

Meyersdale FFA Challenged To Think About What Matters In Life

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SOMERSET (Somerset Co.)—
The Meyersdale Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter in Somerset County held its annual banquet on May 23 at the high school cafeteria with Paul Hostetler, state FFA president from Lancaster County, serving as guest speaker.

"What really matters to you in life," asked Hostetler to a crowd of about 150 students, family members and guests. "Something that bothers me is people who waste talent because of fear of failure or being laughed at."

Hostetler encouraged the group to step out of their comfort zones and experience life on a new level. He used his own experience of finishing last in public speaking during his freshman year in high school as a reason to try something again.

"Challenge yourself tonight and think about what matters most to you," said Hostetler. "Then, give yourself the strength to get up and try again."

Also speaking was Lance Bitner, state sentinel and a graduated member of the Berlin Brothersvalley FFA, also in Somerset County.

During the program, the Meyersdale FFA Chapter chose Roy Vena Jr., the high school guidance counselor and a former Meyersdale FFA sentinel, as its honorary chapter degree recipient. Vena was honored by the



The Meyersdale FFA officers and award winners, from left, are Sara Hoover, Crystal Shifflett, Jen Decker, and Megan Murray. Back, from left, are Jarrod Murray, Jon Henry, Mark Lowery, Tom Shaffer, and Shawn Troutman.



Roy Vena Jr., high school guidance counselor, receives an honorary membership award to the Meyersdale FFA from Jen Decker, left, the FFA Chapter president. Vena's wife Lana and children Zachary and Katie are at right. Vena was a former officer of the Meyersdale FFA, serving as sentinel in 1976.

senior FFA officers for his constant guidance and support of the FFA program.

"I am deeply honored by this selection and especially as a former FFA member, I know the value of having been named for this degree," said Vena after the banquet. "From my perspective as an educator, I realize that the community effort and parental involvement is so necessary for a successful program like Meyersdale's to work effectively."

Vena served as sentinel of the Meyersdale FFA during his senior year in 1976. He attended the banquet with his wife Lana, a Meyersdale Elementary school teacher, and children Zachary and Katie.

Career Development award winners awards went to the following: Jarrod Murray, dairy cattle; Shawn Troutman, livestock; Megan Murray and Crystal Shifflett, ag sales and production; Tim Emerick, tractor driving.

Megan Murray and Crystal Shifflett, interview; Mark Lowery and Jon Henry, small gas engines; Jennifer Decker and Brandon Lepley, horse judging; Jasmine Metheny, floriculture; Derek Decker, creed speaking.

Crystal Shifflett, Beth Miller and Jasmine Metheny, senior prepared FFA; Jennifer Decker and Mark Lowery, extemporaneous public speaking; Jon Henry and Mike Ohler, conservation public speaking.

Matt Troutman, record book

(swine); Jennifer Decker, record book (off-farm); Mark Lowery, star farmer; Melissa Tressler, star greenhand; Jennifer Decker, highest GPA chapter scholarship; Megan Murray and Sara Hoover, chapter and leadership and career goal CD awards.

Academic Excellence awards: Megan Murray, Jennifer Decker, Timothy Vought, Melissa Tressler, Erin Kelly, Crystal Shifflett, Mark Klink, Matthew Perkins, Mark Lowery, Shirley Tressler, Beth Miller and Norman Coberly.

Appreciation awards were given to Kay Ann Cober, high school teacher, and Jen Decker, chapter president.

FFA Volleyball: Thomas Shaffer, Fred Werner, Megan Murray, Jon West, Jarrod Murray, Beth Miller, Crystal Shifflett, Mark Klink, Nina Zimmerman, Sarah Boger, Meredith Murray, Katie Lantz, and Christopher Lepley.

Current FFA Sweetheart Jen Decker was presented with her crown from last year's recipient, Shawna Porter.

FFA Basketball: Adam Gray, Jon West, Mark Klink, Dustin Wilt, Jarrod Murray and Shawn Troutman.

Retiring officers: Jen Decker, president; Crystal Shifflett, vice president; Shawn Troutman, treasurer; Jon Henry, secretary; Mark Lowery, sentinel; Jarrod Murray, chaplain; Megan Murray, student adviser; Sara Hoover, reporter; and Tom Shaffer, parliamentarian.

Lancaster Society 23

In 1952, Mrs. Robert Herr, county president of the Society of Farm Women, organized Society #23. It was the first society organized in several years and was located in Manor Township where members are now celebrating its 50 years of being socially and charitably busy.

Society #23 members are still predominately from Manor Township although they do accept members from outside the township. Membership remain under 25 and meetings are held in members' homes. Mrs. Clayton (Dollie) Charles is the current president and Florence Hess was the chair for the 50th year celebration planning.

At the May 10 Celebration Luncheon for 50 Years, several former members returned to help celebrate and renew acquaintances. It took place in the all purpose room at the Central Manor Church of God where many of the women met 50 years ago in Sunday school and church.

The buffet luncheon was catered by Rosemary Hess with help from members. A brief memorial service for former members was conducted by Eileen Thomas. There were a lot of memories shared as the women talked about achieving 50 years of service in Manor Township.

Ken Hoak, curator of the Conestoga Area Historical Society, spoke of Manor Township history and the Conestoga Wagon's importance to Lancaster County farmers' commerce. He said that hemp for rope and flax were some of the products along with whiskey, potatoes, lumber and other produce that were hauled to other cities with port service.

In recalling their beginning, Phyllis Brubaker and Barbara Nissley talked about calling the first members to come to a possible organizational meeting in the Brubaker's livingroom. They were a group of young mothers and noted, in fact, that five of the 18 members in 1953 were pregnant.

The early members related the first funds raised by their society for charitable use came from members assembling rhinestone jewelry and selling stockings

Lancaster Society 8

The Society of Farm women #8 met for lunch at the Mount Joy Vo Tech School May 8. Following the luncheon, the group traveled to the Witman home to hear Dr. Kathleen Hay explain the extensive program of Clinical Research Studies at Hershey Medical Center.



from a Hanover outlet. Their efforts gained \$300 and they were commended for their efforts at the state farm women's convention which takes place each year during the Pennsylvania Farm Show week.

In recent year, Society 23 has raised its fund selling food at property sales where the two standard food items are "wonderful chicken corn soup and a selection of homemade pies."

It was pointed out that their 50th Anniversary program was about the 600th educational program for Society 23.

During the business meeting, an induction ceremony was conducted for new members, Shirley Warwick and Mary Sheetz.

Plans were completed for the June meeting when our group will host the birthday party at the Mennonite Home in Lancaster for the guests who have a birthday in June.

Lancaster Society 14

The May meeting for Lancaster Society of Farm Women #14 was a Car-A-Rama concentrating on the town of Lititz. Fifteen members plus friends participated.

Visits were made to four locations — Kready's Store Museum at 55 N. Water St.; Wilbur Chocolate Museum at 48 N. Broad St.; Linden Hall girls' school (for lunch); and the Sturgis Pretzel Factory at 219 Main St.

Eighteen members met in April at the Family Cupboard Restaurant for lunch. It was reported that the group's state project is Feed the Children. Also announced was the date of September 4, 2002, to entertain the

residents at Conestoga View.

In March, a 9:30 a.m. breakfast was enjoyed at the Shady Maple Restaurant.

The February meeting was at Jean E. Groff's home. The speaker was Brenda Lehman who gave her life story by starting with Psalm 66 saying "Praise, Give God the Glory."

The January meeting was hosted by Ruth Kreider where 14 members made two bed rolls for homeless people. Jan. 3, six people went to the Lancaster General Hospital where 266 pieces were completed. Ruth Kreider and Jean E. Groff gave a report on the 83rd annual convention.

Lancaster Society 20

Farm Women #20 met April 4 at the Memorial United Methodist Church where they entertained Societies #23 and #15 to a covered dish luncheon.

Following the luncheon, Valeria Ferguson had devotions for which she read from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes and gave a corresponding reading and spoke about the meaning. The devotions ended with the group praying in unison, "The Lord's Prayer."

Following the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag, roll call took

place with each one present, including guests, mentioning her favorite flower. The sunshine committee reported one card recently sent.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, the "Buffalo Gals" entertained.

For the May meeting, Farm Women #20 planned to meet for lunch at the Old country Buffet.

The thought for the month was "Take time to laugh — it is music to the soul."

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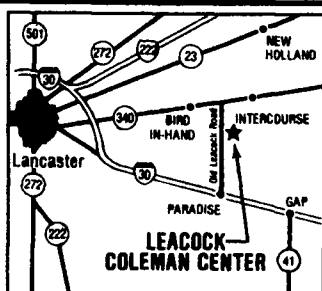
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