**Section 8 Alumni Report**

*2019 Fall Banquet*

* The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association Mission Statement is as follows: ***The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association, Inc. strives to be Wisconsin’s premier agriculture education advocate. We support the local FFA Alumni Chapters so they are better equipped to assist their local community, agriculture instructor(s) and agriculture youth.***
* The website for the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association and the entire state FFA family has a new look! Checkout the address [www.wisconsinaged.org](http://www.wisconsinaged.org). Let us know if you find any issues as it currently is still being updated.
* All state alumni awards are to be postmarked to the state office by November 1st. **(New deadline)** Please utilize the website for award information.
* Please add the Sectional Representatives to your local newsletters, email lists, and social media platforms. This allows us to help promote your activities / events to a wider audience and keeps us informed of any opportunity that we may visit your chapter that fits into our schedule. If your chapter has a specific event that they desire a Sectional Representative to attend, please contact us for availability. It gives us great pleasure to see Section 8 alumni chapters in action at their events!!!
* All state and national newsletters are now electronic. Please take time to update your rosters with current emails for all members. If your chapter membership person needs help with this, please feel free to contact Cheryl Steinbach, State Executive Director, or one of the Sectional Representatives. Rosters must be updated or no information will be able to get to chapter members from the national or state association. Also, please make sure any high school graduates do not have an old school email as those addresses are deleted once a student graduates.
* Nationals has proposed to eliminate annual dues for the 2020 – 21 year. They are proposing a required affiliation fee from all chapters, whether 25 lifetime members or not, of $100. This will be voted on by the National Board of Directors in early November. If it passes, Wisconsin will also need to follow that same process of eliminating annual dues. The state finance committee is currently reviewing the state budget to see what level the state would need to charge. The Sectional Representatives will notify chapters as information is available.
* FFA Alumni membership deadlines are sooner in order to ensure that the best service to members is being provided.
  + Membership year runs from August 1st to July 31st.
  + December 1st is the online roster deadline, but submit as many as you can sooner, as no annual members get any information until they are renewed.
  + January 2nd is the payment deadline.
  + Any alumni chapter that is affiliated must still submit a roster each year.
  + All chapters must also submit a list of current officers by December 1st in order to maintain their active status.
* The State FFA Alumni Association offers 14 - $450 scholarships each year. 1 per section is guaranteed. Application is under the Awards and Recognition section of the Participate tab on the new website.
* Leadership Conference Scholarships form has been updated on the new website under the Alumni tab. There will be 29 - $100 scholarships awarded this Fall for the 212 and 360 FFA conferences. Alumni chapters are now to apply for the funds to use towards sending students instead of FFA members individually applying. This form is also on your tables tonight and with other award applications on the new website.
* State FFA Alumni Convention will be on January 31st through February 1st in Waukesha. Tour of Vincent High School Ag Department and fish fry from the culinary department on Friday. Great workshops, awards presentations, and many other exciting activities. Something for everyone…consider attending, you will not be disappointed. Saturday evening entertainment is dueling guitars. Sections 4, 5, and 10 are hosting. More information is included in the latest state alumni newsletter.
* The State FFA Alumni Convention is still looking for help with funding for convention. If you know of individuals, businesses, and / or alumni chapters interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Cheryl Steinbach.
* The 2020 State FFA Alumni Convention is planning on having an online auction in association with the regular auction. A trial run is currently going on now until 6 PM on Sunday, October 20th. See the State Facebook page and website for links. While there please like and follow the State Facebook page please.
* Any resolutions that local alumni chapters want to submit for the State Convention must be postmarked by November 1st to the State Executive Director.
* Each team of Sectional Representatives will be able to choose one FFA Alumni chapter from their section to receive 1 free 2020 FFA Alumni Convention Registration Package under the FFA Alumni Convention Scholarship Program. The sectional representatives will contact the chapter receiving the scholarship no later than November. A FFA Alumni chapter is chosen for various reasons such as achievement of a goal, re / activation of the chapter, overcoming a challenge, drawing, and / or etc..
* The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association has grants available for $550 each. Six are available for new / reactivation of a chapter and an additional 6 more are available for chapter support. These grants were budgeted for this year and the applications are available on the new website.