



2007-2008



ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI: "TURNING THE KEYS OF SUCCESS"

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER, 2007

2007 - 2008 Illinois FFA Alumni Executive Council

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Dear Illinois FFA Alumni Members:

I would like to personally invite and encourage you to attend your organization's Annual Meeting January 25 & 26, 2008 at the Northfield Inn and Suites, Springfield, Illinois. Come see what your alumni council can do for you, exchange ideas with members throughout the state and gather new ideas at the brain storm session conducted by our winning affiliates.

Included in the weekend will be entertainment Friday evening by Bobbi White, author of the book, Go Ahead, Laugh at Work, It Works. She will have us laughing in our seats as she embarks her message on finding balance in our business and personal lives through the tools of humor and laughter therapy. I'm sure a fun night will be had by all.

On Saturday, we will have the opportunity to hear the National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry Case, from Washington D.C. We are very fortunate that Larry could find time in his busy schedule to attend our annual meeting.

Of course, our big highlight for the week-end is Saturday's live scholarship auction at 12:30 p.m. This yearly event generates revenue to sponsor FFA members at the various leadership conferences throughout the year. Donations of auction items are greatly appreciated. Any questions regarding delivery of auction items should be directed to Jim McCray (815-258-4011) or Dean Olson (309-945-5079). The last two years the auction has generated over \$20,000. Please come help us meet or exceed that goal.

The auction will have a variety of items for everyone including:

- Two round-trip tickets from SouthWest Airlines
- Two round-trip tickets from AirTran Airlines
- Overnight at Chestnut Mountain with two rounds of golf
- Chicago Cubs signed baseball by Alfonso Soriano
- John Deere 21" walk behind mower with a 7 hp motor
- Seed corn and beans including Pioneer, Becks, Agrigold, Wyffels.

Craftsman tools	Truck tool boxes	ATV sprayer	Snowplow for 60" ZTR
Pedal tractor	Various pork cuts	Titan tires	
John Deere 21" walk behind mower with a 7 hp motor	Many more items coming in!		

Once again the Illinois FFA Alumni will conduct a Chapter Basket Contest during the annual meeting. Each chapter is encouraged to submit a basket. The top three winning baskets from the contest will then be sold at the live auction. The others will sell during the silent auction.

As in the past, we are offering two complimentary registrations for each new affiliate chartered in 2007.

A block of rooms has been set aside for the Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting at the Northfield Inn & Suites. The reservation cut-off date is January 11, 2008, so please make your reservations soon by contacting the Northfield Inn & Suites, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL (217-523-7900). Mention you are with the IL FFA Alumni Association to receive the discounted room rate of \$65/night.

Please plan to attend! Support the best youth organization in the world! A good time will be had by all!

Your president,

Dean Olson

2007 - 2008 Illinois FFA Alumni Executive Council

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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. Registration information is included in this newsletter.

Annual Auction Needs

With the annual meeting coming up soon, we are accepting auction items for both silent and live auctions during our annual State-wide meeting January 25-26. Anything from tools, to clothes, to gift certificates, cases of oil have all been given for auction items in the past. Included in this newsletter are the current items we knew of at the time of publishing. If you have an item for the auction, please fill out the form included in this newsletter with a brief description of the item and the person/company who donated it for the auction and send it in to the state office, or bring it with the item on Friday afternoon before the meeting starts.

Chapter Basket Contest

Along with the rest of the auction, and meeting agenda, we will again be doing our Chapter Basket contest. Alumni Affiliates are encouraged to gather items that represent your area and should be displayed as attractively as possible. They will be judged, run in the silent auction, and the top money bringing items will then be pulled and placed in to the Live Auction on Saturday. This is very similar to the State Basket competition at National Convention.

For rules and other information, please contact any council member or the state office.

Olympia FFA Alumni

The (Stanford) Olympia FFA Alumni Chapter held their recent chapter meeting on Thursday November 1, 2007 in the High School Ag Room after the FFA Chapter meeting. During the meeting, discussion was held regarding the upcoming FFA Alumni Auction, Meal, and Banquet which will be held on Friday January 18, 2008 in the schools' cafeteria. This is in conjunction with a Home Boys Basketball Game against Normal U-High. Our tentative agenda for the evening will include a Social Time, followed by a BBQ pork chop dinner, and the silent auction which will include such items as Toy Tractors, Gift Certificates, Homemade items, and other items of interest. The meal will cost a small fee per person, and the proceeds will benefit the Alumni Chapter as well as the Olympia FFA.

Mr. Nordstrom gave an FFA Chapter report on different activities that have been going on recently, such as Pork Chop and Rib-eye Sandwich Sales at Home Football games, Ag Class Activities, and National Convention. He also mentioned the FFA chapter's annual Christmas Dinner would be Friday December 21, 2007 in the High School Cafeteria. It will be catered by CJ's restaurant in Bloomington, IL with more details coming.

President Jeff Schnieder gave a list of the 2007 Auction Donors and Bidders to the members to see who donated what items to the event last year, so that will help the various members when they solicit for items for the upcoming Auction and Banquet. Also, it was voted on and approved to work with the FFA Chapter to match funds spent by the FFA Chapter to help sponsor 2 families in the Olympia School District to help provide some Christmas Gifts for these 2 families.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 6, 2007 at 7 PM in the High School Ag Room. The 2007-2008 officers include: President: Jeff Schnieder; Vice-President: Ray Mohr; Secretary: Jeff Springer; Treasurer: Bob Benson; Reporter: Kyle Haning; and Member at Large: Todd Wibben.

Everybody, Tell Somebody!!! Be Proud of Your Alumni Affiliate

Be glad to be an Alumni Member! Send in what your chapter is up to! Digital Pictures, write ups, poems from your members, anything to show that we are proud at serving and helping mold our youth in to influential leaders for tomorrow. Send them to me at jshelby92000@yahoo.com or mail them to my home:

James Shelby:

16530 East Knox Road

Mount Vernon, IL 62864



**Winning Basket
at National Convention**

A hearty thank you to Sarah and Dick Myers! Once again, Sarah and Dick graciously volunteered to put together a state basket for the alumni to donate to the auction at National Convention. This year's basket was outstanding and contained many Illinois made products and products that represented our great state. The basket sold for \$300.00.

"First Impressions" Grant

Congratulations to the "First Impressions" grant winners.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ashton-Franklin Center | Charleston High School |
| Cuba High School | Pontiac Township High School |
| Seneca High School | Serena High School |
| Tri-Point High School | Unity-Mendon High School |

The First Impressions grant program is designed to improve the first impression of the ag department in the high schools.

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 and officers list 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 addresses at tyard@illinoisffa.org if you have not already done so. Remember, in order to be eligible for alumni sponsored scholarships and credit on the Incentive Funding Grant, the completed rosters, dues, and officer list will need to be back to the state office by March 1, 2008.

Thank you Annual Meeting Sponsors

The Illinois FFA Alumni would like to thank the following for their support of the annual meeting and auction:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| John Deere, Inc. | Southwest Airlines | Illinois Farm Bureau |
| West Central FS, Inc. | Northfield Inn & Suites | Pioneer Hi-Bred Int. |
| Gully Transportation | Growmark, Inc. | Southern IL Elec Co-Op |
| Midwest Dairy Association | Del Monte Foods | Eli's Cheesecake |
| Wyffels Hybrids, Inc. | Eastland Feed & Grain, Inc. | AirTran Airlines |

Auction Items

Following is a list of items up for bid at the annual auction. We are still accepting donations, so please keep those items coming!!! A big thank you from the IL FFA Alumni Council for all of our auction donors.

- Two Round-Trip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines and AirTran Airlines
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| John Deere mower | Snow plow | Toolboxes |
| Signed Cubs and Bears Items | Jackets | Seed Corn |
| Canned Goods | Eli's Cheesecake | Jacuzzi Suite for one night |
| Titan Tires | PEDAL TRACTOR | ATV Sprayer |

Join us at the
Illinois FFA Alumni
Annual Meeting

“Promoting Excellence”

January 25 - 26, 2008
At
Northfield Inn & Suites
Springfield, IL

Tentative Agenda

Friday:

Pre-Convention Council Meeting

Registration - 4:00 p.m.

Banquet - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday:

Registration - 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast - 7:30 a.m.

Community Action Workshops - 8:00 a.m.

District Caucuses - 9:00 a.m.

General Business Meeting - 9:45 a.m.

Luncheon Session - 11:15 a.m.

Live Auction

**Hotel Reservation
Information**

A block of rooms has been set aside for the Illinois
FFA Alumni Annual Meeting, January 25 - 26, 2008.

There will be a limited number of rooms available
for Thursday, January 24th and Friday, January 25th.

The reservation **cut-off date**
is **December 25, 2007**,

so please make your reservations prior to that date.

Please mention that you are with the Illinois FFA
Alumni Association to receive the
discounted room rate of \$65.

To make your reservations
please contact:
Northfield Inn & Suites
3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois
(217) 523-7900



**Annual Meeting
Registration Form**

Received on or before
January 19th

Individual \$50

Spouse \$45

One Day Only
Registration (Does Not
Include Breakfast)

Individual \$30

Spouse \$30

Received after
January 19th

Individual \$60

Spouse \$55

Please check mark
meals you will be
attending.

Friday Alumni
Banquet

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday Luncheon

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail address

Alumni Affiliate

Please make your check payable to:
Illinois FFA Alumni Association

Return completed form and payment to:

Illinois FFA Alumni
3221 Northfield Drive
Springfield, IL 62702

Phone: (217) 753-3328 Fax: (217) 753-3359

No refunds on cancellations after Wednesday, January 23, 2008

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ILLINOIS FFA ALUMNI CONSTITUTION

The following proposed Amendment pertains to Article V, Section B, Paragraph 4.

Current:

Upon a majority vote of the FFA Alumni Executive Board, the Illinois FFA Executive Secretary shall serve as the Illinois FFA Alumni Association Executive Secretary.

Proposed Amendment:

A professional staff member of the Illinois FFA Center staff shall be appointed to serve as the Illinois FFA Alumni Association Executive Secretary, following a majority vote of the FFA Alumni Executive Board, and approval by the Illinois FFA Center Administrative Council.

Rationale:

Currently, the workload for the state staff at the Illinois FFA Center is not well-balanced.

The current Illinois FFA Alumni Executive Secretary also serves as the Executive Secretary for the Illinois Association FFA, the Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers and Administrative Director for the Illinois FFA Center.

In recent years, additional professional staff members have been added at the Illinois FFA Center who may be able to assume the duties of the Executive Secretary of the Illinois FFA Alumni Association.

The addition of the “Director of Post-Secondary Development” position now provides a means to allow the FFA Alumni to recruit new FFA Alumni members.

The Administrative Council’s approval is necessary for staff assignments, so the approval of the Administrative Council will be needed to make this change.

By eliminating the position title from the amendment, the Alumni Council has greater flexibility in directing and changing the staff assigned, should the need arise.

Illinois FFA Alumni Association Auction Donation Form

2007 Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting
January 25 & 26, 2008
Springfield, Illinois

Please describe your auction donation in specific detail including restrictions. Use this unique marketing opportunity to write a promotional description that clearly defines your donation. Although every attempt will be made to use your description as submitted, the Alumni Association reserves the right to make adjustments deemed necessary. *Please provide expiration dates for certificates/tickets. We suggest one year from auction date of 1/26/2008.*

Description: _____

Actual Cost: \$ _____

Donor will: Ship to FFA Center by January 11, 2008
 Bring to Auction site by January 25, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.
 Ship to winning bidder after auction.
 Schedule delivery or pick up of item (*Contact Illinois FFA Center*)

Donor Organization: _____
(This is vital for program listings, thank you notes and questions)

Contact Person: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email & Website: _____

(Provided web addresses will be posted on the Alumni website with donation)

Please return this **completed form**, along with your brochure, photo, ad mark and other information before the December 15, 2007 deadline to have your donation included in the Annual Meeting program. Logos to appear in program must be returned with this donation form. Electronic logos are preferred and needs to be an image with at least 300 dpi.

Send materials to: Illinois FFA Alumni Association
3221 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62702
Phone: (217) 753-3328 Fax: (217) 753-3359
www.illinoisffa.org www.ffaalumni.com

Deadline for inclusion in program is December 21, 2007

Intent to run for President: Dean Olson, Geneseo FFA Alumni

Agriculture has always been part of my life. I now own and operate the farm near Geneseo where I was raised. I graduated from Geneseo High School where FFA was my major activity and then from Western Illinois University with a B.S. in Animal Science and Ag Management.

Along with my sons I farm 2400 acres of corn, soybeans, rye, and hay. Feeding cattle is the basis of our operation, but we also do custom work.

My family includes my wife, Diane (a middle school English teacher), our daughter Dee Ann Kuster (a veterinarian), sons Deric and Dustin who both operate farms of their own, and son Devin, a sophomore at Black Hawk College. All four of our children have been very active in FFA.

I have served on the Henry County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, as president of the Henry County Beef Association, Illinois Beef Association Board, as 4-H County Fair Superintendent, the carter president of the Geneseo FFA Alumni Chapter, and president of the Illinois FFA Alumni. We are members of First Lutheran Church in Geneseo.

I live my life for the 4 Fs: Faith, Family, Farming, and FFA!

Intent to run for Vice President: Jim McCray, Cissna Park FFA Alumni

I am a married father of three. My wife, Sandy, teaches in the Cissna Park school district. We are the proud grandparents of a granddaughter.

I am the owner of a construction company specializing in custom homes.

I have lived in Cissna Park my entire life never more than 1 and ½ miles from the family farm.

Intent to run for Secretary: Janet Rigg, Bushnell Prairie-City FFA Alumni

I am a graduate of Macomb High School and Robert Morris College. I am now employed by Idol R. Mitchell, DPM as a Podiatric Medical Assistant after the retirement of my boss of 28 years, Dr. Max Rexroat. My duties range from patient care to dictation. I am a life member of the American and Illinois Podiatric Medical Assistants Assoc. My husband, Curt is a vehicle appraiser for Country Ins. We have three children, Shelley, a loan officer at First Federal Bank; Cory, a senior

Ag/Construction Management major at WIU; and Kary, serving in the USAF training for deployment for Iraq. I am still very involved with the BPCA Athletic Boosters serving as the head of concessions. I volunteer at the McDonough County 4-H and Junior shows on the beef committee. I also volunteer with several charity fundraisers. I have recently started decorating cakes for family and friends and enjoy scrap-booking whenever I can.

Intent to run for Treasurer: John Riordan, Herscher FFA Alumni

I was born and raised in Reddick area and attended SIU for Ag major. I was involved in FFA all 4 years of high school and held different offices. After college, I returned to O'Dell and operated a grain and livestock farm. I sold John Deere equipment for 17 years. I currently own and operate my trucking business. Both my children are active in 4-H and FFA. My daughter, Chelsi, was president of Greenhands. My son, Sean has served as VP of his chapter. Sean and Chelsi are both active in showing cattle and own their own cow/calf herd. This all has been done with the help of my wife, Gail, who also works for Com-Ed.

Intent to run for Reporter: James Shelby, Jefferson County FFA Alumni

My name is James Shelby and I am declaring my intent to run for Illinois FFA Alumni Reporter for 2008. I am currently serving in that position on the Council as well as continuing to serve the Jefferson County (Mount Vernon) FFA Alumni Affiliate as their Treasurer and I have been in that position for six years now.

My involvement with the Alumni has allowed me to have a positive impact on the future of agriculture education by coming along side my local Agriculture Program as an active volunteer to encourage young people to take passion in their Agriculture Department and be as active with the FFA as they can. With the five years I spent as a student and FFA member, I learned to accept my share of responsibility with this organization and to participate as much as physically possible with planning, organizing, and administrating the day to day operations of the local FFA Chapter, not just for the sake of the future impact the FFA would have on the community, but how this is a lifetime laboratory for young people to develop life skills needed in raising families, running businesses, taking steps in a corporate ladder, and become connected to a network of contacts. You can teach people to write, figure complex math problems, being able to solve scientific problems, or how to run an effective meeting with parliamentary procedure, but to give youth leadership skills, interpersonal networking, and instilling in them a heart of serving others above themselves are the tools that are truly only received through diving in head first and getting involved.

The 12 words of the FFA motto may be the easiest thing for students to quote or remember, but quite simply it just means that Active Participation and Real Life Application is what motivates us all to be better servants. I hope to continue serving the FFA and impacting the lives of students and local Agriculture Education Programs.

Dates to Remember . . .

December 11	NAAE/ACTE Annual Meeting	Las Vegas, NV
December 16	St. Louis Blues Ag Night	St. Louis, MO
January 4	IAVAT Board of Directors Meeting	Springfield, IL
January 18-19	Made for Excellence Conference	Oakbrook, IL (North) Collinsville, IL (South)
January 25-26	IL FFA Alumni Annual Meeting	Springfield, IL
January 28	FFA Board of Directors Meeting	Springfield, IL
February 24	FFA Night at Peoria Rivermen Game	Peoria, IL
March 1	Alumni Roster Due Date	IL FFA Center
March 1	Leadership Camp Scholarship App Due	IL FFA Center
March 1	Washington Leadership Conference App Due	IL FFA Center

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