

# WASHINGTON FFA ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE



Things to know, updates, reminders, checklists. My attempt to make your life as an FFA advisor a little easier.

## SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome back! I sincerely hope that each of you had some great down time this summer – time for memories, family, sun, and if you're like me...time for some of the things on the "This Summer" projects list.

☺ September 1 marks the beginning of the 2017-2018 FFA membership year and there's a lot happening this year! Admittedly, this update will be longer than most because of all the information following summer break. Hopefully in the long-run these updates will help keep you informed of deadlines, events, etc.

### 2017-2018 FFA Roster

The FFA roster is entered through and housed by National FFA, not Washington FFA. You must use the FFA.org system for your roster, otherwise it is not official and cannot be processed.

This year National FFA has made a LOT of changes to the roster system...some good; some I don't particularly love or think are supportive...but we'll all get through it together. \*sigh\*

- **<Roster #1:** Attached to this email (and posted on the WAFFA website at: <https://www.washingtonffa.org/advisor-resources/>) are PDF Instructions that National FFA put together to help advisors navigate the roster system. Please print and use as you work on your roster. >
- **<Roster #2:** You MUST "Submit for State Approval" or a student is not recognized as a member. This triggers the invoicing for dues, as well as advancement for NFFA membership. **\*\*Double-check your roster for duplicates (especially last name/first names reversed or nickname/full name accounts. Chapters WILL be charged for duplicates. Once you click "Submit for State Approval" it means you have checked for these errors.\*\*** >
- **<Roster #3: AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP** – If your chapter is considering becoming an affiliate chapter I have posted all the information you need (fee scale, required documents, information on the opportunity, etc.) at: <https://www.washingtonffa.org/advisor-resources/>. Affiliate documents are due to me no later than noon on October 16. **If you are going to become an affiliate chapter DO NOT submit your roster for state approval!!! If you submit before your chapter's status has been changed...it cannot be updated for this membership year and affiliate status would have to wait until 2018-2019.** >
- **<Roster #4:** Dues remain the same at \$17/member (\$7 NFFA/\$10 WAFFA). An OFFICIAL invoice will be emailed from me with the WAFFA logo on it – the version provided by NFFA is not official...it can just support the start of a PO process. If you use the NFFA one, be sure to explain to your Accounts Payable that the official invoice is still coming and that the WAFFA invoice will include the \$100 Events & Activities fee that every chapter must pay to be in good standing. The deadline for dues and the E&A fee is PAID (not PO) by December 1 or the chapter will be charged a \$100 late fee. **It is the advisors' responsibility to submit the roster early enough to process payment by Dec. 1. Rosters are processed in batches on Fridays and invoices are sent the same day. Submit early – you can always add members during the spring membership window.**

### The Washington FFA Website

There have been a number of updates and additions to the Washington FFA website and it will continue to evolve. It is a work in process so there will be some delays, adjustments and improvements...and constructive feedback is welcome.

- **<Website #1: CALENDAR** – the official Washington FFA calendar is available as a Google Calendar and is updated in real-time so always check there for dates/deadlines and updates. *Please note: WAAE has shifted to a Google Calendar but these are separate. ALSO: There are tutorials available to link Google Calendars to your personal e-calendar system (Google, iCalendar, Outlook, etc.) so check YouTube if you are interested in that.* >
- **<Website #2: CDE/LDEs** – There is a page for every event that Washington FFA recognizes. Registration links and results can be found on these pages. >
- **<Website #3: ADVISORS** – There is a Page-Thread just for you! Membership/Roster resources, state officer visit request form, documents, updates, etc. can be found here. >

## State CDEs/LDEs

- **<CDE/LDE #1: REGISTRATION** – State CDE/LDE registrations must be completed through the Google Form that Abbie emails via the listserv/posts on the CDE/LDE webpage. >
- **<CDE/LDE #2: DEADLINES** – Registration deadlines are listed on the registration, as well as the Washington FFA calendar. Deadlines will be enforced in order to verify participant membership and provide coordinators ample time to prep the event. >
- **<CDE/LDE #3: RESULTS** – Results must have a 20-minute review period BEFORE finalization and results must be verified by the State Advisor (preferably) or the Executive Director BEFORE results can be announced. You can call or email us, but awards are not to be distributed until one of us has received and can verify the results. If awards/results are given without state staff verification, the results will NOT be considered final. *Reminder: the WAAE FFA committee is reviewing the State CDE Rules & Guidelines prior to the WAAE Fall Exec meeting in order to make recommendations to the WAFFA Board of Directors prior to the Oct. 17 meeting. This includes discussion about the distribution of awards. Please contact Tamara Whitcomb or Lisa Baser for more information.*>

## Impromptu National Officer Visit

I got a call last Thursday evening asking if WA FFA would be willing to host National VP Ashley Willits (*eastern region*) during her last 4 days of "down time" before traveling to Indy to start prepping for National Convention on Sept. 7.

Would I have loved for this to be during Evergreen Tour when we asked for a National Officer, yes.

But...if National FFA is going to pay for her trip and have her in Washington - I'm not going to turn down the opportunity to get her in front of our members!!!

So here's the deal -- the dates are less than ideal with a holiday, start of school and fairs. I've done my best to find schools that aren't already hosting for Evergreen Tour who are also somewhat centrally located for a few districts. The fundamental goal is for as many members as possible to interface with Ashley - given her short visit time. We are planning a meet & greet, she will give a keynote and depending on the audience size, possibly a workshop. No food, no bells and whistles...just time with a current national officer.

If your chapter can make it, great. If not, don't worry - it's a busy time and this is short notice.

Here's the plan as it has come together (*...and I can't thank the hosting advisors/chapters/CTE directors enough for helping with all this on such short notice!!*):

### Tuesday, Sept. 5

- **8:30am @ Yelm FFA::** D2/D3/D8 presentation (*meet & greet, keynote – workshop if 75 or fewer*)
- 2pm -- Ellensburg chapter visit/B&I stop
- **5pm @Moses Lake::** D9/D4/D7 presentation (*meet & greet, keynote – workshop if 75 or fewer*)

### Wednesday, Sept. 6

- **8:30am @ Pomeroy FFA::** D6/D4/D9 presentation (*meet & greet, keynote – workshop if 75 or fewer*)
- **5pm @ Davenport FFA::** D5/D9/D6 presentation (*meet & greet, keynote, workshop if 75 or fewer*)

**Thursday, Sept. 7** -- Departs from Spokane (GEG)

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Again, this was a very last-minute opportunity that came our way and we're doing our best to make the most of it given the time and "stuff" that is going on next week. If you/your members can make it - wonderful! If not, we understand. To clarify - there will NOT be a National Officer or PNO on Evergreen Tour this year due to scheduling conflicts.

## Evergreen Leadership Tour.2017

The state officer team is excited to visit the Washington FFA districts during the **2017 Evergreen Leadership Tour**. The team, along with National Officer Candidate Tye Taylor, are working diligently to put together a worthy statewide activity, and appreciate the various chapters that have offered to host this activity.

### 2017.Evergreen Leadership Tour Stops:

Monday, September 18: **9am** D1 @ Stanwood Fairgrounds  
**5pm** D8 @ TBD ?Castle Rock?

Tuesday, September 19: **9am** D3 @ Elma High School  
**5pm** D2 @ Enumclaw High School

Wednesday, September 20: **9am** D4 @ Ellensburg High School  
**5pm** D7 @ Manson High School

Thursday, September 21: **930am** D9 @ Quincy High School  
**5pm** D5 @ Deer Park High School

Friday, September 22: **9am** D6 @ Colton School

Our tentative event agenda is set to last no more than 3 hours and includes the following items:

- Welcome and Opening Ceremonies by State Officer Team (15 min)
- Workshop Rotations: tailored to 9/10th grade & 11/12th grade options (2 x 50+10min= 120 min)
- National Officer Candidate Remarks (15 min)
- Closing Comments & Ceremonies by State Officers and State Staff (5 min)
- Closing Ceremonies (5 min)
- *OPTIONAL - After Closing Ceremonies: CDE demo(s) by state teams that will be competing at National Convention*

The agenda will vary based on district location/time constraints.

## State Officer Visits

If you would like state officers at your next event (*district gathering/CDEs, fair, award ceremony, service project, etc.*), or are hoping to have them visit your chapter – please complete at request at:

<https://www.washingtonffa.org/visit-request-1/>. There are still lots of opening available!

- **<State Officer Visits #1:** The District “priority” weeks are listed on the Washington FFA calendar and have been emailed previously.
- **<State Officer Visits #2:** Requests must be made at least 2 weeks in advance of the desired visit date. Visits are NOT guaranteed until a confirmation email has been sent from Washington FFA staff.

## National FFA Convention – Oct. 25-28

Washington FFA will once again have a strong presence at the National FFA Convention in October. Again this is year the convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

- **<National Convention #1:** REPPIN' FOR WAFFA – attached is a summary list of the teams/individuals that will be representing Washington FFA at the National Convention. Please encourage and support them! For those on the list → please text or call me with your status through the competitions so that I can keep the Association updated. 509-592-3444.

- **<National Convention #2: UPDATES** – We have our text-based update system (Remind) that is used at state convention -- and will be using it for National Convention to keep folks up-to-date with how WAFFA is doing. This information, and pictures, will also be posted on the Washington FFA social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter) as time and technology allow.
  - *The success of this update system will hinge on advisors of teams/individuals texting Abbie directly with information to share out via the update system – time/locations of competition rounds, advancement to finals, etc. 509.592.3444.*

Here's how you can opt-in to the WAFFA Nat'l Convention Text Updates (if you didn't already for state convention):

- To receive messages via text, text **@waffaupdat** to **81010**.
- You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe@waffaupdat'.

- **<National Convention #3: SCHEDULE** – There are lots of scheduling components to National Convention...both before and during. National FFA should be posting the convention schedules soon. Here's a few that are Washington FFA specific:
  - **Now-Sept.20** = Limited availability in the WAFFA State Housing block. Call or email if you still need rooms so I can let you know availability. I do **NOT** complete reservations for you – you must do it using the new online system and a credit card must be listed for the reservation(s). *\*see previous emails for more information\**
  - **Sept. 5** = Registration will be available on FFA.org. Be sure to have reviewed the parking/session/special event information BEFORE that day.
  - **Oct. 23** = National Officer Candidate Advancement. This is the night we find out if our candidate advances in the election process.
  - **Oct. 25-28** = CDE/LDE competitions. All schedules can be found on FFA.org.
  - **Oct. 26 & 27** = Convention Leadership workshops by former WAFFA officers Maya Wahl and Becca Foote. Workshops are a great learning opportunity for your students while at convention!
  - **Oct. 27** = State Photo will \*likely\* be this day in the morning. I am waiting for official confirmation.
  - **Oct. 27** = Honorary American Degree ceremony. Washington has 2 recipients – please come celebrate and honor their longtime support of WAFFA!

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

As always, I welcome questions, information and constructive feedback. I'm a lifelong learner and it is always, ALWAYS my goal to make things as great as I can for Washington FFA members – in the various ways that I am able to...but I am fallible and I know it.

**Abbie DeMeerleer**, [abbie@washingtonffa.org](mailto:abbie@washingtonffa.org) 509.592.3444, cell (text OK)



Tye Taylor, the 17-18 State Officers and me at the 2017 NLCSO training (hosted by WAFFA).