



The Prairie Professional

A Newsletter for KAE4-HA Members

January 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Beth Hecht

Excitement All Around

Have you noticed? There's a lot of new faces around. Lots of new hires in the recent months just in 4-H youth development positions alone. And there's more coming. There's been some inter-shifting (that's the term I use to describe those already in the system taking on different jobs). And there's been some long time "pillars" leave the system. Like it or not, this changes things. While it's saddening to see respected agents leave the system, I am embracing the excitement and enthusiasm new faces bring to the Kansas 4-H youth development table.

It is an exciting time for 4-H in general. On the national level, research justifying what we already know about our great youth program is just beginning to roll out. There's excitement about the Charlotte's Web partnership. There's anticipation of new professional development opportunities. Youth development continues to gain momentum across the nation in being viewed and respected as a profession. Our association has the opportunity to strengthen this movement across Kansas through the work of its members.

As your association president, I challenge each and every one of you to step up and be the change you want to see happen. Channel your energies into positive change. Step up, ask questions, get involved. Make the 'cold call' toward creating a potential new community partnership. Try a new approach to working with an old group. Take a stab at reaching a new audience. Ask someone unusual to volunteer.

Let's forge forward into our program focus areas in the coming months with an attitude of making positive change. And let's continue to welcome new folks to the table. You've probably heard the quote, "If it's to be, it's up to me." Now let's live it!

WELCOME

Save the Date

KAE4-HA
Spring Meeting
Hutchinson
April 3-4, 2007



Welcome 4-H Professionals

The NE Area is proud to announce that we have six full time 4-H professionals who have recently joined our team or will be starting in January. Please help us welcome Emily Morehouse, Douglas County; Megan Cassidy, Meadowlark Extension District; Kendra Baehler, Reno County; Abbie Grossnicklaus, Johnson County; Sarah Laib, Johnson County and Amanda Lott, River Valley District.

We also welcome Sarah Maass, who is transferring from Lyon County to Central Kansas District.

As KEA4-HA members, we know the key to success in this job is connecting with people in the local community and across the state. So take time to connect with these new folks as they start their Kansas Extension careers.



Special thanks to everyone who contributed to our state's gift basket. The "Fun Office Stuff" theme combined with the lariat basket made by Jeremy Nelson was a hit! It was selected as one of the five items chosen for the dollar auction during the North Central breakfast in Wisconsin. The dollar action brought in \$803; the silent auction raised \$806. All money raised will go to the next state to host the NAE4-HA Conference in our region - Nebraska in 2011.

Beth Hecht

Dear KAE4-HA members,

Thank you for the Meritorious Service Award and the \$250 dollar scholarship that helped with National Meeting Expenses. As a member of KAE4-HA, I have had the opportunity to make many friendships over the years that mean a lot to me and I look forward to making many more in the years ahead. It has been my pleasure to serve as an officer of the Association and to serve on various committees with many of you. Again thank you for the recognition. I was surprised and honored to be selected.

Sincerely,

Eric Otte

Kudos
on Your
Hard Work
and
Accomplish-
ments



You
Deserve
It!

Congratulations!

North Central Regional Winner for Promotional Package – Team Award

Kansas 4-H Centennial Marketing Team

Diane Mack	Ron Frank
Steve Fisher	Andrea Karcher
Pat McNally	Keri Liddeke
Nancy Peterson	Leah Bond
Jodi Besthorn	Linda Sleichter
Andrea Schmidt	Kathleen Ward
Aliesa Woods	Larry Jackson
Rhonda Atkinson	Steve Ballou
Bob Holcombe	

ASA Winners

Anna Muir
Ginger Kopfer

DSA Winners

Amy Gerdes
Beth Drescher

MSA Winner

Eric Otte

25 Years of Service

Carol Fink
Phyllis Kriesel
Deryl Waldren





Reflecting Back To Milwaukee

Attending the NAE4-HA Conference is always a great experience. The Wisconsin delegation did a superb job of providing us with a taste of their state, thought-provoking speakers, educational sessions and time to connect with others.

As I reflected back on my experience, Dr. Margaret Wheatley, one of the featured speakers, presentation came to mind. Looking at my notes, I thought these words of wisdom from her, were worth repeating:

- ✿ Connect with others.
- ✿ Take time to reflect.
- ✿ Keep things in perspective.
- ✿ Don't be so predictable.
- ✿ Remember again to keep things in perspective and don't take yourself so seriously.
- ✿ Remember WHY you do this work.
- ✿ Be there for each other.

I have posted this list in my office. It's part of my new year's resolution.

Oh and by the way, I did bring home the beans they gave us at Regional Breakfast. They were delicious in chili.

Submitted by Diane Mack

I attended a session at National Meeting on 4-H promotion and got some great on-line resources from Illinois Extension. They are available on the web at <http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/staff/promotion.html>. Included on this site are bookmarks, certificate borders and frames, brochures, flyers, buttons, clip art, games, school enrichment programs, postcards, and much more. I have already used the site more than once and encourage everyone to check it out!

Submitted by Ginger Kopfer

Need A Refresher Course?

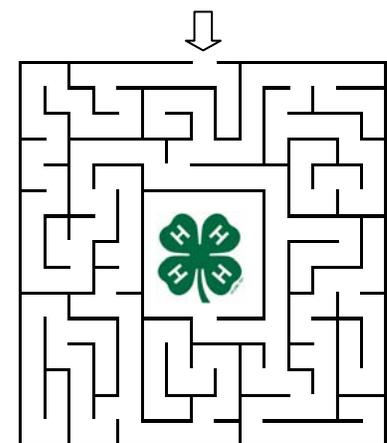
Beth Hinshaw and Diane Mack invite you to attend 4-H Basic Operations. We've had several tenured 4-H professionals attend to be updated. Participants have reported that it was very beneficial. Having both new and tenured agents adds to the quality of the discussion.

4-H Basic Operations is offered twice a year, usually in April and September. Watch the 4-H Tip Sheet for details.

Do you know the web address for KAE4-HA?

Check it out for information about the Association, resources, links, and much more. Bookmark it for a quick reference.

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/kae4ha/>



Basic Operations

Resources for YOU!

Youth Work Connection

At our 2006 spring meeting, we gained great insight to the youth development movement from Kansas City Youth Work's Director of Quality and Performance Improvement, Deth Im. Deth has since offered an open invitation to their Youth Work Connection training in March. Please see the postcard attached to the end of the newsletter for more information.

Submitted by Beth Hecht

Games on the Go

Recreation is a critical aspect of our youth club meetings. Recreation allows youth to develop social skills, build communication skills, challenge youth to problem solve, invite decision making and encourage interaction across varying age groups. Recreation activities should be played for at least a period of 10 minutes and be adaptable to include youth of various abilities.

As part of my club visit program options for the 2006-2007 4-H year, I am offering a "Games on the Go" program to provide propless or game options with limited supplies. You may create your own booklet of games by visiting <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/Riley> and clicking on "4-H" and then "4-H Resources." Look for the "Club Items" section and you will discover the "Games on the Go Booklet" PDF. Print, separate and punch a hole in the corner of your booklet. Secure with a ring, and share the fun!

Submitted by Andrea Schmidt

Energize

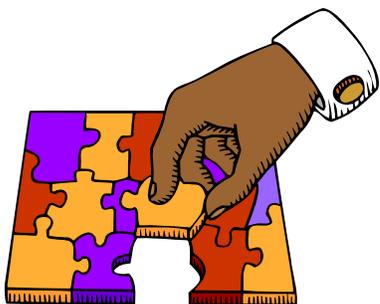
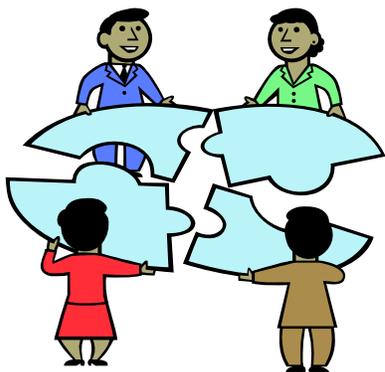
Carl Olson was a speaker at the North Central Regional Volunteer Forum in Minnesota. He is a former teacher, coach, guidance counselor. His books include the experiential learning model and he employs magic in lots of his presentations. Check out his website at: <http://www.energizerolson.com>.

I purchased one of his kits which included 2 books, Energizers - Calisthenics for the Mind and Impact Activities to Enhance Teaching & Learning; an energy ball, flashing ball and a smile on a stick. LOTS of good stuff to use in building groups. Check it out!

Submitted by Phyllis Kriesel

Instant Messaging

If you find instant messaging useful as an agent and wish to share your name and provider, please send the information to semaass@k-state.edu. A compiled list of agent's IM's will be featured in the next issue of the *Prairie Professional*.



SAVE THE DATES!

**Thursday, March 29 &
Friday, March 30, 2007**

Kauffman Foundation
Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110

Please make plans to join us for our annual conference for Youth Workers and Supervisors. Watch for the registration in December.

Register by January 26, 2007 and receive the Early Bird Registration discount! Space is limited.

816/221.6900
www.kcyouthnet.org

**YOUTH WORK
CONNECTION**

