



# The Announcer

October 2017

**Editor: Cheryl Steinbach**  
**Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director**

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## National FFA Convention and Alumni Annual Meeting Information

There are 3 amendments that will be handled by this year's delegates at the National FFA Alumni annual meeting, this Friday, Oct. 27. These include the following:

- ◆ Amendment # 1—Increase the number of Past National FFA Officers on the National Alumni Council from 2 to 3 and lengthening the terms from 2 to 3 years.
- ◆ Amendment # 2— Is a proposed change to the allocation process of state delegates numbers for national voting purposes.
- ◆ Amendment # 3— Is the membership dues proposal which would keep individual national dues at \$ 10.00 annually and national lifetime dues would raise to \$ 200.00.

Complete details of the amendments and their rationale can be found at [https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/2017\\_alumni\\_bylaw\\_amendments.pdf](https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/2017_alumni_bylaw_amendments.pdf). Currently Wisconsin has 27 delegate votes on these proposals. We still have 6 delegate seats that need to be filled because of cancellations. Please contact Cheryl Steinbach at [execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org) if you are planning to attend the convention and would be able to be a delegate. If you have never attended before and would be interested, there is transportation available. Just contact Cheryl. You may also call her at 715-937-4838 if that is more convenient.

Results of the voting and convention highlights will be featured in the next newsletter.

### USDA Secretary of Agriculture will attend National FFA Convention

Secretary Sonny Perdue will be attending the National FFA Convention and expo on Wednesday, October 25. He will meet with the National FFA Foundation at noon and then at 2 PM he will moderate the first-ever #SpeakAg dialogues. He also plans to visit the expo that afternoon to see the various agricultural career pathways our FFA members can explore. He will then have press availability before he speaks at the convention opening session 1B.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Pg. 2 - President Elect Message  
Alumni Award Opportunities
- Pg. 3 - State FFA Alumni Convention  
Membership  
Sectional Leadership Workshops
- Pg. 4 - State FFA Officer Profile  
Grants Still Available  
FFA Crisis Relief  
Social Media and Calendar

## Council Corner

### Greetings From 2017-18 President Elect, Mark Ladsten



I Can. We Will. This is the National FFA Alumni Convention theme this year. It couldn't be any more appropriate for us as the Wisconsin FFA Alumni. We can all make small impacts that turn into big accomplishments, which are big impacts for our FFA Alumni and our FFA Programs.

As we continue our school years we need to continue to do those small impacts that will help out our Alumni Chapters, FFA students and Advisors as well. I was able to see Alumni members taking simple steps to learn how to best serve at the Section 6 Sectional Leadership Workshop this month.

I know there were many Alumni members that attended each of the workshops, and being able to see the excitement and care these members have to help support FFA members and their local chapters is a great reminder of what we are all here trying to accomplish for our local chapters and our state association as a whole. At the sectional leadership workshops we learned how we can be of help to our Alumni and FFA Chapters. There we were able to think of ideas and share them in order to grow our chapters. Meeting other Alumni member from across our sections and the state has always allowed us to grow and be more successful.

Each of us individually can accomplish new heights for our Alumni chapters, and together we will help support and serve our local Alumni chapters, Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association, and the National FFA Alumni to ensure they are successful today and for many years to come. I cannot wait to see what all we are able to accomplish! "I can. We will." Each of us can make a difference, and together we will.

## Alumni Award Opportunities

It is that time of year again when chapters may begin applying for the various awards available through the Wisconsin FFA Alumni. All awards are due postmarked no later than November 30th. All applications may be mailed to the Wisconsin FFA Alumni office at W2680 US Hwy 10, Granton, WI 54436.

If you have applied in the past, please note the updated applications and if you have never applied before, the council highly recommends that you check them out. The applications are available online at [wisconsinffaalumni.org/awards\\_and\\_grants/](http://wisconsinffaalumni.org/awards_and_grants/).

These awards are presented as part of the state FFA Alumni convention in February. This is a great chance to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals and chapters throughout the year.

The various awards include:

- ◆ Agriculture Teacher Recognition Program
- ◆ Outstanding Achievement Award
- ◆ Outstanding Chapter Award
- ◆ Outstanding Young Member Award
- ◆ Team Ag Ed Distinguished Contributor Award
- ◆ Newsletter Award
- ◆ Website Award

Please note the council has approved the replacement of the scrapbook contest with a scrapbook "open house" beginning with the 2018 convention.

For additional information on the FFA Alumni awards please feel free to contact one of your sectional representatives or an executive council member.





## State FFA Alumni Convention Planning Continues

Sections 8 and 9 met again on October 14 to continue planning for the 2018 State FFA Alumni Convention to be held February 9 & 10 in Appleton. Many of the final details are falling into place nicely. It proves to be an energizing and motivational convention with something for everyone. The registration should be ready online within the next couple of weeks. Please watch the website under the Events tab and we hope to have it ready by the beginning of November. There will be discounted registration costs for those who register early. We will be including additional information in the upcoming newsletters.

Any resolutions that are to be presented at the state convention this year must be sent to the FFA Alumni Executive Director at [exec.dir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:exec.dir@wisconsinffaalumni.org) by November 11, 2017. There are still plenty of opportunities to help out with this year's convention. Please contact Convention Chair, Cari Sabel, at [csabel@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:csabel@wisconsinffaalumni.org).

## It Is Membership Time Again

FFA Chapters have begun to submit their membership rosters online. The first initial deadline is January 1, 2018 so the sooner you get at the process, the easier it is for everyone.

When members register it is vital that their individual profiles are updated to include current mailing addresses and emails. Since we no longer have hard copy newsletters being mailed, the only form of communication is through the email, both at the state and national levels. If your email is not provided or the one listed is incorrect, you will not be able to receive the monthly newsletter and other pertinent information.

As we progress forward with this process, we continue to update our mailing list each month, based on new chapter rosters as they are submitted. If there are members in a chapter who do not have a valid email address, we highly recommend that the local chapter have some printed out for those members.

## Fall SLW Training Complete

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni tried a new project this fall by hosting workshops for Alumni members in conjunction with the FFA Sectional Leadership Workshops. Though some sections had better attendance than others, we as a council are pleased with the participation and would like to continue this in the future. Thank you to everyone who attended and we would especially like to thank Candi Lehto, Section 8 representative, as she hosted many of the workshops for us. We welcome any ideas or suggestions for next year so we may continue to grow this program.



## Meet Your State FFA Officer



My name is Ciara Koboski and my parents are Todd Koboski and Amy and Paul Ervin. I am currently serving as State FFA Vice President from Section 3. I grew up and I am still living in the town of Black River

Falls, WI. I am attending the University of Wisconsin River Falls in the fall of 2018 to major in Agriculture Education. I have always had an interest in plants and animals for as long as I could remember. I didn't grow up on a farm, so when I was little I would talk my dad into letting me have a garden that I called my little farm.

The garden was not my only interest in plants, most of my SAE were experiments with different plants and the medias they grew in. I also used to have a jungle of plants in our front window upstairs that I got from making cuttings from the plants we already had.

As I grew up, little by little my parents would let me have pets. It started with guinea pigs, moved on to rabbits, and then I got hamsters and turtles. My friends always referred to my bedroom as a zoo. These are just a few things that help describe me. When I was in the eighth grade I had a friend who encouraged me to join the FFA. Once I started to get involved I fell in love with it and kept getting more involved. I never knew how much an organization could feel like family until I met my FFA family.

## Grants Still Available

Wisconsin FFA Alumni still has 2 grants available for local FFA chapters. The updated applications are on the website so be sure to look at them. They are due postmarked November 1, 2017 in order to be considered at the next council meeting. The council

wants to utilize these funds to help out local chapters so we look forward to seeing the applications.

## Check Us Out on Social Media

To better serve our members and potential members Wisconsin FFA Alumni now has a Facebook page and Twitter account. Be sure to like us on both media forms so that you may be kept informed of what is going on. We can be found by searching Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association. In addition, our webpage continues to be updated and revamped so check back regularly for changes.

## FFA Crisis Relief Information

With so many different natural disasters happening recently the National FFA organization recognizes that this is an opportunity for FFA and FFA Alumni members to help serve those in need. There have been numerous reports of various individuals from Wisconsin FFA and Wisconsin FFA Alumni who have traveled throughout the nation these past couple of months to help victims of the hurricanes, floods, fires and more. THANK YOU for your example of kindness, leadership and support. This demonstration of compassion exemplifies the mission of our organizations. For more information about the national crisis relief efforts you may go to the website [www.ffa.org/crisisrelief](http://www.ffa.org/crisisrelief).

## Calendar of Events

- Oct. 25 – 28 – National FFA Convention
- Oct. 27 – National FFA Alumni Annual Meeting
- Nov. 1 - WI FFA Alumni Grant Application Postmarked
- Nov. 10 - Alumni Council Training/Committee Meetings/FFA Conference Support
- Nov. 11 - State FFA Alumni Council Meeting
- Nov. 11 - Deadline to submit Resolutions - Postmarked
- Nov. 30 - All State Award Applications Due - Postmarked
- Dec. 2- 2018 Convention planning meeting, 9 AM, Location TBD
- Jan. 1- Recommended deadline for rosters and dues.
- Jan. 6 - 2018 Convention planning meeting, 9 AM, Location TBD

*We strive to be Wisconsin's premier Agriculture Education advocate with FFA Alumni support in every community. We envision our diverse, positive, community committed organization to provide resources to support youth development and leadership.*