# THE PEACH PRESS

The Official Publication for the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents



#### Important Reminders

GAE4-HA Membership Final Postmark Date December 31, 2019

Registration Begins for GAE4-HA Conference January 15, 2020

GAE4-HA Awards Deadline *March 9, 2020* 

Spring Peach Press Submission Deadline *March 20, 2020* 

Spring Peach Press Release *April 20, 2020* 

GAE4-HA Conference in Lagrange, GA *April 20-22, 2020* 

NAE4-HA Conference in Boise, Idaho *October 19-22, 2020* 

#### Message from President Jones: A Mountain of Opportunity

Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents (GAE4-HA), is our professional organization for those dedicated to promoting, strengthening, enhancing and advocating for Georgia 4-H's youth members! Benefits of GAE4-HA include: 1) Networking, 2) Professional Development, 3) Awards & Scholarships, and 4) Voice. One way to utilize the benefits of GAE4-HA is to attend the NAE4-HA Annual Conference. The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) is one of the largest professional associations for youth development workers with a diverse membership of nearly 4,300 youth development professionals. The 2019 NAE4-HA Annual Conference was held at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, with the theme of



Mountains of Opportunity. GAE4-HA was well represented. Fifty-six Georgia delegates attended the conference in some capacity or another: five Southwest, eleven Northwest, eleven Northwest, three Southeast, five admin/PDCs/DEDs, fifteen state staff, and six life members. Georgia won 20 awards, had two life members pinned, had 6 seminars presented, and 6 poster sessions presented at the national level. Our delegates seized the opportunity to experience the Greenbrier Resort and made memories that will last a lifetime! Award Winners were:

- 25 Years Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, Craven Hudson, & Wanda McLocklin
- MSA Cheryl Poppell
- DSA Kate Whiting, Abby Smith, Kasey Bozeman, Jakyn Tyson, & Kris Peavy
- ASA Kayla Wall, Crystal Perry, Jacqueline Nunn, Jennifer Cantwell, & Randie Gray
- Educational Package Team Kasey Bozeman, Jared Crapps, & Kandi Edwards
- Excellence in 4-H Club Support Award Pamela Bloch
- Excellence in Teen Programming Award Lauren Dye
- Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming Award Chasity Tompkins
- Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development Award Keri Hobbs, Melanie Biersmith, Allie Griner, Jazmin Thomas, Sandra Spradley, Sara Sercer, Shannon Cagle, & Ryan Akers
- Excellence in Urban 4-H Programming Award Casey D. Mull, Lori P. Bledsoe, Nykita Howell, Chasity Tompkins, Von Baker, & Gwen Williams

Getting involved in GAE4-HA & NAE4-HA was a pivotal point in my Extension career. I have held many different roles within GAE4-HA (SW Jr & Sr Director, State Awards Chair, & Vice-President – President) and have been a co-chair & currently a chair of a work group on the NAE4-HA level. Getting involved has afforded me "mountains of opportunities" to network, learn and grow as a youth development professional, and the chance to showcase my programming work. These opportunities would not have happened if I didn't take a risk and run for an officer position or apply for awards, showcases, classes, ignite sessions, round table discussions, seminars, or poster presentations. Step out of your comfort zone and get involved with your association. We all have passion for youth development or we wouldn't be 4-H Agents, Educators, or Program Assistants. You all have areas of expertise and passions and do awesome working pertaining to them. Your association needs your time, talents, and gifts. We can all help to continue to make Georgia 4-H & GAE4-HA great, but you have take the chance! Opportunity awaits!

## 2019 NAE4-HA Conference Snapshots



















## GAE4-HA Wants YOU!

During our state meeting in April, the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents will be electing two officers: a Secretary (2-year term) and a Vice President (a 4-year term that ascends to being the President). As the GAE4-HA Past President, Cheryl Poppell serves as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Lynn Davis and Rebecca Thomas will serve on this committee for 2020. The Nominating Committee solicits candidates for both of these important positions and coordinates the election process.

Those interesting in running, must first seek the approval of administration beginning with their county CEC and ultimately ending with the Associate Dean for Extension. The approval form is available on the GAE4-HA Webpage under documents. Prior approval has been needed to serve in national association leadership roles in the past. However, approval is now needed to serve in some state association leadership roles, including any office that ascends to the President and Treasurer. Candidates will have to submit the required forms and obtain all necessary approvals six weeks before the election. The deadline for this form to be submitted is February 28, 2020.

Any interested candidates for the Vice President position and Secretary position are welcome to contact any member of the Nominating Committee for more information. In addition to the document mentioned above, candidates should submit a 1-2 page biographical sketch, outlining their background and experiences, previous leadership roles, and qualifications for office. Additionally, they should also complete the attached form (will be emailed out) and obtain all necessary levels of support. The deadline for both the biographical sketch and form is Monday, March 2, 2020. All paperwork should be submitted to Cheryl Poppell at cashburn@uga.edu.

### Oceans of Fun 🧬

By: Al Parker, Northeast District



It's me again! We may be just getting started with winter weather, but the sunny days of summer will be here before you know it! Once again, we need your help at GAE4-HA Oceans of Fun 2020 on Jekyll Island on July 12 – 15, 2020! OOF offers fun, educational opportunities for the children and grandchildren of GAEL members while they are attending the Summer GAEL Conference. We need your help in 2020! Here's your chance to join us for OOF!

GAEL, or the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, is made up of school superintendents, principles, and other school officials from across the state of Georgia. The summer conference includes speakers, workshops, and a large number of exhibitors and vendors.

Along with OOF, GAE4-HA, Georgia 4-H, and Camp Jekyll present the Monday morning continental breakfast for the conference. Next year's breakfast will be coordinated by Ashely Harman and Monica Heys. We also team up to provide fun activities for the Family Fun Night on Monday night.

Classes include bikes and ice cream, geocaching, seining and fish prints, cooking classes, canoeing, kayaking, and more! Classes are presented in the morning then everyone attends Summer Waves Water Park or the Dolphin Cruise in the afternoon. We are looking at adding a trip to Cumberland Island this year!

We can use your help in FOUR different ways:

- 1. We are looking for a Chairperson! This is my last year! If you have participated in the past and are interested in taking a leadership role, (great promotional material) please contact me at alparker@uga.edu. You will be in a learning role in 2020 and become Chair for 2021.
- It's time to sign up to attend! If you are interested in attending Oceans of Fun as worker, please contact me at alparker@uga.edu and I'll send you the 2020 OOF Participant Information Survey. Administration provides a travel reimbursement budget for four GAE4-HA members per district to attend. We would love to have you help out!
- 3. THIS IS NEW!!! PLEASE HELP US NOW!!! We also need your help in promoting Oceans of Fun to your school officials who plan to attend the Summer GAEL Conference on Jekyll Island. Please have a conversation with your school officials to see if they plan to attend GAEL Summer Conference. If they do, please give them the OOF Flyer that I will be emailing out soon! Tell them GAE4-HA and GAEL offer many activities for the entire family so why not make plans NOW for a FAMILY summer vacation!
- 4. Look for the OOF schedule and other information coming in April that you can present to them on the fun activities we have to offer!

For more details on Oceans of Fun, please contact Al Parker at alparker@uga.edu.





#### Southwest District Professional Development

By: Jeri Gilleland, Ben Hill County 4-H Agent

Southwest District GAE4-HA hosted a professional development retreat and tour mid-September in Ben Hill County. The event showcased some of the diverse agricultural industries, food systems, and local businesses in the area.

The group learned about TRC Aquaponics, a nonprofit organization which is establishing aquaponics systems in Kenya, Uganda, and Guatemala to teach people to grow their own fish and vegetables, as well as have some commodities left to market.

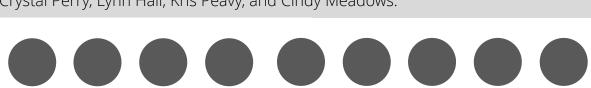
They also visited Choice Wood, Inc., a wood processing company that supplies processed wood bundles to major retailers across the country, and how this company is a sister company to Ben Hill's Enviro Log, which makes and markets fire logs from wax cardboard boxes.

Other stops on the tour included a local blueberry farm and processing plant, a sod farm, and a local family's farm where an entire building is devoted to preparing, preserving, storing, and giving away gleaned food to those in the community who are in need.

Many of the owners and managers of the businesses visited shared their business philosophy, experiences, and workforce needs with the Extension group. Southwest District 4-H PDC Melinda Miller says, "As I reflect on my time in Fitzgerald and listening to the needs of local business and industry leaders, as well as our 4-H professionals, it reconfirms how important our work in 4-H is in building workforce development, leadership, citizenship and life-skills in the young people we serve. They will be much more successful in life if we are intentional about emphasizing those attributes as we work with them and prepare them for 4-H events. The skills they are learning are so much more important than the ribbon or award they may win - or miss."

#### Pictured Right:

TRC Aquaponics' Melanie Wixson (far right) shows the group an example of the systems that are being established overseas to empower people to grow their own vegetables in water where they raise fish. Looking on are, from left, are Jeri Gilleland, Lisa Pollock, Deron Rehberg, Crystal Perry, Lynn Hall, Kris Peavy, and Cindy Meadows.





### Southwest District Professional Development

By: Jeri Gilleland, Ben Hill County 4-H Agent

The group enjoyed lunch at the Ben Hill County Extension office where Kris Peavy gave a presentation on GAE4-HA awards available and how to apply. Evening team building activities and dinner were held at Jeri Gilleland's home. The next morning, the group gathered at Jeri's home for breakfast and a presentation on helping youth plan for project portfolios.

The event was planned by Southwest GAE4-HA junior director Jeri Gilleland and senior director Lisa Pollock. There were 18 in attendance.



Pictured Below: Kristen Pegues picks up a firewood bundle at the Choice Wood tour.

#### Pictured Above:

Southwest District professional development retreat attendees on one of the afternoon tours are, from left, front row: Quad Hardy, Jordan Jones, Jeri Gilleland, Lisa Starling, Kris Peavy, and Tyler Tucker; back row: Jazmin Thomas, Lynn Hall, Jenny Sutton, Kristen Pegues, Deron Rehberg, Cindy Meadows, and Crystal Perry. Also present for parts of the event but not pictured, are Ashley Carroll, Lynn Davis, Katrina Laurel, Melinda Miller and Megan Powell.





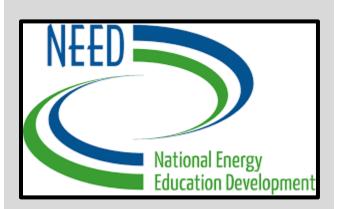
# Curriculum Corner

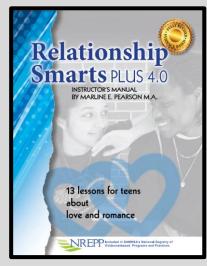
### National Energy Education Development

Description: The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project began over 35 years ago as a way to provide research-based energy education experiences for young people. Today's NEED curriculum includes activities about biomass, climate change, coal, electricity and magnetism, geothermal, hydropower, nuclear, petroleum, solar, and wind power. All guides are available at the NEED shop at a free PDF download.

#### Resource:

https://www.need.org/





### Relationship Smarts

Description: Relationship Smarts is a research-based curriculum that incorporates hands-on activities to focus on skills and knowledge necessary for healthy dating relationships. The curriculum offers developmentally appropriate information that address identity development, personal goals and values, what healthy (vs abusive) relationships look like, current relationship dynamics, important communication skills, and the promotion of future-orientated thinking about relationships.

#### Resource:

https://www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/famil y-healthy-relationships-teenrelationships

Contact: Ted Futris at <u>tfutris@uga.edu</u> or 706-542-7566



# 2020 Membership

### Don't forget to renew your membership for another great year!

**State Specialists, County Extension Agents, and Extension Educators** are invited to join GAE4-HA as Active Members. **Program Assistants** can join as GAE4-HA Partner Members.

#### Remaining Timeline:

- December 2-31 Finalization period (District directors and members should use this time to confirm on Event Registration if their payment has been received, etc.)
- December 31 Final Postmark Dates to be eligible for AWARDS

Membership registration will be available online via Event Registration. All checks should be made payable to GAE4-HA and sent to: *Jenna Daniel Georgia 4-H, 320 Hoke Smith Annex, Athens, GA 30602*. Members will be able to verify their own membership status by selecting "Manage Participants" and can print a receipt if needed.

Membership fees for active New or Renewal are: \$95 Northeast (Brennan Jackson) \$95 Northwest (Chris Campbell) \$90 Southwest (Lisa Pollock) \$90 Southeast (Rebekah Greene) \$90 State Staff (Keri Hobbs) \*\*\$250 Life Member \*\*\$20 Partner (except Northwest and Northeast which is \$25) \*\*\$90 Affiliate If you need more information or have questions, please feel free to contact Kandi Edwards or your District Director.



#### Interested in Joining ANREP?

By: Kasey Bozeman, State 4-H Staff

I'm comfortable calling myself a risk-taker. I enjoy trying new things, as long as we are following rules and safety procedures, of course. While serving as the GAE4-HA President a few years ago, I had the opportunity to interact with other Presidents of the Extension associations in Georgia. Karol Kelly, the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP) President, persistently pestered\* me to join ANREP. My educational background is in environmental sciences and environmental education. At the time, I was a County Extension 4-H Agent leading lots of natural resource programming. We had a Geocaching Club and the G-Squared (Going Green) Club. I coached a land and forestry judging team. We took an environmental education field study trip to a 4-H facility each spring. Still, I was a little skeptical. It was \$60, I didn't know many of the members, and I surely didn't need one more thing to do. Or so I thought. I caved to the peer pressure and joined.

Being engaged in a professional association can benefit you in so many ways. Professional association work broadens your knowledge, creates relationships and networks, develops leadership and mentor skills, helps you as you contribute to a larger body of knowledge, and keeps you inspired and motivated. I deeply believe in our national and state 4-H professional associations, and I'm honored I have been afforded numerous leadership opportunities within these groups.

Over the last few years, I've continued to renew my ANREP membership and attended state meetings. With my new role in Georgia 4-H, Karol once again persistently pestered\* me to also become involved in a leadership role in ANREP, and I am now serving on their Board of Directors. ANREP is an interdisciplinary Extension association, and while most of the current members have a background in ANR programs, 4-H, FACS, and Marine Extension personnel are active members. Interest in natural resource topics (and the \$60 membership fee) is all that is required for membership. For those 4-H professionals doing any type of work related to natural resources, you should consider becoming a member. This small, passionate, and inclusive group provides excellent opportunities for collaborative programming and professional development. The annual ANREP conference will be May 27-29, 2020 in Athens, GA. You'll have the opportunity to learn from subject matter experts, connect with on-campus resources, and meet like-minded Extension colleagues. For those attending Winter Conference in January, stop by our informational booth to learn more about the association and how you can join in the fun. I'm thankful that Karol Kelly is one of my favorite Extension professionals and friends. Perhaps I can persistently pester another 4-H professional in joining us!

\*typed with extreme exaggeration

## Professional Development



### Georgia Science Teachers Association Conference February 13-14, 2020

The Georgia Science Teachers Association (GSTA) offers an annual conference each year. The 2020 conference, Broadening Our Horizons, will be held February 13-14 at the Columbus Trade and Convention Center. Conference strands include integrating STEM and the Georgia Standards of Excellence, equity in science education, connections between science and literacy, and the incorporation of three dimensions in assessment. The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program will also have an educational exhibit at the conference! More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.georgiascienceteacher.org/Conference">https://www.georgiascienceteacher.org/Conference</a>.



#### Project Learning Tree Certification January 3, 2020

Project Learning Tree (PLT) has developed multiple e-units consisting of hands-on activities, learning progressions, online quizzes, assessments, etc. Georgia PLT will be piloting the 3rd-5th grade Energy in Ecosystems, which won a 2019 Teachers' Choice Award for the Classroom from Learning Magazine, and offering an in-person certification in early 2020. Registration begins on December 1, 2019. The training will be on Friday, January 3, 2020 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Georgia Forestry Commission Auditorium in Dry Branch, GA. The cost is \$40 (includes professional development, access to and educator certification in the new "Energy in Ecosystems" e-unit, and lunch). Check out the online registration: Exploring Energy in Ecosystems with Project Learning Tree.

## Bright Ideas at Work

#### Working with High School 4-H Members

#### Local Teen Gets Techy with Project Club

While computer coding may sound challenging to some people, it is a fun and exciting topic for many young 4-H'ers. Tattnall County 4-H'er Nick Miller identified an opportunity in his community to share his love of computers and technology through the Computer Tech Project Club. As a 4-H'er, Nick himself seeks out every opportunity to learn more about technology. He is a member of the Clovers & Company production crew through which he learns about sound, lighting and other behind the scenes elements of musical production. He is also a Statewide 4-H STEM Ambassador and a member of the Georgia 4-H TECH TEAM.

In September, Nick met with his local 4-H agent to discuss the possibility of starting an afterschool project club at North Tattnall Middle School where his mom was a teacher. Nick's mom Melissa, who is a screened 4-H volunteer, offered to serve as the supervising adult to allow Nick to host the project club at the school. After meeting with the school principal to get approval, Nick created flyers to promote his new Computer TECH Project Club which five sessions of learning about computers and computer coding. The lessons were based on the CS First design software used for recent National Youth Science Day projects. Between September and October, Nick hosted five afterschool meetings which each included 14-16 sixth grade youth. The young people were very engaged in learning through the online program and enjoyed having a fellow 4-H'er serve as their club leader. The program was a great opportunity for the younger 4-H'ers to expand their computer knowledge and for Nick to build his leadership skills. Nick hopes that other 4-H'ers can follow his example to share the projects they are passionate about with others. Submitted by Rebekah Greene, Tattnall County 4-H Agent

#### Engaging Meetings

Each month we have a Junior/Senior 4-H Meeting at the office from 5:30-7 pm. We let the County Council officers plan and create flyers to advertise the events. This helps the 4-H'ers develop new skills and allows them to have more input for what they do during the meetings. Our October meeting was held during National 4-H Week. The 4-H'ers participated in community service and made Pancake Art (pictured below). We have a much better turn out for meetings with hands-on, fun activities. Our County Council officers can always come up with a creative idea that interests them and their peers. Submitted by Ashley Carroll, Tift County 4-H Agent



## Getting to Know You

In each edition of the *Peach Press*, we plan to feature a collage of photos from our members focused on a specific theme. Our theme for this edition is **#singlelife**.

l've been single so long that they filmed a TV episode about it. #singlelife Submitted by Christina Garner, Pickens County 4-H Agent



Running the Fast and the Furriest 8-K9 Race on Skidaway Island with my best bud, River. We both enjoy an active lifestyle and the great outdoors! River and I love going on long walks, making new friends along the way, and checking out the local scenery. #singlelife





GOOO DAWGS! Sic 'em – WOOF, WOOF, WOOF! My sister Katie is my football buddy, and we love attending UGA football games together at Sanford Stadium and cheering on our silver britches! #singlelife

Submitted by Lauryn Gilmer, Wayne County 4-H Agent



I take shirts with me when I eat in public, so I'm not eating alone. #singlelife *Submitted by Kasey Bozeman, State 4-H Staff* 



This is the closest I can get to taking a picture with boys... The dogs. #singlelife *Submitted by Samantha Price, Houston County 4-H Agent* 

# Meet the Members

### Sonya Jones, Pulaski County



Position: Pulaski County Extension Coordinator & 4-H Agent Residence: Hawkinsville, Georgia Years in Extension: 17 Family: Husband – John, daughter – Aubree (7), and son – Will (1) Hobbies: Crafts, baking, making fun food for my kids, reading, spending quality time with my family Favorite 4-H Activity: Summer Camp because I get to spend more one-on-one time with the kids having fun! Favorite Book: Anything by Stephen King Favorite Movie: The Notebook Favorite Music: Classic Rock/Rock Favorite TV Show: The Walking Dead & Fixer Upper Favorite Quote: "Be the change you want to see in the world!" -Gandhi rk for Extension. I would ... work in the medical field (probably

**If I didn't work for Extension, I would** ... work in the medical field (probably physical therapy). I like to help people become the best version of themselves that they can be. Even in 4-H, we are "making the best better!"

#### Erica Pullen, Douglas County

**Position:** 4-H Agent **Residence:** Live in Douglas County, GA **Years in Extension:** 5 years

**Family:** I have a younger sister that just graduated from med school, an older brother who is a proud father of 5, and parents who are retired Army and settled in Savannah, GA. **Hobbies:** Spending time with my son/dog Porkchop and traveling with my family (we are currently in Belize)

**Favorite 4-H Activity:** having our Jr/Sr meetings each month. I love connecting with my older kids and watching them connect and share with each other over dinner!

**Favorite Book:** Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison. She is one of my favorite authors who recently passed so I found myself diving back into her books!

**Favorite Movie:** Harlem Nights- this film is a classic featuring all of my favorite comics! **Favorite Music:** I love RNB, Jazz, and gospel. This genre of music helps maintain my peace. **Favorite TV Show:** Doug, a classic cartoon from the 90s! I love it so much I named my dog after one of the characters.

**Favorite Quote:** "Each generation must be better than the last, so trust God and be your ancestor's wildest dreams" -My dad (Darnell Pullen) this has been my motivation for everything I've accomplished and strive to accomplish.

If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... a college professor, traveling to do mission work during the summer months while running a global nonprofit organization geared to building youth base programming globally!



# Meet the Members

### Christina Garner, Pickens County

Position: Pickens County Extension Coordinator & 4-H/ANR Agent Residence: Taylorsville, GA Years in Extension: 2 Family: My mom, 2 brothers and sister in laws, the sweetest nieces and a bunch of 4 legged fam; 3 horses, 5 dogs, and the newest mom to 2 baby bunnies! Hobbies: Horses, kayaking, any kind of animals ♥ Favorite 4-H Activity: Camp! Favorite Book: Charlotte's Web by E.B. White Favorite Movie: 8 Seconds Favorite Music: Country Favorite TV Show: Wheel of Fortune Favorite Quote: "All you need is love but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." - Charlie Brown If I didn't work for Extension, I would ... run a Therapeutic Farm for

special needs individuals or travel the World!



### Meridith Franks, Burke County



Position: Burke County 4-H Agent **Residence:** Waynesboro, GA Years in Extension: Three years Family: Parents- Jimmy and Ginny, three siblings- Morgan, Chance and Whitney, two brothers-in-law- Brad and Ryan, two nephews- Liam and Cole, one niece-Leeann, and another niece on the way Hobbies: Attending cow shows with my family, reading, kayaking, helping on my parent's dairy and row crop farm, traveling to different states, and attending UGA football games Favorite 4-H Activity: Georgia National Fair and livestock shows Favorite Book: Nicholas Sparks Favorite Movie: Harry Potter Series Favorite Music: Everything from old country to classis rock Favorite TV Show: Hallmark Channel 💬 Favorite Quote: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understandings; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3: 5-6 If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ... a Chick-fil-A taste tester

# Meet the Members

#### Cristina deRevere, State Staff



**Position:** Georgia 4-H Public Relations Coordinator **Residence:** Athens, GA

Years in Extension: started January 1, 2018 Family: I have a very big, non-traditional family. My husband, Brent, and I have one son, Riker (2 years old). I also have stepchildren, a set of twins, Ella and Dakota (12 years old). My extended family includes two stepsisters, two adopted sisters, a half-sister, a half-brother, three nieces, a nephew and a goddaughter.

Hobbies: Hiking with my family and two black labs, baking and dancing

**Favorite 4-H Activity:** State Council! I really enjoy the Iron Clover Competition, the campaigning and the dances. It is a fun-packed weekend!

Favorite Book: Ender's Game

Favorite Movie: The Shawshank Redemption

**Favorite Music:** Anything by Etta James or Of Monster and Men **Favorite TV Show:** The Big Bang Theory

**Favorite Quote:** "Do or do not. There is no try." -Yoda, *Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back* 

**If I didn't work for Extension, I would be ...** continuing my passion of serving non-profit organizations in the public relations/communication field.



# Board of Directors



Special thanks to all contributing authors and the 2019-2020 GAE4-HA Media Committee for their contributions to this newsletter.



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