

PAE4-HA Newsletter



Winter 2003

Editor: **Suzanne Ault Boarts, Armstrong County Office**

Letter from the President

As 4-H educators, we teach leadership skills to teens and adult volunteers. Facing scarce resources of time, personnel and money, we need to practice those very leadership skills we teach.

Have you ever been to a meeting where the chair is unclear about which items on the agenda need a decision? Often at the end of the meeting nothing has changed. The chair failed to decide what the objectives for that meeting were. No goals. Nothing moves forward.

A friend of mine says, "I decide that my children are going to eat the mashed potatoes at dinner. I let them decide where to put the potatoes on their plates."

We need to do a better job of analyzing each situation to determine what decisions must be made and who should make them. For instance, if you need to drop a program because you are overloaded, whose decision is it? Yours? The participants?

In this case, it is your decision. (Well, yes, you might want to guide your advisory board to conclude they support your decision.) If you decide to drop the program, your leadership skills will allow you to help the clientele understand and accept.

Your leadership skills could also help guide the clientele to develop an alternative way to meet their needs without you.

It's not easy to change, but change we must. And change is healthy for all of us, our 4-H families, our own families, ourselves. Some of us just kick and scream more than others.

Here's hoping you are planning some time soon for personal re-creation. Do something for yourself that renews your energy and outlook.

Happy holidays!

By: **Liesel Dreisbach, President**



Karen Hack passes the gavel to Liesel Dreisbach

**2003 PAE4-HA Member Recognition
Award Winners**

Service Awards

Achievement in Service

Katina Showman, Lancaster County

DSA Award

Deborah Dietrich, Berks County

Meritorious Award

Michael Martin, Penn State University

Specialty Awards

Excellence in Teamwork

Helaine Brown, Delaware County (5 on the team)

Natural Resources/Environmental Stewardship

Carol Schurman, Indiana County (6 on the team)

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming a. individual

Laurie Weinreb-Welch, Clinton County

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming b. team

Martha Gregory, Lebanon County (7 on the team)

Communication Awards

Class 1 Educational Package – a. individual

Pamela Paletta, Washington County

Class 1 Educational Package – b. team

Helaine Brown, Delaware County

Class 2 Educational Piece – a. individual

Wanda Braymer, Crawford County

Class 4 Feature Story

Liesel Dreisbach, Lehigh County

Class 5 Media Presentation

Missy Whetzel, Greene County

Class 6 News Story

Dwayne Hay, Bedford County

Class 7 Periodical Publicatoin, a. individual

Deborah Dietrich, Berks County

Class 7 Periodical Publication b. team

Fred Rudy, Dauphin County (4 on the team)

Class 8 Personal Column

Joanne Stoltzfus, Somerset County

Class 9 Promotional Package a. individual

Dwayne Hay, Bedford County

Class 9 Promotional Package b. team

Joann Logan, Westmoreland County (8 on the team)

Class 10 Promotional Piece

Pamela Paletta, Washington County

Class 11 Published Photo

Wanda Braymer, Crawford County

Class 12 Radio Program

Carol Schurman, Indiana County

Class 14 Video Program

Missy Whetzel, Greene County



Award Winners

At the Fall PAE4-HA Meeting, several guests joined members for breakfast. Following is a summary from each conversation.

Class 3 Exhibits

Wanda Braymer, Crawford County

Breakfast Conversation with Kerry Richards, Pesticide Education

- Distributed copies of "So You Want to Play?" D.B. Pest's Activity Bughouse – pdf files on website, copies available from office, supported by display board, six copies of D.B. Pest board game. Planning to update, additional suggestions were made.
- Suitcase of pesticide activities and tools sent to 4-H agents several years ago can support D.B. Pest.
- Pest Patrol books being broadly used.
- Suggested liaisons with Master Gardeners to use above materials with youth audiences.
- Creating a video of a college student describing the variety of pest control activities she does on the farm. To be available 1/04, plan to distribute one copy per county.
- Just completed fifth fact sheet (available on web and PDC).
- November 15, 2003 web will be debut site where Pesticide Applicators can check their current credit status, locate local trainings by topic, what must do based on status. Have "check credits online" banners, may display at Fall Inservice.

Notes from Breakfast with Daney Jackson, October 15, 2003

- Five years from now...
 - o With loss of federal funding, there will be 50 different state responses.
 - o Will be dependent on alternate sources of funding.
 - o Will be a larger organization with fewer traditional positions.
 - o Role of the extension educator will move from direct contact to managing grants and staff for programming.
- Rural/urban interface: University will shift the focus of agriculture to include horses and the green industry, not just food production.
- Dossier: Need to do a better job of evaluating teaching. Need to use appropriate research methods in extension – these are clients/participants, not research subjects.
- Technology: Admits that the University hasn't figured out yet how to provide DSL lines in all offices. Recognizes the need to be entertaining as well as informative during satellite downlinks. Discussion of enrolling participants (4-H youth) versus letting people use our information that can be downloaded from the Web.

Breakfast Program Report Leadership and Program Management
By: Phyllis Wright

Participants- Blannie Bowen, Jackie Bruce, Marilyn Corbin

Jackie's goal is to see 4-H leadership in a "wholeistic" approach. This will include leadership in school age and traditional programming. Another suggestion was reaching Youth at Risk audiences. She will have a web site in early November. "Youth Leadership Development" that will include resources lists, opportunities for youth and adults, tips and tools for facilitators, etc.

The concept of older teens taking leadership to work with young members in a way to develop their skills and keep them in the program The "Step Up to Leadership" curriculum is one major role in leadership program development.

Marilyn and Blannie stated one part of the strategic plan is to provide uniform trainings for educators and volunteers, using technology as internet, satellite, web, WPSX and other broadcasting, plus continuing with state extension specials conducting curriculum caravans.

Questions regarding support of camp as a leadership delivery method and leisure arts program? Currently there is not a state person designated for camp only.

Request was given for various levels of quality assurance programming to be readily available for leader and member trainings from specialists.

A suggestion regarding communications is to have information regarding 4-H policies to go directly to CED AND 4-H coordinators. An example was cost recovery information did not reach 4-H coordinators in a timely matter. With changes in multi-county CED and 4-H coordinators responsibilities, good communications is important.

Suggest to up-grade the A100 to reflect record keeping on the new enrollment forms request for race codes, and payment of cost recovery.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE**

**SPRING PAE4-HA MEETING
APRIL 27 & 28, 2004**



DETAILS WILL BE FORWARDED IN FEBRUARY.

Meeting with Dr. Terry Etherton, Head of Dairy and Animal Science
By: Joanne Stoltzfus

- Discussed ways of showcasing Penn State's College of Agriculture to youth clientele i.e. State Days, informal faculty meetings, Beef Expo. Notification of events needs to come in a timely manner. Dr. Etherton offered buses to tour campus facilities and resources to make this happen.
- Discussed need for documentation of educational impact of youth livestock shows and competitive events since these events have come under fire and we need to document impact.
- There is confusion as to where clientele and county educators look to for direction and clarification regarding development and implementation of animal science youth programs. (Extension administration vs. Animal Science department).
- We suggested a meeting with 4-H educators and Dean to further explore issues and direction of 4-H animal science programming. Dr. Etherton offered to facilitate this meeting.
- Dr. Etherton suggested that during the next animal science update, they would provide a two-hour window for input from agents about what 4-H animal science's future issues/needs are. (Suggested to break into smaller groups for better facilitation).

"Climb Every Mountain"

As newsletter editor, I would like to thank all of you who met deadlines and provided pertinent information. A newsletter means nothing without input from its membership.

While attending the National Meeting in Salt Lake City, I was fortunate to have my children with me to hear the magnificent Mormon Tabernacle Choir. During their encore of "Climb Every Mountain" tears rolled down my face. As a child my sisters and I used to watch the "Sound of Music" every time it was on. We knew every word of every song and we sang right along with Julie Andrews and the Von Trapp family. Hearing the song once again brought back memories to last a lifetime. Now I was creating a new memory with my children-one which we will never forget.

Take time and energy to create memories over the holidays. Forget the gifts-next Christmas you won't even remember what you received. But you will remember who you visited with and the special moments with family and friends.

Sometimes you have to climb the mountain and find the true meaning of Christmas.

By: Suzanne Ault Boarts, Editor



Ramblings from Fred

As some of you know, I am a voracious reader. Recently, I have come across a number of thoughts that I would like to share.

1. Did you see the article in the Clover News about the great job the counselors did at the camp in New York during a severe storm? The teens were praised for their quick and confident action which surely saved injuries if not lives. Too bad the national media did not run this story.
2. Along the same lines, the 4-H fight club story made another national publication called Youth Today. It appears that part of the problem was lack of supervision by extension staff and too much reliance on too young of volunteers. Do we ever fall into this trap? Speaking from experience, I like all chaperones to be at least 22. Why? There needs to be the distance of age from the kids they are chaperoning. I have been burnt twice, and once was too often.
3. Speaking of Youth Today, I highly recommend it. It is a national monthly newspaper on Youth Work. It contains lots of leads on grants. Also, there are lots of articles about various youth development efforts, some good and some not. It also reviews current research. I consider it a must read for me.
4. I hope you all read the issue of News and Views with Kirk's final speech and Pam's article. Both provided a lot of food for thought.
5. Pam's discussion of what do we pay attention to ties right into the current book I am reading. I am currently reading "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens". (Sidebar – If you have not read "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" or

started and found it too heavy, Covey's son deals with the same stuff in a lighter way in the "Teens" Book. A lot easier read.) Both challenge us to think about our priorities and work on them, good or bad.

So where am I headed with all this? Well, in this exciting (yes, I said exciting) and frustrating time, the key to survival is going to be how we react as professionals and individuals. Do we get all upset? Do we tread water? Do we get bull headed? Or do we look for the opportunities in all this.

For example, cost recovery. It is here. It does not matter anymore what was done in the past. It is a reality that we must collect money from the membership and send it to Penn State. One concern I had was that we would lose school enrichment classrooms. I don't know yet if we will or not. Time will tell. But in Dauphin County we have decided that if that happens, it's OK. We will use those resources we spent on school enrichment and work on expanding our support for after school programs. And we see after school programs being an area that we can have greater impact on youth than we do in school enrichment. And we can build more linkages with other youth agencies.

The budget situation has us all concerned. But to worry and not act is to accomplish nothing but worry lines. Doing quality programming and being positive is how we move ahead.

Are the good old days over? I don't think so. With the new belt tightening, we are going to be forced to focus like we have not done in the last 25 years. All these changes should encourage us (or force us if we don't start now!) to take some time and decide what is it that is most critical to our program. Where do we have the greatest impact? This will likely not be the easiest part of the program. High impact requires high input and commitment.

Trying to do everything has gotten us spread so thin that we don't do much well. Would it be better if we made a life changing impact on a few hundred kids instead of a quick touch on a few thousand?

What are you going to pay attention to?

I hope you will take time to pay attention to family and friends, your spiritual life, and yourself along with your profession. A plant without deep roots can not survive a drought. But a deep rooted plant can! Grow your roots deep!

By: Fred Rudy, Past President



2002-2003 Officers



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