Throughout the past month members of the NYSACCE4-HE Association have been hard at work encouraging professional development, supporting member recognition, sharing expertise, mentoring colleagues and the next generation. When I look at the calendar and read through emails it never ceases to amaze me what an ultra-talented and generous lot all of you are.

Although I was unable to attend 4-H Capital Days due to a family illness, I had the wonderful opportunity of traveling down memory lane while preparing for the opportunity to welcome all attendees to the 79th Annual NYS 4-H Capital Days. I spent some time combing my own 4-H scrapbook and found boundless details preparing me for the 54th annual event which my county 4-H Agent, Al Woodward, sent. I found my own Capital Days name badge ribbon resembled (despite a slight change in the clover) the ones I saw in photos of this year’s attendees. I found a complete program with a chocked full schedule carefully planned by the NYSACCE4-HA committee. Our very own Mary Fairley was listed as the then NYS 4-H Agent Association President! Among numerous other pieces of memorabilia I found a letter from a member of the committee thanking me for serving as teen MC at 4-H Capital Days. The letter written by Linda (Earley) Tripp finished with this sentence “Continue to grow into your given role as tomorrow’s leader.” The letter had a multi-fold effect on me. First, I was utterly moved that I had a letter in my scrapbook from a woman I today call friend and mentor. Secondly, I am sure I did not truly recognize the value of the Capital Days program when I attended it nor the power of the words in what some may seem as a simple letter. Today I see the value in all that each and every one of you does.

The extent of your work is insurmountable. I know that when the work load is never ending and challenging changes come for our colleagues it can be difficult to remember why we do what we do, but I also know that we share stories of the success a youth has experienced or simple thank you from a youth or parent and we are reminded. Let us also not forget how we impact each. Obviously, those directly mentioned here have impacted and continue to impact me and I am sure many of you have stories such as this.

Thank you to the members of all NYSACCE4-HE committees as you work behind the scenes all year round making a difference in each of our lives. You are today’s leaders! (I would like to say a very special thank you to Vice-President, Greg Stevens for his support and willingness to step in and offer the welcome at Capital Days. 😊)

Rachel’s letter from Linda and clip from program listing Mary as President!

Have you met?

Renee Hopkins,
Livingston County

What is the best part about being a NYSACCE4-HE member? Access to a group of peers that I look forward to working with and learning from throughout the state. Book? I generally read non-fiction books on topics I happen to be interested in at the time but I also enjoy Diana Gabaldon’s Outlander Series. Famous? Yes! I was once on the Martha Stewart Show in NYC. I was one of 5 audience members that got to show Martha our favorite kitchen gadget. She had never before seen the green bean fencer that I had- who knew?
Contact: rh445@cornell.edu or CCE Livingston (585)991-5420 x5444

Request for Proposals!

The annual New York State 4-H Educator’s conference will be held on October 14th-16th at the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center located in Callicoon, Sullivan County. In the effort to remind us of the importance of our work, the Professional Development Committee has themed the conference, “Essential Elements of Professional Youth Development”. At this moment the Professional Development Committee is soliciting requests for proposals for a poster session and 16-20 workshops. Please take the time to submit an RFP for the annual conference. Deadline for submissions is April 9th. Do not procrastinate. Stay on the track and submit your proposal right now through the online form, located on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Event Registration page under Oswego and Westchester counties or the live link below this issue of N&V. Be an integral part of the team that helps make the conference the best ever. Submit a RFP today!

Photo of the Month!

4-H Capital Days delegates stand with Assemblyman Bob Oakes on the “million dollar staircase” during this year’s event sponsored by NYSACCE4-HE.

Did you know? The “million dollar staircase” has the faces of 77 known people carved within it as well as the faces of 1,000 unknown people! When it was being created, people would pay the carvers to sculpt their face or a family member into the wall, or sometimes the carvers just got bored and put the faces of random people like Egyptian Pharaohs!

It is up to us to change our community by holding ourselves accountable, and the politicians we elect accountable, to making a positive difference in all our communities...Get involved. Stop blaming others.

Look in the mirror and ask yourself: What have I done today to make this country better?


Quote of the Month: 