



Quarterly Newsletter

Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!

Summer 2019

Letter from the President



Dear Florida Agriculture Teachers,

This year has gone by quickly as we have all been very busy with SAE, CDE and professional development events. I would like to thank the members that presented at the various FAAE professional development events this year and to those of you that have

participated. We had a record number of participants at our professional development events and our membership numbers continue to grow. Our current membership count is 221!

As the school year has ended, I would like to look back on how great this year has been for FAAE. With the Legislative Budget Request (LBR) funds we received from the 2018 session, we were able to award 48 schools with a grant of either \$1,000 or \$2,000, depending on their premier chapter status. These grants provided each chapter with classroom supplies or equipment for their land labs. We were able to give 47 teachers who attend Mid Winter Conference, a scholarship to attend the conference, as well as a stipend to cover the unpaid time while at the conference. A

second round of grants were awarded to 24 programs, and 75 teachers who have paid their FAAE dues received a stipend for participating in professional development at the FFA State Convention.

I would like to wish the FAAE state winners' good luck as their applications move on to the next level of competition. The Region V conference this year was held in Charleston, South Carolina, June 24-26, 2019. Our next event is the FACTE Conference this summer (July 15-17, 2019) at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld Hotel. I hope to see each of you there as it is a great time to network with peers and learn about the changes in our profession.

Finally, thank you to all who paid their annual FAAE/NAAE dues this past year. I urge you to consider paying your dues for the 2019-2020 school year at FFA State Convention. Paying early will ensure that you will be able to take advantage of grant and stipend opportunities throughout the year. The FAAE Board and I have enjoyed our year of service and look forward to another year of growth in our association!

Sincerely, Buddy Coleman

FAAE 2019 Award Winners

Teacher Turn the Key – Kaitlin Van Huesen
Outstanding Early Career – Amanda Forstater
Outstanding Student – Makenzie Smith
Outstanding Teacher – Carrie Owen
Outstanding Program – Vanguard
Ideas Unlimited – Caela Paioff
Outstanding Service – Eddie Watkins
Outstanding Cooperation – Rep. Ray Rodriguez
Lifetime Achievement – Pam Walden

Area Updates

Area 2 Representative Kaitlin Van Heusen

Congratulations for making it to the end of the year! This is a major accomplishment because we have hosted amazing banquets, prepared for convention and certified students. I would like to take this moment to recognize our 3 advisor of the year finalists from Area 2- Erin Johnson, Brian Skipper, and Natalie Couey. We are proud that you are part of Area 2. I would also like to congratulate our 14 Premier Chapters from Area 2 and our 4 SAE Award Chapters. This takes a lot of hard work and dedication to the program. We do have a few openings in Area 2 currently-Williston Middle- High, Dixie High School, Taylor County Middle, Yankeetown, and Baker. Please reach out if you know anyone interested. Have a safe summer!

Thank you!

Area 3 Representative Farrah Johnson



First I would like to congratulate our Area 3 FAAE Award Winners! Congratulations to Carrie Owen, Deland Middle School as our Outstanding Teacher! Congratulations to Amanda Forstater, Taylor Middle-High School as our Early Career Outstanding Teacher!!

Second, no matter where you are in your agricultural education career, I encourage you to find a way to be an active member of FAAE! We are always looking for committee members, workshop presenters, workshop ideas and more members at FACTE/FAAE Pre-Conference and FAAE Mid-Winter! We can always use your help mentoring new teachers and encourage you to look at the FACTE and NAAE Awards for recognition! In addition, there are a lot of ways to be more active through NAAE. Although the NAAE Conference is FANTASTIC and the best professional development opportunities, there are other ways YOU can be involved as well! NAAE needs committee members to serve rotations. This does not require travel, but to attend conference call/skype meetings throughout the year. You can join the book club, participate in Communities of Practice and share ideas and lessons. In conjunction with FAAE are opportunities to get involved by applying to be an Agriscience Ambassador, participate in CASE training and much much more! I have learned so many ideas, lessons and labs through collaboration with teachers across the country. It is interesting to see how things are done in different states and ways to incorporate something new.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you for allowing me to represent you for so many years! I know the opportunities we have to network is part of what sets Agricultural Education apart from other career programs. We know what we have to offer is special! I encourage you to take time for a little reflection this summer, both personally and professionally. If I can be of service, don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you and God Bless!

Area 4 Representative Jimmy Sweeney

It was an exciting year for Area IV as evidenced by the numerous awards, accolades and certifications earned by a plethora of FFA chapters and respective members. Many chapters were instrumental in overseeing worthwhile community service projects and various activities that benefitted all involved.

As everyone is preparing for another great state convention, please come and visit the FAAE booth and meet new people and network with industry professionals. Also, I challenge all Area IV FAAE members to recruit one new member for next year.

Here is a synopsis of a few accomplishments by FFA chapters in Area IV:

Apopka- 3rd Floriculture

Bridgewater MS- 2nd Floriculture

Colonial- 2nd Nursery/Landscape, 2nd Aquaculture, 2nd Tractor Driving, 4th Land

East River- 2nd Meats, 4th Livestock

George Jenkins- 1st Ag Mechanics, 2nd Citrus, 2nd Land, 2nd Vet Science, 4th Food Science

Piedmont Lake MS- 5th Land
University- 4th Meats
Windermere- 4th Aquaculture

Finally, congratulations to both Area IV state officer candidates: Miss Sofia Jaramillo-Vasquez from Colonial and Miss Maddie Dvorak from Kathleen.

Area 6 Representation Wendy Shepman

South Fork Students Renovate Golf Course

South Fork High School is home to one of 3 on campus golf courses in the nation. Originally built in 1989 to fill the local industry's need for skilled employees, the three hole course and practice facility has been sending out qualified graduates into the workforce for decades. Many are now superintendents at private courses, manage sod farms, own landscape companies, or have started their own irrigation businesses. This program, proudly called "Tuff Turf" by its students is highly popular on campus and well respected in the community.

Over time, the school's course has become antiquated. The program's advisory board was called into action and has developed a plan to renovate the 3 hole course with multiple tees and a driving range. Thanks to Rob Kloska, Director of Golf Course, Grounds and Tennis Maintenance at the Jupiter Island Club, the program now has Jan Beljan on board. She is the newly elected President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. With their expertise and support from the Martin County Education Foundation, the golf course is set to be renovated over the next four years. The plan is to renovate one hole per year so that students at every grade level can see and participate in the design, planning, budgeting and execution of the renovation. The end goal is to prepare students for jobs in the turfgrass maintenance industry as well as to make the course more available to community programs such as First Tee, an organization that teaches youth to play golf.

The 170 students currently in the program are excited and eager for the project to begin. Many of them have been volunteering over the summer to help maintain the golf course over the last few years and have great ideas on what they would like to see change. One of the first tasks is to install a new irrigation system. This is set to begin in July and the entire process of spraying out the old turf and growing in the new turf on the first hole will be completed by November. With more than 45 private golf clubs in Palm Beach County and over 35 in Martin County, this is a unique opportunity to continue preparing students for a career in the turf industry.