



# Quarterly Newsletter

*Ag Teacher by choice, not by chance!*

## Summer 2022

### Letter from the President



Congratulations! You've made it through another year. I am not sure about the rest of your, but for me, this has been one of my toughest years yet. As we take time to reflect on this year, make sure you take the time to focus on those successes

that you had. Whether those success were FFA success or classroom success, it is important to look at those positive things and remind ourselves why we do what we do. Let's look at some of the success that the FFAE had this year. We were able to offer scholarships to members who attended CPC, COLT, and either the Middle School or High School Conferences. We held an in-person Mid-Winter with 76 participants learning and teaching topics that are pertinent to us as ag teachers, and were able to coordinate FFA Capitol Day with 38 chapters in attendance; these individuals provided a voice for the FFA and Agricultural Education to many Senators and Representatives across the state. Just writing these accomplishments make me proud to say I am the FFAE president and look at the things our members have been able to do.

Beyond looking at the success, we also need to reflect and learn. I know we are all busy during the summer, but let me highlight a few opportunities available to you this summer. The first is being part of the NAAE Virtual Book Club; I know I have taken many ideas from the three that I have participated in. Next is offering to judge applications; this sounds silly, but I have gained numerous ideas from teachers around the country by judging NAAE applications and reading about the things teachers are doing or when judging national awards for FFA I look at the way things are formatted and bring them back for my student's applications to make them stronger. Conferences and conventions are also a great place to learn new ideas, but you also get to network and hear what others are doing. Finally look into some of the virtual courses that are offered year round by FACTE to partake in. I know that the ones I have taken have helped me immensely. So take this time and relax and rejuvenate, but don't forget to also take this time to gather new ideas that will make the 2022/2023 school year exciting for not only your students, but for you as well.

Thank you for allowing me to be your 21/22 FFAE President and I look forward to seeing all of the great things our members can do in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dettloff

FAAE President

## Area Updates

### Area 2 Representative Kaitlin Van Heusen



As we are finalizing another year in FFA with our State Convention, we often find ourselves in reflection on how we can improve our chapters in the coming year. We also realize we have so many students who have outstanding SAEs that we would like to showcase and how to motivate them. Many times at convention our students find their own motivation, wanting to see themselves on that stage. I do believe it starts with SAEs being a foundation of our classroom. Whether it is something simple as a student growing a single tomato plant and learning to keep records, or something as complex as a research project, when our students find a part of ag.ed that they resonate with, they often go all in. My goal for this coming year is to increase my student buy-in with a flexible seating classroom, more SAE opportunities, and high student involvement. So I ask, what is your main goal for the coming year?

I also would like to take a moment to congratulate our State Officer Candidates, Annelise Bullard, Ft. White and Carleigh Newsom, Bell. Congratulations to our numerous proficiency, STAR, National Chapter and CDE teams. It has taken hours of hard work, dedication and effort to make it to this stage. Your efforts are to be recognized. Thank you to the advisors who have supported them along the way. It is your guidance, leadership, and dedication that helps our members make their most of their FFA years.

### Area 3 Representative Sarah Hurst

Congratulations to everyone on surviving the school year and to our newly hired teachers just starting out! Area 3 has been taking the world by storm, as usual, congratulations and good luck to all the teams competing at State Convention! However, it's summer time and you need to take some time for you, even if you are still working—we know the work never ends. Here are 6 ideas for fun places to visit in Florida that are in and near Area 3:



1. **Theme parks-** SeaWorld Orlando (<https://seaworld.com/orlando/tickets/free-florida-teacher-card/>) and LEGOLAND (Winter Haven) offer free teacher passes (<https://florida-support.legoland.com/hc/en-us/articles/115000476812-How-do-I-receive-my-Florida-Teacher-Pass->)
2. **Homosassa Springs-** Visit Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park for an underwater manatee viewing experience and to see their mini zoo (<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/ellie-schiller-homosassa-springs-wildlife-state-park>) and check out kayaking, snorkeling, and pontoon boat options at nearby Crystal River if you want to add swimming
3. **Botanical Gardens-** Get inspired at one of the awesome botanical gardens. There is Kanapaha in Gainesville (<https://kanapaha.org/>) and Cedar Lake Woods and Gardens in Williston (<https://cedarlakeswoodsandgarden.com/>).
4. **Beach-** Take a little trip to a less visited beach and check out Ormond or Flagler beaches.
5. **Horse Capitol of the World-** Head to Ocala and take a tour with Gypsy Gold Farm (<https://gypsygold.com/>) to learn about their Gypsy Vanner horses and their history, then check the World Equestrian Center website for what's going on and have lunch at one of their restaurants (<https://worldequestriancenter.com/ocala-fl/>)
6. **Kennedy Space Center and Kayaking-** Teachers get in free to Kennedy Space Center (<https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/camps-and-education/educator-study-pass>), once you finish there, book a bioluminescence tour and kayak or raft through glowing waves (best on a new moon) (<https://www.bkadventure.com/florida-bioluminescent-kayaking/>)

We all know how to destress, but it's key to make time over the summer to actually do it. If needed, schedule days into your calendar and make it a priority. You only get a few weeks of summer every year, make them count. You will come back in August relaxed, refreshed, and ready to roll!

We hope to see you soon! Email me at [sara.hurst@marion.k12.fl.us](mailto:sara.hurst@marion.k12.fl.us) with any questions you have throughout the year, concerns, ideas, or input.

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