

2018 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention Workshops

Paul Huff - Get All Members On Board to Move Your Chapter Forward

“But we’ve always done it this way!” Have you ever heard this—or said it? Organizations and their members can resist change—that’s where the term Founder’s Syndrome comes in. Founders know what worked before and want things to stay the same. It’s hard to change when past practices have worked well--but times may have changed. That resistance is hard for those who want to try new things. Paula Huff, retired UW Extension County Youth Development Educator will explore characteristics and influences of Founders (positive and not so much) and introduce ways to help long-time and newer members work together to insure your chapter is ready to meet the future.

Walter Taylor and Mariah Markhardt - Make the Most of Your Meetings

Let’s face it; most people prefer to do almost anything besides attend meetings. But meetings are necessary to plan and coordinate your chapter’s program of work. Agriculture educators Walter Taylor and Mariah Markhardt will guide participants as they learn how to accomplish more in less time in meetings by applying basic, practical rules of parliamentary procedure in this hands-on, interactive workshop.

Candie Lehto - How to Help Your Ag Teacher

Candie Lehto, Alumni Council sectional representative repeats the well-received Alumni Council-sponsored program from last fall’s FFA Sectional Leadership Workshops for those not able to attend one of those sessions. Learn ways you can assist your ag teacher/FFA advisor maintain work-life balance and help FFA members get the most from the opportunities provided by the FFA organization. Share your ideas in this interactive session and take home a planning tool ready to help organize your next chapter activity.

Janet Schneider - Grant Dollars Available for Your Alumni Chapter

Could your chapter use some financial resources to carry out your program of work or add that new program you are considering? In this workshop Janet Schneider, past Wisconsin FFA Alumni president, will share information gained at a recent FFA Alumni Regional Development Conference about the surprising number of grants available to FFA Alumni chapters through the Wisconsin and National FFA. She will also share some tips and tricks for writing effective grant applications. You will leave with documents you can take home and use immediately. Start taking advantage of support that is available.

Cheryl Steinbach - Navigating the FFA Alumni Membership Challenges

Are you having trouble with your Alumni roster or are you completely new to the process? Do you have your own account on ffa.org? No matter how you answered these questions, this workshop is for you. Cheryl Steinbach, Executive Director of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association, will walk participants through the FFA website, self-registration and roster process. This will be a very practical hands-on workshop. Bring a laptop if you have one. If not, you can still walk through the process. As we enter the era of increased technology and media use, we hope to help our members stay up-to-date and informed. Ensuring that everyone is properly registered is the first step to success in meeting that goal and we will help you do that at this workshop.

Mike Stranz – From Leadership to Advocacy

We are all advocates for our favorite causes, and agricultural education is a shared interest among FFA alumni members. Participants in this session will discuss how the work we do in our chapters can help us to be stronger advocates everywhere. Mike Stranz, professional staff to the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, formerly a Wisconsin FFA State Officer, will share his insight on how locally developed leaders can apply their skills in other roles, sometimes even beyond the local level.

Laura Wilford – It's All About Marketing

The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board works full time to promote Wisconsin's dairy industry. Funded through the dairy check-off program, the WMMB is responsible for ensuring that Wisconsin's milk, cheese and other dairy products are loved everywhere! Laura Wilford, director of the Wisconsin Dairy Council, will share examples of how the WMMB accomplishes their goals and will suggest ways that those marketing techniques can be used to help Wisconsin FFA alumni members promote ag education and FFA leadership at the local and state level.

Melissa Bender & Kelly Wilfert – Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center...It's coming!

For generations, Wisconsin has been a leading hub of agricultural excellence driving our state's economy and helping to feed the world. A recent trend is people wanting to know where their food comes from, how it is produced and who is producing it. We have a unique opportunity to lead the way in educating and engaging this rapidly growing group of people with the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center. During this workshop, Melissa Bender, Farm Wisconsin Director of Education and Programming and Kelly Wilfert, Farm Wisconsin Exhibit Committee Member, will share information about this new, state-of-the-art education center located in southern Manitowoc County. Learn about the many opportunities this unique facility will offer when it opens in summer 2018.

FFA State Officer Team – Spread the Word with Social Media

Social Media is an ever-growing, yet ever-mysterious form of communication! While it's embraced by some, it's shunned by others. During this Social Media workshop, you will learn from some of this year's Wisconsin FFA state officers how this very powerful communication tool at your fingertips can ramp up communications for your chapter. The officers will share some do's and don'ts as well as some tips and tricks to help Alumni members become proficient in the world of electronic communication. This is sure to be a fun and enlightening workshop!