

Fall 2017



[www.outstandingfarmers.com](http://www.outstandingfarmers.com)

The Newsletter  
of the Outstanding Farmers of America

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2018 NOYF REGISTRATION 2
- 2017 SUMMER TOUR 3
- 2017 NATIONAL AG DAY 3
- OFA DUES FORM 8

# 2018 NOYF Awards Congress

## SACRAMENTO

### February 15-18

#### 2018 NOYF Hotel:

#### Hilton Sacramento Arden West

2200 Harvard St • Sacramento, California, 95815 • (800) 445-8667

Reserve your room online at  
[www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/hilton-sacramento-arden-west-SMFHIF/index.html](http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/hilton-sacramento-arden-west-SMFHIF/index.html)

**Group Code: NOYF**

Check in: 3:00 PM; Check out: 12:00 PM

\$4/day parking, no airport shuttle service available  
(shuttle bus \$18, Uber \$20)

14 miles from Sacramento International Airport (SMF)

Come early or stay late!

Find all the pre and post Congress tour information at  
[www.outstandingfarmers.com](http://www.outstandingfarmers.com)

#### Friday NOYF Tours:

**Underground Tour-** Journey below, where this city used to be! Discover how stubborn pioneers saved Sacramento from certain doom. It's jacked up!

**Gold Fever Tour-** Go back in time, when the world rushed to Sacramento, greedy for gold! Relive the wild days of the brand-new Capital City, built in exactly the wrong place!

**UC Davis-** one of the world's leading cross-disciplinary research and teaching institutions, located in Davis, California. Wine research & more!

Friday night at the **California Automobile Museum-** From early beginnings to tomorrow's innovative solutions for alternatively powered transportation, the museum is a diverse and dramatic collection of cars and automotive memorabilia that provides a rich and colorful account of the automobile in our lives.



# 2018 Awards Congress Sacramento, CA

Deadline: January 25, 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

OYF Class Of: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs due to Disability: \_\_\_\_\_

	Payment Received By 1/25/18	Payment Received After 1/25/18
_____ NOYF 2018 Complete Weekend Package(s)	\$325 each	\$350 each
_____ NOYF 2018 Awards Banquet ONLY	\$75 each	\$85 each

### Payment Information (check one)

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to confirm \_\_\_\_\_ registration(s) for the 2018 NOYF Awards Congress.

Check    Money Order    Master Card    Visa    Discover

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check or money order payable to OFA. Mail or email this form to:**

OFA Coordinator Sharon Page • 4946 Reeder Rd • Lyons, MI 48851-9724  
Phone (517) 881-6945 • email: [pageeboy@yahoo.com](mailto:pageeboy@yahoo.com)

**Visit [www.outstandingfarmers.com](http://www.outstandingfarmers.com) for electronic version.**



## Deere names new industry relations director

Steve Geick

Director of Industry Relations - John Deere



Steve Geick has been named Director of Industry Relations for Deere & Company. He will replace Chuck Studer in coordinating John Deere's sponsorship of the National Outstanding Young Farmers awards program, and we welcome him to the organization.

Mr. Geick works with stakeholders across North America who share an interest in the future of agriculture and who work the land. In more than 16 years at Deere, Mr. Geick has worked in various roles including product marketing, sales, divi-

sion sales and tactical marketing across the United States.

Mr. Geick has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business Management from Iowa State University.

## 2017 Ag Day in Washington, D.C.



The 2016 NOYF Winners visited Washington, D.C., during National Ag Week in March of 2017. From left are Nate Youngquist and Brooke Loisel, WA; Jess Niederer, NJ; Jennifer and Kevin Wolsky, ND; and Joe and Ida DeFrancesco, CT.

## Summer tour features several stops in Northeast

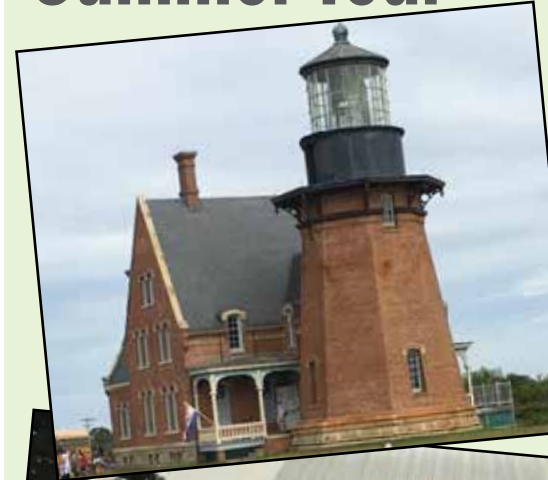
By MariDee Teeter

We all had a great time together with the JOY of being with old friends, and the JOY of meeting new friends like Bob & sweet Laurie DuBose from California. Once we all got accustomed to the ship and the shower built for children, we all had FUN! First stop on the cruise was Nantucket, Ma. Even though it was raining buckets, we still enjoyed the tour of the town and its village full of cottages. Second stop was Martha's Vineyard which showed us the architectural homes of the whaling's golden age. Third stop was New Bedford, Ma. The museum held the world's largest global whaling and maritime history collections as well as a half-scale replica whaling ship, whale skeletons, implements, log books, etc. Fourth stop was Newport, R.I., with its magnificent harbor full of beautiful sailing ships and yachts from all over the world. We toured the town of its many mansions including a walking tour of "The Breakers" the summer home of the Vanderbilts situated right on the Atlantic Ocean. Some of our folks

even enjoyed a ride on one of the America's Cup Sailing ships.

Fifth stop was Block Island, R.I., a beautiful town with its bluffs overlooking the ocean, and a fun tour of their unusual old lighthouse. Here some people enjoyed the Block Island Eco Tour in a kayak. Then we went over to the west side of the island of New Harbor near the Great Salt Pond. We docked back in Warren R.I. where we visited the dairy farm of Paul & Diane Miller who had 1,200 Holsteins. Paul was OYF winner in 1981, and their son David was OYF National winner of 2000. We rode through Hartford, Ct. and moved on into Wallingford where we visited Joe DeFrancesco's vegetable farm and farm store. Joe & Ida were NOYF winners in 2016. We visited the nearby Geremia Greenhouse in Wallingford. This was fascinating with its flowers, nursery stock industry and greenhouse technology. Joey Geremia was so kind to let us walk through the greenhouses and even offered the ladies to take home flowers. He had the most beautiful stock of orchids.

## 2017 Summer Tour



Joe Geremia is the first grower from the horticulture industry to win National the OYF award.

At Guilford-Mystic Seaport we visited Bishop's Orchards, a beautiful 147 year old farm producing apples, peaches, and their own wine. Keith Bishop, CEO of the company, received the Connecticut OYF award in 1985. Then we went on to the Noank Aquaculture Co-Op. Jim Markow runs the Noank hatchery on Long Island, where he grows the oyster seedlings on several thousand acres, all underwater. He sells seedlings to other oyster farmers who "plant" them in Long Island Sound and harvest in a 2- year cultivation period, resulting in one of the finest oysters in the world called the "Noank" oyster, also known as the "Mystic Oyster." We toured the Mystic Seaport Museum, home of more than 500 historic watercraft including the 1841 whaleship "Charles W. Morgan."

We were all so grateful for a beautiful trip, just wish everyone could have come along.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew & Erin Kimmel (PA 2007)  
ackimmel@windstream.net



## Contributions keep OFA strong

Fall greetings to all our OFA friends from western PA! We have begun harvesting corn here within the past few weeks. The weather has been uncharacteristically warm for us, so we got right to work making a dent in corn harvest. Time to see how well a year's worth of planning and preparation, along with battling wet weather and slugs during planting in the spring, will bear out as we start to look at yields during harvest.

2017 has been a year full of milestones for our family. Both of our children grad-

uated in the month of May, our son from Penn State and our daughter from high school. Two graduations in one month made for one busy May! All parents say this, but time surely does go by quickly. Before you realize it they are off and ready to head out into the world and explore their paths. They are both glad to be finished with school and are headed on to new directions in their lives. For our daughter Emily, it's beginning her studies at Indiana University of PA Culinary School, and for our son Ben, its be-

ginning his work with Andrew and his father on the farm and finding his role and position here to keep the farm moving forward.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Sacramento in February. The western region has been working hard to plan exciting tours and make us all feel welcome. The leadership team continues to work well with John Deere and appreciate their support of our program. We also continue to look for additional funding so that we can improve ourselves with more educational experiences for our alumni and candidates, as well as possibly provide more opportunities for our candidates to excel at promoting agriculture on behalf of the OFA.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Spirit of Giving funds help to fund all of our programs on an annual basis. The Donor Advised Fund that was initiated last year is designed to grow over time to help make sure that the OFA remains viable. Please consider giving to either one of these funds to support the OFA. These donations are all tax deductible.

Be careful this fall and hope to see everyone in Sacramento!

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greg and Carmen Bendixson (ND 2002)  
bendixsn@nccray.com



## OFA Ag Outreach continues in CA

Greetings from Northwest North Dakota. As I write this it is mid-September, and harvest has been over for a couple weeks. We have had a horrific drought, so an early snow to cover everything up would be welcome this year. No hurricanes, floods, or tornadoes, and our neighboring state to the west, Montana is on fire, so it could always be worse.

The 2018 OFA congress in Sacramento is coming up fast, heading to California from North Dakota at the end of winter is really something to look forward to. The final round of judging this years' candidates will be done soon, and I would like to thank the NACAA, as once again they have provided us with many candidates. The West Regional committee has done an excellent job setting up this congress, and I would encourage everyone that can, to come early and stay late, as there is so much to see and enjoy.

The "Spirit of Giving" program has become a needed source of additional income to support our congress.

These additional funds are used to help continue to expand and improve our program. I would like to encourage our alumni to donate funds to this program whether planning to attend this year or not so we can keep making each years' program as strong as possible.

The OFA Ag Outreach program will be continuing again the Monday before congress in Sacramento. As in past years we plan to visit an area school, and visit with the students about the products that are produced on our farms, and show how they are produced.

The duties of the OFA board are truly a team effort, but Sharon Page, Rich Norz, and Erin Slivka do so much work all year long to keep this organization up and running. These dedicated alumni are the backbone of our group, and we all should be grateful that we have members willing to do all the work that they do. We hope to see you all soon in California.

## In Remembrance

Jeff Thomson  
(CA 1981)



Immediate Past OFA President Jeff Thomson passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2017. Condolences can be sent to Elaine Thomson at 9852 Buena Vista Blvd., Bakersfield, CA 93307.



# OFA Spirit of Giving

Fall 2017

## OFA DONOR FUND

Buck Teeter TN 1975  
ONEOK

Jack&MaryLou Thomson Foundation CA  
John & Delores Brown FL 1965

### DIAMOND (\$1,000 +)

Joe Gambini & Lois Armstrong CA 1965  
Kevin & Sharon Page MI 1991  
Marlan & Mary Johnson NE 1989  
Rod & Janell Holth ND  
Russ & Marilyn Rosenboom IL 1972  
Gerald Barnes & Neoma Loehr OR 1970  
David & Jeanne Endres WI 2001  
Dana & Julie Stapleton SD 2002  
Tim & Sarah Sullivan MN 2005  
David & Bernie Shiver IL 1970  
John & Marge Walchli OR 1969  
Andy & Hilde Burger DE 1966  
Ken & Audrey Mason SD 1970  
Ralph & Cleo Thompson ND 1970  
Robert & Roberta Call NY 1960  
Ken & Marilyn Bush IL 1966  
Robert Y. Sakata CO 1956  
Bob & Ella Mae Wade KY 1969  
John & Gail Kautz CA 1966  
Dan & Sheila White TX 1970  
Kevin & Krissy Albert NE 2005

### GOLD (\$500 +)

Bill Richards OH 1967  
Lloyd & Daphne Holterman WI 1994  
Rod & Mary Birchen IL 1993  
Greg & Carmen Bendixson ND 2002  
Scott & Peggy Hildebrandt MN 2002  
Memory of Pat Barnes (Class of 2007)  
Willard & Pat Hennings WA 1965  
Eric & Marlene Haberer KS 1972  
Willard & Ruth Pederson ND 1967  
Max & Connie Peterson IL 1974  
Bryce & Cheryl Chamberlain IL 1982  
Richard & Juanalee Alden NE 1966  
Sandy & Peggy Ludeman MN 1982  
Dale & Joanna Koester ID 1959  
Mike & Judy Hennenfent IL 1981  
Steve & Janeen Moest IL 1994  
Dennis & Doris Tuburgen MI 1994  
Jay & Kristi Richardson WI 2004  
Memory of Dolan Brown GA 1965  
Steve & Dee Gordon OR 2012  
Glen & Angie Walters GA 2002

### SILVER

Leo Sebek Memorial SD 2002  
Mark & Angie Ulness WI 2017  
Rufus & Mary Sharard SC 1967  
Ruth Pederson Memorial (Uglem) ND 2012  
Mark & Trudy Peterson MO 2002

OFA is a 501(c) 3

Tax Deductible Non-Profit Organization.

## OFA MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT

### Richard and Shelby Quattlebaum (SC 1965)



What an exciting year 1965 was for us getting to fly to Ft. Collins, Colorado to compete in the National NOYF. We had probably never been that far from home or seen more than a half inch of snow. We got to experience both of these, and what a wonderful time we had. The year we went they had most all of the states represented, and that was a fun time.

The highlight of our trip was George Maxey, who was our year. He invited all the contestants out to his farm and prepared a wonderful meal for us. I bet he didn't know farmers could eat like that. This was a lot of fun visiting his farm and spending time with our group.

Our farm was a 250 acre Holstein dairy farm. Richard finished Clemson University in 1955 in Ag Engineering, and his brother Don finished Clemson University in 1956 in Dairy Science. With the two degrees, the brothers decided to buy a farm which was located just a few miles from Clemson. This worked so well together because Richard could keep most of the farm equipment running and his brother could keep the records on the dairy herd. We raised a variety of crops for silage and feed for the herd. They both met the loves of their lives and were married two years apart. Don married in 1956 and me in 1958. We both decided we needed help

with the baby calves and a decent meal each day. Both of our wives worked other jobs to help supplement the farm.

.....  
**“True happiness comes from watching your crops grow in the field and your children grow tall in the sun.”**

Hard work and honest sweat we feel were the building blocks of our character. Our father died while we were very young, so hard work on the small family farm to help financially as well was instilled in us.

Farming we feel nurtures close family ties that make life rich in many ways that money can't buy. True happiness comes from watching your crops grow in the field and your children grow tall in the sun. Although we have retired from farming due to age, we believe our life will be measured ultimately by what we have done for our fellowman. As I grow older and my days are summed up, I feel great pride in the life I have lived as being a farmer.

I don't think there are enough words to express how much the OFA/NOYF has meant to us. It was a special event to celebrate our 50th year with our class in 2015. We had a good group from our year. We are all like one "big family." We have all traveled together all over the world and visited just about every state. It is so much fun to visit another farm and enjoy their wonderful food and hospitality. We have also enjoyed having a lot of them visit our farm. We have also lost several of our fraternity members, but their legacy will always be remembered and loved and not forgotten by our fraternity.

I will always remember this quote - "A farmer is a man outstanding in his field."

## In Remembrance

**Ruth Pederson** (ND 1967) passed away April 24, 2017.

**Jennifer (Holth) Winkels** (daughter of Rod & Janelle Holth, ND honorary members) passed away September 8, 2017.

# NOYF WINNER'S SPOTLIGHT

## Brad and Molly Judson (MS 2017)

*Brad and Molly Judson operate a row crop farm in Mississippi where they raise cotton, corn, soybeans, and wheat. They were named NOYF winners at the Awards Congress in February 2017. Below, they share some more information about their operation and their experience at NOYF.*

Brad is a third generation farmer. His father left farming in the 1980s to work for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture, so Brad solely started a new farm from scratch after he finished college in 2000.

We have made a lot of progress in the past 17 years obtaining more land and working on irrigating as much of it as we can. We would like to increase our acreage enough so that farming is an option for our sons Hamp (14) and Howie (12) if that is what they want to do for a living. Our focus with growing in acreage is to obtain land that is or can be irrigated.

Finding enough quality ground to lease or purchase has been a challenge. Also, trying to find enough credible information and articles to be

a positive face for agriculture on social media has been a struggle.

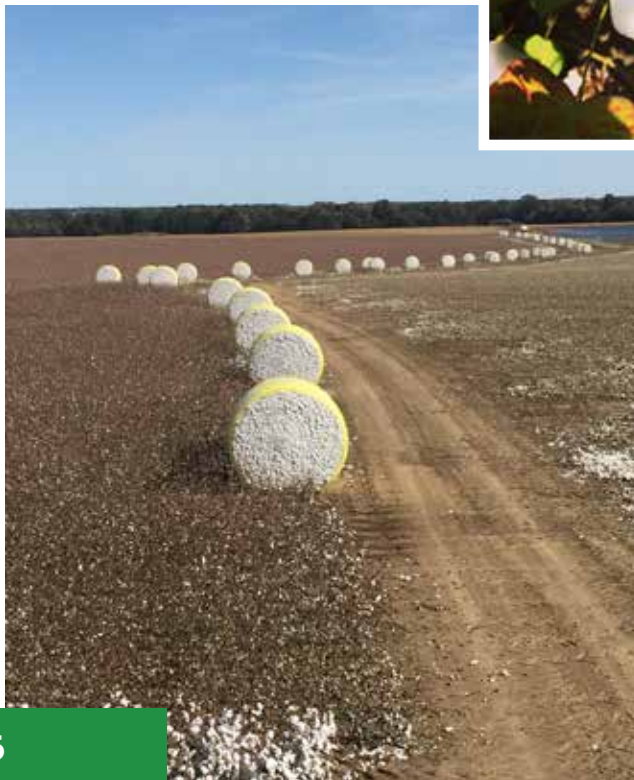
Prior to being nominated for NOYF, we had no idea that this organization existed, but at this point we could not imagine not meeting all of the members. It was awesome to meet 18 people who come from such different areas but were so much like us. I am sure over time, as we talk more and visit each other at home, so much is out there for us to learn from each other.

The OFA Class of 2017 has stayed in touch since last year, and in talking we have realized that we have all worked countless hours. None of us knows a 40 hour work week. NYOF made each of us stop and take a look at our accom-



plishments. We all stay so busy and focused that we sometimes forget to stop and look at what we have done. We all agreed that the application process was an eye opening revelation as to how far we have come.

We cannot wait to see everyone again. California, here we come!





# NOYF WINNER'S SPOTLIGHT

## Chad and Deb Bremmer (IL 2017)

*Chad and Deb Bremmer were named NOYF winners at the Awards Congress in February 2017. They live near Pearl City, Illinois, where they have a diversified crop operation growing soybeans, alfalfa, rye, and dairy replacement heifers. They have three children: Ben, 13, Ethan, 10, and Eli, 8. Below, they tell us a little more about their operation and their experience with NOYF.*

We are the fourth generation to raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and rye on 2,400 acres. We also custom raise dairy replacement heifers for two local dairies from weaning to springers with around 750 head on feed here. We farm with my brother Ross and his family and my parents, Ron and Karen. Deb is a registered nurse and works part time in the GI De-

partment at FHN hospital.

We consider our operation unique for a few reasons. First, my parents had the foresight to form a corporation when my brother and I started farming after college to allow us to buy into the operation right away. We became the sole owners and decision makers for the farm in our early 30s. While Dad still works on the farm daily and Mom keeps the farm books, they gave up control and allowed us to manage with their guidance. The corporation rents all the land and owns all the machinery and buildings. We each own land personally and rent it to the corporation as well.

Another unique part of our operation is that we are able to be involved in the dairy industry without milking cows. The dairy heifers allow us to utilize forages such as alfalfa in our crop rotation and use cover crops such as cereal rye to be chopped for feed while helping to maintain and conserve our soils.

In 5 years, we hope to continue



doing what we love: farming! We are constantly trying to do the best job we can with every acre and animal that we have so that our operation will be profitable and sustainable for generations to come. We hope to continue to expand through purchasing and renting more land so our children can have the opportunity to farm if they so choose. We hope to continue hosting farm tours to help educate the non-farm public and promote agriculture in any way possible.

One of our biggest challenges in the last few years has been complying with EPA livestock regulations. We felt that we had good management practices, but after a federal EPA inspection, we were forced to move cattle off of pastures, build several runoff containment pits, and stop using some outdoor facilities. Consumers don't understand why our livestock is housed in buildings, yet the regulations won't allow them on pasture with supplemental feeding. Education is going to be key moving forward.

Our OFA/NOYF experience was nothing short of amazing! Our class had 10 very deserving couples who do outstanding work promoting a positive image of agriculture. We all come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, yet we all have many things in common. We were honored to be included in this group. We were not sure what to expect as we travelled to South Carolina, but a few days later when we left we knew we had met new lifelong friends from all over this great country!





Outstanding Farmers of America  
 45696 116th St.  
 Sisseton, SD 57262

[www.outstandingfarmers.com](http://www.outstandingfarmers.com)

# OFA Logo Apparel Available



Be sure to order your NOYF and OFA logo gear online! The store has added new items including ¼ zip pullovers and different styles of polos both in men's and ladies'. Order soon so you can sport your new gear at conference in Sacramento this coming February!

To Order: go to [www.outstandingfarmers.com](http://www.outstandingfarmers.com). Under NOYF Awards, click on NOYF & OFA Gear.

Questions? Please Email Krissy Albert [kalbert@dsmedia.com](mailto:kalbert@dsmedia.com) (NE Class of 2005)



## DUES

- \$25 Annual
- \$250 Lifetime  
*(per couple)*

**Submit to:**  
**OFA Treasurer Andrew Kimmel**  
*Outstanding Farmers of America*  
 169 Idaho Rd  
 Shelocta, PA 15774



[www.outstandingfarmers.com](http://www.outstandingfarmers.com)

Send submissions or comments to: Erin Slivka  
 6074 PN Bridge Rd • Winifred, MT 59489 • [slivka.erin@gmail.com](mailto:slivka.erin@gmail.com)