



Pre-Session Activities at State Convention

# North District FFA Newsletter

## Fall, 2014

### IN THIS ISSUE

## State FFA Convention

By Ethan Mobley

The 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama FFA Convention this June 4-6 was, in my opinion, a very successful and very fun one.

The State CDE competitions took place in Auburn University on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I hope everyone that competed was able to keep their nerves under control. Competitions can be a stressful part of the convention, but being the first event of the conference enables competitors to go ahead and get it over with. Later that Tuesday, the next memorable moment was FFA Night with the Biscuits. This event included, of course, the baseball game as well as a satisfying boxcar buffet. FFA members got to loosen up after their first day, and enjoy an inexpensive ballpark burger.

The next morning, FFA members were able to act upon the last line of our FFA Motto "Living to Serve", through participating in the Rally to Fight Hunger. The first shift began at 7 am and lasted until 8:30, the next shift picking up where it left off. The 3<sup>rd</sup> began at 10:30 and the 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. This was a very memorable moment for my fellow district officers and me, excluding Shelby, our Treasurer, who was brought down my getting some of the meals on her clothes. However by the joint efforts of FFA

members, the Alabama FFA Foundation, the Wal-Mart Foundation in supplying a grant, and Kids Against Hunger, 81,216 meals were packaged. These meals went on to be distributed through the Montgomery Area Food Bank to people in need throughout the Montgomery area. This was likely the best serving moment of the convention for FFA members because it produced something that would supply the most basic need for human survival. It also gave us a peek into the working Network of agriculture, and allowed us to take part in it. Farmers grow it, we pack it, you eat it.

The first Opening Session of the convention began at 2:00 that afternoon. The Keynote Speaker was Mark Black, a man with an interesting story of overcoming difficulty and receiving a miracle.

Later on at 7:30 the Second session began and moved into familiar ground when two members from my chapter were called onto the stage. The Star Wars theme also started playing to everyone's amusement. My two friends Luke Stanford and Terry Hardin Jr. stepped onto the stage to introduce my good friend Alyssa Hutcheson for her retiring address from State office. They acted out a very

- State FFA Convention – 1
- Tornadoes in Limestone - 2
- Make an Impact - 2
- All About Us: Part One - 3
- Alabama FFA Association DOLC - 4
- Alabama FFA Association COLW - 5

amusing dual introduction and Alyssa went on with her retiring address.

Thursday was a less eventful day for myself, and I hope it gave our members the chance to relax and see all that Montgomery had to offer.

Friday morning held the last session of the convention, and also the electing of our 14-15 State officers.

In conclusion, through all the quarter mile walks, conversations with past state officers, and stomach trouble, the 86<sup>th</sup> annual Alabama FFA Convention was a huge success.

# Tornadoes in Limestone

By Ivy Harbin

On April 28, 2014, just days before North District eliminations, a series of tornadoes hit multiple counties, with Limestone County being the most severe. Single storms stretching several hundred yards wide, destroyed numerous homes, small communities, and necessities. An estimated two hundred students were affected, with some of these being FFA members. One of those students being myself, Ivy Harbin 2013-2014 North District Secretary. Seeing the damage in my community, and how my FFA chapter helped with the relief efforts, inspired me to get others involved. Only days before eliminations I sent in a request to our district specialist, Mr. Philip Paramore, that members attending North district eliminations could bring donations for those affected. We received a more than generous

amount of donations, from several chapters, with donations ranging from personal hygiene products to clothing. Immediately following eliminations I personally delivered all donations to the "The Relief Center", otherwise known as Blue Springs Elementary School. The Salvation Army requested that I send great appreciation to all students who participated in donating these items.

Although conditions leading up to the 2014 North District Eliminations were abnormal for some with the aid of the other chapters, some of the pain was relieved for those affected including myself. I personally would like to extend my upmost respect and gratitude to those who took time out of their busy



schedule s and prepping for competi on to help those, that for a moment, couldn't help themselves. You, North District Alabama

FFA members have displayed outstanding leadership skills and I am proud to say that I am a part of a great group of members.

Thank you,

Ivy Harbin  
North District President 2014-2015



# Make an Impact

By Hunter Paff

In today's world, it is very easy to forget the real meaning of life. We often forget what is right or wrong, and what is good or bad. Sometimes we don't even forget it; we just do what is convenient for us at that very moment. We don't think ahead and consider the possible consequences for our actions. We must learn to think about the impact our actions have, and how it can change someone else's life. We could turn a bad day into a good day, or possibly help a person reach a goal that they have never achieved, and even change someone's life forever.

One of the most important influences in my life was and is still today, Mr. David Defoor. Some of you may have

heard of him, others may have not. He was the Ag Teacher at my old school, East Lawrence High School. He is recently retired, but if he was not, I would still be there. If it were not for Mr. Defoor, I would not be where I'm at today, as a North District Officer. One day, as I was leaving Ag class during my freshmen year, he said "Paff, have you ever considered running for district officer?" and that is where my journey started. He prepared me in every way he could, he took me to all the FFA workshops, gave me as much material as he could, and even had me participate in "mock" interviews in front of my fellow classmates. He always said "Remember Paff, you gotta work for it.", and that's exactly what I did.

Not only was he a teacher that helped me become a North District Officer, he was and is still a friend. He never thought

of his student as just "pupils", he actually wanted to impact them in a positive way, and he always did his best in doing so. Some students took hold of that and actually befriended him, others put up a shield because they just had to be at school, and didn't care about anything more than just getting home. He always had jokes and stories to tell, and he knew that school is stressful, and always helped us clear our minds from "over thinking" throughout the day in his class. Instead of using our brains to work in Chemistry or Geometry, we used it in a different way,

and that was by working with our hands and using a completely different part of our brain. He always pushed everyone to do their best, and when they said "I cannot do it", he said "Yes you can". He was always a positive influence. He made many impacts on many lives throughout his career. Many of my friend's parents were his students, and they all say they remember him, even after 20+ years, and that he was a great teacher.

My hope is that in reading this, you will help change someone else's life in a positive way, and you will consider the consequences of your actions of your future. In Chemistry terms "With every action, there is a Reaction". Try to be the person that everyone remembers as "a

true friend" or "a positive influence", or even "a life changer". Don't be satisfied with average, go above and beyond. My dad always tells me "There are 3 things that will get you a long way in this world: Respect, Confidence, and Humility". First, Respect should be used by everyone, be a respectful winner when you succeed, but when you lose a battle, don't be a sore loser. Second, be confident in what you can do, set high goals, and do what it takes to achieve them. Don't let people tell you that you can't succeed. Lastly, stay humble. No matter how great you become, from a District Officer, or a National officer, you are still a normal human being like everyone else. Do these things and you can change the world.

## All About Us: Part One

By Shelby Atwood

The 2014-2015 North District FFA officers do not just see ourselves as a team or as leaders. We are more than just our passion and drive to make the FFA the best it can be. We all have our own crazy personalities, not one of us is just alike. We all have our differences and opinions, none of us have the same goals or dreams but when you put us together we are one big family.

The North District officers would like to let our fellow FFA members get to know a little about us. When it comes down to it there are only six district officers but we cannot leave out our two state officers because they are a part of this crazy family too. We are leaders and we are friends but most importantly we are our own individual people too.

First, there is Hunter Paff our sentinel. Hunter is sixteen years old; he attends Lawrence County High School as a junior and has been in the FFA for three years. If you ever get to know Hunter one thing you will come to know about him is that he loves his cars, especially his 1995 Ford Ranger Splash. You know he has to love his cars when his dream car is a Ferrari Enzo. After high school Hunter would like to attend Auburn University or Vanderbilt to become an anesthesiologist or a defensive attorney. He better be good at what he does if he wants that Ferrari. Hunter is a dreamer; he sets his goals and strives towards them. He knows what he wants and does not let people bring him down.

Next, we have Ethan Mobley our reporter. Ethan is fifteen years old; he attends Red Bay High School as a sophomore and has been in the FFA for two years. After meeting Ethan it won't take long for you to find out what he cares about the most, God. He spends the majority of his time talking about God or partaking in something that involves him but also enjoys web surfing and working out. Once he graduates he would like to attend Welch Bible College and spend the rest of his life spreading God's word. Ethan always has a positive outlook on life and he will try his best to make sure others have one on theirs.

Hunter and Ethan are only two officers out of the eight officers we have in the North District. Come back each season to read more about us. Next season's article will be about Wade Gossett and myself, Shelby Atwood.

# Alabama FFA Association DOLC

By Wade Gossett

This July FFA District Officers from the North, Central, and South Districts met in Columbiana, AL for the 2014 District Officer Leadership Conference. The conference was led by the State Officers along with the aid of Alabama's 2014-2015 National Officer Candidate, Nikki Giba. During the three days spent in Columbiana the District Officers from across the state learned about things such as: parliamentary procedures, agricultural issues, teamwork skills, workshop presentation, and opportunities in agriculture. Not only was DOLC a time of bonding and togetherness for the officer teams involved, but it was also a valuable learning tool that proved insurmountable when the time for COLW arrived. Overall the 2014 DOLC was a magnificent success for the Alabama FFA Association and the betterment of the future of agriculture.

By Wade Gossett

2014-2015 North District Secretary



# Alabama FFA Association COLW

By: Lane Bonds

This year's 2014 Chapter Officer Leadership Workshop was a success! This year's theme was, "The Wizard of OZ". We had six different workshops that discussed various topics such as love, hatred, thinking for yourself, thinking about others, courage, and success. We had an attendance of 169 FFA members and 48 advisors. We would like to thank Albertville High School and Hartselle High School for providing us our venue. I would also like to thank Morgan County Cattleman's for cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for us at Hartselle. I hope everyone who attended had a great day with me and my fellow North District Officers. I am excited to see some of you throughout the year and would be more than honored to visit your FFA chapter! I hope everyone has a great year full of premier leadership, personal growth and career success!

North District FFA  
Vice President  
2014-2015



## North District FFA Officers 14-15