



WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The Announcer

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Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director



Engage—Transform—Empower

Register Now for the 2025 State FFA
Alumni and Supporters Convention!

Registration closes January 10!

The time is NOW! Registration is open for the
**2025 FFA Alumni and Supporters State
Convention at the Holiday Inn Stevens Point, February 7-8!**
To register go to: wisconsinaged.org/alumni-state-convention
The hotel block is available at a discounted rate until January 7.

RESERVATION: Attendees can book their lodging reservations online by using the Online Hotel Block System.

To make reservations over the phone, please call 715-344-0200 and press #1. When making reservations, please reference the group name for **WI FFA** or the Group Block Code: **DPF**.

DEADLINE: Group rate will be available until **January 7, 2025**, or (until the block is full). On this date, any remaining rooms in the block will be released for general reservations at the hotel's prevailing daily rate, which may be higher than the group rate. Please book by **01/07/2025**.

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Friday Tours Leaving at 12:00

The convention planning committee has coordinated two tours that are sure to please! Be sure to sign up for one of these tours **OR** the make and take sessions!

Brewery and Distillery Hop (21+):

Experience Stevens Point's culture with a tour of Point Brewery and Great Northern Distillery. On this set of tours, the team will taste and experience what goes on to craft Stevens Point Brewery's world-renowned products all while taking a tour of the facility. The group will also travel to Great Northern Distillery where they will learn about the art of crafting whiskey, rum and vodka. While there they will have a tour and be able to sample a cocktail. As a summary this option includes multiple beverages and a souvenir pint glass.

Central Sands Agriculture and its Footprint on Wisconsin:

On this tour option the group will travel to the Food + Farm Exploration Center, home of the world's largest potato masher. While there the group will tour the facility and hear about what the Farming for the Future Foundation is doing for Wisconsin Agriculture. While there, the group will also have mini sessions where they will hear from business and industry professionals about the central sands region of the state and how they impact Wisconsin Agriculture.

Friday Make and Take Sessions

Starting at 12:00

Leather Making Workshop:

In this hands-on workshop presented by Todd and Cheryl Coons, participants will learn about leather tooling and craft a leather item of your choosing!

Painting Workshop:

Briana, better known as Bri ZG, is the creator of U Paint and Party, central Wisconsin's original Paint-and-Sip company! With over 20 years of experience in the painting-for-entertainment industry, if anyone can help you feel like an artist while ensuring a fantastic time, it's Bri! All skill levels welcome, everyone can Paint & Party! Just follow along with Bri step-by-step and

stroke-by-stroke.

Bri's motto? It's "Art done FUN! and that's just FINE!" No experience is needed—just bring your enthusiasm! You'll leave with a beautiful work of art and lasting memories.



Meals

The meal selection for the convention is sure to please!

Friday Night Dinner

Sliced Turkey Breast with Roasted Garlic Gravy, Sliced Roast Ham with Mustard Sauce whipped Potatoes, Buttered Kernel Corn and Peas, Mixed Greens, Pasta Salad, Fresh Rolls with Butter, Milk, Coffee, Iced Tea, and Cupcake

Saturday Breakfast

Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Breakfast Potatoes, Mixed Fruit, Orange Juice, Milk, Coffee, Iced Tea

Saturday Lunch

Tossed Garden Salad with House Dressings, Penne, Spaghetti, Alfredo Sauce, Bolognese Sauce, Breadstick, Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Milk

Banquet Saturday Night

Beef Burgundy over Mashed Potatoes, Honey-Glazed Carrots, Garden Salad, Rolls with Butter, Fresh Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Milk and Cheesecake

Keynote Speakers



Eric Hansotia

Eric Hansotia, Chairman, President and CEO of AGCO, will be serving as one of our keynote speakers at this years convention. Hansotia is a graduate of UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He also earned an MBA from the University of Iowa. He currently resides in the Atlanta area, and is an FFA Alumni Lifetime member from the Marshfield FFA Alumni.



Mary Schrieber

Mary is the Central Region National FFA Officer from East Troy, WI. She served as the Wisconsin FFA Sentinel in 2022, and the State President in 2023. As the 2024-25 Central Region National Vice President she will be working alongside her five teammates to serve over one million FFA members during her year of service.

Proposed Resolutions for 2025 Convention:

Resolution 1 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council:

The Alumni Council recommends that we seat the following council members for their first 3-year term: _____(1), _____(2), _____(3), Mark Kunde, Missy Steffes.

Resolution 2 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council:

The Alumni Council recommends that we thank the following retiring council members for their

dedicated service and commitment to the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association: Bobbi Jo Montgomery, Derek Trescher, Dave Clausen, Mason Gukenberger.

Resolution 3 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council:

The Alumni Council recommends that we take a moment of silence for FFA Alumni members, friends and family who have passed on throughout the year, especially remembering council members Robert Keough, Dennis Van Vreede, and Tom Parslow and including those involved in the military forces who continue to defend our country and what she stands for. Let us remember them and all they have accomplished.

Resolution 4 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council:

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the farmers and agriculture workers throughout the state and to show them our support.

Resolution 5 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council:

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Kathy Hartman-Breunig for her years of service to the Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators and wish her well in retirement from her role as Executive Director.

Resolution 6 – Submitted by Section 5:

Whereas the Executive Director of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters, Cheryl Steinbach has given generously her time, professional talents, and resources to further our organization.

Whereas Cheryl has added many ideas to foster the daily state and national operations of the Team Ag Ed family for the benefit of local affiliates and in turn thousands of agriculture education students.

Whereas Cheryl has communicated to the best of her ability to all State Agriculture Education Department Advisors, Universities, FFA Center, Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators, Department of Public Instruction, FFA Foundation, publicity outlets, businesses, and any related organizations.

Whereas Cheryl has been a true leader to all of the State of Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Executive Council and Sectional Representatives and was responsible for the many operational details of the organization ranging from

sectional meetings to the State and National Conventions.

Be it therefore resolved that as this convention we permanently enter into our minutes our sincere thank you and eternal appreciation for her service as our Executive Director.

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 7

- 9:30 a.m. State Council Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Registration Opens; Auction Item check-in begins
- 12:00 p.m. Tour Buses depart; Make & Take activities begin
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Past Presidents Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Live Auction
- Following the Auction - Pub Trivia, Silent Auction, Cash Bar
- 8:30 p.m. Registration Closes

Saturday, February 8

- 7:00 a.m. Registration Open/Breakfast Buffet
- 8:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet Closes
- 8:30 a.m. First General Session
 - Opening Ceremonies
 - Presidents Welcome
 - Council Introductions
 - Planning Committee Introductions
 - Vice President Candidates
 - National FFA Report, Allie Ellis
 - National Grant Recipients
 - Reactivated and New Chapters
- 9:45 a.m. Sectional Meetings
- 10:30 a.m. Future Convention Planning Meetings
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch and 2nd General Session (Annual Meeting)
- 1:45 p.m. Expo Hall Opens
- 2:00 p.m. Round 1 Workshops

- 3:00 p.m. 2nd Round of Workshops
- 4:00 p.m. Expo Closes, Silent Auction Closes
- 4:30 p.m. Reflections Program
- 5:00 p.m. 3rd General Session Begins
 - Dinner
 - Presidents Welcome
 - Introduction of State Council
 - Keynote Speaker, Eric Hansotia
 - Keynote Speaker, Mary Schrieber
 - Awards
 - Public Relations
 - Outstanding Young Member
 - Team Ag Ed, Outstanding Contributor
 - Outstanding Achievement
 - State Level Outstanding Chapter
 - Lifetime Membership Growth
 - State Chapter Support Grants
 - Dr. Virgil and Ann Martinson awards
 - Honor Retiring Council Members
 - Live Auction
 - Following the conclusion of the live auction will be live entertainment, corn hole and cards.

Sunday, February 9

- 8:30 a.m. New Alumni Council Meeting
- 8:30 a.m. 2026 Convention Planning Committee Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. 2025 Convention Wrap-Up Meeting



Session One Workshops

Transforming Our Why

Why do we support FFA? In this workshop, we will explore how we can take our past experiences and transform them into empowering and engaging opportunities to strengthen our contributions of time, talent, testimonies, and treasure. State Officers: Jazmin, Cheyenne, Alyssa, Jescey, Crystal, Tyson

Innovation in Agriculture

In this workshop attendees will hear from Eric Hansoita, Chairman, President, and CEO of AGCO Corp. In this workshop Eric will share his story of how he went from an FFA member to the CEO of one of the worlds largest agriculture equipment and technology manufacturers. Eric will also share the importance the agriculture industry plays across the country and how innovative technologies will play a key role in the future of agriculture.

Cranberry Culture

Join Dr. Grant Holley to briefly explore the history of cranberry farming in Wisconsin while spending more time on the current economic and environmental impact the industry has on Wisconsin and its people. Lastly, we will start to examine the very bright future cranberries may have as the demand for sustainable fruit grows globally.

It's a Balancing Act

Join Jerry Wendt and the Amery FFA Alumni and Supporters for this interactive workshop. In this workshop, you will explore ideas on how to find new people to step into leadership roles, balancing time for volunteerism and personal commitments.

National FFA Resources

Join Allie Ellis from the National FFA Alumni & Supporters to discover resources available for local chapters and take a review of the National FFA roster system.

Session Two Workshops

The "Social" in Social Media

Alumni will develop a better understanding of how their chapter can communicate through social media. By transforming their social engagement, alumni can promote, connect, and communicate with their members, FFA chapters, and community. State Officers: Abel, Taylor, Luke, Emma, Amalia

Potatoes and Agriculture

Join Dr. Aj Bussan, Director of Agronomy and Quality for Wysocki Family of Companies for a brief history on the potato industry in Wisconsin and how it impacts the global production of potato products.

Estate Planning 101

Join Attorney Alan Hougum for an informative 'Estate Planning 101' presentation, where he will cover the basics of estate planning, including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives. This session is designed to help you understand the essential steps in protecting your assets and ensuring your wishes are honored. Perfect for anyone looking to start or update their estate plan and protect their legacy.

Round Table of Ideas

Join the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council members for a round table guided to share activities, fundraising events, and goals of the local chapters. In this session, we will also discuss recruitment and membership development.

Where the Blue Jacket Can Take You

Join Mary Schrieber, National FFA Central Region Vice President as she shares the journey of where her FFA jacket has taken her. She will also share the importance of the Alumni and how they empower FFA members to achieve more.

