



South District FFA Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- National Peanut Festival
- National FFA Convention
- Chapter Recruitment
- Turf Crew
- Chapter Initiative
- National FFA Southern Region Vice President—Wiley Bailey

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National Officer Wiley Bailey

Ten years ago, Alabama native Wiley Bailey learned to play the banjo. “Each time I pick up my banjo, I remember what it takes to make beautiful music and discover more about how I can use these principles to better every other aspect of my life,” he said. “When I play in public, children run to me and tell me that they’d love to learn how to play. I always give them my number and encourage them to take lessons.” For years, he and his family have toured northern Alabama churches and played as “The Baileys.” “When I play, I never think about my imperfections or how big the audience is,” Bailey said. “I simply love playing the music and I put everything I have into each moment on stage.” He plans to set aside his struggles, remember his purpose and live each moment with power and conviction during the next year as a national FFA officer.

Recently, to conclude the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis, Bailey was elected National FFA Southern Region vice president for 2012-13. Joining Bailey on the 2012-13 National FFA Officer team are president Clay Sapp of Florida, Kalie Hall of Georgia as national secretary, Joenelle Futrell of Kentucky as Eastern Region vice president, Lindsey Anderson of California as Western Region

vice president and Brennan Costello of Nebraska as Central Region vice president. For the next year, the group will travel more than 100,000 miles across the country to engage top leaders in business, government and education. The national officers will lead personal growth and leadership training seminars for FFA members. The team will help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy.

Bailey is a member of the Sand Rock High School FFA chapter in Sand Rock, Alabama, led by advisors Barry Bailey and Christina Richardson. In high school, he held FFA titles including state secretary, North District president, North District treasurer and chapter president. He was an Alabama delegate to the National FFA Convention & Expo. He is currently attending Auburn University studying agricultural

communications and involved in the university’s Freshmen Leadership Program, High School Leadership Counselor program, the Miss Homecoming Campaign staff and a member and officer of Legacy Brotherhood. “If I am able to accomplish my goals as a national FFA officer, I will have to take time to listen to others and genuinely care about their concerns,” Bailey said. “I will advocate for the agriculture industry and educate others on the importance of the farm. But more importantly, I will have to live every moment to the fullest and play my heart out.” He is the son of Barry and Jill Bailey. Wiley’s brother Cliff was awarded the American Farmer Degree at the convention. Also, an older brother, James Paul, is currently the Centre FFA Advisor at Cherokee County High School.

From Cherokee County Harold
November 11, 2012





Ryan Marler— Turf Crew

There are many things going on in the Zion Chapel FFA Chapter, but a huge part of our chapter is called the turf crew. The turf crew is a 20+ member organization that started in 2010. The turf crew manages all of the school grounds, the landscape, and of course the turf!

This organization is a great way to get students who maybe don't play sports or never joined the band get involved. "If it's growin we're mowin!"



Heather Grice— National Peanut Festival



NPF, better known as the National Peanut Festival. The National Peanut festival is the largest peanut festival in the nation. It is held each year in honor of peanut farmers and to celebrate the success of their harvest. People underestimate the im-

portance of the peanut. Half of the peanuts grown in the United States are grown within a 100 mile radius of Dothan, Alabama! I'm sure most everyone around the Wiregrass area has been at least once. It is a great place to go with friends to have a good

time. Not many states hold festivals to celebrate agriculture!



Hayden Whittle— Chapter Initiative



As the South District Officer Team begins their chapter visits, a very important item of business will be presented at each school. This year our team would like to stress the importance of chapter officers at each and every school in our district and across the state. Many chapters already have an established team of officers and to those chapters we commend you. For Chapters who do not elect officers, we hope that you would consider setting up a team in order to more effectively organize your chapter. Chapter Officers not only give students a title, but also allow for structure within the school FFA chapter and allow for us, as your south district officers, to easily make contact with your school and organization. Through officers, the process of setting up SAE groups and CDE teams is lightened on the advisor and helps to encourage organization within the members. We as a South District team strongly urge your chapter to elect officers and be as involved as possible in our state FFA association.

Madison Tew— Promoting Your Chapter at the Peanut Festival

It's something we all look forward to each year. We can ride rides, eat delicious food, and win stuffed animals. It's also a great way to promote your chapter. The National Peanut Festival has many different contests; such as, baking, scrapbooking, photography, and wood working to name a few. Individuals or teams can compete in these contests. There is contest for everybody! Another

way is the FFA exhibit contest. This contest is where the National Peanut Festival theme comes to life. Think about the opportunity of having 180,000 people see your chapter name. My chapter participated this year, and I saw my chapter come closer and work better as a team throughout the whole process. There is also livestock shows held throughout the fair. I encourage every chapter to

get their members involved in the National Peanut Festival next year.



Shelby Windham— Fundraising

What kind of fundraising does your chapter participate? Personally I think, fundraising is one of the keys of having a successful FFA chapter! In my home chapter (Ariton), this past summer our Alumni Association held a Golf Tournament to raise money to help us attend the National FFA Convention and to award two scholarships to two deserving senior FFA members. We also sell fruit and meat, chapter t-shirts, poinsettias,

and plants during the school year. With help from our Alumni Chapter, farm day activities and the womanless beauty pageant have also been successful.

Now you may ask what else we do with the money raised? Our chapter has a recruitment week in August. The first 50 members to join get a free FFA water bottle! Also, we give away door prizes at each FFA meeting, to keep members involved! National

FFA Week is in February. We buy different keep sakes from the FFA website to give away to teachers during the week to let them know the importance of AGRICULTURE & FFA! Our officer team also attends FFA Day at the Capital, the State Convention, the National Convention, District Eliminations, and COLW!

Now that you know a little bit about our fundraising at the Ariton FFA Chapter I would love to hear from you guys, answer questions or even help your chapter! Get in contact with me at swindham@alabamaffa.org



Katie Lowery— Chapter Involvement

What has your chapter been up to? My home chapter, Kinston, has been upping chapter involvement with our annual peanut boil. Each FFA member at Kinston looks forward to the peanut boil every year. Our goal as officers is to keep the members involved and communicating with one another. My chapter's officer team spent the day with our adviser and his classes boiling the peanuts to perfection. (The secret is to add a little sugar but make sure you don't tell anyone).

Chapter involvement is key in chapter growth. A question I ask all the officers of local chapters: What do you do to keep the chapter involved? As I mentioned communication is key. If no one knew when the peanut boil was, how would they show up? If no one knew about convention, how would we go? Communication is the key to teamwork. Chapter Presidents, do you and your officer team work as a team? If not, are you doing anything to build their teamwork skills? How are you keeping everyone involved? I want to hear some of your ideas for your chapter. Email me with a list of your favorite chapter activities or memories of something you've done in the past. Chapter officers, if you'd like you can email me about what you do as a team for your chapter or what to do to become closer as an officer team. (klowery@alabamaffa.org Please include your name and chapter.)



South District FFA Officers



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State Officer— Dawn Turner— Delegates Make A Difference

On October 22nd, ten delegates representing the Alabama FFA Association boarded the plane headed to Indianapolis for the FFA National Convention. However, the delegate process began several months before the National Convention took place. Starting in June state associations began submitting reports on things they would like to change or add to the organization. Those reports were taken to the various National Leadership Conferences for State Officers, in which each state sent their state officers, to gain approval from other state associations. Once this step of the process was completed state associations created a final draft of their proposal and sent it to the National FFA Organization. The Alabama Association sent two proposals to be voted on at National Convention. The first proposal was to create an Aquaculture Career Development Event where students could compete and learn about the expanding aquaculture industry. The second proposal was to develop a Volunteer Proficiency Award area that was judged based only on volunteer work without profit. These proposals, along with several other proposals sent by other state associations, were voted on at the State Presidents Conference in July. Only six proposals were able to be sent to the National Convention and presented before the entire delegate body. Both of Alabama's proposals were selected among those six to be considered however, the volunteer proficiency award proposal was grouped into a category also proposing food service and urban agricultural proficiency areas.

In preparation for the National Convention the delegates that would be representing the state associations received information on the committee they would be participating in discussion with and began their own research on the topic. On Tuesday October 23, 2012 the group of delegates at the National FFA Convention began their committee work in discussing and voting on the proposals that were presented. Each committee was responsible for creating the final proposal that would be voted on by the entire delegate body. The proposal that was sent by the Alabama FFA Association to create an Aquaculture Career Development Event passed and is set to take effect after the appropriate research has been made. The proficiency award area proposal also passed but focuses more on expanding current proficiency areas and clarifying current qualifications to include food service and urban agriculture. Overall, the members that attended the delegate process at the National FFA Convention experienced making a change in the National FFA Organization. The experience as a delegate was truly memorable and proved that the students of the National FFA Organization still make the decisions that affect the largest student led organization in the world.

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.