



## Wisconsin FFA Alumni had an Awesome Year at the National Convention!

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association was named the Outstanding Alumni and Supporters State Association last month in Indianapolis. This is the highest honor given to an Alumni Association. We are excited that our efforts to support the local FFA Alumni chapters and Agriculture Education programs were recognized with such a prestigious honor.

Local FFA Alumni chapters can also receive national recognition as an Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter. Denmark FFA Alumni was named the Central Region winner and earned a spot on the stage. We are excited to report that they were selected the national winner.

We also had two wonderful Wisconsin FFA Alumni members honored at the convention with the FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award. There were three awarded at the national level. Mark Olsen from Denmark and Janet Schneider from Campbellsport received this honor. Congratulations to all of the award winners!



Mark Olsen and Janet Schneider received their awards at the National FFA Foundation dinner.



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## Council Corner

### Greetings From 2019-20 President, Cari Sabel



It is with great excitement and anticipation, that I extend a personal and heart-felt invitation to The 40<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention January 31 to February 2, 2020!

Co-Chairs Rae Nell Halbur and Mark Ladsten plus committee have been diligently working to put together a fantastic variety of educational, networking, entertainment, and fundraising opportunities!

As we celebrate "Vision + Leadership = Reality", join us for Friday's tour of Milwaukee Vincent High School Agriculture Education department and Friday evening fish fry prepared by their culinary department. All of these details and more are located at <https://wisconsinaged.org/>.

Saturday we have LOTS of business to attend to plus workshops plus many occasions to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances!

Early bird registration remains the best bargain and all of your registration needs may be found at <https://wisconsinaged.org/>.

The Milwaukee Marriott West is our convention location and I am so excited about seeing you ALL there! So, register early, have a blessed Holiday season with your family, then join Wisconsin FFA Alumni for our 40<sup>th</sup> convention January 31 – February 2, 2020.

*Cari L. Sabel*

President, WI FFA Alumni

## Convention Workshop Opportunities Being Planned

The convention committee has been working hard to plan various fun and helpful workshops. These include:

**Team up for Trivia!** This workshop will allow you to test your Wisconsin and FFA Alumni knowledge by competing in a team trivia event. There will be prizes & fun for teams of 4 to 6 people. Pre-registration is suggested, but walk-ins will be welcome. There will be a limit of eight teams.

**Being an Effective Local FFA Alumni Officer!** Every chapter needs members who are willing and able to serve on its officer team. Whether you plan to be an officer for the first time or you have years of experience as an officer this review of the fundamentals, responsibilities and best practices of being an FFA Alumni officer should help you to be a more effective

leader for your local chapter.

### **Strengthening your Local FFA Program by coaching**

**CDEs/LDEs!** Ever wondered how you can make your adviser's job easier, impact student success, and advocate for agricultural education content and skills? Then becoming a coach of a CDE or LDE is perfect for you! How do you approach your adviser about this? Where can I find resources, practice tests, sample work, etc.? Journey with Walter Taylor to explore how he has utilized alumni and industry individuals to assist with the daunting task of coaching over 25 CDE/LDE teams a year.

**How Far Can Ag Education Take You?** Join us for a discussion regarding agriculture education. A panel of Ag Educators, students, graduates, and potential employers will discuss the vast opportunities and pathways of post-secondary Agriculture Education.

**Milwaukee Vincent School Ag Ed Program.** Vincent was created as an agricultural school initially in the 1970's. Its agriculture focus waned in later decades due to funding issues. The program was revived in 2012 through partnerships among Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), individual University of Wisconsin (UW) schools, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), local businesses, and a couple of the school's science teachers. The program has flourished since its revival and they now have six agriculture teachers, who each oversee a pathway: animal science, horticulture, agribusiness, culinary arts, environmental science, and food science.

**Make Social Media a Great Marketing Tool!** The Wisconsin State FFA Officers will help you better understand how social media can work for your alumni chapter. What a great way to communicate with others about events and activities. Get connected and get others involved.

**Working With Your Local FFA Advisor!** Get some tips and suggestions, as well as resources that will help your alumni members be better equipped to work with the agriculture instructor. Many hands make light work and there are many talents to be shared at the local level. Gather and share ideas of how you may be the best supporter and advocate.

### **Utilizing Wisconsin and National FFA Alumni Resources.**

Gain firsthand experience and knowledge of the many resources available on the websites, including but not limited to membership, grants, deals for members, tax information and more. You are encouraged to bring along a laptop or other device, to dig in and bookmark things for easy access later.

**Idea Sharing 101!** This will be a great opportunity to collaborate with other alumni chapters throughout the state to see what they are doing to support their local agriculture education and FFA programs. Share ideas for financing, community involvement, resources and much more.



## Opportunities for Support During Alumni Convention

Message from the FFA Alumni Convention Committee:

“Many hands make light work!” With that being said, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Alumni convention just over the horizon, the planning committee is excited to share with you, our members and attendees, the different fund-raising opportunities that will be held during the event, which help support the Association’s mission.

We are adding a few new fun methods of fund-raising for the convention this year. Our wish is for people to be informed in advance of the convention, so that you, and/or your Alumni chapter, can discuss ahead of time, any interest in spending personal or chapter dollars.

- **NEW! Pre-convention online auction:** This an exciting new way for all members to engage with supporting the association prior to our convention. You can go to [O'Brien Auctioneers, LLC](#) website to review donated items for bidding. The auction will begin at 9 AM January 17, 2020 and conclude at 8:30 PM January 31. Watch for more details on the Association’s website and Facebook page.
- As in past years, there will be a live auction on Friday, consisting of items that have been donated by businesses and members. A new auction item twist will be a chance to purchase a seat (or seats) at a special dinner table, for up to 10 people, for Saturday evening’s banquet. This table will be upgraded from the regular menu and served steak and shrimp and the meal will include wine, served by our Wisconsin FFA Foundation’s Executive Director, John Hromyak! The table will receive special attention throughout the meal!
- There will be some heads or tails and 50/50 raffles to get folks moving and laughing throughout the weekend.
- **NEW! Friday evening at 8:30 p.m. we will draw the winners of the sporting raffle:** (See ticket sample) The reason that the drawing is being held already on Friday is so if the winners choose to take the money, instead of the raffle prize, the item will be offered up for auction at the

				<b>Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association Inc.</b>	
				<b>W2680 US Hwy 10 Granton, WI 54436</b>	
				Raffle Drawing: January 31, 2020	
				8:30 PM at Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention at	
				W231 N1800 Corporate Ct. Waukeshas WI 53188	
				Prizes Include:	
				1ST: Henry Golden Egg .22 cal rifle- custom engraved with the FFA Alumni logo and 40th Anniversary Convention- Donated by Bills Sporting Goods, Lomira, WI. OR \$ 400.00 cash	
				2ND: 16 Bird Pheasant Hunt, includes Sporting Clays, Cart and Lunch. Donated by Wild Wings Sportsmen's Club, Campbellsport, WI. OR \$400.00 cash	
				3RD: Sigger 12 ga Over/Under shotgun- Donated by Larry Lader, Clinton, WI. OR \$300.00 cash	
				4TH: Stevens Model 320 12 ga Pump shotgun- Donated by Ozaukee Guzzlers- Northern Chapter, Tomahawk, WI. OR \$200.00 cash	
				5TH: Fishing Equipment Package 2 Rods & Reels + Complete Tackle Box & Accessories. Donated by Midwest Shooters Supply, Lomira, WI. OR \$200.00 cash	
				<b>**Any Gun Winners MUST meet Federal Firearm Regulations!</b>	
				Ticket Cost: \$ 10.00 each or 3 for \$ 25.00 License No. R0014139-A-16604	
NAME	ADDRESS	CITY/STATE	PHONE		

live auction on Saturday evening. If you would like to help sell tickets, or buy some in advance of the convention, please contact Gene Hetebrueg (414) 416-9846.

- Silent auction items will be available to bid on throughout the weekend until Saturday evening’s events begin.
- **NEW! Dessert Dash:** During Saturday’s banquet each table will collectively work together to place cash in an envelope in the center of the table. The table with the highest amount collected will get to choose their dessert first. We will continue working our way around the banquet room based on the amount collected, until every table has chosen their dessert for the evening. The desserts will then be served by the Marriott wait staff for your enjoyment. The desserts will be homemade and donated by FFA Alumni members and you will be able to view them before dinner begins.
- Saturday evening is our traditional live auction. During this auction there will be baskets and other donated items. There will be a chance to buy a special leadership training event offered by the current WI FFA State officer team. This is a wonderful investment that can be purchased for your local FFA members. This traditionally is a high demand item. There will also be 10 painted baskets donated by the [2018 WI FFA State officers](#). The funds raised from these ten items goes to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.
- We are very excited for the upcoming convention and hope that this information helps new and past attendees prepare for a fun and educational weekend. If you have any questions, please reach out for answers by contacting convention chair, Rae Nell Halbur (920) 948-3173 or Cheryl Steinbach at the state office (715) 937-4838.

See you January 31<sup>st</sup>!

## 40th Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention Just Around the Corner!

It is now less than 2 months until we gather for our 40th annual Wisconsin FFA Alumni convention. There are lots of great events being planned and you will want to be sure to attend. Some specific details include:

- To be considered for early registration prices & drawings, registration & payment must be post-marked by **December 30, 2019**.
- Registration is open online at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/events/>
- Hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each individual attending. Rooms are blocked currently but will be released after December 30, 2019. That link can also be found on the website when you register.
- **Hotel Accommodations Are:**
  - **Milwaukee Marriott West**  
W 231 N 1600 Corporate Court  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
(262) 574-0888
  - **State Rate Room Charges are:**  
King Bed Single - \$ 65.00/night  
Double Beds - \$ 90.00
- Be sure to mention that you are with the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association.

The direct link to the hotel is <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1554989331008&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

The October Newsletter had all of the meals and scheduled events. In case you can't find it in your emails, you may access it at [https://wisconsinaged.org/library/news/October2019Newsletter\\_1.pdf](https://wisconsinaged.org/library/news/October2019Newsletter_1.pdf)

**PLEASE Remember**, if you have any special dietary needs, they should be sent to [execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org) by December 31, 2019.

## Business Meeting Items

National FFA Alumni has undergone numerous changes these past two years. In order to align the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association with the national organization, we will have to make several changes to our bylaws. Those changes will be posted on the website in December for you to preview prior to convention. Section representatives will also have information to share at the section meetings at the convention. Voting will occur at the annual business meeting on February 2.

In order to be a voting member at the convention, you are reminded that payment of your annual dues must be postmarked by January 2, 2020. This is to ensure ample time to validate all ballots.

There will also be several resolutions and the 2020 budget posted on the website for your preview as well, which will also be agenda items for the business meeting.

## Wisconsin FFA Alumni Social Media and Website Update

Do you want to stay current with Wisconsin FFA Alumni activities? Do you have something happening at your local FFA Alumni chapter that you would like to share with other Alumni chapters? Please be sure to check out, like and/or follow, our social media sites:

- Facebook - Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association
- Instagram - wisconsinffaalumni

The webpage has undergone a facelift, but it is still a major work in progress. We appreciate your patience as we work to fix the glitches.

## Holiday Shop With the Forever Blue Benefits

FFA Alumni can take advantage of additional savings for holiday shopping through the Forever Blue Benefits program. Access your discounts via the My Deals mobile app or go to <https://nffabenefits.enjoymydeals.com> and begin saving today. To set up your account, enter 201057 – *your FFA ID*. Your local membership person can get your membership number for you. Keep in mind, until the dues payments and rosters are received each year, the app will not work.

## 2020 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention

### 40th Anniversary Celebration Registration Form

January 31 - February 2, 2020 Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha

*Vision + Leadership = Reality*



*Convention 2020  
January 31st-February 2nd 2020*

- It is vital to include email and/or phone number for texts so that you may be notified of changes, etc.
- In order to be considered early registration prices and for the early bird prize drawing, registration and payment must be postmarked by **12/30/19**.
- All attendees must be registered to take part in convention events.
- Registration is transferrable between participants in the same year, but is not refundable.
- Only All-Inclusive registration options will be available after 12/30/2019 and the cost will increase.
- All online registration will close on 1/17/2020.

FFA Alumni Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Package Options</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<b>Individual All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 115.00 by 12/30/19, \$ 140 after 12/30/19) <i>Includes all Friday and Saturday Events and a Commemorative Mug</i>		
<b>Couples All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 220.00 by 12/30/19, \$ 270 after 12/30/19) <i>Includes all Friday and Saturday Events and 2 Commemorative Mugs</i>		
<b>Single Ala Carte Options:</b> Pick and Choose what you want.  <i>(These options are only available for early bird registration. They will no longer be available after 12/30/2019)</i>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
Friday Tour & Friday Night Dinner & Activities - \$ 30.00 each		
Saturday - Breakfast, Opening Session & Meetings - \$ 25.00		
Saturday – All Activities & Lunch Only - \$35.00 each		
Saturday – All Activities & 3 Meal Option - \$ 85.00 each		
Saturday – Banquet & Entertainment - \$ 40.00 each		
Commemorative Glass - \$ 25.00 each <i>(Use for free beer or soda Friday and Saturday night.) Guarantee you will receive one</i>		
<b>Total Registration Cost</b>		

**If Applicable - Friday Fish Option - Select one:**

Baked Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Batter Fried Fish \_\_\_\_\_

**If Applicable - Saturday Lunch Option - Select one:**

Beef Wrap \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Chicken Wrap \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable and mail to:**

**Additional Questions, please contact:**

2020 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention

Convention Co-Chairs: Rae Nell Halbur at 1-920-948-3173

Janet Schneider, Convention Treasurer

or Mark Ladsten at 1-608-215-4353

N6291 County Rd G, Saint Cloud, WI 53079

Or Call: 920-948-7110

*The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association, Inc. strives to be Wisconsin's premier agriculture education advocate. We support the local FFA Alumni Chapters so that they are better equipped to assist their local community, agriculture instructor(s) and agriculture youth.*