

PAE4- HA Newsletter



Spring 2002

Editor: Suzanne Ault Boarts, Armstrong County Office

2002 PAE4- HA Leadership

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A Note from the Pres . . .

This spring has been a stressful one, especially with the uncertainty of the state budget. What the politicians will do is anyone's guess. The

Federal budget looks flat. And the needs continue to grow. For those of you who have been around awhile, we have been here before. For those who came on board during the last several good years, don't panic. This too shall pass if we continue to run quality programs, spread the good news and take time to assess what is important. Take time to get to know your local politicians. Invite them to see the program in action. Make sure they know about the good work you do. This is the most effective way I know to assure our future.

Resources are like a pie. If you try hard enough, you can get a bunch of slices out of it. But, in the end you still have the same amount of pie. That is what most of us do every day. We make the slices smaller so more people get a taste.

The better solution to feeding more people pie is to get more pies! That is best done by doing a good job and letting people know it! It is no time to be humble. Tell the success story.

We are the premier youth organization. As compared to the others, we serve a wider audience in more ways. We use less paid staff than they do. We are better at managing volunteers. And we are bigger and older. We are the ones who invited them to sit at the table and develop an agenda for youth development. It was reinforced at Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) that 4-H wrote the book on youth development. The others are mostly following our lead and always have. Look at the other organizations for what they can teach us. One thing that they often do better than us is to blow their horn and attract dollars.

I think our future is bright! We have a dedicated group of volunteers and terrific brand loyalty. Almost everyone recognizes the clover! Use it! And there are lots of kids out there who do not belong to any groups.

Another large challenge is to keep our programs relevant. Hopefully, your county conversation helped you access relevance. And hopefully, the conversation results presented you with some new ideas and directions, or maybe just a different focus. Either way, we have an obligation as a professional and as a leader to act on this information. To ask and not act is to cheapen those who made input. If we cannot act, then to maintain credibility we must have a great explanation.

We also need to be willing to review our entire program. Do we really need to do all that we do? Have some programs or projects run their course? What can we drop? What should we add?

To make these decisions, we need to answer these questions:

- What is the core of our program?
- What makes 4-H different?
- What is it that we do better than everyone else?
- What is essential to our survival?

The future is what you make it. Sit and say, "woe is me" and feel sorry for yourself and you will get no where. Few people want to follow someone who is negative. To lead you must be positive. You cannot create the future until you believe there is one. And be creating the future, you control it.

So look up, be positive, be proactive, be proud of yourself and your profession. Think good thoughts. Attitude and vision are key components to leadership. Make sure your attitude is positive and anything is possible. Remember that science says the bumblebee can't fly. But he does because he knows he can! Be the Bee!

Fred Rudy
President

Other Leadership Positions

Committee Chairpersons:



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Joann Logan, Westmoreland County
Co-Chair: Scott Myers, Cambria County
Public Relations & Information Chair
Cathy Brady, Fayette County

Co-Chair: Christine Corl, Huntingdon Co.

Other Assignments:

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Suzanne Boarts, Armstrong County

Membership Chair

Katina Showman, Lancaster County

Newsletter Editor

Suzanne Boarts, Armstrong County

Nominating Chair

Phil Hoy, University Park

PAE4- HA Programs Committee -

National Highlights

Article prepared by Katina Showman

The Programs Committee is responsible for advocating, supporting, sharing, partnering, and communicating, using up-to-date methodologies to enable the membership in the performance of their jobs as professionals in 4-H Youth Development. Work of the Programs Committee is achieved through task forces, which are designed to meet the immediate and/or long-range personal and professional development of the membership.

Task Forces may be added or deleted at the annual meeting by a vote of the Programs Committee membership.

The current task forces are:

- ☆ Animal Sciences
- ☆ Camping & Environmental Education
- ☆ Character Education
- ☆ Global and Multicultural Education
- ☆ Limited Resource Audiences
- ☆ Volunteerism
- ☆ Workforce Preparation
- ☆ Youth in Governance

A number of PAE4-HA members attended committee meetings at the NAE4-HA Conference in Bismarck. There are a lot of exciting things happening. Read on to find out the accomplishments and plans of the Programs Committee, and feel free to contact the committee member listed if you have questions about any of the task forces

Youth in Governance

by Katina Showman (kes12@psu.edu)

Accomplishments:

1. Developed and awarded Power of Youth Award. This new award sponsored by the NYDC (National 4-H Youth Directions Council) honors groups and individuals who are doing exemplary work in the

area of bring youth to the table as decision makers in their communities.

2. Offered a seminar to highlight Power of Youth Award winner and encourage future applications.
3. Shared resources in this task force area including: "At The Table - Resource Catalog", "At The Table: Making the Case for Youth in Decision Making" and other resources from the Innovation Center; National 4-H Youth Directions Council.

Plans for 2002:

1. Offer seminar to share next year's Power of Youth Award winner,
2. Develop a study tour where agents can travel to see examples of youth governance in action,
3. Create a "Power of Youth" directory, listing good examples of youth in governance (is possibly a site through the Innovation Center that could work for this),
4. Explore obtaining a mini-grant to start a project,
5. Offer a financial scholarship to be used by a group or individual to start a youth in governance project or to go on a self-described study tour in the area of youth in governance.

Volunteerism Task Force

by Christy Bartley (cek4@psu.edu)

Accomplishments:

1. Rough draft of a national initiative on volunteerism written and distributed to task force members,
2. Survey developed to identify core competencies of volunteers,
3. Resource list on volunteerism developed and shared at Bismarck Conference,
4. Conference calls and email updates throughout year to keep committee active.

Plans for 2002:

1. Revise and update national initiative on volunteerism - Submit to ECOP, USDA and other organizations for approval,
2. Submit seminar proposal to Galaxy Conference on national initiative on volunteerism,
3. Complete survey of volunteer competencies and develop a volunteer needs and opportunities schema similar to the PRK. Present results at 2002 conference.
4. Place request in *News & Views* for professionals to send additional resources to expand list of volunteerism resources,
5. Hold 3 conference calls with committee members: Jan. 2, May 7, Sept. 17.
4. Continued support of the exchange website. Agents can advertise their program, find potential contacts, values for an exchange, and other information. Check out the website at www.4-h.org.
5. Presented a poster session about exchanges and the website at Bismarck.
6. "And My World" project updated, reviewed, and being piloted. Materials will hopefully be available within the next year. Additionally, the "World Atlas" website is being updated by USDA, which has a listing of 4-H contacts in other countries.

Global and Multicultural Task Force

by Nancy Kadwill (nmk1@psu.edu)

Accomplishments:

1. Recipient of International Fellowship, Kjetil Ulset, Deputy Secretary of the 4-H Program in Norway, co-presented workshop at Conference in Bismarck. Kjetil shared the exciting 4-H work they are doing in his country. They have a strong, active program and are even helping start a community based 4-H program in Africa. An interest in having an exchange with his country was indicated – possibly an agent or adult volunteer exchange. Funding for Kjetil's visit was a collaborative effort between the task force and the Professional Development Committee, both of which come under the umbrella of the NAE4-HA Programs Committee.
2. International Breakfast featured displays from several IFYE's in the ND area, a short presentation by the International Fellowship recipient, and an update on international programs. This luncheon is open to ALL agents interested in international programming. Two tickets to the breakfast were given at the First Timers Orientation to encourage them to get involved.
3. Nearly 13 workshops offered in Bismarck with a theme of international or multicultural education. Five of these presented by committee members.

Plans for 2002:

1. Pre-conference seminar planned for Norfolk, Virginia, 2002, all-day on the Saturday before the conference. Plans include sharing ideas and new curriculum.
2. Professional development travel opportunities being explored for state 4-H program leaders, and possibly agents. Virginia Gobel, USDA, is the coordinator of this effort.

Christine Corl - Huntington County

Christine has a B.S. Degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Millersville University. Prior to being hired as a full-time extension agent in January 2000, she spent two years substitute teaching and the next two years substitute teaching and doing interim extension work.



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grew up in Huntington was in a 4-H community club. Christine said, "4-H camp was a big deal to me when I

was in 4-H and that is probably what kept me in the program.” Christine and her husband Jeremy live with her 86-year-old grandfather. They don’t have any children yet, but are planning to someday. Christine enjoys camping with family and reading when time permits.

Camp and Teen Leadership Development are two of Christine’s favorite programs. She feels teens are our greatest potential. Currently, PAE4-HA is the only professional organization that Christine is involved in.

The most rewarding part of her job is knowing that she is making a difference in people’s lives through the 4-H program. Christine does not credit herself personally, but believes the work she does in her role as 4-H Agent does make a difference.

Christine’s greatest challenge is making a conscious effort to take time for herself. She finds it hard to balance work and family. Keeping her office clean is also a challenge.

Scott Myers **- Cambria County**

Scott has a BS in Agricultural Education from PSU and is currently enrolled as a non-degree graduate student. He taught vocational agriculture for three years; one year at Pequea Valley High School in Lancaster Co. and two years at Fairfield High School in Adams County. He then tried his hand in agricultural sales before accepting his current position.

Scott is most interested in 4-H livestock. He was a 4-H member in the Bedford County Lamb Club. Scott says livestock has given him vast experiences and memories. He feels he would be able to give more to the youth involved in those areas.



In addition to PAE4-HA, Scott is currently a member of the Ebensburg Rotary club, a member of the PA Sheep and Wool Growers Association, a director of the PA Sheep and Wool Junior Association, and a member of the PSU Stockman’s Club.

Scott feels the most rewarding part of his job is seeing youth succeed as positive role models

for others. His greatest challenge is juggling a busy work schedule with personal time, family and farming.

Scott is hoping to get support from other members of the association when looking for new ideas and projects to implement in Cambria County. Being a member of PAE4-HA has already helped him meet 4-H agents from other parts of the state whose experiences he can draw upon.

Laurie Weinreb- Welch **- Clinton County**



Laurie Weinreb-Welch began her employment with Penn State in 2000. Laurie has a BA in psychology and MPH (Public Health) from East Stroudsburg University. She worked as a Public Health Educator for five years in the North Central District of the PA Dept of Health before coming to extension.

Laurie and her husband Barry live in Flemington, PA. They have one son whose name is Hunter. Hunter is going on three years old.

Laurie’s program area is children, youth and families. Specific programs that Laurie is responsible for include a health pilot project, Better Kid Care, 4-H Volunteer Screening and the 4-H Livestock Program.

In addition to PAE4-HA, Laurie is a member of PA Society for Public Health Education, where she serves as President and the Family Living/Consumer Sciences Association. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

For Laurie, the most rewarding parts of her job are the professional training opportunities at Penn State and working with people of all ages: children through seniors.

The greatest challenge Laurie faces in her job is dealing with the livestock program. She came to extension with no experience with animals of any type.

Laurie feels networking with other agents and leaning more about 4-H programs are ways she has benefited from her membership in PAE4-HA.



Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Armstrong County Cooperative Extension Office in advance of your participation or visit.

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