



Alabama FFA: South District Newsletter

Spring 2019

Getting Ready for Spring Eliminations

By Emma Watson

Are you ready for Spring Eliminations? Spring Eliminations is a very exciting time of year! It is held at Enterprise high school on May 2. Spring Eliminations is where you can compete in so many different Career Development Events (CDE) such as horse judging, smallengines, or ag construction. Also don't forget about Talent Development Events (TED) such as string band, quartet, and scrapbook. Finally, you can compete in LDEs such as prepared speaking or parliamentary procedure. There so many more options; just talk to your Ag teacher to see what interest you. So what all happens at spring eliminations? Well it will be a very busy day. It normally starts at 9:30 AM and we start the award ceremony around 1:30 PM so it will be an all day event. We will start with introductions and the invocation then we'll move on to introducing the people who will be administering your test or who will be judging your event. When your event is called, you will get up and follow your test administrator to your test or performing site. Once you get to the test or performing site the administrator will go over how to fill out the scantron and go over the instructions for the test or how the event will go. Next you will take the test and when the whole event group is done you are allowed to go back to where there rest of your school is at. Lunch will be after that and it will be on our own. After lunch the award ceremony will begin at 1:30 and after the award ceremony is done we will adjourn then you can head home. There will be an area set up for pictures where your event team can get some pictures with your banner or plaques. We hope everyone will attend Spring Eliminations because it is a great experience.

South District Officer and State Officer Candidate Interviews

By Jon Ross Folmar, South District Reporter

As many of you may know, on March 12th, the South District FFA had their district office and state officer candidate interviews. We had a total of 19 candidates: 11 district only, 4 dual, and 5 state only candidates.

For these interviews, there are three different types of candidates. The first type is district only candidates. These candidates run to be district officers. The second type is state only candidates. These candidates run to be state officers. The third and most confusing type is a dual candidates. The dual candidates run for district as well as state if they score high enough to be state candidates. If dual candidates seeking state office do not get state office, they will drop back and become district officers. If dual candidates seeking state get a state office, each individual on the district team will move up a position. Dual candidates create another aspect of the district interviews: the bubble. The bubble is the person or persons that is right below the cut off for the district team, but if a dual candidate gets state office, that individual will become part of the district team. Each district officer team is composed of 6 people, and the south district has four candidates that represent them in state officer interviews.

There are three parts of district officer election process: the knowledge test, the application, and the interviews. The three scores together combine to determine rankings. The test is worth 50 points, the interview is worth 100 points, and the application is worth 100 points. When the candidates got there that morning they took the knowledge exam. Then, lunch was served. The judges scored the applications while the candidates were testing. After the test was finished, each candidate had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the judges. Next, lunch was served, and each candidate began to interview individually. The three judges for the day were Mrs. Ashley Meritt, Mrs. Ashley Catrett, and Mr. Alan Waters. After the entire process was finished, Mr. Davis concluded that this years slate of candidates was the best he's ever seen, and that each person had immense passion for FFA. After a few words of encouragement, Mr. Davis announced the results. The four state office candidates in order from 1st to 4th was Alyssa Glover, Garrett Springs, Madison Stewart, and Jarrett Senn. The district officers in order of ranking were Alyssa Glover, Madison Stewart, Jon Ross Folmar, Adam Mixon, Maggie Bush, and Landry Kelder. Alyssa and Madison are dual candidates representing the south district at state interviews in June. This creates two bubble positions, and the individuals were Chloe Meadows and Hollie Arnette. Therefore, the district team will not be fully decided until the last day of state convention in June when the new state officer team is announced. We are very proud of all who attempted to become a district officer or state officer candidate, and we wish the best of luck to our four state officer candidates in June!

Below are results from the interviews

| | Name | Chapter | Type | Position |
|---|-----------------|---------------|----------|----------------------|
| ① | Alyssa Glover | Rehobeth | Dual | (SOC) President |
| ② | Garrett Springs | Daphne | SO | (SOC) |
| ③ | Madison Stewart | Millry | Dual | (SOC) Vice President |
| ④ | Jon Ross Folmar | Brantley | District | Secretary |
| ⑤ | Adam Mixon | Hillcrest Gdb | District | Treasurer |
| ⑥ | Jarrett Senn | Zion Chapel | SO | (SOC) |
| ⑦ | Maggie Bush | GW Long | District | Reporter |
| ⑧ | Landrey Kelder | Enterprise | District | Sentinel |
| ⑨ | Chloe Meadows | Zion Chapel | District | Bubble 1 |
| ⑩ | Hollie Arnett | Ariton | Dual | Bubble 2 |

Good fundraising

By:Garrett Springs, District Secretary

Throughout the south district, there are many different chapters with many different programs and things they do, but one thing is the same: FFA chapters all do fundraisers because that's what makes FFA chapters work and get the opportunities to go and do things. A lot of chapters conduct fruit sales or sell meats, but another great way to fundraise is through a plant sale or livestock sale that your chapter has. My home chapter does two plant sales a year and sells to the public or landscaping companies. Other chapters have an on campus farm that they sell livestock that they raise.

The best part of doing a plant sale every year is that you can plant and take care of the plants in your agriscience class everyday, so you don't have to stay late or come after school or even go door to door, selling meat or fruit. A plant sale or livestock sale is a lot of work for your chapter to do and is not easy, but it is a great opportunity to fundraise. So, this year when your advisor or chapter members ask what should we do for a fundraiser, try doing a plant sale or sell some livestock from the school farm.



Mock Interviews

By Kendra Peebles, District Sentinel

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, students serving as candidates to be new South District officers or Alabama State officers as well as those running dual, appeared together in Opp to further prepare themselves for the interviewing process they had to go through on March 12th. Candidates from all over the South District came to hone their interviewing skills. Future South District officer and State officer candidates included your current South District officers Jon Ross Folmar, Jarrett Senn, Garrett Springs, and Destiny Hall. The other two officers assisted the current FFA state president in conducting the interviews.

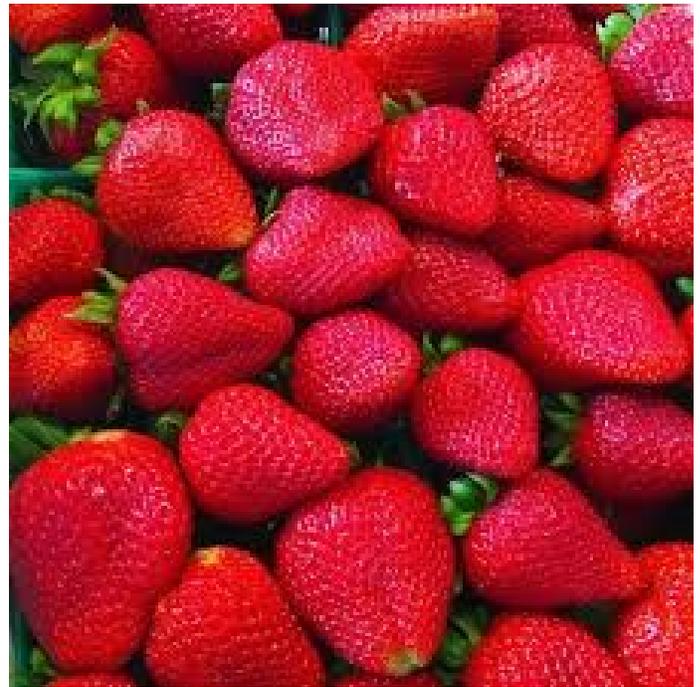


Students at the mock interviews started the day off by watching a slideshow about must-know FFA practices such as official dress. This was a part of Summer Parker's workshop. Following this, candidates were separated into two different groups: state/dual candidates and district officer candidates. Next, each group played a game testing their FFA knowledge. After some FFA trivia, each person received a number letting them know the order they were going to be interviewed in. While individual students were called to be interviewed, the others remained at their tables taking the practice test that was designed to be similar to the one they would see at the actual district and state officer candidate interviews. The day concluded with candidates receiving their graded tests back and reviewing the answers with state president, Summer Parker. Students were also given tips on how to do better during the actual interview process, such as giving answers to difficult questions. The efforts made during mock interviews were all an attempt to better prepare candidates in becoming officers to better serve the South District in the future.

Strawberry Sales

By Destiny Hall, South District President

Recently, chapters throughout the South District as well as the state of Alabama concluded their Strawberry Fundraiser. This fundraiser is conducted through our citrus growers such as but not limited to Florida Farms Bureau, Florida Fruit Association, Southern Heritage and many others. The Florida Farm Bureau is one of the leading producers in the citrus business. They produce top of the line product and are for the most part good at making sure the fruit is also delivered in a timely matter. Most of the time, fundraisers such as these are used to aid in funding trips; an example may be state convention. As a fundraiser many chapters participate in, I encourage you to look into using this fundraiser also if you are not already. If you are a student and you would like to start selling strawberries as a fundraiser, you should contact your AG teacher. If you are an AG teacher and would like to use this particular fundraiser, please look into contacting a strawberry fundraiser producer. If you do not believe that this fundraiser will do well in your chapter but are looking into fundraising, there are many other ways to fundraise. Although it is too late to participate your chapter could do a fruit sale or meat sale next year, those fundraiser are usually around Christmas. I know of many chapters that participate in selling beef sticks. There are many fundraisers out there you just have to look for them. Many producers for these fundraisers set up booths at the career fairs that State and National FFA put on. I encourage you go take a look this summer at state convention. If you can not find something you think would sell well within your chapter there are always events and local fundraisers you can do. The main goal is for chapters to get involved in something that will be a source of income.

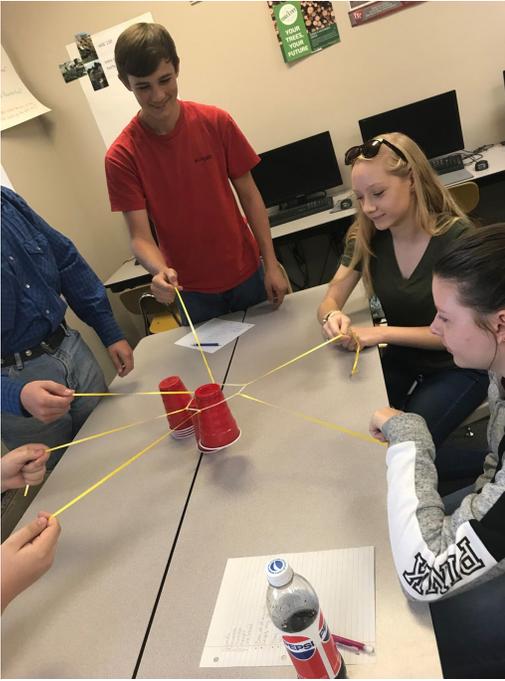


Chapter President's Conference

By Jarrett Senn, District Treasurer

The Chapter Presidents Conference was held on February 8, 2019 and the Ham Wilson Arena in Auburn. The event was sponsored by the Alabama FFA Alumni Association. The event consisted of informational workshops presented by the State Officer team and former national officer Wiley Bailey. One workshop entitled "The Art of Communication is Language of Leadership" taught students that communication is crucial for success in leadership. In the workshop there was a activity where students had to lead their partner through an obstacle course only using animal sounds as directions with other students distracting them. This activity allows students to realize that through all the distractions that may arise while serving in leadership it is necessary to communicate with each other. This workshop was presented by Maggie Edwards State Vice President, Matthew Wilson State Secretary, and Kalyn Rouse State Sentinel. Communication is key. Jarrett Senn, Jon Ross Folmar, and Kendra were present. Each district officer got the opportunity to introduce themselves and tell which district they were representing. Our very own Summer Parker also put on a workshop about teamwork. The event was a great learning experience for everyone.





Chapter Visits

By Summer Parker, State President

As a district officer I, as well as our district officers, are allowed the opportunity to visit various chapters throughout the south district. At the beginning of our term, we are assigned counties; we are then responsible for the chapters within our assigned counties.



A chapter visit can be initiated by the district/ state officer or the

advisor. On a chapter visit, officers get the chance to interact with members and see how each chapter functions differently. Officers host workshops which include information on SAEs, CDEs or even the story behind their FFA journey. We are also encouraged to help chapters with awards such as the national chapter awards Officers and proficiency awards. Officers will also attend chapter events such as cookouts and meetings. I, as well as the rest of the district officer team are looking forward to visiting our assigned chapters and seeing all the cool, creative things your chapters are doing. It is not too late to request a visit from an officer. You can find each district officers email by visiting alabamaffa.org. Then, go to district FFA and scroll down. We encourage each of you to get an officer to visit you chapter before the end of this school year!

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