

# Quarterly Newsletter

*Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!*

## Winter 2018/2019

### **Letter from the President**



Happy New Year FFAE members!

First, I hope that you have taken some time for yourself to relax and spend time with your families. I hope the fall semester was successful and encouraging for you all. With the spring CDE season rapidly

approaching, I know we are busy preparing teams and working on applications for students and our chapters.

Let's not forget our FFAE goals for the year:

1) Work with your local legislators to promote our LBR—remember if we want to continue to receive these funds we need to use the ones we have received so far and continue to show the need for more. We have 65 individuals who applied for the Mid-winter Stipend, 60 FFA Chapters who received a grant of \$1000 or \$2000. There is a stipend for State Convention to be on the look out for also. 2) We're hoping to highlight your awards—though I realize this is often overlooked to focus on student achievements, but remember, what you do is important and deserving of recognition as well. FFAE award applications will be coming out soon and we hope you will consider completing an application; 3) We continue to strive to offer the

highest quality professional development in the state—our next opportunity for professional development is at FACTE Conference July 15-17, 2019 in Orlando—be sure to keep checking our website for more Information—[www.flaged.org](http://www.flaged.org); 4) Help us spread the FFA story through your support of the Agriculture Education (FFA) license plate—FAAE receives a portion of the revenue that allows us to support the needs of our members—buy yours today!

Congratulations for taking advantage of the opportunities FFAE offers, membership is up and we are excited about new members as well as our seasoned owls. As an organization we received awards at the NAAE conference for increasing our membership by 10%! We also had the largest increase in membership by percentage and overall membership numbers in Region 5! Keep encouraging others to join our organization. Please reach out to any board member and provide insight into any potential professional development that you are interested in. Remember, we are here to serve you, our members.

Have a wonderful spring semester and I look forward to the excitement of State Convention. Do not forget the State Convention Stipend!  
~ Buddy Coleman

## Area Updates

### Area 1 Representative Stan Scurlock

Happy Holidays Area 1. It has been an eventful fall so far and not necessarily in the best way. I am sure a lot of you are just like me, trying to dig out of the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. I am having to adjust to what we now call a new normal. As I mentioned in my last newsletter if you are a NAAE Member and you sustained any economic set back whether it is insurance deductibles, hurricane damage, water damage or an illness in the family the NAAE relief fund is available to assist you with monetary support. It is a brief application and it can be found on the NAAE website. If you know of someone who can benefit from this fund, please fill out the application on their behalf.

<https://www.naae.org/resources/NAAE-relief-fund-app.pdf>

I am here to assist you however I can. Please feel free to contact me either at [stan.scurlock@jcsb.org](mailto:stan.scurlock@jcsb.org) or (850) 209-8302. I wish you a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. May God Richly Bless You and Your Family.



### Area 2 Representative Kaitlin Van Heusen



The first half of the school year is almost over for Area II and it has been a busy one! Whether you coached teams for Forestry, Food Science, Sub-District CDEs or the many others, I would like to take this moment to say thank you for your dedication to our FFA members. I would also like to congratulate all of the teams moving on to District CDEs and State Finals in the New Year. I would also like to congratulate Area II's only SAE Grant winner for the state of Florida.

In November, FFAE hosted the Retired OWLS breakfast at O'leno State Park in High Springs, FL. It was a great turn out with over 80 people in attendance. What a great chance to fellowship and learn from previous teachers. Thank you to all of the FFA members and chapters who came to help serve that day.

Happy New Year to all!

### Area 3 Representative Farrah Johnson



Greetings from Area 3! This has been a very busy fall and winter. I know many chapters and districts put together care packages for our friends and neighbors in North Florida after Hurricane Michael. Many are still in need and certainly appreciative of any donations and help given. Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported those in need. It is exciting to see many service projects, parades and community events happening this time of

year! If you do not use social media to promote your FFA Chapter, Ag program and what you do, I encourage you to do so! Once you create it, encourage other teachers and programs to follow and join. Support by our peers is some of the best positive feedback I receive on our events and activities!



If you are like me, it seems that most weekends are already scheduled between shows, fairs, competitions and leadership events. Looking ahead to Spring, I encourage you to take some time for you and family! Schedule ME time! Hopefully over winter break everyone has had the opportunity to renew and rejuvenate, but it is important to do throughout the year! Take care of yourself. A quote that has hit home recently “You can’t pour from an empty cup, take care of yourself”. I encourage you to plan a date night, game night, book night or whatever kind of “ME” night once a month and see what kind of difference it makes.

If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. Thanks for all that you do every day to support Agricultural Education, FFA, your students and your program!

## **Area 4 Representative Jimmy Sweeney**

As the first half of the school year has flown by, many of our Area IV FFA Chapters worked diligently to make “noise” at the State and National level.

In October, Area IV was well represented at National Convention, several of these same teams placed with Gold and Silver rankings.

Orlando Colonial competed in Food Science, placing fourth and earning Gold

Kathleen Sr. competed in Forestry, placing fifth and earning Gold

George Jenkins competed in Vet, placing seventh and earning Gold

Frostproof Middle competed in the Agriscience Fair CDE, earning a Silver ranking

Within more recent state events, a huge congratulations go out to the following Chapters for their efforts at the state competition.

Orlando Colonial placed second in Ag Education

Bridgewater Middle placed First in Horse Eval

Frostproof Sr. placed third in Citrus

Frostproof Middle placed first in Citrus

George Jenkins placed second in Citrus

I hope each of you enjoy time spent with your friends and family during this much needed break.

## **Area 5 Representative Brittany Coleman**

On December 1, 2018, FFA members from Buffalo Creek Middle in Parrish, FL participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Parrish Tree Lighting Ceremony. In just its second year of existence, this event had over 20 organizations create and decorate Christmas trees that will be displayed in Parrish from the beginning of December until after the new year. Members from Buffalo Creek spent hours researching and brainstorming ideas that would help their tree stand out and assist in bringing community recognition to our FFA Chapter. Members decided a white tree would be unique and easy to spot. Being an FFA chapter, we chose to decorate our tree using blue and yellow, lights and ornaments. On the morning of December 1<sup>st</sup>, FFA members met at the Parrish Community Bank to start the construction on their tree. Different members provided all the needed materials. The tree, lights, ornaments, garland and a star were brought together to create our masterpiece. Draped in yellow garland, blue lights, ornaments made in the shape of livestock ear tags and animal shapes, the tree was coming together very quickly. It took roughly 2 hours to complete this task, but citizens of Parrish will be able to enjoy it for the entire holiday season. Overall this was a great experience for our FFA chapter. Members got to tap into their creative side, work together as a team and help bring some much-needed recognition to a great organization.

## **New Teacher Representative Jonathan Heavner**

Congratulations! You've made it half way through your first year of teaching. Teaching agriculture is a physically, mentally, and emotionally draining career. This is a career that demands so much from us as advisors, yet here you are! You have dealt with administrators, parents, alumni, students, and who knows what else, but you are still here! You are still standing tough in the trenches, and that is a testament to you as a teacher.

Right now, you may feel like you are failing, and that you could be doing a better job. I understand the feelings, because that is how I felt most of my first-year teaching. Some will say to ignore those feelings, to push them aside and tell you that you're doing fine. However, I think you should embrace those feelings. Wanting to do better for your students means that you care, and it means that you are going to make it as an agriculture teacher. Teaching is about evolving over time and adapting to always make your lessons better. A good friend of mine tells others that he is in his "x" first year of teaching. 30, 40, who knows, I won't say. But the point he tries to make is that each year you have to adapt. Each year you evolve to become a better teacher. Each year you could have new students, new parents, new administrators, new officers. No two years will be the same. So, I hope you always hold on to those feelings that you could be doing better. Do not shut those feelings out. Use them to make yourself a better teacher and evolve over time. You're already half way through your first-year teaching. Hang in there, you only have twenty-nine more first years to go!

## NAAE Award Opportunities

### National Geographic Learning / Delmar Cengage Learning Upper Division Scholarship

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of [National Geographic Learning | Delmar Cengage Learning](#) and proceeds from the ticket raffle at the NAAE convention, NAAE will award scholarships to students who are majoring in agricultural education and who will be completing their student teaching in the fall 2019 or spring 2020 semesters. Previous recipients of the NAAE Upper Division Scholarship are not eligible.

### NAAE Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award

This program distinguishes NAAE members who are at the pinnacle of their profession — those who are conducting the highest quality agricultural education programs. The award recognizes leadership in civic, community, agriculture/agribusiness and professional activities. Outstanding agricultural educators are innovators and catalysts for student success in agricultural education. Individuals may receive the regional award only once; previous regional winners are not eligible to apply.

### NAAE Outstanding Early Career Award

As a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities, the NAAE Outstanding Young Member Award program is sponsored by [John Deere](#) as a special project of the [National FFA Foundation](#). NAAE members who have completed at least three but not more than five years of teaching are eligible to apply for this award; members who are currently in their sixth year of teaching are eligible to apply. Individuals may receive the regional award only once; previous regional winners are not eligible to apply.

### NAAE Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program Award

A goal of NAAE is to promote outstanding programs in agricultural education and effectively communicate success stories. The Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Ag Ed Program Award promulgates that goal. Agricultural education programs in middle schools and secondary schools are eligible to participate in this recognition program.

### NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Education Program Award

The Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Ag Ed Program award recognizes exemplary 2-year postsecondary institutions and full time young farmer and adult agricultural education programs. Qualifying young farmer and/or adult ag ed program staff must devote at least 50 percent of their teaching time to this level of instruction. Previous regional winners may reapply for this award every five years if they choose (that is, programs that won the regional award in 2013 may reapply in 2018).

### NAAE “Teachers Turn the Key” Scholarship Application

Agricultural education is continually faced with a shortage of qualified teachers. Unless those who have been trained enter and remain in the profession for a period of several years, the shortage of qualified teachers will prevail. As a means of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities, NAAE offers the Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship.

NAAE members who are currently in their second, third, or fourth year of teaching are eligible to apply for this award. Applicants must be a member of NAAE during the year of application (2014-2015) and be a member of NAAE at the time of the convention at which they receive their scholarship (2015-2016). Applicants must not have attended the NAAE convention previously. All state winners must agree to attend the entire NAAE convention.

### NAAE Teacher Mentor Award Application

If you ask agriculture teachers what motivated them to enter and stay in the teaching profession, predominately they will attribute their decision to another agriculture teacher who encouraged them. Many state agricultural education associations have recognized the importance of positive relationships between beginning and experienced teachers by creating formal organizational structures to connect beginning and experienced teachers. This award program will provide additional incentives for experienced teachers to become mentors for beginning teachers, and it will provide beginning teachers a way to say thank you to the experienced teachers who have influenced them.