



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

*BUILDING THE FUTURE*  
[www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

### Summer Fun



Photos by Pa. FFA Association

The state FFA officer team has some fun relaxing and playing "Minute to Win it" games with teachers at the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators Summer Conference.

### Leading the Way



State Officers from Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania and National Southern Region Vice President Wiley Bailey at the National Leadership Conference for State Officers in Baltimore, Md.

## Cruising for Success in Western Pennsylvania

**AUSTIN SHAY**

*Pennsylvania FFA State Sentinel*

CONNEAUT LAKE, Pa. — On July 18 and 19 more than 100 FFA members set their sails for Conneaut Lake to attend the Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference (WPLC) at Hotel Conneaut. The

conference had a theme of "Cruising for Success."

Members were definitely cruising to attend the workshops put on by the Pennsylvania State FFA officers and Conneaut Area Senior High staff. There was a goal workshop taught by Kerry Richards, director of Penn State Pesticide Education

Programs. Pennsylvania service dog trainers lead a workshop utilizing service dogs. Before leaving WPLC, the members in attendance had the chance to listen to Elaine Surma, a senior supervisory special agent with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, about the importance of being safe while using social media.

## Building Bridges

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

This past month has absolutely flown by and it is crazy to think we already have two months in. We have had the opportunity to do so many amazing things so far, like eating breakfast with the Gov. Tom Corbett at his residence, meeting with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and AgChoice Farm Credit, the FFA Foundation Golf Outing, and sitting in on our first Pennsylvania FFA Board meeting. Not to mention all of the conferences we have attended, like the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators Conference, Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference, and the National Leadership Conference for State Officers.

We have been able to meet members and supporters of the FFA. Meeting the members and supporters of the FFA has over and over again reminded me of why I wanted to serve as a state officer for this year. I wanted to be a state officer to serve a community of members of the FFA, supporters of the FFA and agriculturalists.

Now you may ask, why is service so important to my team and I. When we were first elected and at our training we were asked to come up with a theme for Pennsylvania FFA. We threw around so many ideas and they all had the common theme of service and serving others. But how does "Building the Future" fall under



**KAYLA WALLACE**

the theme of service? Well when we take just a minute of our day to perform an act of service, even just a small act, we are making an impact that will last a lifetime. That

impact serves as building block, a building block that will possibly improve one person's life, teach others around who witnessed the act, and even teach you and allow you to grow as a person. That one act of service, no matter how small, will impact the future of anyone who comes in contact with it and help them to build off of it.

So back to the initial question of why does my team and I value service so much. When it comes down to it, each of us has experienced and been touched by an act of service. That act of service, whether it was by a teacher, a past state officer, or any other person, has inspired each and every one of us to give back the service that we have experienced. Service is something much more valuable than anyone of us can ever comprehend. I would like to leave you with a quote by Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

So how will service help you to "Build the Future?"

*Editor's note: Kayla Wallace is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.*



Submitted photo

The State Officers with Governor Corbett, First Lady Corbett, Secretary of Education William Harner and Executive Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Michael Pechart at the Governor's mansion during breakfast on July 2nd.