



ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

PREMIER LEADERSHIP - PERSONAL GROWTH - CAREER SUCCESS

South District FFA Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1; Summer 2015

87th Annual State Convention Recap!

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Alabama FFA held the 87th Annual State Convention on June 10-12th in Montgomery, Alabama. State Convention is a time for thousands of FFA members from all over the state to come together! At the 87th Convention, members were recognized for their outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences, Career Development Events and even awarded scholarships. Aside from awards, there were some amazing keynote messages from Kristen Schmidt and Jane Herlong, along with the retiring addresses of the 2014-2015 State Officers. In the closing session, a new slate of State Officers was elected for the 2015-2016 school year. Alabama FFA is ready to AMPLIFY their impact through Agriculture this year!

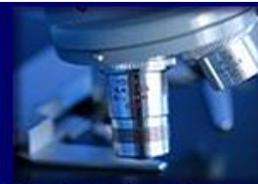
~Jordan Stowe, State Vice-President



Pictured left to right: President: Wade Gossett, Hokes Bluff, Vice President: Jordan Stowe, Enterprise, Secretary: Cassidy Catrett, Brantley Treasurer: Anna Pollard, Jacksonville, Reporter: Ivy Harbin, West Limestone, Sentinel: Whitney Hamby, Ohatchee

Did You Know..

- The 2015-2016 South District officer team is made up of nothing but girls!
- There are 20 counties in the South District.
- The South District President owns a Kangaroo!



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District Officer Leadership Conference (DOLC)

"Opportunity is often missed because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

~Thomas A. Edison

To start the year off the district officers from each district and the state officers met in Columbiana at the Alabama 4-H center for three days. During these three days the state officers trained the district officers to better serve their districts. District officers learned many different skills and techniques at DOLC from communication to parliamentary procedure. Although much time was spent learning there was also lots of time for fun. The officers strengthened their teamwork skills on the ropes course. After surviving seven intense workshops and tons of fun the district officers were sent back to their own districts to train chapter officers.

~ Emily Williams, South District Vice-President



Chapter Officer Leadership Workshop (COLW)

The South District Officer team had a fun-filled summer getting to know our state officers, district officers, and each other as well. The best part was getting to know the chapter officers throughout the South District at the Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops. At DOLC we decided our theme for this year was going to be Hollywood. On July 13th, Mr. Davis and the six "southern belles" met at Daphne High School to set up for our workshop presentation. After the work was done, that night we went ate dinner at Logan's Roadhouse and shared a few laughs at the table. While by the bay, Lilly had never been in a tunnel before so we ventured over the bridge, through the tunnel, and into the busy city of Mobile. After seeing a beautiful sunset and the excitement Lilly had, we decided to do a little shopping. We to the Bass Pro Shops in Spanish Fort and shopped for a few things, looked at the fish in the tank, and got lost in the parking lot! We then headed to the hotel, went over our workshops, and eventually went to sleep. The next morning, July 14th, we headed over to the school around 7:30 to get everything ready. The advisors and chapter officers started registering at 8:30 and we began our workshops at 9:00. We had an amazing group of members participate, sixty in fact. After we packed everything up, we headed on our 4 hour long drive to Dothan. After arriving that afternoon, we headed over to Conestoga and had a delicious steak dinner. After leaving full, we left for the hotel room, but we did a little more shopping, of course! Stuffed and exhausted, the girls left for the hotel room to get a good night rest. That morning we left for Rehobeth High School to set up our display, as we arrived we saw the Rehobeth chapter officers and advisor did some decorating which was a tremendous help! We had about 100 chapter officers, members, and advisors present at this COLW! We encountered many STARS throughout the two days of traveling. This experience of getting to know chapter officers throughout our district, the crazy yet humbling advisors, and my fellow south district officers was truly a blessing. Thank you Daphne and Rehobeth for letting us use your facility to present to the FFA members. The South District Officers hope you take the things you learned back to your chapters and for them to be successful.

~Becky Hawkins, South District President





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Program of Activities (POA)

School is right around the corner. So now is a great time to start planning the activities and fundraisers you want to do throughout the year. The best way to plan out everything you want to do is by using your program of activities, or POA. A POA is a way to plan everything, and check your progress throughout the year! POA's have three divisions: Student, Chapter, and Community Development.

These are the main 3 parts of putting together your POA.

- Student development are the activities assigned to members that better personal growth, these include career development events, supervised agricultural experience, and scholarships.
- Chapter development are the activities assigned to help members learn to work together to better their chapter. These activities include: recruiting new members, preparing a budget, and teaching leadership qualities.
- Community Development is where members are assigned activities or duties that improve the community around them. These duties are things such as: inviting former members to come and speak at meeting, help improve your schools landscape, and inform your local newspaper or local government about what your entire chapter is doing for the community. Throughout the year you will need to refer back to it and see if you are heading towards your goals.

~ Taylor Wood, South District Secretary

"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way."
~Napoleo

Fundraising

Fundraising is one of the most important events for a chapter. Whether you are selling fruit, or holding an auction, anything you do to earn money can help! Take a minute and think about all the things your chapter does and consider where your chapter would be without the fundraisers they do, you would not have anything. When planning a fundraiser for your FFA chapter to do, take in to consideration what other organizations within your school is doing. You do not want to be competing with them for someone's business. Another idea your chapter can consider is being creative. Creativity can draw people around your city, or county, to participate in your fundraiser. The BIGGEST key to a successful fundraiser is advertising. Letting the public know what you are doing and what it is for can draw in a big group of customers or participants. Always remember to have fun while fundraising and use your funds to promote and get involved in FFA events! ~ Caitlin Barr, South District Reporter



Membership Drive

It is that time of the year again, time to hold your annual membership drive! This can be one of the most important and fun things you do all year. This is vital for your chapter to gain and maintain membership in order to be successful. There are many activities you can do during a membership drive to gain interest in your chapter. For instance my chapter, Dale County, has peanut boil or an ice cream social at our first meeting every year. This encourages all new and old Ag students to attend. Who doesn't love free food and fun games? Make sure you keep this activity fun and informative to encourage new membership. It is good idea to have current officers and members present and available to answer any questions prospective members might have. Do not forget to inform prospective members through school announcements, social media, and word of mouth so everyone attends your membership drive activities. These activities show just how fun the FFA really is and how much it has to offer.

~ Lily Watson, South District Sentinel



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SOUTH DISTRICT OFFICERS

*President-
Becky Hawkins,
Eufaula*

*Vice President-
Emily Williams,
Fruitdale*

*Secretary-
Taylor Wood,
G. W. Long*

*Treasurer-
Esther Gilbert,
Goshen*

*Reporter-
Caitlin Barr,
Daleville*

*Sentinel-
Lily Watson,
Dale County*

Chapter Visits

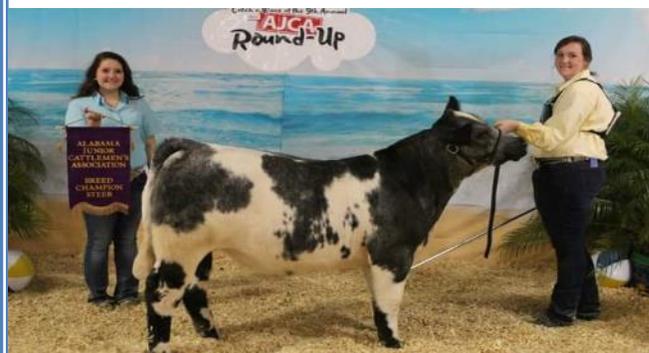
The Alabama south district officers are super excited to start visiting the diverse chapters the south district is home to. "I want to have an impact on the members I encounter, to see what ignites them in the FFA, and show them their endless opportunities throughout this organization," says Becky Hawkins, the South District President. Lily Watson, the South District Sentinel agrees, saying, "I'm most excited about going on chapter visits because I will get to share my passion of FFA with everyone and get to see their passion as well." The south district officer team hopes to inspire chapters to keep progressing to the district, state and national levels in the FFA. Elijah Mason, from the Wilcox Central chapter said, "I'm excited to have them (south district officers) visit my chapter because they are smart, helpful, intelligent, and fun to be around." The south district officers met Elijah in July at COLW at Daphne high school. He along with many other members, were enthusiastic about the benefits of being in the FFA. The South District officers will be contacting advisors of all counties in the south district to arrange chapter visits. We look forward to meeting more members, encouraging them to go further, and share why the FFA is the largest youth ran organization in the nation. ~ *Esther Gilbert, South District Treasurer*



AJCA Round Up Recap

Over one hundred and thirty-five youth traveled to Montgomery to "Catch a Wave" at the ninth annual Alabama Junior Cattleman's Association Round Up held July 23-26. This event allowed youth from all over Alabama to come together to compete and promote the beef industry. Twenty-eight of Alabama's sixty-seven counties were represented in the show, as well as the many contests. Participants had the opportunity to compete in contests that they prepared for throughout the summer like photography, poster, ad design, essay, and record book. Other contests on-site were sales talk, public speaking, career development, cattle judging, showmanship, skill-a-thon, team grooming, build-a-better burger, and volleyball. Winners from these events were recognized at the awards ceremony on Saturday night. After a long, hot day of showing steers, participating in showmanship, and electing new directors to the board, everyone enjoyed celebrating successes at the awards ceremony. Heifers were shown on Sunday to close out the 2015 AJCA Round Up. Mark your calendars now for July 2016 for the tenth annual AJCA Round Up!

~ *Cassidy Catrett, State Secretary*



Alabama State Department of Education,
Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education,

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