



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Act Today - Impact Tomorrow

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Second year scholars and the state officer team stand on the capitol steps in Harrisburg surrounded by FFA members. Standing in the front row, starting left, are second year scholars Tyler Claypool, Emily Griswold, and Lauren Lampe; state officers Andrew Roth, Adam Folk, Matt Reutlinger, Kerri Wickard, Jillian Gordon, Cali Clarke, Benjamin Shughart, Cassie Gutshall, and Howard Poole; and second year scholars Matt Dodson, Sarabeth Royer, and Ashley Seeley.

SLLC Provides Hands-on Experience to the Legislative Process

KERRI WICKARD
Pa. FFA State President

"I had a blast... This is the best conference ever... It is great to meet new people... It is nice to help others... I learned so much, I love the FFA."

Those were the words of students from across Pennsylvania FFA as they experienced the State Legislative Leadership Conference (SLLC). Nearly 400 members and advisers gathered in Grantville, Pa.

earlier this week to experience leadership at a whole new level.

FFA members arrived excited and ready to take on the challenge learning and experiencing Pennsylvania legislation on Sunday afternoon. First, they sharpened their skills on various workshops and became professionals in parliamentary procedure, etiquette, and the legislative process. Then they split into the House and Senate, then majority and minority, and put the skills learned in the workshops to work

by making amendments to bills. In committees students discussed one of three house bills, and one of three senate bills. After making various amendments within their committees, they held a caucus meeting and the general assembly. Finally the two houses switched bills for one more look at Pennsylvania legislation.

Once learning the value of success within a challenge, the students were put to the test. Monday afternoon every student spent three hours

giving back to the community by participating in community service. One student mentioned, "It's about the feeling you get when helping others, and making a difference in a community." Our students went to various locations around the area to complete tasks such as landscaping, picking up trash, making mats for the homeless, packaging items to help those in need and various other activities.

Of course the conference ended with the opportunity to meet with

legislators and special guests. The state officer team conducted a legislative breakfast and recognized several extraordinary individuals. Upon adjourning the conference students gathered on the capitol steps to take a photograph. Then they took off from steps into the capital for tours and meetings with their senators and representatives. This week during SLLC, Pennsylvania FFA members took some amazing opportunities and created the ultimate Legislative and leadership experience.

Spring Fever

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Sunshine, birds chirping, warm breezes — what does that mean? March is here and it is finally time for spring. After a long and cold winter, I think we are all hopeful our Pennsylvania prognosticator, Punxsutawney Phil, was right about an early spring.

Over the past month, the team has been busy planning and hosting two jam-packed weekends of the Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success (ACES) Conference. Over the course of two weekends, we interacted with and met more than 1,100 FFA members from across the state. As members found their GPS, also known as their Guide to Personal Success, we encouraged all to take the right route in life and develop themselves to their fullest potential and to strive for all they can achieve in life.

Along our journey, we collected more than 3,000 pounds of non-perishable food and supplies for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Chapters from all over hosted food drives at their schools and brought their goods to the conference to donate on behalf of the FFA. Thank



BEN SHUGHART

you for all your hard-work in making this another successful year.

Another recent highlight for FFA members across the nation was the annual celebration of National FFA Week, Feb. 19-26. Each year, members host

special events and activities to spread the word about our organization.

From teacher appreciation breakfasts and luncheons to chapter FFA volleyball nights, there are many ways for members and advisors to spread the good news about FFA and how it impacts our homes, school, and communities in a positive manner.

With ACES and National FFA Week in the rearview mirror, it is time to turn our attention to spring. March not only signifies the beginning of spring, but it also highlights the start of Chapter FFA banquets and spring Career Development Events (CDEs).

All of these events allow us to showcase our leadership and public speaking skills to those who view us as future leaders. Perhaps the most rewarding event is hosting chapter banquets where we have the opportunity to say "thanks" to our most valuable supporters — family, prin-

cipals, teachers, advisors, and friends — who have helped to make the most of our FFA experience. As we show our appreciation for those that support us, let us remember, John F. Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." When taking President Kennedy's words to heart, remember that when you meet the people who have given to you and your chapter, the words you speak are more than words. They are actions by which you should live by.

Looking toward the future — for those of you are thinking about running for a state FFA office in the future, the state officer Candidacy School (SOCS) is just around the corner. This is a great way to familiarize yourself with the responsibilities of a State FFA Officer. Check with your advisor to see when you can attend your local SOCS. Remember that state FFA officer applications will be due on May 1.

With all this said, I absolutely cannot wait to attend banquets and see all the things accomplished this year by your chapter and chapter members. Best of luck to all of you who are participating in CDE's this spring.

Remember that articles are always appreciated for the Blue & Gold Pages. Anything that your chapter has done is acceptable as an article. If you or your chapter has an article, please send it to Mr. Brammer at cmbrammer@state.pa.us.

Editor's Note: Ben Shughart is the Pa. FFA State Chaplain.

Northern Lebanon FFA Displays at Garden Expo



From left, Barb Kreiser, Katie Donmoyer, and Melissa Long work on their Garden Expo exhibit. Northern Lebanon FFA was one of several FFA chapters that built displays for the Pennsylvania Garden Expo.