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# BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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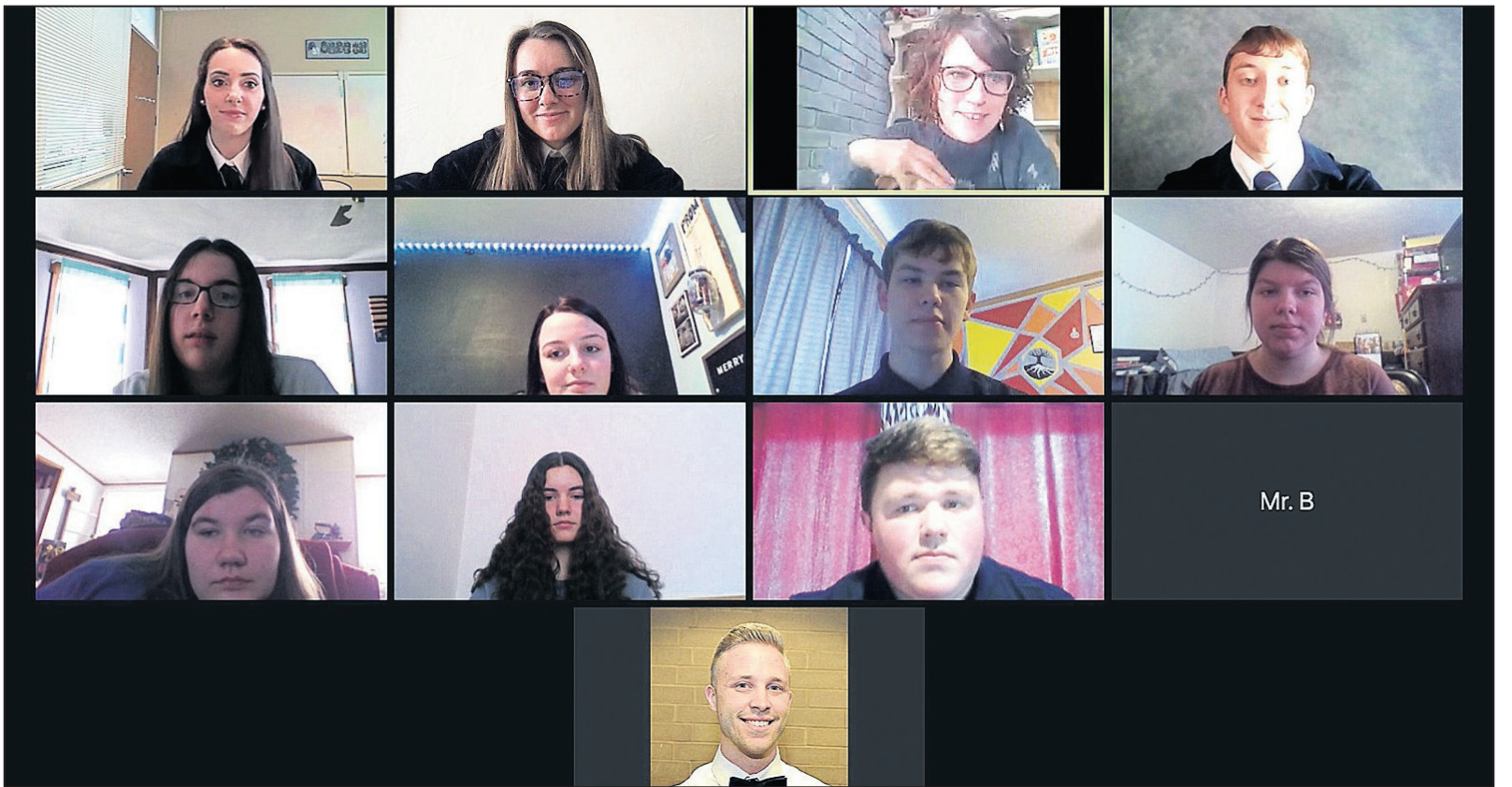
## National Officers Make Virtual Visits

Pennsylvania FFA recently welcomed four national FFA officers to the Keystone State.

David Lopez, the Western region vice president; Paxton Dahmer, the Central region vice president; Miriam Hoffman, the Eastern region vice president; and Secretary Anna Mathis virtually visited 12 Pennsylvania FFA chapters.

Over four days, the national officers met with members, conducted workshops and gave keynote speeches. The presentations covered a variety of topics that helped agriculture education students develop leadership skills, personal growth and career success.

The virtual setting gave students from across the state an opportunity to connect with the national officers in a unique way.



Pennsylvania FFA photo

A screenshot of the Zoom call with national officer Anna Mathis and the McGuffey FFA Chapter.

## Celebrating the Blue and Gold With Pride

**ALAYNA HARRELL**  
State Reporter

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The National FFA board of directors created a weeklong tradition in 1948 to recognize George Washington’s importance to farming and the National FFA Organization.

That celebration, National FFA Week, always falls the week of Washington’s birthday, Feb. 22, so this year it will be observed Feb. 20 to 27.

National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about the group. Agricultural education students from across the U.S. will celebrate this week in various ways this year.

Some chapters will use it as a time for celebration, while others will use it to educate students about the role of the organization.

This year will be different from past years because of the pandemic, but National FFA Week will continue to be celebrated by 760,000 members.

Pennsylvania FFA has planned a week filled with exciting activities and opportunities. Our hope is to spark an interest in the organization for those across the state.

We will be flooding social media with blue and gold as we encourage members to participate in our social media challenges.

Pennsylvania’s FFA Association and Foundation are teaming up to host a contest for our members. Each day of FFA week there will be a photo challenge. By posting a photo and using our hashtag “#PAFFAWEEK,” participants will be entered to win a prize.

Chapters also have the opportunity to sign up for our Pennsylvania FFA Week State Officer Tour. Each day of the week the Pennsylvania state officer team will be virtually visiting with chapters for one to two hours. Our goal is to meet as many Pennsylvania FFA members as possible during FFA Week.

Additionally, we will be hosting a virtual movie night. Members will be able to grab their popcorn and log into a movie hosted by the state officer team.

A virtual National FFA Week gives Pennsylvania FFA an opportunity to reach a new platform of individuals. We hope to use this week to unify our association and advocate for an organization that builds leaders in the agriculture industry.

For more information on our 2021 National FFA Week celebration, follow our social media accounts @PennsylvaniaFFA.

## Quiet Celebrations

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



**EMMA MUSSER**  
STATE CHAPLAIN

At my friend’s wedding on Sept. 26, I was talking to the officiant. I expressed my excitement for my year as a state officer and, in turn, my concerns of how to share the love of Jesus. He told me, “Emma, you are going to influence people, but it might not be in front of everyone.”

The pastor gave me a prophetic word on that sunny September day. When I dreamed of this momentous year as a state officer, I envisioned myself doing public speaking in a room packed with people where thousands of hearts came to Christ.

The Lord was quick to change my thinking and remind me that my name is not the one meant to be in the lights. A thousand lives could be changed, but one life finding Christ is still worthy of just as much celebration.

When I started my year of service, my goal was to change one life. I still pray that today.

I am realizing that I don’t need students to remember me — I would rather they remember the King.

By trying to act like Christ and by praying over students, I can feel the Lord working through me. In one of the most unconventional years, I am trusting the Lord to do much more than I can on my own.

The Lord has been teaching me so much this year, and his hand has been so evident to me. He is refining my heart in the valuable quiet moments.

Whether it’s completing a devotional with a member, praying together before team meals, receiving an encouraging text from a past state officer, or even the simple act of playing spiritual music at chapter visits, the Lord has opened my eyes to seeing him in each and every activity.

I am truly witnessing the power of quiet, behind-the-scenes celebrations.

When it’s just me and God, I hear his voice above the noise.

With hope I am actively praying over Pennsylvania FFA.

I also write letters to chaplains across the state, encouraging them in this season.

And with faithfulness, I give God the glory each time I zip up my blue corduroy.

Truthfully, this year is not “in front of everyone,” but it is in front of God, and I realize, now, that is all I will ever need.

Thank you, Lord, for these quiet celebrations.

## Give FFA Day to Grow Future of Ag

Pennsylvania FFA Foundation

EAST BERLIN, Pa. — During with the COVID-19 pandemic, FFA advisers across the country have found ways to continue sharing the message of agriculture and teaching the next generation of leaders.

Through donations from Pennsylvania FFA supporters, students and teachers across the state were able to continue to make a difference.

Members of the Conrad Weiser FFA chapter in Robesonia have focused their attention on the community.

“Your support of the Learning by Doing Grant will allow us to create a free food fridge to combat food insecurity in our community,” ag teacher and FFA adviser John Siefert said.

For more than 90 years, the FFA organization has striven to make a difference in students’ lives. Pennsylvania FFA knows

it is growing the future generation of leaders and through its programming, students can find their paths to success.

People will have an opportunity to support Pennsylvania FFA and agricultural education through Give FFA Day on Thursday, Feb. 25.

Donations received on Give FFA Day, part of National FFA Week, will be used to enhance agricultural education curriculum, provide classroom tools and equip-

ment, and expand the experience-based learning opportunities available in agricultural education classrooms through the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation’s Learning by Doing Grant program.

Former FFA members and FFA alumni are encouraged to donate \$19.71 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the National FFA Alumni, which was chartered in 1971.

For more information about Give FFA Day, visit [paffa.org/ways-to-give](http://paffa.org/ways-to-give)