As we go about our daily work, our problems seem unique to our times and our culture, but the reality is that the feelings and emotions that accompany the challenges and 4-H’s ability to adapt to our changing world is not new. Recently, News and Views Editor, Jessica Spence, received a package of “4-H stuff” from retiree Rich McCaffery. Many of the things in the package seemed appropriate to pass along to the history committee, however one publication called, “The 4-H Way,” caught her attention. This publication, a collection of essays written by Albert Hoefer who, in 1947, was entering his 31st year in 4-H club work and was serving as the New York State 4-H Club Leader, is a must read for any 4-H Educator.

Hoefer, in his essay “In Which We Serve” written April, 1943—World War II—makes statements that ring true so clearly today:

“We have not yet felt the full impact of this world-wide conflict, either in terms of personal sacrifice, or adjustments to plans and programs in our present official positions.”

“We should make the unqualified determination that we shall render our best service in our position of leadership—the leadership we hold by virtue of our training and experience.”

“We should keep our minds open in both our personal and professional life toward the quick and severe changes and adjustments necessary to victory.”

“...we must be aware that our guidance will be reflected in the adjustments and decisions that young folks must make.”

“Hysteria shall not flavor the long-time fundamental 4-H club plan of building better citizens. We must keep that thread of sound and thoughtful planning and procedure running through all our activities as a lifeline to which youth may cling in their return to normal living.”

Although Hoefer’s publication is 4-H history, it’s contents and his philosophies are ironically appropriate to the work we do today. The very last essay in the collection is an amazingly powerful piece called “The County 4-H Club Agent” - it reminds us that although the program may look different, the reason we are all here is the same, “My richest reward comes in watching young folks develop in knowledge, in skill, and in their dealings with other people. I am the County 4-H Club agent.”

Jim Hooper, Ontario County
Conference memory: First National in Georgia. It was just impressive to see the sheer numbers of 4-H Staff from all around the country, doing the same kind of work that I do.

Hobbies? Geocaching, hiking, photography, birding
Vacation? Grand Teton
Info about your family? My wonderful wife, Alyssa and I have been married for 10 years now. We have no kids, but we do have a fantastic Kitty (named Kitty), and a beautiful Corn Snake (named Sedona).

Other: Ontario County 4-H is awesome because we have 4-H Camp Bristol Hills in our back yard. It’s a lot of fun, and you should send your kids to camp!

www.4hcampbristolhills.org

Contact? jah249@cornell.edu, CCE Ontario County, 585-394-3977 Ext. 407

Wendy Vernon, Jefferson County
Why did you join NYSACCE4-HE?
To stay in touch and learn more about 4-H.

Color? Blue
Book? Hunger Games
Author? Margaret Peterson Haddix
Movie? Hunger Games
TV Show? Glee and Once Upon A Time
Food? Fruit
Dessert? Pie
Hobby? Scrapbooking
Vacation? Visiting National Parks
Family? My husband’s name is Nick, I have a 12 year old Border Collie mix named Storm, and a baby on the way.

Contact? wev9@cornell.edu, CCE Jefferson, 315-788-8450 ext. 244

Q: We do amazing work in NYS 4-H and should be recognized for our success! How can I nominate myself for a Communicator Award or nominate a peer for a Service Award?
A: Easy! Information will be sent by email and will be available soon at http://nys4h.cee.cornell.edu/staff/Pages/NYSACCE4-HE.aspx

Albert Hoefer is a really interesting guy, where can I find out more about his life and career?