

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

On behalf of the 2018-2019 North District Officer Team, we would like to thank everyone for their support and contributions throughout this year. When I sat down and began brainstorming on what I would like to write on for these articles I hit a dead end so to say. The majority of events to write about were already selected and quite honestly I had something I needed to say. After thinking back on all my adventures this year one thing came to mind. The amount of love and support that my fellow officers and I received when visiting around the great state of Alabama. Here is exactly what I mean when I say this. I had the opportunity to visit a high school with a new FFA advisor who working diligently to grow their chapter. Now, all FFA chapter visits are never the same but this visit sticks out to me. When I arrived I had multiple members offering to help me set up or carry materials into the classroom. Also the fact of many members who would simply just want to have a genuine conversation with a stranger in a new place. I heard many jokes and questions throughout the day as well which kept a grin on my face. Throughout the school day, I had several members show me around and even give me advice on where to get the best lunch around! This was an amazing visit but a real eye-opener for me as well. When I mentioned something to their advisor she told me maybe it was the fact of they enjoyed being in the organization and it was something new. Whatever it might have been I will never forget it. I know you are probably reading this thinking what does this have to do with me? It all boils down to being a kind and loving person. As FFA members we have a role to go against the grain or what is "cool" and be a proactive human-being. You've heard it a million times, "Be nice to others", "Sit with that student alone at lunch", "Help a senior citizen or veteran when you can". These are basic examples of how we have been told to set ourselves apart and be good people. All of those examples, however, are exactly right but it goes deeper than our actions. Every day strive to be a better you, a kinder you. As we continue to mature and grow as FFA members always be kind and don't be afraid to

step out from the crowd. The famous American writer Mark Twain once wrote: "Kindness is a language the blind can see, and the deaf can hear". You will one day outgrow the FFA jacket however you'll never outgrow the experience, and the values instilled within you. I urge you to make a difference in someone's life today. You don't have to change the whole world just yours to start with.

Living to serve you,

Will Aycock

2018-2019 North District President

2019 NORTH DISTRICT MOCK INTERVIEWS

Vice President's Newsletter

On January 28th, we held our first mock interviews at Cullman Middle School. /During this round, the attendees were given a crash course in what would happen and what to expect. Mr. Chamness gave a speech about everything that would happen between that day and March 11th, the day of interviews. After that, we really got started.

We started it off by giving the attendees a business letter prompt and a multiple choice test that was a sampling of what to expect on March 11th. All of this was a replica of what is to be expected on real interview day. After the test was finished, they were graded so that everyone got feedback on how they did and what else they needed to study. The last event of the night was splitting into three different groups with the district and state officers officiating, and then the attendees were given a run down of what is expected of them becoming district and state officers, along with some extra tips for how to get through the interview and testing process.

The second round of mock interviews were on February 11th, at Cullman Middle School again. This time we did the actual interviewing with the attendees. There were two different rooms for interviewing with different people inside. The two district officers not running made sure there were people going to and from the rooms constantly, and then that person would go in and interview, which would give them an idea of what it will be like on March 11th.

After everyone interviewed, they got feedback on their interviews and a new perspective on what they needed to learn and what they truly wanted to do. After this interview, all the attendees learned more about themselves and what they are truly capable of doing for the district and the association.

Sincerely,

Skyler Eckl

2018-2019 North District Vice President

launched me into a continuous growth zone for the future.

As I think of all the FFA activities I encountered throughout the week and the ways they helped me to grow, I challenge you to find something to make you grow. Whether it's a new competition or just talking to a new person; Launch yourself into something new or uncomfortable. I was fortunate enough to bare witness to the amazing things FFA programs are doing across our great District and also to hear what they hope to accomplish in the future. I believe FFA will continue to grow as the years progress, and FFA Week was just one brief example of this.

Stay Growing,

Megan Woodall

2018-2019 North District Secretary

FFA WEEK

Secretary's Newsletter

Each year since 1947, FFA members and officers alike venture out to make a difference in the communities around them during the week of George Washington's birthday. This year was no exception as our North District Officers each visited schools in this great week of service. FFA Week is always one filled with helping our members to further themselves in FFA knowledge and helping our younger generations learn about agriculture. Our week was one filled with lots of hard work and dedication; Schools all across the district were visited! Just a few are Hazel Green, Geraldine, Florence, Cherokee, Arab, Meek, Lynn, and Skyline. Each school helped Officers grow as individuals and as leaders, by expanding their own knowledge of the FFA communities around them. FFA Week 2019 has helped me to see just how lucky I am to be a district officer and how it has helped me to grow on a day to day basis. It has taken me from my comfort zone and



TREASURER'S NEWSLETTER

On January 14, 2019, officers from all three districts, as well as some of the state officers traveled to the state capitol in Montgomery. Although this made for an early morning for many of the officers, I believe I speak on behalf of all the officers when I say, it was a wonderful day and experience.

We began our day by attending a reception for the newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, Rick Pate! After hearing Pate speak at the reception, we were able to speak with members of the Farmers' Federation, the agricultural community as well as 4-H Ambassadors. During the inauguration, we were able to hear speeches given by many newly-elected and returning officials including Rick Pate, John McMillan, John Merrill, Jim Zeigler, Steve Marshall, Will Ainsworth, Governor Kay Ivey, and many others.

For this year's inauguration, Governor Ivey chose the theme to be "Keep Alabama Growing." In less than a year and a half, Ivey had led Alabama to record job growth, improved education, and overall, improved prosperity. Ivey chose this to be her theme as she wants the state of Alabama to continue in successes and prosperity.

Following the actual Inauguration was the Inaugural parade. In the parade, the state and district officers, as well as the 4-H Ambassadors walked alongside the large John Deere tractor pulling the Farmers' Federation float, which was carrying Rick Pate and his family. It was hard to miss, considering not only the size of the tractor, but also the many blue, corduroy, jackets and green blazers surrounding the float. Also, aboard the float were banners naming this year's Inauguration theme and large cutouts of the phrase, "200 years of Alabama Agriculture."

All-in-all, the experience of being able to attend the Inauguration, and especially that of being in the parade was an extreme honor thoroughly enjoyed by many. I am extremely thankful for the Farmers' Federation, Rick Pate, and all the others who made this possible. Thank you for your continued support of Alabama FFA!

Sincerely,

Millie Grace Drake

2018-2019 North District Treasurer



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE

Reporter's Newsletter

On February 8th, 2019, the presidents and vice presidents representing chapters from all over the state of Alabama met at Auburn University for the annual Chapter President's Conference.

Throughout the day-long conference, those in attendance participated in group activities and workshops facilitated by this year's state officers. These workshops were designed to help along our chapter representatives in becoming better and more inspiring leaders for their fellow officers and members by giving lessons in teamwork, cooperation, and communication.

Also in attendance was our guest speaker and past national officer, Wiley Bailey, who did an excellent job of leading

many parts of the event and putting together a hilarious and entertaining speech that taught valuable lessons in what true leadership looks like. The event was a huge success and those in attendance had a blast!

Sincerely,
Dakota Scott

2018-2019 North District Reporter



2019 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

Sentinel's Newsletter

The Mid-Winter Conference was where all the district officers met with the state officers to see what the plans were for the upcoming year. We went over Alabama's theme for the state convention, FFA week, Chapter Visits, as well as many other events. The state officers helped us with applications and the easiest way to fill them out. Along with all the information we received while we were there, we also got to talk with the other district's officers and exchange stories or events that have happened while being in office. Overall this conference was extremely helpful and tons of fun.

Sincerely,
Austin Abercrombie
2018-2019 North District Sentinel



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICERS

To all the FFA members and advisors reading this, we thank you for your unwavering support to the district and state associations. We could not do all that we do without you! If you would like for us to speak at any functions, meetings, or events, help out with chapter improvements, or would like to request a chapter visit, please feel free to use the contact information provided on www.alabamaffa.org. We would love the opportunity to help support our district!



IMPORTANT DATES



APRIL

- 1: Wall of Honor Information and Money Due
- 1: State FFA Degree Application Due
- 1: Agriscience Fair Forms and Written Report Due
- 1: Agriculture Education CDE Lesson Plan Due
- 3: State FFA Land CDE
- 4: Northwest Regional LDE Contest
- 4-6: Envirothon State Event
- 15: American FFA Degree Applications Due
- 15: Honorary American FFA Degree Applications Due
- 16: FFA Day on the Hill
- 26: North District FFA Eliminations

MAY

- To be determined

JUNE

- 4: State FFA CDE Finals
- 5-7: State FFA Convention
- 30: Deadline to Register for one of the 6 COLWs