



WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The Announcer

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Editor: Cheryl Steinbach
Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

Executive Director Vacant Position Announcement

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Association is currently searching for its next Executive Director!

Interested candidates should review the Position Posting and send resume/cover letter to bmontgomery@wisconsinffaalumni.org by August 1st. Please reach out to Bobbie Jo Montgomery at the contact information in the posting with any questions.

The complete position description can be found at [https://wisconsinaged.org/docs/sidemodules/Alumni%20Exec%20Director%20Job%20Posting%20.docx%20\(3\)_27247.pdf](https://wisconsinaged.org/docs/sidemodules/Alumni%20Exec%20Director%20Job%20Posting%20.docx%20(3)_27247.pdf)

Council President, Grant Staszak will serve as interim contact for the association in the meantime. He will be monitoring the execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org email. The mailing address will remain Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters PO Box 143 Granton, WI 54436 and Grant's phone number is 920-366-8078.

Contact Information for Executive Director Interim

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Association Executive Director Retirement Announced

What a joy it has been serving Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters for nearly 8 years! I have met so many wonderful people all with the same mission of supporting agriculture education programs and advisors as they work to encourage, teach and watch FFA members grow and succeed. I have loved every minute of helping local leaders with rosters, tax questions, award and grant application processes. I have also had the awesome opportunity to work with the leaders of all the other members of Team Ag Ed, striving to support the FFA members across the state.

I especially have enjoyed working with the numerous local convention planning committees over the years to see how each group could make their convention special. We endured the challenge of covid and this past year having less than 6 months to find a new venue and coordinate all new tours and facility needs. It is because of the incredible dedication of the countless volunteers that we made it all happen. Thank you to each of you who continue to step up and lead each year. Speaking of stepping up and leading, I would be remiss if I did not share how wonderful it has been working with the state FFA officer teams each year. From our first meeting when I did a training at the WAAE conference, to having them be such an integral and helpful part of the state Alumni convention and then to watching them plan, organize and implement an awesome state FFA convention in June, it is awe inspiring to see such growth.

And last, but certainly not least, I owe a huge thank you to all of the many council members who volunteer their time to serve their sections or as executive council, the entire state association. As council members we have spent many hours together at our quarterly meetings, spring retreat, state Alumni convention and many after hour committee meetings. We have had great discussions over the years and the passion that each of you have shown to support the FFA and Agriculture is remarkable. We have grown as an association in the support that we have been able to provide, thanks to the innovative fundraising and out of the box thinking for investments, etc. I have been truly blessed to have been part of such an awesome group.

Unfortunately, due to a sudden serious diagnosis of a brain tumor, I needed to make the decision rapidly to retire from my position. It is in the best interest of the association that I step aside and we begin the hiring process as soon as possible, hopefully having someone in place when the new fall season gets busy. I personally have begun a significant round of radiation and chemotherapy and need to focus my energy on battling this setback. God willing, I will be around in the future again. Thank you all again for allowing me to serve you all these years. It was a perfect transition from teaching agriculture.

Online Auction

It won't be long before we are running our annual fall online auction. There are always nice items donated for the auction and thanks to O'Brien Auctioneers LLC out of Fond Du Lac who helps to set up the online bidding event. This year's auction is set to run October 13 – 27, 2024. We are excited that our "Living to Serve" sponsors Kondex will again be offering a set of combine concaves for the auction and Renk Seed will be offering a lot of six bags of seed corn for two major items. If you know anyone interested in making a donation of items to the auction, please have the contact Derek Trescher, fundraising chair at dtrescher@wisconsinffaalumni.org before September 1.

State Fall Meeting Dates Upcoming

As fall approaches, that means it is time to start thinking about the fall meetings offered for the 10 sections to host informational meeting and potential banquets or tours. Each section meeting will be planned by the section reps, so please watch the Alumni website at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni-events> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WIFFAAlumni> to find out more about your meeting event.

[New Membership Year Approaching Fast](#)

It is almost the end of the 2023-24 FFA year. All membership ends officially on July 31, 2024. The new year technically begins on August 1, 2024 but it is usually right around September 1, 2024 before local chapters and state associations are given access to the roster information. In the month of August, the following happens at National FFA. 1. Any local chapters who did not pay their annual fee for 2023-24 are deactivated and they are notified that they can no longer do business as an FFA Alumni and use the FFA name and brand, unless they apply to reactivate. 2. The other thing that happens is national FFA automatically renews all of the associate members, which are the graduates from 55 who get free benefits as associate members for up to 5 years. Those associate members do have the option to become annual or lifetime members at any point in the five years. 3. Also, during August, all of the lifetime members are automatically renewed. So, when membership opens for the local level, all that needs to be added is the annual members.

This is where we have noticed an issue developing at many of the local chapters. In order to process your local roster, national FFA requires chapters to first pay their annual fee. We are excited to announce that we again will be offering the early bird discount, so if chapters pay by October 1, 2024, they can subtract a \$ 50 discount and pay \$ 250 rather than \$ 300. We have been offering this discount the past couple of years in order to get local chapters to get their annual members on the rosters and as active as possible early. However, we are seeing many chapters are paying fees, but not adding members to the roster.

This means that the annual members are not receiving newsletters and other state or national communications. (Note, many are not checking profiles also, so emails are not listed or accurate, so they are not in touch either) Plus, there are so many awesome benefits for local members now like hotel discounts, restaurant discounts, dodge rebates, travel opportunities and more, we would love to have everyone get on the roster in October. We encourage the local annual members to

follow up with their local chapter leaders, who will receive directions and an invoice in early September, to make sure you are on the roster.

[2025 Convention Planning Under Way](#)

The 2025 convention committee is hard at work finalizing the details for the upcoming convention which will be held on February 7 -8, 2025 at the Holiday Inn and Convention and Expo Center at Stevens Point. The committee is actually set to meet again on Saturday, August 10 at 10 AM at the actual convention site. There will also be a zoom option as well at 10:30 AM after the facility tour. If you would like to attend or participate, please contact one of the co-chairs, Mason Gukenberger at

mgukenberger@wisconsinffaalumni.org or Todd Coons at tcoons@wisconsinffaalumni.org.

The entertainment has been set, workshops are being finalized, tours are in the works and meals are being selected. We are hoping to have registration up by early October. You may go to the website at <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni-state-convention> to keep updated. Information will be added to this section as it is made available.



WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS
45TH CONVENTION | STEVENS POINT, WI

Wisconsin FFA Convention Highlights

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters were again an integral part of the 95th Wisconsin FFA convention last month in Madison. Many get involved in judging LDE and LDE events. We hosted a workshop for FFA members to share how they can get involved in FFA Alumni early. We were present at the Expo where we engaged with FFA members and gave away an FFA jacket. The state association was a gold convention partner which means we contributed \$5000 towards general convention costs. In addition, we spent just over \$ 4,000 to sponsor the keynote speaker for convention and \$ 1500.00 to provide livestream coverall of the entire convention. This is an awesome option for those who are unable to attend due to work, etc.

And our president Grant Staszak participate in the opening flag ceremony, gave greetings to the members present, helped to award 16 students \$ 600 scholarships to the WLC leadership conference and help to present the state officers with their blue blazers and lifetime memberships. Grant was also awarded the Honorary State FFA Degree while at convention.



National Grant Winners

Congratulations to 3 Wisconsin FFA Alumni local chapters who were selected to receive grants from the National FFA Association. Receiving Nutrien Ag Solutions Grant were Cashton and Osseo-Fairchild. Receiving Legacy Partnering Grants sponsored by Tractor Supply Company was the Sparta FFA Alumni.

Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters also offer grants for local chapters up to \$ 750 each. The application can be found at [https://wisconsinaged.org/docs/sidemodules/2023%20Grant%20Application 66216%20\(1\)52709.docx](https://wisconsinaged.org/docs/sidemodules/2023%20Grant%20Application%2066216%20(1)52709.docx)



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