

# Entre Nous



## THE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

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### “IN THE OFFICE”

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Entre Nous means “between us” and serves as the official publication for members of the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Articles should be submitted via e-mail, either in the body or in an attached Microsoft Word document. The e-mail should be addressed to Dawn Schneider at dawn.schneider@ces.uwex.edu

Suggestions should be sent to Dawn Schneider, Langlade County UW-Extension, 837 Clermont Street, Antigo, WI 54409

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#### Editorial Staff:

Dawn Schneider, Editor  
Michelle Batterman, Assistant Editor  
Rene Mehlberg, Past Editor

#### Contributing Writers:

Michelle Batterman, Fond du Lac County  
Wayne Brabender, State Saff  
Donna Duerst, Rock County  
Deb Ivey, Iowa County  
René L. Mehlberg, Door County  
Donna Menart, State Staff  
Kim Reaman, St. Croix County  
Myrna Rhinehart, Marquette County  
Dawn Schneider, Langlade County

#### Contributing Photographers:

Michelle Batterman, Fond du Lac County  
Wayne Brabender, State Saff

The Winter issue of *Entre Nous* will focus on the 4-H Youth Development Professional...“In the Home”, so start writing your articles now. The due date will be February 1. You don't have to limit your articles to the focus theme. The *Entre Nous* is your newsletter. Express yourself! Share personal and professional concerns and triumphs.

## “In the Office”

*Dawn Schneider, Entre Nous Editor, Langlade County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

This year, *Entre Nous* will be focusing on the happy, healthy, balanced 4-H Youth Development Professional.

When I examine my whole life and look at where I am spending my time, “in the office” seems to outweigh the others. Don’t get me wrong—I spend plenty of time “in the home” (Winter issue theme) and “in the community” (Spring issue theme). However, my time in the office tends to consume me.

While I was turning this theme over in my mind, someone anonymously sent me the following verse for inclusion in this issue:

“Grant me the serenity to accept the fact that I work here,  
The courage to come back everyday,  
And the wisdom to GO HOME!”

*“I spend a lot of time  
“in the office”,  
among the stacks.”  
-Dawn Schneider*

Although this was probably meant as a light-hearted submission, I think there are some pretty salient words of wisdom here. I think that you do need to approach this profession with serenity, calmness, and tranquility in order to face everything that crosses your desk. If you let it overwhelm and panic you, you are in trouble. This job also takes courage because of the “bigness” of it—the 4-H clubs, the leaders, the members, the community, the schools, the press, the county officials—it seems pretty daunting. As for the last line, people are constantly telling me to take a few days off, to take a vacation, to not schedule so many night meetings or I am going to burn myself out. I think the wisdom part comes in as *the wisdom of self*, of knowing yourself well enough to know when you need a few days to yourself, some quality family-time, or when you just need a night at home on your couch.

For now, I spend a lot of time “in the office”, among the stacks. However, hopefully as my years in the profession progress, I will find a degree of the serenity and courage it takes to do this job and a lot of the wisdom it takes to stay effective, balanced, and healthy.

## President’s Message...From My Office

*Donna Duerst, WAE4-HYDP President and Rock County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

I like themes. They provide direction and help generate ideas. So I’m going to try to address the theme of this issue, “In the Office”, as well as provide a brief update on the WAE4-HYDP Board. I’ll start with the theme. As I gaze around my office for inspiration in addressing the theme, here’s what comes to mind: “Augh! Look at all the piles! What

a mess!" I hope those thoughts don't sound too familiar to many of you!

There's my box from 4-H Camp, sitting right where I left it when I returned from camp in August. There's a pile of files relating to the club officer/leader training we just completed. Don't I have a box for 4-H promotional items somewhere? And why isn't that roll of 4-H stickers in that box? An entire corner of my office is devoted to file boxes and piles related to WAE4-HYDP...I should really get that organized before my term as President ends this spring!

*"I used to be an organized person...before I became a 4-H Youth Development professional. Now that I think about it, I guess I'm still an organized person. It's just that organization seems to take a lot more effort in this profession!"*

*-Donna Duerst*

I used to be an organized person...before I became a 4-H Youth Development professional. Now that I think about it, I guess I'm still an organized person. It's just that organization seems to take a lot more effort in this profession! One of the challenging aspects of organization is, of course, all of the programming we do as 4-H Youth Development professionals. Another aspect is our involvement in other facets of the profession, such as the association. Yes, it takes extra effort to keep everything straight and within easy reach, but I maintain that extra effort can really be worthwhile. Association involvement, in my case, gives me an opportunity to give something back to the profession in which I've worked for almost 14 years. There are lots of other benefits, too, such as getting away from the mess in my office for meetings!

Speaking of meetings, I'm writing this article shortly after our October 29 WAE4-HYDP Board meeting. We held a face-to-face meeting at Upham Woods, followed by our traditional service project. I would like to thank the following members of the Board who were able to participate in the meeting: Barb Barker, Gloria Fauerbach, Pam Hobson, Deb Ivey, Karen Nelson, Marie Ritscher, Rosanne Schleif and Dawn Schneider. A number of issues were discussed, including ideas on streamlining our leadership structure. Watch for more information on that topic, as well as others from your district's Director!

Well, time to end this article and spend some time getting organized. Next time I gaze around my office for inspiration, I hope my thoughts are more like "Wow! What a neat and tidy office! I must really be organized!"

## Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Faculty and Staff Recognized at Galaxy II Conference

*Donna Menart, Assistant State Program Leader, UW-Extension, 4-H Youth Development*

Congratulations to the following WAE4-HYDP members for receiving regional and national recognition:

## 2003 NAE4-HA National Awards

### Achievement in Service Award

Debra Ivey

### Distinguished Service Award

Frank Ginther  
Karen Nelson  
Marie Ritscher

### Meritorious Service Award

Donna Menart

### Excellence in 4-H Club Support – Team

Nancy Kuehn, Elizabeth Fassbender, Justin Garcia, Kimberly Kranz, Melissa Miller, Lori Spahn, Lineve Thurman-Shea

### Excellence in Teamwork

Dan Renzoni, Rosanne Schleif, Peter Manley, Joan Wimme, Amber Rehberg, Douglas Stubbe, Steven Kinzel, John Harter, James Winkler, Nancy Anne Livingston, Ian Meeker, Jessica Jens, Ron Hennings

### Communicator Award – Video Program

Ted Halbach and Katie DeBruin (with Jeff Goodwin, Idaho)



## 2003 NAE4-HA North Central Regional Awards

### Power of Youth Award

Susan Farmer-Tiefenthaler, Dawn Schneider, Rene Mehlberg, Annie Krupnow, Isaac Krupnow, Nicole Olthafer, Lynn Feldman, Seth Downey, Kim Steinke, Derek Ciecko, Kathy Prestidge, Ashley Seidler, Greta Jordan, Kari Jordan, Kasey Hembel, Ashley Viste, Courtney Barnes, Kasey Heimann, Zophie Prystalski, Danielle Soens, Joe Soldner, Julie Soldner, Alicia Wright, Bobbi Jo O'Neill, Maggie Feldman, Greg Cebulski, Aundrea Billings, Lisa Fisher, Rebecca Sunde, Stephanie Komassa, Emily Mimier, Conor McGee

### Communicator Award – Educational Piece – Team

Kandi O'Neil, Agnes Wagner, Sharon Kiselicka, Maggie Kiselicka, Karla Koch, Stephanie Suarez-DelReal, Jeanne Suarez-DelReal

### Communicator Award – Exhibit

Debra Ivey, Doug Miller, Jackie Hasburgh, Jenifer Ley, Juliette Buening, Melissa Lipska

### Communicator Award – Feature Story

Kandi O'Neil

### Communicator Award – Media Presentation

Sally Miske

### Communicator Award – Periodical Publication – Team

Annette Bjorklund, Katie Bauer

Communicator Award – Promotional Piece – Individual  
Sally Miske

## A Galaxy Experience

*Deb Ivey, Iowa County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

Webster defines GALAXY as “ a group of industrious people” (Webster New World Dictionary). As I reviewed my schedule during the Galaxy II Conference in Salt Lake City in September, I would have to say that Galaxy was an opportunity to be industrious! The schedule included three different poster sessions with 30 posters at each session, 13 presentation sessions (250 sessions), several large group events, 3 speakers, an awards program, a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and lots of fun!

*“Galaxy was an opportunity for professional development, recognition, and a break from the office routine. It also reminded me that I am glad I work for UW-Extension in Wisconsin and in Iowa County!”*

*-Deb Ivey*

Cam Marston started by telling us about the 4 generations who are working and living together—The Matures, the Baby Boomers, Generation X and the Millennials. His entertaining and thought-provoking presentation gave us much food for thought and even included a group sing of “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing.”

Other highlights included sessions on 4-H Leader recruitment and retention, a state-wide cloverbud newsletter, keeping 4-H teens enrolled, gavel games, National 4-H Camping Institute, the exhibits and poster sessions, and a program on inclusionary 4-H activities.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir was outstanding! Hearing them sing for an hour brought us to our feet and probably increased their CD sales by a huge amount! It also generated interest in the Mormon religion and the development of Salt Lake City. A visit to a historical area later in the week was another highlight.

It was a special honor to receive an Achievement in Service Award at the Conference. A standing ovation, processional music, and decorated chairs greeted our arrival at the dinner. Awards were presented to winners in Family Living, 4-H Youth Development, ESP and CRD at this event and at the NAE4-HA regional meetings and breakfast. Wisconsin brought home many awards as you can read in another article in this edition of Entre Nous.

States’ Night Out is a feature at each National Conference. Family Living, 4-HYD and CRD joined forces for a fun event at a local Italian restaurant. Family style food, lots of laughter, peer recognition, and a chance to get to know colleagues made this a night to remember. (Did you hear about the mature professional who had to climb out of the booth to get her gift?)

Galaxy was an opportunity for professional development, recognition, and a break from the office routine. It also reminded me that I am glad I work for UW-Extension in Wisconsin and in Iowa County! Thank you to WAE4-HYDP for sponsoring a portion of my registration costs so that I could attend this special event.

## The Time is Right for Recognition—WAE4-HYDP Award Information

*Deb Ivey, Iowa County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

In a time of declining budgets and shrinking resources, it might be a good time to let others know about the good work we all do. One way to let others know, is to be recognized by your peers. The WAE4-HYDP Awards and Recognition program can help you get that recognition!

The 2004 WAE4-HYDP Awards and Recognition Handbook is available on the WAE4-HYDP web site at

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/wae4hydp/recognition.html>. Be sure to check this out. It would be great if every 4-H Youth Development professional in the state would apply for an award or a grant in one of the categories.

*"In a time of declining budgets and shrinking resources, it might be a good time to let others know about the good work we all do."*

-Deb Ivey

There is one new award this year—Global Education in 4-H Youth Development. There are also four grant opportunities where individuals can be given funds for conferences, classes or other professional development. A new grant, called "Beyond Youth Leadership", provides funds for implementing programs that involve youth. In all, there are thirteen program award categories, fifteen Communicator award categories, four grants and seven service awards. Awards may be submitted by individuals or teams.

The NAE4-HA 2004 Member Recognition Program Book is available on the NAE4-HA web site at <http://www.nae4ha.org/ndocs.htm> ; **please note--no hard copies will be mailed out by the NAE4-HA this year!**

**Award applications must be postmarked/mailed by January 15, 2004** and sent to the committee member listed on the award application form or with the award description.

The committee looks forward to reviewing your applications! Contact any of these committee members with questions:

Northern ..... Joan Wimme

Western..... Karen Sipple, Sharon McDowell

Central ..... Connie DeCorte

Northeast ..... Karla Voss, Jennifer Neumann

Southern ..... Debra Ivey, Amy Danhof, Alissa Grenawalt

Madison ..... Nancy Eisele

Southeast.....Kandi O'Neil



Oklahoma!...the sooner state. Our name alone conjures up images of Native Americans, pumping oil wells and even thousands of determined settlers on horseback, in buckboards, and prairie schooners spreading across the open prairies at the drop of a flag to “State their Claim.”

The name “Oklahoma” comes from the Choctaw words “okla” meaning people and “humma” meaning red. This stands for “red people.” The 252,420 American Indians living in Oklahoma today are descendants from the original 67 tribes inhabiting Indian Territory.

Between the years 1889 and 1895 six land runs were held in the western parts of Indian Territory. Settlers came from across the nation and even from other countries like Poland, Germany, Ireland, and Slavic nations to state their claim. African-Americans even took part in runs, later settling entire communities at Arcadia, Boley, Langston and Taft. We are a unique blend of people and cultures, all of whom are deeply rooted in the state.

*“Please experience “Native America” at the 2004 National 4-H Agents Convention, October 31-November 4<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City and experience our hospitality, comforts and convenience.”*

Some say we are where the south meets the west. We are rolling hills...tall grass prairies...rivers and more shoreline than the east and west coast combined. We are ancient mountain ranges worn by time and sculpture that only nature could shape. We are one of three geological windows into America’s past. We are deep pine forests and soft Cypress Bayous.

Our global reputation is for spirit and warmth and a deep well of native pride. We are an ongoing epic of sweeping, soaring wonder. We are “Native America” at its finest.

Please experience “Native America” at the 2004 National 4-H Agents Convention, October 31-November 4<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City and experience our hospitality, comforts and convenience.

Membership will be hosted in style and comfort at the Renaissance, Westin, and Courtyard Hotels in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City. All three facilities are located conveniently near the newly refurbished and state of the art Cox Convention Center.

Within 2-3 blocks you can easily walk to *Bricktown* for fun entertainment and a diverse selection of affordable restaurants.

Downtown Oklahoma City has dozens of things to do! There is something for every interest - Botanical Gardens, OKC Museum of Art, Oklahoma City

Memorial. All sights are quickly accessible on the affordable metro trolley system.

Some may even choose to design their own pre-conference tour or “day adventure” by visiting one of the four corners of our state. Travel northwesterly to the Great Salt Plains and Little Sahara Desert. Or, southeasterly travel will take you to beautiful forests and wonderful fishing. In a Northeasterly direction there is an abundance of lakes, cultural museums, and the home of Will Rogers. Or, you may choose to experience the Great Plains and travel southwesterly for a taste of Native America, and a hike in the Washita Mountain Refuge.

*“The Call for Presentations will be found in the December issue of News and Views or can be accessed through the 2004 web site. Proposals are due January 15, 2004 by 12 Midnight CST.”*

4-H Alumni, Jim Davis, creator of “Garfield” will be a featured Key Note speaker. Jim will share how 4-H taught him organizational and leadership skills, record keeping, a good work ethic, and how to forge lasting friendships.

Dr. George Henderson, Professor Emeritus and Human Relations Department Head at the University of Oklahoma will share his vision for how extension educators can be catalysts in helping young people embrace rather than fear our differences.

We invite you to become part of the conference program by submitting a proposal for a workshop or poster session. The Call for Presentations will be found in the December issue of News and Views or can be accessed through the 2004 web site. Proposals are due January 15, 2004 by 12 Midnight CST.

To view more about our great state or learn more about conference highlights visit our home page at <http://nae4ha.okstate.edu>.

Join us by “Staking Your Claim” in the sooner state October 31-November 4, 2004.

## Quest for Spirit and Imagination NAE4-HA Annual Conference October 22-26, 2006 Milwaukee Hilton and Midwest Airlines Center Kim Reaman, St. Croix County 4-H Youth Development Agent

*“One of our goals...is to keep all of our WAE4-HYDP members informed of progress in the hosting plans and even MORE informed of opportunities to become involved.”  
-Kim Reaman*

One of our goals, as Tri-Chairs for the 2006 NAE4-HA Annual Conference in Wisconsin, is to keep all of our WAE4-HYDP members informed of progress in the hosting plans and even MORE informed of opportunities to become involved. Look for a regular column in future issues of Entre Nous.

First the updates.....

Tim Talen has resigned as a Tri-Chair due to his new position as the State Arts Specialist. Even though Tim has resigned from this role, the special talents he brought to the leadership team and his enthusiasm for the conference are firmly in place! Yes, Tim will continue to be very active as the

“show biz” guy working with Bob Matysik and Tom Riese on the Facilities Committee.

Merry Klemme has replaced Tim as one of the Tri-Chairs. Merry was co-chair for the bid committee and has current responsibilities on the NAE4-HA Professional Development Committee which is the committee the conference falls under on the National Board. With the bid experience and existing relationship to the NAE4-HA Board, Merry is able to move into a tri-chair role with ease.

With those changes, the current Leadership Team includes:

Conference Tri-Chairs: Tamie Koop, Merry Klemme and Kim Reaman  
Co-Chairs of Public Relations: Donna Duerst and Frank Ginther  
Co-Chairs of Finance: Jeanne Baum and Sally Schoenike  
Co-Chairs of Programs: Pam Hobson and Sue Pleskac  
Co-Chairs of Operations: Kandi O’Neil and Marie Witzel  
Co-Chairs of Facilities: Bob Matysik and Tom Riese  
Co-Chairs of Recognition: Annette Bjorklund and Karen Sipple  
State Program Area Rep: Donna Menart

Early on, maybe too early even, a sign up form was circulated and over half of our WAE4-HYDP membership joined a committee. Some of you are probably thinking, “That’s right, I did. I had forgotten all about that since I haven’t heard a thing since!” Don’t worry, we haven’t forgotten about you! One of the pieces of advice we regularly receive from Colorado, North Dakota and Oklahoma is not to burn your committee members out by starting too early.

Of course, each of the committees have their own timelines for what needs to be accomplished by when. Some of the committees will be quite busy now and others will not really become active until much closer to the conference.

*“That’s right, I did. I had forgotten all about that since I haven’t heard a thing since!”  
Don’t worry, we haven’t forgotten about you!”  
Kim Reaman*

As you might have guessed, the Public Relations committee is already working on several tasks. A promotional bookmark was developed and handed out to participants at the Galaxy Conference. There has been discussion about printing needs with the logo and a web site. In addition, plans are being made to host a break at the national conference in Oklahoma City in 2005. It sounds like it will be much like the break WAE4-HYDP hosted in North Dakota so it’s sure to be another success! In case you don’t know, we were able to secure donations of food and beverage from many Wisconsin based businesses – meat trays from The Turkey Store, juice from the Cranberry Growers, pudding from Swiss Miss – just to name a few. We will also be able to bring in donated food and beverage items for the conference in Oklahoma so start thinking about possible contacts you might have, then call Frank Ginther or Donna Duerst. They will get you involved!

The Programs committee has also been meeting, particularly regarding Key Note speakers. As you might imagine, those contracts need to be established quite early. But, since we don’t have enough money to make deposits yet, they are still in the brainstorming stage! If you’ve heard outstanding speakers at other conferences and think they would work well for our audience, let Pam Hobson or Sue Pleskac know.

*"We know your involvement will make the 2006 NAE4-HA Annual Conference a huge success!"*  
Kim Reaman

Speaking of money....earlier in the year, Jeanne Baum distributed an e-mail on behalf of the Finance Committee presenting each of us with an opportunity to make a financial contribution to the 2006 conference. There are a couple of ways to contribute – payroll deduction or a one time gift. Both are tax deductible. Any amount that you can contribute, at any time, is greatly appreciated. If you need a copy of either form, contact Jeanne. If you aren't in a position to contribute financially, please don't feel badly about that. Your time and enthusiasm are as valuable as your money!

Opportunities to get involved with the Facilities, Operations and Recognition committees are yet to come. There will be much more information closer to the conference.

See, we really haven't forgotten about you! You will have opportunities to get involved with ANY of the committees from now until the conference is over. Beginning in 2004, we hope to send regular notes to you about which committees need specific help at the time. Questions, comments, suggestions, and requests to get involved can be directed to anyone of us on the Leadership Team. We know your involvement will make the 2006 NAE4-HA Annual Conference a huge success!

## Your Calendar: Friend or Foe?

*Myrna Rhinehart, Marquette County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

Below is some advice that I was given as a new professional six years ago (with some of my additional comments):

*"Don't add something to your plate (calendar) without taking something else off."*

-Myrna  
Rhinehart

- Always have your calendar with you. That is how we know you work for UW-Extension.
- Don't let 4-H volunteers see your personal calendar; they will fill it up.
- Mark your own personal dates in your calendar first, to protect those dates, even if it is just a date with your television to watch your favorite show. (Except that the network just moved your favorite show to Thursdays, the same night the 4-H Leaders Association meeting has been the last 20 years. Good Luck getting that meeting night changed!)
- Code your days off in your calendar. Don't write "day off", but instead write PD. This to you means personal day, but if by accident your calendar does end up in the hands of volunteers, you can say it means "Professional Development". It's not lying, you can develop your professionalism while soaking in a bubble bath...(Yeah, right! What 4-H Youth Development Professional has time to soak in a bubble bath?!)
- Keep track of your hours in your calendar. Not that you will ever get them back, but just in case someone complains about the time you spend out of the office, you will have documentation. I zero my hours out at the beginning of a year, because if I didn't do that, I could probably take a couple of months off with the amount of hours I put in my first year when I didn't know any better.
- Don't add something to your plate (calendar) without taking something else off. Realistically though, you never get to add a raspberry cheesecake by removing the sauerkraut (yuck!), but almost always the

*“Don’t be afraid to say, “No”.”*  
-Myrna Rhinehart

reverse. And, you can’t just push the sauerkraut in the refuse, you have to finish it first!

- Don’t be afraid to say, “No”, so you don’t add something to your calendar that you don’t want to. Actually, don’t say, “No”. Always have another commitment instead, and make it a good one. A patent “no” answer won’t fly in some situations. (OK, if your county board chair wants a specific report, you probably can’t say, “No”. But if the local “Bugs R Us” club wants you to give a presentation on the life cycle of a mosquito using the 4-H curriculum, you can probably pass that one off to a great 4-Her in the Entomology project who will give them a better product than you could!)

Now for some advice that I can give after a few year’s experience:

- I enjoy living out of the community in which I work. If I have a day where I find myself at home for whatever reason, I can rake the lawn or go shopping in public and for the most part, folks don’t care that I am at home instead of work (even though I am granted 22 days off per year, which I can keep track of in my calendar).
- Because I live far enough away to make it a pain to go home before a night meeting, I get lots of work done in the time between the regular day and the night meeting. It’s also an interesting diet strategy, since I run out of time to eat before the meeting! (I don’t add eating time to my calendar!)
- If all else fails to help clear your calendar...have a kid! All of a sudden you become human and have the same excuse as your volunteers as to why you can’t be at a specific event that they probably should be able to handle without you anyway.
  - The problem with the whole “have a kid to clear your work schedule” idea, is that it won’t succeed in achieving that goal. You may have a better excuse, but you won’t be less tired and overworked. You will be more behind in your work for a while at home and at the office, unless you get a free day when your 2-year old has vomited once at the daycare and you get a call to come pick him up. Then you can take that day at home to clean closets and do dishes, while your child rests on the couch watching Barney (♫ I Love You, You Love Me ♫) or plays with toys. Be ready to do additional duty at the office the next day for all the stuff that was on your calendar that you missed!

*“If we were playing the Pyramid game show and the category was “Places where 4-H professionals do their work” clues could include: in the courthouse, in the car, at your desk, at a club meeting.”*

-Rene Mehlberg

Disclaimer: The above advice has not been a part of a scholarly study or approved by administration. Use the advice at your own risk, especially the “have a kid” part! ☺

## What? I’m in the Office?

*Rene L. Mehlberg, Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

I’m sure my schedule isn’t much different than many other 4-H youth development professionals. Accomplishing your work doesn’t just get done in the office. If we were playing the Pyramid game show and the category was “Places where 4-H professionals do their work” clues could include: in the courthouse, in the car, at your desk, at a club meeting.

*“But after the trips are finished and you actually find yourself “in the office” for a whole day, do you know where to begin? Do you remember how to work from a desk? Do you feel out of place staying put?”*

*-Rene Mehlberg*

Yes, our office is our base. The place where we store things; the place where we communicate with people; the place where people can come to get information and on that rare day, perhaps even find us in the office. But the work that we do is done in so many other places than just “in the office.”

One of the most memorable places where I find I get work done, is in a vehicle—especially if you are taking youth with you to an event. I often actively include youth in various programs that I work with. Living in Door County, most trips last at least an hour one-way. During the trips is a great time to prep youth for the meeting, including brainstorming ideas that will be talked about. It also provides a venue to openly discuss ideas for your county. The rides can’t be all work and no play. If you have a group of youth, they begin to talk about their lives and you get to learn what’s happening on the “teen scene.” Another outcome is a chance for them to get to know you as well. My youth have discovered that I can be fun (imagine that), but when I need to get down to business I click into what they call, “Agent Mode.”

But after the trips are finished and you actually find yourself “in the office” for a whole day, do you know where to begin? Do you remember how to work from a desk? Do you feel out of place staying put? If you have more than a 2-hour block that the phone doesn’t ring (okay, maybe just a one-hour block) and you’re getting something done, do you get that sense of “I must be forgetting to do something?”

I guess that’s like any change we face in 4-H. If you have that crazy streak of time out of the office, to large chunks of time in the office, we must make the most of it. Probably, in the long run, our time in the office and our timeout of the office balance out. We all know, however, that the 4-H youth development professional does work beyond the office quite a bit, since it is our mission to serve the people where they live and work.

## My Office Door is Always Open—Welcome!

*Michelle Batterman, Entre Nous Assistant Editor and Fond du Lac County 4-H Program Assistant*

Here in Fond du Lac County, my office door is always open--“Welcome!” The last couple of months have been very busy for me, and educational, in that I learned about a rare genetic disease that one of our 4-H members was diagnosed with as a young child.

I’d like to tell you a little bit about the history of my involvement with this disease. I oversee the 4-H Ambassador Program and we were approached almost a year ago by one of our 4-H families to assist them with a fundraiser for research on behalf of their son, 4-H member Danny Kochan. Families of children with A-T are encouraged by the A-T Children's Project to do a fundraiser for research, because this is such a rare-disease and money for the project is limited.

Danny suffers from Ataxia-telangiectasia, or "A-T," which is a progressive, degenerative disease that affects a startling variety of body systems. Children with A-T appear normal at birth. The first signs of the disease usually appear during the second year of life. They first are usually a "wobbly"



lack of balance and slurred speech caused by "ataxia," which means a lack of muscle control.

A-T is presently incurable and unrelenting. Most A-T children are dependent on wheelchairs by the age of ten, not because their muscles are too weak, but because they cannot control them. A-T patients usually die from respiratory failure or cancer by their teens or early twenties. A few A-T patients live into their forties, but they are extremely rare. Danny is the only reported case in Fond du Lac County.

*"One of our club leaders told me that Danny left an impression on her club and she felt they viewed life a little differently after they met Danny and his mom."*

-Michelle Batterman

I met the Kochan family over seven years ago when Danny's oldest sister and mom attended summer camp. I met Danny when his grandparents brought him along to camp to pick up his mother and sister. At that time, I thought Danny suffered from Muscular Dystrophy. His symptoms look very similar, but the diseases are not related.

Seven years later, I finally know what the disease is all about. I may not be able to pronounce the scientific name but, I assure you, I can promote awareness of the disease and assist with getting the word out to the public.

Now, to the fundraising idea. The Ambassadors planned a Fall Festival, which was held on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This date was selected because it is Danny's favorite holiday and it's the one time of the year that he feels he doesn't stick out in the crowd. The event had great support from the 4-H members, leaders, friends, his school, and area businesses.

Our 4-H families have been very supportive of this event. Kathy and Danny visited 13 out of 25 clubs in Fond du Lac County to spread the word about the disease and to introduce Danny to the 4-H Community. Kathy stated, "My goal was to reach every club, but we were only able to make it to half the clubs because of scheduling conflicts so we feel we have accomplished our mission!" Our clubs and families have been very generous in donating money, prizes, and time. One of our club leaders told me that Danny left an impression on her club and she felt they viewed life a little differently after they met Danny and his mom. This club presented Danny with a hand-made quilt that was used for an auction item.

*"Yes, it was hard work, but it was worth it in the end. We accomplished our two main goals--raising money for research and spreading the word about the disease."*

-Michelle Batterman

Our support did not stop with 4-H families, as we were overwhelmed with the generosity of area businesses! The 4-H Ambassadors requested donations for door prizes, raffles, and games from throughout the county. They even contacted sports teams from throughout the state and received items from the Packers, Brewers, Timber Rattlers, Bucks, and the Admiral Hockey Association.

This has been a very rewarding experience for me. I had the opportunity to work with a great young man and his family who have a wonderful outlook on life! I am proud of our 4-H families, and our 4-H Ambassadors, because they have put a lot of time and effort into a community service event that will benefit not only Danny but also others who suffer from this rare disease. I even received correspondence from a few of my Ambassadors who had graduated this past summer and are now attending college. One of them wrote, "I wanted to wish you the best of luck with the Halloween Party. I know that you and many others have put countless hours into the event and I am sure that your hard work will pay off. " Yes, it was hard work, but it was

worth it in the end. We accomplished our two main goals--raising money for research and spreading the word about the disease.

*"I know my door will never be closed as long as I know we can make a difference with our 4-H youth and families."*

-Michelle Batterman

I hope Danny knows how proud we are of him and how much he has impacted our lives. I know my door will never be closed as long as I know we can make a difference with our 4-H youth and families. I am very proud of everyone who helped make this young man "King for a Day" and supported efforts to raise money for research in his name. I will always be thankful for this opportunity. I feel that I have been touched by an angel with a rare disease!

For more information on this disease, you can visit their website at: [www.atcp.org](http://www.atcp.org).

## "H" Stands for History

*Wayne Brabender, State 4-H Staff*

If it were up to me, one of our four "H's" would stand for history. I love looking back and listening to what history has to tell us.

So, I considered myself fortunate when I received a call last year from Norm Everson, retired state 4-H staff member. Norm said he had a chest full of early Wisconsin 4-H historical documents for me to pick up, compliments of Mitch Mackey. Mitch was my boss as state 4-H leader for a number of years. Mitch's PhD dissertation had been on the history of Wisconsin 4-H and these were documents gathered during his research. After Mitch died, his family wanted this chest to find its way back to the state 4-H office. And thanks to Norm, it did.

As I'm writing this, I'm looking at a stack of state 4-H annual reports that date back to 1917. There is another stack of photos of 4-H pioneers, including T. L. Bewick, the state's first 4-H leader.

Thomas L. Bewick (right) was the first State 4-H Club Leader in Wisconsin. He served on the State 4-H Staff for 32 years and was an early advocate of a state 4-H camp. A cabin at Upham Woods is dedicated to Bewick.



What am I going to do with all this? Well, I'm selecting a few things to go on our State 4-H Web Site. Then the contents of the chest will go to the UW-Madison archives where researchers will have access. When we celebrate

100 years of 4-H in Wisconsin in 2014, I'm sure these documents and photos will be resurrected again.

But for today I'm just having fun picking through these reports, to see what it was like back then. You can take just about any year and you'll find precious little nuggets of history which tell us that somethings have changed a lot, and somethings haven't changed at all.

Here are a few of those nuggets. I invite you to read them all, then I encourage you to dwell on the final lump of gold. For you and me . . . as it did for earlier staff members . . . that final quote says it all.

*"You can take just about any year and you'll find precious little nuggets of history which tell us that somethings have changed a lot, and somethings haven't changed at all."*

-Wayne  
Brabender

### **1917**

". . . (Boys' and Girls' Club Work) has developed into a definite organization of young people . . . with three distinct features or purposes in mind, namely, an Educational opportunity, Social development, and Business training. Club Work that has had for its aim merely the winning of a prize has proven of little value and of short life. . . . Fourteen projects or business opportunities as we like to call them are now being promoted thru club work in Wisconsin.

"A Word to the Wise:

1. Don't offer Boys and Girls something for nothing.
2. Don't promise what you can't fulfill.
3. Don't believe any one dishonest until proven so.
4. Don't offer large cash prizes.
5. Offer a fair business proposition.
6. Place responsibility on their shoulders.
7. Require keeping of records and a report from each.
8. Everyone do a little and boost a lot."



Photo of the 1918 Wisconsin State Championship Demonstration Team. Canning was their topic. Fort Atkinson (Jefferson County) was their home.

**1929**

“In the past county agents worked club work if circumstances in their counties were favorable and their county agricultural committee approved. Today the county agent is expected to take charge of all club work done in his county and is urged to make club work one of his major projects. . . . There are still sixteen counties without county agents in Wisconsin.”

**1933**

“Indications point to a continued growth in 4-H Club Work. The economic depression so far has not affected the interest and development of the 4-H club program. The trend of the times is not toward paid leadership, but more emphasis will be placed upon volunteer local leadership . . . . We hope 1933 will see the club literature completely revised and on a more economic basis.”

**1935**

“During the economic depression of the past few years Club Work has played an important part in providing recreation or amusement in the rural communities. Checking over the year’s record we find that more than 16,800 4-H Club meetings were held. One cannot measure the influence of this vast number of gatherings on the social life of the communities.”

An early photo of a Wisconsin Boys and Girls Club meeting, showing that the emphasis was clearly on achievement.



*Statements taken from Project Record Books:*

"The three years I've been in 4-H club work, I've taken canning as a project. Not having canned a pint before I joined, I owe much to this grand 4-H Club organization. . . . I wish it was in my power to give every farm girl a chance to be a good homemaker and learn through the 4-H methods. I'm sure every one of them would appreciate the fact just as I do." – Florence Rettler, Outagamie County

"Perhaps, I should be ashamed to say that I did not enjoy the tasks involved in any of the projects that I have taken until I had taken that project for some time. Anyway, I am revealing that first history because I believe that I owe thanks to club work for teaching me to enjoy everyday tasks." – Nanna Magnus, Rusk County

"Last summer I found great delight in knitting a sweater. I made up two patterns, but the fever got so strong I completed six sweaters before my job was done. . . . Each year I get more enthusiastic over my club experiences, and I hope to be able to better my best next year." – Thelma Lien, Rock County

"Oddly enough perhaps the greatest contribution our 4-H Club has been to us is its general social medium for the entire community. Our meetings have brought together many families. . . . Quite often our club has entertained our parents in order that we may play together and forget our troubles." Mabel Joos, Jackson County

"If I had not been a 4-H member, I would probably be an ordinary farm boy, owning no property and with no money in the bank. Now, I have a good start towards owning a farm of my own." – Leo Badertscher, Rock County

"I feel no club should place even the smallest financial burden upon club members. My club has always had enough in its treasury to pay for achievement pins, refreshments, picnic parties, etc. Rather let club members assume the responsibility of raising their money through some cooperative club enterprise rather than go home and ask their parents to pay for this and

to pay for that.” – Taken from “A Code of a 4-H Club Member” found in DeLyle Runge’s Record Book

Food for Health was the topic of this 4-H demonstration team.



### 1938

“Further analysis of the data shows that 40% of the entire enrollment is made up of first year members. Clearly it is advisable to improve methods of holding members rather than seeking each year to replenish the ranks with new members. . . . In consultation with County Extension Agents as to why the drop in enrollment three general answers are given. The first one seems to indicate that there are so many competing organizations in the counties that they interfere greatly with the 4-H program. . . . The second comment was that the economic stress makes it necessary for many youth to get jobs away from home where they cannot carry on their club program. The third reason as given by the County Agents was the assurance that we have done higher type of club work and that *much of the deadwood has been eliminated.*” (Emphasis added!)

### 1944

“We are now entering the fourth year of the war. Children who were 10 years old at the time of Pearl Harbor are now 13 or 14 years old. These children are living their formative years in the atmosphere of war. They will never escape its demands and consequences. It is not difficult to find sober thinking youth who feel it was a misfortune to have been born at the time they were. It is not uncommon to find youth whose thinking is loosened and twisted by a sense of fatalism and insecurity. There has been an impact of events and influences that have made for the disintegration of home life. . . .

“Our work with rural youth has obligations now not ordinarily thrust upon a youth organization. We feel deeply some responsibility for helping youth to the happy times that belong to youth, and the memories of a joyous youth that belong to adulthood.”

*“Leaders of youth (4-H staff) were not made by rote . . . . The work must be in the fiber of their being. They must love it and accept it as the most worthwhile and dignified calling in the extension field.”*

## **1946**

“So now, another Club year, 1946, has closed. This record is a story of accomplishments. The accomplishments can be learned from the tables, narratives and the pictures that comprise this report. Their significance has fuller meaning to those who can bring to the perusal of them some experience with youth in these days when fumbling humanity is trying to adjust itself after the years of the war. . . . Children are the greatest sufferers in a war and the aftermath of a war. . . . Maybe a change in emphasis is needed for individual development in skills for selfish ends to a vision of the importance of the individual to his fellowmen. . . . Club Work has been a shock absorber for many adults. It has provided many adult leaders with work, recreation, and associations that are satisfying after the high tension of war.

“The number of leaders is higher, and the opinion prevails among most workers that the quality of work done by club members was better than in past years. One accomplishment is most satisfying. A boy wrote in his record: ‘If I live to be a hundred and my life full of absorbing interests and troubles, I’ll carry in grateful memory the picture of my leader to the end.’

“Leaders of youth (4-H staff) were not made by rote . . . . The work must be in the fiber of their being. They must love it and accept it as the most worthwhile and dignified calling in the extension field.”

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**WAE4-HYDP Communications  
Committee  
Dawn Schneider, Editor  
Langlade County UW-Extension  
837 Clermont Street  
P.O. Box 460  
Antigo, WI 54409**

