

LONG VERSION

On February 10, 2018, the Ohio FFA Alumni Association and partner, the Miami County Farm Bureau, held its 46th annual business meeting and awards session, and also hosted the 1st ever Agriculture Awareness and Leadership Day. The day began with the theme video "I can, We will" from the 90th National FFA convention, and this theme was highlighted as the meeting was brought to order by the 2017-18 Ohio FFA Alumni Association President, Roland Fisher, President of the Newton FFA Alumni Affiliate. Roland expounded on a quote from Peter Strople which states "legacy is not leaving something FOR people, it's leaving something IN people." After a short business meeting, Council members presented the Ohio FFA Alumni Promotional and Coaching award to the Talawanda FFA Alumni, the Horizon award to Troy Mabis, and the Outstanding Achievement award to Edward Beeler. Katlyn Niehaus from the Talawanda FFA Chapter shared her experience as one of our 2017 WLC scholarship recipients.

Before concluding the meeting, the gavel was transferred to the incoming 2018-19 Ohio FFA Alumni President, Jodi Hassan, President of the Hardin Northern FFA Alumni Affiliate.

Following the business meeting, past Ohio and National FFA Officer, Hannah Crossen Everetts, who is also the Ag Ed Instructor/FFA Advisor at Edon NW FFA Chapter, shared leadership wisdom on addressing the needs of the student and recruiting and retaining quality Ag Ed teachers. Hannah was followed by The Peterson Farm Brothers from Kansas. Greg, Nathan, and Kendal Peterson used this workshop to tell how their journey started, how their music parody videos advocate for Agriculture, especially for people who have a limited understanding of farming and where food comes from, and that their passion for Agriculture is based on family values and a deep faith in God. Greg concluded with the invocation and a buffet lunch was provided by Hobarts catering for all in attendance.

Following lunch, workshop tracts or breakouts were provided for FFA members/other Agriculture youth, Ag Ed Teachers/FFA Advisors and Leaders, and for FFA Alumni members. For FFA members and youth, past Ohio and National FFA Officer Sydney Snider conducted a very interactive workshop with students on how to become an active FFA Alumni member, how to start an Alumni, ways to be involved, the need to thank and write an actual letter thanking their local FFA Alumni or someone who had helped with their FFA involvement. Following Sydney, past Ohio FFA Officers Meredith Oglesby, Maggie Hovermale, and Josie Montoney dove into the topic of leadership. They helped students interactively define leadership, list components and develop an action plan for becoming an effective leader, learn leadership skills such as communication and team work, and engage in their own strengths and how this helps become a successful leader. The third component of the tract for FFA members and youth was to carry out the last stanza of the FFA motto "Living to Serve." Along with Roland, FFA Alumni members, Advisors, and Allstate Insurance agent owners, students helped assemble 500 personal hygiene kits. Each kit had 13 items that had to be wrapped inside a large bath towel and pinned together. For an hour, they worked tirelessly to finish these kits. The kits will be returned to CAM for redistribution. Allstate agent owners provided resources and an interactive discussion concerning texting and driving for the youth present. Each student signed a confirmation pledge that they would not text while driving.

Michelle Brunson, Instructional Supervisor for UVCC and past Ohio FFA President Mary Buehler began the workshop tract for Ag Ed Teachers/FFA Advisors. Their roundtable, interactive topic

included resources for empowering your FFA Officer team by promoting time management, creativity, and organization. Participants were encouraged to share and discuss practices within their own Chapters that are effective. The Teachers/Advisors then joined Sydney Snider, along with the FFA Alumni members, to engage in an interactive conversation about who FFA Alumni is, and ways they can benefit the local Teacher/Advisor and students. The last portion of this tract involved Local Program Success Specialist, Karen Hutchison, from the National FFA Organization. Karen helped Advisors navigate the National FFA Organizations website, FFA.org so they are better prepared, and able to find more quickly, valuable resources for the students and classroom setting.

For the Alumni tract or breakout, Karen Hutchison interactively provided and worked with Alumni members to navigate their Rosters and other vital resources on the FFA.org website. She showed Alumni how to update Rosters and send them to the state for completion. Following this workshop, Sydney and the Teachers/Advisors joined the Alumni as stated above. The last tract for Alumni concluded with Region IV Vice President, Ted Hughes, from the National FFA Alumni Association. Ted interactively provided information on Life Time memberships, Impact data, and held an open discussion forum with members concerning updates and changes occurring within the FFA and FFA Alumni Organization.

The last two workshop sessions were presented by Susan Tebbs and Wyatt Schroder with FedCrop Insurance and Melinda Lee and Paul Lyons with the Miami County, Ohio Farm Bureau. At 5pm, doors opened at the Hobart Arena to allow the community to join the all-day participants for an evening concert with The Peterson Farm Brothers. They shared Agriculture stories, sang their music parodies, and conducted an interactive question and answer session with all participants. During the Q&A time, the Ohio FFA Alumni Council provided FFA bags with FFA souvenirs inside, and the Peterson Farm Brothers tossed these out into the crowd. Overall it was an exciting and enthusiastic learning and leadership day, and concert. Attendees expressed very positive comments and the desire to do it again.

We wish to thank our sponsors and donors who made the entire day and event possible. Thank you to Miami County, Ohio Farm Bureau, Miami County Foundation, Tim Hortons downtown, Panera Bread, Rogers Grain Inc, L&C Plastic Bags, Flory Cabinetry, Allstate, Thom and Pat Robinson Fund, Timber Frame Reclaim, FedCrop Insurance, Harvest Land CO OP, Vin May Farms, Beeler Farms, J. Fisher, D&M Withers, R.L. Fisher, Bruce and Mitzi Martin, Sylvester Furman, Brad and Stephanie Beach, JP Tower Gardens, Stonehouse Traders, STAR Design-Build Contractors, Green Prairie Turf Inc, Accord Leasing and Financing, and Talawanda FFA Alumni. We wish to thank all of Hobarts staff including Ken Siler and Dave Kerg, and Mike Caldwell for providing the sound system.

We wish to thank all the workshop speakers and presenters, and all who came out and supported and participated in this great event, including Ben Thaeler, Field Representative for Warren Davidson, Member of Congress.

The Ohio FFA Alumni Association Council

