

Fall 2015



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The Newsletter
of the Outstanding Farmers of America

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NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS

Awards Congress



Cincinnati

February 10-14, 2016

Hyatt Regency Hotel

OHIO



Get your NOYF/OFA gear here!

Order your NOYF/OFA polos, sweatshirts, pullovers, and caps so you can attend the NOYF Awards Congress in style! To order, visit <http://www.companycasuals.com/NOYF/start.jsp>. Click on an item and "add decorated items to cart", specify the size, and then submit the shopping cart. Note if you prefer the OFA or NOYF logo in the "imprint information," and check out with paypal. Orders can also be emailed to Krissy Albert at KAlbert@dsmedia.com, or call her at (402) 466-3342.

OFA Class of 1970 pays tribute to Pat Barnes



Pat and Jerry Barnes (OR 1970) dance at NOYF in North Carolina. Pat passed away September 13.

The class of 1970 met Pat when she and Jerry Barnes married. We all immediately felt we had always known her. She had a quick smile, a kind heart, a fun sense of humor, and the proverbial "give you the shirt off her back." She was very creative as all of you know who received her beautiful Christmas wreaths, and she had fun ideas for our Friday evening themes.

Pat and Jerry loved to fly, and they have visited so many people, so many areas. When OFA did the Ireland tour and Jerry was the leader, Pat wasn't able to come,

but she did join us the last couple of days. She was a trooper.

When OFA took over the Outstanding Young Farmer program, because of her previous job experience, Pat was able to keep our organization together. She knew what needed to be done and she worked hard at it. Most people don't realize how hard she worked at keeping us moving on. She worked very hard, but it was a labor of love, as the OFA family was very precious to her and Jerry.

You will be missed, Pat.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeff and Elaine Thomson (CA 1981)
Jeflain2@aol.com

Planning underway for NOYF 2017

Fellow OFA Stakeholders: Out west the spring crops are harvested and long gone to market....the fall carrots and potatoes are growing fast as it has been in the mid 90's the last few weeks. Things are going smoothly with the Outstanding Farmers of America; judging for the Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program was just completed; a good turnout of successful farmers made the judging very difficult!!

Elaine and I very much enjoyed the Midwestern Study Trip in August. It was well planned and very full of interesting venues with John Maxwell organizing many stops, including five or so at OFA members' farms/shops, which made the trip very personal. I highly encourage all OFA members to try to attend the Study Tour next year in 2016. Early thoughts (I heard on the bus) were the North/ East USA and maybe into the eastern part of Canada. At the 2016 NOYF Awards Con-

gress in Cincinnati, Ohio, there will most likely be more specific information.

The Spirit of Giving continues to gain momentum with OFA members earmarking donations for specific causes, including the "OFA Pre-Foundation Account" initiated by Buck Teeter. Think of the OFA and the 501 c 3 status as a tax deductible nonprofit as you plan year end charitable investments!

The OFA Board has been researching a shorter form for the initial National Outstanding Young Farmer award entry, allowing more to apply easily. It's never too early to prospect candidates for the 2017 congress in Greenville, SC. The OFA organization truly needs the help of the members recruiting candidates for the National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program.

As many of you probably know, we lost our longtime OFA Coordinator Pat Barnes in September. Past President Jerry Barnes indicated her heart failed even though she was fighting Stage IV

lung/bone cancer. Pat did a tremendous amount of work for our organization and especially when the US Jaycees transferred the NOYF program to the OFA. Our hearts go out to Jerry and the rest of Pat's family.

If you are in the East Region and can help with the 2017 Congress in Greenville, SC, please contact Danette and Danny Mcalhanney of South Carolina. They are standing by for your help.

If you are in the West Region and can help with the 2018 Congress in Monterey, Calif., please contact Greg Wegis at greg@wegisandyoung.com or Jack Thomson jacksthomson@aol.com or Chad Garone chadgarone@gmail.com. This will be a fun location and offers a lot of options for those attending.

Elaine and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Hyatt Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, this February 2016.



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dana and Julie Stapleton (SD 2002)
stapletn@venturecomm.net • (605) 880-9371

NOYF 2016 will be a celebration of milestones



Hello Everyone from South Dakota. It has been a crazy fall for us. Starting August 27, we chopped corn for 32 days straight and from that went right into bean harvest. And then onto corn harvest until we finished on October 18. (No rain delays.) Wow! it's nice to be done once before the snow flies!

We could use some moisture. Hope everyone is having a great fall and a safe harvest.

Cincinnati, Ohio, is the site for this year's NOYF Congress in February. We hope everyone

can make it to the get together and renew old friendships and meet the new class of 2016. We encourage the Class of 2015 to come back again and see what it is all about!

We want to encourage all OFA members to look for candidates throughout the year. It is never too late to start looking. The deadline always seems to come way too soon! When you get your copy of the Spirit, candidate judging will

have narrowed the finalists down to the Final 10. What a field of candidates!

You may or may not have heard that the OFA has lost an outstanding member. Pat Barnes passed away in September. We will truly miss her passion and knowledge of the OFA family! Our prayers are with Jerry and their family! She will be missed!

This year we are celebrating some milestone anniversaries!

We are celebrating 60 years of the NOYF, 50 Years with Orion Samuelson as Emcee, and 40 years of John Deere being our Major Sponsor! What a great achievement!

Remember to make plans for Ohio. Check out the Spirit for more information on registration and tours! It looks like it will be an exciting Congress! Come and celebrate 60 years of the NOYF!

.....
“We are celebrating 60 years of the NOYF, 50 Years with Orion Samuelson as Emcee, and 40 years of John Deere being our Major Sponsor! What a great achievement!”

2015 OFA Summer Tour



Marlan Johnson gets up close and personal with a wind turbine.



The group poses in front of the "Field of Dreams" home.



2015 NOYF Hotel Info

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati
151 West Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202, US
Phone: (513) 579-1234

- 92 restaurants are located within four blocks of the hotel.
- Valet parking – \$25 a day
- Public parking garage nearby with an enclosed walkway to the Hyatt Hotel

For OFA Rate, visit <https://aws.passkey.com/event/13534815/owner/2603/home>



SECRETARY'S REPORT

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



Yields come up short in Pennsylvania

Greetings to everyone from Western PA where fall and harvest time is definitely here! There is a smell of warm corn running through the grain dryer floating around our farm these days along with millions of pieces of corn chaff. Fall breezes seem to blow it everywhere this time of year.

We started off hope full about a new growing season for 2015, then came June where the rain started and didn't let up for almost the whole month

long. July and August rolled in with dry hot weather which at first was welcome , but eventually stayed too long. The long and short of the harvest report for us is average to below average yields so far. Soybeans never really reached an ideal height and thickness, so we are guessing those yield numbers will be coming in below our desired amount as well.

There wasn't much straw to make and hardly as much hay. Not many wag-

ons to unload. That was a welcome sight depending on who you ask. Kids love unloading wagons!

We look at it that this will just be one of those years that keeps you humble I guess. Work through harvest and take a look back at your year and get back at it planning 2016 and thinking of how you can regroup and attack it again next year.

Kids are growing older but yet we feel the same most days. We have two juniors, one in college and one in high school. Family and the farm keep us busy, that's for sure.

We keep Cincinnati in our minds as we make plans for another congress in 2016. We are excited to celebrate 60 years of the NOY F together this year! We are glad to welcome back to this year's congress Orion Samuelson who celebrates 50 years as our emcee for the NOYF! We are looking forward to experiencing all the interesting tours that are being planned, especially the trip to the National Museum of the Air Force. So much aviation history to see there! Exploring the Underground Railroad will be fascinating as well.

Our hearts were saddened recently to hear the news of the passing of our dear friend Pat Barnes, former OFA coordinator. We appreciated her care and guidance to us as candidates and as class members . She was always there with a warm smile and hello hug to greet us as we arrived and one to encourage us to stay in touch and come back the following year. Thank you for all your care and love for all of us in the OFA; you will be greatly missed.

not paid your \$25 annual dues, or would like to purchase a \$250 lifetime membership, please send them to me at Greg Bendixson, 8905 140th Ave NW, Zahl, ND 58856.

We hope to see you all at the 2016 NOYF Awards Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio, in February. We have a great venue in downtown Cincinnati along with excellent tours highlighted by the Wright Point Air Force Museum in Dayton.

It is never too early to start thinking about nominating a candidate for 2017. Think of a young farmer in your area, or visit with your county agent about our program, as the NACAA has become a great source of candidates for the Outstanding Young Farmer program.

Hope all is well with you and yours.



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Early and plentiful harvest enjoyed in ND

Greetings from Northwest North Dakota. We have finished harvesting a very good crop; it was also an earlier than normal harvest, so we have been able to get a lot of fall work done. Hopefully we won't have an early winter to mess it all up. We are getting the cattle on fall grazing and closer to home, finishing some fall field work, and working on corrals.

We were very sad to hear that Pat Barnes passed this fall. She will be missed greatly as she has spent countless hours devoted to our OFA events. Her leadership was a great asset to our organization.

Thank you to all who sent me your annual dues, as well as a few new lifetime memberships, after receiving the spring Spirit. If you have

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Sharon and Kevin Page (MI 1991)
pageeboy@yahoo.com



2015 has brought change, challenge, and courage

Hello everyone! Where has all the time gone since the last Spirit? Let me first begin by saying that this year has been filled with change, challenge and courage, which I will explain as I go along.

First, there has been Change. Change in leadership and change in my continuing role as the event coordinator. Although, Pat had handed over many of the responsibilities, I was still in the learning mode in which I would welcome her insight. I will truly miss this wonderful lady, her laugh, her phone calls and just the aura of lightening up our lives.

Second, Challenge. As people in agriculture we face challenges every day. I am up for the challenge of this being my first Congress as coordinator. Again, it will seem strange without Pat there to consult. I just ask that you be patient as I go through the process with registration and making every aspect flow smoothly. One of the changes with registration this time is that I do not have access to fax, so, when registering you either scan the registration form or put it in the mail. Please do not hesitate to

contact me if you have questions.

Thirdly, Courage. Recently, I have had to learn to be courageous and humble. For those of you who may not know, I was in a pedestrian-vehicle accident. I was hit by a car on October 7 while crossing the street at my employment and sustained 2 broken arms, which has laid me up for a while. As tragic as it may sound I feel blessed because it could have been so much worse. It has reassured me

“We’re celebrating the anniversary classes of 1956 (60yrs), 1966 (50 yrs), 1976 (40 yrs), 1991 (25 yrs)! ”

of how important life is and not take things for granted. I also feel blessed by all the outpouring of support from the OFA family which reaffirms what this organization is all about. However, let me reassure you that I am still capable to perform duties as the coordinator; I may just have to go at a little slower pace.

Lastly, let’s all come together to celebrate friendship and solidarity of the celebrating 60 years of the NOYF, 50 years of Orion Samelusion, 40 years of John Deere sponsorship and the anniversary classes of 1956 (60yrs), 1966 (50 yrs), 1976 (40 yrs), 1991 (25 yrs)! Looking forward to seeing everyone in February.



Fall 2015

PLATINUM (\$5,000 +)

Buck Teeter

Class of 2002 & 2005

(Stapleton, Albert, Walters, Bendixson, Hildebrandt, Sullivan, Peterson, McAlhaney)

DIAMOND (\$1,000 +)

Joe Gambini	CA	1965
Andy & Hilde Burger	DE	1966
John & Marge Walchli	OR	1969
Ken & Audrey Mason	SD	1970
David & Bernie Shiver	IL	1970
Ralph & Cleo Thompson	ND	1970
Russ&MarilynRosenboom	IL	1972
Marlan&MaryJohnson+	NE	1989
Kevin & Sharon Page	MI	1991
Rod & Janell Holth +	ND	
Robert Call		

GOLD (\$500 +)

Dale & Joanna Koester	ID	1959
Willard & Pat Hennings	WA	1965
RichardandJuanaleeAlden	NE	1966
Willard&RuthPederson	ND	1967
Jerry & Pat Barnes	OR	1970
Eric & Marlene Haberer	KS	1972
Max & Connie Peterson	IL	1974
Bryce&CherylChamberlain	IL	1982
Steve & Dee Gordon	OR	2012
Ben&KathrynLittlepage	LA	1965
Denny & Judy Crum	MD	1981
John&MarthaHubschmidt	NJ	1966
Mike Hennenfent		
Dale & Joanna Koester		
Sandy Ludeman		

OFA is a 501(c)3 Tax Deductible Non-Profit Organization.

In Remembrance

Sam McGregor (SC 1964) passed away June 20, 2015 after a two week illness.

Willard Willson (WY 1959) passed away Nov. 7, 2014 at age 87.

2016 Awards Congress • February 11-14 • Cincinnati, OH

REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline January 10, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

OYF Class of _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Yes, I have special needs due to a disability. Please explain: _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

*Payment Received
by 1/10/15*

*Payment Received
after 1/10/15*

____ NOYF 2016 Complete Weekend Package..... \$250 per person \$275 per person

____ NOYF 2016 Awards Banquet and Ceremony **ONLY** \$75 per person \$ 85 per person

FLIGHT ARRIVAL TIME: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION (check one)

Enclosed is \$_____ to confirm _____ registration(s) for the 2016 National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress in Cincinnati, OH.

Credit card # _____ Expiration date _____

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: pageboy@yahoo.com



DOWNLOAD THIS FORM ONLINE AT WWW.OUTSTANDINGFARMERS.COM

2016 NOYF Awards Congress Tours • February 11-14 • Cincinnati, OH

Bluegrass Farms of Ohio Inc.

Bluegrass Farms of Ohio is one of the largest Non-GMO soybean processing plants in Ohio. It is located in Jeffersonville, Ohio where a fully knowledgeable staff is dedicated to the procurement of non-GMO soybeans. Their goal is to provide the grower the necessary tools to maximize his profits by growing the highest quality non-GMO grains to feed the world. Currently, non-GMO Soybeans Seed Varieties available to purchase through Bluegrass Farms of Ohio, Inc. include: BG 6, BG 67, and BG28A.

Trupointe

Trupointe, a cooperative headquartered in Piqua, Ohio, serves 4,100 members through several locations in Ohio and Indiana. Along with providing agronomy products and services, Trupointe also offers feed, grain, power fuel, propane, turf services and operates five farm and home stores. The OFA tour will visit the South Charleston, Ohio, location which is one of three bulk crop nutrient and crop protection hubs. This location has the ability to load 15 tanks of anhydrous ammonia in 15 minutes from their 210,000 gallon capacity. They also have the storage capacity of one million gallons of 32% nitrogen and 40,000 tons of dry fertilizer.

National Museum of the United States Air Force

The National Museum of the United States Air Force located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the service's national institution for preserving

and presenting the Air Force story. Each year more than one million visitors come to the museum to learn about the mission, history and evolving capabilities of America's Air Force. The museum is the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum featuring more than 360 aerospace

vehicles and missiles on display amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. Thousands of personal artifacts, photographs and documents further highlight the people and events that comprise the Air Force storyline, from the beginnings of military flight to today's war on terrorism.

On Your Own: Pre and Post Congress Tour Options

National Machinery Show – Louisville, KY – Feb. 10 - 13

For 50 years, the National Farm Machinery Show has offered the most complete selection of cutting-edge agricultural products, equipment and services available in the farming industry. The Kentucky Exposition Center is completely filled with 860 exhibitors, making it the country's largest indoor farm show. Louisville is a 90 minute drive from Cincinnati.

Netherland Plaza Hotel and Carew Tower Walking Tour

Carew Tower is a 49-story, 574-foot building completed in 1930 in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, overlooking the Ohio River waterfront. The complex contains the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, which is described as a fine example of French Art Deco architecture, and was used as the model for the Empire State Building in New York City.

Jungle Jim's International Market

Jungle Jim's International Market is more than a grocery store, it's a destination! With more than 200,000 square feet of shopping space in each of our stores, there are over 150,000 products from which to choose.

Findlay Market

Findlay Market is Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market and one of Cincinnati's most cherished institutions, welcoming more than a million visitors a year. Findlay Market is home to more than 40 indoor merchants selling meat, fish, poultry, produce, flowers, cheese, deli, and ethnic foods.

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Over 1.5 million people visit the Zoo's award-winning exhibits, and more than 500 animal and 3000 plant species annually.

Newport Aquarium

The Newport Aquarium is in Newport, Kentucky, just minutes from downtown Cincinnati, containing 70 exhibits and 14 galleries with thousands of animals from around the world.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Opened on the banks of the Ohio River in Cincinnati in 2004, the mission of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is to reveal stories of freedom's heroes, from the era of the Underground Railroad to contemporary times. A history museum with more than 100,000 visitors annually, it serves to inspire modern abolition through connecting the lessons of the Underground Railroad with today's freedom fighters.

Camp Washington Chili

Camp Washington Chili is a Cincinnati chili parlor founded in 1940 in the neighborhood of Camp Washington, near downtown Cincinnati. The restaurant is open 24 hours a day every day but Sunday. Johnny Johnson, the patriarch of the Camp Washington Chili family, has been a constant part of that routine since 1951 when he immigrated to the United States from Greece and began working at Camp Washington Chili. Johnny hasn't worked anywhere else since the day he arrived — a testament to his lifetime commitment to "chili-making."

NOYF 2016: SHOWCASING FARM PRIDE

Submitted by the East Midwest Conference Team

As you know, Cincinnati has been chosen to host the 2016 OYF Congress. John and Mary Shawhan from Ohio are working hard to make this a memorable event. We are excited to go to the National Air Force Museum, which you will never forget, with everything aviation including the Wright Brothers plane to an Air Force One. We have some great speakers lined up that will inform and entertain you.

The theme for 2016 is "Farm Pride." On Friday night, proudly wear your farm pride T-shirt, Cap, Jacket, or whatever you create.

Since the Louisville Farm Show starts February 10 and the Congress starts on the 11th, some of you may want to stop there on the way to Cincinnati. Be sure to secure rooms early!

We will be looking for about a dozen quality items for the auction. A quilt has already been promised.



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

www.outstandingfarmers.com

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NOYF COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Rich and Debbie Norz (NJ 2010)
noyfprogram@gmail.com



2016 Finalists are top notch

Greetings from New Jersey. It has been a busy summer and fall season. We had a very difficult growing season this year with less than four inches of rain from July through September and some very hot temperatures. But we were very fortunate to host many visitors to our farm again this summer and fall to enjoy our summer produce, our annual Fall Festival and our night Haunted attractions. We just completed the application rounds of the 2016 National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program. It again looks like we will have another great group of Finalists attending the NOYF Congress that will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in February of 2016.

This past summer, our program was significantly helped out by the NACAA finding many nominees with a few coming in from the OFA.

We know that everyone is finishing up with their fall harvest season and is getting ready for the winter holidays, but keep in mind this is a great time to be on the lookout for the next great farmer in your area that can be nominated to compete in the 2017 National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Program! Please go and visit these individuals and tell them about our great program and get them interested and excited to apply next summer. Certainly

encourage any prospective National Outstanding Young Farmer nominees to visit the OFA website at www.outstandingfarmers.com. Tell them to take a few minutes and learn a little more about our program. Please keep in mind that the deadline for the next NOYF Nominations is August 1, 2016, but we will certainly accept nominations before that.

We are excited about the direction the NOYF Program is headed and you can help make it even better by finding that neighbor that will be the next great National Outstanding Young Farmer!

Looking forward to seeing you all in Cincinnati, Ohio!



The Newsletter
 of the Outstanding
 Farmers of America

Send submissions or comments to:

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 6074 PN Bridge Rd
 Winifred, MT 59489
slivka.erin@gmail.com