

February 12, 2018

To: Parish Presidents

The Louisiana Farm Bureau's 96th Annual Convention is Thursday through Sunday, **June 21-June 24, 2018**. We will again be at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. We hope you will do everything possible to make this another successful convention. **Please note that all convention related forms, certifications and applications must be received in the State Office by May 1, 2018, labeled CONVENTION. Please make every effort to adhere to the May 1st deadline.**

In an effort to streamline the process, all forms, lists and applications are available on our website at **www.lfbfconvention.org/forms**. If for some reason you are unable to access the forms online, please contact your Area Field Services Director for assistance in obtaining the forms.

Federation Voting Delegates: The necessary forms that need to be completed in order for your parish to have the appropriate number of voting delegates for the various functions requiring them will be sent in a separate mailing and are also available on the website.

Awards Booklet: The 2017-2018 Awards Booklet is now available on the website.

Resolutions: Any resolution, which your parish wishes to be considered, must be submitted.

Convention Registration: As convention nears, you will receive information on pre-registering your attendees. Please pre-register **everyone** from your parish that you think might attend, including children and family members of any youth contestants.

Marriott Room Reservations: **The cutoff date for room reservations is May 1, 2018.** Reservations requested after the cutoff date and/or after the room block is filled, are subject to availability and may not be available at the group rate.

Vendor Booth Registration: All vendors planning to exhibit must complete a Vendor Booth Registration Form and return it to the Field Services Department. An Audio Visual Request Form if any AV is needed must also be completed and submitted to the AV Company that is in charge of these requests for our convention. Space in the exhibit area is limited, so registration is necessary.

Please note the deadline for all Convention items is May 1, 2018

Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) Activities:

WLC Voting Delegates and Official Certification: The WLC Voting Delegate List and Official Letter of Certification from your parish board of directors must be submitted. The number of WLC Voting Delegates from the eligible parishes will be the same as the number of Federation Voting Delegates for each parish. District Directors in the even -numbered districts, as well as the State Committee officers, will be elected. The WLC Voting Delegates **must meet the same delegate eligibility requirements** as the Federation Voting Delegates.

Women's Brunch: The Women's Brunch is on Saturday, June 23rd, at 11:00 a.m. Parish queens will be introduced during their annual style show. Tickets cost \$20 each. Parish queens and State Women's Leadership Committee will not be required to purchase Brunch tickets. Please turn in your parish requirements with your check to Megan Gravois by May 1st. **Note: Pre-ordering tickets is mandatory. Tickets will not be sold at convention. We will not be able to refund tickets.**

Memorial Service: Please submit the Memorial Service form, a high-quality photo, and a brief statement about the person/s you wish to be eulogized during the Memorial Service on Sunday morning, June 24th. Remember that those memorialized must have passed away between last year's convention and May 1, 2018. Do not forget to submit the names and addresses of immediate family members so that they can be invited to the service.

WLC Award of Excellence: The Women's Award of Excellence is selected based on the WLC section of the 2017-2018 Parish Awards Book. To be considered for the Women's Award of Excellence, you must receive **75 of the 100** possible points in the WLC section of the awards book.

Silent Auction: Once again, we are asking each parish to submit one *VERY UNIQUE* item to be placed in the Silent Auction.

Youth Contests: Enclosed is a copy of this year's Youth Contest Brochure. Please discard any applications you presently have on hand. Remember, the forms **REQUIRE** the family membership number. **Incomplete applications will be returned to parishes.**

Contest Registration (Thursday, June 21)

Talent - 2:00 p.m. Talk Meet - 3:00 p.m. Queen - 4:00 p.m.

Youth Contest Prizes: State contest winners will be awarded a cash gift.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Talent (junior and senior division) - 1st Place \$250, 2nd Place \$150, 3rd Place \$100

Talk Meet - 1st Place \$250, 2nd Place \$150, 3rd Place \$100

Queen - 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$150, 3rd Place \$100 and \$100 Miss Congeniality

Queen: Point values for the categories are as follows: Knowledge of Farm Bureau and Agriculture (40%), Conversational Ability (15%), Personality (15%), General Appearance (10%), Poise (10%) and Beauty (10%). Please note: **Queens will not be escorted.**

Please note the deadline for all Convention items is May 1, 2018

Talk Meet: The topic for 2018 is “How can Farm Bureau help the public perception of the family farm?” Although suggested, practice is not mandatory. A list of reference material and best practices is included with the entry form on the website.

Talent: Music used for competition must be received in the State Office by the May 1st deadline. Digital music files are **required** and should be emailed to megang@lfbf.org. Please bring the original CD to convention for back-up purposes. Ages for the junior contestants are 6 through 13, while senior contestants must be 14 through 19. Contestants are allowed only two trial runs at practice.

Young Farmers and Ranchers (YFR) Activities:

YFR Official Letter of Certification: The Official Letter of Certification from your parish board of directors must be submitted to the State Office.

YFR Lunch/Business Session: The YFR Business Session will be held during lunch on Thursday, June 21st, at 12:00 noon. We are asking you to include in your list of members attending this convention at least one couple between ages of 18 - 35 who can attend this special lunch and program. District committee members in even- numbered districts, as well as state officers, will be elected. Tickets are \$5 each for the lunch. Please turn in your total parish ticket requirements with your check to the State Office by May 1st, to the attention of Megan Gravois. **Note: Pre-ordering tickets is mandatory. Tickets will not be sold at convention. We will not be able to refund tickets.**

YFR Award of Merit: The YFR Award of Merit is selected based on the YFR section of the 2017-2018 Parish Awards Book. To be considered for the award, you must receive a total of **75 of the 100** possible points in the YFR section of the awards book.

YFR Contests: YFR Contestant registration is Thursday, June 21st, at 8:00 a.m. All contestants should be present, as photos will be taken at this time. The Discussion Meet will be held beginning at 8:30 a.m. that morning followed by Excellence in Agriculture presentations at 10:15 a.m. All YFR finalists and winners will be announced during the Awards Program on Thursday, June 21st.

YFR Hospitality Room: This is the 36th year that the YFR Committee will host a hospitality room. However, we need your help for it to be a success. We are asking for cash donations for the Hospitality Room so the State Committee can coordinate the food and refreshments. Please make checks payable to East St. James Farm Bureau and send as early as possible to East St. James Farm Bureau, Attn: Young Farmers and Ranchers, 3763 Nicole Lane, Paulina, LA 70763.

Please note the deadline for all Convention items is May 1, 2018

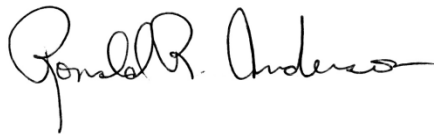
Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant: Louisiana Ag in the Classroom offers mini-grants of up to \$500 for parish Farm Bureaus on a competitive basis. Parishes must have an active AITC Parish Chair whose name has been submitted to the State Office.

Media Awards: Parish Farm Bureaus may nominate local television, radio, weekly newspapers and daily newspapers. The winners will be announced during the Awards Program on Thursday, June 21st.

Thank you for your cooperation in preparing for another successful Annual Convention. Remember all forms, certifications, and applications are online at www.lfbconvention.org/forms. Please note that all convention related forms, certifications and applications must be received in the State Office **by May 1, 2018, labeled CONVENTION**. Please make every effort to adhere to the **May 1st** deadline.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Anderson
President

Enclosures: Tentative Convention Schedule
Youth Contest Brochure
Convention Checklist

cc: State Board
WLC Parish Chairs
YFR Parish Chairs

Parish Offices
State WLC
State YFR

Field Staff
State AITC