



**WISCONSIN FFA**  
**ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS**

# The Announcer

March 2023

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**Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director**

## Upcoming Section Meetings

Some of the sections are holding informational meetings this spring for members. Please contact your individual section representatives for additional information.

- ◇ March 30 - Section 8 - 6 PM social, 6:45 dinner at Northwinds banquet hall in Marion. Meal reservations required. Meeting and auction to follow.
- ◇ April 10 - Section 5 - Zoom meeting at 7 PM. Link available upon request.
- ◇ April 11 - Section 10 - 6:30 PM dinner on your own, followed by 7 PM meeting at The Real McCoy's in Whitewater.
- ◇ April 20 - Section 9 - 6 PM meeting at Howards Gove High School.
- ◇ April 22 - Section 1 - Time and Location to be determined.

Please note that we are still in need of volunteers to fill some open council section representative seats. The sections that have openings are section 5 and 8. Elections will be held as part of these spring meetings.

Thank you to those who currently serve the sections. They include:

- Section 1 - Dave Clausen & Jerry Larsen
- Section 2 - David Meyer & Agnes Buttke
- Section 3 - Chris Blank & Derek Trescher
- Section 4 - Rick Bockhop & Nick Huffman
- Section 5 - Dan Ziegler
- Section 6 - Brook Woodbury & Matt Damm
- Section 7 - William Litzer & Mason Gukenberger
- Section 8 - Rene' Lehman
- Section 9 - Missy Steffes & Nicole Wallander
- Section 10 - Gene Hetebrueg & Jim Schneider

## 2023-24 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council



## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2 : 2023 convention review

Page 3: 2023 convention continued, 2024 convention, grants, taxes, gift of blue jackets & matching grant funds.

Page 4: WLC scholarships & sponsorships

## Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Convention Review

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual convention of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters organization was held February 3 – 4, 2023 at the Milwaukee Marriott West hotel and convention center in Waukesha. The theme of the convention, “Where We Need to Be in 2023,” focused on the 4 major roles of FFA Alumni membership: Advocate, Donor, Mentor and Volunteer.

About 280 FFA Alumni members and guests from across the state of Wisconsin attended this year’s event. The convention kicked off Friday afternoon with a state council meeting, followed by tours of American Family Field and the Mitchell Park Domes, an evening dinner buffet and auction, and entertainment by singer/ songwriter Tim O’Grady, Jr.

Saturday included business meetings, workshops and discussion of the 4 major roles noted above. Members heard from the various leaders of the other organizations, whom are part of Team Ag Ed, and were presented the annual financial report and budget during the annual business meeting.

The election for Vice President was also conducted and Nick Lowe of the Stoughton FFA Alumni & Supporters chapter was elected. The remaining executive team was also forwarded to their new positions, electing Bobbie Jo Montgomery of Waupaca the new President, Grant Staszak from Bonduel as President-Elect and Terri Wilfert from Mishicot as, Past-President.

There were a few bylaws changed adopted at the meeting and 5 different resolutions passed. The 2022-23 Wisconsin FFA Officer Team played a vital role in the operation of the convention. They helped with section meeting delegate registration, auctions, business meeting and election processes and they presented a very moving reflections program. They also conducted two workshops, one on social media and the other on building leaders in the Alumni organization.

The 2022-23 team was also recognized for all being lifetime members, of both the state and National FFA

Alumni & Supporters and last year’s 2021-22 team was honored for being named a 100% State Lifetime Team at the national convention this past fall.

The annual awards banquet program included the retirement address of state association President Terri Wilfert, and the recognition of numerous award winners. The list of those recognized includes:

- ◇ Several teachers were honored with Outstanding Agriculture Educator Awards, earning a cash prize. These included Jeanna Burgan of Chipewa Falls, Dan Robinson from Lomira, Sandra Dykes from Weyauwega-Fremont and Mariah Markhardt, Walter Taylor and Hallie Kopczynski all of Oconto Falls. Mary Handrich teacher from Denmark, was named the state winning educator.
- ◇ Derrick Papcke from Elkhorn was presented the Outstanding Young Member Award for his exceptional leadership.
- ◇ The Public Relations award recognizes the efforts of a chapter to promote their activities and mission, utilizing various forms of media. Granton FFA Alumni & Supporters was chosen as the state winner. Stoughton received second place and Elkhorn received third place honors.
- ◇ Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Alumni & Supporters was named the Outstanding State Chapter in the small division. Winning the large division was the Waupaca FFA Alumni & Supporters.
- ◇ Stoughton, Denmark, Elkhorn and Granton FFA Alumni & Supporters chapters all received gold ratings in the National Outstanding Chapter Awards and will have their applications submitted to the national level of competition. Elkhorn FFA Alumni & Supporters was also recognized as the overall winner in this area.



## Convention Continued

- ◇ Outstanding Achievement awards were presented to Steve Vogel of Denmark and Wayne Ace of Oregon. Both gentlemen will be advancing to National competition.
- ◇ The Dr. V.O. and Ann Martinson Award is given to the FFA Alumni who had the greatest increase in lifetime members. Denmark FFA Alumni & Supporters is this year's recipient.
- ◇ Roger Nitschke of Granton was presented the Team Ag Ed Contributor individual award and Schultz Trucking of Denmark was presented the Team Ag Ed Contributor Business award for their service, support and commitment to FFA, FFA Alumni and Agriculture Education.

Retiring council members were also recognized. They are Nick Lowe from Stoughton, Bobbi Jo Kunz from Waupun, Mike Sabel from Auburndale, Amy Voigt from Lakeside Lutheran and Rudy Kaderly from Juda.

Another auction Saturday night, as well as raffles during the weekend, resulted in a very successful fundraising program. Convention proceeds help support leadership development and educational programs and activities for FFA members throughout the state.

## 2024 Convention

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan for another awesome convention weekend, as the 2024 convention has been set for February 9 - 10 at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh. The committee is working hard to plan an event full of fun and helpful resources and activities. Please contact Grant Staszak or Bobbi Jo Kunz, co-chairs, if you are interested in volunteering in some way or you would like more information for the upcoming planning meeting April 1. Sections 6, 8 & 9 are the convention hosts.

### **CREATING CONNECTIONS IN 2024**



**WI Alumni & Supporters**

## Don't Forget About Grants

We are once again offering grant opportunities for local Alumni chapters to assist with programs and projects. National FFA also offers additional grants. To find the applications, go to our website at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni/awards-and-grants/>

## It's Tax Time

Chapters are reminded that you are required to file your taxes if you are registered as a 501(c)3 organization. If you made less than \$ 50,000, you simply need to file a 990 N form online. If you do not file this form for 3 consecutive years, you will lose your tax exempt status.

## Gift of Blue Jackets

Do you know of a deserving FFA member who is in need of a jacket? Nominate them to receive the Gift of Blue!

As the State Officer Team prepares to take off their jackets and finish their FFA journeys, they would like to give FFA members a jacket to continue their journeys in. Nominated students could be members who are super involved in your chapter, those who are unable to afford a jacket, or those experiencing any other special circumstances. We encourage advisors and alumni to nominate a member from your chapter for the opportunity to receive a FFA Jacket.

The nomination form can be found at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuM79Cq0x8bUFn-xazthtj5msxUCzBuQ2oQBm7IHkVMaVdmA/viewform>.

Nominations will close on March 20th.

## Raffle Funds Matching Grants

As part of our 50th anniversary convention in 2022, we held a cash raffle which yielded \$ 34,000 to be used for special local programs. This fall we offered a matching grant program, where local FFA Alumni chapters could provide requests for matching funds for money they spend on local FFA leadership sponsorships.

We are excited to announce that 37 chapters have received nearly \$ 27,000 in support through this program. The remaining raffle funds will be utilized for specific leadership projects at the state level in the near future.

## Washington Leadership Scholarships

Each year Wisconsin FFA Alumni receives leadership dollars from the National FFA. These dollars are generated through interest earned on lifetime membership investments and are then distributed to chapters or state associations based on the number of lifetime members they have.

Wisconsin has nearly 6000 lifetime members, so the funds that we receive are significant. These funds must be used to provide leadership opportunities to FFA members. Our monies are used to help support scholarships so that FFA members can attend the Washington Leadership Conference during the summer. In order to apply, students must have an active local FFA Alumni chapter.

We are excited to announce that we have selected 16 FFA members to each receive a \$ 600 scholarship. Congratulations to the following students:

- ◇ Section 1 – Sarah Jensen, Amery
- ◇ Section 3 – Josie Bailey, Tomah
- ◇ Section 4 – Wesley Winch, Fennimore
- ◇ Section 6 – Megan Schultz, Adams-Friendship
- ◇ Section 6 – McKenna Murray, Reedsburg
- ◇ Section 6 – Marissa Kottke, Oakfield
- ◇ Section 7 – Lydia Lobacz, Owen-Withee
- ◇ Section 7 – Erica Socha, Edgar
- ◇ Section 7 – Luke Schraufnagel, Thorp
- ◇ Section 8 – Taylor Maroszek, Pulaski
- ◇ Section 8 – Jessica Burayi, Tigerton
- ◇ Section 9 – Vanessa Paquette, Mishicot
- ◇ Section 9 – Jenna Maki-Martin, Howards Grove
- ◇ Section 9 – Abigail Williams, Southern Door
- ◇ Section 10 – Joshua Knapp, Hartford
- ◇ Section 10 – Karyn Boschke, Lake Mills

## Thank you to our Sponsors

**Living to Serve (Perennial \$ 5,000 +)**



## Convention Sponsors

### **Diamond (\$ 2500 +)**

Stoughton FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Elkhorn FFA Alumni & Supporters

### **Star (\$ 1500 - \$ 2499)**

Boehlke Bottled Gas Corporation

### **Platinum (\$ 1000 - \$ 1499)**

Nelson-Jameson Inc  
Fort Atkinson FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Kewaskum FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Ray & Rae Nell Halbur  
Bob Hagemann Auction & Realty Service LLC  
Ms. Abrielle Backhaus

### **Gold (\$ 750 - \$ 999)**

Campbellsport FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Victory Homes of Wisconsin, Inc.  
New Fane Kettle Riders Snowmobile Club  
Ozaukee Guzzlers Motorcycle Club  
Kwik Trip & Neubauer Trucking

### **Silver (\$ 500 - \$ 749)**

Schmitz East Branch Dairy  
Wisconsin Corn Growers  
Washington County Dairy Promotion  
Drexel Building Supply  
Jones Dairy Farm  
Farm & Fleet  
Edgerton FFA Alumni & Supporters

### **Bronze (\$ 250 - \$ 499)**

Christenson Livestock & Farm Products, LLC of Amery  
Ellsworth FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Deforest FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Four Hands Holsteins, Inc  
Clover Hill Dairy  
Miller & Sons Supermarket  
Verona FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Clinton FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Walters Builders  
Agromatic  
CP Feeds  
Whitewater FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Luxemburg-Casco FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Marshfield FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Gruett's Inc DBA Eden Equipment  
Waupun Equipment  
Black River Falls FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Cashton FFA Alumni & Supporters  
Lomira FFA Alumni & Supporters  
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