



WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The Announcer

Spring, 2026

Editor: Tari Costello
Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

We're Listening!

Do you have questions about the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters?

Do you have suggestions for our organization?

Join us for a Zoom Meeting(s) on April 7, April 16, or April 22 from 6:30 –7:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to share your ideas or ask questions about the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters.

For April 7 use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87112551985>

For April 16 use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068817171>

For April 22 use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82548307624>



[Living To Serve Sponsors Shout Out](#)

KONDEX®



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2: State Alumni and Supporters Convention Awards, Meet Your State Council Members

Page 3: State Raffle Profit Distributed, WLC Scholarships, Updating Your Roster, National FFA Alumni Fee Increase

Page 4: Chapter Grants Available, Magnets Available for Sale, New Chapters, How Can You Help Your Local Program

State Convention

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2026 State FFA Alumni and Supporters Convention a success! Your efforts did not go unnoticed. On behalf of the Convention Committee, thank you for your feedback.

Congratulations to all of the award winners recognized at the convention.

Outstanding Agriculture Educators

Troy Talford, Sauk Prairie State Winner
Marty Nowak, Denmark; Cierra Essock, Cambridge; Joe Heinbuch, New Holstein; Dan Robinson, Lomira; Samantha White, Stoughton; Olivia Lulich, Viroqua; Jen Bos, Shell Lake; Abbey Meffert, DeForest; Jeremiah Ihm, Sauk Prairie.

Outstanding Young Member Award

Sally Ladsten, Sauk Prairie

Outstanding Achievement Award

Frank Kuzma, Sauk Prairie

Outstanding Contributor Award

Sally Ladsten, Sauk Prairie and Joe Schlies, Denmark

Dr.V.O.and Ann Martinson Award

Elkhorn FFA Alumni and Supporters

Outstanding State Chapter

State Winner: DeForest; 2nd Sauk Prairie; 3rd Lomira; 4th Shell Lake

National Outstanding Chapter

State Winner: Granton; 2nd Stoughton; 3rd Denmark

Public Relations Award

State Winner: Elkhorn; 2nd Granton; 3rd Sauk Prairie

Outstanding Service Award

Shari Graffunder, River Valley



2026 State Council Members

Congratulations to the members of the 2026-27 Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters State Council members.

Front Row L to R: Todd Coons, Vice President, Shell Lake; Missy Steffes, President Elect, New Holstein; Chris Blank, President, Cashton; Nick Lowe, Past-President, Stoughton.

Row 2 L to R: Brook Woodbury Mueller, Baraboo, Section 6; Jaydon Lietzau, Sparta, Section 3; Nicole Wallander, Kiel, Section 9; Cheryl Coons, Shell Lake, Section 1; Agnes Buttke, Cadott, Section 2; Susan Brugger, Fennimore, Section 4; Kimberly Kaiser, Auburndale, Section 7; Mary Gundrum, Mayville, Section 10; Laura Kanis, Viroqua, Section 3.

Row 3 L to R: Nick Meller, Wisconsin Dells, Section 6; Jerry Wendt, Stoughton, Section 5; Jim Schneider, Campbellsport, Section 10; Dan Ziegler, New Glarus, Section 5; Kathy Schmidt, Brillion, Section 9; Nick Huffman, Pecatonica, Section 4; Mark Kunde, Winneconne, Section 8; Will Litzer, Edgar, Section 7.

Missing: Jill Welke, Osseo-Fairchild, Section 2

Congratulations Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters! We have a record-breaking membership year with 32,488 members!!

State Raffle Proceeds Distributed

The purpose of the State FFA Alumni and Supporters Raffle was to provide leadership development opportunities for Wisconsin FFA members. The total raised was \$30,333.73! At the State Council Retreat the decision was made to provide funding for the following items:

\$ 18,993.73 Proficiency Award Sponsorship, \$3,400.00 Leadership Development Event sponsorship, and \$8,000 Career Development Event Sponsorship.

Sponsorship of these three award areas provide leadership opportunities for Wisconsin FFA members in grades 7-12.



Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship Winners Announced

14 Wisconsin FFA members were selected as recipients of the 2026 Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship in the amount of \$750.00 each.

Congratulations to the winners:

- Section 1: Alexis Schuebel, Shell Lake
- Section 2: Heath Johnson, Osseo-Fairchild
- Section 3: Alex Solverson, Viroqua
- Section 4: Abby Rech, Lancaster
- Section 5: Charles Crowson, Wisconsin Heights
- Section 6: Etelka Feher, Waupun
- Section 7: Brenna Thiel, Auburndale
- Section 8: Aspyn Pfefferle, Freedom
- Section 9: Selma Burtnett, Sevastapol
- Section 10: Peyton Schoenbeck, Elkhorn

At-large scholarship recipients:

- Allison Stieglitz, Greenwood
- Raedyn Vande Hei, Seymour
- Natalie Kieffer, Lodi
- Brynn Venner, De Soto

Congratulations FFA Members!

Have You Updated Your Chapter Roster?

Has your FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter updated your roster? In a random check, there were almost half of the rosters that have not been updated for at least a year, some have not been updated since 2019 or before!

Please reach out to your chapter leaders to determine if you have updated your roster. With the affiliated membership fees, please note that your chapter membership fee is the same, regardless of the number of members listed on your roster. Have you included all of your members? Chapter Supporters? PLEASE take the time to review the members listed on your roster to make sure you have included everyone who should be listed!!

National FFA Increases Membership Fees

The National FFA has announced that National Membership fees will increase from \$100 to \$125 effective for the 2026-2027 membership year.

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters State Council has approved to **NOT** pass this increase onto the state chapters.

The breakdown for membership fees for 2026-2027 will be:

\$125 National Dues, \$175 State Dues

For **EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP** (dues paid by October 1) will be:

\$125 National Dues, \$125 State Dues

Mark your calendars to pay your chapter membership fee by October 1!





WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS

A Legacy That Leads

OSHKOSH, WI | FEBRUARY 19-20, 2027

Chapter Grants Available

All Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapters are eligible to apply for one of three chapter grants.

The three grant options are Support Grants, Reactivated Chapter Grants and New Chapter Grants.

The grants are available for up to \$1,000 and can be applied for every other year. Grant applications are intended to provide funding for FFA Alumni and Supporter events and promotional items. Examples of approved grants include tables, nesco, grills, Alumni and Supporter hats, etc. Grants are **not** meant to provide items for the FFA chapter.

Following the acceptance of a grant, recipients are expected to provide a follow-up grant form as well as bring a display to the State FFA Alumni and Supporters Convention showcasing the use of the grant funds.

Grants are reviewed quarterly at the State FFA Alumni and Supporters State Council meetings.

Grant applications are at: <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni-awards-grants>

Magnets Available

Are you looking for an item to share with your FFA Alumni and Supporters members at an upcoming event?

The “A Legacy That Leads” magnets are available for purchase for just \$1.00 each. Contact Tari Costello at tcostello@wisconsinffaalumni.org to order today!

New Chapters Forming

Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters had an exciting year with the addition of 10 new chapters last year!

We have gained one new chapter already in 2026 with conversations with three other schools interested in starting Alumni and Supporters chapters.

If you know of a school interested in starting a new Alumni and Supporters chapter, please reach out to your Sectional Officer or Tari at tcostello@wisconsinffaalumni.org

What Are you Doing to Support Your Local Teacher and Program?

As an FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter, what are you doing to demonstrate your support for your chapter and/or Agriculture Education Instructor?

Take a moment to reach out and ask if they need some help with

- Banquet Prep
- CDE or LDE coaching
- Greenhouse work or sale
- Food for America Events
- Provide food for an event for them
- Offer to run errands to pick up supplies
- Prepare for the State FFA Convention
- *Please take a moment to ask how you can help!!*