2017 Wisconsin FFA Convention Session 2: Past Foundation Board President Lori Lulich presents the Landscape Management Proficiency award to Sam Hanson from the Oshkosh West FFA Chapter.

We asked: What did this moment mean to you?
Lori Lulich: “Being able to sponsor a proficiency award, makes us (Dave and I) feel a sense of optimism for the future. SAE projects are an area where students can excel and sometimes even begin their career path. To stand on stage and congratulate these young adults for their accomplishments excites me for their future and the agricultural industry as a whole!”

Sam Hanson: “The whole experience was really rewarding. I have been working on this since I was a sophomore and my senior year it finally payed off when I accomplished what I set out to do.”

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation inducted four new Blue and Gold Society members at the 88th Wisconsin FFA Convention in June. The Blue and Gold Society members have made the commitment to contribute $15,000 to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

With 27 existing members, this prestigious group added the following new members this year: Carol, Jim, Mark and Jon Anderson; Kim and Leona Havens; Derrick Papcke; and Michael Sabel.

Anderson Pharms is a family farm located west of Cobb in Iowa County and has been home to Carol, Jim, Mark and Jon Anderson. The family shares a tradition that is rich in FFA and 4-H involvement. Jon is currently president of the Foundation Board.

Kim and Leona Havens are from Darlington and have a long history in FFA. He was a past state officer, Foundation Board member and also assistant executive director at the National FFA Foundation.

Derrick Papcke farms at CRT Papcke Farms, LLC in Elkhorn and served as the State FFA Treasurer, as well as on the Foundation Board.

Mike Sabel is currently an agriculture instructor with Mid-State Technical College in Marshfield teaching for 28.5 years. Mike lives his life and teaches by two main principles. First from the Bible: “Love your neighbor as yourself” and second, the FFA Motto “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.”
It is an honor to be serving as president of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 campaign year. I’d like to first thank Amber Keller for navigating the organization through its challenges and successes over the past year. I’d like to also thank Jen Bradley for the hard work, commitment and passion put forth as interim executive director. These two were the glue that held everything together as we searched for and put together a new management team for the Foundation while also leading the charge in raising $483,656 for FFA and Team Ag Ed!

As we move forward into the next year, I am reminded of a column I read in which readers were challenged to select a “word for the year” to live and learn by. I took up that challenge and chose the word “Evolve”.

We live in a world that if you don’t embrace change, you will likely be left behind. I find this word fitting not only for myself, but for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. We are at a critical point in time that if we are willing to change and evolve, we can grow our support and make an even greater impact for Wisconsin agriculture’s future.

I am extremely excited about the new team we’ve assembled to run the day-to-day operations of the Foundation. New Executive Director John Hromyak and Operations Manager Carol Ellis have dove in, and embraced their roles with enthusiasm and vigor. Their previous fundraising and non-profit organization experience are true assets.

One of our primary initiatives for the coming year is to develop a new long-term strategic plan for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. This work is important as we chart our course for the future. The way we engage with valued donors and prospects is evolving. Now, more than ever, it is important to align with needs and expectations in order to cultivate and solidify strong relationships. We need to pave the way for two-way partnerships between the Foundation and donors that result in mutual benefit. Most importantly, we want to ensure Team Ag Ed maintains the necessary funding to support the programs that help develop tomorrow’s workforce and leaders.

The theme selected by the new slate of 2017-2018 State FFA Officers is “Live Your Why.” As I reflect back to my own time as an FFA member and State FFA Officer I understand the appeal to these words. I can feel the sense of dreams and promise as these young FFA members look to their future and the opportunities it holds. I am reminded of our current responsibilities to be mindful stewards of this organization to ensure any FFA member or advisor can “Live” their “Why” and become all that they can truly be.

Thanks to all of you who lend your time, talents and treasure to support FFA. Our best is yet to come.
On July 27, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, a longtime financial supporter of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, celebrated 95 years in business. Wisconsin agricultural education has been the recipient of more than $175,000 from this generous company since its first gift.

With roots dating back to 1922, Equity has been helping livestock producers in the marketing, managing and financing of their agricultural businesses. The cooperative operates 13 auction markets and has collection points in Ettrick and Thorp, Wisconsin, and Menominee, Michigan, as well as a hog and cattle marketing center in Arlington, Wisconsin.

President and CEO Chuck Adami (above) oversees the federated cooperative. He is responsible for developing, implementing and coordinating programs with the cooperative’s board of directors and employees.

“Our support of the FFA is grounded in the belief that the youth of today must be given the tools to conquer the future,” he says. “Being a cooperative includes providing the means to obtain these tools. What better way than through FFA involvement.”

Adami has actively served in many positions with the Foundation, beginning on the past Sponsors Board in 2005, then as the chair of that board in 2008-2009. He then became the Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board President and Past President in 2009-2011, as well as served on the Southern Golf Outing Committee during that entire time.

Janice Schyvinck, Equity’s public relations director, (seen at right) is a current member of the Foundation Board, serving the second of two three-year terms. “Equity Cooperative is proud to support livestock programming,” she says. “The FFA provides leadership and a positive involvement for youth interested in agriculture. As a cooperative, it is important to be involved in industry organizations as well as those in our local community.”

Equity sponsors the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award, as well awards two annual Post-Secondary Scholarships for Wisconsin FFA members.

Equity’s “A Good Way to Grow” program raised a total of nearly $39,500 to support youth programming within FFA, and that same amount was donated to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, Equity committed to contributing 10 cents for every animal marketed for one year to youth development.

The company was given the Distinguished Service Award at the 2015 Wisconsin FFA Convention in honor of these and the many financial gifts Equity has and continues to give to Wisconsin FFA.

In 2015, the company established a $100,000 Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association Endowment program with the Foundation.

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation congratulates Equity on its 95th Anniversary and sincerely thanks them for continuing to believe in our mission to support the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Honors & Memorials

The Wisconsin FFA Foundation is honored to receive contributions in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special event. Here is a listing of the honors and memorial gifts received April 1 through Sept. 10.

- In Memory of Arnold Cordes: Lorin & Winnie Preston
- In Memory of Bethany Rieth: Collegiate FFA - UW-Madison
- In Memory of Bethany Rieth: Wisconsin Association of FFA
- In Honor of Jon Anderson: Carol Anderson
- In Memory of Mary Thomsen & Harold Weintraub: Christine and Thomas Thomsen
- In Memory of Nancy Maurina: William Maurina
- In Memory of Vernon Dunn: Peterson Farm
- In Memory of Wally Peck: Kevin & Julie Larson Family
- In Memory of Wally Peck: Tim & Jane Griswold
- In Memory of William Brakebill: Tim & Jane Griswold
- In Memory of William Shafer: Tim Wyss
FOUNDATION SUMMER WRAP-UP

Thank You!

Together we raised $483,656 for Wisconsin FFA and agricultural education in the 2016-17 Campaign

State FFA Convention Results

Career Show
Nearly 3,600 people attended the 88th Wisconsin FFA Convention in June. The Career Show brought more than 75 exhibitors to Madison’s Alliant Energy Center, offering FFA members the ability to learn about agricultural higher education and career opportunities.

Grand Prize Raffle
Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the convention-long raffle item generously donated by CNH Industrial/CASE. The Foundation raised more than $1,100 with this Grand Prize Raffle, a rare edition CASE Model Steam Engine, which was won by Danielle Waterworth.

Past State Officer Reunion
Nearly 100 Wisconsin Past State FFA Officers of all ages attended the reunion, and raised more than $1,200 for the Leaders’ Legacy fund. Thank you to the Board members who donated raffle and auction items.

$40,000 Raised During Trio of Summer Golf Outings!
The Foundation raised $40,000 for Wisconsin FFA in this summer’s three events in Eau Claire, De Pere and Middleton. Thank you to all the sponsors, golfers and in-kind donors!

Save the dates for 2018
Northwest - July 16
Northeast - July 17
Southern - July 23