



THE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE
 WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION
 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
 PROFESSIONALS

WINTER-SPRING 2024
 VOLUME 42
 NUMBER 2

Entre Nous* means *Between Us

and serves as the official publication for members of the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Articles should be submitted via e-mail, either in the body or in an attached Microsoft Word document. The e-mail should be addressed to sarah.tarjesson@wisc.edu.

Entre Nous is published by WAE4-HYDP three times each year. Deadlines for issues include:

- Fall/Winter – October 1
- Winter/Spring – February 1
- Spring/Summer – May 1

The *Entre Nous* is your newsletter. Express yourself! Share personal and professional concerns and triumphs.

Table of Contents

Association Highlights and Action 2
 WAE4-HYDP Awards and Recognition 2
 Everybody’s Story Should Be Told..... 3
 Early, Mid and Late Career Perspectives 4
 Professional Development Fund Application
 Materials..... 5
 WAE4-HYDP Elections: Vacancies Announced 5
 Professional Development Opportunities 5
 Little Mix – Between Us 6
 2023-2024 WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors..... 6

The 4-H Creed, developed in Wyoming in 1918, was later adopted nationally.

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, skillful, and useful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me
 to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.



Association Highlights and Action

Sarah Tarjeson, WAE4-HYDP President, Sheboygan County

I am thrilled to share some highlights and updates from the past few months with you on behalf of our professional association and the Board of Directors. We had the opportunity to meet in December and review several business items.

One of the most significant business items was to approve the Member Handbook with updates on our representative regions. A motion last spring gave the board permission to make these changes to reflect our current professional regions. Please check out the updates now posted at <https://blogs.extension.wisc.edu/wae4hydp/handbook>.

A great deal of discussion also took place around the upcoming Awards opportunities. Inside this edition of *Entre Nous*, you will find more information about the opportunities for recognition you can pursue due to your efforts and hard work!

Finally, members look forward to reuniting again during the [Wisconsin JCEP Conference](#) at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids on April 23rd and 24th, 2024. Please consider joining us for this opportunity, especially our Awards Program and Annual Association Meeting on April 23rd. Retirees, Life Members, Returning, and New Members – be sure to register early and often! O.K., Maybe not often 😊.

As always, I appreciate you, what you do, and how you do it! Thank you for being wonderful people and colleagues.



WAE4-HYDP Awards and Recognition

Penny Tank, Awards Committee Chair, Waupaca County

WAE4-HYDP members, YOUR work deserves to be recognized and celebrated. Please review all of the beautiful award and recognition opportunities our association offers. Whether this is your first time applying or you are a more tenured educator, recognition opportunities are available for everyone.

The [WAE4-HYDP awards website](#) contains all the information and criteria, including links, needed to apply for recognition. It also outlines how to nominate one of our colleagues for a Colleague of the Year Award and a community partner, supporter, or collaborator for the Friend of 4-H Award. As the Chair of the WAE4-HYDP Awards & Recognition Committee, I encourage you to read through ALL the award options and decide where your work best fits!!

We may start to get emails from the national soon about the awards portal - please DO NOT use the national portal for applications due Feb. 10 - submit all applications through the WI Google forms linked on the awards website.

NEW this year is a [WAE4-HYDP Awards Tip Sheet](#), which includes great information to help you get started with award applications. It also includes some frequently asked questions.

Also, NEW this year is an additional WI-only award category of Excellence in Spark Support - The purpose of the Excellence in Spark Support Award is to encourage and recognize the efforts of Extension professionals who support and strengthen youth sparks and project learning. The WI Only categories are open for anybody who was an Association member in 2023; they do not go on for regional or national consideration.

Award applications must be submitted via Google Forms linked to the website (NOT through the national website) **by February 10, 2024**. Due to the NAE4-HYDP Awards Deadline, NO late entries can be accepted.

If you are selected as a state award winner for a nationally eligible award, you will be notified around February 20th. You must be prepared to submit your materials on the NAE4-HYDP website by March 1. This cannot be done until Wisconsin has selected its 2024 Winners, but it must be done with a rapid turnaround time. If you plan to be away from your computer, consider making alternative arrangements to ensure your entry is uploaded on time.



Everybody's Story Should Be Told

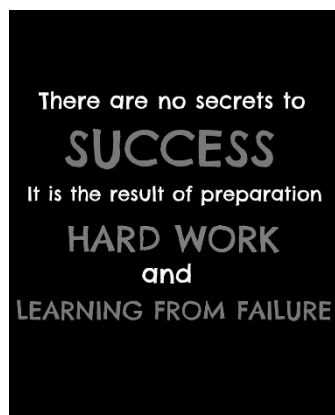
Kathleen Vos, Professor Emerita, Madison, WI

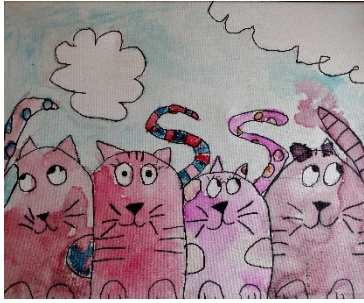
As a 4-H Youth Development Curriculum Specialist, I provided leadership and support to staff and volunteers, creating hands-on 4-H learning materials. I always loved getting the final version of the project materials back from the printer, hoping that it would inspire others to explore their interests and master new skills. I encouraged online learning, creating activities that could be accessed on our 4-H webpages, but I still loved the feel of a printed version that I could see, touch, and feel. There is something sacred about holding a book in your hands.

My personal writing quest began when I discovered the three stories my mother, Rita Vos, wrote during a UW-Madison College Week for Women workshop taught by Jerry Apps. Her three stories were the inspiration for a book about her life, *Resilient Rita...We Love You More!* Growing up in a stoic German farm family, we rarely heard the words "I love you." It was after my Aunt Monie lost her husband Leo, in 1996, that Monie and Mom started ending their weekly phone calls with "Love you", followed by the other saying, "Love you more". During COVID-19, I was in my mother's personal bubble and spent a few days with her every other week. This gave me ample time to conduct interviews. I also participated in an online [PLATO](#) writing workshop, where we read drafts of our stories and inspired each other to keep writing. The result was 23 short stories, highlighting turning points in my mother's life, along with an epilogue posing questions to ponder.



Book reviews and information on purchasing *Resilient Rita* can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/mprjd698>. Profits from the sale of this book, will be donated to the Vos 4-H Learning Resource Fund at the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. For more information, contact me at k.e.vos@icloud.com. My hope is that this book about my mother inspires you to share your stories, for ordinary people truly live extraordinary lives!





"Kitty Friends" by Luna Truskowski, Age 7, La Crosse County 4-Her

Early, Mid and Late Career Perspectives

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Sheboygan County

I recently asked some of our colleagues to provide perspectives on the same question related to our work. These three colleagues span years of experience within our association. The question I asked was . . . "Besides people, what is your favorite thing in your office?"

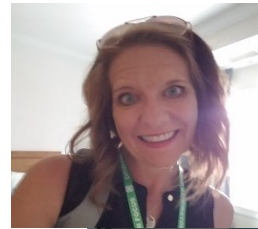
Dan Brandt, Iowa County, Early Career



My favorite thing in my office right now would be my new light up clover. My favorite thing always changes, which I think is a great way to keep yourself energized and moving forward. Like the 4-H program and things in Extension, it is a constant change and helps me not to let anything get too stagnant.

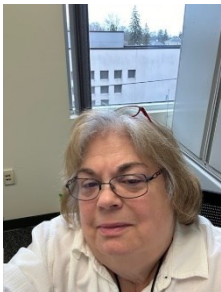
Melinda Pollen, Brown County, Mid Career

My favorite thing in the office is the space itself. Our building is open and airy, allows for creative thinking, and has brightly colored walls and tons of natural light. And, when I need to (or make the time to), I can walk outside the building on paths through nature, past retaining ponds, listen to birds, and walk on a beach. An excellent environment blesses me!



Connie Creighton, Portage County, Late Career

Having an office with two window. This is my 4th location in Portage County. I love that I have windows and a nice office to work in. We also have a big conference room in the building where I can offer Zoom and in-person programming.



Save the Date!

Colleague Care and Connect Opportunity
April 9, 2024 in Stevens Point, starting at 2:00 PM
"Sparks" activities, dinner, and Axe throwing
Registration and more details to come





"Garden Gnome" by Serene Mather, Age 11
LaCrosse County 4-H

Professional Development Fund Application Materials

Are you looking for financial support for upcoming professional development opportunities? All members in good standing of WAE4-HYDP are eligible to apply for a Professional Development Funds grant. Grants will be awarded on a quarterly basis and up to \$1000 can be awarded in any quarter. Application deadlines are February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. More information about the grants and links to application materials are found at <https://blogs.extension.wisc.edu/wae4hydp/professional-development-funds>

WAE4-HYDP Elections: Vacancies Announced

Sarah Tarjeson, WAE4-HYDP President

Elections will soon take place for vacancies on our WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors. Please consider the following positions as the next step in your association membership and engagement:

1. State Staff & Eastern Directors (2-year term)
2. President-Elect
3. Treasurer (2-year term)
4. 1 JCEP Rep (3-year term; replacing Justin H.)

Please let your Regional Representative know if you want to be named on the ballot. Don't know who your representative is? Check out the listing at: <https://blogs.extension.wisc.edu/wae4hydp/wae4-hydp-board>



Professional Development Opportunities

Lunch and Learn: Live Thrive Kits and the WI Thriving Guide- February 8th:

Join us following the 4-H Program Zoom on 2/8/24 from 11:30-12:30 to learn more about the Live Thrive Kits and accompanying WI Thriving Guide. Each county either has or will have a Live Thrive Kit for Educators to utilize to support their programming, as well as access to the accompanying digital WI Thriving Guide. During this time, we will walk through these new resources and share ideas on how they can work to support you in your local programming.

3rd Annual WI PYD Thriving Academy-April 22nd:

We will again offer this professional development and connection opportunity with JCEP on April 22 in WI Rapids. The Wisconsin PYD Thriving Academy will focus on learning designed to unite the Wisconsin Positive Youth Development Institute with a common definition and grounding in the science of learning and development through the 4-H Thriving Model. We will spend the afternoon learning about how the Thriving Model connects to our work and how we can apply it to our local programming. This opportunity is ideal for any Positive Youth Development Institute colleagues who have not previously attended the WI PYD Thriving Academy.

2024 NAE4-HYDP Annual Conference: Celebrating Connections and Success!

OCTOBER 15-17, 2024 - BOISE, ID [CALL FOR PROPOSALS LINK HERE](#)



Little Mix – Between Us

Click on the photo to hear the song



2023-2024 WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Sarah Tarjeson

President-Elect: Megan Suehring

Past President: Amy Mitchell

Secretary: Rachel Hart-Brinson

Treasurer: Heather Vierling

DIRECTORS

SW Region Director: Emily Crook, SW

NC Region Director: Holly Luerssen, NW

NW Region Director: Andrea Rippley, NW

East-Metro Region Director: Alicia Schroeder-Haag, East

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards & Recognition Chair: Penny Tank

Professional Development Funds: Heather Vierling, Emily Crook and Holly Luerssen

Professional Concerns Tri-Chairs: Rachel Hart-Brinson, Laura Huber, and Penny Tank

National Conference:

Communications Committee Chair: Sarah Tarjeson

JCEP Board Representatives:

Justin Hougham (yr 3/3), Melinda Pollen (yr 2/3), MaryBeth Wohlrabe (yr 1/3)

WI 4-H Foundation Rep: Sofie Teller (yr 2/2)