



Leaders' Corner

Connecting Volunteers

Letter from the President

I was given a book a long time ago by a woman of great foresight, character, strength, and wisdom. This woman's name is Wilma Southwick. She is no longer here physically, but she is with me all the time as I participate in my 4-H activities. I was touched by her humble presence. I do not think she realized how much she truly affected me through my teenage years. I did not realize how much she was still affecting the recent years in my life, until I found this book she had presented to me so many years ago as part of a 4-H award I received.

I was dusting off my book shelves and I instantly recognized the binding of a little red book and withdrew it from the shelf. I opened the book humbly and started to read. Soon the tears started to stream down my face when I realized that I had not fulfilled my promise to this fine woman that had seen something in me and had chosen to trust me with a challenge or a dare you might say. You see the book she gave me is entitled "I Dare You". As I read further I knew that I must take some action and become the person that she had seen and that she knew I could become.

She believed in this book and she lived her life accordingly to what she believed. Wilma Southwick was an educator, oh not a school teacher, but an educator of leadership through the 4-H program. To her, I am dedicating these thoughts and perspectives because of my great appreciation of her.

This book states that it is not to be left on the shelf to collect dust. Its purpose is to be passed on to many others so that each will be dared to STAND TALL, THINK TALL, SMILE TALL, and LIVE TALL. The author of this book lived 85 years full of life practicing this daring philosophy each day. He wanted to challenge others to get more out of life by doing likewise. So he wanted whoever read this book to pass it along to ten young people who have determination, grit, and the desire to be leaders. The author is William H. Danforth, founder and former Chairman of the Board of the Ralston Purina Company.

This is me trying to pass on his word and message. My hope is to inspire you as I was inspired when I first read it and how I have been inspired again when I reread it after 26

years.

I Dare You!! Make life obey you, not you it. Become the master of your domain. Create a masterpiece of inspiration with your life.

Your first challenge is "*You Can Be Bigger Than You Are*". Whatever you feel is your shortcoming or is a trial that you want to overcome; you can meet it head on, master it, and then turn it into a learning experience for others to follow. You can become a foundation to those that are suffering under the same pressures and the same fears as you. Challenge others to face and conquer like you did and help them along the way.

Next challenge is to find out if "*You Are One Of The Priceless Few?*" It is daring to be willing to share oneself unedited to other that may be judgmental. I promise, if you do, you will have a fire lit in your very core that can never be put out. New horizons will be discovered. Sharing of your light will spark others with the desire to do the same. Choose to be the catalyst that strikes upon the calm stillness of the water. Be the dawning of the first ripple. Don't be afraid of being that one ripple that leads to another that leads to another and so on. *Are You One Of The Priceless Few?* Be that someone that made an impact or affected someone's life for the better for the greater good. Dare to be better, dare to make the best better, to make a difference, to make a positive influence in the life around you. Share your most valuable possessions so they can multiply. Sad are those that have valuable possessions and never share them for in time those valuables are diminished.

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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Attention! Attention! It is our desire EVERY enrolled 4-H volunteer receives the Leaders' Corner. Will you kindly email Tass Heim horseldr@hotmail.com when the this issue reaches your inbox? All I need is two words "Got it" and I can track who is and who is not receiving the Leaders' Corner. I hope to get 2,500 emails from around the State. Thank you.

Emily Manker, District III & Zach Asher, Idaho 4-h Teen Association Recreational Leader, District II at Ambassadors in November 2014. (Brad Payne-photo bomber!)

Letter from the President, Continued

Your first dare is *"I Dare You To Adventure"*. That first step is always the hardest. If you want to get somewhere you have to make that initial step on your own. No one said it would be easy or that it would not require some effort. Who wants to just exist? Happiness doesn't happen with one just being stuck drifting through life. Inspiration and challenge are what makes life an adventure. How we handle the inspiration and challenges make life interesting. Make life obey you, not you obey it. Fear is not a bad thing. It inspires courage. Make this the day that you make your mark by not only inspiring yourself but those around you to become better, to make the best better.

This leads into the next dare, *"I Dare You To Do Things"*. The more you give, the more you get. If we are to make the decision to in act positive changes in your life, then we need to manage the details of the four pathways that affect our growth. The four paths are "My Head" or mentally, "My Heart" or socially, "My Hands" or physically, and "My Health" or spiritually. So participate in this activity. Be honest with yourself. Self reflection is the key to the owning of one's fears, is the challenge one needs to truly open oneself to growth and potential, and if one is truly honest, it is the most humbling experience of the human spirit. Take a few minutes and reflect on your life and find the things in each category that you need to face and change to bring yourself to the better you. Participating in this activity takes a brave, strong, honest, and willing soul to ponder the inner thoughts, wants, wishes, and needs of one's

true inner spirit and then to act to bring forth the growth to obtain those through humble means, through dedication and hard work, and through the facing of one's flaws and shortcomings.

As a leader, being strong is a desired trait that shows the rest of the team that you are up to the task and are worthy of standing behind and supporting. So, *"I Dare You To Be Strong"*. Being that person that someone knows can stand up to what life can throw at you can be pretty demanding, but is important to portray. The four ways that can help with this are: First, sitting up straight, this can make you look more attentive, that you are serious about matters, and you look secure with the action that you need to discuss or perform. Secondly, eye contact, this is a sign of confidence. Eye contact shows you are intent upon gathering all the facts before making a decision. Eye contact makes people feel they are being heard. Thirdly, standing tall and proud is another sign of confidence and also happiness. You are ready to face anything and are at one with the world. Your walk is the last. This can inspire others to be as secure, proud, and determined as you. Being strong can lead to the feelings of success and victory and in showing the first impressions of *"Daring To Be Strong"*.

In closing, make this the year for you to STAND TALL, THINK TALL, SMILE TALL, and LIVE TALL. I dare you.

SAVE THE DATE!

2015 State 4-H Volunteer Forum

"A leadership development experience"

Boise, Idaho November 6 – 8, 2015



*For Idaho 4-H volunteers, parents and teens.
Come and gather keys to unlock YOUR future.*

Submit your workshop proposal NOW!

<http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/pages/leaders/events-for-volunteers>

Registration available Sept. 1



FREE Forum Registration! Be one of the first 500 people to LIKE us on Facebook and be eligible to win!
<http://bit.ly/4HVF-Facebook>



@2015s4hvf

2015s4hvf

"Volunteers do not have more time– they just have more heart."

~Anonymous

4-H ON VIDEO!

Loren Bywater, Minidoka County 4-H Ambassador did this video as a class project. Her assignment was to create a promotional video for a client and she chose 4-H. Maybe her Mom, Minidoka County 4-H Program Coordinator Jeni Bywater, had some influence. Jeni posted this video on the Minidoka County 4-H Facebook page and it has been liked and shared across the state and has even been picked up nationally and shared on the official National 4-H Facebook page. Loren is now working on a YouTube 4-H Channel to share other 4-H videos she is creating. This is a great example of the skills our 4-H members are learning and how they apply to 4-H. Click on this link to learn more about the opportunities 4-H provides: <http://youtu.be/lwBQYHS6Wdw>

WE HAVE FOUND THE KEY!



If you have been trying hard to unlock the door to success, we have found the key! You do not want to miss the 2015 State Volunteer Forum November 6 -8.

We promise you a Leadership Development Experience to remember. Start planning now to join us in Boise to Unlock the Future 4-H is the Key.

Invite a new volunteer along, ask your co-leader to connection with you at the Forum, encourage a mentor who has never been to Forum to make 2015 the year they unite with 4-H adults from across the State.

We will see you in November!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A B-I-G thank you to the District I volunteers and staff for a great 2014 Forum. It's a challenge every year to put together activities, workshops and exciting events to entice 4-H volunteers from around the state to come and recharge their batteries. District I never disappoints. We appreciate all your efforts. We all felt like stars!





4-H AND BUSY WORKER BEES



By: Kortni Wells, District III

SHHH! Do you hear that? It is 4-H Ambassadors busy as worker bees in their Counties and Districts, preparing to make "The Best Better" for other 4-Hers following in their flight paths. Great things are happening in the Idaho 4-H Program, and it's not something to stay silent about.

The Idaho 4-H Ambassadors Training Conference was again a great success at Camp Ida-Haven in McCall during November 2014. The wonderful man that both founded and has led this life-changing retreat for the past 27-28 years, Andy Smyth, sure made it a wonderful weekend with help from willing chaperones, Extension Staff and parents. The presenters did an amazing job of captivating the spirit of 4-H and keeping that spirit alive throughout their workshops.

I recently caught up with some Idaho 4-H Ambassadors to catch the scoop on just what it is that keeps these worker bees so dedicated to the Ambassadors Program. Here's what a few of them had to say of their experiences.

Cecilia Keogh and Hope Grasham are District I Ambassadors, otherwise known as Panhandle Ambassadors, of Northern Idaho. Their experiences include reaching out to teens and encouraging them to consider the Ambassador Program. Their success is reflected in the slowly increasing numbers of District I 4-H teens. The efforts of these Ambassadors contribute greatly to teen retreats and 4-H events which they also put on events such as the Kootenai County Souper Saturday and the D1 Float the Joe. These busy high school kids have proven that there is always a way to stay involved and reach out in your own communities. Cecilia serves as Associated Student Body President and Hope plays on sports teams and extracurricular activities.

Hope stated, "This is my second year in the Ambassadors' Project but first year actually attending the training, and it has made me enjoy ambassadors so much more. I love that Ambassadors feels like a family of 4-Hers across Idaho. I have made so many friends through this experience, and it has truly brought me out of my shell. I am grateful for all of the people who make ambassadors possible, and I can't wait to see where else it will take me in the future."

Zach Asher is a District II 4-H Ambassador, who has completed additional requirements to become a Senior Ambassador. When I talked with Zach, I was able to learn more about what the Ambassadors program means to him on a more personal level. I asked him, "What was your inspiration for completing your Senior Ambassador requirements?" His response? "I was inspired by my fellow older 4-Hers who had earned their Senior Ambassador. I am also really active in 4-H and fill up my time with 4-H, so why not be a Senior Ambassador, since I technically already was one without the title." He also told me that his goals as a Senior Ambassador include continuing to contribute to the 4-

H Program and help give back to the program that helped him. Zach also serves in the Idaho State Teens' Association as recreation leader.

Southern Idaho District III Ambassador Emily Manker has quite an impressive story to tell. A sophomore from Twin Falls County, this talented young woman is soaring to great heights through the Idaho 4-H Ambassadors Program. Her motivation for completing her Senior Ambassador requirements during her second year was the leadership opportunities it will provide for her. She knew she wanted to encourage and inform people about the benefits of the 4-H Program and overcome some of the stereotypes many people have about 4-H. She hopes to use her stories to help bring others to 4-H and help them realize how important it is for the future of our kids.

Karessa Love and Haydn Bryan are District IV Ambassadors hailing from Eastern Idaho. Where Ambassadors and 4-H members are a lot more sparse, these two teens are remaining active members of 4-H and of their communities. Karessa recently finished serving as an Idaho Senate Page, and relayed to me her experiences of the Ambassadors training along with her Senate Page experience. She relates, "This past January and February, I had the opportunity to work as a Senate Page in the Idaho State Capitol. I have never been more prepared than I was for this experience. That might sound funny, but through 4-H, I have been asked to do some pretty nerve-wracking things. In short, 4-H prepared me for life! The Ambassador's Training played a big role in preparing me for what was to come. We were all asked to stand up in front of everyone at Ambassadors and give a speech. While paging, we were all asked to stand in front of the Senate and give our favorite Lincoln quote. As I was walking up to the podium, I was nervous, but just as I reached the podium, I felt at ease, because 4-H had put me in that position so many times before. 4-H really had prepared me for life!" Haydn is using his experiences as a member of the Idaho Teens Association, currently serving as an Ambassador. He shares that he is consistently talking to teens about 4-H and promoting it heavily. He is focused on recruiting teens whenever he can, and has had much success in his endeavors.

Every participant leaves the Ambassadors' Retreat with a desire to pass on the knowledge they have gained, expand their leadership abilities, and encourage others to join in the revolution of responsibility that is Idaho 4-H.

If you or someone you know is interested in this amazing program and leadership opportunity, contact your local extension office! They would be more than happy to help you get involved!

JUNE 10 - 13, 2015
University of Idaho ~ Moscow Campus

4-H Online Registration Opens April 6th

- ❖ Delegate Early Bird Registration Fee \$230.00 ~ April 6 - May 18, 2015
- ❖ Delegate Late Registration Fee \$245.00 ~ May 19 - May 22, 2015 (Late Registration is not guaranteed a conference t-shirt or a seat on the bus)
- ❖ Chaperone Registration Fee \$150.00
- ❖ Payments may be made by cash or check payable to your County Extension Office. Payments can also be made by Visa/MasterCard to the State 4-H Youth Development Office. Please contact Shana Codr (208) 885-7700.

For more information, please visit our events web page at www.uidaho.edu/4h



University of Idaho
Extension

Volunteer Spotlight

Rebecca Squires

Jefferson County/Small Animals Project Leader

“I believe youth should reach beyond the norm”

I am a child of a county agent so I grew up participating in 4-H. That’s what we did if we wanted to spend time with our dad. I had horse and rabbit projects and traveled to the National Conference in Chicago for a safety project. When my oldest child was the age to begin 4-H it was natural to become a 4-H leader. I have been a club leader since 2007. I believe in a youth run club. 4-H needs to be member driven and the projects need to be selected by the kids.

Our club is called “Barn Yard Gang.” Our club has done small animal projects like poultry, rabbits, and even goats. We do other miscellaneous projects; whatever the members want to do. We elect club officers and they run the meetings

in a form of parliamentary procedure. The president and vice president write and agenda and post it for everyone to see. The secretary does the roll call, reads the minutes, and all the members can make or second motions.

The critical part of success is parental involvement. The parents come to club meetings and help make sure the project record books are done. Our club members support the local 4-H camp and are encouraged to support state activities like Ambassadors, KYG, and Teen Conference. I believe that the youth should “reach beyond the norm” and look for opportunities to learn, have experiences, and build their resume. The hardest part of 4-H is the last four days before the

County Fair; getting all the paperwork done. Then they go to fair and see their success and get motivated: they can’t wait to do it all again. The most rewarding part of being a 4-h leader is observing this change in attitude.

VOLUNTEER 11 years
CLUB NAME “Barn Yard Gang”
MEMBERSHIP 10-15

AMBASSADORS are a statewide leadership program to promote 4-H in communities. Train Conference is held in November. (9th-12th)

KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT is a statewide citizenship program to learn about government. Conference is held on Presidents Day. (7th-9th grade)

TEEN CONFERENCE is a statewide event held at U of I on the 2nd week of June. Workshops teach about campus life and life skills. (8th-12th grade)

Amanda Hickman

Jefferson County/Animal Project Leader

“My favorite moments are rarely at the fair, most are in the practice arena at home.”

Most of my focus as a volunteer is with animals. Horse and sheep mainly but in my livestock club I have kids that do beef, swine, rabbit, goat, and chicken. I do some home ec type projects. Usually whatever my daughter or nieces suggest we do. I got involved in 4-H when I was very little. I showed my first lamb when I was 3. From that time on, I have always been involved in our fair. My mom has been a leader for as long as I can remember. As soon as I was old enough, I began helping her with her horse club. When I graduated from high school, I partnered with her as a club leader. I took the beginner riders and she took the advanced ones. About 8 years ago I began a livestock club and it has continued to grow ever since. I started with 4 or 5 kids and last year I had the biggest club ever of 40 kids. In our horse meetings each week they are

much the same; riding, building confidence, and practicing halter. Livestock meetings have a little more range. While we have regular showmanship practice, we also participate in the Stampede parade and decorate team shirts. We usually make it to a vet clinic or butcher shop for a field trip. My Jr. leaders organize a tone of things. We always have a year end dinner and play day. My advice to new leaders is to jump in with both feet, find an experience leader in your area, and then guide you through the first couple years. The first year is always the hardest, second year it all starts to click and beyond that it gets fun! My most rewarding part is seeing kids succeed. For me success isn't measure by the ribbon at the end of the year. Each kid has their special thing they did. For some its just completing after having an extremely grumpy animal.

For others, its overcoming a specific fear or getting the courage to ask their horse to gallop. Some its stepping foot into the show ring in front of a crowd and doing their very best. My favorite moments are rarely at the fair, most are in the practice arena at home. Seeing a child gain a new level of confidence is what I relish.

VOLUNTEER 11 years
CLUB NAME “Lucky Livestock Silver Spurs”
MEMBERSHIP Livestock (40) Horse (25)

THE LIFE OF A “SUPER GRANDMA”

By: Kortni Wells, District III

Do any of you have a “Super Grandma” in your life? A grandma who rushes to your aid no matter what? What about a grandma that goes above and beyond to help someone else with their tasks and makes their days brighter?

There are so many people in 4-H worth showcasing but I chose one of the biggest influences of my 4-H Career to spotlight. This special lady is not just an inspiration to 4-H Leaders and Extension Staff in Cassia County, but also to her six children and her thirty-one grandchildren. This lady is more than that to me, because she’s also my grandma Carol Wells.

My Grandma is the epitome of what hard work and dedication looks like. My whole life, she has always been there to help me with anything I’ve ever needed. The year after I started 4-H, I was asked to find a different club to join if I wanted to continue 4-H. That was when my aunt and grandma stepped in. From that point forward my Grandma played important role in my 4-H career. Taking the time to drive me to 4-H meetings 45 minutes away, dedicating her summers to helping all of her grandchildren complete their various sewing, baking and miscellaneous projects for fair week. Grandma even had the patience to help with our animal expense records and proof read the stories for our record books.

Carol has always been there to support, encourage and lend a helping hand. “She is a leader we can always rely on.” according to Cassia County 4-H Coordinator, Rosie Davids. Her family has and always will be her first priority along with her devotion to her faith and the 4-H Program.

With thirty-one grandchildren going different directions all at once, she still has the time to watch choir performances, basketball games and attend the many birthday parties that occur throughout the year.

Along with her support of family, Grandma continues to assist my aunts with their 4-H clubs, meetings, service projects and anything else asked of her.

One of the coolest experiences I can remember with my Grandma happened a few years ago at our county style revue. Several of her granddaughters were participating and three of her granddaughters, me included, won trophies in their respective divisions for clothing construction. It was really cool to be able to see the generations of 4-Hers in our family who have been influenced by her amazing example.

Not only is Carol Wells’ life devoted to serving the 4-H Program and being a cheerleader for her children and grandchildren, she has also devoted many of her adult years to 4-H as a General Superintendent. Her fair week was devoted to being a Superintendent by morning and a grandma and cheerleader by afternoon and evening. She also makes some of the best jams from her own raspberry and strawberry plants, as well as delectable baked goods that always bring home ribbons each year.

A few years ago, when I was given the opportunity to attend Know Your Government in Boise my eighth grade year, I knew I needed a semi-formal dress to wear. Without success, we tried the different dress shops in town looking for an appropriate dress for the formal dinner. With time running out and my options were running low, my wonder-

ful, loving Grandma ended up making me a perfect semi-formal dress for the dinner which I still wear today! It was cool to be able to attend the dinner in a dress made by Grandma. That dress will forever remain a keepsake that I will always treasure.

When it comes to super grandmas, I have a Grandma who does it all with a smile on her face. She is one of the biggest examples and inspirations that any 4-Her could have in their life. Throughout all the struggles I have faced and the triumphs of my projects, I will always remember my grandma standing on the sidelines to cheer me on, no questions asked. Without her knowledge, expertise, patience and persistence, I probably would not be the person I am today. Not only did I have 4-H to guide me through the darker teenage years, but a Grandma who helped to shape me into the person I am today, and someone who helped me want to follow in her footsteps every day of my life. I don’t thank her enough for the example she has set in my life, but I want to thank Carol Wells for her dedication, love, support, and encouragement even when the times are tough, and for being one of the world’s most amazing Super Grandmas.

Thanks for all you do, not just for me, Grandma, but for EVERYONE with whom you come in contact on a daily basis! So many people are touched by your self-less example of love. I want to say “no one should underestimate that power of Grandmas”!

