



WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS

The Announcer

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Wisconsin FFA Alumni, Executive Director

Online Auction is Open Now, Please Help Support the State Association

The Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Association is currently hosting our annual online auction to help raise funds for our various programs. The auction will run through November 5, 2023 at 5 PM. The process to bid is very simple and there are lots of options. Thanks to our **“Living to Serve”** sponsors we have:

A set of **Kondex** Combine Concaves for purchase, with technical support and instructions for installation.
6 bags of **Renk Seed**, any variety corn and this can be obtained through any local Renk Dealer.

We also have numerous other items including:

6 Bags of Pioneer Seeds - Hybrid P9492AM, Retail Value \$371/bag

A bag of Peak Forage Deer Plot Seed

Several handmade blankets and afghans

Hotel lodging certificates

A fishing supplies package

Several home décor items

Household kitchen items

Collector Pedal Tractor

Toy tractors

Meat Bundle from Hewitt Meats

Convention packages

And more....

All of the items may be found at <https://online.auctionsbyobrien.com/Event/Details/1312264/Wisconsin-FFA-Alumni-Supporters-Fall-Auction>

Special thanks to O’Brien Auctioneers LLC for once again hosting this auction. Please check it out and place some bids to help us out.

Special Thanks to Our
“Living To Serve” Sponsors



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CREATING CONNECTIONS IN 2024



WI Alumni & Supporters

Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters 44th Annual Convention Registration Opening Soon

It is now just about 4 months until we gather for our annual Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters convention. There are a lot of great events being planned and you will want to be sure to attend.

There were some changes that needed to be made because the original hotel is now undergoing renovations and will not have enough rooms available, so we have been able to secure the KI Center and Hyatt Regency in Green Bay. Convention will be held on February 2 & 3, 2024 at 333 Main St in Green Bay.

General notes of information available thus far include:

- Registration can be found at <https://www.wisconsinaged.org/alumni-state-convention> and will close on December 31, 2023. (Due to supply chain shortages, etc. we must have final numbers to ensure that we can meet our expectations of excellence.) We would sincerely appreciate all registrations that will be mailed to please have them in the mail 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.

Friday Afternoon Activities Include:

- Registration begins at 11 AM.
- Auction items, baskets, etc. may be turned in at the main registration area starting at noon. We would appreciate any donations.
- There is a tour option available that will leave at noon to tour the Green Bay Southwest Ag Department. 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.
- 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.
- Friday night's activities will feature a pasta buffet and live auction, and DJ entertainment. This is a great chance to network with other chapters and share ideas as well.

Saturday is packed full of Activities!

- Saturday morning will kick off with breakfast and the opening session, followed by meetings of the various individual sections and larger convention planning groups.
- Something new this year is a Past Leaders recognition event. There will be additional information coming, but the committee is trying to reach all of the past FFA Alumni council leadership and past state FFA officers from the hosting sections of 6, 8, 9 and is offering a special event for them kicking off with the luncheon.
- 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/1FAIpQLSfFN8NokouCHo2AOoqkFUi0ufrDTvgkzfTFUqckepvGqsTmlA/viewform?usp=sharing> to provide your information so we may update our records.
- Following lunch, the association will hold its annual meeting where a new vice president will be elected and other business is conducted. Next on the agenda are numerous workshop opportunities. These options can be found further in the newsletter.
- The Wisconsin FFA State Officer team will once again offer their **Reflections** program prior to the banquet Saturday evening. This is always very inspirational.
- Prior to the Reflections, right at 5 PM we will be drawing the winners of our convention meat raffle. Tickets are currently being printed and if you are interested in selling some for us please contact your Section reps.
- Raffle 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
- The banquet will feature recognition of the Chapter and individual award winners.
- The live auction will follow, which will feature the past state officer painted projects, and there will be entertainment by local musician Brayden Grimm to conclude the evening.
- Please invite someone to attend with you. This is an awesome weekend to share with other alumni members throughout the state.
- There are a variety of options for convention packages to purchase. They may be seen on the next page.
- Please remember, there are 2 different registration options. One for all those from section 6, 8 and 9 who served as past state FFA officers or past FFA Alumni council members and their guests, and then a second option for all other alumni members and guests. This is because there is a special Star Mission Grant from the Foundation being used to assist with the special luncheon and hospitality of these past leaders.
- Both registrations can be found at Registration can be found at <https://www.wisconsinaged.org/alumni-state-convention>
- Meals 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 herb roasted potato. 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 execdir@wisconsinffaalumni.org.**

Convention Workshop Opportunities Being Planned

- 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
- ◇ **CDE Boot Camp**
A 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.
Presenter: Walter Taylor, Oconto Falls agriculture instructor and Chair, WAAE CDE Committee

**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:

_____ **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