



THE ALABAMA FFA REPORTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

Volume 44

Winter 2016

NO. 3

www.alabamaffa.org



2016-2017 Alabama State Officer Team

Sierra Goodwin, President; Ethan Mobley, Vice-President; Ben Castleberry, Secretary;
Becky Hawkins, Treasurer; Hannah Black, Reporter; Torran Smith, Sentinel





Smith Hughes Act

by **Becky Hawkins**
Treasurer

The Smith Hughes Act—we, as FFA members, have heard these words at least

once. We can remember seeing it in the FFA history PowerPoint our advisor shows us each year. A green-hand member may remember studying for the history test, trying to memorize 1917. A senior may recall this as they have spoken about the legislation in a 6-minute speech. Needless to say, we have seen these three words enough to know it is associated with FFA. The question is, do we really know what the Smith Hughes Act is?

Advocacy for the need of vocational education in school systems increased during the late 19th century. Groups were beginning to realize the need for moral and practical value of work, creating the Douglass Commission. The shortage of skilled-laborers and the unemployment pushed to bring a form of vocational education to students across the United States. During the early years of the 20th century, businessmen and legislators began to work together to provide this type of education. The National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education (NSPIE) was created in 1906, to place awareness in the federal government for the need of vocational education. Within the next eight years, people started to realize the urgent need in the school systems. The students given real-life job training while still getting a general education. The legislation was introduced being introduced to of the Commission members, Senator Hoke Smith and Representative D.M. Hughes, both from Georgia. In 1917, the United States legislation adopted the Smith Hughes Act to provide aid from the federal government to states for the promotion of vocational education in agriculture and industrial trades in high school.

The Smith Hughes Act succeeded in expanding vocational education creating economic development throughout the United States, with an increase of skilled labor which was needed during the coming decades during the Great Depression and World War II. This legislation allowed for the

Future Farmers of America to be created in 1928. It allowed for the creed that we recite to be written. It gave us, as FFA members, the opportunity to wear a blue corduroy jacket. Today, it gives 649,355 members reaching from the state of Alaska to the Virgin Islands and from the states of Maine to Hawaii to receive an agriscience education.

We are celebrating 100 years of the Smith Hughes Act. A document that granted millions the opportunity to a vocational education. It is the founding of this organization. We will continue to celebrate and recognize the legislation that changed not only my life and yours, but every agriscience student and teacher.

We will forever be grateful for the tireless efforts of those who saw the need for vocational education.





Announcements

By Sierra Goodwin
President

North District:

January 23rd
p.m.

February 6th
p.m.

March 9th

April 21st

Central District:

February 23rd

March 9th

April 28th

South District:

February 6th

February 9th

March 9th

March 23rd

State:

January 21st

January 31st

February 12th

February 14th-15th

February 15th

February 15th

February 15th

February 18th-25th

March 1st

March 8th

March 15th

March 16th-18th

April 11th

April 15th

June 6th

June 7th-9th

North District Mock Interviews (Round 1) Cullman Middle at 5

North District Mock Interviews (Round 2) Cullman Middle at 5

North District FFA Officer Interviews (Wallace State Hanceville)

North District Eliminations (Wallace State CC-Hanceville)

Central District Mock Interviews (Montevallo)

Central District FFA Officer Interviews

Central District Eliminations

South District Mock Interviews (North Baldwin High School)

South District Mock Interviews (Enterprise High School)

South District FFA Officer Interviews

South District Eliminations (Enterprise)

State Hog Show

Envirothon Registration Deadline

Our State Vice President's, Mr. Ethan Mobley's, birthday!!

AU Spring Judging Clinics

State FFA Degree Applications Due

Proficiency Award Applications Due

M.K. Heath Animal Health Essays Due

National FFA Week

District/State Officer Applications Due

State Land CDE

Mindy Stringer, Frances Mizell, Crime Prevention, and National

Chapter Award Applications Due

Alabama Jr. Beef Expo

Tentative Date for FFA Day on the Hill

American Degree and Honorary American Degree Applications Due

State CDE Finals

The 89th Annual Alabama FFA State Convention!!!



By Hannah Black
Reporter

We Can Make A Difference

This year at the North District eliminations a canned food drive will be held and donation will be made to a local food bank in Cullman. This act of community service may seem small and insignificant to some, but to the people in need it is a true blessing. Cullman Caring for Kids' dream and mission is that no child will ever be abused, will not go to bed hungry, infants will never be shaken in anger, and generation after generation of the cycle of abuse will be stopped. They wish to see the next generation, loved, encouraged, physically and emotionally prepared to face life, and feel wanted and needed in their world. To accomplish this dream they stop the cycle of abuse and neglect, by putting love in children's hearts, food in their stomachs, and smiles on their faces. To help this cause is to help children in need and to help rebuild the lives of families torn apart by abuse and pain.

If you think about it Cullman Caring for Kids mission is not much different than our own FFA vision. We better the lives of others by growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture. Building communities takes a deep commitment to others and even more community service. Take this time to reflect on your life, your blessings, and give back to others who have not grown up in your circumstances. Put yourself in the shoes of a needy child and open your heart and spill out your love for helping those in need.

The food drive will take place on April 21st at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, AL. Chapters should

bring nonperishable food items in disposable containers during morning registration. The food will be taken to a designated weighing station and weighed. The chapter with the highest total weight of food will then receive recognition and a plaque for outstanding community service at the eliminations that afternoon.

Children are the future of our organization and our organization is the future of this country. So open your hearts and give freely to others. We do not serve for recognition but for the betterment of the lives around us. We serve because we care about others. We serve because it is the right thing to do. We serve because we can make a difference. The FFA motto states, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." Come and participate with us while we put into practice "Living to Serve" and help us transform FFA.





The Alabama Winter Alumni Conference

by Ben Castleberry
State Secretary

I have a few questions for you.

What do all successful people or things have in common? Support, and that's what the Alabama FFA Alumni Association is for the Alabama FFA Association. Something cool about the FFA Alumni is you do not have to be a past FFA member to be involved, anyone who has a heart for agriculture, service, and helping others is welcome! The Alabama FFA Alumni Association is directed by Dr. Barry Bailey, a Agriculture Educator, who has a passion for agriculture, young people, and FFA. Our FFA Alumni Association puts on numerous conferences, workshops, and many other events that FFA members get to attend and learn from.

What I love about the FFA Alumni is that it "bridges the gap" between our community and our FFA chapters, giving more opportunities to our members, which leads me to my next question, what do dodgeball and FFA have in common? Well, that's exactly what over 30 FFA members from across the state of Alabama got to experience this past September at the 2016 Alabama Winter Alumni Conference. The Alabama Winter Alumni Conference, or AWAC, is held every year at the Alabama 4H Center in Columbiana, Alabama and is a multi day leadership workshop for 7th-9th grade FFA members. AWAC is headed up by Wiley Bailey, a past Alabama State and National FFA Officer, who currently works with ALFA and helps his father with the Alabama FFA Alumni Association, and the six current Alabama FFA State Officers.

The state officers conducted two different leadership workshops to teach the young FFA mem-

bers about FFA, leadership, teamwork, service, etc.,. And the favorite event of the conference was the infamous dodgeball tournament, where we all were able to hangout, have fun, and make memories that will stick with us throughout our lives.

Personally, I was so honored to help facilitate this conference, specifically because I was able to build relationships with those younger FFA members, who are already leaders in their chapter, and some of whom will eventually be the leaders of our great state FFA Association. As we were packing up our things on the last day of the conference, getting ready to head back home, I overheard a FFA Member say, "I don't want to leave, this has been the best couple of days of my life," which is another reason why I believe the future of Alabama FFA is in great hands. I cannot wait to see what these FFA members who attended AWAC accomplish within their FFA careers and their lives. This conference once again showed me how FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students, by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.





by Torran Smith
Sentinel

The Positive Act of Diversity and Inclusion at the 89th National FFA Convention and Expo

This year at the 89th National FFA Convention and Expo; the National FFA Organization and the state officers whom attended the State Presidents' Conference (SPC) decided to form a leadership delegate committee to address the problem of diversity and inclusion within the organization. I was honored to be apart of that committee and discuss the issues facing our organization with the emphasis on including every FFA member from all walks of life in national FFA programs and activities. I enjoyed the discussion about adding new programs to the National FFA Organization. We also discussed revising current programs such as the "WE ARE FFA" program. The program had no definite meaning with only one person on staff for the program, and as a delegate committee we revised the program and sent off the proposals to the National FFA Board of Directors for approval. The committee itself was made up of

over 80 FFA members from across the 52 state associations. I believe the National FFA Organization put together a great set of FFA members to serve on this committee. The state of Alabama was seated two of its ten delegates in the committee South District President, Cameron Catrett and myself. We had fun during our time at national convention, and I hope next year's delegates enjoy the process as I have the past two years, Thank you, AND **transform your purpose into action.**





by **Ethan Mobley**
Vice President

Living To Serve

For Alabama FFA, the winter of 2016 has been a time of huge moments. For your State officer team, we've been hard at work preparing for the 89th State convention. We've gone through stacks of deadlines to compile the exciting events that make each Alabama FFA member's experience as memorable as possible. We're getting ready to implement many new things this year, as noted by our president, Sierra; while also blending many events into the calendar from previous years. The 2016-17 year is shaping up to be one for the books, but we still can't do it without your help!

This year is all about service, with the return of *Building Our Alabama Communities*, a program dedicated to recognizing the impact of FFA chapters in their respective communities, to *FFA Tops*, a new service project that can be a part of every chapters activities. FFA members actively participating in this year's events are growing and becoming a part of their community in a way that makes a lasting impact. At the same time, they're incorporating service into their lives in a way that requires little distraction from the busy schedules we each uphold. The new service events that will be recognized at our State convention represent the best advantages our members seek, and our communities deserve.

FFA Tops - What is it?

Led by the Chapter Advisor(s), Officer team, Committee Chairman, or any active member; A chapter only needs to begin a campaign to collect removable tabs found on almost every canned beverage. Proper collection of tabs into garbage bags, cardboard boxes, or even vintage peach baskets, are then brought to Alabama FFA's District eliminations or State convention to be weighed and processed. The chapter with the most FFA tops by weight is the winner of the annual competition!

Building Our Alabama Communities

This competitive application can soon be found on alabamaffa.org, under the Forms / Applications page . In the meantime, take tight records of chapter's community service activities, member accommodation, or special projects for another chance to be recognized at the State level.

State Service Project

Your Alabama FFA Executive Committee is developing our 2017 service project to be held at the State convention in June. Stay tuned to new changes on alabamaffa.org to learn how you can get involved in our annual project and get ready to Transform: Purpose to Action!