

Subscribe to our weekly Idaho email newsletter at CapitalPress.com/newsletters

Idaho FFA Convention

New Idaho FFA state officers ready to serve

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — Running on empty at the close of the annual Idaho State Leadership Conference, newly elected state officers were nonetheless thrilled with their new roles and excited for the year ahead.

"I'm honestly in shock. I don't believe I'm worthy of this almost," President Saydee Longhurst said.

A senior at Shelly High School, Longhurst has served as FFA chapter and district president. She plans to attend Utah State University to major in agribusiness and hopes to one day take over her parents' first-generation family farm.

Her goal in the coming year is to visit all the FFA chapters in the state to "support the wonderful members FFA has to offer," she said.

She also hopes to grow personally, saying she's already grown so much through the state candidate process.

Vice President Harrison Jansen van Beek said he's a little worn out, but overall excited and "super happy."

"I couldn't ask for anything better. It's going to be an amazing year," he said.

A senior at Middleton High School, he has served



New Idaho state FFA officers at the close of the State Leadership Conference in Twin Falls on April 7. From left are Vice President Harrison Jansen van Beek, Sentinel Caleb Johnston, Reporter Savannah Stroebel, Secretary Allyson King, President Saydee Longhurst and Treasurer Melanie Searle.

Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press

as chapter president and district vice president. He plans to attend the University of Idaho in agribusiness and plans to either teach or enter the financial industry to promote and protect agriculture.

His goal in the year ahead is to speak to FFA members who might not necessarily

know where their place is in agriculture and help them figure out what FFA can provide, he said.

"I hope to meet as many members as possible and enjoy every moment of this experience that has been provided to me," he said.

Secretary Allyson King

said she's "excited, overwhelmed and really looking forward" to the year ahead.

The new officer team is already united, and she hopes to gain experience and spur members' passion for agriculture and FFA and carry on the good name of Idaho FFA, she said.

Outgoing Idaho FFA officers wrap up a year of growth

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — It's been a whirlwind year for Idaho's state FFA officers, who retired on Saturday at the conclusion of the annual State Leadership Conference held at the College of Southern Idaho.

They put on career development events for members, went on business and industry tours, attended leadership training conferences with other state leaders, visited chapters across the state, attended the National FFA Convention and a leadership seminar in South Africa and planned the state conference.

They learned a lot — about the organization, agriculture, fellow members and themselves.

Lindsey Stowell, state president, said she learned the importance of a positive attitude.

"The fact that I knew I only had 365 days to serve in this position really pushed me to think positively and relish each moment, whether it was stressful or not, and just get the job done," she said.

Austen Thomason, state treasurer, learned the value of face-to-face interactions with members, advisors and supporters.

"I could sit behind a desk for days and send emails and make phone calls constantly,



Outgoing Idaho FFA state officers at the State Leadership Conference on April 4 at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. From left are Treasurer Austen Thomason, Weiser; Secretary Sydney Anderson, Nampa; President Lindsey Stowell, Vallivue; and Vice President Randy Clements, Clark County.

Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press

and I would never be able to mimic the impact of being on the road and talking face-to-face," he said.

Sydney Anderson, state secretary, said she's been able to build her understanding of true service, and interacting with members has been the most fulfilling experience of her life.

Randy Clements, state vice president, said he learned a lot about himself and others and the experience broadened his perspective on the impact of American agriculture.

The officers said their goals were to serve members, visit with as many members

as possible to fuel their passion and advocate for agriculture.

"I am so proud to say that each and every chapter I visited voiced their passions with enthusiasm and showed me exactly what it means to be advocates for every side of agriculture," Stowell said.

"Agriculture is the backbone of our nation, and this generation is the future — one I am proud to be a part of," she said.

"Members continually surprised me with their new ideas for the future of agriculture," she said.

Clements said he was surprised by the impact FFA has had across the nation, judging from the positive recognition he received when wearing his blue jacket.

Most surprising to Anderson was being looked up to by FFA members.

"Having members express their inspirations to us was the most surprising realization ... and it really made me realize what service really means," she said.

The officers said their year

at the helm was extraordinary and unforgettable, and they had some advice for those who assumed their roles.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that you have, so make the most of it ... keep a positive attitude, a heart of service, and remember it's all about the members," Stowell said.

"Give it all your heart," Clements said.

"Don't wait a single second; get to know the members," Thomason said.

He also advised new officers to be themselves, be personable and remember they have a lot to learn.

"You got elected because you are you, not because you're the perfect state officer," he said.

Anderson said there will be challenges and advises new officers to lead with a positive attitude.

"This is going to be the best year of your life, and I encourage you to take in every single moment with confidence and gratitude because it will fly by," she said.

She is a senior at Filer High School and has served as chapter and district president.

She plans to pursue agribusiness management, starting at the College of Southern Idaho and moving on to a larger college. She hopes to eventually own a local business related to agriculture, such as a floral or ice cream shop.

Treasurer Melanie Searle said being elected to state officer is "just unreal."

"I've wanted this since I joined FFA," she said.

A senior at Burley High School, she has served as chapter and district president.

She's already grown close to the other officers through the candidate process and is excited to serve with the team, she said.

"I hope to reach out to the members of all different backgrounds and help them find their place in FFA, as well as grow personally and be a positive voice for FFA," she said.

Reporter Savannah Stroebel said she feels blessed and excited to serve Idaho FFA.

"It's like a dream come true, and I'm super excited to get started," she said.

She is a senior at Kuna High School and has served as chapter and district president.

ident. She plans to attend the University of Idaho to major in agriculture education in pursuit of being an agriculture teacher and FFA adviser.

In the year ahead, she hopes to improve her leadership skills and learn from the experiences of FFA members around the state, she said.

"I hope to get more members excited about FFA and let them know they can wear the blue jacket even if they're not from a farm background," she said.

Sentinel Caleb Johnston said the candidate process has been a roller coaster of emotions and being elected a state officer is a surreal experience.

"My heart's full. I'm ready to go serve," he said.

He served as chapter president as a senior at New Plymouth High School and is now a freshman at Boise State University. He is majoring in chemistry and biology with an eye on working in the agricultural chemicals or animal genetics industries.

He said he'll probably lighten his college course load in the coming year and focus on helping FFA members grow in an atmosphere of it being OK to be themselves, genuine and transparent with others.



Keynote speaker Ray Starling, President Donald Trump's special assistant for agriculture, addresses Idaho FFA members during the State Leadership Conference in Twin Falls on April 5.

Ray Starling, President Donald Trump's special assistant for agriculture, addressed Idaho FFA members during the State Leadership Conference in Twin Falls on April 5.

Trump adviser credits FFA for his success

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — About 1,500 Idaho FFA members swarmed the campus of the College of Southern Idaho for the annual State Leadership Conference, and the school's gymnasium was packed Thursday afternoon to hear keynote speaker Ray Starling.

An FFA alumnus and past national FFA vice president, Starling holds a high position in the Trump administration as assistant to the president for agriculture, trade and food assistance on the National Economic Council.

He shared his enthusiasm for FFA and his pleasure to be back among the FFA family at the conference, delighting members with his blue-jacket humor. His message, however, was how FFA prepared him for every position and success in his career.

Before his White House appointment, Starling was chief of staff, chief general counsel and senior policy adviser for U.S. Sen. Tom Tillis, R-N.C. He also was general counsel for the North Carolina Department

of Agriculture and Consumer Services and has experience in private practice.

"Twenty-three years ago, I sat where you are sitting now," he told FFA members.

His FFA experiences are memorable, just like Idaho FFA members' experiences are today. But back then, he had little grasp of "how significant the organization is and the influence it can have on your life," he said.

Throughout his career, he's faced many challenges. But every one of them came easier to him than they might have to someone else because of FFA, he said.

Doing something different is hard, and he had to do something different in each new position along the way. But whether it was litigating on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture or advocating for agricultural policy in the Legislature, he felt he had been in those situations before because of the experiences he had in FFA, he said.

"I had done that before. ... I felt I had the home-field advantage because I had been in FFA," he said.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF FINE FESCUE COMMISSION BUDGET HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to ORS 576.416 (5), on Monday, May 7, 2018, at 7:00 a.m., at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market Street NE, Salem, Oregon, upon a proposed budget for operation of the Fine Fescue Commission during the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. At this hearing any producer of Oregon-grown Fine Fescue or Highland Bentgrass seed has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for public inspection, under reasonable circumstances, in the office of each County Extension Agent in Oregon. For further information, contact the Fine Fescue Commission business office, P.O. Box 3366, Salem, Oregon 97302, telephone 503-364-2944. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please make any requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Commission office at 503-364-2944.

15-3/999

GOT MILKERS? Celebrate June Dairy Month
in Capital Press' 34th Annual Dairy Industry SPECIAL SECTION June 1st, 2018

Our annual Dairy Special Section spotlights dairy operations and operators in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It features an in depth look at the situations and successes - needs and concerns of this dynamic industry.

To reach our print and online readers, contact your sales representative or call 1-800-882-6789.

Ad space reservation is by Friday, May 4th.

Capital Press
The West's Ag Weekly

PO Box 2048 • Salem, OR 97308
(503) 364-4798
(800) 882-6789
Fax: (503) 364-2692 or (503) 370-4383
www.capitalpress.com

ROP-15-3-3/10U

STUMP BLASTER
BLAST STUMPS INTO DUST

BAUMALIGHT.COM

MFG OF BRUSH MULCHERS | STUMP GRINDERS | DRAINAGE PLOWS
BOOM MOWERS | PTO GENERATORS | AUGER BITS & DRIVES
TRENCHERS | TREE SPADES | TREE SAWS | LIMB SHEARS AND MORE

ELLIS EQUIPMENT 800-949-2336

ROP-13-40-3/102