

The Peach Press

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents

Winter Edition 2017-2018



Brought to you by
the Media
Committee
Robin Turi, Editor
Media Committee
Chair

A Message from the President ... Cheryl Poppell



Greetings Georgia:

It was great to see many of you at our Extension Winter Conference. Our association was able to accomplish some very important business during the conference. Jeremy Cheney, State Meeting Chair and I, were able to meet with our conference planning team to discuss upcoming plans for the 2018 State Professional Development Conference. Robbie Jones, Chair of the Policy and Resolution Committee, met with his committee to discuss possible by-law changes and updates. Finally, the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) met with Associate Dean of Extension Dr. Laura Perry Johnson and discussed the upcoming PILD Conference in Washington, DC. This spring is going to be an exciting time for our association.

As we diligently work to make the best, better, remember this quote: "Each day is a gift, that's why they call it the present." Remember the youth you encounter every day and the difference you are making in their lives. I encourage you to make 2018 – the best year ever! Daily, accept the GIFT of a new day!

G – Grow: Professional development is something that we must always work to keep current. GAE4-HA offers many opportunities for you as a member to grow professionally. The value of this organization can never be underestimated. For our newer agents, GAE4-HA is a wonderful organization to grow and to develop a "root system" of sorts that will provide you with the strength to endure tough times.

I-Involved. In 2018, I encourage you to look ways you can get more involved in our Association or take on Leadership roles within our organization. Past President Kasey Bozeman will serve a chair of our nominating committee this year as we seek candidates for Vice President (4-year term) and Secretary. Even if you are not quite ready for one of these challenges, I encourage you to become involved at the committee level or on the state conference planning team. Remember, as with most things in life, you get back what you put into something.

F – Fun. Make sure you have fun! Incorporate fun into your work. Enjoy moments when you can laugh along with the youth. Enjoy fun the moments with them. GAE4-HA provide an outlet as well for times of fun with your colleagues across the state. Make plans to attend our state meeting April 18-20, 2018 in Athens, Georgia. It promises to be time full of professional development and fun.

T – Teach and share. Don't just share your knowledge with youth, but plan to "teach" your tricks at our upcoming state meeting. Chesley Davis will be requesting proposals for workshops and educational posters for our state meeting shortly.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Peach Press

Publication

Deadlines

Spring Issue

April 2, 2018

Fall Issue

September 15, 2018



Webpage:

**[blog.extension.uga.edu/
gae4-ha/](http://blog.extension.uga.edu/gae4-ha/)**

A Message from
Casey Mull, President, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents



As I took the gavel from President Tiede to serve over the next 11 months as the President of NAE4-HA, I could not help but reflect on the individuals who prepared and equipped me for the role. Many of them were with us in Indianapolis and others were not far from my mind. Members of the Burgess Family from Washington-Wilkes hired me for my first two jobs in Extension. Maria Burgess Walker gave me the opportunity to serve as a 4-H Camp Counselor and Mandy Burgess Marable took a chance on a college student looking for a part-time summer job. That part-time position eventually developed into a full-time position serving military audiences.

As I stood on stage, I was honored to stand with 3 other Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Brittany Teets teaches me compassion (and organization). Abby Smith guides me to have fun and maintain a balance in our work. Rebecca Thomas was the first county agent I worked with as a full-time employee. She continues to inspire and mentor me.

The new year will be filled with resolutions and goals for us individually and collectively as an association. I look forward to sharing my resolutions for the association with you and the almost 5,000 members of NAE4-HA soon. My personal, recurring resolution is to continue learning, not only from our organization, but also from our people. I look forward to moving forward with you.

Though many people have guided and mentored me, enabling me to receive the gavel from President Tiede, there is one individual who I mentioned in my remarks in Indianapolis who made the most lasting, direct impact—my county agent. She introduced me to this world of learning we call 4-H. My hope for you is that you may reflect on the impact you have had. There likely is a future county agent in one of your club meetings who just joined 4-H for the first time. And that youth doesn't even know what is yet to come.

2017 National 4-H Hall of Fame

By Hamp Thomas, Chattooga County 4-H Member

Sixteen individuals were inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on Friday, October 6, 2017 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. It was truly a marvelous evening, where I found myself surrounded by so many “4-H Giants”. Individuals who have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and health over a lifetime of serving 4-H'ers. I had the fortune and esteem honor to serve as the Master of Ceremonies for this special evening. As I read each of the laureates list of achievements and 4-H specialty, I was reminded of the depth of the program which I have grown up in.

Each laureate was honored for his or her lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H. The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) or 4-H National Headquarters/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in partnership with National 4-H Council and 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. The purpose of the National 4-H Hall of Fame is to recognize and celebrate those people who have made a significant impact on 4-H and its millions of members for more than 100 years. For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame visit <http://www.nae4ha.com/hof>



As a high school senior, quickly approaching adulthood, I have been provided so many opportunities because of your work in Georgia 4-H. The cliché phrase, “It takes a village to raise a child” has a rich meaning to me. I was grown in the Georgia 4-H “field”, with each of you being part of cultivating and grooming me. Just

Maintaining Contact

By Andy Haygood

For years, you poured your life into the lives of hundreds if not thousands of children. Eventually, those children thinned out and only a few die hard 4-H'ers remained. As those children grew older, you knew this day would come. Now, you're faced with a group of graduated seniors who are going off to college or joining the work force. As you turn your efforts and attentions to the students still in your program, I encourage you to keep open communications with the little birds who have already flown.

Graduating from high school is probably the biggest life event most of our 4-H'ers have ever experienced. The simple act of starting college is hard enough. Compound that with significantly reduced one-on-one teacher-student interaction, friends moving away, and suddenly having to be more responsible for themselves, and you have a recipe for a difficult transition. Oh, and did I mention that many graduating seniors move out of their parents' homes? Throw another log on the fire.

When I went away to college, I was constantly bombarded with new experiences, cultures, and ideals. I had never imagined how many opposing viewpoints were out there. I sometimes struggled to remain true to who I was. One thing that helped was staying in contact with my 4-H leaders. There were many times when I would head home and go visit Mrs. Dean. She helped me by just being there to talk.

I love hearing from my kids. I love seeing their Instagram pictures. I love celebrating their accomplishments. I grieve with them when things aren't going well. I laugh with them when they do something goofy. I cry when they are all grown up and don't need me anymore. But isn't that why we do what we do? Our mission is to create self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society. When a child graduates from high school, our job is only half done. We have given them confidence to step out and take chances. Through countless portfolio corrections they have learned to take criticism. Through judging team practices, they have learned to examine the facts before making a decision. Now, as they start to take flight, we need to maintain those relationships so that when they need to rest, they will have a safe place to land.



Community Involvement

By Andy Haygood

A few years ago, there was a big push for Agents across the state to show the communities how important we are. Words like "stakeholders," "community impact," and "value" were thrown around more than a football at an Auburn game. We were, and still are, encouraged to let our community leaders know the differences that we make in the community.

Of course these reports, newsletters, and e-mails to elected officials are important, but I keep being reminded of a lesson I learned in Sunday school. You might be the only Bible some people ever read.

Despite our best efforts to send in quality newspaper articles, radio clips, or newsletters, there are some people who will never read the local paper or listen to the local radio station. In order to reach these people, we have to be the message. That is why community involvement is so important. The simple act of getting the 4-H members out into the community will usually be enough to show that there is something special about this organization.

In Habersham County, we try to get our 4-H'ers involved in as many community events as possible. We work the Farm Bureau Dinners and Farm City Week Breakfasts every year. We participate heavily in the Chattahoochee Mountain Fair, with our students performing the musical act on opening night. Mrs. Renee Smagur, many of our kids, and I have been involved in productions at the community theater.

For each of those community events, there are people who have stopped and asked for more information about 4-H. Each time we put ourselves out as a part of the community, we are building relationships whether we know it or not. On more than one occasion, I have had a parent say about sending their child to a 4-H event, "I don't know those other people there, but I trust you." It is a tremendous burden to be responsible for someone else's child. Their trust had to start somewhere. Who knows, it could have started when the 4-H parade float rolled by. Either way, I see firsthand that community involvement is every bit as necessary as the commissioner's newsletter.



Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students

Kelle Ashley



Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students (GCAPS) was developed by The Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) to address the need for increased civic involvement and awareness among the state's youth and engage them to become the next generation of civic leaders. Oconee County 4-H facilitates the program in Oconee and is dedicated to educating young citizens about the importance of being engaged in their local government and taking advantage of opportunities available in the public sector. GCAPS provides civic education by exposing youth to the role that local government plays and by introducing them to the leaders who make local and state governments work.

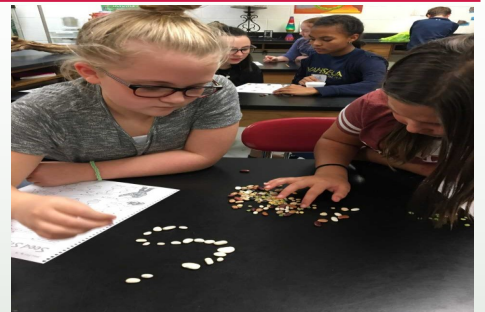


GCAPS is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn first-hand the roles and services that Oconee County government provides to its citizens. Oconee County 4-H and the County Commissioner Liaison worked together to provide monthly civic engagement events from October through April. Throughout the course of the program year, GCAPS participants took part in team building exercises, attended a board of commissioners meeting, interviewed department heads, toured county facilities, learned about economic development on a tour of Caterpillar, toured the county jail, participated in a poverty simulation, and visited the State Capital and interacted with local and state elected officials.

Harris County 4-H is Exploding into Science

Adrienne Cox

There is so much you can do with the subject of science. It can be so much fun! Teaching hands on in Harris County. Adding an after-school science club to their programming.



The science club is for 5th and 6th grade students at Creekside School. We limited the club to 30 members to meet once a month with a small registration fee. The club is called "C-4 4-H Club" with our slogan "Exploding into Science". All students received a C-4 4-H Club t-shirt and are asked to wear it to school when we meet. Each lesson has a hands-on component and students work in groups to complete the activities. It has been a huge success.



4-H has been able to help the school meet its goal to increase S.T.E.M. The club has met four times with lessons in building stomp rockets, seed sorting with identification, animal insulation in cold waters and a Project Wet lesson to "Find Water on Zork". All experiments were fun, educational and get students engaged in science. Harris Counties 4-H staff is looking forward to the rest of the school year. As we continue "Exploding into Science" with our C-4 4-H Club students.

Chasing the Ever-elusive Sixth Grade 4-H member

Terri (Kimble) Fullerton

How often have I complained that sixth graders are impossible?

They move to middle school and get lost under a pile of homework, or sucked into band where they never even hear the announcements. Suddenly there are 400 other clubs and teams to join.

Those that do come to meetings feel like “nothing is ever for me,” or that they’re being sent back to those “baby things” for 4th and 5th graders.

We added them to Junior Rally, but most of my 6th graders have disappeared long before spring. We added them to Marine Resource Camp and Wilderness Challenge Camp, but honestly I’ve always recommended they go to county camp for maturity reasons.

Then 2 years ago we allowed 6th graders at Junior Conference and added a 6th grade DPA.

Yes, I groaned at the idea of *another* overnight event. We moaned about getting projects ready amidst portfolio prep. We whined about the immaturity of 6th graders at Junior Conference. Yes, yes, yes: I hear you on all those points.

But we had ZERO 6th graders the previous year at DPA, so I felt we had to try it. We had to send a bigger vehicle to Junior Conference and recruit a volunteer. Wow!

We cancelled our Christmas parade float and invited all those 6th graders we hadn’t seen since camp. **We increased from ZERO sixth graders at Cloverleaf DPA to 5 in just one year!** This year we finished with 6 competitors and 2 home sick who will still be able to compete at Cloverleaf, but at least feel special for having been invited; and those kids from last year have turned into teen leaders and portfolios.

Another decision we made going into this was to still use all three of our regular DPA chaperones – the agent, program assistant, and a volunteer leader—so that the kids would get a chance to know each of us better. We’ve enjoyed the more relaxed trip, but the relationships we’re building with the small group of kids are the real key to this success.

Miranda was in a classroom 4-H club in the 4th grade, and placed 3rd at DPA that year. In 5th grade she came on her own and didn’t do so well. I was worried when she still couldn’t come in for help in 6th grade, concerned another year of poor results would finish her off. She tried to text me videos of her project, I offered to drive her home if she could just spend a day with me, but in the end we just couldn’t make it work. I packed extra project supplies in the van as we left for the trip.

After arrival I heard Miranda tell another 4-H’er that she had to work on her project alone while everyone was at work. That night, we stayed up until after midnight with those supplies and the internet on our phones helping her lengthen the speech and redo part of her poster. This would never have been possible for us during a 4th-6th grade DPA, even if we went to an overnight one.

It paid off: Miranda went home with a blue ribbon in a project of five participants. I don’t care how many blue ribbons our county wins, but the pride on this child’s face reminded me again why the addition of a 6th grade DPA is so vital to the growth of my 4-H program.



With only a small group, we drove the kids around, from the dance and to breakfast. After our tour of the mound, we drove around Rock Eagle setting off Mr. Al’s megaphone siren at geese and Ms. Terri’s friends... and laughed so hard our stomachs hurt. We made those memories that hopefully will bring them back to Rock Eagle.

The Club Officer Experience

By April L Baggs

Houston County 4-H Club officers are provided the opportunity to build leadership skills, learn how to work with fellow 4-H members, and develop new public speaking skills through the club officer process. Officer elections were held in Houston County 4-H club meetings. Youth were formally nominated by their peers and the staff conducted elections. Candidates for president stood before their peers and campaigned for their vote. The teacher sponsor tallied the votes and announced the newly elected officers. Many groups had between 3 to 6 nominees for each elected position.



The purpose of the implementation of student officers in the club is threefold: 1. It would foster the skills of leadership, responsibility, and delegation to those students elected to an officer position. 2. It would allow the club to be, in essence, self-run. 3. Lastly, peer to peer mentorship and education would take place. All three of these things would serve the same end: The club members would all feel an increased degree of ownership of their club (and, ultimately, their individual 4-H experience). "I notice that their attitudes were contagious and they had my students wanting to be a part of all the activities that they offered." 4th grade teacher sponsor.

As a result, 65 officers were elected by their peers. A mandatory officer training followed by an installation ceremony was held. Were trained by their high school Sigma Lambda Chi counterparts using a Roberts Rules of Order script. The script that is incorporated in the meetings has speaking roles for all elected positions. Youth practiced and showed increased poise when speaking publicly. The installation ceremony was open to family and teacher sponsors. Due to the limited space it was also broadcasted LIVE on the Houston 4-H GA fan page. Broadcasting LIVE on Facebook made it easy for working and out of town family members who wanted to watch and support their officer. There were 109 who reached and 66 views of the event were documented.

"A. had such a great time at officer training yesterday! I can't wait to see what the rest of 4-H has instore, for her. Thank you!" - Parent of 4-H officer. There were 19/30 clubs were represented at our second annual officer training and installation. The cloverleaf and junior 4-H'ers received peer lead instruction on conducting scripted 4-H club meetings. The youth are prepared to take ownership of their club meetings. The teacher sponsors have observed that the student lead meetings are gratifying for the club members.

IMPACT OF GEORGIA PEANUT PRIDE LESSON ON 4-H YOUTH

Ashley Carroll & Jazmin Thomas



In partnership with the Georgia Peanut Commission, 4-H program leaders in Dougherty County, Georgia facilitated a series of educational club meetings to 5th - 7th grade students in Dougherty County public and private schools. These lessons were focused on the production, nutrition and history of Georgia peanuts.

The goal of Georgia Peanut Pride was to educate students in the urban county on Georgia Peanuts by helping them meet five main objectives: (1) understanding that Georgia is a major producer of peanuts in the United States, (2) being able to describe how peanuts grow, (3) recognizing peanuts and peanut byproducts are a great source of protein, (4) being able to make peanut butter at home for a healthy snack option and (5) having an appreciation for the hard work farmers and researchers put into agricultural production.

A total of 110 youth from 3 schools were exposed to this program. By participating in an interactive presentation and hands-on learning experience, 4-H members learned how vital peanuts are to Georgia's largest industry as well as the significant impact they have on our culture. To conclude the lesson, students had the opportunity to make and taste their own homemade peanut butter.

After engaging in educational modules, students completed a post-test style questionnaire that consisted of multiple choice, matching, demographic and fill in the blank questions along with a Likert scale, which was aligned with the original five objectives of Georgia Peanut Pride. The evaluation showed 98% of participants understand that Georgia is a major producer of peanuts in the United States. 91% of students also reported being able to describe how peanuts grow. 96% of participants recognize peanuts and peanut byproducts are a great source of protein. 85% of the group stated they will be able to make peanut butter at home for a healthy snack option and 96% of students surveyed reported that they have an appreciation for the hard work farmers and researchers put into agricultural production.



Randy West - Having Impact as 4-H Agent in Crisp County

By Julie Jernigan, Intern at UGA-Tifton

Randy West, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension 4-H agent in Crisp County, Georgia, has his daughters to thank for his career with Georgia 4-H. They helped him discover passion for the program that taught them life skills, like decision making, and how to be leaders.

“Both of my daughters participated in 4-H growing up, and I saw the impact it had on them,” West said. “I knew this was something that I wanted to pursue.”

Before he was a county agent, West taught school in Jeff Davis County for 12 years. West came to Crisp County as the coordinator for Strong African American Families (SAAF) in 2010. About two years later, he became the 4-H agent in Dougherty County. When the 4-H position became available in Crisp County, West applied.

“Things happen for a reason, and I am thankful to work for an organization that understands the importance of life skills,” West said.

Ranging from the fifth to 12th grades, there are 540 Crisp County 4-H members enrolled this year, plus 70 adult volunteers. “I am grateful for inheriting the rich programs that were already put in place by the previous agent,” West said. “I was able to continue it with some wonderful volunteers.”

4-H members participate in a wide variety of activities, such as livestock programs and promoting the performing arts. He feels fortunate to be able to shape the minds of today’s youth.

“I’ve been around kids my whole life, whether it was in church or helping them during FFA camp,” West said. “This job was definitely a no-brainer because I love helping kids do the right thing.”

West hopes to bring the forestry program and archery club back to Crisp County. County administrators, parents and 4-H members have voiced a desire for those programs. “I am always listening to suggestions because without our volunteers and members, we couldn’t continue our mission,” West said.



Presentation Types

The NAE4-HA Programs Committee invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 2018 NAE4-HA Annual Conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio October 7–11, 2018. NAE4-HA will accept presentation proposals under the following session categories:

- Competency Building Workshops (85 minutes)
- Research and Evaluation Reports (25 minutes)
- Program Seminars (55 minutes)
- Program Showcase (25 minutes)
- Poster (1 hour staffed)

Important Dates

November 1, 2017: Proposal system opens

February 14, 2018: Deadline to submit proposals 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time)

April 1, 2018: Notification sent to presenter



Jackson County Love of Llamas

Ali Merk

Jackson County 4-H Love of Llamas specialty club has No Time for drama! This amazing group of students and volunteers spend hundreds of hours caring for and training their llama friends. The group attends shows, educational events, and just plain fun events all over the country during the year. Regardless the event, these guys are showstoppers. The countless hours and years of companionship and training makes the llamas reliable and safe canvases for unthinkable costumes and events. As the group functions like a fine-oiled machine, it is because of the incredible expertise of their volunteer leader Kim Kyst. As other 4-H programs in Georgia are not familiar with llama programming, it is a phenomenal addition to the livestock programming repertoire that other states have taken advantage of.



Spotlight pictures on recent costume events: starting top left and moving clockwise. This beauty is pretending to be a camel in a live nativity. Springtime fun at the city egg hunt. A 'mad' ensemble at a show. Nothing could be more fun than llamas in pajamas. Lastly, Santa's parade helpers. Leave behind the drama and go love on a llama!

SAVE THE DATE

**GAE4-HA STATE
MEETING
APRIL 18 -20, 2018**



The Graduate, Athens, GA

Liberty County 4-H'er Sophia Rodriguez

By Julie Jernigan

Sophia Rodriguez's 4-H project hit close to home for the Liberty County senior.

After her dad was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) while serving in the military, Rodriguez, wanted to create a support system for military kids like her. She is fifth-year and former Georgia 4-H State Board Vice President.

"Different people go through different things regardless of severity, and I wanted to create a support system to show the validity of their feelings," Rodriguez said.

She created "Tie-Dye for Troops," a military youth program in Liberty County where most of the 4-H members' parents serve at Fort Stewart.

In the program, Rodriguez and fellow 4-H leaders visit the School Age Center on base where they teach children lessons importance of feelings, color and creativity.

"We begin with asking kids simple questions they can easily answer such as, 'Do you like the color green?' And they tell us whether or not they do and why," she said. "Then we transition into a lesson on why it's okay to feel or think certain ways."



One of the activities Rodriguez started was tie-dyeing pillow cases. She explained that colors can get messy and chaotic, but with time and patience they can make something beautiful. "I tell the students to squeeze their pillow whenever they feel alone," Rodriguez said. "Because we made them together, I wanted it to serve as a reminder that we're always there for them and that their feelings matter."

Rodriguez said she loves being a part of something bigger than herself and showing students the importance of taking care of their mental health. "Contributing to the community is so important, and I loved every minute of helping the kids understand that it's okay to ask for help," she said.

Kasey Bozeman, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension 4-H agent in Liberty County, said Rodriguez goes above and beyond to make this program successful.

"Sophia is an incredible leader, and she does a great job of leading this program while also managing to attend college classes, play sports and be involved in other clubs and organizations," Bozeman said. "Having known Sophia for the past six years, I've seen her leadership skills flourish through her 4-H involvement. This is one of many projects she has led that has impacted others. I'm incredibly honored and blessed to know her."

Rodriguez talks about her project at national conferences and workshops so other military kids across the country can benefit from it. "While getting to share about my project has been awesome, the most rewarding part is getting to actually teach the lesson with military kids," she said. "I know exactly what it is like for these kids – some days it can just be really hard. I hope my project is fun and exciting, but it also leaves them with something tangible to remember to always be positive and have hope."

Other than being the creator of the military youth program, Rodriguez is a member of Georgia's 4-H's Performing Arts group, Clovers and Company member, a Military Ambassador, and a Health Rocks Ambassador. She also competes in Land Judging, Forestry Judging and Poultry Judging.

Rodriguez is plans to attend UGA after she graduates from high school in the spring. She hopes to continue her journey with 4-H on the collegiate level while continuing 4-H's motto "Make the Best Better."



LIFE MEMBERS/RETIREEES



HOW TO JOIN . . .

Hope you will join us if you're not already a member. Membership drive is held during the fall – however, Life Member dues may be submitted at any time. Life Member fee is 3 times the regular renewal membership fee. Currently, Life Membership dues are \$250. Application for membership is the same as any new or renewal members. On the membership application, simply check off the “*life member*” option. Please visit the **GAE4-HA website** (<http://blog.extension.uga.edu/gae4-ha/>), and/or, contact your District Association Director or the Vice-President for application information.

BECOME A PART OF THE ASSOCIATION

Members are encouraged to attend the GAE4-HA Annual Conference in the spring of each year and held in an area of the state designated by the presiding President, as well as, professional days in you district and the National Association Meeting in the fall. It is hoped that members would also support and/or volunteer with the Extension/4-H program in their respective county of residence if at all possible.

In our GAE4-HA “Peach Press” Newsletter we are highlighting Association Life Members and/or retirees in a “WHERE ARE THEY NOW. . .” section – a section designated to Life Members & Retirees who keep on giving to their community, and/or, just “Keep on- Keeping on.” Life members are encouraged to provide relative information of themselves, another life member(s) and/or retiree(s) about what they have been doing since retirement. This could be one thing in specific or several things, including: work on another job, a business venture, community service activities, an interesting hobby, family activities, an interesting family vacation/trip, etc.

If you're aware of any of these former colleagues, please put something together (or ask them to) and send to me for submission in one of the associations’ Peach Press issues. Also attach any applicable photo(s) for use as well. Of course, if you prefer – simply send me the name(s) and relative contact information to the Life Member Chair or your Senior District Director to follow up. Newsletter editions may be accessed via the GAE4-HA website.

Royce James,

Life Member Chair

Mission Work

Dot Cofer

Pictured above is a child on the Island of Utila, Honduras reading a New Testament (written in Spanish) which had just been given her. Retiree Dot Cofer, for the past 12 years, has led a medical mission to this remote island off the coast of Honduras. She joins with other medical members of her church to minister to those on this small island (12 miles long and 2 miles wide) who are either not able to go or can not afford to travel to the mainland for medical help. This child's



mother had multiple medical problems the team addressed while she looked at her new bible. This home had never had the word of God in its home. The team examined around a hundred children and adults each of the 5 days of their working mission.

Dot had filled 11 large suitcases of medical supplies donated to carry to the wonderful people in addition to monetary donations for a lady who had terminal cancer and needed morphine and other meds for treatment until her death. Thanks to the team, she lived with dignity her last month on earth.

(Dot plans on going back this coming June.)

Thoughts as I Reflect on My First 52 Years in 4-H.

Dr. Bo Ryles



I am a volunteer leader with Clovers & Co, Clover Glove Races and Oconee County 4-H. I teach a UGA course focused on Extension. My “day job” is in the role of National 4-H Council Senior Director/Strategic Partnerships. My 4-H journey began as a fifth grader in Dodge County. Since that day as a 10 year old, I have never “blinked” when it comes to 4-H. I’ve been blessed to serve in many roles and working with amazing young people and adults. I’ve been a part of GAE4-HA since 1980. As I once responded to an officer “No, I am not big in 4-H, but 4-H is big in me.”

Observations:

1. Never forget, *people do not care what you know until they know that you care.*
Louise Turner, 4-H agent, shared this with me my first year as an agent.
2. Don't let last year's calendar plan this year's work. Let not your past dictate your future. Be open and receptive to new ideas. Even if your club is great, look around (across the state, across America) for ideas.
3. When a crisis occurs (and it will), do not “knee jerk.” Listen, think, and reach out to experienced advisors before responding and taking action. It doesn't take long to spend the night at 4-H events. This applies at all levels. We play late and get up early. We are in the “kids” business and fun is a core part of what makes this whole thing called 4-H work. My mom once said, “Bo has spent an entire career getting paid to play.” Fun is important.
4. Listen, listen, and listen to young people. They will feel honored, and you will learn a lot.
5. Use “cutting edge” research (ideas) to address current needs. That's what makes 4-H (Extension) timeless. We evolve. Keep an eye on the research and an ear to the needs.
6. We will never have enough staff to reach all kids. All young people need 4-H. Georgia is growing. Engage and utilize volunteers. I didn't do this often enough. Empower volunteers. We have millions of alumni out there waiting to be asked to help.
7. Be certain every elected official in your geographic area knows the value of 4-H and all of Extension. This takes work. Be strategic. Repeat this strategy every year and particularly after elections.
8. As I meet celebrity alumni, they all have a story to tell. They all recall their local 4-H leader. What happens in the local club is what matters most.
9. Never underestimate the profound difference your work can make in a young person's life. ...If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower, but if you want to touch the future, touch the life of a child.
10. I am so inspired by the work of Extension 4-H specialists, agents, and leaders.
11. Congratulations on the election- NAE4-HA President Casey Mull

I am proud to be part of GAE4-HA. I'm looking forward to year 53 in 4-H.
Go Dawgs!



National Association of Extension 4-H Agents

2017 Conference Recap

Southern Region & National Award Winners

Periodical Publication Individual: Jeri Gilleand

Feature Story: Brennan Jackson

Excellence in 4-H Volunteerism Individual: Ali Merk

Beyond Youth Leadership: Stephanie Myers

Excellence in Camping Individual: Chesley Davis

Excellence in Teamwork: Casey Mull (and team from North Carolina)

Excellence in Urban Programming: Lori Bledsoe & Laurie Murrah-Hanson

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming Individual: Brittani Kelley

Achievement in Service: Jeri Gilleland, April McDaniel, Laurie Murrah-Hanson

Distinguished Service: Lauren Dye, Robbie Jones, Dinah Rowe

Meritorious Service: Lynn Davis

2017 NAE4-HA Annual Conference-Presenters

Connecting Youth and Growing Leadership Capacity-Presenter: Abby Smith, Angie Daughtry, Victoria Tillery

College 101 Series: Preparing Youth and Parents for Post-secondary Education-Presenter: Brittani Kelley

Coastal Georgia 4-H Military Adventure Camp: Dolphins, Fishes, and Crabs ... Oh My!-Presenter: Kasey Bozeman

Does 4-H In-School Public Speaking Preparation Influence Presentation Anxiety?-Presenter: Casey Hobbs

Making Farm Friends One Animal at a Time-Presenter: Pamela Bloch

Making History: Growing 4-H through Partnerships-Presenter: Lori Bledsoe, Laurie Murrah-Hanson

Youth Empowerment Best Practices Showcase- Presenters Cassie Anderson, Jenna Hoyt, Elizabeth Conway

Using Color, Comics, and Creativity to Cultivate Comfort for Military-Connected Kids- Presenter: Kasey Bozeman

Developing Resiliency and Life Skills Through STEAM Camps for Military Youth-Presenter: Chesley Davis
Youth Empowerment Best Practices Showcase- Presenters Cassie Anderson, Jenna Hoyt, Elizabeth Conway

Using Color, Comics, and Creativity to Cultivate Comfort for Military-Connected Kids- Presenter: Kasey Bozeman

Developing Resiliency and Life Skills Through STEAM Camps for Military Youth-Presenter: Chesley Davis

NAE4-HA Healthy Living Task Force Wellness Challenge- How Can You Use It?-Presenter: Becca Flint-Clark, Prudence Caskey, Heather Janney, Keri Hobbs, Tonya Price

NAE4-HA Excellence in Healthy Living Program Award Highlights-Presenter: Becca Flint-Clark, Keri Hobbs, Tonya Price

Our Future Farm Tour: Growing Georgia's Agricultural Workforce-Presenter: Caitlin Bennett
