



THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER

The Official Publication of the Alabama FFA Association

Volume 38

82nd Alabama FFA Convention

By Allison Meeks

The time is finally here, that's right Alabama FFA members state convention is quickly approaching! We are all so excited to see you again! The convention will be held in Montgomery June 8-10 with CDE competitions on Tuesday, June 7th. Make sure you have made plans to attend this year's convention.

Time has flown by since last year's convention in Montgomery. I can remember studying for officer interviews and being so excited for convention to start and now it's that time of year again. It has been a privileged to travel to different FFA chapters and get to know the awesome members! Make sure to bring your official dress and show off your blue and gold at convention. Prepare yourself for the best four days of this year.

During convention you will see the cream

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

82 nd Alabama FFA Convention	1
A Word from Our President	2
A Theme for Life	3
A Look Back	3
Remember This	4

of the of the crop rewarded for their hard work and achievements. Convention is a time to recognize those members who go the extra mile and truly live out the FFA motto. Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve. Convention is also a time to have fun and make new friends in our great organization.

The sky is not your limit, don't forget to display your "Infinite Potential" at convention by participating in sessions and workshops. Alabama FFA get ready because this is it! See you at 82nd annual Alabama FFA state convention!



A Word from Our President

By Elizabeth Wilson

The time has finally come for the 82nd Alabama State FFA Convention! It is hard to believe that a year has already passed. This year has been filled with many miles on the road, speaking engagements, and most importantly the great FFA members that make up the Alabama FFA Association. I can't wait for State Convention because not only do we get to spend it surrounded by blue corduroy jackets but we get to celebrate the accomplishments of our very talented Alabama FFA members.

For over 80 years, FFA has touched the hearts and minds of many. The FFA has made a positive impact on millions of people, and I am no exception. Throughout this year, I have traveled the state of Alabama and met many FFA members and advisors. Being awarded this office gave me a sense of unbreakable pride for the FFA organization, and I will always hold the FFA dear to my heart. This year our State Convention theme is "Infinite Potential". I hope that this will not remain a one-year goal for FFA members or something we promote for our short time at State Convention but that it will become a lifetime commitment to continuously work to reach our "Infinite Potential".

"I hope that...it will become a lifetime commitment to continuously work to reach our 'Infinite Potential'"



A Theme for Life

By Will Wright

This year's convention theme is "Infinite Potential". This self-explaining theme has served as a guide for me throughout my year as a state officer. It helps to remind us all that no matter how successful or important we become, there is always more we can do or more we can give back. In this world of where it is second nature to become egotistical and pompous, it is very reassuring we all have a strong foundation to lean back on. This foundation for me has been the Alabama FFA Association and everything it has to offer. FFA Members do not look at the FFA as just another thing to get involved with at school. It truly has much more to provide. It can be your foundation to help see you through these hard times.

As the end of the year approaches I think back on my wonderful years of involvement in the FFA Organization. The FFA has taught me so



much and I have truly become a better person because of this incredible organization. Some of the various things I have learned are what it truly means to be a leader, how to effectively communicate, and how to serve others. When I decided I wanted to be a State Officer I never imagined what a wonderful experience it would be for me. I can remember the overwhelming feeling I had when I was called to the stage with my new fellow officers. I

Please see *A Theme for Life* on page 4

A Look Back

By Carley McWilliams

Taking a look at the past five years of my life, it is impossible to overlook the impact the FFA has made on my ability to reach my "infinite potential". The travel opportunities, new friendships, and learning experiences the FFA has given me will remain with me for the rest of my life. I have also learned many life lessons that will help prepare me for situations I may face in the future.

Had it not been for my involvement in the FFA, I probably would have never had the opportunity to travel to so many places. My travels include five trips to the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, Daytona Beach, Florida, and locales all over the state of Alabama. I met many wonderful people

during each of these trips. Traveling has given me the opportunity to learn about other parts of the country and to visit some pretty awesome places.

The FFA has given me the opportunity to meet other students from across the country. I have had roommates from as far away as Minnesota and California. As a district and state officer, I have become very close to my fellow officers. Now these teammates are among some of my dearest friends. We have so many unforgettable memories of the many learning experiences we shared together and I know this connection will carry over into our future.

I have had many experiences which have increased my understanding of servant-

Please see *A Look Back* on page 5

Remember This

By Jackson Harris

You have heard the famous advice, seize the day. But who ever said you had to do all of the seizing as quick as possible? One thing I have learned as a state FFA officer this past year is that time is precious, whether it be time in high school, time with friends, time with a family member, or in my case, time serving the great members of Alabama FFA. Enjoy every minute of it.

My year of service is coming to a close. My goal this time last year was to become a state FFA officer and serve FFA members for a full 365 days, to be able to leave with no regrets. Well, it has been almost 365 days now and I am happy to write that I will be retiring from office with very few regrets. However, the one regret that is most troubling, which for all I know, I could be confusing with FFA separation anxiety, is I let time slip away too fast.

For my entire year of service, I carried a calendar with me everywhere, to keep track of events, chapter visits, meetings, deadlines, and etc. Too many days floated by that I treated as just a block on the calendar I had to get through to make it to the next block. Sure, I seized the day. I completed assignments and made my visits, but why did I have to get it all done so fast? Why was I so insistent that tomorrow come

A Theme for Life from page 3

never knew how close you could truly get to people who are all so different but have one thing in common and that is a passion to serve the FFA. We have all attempted to serve the Alabama FFA Association this year to try and give back to this incredible organization that has given so much to each of us.

It is so inspiring to see all of the many talents of FFA members expressed through CDE competitions, proficiency awards, and chapter awards. The hard work and dedication you put in every day in anticipation for upcoming district and hopefully state competitions is proof you have determination to succeed. I can recall the first time I got involved by competing in a CDE, which was Livestock. It took many years for my chapter to advance to state but we all just kept trying and we eventually reached our goal of competing on the state level. FFA members get involved with competitions this next year and you will not regret the experience.

By choosing to be in the FFA you have stepped out and are the next leaders of our incredible organization. Every FFA member has the prime opportunity to lead by example. The example is , you are seeking to serve others and are truly expressing this year's convention theme of "Infinite Potential". As the 82nd Alabama FFA Association State Convention comes closer whether you are a new FFA member attending state convention for the very first time, or a senior who will compete in a CDE for the final time, you are broadening your potential. What a wonderful feeling it is for hardworking FFA members to receive prestigious awards such as proficiency awards, scholarships, and CDE banners.

In conclusion, as the current State Officer's wrap up the year by trying to express the convention theme "Infinite Potential" to each one of the FFA members as we truly try to serve you this FFA convention. FFA members, let's make this Alabama FFA Convention the best it possibly can be. I look forward to seeing you from June 8 through June 10 in Montgomery as we celebrate the Alabama FFA. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Alabama FFA Association Sentinel and for making this one of the most memorable years of my life!

Please see *Remember This* on page 5

THE ALABAMA REPORTER**STATE OFFICERS 2010-2011**

President	Elizabeth Wilson Jacksonville Chapter
Vice President	Jackson Harris Eufaula Chapter
Secretary	Carley McWilliams McAdory Chapter
Treasurer	Allison Meeks Geraldine Chapter
Reporter	Becky Almquist Enterprise Chapter
Sentinel	Will Wright Rogersville Chapter

Agriscience Staff

State Advisor	Collie Wells
Exec. Secretary	Jacob Davis
Ed. Specialist	Petro Johnson
Ed. Specialist	Philip Paramore
Graphic Arts	Kenny Boyd
Secretary	Pam Kilpatrick

Alabama Department of Education

State Superintendent	Joseph B. Morton
Deputy Superintendent	Eddie R. Johnson
Career/Tech Director	Sherry A. Key



Remember This Page 4

A Look Back from page 3

leadership. I have learned to be a servant-leader, I must give back to others what has been given to me. Often, that may be giving someone a bit of encouragement or helping him or her achieve a goal. Being an officer of the state association has come with great responsibility. Responsibility is not only limited to my state officer position, it continues throughout every aspect of life. The FFA has taught me responsibility and given me self-confidence. I have developed confidence in my abilities conducting meetings, presenting a workshop, or speaking before a group. Without this, there is no way I could live my life in order to reach my “infinite potential”.

My involvement in the FFA has given me experience in various areas of life that will continue to help me in the future. Future job interviews will be a breeze since I have had to endure several of them in my endeavors to attain chapter, district, and state offices. Now the thought of speaking in front of crowds, or of presenting my thoughts, is no longer a thing to fear but something to embrace. The changes the FFA has made in me are undeniable but even more important are the people I have met throughout my years of service. My officer team has impacted my life in so many ways and each officer has left behind their own mark. I know this team will always be there for me, even in “hours of discouragement”.

The FFA has helped me to become a better person and to learn more about my capabilities as well as the capabilities of others. These experiences will never be forgotten. FFA has truly had an impact in my life and has been key in helping me to realize my “infinite potential” and has given me the tools to reach it. The rest is up to the individual. Alabama FFA, thank you for the many lessons you have taught me. I can’t wait to see each of you in June!

as soon as possible? I have no idea. The best way I can describe this phenomenon is that it occurs like a flyover by jet planes. If you have ever been somewhere where military jets were flying overhead, you know you can see the jets coming towards you from miles away. They seem to approach at a slow rate and the sound of the engines is very faint, however, in actuality, the jets are traveling at an extreme velocity. Suddenly, when you are fully entranced by their approach in the sky, you realize you are now looking straight up, the jets are right above you for a brief moment, and the deafening sound of the engines is finally fully realized. Then, the jets are gone, leaving you with a grin on your face and a ringing in your ears. However brief the moment may be, it is an unforgettable experience. This is also the case with the experience of being a state FFA officer.

Serving as your state FFA Vice President has truly been an honor and this year has been the happiest and most rewarding time of my life. I have you FFA members to thank for that. You have all given me a gift I can never hope to repay.

Remember this: Each day is also a gift for each of you. Seize it. Use it. Most importantly—enjoy it.