



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION



## FFA Alumni Manual

*Growing Leaders, Building Communities,  
Strengthening Agriculture*

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**All materials found in this manual may be reproduced for FFA Alumni purposes.**

## **National FFA Alumni Association**

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## **Background**

The National FFA Alumni Association was created as an “affiliate of the Future Farmers of America.” As such its primary purpose was to “support and promote the FFA organization, FFA activities and agricultural education on local, state and national levels.” Subsequent revisions to the constitution and by-laws served to clarify that the National FFA Organization Board of Directors had legal authority for the management and operations of the FFA’s Alumni Association.

The National FFA Constitution Article V – Membership Section A: “Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of four kinds: active, alumni, collegiate and honorary.” This language establishes Alumni as part of the National FFA Organization and not independent from the National FFA Organization.

## **Executive Body**

The constitution created the **National FFA Alumni Council** to serve as an advisory council to the National FFA Organizations Alumni Division as representatives of the alumni association. The council is responsible for ensuring that the associations program of activities is focused on and delivers the mission and vision of the organization. They serve as an advisory council that helps to develop the strategic direction of the National FFA Alumni Association as well as provides consultation and feedback from the local, state, and regional levels to National FFA staff.

The National FFA Alumni Council is established and outlined in **Articles V – VII of the National FFA Alumni Association Bylaws.**

*For a current listing of the National FFA Alumni Council, please visit our website:*  
**[www.ffa.org/support/alumni/council](http://www.ffa.org/support/alumni/council)**

## **Responsibility and Accountability**

The following are expectations of the alumni staff in order to serve the FFA Alumni Association.

- a. Develop and deliver National FFA Alumni member programs and resources to meet the needs of members
- b. Conduct general FFA Alumni business, including business meetings, annual conventions and other events determined by an annual program of work
- c. Develop and administer the budget, program of work and FFA Alumni fund-raising programs
- d. Develop promotional materials for unifying community support of former members and interested individuals in support of agricultural education at the local, state and national levels consistent with National FFA's publication standards
- e. Develop grassroots advocacy information for use at the local level in support of agricultural education
- f. Manage and invest all FFA Alumni assets within the National FFA Organization's Investment Policy
- g. Maintain and up-date bylaws of the National FFA Alumni Association with consultation from the National FFA Alumni Council and with approval of the alumni delegate assembly at the National FFA Convention.

## **Financial**

The revenue and expenses derived from former and current alumni events, activities and programs will be accounted for as a divisional profit/loss center through the National FFA Organization's annual budget. These records will be included as part of the National FFA Organization's audit. A budget, guided by the investment and spending policies, is required annually and will be submitted as part of the FFA Organization's budget.

## **Operating Structure and Authority**

The National FFA Organization Board of Directors is the legal authority for the management and operations of the FFA's Alumni Association.

The National FFA Board of Directors specifically authorizes the CEO to manage staff that provides programs and resources to assist the National FFA Alumni Association in serving the needs of the organization.

A National FFA Alumni Council representative will serve (as needed) as a stakeholder representative to the National Board of Directors.

The Alumni staff is accountable to the FFA Organization, the Director of Alumni also serves as the Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association and is accountable to the National FFA Organization's Chief Operating Officer (COO).

The National FFA Alumni Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control, supervise or approve state association, local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the National FFA Alumni Association's Calendar and Bylaws.

United States of America  
**National FFA Alumni Regional Map**



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# BYLAWS OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## ***ARTICLE I***

### **Name/Emblem**

**Section I.** The name of this National FFA Organization affiliate shall be the National FFA Alumni Association.

**Section II.** The emblem of the National FFA Alumni Association is a triangular shield with an FFA emblem and the word "Alumni" below it.

## ***ARTICLE II***

### **Purpose**

**Section I.** The purpose of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be:

- A. To support and promote FFA activities and agricultural education on local, state and national levels.
- B. To provide a tie to and assist FFA and agricultural education personnel to involve former members, supporters and volunteers in worthy activities.
- C. To promote greater knowledge of the agricultural industry and support education in agriculture.
- D. To cooperate with the National FFA Board of Directors and the National FFA Foundation.
- E. To promote and maintain an appreciation of the American free enterprise system.
- F. To promote the personal development of the FFA and FFA alumni members and volunteers.

## ***ARTICLE III***

### **Organization**

**Section I.** The National FFA Alumni Association is an affiliate of the National FFA Organization.

**Section II.** *The National FFA Alumni Association* consists of chartered State Associations, local affiliates and members-at-large, which operate in harmony with the National FFA Organization. *Any group using the name "FFA Alumni"* must affiliate and charter with the State, if a State Association exists, as well as the National Association. They must also pay National dues for each member.

**Section III.** *State FFA Alumni Associations*

A State FFA Alumni Association shall be eligible to charter when:

- A. It is organized with at least 50 charter members who paid National FFA Alumni dues.
- B. It has bylaws and/or constitution in harmony with the National FFA Alumni Bylaws.
- C. It has an executive group with officers.

**Section IV. Local FFA Alumni affiliates**

A Local FFA Alumni affiliate shall be eligible to become chartered when:

- A. It has at least 10 charter members who have paid state and national dues. Local affiliates may affiliate directly with the National FFA Alumni Association when no State Association exists.
- B. Its bylaws and/or constitution are in harmony with the National FFA Alumni Association.
- C. It has an executive group with officers.

**Section V. Membership-at-Large**

Membership-at-Large is designated for a member that does not have a local affiliate or State Association and pays dues directly to the National FFA Alumni Association.

**Section VI.** The State Associations or local affiliates are eligible to maintain affiliation status provided the requirements stated in this article continue to be met.

**Section VII. Reports and Audits**

- A. Books and records of the National FFA Alumni Association may be inspected by any member or his/her agent at any reasonable time.
- B. There shall be an annual audit of the National FFA Alumni Association.
- C. The fiscal year and reporting year are from January 1 to December 31.

## ***ARTICLE IV***

### **Membership**

**Section I.** Membership shall be open to anyone interested in supporting FFA, agricultural education, agriculture or volunteerism. Membership in the FFA Alumni includes many rights, benefits, and privileges, however, no level of membership entitles any member to act for and/or on behalf of any local, state or the National FFA Alumni Association regarding any policy or position unless granted by and through these bylaws and/or is otherwise granted specifically, in writing, by the National FFA Alumni Association.

**Section II. Types of Membership**

- A. Associate Membership
  1. Associate Membership is a free five year national membership to graduating and recent graduates at that is provided to potential members annually.
  2. Associate Membership entitles the member to electronic information from the National FFA Alumni Association.
  3. Associate Members will not be included in any rebate or awards program. Associate members have no voting rights and will not be included in official membership counts to determine the number of national voting delegates for a state.
  4. Associate membership is offered for a maximum of five (5) years immediately following high school graduation.



- B. Annual Membership
1. All annual members have equal class and privileges.
  2. Alumni membership is a 12-month period beginning September 1 and ending August 31.
  3. Annual membership dues of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be recommended by the National FFA Alumni Council and approved by a majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting.
  4. State Associations and local affiliates may establish their own membership dues for annual membership in addition to the national dues.
    - State Associations have the option to adopt an FFA Alumni Affiliate Program Fee for the Annual Membership. This structure restricts annual members to receive only electronic communications. Members are eligible to be included in the delegate count based on a Program Fee delegate accrual and are eligible for all awards offered by the National FFA Alumni Association.
  5. Membership renewal procedures are conducted by a roster system. Local FFA Alumni affiliates and State FFA Alumni Associations must submit membership via the Agricultural Career Network on an annual basis.
- C. Life Membership
1. The life membership amount is deposited in an investment fund. A percentage is returned to the operating fund according to the Spending and Distribution Policy.
  2. Upon the death of a life member, whose life membership began before January 1, 1997 an amount equal to the amount of their life membership will be presented in their name as a scholarship as designated.
  3. State Associations and local affiliates may establish their own life membership category and set dues for life members.
  4. Life Membership dues of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be recommended by the National FFA Alumni Council and approved by a majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting.
- D. Corporate Partnership
1. Is a 12-month period beginning September 1 and ending August 31.
  2. Corporate dues and benefits of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be recommended by the National FFA Alumni Council and approved by majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting.

## ***ARTICLE V***

### **Officers**

**Section I.** The officers of the National FFA Alumni Association will be the President, President-Elect and the immediate Past-President.

## **Section II. *Duties/qualifications of officers***

### **A. President**

1. The President will be an individual who has served as the President-Elect the previous year.
2. The President will be the principal officer of the Association.
3. The President will preside at all meetings of the National FFA Alumni Council, the Executive Committee and the Association and carry out the general mission and objectives of the Association.
4. The President will be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

### **B. President-Elect**

1. The President-Elect, at the direction of the President, will act in the President's behalf, and perform such duties as are usual and customary of a vice president.
2. Any candidate for the office of President-Elect must first have been elected by the delegates to any other elected position on the Council and served at least one year in that position.
3. The Past President or other retired council members may not be a candidate for President-Elect without first being elected again and serving one year on the Council.

### **C. Past President**

1. The Past President is the immediate former Past President of the Association.
2. Should the President-Elect not be able or available to perform the assigned duties of that office, the immediate Past President will assume the duties of that office until such time as the President-Elect is able to resume such duties or until the National FFA Alumni Council appoints a person to complete the unexpired term of office of the President-Elect.

## **Section III. *Nomination and Selection***

### **A. President**

1. The President of the association will be the previous year's President-Elect unless 2/3 of the delegates vote to remove the President-Elect from office.
2. If the President-Elect is removed from office, the position of President will be filled via nominations by the delegates from qualified Council members.
3. Once removed from office that individual may never again serve on the National FFA Alumni Council.

### **B. President-Elect**

1. Candidates for President-Elect will be selected from qualified Council members by a five (5) member nominating committee who are members of the Council and appointed by the Council President.

### **C. Past President**

1. The retiring President will serve as the immediate Past President.

## **Section IV. *Terms of Office***

All officers will serve for one year or until the successor is elected or appointed to that office.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Executive Board**

**Section I.** The executive body of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be the National FFA Alumni Council, henceforth known as the *Council*, which advises and consults the National FFA Alumni Executive Director and operates under the legal authority of the National FFA Board of Directors.

**Section II.** The *Council* shall consist of the following:

- A. Six individuals elected by the membership; six Regional Vice Presidents - three (3) year term each, all voting members.  
*\*\*The new regions will align with the NAAE Regions and allow each elected council member a better opportunity to serve their surrounding areas.\*\**
- B. One representative each from the American Association of Agricultural Educators (AAAE), the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), and the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) – three (3) year term each, all voting members.
- C. Two past National FFA officers; one appointed each year – two (2) year term each, voting members.
- D. National FFA Alumni President, President-Elect, and Past President – one (1) year term each, all voting members.

**Section III.** The National FFA Advisor, or a designated representative, the National FFA Foundation Executive Director, or a designated representative and the Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association shall serve as ex officio non-voting members.

**Section IV.** The convention delegates shall elect the National FFA Alumni President-Elect during the National FFA Alumni annual meeting.

**Section V.** The FFA Alumni *Council* Executive Committee, President, President-Elect and Past President will serve as stakeholders on the National FFA Board of Directors.

**Section VI.** *Procedure for Selection of members to the Council*

- A. Elected Members
  - 1. Six Regional Vice Presidents to represent the membership in each region as defined in the National FFA Alumni manual, shall be elected during the National FFA Alumni Convention by the convention delegates from their respective regions. Each regional Vice President must live within their respective region during the entire term of service.

2. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for the *Council*. All candidates will be screened by a five-member nominating committee who are members of the *Council* and appointed by the *Council* President. *Council* members who are a candidate for any *Council* position are not eligible to serve on the nominating committee. The committee will establish the nomination procedure. If no eligible candidates are presented by the committee, the position will be filled at the national convention by taking nominations from the floor, and then proceeding with the usual election process for that position. If no person accepts a nomination from the floor, the *Council* will appoint a person to fill that position.
3. All elections will be conducted by ballot and election results will be announced at the national FFA Alumni convention.
4. Terms shall start with the conclusion of the national FFA Alumni convention.
5. Members of the *Council* serving in **elected positions** will serve no more than one three-year term. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy of an **elected representative** will serve until the next national convention, at which time an election will be held to fulfill the remainder of that term. That person may run for a full term for that position. The maximum number of consecutive years a person may serve on the *Council* is eight years. This would include: one year as an initial appointee to fill one year of another person's term, one year elected to finish that term, three years of their own term as an elected representative, one year as President-Elect, one year as President, and one year as Past President. Any *Council* member who completes their own three-year term, and is not elected President-Elect must retire. Any elected member leaving the *Council* must wait three years before returning to the *Council*.

B. Non-Elected Members

1. The American Association of Agricultural Educators (AAAE), The National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), and The National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) shall each designate a representative to serve on the Council.
2. An immediate past National FFA officer shall submit an application and be appointed by the Executive Committee.

C. Each individual of the *Council* must be a member in good standing of the National FFA Alumni Association.

D. Members of the *Council* appointed to **non-elected positions** will serve no more than one three-year term. However, they may serve for a maximum of five years consecutively if they are initially appointed to fulfill a person's remaining term of two years or less. A person who fulfills their appointed term to a **non-elected position** must wait a minimum of three years before being appointed to the *Council* again, or before being a candidate for an **elected position**.

**Section VII. Duties of the Council**

- A. To direct the operation of the association in accordance with its bylaws.
- B. The *Council*, at their respective meeting, shall approve a National FFA Alumni program of activities and budget for the period starting each January 1. The program shall deal with those activities and objectives to be accomplished by the National FFA Alumni Association.
- C. If a *Council* member misses two consecutive meetings the *Council*, by a majority vote, may remove that individual from the *Council*. The vacancy shall be filled as specified in Article VI, Section IX, of these bylaws.
- D. Any *Council* member may be removed from the *Council* for just cause by a 2/3 vote of the *Council*. Once removed from office, that *Council* member may never again serve on the *Council*.
- E. Should the President be removed from office, the current President-Elect will assume the Presidency and complete the term of the removed President as well as serving their own one-year term. In such case, the current Past President may remain on the *Council*. If the Past President chooses not to remain on the *Council*, the position will remain unfilled, until the current President completes their term and becomes Past President.
- F. Except for the office of President, any vacancy on the *Council* as the result of the removal of a Council member shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

**Section VIII: Reimbursements**

- A. Members of the *Council* shall not be paid a salary for their work as a member of the *Council*.
- B. The National FFA Alumni Association shall pay travel expenses for the *Council* members consistent with the National FFA Organization Operating Policies.
- C. Travel expenses for activities of the *Council* members will not be reimbursed in excess of the budgeted amount approved by the National FFA Alumni Association.
- D. Receipts for travel (hotel and airplane) are required. If travel is by private car, the amount paid shall not exceed the cost of travel by common carrier (airplane).
- E. All requests for travel reimbursements must be on FFA travel vouchers.
- F. The National FFA Alumni Association will pay travel expenses for one *Council* member per state visit per year. The inviting state will pay for lodging and meals while the council member is in their state.
- G. The National FFA Alumni Association will not pay travel expenses for the ex-officio/non-voting members to the *Council*, with the exception of the National FFA Executive Director.

**Section IX. Vacancies**

- A. Whenever a vacancy of an elected member occurs, other than from expiration of the term of office, the *Council* Executive Committee will appoint a person to fill that position until the next election.
- B. Whenever a vacancy of a non-elected member occurs, the leadership of the organization that the member represents shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of office.
- C. If the Past National FFA Officer does not complete his/her term, the vacant position(s) will remain open until filled.

**Section X. Meetings**

- A. The *Council* shall meet at least twice per year. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the *Council* members upon petition to the Executive Director.
- B. The *Council* shall be able to vote and conduct business over conference calls and other electronic means.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Executive Committee**

**Section I. Composition**

The Executive Committee will consist of the President, President-Elect and the immediate Past President.

**Section II. Duties/Responsibilities**

The Executive Committee will perform the duties as prescribed by these bylaws and those that are delegated to them by the *Council*.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Meetings**

**Section I.** There shall be an annual meeting of the membership of the National FFA Alumni Association that will be held concurrently with the National FFA Convention. Additional membership meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the *Council* members in a petition to the Executive Director.

**Section II. Delegates**

- A. Representation for the purpose of voting at the annual meeting shall be by States in proportion to their membership and each State Association in good standing shall be entitled to send at least one delegate from its active FFA Alumni membership and must be present at annual meeting during the voting process for vote to be valid.
- B. The number of delegates is based on one for every 200 active alumni members with a minimum of one delegate for State Associations in good standing, with less than 200 active members. States participating in the Program Fee will receive specified number of delegates according to the scale.

- C. Each State Association will be required to register delegates prior to the delegate meeting at the annual convention. Only FFA Alumni members properly registered will be allowed to serve as voting delegates.
- D. Council members are not eligible to be delegates.

**Section III.** Time of the annual meeting and any other necessary meetings of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be held at such place and time as prescribed by the *Council*.

**Section IV.** A quorum will consist of 50 percent of the registered delegates.

**Section V.** The minutes of the previous annual meeting will be published and posted online 60 days prior to the annual meeting presented and thus will not need to be read at the annual meeting.

**Section VI.** A summarized audit report will be presented at the annual meeting.

## ***ARTICLE IX***

### **Committees**

**Section I.** The National FFA Alumni Association shall have a standing committee made up of the President, President-Elect and Past President called the Executive Committee.

**Section II.** The *Council* President has the authority to create sub committees and appoint *Council* members to those committees.

- A. These committees shall be served by a chairperson from the *Council* appointed by the *Council* President.
- B. These standing committees must report on their activities at each *Council* meeting.
- C. The *Council* President has the authority to create special committees and appoint FFA Alumni members to those committees.

## ***ARTICLE X***

### **Administrative Staff**

**Section I.** The Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be hired by the National FFA Organization who will include a member/s of the Alumni *Council*, Executive Committee to participate in the selection process.

**Section II.** The Executive Director shall:

- A. Serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of the *Council*
- B. Be responsible for *Council* meeting minutes

**Section III.** Position description of the Executive Director shall be approved by the *Council* and maintained by the National FFA Organization.

**Section IV.** The pay grade level for the Executive Director shall be determined by the human resources compensation structure of the National FFA Organization.

**Section V.** The National FFA Alumni staff shall follow the policies of the National FFA Organization.

## ***ARTICLE XI***

### **Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the association may adopt.

## ***ARTICLE XII***

### **Amendments**

**Section I.** Proposed amendments to the National FFA Alumni Association bylaws may be submitted to the Executive Director by the *Council*, State Associations, local affiliates, or by any active member; any of which must be in good standing. Proposed amendments must be in writing and received by the Executive Director 90 days prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

**Section II.** Proposed amendments will be reviewed by the *Council* and sent to the delegate body with one of the following three recommendations:

- a) Recommend adoption
- b) No recommendation
- c) Do not recommend adoption

The amendments shall be submitted to the membership at least 60 days prior to the opening date of the annual meeting.

**Section III.** If the proposed amendment is unclear or incomplete the *Council* will return it to the party making the proposal for clarification and/or perfection prior to being decided on by the *Council*.

**Section IV.** Affirmation by 2/3 of the delegates voting shall be necessary to adopt an amendment.

### **Adopted October 29, 2004**

Amended October 25, 2005

Amended October 26, 2006

Amended October, 2008

Amended October 2009

Amended October, 2010

Amended October, 2011

Amended October, 2012

Amended October, 2015



The following pages serve to outline the National FFA Alumni Association policies and are not part of the Official Bylaws.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Parents, friends, supporters, past FFA members - anyone wanting to support FFA, agricultural education and agriculture is welcome to join the National FFA Alumni Association.

FFA Advisors and members all across the country rely on FFA Alumni volunteers to help support their chapter through gifts of time, talent, and resources. Give back your skills, starting at the local level. Agricultural Education programs rely on volunteers to assist in getting community support and to give teachers more time and freedom to do what they do best—teach students.

Current Membership Dues and Fees can be found online at:  
<https://www.ffa.org/support/alumni/about/become-a-member>

### **Associate Membership**

A free five year membership given to graduating and recently graduated, high school students. Associate Membership entitles the member to electronic information from the National FFA Alumni Association. Associate Members will not be included in any Alumni scholarship or awards program. Associate members have no voting rights and will not be included in Alumni official membership counts to determine the number of national voting delegates for a state. *There is a five year limit eligibility from high school graduation date* on the associate membership.

### **Annual Membership**

Annual members have equal class and privileges and receive the National FFA Alumni *New Visions* magazine, a voice in alumni business and the opportunity to subscribe to National FFA publications for an additional fee per year. The annual membership dues of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be recommended by the National FFA Alumni Council and fixed by majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting held at the National FFA Alumni Convention. State associations and local affiliates establish their own membership dues for annual members in addition to the national dues.

### **Membership Affiliation Program**

The membership affiliation program is designed to easily mobilize volunteers to support local agricultural education programs and their FFA chapters. This program allows affiliates to provide membership, services, and benefits to an unlimited number of volunteers/supporters for one fee while keeping the rest of their funds right at home for their local programs. This program will also assist the National FFA Alumni in their strategic goal of having an active alumni affiliate in every FFA chapter in the country and dramatically increasing the number of advocates and supporters with time, talent, and resources at the local, state and national level.

- An annual fee is charged per local affiliate (plus state fees that may apply) for the affiliate program providing basic support to all volunteers at the local level
- Annual fee would be waived if the local affiliate has at least 25 life members (as of the end of the preceding membership year nationally). States retain the right to offer a state fee exemption at their own discretion.
- A minimum of 10 local affiliate members will continue to be in place for the affiliate to be considered active.

### **Life Membership**

Is a one-time payment that is a true investment. One hundred percent of your dues goes directly into an investment account. Five to seven percent of the interest earned from that account is then used annually to operate and support the association. A life membership will be issued in one individual's name (*no group or company names will be accepted*). Life members receive full membership benefits including; a membership card, membership certificate, life subscription to the National FFA Organizations publications *New Visions* and *New Horizons*, and a voice in alumni business. Some states and local affiliates have established state life membership dues and local life membership dues.

Prior to January 1997, the life membership policy included a memorial scholarship of \$100.00 before November 1993 and \$150.00 from November 1993 to December 1996. This scholarship was to be designated by the life member to be distributed in one of three ways upon his/her death: 1) remain permanently in the National FFA Alumni Trust Fund; 2) be given as a Memorial Scholarship to an FFA member in a designated chapter; or 3) be given in memory as a contribution to be used to support some area of agriculture and/or agricultural education. Upon a life member's death, notification must be submitted in writing to the National FFA Alumni Association along with a copy of the obituary or death certificate. If the life member has a designation form on file, his/her wishes must be honored. If there is no form on file, a letter will be sent to the person/organization providing notification of death requesting a **family** member to make the designation.

### **Corporate Partners**

Is an annual partnership that is extended to businesses and corporations for an annual fee.

Benefits of a corporate membership include:

- Being listed prominently in 1 issue of the Alumni magazine, *New Visions*, and the Alumni Convention Program
- Being listed on the Alumni web page, [www.FFA.org](http://www.FFA.org)
- Ability to attend any open meetings of the National FFA Alumni Association, including convention and educational sessions, without the ability to vote or hold office
- An annual subscription to the National FFA Organization's publications, *New Visions* and *New Horizons*.
- Use of the National FFA Alumni Association emblem is subject to the terms and conditions of the National FFA Board Policy on Trademarks and copyright law. *Under no circumstances* can the FFA Alumni Association emblem be used for any commercial purposes.
- Recognition at the National FFA Alumni Convention

## **ROSTERS**

The National FFA Alumni Membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.

To qualify for awards, scholarships, grants and delegates, national membership dues/fees must be paid to the National FFA Alumni or shown by postmark or other reliable evidence to have been mailed to the national FFA treasurer on or before May 15.

All membership must be submitted through the roster system (Manage Roster) in FFA.org.

Members whose dues are received at national between May 16 (postmarked) and the Monday of the last full week in August will be considered current members but will not qualify for delegate counts and awards.

Rosters submitted after the Monday of the last full week in August will be held for the new membership year.

### **FFA.org Alumni Roles**

- *Alumni Role* – Every FFA Alumni member has the opportunity to create their own personal FFA.org account. You can utilize this account to update contact information, manage your membership, including subscription and transferring capabilities, locate contact information, as well as access member only information.
  - *If you are already an FFA Alumni member or FFA member, please contact your local or state FFA alumni leader to receive your FFA.org invite code.*
  - Email alumni@ffa.org to request state leader contact information if required
- *Alumni Leader Role* – Each local FFA Alumni chapter should identify 2-3 individuals in leadership and membership management to be granted administrative rights over the local alumni chapter. These individuals are responsible for updating alumni chapter information, submitting membership and have additional features available to them to communicate and engage their membership. Please contact your state FFA Alumni leader to be granted administrator rights.
  - Alumni leaders must be active Alumni members unless they are also the FFA advisor for the local FFA chapter
  - Email alumni@ffa.org to request state leader contact information if required
- *Alumni State Staff Role* – Individuals overseeing membership and roster processing at the state level require state administrative rights. If you are responsible for FFA Alumni membership within your state, please email alumni@ffa.org to request admin rights be extended to your account.

### **Roster Submission Process**

- *Local FFA Alumni Chapters* – Collect any local, state and national dues from your members throughout the year if you are **not** participating in the affiliation program. As a local admin, use your alumni leader role to access your roster. Renew returning annual members and add new members. Submit your roster(s) to the state, print the invoice and mail to the state with state and national dues/fees as applicable. If your state has opted to use PayPal, you will be launched to the PayPal site to pay for applicable state and national dues/fees via e-checking or credit card. Periodically review your roster to follow its approval status by state and national.
  - A minimum of ten (10) paid members (non-associate) are required per year for the chapter to be considered active.

- State FFA Alumni Associations – Once payment is received for a local alumni chapter or member as applicable, use your Alumni State Staff role on FFA.org to submit rosters for national approval. National FFA will approve your rosters and send invoices for payment. Invoices need to be paid within 30 days.

Make checks payable to: **National FFA Alumni**

If mailing **only** a roster payment with statement and/or invoice, mail to our lockbox service at the following address:

*National FFA Organization  
PO Box 631363  
Cincinnati, OH 45263-1363*

**IMPORTANT:** *Documents sent to the Cincinnati lockbox with payment are scanned and then shredded; the hard copies are not redirected to our Indianapolis address. Also, national FFA is not notified when payments are sent via expedited shipping.*

If mailing other documents in addition to a roster payment and statement/invoice, mail to the following address:

*National FFA Alumni  
Attn: Accounts Receivable  
PO Box 68960  
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960*

If mailing a payment via **expedited shipping** (i.e. next-day, two-day, etc.) due to the May 15 deadline, send it to the Indianapolis address to avoid any unnecessary delays.

## **TAX EXEMPT INFORMATION**

The FFA Alumni Association (local, state, and national) is considered for Internal Revenue Service exemption purposes as a subordinate to the National FFA Organization, which at time of non-profit exemption approval in 1976 was the Future Farmers of America Organization. Article I, Section A of the FFA Alumni Association Constitution defines the National FFA Alumni Association as an association of the National FFA Organization. Article V, Section A of the FFA Constitution also lists the FFA Alumni as a division of membership followed by Section C giving a definition of eligible persons for Alumni membership.

### **INTERNAL REVENUE TAX NUMBER**

The central organization, according to the Internal Revenue Service, is the National FFA Organization. The National FFA has been designated a group exemption number (GEN) by the Internal Revenue Service. All subordinates of the National FFA, which includes all **chartered and active** local alumni chapters and state FFA alumni associations, must use this GEN number to verify tax exempt status on all reports to the IRS. Local and state FFA alumni associations must file for their own employer identification number (EIN) which is required when filing the IRS Form 990/990-N. The EIN is also required when bank accounts are opened or other investments are established that generate interest or dividends for the local or state FFA alumni.

The EIN is obtained by filing an SS-4 form with your regional Internal Revenue Service Center. The SS-4 form has 18 questions and will take only a few minutes to complete. Under 9A, check box "other nonprofit organization" and write in Future Farmers of America. Line 16, check "other" box and list educational support as the principal activity. Submit application to IRS. Once you have been assigned an EIN, this information needs to be provided to National FFA on the appropriate form. National FFA will then contact the IRS to link your affiliate to the GEN. **This will automatically default your fiscal year to match National FFA's, which is January 1-December 31. If you require a different fiscal year, you must contact the IRS to make adjustment. This may be done by phone (801-620-6019) or mail (Internal Revenue Service Center, Ogden, UT, 84201).**

The IRS sends the National FFA Organization a list of all alumni chapters using the National FFA's group exemption number for their EIN on an annual basis. The national office is required to verify this list for the IRS and add/delete FFA alumni chapters as necessary. If an alumni chapter becomes inactive (less than 10 dues paying members) with the National FFA Alumni, they will be in violation if they use the GEN for non-profit status.

Newly chartered alumni chapters will receive a tax information packet along with their charter certificate and scroll.

### **WHO MUST FILE FORM 990/990-N**

Any alumni chapter receiving a Form 990 or Form 990-N must return it to the Internal Revenue Service. Note that if the gross income of your affiliate is normally not more than \$50,000 you are only required to complete the Form 990-N. When gross income is (over the period of two or more years) normally greater than \$50,000 a year, the alumni chapter must complete the entire Form 990 or 990-EZ. An alumni chapter should define gross receipts to mean the total amount received from all sources (including membership dues and all fund raising activities) during its annual accounting period, without subtracting any costs or expenses. If the alumni chapter does not receive Form 990 and does not normally have gross income of \$50,000, the alumni chapter is not required to file the Form 990. These alumni chapters should file the IRS Form 990-N, or e-postcard on-line instead. All alumni chapters must submit either the Form 990-N or the Form 990 to maintain their nonprofit status.

For more information about the 990, 990-EZ and 990-N, visit [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities)

### **SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD**

The 990-N e-postcard is a simple, Internet-based form that asks a few identifying questions about your organization. You can only file the e-Postcard online – there is no paper form. All you need is access to a computer and an e-mail address. No special software is necessary, and there is no cost to file an e-Postcard. It's free!

To file the e-Postcard, go to [www.irs.gov/eo](http://www.irs.gov/eo) click on "Annual Electronic Filing Requirements for Small Exempt Organizations – Form 990-N (e-Postcard)," where you'll find a link to the e-Postcard filing system. You will file the e-Postcard through the Web site of the IRS's trusted partner, the Urban Institute.

If you choose to, you can file a Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead of the e-Postcard, but it must be a complete return. An incomplete or partially completed Form 990 or Form 990-EZ will not satisfy your annual filing requirement. In addition, you may be assessed a late filing penalty if you file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ late. There is no late filing penalty associated with the e-Postcard. However, if you fail to file your e-Postcard (or an information return) for three consecutive tax years, your organization will lose its tax-exempt status.

### **WHERE TO GO FOR HELP**

Please visit the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities) for the new Form 990 and instructions, as well as other helpful materials at [www.stayexempt.org](http://www.stayexempt.org).

### **DUES AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Membership dues and other contributions to the National FFA Alumni Association are eligible IRS deductions for the contributor when the support to the organization and its activities do not derive benefits of more than the nominal monetary value. As outlined in the National FFA Alumni Bylaws, the organization is designed to support and serve rather than to provide monetary benefits to its members which normally mean that contributions are tax exempt.

Personal charitable contributions, under the revised tax laws beginning 1987, may only be claimed as itemized deductions on Schedule A, Form 1040. Items that are normally considered charitable contributions to the National FFA Alumni Association are:

- **Life and annual membership dues**
- **Cash contribution**
- **Out-of-pocket expenses** you paid to do volunteer work for FFA Alumni. This includes attending conventions and meetings as an official representative, delegate or award winner. Out-of-pocket expenses such as lodging, meals and registrations are normally deductible. For more information, see IRS Publication 526 ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)).
- **Car or truck travel at the rate of 14 cents a mile** (beginning January 1, 2005) or actual cost of gas and oil for driving on approved FFA Alumni activities or to FFA Alumni meetings when you are the approved representative.
- **The appraised value of material items donated to the FFA Alumni.** This could include items donated to an auction, animals donated for FFA livestock chains, or equipment donated to a vocational agriculture shop. Items worth more than \$5,000 must be appraised by a professional appraiser.

You cannot deduct the cost of raffle tickets, events from which you receive personal benefits, entertainment or the value of your time or services. If an individual contributes more than \$3,000 to the FFA Alumni, the contributor must list the FFA Alumni and amount on line 14b of Schedule A, Form 1040. The EIN number of the FFA alumni chapter will be required for contributions over \$3,000. If non-cash contributions are more than \$500, Form 8283 must be completed.

### **EXPENDITURES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES**

A political expenditure, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, intends to influence the selection, nomination, election or appointment of anyone to public office or a political organization. The National FFA Organization is a 501(C) 3 organization and must file Form 1120-POL if their political expenditure exceeds \$100 per year. The National FFA Organization policy states that it is non-political and does not make political expenditures as described above. FFA alumni members can make political donations at any time without involving the organization.

### **TAX ADVICE**

For specific tax or accounting questions, please consult your local tax advisor/accountant. You can also visit **[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)**.

## **NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI CHARTER**

To charter a **State FFA Alumni Association**, meet and maintain these qualifications:

1. Have at least 50 members who have paid national FFA Alumni member dues.
2. Have bylaws in harmony with the National FFA Alumni Bylaws.
3. Have an executive group with a designated membership chairperson.

To **CHARTER, REACTIVATE, or RENAME** a **local FFA Alumni chapter**, meet and maintain these qualifications:

1. Have at least 10 annual/life members at State (if applicable) and National level (if applicable).
2. Have current constitution/bylaws in harmony with the National FFA Alumni Bylaws.
3. Have a council of elected officers.
4. Complete the **Application for Chartering/Reactivating**.
5. Submit the completed **Application for Chartering/Reactivating** to your State FFA Alumni Association. Your State FFA Alumni Association will forward this form to the National FFA Alumni Association. Upon receipt of the application, the National FFA Alumni Association will:
  - a. *If chartering/reactivating:* assign you an alumni chapter ID or reactivate the alumni chapter and notify alumni leaders of the **FFA.org** account information. You will have 30 days to submit your initial roster using **Manage My FFA** on FFA.org and 30 days following submission of your membership to pay your membership dues invoice. After this has been completed you will then be issued a charter certificate and a scroll and allowed to apply to be a part of National FFA's 501c3 status.
  - b. *If renaming:* update the name on your alumni chapter ID and notify alumni leaders of the **FFA.org** updated account information. After this has been completed you will then be issued a new charter certificate and a letter notifying you of the new name change. Accounting will be notified of the name change as well so that updates can be made on National FFA's tax exempt list.

## **Amendments**

The required council recommendation identified in Article XII: Amendments; Section II of the Alumni Bylaws will be determined the following outcomes of a roll call vote of the National FFA Alumni Council.

- a. Recommend Adoption – Requires a 2/3 majority vote
- b. No Recommendation – Requires a simple majority vote
- c. Do Not Recommendation Adoption – Fails to receive a simple majority vote

## **FFA Alumni Membership Induction Ceremony**

### **FFA Alumni President:**

In 1969 the concept of the National FFA Alumni Association was established; the National FFA Alumni Association was not chartered until 1971 and was established in support of the National FFA Organization. Since that time, thousands of individuals at the local, state and national levels have joined the FFA Alumni to secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education for future generations.

Cooperation is the foundation upon which we build success. Only through our efforts together are we able to reach new heights.

As FFA Alumni members we are entrusted with the greatest tasks: to help educate our youth and ensure the success of their future. As parents, community leaders, and friends, each of us has a responsibility and we must fulfill that duty. Each student will need you, help when you can, be trustworthy and honest, but most importantly make each moment a positive learning experience.

Service as an FFA Alumni member is an honor and privilege, through which we counsel, guide, support, listen, and mentor. We can secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education through premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Will all FFA Alumni member candidates please rise?

(FFA Alumni Member Candidates Rise)

### **Alumni President:**

Do you pledge to be an advocate for agricultural education and FFA by being diligent in your endeavors to ensure the success of the FFA and FFA Alumni in our community? If so, answer 'I do'.

*Alumni Member Candidates:*  
I do.

### **Alumni President:**

I, (Name), President of the (Alumni Chapter, State, or National) FFA Alumni (chapter or Association) confer upon you membership within the FFA Alumni organization, with all rights privileges and responsibilities!

Let us welcome our new members with a round of applause.

(Round of applause)

### **Alumni President:**

FFA Alumni Members may be seated.

Congratulations! Membership within the FFA Alumni is essential in securing the success of the FFA and agricultural education. Through our continued cooperation, we will realize new visions and goals and achieve tremendous success.



## **NATIONAL AWARDS**

**Be sure to use the most current award applications which are available:**

- on our website @ [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)
- via email send requests to [alumni@FFA.org](mailto:alumni@FFA.org)
- via mail call (317)802-4332 to make your request

When completing applications:

- Postmark deadlines are National FFA Alumni Association's deadline dates. Please check with your Alumni State Leaders for individual state deadlines.
- All applications **MUST** be typed.
- Be sure to obtain all required signatures, local and state where applicable.
- Questions? Contact [alumni@ffa.org](mailto:alumni@ffa.org), we are here to help.

**All award applications become the property of the National FFA Alumni Association. Please keep a copy for your records. Applications will not be returned.**

## **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Outstanding Achievement Awards are given in recognition of FFA Alumni members for outstanding leadership and service to agricultural education, FFA and FFA Alumni. This annual award is presented at the National FFA Convention to no more than three individuals.

To be eligible, a candidate must be an FFA Alumni member who has made significant contributions and rendered quality service to agricultural education, FFA and FFA Alumni. Only one of the winners at the national level may have been employed or is presently employed as a teacher, state staff member, or teacher educator of agricultural education.

- Each state may annually nominate applicants for the national award. Nominations for the award on the national level should be submitted using the official application form. Applications must be signed by a State FFA Alumni leader. The completed application should be sent to the National FFA Alumni office with postmark date no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. Only the space provided on the application form should be used; **one additional page may be added if absolutely necessary.** Be sure to obtain all required signatures, local and state where applicable.

The following statements of criteria serve as a basis for evaluation of award nominees:

- The individual has gone beyond the call of duty to make relevant contributions to agricultural education, FFA and FFA Alumni.
- The significant situation, institution or action was changed for the better because of this individual's participation.
- The individual must be a member and actively involved in the FFA Alumni Association.
- For national judging, outstanding service is based 50% on local level activity, 25% on state level activity and 25% on national level activity.
- Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients will receive \$500 to be presented in their name to a local FFA chapter, FFA Alumni affiliate, state FFA foundation or State FFA Alumni of their choice and a plaque.

## **OUTSTANDING ALUMNI CHAPTER AWARD**

The Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award is designed to provide recognition of FFA alumni chapters for outstanding accomplishment and to encourage other alumni chapters to further achievement. All nationally chartered active FFA alumni chapters are eligible. Applications may be submitted using the official application available on-line. The year represented in the outstanding alumni chapter application should cover the current 12-month reporting period as designated by the local or state association. The completed application should be sent to the National FFA Alumni office with postmark date no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to obtain all required signatures, local and state where applicable. Only the space provided on the application form should be used. The award application is divided into eight (8) divisions. Divisions 1-7 pertain to the activities of the alumni chapter. Division 8 allows you to highlight four (4) activities. Please include any photographs or newspaper clippings that support the highlighted activity on the back of the page used to detail the activity. All photographs and newspaper clippings must be dated.

Each year, each state may submit at least one Outstanding Affiliate application or 20% of the total number of alumni chapters, whichever is greater of those alumni chapters submitting applications for state consideration. One alumni chapter per region will be selected as a finalist to compete for the National Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award. The alumni chapter selected as the National Outstanding Alumni Chapter will receive one full registration scholarship to the FFA Alumni Development Conference the following summer.

## **NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI WEBSITE AWARD COMPETITION**

*(Will be discontinued at the National level beginning the 2016-2017 membership year.)*

All nationally chartered, active local alumni chapters or state alumni associations are eligible to enter the website contest. One alumni chapter or state per region will be selected as a finalist to compete for the Outstanding Website Award. Web sites will be judged on ease of navigation, quality and currency of information, etc. Contest entries will be judged on the following criteria.

- Technical merit 20%
- Originality 20%
- Usefulness 20%
- Current Information 20%
- Design optimization 20%
- The website must be complete and accessible at submission deadline. An entry form **must** be mailed to the National FFA Alumni Association by the registration deadline. Postmark date no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to obtain all required signatures, local and state where applicable. One alumni chapter or state per region will be selected as a finalist to compete for the Outstanding Website Award
- The Outstanding website winner will receive \$100.00 and a special, year specific medallion graphic to post on their website indicating their accomplishment
- A feature in at least one of the National FFA Alumni's communication portals (website, newsletter, blog, social media) to draw attention to this resource and provide examples to others.

## **NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER AWARD COMPETITION**

*(Will be discontinued at the National level beginning the 2016-2017 membership year.)*

All nationally chartered, active local affiliates or state alumni associations with print or electronic newsletters are eligible to enter the newsletter contest. To be eligible to enter the contest your affiliate must provide two issues of your Newsletter distributed within the past calendar year, the issues must clearly indicate which local affiliate or state association is being represented and must be composed primarily of original, club-generated material of educational value. Postmark date no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The newsletters will be judged on the following criteria:

### **Content**

1. Is content focused on achieving the affiliate/association's mission?
2. Does the Newsletter contain educational articles, recognition of member and affiliate/association achievement and encouragement to participate in FFA Alumni activities?
3. Does the Newsletter promote understanding of FFA Alumni programs, promotions and policies?
4. Is the Newsletter informative and entertaining?

### **Readability**

1. Does the writing meet acceptable standards for sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and grammar?
2. Is the writing interesting and clear?

### **Layout and Presentation**

1. Does the Newsletter's appearance stimulate reader interest?
2. Does the layout indicate careful attention to white space, page balance, effective use of graphics and the importance and organization of the article?
  - One affiliate or state per region will be selected as a finalist to compete for the Outstanding Newsletter in the categories of print and electronic
  - These two winners will receive \$100.00; a special, year specific, medallion graphic to be included in their newsletter indicating their accomplishment. A feature in at least one of the National FFA Alumni's communication portals (website, newsletter, blog, social media) to draw attention to this resource and provide examples to others.

## **LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT GRANTS** (\*based on sponsor support)

The National FFA Alumni Association offers grants to local FFA chapters as a means of providing local chapter support. The completed application should be sent to the National FFA Alumni office with postmark date no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>.

FFA chapters should consider items needed to strengthen their chapter's program and/or member support. The grant may be used for computers, equipment, members' supplies, official dress, etc – any items the chapter feels are needed to enhance the local program.

The maximum grant amount is \$1,000. Award winners will be recognized during the National FFA Alumni Convention.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- 1) FFA chapter must have a nationally chartered, active, local FFA Alumni Affiliate and the application must be signed by the chapter advisor, chapter president and local FFA alumni president.

All time lines and signature requirements must be adhered to or the application will not be considered.

\*The number and amount of grants is totally dependent on sponsorship dollars. If the program is not sponsored, applicants will be notified that grants will not be awarded in that year.

## **NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS**

The National FFA Alumni council adopted the following policy for awarding annual scholarship funds to state and local FFA Alumni Associations.

National FFA Alumni Scholarship units are awarded on an annual basis according to the following national membership achievements (based on membership received by the August 31 deadline) and net income from National FFA Alumni specified fundraising activities:

### **Allocation Formula:**

(Percent of Investment Account + net income from National FFA Alumni specified fundraisers) / TLM = \$ amount per life member

TLM = Total Life Membership

Total # Life members at end of previous membership year (August 31)

- (deduct) Inactive State Life membership
- (deduct) State Life membership with <25 life members

### **Process for Awarding Scholarship Units:**

1. Scholarship checks must meet a minimum of \$50 in order to be awarded.
2. Local Scholarships will be issued to local affiliates that have at least 100 life members.
3. State Scholarships will be issued based on total state life members – (deduct) those life members awarded to the local level and that meet the following:
  - o State must be an active state association
  - o State must have a minimum of 25 life members

### **Process for Redeeming Scholarship Units:**

- State and local FFA Alumni affiliates will receive their scholarship checks before the end of the fiscal year.
- Options for redeeming scholarship units:
  - o Any National FFA Organization Event (WLC, SPC, 212, 360, etc.)
  - o State FFA/FFA Alumni Events for student members (state camp, leadership training, special conferences, etc.)
- A **Leadership Scholarship Report Form** must be submitted by all state associations and local alumni chapters that received a check by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> the following year in order to be eligible to receive a check in the next fiscal year.
  - o Local alumni chapters that do not submit a report form by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> will have their life members added back into the state's total life membership count.
  - o State alumni associations that do not submit a report form by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> will not impact the local alumni chapters that receive local checks but will have their life member count removed from the total life member count. This will result in a greater per member dollar amount for each remaining life member.

## **THROUGH THE YEARS**

- 1969** The delegate body of the National FFA Convention established the alumni class of membership as part of the National FFA Constitution.

A temporary executive council, approved by the National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers, developed the National FFA Alumni Association with a tentative constitution, bylaws and budget.

- 1970** The National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers authorized a loan of \$50,000 to develop and implement the Alumni Association.

Gus Douglass	Dr. James P. Clouse	Jay Benham
Chairman	Vice Chairman	Administrative Secretary

The Life Membership class was created and a quarterly newsletter was developed.

- 1971** Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming chartered at the National FFA Convention.

- 1972** An organizational meeting was held in Chicago (on May 12) with 33 states represented (30 chartered). New charters included: Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The first annual meeting of the National FFA Alumni Association took place. Nine states were chartered: Arizona, Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada and South Carolina.

The official FFA Alumni emblem was adopted and a plan for reimbursing states \$1 per member when alumni membership met or exceeded total FFA membership in that state.

A memorial fund for life membership was established.

Multiple year memberships were established and the Legion of Merit Citation was sanctioned.

Several Alumni retail items were developed by the National FFA Supply Service.

- 1973** During the second annual meeting, charters were established by Arkansas, New Mexico, New York, Vermont and Washington and 98 Legion of Merit Citations were presented.

Delegates voted to add the Alumni Relations Division to the FFA Program of Activities.

- 1974** The first FFA Alumni Program of Action was adopted along with a constitutional amendment which opened FFA Alumni membership to all individuals interested in promoting vocational agriculture and the FFA.

The first Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to Jerry Litton, Orion Samuelson and William Kuhfuss at the National Convention.

**1976** Jay Benham, Administrative Secretary, resigned.

Robert W. "Woody" Cox was selected to fill the vacancy and the title of administrative secretary was changed to executive director.

**1977** Leadership workshops were developed and became a highlight of the National FFA Convention.

A strong working relationship was established with the National FFA Foundation.

Alumni became a representative member of the Sponsor's Advisory Board (now known as the Sponsor's Board). A major thrust of the FFA Alumni was to promote the Executive Sponsor Program (Alumni received a portion of the contributions.)

Alumni began a money-making project for local affiliates developed by Ace Nut and Bolt Company and its former president, Bob Wohlford.

**1978** The FFA Committee on Government was instituted and became an active standing committee. David C. Thomas served as the first chair from 1978-82.

**1983** Alaska became the forty-ninth state to charter.

**1984** In total, \$185,000 had been extended to the Alumni to develop and promote its growth. In January 1984, at the first joint meeting of the National Board of Directors and the National FFA Alumni Council, Alumni repayment of \$100,000 was made to the National FFA Organization. Since 1984, the remaining balance has been paid.

**1985** The first annual Alumni-sponsored Auction was held. FFA Leadership Scholarships are funded from the annual auction.

**1987** The first FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference, sponsored by Philip Morris USA, was held at the National FFA Center.

**1991** Restructuring of the National FFA Organization was approved by the National FFA Board of Directors. As a result of the restructuring, the FFA Alumni became an affiliated association.

The FFA Alumni began its own supply service and the budget and operations were separated from the administrative operations of the National FFA Organization.

The FFA Alumni and the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association approved a working agreement that improved the governmental affairs activities of both organizations.

**1995** Robert W. "Woody" Cox resigned and Ricardo L. Valencia was installed as the executive director.

**1996** An official national spokesperson, Ty England (country music artist), was established.

**1997** Ricardo L. Valencia vacates the position of executive director. Gene A. Starr was selected as the new executive director.

**1998** The National FFA Alumni Association moved to its new location at The National FFA Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

- 1999** The 28<sup>th</sup> National FFA Alumni Convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Alumni Auction reached the \$100,000 mark.
- Twenty \$1000 chapter grants were awarded for the first time to local FFA chapters.
- 2001** Gene A. Starr resigns as Executive Director.
- 2002** J. Frank Saldaña is selected as the new Executive Director.
- 2005** Louisville, Kentucky hosts the National FFA Convention and the National FFA Alumni Convention for the final time.
- 2006** Indianapolis, Indiana hosts the National FFA Convention and the National FFA Alumni Convention for the first time and will continue until hosting until 2012.
- 2008** The National FFA Alumni Benefit Auctions generate a record breaking \$198,000 plus in support of student scholarships at the 81<sup>st</sup> National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.
- 2009** National FFA Alumni provides the Harvest for America Food Drive program sponsored by Tractor Supply Company and Carhartt. Chapters and Alumni in Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin were invited to conduct food drives to benefit their community and compete for prizes and state and national recognition.
- 2009** National FFA Alumni, as part of Campbell Soup Company's "Help Grow Your Soup" campaign, restored five barns. Each project engaged the barn owner and their family, the local FFA chapter(s) and FFA Alumni as well as numerous other community members. In 2009 the following barns were restored: The Riordan Barn, Reddick, IL; The Cotterill Barn, Cherryvale, KS; The Old Hickory Barn, Nashville, TN; The Reynolds Barn, Corfu, NY; Sabin-Schellenburg Barn, Clackamas, OR.
- 2010** The National FFA Alumni changes the name of the annual Alumni summer conference from State Leaders Conference to FFA Alumni Development Conference to more accurately describe the purpose of the event.
- 2010** National FFA Alumni, as part of Campbell Soup Company's "Help Grow Your Soup" campaign, restored five barns. Each project engaged the barn owner and their family/school, the local FFA chapter(s) and FFA Alumni as well as numerous other community members. In 2010 the following barns were restored: The Just Wait and See Farm, Union Bridge, MD; Providence Grove High School Farm, Climax, NC; The Augie Fudala Farm, Bark River, MI; The Dull Family Farm, Thorntown, IN; The Bowers School Farm, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- 2010** National FFA Alumni provides the Harvest for America Food Drive program sponsored by Tractor Supply Company and Carhartt. Chapters and Alumni in Michigan, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee were invited to conduct food drives to benefit their community and compete for prizes and state and national recognition.
- 2011** National FFA Alumni celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by issuing a membership challenge to each state to increase their affiliates by 11% in 2011 and set a goal to increase total membership by 11%. In 2011 Frank Saldaña resigned as the Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association.
- 2012** Julie Tesch is selected as the new Executive Director.  
Associate Membership introduced to recruit high school graduate members to FFA Alumni

- 2013** National FFA Convention moves to Louisville, KY through 2015.
- 2013** Julie Tesch resigned as the Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association.
- 2014** Tony Small is selected as the new Executive Director
- 2014** Alumni Affiliation Program started allowing alumni affiliates to submit unlimited numbers of alumni members for a national fee of \$100 + state fees.
- 2015** FFA reveals new website and new branding initiative. FFA emblem and FFA Alumni emblem are refreshed.
- 2015** Tony Small resigns as the Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association (March)
- 2015** Joshua Bledsoe, National FFA Chief Operating Officer is appointed the “interim” Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association (March)
- 2015** Joshua Rusk is appointed Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Association (October)
- 2016** National FFA Convention moves to Indianapolis, IN through 2024.
- 2016** Terminology change from Alumni Affiliates to Alumni Chapters occurs to reduce confusion and better reflect consistency within the organization.



# STATE FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHARTER DATES

Alabama	May 10, 1972	Nebraska	April 20, 1972
Alaska	February 28, 1983	Nevada	October 13, 1972
		New Hampshire	May 6, 1972
Arizona	October 4, 1972	New Jersey	May 12, 1972
Arkansas	August 23, 1973	New Mexico	October 1, 1973
California	May 5, 1972	New York	October 10, 1973
Colorado	November 3, 1975	North Carolina	May 4, 1972
Connecticut		North Dakota	May 11, 1972
Delaware	May 12, 1972	Ohio	August 30, 1971
Florida	May 5, 1972	Oklahoma	October 13, 1971
Georgia	May 4, 1972	Oregon	October 12, 1971
Guam		Pennsylvania	May 1, 1972
Hawaii		Puerto Rico	
Idaho	1972	Rhode Island	1975
Illinois	March 9, 1972	South Carolina	October 11, 1972
Indiana	August 18, 1972	South Dakota	May 9, 1971
Iowa	April 24, 1972	Tennessee	October 14, 1971
Kansas	July 12, 1971	Texas	October 13, 1971
Kentucky	April 27, 1972	Utah	October 31, 1975
Louisiana	August 12, 1971	Virgin Islands	
Maine	October 7, 1972	Vermont	September 3, 1973
Maryland	May 5, 1972	Virginia	March 27, 1972
Massachusetts	1972	Washington	April 27, 1973
Michigan	May 10, 1972	West Virginia	April 20, 1972
Minnesota	October 6, 1972	Wisconsin	May 4, 1972
Mississippi	May 10, 1972	Wyoming	June 8, 1971
Missouri	October 5, 1972		
Montana	April 24, 1972		

## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

1972-74	Gus R. Douglass, West Virginia	1995-96	Ray Herren, Georgia
1974-75	James P. Clouse, Virginia	1996-97	Shirley Carte, Florida
1975-76	Richard C. Waybright, Pennsylvania	1997-98	Linda Story, Kentucky
1976-77	David C. Thomas, Missouri	1998-99	Barry Anderson, Nebraska
1977-78	Arthur R. Kurtz, Wisconsin	1999-00	F. Mac Hodges, North Carolina
1978-79	Odell C. Miller, Ohio	2000-01	Jim W. Allsup, Texas
1979-80	Floyd J. Doering, Wisconsin	2001-02	Cindy Ettestad, Oregon
1980-81	Phyllis J. Sokolosky, Oklahoma	2002-03	Pam Jumper, Arkansas
1981-82	Harold D. Lineberry, Tennessee	2003-04	Dale M. Beaty, Wisconsin
1982-83	Kenneth G. Seering, Wisconsin	2004-05	Sonny Deke, Iowa
1983-84	Eldon E. Witt, Illinois	2005-06	Norman Gay, Georgia
1984-85	Jay Householder, Ohio	2006-07	Monte Ladner, Mississippi
1985-86	Gary L. Maricle, Nebraska	2007-08	Ronnie Ansley, North Carolina
1986-87	Larry Reese, Florida	2008-09	Sam Atherton, Kansas
1987-88	Rick L. Metzger, Ohio	2009-10	Diane Amera, Wisconsin
1988-89	James L. Sipiorski, Wisconsin	2010-11	David Miller, Maryland
1989-90	Josiah Phelps, Georgia	2011-12	Bob Barton, Oregon
1990-91	Roxann Sommers, Ohio	2012-13	Anita Schneider, Kansas
1991-92	Virgil O. Martinson, Wisconsin	2013-14	Jim McCray, Illinois
1992-93	Mark A. Williams, Florida	2014-15	Dan Classen, Iowa
1993-94	June Dean, Oklahoma	2015-16	Larry Case, VA
1994-95	Ken Natzke, Wisconsin		

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

1974	Jerry Litton, Missouri William Kuhfuss, Illinois Orion Samuelson, Illinois	1981	Terry Horn, Tennessee David C. Thomas, Missouri Wes Watkins, Oklahoma
1975	Phillip Alampi, New Jersey Dana Bennett, Vermont O.W. Randolph, Illinois	1982	Raymond W. Bernhardt, Missouri David L. Thornton, Ohio Eleanor G. Mayfield, Kansas
1976	William Paul Gray, Virginia Donald McDowell, Wisconsin	1983	Ozzie S. Gilbertson, Nebraska Odell C. Miller, Ohio Floyd J. Doering, Wisconsin
1977	Ralph E. Bender, Ohio H. Neville Hunsicker, Virginia Webster Tenney, Florida	1984	Donald D. Dolezal, Nebraska Harold D. Lineberry, Tennessee Ruth Anderson, Ohio
1978	Lawrence L. Augenstein, California Paul Findley, Illinois Jay Benham, Ohio	1985	Phyllis Sokolosky, Oklahoma Monte Reese, Kansas
1979	Howard R. Bradley, Kansas Gus R. Douglass, West Virginia James W. Guilinger, Illinois	1986	Arthur R. Kurtz, Wisconsin Ted D. Ward, Nebraska Layton G. Peters, Minnesota
1980	J. Lamar Branch, Georgia James P. Clouse, Virginia Thomas E. Stine, Missouri	1987	Virgil O. Martinson, Wisconsin Kenneth G. Seering, Wisconsin LaVerne Nelson, Washington
1988	Duane A. Van Sickle, Ohio Gary W. Bye, Washington Robert Schumacher, Wisconsin	2004	Scott Gimler, Wisconsin Mary Lou Ladner, Mississippi Anita Schneider, Kansas
1989	Gary L. Maricle, Missouri Alan Manza, Wisconsin Ralph Barnett, Tennessee	2005	Diane Amera, Wisconsin Robert Clausen, Nebraska Dick Myers, Illinois
1990	Ralph R. Dreessen, Oklahoma Eldon E. Witt, Illinois Arnold B. Cordes, Wisconsin	2006	Dale Beaty, Wisconsin Wally Leander, Kansas Myra Palmer, Mississippi
1992	James L. Sipiorski, Wisconsin Darell Birnschein, Wisconsin Wallace Shilberg, Wisconsin	2007	Paul Hazaert, Wisconsin Bruce Miller, North Carolina Rhonda Wethal, Wisconsin
1993	Roger "Duff" Fanning, Wisconsin Donald "Porky" Burmeister, Iowa John Croft, Illinois	2008	Cindy Ettestad, Oregon Dan Monson, Wisconsin Darlene Arnison, Wisconsin
1994	Gerald L. Frederick, Wisconsin Dennis Engelke, Texas Ray Brown, Iowa	2009	Eric Trembl, Wisconsin Marilyn Mason, Ohio Jerry Maurer, Wisconsin
1995	Earl H. Cheek, Georgia David Still, Illinois	2010	John Barnes, Georgia Wallace Beggs, Georgia Karen Ericson, Kansas
1996	Josiah Phelps, Georgia June Dean, Oklahoma Donald Noack, Wisconsin	2011	Gary Lee, Florida William Lott, Georgia Jeff Nofziger, Ohio
1997	R.D. Johnson, Illinois Kathleen L. Kent, Iowa John D. Kent, Iowa	2012	Jim East, Georgia James T. Grasse, Wisconsin Sherry Kiel, Michigan
1998	Jim Spath, Nebraska James Allen Shiflet, Virginia Marie Salzsieder, Wisconsin	2013	James T. Grasse, Wisconsin Sherry Kiel, Michigan

1999	Sonny Deke, Iowa Phyllis Weber, Ohio Marilyn Madsen, Wisconsin	2014	Virginia "Virgie" Damp, Wisconsin Jason Damron, Ohio Amy Stoddard, Wisconsin
2000	Patrick Curl, Iowa Charlie Hamilton, Kentucky Rod Stewart, Kansas	2015	Norman Gay, Georgia Ron Tilford, Ohio Dennis Ettestad, Oregon
2001	Shirley Carte, Florida Monte Ladner, Mississippi Linda Story, Kentucky		
2002	Dale Glass, Kentucky F. Mac Hodges, North Carolina Joyce Sayre, Missouri		
2003	David Bishop, Ohio Raymond Cockrum, Oklahoma Patrick Igl, Wisconsin		

### **OUTSTANDING AFFILIATE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

1976	Evansville, Wisconsin	1996	LeRoy, Illinois
1977	Marysville, Ohio	1997	Scott County, Kentucky
1978	Denmark, Wisconsin	1998	Denmark, Wisconsin
1979	New Lexington, Ohio	1999	Milton, Wisconsin
1980	New Lexington, Ohio	2000	Milton, Wisconsin
1981	New Lexington, Ohio	2001	Denmark, Wisconsin
1982	East Butler, Nebraska	2002	Denmark, Wisconsin
1983	Denmark, Wisconsin	2003	Miller County, Georgia
1984	Denmark, Wisconsin	2004	Pine Ridge, Florida
1985	Bushnell-Prairie, Illinois	2005	Denmark, Wisconsin
1986	New Lexington, Ohio	2006	Denmark, Wisconsin
1987	Denmark, Wisconsin	2007	Cherryvale, Kansas & Park County, Montana
1988	Denmark, Wisconsin	2008	Suwannee, Illinois
1989	Milton, Wisconsin	2009	Denmark, Wisconsin
1990	Denmark, Wisconsin	2010	Denmark, Wisconsin
1991	Milton, Wisconsin	2011	Stoughton, Wisconsin
1992	Milton, Wisconsin	2012	Homer, Michigan
1993	Milton, Wisconsin	2013	West Rowan, North Carolina
1994	LeRoy, Illinois	2014	Williston, Florida
1995	Milton, Wisconsin	2015	West Rowan, North Carolina

#### THE FFA MISSION

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MISSION

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities. Educational materials are developed by FFA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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The National FFA Alumni Association is located at the National FFA Center in Indianapolis. It is where the majority of the National FFA Alumni Association's day-to-day operations are performed.

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