A Note from the President:

A very simple definition of collaborating from the Oxford Dictionary: to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor, seems to just scratch the surface of what we do as 4-H Educators. We have been collaborating since the dawn of our time.

An excellent example of this within our Association is the work that the Conference, Professional Development, Fund Development, Awards & Recognition and Marketing & Information Committees do together to organize and put on the excellent professional development opportunities that we experience each year at our Annual Conference. This year will be no exception with the “Essential Elements of Professional Youth Development,” themed conference October 14-16, at Villa Roma, Sullivan County. Such a program is no small feat and each year those who work to bring you excellence in professional development and networking leave no stone unturned. The exceptional work of this year’s committees will be well worth your investment in attending.

There are many ways we can support and collaborate in professional development. At the May 8th meeting of the NYSACCE4-HE Board we had the pleasure of passing a motion to financially support the upcoming 4-H Club Management Training by providing $1500. For some time the professional development opportunities for 4-H Educators have been limited to what is provided by or supported by NYSACCE4-HE and NAE4-HE. We are pleased and encouraged that recently there have been professional development opportunities presented in collaboration with the NYS 4-H Office and many of our other colleagues who are also members of the Association. We would like to encourage and support them in moving forward with more of these opportunities in the future and we can do so through collaboration and innovation.

We continue to explore additional ways to work jointly whether it is through multi-county programs, state-wide programs or multi-county events. As an Association and as the Cooperative Extension system we are well-versed in collaboration and we truly see the value and power in working together. One way we have been known to work together is through troubles and challenges. In the Aftermath of the floods that have impacted our friends in Yates and Ontario counties I would encourage you to continue to reach out, working together to support one in another. It is how we embody “Joining the Revolution of Responsibility.”