



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Photo provided by Pennsylvania FFA

The 2021-2022 Pennsylvania FFA officer team is, from left, Ravyn Bashore, sentinel; Nina Coolidge, secretary; Trevor Maxwell, reporter; Greg Gipe, vice president; Jordan Anderson, chaplain; Abigail O'Neill, president; and Molly Cessna, treasurer.

State Officers Encourage 2022 Candidates

As the seven individuals who were elected to serve Pennsylvania FFA and its 13,609 members back in June of 2021 are slowly making their way to retirement, they want to wish the 19 aspiring candidates for this year the best of luck.

Each candidate knows the importance of FFA and agriculture education, and is preparing to go through a series of interviews to be announced as one of the seven chosen.

Candidates are Zaleigh Wade of Albion FFA, Charity Wampole of Athens FFA, Taylor Waggoner of Big Spring FFA, Kylie Zimmerman of Cedar Crest FFA, Mary Ribbeck of Cloister FFA, Nathaniel Turner of Conneaut Area FFA, Zane Ocker of Conococheague FFA, Delilah Morton of Cumberland Valley FFA, James Winklosky of Derry FFA, Grace Benton of Dover FFA, Jackson Price of Garden Spot FFA, Benjamin Torrey of Headwaters FFA, Erica Teagarden of McGuffey FFA, Jessica Fleisher of Newport FFA, Jeremy Rose of Penns Manor FFA, Blaine Walizer of Sugar Valley Rural Charter School FFA, Alyssa Smeltz of Upper Dauphin FFA, Ryley Reisinger of West Perry FFA, and Callie Whiting of Wilmington FFA.

Current state officers share the following messages of encouragement:

Abigail O'Neill President

"Embarking on your journey as a state officer candidate comes with challenges, seasons of change, and periods of growth. As I sit back and reflect on what I wish I would've known, one piece comes to mind: Find comfort in the discomfort. As your mind is flooded with nerves, seize the opportunity to build community with your fellow candidates. As you go through each round, show them who you are and build connections. As you find out the results at the end of it, cheer for others and celebrate through the uncertainty. As this season of challenge sets upon you, find comfort in the discomfort you are facing by controlling the variables that you can control. Most of all, find peace in the idea that everything happens for a reason and you will end up right where you are supposed to be."

Gregory Gipe Vice President

"Dear state officer candidate, make sure that you are 100% yourself throughout the interview process. Always remember your reason for why you want to be a state officer. This year is about growth and about the members of Pennsylvania FFA. As you prepare, be sure that you are preparing to be a state officer and not preparing to run for state office. If your name is not called on June 9, do not be afraid to try again. And lastly, remember to breathe!"

Nina Coolidge Secretary

"Congratulations on taking the brave journey to become a Pennsylvania state FFA officer. June might seem like forever away, but trust me it will be here before you know it. The process may seem stressful, but if you give it your all, stick to your values, and stay true to who you are, then you will do great! Get to know your fellow candidates because these people can become some of your best friends. No matter the outcome of the elections, just know that you are worthy and can still be connected to FFA. I wish you all the best of luck!"

Molly Cessna Treasurer

"The best piece of advice I can provide is to not overthink. When you start overthinking, that's when you worry and don't get a chance to say what you want or what you really mean. Interviews are scary, but stay calm and relaxed, and what you want to say and mean will come naturally. This year is stressful, but it's one of the greatest years I could have asked for. If you overthink you are going to miss the good in each day. Try and focus on one thing at a time and pay attention to the little things. The big picture will come later on. Just always remember to stay calm and not overthink. There is a plan for everyone and it will all turn out alright."

Trevor Maxwell Reporter

"Be you. Know what you know, and don't be afraid. The hardest part about becoming a state officer is already over; you accomplished and learned so much in your home chapter, and now is the time to share your knowledge and experiences. As you prepare to serve this amazing association, don't forget the reason you are running. Becoming a state officer isn't about the title in front of your name, the 'association' on the back of your jacket where your chapter once was, or accomplishing this milestone for anyone else. There are over 13,600 FFA members who are looking up to you and need you to be their inspiration. Receiving an association jacket should be a representation of your passion and propose to serve. And if you are not called up on stage, I ask you to not be discouraged, upset, angry or disappointed in yourself. Rather, look at this as an opportunity for growth and come back even stronger next year. And always remember, it is not what happens, it is what you do that determines your future."

Ravyn Bashore Sentinel

"When you're a candidate that is running for state office, always be yourself. Be yourself when you are in the blue jacket and when you are not. People recognize you rather quickly and it will only take seven seconds to make an impression. Make that impression a good one by being yourself. Be yourself, everybody else is already taken. Make one of your goals for the year being a friend to all. Try and make everyone feel welcome to whatever you may be doing. Nobody wants to feel left out, so include them."

Jordan Anderson Chaplain

"Congratulations on applying for state office! I am so proud of you for taking the step to make a difference in the lives of students and our association. Through this journey, remember to be your complete authentic self. Remember your 'why.' Being a state officer is not about you, it is about the members who you serve. Be sure not to lose sight of that. Take the opportunity to connect with the other candidates and enjoy each other's company. After each round, I would encourage you to collect yourself, reflect, and even write down some notes in a journal about what you are experiencing. You will thank yourself later. Know that this journey is one of growth, no matter the outcome. Let your passion shine through and enjoy the process. Don't forget to smile, you will end up exactly where you are meant to be!"

Waynesburg FFA Opens School Greenhouse

TREVOR MAXWELL
Reporter

Greenhouses run by FFA members are finally starting to make an appearance.

Recently, the Waynesburg FFA chapter held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its greenhouse and a Learning by Doing Grant provided by Pennsylvania FFA.

With the grant, they purchased an automatic plant labeler that prints each plant's information. This allows more time for caring for the plants and produces more sales.

During the ceremony, administrators, community members, alumni and government officials spoke, congratulating Waynesburg FFA for its success in the greenhouse.



This new label maker helps Waynesburg FFA run its new greenhouse more efficiently.



Photos provided by Pennsylvania FFA

Waynesburg FFA and supporters cut the ribbon to the greenhouse doors.



The new Waynesburg FFA greenhouse is open for business after receiving a Learning By Doing grant through Pennsylvania FFA.

Embrace Ideas

TREVOR MAXWELL
Reporter

This month, the Pennsylvania FFA state officers are embracing new ways of thinking.

With the state convention approaching, we are constantly thinking of new ways to make things better for the members, guests and candidates. Ideas are constantly being bounced around to find a more proficient outcome, if possible.

We encourage each of you to think outside the box, even if it seems like your thought is impossible.