



2007-2008



ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI: "TURNING THE KEYS OF SUCCESS"

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

AUGUST, 2007

**2007 - 2008
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Dear Alumni,

Hello, from Dean Olson! The summer has been very busy, and by the time you read this, school will be well underway. The alumni council met in July during the first day of Leadership Camp. Results of the four wheeler raffle were given by Jim McCray, and it was a success. Also, Jim announced that the FFA supply booth, which was manned by the alumni for the first time also showed a profit. Plans for next year are underway. Thanks to Jim and his committee for all their work.

Rich Saunders and his family came through graciously as usual to bring everything needed to prepare pork chops for all the campers and staff (about 300) for the evening meal first day of camp. Rich has been doing this for 20+ years. Thanks Rich!!

At this time a money raffle is being planned for November. . . watch for details.

Planning for the annual meeting is underway. Anyone with suggestions please pass them on to any council member, and as usual we are looking for auction items, a must!

The council will be meeting Oct. 6th in Springfield. As usual letters of intent for your alumni council will be announced. Be sure to send in your letter by October 1st if you are interested.

National Convention is fast approaching and delegates are needed. . . . please contact any council member if you can partake.

Your alumni council is trying to do the best job to meet the needs of the state alum. If you need anything, please let us know. . . . we can help!

As always thanks for supporting the best youth organization ever.

Your president,
Dean Olson

Congratulations!

The Alumni Council would like to congratulate and welcome the new State FFA Officers!

President: *Kaitlin Weitekamp* Vice President: *Sam Meteer*
Reporter: *Tannor Spittler* Secretary: *Janell Baum*
Treasurer: *Wyatt McGrew*

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\$10,000 Cash Raffle



Illinois FFA Alumni is conducting a **\$10,000 cash raffle!** There will be cash winners every day the month of November. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday winners will receive \$250, Wednesday and Thursday winners will receive \$300, Friday winners will receive \$400, and Saturday winners will receive \$500!! Ticket prices are only \$20 each! To receive a raffle ticket, see any of the Alumni Council members (listed on page 1 of the newsletter) or complete this form and return it with your \$20 (please make checks payable to Illinois FFA Alumni) to the Illinois FFA Center, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. A numbered ticket will then be returned to you. Good luck!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Early Bird Drawing to be held on October 1st for \$300!!

Arctic Cat ATV Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Ed Bushnall of Marseilles on being the lucky winner of the Arctic Cat 650 H1 4x4 Automatic LE that was raffled at the Illinois FFA Convention in June. The ticket was sold by the Seneca Chapter. Thank you to all the alumni members that worked hard at selling and buying the raffle tickets. We were able to raise over \$3,000 through everyone's efforts. Remember that the money raised helps fund the scholarship grants for FFA members.

The Alumni Council would like to extend a special thank you to Chad Colby and the Arctic Cat Dealers: Winterland Sales, Chenoa; Heaton Chevrolet Oldsmobile, Pittsfield; Konneker-Brown, Inc., Carlinville; Dewayne Hargrave Int'l Inc., Jerseyville; Arctic Cat of Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon; Weston's Lawn & Equipment, Lawrenceville; Metzger Equipment Co., Waterloo; Herschel Johnson Implement, Inc., Albion; Hamilton County Equipment, McLeansboro; Sparta Tractor, Sparta; Illini ATV World, Danville; FS Country Plaza, Havana; DDS Sales, Teutopolis; M & S Implement Company, Inc., Harrisburg; F.B. McAfoos & Company, Benton; Adventure Powersports, Inc., Breese.

The National FFA Convention October 24 - 27, 2007

Alumni Awards Session: October 25, 2007 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Business Session: October 26, 2007 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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 will allow you, the members, to vote for new national officers and proposed amendments to your organization's constitution. If you are interested in representing the Illinois Alumni as a delegate at the National Convention, please contact Dean Olson. The alumni convention registration will be paid by the Illinois FFA Alumni for any delegates. Any questions may be directed to the state office or you may contact any of the council members.



State Basket

Once again, Sarah and Dick Myers have graciously volunteered to put together a state basket for the alumni that will compete and be auctioned in Indianapolis at National Convention. Any item that is well known from your area that represents the State of Illinois would be appreciated. We need to get items to them as soon as possible. Contact Sarah or Dick Myers at (217) 222-2428. Thank you!!

“First Impressions” Grant

Illinois FFA Alumni is proud to be partnering once again with FCAE to implement the First Impressions Grant. Formerly known as the Remodel Your Ag Department Grant, the First Impressions Grant is available to any local FFA Alumni Affiliate to enhance, remodel and/or organize the local agricultural department facilities. Grants up to a maximum of \$1,500 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 of Federal CTE funds may be used as local matching dollars.

The primary goal of this grant is to increase the aesthetics of the agriculture department including the classroom and adjoining laboratory facilities. In other words, to help remove the clutter and make the “first impression” to be very inviting by a student, parent, administrator, school board member, and general supporter of the agriculture industry.

All grant applications must be received at the Illinois FFA Center in Springfield by October 1st. Please contact Tammy Yard at (217) 753-3328 or by e-mail at tyard@illinoisffa.org at the Illinois FFA Center with any questions or for a copy of the grant application.

FFA Alumni Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the Illinois FFA Alumni is scheduled for January 25 - 26, 2008. It will be held at the Northfield Center in Springfield. All alumni members are encouraged to attend. Once again, as we meet, we will be holding auctions (live and silent) to help in our fundraising endeavors. We are in need of items to auction, so please let either Tammy at the state office (217) 753-3328 or e-mail at tyard@illinoisffa.org or Jim McCray (815) 457-2209 or e-mail at jmccray@illicom.net know if you are able to donate to our great cause! Registration information will be included in the next newsletter.

Intent to Run for State Office

With the upcoming Alumni Annual Meeting, it is time to think about our state leadership. If you are interested in running for a state office please be sure to complete the application (inserted in this newsletter) and return it to the Illinois FFA Center, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702 by October 1, 2007.

Alumni Membership Roster Changes

The state office has recently been informed by National that there will be a change in the membership rosters this year. They will be sent in an Excel spreadsheet to the state office. National suggests that the state office then e-mail the rosters to the alumni affiliates who are to complete the rosters and e-mail them back to the state to forward on to National. The affiliates will then need to complete a totals sheet and mail it along with any dues payment to the state office. **It will be important that the state office have an e-mail address for all advisors, as well as for the alumni member responsible for the roster completion.** Please be sure to contact the state office with those e-mail address at tyard@illinoisffa.org. More detailed information on how the new procedure will be implemented will be available at a later date.

Local News

I am always interested in letting the light shine where FFA students are impacted the most, the local chapter. Please get in your local happenings to me, James Shelby at 16530 East Knox Road, Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 or via email at jshelby92000@yahoo.com. Pictures are nice, but digital pictures are the best for assembling the newsletter. Thank you for serving in the FFA

Dates to Remember . . .

October 1	Intent to run for State Alumni Officer due to IL FFA Center	
October 1	First Impressions Grant Applications due to IL FFA Center	
October 6	IL FFA Alumni Council Meeting (IL FFA Center)	Springfield, IL
October 24-27	National FFA and FFA Alumni Conventions	Indianapolis, IN
October 26	National FFA Alumni Live Auction	Indianapolis, IN
January 25-26	IL FFA Alumni Annual Meeting	Springfield, IL

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