



# The Announcer

January 2018

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**Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director**

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## **Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention Early Bird Deadline Is Now!**

Because the initial deadline of January 6, 2018 falls on the weekend, the early bird convention registration deadline has been extended to Monday, January 8, 2018 at 5 PM. After that time, all ala carte options will be removed and the only registration possible will be the all-inclusive package at an increased cost. The early bird deadline is encouraged to help the committee make the proper accommodations and plans for a successful convention. All online registration will be unavailable as of January 25, 2018 and anyone wanting to do so after that must contact Cheryl Steinbach, Executive Director.

The hotel room block of reduced rates will also be guaranteed until January 8, 2018, but once again, after that deadline, you will not be guaranteed that there will be a room available. When you call Paper Valley at (920) 733-8000 be sure to mention that you are with the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association.



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## **2018 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention**

### **Workshop Options:**

#### **Paula 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,*

### **Additional Workshop Options:**

*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.*

### **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!*

### **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.*

### **Annual Meeting**

The following proposals have been posted online for members to review and consider prior to attending the annual meeting at convention on Saturday:

#### **Proposed Bylaws Change –Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council**

- Whereas there are some sections that do not have two council members seated at all times throughout the year, which impacts the total number of council members that may attend the council meetings, therefore, we recommend that we change: Article IV, Section VIII under membership, Quorum: by adding the word seated in front of voting, so when passed it would read: "One-half of the number of seated voting members of the council, plus one constitute a quorum" instead of "One-half of the number of voting members of the council, plus one constitute a quorum."

#### **Proposed Resolution 1 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council**

"The Alumni Council recommends that we seat the following council members for their first 3-year term: Sara Bertram, Cindi Freidhof, Caleb Green, Bobbie Jo Montgomery (and any section representatives that are elected at the section meetings at convention)."

#### **Proposed Resolution 2 – Submitted by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council**

"The Alumni Council recommends that we take a moment of silence for all FFA Alumni members, friends, and family who have passed on throughout the year, including those involved in the military forces who continue to defend our country and what she stands for. Let us remember them and all they have accomplished."



## 2018 State FFA Alumni Convention

### Registration Form

February 9 – 10, 2018 Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton

FFA Alumni Chapter: _____	Section: _____
Name/Names: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____	
Email: _____	

- It is vital to include email and/or phone number for texts so that you may be notified of changes, etc.
- In order to be considered early registration prices and for the early bird prize drawing, registration and payment must be postmarked by **1/8/18**.
- All attendees must be registered to take part in convention events.
- Registration is transferrable between participants in the same year but not refundable.
- Only All-Inclusive registration options will be available after 5 PM on 1/8/2018.
- All online registration will close on 1/25/2018.

<u>Package Options</u>	Quantity	Total Cost
<b>Individual All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 95.00 by 1/8/18, \$ 125 after 5 PM 1/8/18)		
<b>Couples All-Inclusive</b> (\$ 180.00 by 1/8/18, \$ 240 after 5 pm 1/8/18)		
<b>Single Ala Carte Options:</b> Pick and Choose what you want. <i>(These options are only available for early bird registration. They will no longer be available after 5 pm 1/8/2018)</i>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Friday Tours, Fox Valley Dinner &amp; Hotel Snacks - \$ 25.00 each</b>		
<b>Friday Night - Fox Valley Dinner Only - \$ 15.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – All Activities &amp; Lunch - \$25.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – All Activities &amp; 3 Meal Option - \$ 80.00 each</b>		
<b>Saturday – Banquet &amp; Entertainment - \$ 40.00 each</b>		
<b>Commemorative Glass - \$ 20.00 each</b> <i>(Use for free beer or soda Friday and Saturday night.)</i> Guarantee you will receive one and not have to pay at convention.		
<b>Total Registration Cost</b>		

**You Must Select Preferences:**

- I will participate in Dairy Industry Tours - # Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- I will be eating dinner at Fox Valley - # Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- I am participating in Saturday lunch. Indicate the selection choice for each registrant.

1<sup>st</sup> Individual

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ham & Swiss
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey & Monterrey Jack
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef & Cheddar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Vegetable Wrap

2<sup>nd</sup> Individual (of couple's registration)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ham & Swiss
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey & Monterrey Jack
- \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef & Cheddar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Vegetable Wrap

We strive to be Wisconsin's premier Agriculture Education advocate with FFA Alumni support in every community. We envision our diverse, positive, community committed organization to provide resources to support youth development and leadership.