

# VOLUNTEER VOICE

Volume III Number 2 February 2003

## Reduced Funds + Reduced Staff = Crisis Management Plan, 2003

Changes are happening at the State Department of 4-H Youth Development.. Because of the current financial situation for the State of Kansas, budget cuts have been made that directly impact the 4-H program across the State of Kansas.

On top of a 50% reduction in funding, there also have been personnel changes in the State 4-H Department. Three state specialists are retiring this spring, two of whom are taking advantage of the early retirement program. Gary Gerhard has stepped down as State 4-H Leader and is currently serving as a State Specialist. Interim Director is Daryl Buchholz, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This leaves only three state 4-H youth development specialists for the next 2-3 years: Jim Adams, Pat Fultz and Gary Gerhard. In addition, one area 4-H youth development specialist has the option of taking early retirement, meaning that there could be only three area 4-H specialists for the next year or two.

The Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers wanted to let you know about these changes, so you can plan accordingly. The changes with the most immediate impact include:

- State Fair changes- there will no longer be
  - Demonstrations
  - Photo Fun day
  - Showcase Building Activities (Showcase, Mini-Style Revue, Show-n-Share)
  - Judging team contests IE: photography, horticulture, livestock/ dairy judging, quiz bowls, wheat test plot contest (most of these are being rescheduled to occur along with other programs \* check with your county agent for specifics)

Discovery Days will not occur this year, but a special Discovery Days Caucus will be held June 5-6th, featuring keynoter Eric Chester who will speak on "Characteristics of Generation Why" and set the stage for the making of plans for 2004 (and beyond) Discovery Days.

- Ambassador training cancelled this year, to be reinstated in 2004
- Bee Essay Contest and Bee Science state fair exhibits discontinued indefinitely

There is currently a hiring freeze for all State employees, so the positions vacated by retirements may not be able to be filled for 2-3 years. These changes have long-term implications, and a variety of people are working on how to continue the excellent 4-H programs that we have enjoyed in the past with this reality of reduced funds and personnel.

The Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers is exploring ways to assist with State 4-H programs to help continue or re-instate programs that have been temporarily cancelled. If you would like to help, please contact your area vice-president (see list at end of newsletter). You may also want to bookmark the website for the Department of 4-H Youth Development to keep abreast of current events, happenings, and resources: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/4hyp>

## FALL FORUM 2003

The date for our next State Forum will be October 18 and 19, 2003 at Rock Springs. Topical areas that may be the focus of the Forum will be general youth development training, organizational club leader training, project leader training, after-school programs training, adult leadership development, and others. This is a wonderful opportunity for educational experiences for all 4-H Volunteers. One of the workshops will be on the Kansas Award Applications (KAAs) presented by Teresa Foster of Wabaunsee County. If anyone has suggestions for speakers or presenters for specific workshop topics, please contact Brenda Hoobler, Vice- President of the Northeast Area. Her address is 10310 Cherokee, Horton, KS 66439.

## **BY-LAWS TO BE AMENDED AT FALL FORUM 2003**

Due to K-State Research and Extension undergoing the restructuring as a cost savings measure, reducing state program areas from five to four took place January 1, 2003. As a result, our organization will also undergo changes to keep in alignment with the areas. At the 3rd annual meeting, the by-laws will have to be amended in Article IV Section 2 to read "four" Area vice-presidents rather than "five." Other sections will be amended as well in regards to this topic. Job descriptions will have to be rewritten to ensure that the mission and purpose of the association will continue to support volunteer development.

### **CONVERSATIONS**

At the Leaders Forum September 28, 2002 a topic that was revisited concerning positive parent involvement in youth activities. The results of the round table discussions concluded that 4-H parents are key to a successful 4-Her. The parents need to know the expectations that the 4-H club has for them. Rights and responsibilities of the 4-H parents need to be identified for the parents as well as the expectations. Orientation for the new 4-H parents, either at a club level or county-wide, then should occur. Follow-up meetings for parents would be helpful as well. Another aid could be a family handbook with helpful information could be published for all parents, both new and established.

### **South Central Area Vice-President**

Cindy Baldwin has been involved as a volunteer leader for the past 25 years in McPherson County. Cindy has served as community leader for two clubs, project leader for foods, crochet, exploring, reading, and bicycle. In addition to helping the local clubs, she has also served on the 4-H Fair Board, the 4-H Building Board, and the Extension Board for McPherson County.

Cindy represents the second generation of four generations of her family involved in the Empire Best 4-H Club. Her father, three children, and currently three grandchildren have been members of the club as well.

Cindy states, "As a teacher, I have seen the value of 4-H involvement in my students in their speaking, record keeping, and planning abilities. 4-Hers have always been strong in the use of these practical life skills. Other teachers have commented on the positive aspects to 4-H membership of the students in their classrooms."

## KA4-HV TREASURER

Deb Wood is a Dickinson county resident and organizational leader for the Chapman Shamrocks 4-H club. She did not grow up in 4-H, but became involved when her son joined ten years ago. She has served as a club project leader and six years as organizational leader. "I knew nothing about 4-H, so started going to as many training activities as I could, to learn," she says. She was involved in the 1999 North Central Regional Volunteer Forum planning team, hosted by Kansas, and has previously served as the KS state coordinator to the forum in other states. She has two children involved in 4-H, a senior in high school and an eighth grader.

## KANSAS 4-H JOURNAL

The Kansas 4-H Journal November/December, 2002 issue recently published a leaders' and parents' guide. "Leads for Leaders" had some very good tips for volunteer leaders as they work with 4-H members to help develop positive self esteem, sound decision making, effective communications skills, responsibility and cooperation with others. "4-H Needs a Few Good Men to Volunteer!" presented by Ken Culp from the University of Kentucky was also highlighted as the challenges to involving male volunteers. "The Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers" detailed the goals for the association as well as recognizing the officers of the group. This issue should be shared with all volunteer leaders across the state.

### Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Officers

The Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers was formed to help 4-H volunteers grow in their role as mentors, leaders, and teachers, to better serve the youth of Kansas. If you have ideas for educational programs or opportunities, or would like to serve on an association committee, please contact one of the officers.

Office	Volunteer	County	Phone	E-Mail
President	Julie Green	Cherokee	620-674-8871	jgreen@stj.com
President-elect	Linda Thurston	Greenwood	620-583-6932	lthurston@correct-connect.com
Past President	Linda Henningson	Saline	785-825-8513	henn@midusa.net
Secretary	Gwen Kramer	Jefferson	785-246-3053	gwnkrmr@ix.netcom.com
Treasurer	Deb Wood	Dickinson	785-922-6658	woodfam@oz-online.net
VP-SE Area	Ron Jones	Miami	913-837-4434	ron.jones@bayercropscience.com
VP-NW Area	Peg Tole	Thomas	785-586-2323	jtole@st-tel.net
VP-SW Area	Pansy Fryman	Finney	620-272-3012	pbf@gcnet.com
VP-SC Area	Cindy Baldwin	McPherson	620-654-3418	cgteach@hometelco.net
VP-NE Area	Brenda Hoobler	Atchison	785-872-3286	
Pat Fultz	Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development			pfultz@oznet.ksu.edu