

2004
Illinois FFA Alumni
Executive Council

President

Ron Byers
902 105th St
Berwick, IL 61417
(H) 309-426-2738

Vice President

Dean Olson
22236 Grange Rd
Geneseo, IL 61254
(H) 309-944-4472
olsonacres@geneseo.net

Secretary

Rich Sanders
PO Box 195
Forrest, IL 61741
(H) 815-657-7085
(W) 815-657-8815

Treasurer

Bill Brown
150 Ande Rd
Eldorado, IL 62930
(H) 618-273-9200
bbrown@onemain.com

Reporter

Sally Kittinger
3305 Cottonwood Rd
Eldorado, IL 62930
(H) 618-273-7127
sally729@yahoo.com

District I Director

Hal Lewis
543 E Wells St
Geneseo, IL 61254
(H) 309-944-9387

District I Director

Loran Wilken
9441 N Adeline Rd
Leaf River, IL 61047
(H) 815-938-9039
(W) 815-938-2273

District II Director

Jim McCray
604 N 1600 E Rd
Claytonville, IL 60926
(H) 815-457-2009
(W) 815-889-4343
jmccray@localline2.com

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2004 – 2005
“Helping Shape America’s Future”
Illinois FFA Alumni Association

Volume 6 Issue 2

ANNUAL MEETING CHANGES

The FFA Alumni annual meeting evaluations were a topic of discussion at the March council meeting. Several comments were made about changing the location of the meeting. While we understand that a change is necessary, we are unable to break our contract with the Hilton Hotel. We did check into this but the cancellation fee was astronomical and this coming annual meeting is our final year on the contract. When the alumni council originally signed a contract with the Hilton, no other hotels were available for the dates we needed. We agreed to a multiple year contract so that the room rates would be guaranteed at the lower \$69 cost and so that we would have a meeting site. This being said, the alumni council did listen to your concerns about the location and have been able to secure a contract with the Northfield Inn & Suites, Springfield beginning in 2006.

In addition to a future site change, changes are on the way for the Friday night entertainment and we are working on bringing back the exchange of ideas workshops.

We have been trying to come up with a way to increase attendance and are open to any suggestions alumni members have. In the past we have had problems with individuals receiving the registration materials included in the newsletter in a timely manner due to the fact that they are mailed bulk mail. To help correct this problem, we will make the registration form available on the alumni web-site (sometime in November or early December) as well as in the newsletter. Please watch for additional information in upcoming editions of the newsletter.

NATIONAL ALUMNI FORMS

National FFA Alumni has updated many of their application forms this year including the Local Program Grant, Legion of Merit Award, Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award. If your affiliate plans on submitting any of these applications, please make sure you are using the most recent revision and turn the applications in by the appropriate deadline. Also watch the deadline dates. Some applications must be submitted through the state first and have a different deadline date than what is on National’s application.

2004
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Executive Council
Cont.

District II Director
Vacant

District III Director
Dick Myers
2270 E County Rd
Bowen, IL 62316
(H) 217-842-5574

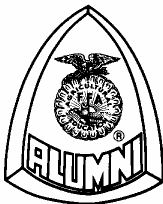
District III Director
Kenneth Schafer
18484 Stagecoach Rd
Jerseyville, IL 62052
(H) 618-885-5035

District IV Director
Jan Brown
22204 E 400 N Rd
LeRoy, IL 61752
(H) 309-962-3481

District IV Director
Bobby Brown
22862 E 500 N Rd
Downs, IL 61736
(H) 309-962-2527
abhbrown1@msn.com

District V Director
Ted Hughes
RR 1 Box 76
Cisne, IL 62823
(H) 618-835-2531
(W) 618-835-2684

District V Director
Steve Yandell
9235 US Hwy 45 N
Tunnel Hill, IL 62972
(H) 618-658-9270
(W) 618-658-2011
yfour@accessus.net



STATE COUNCIL MEETING REVIEW

The alumni council met on March 12-13, 2004 at the State FFA Center. The following were topics of discussion:

- Archiving alumni records – progress is continuing to be made on preparing materials and rosters for archiving.
- Alumni Brochures – brochures were reviewed and minor changes were suggested. The brochures are available from the State FFA Center.
- The alumni display – the display will be put up at the FFA Convention and in order to keep better track of it, it will be “checked out” of the FFA Center when affiliates request use of it.
- The alumni handbook – The updates to the handbook have been made and the State FFA Center will have a LIMITED number available in hard copy. The handbook will be put on the alumni web-site for members to download and the handbook will be burned onto the CD that all FFA advisors will be receiving at a future date. The council decided against printing several copies of the handbook because some of the information will be outdated again once National FFA Alumni puts their date changes made at the 2003 convention into effect.
- The FFA Officers requested the alumni members to help with the dance at state convention and to put on a workshop during the convention.
- The motion was made at the Annual Meeting to review scholarship dates and applications. No changes will be made for this current year due to the fact that applications and dates have already been sent out to every affiliate.
- The council discussed ways to increase Section Chairpersons involvement in the council and decided to start having the Section Chairs attend council meetings and to form the auction committee. Section Chairpersons will receive an invitation to the June meeting.
- The council judged the WLC and Leadership Camp Scholarship applications. The selected recipients are listed on the next page of the newsletter as well as on the alumni web-site.

LOCAL AFFILIATE NEWS

Eldorado FFA Alumni helps FFA Chapter purchase a van
Submitted by: Bill Kittinger, Eldorado FFA Alumni

The Eldorado FFA Alumni recently paid off the note of the FFA Chapter van purchased this past August. The alumni chapter donated over \$ 3000. towards the purchase of the van. Proceeds were raised at the annual alumni fish fry in March. The Eldorado FFA would like to thank the Alumni chapter for their support.

LOCAL AFFILIATE NEWS

Local Affiliate news can be included in the state newsletter by sending an article (and pictures if desired) to:

Sally Kittinger, Illinois FFA Alumni Reporter
3305 Cottonwood Rd
Eldorado, IL 62930

sally729@yahoo.com (put "Alumni Newsletter" in the subject line for e-mails)

Please include the author's name and phone number along with your article. Following are the 2004 deadlines for article submissions:

July 31st to be included in the August newsletter

October 31st to be included in the November newsletter

We will also start posting local affiliate news on the alumni web-site. Articles can be submitted at any time to be posted on-line. All articles will be reviewed for content and can be edited at our discretion.

DONATIONS FOR STATE BASKET

For the past few years, Illinois has been entering a basket in the State Basket contest at the National FFA Convention. The state baskets are auctioned off to help raise funds for scholarships the National FFA provides. Illinois members have received many scholarships and the alumni feels it is important to make a contribution to the auction. We are not only making a contribution, we are getting Illinois recognized by having the basket listed in the auction program and having the basket displayed at National Convention. Convention attendees do notice which states participate in this fundraiser. National FFA Alumni offers the following prizes for the top three baskets: 1st - \$450.00 Washington Leadership Scholarship, 2nd - \$125.00 Registration Fee to State Alumni Leaders Conference, and 3rd - 100 tickets for the Alumni Giveaway.

In the past, Sarah Myers has worked tirelessly on putting together a good representation of products from Illinois. She is willing to assemble a basket to represent our state again this year but could use your help! If you have anything that is made locally or is representative of Illinois, please send the donation to Sarah Myers, 2270 E County Rd, Bowen, IL 62316.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following individuals received a scholarship to attend the Washington Leadership Conference: Justin Brown, Athens FFA; Thomas Lynch, Cissna Park FFA; Scott Michels, Clay City FFA; Jessica Earing, Dwight FFA; Gretchen Boggess, Eldorado FFA; Nick Miller, Geneseo FFA; Bryan Schullian, Liberty FFA; Erin Cathcart, Nashville FFA; Stacey Dehlinger, Olney FFA; Andrea Steele, Seneca FFA; Morgan L. Myers, Southeastern FFA; Jonathan Beckman, Trico FFA; David M. Yandell, Vienna FFA; John Howell, Waterloo FFA; and Sara Jane Bretzman, Woodland FFA.

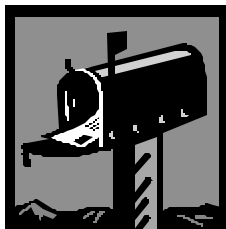
The following individuals received a scholarship to attend the FFA Leadership Camp: Tyler L. McGrew, Bushnell-Prairie City FFA; Aaron Barnard, Cisne FFA; Michael Kaeb, Cissna Park FFA; Kylie Leonard, Clay City FFA; Michelle Crowder, Egyptian FFA; Megan Harbison, Eldorado FFA; Rachael Grant, Galva FFA; John Riewerts, Geneseo FFA; James Wadlow, Jerseyville FFA; Jessica DeHaven, Kewanee FFA; Storm Lightfoot, Mt. Vernon FFA; Bethany Burke, Mendota FFA; Ryne Fullerton, Nashville FFA; Cassie Zimmerman, Roseville FFA; Dane Hunter, Salem FFA; Dustin Roskamp, Warsaw FFA; Ashley Wetzler, Waterloo FFA; and Kyle Beutke, Woodland FFA.

Congratulations to these scholarship recipients!

Visit www.illinoisffa.org and click on the alumni link to view the alumni web-site. Suggestions for information you would like on the site would be greatly appreciated.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES!

Illinois FFA Center
3221 Northfield Dr
Springfield, IL 62702



National FFA Alumni
6060 FFA Dr
PO Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN
46268-0960

Remember that your membership rosters must have been postmarked and returned with dues to the State FFA Center prior to judging to qualify for alumni scholarships. Rosters must show 10 or more active members and include a list of officers. Dates listed are the postmarked dates due.

July 1, 2004	FFA Alumni Scrapbook due to National FFA Alumni
August 1, 2004	Final alumni roster due to State FFA Center
August 15, 2004	Legion of Merit App due to National FFA Alumni
Sept. 15, 2004	Chapter Grant Applications due to National FFA Alumni
October 1, 2004	Intent to Run for Illinois FFA Alumni Council due to State FFA Center
October 1, 2004	EDGE Conference Scholarship Applications due to State FFA Center
Nov. 1, 2004	MFE Scholarship Applications due to State FFA Center
Nov. 1, 2004	Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate Award Application due to State FFA Center
Nov. 1, 2004	Outstanding Achievement Award Application due to State FFA Center
January 1, 2005	Work Experience Abroad Scholarship Application due to State FFA Center
Jan. 28-29, 2005	Illinois FFA Alumni Annual Meeting – Hilton Hotel, Springfield

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3221 Northfield Dr
Springfield, IL 62702

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