



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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50 Years of a Living Legacy

Golden Anniversary Team Opens FFA Meeting

MARIS WILSON

2012-13 Pa. State FFA Reporter

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — For the first time in 50 years, the 1962-63 Pennsylvania FFA Association State Officer Team found themselves on the stage in Eisenhower Auditorium on the Penn State campus reciting the FFA opening ceremonies, just like they did during their officer year.

The 2013 State FFA Convention took a unique turn as members of the 1962-63 team, Eugene Gantz, Clarence Bauman, Paul Trimble, Gene Hershey, Ralph Horschler, Leon Paul, Edward Mazur, Dwayne Fisher, Ronald Homan, and Kermit Ohlinger, assisted the 2012-13 Pennsylvania state offi-

cers with opening the first session of the state convention on June 11.

Preceding the opening, the 1962-63 team met for lunch at Hoss' Steak and Sea House in State College. Members of the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni and National FFA Secretary Kalie Hall joined the 10 men. Pennsylvania FFA Alumni's President Sherisa Nailor presented FFA Alumni jackets to the men in preparation for the evening event.

They donned their alumni jackets, helped with the opening ceremonies and shared with the audience how FFA impacted their lives. The common theme in the remarks is their year of service resulted with 50-year friendships with their fellow members.



Photo by Pa. FFA Association

The 1962-63 state officer team on stage after reciting opening ceremonies. From left are Eugene Gantz, Clarence Bauman, Paul Trimble, Gene Hershey, Ralph Horschler, Leon Paul, Edward Mazur, Dwayne Fisher, Ronald Homan, and Kermit Ohlinger.

Stellar States Week

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Summer is here. The sun is out, the birds are chirping, the grass is growing and summer fun is just beginning.

However, for most FFA members, summer is not about getting the tan, going to the beach or even laying in front of the television. For most schools, the week after school lets out is filled with adrenaline pumping, pulse-pounding, nail biting competition at the FFA Summer Convention in State College, Pa.

In the course of three days, more than 30 Career Development Events, or CDEs, take place on the Penn State campus and surrounding areas. Winning members and teams are selected to compete at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts or at the national convention. The winners were announced on June 13. However, Career Development Events were not the only highlight of the convention.

After the competitions on June 12, the students were able to unwind at



CHRISTOPHER TOEVS

a dance hosted in the Ag Arena on campus. National Officer Kalie Hall joined in on the festivities as she danced and mingled with the FFA members relaxing after a long two days of competitions.

On Thursday, June 13, after the Career Development Events winners were announced, the 2013-14 state officer team was introduced.

Team members are Christopher Toevs, president; Stephen Winklosky, vice president; Deidra Bollinger, secretary; Lena Bioni, treasurer; Kayla Wallace, reporter; Austin Shay, sentinel; and Michala Kuhlman, chaplain.

The state officers would like to congratulate all who competed at this year's summer convention and we certainly hope to see you back next year for another week filled with fun, excitement and friends.

Editor's Note: Christopher Toevs is the 2013-14 Pennsylvania FFA state president.

One, Two, Three Strikes, You're Out

Pa. FFA State Officers Blend Ag Education With Baseball

DEIDRA BOLLINGER

2013-14 Pa. FFA State Secretary

Baseball and FFA created a unique agriculture education combination this past month. The state officer team attended agriculture-themed baseball events across the state, connecting with baseball fans to promote agriculture and the FFA.

The first stop was to a Harrisburg Senators game on June 21 with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The state officers attended the game on City Island in Harrisburg where they met with department employees and their families.

On June 29, Chris Toves, Austin Shay and Deidra Bollinger attended Lancaster Barnstormers Ag Night, in Lancaster, Pa. Before the game, the three officers served as guides on the wagon rides

to the front gate and shared agriculture facts with families attending the game.

Wrapping up the baseball events was FFA Day at the Ballpark with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The National FFA Organization partnered with four Major League Baseball teams — including the Pirates — for FFA Day at the Ballpark events to raise awareness for the FFA. Team members Christopher Toevs, Stephen Winklosky, Deidra Bollinger, Lena Bioni, Kayla Wallace, Austin Shay and Michala Kuhlman assisted with pre-game activities.

They visited with baseball fans as the National FFA mascot Flyte the Owl attracted lots of attention. During the game, the team met members from the McGuffey FFA chapter as well as chapters based in West Virginia.

1,800 FFA Members Arrive at the Nation's Capitol

WASHINGTON — Thousands of FFA members from throughout the country are converging on Washington, D.C., this summer to analyze their personal skills and interests, develop leadership skills and create a meaningful community-service plan that will make a difference in their home communities.

More than 1,800 students are registered for the 2013 Washington Leadership Conference, the second-largest student experience that the National FFA Organization hosts each year. Created in 1969 and held annually in Washington, D.C., this year's conference began June 4 based at the Holiday Inn Dulles. Through July 21, FFA members will spend a week under the guidance of educational professionals, counselors and professional FFA staff members. In workshops, seminars and small groups, students will focus on identifying and developing their personal strengths and goals and undergo

comprehensive leadership training that will help them guide their local FFA chapters. Students will also analyze needs of their communities back home, develop a wide-ranging and high-impact community-service initiative and implement their plan with the help of their FFA chapter upon returning home. Students in recent years have created food and clothing drives, volunteer campaigns, educational outreach initiatives and more.

"Students who attend the Washington Leadership Conference learn their purpose, how to value people, how take action and the importance of serving others," said National FFA Organization CEO Dr. Dwight Armstrong. "They leave with the knowledge and the confidence to act in ways that help their schools, communities and their country."

During their time in Washington, FFA members will experience the history of the nation's capital, touring landmarks including the

National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Capitol among others. Many students also arrange meetings with members of Congress.

Agricultural education teachers attend the Washington Leadership Conference as well, learning how to motivate and help develop their students' leadership potential and how they can help maximize their local FFA chapters' community-service initiatives.

The conclusion of each weekly session of the Washington Leadership Conference is a Day of Service, during which students work together on a hands-on community-service project. Last year, students volunteered a combined 9,500 hours to pack and distribute more than 280,000 meals for greater Washington, D.C.-area food pantries and for distribution to families in Nicaragua.



Photo by the Pa. FFA Association

The 2013-14 Pennsylvania State FFA Association officer team was selected on June 13 at Penn State. Team members from left are, Christopher Toevs, president; Stephen Winklosky, vice president; Lena Bioni, treasurer; Kayla Wallace, reporter; Austin Shay, sentinel; Deidra Bollinger, secretary; and Michala Kuhlman, chaplain.