Let me be the first to wish you all a Happy Holiday season! As 4-H educators the term “time management” takes on a whole new meaning this time of year! 2015, believe it or not - is drawing closer.  I’d like to take a moment to reflect on some of our great accomplishments in 2014 for the Association.

First, I’d like to compliment the South East District on a very successful State conference.  I for one can say this was one of the best conferences I have attended in my 15 plus years in 4-H. Kudos to the committee for putting together this experience for our 4-H educators. Congratulations go out to all of the State award recipients.  I really did have “The Time of My Life”.  OK, maybe not - but I believe you get the reference. (This just in, Queen Mary the Turtle has just finished the race!) A job well done to those who helped develop and implement the Club Management conference.  Professional development is a key component of building an even stronger Youth Development program. I’m looking forward to seeing how we build on this successful conference in 2015.

I’d like to congratulate the 4-H educators across NYS, who received awards last month at the NAE4-HA Conference in Minnesota. New York is always well represented at the National Conference and 2014 was no different!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention Mary Lou Brewer’s induction into the 4-H Hall of Fame.  As you’ll see below Mary Lou gave many great years to the 4-H Youth Development Program.  She started her journey as a 4-H Educator, then as an Executive Director, and completed her service as the State 4-H Leader. Congratulations Mary Lou, an honor well deserved!

“4-H programs have made a significant impact on the lives of many people. It has been my pleasure to be part of the 4-H movement in this country.”
Mary Lou Brewer,
National Hall of Fame inductee, 2014

Have you met?
Mary Lou Brewer

Mary Lou Brewer was recently the 7th New York State inductee into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Mrs. Brewer started her 4-H tenure as a member in Livingston County and her professional career in Madison County in 1954. In 1974, after earning a M.S. in Education from Syracuse University, Mary Lou was hired as 4-H Program Leader and eventually Executive Director in Oneida County. She joined the New York State 4-H staff as the Program Leader and Assistant Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension in 1983. Since her retirement in 1994, she has been promoting planned giving initiatives for the New York State 4-H Foundation.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents or 4-H National Headquarters based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

Additional information about her professional accomplishments can be found on the Hall of Fame website http://www.4-h-hof.com/mlbrewer.html but we try to make the “have you met” section of News and Views more informal, an opportunity to really get to know the person in a different light, so here are some things about Mary Lou that you will not find in her bio on the website:

Hobbies? Golfing, water aerobics, playing Bridge and Mahjong, reading and knitting. Also loves hiking and has found some great locations in the Adirondacks and Florida.
Current? Lives in Palm Coast, Florida, and spends summers at Piseco Lake.
Family? Married 58 years to Herbert, they have 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren, all who live in New York.
Reading? Loves to read everything! Currently reading the Edge of Eternity.
Food? Enjoys cooking! When I interviewed her she had lamb and butternut squash stew cooking—she has a very extensive cookbook!
Traveling? Traveling is one of their favorite things to do since retirement. They have been to Europe, North Africa, Scotland, Finland, Estonia, Israel, Egypt and more. They take 1-2 major trips per year. They really enjoy the river cruises in Europe.
Looking back? Mrs. Brewer really enjoyed her interactions with all different people in 4-H—co-workers, young people, and volunteers. She learned so much and gained inspiration and ideas.

Photos of the Month!

“Try new things! Search out new ideas and opportunities. Investigate, experience, and try. The world is changing, 4-H is changing, look at new opportunities.”

Did you know there are 6 other New York State inductees to the National 4-H Hall of Fame? It is true! Inducted in ’02 were Don Stiles and Albert Hoefer, ’03 Liberty Hyde Bailey, ’04 Martha Van Rensselaer, ’08 V. Joseph McAuliffe, and ’10 Ellen Elliott.

Q: How do I find out more about the requirements to be in the Hall of Fame?
A: You can learn more about the criteria used to pick 4-H Hall of Famers, and see a complete list of inductees, online at http://www.nae4ha.org/hof/.