



The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association presents...

# The Announcer

Spring 2009

Distinguished History Is Model For Addressing Future Challenges

*By Ken Harter, 2009-2010 President*

I have been reflecting on the history of this organization and the FFA as our new year begins. That reflection recalls challenges faced by agriculture education and the FFA in the past. The vocational agriculture program (as it was known at the time) and FFA were eliminated at my high school and many others shortly after I graduated due to school budget constraints. At such times Ag Ed leaders and instructors rose to challenges with innovative thinking and hard work. The formation of the FFA Alumni Association is one result. The result of their effort is what we today consider an educational model second to none and the greatest youth development organization in the nation.

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**Contact Information:**

WI FFA Alumni Association  
Jayme Buttke, Executive Director  
6097 Pinion Pine Way  
Fitchburg, WI 53719  
Phone: 608-274-6228  
Fax: 608-274-6338  
[wiffaalumni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wiffaalumni@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.wisconsinffaalumni.org](http://www.wisconsinffaalumni.org)

As our communities, state and nation faces economic challenges unprecedented in most of our lifetimes it is our turn to rise to present challenges. The FFA Alumni has a critical role to play in the continued success of Ag Ed and the FFA. Through continuing material and volunteer support of our Ag Ed instructor/FFA advisors and FFA members, and effective advocacy for the program with local and state government decision-makers we can see Ag Ed and FFA weather this storm too.

There are currently a number of positive developments on which we can build our case. Science credit for high school agriculture courses allows students to meet core academic graduation requirements without having to give up an elective agriculture course. With state legislation again introduced to further increase math and science graduation requirements FFA Alumni can work with local agriculture instructors to advocate for the adoption of qualified Ag courses for science credit by local school districts. The Wisconsin Agriculture Education and Workforce Development Council is already raising public awareness of the importance to our economy of Wisconsin's \$51 billion agriculture industry and the critical need for trained employees to maintain that industry. The council will coordinate employee training needs of businesses in various segments of agriculture with training provided in our high schools and state technical college and university system schools. Every Ag education department and community in Wisconsin stands

to gain by the success of this council. Nationally, education leaders are focusing on STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum that is considered essential to preparing today's students for careers of the future. There seems to be increasing understanding of the potential for curricula such as agriculture and FFA to contribute to that goal. So what was considered a nice but not necessary curriculum targeting a dwindling proportion of the school population is being increasingly viewed as a critical educational element in state economic development and having the "right stuff" to move students toward meaningful, satisfying careers of the future. Through volunteering, advocating, and cheerleading FFA Alumni can help write a new chapter in the legacy of agriculture education and FFA. Let's take up the challenge.

## Convention Wrap-Up:

A big thank you and job well done to the Section 6 and 10 convention planning committee and their leaders, co-chairs Sandy and Don Larsen and Kevin Larsen. Approximately 300 Alumni members registered for the 2009 convention "Making Headlines in 2009" at the Ho-Chunk Hotel in Baraboo. The three fundraising auctions raised \$20,000. Congratulations to the award winners recognized during the convention. Plans are rapidly moving forward for the 2010 Convention that will take place February 12 and 13 at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc hosted by Section 8 & 9.

## 2009 - Award Winners

Congratulations! If you or your alumni won a gold at the convention in February, you are now eligible to compete at the National Convention. Awards must be submitted to the National FFA Alumni by July 1. Double check the signatures required for your official application. If you have any questions, contact Jayme Buttke.

## Local Program Grant

The Local Program Support (LPS) Grant Program offers FFA chapters (that have an active FFA Alumni) the opportunity to apply for up to \$1,000 for projects related to curriculum, leadership development and the FFA. An active FFA Alumni has a current roster sent in with at least 10 state and National Alumni members. You can download the application from the National FFA Alumni website. Remember, this award is due **July 1**.

## Brewer Outing

Mark your calendars for this year's Brewer Outing for FFA and Alumni members. This year's Milwaukee Brewers game will take place on Sunday, August 16 against Houston at 1:05 pm. You can register for the game and tailgate party. Please see the reservation form in the newsletter. **All reservations must be postmarked by July 1** and mailed to Jayme Buttke. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to show our support for the Brewers. We have a block of 350 tickets reserved at this time. Be sure to get your reservations in early as tickets are on a first-come first-served basis.

## Has Your Roster Been Sent In?

Thank you to all Alumni who submitted their rosters by the March 1 deadline to be considered for WLC Scholarships and state alumni awards. If you haven't yet turned in your rosters for 2009, there is still time to be considered for National Alumni awards and grants. **Please return all remaining rosters by May 1** so I have time to review your roster and meet the National deadline of May 15.

If you have any questions as to who received the rosters for your affiliate or whether they've been submitted, please contact Jayme Buttke immediately. Contact information is located in the table of contents. Just a reminder, your officer lists are just as important as your rosters. In order for us to get the correct information to our members, we need to know who to contact. Please submit these as soon as your elections are held.

## Spring Sectional Meetings

Sectional FFA Alumni meetings are held in the spring and fall of each year hosted by your two sectional representatives. These meetings are your direct link to the State Association and an opportunity to share ideas, find out more about the Alumni, ask questions, and enjoy the fellowship of other Alumni members. We are asking that sectional representatives get the meeting dates established so that you can put the dates on your calendars. Watch for your sectional newsletter, pass along the information to your local members, and please make an effort to send at least 1-2 members from your affiliate to the meeting. The following sections have tentatively scheduled the following dates: Section 2 – April 21 at Glenwood High School at 7:30 p.m.; Section 3 – April 18 at Black River Falls in Ag Room at 8 p.m.; Section 4 – April 15 in Mineral Point High School at 8 p.m.; Section 5 – April 27 at Culver's in Newville at 7:00 p.m.; Section 8 – April 2 at the Fox Ballroom in Cecil at 7:30 p.m.; Section 9 – April 2 at Altoona Supper Club in New Holstein and April 16 at DJ's in Denmark; Section 10 – April 14 at Ponderosa in Hartford at 7:00 p.m.

You can see an updated list of meeting dates by visiting us online at [www.wisconsinffaalumni.org](http://www.wisconsinffaalumni.org) and looking at your sections tab.

## 2010 Alumni Convention

Save the dates of February 12, 13 and 14, 2010 for the WI FFA Alumni Annual Convention. Sections 8 & 9 are hosting the convention at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc.

### **Hotel info:**

Reservations call: 920-682-6000  
Reservation deadline Jan. 15, 2010  
Reserve under code "FFA"

### **Room Rates-**

\$85 (plus tax) single occupancy  
\$90 (plus tax) two-four person occupancy

### **Contact Info:**

Amy Zernicke  
N2156 Two Creek Rd  
Bonduel, WI 54107  
715-758-6160  
a.zernicke@yahoo.com

## State Leader's Conference

The National FFA Alumni will be hosting the State Leader's Conference in Montrose, CO July 15-19 where all attendees are invited to learn how to "Say It, Do It, Live It!" All FFA Alumni members can attend this dynamic four-day conference designed to gather local and state FFA Alumni leaders for workshops, updates, and idea sharing! With registration, participants will receive conference supplies, local transportation, four nights/five days of hotel stay (double occupancy), and the majority of meals. Transportation to and from the conference site is the responsibility of each attendee. Each state association may send one official representative who pays a reduced fee; the balance is covered by a \$200 SLC grant awarded by the National FFA Alumni Association. Additional Alumni members are encouraged to attend! Spouses and family members are welcome to attend for a special fee, which includes lodging, tours, group meals, and social activities.

Participants are encouraged to make travel arrangements, so they will arrive at the event hotel between 3 p.m. (hotel check-in time) and 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, and depart by check-out time (Noon) on Sunday, July 19. Air travel should be arranged to Montrose, CO, Regional Airport (Airport code MTJ). The 2009 SLC conference kickoff dinner and the opening session will begin at 7 p.m. on July 15.

If you have any questions, contact alumni@ffa.org or 317-802-4332. Registration is available online at www.ffa.org/alumni from April 1- June 1 for more details. If you would like to attend as part of the Wisconsin delegation, please contact Jayme Buttke by May 15 and she'll complete Wisconsin's registration as a group.

## WLC Scholarships Announced

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni is pleased to announce that we were able to award 23 WLC Scholarships this year. Congratulations to the following recipients:

**From National:** Sixteen of the scholarships were based on our membership submitted to the National Alumni office. Receiving scholarships includes: Big Foot, Emily Cemy; Cochrane-Fountain City, Megan Hurlburt and Michelle Pehler; Colby, Rachel Sossaman; Darlington, Emma Berget; Johnson Creek, Kayla Wright; Marshfield, Shawn Esselman; Oconto Falls, Bryce Iverson; Portage, Skylar Reeson; Spencer, Justin Cowell and Tanika Reckner; Stoughton, Bryan Wendt; Tomah, Jacob Granger and Kyle Holmes; Weyauwega-Fremont, Zachariah Mielke; and Winneconne, Stacey Kunde.

**From State:** Three scholarships were from profits we received for the attendance to the Milwaukee Bucks game in March. Receiving scholarships includes: Neillsville, Jake Mitte; Colby, Ethan Ensign; and Sauk Prairie, Mark Ladsten.

**From Sect. 1, 2, 4, & 7 Convention:** Four scholarships were awarded as part of dedicated funds from the 2006 Convention held in sections 1, 2, 3, & 7. Receiving scholarships include: Glenwood City, Katie Tone; Thorp, Miranda Czubakowski; Loyal, Scott Beyer; and Marshfield, Matt Burr.

All winners will be receiving a letter from the WI FFA Alumni along with instructions on how to receive their scholarships. Again, thank you for the quality of the applications. Wisconsin will be well represented in Washington. Congratulations!

# Wisconsin FFA Alumni Annual Award Winners

*Presented at the 2009 Annual Convention for the 2008 Membership Year*

## AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS:

Awarded to affiliates that maintained 100% of last year's membership with a minimum of 10 members. Members are based on those in good standing with the State and National Associations.

### **Bronze:** *(increase of 7-14 members)*

Augusta, Clinton, Edgar, Greenwood, Hartford, Janesville, Kiel, Lake Mills, Lancaster, and Marshfield.

### **Silver:** *(increase of 15-24 members)*

Denmark, Evansville, and Fort Atkinson.

## EAGLE AWARD

Awarded for the greatest annual percentage increase in total membership. **Congratulations Greenwood.**

## DR. V.O. MARTINSON AWARD

Awarded for the greatest increase in annual membership. **Congratulations Fort Atkinson.**

## ANN MARTINSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Awarded for the greatest increase in life membership for State and National dues paid. **Congratulations to Evansville.**

## CHAPTER GRANTS:

FFA Chapters that have an active FFA Alumni can apply for Local Program Grants. These grants, given in amounts up to \$1000, can be used for curriculum, equipment, FFA supplies or other needs of an FFA Chapter. Receiving grants this year include: Denmark, Edgerton, Oconto Falls, and Randolph-Cambria-Friesland.

## COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS:

Section 3: Dan Follendorf, Sparta  
Section 4: Anna Keough, Argyle  
Section 6: Kathy Breunig, Sauk Prairie  
Section 8: Amy Zernicke, Bonduel  
Section 9: Sherrie Pinkerton, Kiel  
Section 10: Ricky Kreif, Kewaskum  
Vice President: Brent Bailey  
President-Elect: Herman Seebandt  
President: Ken Harter  
Past President: Ken Seering

## NEWSLETTER:

**Silver:** Stoughton

**Gold:** Denmark & Sauk Prairie

**Newsletter Contest Winner – Sauk Prairie**

## SCRAPBOOKS

**Bronze:** Johnson Creek, Waterford

**Silver:** Blackhawk, Kiel, Ripon, Tigerton, Verona

**Gold:** Denmark, Milton, Sauk Prairie, Stoughton

**Scrapbook Winner: Denmark**

## OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE

The Outstanding Affiliate award is an overall evaluation of an affiliate's activities.

**Bronze:** Auburndale, Lena, and Sun Prairie

**Silver:** Brodhead and Mauston

**Gold:** Denmark and Stoughton

**Top Outstanding Affiliate – Denmark.**

## DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTOR

Distinguished Contributor recognizes the efforts of FFA Alumni members and supporters. The award highlights the leadership and service to agriculture education, the FFA and the FFA Alumni. This year's Silver Recipient was Barb Lowe from Stoughton.

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Outstanding Achievement recognizes local alumni members that have gone the EXTRA MILE for the benefit of youth wearing the blue and gold jackets.

Harley Stokstad, Stoughton – Silver Certificate

Jerry Maurer, Verona – Gold Plaque

Eric Tremel, Denmark – Gold Plaque

## BASKET WINNERS

### **Baskets Large Category:**

1. Sauk Prairie
2. Denmark
3. Tomah

### **Baskets Small Category:**

1. Brodhead
2. Sun Prairie #15
3. Stoughton

# PLAY BALL!

**Mark your calendars now for the  
Wisconsin FFA Alumni  
Summer Outing  
Sunday, August 16, 1:05 pm  
Miller Park  
Milwaukee Brewers vs. Houston  
Tailgate party 11 am – 12:30 pm**



Cost: \$30 for game ticket & tailgate party (includes hot dog, brat, chips and 2 sodas)

Our costs have gone up this year as the Brewers have increased their rates. We will be in section 234, which is near the left field foul pole. To make your reservation, return the bottom portion of this flyer along with your payment post marked by **July 1, 2009**. Checks should be made payable to WI FFA Alumni Association and mailed to 6097 Pinion Pine Way, Fitchburg, WI 53719. We have 350 tickets reserved for the game. Tickets will be on a first-come, first-served basis so get your order in early.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jayme Buttke at 608-274-6228. If you will be traveling as a large group and arriving on a bus, please indicate that on your reservation form. An advanced bus pass for parking is \$35.00.

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## **August 16, 2009 Brewers vs. Houston at 1:05 pm**

I would like to purchase the following number of tickets:

_____ Game ticket & tailgate party	x	\$30.00	=	_____
_____ Bus Parking Pass	x	\$35.00	=	_____
<b>Total Enclosed</b>			=	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

May checks payable to WI FFA Alumni and mail to  
6097 Pinion Pine Way, Fitchburg, WI 53719.  
Any questions, call 608-274-6228 or e-mail: [wiffaalumni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wiffaalumni@sbcglobal.net).

## **WI FFA Alumni Committee Recruitment**

*One of the ways that Wisconsin FFA Alumni members can learn more about state activities is to serve on a statewide committee. The duties of the various committees are listed here. Some committees have a designated membership due to current policy or officer positions. The other committees are open to any member. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Executive Director Jayme Buttko.*

### Executive Committee

- Serves as the administrative committee of the Association, transacting business between regular Council meetings as authorized in the By-Laws; or by action of the Council.
- Meets as required to address issues and make recommendations to the Council.
- Reviews agenda for Council meetings prior to distribution to Council members.
- Judges applications and selects recipients for the WLC scholarships supported by the Association.

### Finance Committee

- Establish the annual operating budget to be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting of the Association for approval.
- Periodically monitor the current operating budget.
- Annually review the performance of invested assets of FFA Alumni Association.
- Review the investment strategy and vendor performance periodically and recommend changes to the Council as appropriate
- Periodically review compensation and reimbursement policies and recommend changes to the Council as appropriate.

### Awards Committee

- Promote member and affiliate participation in the awards programs.
- Annually review award programs and recommend changes to the Council as appropriate.
- Recruit and orient judges for awards programs. Work with Executive Secretary to coordinate judging of awards.
- Assist with awards presentations at the annual convention.

### Resolutions/By-Laws Committee

- Solicit resolutions from members, affiliates, and Council members and committees for presentation at the annual business meeting.
- Review, format, and present resolutions at the annual business meeting, including coordinating printing of resolutions in the business meeting program.
- Periodically review by-laws and recommend changes to the membership at the annual business meeting.
- Accept suggestions to by-law changes from Association members, review, and prepare for presentation to the membership at the annual business meeting.

### Membership Committee

- Generate ideas for retaining and increasing membership and carry them out.
- Support and assist sectional representatives with member recruitment, and reactivation of inactive affiliates and organization of new affiliates.
- Work with Executive Secretary on annual roster update process.
- Work with Executive Secretary to monitor affiliate roster completion. Communicate delinquent affiliates to sectional representatives for follow up.

### Communications/Promotions

- Establish an aggressive public relations program to sell the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association vision, mission, and goals to our members and increase the awareness and understanding of our organization by the general public.
- Evaluate promotional booth and update as needed with effective messages geared for the variety of audiences it will be used with.
- Work with the Executive Secretary to coordinate use and staffing of the promotional booth at the Wisconsin FFA Convention, WAAE conference, Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention, and other appropriate gatherings.
- Work with the Executive Secretary to periodically review and update the Association web site to maintain its currency and effectiveness in communicating our message to members and the general public.

### State FFA Alumni Convention Committee

- Serve as liaison between local convention planning committees and the Council.
- Provide continuity in convention planning over time
- Insure that all provisions of the current Convention Policy are being followed by the convention planning committees.
- Annually review the Association Convention Policy and recommend revisions to the Council as needed.
- Advise and assist local convention planning committees as needed or requested.
- Membership is to include: President as chair, one other state executive committee member, two past convention planning executive committee members, and no more than two additional at-large members. The association Vice President and Executive Secretary will serve as ex officio members of the committee.

### Program Development Committee

- Evaluate needs, coordinate and organize orientation and leadership training for the Alumni Council and leadership training for Wisconsin FFA Alumni members.
- Periodically review the FFA Alumni Handbook and recommend changes to the Council.
- Work with the Executive Secretary to update the FFA Alumni Handbook as needed and inform affiliates of the availability of updates on the Alumni web site.
- Periodically review Wisconsin FFA Alumni mission and vision statements and goals. Coordinate revisitation of the mission and vision at a determined interval to insure continued relevancy.

### Past President Committee

- Recruit candidates for the position of Council vice-chair.
- Support and advise the Executive Committee and Council as needed and requested.

### Fundraising Committee

- Seek out, evaluate, and recommend to the Council potential state Alumni fundraising activities.
- Coordinate and manage state Alumni fundraisers.

## **Legion of Merit Awards Due**

The purpose of the Legion of Merit Citation is to recognize National FFA Alumni members who provide leadership and spend their own time and energies to help build the National FFA Alumni Association. Legion of Merit Award winners are recognized at the National FFA Alumni Convention. Forms can be downloaded from the Wisconsin or National FFA websites.

To qualify for the Legion of Merit Citation, a National FFA Alumni member must enroll 15 new or renewed National FFA Alumni annual members or five new life members for the current membership year. The award will be based on membership submitted by the May 15 roster deadline date and all applications must be received in the **National FFA Alumni office with postmark date no later than May 15**. Send the forms directly to the National FFA Alumni, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

## **2009 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association State Council Contact Information**

Below are the phone numbers for our 2009 WI FFA Alumni State Council. Their complete contact information is available on our website at [www.wisconsinffaalumni.org](http://www.wisconsinffaalumni.org). Please check it out for information regarding your section. Past President, Ken Seering, 920-863-2747; President, Ken Harter, 920-846-2046; President Elect, Herman Seebandt, 715-743-4184; Vice President, Brent Bailey, 608-343-1439; Section 01 Randy Bader, 715-554-1255; Section 01, Michael Richter, 715-236-3261; Section 02, Kristy Mayer, 715-456-3150; Section 02, Bonnie Walters, 715-772-3344; Section 03, Dan Filla, 715-985-2184; Section 03, Dan Follendorf, 608- 633-9035; Section 04, Bob Keough, 608-543-3881; Section 04, Anna Keough, 608-543-3881; Section 05, Jim Check, 608-868-2209; Section 05, Daniel Monson, 608-897-8106; Section 06, Kathy Breunig, 608-544-3356; Section 06, Don Larsen, 608-963-4401; Section 07, Lance Syring, 715-897-2266; Section 07, Chris Langenhahn, 715-443-0043; Section 08, Ray Dusel, 920- 596-3983; Section 08, Amy Zernicke, 715-758-6160; Section 09, Paul Hazaert, 920-863-8084; Section 09, Sherrie Pinkerton, 920-973-4944; Section 10, Ricky Kreif, 414-587-2816; Section 10, Wendy Kreif, 262-483-7272; Exec.Dir./Tres., Jayme Buttke, 608-274-6228.

**Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association, Inc.**  
**6097 Pinion Pine Way**  
**Fitchburg, WI 53719**

**“Advocates for Agriculture Education”**

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ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMITE NO.  
MADISON, WI

**Calendar of Events: *Mark these dates on your calendar!***

Spring Meetings	Section 1: TBA Section 2: April 21 at Glenwood High School at 7:30 p.m. Section 3: April 18 at Black River Falls Ag Room at 8:00 p.m. Section 4: April 15 at Mineral Point High School at 8:00 p.m. Section 5: April 27 at Culver’s in Newville at 7:00 p.m. Section 6: TBA Section 7: TBA Section 8: April 2 in Cecil at the Fox Ballroom at 7:30 p.m. Section 9: April 2 at Altoona Supper Club and April 16 DJ’s in Denmark. Section 10: April 14 at Ponderosa in Hartford at 7:00 p.m.
May 15	Rosters and dues due to National to qualify for awards & delegate counts
May 15	Legion of Merit Applications due to National
June 27, 2009	Council Picnic and meeting in Oconto Falls.
June 1	State Leaders Conference Registration due to National
July 1	Local Program Support Grant Applications
July 1	Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate, Outstanding State Affiliate, Outstanding Achievement, Affiliate Newsletter, State Newsletter, Affiliate Website, State Website, National Distinguished Contributor applications and Scrapbooks due to National
July 1	Council Nomination Applications due to National
July 15	Auction Items to appear in Catalog due
July 15-19	State Leaders Conference – Montrose, Colorado
September 12, 2009	President’s Meeting, Portage 10-4 p.m.
September 12, 2009	Council Meeting, Portage 6 p.m.
October 22–23, 2009	Alumni Convention
November 6-7, 2009	Council meeting at Holiday Inn in Manitowoc.
December 31	Award Applications for alumni convention due to state office