



Denmark FFA Alumni & Supporters Newsletter

~ Winter 2019 ~

2019 Board of Directors

President: Jeremy Krerowicz
Vice President: Matt Wavrunek
Past President: Lester Schlies
Treasurer: Debbie Petrich
Secretary: Brenda Melnarik
Director: Andy Kane
Director: Kelly Ducat
Director: Dennis Schultz
Director/Membership:
Kathy Vander Kinter
H.S. Consultant: Mary Handrich
M.S. Consultant: Marty Nowak

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Life Members: 608
Annual Members: 2
Associate Members: 96

Thoughts from our 2019 Alumni President:

Hello Everyone,

A nice warm welcome to all our FFA Alumni members! After a long winter of cold, the sun is getting warmer which is making our FFA/Alumni activities grow throughout the year. We are looking forward to another busy year. Please help volunteer to make all the activities and events a big success. We already had our Annual FFA Alumni Fruit Sale and Wal-lender Nut and Bolt Sale. Thank you to all that help support these activities. Looking forward to leading this great organization and getting to work with great people like each and every one of you. Please take time out of your busy schedules to help the FFA alumni and our FFA students and advisors to be great and help us succeed in our goals for this year and beyond.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Krerowicz
2019 Alumni President

Meet our Newest Board Members! (see full biographies on alumni website)

Matt Wavrunek

"FFA was a big part of my life while attending Denmark High School. I am excited to be given the opportunity to serve on the Alumni Board to support the next generation of FFA members by sharing our experiences and connections along with helping them financially to get the full FFA experience. I am proud to give back to the organization that has done so much for me."

Dennis Schultz

"I have seen firsthand the positive impact FFA has had on my kids. FFA gives students the opportunity to grow and thrive through activities, experiences, and the many leadership positions it has to offer. I appreciate the opportunity to help the FFA continue to be a strong educational and growing experience for years to come."

Kathy Vander Kinter

"I grew up on a 60 cow dairy farm. I was active in the New Holstein FFA and went to FVTC for Farm Operations. I look forward to assisting the Board with the membership role as well as meeting new people and making new friendships in the community while bringing my love for agriculture to the chapter members!"

2019 State FFA Alumni Convention Recap

I would like to say HI to everyone and a big THANK YOU to all for your support and efforts that you gave toward the Denmark Alumni. The 2019 State Alumni Convention in Stevens Point on February 8-9 was very successful. We were awarded a gold rating for the Website. As well, the Newsletter Award received a 1st Place gold rating. The Wisconsin State Distinguished Contributor Award was presented to Joe Loritz and the Denmark Trophy Case. The Outstanding Achievement Award was granted to Mark Olsen, who received a gold rating and took home 1st place honors. Mark's application will now move on to the national level for competition. In addition, the Denmark FFA Alumni received a gold rating and 1st place in the National Outstanding Affiliate Award. This application will also be sent to the national level to be rated among the best in the nation. I cannot thank everyone enough for those of you who helped the alumni in any way. Without your support, all of our activities and accomplishments would not be possible. Hats off to everyone and a huge THANK YOU!

Best regards,
Lester Schlies - Past President



Pictured above: Lester Schlies presents Joe Loritz of the Denmark Trophy Case with the Distinguished Contributor Award. Pictured below: Mark Olsen receives the Outstanding Achievement Award. Congratulations Joe and Mark and thank you for all that you've done for the Alumni and our FFA and Ag. Education Programs! We sincerely appreciate it!



Thank you to
Bob Fruzen
for the beautiful
bench he crafted for
the Alumni
donation to the
Convention Auction



Alumni members attending State Convention pictured to left:
Row 1: Amy Novak, Sarah Calaway, Joe Schlies, and Brenda Melnarik.
Row 2: Marty Nowak, John Calaway, Dave & Marie Salszeider, Mary Handrich, Mark Olsen, and Lester Schlies.
Row 3: Dennis Schultz, Jim Novak, Karen Schultz, Lori Calaway, Teresa Olsen, James Grasee, Eric Tremel, and Josh Rusk.

A NOTE FROM SARAH CALAWAY — SECTION 9 STATE OFFICER FROM DENMARK: “The State Officer team joined the FFA Alumni at their convention February 8th and 9th where we celebrated their accomplishments for the year. My team and I assisted in multiple tasks including putting on workshops, carrying auction items, helping Alumni check-in, and much more. This was an experience we will not forget as we got to interact with Alumni members and learn how we can continue to make an impact even after our time in the Blue Jacket. Their theme for the year is Working as a Team in 2019. How will we continue to work as a team in FFA?” - Sarah (pictured with her team below left: front row, third from left)



Mark your calendars for Convention 2020:
Vision + Leadership = Reality
January 31st—February 2nd, 2020
Milwaukee Marriott West

Sarah continues to travel the state of Wisconsin putting on over 10,000 miles so far for chapter visits, leadership workshops, speaking contests, etc. Above she is pictured with Denmark FFA's 1st Place Parliamentary Procedure Team at recent competition. Pictured from left: Joe Schlies, Emily Nelsen, Abbey Wanek, Katrina Hoelsy, Autumn Kaminski, Owen Petrich, and Sarah. Congratulations to the team and good luck!

FFA in our schools and throughout our community!

2nd Grade Ag Tours—Pumpkin spice, corn mazes, and apple picking are what many people think about when fall rolls around. In October, the Denmark FFA took 97 second grade students to Apple Valley Orchard for the annual Ag Tours. This was the first year that the Ag tours happened somewhere besides a local dairy farm. The second graders learned all about what products apples can be made into. Along with learning all about apples, the second graders picked some apples to take home and were also able to enjoy a petting zoo. The Alumni sponsored the cost of this event.



Pictured at left: FFA members Mark Wanek, Emma Phillips, and Danica Nowak alongside Alumni members Debbie Petrich and Kelly Ducat came together at **Fleet Farm East on Orange Friday** to feed hungry hunters as they made their final purchases for the 2018 Deer Hunt. Thank you to all who stopped by! We raised approximately \$500 for FFA activities.

Denmark FFA Programs receive Kewaunee County Farm Tech Days Grants

MS Awarded \$4500 Grant — will be used toward pens for the new Animal Science Labs

HS Awarded \$5000 Grant — will be used toward hydroponics equipment

Special thanks to everyone who worked for Farm Tech Days to raise this money. This is proof that it comes back to benefit the local communities.

DENMARK FFA AND ALUMNI ATTEND NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Thirteen Denmark FFA members attended the National FFA Convention. Students did a presentation at the November Alumni Board Meeting outlining all of the activities that they participated in during their trip to Indianapolis. These included: A Scavenger Hunt, Career & College Expo, Blue Room, Convention Sessions, Garth Brooks Concert, Mr. Nowak in the Hypnotist Show, Sarah Calaway receiving her American FFA Degree, and Lizzy Novak in the National FFA Band. It was a great week! Thank you Denmark FFA Alumni for sponsoring part of their trip to National Convention! (Members checking out the Blue Room pictured at right are: Autumn Kaminski, Leah Phillips, Abbey Wanek, Bayley Melnarik, Mark Wanek, Katrina Hoesly, Lexy Nowak, Lashawna Vogel, and Owen DeGrand.)

BLUE ROOM



Seven alumni members and two advisors represented Denmark FFA Alumni at the 91st National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana. FFA Alumni members attended the Garth Brooks Concert to begin the convention. Three alumni members participated in judging proficiency awards in the areas of Agricultural Communications, Diversified Livestock, and Vegetable Production Entrepreneurship. On Friday, alumni members attended the annual National FFA Alumni meeting. The rest of the week was filled with opportunities to attend the career expo, various workshops, convention sessions, and entertainment such as a hypnotist, the rodeo, National FFA Talent, Band, and Chorus Performances. The week was a great showcase of this wonderful organization! (Pictured from left: Josh Rusk, Marty Nowak, Amy Novak, Jim Novak, Mary Handrich, James Grasee, Elizabeth Calaway, Lester Schlies, and Lori Calaway.)

Denmark FFA and Alumni member Lizzy Novak was fortunate to be selected to represent Denmark at the 2018 National FFA Convention as a trombone player in the National FFA Band. ***“Dear Denmark FFA Alumni – I can’t thank you all enough for all your generosity in helping me cover my costs for National FFA Band. I had an amazing time performing for over 65,000 people and playing with extremely talented musicians from all over the country. I met TONS of lifelong friends and made countless memories during my week in Indy. Also, playing for President Trump was WAY cool! Your support lifted a huge financial burden off of both mine and my parent’s shoulders and I am extremely grateful for that. Thank you again for always supporting me!”***



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Sincerely – Lizzy Novak



FFA Alumni & Supporters Annual Banquet & Scholarship Presentations

The Denmark FFA Alumni Annual Banquet and Senior Scholarship Presentations were held at Eddie Whipp's. We celebrated another very successful year and were able to pass on the results of that success by awarding over \$7,250 in scholarships to graduating senior FFA members. We also want to thank all of our individual donors who continue to sponsor scholarships.

Ken Seering Scholarship of Excellence (\$1,000) - Bayley Melnarik
George M. Roberts Jr. Memorial (\$1,000) - Joe Schlies
Diane Fischl Successful Futures (\$1,000) - Abbey Wanek
Whitetails Unlimited (\$750) - Kyle Propson
Whitetails Unlimited (\$500) - Max Schilke
Whitetails Unlimited (\$250) - Nick Pribyl
Dallas Nelsen Memorial (\$500) - Emily Nelsen
Dallas Nelsen Memorial (\$500) - Jeremy Schlies
Darrell Lemmens Memorial (\$250) - Kyle Propson
Nelton & Susie Rasmussen Memorial (\$200) - Jake Breit
Les & Emerine Johnson Memorial (\$100) - Riley Brantmeier
Nancy Johnson Scholarship (\$100) - Bayley Melnarik
Wesley Otto Memorial (\$150) - Claire Sipple
John Dollar Memorial (\$150) - Brandon Wavrunek
John Schultz Memorial (\$150) - Bayley Melnarik
Randy Tremel Memorial (\$150) - Joe Schlies
Aaron Schlies Memorial (\$150) - Heidi Broerman
Ben Vanden Bergh Memorial (\$150) - Abbey Wanek
Donald Kratz Memorial (\$150) - Kyle Propson
Orville Kudick Memorial (\$150) - Max Schilke
Donald Weber Memorial (\$150) - Emily Nelsen



CONGRATULATIONS to all of our senior FFA members and best wishes in all that the future holds for you! *See the FFA Alumni website for photos of all scholarship recipients.*



**NWTC Luxemburg
Regional Learning
Center to offer
Spring 2019
Farm Machinery/Tractor
Safety Classes**

Class #: 23472

Fee: \$85.02

Date: Tuesday April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 4:00—8:50 p.m.

Register online at nwtc.edu or by phone at 920-498-5444

SUMMER COURSE OFFERINGS:

Green Bay, June 17-20

Luxemburg, June 24-27

Upcoming events of the FFA & Alumni:

- ◆ FFA Alumni Fruit Sale pickup—March 15 (9 am to 5 pm)
- ◆ FFA Worker & Pie Auction—March 19 (6:30 social / 7 pm auction)
- ◆ FFA Alumni Spring Fling—TBD (watch website)
- ◆ FFA Greenhouse Plant Sale—May 2-18
- ◆ FFA Annual Banquet—May 4
- ◆ Brown County Fair – August 14-18

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help is needed for room monitors and timers for the FFA Sectional Speaking Contest on March 25th at Denmark High School starting at 3:30 p.m. Please contact Ms. Handrich at 920-863-4264 if you can help.

Visit the FFA Alumni Website at <http://www.denmarkffa.com/alumni.html> for the latest information and photo galleries of our many activities. If you have photos you'd like added, please email them to kvanderkinter@gmail.com. Have you or someone you know had a change of name, address, phone number or email? Please contact Kathy Vander Kinter at 920-375-0569 to update alumni records.