

Corduroy Connections

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association

Summer 2014

Minnesota FFA Alumni Officers

President: Judy Barka

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Region Representatives

Region I: Open

Region II: Aimee Brichacek

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Region III: Charles Erickson

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Region IV: Cara Soper

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Region V: Lynn Suter

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Region VI: Open

Region VII: Jim Burns

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Region VIII: Stacy Fritz

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Member At Large: Nate Janssen

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2014 MN State FFA Convention Highlights



Minnesota FFA members fueled their fire by participating in the 2014 Minnesota State Convention. FFA members from across the state spent three days at the University of Minnesota where they had many opportunities to learn as well as show what they have prepared in the months leading up to State Convention. FFA members had many opportunities to attend workshops where they could develop skills and knowledge about various topics. They also were able to listen to the wise words of Coach Jerry Kill. National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Wes Davis shared remarks with members on Monday evening and presented workshops on leadership.

FFA members also had a chance to show their skills and talents in various CDE competitions throughout State FFA Convention. Many FFA members were recognized for their accomplishments as proficiency winners, State Degree



(Photo taken by Matt Addington Photography)

Dr Amy Smith shares with students why becoming an agricultural educator is a great career choice at the "Change Lives, Teach Ag Ed" Workshop.

recipients, and Stars in Agribusiness, Agri-Science, Placement, and Star Farmer. FFA supporters were also raised to Honorary State Degree recipients and inducted as Hall of Fame members.

Learning to Do

FFA Alumni Region Representatives

One of the critical roles on the State FFA Alumni Council is that of Region Representative. Each of the eight regions has one representative who serves as a liaison between the State FFA Alumni and the affiliates in the region. These individuals are contacts that can answer questions, assist in beginning new alumni affiliates and serve in many other ways as the need arises.

Currently serving as Region Representatives are Aimee Brichacek, Charles Erickson, Cara Soper, Lynn Suter, Jim Burns, and Stacy Fritz. Thank you for all the work you do for MN FFA Alumni and for the FFA Alumni members in your region.

Regions 1 and 6 are currently open and in need of region representatives.

From the President: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

Judy Barka, Litchfield

The FFA motto gives FFA members twelve short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization.

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

If we look at the motto as stages in your FFA career the first stage – Learning to Do – would be when you joined your local FFA program and started to get involved. You learned a lot that first year - Official ceremonies, official dress and how to tie a tie; about SAE, CDE, and greenhand to name a few. You were learning about the program, a necessary step for you to become more involved.

Stage two would be Doing to Learn. Here you probably got involved with a CDE and held an office. Maybe you attend a leadership camp or participated in State Convention. You started focusing on your SAE – setting and achieving goals, growing your project.

Stage three is Earning to Live – this is probably where most of us are now, working to earn a living. Regardless of what career area you are in, think about how your FFA experience benefited you. Have you continued to expand and grow your SAE so you are earning a living from it, or did it become something you still enjoy? Have you used the record keeping skills you developed to maintain your personal records or did you go directly into a career that involved record keeping. Have you used the parliamentary procedure skills learned during those first FFA meetings with a group you are a member. How about those friendships you made at meetings, state convention or camp – are you still in contact and have they benefited you in any way?

As an FFA Alumni member you are also in the Living to Serve stage. How are you giving back to the FFA? Are you serving as a coach, chaperone, mentor, friend, or supporter? There is a need for all of those people. This is corn/crop drive season in most FFA chapters. I have picked up several local papers and see pictures and read articles about FFA members and Alumni working together on this. This is a wonderful example of Living to Serve. What else are you doing in your chapter?

I hope the next time you see the motto you think how you benefited from FFA. Don't you want an FFA member to have the same experience? The time for Living to Serve is now.



Doing to Learn

Urban Ag in the Classroom

In May, Dassel-Cokato FFA and Morris Area FFA conducted the 5th annual Urban Ag in the Classroom event. 475 third grade students from urban school districts spent the day at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The students spent time at many different stations where they learned about many different parts of agriculture. They had the opportunity to see various types of livestock and were able to have their questions answered by FFA members. They also participated in various stations provided by different commodity groups.

The day was very successful and could not have happened without the hard work put forth by the FFA members, Alumni, supporters and advisors from Dassel Cokato and Morris.

Minnesota FFA Alumni

Affiliate Profile



Newly Chartered Affiliates:

Sauk Rapids/Rice

Hawley

AFSA (Academy for Sciences and Agriculture)

We are very excited to welcome the new FFA Alumni Affiliates who have chartered this year. Newly chartered affiliates have made an important commitment to support their local FFA chapters and youth in their communities. Making the decision to charter, is an important step in what promises to be a positive partnership between the FFA chapter and the Alumni Affiliate.

We are excited to welcome the following FFA Alumni Affiliates: Hawley, Sauk Rapids/Rice, and AFSA. Hawley is located in Region 1. Sauk Rapids/Rice is in Region 3. AFSA which is the Academy for Sciences and Agriculture in Vadnais Heights, is located in Region 4.

Thank you for your support of and commitment to Minnesota FFA and youth in agricultural education programs. We wish these new affiliates the best as they grow and develop. We extend a welcome to these new affiliates and look forward to working with them in the future.

If you or anyone you know is interested in starting an FFA Alumni Affiliate, contact your Region Representative. Their contact information is located on the first page of this newsletter. They will be able to answer questions and assist in the planning process.

Earning to Live

AFSA High School Potato Hug

On October 4, AFSA High School in Vadnais Heights, will be hosting their Potato Hug. This event allows students to showcase their SAE projects for the guests to see. Local ag-related businesses are also invited to attend as vendors. This allows students and vendors to interact and learn from each other.

The Potato Hug also features a baked potato bar with all the fixings. This promises to be a great opportunity to see the work that students have been doing.

If you have questions about the event, please contact the AFSA High School Parent Booster Club at AFSABooster@afsahighschool.com

Minnesota FFA Alumni

Alumni Profile



Sangeetha Gummadi Buffalo FFA Alumni

Outstanding Young Alumni Member



(Photo by Lynn Fischer)

Sangeetha Gummadi has dedicated her time and talents to Minnesota FFA and its members. Sangeetha is active in the Buffalo FFA Alumni Affiliate. She serves as a guest speaker during agriculture classes. Her job as a soil conservationist for the NRCS allows her to bring valuable information to the agriculture classroom. She is willing to help FFA members in various ways. She has helped students prepare for CDE contests and has also chaperoned FFA members on trips to the State and National FFA Convention. One of the contributions Sangeetha has made to Buffalo FFA has been to take on the role and responsibility of the Assistant FFA Advisor position. Her job has been to assist the FFA chapter and new advisor. She helps to add stability to the program which contributes to the success of the members.

Sangeetha has also served the state FFA Alumni as a past Region IV Representative on the State Alumni Board. She also serves on the State Officer Nominating Committee. She works with the FFA members on the Nominating Committee, to select a team of six individuals who will assume the leadership roles of Minnesota State FFA Officers.

Sangeetha has made a positive impact on Minnesota FFA. Her leadership and commitment to FFA have made a difference.

Living to Serve

Day Frederick Award Presented to Ed Terry

Ed Terry was the recipient of the 2014 Day -Frederick Award. This award is presented to an individual who has contributed a great deal to Minnesota FFA. Ed Terry of Randolph FFA has dedicated many years to the success of his students as the Rendolph FFA advisor.

The award was presented during FFA Day at the Minnesota State Fair.

We would like to congratulate Ed Terry on receiving this honor. We would also like to thank him for all of his contributions to Minnesota FFA over the years.



2014 Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame Inductees

The 2014 Hall of Fame inductees were recognized at the Minnesota State Fair during FFA Day. The recipients who were able to attend, also had the opportunity to be recognized by being a part of the State Fair parade.

*Val Aarsvold, Altura MN



*Kevin Dahlman, Cokato, MN



*Greg Gosen, Albert Lea, MN



*Rep. Rod Hamilton, Mountain Lake, MN



*Dr. Allen S. Levine, Mendota Heights, MN



*Joel Larsen, Savage, MN



*Jim Molenaar, New London, MN



*Dr. Deane A. Turner (Deceased)



Upcoming Events

October 4	AFSA High School Potato Hug
October 29-November 1	87th National FFA Convention & Expo-Louisville Kentucky
January 19, 2015	FFA Hall of Fame Nominations Due

Minnesota FFA Alumni Association

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**Minnesota FFA Alumni:
Supporting the Blue
Jackets since 1972!**

Newsletter created by
Minnesota FFA Alumni Intern
Lisa Roker.

FFA Alumni Mission

The mission of the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association is to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

FFA Alumni Vision

The vision of the Minnesota FFA Alumni Association is a world where people and communities can grow and develop to their fullest potential.

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