Greetings!

At the time of the NYSACCE4-HE the thoughts of “passion” and passionate people was strong on my mind. I was fortunate enough to follow that conference up with attendance at the National 4-H Conference in Omaha, NE. Darrell “Coach D” Andrews was one of the key note speakers. Coach D is an expert on educator motivation and youth leadership. His speech was based on his book titled “Believing the HYPE” (Helping Youth Perceive Excellence). He started his presentation talking about passion – do you think I was excited?! He described passion as the fuel that lights the fire of all creativity; passion causes a person to see obstacles as a temporary setback to a goal. “Youth are looking for passionate adults to see beyond their uncertainties and shortcomings into their future potential.” Coach D stated that a student with a dream is a student with a future; however a student with a dream is fueled by a caring adult who believes in their dream. Nobody rises to low expectations!

My heart goes out to each and every one of the Educators in our Association who help fuel the dreams of the next generation. “By better connecting with your students, collaborating with parents, engaging the community and developing a passionate attitude about student achievement, success is inevitable.” Note that he didn’t say that success is possible, but success is inevitable – isn’t that great?! This is the work of the 4-H Educator. It’s not easy, it always requires working evenings and weekends (and sometimes holidays!), is demanding and can only be accomplished by a passionate individual. Best wishes as you navigate this important time of budgets and accountability and may you have every reason to give thanks today and always.

Elizabeth Searle, NYS 4-H Foundation
Why did you originally join the Association? An opportunity to get to know the educators—the ones at the forefront of the 4-H program...making it run, envisioning new and exciting programs, working with volunteers and members, etc.
TV Show? Dancing with the Stars
Dessert? I love my “Apple Pancake Pie” which won me first place in the 4-H Apple Dessert Contest many years ago.
Family? Married almost 10 years to Bob. We have two boys, Joshua, 8, and Nathanael, 6.
Hobby? I also teach distance learning public relations classes through RIT.
Contact? 315-702-8242 esearle@nys4hfoundation.org

Rebecca Ireland-Perry, North Central District Rep
Why did you originally join the Association? Encouraged by her supervisors because it would be a benefit and a good group of people to be associated with.
Family? 3 kids, married to Jeff
Hobbies? Read, crochet, sew
Interesting? Chocoholic
Books? Enjoys fiction—devours books!
Well known at the local library!!
Author? Stephen King
4-H? Was a 4-H'er in Plainfielders Club and is a 4-H leader for her own kids.
Vacation? Camp Oswegatchie– I don’t have to cook or clean (gone 18 years)!
Contact? ril3@cornell.edu or CCE Cortland, 607-753-5077

Photos of the Month!

First meeting of the association “The National Association of 4-H Club Agents” was held at the Union League Club of Chicago on December 3, 1946.

Q: Why is it important to send in my membership form and dues to Marika Rywak before December 15th?
A: NAE4-HA bases the number of National Distinguished Service Awards on the total membership of the state by that deadline. We want to be able to offer our members the greatest opportunity that we can so that we can have the most people recognized.