



WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The Announcer

October 23 2020

Editor: Cheryl Steinbach
Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

URGENT - National FFA Convention Registrations Closes Today at 11 PM

The National FFA convention is being held strictly online this year as a virtual event due to the Covid pandemic. It begins next Tuesday, October 27 and runs through Thursday, October 29. All of the information for the convention can be found at <https://convention.ffa.org/registration/>. Registration closes at **11PM tonight, Friday, October 23**, so you need to sign up now.

If you miss the deadline, you may want to check with your agriculture instructor to see if they have any extra registration codes from their chapter, since they order for groups of students. Some of the events can be logged in to and watched live, while others are interactive workshops, and some others are recorded.

According to the ffa.org website, "General sessions will come live from the RFD-TV studios in Fort Worth, Texas. You may tune in on your streaming device to watch the national officer retiring addresses, American FFA Degree ceremony, new officer selections and more. The free, live broadcasts air twice daily and are available on the Cowboy Channel, FFA.org, FFA social media pages and through a streaming service for an additional fee."

We are excited that Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters will be represented in several categories and featured at the 1 PM Wednesday, October 28 session.

Candie Lehto of the Oconto Falls Alumni in section 8 will be receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award. Denmark FFA Alumni is a Regional Finalist in the Outstanding Chapter Award category, and the Stoughton Alumni was also one of the nominated chapters. Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Association is also a Regional Finalist, within the Outstanding State Association Award category.

When sharing results from convention at the local level on social media, be sure to use #FFA20.



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2 -Fall Meetings & Alumni Workshops

Page 3 -Membership & 2021 Convention

Page 4 -Convention, Awards & Grants

Fall Section Meetings -

Section meetings are an opportunity for chapters to gather with other chapters to hear from section reps what is happening at the state level and collaborate with other leaders from their section. Sections 1, 2, 8 and 9 have already had their meetings, but there are still several more planned. Information was sent to the registered local chapter leaders, but if you would like to attend, you may contact us at execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org and we will send you the appropriate zoom link.

All the meetings are being conducted virtually, with the exception of section 3, who is having an in-person option, as well as, zoom option. Simply send a message and tell us what chapter you are from and we will send you the correct zoom link.

- Monday, October 26 - 7 PM - Section 7 via Zoom
- Thursday, October 29 - 7 PM - Section 5 via Zoom
- Thursday, October 29 - 7 PM - Section 3 at GALS Longbranch Bar and Grill at 7509 Carmel Avenue in Sparta. Food will be available for purchase if you choose. If you attend in person, you confirm that you understand the risks of Covid exposure and assume personal responsibility. Masks and social distancing, as per the Health Department, is required. There is also a zoom option available if you prefer to request that link.
- Monday, November 2 - 7:30 PM - Section 6 via Zoom
- Tuesday, November 3 - 7 PM - Section 4 via Zoom
- Thursday, November 5 - 7 PM - Section 10 via Zoom

Elections are also on the agenda for several of the sections. We have the following open positions for Section Representatives, to be installed during the state Alumni convention. There are two openings in sections 2 and 4 and one opening in each of the sections 6, 7 and 9. Section 10 has Gene Hetebrueg completing term one, and is willing to run for term two, but the election still needs to be held. If you would like more information about being a section

rep please contact your reps, or any of the executive committee. Please also let your reps know prior to the meeting if you are interested. All of the email contacts for the full council can be found at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/council-directory/>. All candidates must pass a background check before being installed.

Check Out The Alumni Workshops

Fall Leadership Workshops for Alumni & Supporters - The past couple of years Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters has been offering leadership workshops for alumni members in conjunction with the FFA Sectional Leadership Workshops held each fall. The SLW is being held in a modified format this fall and will be held virtually, but our state Alumni will still be offering workshops as part of their event. To register for any of the workshops, you may either send an email to execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org and she will send you the link directly, or you may contact your agriculture teacher and they can sign you up the same time they register their students. Our workshop dates and times are:

- Wednesday, November 11 - 6 to 7 PM - How to attract younger members to your Alumni chapter.
- Thursday, November 12 - 6 to 7 PM - Working with your agriculture instructor.
- Saturday, November 14 - 3 to 4 PM - Working with your agriculture instructor.
- Monday, November 16 - 6 to 7 PM - Working with your agriculture instructor.
- Tuesday, November 17 - 6 to 7 PM - How to attract younger members to your Alumni chapter.
- Wednesday, November 18 - 6 to 7 PM Working with your agriculture instructor.



Membership Updates Needed and Deadline Approaching Oct. 31

This is a reminder that we have started a new roster year and all chapters are now affiliated. By being affiliated, it means the chapter pays one yearly fee of \$ 300 to cover national and state fees. That amount allows chapters to register as many annual members as they want throughout the year. There is only one week left for chapters to submit their initial roster to be able to deduct a \$ 50 early bird discount. If the roster and payment is postmarked by October 31, chapters may send only \$ 250. After that it is \$ 300 and the final deadline is December 1.

Since your chapters are now affiliated, we encourage you to help spread the word and ask others to join your local alumni. Reach out to parents of students, local businesses or others you think may be interested, and invite them to join. Our mission is to advocate for Agriculture Education programs, FFA and agriculture instructors. Many individuals have time or talents that can be used to help fulfill the mission and now that there are no dues they have to pay; they may be more eager to sign up. You can add people throughout the year.

We realize that nationals said they would automatically send invoices this fall, but due to a glitch in the system, that did not happen, and invoices are tied to the rosters yet this year. So, please help your local chapter leaders out by making sure that they have your current email and mailing address. This makes the job to update easier for them and ensures that you are up-to-date on information at the state and national level.

If you are interested, Lifetime membership is still an option. For a one-time investment of \$ 350 individuals can become lifetime members. This is a way to help support the national and state alumni and supporters as some of those funds are placed in

investment accounts to raise funds and help ensure that there are funds in the future to maintain leadership programs at both levels. Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters receives several thousand dollars each year from the national investments and that money is used for Washington Leadership Conference student scholarships, as well as, state leadership conference scholarships. In addition, Wisconsin puts aside some of the state lifetime fees into investments to help grow income for the future.

If you have any questions about membership or want to update your personal profile, feel free to contact the executive director at exec.dir@wisconsinffaalumni.org.



Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters State Convention -

The 2021 convention planning committee continues to work hard, looking at various options and activities of how our annual convention can be conducted, even in these times of Covid. They are currently planning a modified hybrid convention which will be held all on one date, which is February 13, 2021. Having a hybrid convention would allow those who were comfortable attending the convention in person, to attend at the Hyatt Regency in Green Bay, while also providing a virtual option, for those who would rather participate from home. If you attend in person, you confirm that you understand the risks of Covid exposure and assume personal responsibility. Masks and social distancing, as per the Health Department, would be required.

Convention Continued...

As the Covid situation continually changes, it is very difficult to plan, but at this point there are a few certainties. Having auctions at the convention would be very difficult to do safely, and to abide by the social distancing guidelines. We are currently looking at extending our online auction options to correlate with convention. Obviously, since convention typically is our biggest fundraiser of the year, we do not make this decision lightly, but we must conform to the guidelines. In addition, with so much uncertainty, we do not know what February holds, so we want to plan things that can continue no matter what. We are asking chapters and individuals who normally bring an auction item to the convention to consider donating something for the online auction or making a cash donation to the Association since we want to ensure we can continue to offer our chapter grants and student scholarships and leadership sponsorships. Please contact execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org if you have an auction item you would like to contribute.

Other events for convention will include section meetings, workshops, national updates, business meeting, election of our new Vice President and more to be determined. The council meets November 14 and then the planning committee on November 18, so we hope to have a more finalized plan and be able to open up registration by November 23. There would still be hotel rooms available to make reservations for those traveling far, or choosing to make a weekend of it, but please understand that we cannot guarantee anything at this point. Please watch the website at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/events/> for updates, further details, registration link and hotel information, as well as, the online auction link and details.

If you wish to look at the hotel to see their policies and safety procedures in helping to make your decision on attending, you may check out their website at <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/wisconsin/hyatt-regency-green-bay/grbrg>.

Awards Deadline Just Around the Corner -

It is hard to believe that it is almost November, but as the calendar turns to November 1, chapters are reminded that all award applications are due postmarked or emailed by November 1. There are many outstanding individuals and chapters out there that deserve recognition so we strongly encourage you to consider applying,

either for yourself, or nominating someone from your chapter. All of the revised award applications can be found online at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/awards-and-grants/>. The awards available include:

1. Chapter Website Award judges the chapters website for such things as usefulness, timeliness and originality.
 2. Chapter Newsletter Award cores the chapter newsletters based on content, layout and readability.
 3. Outstanding Chapter at the State Level Award has three categories based on size, so that chapters can be judged on the level of activities that they conduct. Since smaller chapters may not have the same amount of people or resources to do as much as a larger chapter, they are scored according to membership size.
 4. National Outstanding Chapter Award is a more advanced level award for chapters that are very involved at not only the local, but also state and national levels. The state winner of this award is nominated to national competition.
 5. Outstanding Young Member Award recognizes members 35 years or younger that are actively serving their local chapter.
 6. Outstanding Agriculture Educator Award allows chapters to nominate their instructor for some special recognition.
 7. Outstanding Achievement Award is designed to honor someone who has given a lifetime of commitment to FFA Alumni at the local, state and national levels. The state winner is then submitted to the national level for judging.
 8. The Team Ag Ed Contributor Award is to nominate and honor individuals, groups/organizations, or companies who may or may not be Alumni members and make significant contributions as part of the TEAM AG ED concept.
- Please consider nominating someone or your chapter for these recognition awards.

Grants Still Available -

Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters still has funds available for grants. There are two grants, both kinds worth \$ 550 each. There is one set of grants for New or Reactivated chapters, which provides funds to help get a chapter up and running and there is also another set called the Chapter Support grant. These grants provide funds to assist the alumni chapters with a project or program that includes the alumni working directly with the FFA chapter. These grants may be found at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/awards-and-grants/>. Once your chapter receives a grant, there is a simple follow-up form that needs to be completed so we can record the funding to national FFA.