SEPTEMBER 2019

I hope that each of you had a good summer – or maybe, just maybe…you’re still enjoying the last few days! August 1 marked the beginning of the 2019-2020 FFA membership year and some chapters have already submitted rosters!! WAHOO!! 😊

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 also below:
  - Sept.30-Oct.4: D9
  - Oct. 7-11: D6
  - Oct. 21-24: D4
  - Nov. 4-8: D5
  - Nov. 11-15: D8
  - Nov. 18-22: D2
  - Dec. 2-6: D1
  - Dec. 9-13: D3

- **<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. Advisor(s) must be present throughout the entire chapter visit.

FFA Roster

Remember that 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.

- **<Roster #1>:** I have posted the annual step-by-step roster documents. These are also on FFA.org.
- **<Roster #2>:** Deadline reminders:
  - **August 1** = 1st day of the 2019-2020 FFA membership year (roster is open)
  - **October 15** = Last day to submit “Affiliate Chapter” paperwork (do NOT submit ANY roster information if pursuing this)
  - **November 1** = Last day to submit roster without penalty; Last day to submit POA without penalty
  - **December 1** = Dues payment received (not POI) without penalty; late penalty invoices will be sent after this date
  - **March 1** = Last day to submit spring roster without penalty
  - **April 1** = Dues payment received (not POI) without penalty; late penalty invoices will be sent after this date
Evergreen Leadership Tour.2019

The state officer team is excited to visit the Washington FFA districts during the 2019 Evergreen Leadership Tour. The team, along with National Officer Candidate Seth Smith, are working diligently to put together an engaging & educational kickoff event and appreciate the various chapters that have offered to host this activity which this year features combined district stops. While the event will remain free, RSVP will be required this year! Abbie will email an RSVP link to the listserv/BCC list.

2019 Evergreen Leadership Tour Stops:

Monday, September 23:  D1 & D2 (Evergreen Fairgrounds, Monroe)
Tuesday, September 24:  D3 & D8 (Castle Rock Fairgrounds)
Wednesday, September 25:  D7 & D9 (new Quincy HS)
Thursday, September 26:  D5 & D6 (TBD)
Friday, September 27:  D4 (West Valley Yakima HS)

Our tentative event agenda is to run from ~9am-2pm. More details will be released soon – details are being coordinated per stop.

- Welcome & Opening Ceremonies by State Officer Team; workshop breakout groups (30 min)
- Workshop Rotations: tailored to 9/10th grade & 11/12th grade options (2 x 50+10min= 120 min)
- **Lunch (60 min)** + National Officer Candidate Remarks (15 min… during lunch)
- Workshop Rotations: tailored to 9/10th grade & 11/12th grade options (1 x 50+10min= 60 min)
- Keyshop (30 min) or possible service project (30 min) or demo(s) by state reps competing at National Convention
- Closing Comments & Ceremonies by State Officers and State Staff (5 min)
FFA Advisor Contact Accuracy

With all the advisor hires/retires/changes, could you please verify that this list is correct for Abbie’s purposes… and if she needs to make a change, please email her directly! (click the text link to see the list) If you know of new teachers in WA, or soon-to-charter programs, please share my information with them and have them reach out. A weakness in our system is that I don’t have access to who is where/contact information unless someone first reaches out to me – so encourage them to email as I am happy to help!

Also, please bear in mind that this list is in NO WAY connected to the WAAE listserv → that is managed/corrected by Gary Parkert, so please contact him if you need added/removed/changed.

National FFA Convention – Oct. 30-Nov.2

Washington FFA will once again have a strong presence at the National FFA Convention in October 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!>

- **<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 @waaffaupdate to 81010.
    - You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe@waaffaupdate'.

- **<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… I will update this as additional information is made available by NFFA:
  - **Now-Sept.25** = Limited availability in the WAFFA State Housing block. 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. 10 (6pm EST)** = Registration will be available on FFA.org. Be sure to have reviewed the parking/session/special event information BEFORE that day.
  - **Oct. 29** = National Officer Candidate Advancement. This is the night we find out if our candidate, Seth Smith, advances in the election process.
  - **Oct. 30-Nov. 2** = CDE/LDE competitions. All schedules are available on FFA.org on each events page.
  - **TBD** = State Photo… I am waiting for official scheduling announcements.

- **<National Convention #4: WA FFA Dinner** – Unfortunately the caterer who I worked with the past 2 years sold their business and the new owners are no longer doing catering. I am working with a couple recommendations on alternates but am not sure the status of the state dinner at this time. Stay tuned… I’m trying!!
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 will be found on these pages. I am updating a variety of CDE/LDE handbooks following summer conference/summer Board meeting approvals. Notices will be emailed when updated versions are available.
- **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.

General Information

- **GENERAL #1:** The WAFFA 5-year Strategic Plan is posted...please read to better understand the direction the Association is working toward in the next few years.
- **GENERAL #2:** National FFA student delegates will be considering a number of constitutional changes influenced by the recent charter changes that were approved by Congress. The students are one voice in the change process – ag teachers have 2 representatives on the National FFA Board via NAAE. If you have questions or would like to express your opinions so that the ag teachers voice is heard/represented...please contact your 2 representatives and be sure to follow-up with them otherwise the pattern of action has been rather passive until it's too late.
- **GENERAL #3:** WAFFA Gear Advisor Order. Thank you to all who ordered! Those who have paid have had their items shipped – remaining orders will ship when payment is received. I have been asked so we will consider another order, possibly in the winter or early spring. Please contact Abbie with any questions.

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 2019-2020 order to verify participant membership and provide coordinators ample time to prep the event. Be sure to check your email and the state calendar!
- **CDE/LDE #3:** 2020 CHANGES – There are announced changes for 2020 from NFFA:
  - **MEATS** = Will change to a 4-person team (all scores count). WAFFA will move to a 4/6 contest in 2020.
  - **PROFICIENCIES** = There will be consolidation of some areas: The home and/or community development area will be updated to the service-learning area to recognize the service-learning supervised agricultural experience (SAE) type described in SAE for All. The award area description will be based on that SAE type. The food science and technology area has merged with other areas due to lack of participation and sponsorship. The grain production – entrepreneurship and placement areas will be combined due to lack of participation and sponsorship.
  - **ONLINE APPLICATIONS (only)** = National Chapter and Agriscience national submissions.
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  509.592.3444, cell (text OK)

Washington FFA summer adventures – see more on the WAFFA Facebook/Instagram/Twitter!

"THERE IS NO GREATER JOY, NOR GREATER REWARD THAN TO MAKE A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE’S LIFE" ~ MARY ROSE MCGEADY

Making a difference does not have to be big. It can be done in a smile, a hug, a kind word, or a listening ear. As teachers…you make a difference every day. And the truth is, you never know what someone else is going through. People, especially students do not always show that they’re going through a difficult time. Even if it can be challenging for you personally, approach each person you encounter with acceptance, respect, love, and kindness.

You will never lose out from being kind to someone and not expecting anything in return.

What you do and say can have a big impact. Your single act of positivity might just be the brightest moment in someone’s time of darkness.

Never forget or doubt…you make a difference!