

Minnesota Association of



Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals

Section Slants



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President's Pen

The past few months have been busy for our association with regional JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) meetings and PILD (Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference). Anita Walz, President-Elect attended PILD.

I attended the JCEP meeting, this year held in St. Louis, MO. While spring had sprung in St. Louis, coming home on March 1st to a blizzard was cruel. The theme for JCEP this year was Internationalizing Extension. Representatives from all Extension disciplines attend this workshop including Agriculture, Family Consumer Science, Community Development, Epsilon Sigma Phi as well as 4-H Youth Development. Clyde Jackson, NAE4-HA President has asked our World Citizenship Committee to explore ways to share information about the international agenda via our NAE4-HA website.

The best part of the JCEP experience was our 4-H North Central Regional meeting. We worked with our NC Regional Directors, Steve Wagoner and Niki Nestor McNeely and state

presidents from across the region. Those attending were interested to hear about Minnesota, especially our growth in membership that includes Program Coordinators/Directors, Regional Extension Educators and State Staff.

I hope you are making plans to attend our national meeting, this year to be held in Atlanta, GA. Dates are October 21-25, 2007. Watch for registration information in early summer. Early bird registration is due in July and will save you money.

I have forwarded to the membership the spring NAE4-HA Regional Newsletter. Be sure to read Clyde Jackson's article with his reference to the book, "Juggling Elephants". Some good food for thought.

Sincerely,
 Barb Sorensen,
 MAE4-HYDP President

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Member Updates

Vacancies:

Tamie Lorch left the Regional Extension Educator position out of the Brainerd Regional Center.

Julie Schmidt left the Regional Extension Educator position out of the Hutchinson Regional Center.

Retirement

Steve Handegaard retires as a Regional Extension Educator from the Moorhead Regional Center.

Babies

Nancy Hegland and her husband Darin are please to announce the birth of Maria Darin who arrived on April 11th at 4 am. She weighed in at 8 lbs, 7 ounces and 21 inches.

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference- “Connectivity: Community to the Capitol”

JCEP sponsored the annual PILD Conference, “*Connectivity: Community to the Capitol*”, in Washington DC, from April 23rd to the 25th. The Conference keeps Extension professionals abreast of changing public issues that impact our communities and affect Extension programming. A variety of speakers were offered to help identify emerging issues and assist in addressing these issues in the community, and Monday and Tuesday all participants were in Conference workshops. Three Minnesota Extension delegates presented during the Conference. Dr. Laura Kalambokidis, a keynote speaker, presented “*Defining Public Value in Extension.*” Jeanne Markell and Toni Smith presented “*Building Social Capitol in Extension Government Relations and Extension AMC Collaborations.*”

The Minnesota delegation of eighteen Extension representatives conducted meetings with representatives from all eight Minnesota congressional and two senate offices. Extension dele-

gates in attendance were: Bev Durgan, Claudia Cody, Sarah Greening, Barbara Grossman, Angela Gupta, Laura Kalambokidis, Barbara Liukkonen, Jeanne Markell, David Nicolai, Kathy Olson, David Pfarr, Lee Raeth, Dick Senese, Toni Smith, Aimee Viniard-Weideman, and Anita Walz. Jon Evert, past chair of the Extension Citizens Advisory Committee, and Sharon Josephson, current chair, also were in attendance with the Minnesota delegation. MAE4HYDP President Elect, Anita Walz, framed the discussion around the statewide commitment to increase the access traditional and underserved young people and families have to 4-H experiences. Dialogue centered around the diverse audiences, immigrant populations and Operation Military Kids we serve, and that we are intentional in efforts to ensure that the elements we know through research to be essential to a quality youth development experience are present in everything we do.

Previous to traveling to DC, the delegation reviewed the **CREATE 21** document. In 2006, the land-grant University system developed a legislative proposal to enhance both efficiency and funding for research, education and extension. The resulting proposal, **CREATE 21**, calls for a new institute under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that would both preserve existing formula programs and greatly expand competitive grant opportunities for agriculture. The funding for federal formula programs has decreased by \$72 M, inflation-adjusted, over the last 15 years. In addition, there is a federal resource gap for research in agricultural sciences. Funding for agricultural sciences has not kept pace with the increases in funding to National Institute of Health and National Science Foundation. That is why the Association of Land Grant Universities named **CREATE 21** a priority in the reauthorization of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Making Conference Calls Productive

Here are ways to make conference calls more productive:

---Treat a conference call the same way you would treat an important meeting. Make sure everyone has a clear, itemized agenda. Have the conference call start on time and end when you have committed to ending it.

---Limit the number of people on the call to 4 (maximum 5). Anything over that borders on chaotic. It becomes extremely difficult to keep track of who is talking, plus, when you have too many people on the call, it is an invitation for people to go on automatic pilot. Some of us have even pressed the mute button and start multi-tasking.

---Don't multi-task when on a conference call. If you THINK you can answer your e-mail and participate in the conference call you are kidding yourself. Things are going to get missed when you do that. You wouldn't respond to your

e-mail if you were in a meeting, so you shouldn't do it if you are on a conference call.

---As the organizer of the conference call, have everyone introduce himself or herself up front. Then ask for people to state who they are before they speak. They don't have to do it every time, but it is important for people who don't know each other's voices especially well to become familiar as quickly as possible.

---Try not to interrupt. Hold your tongue and wait for the appropriate time to jump in.

--Finally, as the organizer of the conference call, wrap up the meeting with a recap of what has been accomplished and agreed upon. Also, identify issues or questions that must be explored further. Make sure you thank everyone for his or her participation and say good-bye.

MAE4HYDP Award Winners

ASA

Rachel Bender, 4-H Program Coordinator, Carver County

Anna Gilbertson, 4-H Program Coordinator, Anoka County

DSA

Donna Geiser, 4-H REE, Fergus Falls

Sharon Davis, 4-H REE, Albert Lea

MSA

Mary Duncomb, 4-H REE, Farmington

25 year

Cindy Bigger, REE, Community Vitality

Specialty:

Excellence in Teamwork: Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics Team: Juanita Reed-Boniface, Shirley Doering, Sharon Davis, Brad Rugg, and rest of LQA&E team for LQA&E curriculum development, trainings, policy work

Educational Technology-Team: Brian McNeil and Carrie Olson for programming with Lego Robotics

Communicator:

Promotional Piece-Individual: Barb Piehl
"Connecting to 4-H in Chisago County"

Handegaard Retires

After 30 years of working with the 4-H Youth Development Program and Extension Steve Handegaard retires. Over the last three years Steve was a Regional Extension Educator serving out of the Moorhead Regional Center. Below Steve is pictured with Brad Rugg (Left) and Dorothy Freeman (Right).



Email Addresses Wanted

If you are a life-time member, we would love to have your email address for upcoming meetings, announcements and Section Slants. If you could send Brian McNeill (mcnei006@umn.edu) your address, he will make sure that information will be sent to you in a timely manner. So please send those email addresses if you have one!

MAE4-HYDP Budget passed

The budget for 2007 has been passed. Utilizing Survey Monkey plus a mailing to Life members without emails, 34 votes were cast on the budget issue. Thirty-three votes were cast in favor of the proposed budget, with one no vote. Thank you to all who voted.

Barb Sorensen, President

NEA4-HA October Conference

Spring has arrived in Georgia! The peach trees are blooming and we are all “a-buzz” with excitement about hosting you in Atlanta this fall! We hope that you have started making your plans to attend the NAE4-HA “A Peach of a Profession” Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 21- 25, 2007!

There is lots of new information on our website at <http://www.georgia4h.org/nae4ha2007/> .