

FALL 2020

# NORTH DISTRICT FFA NEWSLETTER

# PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



## Upcoming Events

September  
9/15-POA Due

October  
10/9-18- AL State Fair  
10/12 - Dairy Judging CDE  
10/20-22-Sunbelt Ag Expo  
10-28-31- National  
Convention (Virtual)

November  
11/15 National Peanut  
Festival  
11/15- Chapter Fee Due

December  
12/7-JLDC @ BJCC

The 2019-2020 school year was a whirlwind for FFA members around the state, especially in the North District. With school letting out in March, all FFA North District events were postponed and moved to a virtual platform. The North District Officer interviews were a COVID Casualty as well. Officer candidates from across the North District prepared to participate in officer interviews via Zoom. Candidates completed both the written test and writing sample prior to their scheduled interview time. Candidates then logged in to zoom and participated in an interview with one of the state staff. These interviews were recorded and passed on to the interview committee to be scored. The entire process took around five weeks to be completed. We are looking forward to a great year with an awesome officer team that is here to serve the North District. If you are interested in one day being a District or State officer, we encourage you to reach out to your current officers for help and guidance. Though the process is rigorous, the benefits of being an officer are well worth it.

Thank you, Leeanna Burkhalter  
2020-2021 District President



# Vice President's Newsletter



I want to start off by saying how excited I am to be serving as your North District Vice President for 2020-2021. I want everyone to know that I am here to help you and encourage you to reach out to me for help. I am looking forward to meeting and helping as many of you as possible given the circumstances that we are in. I do not know quite yet whether that will be through zoom or in person, but we will make the best of it either way. As we look back to last year, I do not believe that anyone would have guessed that we would be in this situation right now. However, we can make the best of these tough times through hard work and determination. One of my favorite quotes is from Roger Federer, a professional tennis player. He stated, "There is no way around the hard work. Embrace it." In the Vice President's opening ceremony part, it states "Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much." These statements reign so true this year. If we want to be able to have a successful year, we have to put our ideas to work and not give up. We cannot let our current situation stand in the way of our work ethic. Our medical professionals are keeping us informed daily on how to keep ourselves safe. We need to take that wisdom and apply it to our ideas on how to go about this year. However, we can not stop with just coming up with the ideas. We need to put those plans to use and work harder than ever to make sure we can get business done and be safe. My fellow district officers and I have been already working hard to get an amazing year planned for our district. I encourage you to do the same thing for your chapter. Do not let this year kill our organization; instead let this year mold us into an even better organization. Robert Schuller once said, "Tough times don't last, tough people do." I challenge every member of our district to be those tough people.



Thank you, Wilton-Mark Pettus  
2020-2021 District Vice President

# SECRETARY'S NEWSLETTER

FFA has taught me many things throughout my time in this organization. I have learned how to be a good leader, responsible, a friend to all, and most importantly how to adapt to change. In the times we are now living in, being able to adapt to change has become a valuable resource to have. If you're like me, this could be anything from having a new FFA advisor, Covid-19, and anything else life throws your way. This past March, I was preparing for my district officer interview that was in a couple of days, then to my surprise it was canceled. At first I was disappointed that something I had spent so much time preparing for may not be able to happen. This same day, we also found out there would be no FFA events until after May, which meant no contests, banquets, or meetings. Thankfully, we were able to adapt to this change and do many of the things we were looking forward to virtually. This had never been done before and it was kind of scary to have all of these things up in the air, but in the end we got through it. This summer, my chapter found out we would be getting a new FFA advisor. So far, this change has worked out well for my chapter and our new advisor is amazing. One of the core foundations of FFA is teamwork and being able to adapt to changes as a team. I am very thankful to be a part of my district officer team and chapter officer team to help me get through these changes.

Thank you, Kaitlyn Burroughs  
2020-2021 District Secretary



# TREASURER'S NEWSLETTER

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once stated, "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear." As FFA members and officers, there are many opportunities for us to turn back because of fear. Despite whatever fears we may have, whether they be from speaking in front of groups, sharing ideas, or just putting on the blue jacket at all, we have to continue pushing through. Each and every person in that wears the jacket has made a decision to choose courage: courage to be a part of something larger, to lead, to follow, and most importantly to be true to themselves. As FFA members, you are examples to your community. Farmers look to you for hope in the future of agriculture, younger students look to you as role models, and other FFA members look to you as family in this organization that is home for many people across the nation. This year as you serve your chapter, however you may do it, don't be afraid to be bold. Be yourself, step out of your comfort zone, and never give up.

Thank you, Raegan Rogers  
2020-2021 District Treasurer



# Reporter's Newsletter

As Ag Education incorporates a three circle model, an often over looked portion of this model is our supervised agricultural experiences. Along with everything else FFA has to offer, a student's SAE, when implemented correctly, can help a student develop skills they didn't know they had and help them reach their potential, regardless of their future career choice. My SAE of Ag Education started with me being interested in being a teacher's aid for my Ag teacher, Mr Allred. It didn't take long for me to go from doing paper work to standing up and giving examples to the kids from my experience in the FFA. While teaching the freshman class I made them interested in not only Ag but the FFA. Teaching these kids in a new fresh way made them excited for what was next and getting them involved not only in class but out of class competing. My SAE has also helped me in a few different ways, such as helping me talk in front of a crowd and even guiding me to my true calling in life to one day be an Ag teacher.



Thank you, Clayton Copeland  
2020-2021 District Reporter



# SENTINEL'S NEWSLETTER



What is FFA? Some may believe that it mainly consists of cows, plows, and sows, but I am here to tell you that it is much, much more than that. FFA is also the largest leadership based student organization in this country, with more than 760,000 members nationwide, which also includes the Virgin Islands. On July 31, 2020 I had the opportunity to visit with Franklin county FFA members. That day, they too got to see many more things that the FFA has to offer. Franklin county members learned that day what an LTS plan is, how to develop a Program of Activities, what diversity among members means, and of course fun games to take back to their own chapter. Throughout this visit, I had many members come up to me and ask, "How to get more involved not only in FFA, but grow as a leader." Leadership is a huge part of what our organization is; without it, many of us would not be as successful as we are. In order to be a good leader and successful we have to commit to making a difference within ourselves, others, and agriculture. Meaning get more involved, help others any way you can, and step out of your comfort zone. One thing this pandemic has taught us is that tomorrow isn't promised. Our "normal" can change at any given time. We have to learn to live and grow like there is no tomorrow. Step up and be that leader. Step up and encourage others.



Thank you, Kyla Dean  
2020-2021 District Sentinel

