Letter from the President

Callie N. Nelson
429 Lauderdale Street
Selma, Alabama
November 24, 2008

Dear Members of ALAE4-HA:
I am humbled to have been given this opportunity to serve as the president of your association. I realize that with opportunity comes responsibility. And as we move forward into another year of professional development I challenge each of you, as well as myself, to take the opportunity to grow in our profession.

The professional standards for the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents focuses on six areas. One of the areas is “Our Commitment to the Profession”. These include:

- Value and encourage lifelong learning for all people.
- Pursue growth and development in the practice of the profession; use and share that knowledge to improve educational opportunities, experiences and performances of youth, volunteers, and colleagues.
- Uphold and defend positive youth development.
- Uphold and defend the youth development profession.
- Recognize the importance of professionalism in dress, oral and written communication and behavior.
- Promote a clear understanding of the principles of professional ethics.

Over the next couple of weeks, take some time to look at and select an area where you need to grow and develop. You may be saying, I don’t have time to go back to school or take a course, and that might be true, but you can read a professional journal article; you can read a book that will improve your knowledge in a specific area, such as teamwork; you can take a course on line (check out eXtension); or get back to the some of the basics such as exhibiting professionalism on the job.

Take advantage of every opportunity to become the best youth development professional in the industry and realize that not only will you become a better person, but you will also help improve and strengthen the image of 4-H and Cooperative Extension. I wish each of you a safe and restful Holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Callie N. Nelson
President

Reaching New Heights

Reaching New Heights was the theme of the 2008 ALAE4-HA and Epsilon Sigma Phi State Meeting in Oxford. State Meeting chairpersons Danny Cain, Christine Hardin, Mary Lucile Jordan and Marsha Moorehead did an outstanding job in coordinating the event.

Local officials who welcomed the group included Oxford Mayor Leon Smith and County Commissioner Eli Henderson. Dr. Marie Rush, a Clay County 4-H alumnus, illustrated many ways that 4-H inspired her to become a veterinarian specializing in wildlife.

Musically talented 4-H alumni, Jana Sanderson McEachern from Gadsden and Johnathan East from Lineville entertained us at the evening meals on Wednesday and Thursday.

Jack Odle, Chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, shared his perspective on the projects with which the 4-H Foundation has worked for the past several years. Dr. Lamar Nichols and Dr. Gaines Smith updated the group on 4-H and Extension programs.

Professional Development seminars included the AU Canine Research, Development and Training Program, Media Tips, Chef 4-H and more.

The ALAE4-HA Board challenged members to bring reading books for pre-kindergarten youth. Eighteen members brought 498 books to the State Meeting. The North Area (District 1) brought the most books and won the challenge with 256 books. Callie Nelson, incoming president, took the books to Dallas County to share with children there.

During the Awards Program, we joined Epsilon Sigma Phi in congratulating Dr. Gaines Smith as Epsilon Sigma Phi National Ruby Award Winner.

ALAE4-HA award winners were recognized on Wednesday night at the Classic on Noble restaurant.

Distinguished Service Award winners
Marian M. Beck, Limestone County
Ruth Hunter, Barbour County

25 Year Service Citation – John Pulliam, Macon County

4-H Para-Professional Award
Tonya Tomlin, St Clair County

Excellence in Teamwork –
Molly Gregg, State Office

Submitted by:
Ruth Sarro
Reaching New Heights ...continued

Mary Lucile Jordan, Etowah County
Denise Legvold, Fayette County
Ruth Sarro, Calhoun County
Joann Wissinger, Jefferson County

COMMUNICATOR AWARD WINNERS:
Educational Piece (Team)
Molly Gregg, State Office
Mary Lucile Jordan, Etowah County
Denise Legvold, Fayette County
Ruth Sarro, Calhoun County
Joann Wissinger, Jefferson County

Periodical Publication (team)
Wendy Padgett, Clarke County
Susan Thompson, Choctaw County

NBC-13 news anchor Mike Royer touched us with memories of everyday heroes that he has met doing the “Spirit of Alabama” weekly feature story on WVTM television. His presentation not only showed other people who have reached higher goals, but also inspired us to be everyday heroes.

Join us for the ALAE4-HA State Meeting in Selma in 2009.

ALAE4-HA Annual Meeting
Business Meeting Minutes

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H AGENTS

Submitted by: Joann S. Wissinger
ALAE4-HA Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Ruth Sarro, President, called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: The minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting were distributed. Joann Wissinger, Secretary, moved for minutes to be approved as written. Chris Hardin seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Elaine Cole, Treasurer, reported that as of August 31st, the balance of the financial statement was $4,227.43.

Callie Nelson moved to accept the financial statement. Mary Lucile Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed.


MEMBERSHIP: Bridgett Helms reported there are 83 members. Of the 83 members, 58 members are regular, 11 which are new and 25 are life members.

Mac Washington moved to accept membership report. Wendy Padgett seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Diversity – Kenneth Gamble, Chair
Members Present:
Kenneth Gamble
Elaine Cole
John Pulliam
Mac Washington – Chair – Elect
Linda Starr

Committee discussion:
• Make special efforts to meet the needs of parity across the state.
• Print publications in other languages. Diversity training for Extension personnel.
• Have a Diversity Training Seminar at ALAE4-HA Annual Meeting for all attendees.
Bring back student exchange program.

Membership Recognition – Marian Beck, Chair Award recipients were recognized last night at banquet. Award winners were as follows:
25 Years of Service        John S. Pulliam
Distinguished Service Award      Marian M. Beck
                                    Ruth H. Hunter
Educational Piece – Team    Molly Gregg
                                    Mary Lucile Jordan
                                    Denise Legvold
                                    Ruth Sarro
                                    Joann Wissinger

Molly asked to go back to Diversity. Molly mentioned training that had been conducted in diversity:
Globalize Me
Diversity Assessment with REA’s
YAP Training

News & Views – No Report

Policy & Resolution – Ruth Hunter, Chair
Members Present:
Peggy Prucnal
Tammy Powell
Wanda Pharris
Ruth H. Hunter

Business Meeting Minutes...continued

The Policy and Resolutions Committee recommended and informed the Board of the following: As of the 2007 Annual Meeting, the president-elect was given the task (duty) of updating the Handbook annually and giving updated copies to each member at the annual meeting.

Professional Development – Joann Wissinger (appointed Chair at resignation of Heather Dunning)

Members Present:
Callie Nelson
Joann Wissinger
Marian Beck
Denise Legvold
Marcus Garner

Callie discussed what the four areas of work were for this committee at the national level. The areas are as follows: Balancing Work and Family, Volunteer Training, Scholarship/ Core Competencies, and Mentoring of New Staff.

The committee discussed the importance of learning to Balance Work and Family and decided to suggest having a workshop on this topic next year at the state meeting.

Programs – Mary Lucile Jordan, Chair

Members Present:
Tara Barr
Ruth Sarro
Kim Good
Marsha Moorehead
Mary Lucile Jordan

Committee discussion: More programs for Clover Bud age groups. Partner with Seminar Committee for annual meeting for presentation on “new program” for “idea Sharing”; Submit proposals – (use Rock Eagle form as example); GPS; World Citizenship; Team Building; Youth in Governance; Go Green- Environmental

Kim Graham mentioned the need for new member orientation. Lindsay Kimbro asked about getting a copy of the handbook.

Public Relations – Pam Stenz, Co-Chair

Members Present:
Willie Williams
Jennifer Miller
Susan Thompson
Wendy Padgett
Katrina Easley
Pam Stenz

Committee discussion: Encourage counties to do a special recognition program for the 100th Anniversary during National 4-H Week. Promote 4-H at an Alabama A&M sports event. Organize a drive for school supplies and a book drive to donate to our schools. Ruth Sarro commented that our association needs to encourage participation in events led by 4-H state office. Lamar Nichols mentioned change in assignment of Virginia Morgan related to disaster relief or emergency crisis. Callie Nelson mentioned need that when there are evacuees brought into our counties, the youth need activities to do. Agents could provide activities for those youth.

Nominating Committee – Jay Conway, Past President

President – Callie Nelson
President Elect – Bridgett Helms
Vice President – Wendy Padgett
Secretary – Kim Good
Treasurer – Elaine Cole

Joann Wissinger will take Professional Development Committee Chair due to the resignation of Heather Dunning. Tammy Powell moved to accept committee reports. Mac Washington seconded. Motion passed.

District Reports

Junior Directors were elected at district meetings as follows:

District I  Denise Legvold  Jr. Director
District II  Kirsten Holt  Jr. Director
District III  Susan Thompson  Jr. Director
State  Emily Kling  Jr. Director

Tammy Powell reported that ESP decided that as of March 1, plaque at 4-H Center Chapel will be increased to $200. ESP will host their state meeting separately next year. It will be in conjunction with the memorial service. Tammy encouraged people to pay for their plaque and write a few notes for the book of memories. Ruth Sarro reminded everyone to turn in books for book drive.

Annual Meeting:

Lunch will be served at hotel. Bring lawn chair for picnic tonight. There are 58 fulltime registrants and 4 part-time registrants.

Unfinished Business:

Elaine Cole discussed that the board decided yesterday to donate $1,000.00 to the NEAFCS 2009 National Meeting to be held in Birmingham. Elaine moved to donate the $1,000.00 to NEAFCS 2009 Meeting. Peggy Prucnal seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

When a member pays dues, $70.00 goes to the National, $15.00 stays in the state. Between now and December 1st, you are encouraged to pay the $85.00 dues. There will be a drawing for two free registrations for 2009 state meeting for those who pay by December 1st. Reminder to sign up for tours today.

Adjournment:

ALAE4-HA Board of Directors Meeting

Submitted by Joann S. Wissinger, ALAE4-HASecretary
Courtyard Mariott – Oxford, Alabama
Wednesday, September 3rd, 2008 - 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Ruth Sarro, President, called the meeting to order.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:
Bridgett Helms
Nancy Alexander
Lindsay Kimbro
Mary Lucile Jordan
Callie N. Nelson
Joy Maxwell
Ruth H. Hunter
Marian M. Beck
Elaine W. Cole
Kim Good
Ruth Sarro
Jay Conway
Kenneth Gamble
Joann Wissinger

MINUTES: Joann Wissinger, Secretary, distributed the minutes of the previous board meeting. Joann made a motion for approval. Callie Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Elaine Cole, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer’s report. The bank account had a balance of $3,145.07 in September 2007. As of August 31, 2008, the account shows a balance of $4,227.43. There is not much activity in the account other than gift purchases that Betty Gottler had made.

Kenneth Gamble moved to accept report. Marian Beck seconded. Motion passed. Elaine went over proposed budget. The anticipated income and expenses is $5,005.00. NEAFCS donation will be discussed at a later time. Callie Nelson moved to accept proposed budget. Kenneth Gamble seconded. Motion passed. Elaine has stationery in her car. If you have expenses, please complete a form. Elaine suggested doing proposed budget at the spring board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: The total for membership is 83. There are 58 regular members, 11 new members of the 58 regular members. There are 25 life members. The issue of members not paying their dues for 2007 and 2008 was discussed including holding an office. Mary Lucile Jordan motioned to accept report. Elaine Cole seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Diversity – Kenneth Gamble, Chair

Kenneth discussed the Diversity Committee’s following concerns:
- Meeting the needs of the 4-H’ers today.
- How do we compete with other youth organizations?
- How do we market 4-H so that the community understands what it is we do?
- Diversity in all programs.
- Hire more diverse staff.
- Identify cultural leader(s) in the community.

Membership Recognition – Marian Beck, Chair: Members submitted awards in the following categories. Eight entries in 6 categories were received. Entries were submitted in the following categories

Service Awards
1– 25 Years of Service Award
2– Distinguished Service Award

Specialty & Communicator Awards
2– Excellence in Teamwork
1– Education Piece - Team
1– Periodical Publication – Team

ALAE4-HA Awards
1 - ALAE4-HA 4-H Paraprofessional Award

There was no entry in the Cecil Mayfield Award. John S. Pulliam, Marian M. Beck, Ruth H. Hunter, Molly Gregg, Mary Lucile Jordan, Denise Legvold Ruth Sarro and Joann Wissinger will be recognized at the Galaxy III Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana during September 14-19, 2008. The cost for Award Plaques for 2008 was $176.58. David Perry, Chair Elect for 2008 has declined the position. Marian will work with her on the committee responsibilities.

News & Views – No Report: Cynthia Knowlton has sent several newsletters to membership.

Policy & Resolution – Ruth Hunter, Chair: Ruth’s report stated that the Policy and Resolutions Committee has as its primary responsibilities to: undertake specific responsibilities as designated by the Board of Directors; serve as study and research committee on policy decisions and solicits, receive and review resolutions from the membership. The Committee work this year has included that the committee recommended to the Board to continue working on a new committee-Handbook/Historian Webmaster, whose job will be to keep the handbook and website up-to-date and current. It was also recommended that this be a three-year term like the other committees. The cost for Award Plaques for 2008 was $176.58.

Professional Development – No Report

Programs – Mary Lucile Jordan, Chair

There were four reports from nine of the task forces. The task forces that had reports were Afterschool, Camping & Environ-
**Board Meeting...continued**

Mental Education, Character Education and Youth in Governance

**Public Relations – Walter Harris, Chair**
The Public Relations Committee was charged with heading the statewide book drive as a spin-off of the National Convention. It was decided by the committee to initiate the book drive at the commencement of the current 4-H club year, which began last month and this month for most counties.

At the 2007 ALAE4-HA Annual Meeting the committee discussed hosting a Basketball and Football Day at Alabama A&M University and Auburn University. A football day was carried out at Alabama A&M University in November 2007 with funds being raised for the Food Bank of North Alabama. A 4-H Basketball Day will be planned for the upcoming seasons. There were also discussions to host 4-H days at other colleges and universities. No contact with other universities has been made at this time.

The committee still awaits a reply to the August 12, 2008 e-mail sent to the state staff concerning the 4-H Football Day at Auburn in August 2008.

**Nominating Committee – Jay Conway, Past President**
President – Callie Nelson
President Elect – Bridgett Helms
Vice President – Wendy Padgett
Secretary – Kim Good
Treasurer – Elaine Cole

Bridgett motioned to accept committee reports. Callie seconded. Motion passed.

**District Reports**
District 1 – 17 members
District 2 – 15 members
District 3 – 17 members
State – 8 members

**Other Business**
Ruth Sarro, President, discussed the idea of giving two free registrations to state meeting for those who pay by December deadline.
Mary Lucile Jordan made motion, Kenneth Gamble seconded. Motion passed. Ruth asked members to let her know if they are attending Galaxy.

**Adjournment**
Meeting was adjourned.
More than 150 Volunteers attend Multi-State Forum

Submitted by: Susan Thompson

The 39th annual Southern Region Volunteer Forum was held at 4-H Rock Eagle Center in Eatonton, Georgia Oct. 2 - 5, 2008. More than 500 4-H volunteer leaders from 13 Southeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, including 57 from Alabama attended.

At the forum, volunteers attended hands-on workshops such as building a rocket launcher put on by NASA, line dancing, crafts of all kinds, Build-a-Bear in support of the ALS foundation, ice breakers, shooting sports, photography skills, Just Move Alabama. There was even a dog workshop and a tour of Madison and Eatonton. In addition to the huge variety of workshops, there were excellent motivational speakers and authors as well as great entertainment. This forum is an opportunity to show volunteers how much the work they do with 4-H youth is appreciated. The hopes are that these volunteers will be sharing their newly acquired knowledge and skills and revived excitement with other volunteers to better serve youth and families in their communities.

The four-day weekend also featured a Louisiana Showcase evening highlighting commodities, tourist attractions, and cultural aspects and food unique to Louisiana. The volunteers got a sampling of pralines, LuLu’s pecan pie, tea cakes, crawfish etouffe, seafood gumbo, and fried shrimp. The Louisiana showcase would not have been complete without a Mardi Gras parade and banquet ball.

“Southern Region Volunteer Forum is a wonderful way for volunteers to network and take home new club program ideas,” stated Nancy Alexander, Alabama 4-H Volunteer Specialist. “Volunteers have an opportunity to select programs that interest the young people they work with back in their counties. Alabama 4-H was excited to have one of its largest delegations ever this year.”

The forum is conducted by the Cooperative Extension Services of the state land grant universities in the Southern states, the National 4-H Council, and the Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Volunteers from Alabama, next year’s host, are already discussing plans for 2009.
Congratulations to Dr. Gaines Smith for being recognized as the National Ruby Lecturer for ESP. This the highest honor that association bestows. He presented the lecture at The Galaxy III Conference in Indianapolis, IN. For pictures of all the festivities, check the web site and look for “highlights” http://espnational.org/

Thank you Marsha, Mary Lucile and Chris. We had a great time in Oxford.

Auction...who’s making the highest bid...and on that item!

Retirees always enjoy life!
2008-2009

Alabama Association of Extension 4-H Agents
Officers and Board Members

Officers for 2008-09
Past President~ Ruth Sarro
President~ Callie Nelson
President-Elect~ Bridgett Helms
Vice President~ Wendy Padgett
Secretary~ Kim Good
Treasurer~ Elaine Cole

District Directors:

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<td>Amy Burgess</td>
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<td>Joy Maxwell</td>
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<td>State Office</td>
<td>Nancy Alexander</td>
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Committee Chairmen:

| Diversity   | Katrina Easley     |
| Public Relations | Pamela Stenz     |
| Program       | Tara Barr         |
| Membership Recognition | Shannon Andress |
| Policy and Resolution | Ruth Hunter   |
| Professional Improvement | Joann Wissinger |
| New and Views  | Cynthia Knowlton |

ALAE4-HA
News and Views Committee
Chair: Cynthia Knowlton
Regional Extension Agent
4-H & Youth Development
Baldwin County

Co-Chair: Kathryn Friday
County Extension Coordinator
Marengo County

Newsletter compiled by:
Cathy Banning
Clerk II, Records
Baldwin County Extension Office