis. You can truly

spread the joy of corduroy to others through active Alumni membership. And don't forget to bring your jacket with you to the 75th National FFA Convention this October in Louisville!

Council Proposes Constitution and Bylaws Changes

Below are the proposed changes to the national constitution and bylaws. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the national office at (317) 802-4293. You may also contact the FFA Alumni President Cindy Ertestad at (503) 829-2530.

CONSTITUTION – CURRENT	CONSTITUTION – PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>Article I., Section B., Item 2</p> <p>To provide a tie to the FFA and to assist FFA and agricultural education personnel to involve former members in worthy activities.</p>	<p>Article I., Section B., Item 2</p> <p>To provide a tie to the FFA and to assist FFA and agricultural education personnel to involve former members <i>and supporters</i> in worthy activities.</p>
<p>Article V., Section B., Item 5 and 6</p> <p>The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following:</p> <p>5. One national FFA representative 6. Immediate past national FFA officer</p>	<p>Article V., Section B., Item 5 and 6</p> <p>The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following:</p> <p>5. <i>Two</i> national FFA <i>representatives</i> 6. <i>Two</i> immediate past national FFA <i>officers</i></p>
<p>Article V., Section B., Final statement</p> <p>The national FFA advisor, or his designated representative, and the executive director of the National FFA Alumni Association shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members.</p>	<p>Article V., Section B., Final statement</p> <p>The national FFA advisor, or his designated representative, and the executive director of the National FFA Alumni Association shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members. <i>The national FFA representative and the past national FFA officer in their first year of service to the Council will also serve in an ex-officio capacity.</i></p>
<p>Article V., Section C.</p> <p>;national FFA representative – 1 year ;immediate past national FFA officer – 1 year</p>	<p>Article V., Section C.</p> <p>;national FFA representative – <i>2 years</i> ;immediate past national FFA officer – <i>2 years</i></p>
BYLAWS – CURRENT	BYLAWS – PROPOSED CHANGE
<p>Article III., Section A., Item 5 and 6</p> <p>5. An immediate past national FFA officer shall be designated...</p> <p>6. A national FFA representative shall be selected from national FFA officer candidates interested in serving on the National FFA Alumni Council.</p>	<p>Article III., Section A., Item 5 and 6</p> <p>5. <i>Each year</i> an immediate past national FFA officer shall be designated...</p> <p>6. <i>Each year</i> a national FFA representative shall be selected <i>by the National FFA Alumni Executive committee</i> from national FFA officer candidates interested in serving on the National FFA Alumni Council.</p>

Public Notice

Joe Huber's Family Farm and Restaurant is unable to host "Alumni Night" at this year's national convention. The National FFA Alumni Association wishes to thank the entire Huber family for their hospitality and generosity in hosting this special event the last two years.

Grant Enriches Aquaculture Curriculum and Community

Instructor Doug Mayfield of Grayville, Illinois, is grateful that his local affiliate submitted an FFA Alumni Chapter Grant Program application. A \$1,000 grant was instrumental in alleviating the financial burden of purchasing new aquaculture equipment.

Since fish farming is a growing industry in the region, Alumni members and Mayfield decided it would be beneficial to invest in a school aquaculture system. The system includes a 300-gallon tank, a biofilter, and circulation pump for raising 25 fish at one time. The biofilter uses a bacterial culture to neutralize fish waste.

"With the recent construction of a fish processing plant in nearby Pinckneyville," Mayfield explains, "it was important that our program keep up-to-date and students learn basic aquaculture practices."

The aquaculture system will be used to teach students enrolled in the both the Agricultural Science and the Biological Sciences Applications in Agriculture courses. Students will study water quality, feed effi-

ciency, fish growth rates, and general fish farming management techniques.

Mayfield says the new system will eventually benefit every student in the district. "We annually conduct joint efforts with

"The skills and knowledge of aquaculture practices will enable students to generate more income for local employers who hire them."

*Doug Mayfield
Grayville, Illinois*

grade school and junior high teachers and students through our agriculture in the classroom program," Mayfield says. "During that presentation, we will highlight the aquaculture system and show them why it is important to learn about aquaculture."

District administrators and community leaders have reacted positively to the new

aquaculture program. Besides enriching the curriculum, the aquaculture equipment will provide students who want to remain in the local community with an advantage in securing local employment. "The skills and knowledge of aquaculture practices will enable students to generate more income for local employers who hire them," Mayfield adds.

For now the aquaculture system has peaked the interest and curiosity of students and staff. Mayfield often enters the local agriscience classroom to find people gathered around the tank and mesmerized by the swimming fish. Questions on how the system works lets him know that he's got students and the community hooked.

To learn more about the Grayville aquaculture program, contact Doug Mayfield at (618) 375-7114. You can obtain a Chapter Grant Program application by phoning the National FFA Alumni office at (317) 802-4293 or sending an e-mail to bhaig@ffa.org.



Grant Application Deadline

In 2001, 20 chapters from across the nation received a total of \$19,629 for various projects and learning opportunities as part of the Chapter Grant Program. The deadline for submitting applications for the 2002 Chapter Grant Program is September 15. Applications are available online at ffa.org or from the National FFA Alumni office by phoning (317) 802-4293.



Win a 2002 Polaris RANGER 4x4

In support of the National FFA Alumni Chapter Grant Program, Polaris Industries, Inc. is providing a 2002 RANGER 4x4 at cost for the association's annual raffle. Donation tickets for \$1 will be available at the 2002 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The winner will be chosen on Friday, November 1, during the Live Auction. Certain restrictions apply.



POLARIS
The Way Out.

Among Friends

These activities have increased FFA membership by 80 and Alumni rolls by 11 members in Milton, Wisconsin.

Milton FFA Alumni Offers Ideas, Activities to Bolster Local Support

At the 2001 National FFA Alumni Convention, the Milton, Wisconsin, FFA Alumni was chosen as the second most successful affiliate in the nation for its efforts. The affiliate has 60 annual members and 202 life members. Since 1979, the Milton FFA Alumni affiliate has consistently supported its local advisor, students, and agricultural education program.

Listed below are some of the Milton affiliate's key activities. These activities are provided as a service in hopes that they might inspire you in supporting your local program, its students, advisor(s), and the FFA chapter.

Instructional Activities

- Organized, planned, and completed a new 35-acre city and school park
- Organized and conducted park dedication day for 600 guests
- Raised and donated \$25,000 for a 40' x 90' park pavilion
- Donated 35-acre park to school district
- Purchased and maintained a 2000 Suburban for chapter
- Maintained fax machine, TV, VCR, and copy machine in agriculture department
- Completed and maintained new high school outdoor athletic facility
- Pruned, sprayed, and harvested Christmas trees for sale
- Sponsored and provided \$3,800 for five FFA members to attend Washington Leadership Conference
- Purchased IBM computer and software for department
- Sponsored and organized fourth-grade Food for America program
- Provided over \$7,000 in local FFA scholarships
- Established a low-interest loan account for student SAEs
- Provided "on the job placement" opportunities for students
- Sponsored chapter member to Australia FFA exchange
- Funded radio, TV, and newspaper ads promoting program and FFA

Cooperative Activities

(those conducted with the chapter)

- Sponsored an "Adopt the Highway" program for 10th years

- Organized, sponsored, and conducted a city-wide July 4 celebration
- Sponsored and conducted Annual FFA Week with Spaghetti dinner
- Conducted, sponsored, and organized annual homecoming activity night
- Sponsored and conducted annual parent-member chapter banquet
- Donated 50 dressed turkeys to food pantry
- Landscaped new high school facility addition and park entrance
- Assisted with county-wide dairy promotional breakfast
- Purchased a grill for FFA and Alumni events

Fund-raising Activities

- Sponsored and conducted a 16-team summer softball and volleyball tournament
- Sponsored, organized, and conducted a "fun auction" that raised \$30,000
- Sponsored and conducted a 4x4 Polaris raffle that raised \$8,000
- Conducted fair meat animal sale donations worth \$4,000
- Sold over 1,300 cases of fruit and cheese
- Prepared, grew, and sold over 300 poinsettia plants
- Sponsored a local golf outing and auction that raised \$7,000
- Harvested and sold over 50 Christmas trees and wreaths
- Sold raffle tickets for state Alumni convention
- Sold FFA/Alumni merchandise

Social Activities

- Organized Alumni holiday party
- Conducted annual July 4 celebration
- Sponsored and conducted annual FFA Alumni banquet
- Provided social activity at every monthly Alumni meeting
- Provided an "open gym" every Monday evening for members
- Sponsored and organized bow and trap shooting contest
- Conducted UW-Badgers athletic outings

Recruitment Activities

- Organized and conducted radio, TV, and newspaper ads promoting FFA
- Sponsored awards at local county and state fairs
- Assisted other schools in establishing Alumni affiliates
- Provide Alumni members to serve on school and local fair boards
- Invite guests to local meetings and activities
- Sponsor city chamber of commerce social gatherings

Working Effectively with Your Local Agriculture Instructor

Alumni Tool Box



*Survey submitted by Dean P. Gagnon
Agricultural Education Consultant and State FFA Alumni Council Liaison
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*

The purpose of your local FFA Alumni affiliate is to serve as an advocate for agricultural education.

Whether you find yourself in a community that has had the same teacher for many years or that has had several teachers in recent years, your role as Alumni members is to support the students and the program.

Teaching agricultural education is a challenging job. Teachers work individually with students on their supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, career goals, and training for various career development events offered through the FFA. Teachers also take students to leadership activities, thereby encouraging them to become better community leaders and volunteers.

Most of our teachers teach five to seven different classes a day. This is not the case with math, English or history teachers who might only prepare for two different classes per day.

You should know what your local agriculture teacher expects from the program. You can ask how you can assist in meeting those expectations. By traveling in the same direction as the local teacher, you can make reaching the goal so much easier for everyone.

The ideal agriculture program should function as follows:

- The agricultural education advisory committee provides the vision for the program.
- Your agriculture teacher(s) direct(s) the program.
- The local FFA Alumni and other volunteers support efforts to achieve the vision.

What is your FFA Alumni affiliate's score in supporting the local program?

Directions: Copy this form and ask your local Alumni executive committee or members at your annual meeting to evaluate your affiliate's progress. Place a check mark before all the items your affiliate is currently doing. Then add up the marks and see how you scored.

- Coach career development event participants.
- Assist with agricultural improvement programs.
- Assist with students' supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs and other work-based learning.
- Chaperone students on FFA trips.
- Raise funds to support the agriculture program and FFA chapter projects.
- Sponsor scholarships for FFA members' post-secondary education.
- Judge local award applications and career development events.
- Advocate for the agriculture program and FFA chapter at school board and town council meetings.
- Support exchanges between other chapters or international students.
- Transport students to FFA-related events and tours.
- Finance students' trips to Washington Leadership Conference or the national FFA convention.
- Provide opportunities for all of your Alumni members to become involved.
- Train Alumni officers to perform their responsibilities.
- Assume responsibility for Alumni mailings and award applications.
- Support an Alumni membership committee which is responsible for recruitment.
- Participate in sectional, state, and national Alumni activities.
- Other _____

_____ **TOTAL SCORE**

How does your affiliate measure up?

1-3 Fair. 4-8 You are helping kids. 9-14 Your kids are fortunate! 15-17 We hope you apply for awards!

National FFA Alumni Association
 Future Farmers of America
 6060 FFA Drive
 P.O. Box 68960
 Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

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Newsletter



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Nominations Sought for Council Member-At-Large Vacancies

The National FFA Alumni Association is currently accepting nominations for two Member-At-Large positions on the Council. The election for these positions will be held at the National FFA Alumni Convention business session on Nov. 1, 2002. All nominations must be postmarked July 15, 2002, or earlier to be accepted for consideration.

The Council is responsible for the policies and strategic planning of the National FFA Alumni Association. It also serves as the executive body of the Association and is subordinate to the National FFA Board of Directors. The Council meets at least twice each year. Its



members do not receive a salary for their work, but are reimbursed for travel expenses as established in the FFA Alumni policies.

These Council positions are established by the National FFA Alumni constitution.

Procedures for filling these positions are established by the national bylaws.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact the national office at (317) 802-4293 or bhaig@ffa.org.

Applications can be faxed to (317) 802-5293.

Special Notice:

Due to the lateness of this issue, the postmark date for all nominations has been extended to July 15, 2002.

Ideas, Promising Practices Needed

New Visions is looking for ideas, activities, and tips that you have used locally to build success for your agricultural education program and for students. If you or your affiliate would like to share your ideas, please send them to the National Office:



e-mail to
bhaig@ffa.org



fax to
 (317) 802-5293