I attended the JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) conference in Memphis with Rachel Williams, representing NYSACCE4-HE. The theme of the conference was Discovering Your Leadership Potential. Our speaker was Jay Rifenburg (of Saratoga, imagine our surprise) whose message was No Excuse! An Action Plan for Success – Developing Your Core.

As an individual, you have people who love you, respect you and look up to you – and you owe it to them to do the right thing. How often are we tested; daily, weekly, monthly? At fair time, it could very easily be hour by hour, show by show or exhibit by exhibit. By identifying our personal Core Values we establish the foundation for our decisions, define and create a culture and set the parameter for behaviors we exhibit. As 4-H Educators, we are united in our passion for making people’s lives better, and as people, we teach best in life what we want to learn most. Principals such as self-control, personal respect, forgiveness, passion, and attitude are just a few ideas. Having a greater understanding of the importance of consistency in behavior, decisiveness, and personal honesty will enhance your productivity and efficiency, which will ultimately contribute to the overall atmosphere and productivity of our organization; setting a positive and professional example for yourself and others.

So think about it. What do you stand for? What are YOUR Core Values? What do you want to be remembered for? Are you living the life you want to be remembered for? Success is a journey and that journey should be a reflection of who we are (personal honesty). You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give.

Ellen Heaney, Orange County
My favorite vacation is hiking Acadia park in Maine with my family. I enjoy crafting and teaching crafts to others which I have been doing for over ten years. I enjoy cooking and eating all types of foods. Most recently I have been enjoying learning to cook Asian foods. I volunteer my time with youth in other arenas beside 4-H via PTA and teaching at my local church. My favorite part about being a membership assistant with 4-H is finding innovative ways to spark creativity, interest and drive within a club (or a group wanting to form a club) with new ideas. It's a great feeling to launch a 4-H club! Contact: eh356@cornell.edu or CCE Orange 845-344-1234

Bernadette Raupers, Chemung County
Why did you originally join NYSACCE4-HE? To me it is a necessity; it is one more resource to be successful in our role working with young people. Color? Depends on my mood, but I do favor green. Book? “Goodnight Moon” loved it as a child and love it as a mom. TT Show? Parenthood & Flashpoint. Dessert? Hot pudding with ice cream on top. Hobby? Spending time with my boys and crocheting. Family: In Sept. my husband and I will have been married for 17 years. We have twin boys who are almost 8. Contact: br2@cornell.edu or CCE Chemung 607-734-4453 (ext. 258)

NYSACCE4-HE Welcomes New Members!
NEW NATIONAL & STATE
Jack McCulley
Wendy Vernon
David Gibaldi
Melanie Forstrom
Nicole Olsen
Kerri McKenna
Marie Wixner
Karyn Young

NEW NATIONAL (were already state)
Roger Ort
Maria Devlin

NEW STATE ONLY
Eileen McGuire
Abigail Foster

NEW LIFE
Janice Fox
Syd McEvoy

The Western and Finger Lakes Districts bid farewell to Margo Bowerman who will be taking a job in Minnesota in mid March. Thank you, Margo, for your many years of dedication and leadership to NYSACCE4-HE and all of NYS 4-H. You will be missed! Best wishes in your new venture!

“IT’s a knock to influence the younger generation to take deeper root, too often under adverse conditions; to nurture them to full bloom; to move them for proper growth to a larger sphere of experience, and to “spade the whole garden” to get rid of those things that sap life and strength.” A quote from the essay “Green Thumbs” March, 1944 by Albert Hofer.

Q. I haven’t nominated myself or a peer for an award yet this year. Am I too late? Re: No! Communicator Awards are due by March 1st to Jessica Spence and the Member Recognition and Awards are due to Mary Fairly as follows: Service Awards - Nominations due February 22, Packets due March 20, Specialty Awards—Packets due March 20, Professional Development Scholarships - applications due March 20. For more information, visit the Awards & Recognition page on the NYSACCE4-HE website.