



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Battlefield FFA Dines with National Officers

KENDALL WILKINSON
Battlefield FFA Reporter

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — On March 20, the Battlefield FFA chapter officers had the opportunity to enjoy a special visit from two of the National FFA Officers. Battlefield’s seven officers were invited by Richard Waybright to a dinner at the Dobbin House. Special guests to this dinner included National FFA Western Region Vice President Seth Pratt and National FFA Secretary Jason Troendle.

Glenn Sims, Ryan Gallagher, and Lori Randle from the National FFA Foundation were also in attendance.

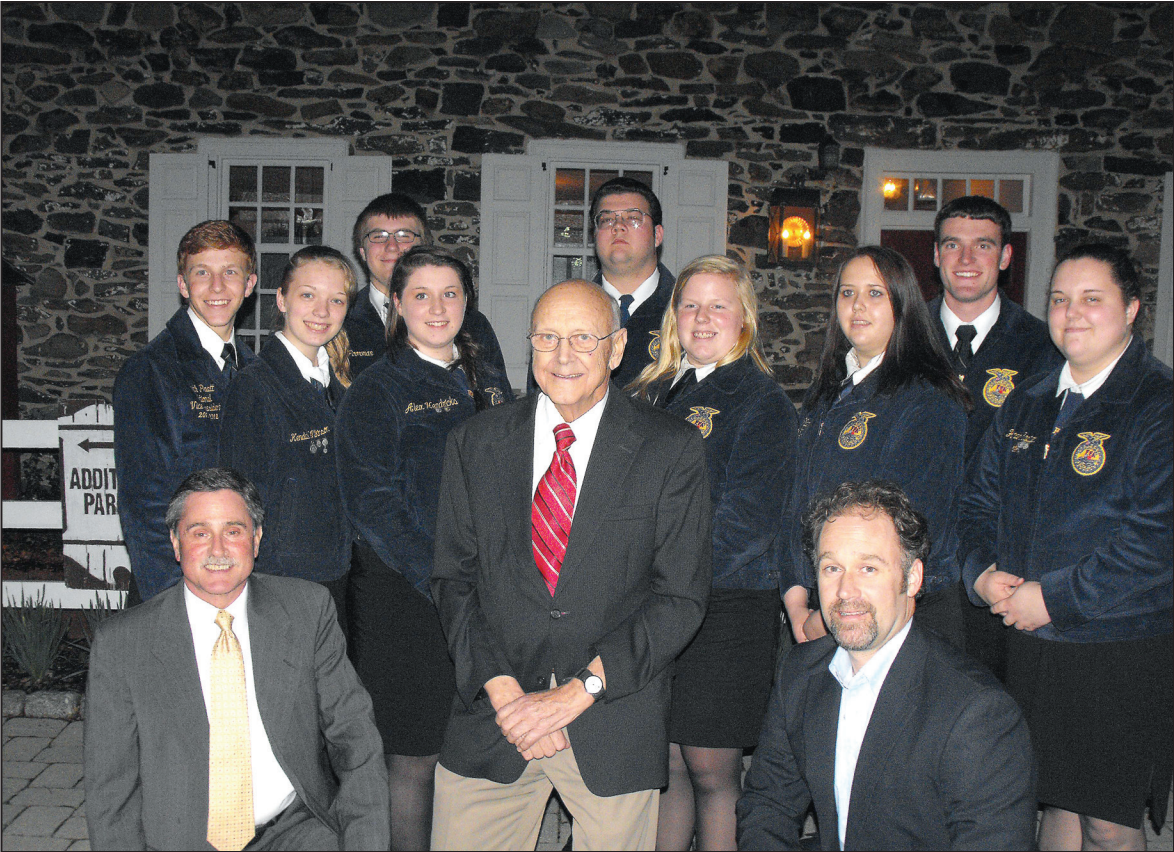
Earlier in the day, the National FFA officers and representatives toured Mason Dixon Farms, which is owned by Waybright. This opportunity was given to the officers because both Richard and his son Doyle were National FFA vice president from 1950-51 and 1973-74, respectively. The Waybright family is also the only family to ever have more than one family member serve

as a National FFA Officer.

“Don’t forget to stop and smell the roses,” said Jason Troendle during conversations with the FFA members. Seth Pratt answered questions about traveling and how often he gets to go home, as well as commenting on the differences between Pennsylvania and his home state of Idaho. While discussing their favorite parts of FFA, both of the National Officers mentioned how they love seeing the differences between state conventions.

Gretchen Dubs, president of the Battlefield FFA, says that “the opportunity to eat dinner with national officers, past and present, was one of the best experiences” in the almost four years of her FFA career.

The chapter officers heard about many of Jason and Seth’s experiences as they travel across the United States. Alex Hendricks, Battlefield FFA vice president, said, “The conversations we held really showed us how different life was in other states, especially across the country.”



Members of the Battlefield FFA Chapter met with several past and present National FFA officers. From left, National Western Region President Seth Pratt; Gettysburg FFA Adviser William Tindall, Kendall Wilkinson, Tim Poorman, Alex Hendricks, Past National Officer Richard Waybright, Phill Pepple, Gretchen Dubs, Gettysburg FFA Adviser Shawn Abma; Vicky Plank, National FFA Secretary Jason Troendle, Hannah Easter.



A group of FFA members pose for a photo-op at one of the tractors at the Keystone Nationals Indoor Truck and Tractor Pull. Volunteers were from the Cumberland Valley FFA, Big Spring FFA, Franklin CTC FFA, Juniata FFA, the state officer team and Virginia FFA chapter members.

Trucks, Tractors and FFA

TYLER CLAYPOOL
State FFA Sentinel

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The walls of the Equine Arena at the Farm Show Complex rumbled as the thunder rang out from the alcohol and diesel powered pulling machines on March 22-24. Whether you like “red” or “green” or maybe you’re into Dodge’s or Ford’s, you could find it at the 2012 Keystone Nationals Indoor Truck and Tractor Pull.

The Keystone Nationals is where you can witness everything from Pro Farm, Diesel 4X4, to various venders all under one roof. However, what really makes it special is that a portion of the proceeds is donated to the Pennsylvania FFA Association and the FFA Chapters that helped make the event possible. FFA members

from Cumberland Valley FFA, Big Spring FFA, Franklin CTC FFA, Juniata FFA, State Officer Team and even a few Virginia FFA Chapters assisted with the pulls.

The members participated by making sure fans knew where to go, selling tickets, collecting tickets, and even pulling the “smoke tube” back against the barrier for the next pull. Those members worked hard and had fun watching some of the horsepower and torque driven truck and tractor pulls.

FFA member Chris Toevs said that his favorite part of the pulls is “seeing so many people come together from all over for trucks and tractors” and that he loves being a part of the event. All around, the entire event went off without a hitch.

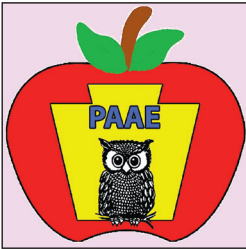
From The Teacher’s Desk....

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

A person may ask, “Why should I become a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators (PAAE)?” “What will it do for me?” If you are an agricultural educator, this organization could be the vital component to allow you to increase your agricultural knowledge, develop essential leadership skills, and create partnerships that will help to sustain your agricultural program.

This year the PAAE is celebrating its 65th anniversary, and throughout these years the organization has been working hard to sustain agricultural education programs. Our membership currently includes: agricultural educators in traditional high schools and career technical centers, post-secondary students, leaders, and professors, FFA and Pennsylvania Department of Education state staff, retirees from the profession, and industry representatives. Although it may seem this organization would only include agricultural educators, our membership boasts a diversity of professionals who share a passion for agricultural advocacy. It takes a combination of key partners in order for the association to be successful.

Each year, PAAE offers a summer conference to its members in order to allow opportunities for networking and professional development. The members attend the four-day conference where they gain new curriculum for their classrooms, conduct business sessions, and attend the annual banquet that culminates the achievements of the past year. This year, we are excited to be hosting our summer conference in conjunction with the National Association of Agri-



cultural Educators Region VI conference. Agricultural educators from surrounding states will travel to “The Sweetest Place on Earth” Hershey, Pa., in July to learn why agriculture is so sweet.

SARABETH FULTON

A goal of PAAE is to establish partnerships with other organizations in hopes to provide the best opportunities to our members. One of these partnerships is with the Delaware Valley College for articulation agreements. Agricultural programs have been challenged to add post-secondary partnerships within their program. Through the efforts of Delaware Valley College, PAAE, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, agricultural programs can establish an articulation agreement that will allow their students to learn post-secondary information in a high school setting while obtaining college credits.

Serving as a member in both PAAE and NAAE offers many incentives and allows collaboration at both the state and national level. One of the most rewarding benefits is the opportunity to be recognized by the organization for achievements accomplished by its members.

Without PAAE providing the many benefits to agricultural educators, our current 161 agricultural programs may be in jeopardy. For more information about the organization, our summer conference, the articulation agreement or other information please visit our website at www.paae.org. Agriculture is Pennsylvania’s number one industry.

Editor’s Note: Sarabeth Fulton is the PAAE president.