



Fall Section Meetings for Local Leaders and Members Set

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Council has been working hard to be more resourceful for the local alumni chapters throughout the state. As part of our commitment to serve you, we are bringing back fall leaders meetings for each section in hopes to build connections and provide assistance. Each section may look a bit different in their meeting style, but a standard agenda will be provided for uniformity among sections. Also, many sections will be having elections for new council members, as several member's terms have ended. If you are interested in learning more about how you can serve, or are willing to volunteer for your section, please reach out to your section reps or let Cheryl Steinbach at execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org know.

Dates scheduled include:

Section 1 - Sat. Sept. 24 @ 3 PM @ Village Pizzeria in Amery

Section 2 - Thurs. Oct. 6 @ 7 PM @ Menomonie High School Ag Room

Section 3 - Wed. Sept. 21 @ 6 PM @ Whitehall High School with FFA FLW

Section 4 - Mon. Oct. 3 @ 5:30 PM @ Lancaster High School Ag Room with FFA FLW

Section 5 - Sun. Oct. 9 @ 1 PM @ Verona High School

Section 6 - Tuesday, Oct. 11 @ 7 PM via zoom

Section 7 - Was held Sat. Sept. 10 @ 6:30 PM @ Auburndale

Section 8 - Thurs. Oct. 20 @ @ Doc Harley Hog Barn in Bonduel. The Hog Barn is located behind the dealership and attached to the TimeLine Saloon. Social time, registration, and check in auction items will begin at 6:00 pm. 6:45 pm meal served - Broasted Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, vegetable, coleslaw, rolls & butter, milk & coffee. 7:20 pm Business Meeting, 8:00 pm Live Auction. Reservations due Oct. 10.

Section 9 - Thurs. Oct. 20 @ 6 PM Social, 6:30 PM Meal, 7 PM Meeting, auction to follow @ Millhome in Kiel. We ask that all Alumni chapters provide Auction items. Please RSVP by Oct 8th to Missy Steffes @ 920-948-6034 or missysteffes@gmail.com

Section 10 - Wed. Oct. 12 @ 630pm with light supper and tour @ Mayville High School

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Lifetime Membership Campaign Running Now

Being a lifetime member of the FFA Alumni & Supporters has added advantages for individual members, as well as FFA chapters and members throughout the state. Because of the benefits to Wisconsin we are currently running a campaign to promote lifetime membership investments.

For a one-time fee of \$ 350, individuals can become a life member. \$ 200 of that investment goes directly to National FFA, where funds are invested and then proceeds from the funds are distributed in the form of leadership dollars to our state association each year. These are the funds that we use to sponsor WLC scholarships, leadership conferences and other programs that benefit members around the state. This amounts to nearly \$ 10,000 each year as we receive a percentage based on the number of lifetime members that we have. The more life members we have, the greater the funds that are dispersed to us.

The additional \$ 150 from the fees are then utilized at the state level. Half of that amount is added annually to our investments, which are being grown to help support the FFA program for decades to come and the other half is used to support our local FFA and Alumni chapters through grants, awards, and convention sponsorships. (If you have watched the state FFA convention livestream the past couple of years, this is another example of how we use the funds.)

Besides helping the state association, your lifetime membership can provide many personal benefits as well. These include being able to participate in numerous leadership and agricultural tour programs sponsored by the national FFA organization, as well as, numerous discounts at businesses. Your life membership can also earn you a \$ 500 rebate when you purchase a Dodge/Ram vehicle, hotel and resort discounted packages, restaurant deals and so much more.

There is a Forever Blue network established that you are able to subscribe to that will regularly send you updated and current travel discount opportunities.

If you are interested in investing in a life membership please contact your local chapter leader before November 1, 2023 and for each lifetime member submitted by individual chapters, that chapter's name will be thrown in a drawing to be announced at our annual convention in February. The winning chapter will have their annual chapter fees paid for the 2023-24 year, which is a value of \$ 300.

If you do not have a local chapter, but would still like to become a life member, please contact execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org

Benefits of FFA Alumni & Supporters Membership

Some people may ask, why do we need an FFA Alumni & Supporters chapter, and why do we need to pay an annual chapter fee. The answer is simple. National FFA made the decision a few years ago not to charge membership dues in order to ensure that anyone who is interested in helping their local FFA chapter, may do so.

They do charge the annual fee for chapters in order to help them receive the various resources available. These include: utilizing the FFA emblem and name trademark for promotional purposes, opportunity to piggy-back off the national 501c3 charitable contribution status (application required), eligibility for grants, resources on taxes and award opportunities. The state fee also helps provide the same resources, as well as assistance with the membership roster process and sectional representation availability, and much more. Annual fees paid by Oct. 1 can be discounted by \$50. Local leaders were sent directions in August, if you are a local leader and did not receive the notice, that means your email is not updated. Please reach out to the executive director ASAP so you don't miss out on the discount and you are in compliance,

State FFA Alumni Convention

Planning Continues

Sections 4, 5, & 10 are busy making plans for an awesome State FFA Alumni & Supporters Convention to be held February 3 & 4, 2023 in Waukesha. They are finalizing workshops and tours and have several fun events planned for attendees.

There will be another newsletter coming in October with very specific details, including the registration link. The newsletter will be sent once registration is open and accessible.

In the meantime, if you would like to get your hotel rooms scheduled, you may go to

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1662757285388&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

to make your reservations. The group block rate is \$ 75.00 per king bed and \$ 90.00 for 2 full beds.

Convention is a great opportunity to network with other members, gather and share ideas and have fun. Please consider attending this annual event and invite your friends. Many more details will be available in the next newsletter but mark your calendars now.



Grants Available

Wisconsin FFA Alumni has grants available for local FFA Alumni chapters. The updated application can be found on the website at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/awards-and-grants/>. The application is designed to help chapters with various support projects, whether it is for the alumni chapter to utilize for raising funds or for a joint project with the local FFA chapter. We recognize that there are a lot of potential needs out there and we encourage you to consider applying for a grant.

National FFA will again be offering grants as well, in the spring, so watch our website, as we will be adding the link when it is available.

Website Input Requested

In summer 2022, Wisconsin Team Ag Ed staff came together to put forth an effort to improve our website that members, advisors, alumni, and supporters use every day. WI Team Ag Ed believes that together we are able to provide those who are a part of, and support our organizations, a more user-friendly experience to attain the resources available to them. The WI Team Ag Ed website is home to the following organizations: Wisconsin Association of FFA, Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators, Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters, and Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

The [WI Team Ag Ed Website Feedback Survey](#) focuses on three categories: design, content, and navigation. You are being asked to provide your opinions on these topics. We will build upon those topics deemed as priorities and develop an overall strategic plan around our website that will impact both WI Team Ag Ed's internal operations and the work we do to support and serve all of our stakeholders. Please respond at your earliest convenience as the **SURVEY CLOSSES on October 7 at 11:59 p.m.** We will need a robust response from all of you in order to get the best possible results from our work. And please know that your views are important to us and all will be taken into consideration as we plan the next steps of WI Team Ag Ed's website.

Membership Roles

If you take a look at this year's convention logo closely, you will see that we have highlighted the 4 roles of FFA Alumni membership. We recognize that not everyone is able to do everything, but that most people can do something. What role can you play at the local level and have you reached out to your agriculture instructor to share what you are willing and able to do?

Membership Roles Include:

1. Mentor - Being there to coach a CDE team or LDE participants, offer your expertise assisting with an SAE project, or maybe hosting a tour for an agriculture class or serving as a guest speaker to share your knowledge. Be creative in how you can mentor.
2. Volunteer - Help to drive students to competitions or chaperone events, help out at a food stand or fundraising event, or provide snacks or treats for chapter events. There are always tons of ways to volunteer, just ask.
3. Advocate - Help spread the good story of Agriculture Education and FFA programs in your community. Thank your advisor and instructors, let the school board and administration know how valuable the program is and help to share the story among your peers. Invite others to belong and show their support.
4. Donor - Any financial support is greatly appreciated at the local level as there are costs associated with participating in the state and national activities. Volunteer to sponsor funds for convention attendees, provide supplies that may be needed in the classroom and support the local fundraisers.

You are all valuable members and sometime FFA members and advisors get so overwhelmed and busy. Please remember, you are needed and appre-

ciated, so do not hesitate to reach out with assistance.

Online Fundraising Auction

Mark your calendar and watch our social media and websites for the annual online auction fundraiser being held Oct. 22 - Nov. 6, 2023 in cooperation with O'Brien' Auction Service. Many items will be featured including a set of Kondex combine concaves, 6 bags of Renk Seeds, FFA Alumni Collector Crock, Household items and much more.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 21—Section 3 Fall Meeting
Sept. 24—Section 1 Fall Meeting
Oct. 3—Section 4 Fall Meeting
Oct. 4—WI Alumni Marketing Committee meeting
Oct. 6—Section 2 Fall Meeting
Oct. 8—FFA FIRE Conference @ UWRF
Oct. 8—2024 Convention Executive Team Meeting
Oct. 9—Section 5 Fall Meeting
Oct. 10—WI Alumni Fundraising Committee Meeting
Oct. 11—Section 6 Fall Meeting
Oct. 12—Section 10 Fall Meeting
Oct. 15—FFA FIRE Conference @ FVTC
Oct. 20—Section 8 Fall Meeting
Oct. 20—Section 9 Fall Meeting
Oct. 22—WI Alumni Online Auction Begins
Oct. 22—2024 Convention Planning Meeting @ Oshkosh @ 10 AM
Oct. 22—Past Presidents Committee Meeting @ Oshkosh @ 12:00 Noon
Oct. 23—2023 Convention Planning Meeting via Zoom @ 3:30 PM
Oct. 26—29 National FFA Alumni Convention
Nov. 1—WI FFA Alumni Chapter Award Applications Due
Nov. 1—WI Business Operations Committee Meeting
Nov. 5—WI Finance Committee Meeting
Nov. 6—WI Alumni Online Auction Ends
Nov. 11—Team AG Ed Meeting @ Wisconsin Dells
Nov. 11 & 12—WI FFA Alumni & Supporters Council meets at Wisconsin Dells in conjunction with FFA conferences.