



# The Announcer

November 2018

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**Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director**

## National FFA Convention and Alumni Annual Meeting Updates

Several Wisconsin FFA Alumni members were recognized at this year's national FFA convention and Alumni and Supporters annual meeting last month in Indianapolis. The highlight of the convention was when Wisconsin FFA Alumni was named the national winner of the Outstanding Alumni and Supporters State Association award on the main stage of the FFA convention. This award recognizes state associations for the work at the state level assisting local FFA Alumni chapters and for the various state programs and projects, such as grants, scholarships, workshops, leadership training, etc. that promote advocating for Agriculture Education and FFA.

Wisconsin was also recognized at the annual meeting for their 100% Life Member State FFA Officer Team and for being fifth in the nation for membership. The total Wisconsin membership for 2017-18 was 19,691 members. This includes 5,894 lifetime, 4,274 annual and 9,523 associate members. Wisconsin added 100 new lifetime members last year. There was a total of 197 chapters, of which 79 were affiliated and 118 non-affiliated.

Two of our state lifetime members were honored at the convention by receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award. John Arneson of Stoughton and Greg Lincicum of Juda were presented the award, also on the main convention stage. These two individuals were selected as gold ranked recipients at our last state convention, so their applications were forwarded to nationals and they were both selected to be honored. We also forwarded the two gold National Outstanding Chapter Award applications from state convention, Marshfield and Stoughton on to national competition. Marshfield was selected as the region 3 winner, so they were recognized on stage with a silver award. Stoughton was also recognized at the alumni annual meeting with a bronze award.



### IN THIS ISSUE

Pg. 2 & 3 - State FFA Alumni Convention Information.

Pg. 4 - Convention Registration Info

*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.*



### **State FFA Alumni Convention Approaching Fast**

It is only a few months until we gather for our 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 **January 7, 2019**.
- Registration is now open online. Just go to our webpage [www.wisconsinffaalumni.org](http://www.wisconsinffaalumni.org).
- Hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each individual attending. Rooms are blocked currently but will be released after January 7, 2019.
- Contact the executive director by January 7, 2019 of any dietary concerns or special needs at [execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org).
- **Hotel Accommodations Are:**
  - Holiday Inn**  
1001 Amber Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54482  
(715) 344-0200
- **State Rate Room Charges are:**
  - Single - \$ 82.00
  - Double - \$ 109.00
  - Triple - \$ 109.00
  - Quad - \$ 109.00
- A block of rooms have been reserved, be sure to mention that you are with the FFA Alumni group.

### **Friday Afternoon Activities Include:**

- Registration Begins at Hotel – 12:00 PM
- Auction items, baskets, etc. may be turned in at the main registration area starting at noon.
- An optional Bus Tour will Load Bus at Holiday Inn Convention Center @ 2:00PM. (Please see the description in next column).

- There is a special tour option, for an additional fee, that is being offered on Friday afternoon, February 8, for those who would like to have an extended weekend.
  - ◇ This bus tour will depart the hotel at 2 PM and will feature 3 different sites to visit.
  - ◇ One of the stops include the Sunset Point Winery for tasting and a tour of the winery. This stop offers a sample of 6 different wines or 1 full glass of wine and includes a souvenir glass to keep.
  - ◇ Another stop on the tour is Oso's Brewery, which will include a tour of the brewery and 1 beer option.
  - ◇ The third business being toured is Great Northern Distillery, which also includes an option for 1 drink.
  - ◇ The cost of this tour is \$ 35.00 and it is not included in the regular convention package, but some people indicated an interest to see these businesses in the area.
  - ◇ There will be a maximum of 50 people to attend the tour and there must be a minimum of 25.

### **Friday Evening:**

- Dinner is on your own. There is a restaurant right at the convention center that offers Friday night fish specials and many other options, but there are also several restaurants near the hotel.
- The remaining Friday evening activities will be held at the Holiday Inn & Convention center.
- Registration will continue through the evening.
- The Silent Auction and Basket Raffles will begin at 7 PM and will run through Saturday.
- There will be a Social Hour Beginning at 7 PM. There will be light hors d'voves and beverages available.
- A commemorative glass is available for purchase and that will enable you to have free beer or soda throughout both Friday and Saturday evening. We are encouraging you to reserve yours when you register to guarantee that you have them.
- The Live Auction will begin at 8 PM. The committee will be accepting any donations for the silent or live auctions. If anyone has a donation and wants to be included in the program, please notify the committee prior to January 1, 2019.
- Entertainment after the auction will be the Soggy Prairie Boys band.

- Choosing the all-inclusive registration option allows you to enjoy the hors d'vores and entertainment on Friday evening, along with all of Saturday's activities.

**Saturday is packed full of many events.**

- **Buffet Breakfast** will include scrambled eggs with cheddar cheese, buttermilk pancakes, home-style potatoes, sausage links, assorted pastries, seasonal fruit, orange juice, coffee, tea and milk.
- You are invited to take your breakfast plate to your respective **Section meetings** to plan and coordinate activities unique to your section.
- After the individual section meetings the different section groups that are paired for planning upcoming conventions will group together to collaborate as needed.
- We plan to hold our opening session at 10:00 AM, followed by our annual **Business Meeting**. The proposed resolutions will be posted online shortly.
- **Lunch** will consist of beef tips over egg noodles, garden salad, seasonal vegetables, rolls with butter, coffee, tea, milk or lemonade.
- The **keynote speaker** for the luncheon will be **Kim Bremmer**, who grew up on a dairy farm, creator of Ag Inspirations. Kim is a nationally recognized speaker who started Ag Inspirations with a mission to inspire farmers to tell their stories, connect people to where their food comes from, and represent the great success of American agriculture today. She is passionate about teaching the story of sustainable agriculture and the role of science, technology and innovation in how we grow and raise food.
- There will be a **tour option** following the luncheon for those interested. We have 3 choices of tours to register for. These will be one-hour tours and there is room for up to 50 people to go on each tour. The options are:

1. Feltz Family Farm and Dairy Store, which features a robotic milking operation that markets their own products. It consists of a tour of the robotic milking facility to see firsthand some of the latest innovative technology the dairy industry has to offer. The tour will include a visit to the store.

2. Visit the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Soil and Water Management program facility and Tropical Arboretum.

The center has a working wastewater treatment plant with state-of-the-industry technology, the same processes and technology used in municipal wastewater treatment plants across the United States. This also includes a stop at their tropical arboretum.

3. Tour the Point brewery. This is the third-oldest continuously operating, privately owned brewery in the United States. The walking tour includes a history of the brewery, a trip around the brewing, aging, packaging, and warehouse facilities.

- On the registration form, you may choose any of these tours or you may choose to not attend.
- Various **workshops** will be offered Saturday afternoon after the tours return. There will be two rounds of workshop options, on several different topics, in order to allow you to maximize your networking & learning opportunities. The workshops are being finalized and more details will be released in the next newsletter.
- The Wisconsin FFA State Officer team will once again offer their **reflections** program prior to the banquet. This is always very inspirational.
- The **Banquet** meal will feature chicken cordon blue, garlic mashed potatoes, baby carrots, salad, rolls with butter, coffee, tea and milk.
- Dessert will be apple pie.
- Chapter and individual awards presented on Saturday during the opening session and during the banquet.
- The **Live Auction** will begin at **8 PM**.
- Entertainment for the evening after the auction is **The Fun Piano Show**, featuring two hours of dueling pianos. If you have never seen dueling pianos before, this is something you do not want to miss. If you have seen a show before, you know that each show is unique to the crowd and you will be looking forward to it.
- There is a wide variety of options for convention packages to purchase. They may be seen on the next page.
- Don't forget to make your hotel accommodations early.
- Mark February 8 - 9, 2019 on your calendar today and get that early bird registration complete.



Working As  
A Team In  
2019!



## 2019 State FFA Alumni Convention Registration Form

February 8 – 9, 2019 Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Stevens Point

FFA Alumni Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 **1/7/19**.
- 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 1/7/2019.
- All online registration will close on 1/28/2019.

<u>Package Options</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<b>Individual All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 100.00 by 1/7/19, \$ 125 after 1/7/19) <i>Does not include Friday tour, that is an extra charge. Please add selection below.</i>		
<b>Couples All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 190.00 by 1/7/19, \$ 240 after 1/7/19) <i>Does not include Friday tour, that is an extra charge. Please add selection below.</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 1/7/2019)</i>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Friday Tour, 3 Site Stops - \$ 35.00 each</b>		
<b>Friday Tour &amp; Friday Night Hors d'vores &amp; Activities - \$ 50.00 each</b>		
<b>Friday Night Only, Hors d'vores &amp; Activities - \$ 20.00</b>		
<b>Saturday – All Activities &amp; Lunch Only - \$35.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – All Activities &amp; 3 Meal Option - \$ 85.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – Banquet &amp; Entertainment - \$ 40.00 each</b>		
<b>Commemorative Glass - \$ 20.00 each</b> <i>(Use for free beer or soda Friday and Saturday night.) Guarantee you will receive one and not have to pay at convention.</i>		
<b>Total Registration Cost</b>		

**You Must Select Preference for Saturday Tour if Registered for Saturday.**

- I will not participate in Saturday Tour  
 I will participate in Saturday Tour - # Attending \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, then my tour choice is: (Please mark your choice with an X).

1<sup>st</sup> Individual

- \_\_\_\_ Feltz Farm & Dairy Store  
 \_\_\_\_ UW Stevens Point stops  
 \_\_\_\_ Point Brewery

2<sup>nd</sup> Individual (of couple's registration)

- \_\_\_\_ Feltz Farm & Dairy Store  
 \_\_\_\_ UW Stevens Point stops  
 \_\_\_\_ Point Brewery

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