

Entre Nous



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

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"PREPARATION & ANTICIPATION"

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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.

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The Winter issue of *Entre Nous* will focus on the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference being held in Milwaukee. The theme is "Reflection", so start writing your articles now. The due date will be February 1st. 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.

“Preparation & Anticipation”

Dawn Kuelz, Entre Nous Editor, Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent

The leaves outside my window are starting to turn to oranges, reds and yellows, and that means that fall is approaching and the calendar has turned to October. Like many others in the state, I have been anticipating and preparing for the National Conference in Milwaukee. While the thought of the National Conference in Wisconsin is exciting to say the least, our office in Door County has also been anticipating something very exciting!

One of our support staff, Donna Henderson, has a grandson who is a member of the United States Army. It was a very sad day in the office when we found out Corey would be deployed to Iraq with his fellow troops in the 101st Airborne. Times were tough and spirits were low around the office, and it was very difficult to turn on the news or open the newspaper for fear of the possibility that another soldier's life was lost. And every time news of another casualty came across the wire, the atmosphere was quite tense. But our office staff waited patiently for each e-mail, voice mail or paper letter from Corey so that we knew he was safe, all of the while being as supportive toward Donna and her family as possible.

“Corey had been in Iraq for around a year, when we heard the news we had been anticipating since the day he left.”

-Dawn Kuelz

Corey had been in Iraq for around a year, when we heard the news we had been anticipating since the day he left. We started hearing that Corey was sending his things home, and that he would be returning from Iraq very soon. He couldn't tell his family the exact date, so it put everyone on pins and needles waiting for the moment. Finally, Donna had an arrival date and time for Corey's plane, and the anticipation of Corey returning to the United States came to fruition.

We've all been preparing to see Corey again, and anticipating his visit home to Door County, and I am sure it will be a joyous occasion when he does get to leave the base to come back. All of our nervous anticipation and preparation will pay off soon!

Be the Lights of Wisconsin

Sharon McDowell, Barron County 4-H Youth Development Agent and WAE4-HYDP President

Our National Conference is almost upon us! I've been working on collecting white lights for the trees that will grace the ballroom at our much-anticipated conference. When everything comes together, I imagine it will be a beautiful sight! So, too, will be the sight of all WAE4-HYDP members and volunteers working together to make the program a success.

As we go through the final details, I hope you will take some time for yourself to recharge and be ready to shine at the conference. With all we do in our county programs, the conference prep, and our own families, it's essential that we take care of ourselves. If we remember to share the load with volunteers and other colleagues, we'll get the work done and be ready for a great conference.

I look forward to seeing each of you during the “Quest for Imagination and Spirit.” Let's electrify our National Association with a conference that will illuminate our youth development work.

Anticipation and Preparation for the "Quest"

Merry Klemme, Calumet County 4-H Youth Development Agent and 2006 Conference Committee Tri-Chair

"The anticipation has been sometimes thoughtful, sometimes painful, but always exciting."

-Merry Klemme

How many times in our lives have we anticipated and prepared for a special moment in our lives? Many times. I know I have. Most notably, I prepared to become a mother seven times. Nine months of thinking about the things I needed to put into place, dreaming about the new life I would be bringing into this world. Each time I was more than thrilled with my new son or daughter when I first got to see his or her beautiful face.

Preparing for this conference isn't quite as meaningful as giving life to a child, but the pregnancy has been long (six years for me!) and the anticipation has been sometimes thoughtful, sometimes painful, but always exciting.

I think we (the entire planning team) are all in the early "labor" stages now, with birth of the "baby" very near. The pain will probably intensify, but the rewards will be amazing. Come October 26th, we can all celebrate the great care we have taken to make this "child" part of our lives and to share him/her with our colleagues from throughout the country.

OK, enough of the analogy.

The quest we have been on since the Bid for the conference was presented in North Dakota in 2001 has been long and rewarding for me. When I was in high school, I was the editor of our school year book. What I liked most about that process was getting to know my fellow students so well. What I have liked best about preparing for this conference has been getting to know so many of my colleagues so well. Seeing them take on tasks without fear and working it through to the end. Who can forget the great food breaks we all put together in North Dakota and Oklahoma!?! How about that great video we presented at Seattle?! There will be many more memories after the conference.

To those of you who have had a role in presenting this conference to the world, my hat is off to you. You are my heroes! Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development is having a shining moment! Everyone has pulled together to make this conference happen and work. I have no doubt that it is going to be one of the best conferences that NAE4-HA has ever experienced!

I expect that the labor pains will get harder as we approach October 22nd. I expect you will curse me and the rest of the bid committee for setting this all in motion, just as mothers everywhere have cursed their husbands during childbirth. But the Wisconsin Celebration on October 26th will be our chance to kiss the "baby" and count her "fingers and toes" and celebrate how perfect she looks! (Sorry, couldn't resist one more time.)

See you at the Conference!!! Let's name this baby "Quest for Spirit and Imagination".

Preparation & Anticipation throughout our Lives

René L. Mehlberg, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator

I bet if we did a study on what most of our waking time is spent on, it would be close between "preparing" or "anticipating." Doesn't it always seem as if we are preparing for something – camp, fair, the next meeting, the 2006 conference, dinner, vacation, etc.? It does to me! We prepare ourselves and we help prepare others for what is to come.

"When I stepped back to think about it, we prepare and anticipate throughout our lives."
-René Mehlberg

I also feel that much time is spent anticipating: How will the interview go? What will they think of me? Will people like the new idea I'm about to share? Is the staff prepared for camp?

When I stepped back to think about it, we prepare and anticipate throughout our lives. It isn't just at work; it isn't just at home; it's everywhere. Also, preparation and anticipation are closely related. We often spend time in preparation and then anticipate the effect of the work such as:

Preparation

- Working out a loose tooth
- Getting your drivers license
- Graduation from school
- "Preparing" for a tough meeting
- Cleaning the house for company

- Planning a great vacation
- Portfolio
- Retirement

Anticipation

- The tooth fairy coming
- Your first car
- Your first "real" job
- "Anticipating" that all will go well
- The company will notice (or at least not look in the closet where all the junk went!)
- All goes as planned
- Having passed the tenure process
- That you have enough money to live

At this time of year 4-H Youth Development Staff are preparing for the new 4-H year and anticipating a year better than the one before. Specifically in 2006, the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Staff is VERY BUSY preparing for the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference and anticipating the day when all has been successfully accomplished.

A word of caution: each of us needs to make sure that we don't spend all our time wrapped up preparing and anticipating that we miss the joy of the moment. And yes, I do need to take my own advice!

This Crazy World We Live In...

Amanda Kostman, Lincoln County 4-H Program Advisor, Entre Nous Editor-Elect

The last few weeks have proven to be hard on anyone who cares about the development of the future generations of this world. You have seen it - a congressman sending disturbing messages to a 16 year old and multiple school shootings – one even here in Wisconsin. I can't help but ask "what is going on?" The only thing I can come up with is... I don't know...

No one can anticipate this happening and how does anyone prepare for these events? Yes, we can plan for the worst and hope for the best but then we spend our whole life planning and not living. Some people withdraw from the world. Some jump into politics to change things. Others just do their best to make this world a better place one person at a time. All of these people exist so there must be hope! Sometimes you need a warm fuzzy or two to help get you through the news... so here is one... look for more at a warm fuzzy website - <http://www.storybin.com>

"The Other Side of the Coin"

I'm thankful for the taxes I pay
because it means that I'm employed.

I'm thankful for the mess to clean after a party
because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

I'm thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug
because it means I have enough to eat.

I'm thankful for my shadow who watches me work
because it means I am out in the sunshine.

I'm thankful for a lawn that needs mowing,
windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing
because it means I have a home.

I'm thankful for all the complaining I hear about our government
because it means we have freedom of speech.

I'm thankful for the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot
because it means I am capable of walking.

I'm thankful for my huge heating bill
because it means I am warm.

I'm thankful for the lady behind me in church who sings off key
because it means that I can hear.

I'm thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing
because it means I have clothes to wear.

I'm thankful for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day
because it means I have been productive.

I'm thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours
because it means that I'm alive.

I'm thankful for getting too much email
because it lets me know I have friends who are thinking of me.

Preparing for Membership Time!

Annette Bjorklund, WAE4-HYDP Membership Chair, Washburn County 4-H Youth Development Educator

The National Conference isn't even here yet, but it's time to renew (or join for the first time) membership to the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H

Youth Development Professionals (WAE4-HYDP) and/or the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA).

A Membership Application form will be posted in Youthline and on the WAE4-HYDP website. Please note that your form and full payment are due to your WAE4-HYDP district representative by **November 15, 2006**.

For more information on either association, visit their websites.

WAE4-HYDP <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/wae4hydp/>

NAE4-HA <http://www.nae4ha.org/>

Preparation: A Gold Perspective

Colleen Pulvermacher, Vernon County 4-H Youth Development Agent

I probably would have been a pretty good Boy Scout, thinking of their “always be prepared” motto. Yes, I am an organizer and list maker, so preparation comes naturally for me. I like the structure preparation activities afford me and tasks seem more attainable when broken down into steps. Ah, you’re saying, she sure sounds gold, but, like most people I am a blend of green and blue as well – I want details and to know how things fit together. I have found that fostering positive relationships are key component in preparation. After all, what good are well thought out programs but no volunteers to help me with them? As a new agent in a county where I knew no one, the challenge to build rapport with volunteers was the primary focus of my first year and it has paid dividends, big time. The reluctant volunteers that I actively engage usually evolve out of a personal contact at the office, fair, grocery store, a church function or shopping at Wal-Mart. Ask anyone in Vernon County, I am an enthusiastic promoter of 4-H, whether on the job or not!

My keys to being prepared include a calendar large enough to write in appointments, tons of post it notes, and a follow-up notebook of people I’ve called and what I wanted to ask them about. I jot down notes about people I meet at different conferences – something unique about them that will help me to remember them and then I try to use their name in the course of conversation.

As I reflect upon the importance of preparation, I sum it up by looking at the 4 H’s:

H- **hands**- that I may write important details in my calendar

H- **head** – that I may think ahead and remember the big picture

H - **heart** – that I may always value those who help me develop plans & programs

H- **health** - that my preparation may be kept in perspective--do my best, then let go of it!

Preparation & Anticipation in Pictures

Wayne Brabender, 4-H Distance Learning Specialist & 4-H Photo Specialist & Dawn Kuelz, Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent



Atwood Community Center 4-H Afterschool participants ham it up and prepare to take a good picture!



Tim Talen, teaching youth to deliver a monologue, anticipates a great lesson and a standing ovation!



At the 2006 Conference Dry Run in May, colleagues anticipate needs and prepare for a great conference in Milwaukee!

What are you
"anticipating" at
the upcoming
NAE4-HA
Conference in
Milwaukee?

"Meeting colleagues from
other states."
-- Jim Winkler

"Seeing friends from across the nation,
eating at the great restaurants in
Milwaukee, and spending time with
colleagues from Wisconsin." -- Jean Berger

"Welcoming people to our state, being able to
attend a few sessions in between other duties to
get some new ideas to bring home, enjoying
time with colleagues. I look forward to the
opening event at the museum because I think
that will be a great chance to mingle and enjoy
the museum, which is always a fun opportunity.
And just staying at the hotel because I love
hotels!" -- Penny Tank

"I am looking forward to new ideas that I
can adapt to my county and population. I
am also looking for something to re-
energize me." -- LuAnne Ujazdowski

"I'm anxious to see if anyone shows up for
the Quest for Fitness! I'm also co-
presenting at a seminar and that's pretty
exciting. I'm also looking forward to seeing
Margaret Wheatley. And...it'll be great to
wear our conference clothes and
Badger/Packer gear!" -- Joan Wimpe

"Meeting lots of new people, learning the
latest on youth development issues,
hospitality suites, cool new conference
souvenirs, visiting with colleagues about the
ups and downs of this profession, laughing,
great meals, sore feet, happy memories!"
-- Colleen Pulvermacher

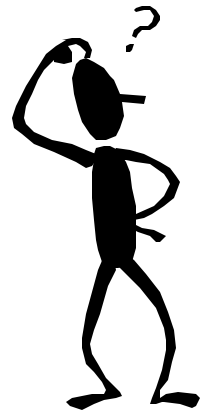
"I am hoping for a successful
conference, that conference
attendees leave the event with a
renewed spirit and enthusiasm for
their job, with new ideas to assist in
their work and help improve their
programs." -- Marie Witzel

"Getting together with agents,
within Wisconsin and from around
the United States, sharing
programs and ideas and enjoying
the messages from the excellent
choice of speakers." -- Sue Fredrick

"The speakers, the food,
visiting with colleagues from
Wisconsin and beyond and of
course, our celebration at the
end!" -- Dawn Kuelz

"To see the big picture- how all
of our planning will fit together
for one big conference, and the
food." -- Chris Viau

"I am looking forward to valuable
professional development and networking
opportunities. It will be especially exciting
to see our work come to fruition and
celebrate with my Wisconsin Colleagues
one of the best conferences ever!"
-- Deb Ivey



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Fast Fact

WAE4-HYPD works in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Extension – an EEO/Affirmative Action employer. WAE4-HYPD provides equal opportunities in programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

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