



2006-2007



ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 8

ISSUE 3

**2006-2007
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Greetings from Dean Olson

Greetings Alumni Members,

Your council met July 26th in Monticello, Illinois during the FFA Leadership Camp. Our arrival brought very, very hot, humid conditions, and before some of us left that night (some couldn't leave), approximately six - seven inches of rain fell during a wind and weather warning. Much appreciated for the past 28 years, Rich Sanders and his family brought the chops, grill, charcoal, and all the utensils to once again give the campers a delicious pork chop supper! Thanks Rich!
2006 Leadership Camp will not be forgotten.

There are several upcoming Alumni events for you to be an important part of:

1) We need voting delegates at the National FFA Convention Friday, October 27th in Indianapolis, Indiana. Our membership of just over 4,000 entitles the Illinois Alumni to have twenty delegates. Call Sue at the State Office or me (309) 944-4472, if you plan on attending. The council has voted to pay registration for anyone desiring to go.

2) October 1st is the due date for letters of "Intent to Run" for any of the five state Alumni Offices and District Directors for the 2007 year. Encourage your local chapter to nominate someone now, complete the letter of intent, and become involved at the state level.

3) Help is desperately needed to generate items for the Annual Alumni Auction. If you can locate items, contact people, or donations please notify Jim McCray (815) 258-4011, John Riordan (815) 365-4593, or me (309) 944-4472. We need your help!!

(Continued on page 2)

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(Olson letter continued from page one)

4) If you have any ideas or suggestions for our upcoming Annual Meeting, January 26 - 27, 2007, please contact anyone on the Alumni Council. We need your input to make it an event that benefits the affiliates, supports the FFA, and is enjoyed by all. Plan to attend.

This list of needs can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all. We will appreciate your help.

On behalf of the State Alumni, I want to congratulate the newly elected state FFA Officer team:

President: Brad Pilcher

Vice President: Patrick Holland

Secretary: Megan Ott

Treasurer: Mallory Daugherty

Reporter: Taryn Pfeiffer

As usual they are all "busy as bumble bees." If they are in your area, please introduce yourself and welcome them.

In closing if your local affiliate needs any assistance, please contact the Council. We will gladly help! In Illinois we are all supporting the best youth organization in the world.

Support your FFA---it's worth it!
Your President,

Dean Olson

Alumni Condolence

On August 4th Bob Janssen, husband of former Alumni Office Secretary Jan Janssen, passed away after his fight with cancer. Memorials may be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the American Cancer Society or St. John's Hospice. For further information, please contact the Illinois FFA Center. The thoughts and prayers of the Council go out to the Janssen's.

Remodel Your Ag Department Matching Grant

Matching grants are available for local FFA Alumni Affiliates to use to enhance, remodel and/or organize the local agricultural department facilities. Grants up to a maximum of \$3,000 will be awarded per local FFA Alumni Affiliate to use in improving the local Agriculture Education Department facilities, but must be matched locally dollar for dollar. No State or Federal CTE funds may be used as local matching dollars. All Illinois FFA Alumni affiliates in good standing at the time of application are eligible to submit grant applications.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Being in charge of this newsletter is an enjoyable experience. When putting this together every three months, the hardest thing I have to do is actually deciding how to structure the format. It is because of the support all 4,000+ Alumni members give to our FFA members at the local level that the other council members and I can serve statewide. Any way that we can help our local agriculture programs, we are helping the future.

As Reporter, it is easy to talk about what the Council is doing, and what activities we are involved with at the state level. But it is my hope that every Alumni chapter in Illinois will take advantage of using our newsletter to talk about local happenings. You may send articles to me at jshelby92000@yahoo.com or at 16530 East Knox Road, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864. Any questions, you may call me at (618) 214-8914.

Gun Raffle for the Benefit of the Illinois FFA Alumni

All of you avid hunters and outdoor sporting enthusiasts, this fundraiser is for you! A gun raffle is being held for the benefit of the Illinois FFA Alumni. Tickets are \$20 each and are available by contacting the Illinois FFA Center or FFA Alumni Vice President Jim McCray at (815) 258-4011. Winning ticket numbers will be determined by the evening drawing of the Illinois Lottery Pick-3 Drawing. Gift cards will be given to each matching ticket for the value of the assigned gun. If the winner chooses not to take the gun, the gift card may be used for any merchandise in Dick's Sporting Goods. The drawing will run, daily, from November 1st through November 30, 2006, with an "early bird" drawing on October 1, 2006 from tickets already sold. For more information, please contact Jim McCray or the Illinois FFA Center.

Bombardier ATV Raffle

The Illinois FFA Alumni Bombardier 4x4 raffle ended during State FFA Convention. Jerry Brookhart of McComb, Illinois bought the winning ticket from the West Prairie FFA Chapter. Cissna Park sold the most tickets and took \$990 back to use in their local activities.

State Basket for National Convention

Sarah Myers would like anyone who would be willing to help put together the state basket for the alumni that will compete and be auctioned in Indianapolis at this years' National Convention. Any item that is well known from your area that represents the State of Illinois well would be appreciated. We need to get items to her by September 1st. Contact Dick or Sarah Myers at (217) 222-2428.

20 Delegates for National Alumni Convention

The National FFA Alumni Convention is just around the corner, October 26-27. The Awards program will be Thursday the 26th and the Business session is on the 27th. It is a great time of recognizing volunteers from all over the country who support our youth. Along with silent and live auctions, the Business session on Friday will allow you, the members, to vote for new national officers and proposed amendments to your organization's constitution. This year we have a quota of 20 possible delegates. The alumni convention registration will be paid by the Illinois FFA Alumni. Any questions may be directed to the State Office or you may contact any of the council members.

Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting/State Auction Items

School is about to start again, which means our youth are going to be getting busy again. As we are helping our youth with local projects, let's keep in mind our State Annual meeting will be here before you know it. It will be Friday January 26 through Saturday January 27, 2007. We are in need of Auction Items, large or small. Please bring any auction item to the Illinois FFA Center, before the start of our banquet on that Friday. Any questions can be directed to Dean Olson, or Jim McCray.

State Council Intents

Just a reminder, **Intent to Run for State Alumni Council Positions** must be filed in the State FFA Center by **October 1, 2006**. A copy of the rules and intent form are inserted in this newsletter.

Dates to Remember

- October 1 "Remodel Your Ag Department" Grant Applications
- October 1 Intent to Run for State Alumni Council - Illinois FFA Center
- October 1 E.D.G.E. Conference Scholarship - Illinois FFA Center
- October 14 State Alumni Council Meeting - Illinois FFA Center, Springfield
- Oct. 25-27 National FFA Alumni Silent Auction - Indianapolis, IN
- Oct. 25-28 National FFA Alumni Convention - Indianapolis, IN
- Oct. 31 November Newsletter Deadline
- Oct. 27 - National Alumni Live Auction - Indianapolis, IN
- Nov. 1 Made for Excellence Scholarship - Illinois FFA Center
- Nov. 1 Outstanding Achievement Application - Illinois FFA Center
- Nov. 1 Outstanding Affiliate Application - Illinois FFA Center
- Nov. 19 E.D.G.E. Conference - Springfield., IL
- Dec. 9 State Alumni Council Meeting, University of Illinois (During State Crops/Dairy Foods CDE)
- Jan. 26-27 Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting – Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL



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