



# South District FFA Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 10, 2012

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Washington Leadership Conference (WLC)
- District Officer Leadership Conference (DOLC)
- Chapter Officer Leadership Workshop (COLW)
- Geneva County Officer Retreat

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## Alabama FFA Tag

The Alabama FFA Foundation has successfully submitted an application for approval of a new vanity vehicle tag. The Alabama FFA Foundation is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization that was established in 1977. The sole purpose of the foundation is for the benefit of the Alabama FFA Association.

The Alabama FFA Foundation Specialty Tag is now available for pre-commitments at your county tag office. Persons desiring to support FFA programs in Alabama by purchasing pre-commitments must complete a "Commitment to Purchase" application for the Ala-

bama FFA Foundation distinctive plate and remit the additional \$50 fee to their county license plate issuing office. The county returns the original copy of the application form and a commitment to purchase tag receipt indicating receipt of the additional fee to the applicant. The "Commitment to Purchase" application can be completed even if it is not time for your tag to be renewed. The \$50 fee is an annual fee in addition to the stan-

dard tag registration fees. Once the precommitments meet the required amount (1,000), applicants will have an unlimited time to return to the county office and receive their license plate. In order to receive the plate, applicants must present the ORIGINAL copy of the "Commitment to Purchase" application form and tag receipt. Once tags become available, anyone may purchase an Alabama FFA Foundation distinctive plate.



## Introducing the 2012–2013 South District Officer Team



Standing: Left to Right; Treasurer, Madison Tew, G.W. Long; Sentinel, Katie Lowery, Kinston; Reporter, Shelby Windham, Arifton; and Vice-President, Heather Grice, Enterprise.

Sitting: Left to Right; Secretary, Hayden Whittle, Geneva; President, Ryan Marler, Zion Chapel.



## Ryan Marler— WLC

Washington Leadership Conference was a great experience for me as well as many of the district and state officers. I met people from all over the United States. I also had the privilege of meeting some of the past national officers, some even on a personal level. WLC had a huge impact on my life just as it did on everyone there.

We were taught things from how to work as a team to things like better communication. WLC showed me that I can make a difference and so can you!



## Heather Grice— WLC

This summer I had an once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. with the FFA. I had a life-changing experience for sure! We learned how to be a better leader and we also got the chance to tour all of the monuments. The Lincoln Memorial was definitely my favorite, but they were all very powerful! You really

just can't picture how big the Lincoln Memorial is until you see it in person. I enjoyed the conferences and touring the monuments, but my favorite thing was packaging several thousands of food and sending it overseas. This conference really opened my eyes and made me aware of world hunger. It is real! Not just overseas,

but also in our own country! I am ecstatic about our FFA service project on hunger and knowing that we will be able to

help people in need! So, join me and my team in helping world hunger!



## Hayden Whittle— Geneva County Officer Retreat

Every year as the last major event of the summer some of the Geneva County FFA Chapters come together for a county wide officer retreat. The Officer Retreat is one of the few in the entire state. This year it was held on the 3rd week in July and went from Wednesday until Friday afternoon. The retreat involved various activities including kayaking and swimming, four sessions in which each Chapter is in charge of guest speakers, and "icebreakers" which are activities put on by each chapter to help them grow closer as a county. This year there were three topics that we represented such as leadership, the importance of Involvement in your local organizations, and a question and answer period in which officers were able to ask about Auburn University and all of its benefits. The speakers at the retreat were Jeremy Knox, Collegiate FFA President at Auburn University, Brandon Smith, Former Alabama State Officer, and myself, South District Secretary. This event was a great way for the county to come together to express views on the local, state, and national FFA organizations. Above all it was a great way to have fun before the start of school.



# Madison Tew— WLC



Each year, FFA members from all over the United States travel to Washington, D.C. to attend the Washington Leadership Conference

(WLC). During the five-day event, attendees learn how to become effective leaders by teaching them to know their purpose, value people, take action, and serve others. A few of the South District officers had the chance to experience WLC this past summer. We learned so many things. We got to know more about ourselves, working with a team, diversity, and agriculture advocacy. The WLC staff opened our eyes when we learned more about world hunger through a poverty dinner. We made a lot of new

friends across the U.S., as well as, bonded closer together.



# Shelby Windham— DOLC

On July 12th -13th, the South District FFA Officer Team attended the District Officer Leadership Conference, held at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL. It was a blast meeting other officers from the North, Central, and State Officer Team's. We all participated and listened to workshops, put on by the State Officer Team. The workshops were on leadership, team-

work, service projects, how to put on a workshop, and parliamentary procedure. This conference was put on for district officers to come home and put on workshops for you at COLW, (Chapter Officer Leadership Workshop). One of the highlights at DOLC was the reflections that night. It was a very inspirational night listen to each state officer and their stories. I encour-

age you to take the chance and run for a state or district office, because some of the opportunities I've had this summer would have never been possible without FFA. It was amazing those two days making bonds with all the other officers attending, and also I couldn't ask for a better officer team to have enjoyed all the planning, shopping, fussing and most of all, laughs this summer.

*"because some of the opportunities I've had this summer would have never been possible without FFA."*



# Katie Lowery— COLW

I hope everyone had a great summer! Maybe you even spent time with your FFA chapter. This July the South District Officers held a workshop for FFA chapter officers. The future chapter officers had an exciting day of playing games and doing activities while they learned about some of the essentials to make an FFA chapter run efficiently. The morning started with workshops on leadership, teamwork, communication, Career Development Events, and Supervised Agriculture Experiences. After lunch the chapter officers had the opportunity to open session 3 themselves for practice. Once the session began the workshops continued with Parliamentary Procedure and the Program of Activities. Every year Mr. Tony Watkins holds a quiz bowl where the students send one member from every chapter to test their FFA knowledge for a chance to win a prize; this year the prize was iTunes gift cards. If your chapter was unable to attend, my officer team and I recommend you encourage your officers and advisor to arrange plans to come.



## South District FFA Officers



**President– Ryan Marler**  
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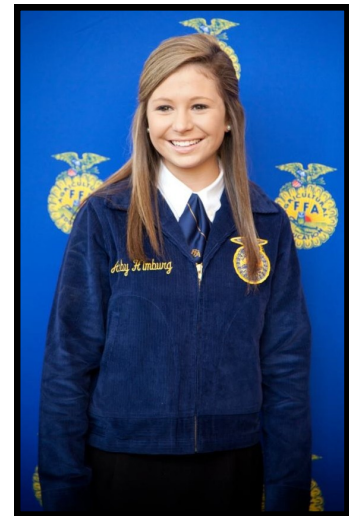
**Sentinel– Katie Lowery**  
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# State Officer— Abby Himburg

## The Hunger Initiative

Each year every State Officer Team sets out on a pursuit to discover what their service project will be. As a team this year it was a unanimous assessment to set our service project as a hunger initiative. This year we, as a team, will put our best foot forward in trying to do everything we can to help world hunger. Some of you may have heard us say this before, but we do not want to

simply put a band aide on this issue. We want to help fix it. Each district will host a day of service, this year. This day of service will involve going out to a local soup kitchen and volunteering that day. As a representative of the South District I plan to have more than one, so that it will provide each and every one of you a chance to partake. We, as a State Officer team, hope that you will join us in our rally to fight hunger.



**Abby Himburg**  
State FFA Treasurer  
Ariton

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age or genetics. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8165.