



# Alabama FFA: South District Newsletter

## Summer 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

## South District Officer Retreat

by Kaleb Wright, South District Reporter

On July 27th & 28th, the South District FFA officer team met in Andalusia to plan out our year of service. During the retreat, we were given our chapters of responsibility, developed a challenging program of activities, and wrote speeches for each officer to use throughout the year.



This retreat was facilitated by your State FFA Sentinel, Bryce Hendricks, from the Enterprise Chapter. State FFA President, Cameron Catrett, wasn't able to attend because she was in Washington D. C. attending the State FFA President's Conference. Bryce presented workshops on speech development and speech delivery for the district officer team. The team also had an opportunity to critique each other's speeches.

The team had some bonding time and enjoyed some outstanding meals in Andalusia and even helped Mr. Davis celebrate his birthday (a day late).



The team also developed a draft email to the advisors of our chapters of responsibility, stating what we could deliver during our visits or put on dedicated workshops. We worked together to help ourselves become a better team as a whole. I am looking forward to serving the South District this year and impacting my fellow members of this glorious organization.



### State President's Conference

FFA State President, Cameron Catrett, from the Brantley Chapter and FFA State Vice President, John Crawford from the A P Brewer Chapter attend the National FFA State President's Conference in Washington D. C.

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### Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops

The South District FFA Officers facilitated workshops in Daphne and Rehobeth for local chapter officers.

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# Beneath The Rising Sun

by Cameron Catrett, State President

It has been a whirlwind of a summer since the close of the 89th Alabama FFA State Convention. Our state officer team has participated in numerous events representing Alabama FFA throughout June and July. Recently, Vice-President John Crawford and I returned from the State Presidents' Conference (SPC). This is the third experience in the state FFA officer training series. SPC is an advanced leadership training that builds on the first two components of the state FFA officer leadership continuum, Blast Off and NLC SO. The 2017 State Presidents' Conference was held July 24-29, 2017 at the Hilton Crystal City in Arlington, Va. At State Presidents' Conference, two officers from each state association travel to Washington, D.C. to begin the delegate committee process and share ideas among all state FFA associations. Against the backdrop of our nation's capital, state officers also learn the importance of advocacy by "telling their story" of agriculture, agricultural education, career technical education, and FFA.

We worked long days at SPC, but also found time to connect with our nation's rich history and fellow FFA officers. On Monday and Tuesday, we learned about advocacy and

lobbying. We heard delegate proposals and began determining which proposals would become the framework for committee discussions at the 90th National FFA Convention and Expo. On Wednesday, we started the day with a breakfast at the USDA where we witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding by USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and National FFA CEO Mark Poeschl to support the youth and prepare tomorrow's agricultural workforce. Wednesday afternoon was spent on Capitol Hill lobbying for H.R. 1626 - Agriculture Student Protection Act and S. 671 - Agriculture Student EARN (Encourage, Acknowledge, Reward, Nurture) Act. John and I had the pleasure of lobbying in the offices of Alabama Representatives Martha Roby, Mike Rogers, and Terri Sewell. We also met with Alabama Senators Richard Shelby and Luther Strange. Between visiting with lawmakers, we sat in on a meeting of the House Ag Committee. On Thursday, our work continued and committees for national convention were announced. The evening was filled with a night tour of historical sites including the WWII Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Korean War Monument, and memorials for Franklin D. Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., and Thomas Jefferson. Committee work concluded on Friday before we were released to explore D.C. on our own. John and I visited the Holocaust Museum, Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian with our friends from Arkansas and Georgia. We



*Pictured above are all of state officers from across the nation attending the State President's Conference in Washington D. C.*

returned back to the SPC headquarters for a block party full of line dancing, mechanical bulls, arcade games, and swing dancing to end the busy week. SPC was a whirlwind for us much like the weeks leading up to it!

As summer comes to a close, "let us be diligent in our labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and above all, honest and fair in the game of life."



# Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops

# District Officers Leadership Conference

by Jodie Spivey, South District Secretary by Caitlyn Nolin, South District President



The South District officer team had a busy but exciting two days this summer facilitating Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops. It was a great opportunity to meet chapter members from across the south district! In early July, the district officers attended District Officer Leadership Conference which was held by the state officers. Throughout those three days, the district officers were trained on how to facilitate workshops which prepared us for the upcoming week. "FFA Road Trip" was this year's theme for the Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops (COLWs). During our road trip we stopped at three different locations: Magic Kingdom, Alabama the Beautiful, and the Pentagon. During these workshops, members were taught how to get excited about their chapters and the many opportunities brought to them through FFA, team building skills, POA, and how they can better their chapter in several different areas. The first location of COLW was held in Daphne, AL on July 18, 2017 where there were 64 members, advisors, and guests present. Immediately following the presentation of the workshops, the district officers traveled to Rehobeth, AL to present their workshops again on July 19, 2017. The Rehobeth COLW had 93 members, advisors, and guests present. We hope that each and every member who had the opportunity to participate in the workshops obtained knowledge that they were able to go back and share with their chapter for the upcoming school year! The south district officers look forward to getting to know our members throughout the year!

During the month of July, the Alabama FFA state and district officers came together for the District Officer Leadership Conference (DOLC). The three-day conference was held in Columbiana at the Alabama 4-H Center. The State Officers had already completed three weeks of training to prepare them for DOLC. There are three District in Alabama: North, Central, and South. Each District is made up of 6 officers. Each district and state officer not only learned different skills during this conference, but also made new friends along the way. The purpose of the conference was to prepare for the Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops. We will use the skills, and knowledge we've learned on our chapter visits throughout this year.

*Below are the South District Officers holding the Piston Cup after being selected to receive it at the close of one of the sessions.*



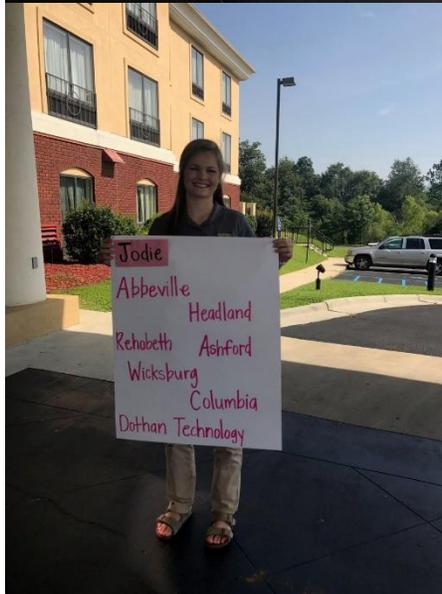
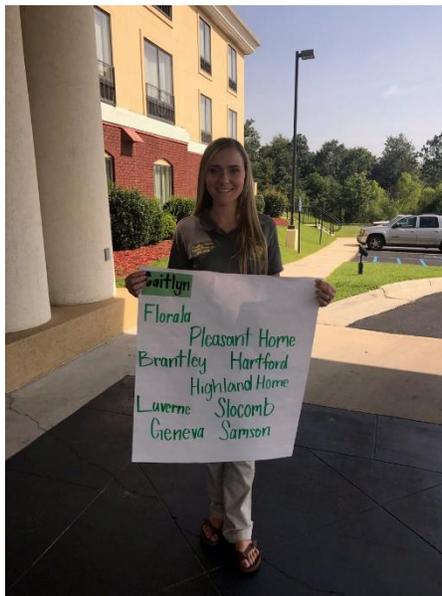
*Pictured to the right are all of the district and state officers of the Alabama FFA Association at the District Officers Leadership Conference in Columbiana, AL at the Alabama 4-H Center.*



# Ready Set Go

by Kayla Green, South District Sentinel

Throughout the summer, the South District Officers were developing our leadership skills and increasing our love for FFA. As the new school year kicks off we are excited to visit chapters from across south Alabama. By engaging with members we hope to share the same opportunities and benefits of the great organization that have been given to us. We cannot wait to hear how FFA has impacted chapters and also encourage them to grow. Pictured on this page are the officers with their chapter assignments. We look forward to meeting the members of the South District and serving them throughout this year!



Not pictured is Cameron Catrett. If your chapter isn't in one of the photographs, she will be your chapter's contact.



## CHAPTER ADVISORS:

The South District/State Officers will be contacting you to schedule visits throughout the year. We have set some ambitious goals for our district this year and we look forward to working with your chapter to exceed our goals!

# FFA/USDA Agreement

by Ally Jackson, South District Treasurer

During the 2017 State Presidents' Conference D.C. Alumni Breakfast at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National FFA CEO Mark Poeschl and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced a new partnership. The two signed a Memorandum of Understanding on July 26th wishing to create a relationship between the USDA and FFA. Under the MOU, they will collaborate on both long and short term initiatives to promote and prepare the youth, connect them with chances in agriculture, food, and natural resources systems, and to grow appreciation for importance of agriculture.

Mark Poeschl had this to say on the agreement: "At National FFA, we are preparing our students to be tomorrow's leaders in agriculture," "Through this MOU, USDA helps us continue our vision of growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. We look forward to our partnership and the ability to share our ideas with USDA."

Implementation of the memorandum will occur at the national levels of USDA and FFA. They both will work together to create an annual plan of work as it relates to these terms, and develop a reporting system that reflects the effectiveness and impact of the partnership between the parties. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will recognize the importance of school-based agricultural education and youth-serving organizations in motivating and preparing young people to pursue careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources systems. And the FFA will Work with USDA to attract, educate, inspire, and prepare students to enter careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources industries.

## 2016-2017 NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS



We look forward to seeing the 2016-2017 National FFA Officer Team at the National FFA Convention in October! If you attend, don't forget the state photo at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 26.



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION



# 89<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention Recap

by Summer Parker, South District Vice President



## 2016-2017 State FFA Officers

State officers- pictured left to right: President: Cameron Catrett, Brantley, Vice-President: John Crawford, A.P. Brewer, Secretary: Gracen Sims, Marbury, Treasurer: Jasey Black, Clements, Reporter: Will Jordan, Clay Central, Sentinel: Bryce Hendricks, Enterprise

With many members of the Alabama FFA being recognized, the 89th annual Alabama FFA State Convention was a huge success! The convention was held at the Montgomery Renaissance and Montgomery Performing Arts Centre on June 7-9. On June 6th the career development event competitions were held at Auburn University, and on Wednesday the first session was held and the state officer interview process began. During the convention sessions, keynote speeches and retiring addresses are given. Wednesday and Thursday, the career show was open to all members to get a glimpse of the agricultural industry, as well as workshops held by past Alabama state officer and national officer candidate from the Enterprise chapter, Jordan Stowe, and National FFA president from Delaware, David Townsend. During the third general session Thursday afternoon, CDE and LDE award recipients were recognized, a few outstanding award winners were the Brantley chapter placing 2nd in the Creed Speaking LDE; 2nd in the Conduct a Chapter Meeting LDE; and 3rd in the Forestry CDE. The Enterprise chapter will be representing Alabama at national convention in the Parliamentary Procedure LDE and in the Conduct a Chapter Meeting LDE. The Foley chapter placed second in the poultry CDE, but will be representing Alabama at national convention in the veterinary science CDE. Members were also recognized for their

achievements in their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects by receiving proficiency awards. Thursday morning, Mr. Keith Richards, Founder of Taziki's, gave a keynote speech. The final session was held Friday morning. It was during this session that 76 members from the south district were awarded their state FFA degrees; then the moment came to elect a new slate of state officers for 2017- 2018. Cameron Catrett, 2016-17 South District President was elected this year's state president and Bryce Hendricks, 2016-17 South District Vice-President was elected this year's state sentinel. We hope to see you all next year at the 90th Annual Alabama FFA State Convention in Montgomery!

# AJCA Roundup

by Bryce Hendricks, State Sentinel

Beef cattle production is one of many Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) that FFA members are allowed to participate in. Members learn the importance of the beef cattle industry through this particular SAE, and are offered numerous opportunities due to their hard work. Each summer the Alabama Junior Cattlemen's Association hosts the AJCA Round-Up. This summer was the 11th annual AJCA Round-Up held in Montgomery, Alabama on July 20-23 with the theme "Fiesta". The Round-Up allows participants not only to compete in a cattle show, but also offers them several contests. These contests included: poster, essay, cattle judging, ad design, photography, record book, public speaking, team grooming, volleyball, showmanship, career development, skill-a-thon, and carne fiesta cooking. That Saturday night, a banquet was held to recognize the top 5 winners of each contest. We are exceptionally pleased for all our South District FFA individuals who contended consistently throughout this year's AJCA Round-Up!



# Alabama FFA: South District Newsletter

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Alabama State Department of Education, Michael Sentance, State Superintendent of Education

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