



WISCONSIN FFA  
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

# The Announcer

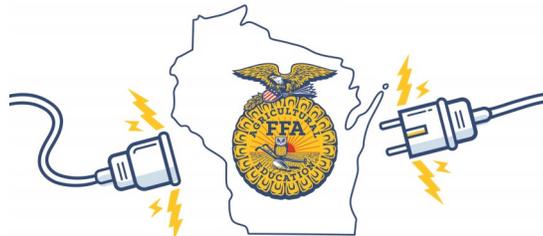
December 2023

Editor: Cheryl Steinbach

Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

## State Alumni Convention is Getting Closer

### CREATING CONNECTIONS IN 2024



WI Alumni & Supporters

Registration is still open for the annual Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Convention which will be held on February 2 & 3, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency and KI Convention Center at 333 Main St in Green Bay. Registration is open through December 31, so be sure to get registered on time. Go to <https://wisconsinaged.org/alumni-state-convention> to complete your registration.

There are 2 different registration options, one is for all those who served as a past state FFA officer or past state alumni council in either sections 6, 8 or 9, entitled past leaders registration. All others should use the general registration option. You are able to pay with a credit card at the time of registration, or submit payment with a check through the mail after registering.

If you are wanting to order convention themed clothing, you may do so by going to [https://customcreationsofwi.com/wi\\_ffa\\_alumni/shop/home](https://customcreationsofwi.com/wi_ffa_alumni/shop/home). If you order by January 1, you should be able to pick up your clothing at the convention. They will have other merchandise for sale at the convention, but if you want something with this year's theme, you need to order it ahead of time.

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### IN THIS ISSUE

**Pg. 2** - Convention Details

**Pg. 3** - Raffle, Convention Schedule & Bylaws proposal

**Pg. 4** - Convention workshops

**Pg. 5**—Convention Registration Form

## General Convention Details

- Registration will close on December 31, 2023 and we can not take late reservations. Due to supply chain shortages and deadlines we must have final numbers to ensure that we can meet our expectations of excellence. We would sincerely appreciate it if anyone plans to mail their registrations that they be mailed by December 20th, in order to ensure their receipt to the treasurer by the closing date.
  - Hotel accommodations are the responsibility of each individual attending. Rooms are blocked currently but will be released after January 2, 2023. Hotel Reservations may be made at <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/GRBRG/G-FFAA>
  - Room rates are \$ 98 for a single person and \$ 20 for each additional guest, plus taxes. Please note that these are all suites so they have extra space for a kitchenette, and there are king or 2 queen options. The living area also has a pullout sofa option. They are very nice rooms.
  - There is a tour option available that will leave at noon to tour the Green Bay Southwest Ag Department on Friday, February 2. The group will then head to Title Town for the classic Packers tour at Lambeau Field, which will be followed by a self-guided tour of Hinterland Brewery, which includes a complimentary beer. The tour has a 60-person maximum, so individuals are encouraged to register early, as it is first come, first serve in the registration process. Cost of the tour is \$ 60 and includes busing and all tour costs. The reservations are filling up fast, so be sure to get registered soon if you plan to take the tour.
  - For those who do not want to participate in the tour on Friday afternoon, something new this year will be a make and take option for individuals. There are two different workshops being planned.
    1. Option 1 - Succulent Bowl /glass art project drop-in session from 1- 4 PM. People can stop in any time from 1 – 3 to begin, but they need 1 hour to do the activity. The cost is \$25.00. There is a minimum of 20 participants or it would be cancelled, and due to supplies, etc. there is a maximum of 40.
    2. Option 2 - Wood Flower arrangement to make. This is also a drop-in session running from 1 to 4. The cost is \$10.00, with no minimum participants but a maximum of 50.
- If we do not get enough interest in these make and take options, we will have to cancel them and your money will be refunded at convention.
- If you are a past officer or leader, whether or not you are planning to attend convention, please go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFN8NokouCHo2AOoqkFU0ufrDTvgkfzTFUqcKepvGqsTmlA/viewform?usp=sharing> to provide your information so we may update our records.
  - The menus planned include:
    - ◇ Friday Night Buffet: Includes side salad with House dressing. 2 hot noodles, Marinara & Alfredo sauces, Grilled chicken & Meatballs, Seasonal steamed vegetables, Garlic bread and Assorted cookies.
    - ◇ Saturday Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Breakfast potato, Whole fruit (apple and banana), Orange juice and Assorted Danish.
    - ◇ Saturday Lunch: Shredded BBQ chicken with smoked gouda, pickled onion, warm apple slice on telera roll. Served with house chips. Pasta salad also served.
    - ◇ Saturday Banquet: Apple chutney grilled pork chop with apple chutney over garlic mashed potatoes. Mixed green salad.
  - Menus are subject to change based on stock availability.
  - **If you have any special dietary needs, please contact the executive director, as well, at [exccdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:exccdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org).**

- Raffle Tickets are currently available for purchase for the meat raffle. The winners will be announced at 5 PM on Saturday, February 3, prior to the state officer reflections program. Winners will be able to pick up the prizes at the convention to take back home. Those not present will be contacted and we will make arrangements to get it all delivered.

- Raffle Tickets are \$ 10.00 each or 6/\$ 50.00. Prizes include:

1st: Royal Gourmet 4 Burner Gas Grill & Griddle Combo & \$150 Party Pack from Pipe Meats Market

2nd: 1/2 Hog Meat Box from Becks Meat Valued at \$400

3rd: \$250 Meat Box - Hewitt's Meats

4th: Cooler/Brats/Beef Package - N&J Farms Valued at \$250

5th: \$250 Beef Box - Lewies Custom Raised Beef

6th: \$250 Pork Box Donated by Pork Producers & Processing by Gehring Meat Market

7th: \$100 Meat Box - Hoff's Quality Meats

8th: \$100 Meat Box - Salchert's Meats & Hickory Hills Meats

9th: \$100 Meat Box - Leroy's Meats

10th: \$100 Meat Box - Butcher Block & Kewaskum Meats

11th: \$100 Meat Box - Fictum Acres & Eden Meats

12th: \$100 Meat Box - Loehrs Meats

Throughout the whole weekend Walter Taylor, instructor from Oconto Falls and WAAE CDE Committee chair, will have available his stand-alone, hands-on exhibit that introduces you to FFA Career Development Events (CDE). Test your knowledge in these events and hopefully decide you have the knowledge to volunteer to help your FFA advisor coach a CDE team. The time is now to get teams practicing and learning real-world scenarios, agricultural standards for products/services. Help with where to find materials to use when coaching CDE Teams. Will also cover CDE updates for the spring semester.

## General Convention Schedule\*

Tentative, subject to slight modifications as needed.

### Friday, Feb. 2, 2024

9:30 AM - State Council Meets

11:00 AM - Registration Opens

Auction Items may be checked in

12:00 PM - Tour of Green Bay loading

1 PM - 3 PM - Check in for Make and Take projects

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM - Pasta Dinner Bar

6:30 PM - Past Presidents Meeting

6:30 PM - National FFA Alumni, Questions & Answers Opportunity

6:30 PM - Workshop for those interested in seeing what is required to be a state council member.

7:30 PM - Auction Begins

9:30 PM - Dueling DJ's entertainment

### Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024

7:00 AM - Breakfast Buffet opens

8:30 AM - Opening Session

9:30 AM - Combined section meetings  
6, 8 & 9 / 1, 2, 3 & 7 / 4, 5 & 10

10:15 AM - Individual section meetings

11:15 AM - Luncheon

Noon - Past Leaders Recognition program

12:30 - Annual meeting

2:00 PM - Workshops Round 1

3:00 PM - Workshops Round 2 or Past Leaders hospitality

4:30 PM - Silent Auction ends

5:00 PM - Raffle Drawing

5:15 PM - State FFA Officers Reflection program

5:45 PM - Banquet and closing session

8:00 PM - Auction

Following Auction - Brayden Grimm, entertainer.

## Proposed Bylaws Change

As part of the annual meeting, there will be a vote on a potential bylaws change being recommended by the council. **In article VI, Section 1, they are proposing that we add the following statement: "The council has the right to modify the date outside of February in the event of necessity".**

This change is being recommended due to potential date and location conflicts or urgent needs. The council and planning committees will do everything in their power to host the event in February each year, but because we need to book out a few years in advance we are recommending the change to allow for flexibility if needed.

The full change can be viewed at <https://wisconsinaged.org/docs/Alumni%20%20Supporters/Proposed%20Bylaws%20for%20vote%202024..pdf> on page 5.

## Convention Workshop Opportunities

- There will be 2 rounds of workshops, each lasting about 45 minutes offered on Saturday. You may choose which 2 you want to attend that day. Options include:
- ◇ **Evaluating Websites for Elements that Improve Effectiveness**  
Marketing your agricultural education program is critical in 2024. Are you grounded with a website? Who are the providers? Who are the target audiences? Who edits the website? How is it shared? How do you make icons? Feel free to bring your favorite device to start a website or edit an existing site.  
Presenter: Walter Taylor, Oconto Falls Agriculture Instructor
- ◇ **What is FFA Branding? Why is it Important, Tools Available to Implement It**  
Are you following the National FFA Branding Guidelines? Dive into colors, fonts, icons, and much more to create “Branded” materials for print and electronic media. Feel free to bring your own device to practice creating media incorporating branding guidelines and resources.  
Presenter: Walter Taylor, Oconto Falls Agriculture Instructor
- ◇ **Improving Your Financial Wellbeing**  
Learn how to improve your financial wellbeing with tips you can put into action today. Also, what the scientific research says about the link between money and happiness and how you to use your money to improve your happiness.  
Presenter: Brett Killion, Associate Professor of Accounting, Lakeland University
- ◇ **Supporting our Students by Advocating for Advisors!**  
As Alumni, we are always working to meet the needs of FFA members in our community. Often, a great way to do that is to work cooperatively with FFA Advisors. During this session, we'll brainstorm how to best advocate for our agriculture education programs and the teachers who work every day to grow the next generation of agricultural leaders and FFA Alumni.  
Presenters: 2023-24 State FFA Officers
- ◇ **Estate Planning-How to Provide for Yourself, Your Family, and Your Legacy!**  
Learn options for actions to take and documents to use to develop an estate plan based upon YOUR goals. Resources will be shared. Situations will be discussed.

Time will be available for your questions.

Presenter: Mike Sabel, retired MSTC agriculture instructor, part-time ag and life consultant.

### ◇ **WIN (Winning Insight Now)**

Sharing success stories on how apprenticeships, Internships, job shadowing, and mentoring can help with SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experiences) for your agricultural education students and FFA members. Aside from raising money, we will cover one-on-one opportunities your members can do for students that will hopefully fit your local student's needs. Not everyone wants to work in a food stand or at other fundraising events and we want to highlight other ways your chapter members can be involved to help individual students. We will highlight success stories, tools that local chapters use, school district requirements to check into, along with educational program that can be used as a building block for your own chapter's support of students. Each of your members offer unique skill sets, resources and experiences and we will help you identify ways your chapter can develop student support activities that can make a difference in student's lives.

Presenter: Members of the Stoughton FFA Alumni and Supporters

### ◇ **Effective Advocacy: Why and How**

The importance of advocating for our programs. Why and how to accomplish that effectively.

Presenter: Tom Bressner, Executive Director, Wisconsin Agri-Business Association

### ◇ **Social Media and Me!**

Many FFA Alumni chapters have social media pages to keep their members informed about volunteer events, fundraisers, and recreational opportunities. The question is, how can we take our social media pages to the next level to increase our page's engagement. In this workshop, we'll explore how to grow our membership with strategic social media management.

Presenters: 2023-24 State FFA Officers

### ◇ **Help for Local Leaders**

National FFA Alumni & Supporters Associate Director, Allie Ellis, will be on hand to offer training and tips for local chapter leaders. She will be available for assistance with the roster process, tax questions, grants and other resources available at the national level. This will be a great place to gather helpful information to take back to the local chapter.

**CREATING CONNECTIONS  
IN 2024**



**WI Alumni & Supporters**

**2024 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention Registration Form**

February 2 - 3, 2024 @ KI Center & Regency Hotel in Green Bay, WI

- It is vital to include email and/or phone number for texts so that you may be notified of changes,.
- Payment must be postmarked by 12/20/2023.
- All attendees must be registered to take part in convention events.
- Registration is transferrable between participants in the same year, but is not refundable.

FFA Alumni Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Package Options

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual All-Inclusive Package** - \$ 150.00 Includes Registration, all Friday Evening and Saturday Meals and Events and a Commemorative Mug for beer or soda for the weekend.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Past FFA and Alumni Leaders Recognition Event** – This option is Only for past state FFA Officers or Alumni council members from sections 6, 8 & 9 – Co-Sponsored by the FFA Foundation Star Mission Fund. - \$ 50.00 Includes Registration, Saturday Luncheon, Hospitality Event and a commemorative mug.

**Other Individual Ala-Carte Options:** **If you are choosing more than one ala-carte item, please contact [execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org](mailto:execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org) to adjust the registration fee costs.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Evening Only** - \$ 80.00 includes Registration, Friday night Buffet and Evening Activities and a mug.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Breakfast Only** - \$ 75.00 includes Registration, Saturday Breakfast, Opening Session and Section Meetings and a mug.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Luncheon Only** - \$ 80.00 includes Registration, section meetings, Lunch, Business Meeting and Workshops and a mug.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Banquet Only** - \$ 90.00 includes Registration, Reflections Program, Dinner Banquet and Evening Activities and a mug.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Meetings & Workshops Only** - \$ 40.00 Registration, includes a mug.

**Additional Options for Any Attendees:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Tour of Green Bay Southwest Agriculture Department, Lambeau Field Classic 1 Hour Tour and Walk to Hinterland Brewery for self-guided tour and token for one beer sample. Bus provided from hotel and back. \$ 60.00 – Minimum of 35 people, Maximum of 60 registrants.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Afternoon Make & Take Glass Succulent Bowls Project** - \$ 25.00 – Minimum of 20, Maximum of 40.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Afternoon Make & Take Wooden Flower Arrangements** - \$ 10.00 – Minimum of 10, No Maximum.

**Total Registration Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable and mail to:**

2024 Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention  
Janet Schneider, Convention Treasurer  
N6291 County Rd G, Saint Cloud, WI 53079