



Volume 6, Issue 1; Summer 2016

South District FFA Summer Newsletter

88th Annual State Convention Recap!

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Did You Know...

- The 2016-2017 South District officer team is evenly split with 3 girls and 3 boys, as opposed to last year with all girls!
- There are 20 counties in the South District.
- We won the torch!

The gavel dropped on June 8th to begin the 88th Annual Alabama State FFA Convention. Wade Gossett, State President 2015-2016, welcomed the members, advisors, supporters, and guests of the Alabama FFA Association. Before the convention officially came to order, members poured into Auburn to compete in the State CDE competitions. Throughout convention members were recognized as they placed in the CDE events for their hard work and dedication. Members that have excelled in their SAE projects were awarded proficiencies and State Star Farmers as well. We heard retiring addresses from the 2015-2016 State Officers that encouraged each person in the audience. On Friday, June 10th, State was coming to a close. During the final session, State Officers honored their parents and advisors for supporting them. They showed a video of their year in review that captured each moment! There was not a dry eye in the audience when the State Officers hung up their FFA jackets. The moment came to elect 6 new leaders to serve the Alabama Association for 2016-2017. Sierra Goodwin, President; Ethan Mobley, Vice President; Ben Castleberry, Secretary; Becky Hawkins, Treasurer; Hannah Black, Reporter; Torran Smith, Sentinel; were elected and installed! To close out the amazing convention, 284 FFA members were awarded their State FF Degrees! We hope to see you next year at the 89th Annual Alabama FFA State Convention!

~Becky Hawkins
State Treasurer



State Officers-pictured left to right: President: Sierra Goodwin, Vice President: Ethan Mobley, Secretary: Ben Castleberry, Treasurer: Becky Hawkins, Reporter: Hannah Black, Sentinel: Torran Smith



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

~Thomas A. Edison

District Officer Leadership Conference (DOLC)

During the summer, the Alabama FFA State Officers and District Officers come together for the District Officer Leadership Conference. DOLC is held in Columbiana at the 4-H Center. The State Officers have already gone through 3 weeks of training to help prepare the district officers have a successful year of service. The 3 districts that make up Alabama is the North, Central, and South. Each district is represented by 6 incredible leaders. Workshops that the state officers delivered were centered around Social Media Importance, Communication, Team Development, Agriculture Knowledge, Parliamentary Procedure, and the Act of Service. We went through a ropes course, which gave us the foundation of working with our teammates in challenging situations. At the end of the conference, there were 3 District officer teams ready to take the skills and knowledge to the chapters they will visit this year. As State Officers, we gained inspiration as we saw the passion that the District Officers had for this organization.

~Becky Hawkins
State Treasurer

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

~Mattie Stepanek



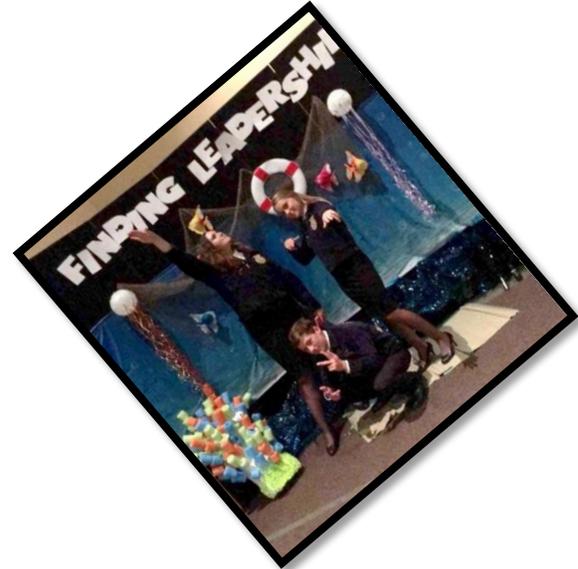


Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops (COLW)

The South District FFA Officer Team had a blast this past summer getting to know the Chapter FFA Officers across the South District at this year's Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops. The District Officers received training from the State Officers earlier this summer at District Officer Leadership Conference at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL. This Conference better prepared the officer team for the challenging and busy weeks ahead. "Finding Leadership" was determined to be this year theme of the COLWs, playing off of the movie "Finding Dory." The first COLW was held at Daphne High in Daphne, AL on July 19, 2016. There were 65 members and guest in attendance. The meeting room was decorated to reflect the theme of "Finding Leadership," and so were the workshops. Each officer presented an informative and challenging workshop. They included parliamentary procedure, planning your chapter's activities, team building, career development events, supervised agriculture experiences, social media, and learning to serve. At the conclusion of the Daphne COLW officers then traveled to Rehobeth, AL to prepare for the second session of COLW. The Rehobeth COLW had 92 members, advisors, and guest present on July 20, 2016. Again the district officers decorated the meeting room and presented their energetic workshops. When chapter officers left the workshop they were better equipped with knowledge, excitement, and motivation to make this year the best it can be. We look forward to seeing the amazing things the officers and members across the south district will do in the 2016-2017 school year!

~Bryce Hendricks

South District Vice President





Program of Activities (POA)

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

~Napoleon Hill

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

~Walt Disney

After a long summer full of FFA activities and relaxation, it is time to get back to work in our chapters and communities. The best way to start is to get a plan set in stone...or a Program of Activities (POA). This plan is your way to insure you're getting what your chapter needs to get accomplished. There are three main points for your POA. Each has its own special attributes pertaining to your chapter, students, and community.

- Chapter Development,
- Student Development
- Community Development.

Chapter Development are activities the chapter does to help learn to work together as a team. This includes leadership workshops, membership recruitment, and budgets.

Student Development are activities assigned to members to help them grow personally. Things such as Career Development Events (CDEs), Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SDEs, and scholarship opportunities.

Community Development are events we do with our chapter to improve our surrounding communities. For example, a school beautification project, informing local newspapers and media on events in your chapter and school, or alumni visits to your chapter about what FFA has and will do for them.

Make sure throughout your school year to refer back to your POA and see what you have accomplished and what you can improve on for the next year.

~Grady Gunn

South District Secretary

Student Development

Community Development

Chapter development



Fundraising

Hey guys! I hope you have enjoyed your summer vacation! It is sad to see it come to an end, but now that you are back in school you can focus on your chapters' fundraising! There are many great opportunities for fundraising in your local chapters. Many chapters participate in fruit sales – oranges in the winter and strawberries in the spring. Another great event to help raise funds for your chapter is making cane syrup. Cane syrup making not only brings in funds, but it also promotes camaraderie among your team members. Another fundraising idea that generates a great amount of revenue for my Eufaula High Chapter is a Boston butt sale. We start cooking the butts early in the morning, and they are ready for delivery or pick up around 4 p.m. in the afternoon. We also have an onion sale in the spring, and that is a good fundraiser for our school. If you sell onions, be sure to contact the local restaurants and grocery stores about your onion sale. Usually, they are happy to support a school program through the purchase of onions for their businesses. If your school has a horticulture program, raising plants and selling them is another great way to make money. I encourage all of you to get involved and do your part to raise funds for your local chapter. Have a great year! Every dollar counts!

~Calan Ates

South District Treasurer



Membership Drive

Hello FFA members. It's that time of year again! Time for your chapters annual membership drive! This can very easily be one of the most important and fun things your chapter does all year. In order to have a successful chapter, it's vital to gain and maintain membership. There are tons of activities your chapter can do. For example, New Brockton, has a petting zoo every year. This is a fun activity for current and prospective members, and the community. Who doesn't love goats, sheep, and baby chickens? While promoting your activity, make sure you keep it fun and informative to encourage new membership. It's a good idea to have officers and members present and available to answer questions that any prospective members might have. Also, you can inform potential members through school announcements, social media, newspapers, and even by word of mouth so everyone attends your membership drive activities. Doing these activities show just how much fun FFA really is, and just how much it has to offer. So this year, try to get as many members as possible!

~ Caitlyn Nolin

South District Reporter





Chapter Visits

As the new school year kicks off, the South District officers for this year will be visiting chapters across south Alabama. This summer, we have been developing our leadership skills and increasing our love for FFA. Our hope is that by engaging with students, we will be able to ignite the same passion for FFA that we hold. We want to share the same opportunities and benefits of this great organization that have been presented to us so every student knows how to get involved. We want to inspire the chapters to grow and to also hear their personal stories of how FFA has impacted them. The South District officers will be contacting each chapter's advisor to set dates for chapter visits. We look forward to getting to know the members in the South District!

-Gracie Sims

South District Sentinel



There are 20 Counties in the South District. We split up the counties upon each officer and go to the schools in that county. This picture was taken at the Goshen Chapter visit.



AJCA Round Up

A Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) exposes FFA members to many different opportunities in the agricultural industry. Those with a Beef Production SAE have lots of opportunities to participate in a wide variety of educational events. Among these is the Alabama Junior Cattleman's Association Round-Up (AJCA) held each summer. Recently, over one hundred and thirty-five youth traveled to Montgomery to celebrate "A Winning Tradition" at the tenth annual AJCA Round Up held July 21-24. This event allowed FFA, 4-H, and AJCA members from all over the state to compete and promote the beef industry. Twenty-eight of Alabama's sixty-seven counties were represented in the show. Participants had the opportunity to compete in several contests 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. South District FFA had several members recognized for their commitment to Beef Production SAEs during the successful weekend. Trent Thomas, President of the Goshen FFA Chapter, won Fourth Overall Market Animal and Cameron Catrett, South District FFA President, was elected as the AJCA President. We are very proud of all our South District FFA members who competed throughout the weekend! Continue to be engaged in your SAE. When you are, opportunities like the AJCA Round-up will provide you with more opportunities to highlight your hard work within your SAE.

~Cameron Catrett

South District President



Alabama State Department of Education, Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D., Interim State Superintendent of Education

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