

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI CONVENTIONS AND PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE WI FFA ALUMNI

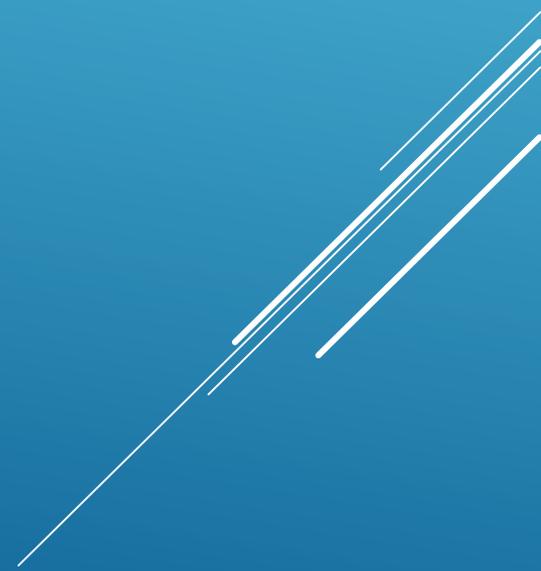
Compiled for the 2020 Wisconsin FFA
Alumni Convention in Waukesha by
Past President Darlene Arneson using
Past Presidents PowerPoint started
by Kathy Breunig and input from
other past presidents!

▶ Note:

We were not able to find pictures for all Past Presidents. OUR APOLOGIES.

The symbol * by a name means they are deceased.

HISTORICAL PICTURES

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right corner of the slide.

Vision + Leadership = Reality

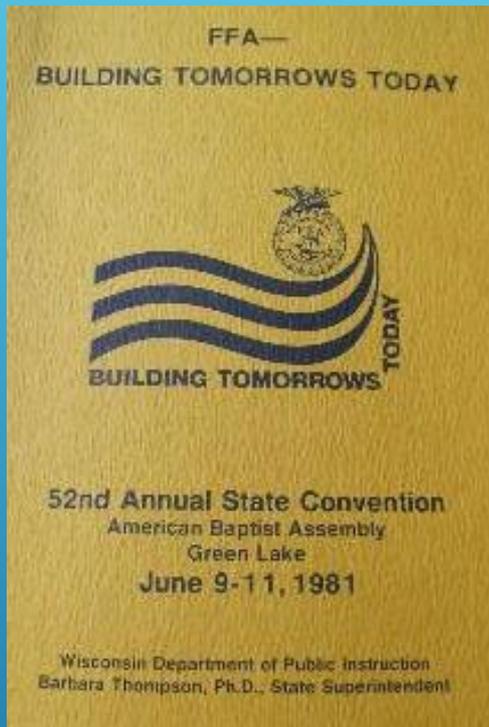


Convention 2020
January 31st - February 2nd 2020

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF
WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI
CONVENTIONS - 2020

FROM HUMBLE EARLY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND BEGINNINGS AT GREEN LAKE





10:00 Creed Speaking Contest
*Group A - John Peck A (B, C & D)

11:00 Creed Speaking Contest
*Group B - John Peck A (B, C & D)

10:00 State FFA Alumni Meeting - Lieder Haus

11:00 Convention Delegate Orientation Meeting - Pillsbury
Meeting with President, Neal Wellner

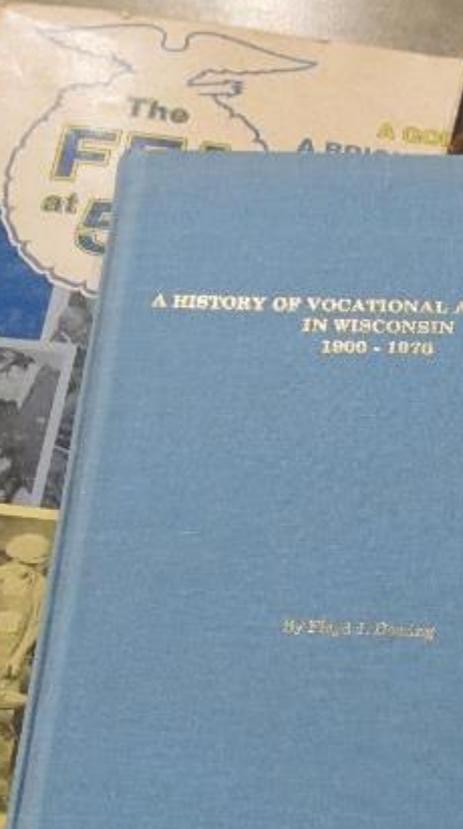
11:00

LIEDER HAUS- UP THE HILL AT GREEN LAKE



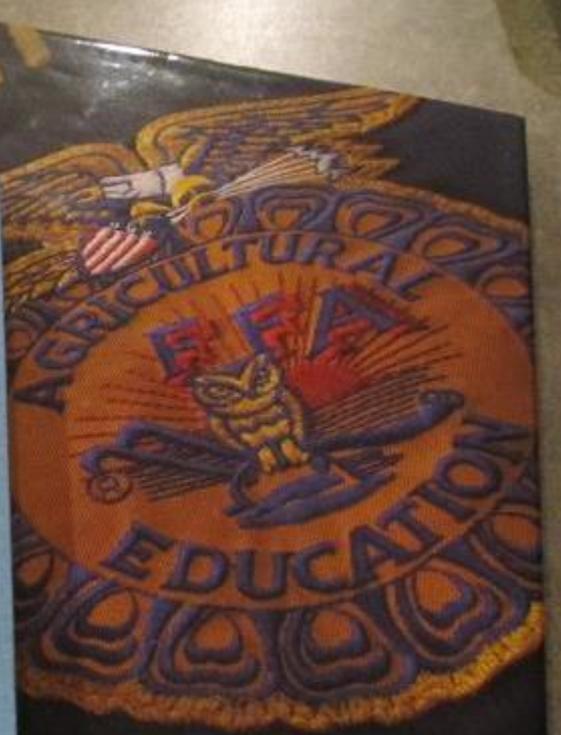
100 Years
of
Agricultural Education
in
Wisconsin

by
Floyd D.



A HISTORY OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE
IN WISCONSIN
1900 - 1970

By Floyd D. [unclear]



ts Gold Standards
Years of being the FFA legacy

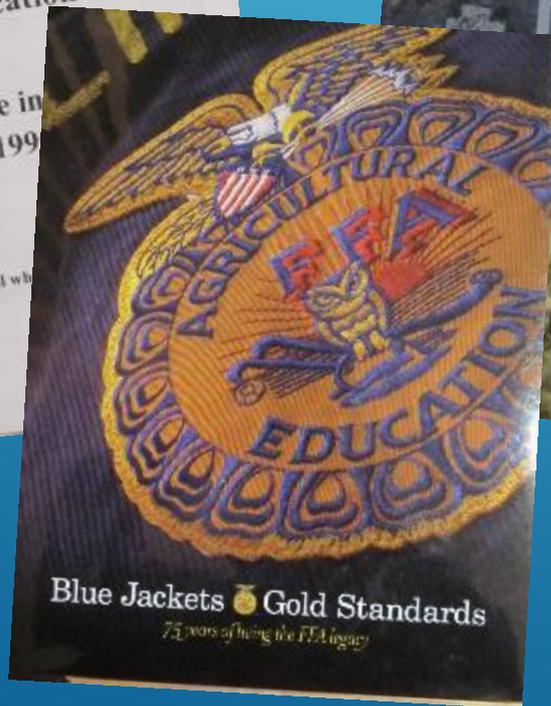
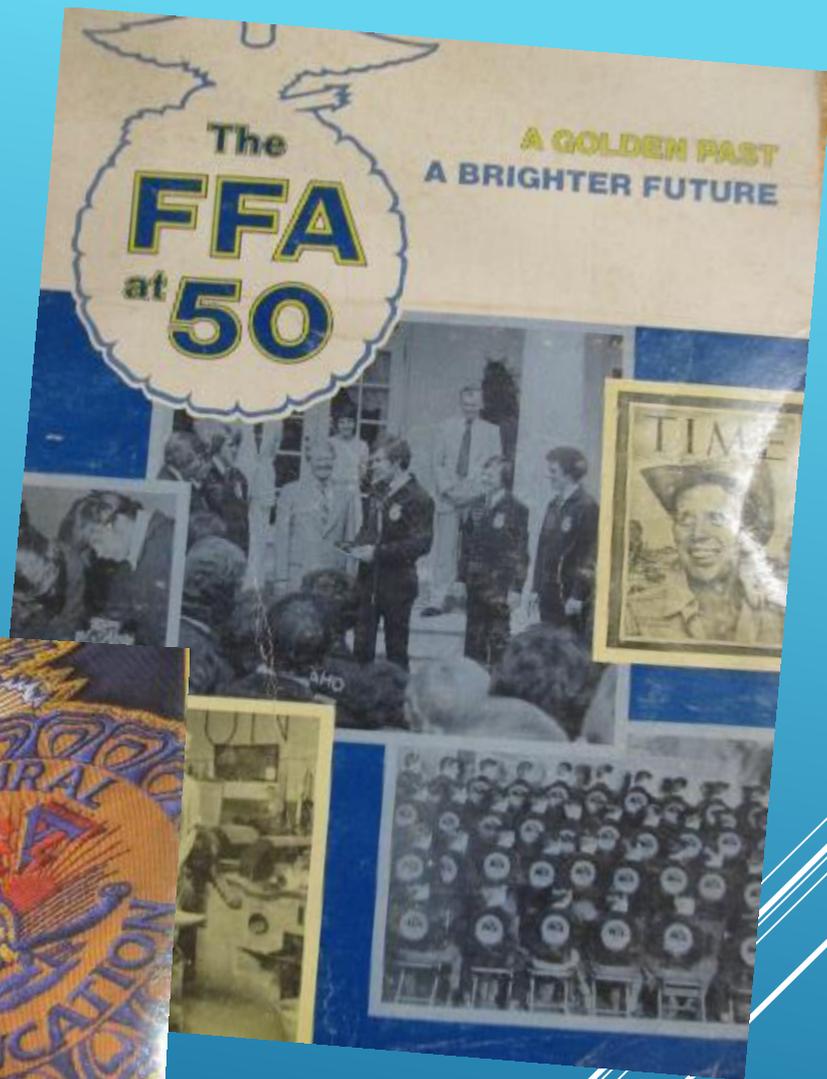
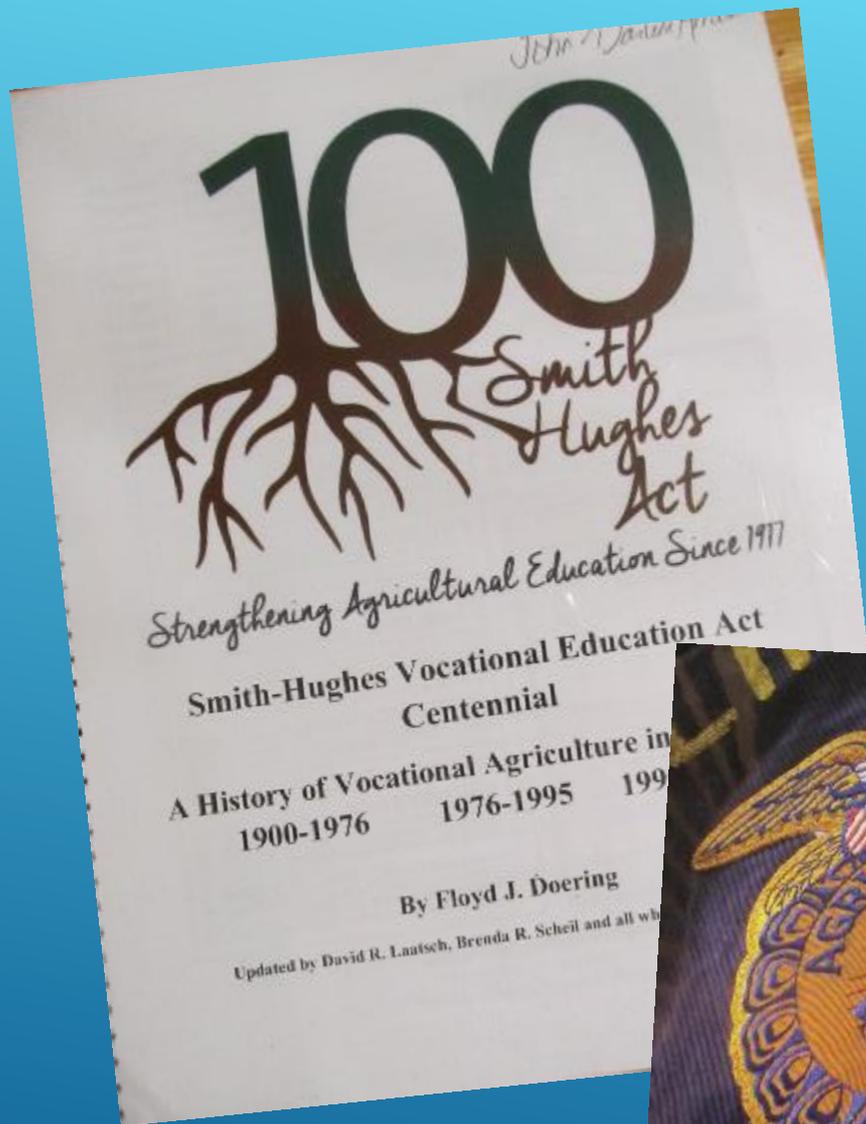
100 Years
of
Agricultural Education/FJA
in
Wisconsin



by
Floyd Doering

A HISTORY OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE
IN WISCONSIN
1860 - 1975

By Floyd J. Doering





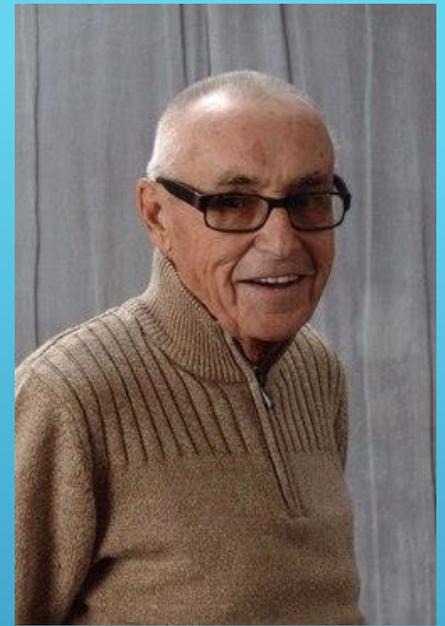
THE ALUMNI HAD COUNCIL AND
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DURING THE
JUNE WISCONSIN FFA CONVENTION

- ▶ 1973-75 **Art Kurtz, Wisconsin***
- ▶ 1975-78 **Armin Fruechte, Westby***

1970'S



- ▶ 1978-79 **Erwin Zweifel, Mount Horeb ***



- ▶ 1979-80 **Victor Voigt, Valders**



During the 1979 June Wisconsin FFA Convention at Green Lake, immediate past Wisconsin FFA President John Arneson spoke to the Wisconsin FFA Alumni meeting in Lieder Haus.

His speech was based on:

- ▶ A- Agriculture
- ▶ L- Leaders
- ▶ U- Understanding
- ▶ M- Members
- ▶ N- Needs
- ▶ I - Interests



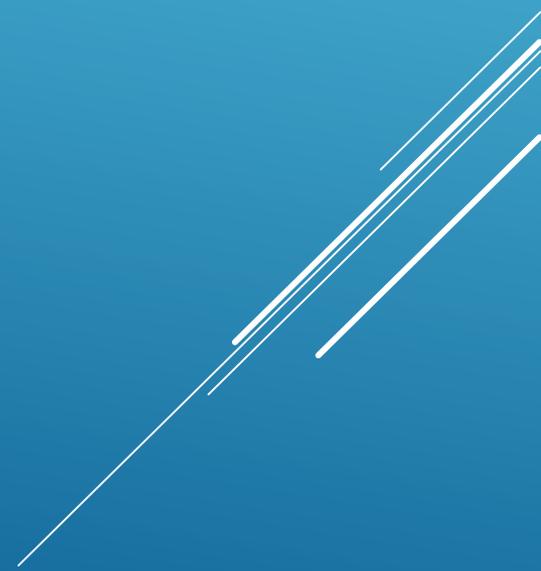
1980'S

- ▶ 1980-82 **Robert Wolfe,**
Brodhead



*First Convention was
at Marshfield in 1981.
Bob Wolfort from Ace
Bolt and Nut Co. paid
for the full convention.*

**REMEMBERS 1998-99 GERALD
STEPHANI, SEYMOUR**



*Group B - Roger Williams Inn (rooms 105-106)
 *Group B - Roger Williams Inn (rooms 107-108)
 All contestants report to room 109 - Preparation

10:00 a.m. Prepared Speaking Contests
 *Group A - Primary Building - Children's Center
 *Group B - Middle Building - Children's Center

10:00 a.m. Creed Speaking Contests
 *Group A - John Peck A (B, C & D)

11:00 a.m. Creed Speaking Contests
 *Group B - John Peck A (B, C & D)

10:00 a.m. State FFA Alumni Meeting - Lieder Haus

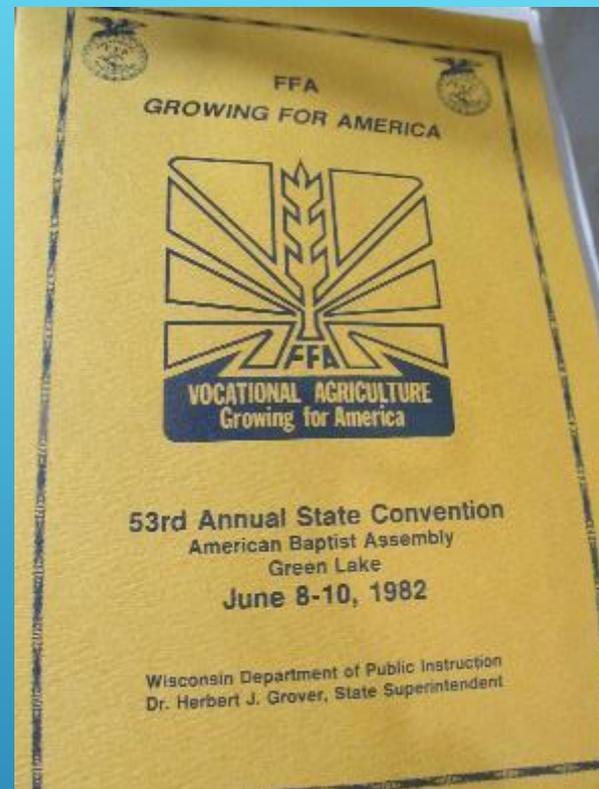
11:00 a.m. Convention Delegate Orientation Meeting - Pills
 Meeting with President, Tom McKittrick

11:00 a.m. Courtesy Corps Meeting (Officer Candidates)
 Meet in basement of Kraft Administration Building
 with Alan Wolff, Ranking Vice President

11:30 a.m. Lunch - Lakeview Dining Room (downstairs)

4:00 p.m. Meeting - All FFA Advisors in Sections VIII and
 Dan Day and Floyd Doering - Brayton Case A

*Group A - Contestants from odd numbered sections
 *Group B - Contestants from even numbered sections



PROBABLY THE LAST MEETINGS WHEN
 THE ALUMNI MET "UP THE HILL" AT
 GREEN LAKE IN LIEDER HAUS

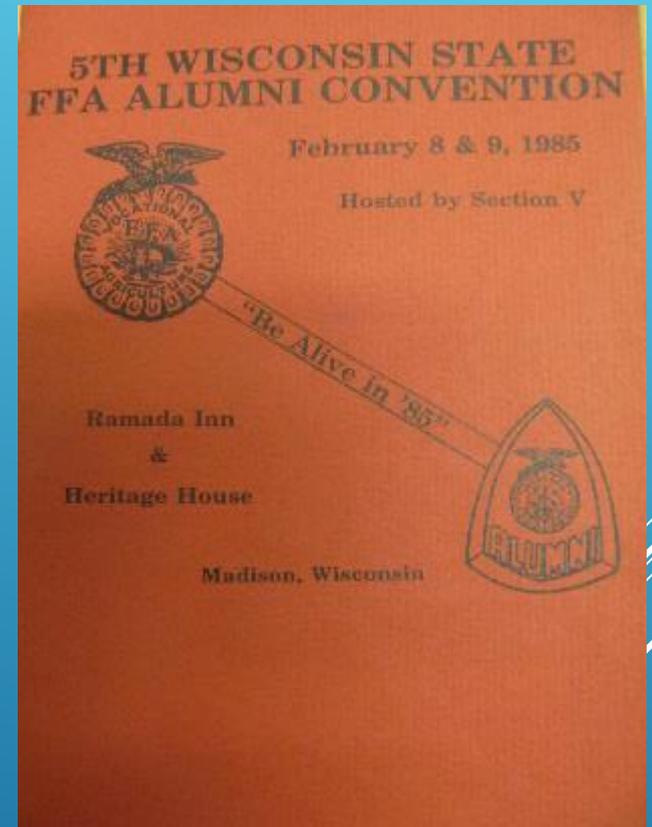
1982-83 **RANDY MEYER, LOYAL**

The image features a solid blue background. In the bottom right corner, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines of varying lengths, creating a sense of motion or a graphic element.

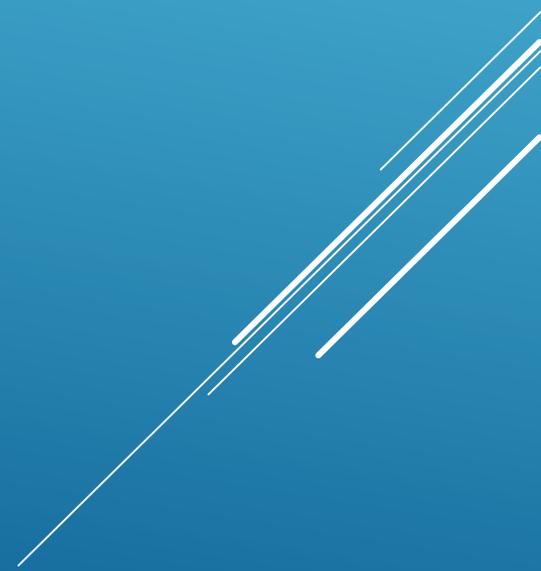
- ▶ 1983-84 **Gary Beastrom, Athens**



- ▶ 1984-85 **Jim Sipiorski, Denmark**



1984-85 **Jim Sipiorski, Denmark**



▶ 1985-86 **Tom Parslow, Mauston**



▶ 1986-87 **Russ Utech, Merrill**



▶ 1987-88 Terry Petersen, Denmark



▶ 1988-89 Ken Natzke, Bonduel



▶ 1989-90 **Sue Krull-Schultz,**
New Holstein

*Favorite memory from the convention-
The Wisconsin FFA Alumni members I
met and made as lifelong friends. The
contagious energy and spirit among the
convention attendees expressing their
commitment to FFA, their alumni
membership and wanting to be part of
the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and FFA
legacy – past, present and future.*



“

FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION - ATTENDED 1989 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY, MO. MY HUSBAND RICHARD AND I WERE MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 3, 1989 AND LEFT ON NOVEMBER 5, 1989 TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION WHICH SERVED AS OUR HONEYMOON DESTINATION. I WAS A PRESENTER AT THE 1989 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION.

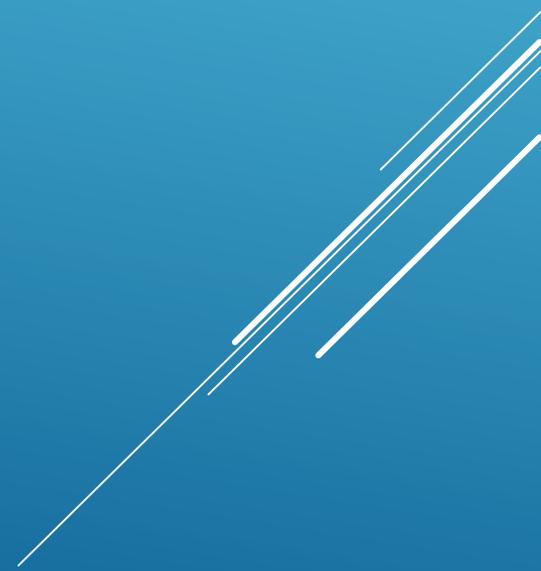
”



“

What was your focus or biggest accomplishment that year? *That the center of our State FFA Alumni Council was always about the organization – not about individuals and doing our best work keeping the FFA motto at the forefront... Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve as we planned and accomplished activities and increased membership.*

”

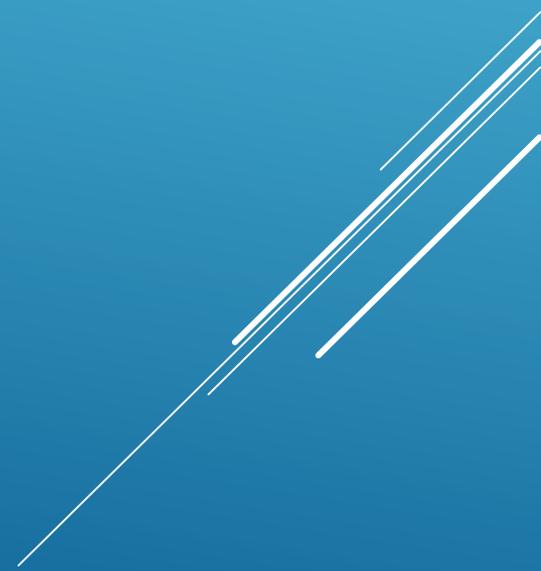


“ OTHER THOUGHTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE!

KEN NATZKE, TERRY PETERSEN AND MYSELF WERE THE STATE FFA ALUMNI PRESIDENT'S IN I BELIEVE 1988, 1989 AND 1990. SINCE THIS TIME, KEN, TERRY AND MYSELF HAVE TRIED TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR ALONG WITH KEN'S WIFE JOYCE. WE HAVE A VERY SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP WE SHARE DUE TO MEETING VIA OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

**1989-90 Sue Krull-Schultz,
New Holstein**

”



1990'S

▶ 1990-91 **Larry Osterberg, Colfax***

▶ 1991-92 **Darrel Birnschein, Sevastopol**



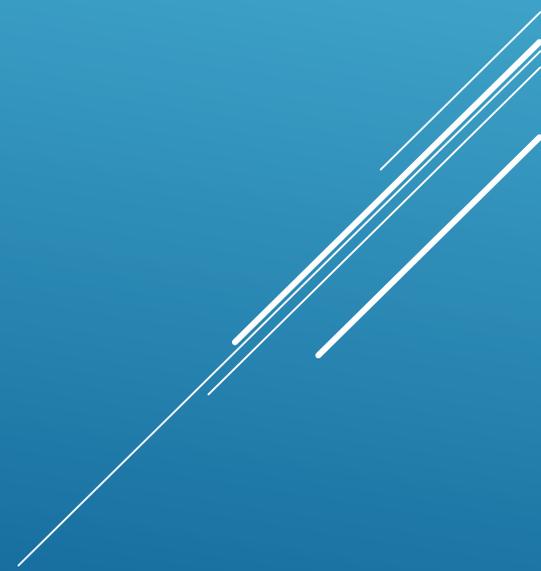
▶ 1992-93 **Ronna Morton-Ballmer, Clinton**



▶ 1993-94 **Don Southworth, Marathon**



▶ 1994-95 **Dennis Van Vreede, Freedom**



▶ 1995-96 **Francis Steiner, Granton***



▶ 1996-97 **Richard Gimler, Watertown**



- ▶ 1997-98 **Dr. Virgil Martinson, Stoughton***



- ▶ 1998-99 **Gerald Stephani, Seymour**



“

REFLECTIONS FROM JERRY STEPHANI:

WHERE WAS THE CONVENTION HELD AT?

STEVENS POINT

”

FAVORITE MEMORY (OR MEMORIES) FROM THE CONVENTION: *BOB KEOUGH FALLING OUT OF THE WHEEL BARROW DURING THE FUND RAISING EVENT FOR THE CONVENTION.*



“**FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION:** *HITCHING A RIDE FROM DENMARK THE LAST MINUTE TO MEET SEYMOUR AS A CHAPERONE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. ALSO, BACKING THE FFA STUDENTS WHEN THEY WERE ACCUSED OF DOING SOMETHING THEY DID NOT DO.*”

Other thoughts you'd like to share! *First Convention was at Marshfield. Bob Wolfort from Ace Bolt and Nut Co. paid for the full convention.*



“

WHAT WAS YOUR FOCUS OR BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT YEAR?

HELP SET UP THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OFFICE. GETTING 5 FILING CABINETS FOR FREE. WANTED TO GET ALL HISTORY INFORMATION SCANNED ONTO MICROFICHE AT THE TIME. UNABLE TO GET THIS COMPLETED. STOPPING A POTENTIAL LAWSUIT FROM THE EAU CLAIRE CONVENTION.

”

WORKED TO GET GUIDELINES FOLLOWED BY THE NATIONAL FFA YOUTH EXCHANGE. PROCEDURES WERE NOT BEING FOLLOWED BY THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. TERRY PETERSEN, KEN NATZKE AND I INTERVIEWED VIRGIL MARTINSON ON HOW THE WI FFA ALUMNI STARTED.



“ GOING TO MINNESOTA WITH TERRY PETERSEN AND JOHN LEITERMAN TO HELP JUMP START THEIR STATE ALUMNI. JOHN MISSING A PACKERS GAME IN THE PLAYOFFS, AS HE HAD SEASON TICKETS. THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME JOHN EVER MISSED A GAME. MINNESOTA WAS HARASSING JOHN THAT GREEN BAY WAS IN A BLACKOUT AND HE HAD TO COME TO MINNESOTA TO WATCH THE GAME.

”



“ **WHAT WIFFA ALUMNI EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DID YOU WORK WITH?** BETWEEN VIRGIL MARTINSON AND I WAS THE TRANSITION IN GETTING AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. IT WAS A GREAT HONOR WORKING WITH JEAN AS OUR SECRETARY AND TREASURER. DIANE AMERA CAME ON AS OUR FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. I REMEMBER BEING ON THE FENCE OF WHO TO HIRE. WE ONLY HAD ONE APPLICATION BY DEADLINE. DIANE'S APPLICATION CAME IN AFTER THE DEADLINE. ”

1998-99 Gerald Stephani, Seymour

2000's

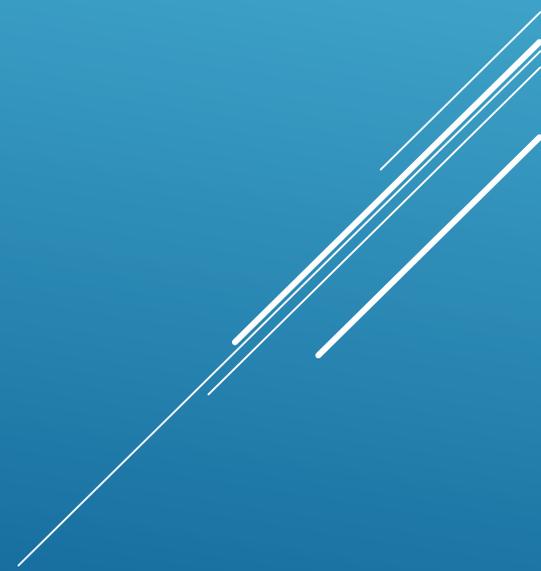
- ▶ 1999-00 **Robert Keough, Argyle**



Where was the convention held at? *Wisconsin Dells*

Other thoughts you'd like to share : *Going to the Ball game in Milwaukee. The VIP Award we received in 2014 from the FFA was a great honor and appreciated.*

Bob Keough's recollections





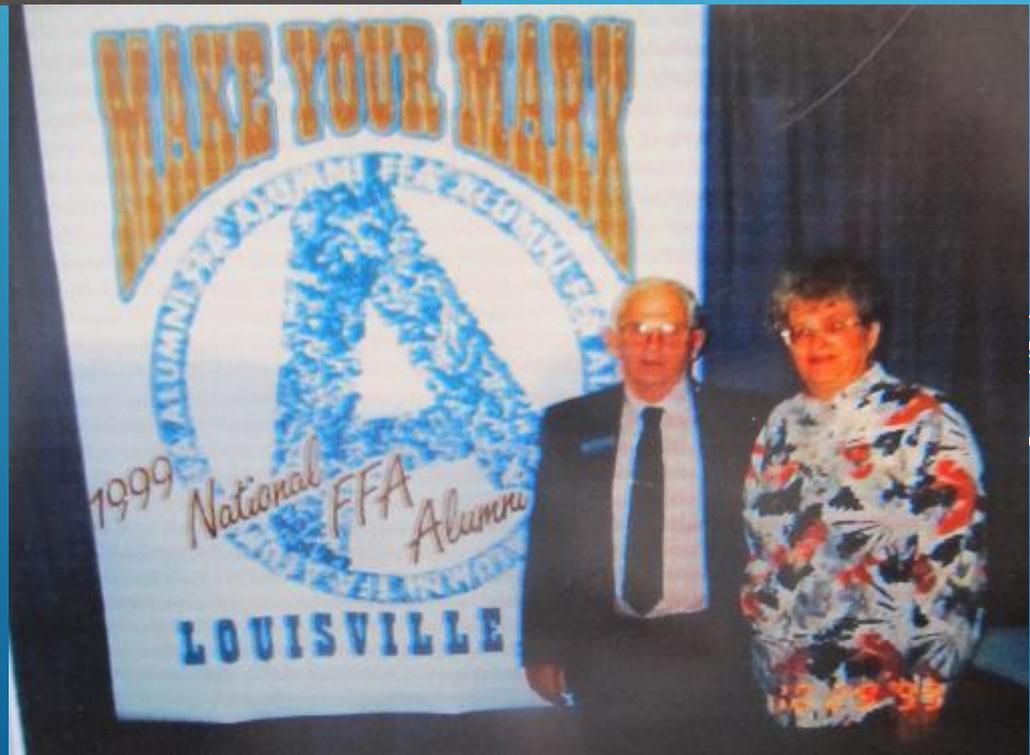
1999 WISCONSIN STATE FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION

*"Remembering the 20th Century
and Heading into the 21st Century"*

Awards & Recognition Banquet

Admit One • February 20, 1999 • 6:00pm
Holiday Inn Aqua Dome, Wisconsin Dells

Favorite memory
from the
convention -
confusion



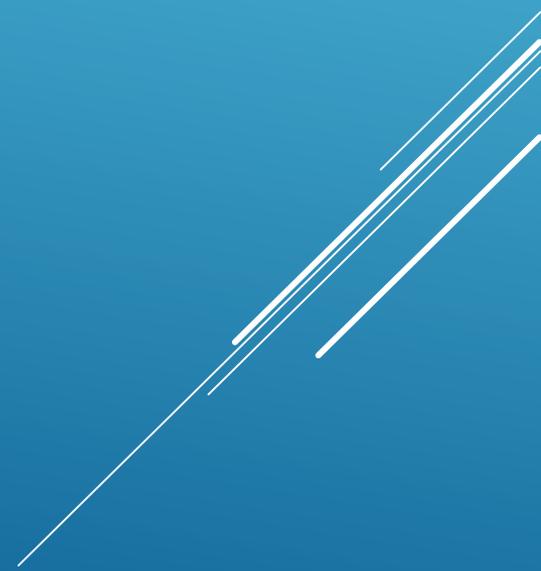


What was your focus or biggest accomplishment that year? *the national convention*





▶ 2000-01 **Dale Beaty, Milton**



*Experience
the
Excellence*
Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention 2002



*February 15-17, 2002
KI Center Downtown
Green Bay*

2001-02 John
Leiterman, Denmark*

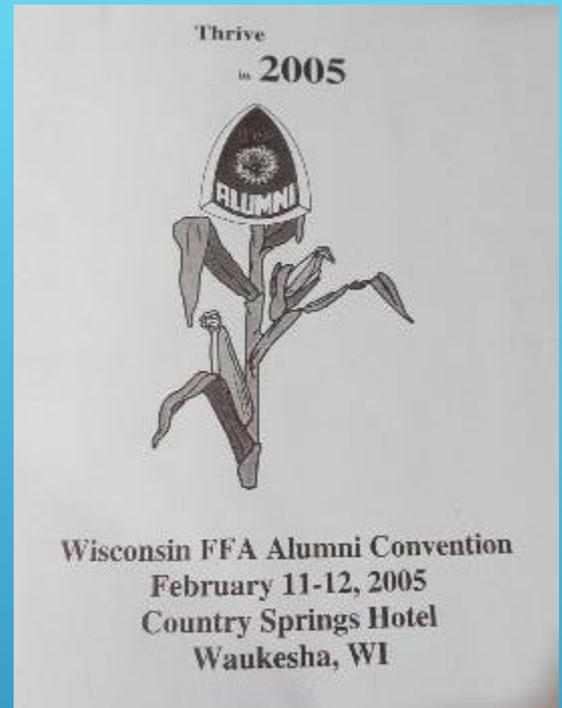


- ▶ 2002-03 **Victoria Harter, Oconto Falls***



- ▶ 2003-04 **Scott Gimler, Watertown**

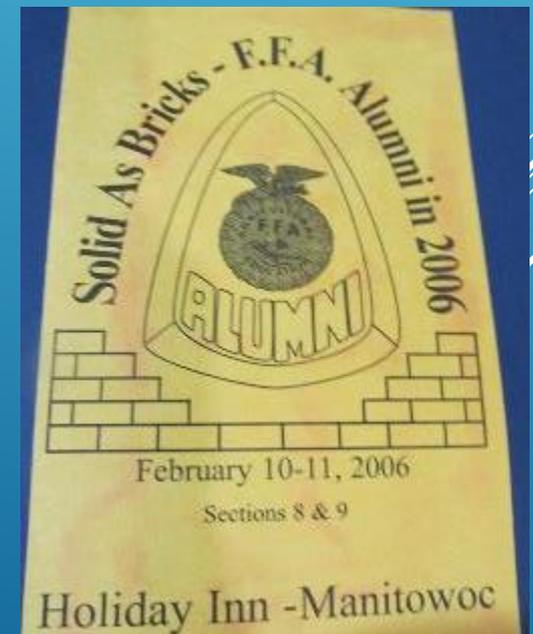
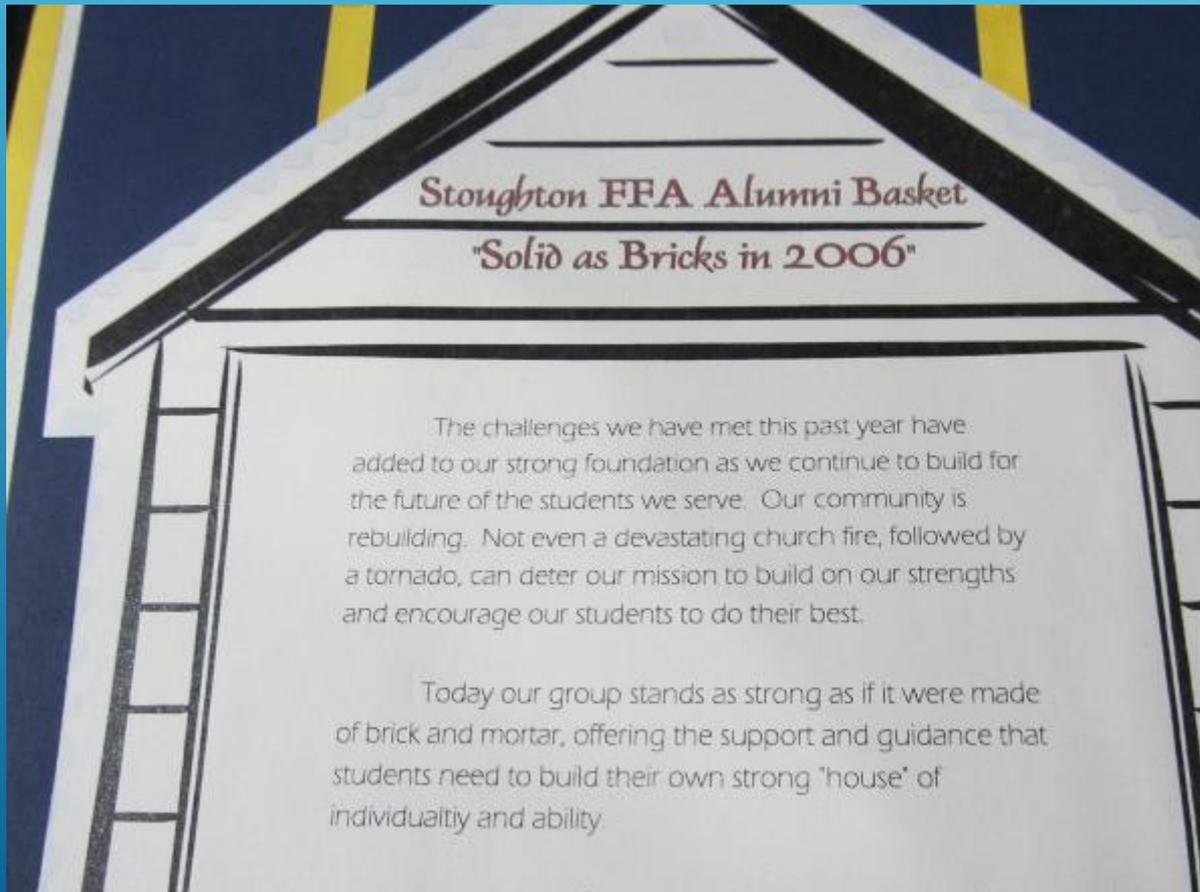
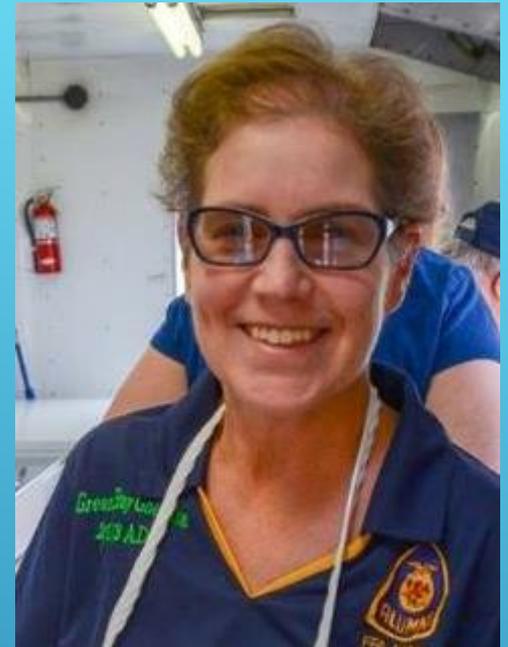




▶ 2004-05 Pat Igl, Antigo



▶ 2005-06 Darlene Arneson, Stoughton





“

MY YEAR WAS A BIT STRESSFUL AS
STOUGHTON WAS HIT BY AN F3
TORNADO IN AUGUST AND THE
ARNESON HOME FARM WAS
DESTROYED.

”

WE ALSO HAD FINANCIAL ISSUES THE
STATE COUNCIL HAD TO DEAL WITH
ALONG WITH TRANSITIONS WITH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS.



“

PAT IGL, JOYCE GUST, VICKY HARTER AND I WERE QUITE A TEAM. WE LITERALLY RAN THE ORGANIZATION DURING SOME ROUGH TRANSITIONS. I SPENT MORE TIME IN OCONTO FALLS AND ANTIGO WORKING ON FILES, FINANCES, MEMBERSHIP AND WE ALL PULLED TOGETHER TO KEEP THE ORGANIZATION GOING.

”



“

IT WAS QUITE A TIME FOR ALL OF US.

I THINK MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR MY TIME ON COUNCIL WAS THAT WE MADE IT THROUGH!! WE BROUGHT BACK THE PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE, REVAMPED THE COMMITTEES, GOT OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE BACK IN ORDER, AND WE HAD A LOT OF FUN! OUR STATE LEADERS CONFERENCE WAS IN OHIO AND WE KEPT THE BAR NEXT TO THE HOTEL HOPPING!

”



MY MOST MEMORABLE CONVENTIONS:

“

1987- JOHN AND I GOT ENGAGED AT THE GREEN BAY CONVENTION!

MY DAD, JERRY MAURER, LOVED THE CONVENTIONS AND WE HAD THE BEST ROOM PARTIES WITH THE VERONA, STOUGHTON AND OTHER SECTION 5 ALUMNI MEMBERS! VERONA TOOK A VAN TO THE CONVENTION AT UW-STOUT AND THAT WAS QUITE A TRIP!

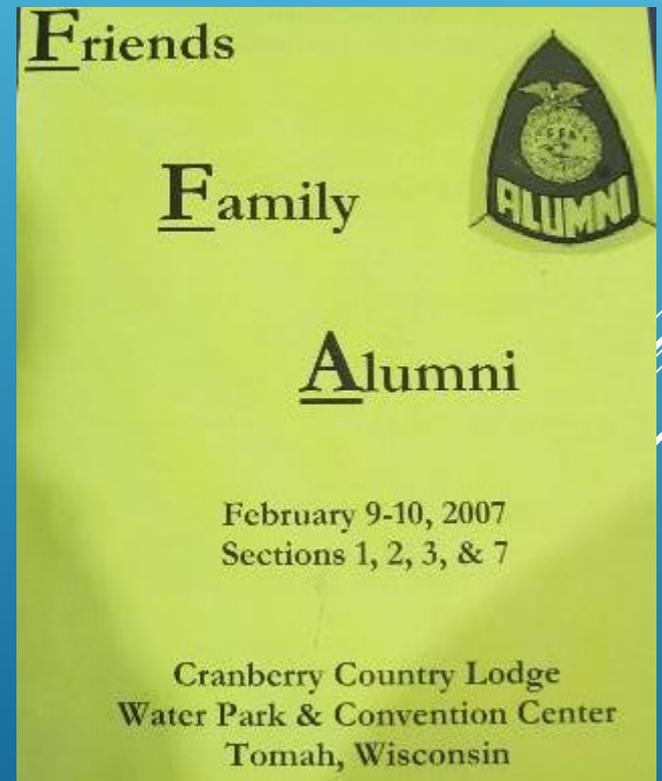
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RECOLLECTIONS BY DARLENE ARNESON
2005-2006



2006-07 Joyce Gust, Verona

Our state Convention was held in Tomah early Feb. 2007. I attended the National Alumni Workshop in Nashville. Jamie Butke was the Executive Secretary.



▶ 2007-08 **Dennis Jesberger,**
Sun Prairie





Dennis was the third consecutive Wisconsin FFA Alumni President to serve from Section 5.

▶ 2008-2009 Ken Seering, Denmark





▶ **Biggest accomplishment and focus: Membership Growth**





- ▶ Favorite memory: So many GREAT people. We had a “say” back then, not today!”



**Convention held at Ho
Chunk in Baraboo**

**Favorite memory:
Support for Ag Ed and
FFA**

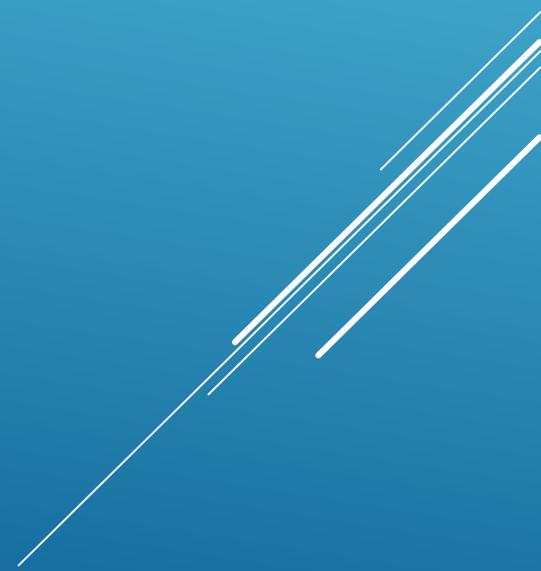
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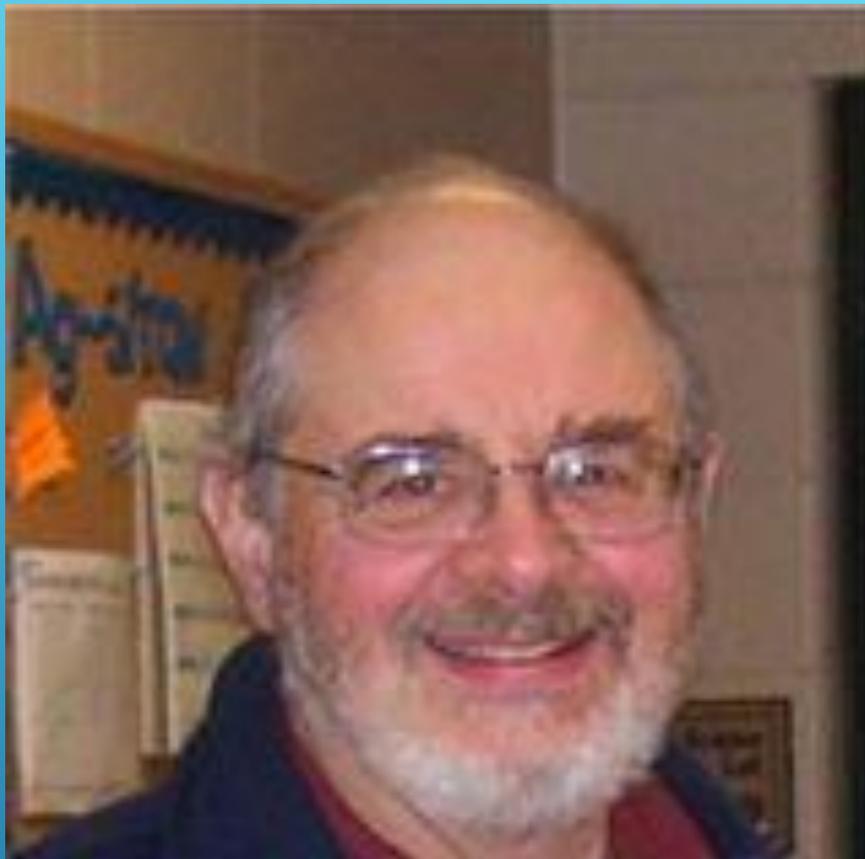
*FOCUS WAS ON LOCAL AFFILIATES
ASSISTING THEIR AG ED INSTRUCTORS
AND FFA MEMBERS ON CAREER
GOALS*

”

Ken Seering

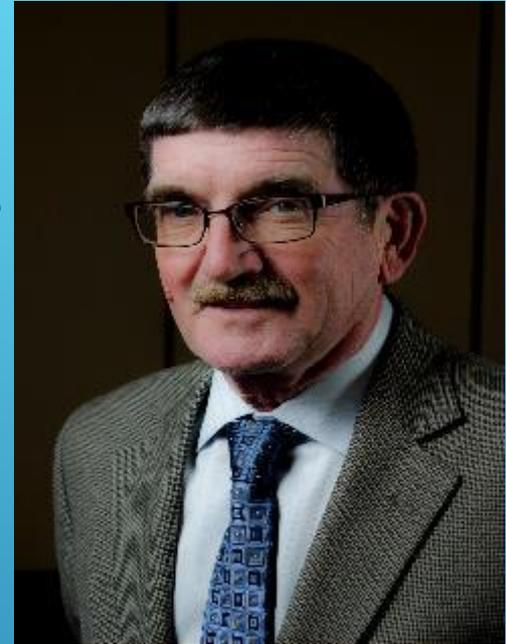
President 2008-2009





2009-10 KEN HARTER, OCONTO
FALLS

- ▶ 2010-11 **Herman Seebandt, Neillsville**



- ▶ 2011-12 **Brent Bailey, Tomah**
(resigned)



**“Don't Be the
Missing Piece”**



**Wisconsin FFA Alumni
State Convention
February 10, 11 & 12, 2012**





Past National FFA Alumni President Diane Amera, from Stoughton (back row second from right) poses with other National Council members and Wisconsin Council members. - 2/11/11

31st Annual
Wisconsin FFA Alumni
Convention

**POINTing in the Right Direction
in 2011**



WI FFA Alumni State Convention
February 11-13, 2011
Hosted by: Sections 1,2,3 and 7
Ramada Inn and Convention Center
Stevens Point, WI



2013-14 Ricky Kreif, Kewaskum





Did you attend National FFA Events?
Alumni Development Conference was held in 2013, Green Bay, which I helped out and had great participation. Attended National Convention.

What was your focus or biggest accomplishment that year? *Worked at establishing the WI FFA Alumni Sponsored Support Grant and the WI FFA Alumni Sponsored New/Reactivated Chapter Grant*



Where was the convention held at? *The Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac, WI*

“

**FAVORITE MEMORY (OR MEMORIES)
FROM THE CONVENTION : *THE
ENERGY AND PARTICIPATION OF THE
CONVENTION WAS AWESOME.***

”

**FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE
NATIONAL CONVENTION: *MEETING
FELLOW FFA ALUMNI FROM ACROSS
THE STATES AND NETWORKING.***



▶ 2014-15 **Kathy Breunig, Sauk Prairie**





What was your focus or biggest accomplishment that year?

Council teamwork and communicating with our members, the addition of affiliation type membership from the National FFA Alumni.

2015-2016 JANET SCHNEIDER,
CAMPBELLSPORT



Advocating for Agriculture Education

“ “ WHERE WAS THE CONVENTION HELD
AT?
CONCOURSE, MADISON

FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE
CONVENTION- *THE SMILES ON
PEOPLE'S FACES* ”

FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE
NATIONAL CONVENTION- *BEING ABLE
TO REPRESENT WISCONSIN ALUMNI
MEMBERS ON A NATIONAL LEVEL*



▶ 2016-2017 Julie Spoke, Lake Mills



▶ 2017-2018 Dan Follendorf, Sparta







“ “ WHAT WAS YOUR FOCUS OR BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT YEAR?

RELEASE OF THE NEW WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ALLOWING \$50 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AN FFA MEMBER FROM EVERY FFA DISTRICT TO ATTEND FFA CONFERENCES. ” ”

In the 10 years of being on this council I have met many unique and talented individuals from across the state as well as on the national level though all the national conferences I have attended over the past several years.



“ IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE ON THE WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL AND BECOMING PRESIDENT. FFA HAS A LONG TIME BEEN A PART OF WHO I AM. THE WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL IS A HARD-WORKING GROUP. THEY TAKE THE TIME TO MEET INDIVIDUALS AND CHAPTERS ACROSS THE STATE AND ENCOURAGE ADVOCACY FOR AGRICULTURE EDUCATION. THEY ARE A GREAT GROUP TO WORK WITH.”

2017-2018 Dan Follendorf, Sparta



MARK LADSTEN 2018-2019

CARI SABEL 2019-2020



Past Presidents Section was originally created for the Past President's Committee by Kathy Hartmann-Breunig, Sauk Prairie, 2014 President.

If you can help us find missing pictures, please send to WI Executive Director Cheryl Steinbach





WISCONSIN STATE FFA OFFICER
INVOLVEMENT AT CONVENTION

“

THE WISCONSIN FFA OFFICERS APPRECIATE SO MUCH BEING A PART OF THE WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION. THIS IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR FFA MEMBERS TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI MEMBERS AS WELL AS PARTICIPATE THROUGH WORKSHOPS, REFLECTIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

”



“

IT ONLY MAKES SENSE AS THESE OFFICERS WILL SOON TAKE OFF THEIR BLUE AND GOLD JACKETS AND JOIN THE RANKS OF THE FFA ALUMNI. SEEING THE FFA ALUMNI IN ACTION HELPS THE OFFICERS SEE THE SEAMLESS TRANSITION FROM MEMBER TO ALUMNI AND WHAT A BETTER WAY THAN AT A TIME TO CELEBRATE THE WISCONSIN FFA ALUMNI'S SUCCESS.

”



“ ALSO THE STATE FFA OFFICER TEAM
HAVE BECOME LIFETIME ALUMNI
MEMBERS FOR MANY YEARS....IT
HAPPENED WHEN I WAS AN OFFICER IN
1985-86 AND I BELIEVE WAS
HAPPENING BEFORE THAT. ”

Cheryl Zimmerman

Wisconsin FFA Executive Secretary



THE WISCONSIN FFA FOUNDATION
PURCHASED 11 TABLE-TOP COWPARADE
COWS FOR THE 2005-06 STATE
FFA OFFICER TEAM- SOLD AT THE 2007
CONVENTION

“

*YES THAT STARTED WITH THE COW PARADE
IN MADISON. MARY GAGNON WAS ABLE
TO GET THE MINI COWS AND THEN THE
OFFICERS PAINTED THEM. THEN EVERY YEAR
SINCE THEN THE OFFICERS HAVE SELECTED A
PAINTED ITEM TO DONATE.*

”

Cheryl Zimmerman

Wisconsin FFA Executive Secretary



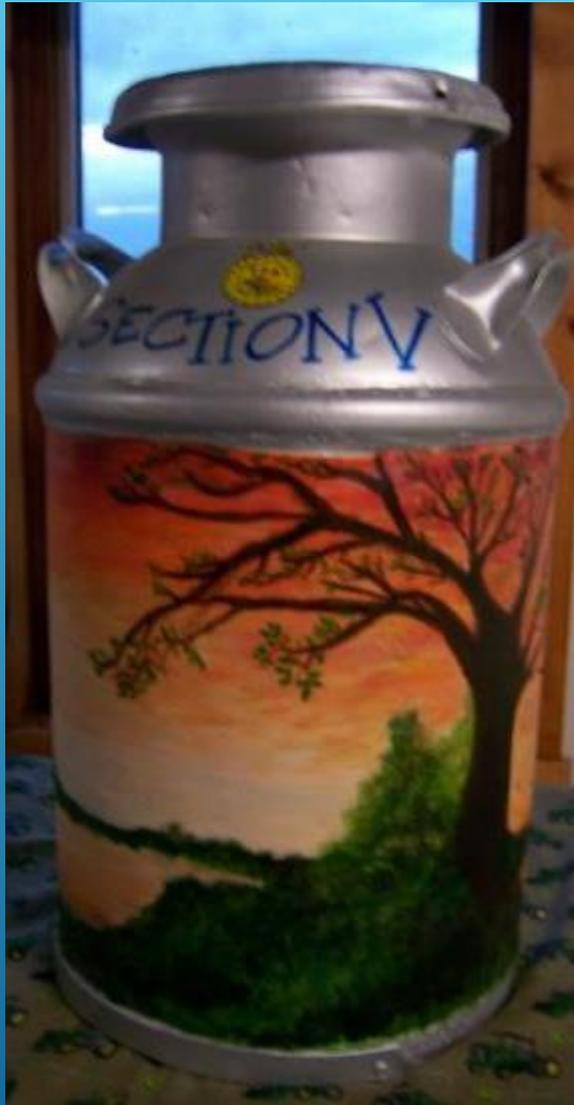


















40 DOWN AND ONTO THE NEXT
DECADE OF CONVENTIONS
SUPPORTING THE BLUE AND
GOLD!

THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR
TIME WITH US!

