

2019-2020

Board Members

Officers

*Kristi Stout
President*

*Jamie Boas
Vice President*

*Alcha Corban
Secretary*

*Martha Ebbesmeyer
Treasurer*

*Carissa Davis
Past President*

Regional Directors

*Michelle Cox
Northern*

*Judy Schmidt
West Central*

*Amy Leman
East Central*

*Melissa Wilson
Southern*

Committee Chairs

*Sara Marten
Membership Recognition*

*Myla Munro
Professional Development*

*Rachel Hazen
Public Relations & Information*

*Melissa Wilson
Illinois 4-H Foundation*

*Deb Stocker
Life Member*

*Shelby Carlson
Newsletter Editor*

Join us for the Fall Meeting of IEPYE!

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
(First Day of Annual Conference)

Houlihan's Restaurant, I Hotel
4:45

Appetizers Provided
Drawing for Free Membership (See Rules Below)

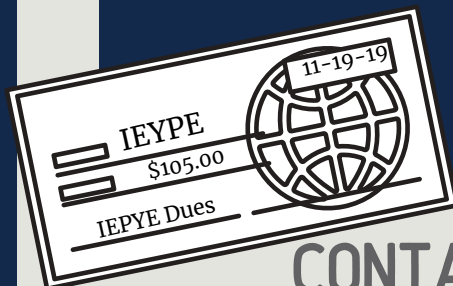
**YOU'RE
INVITED**

**FROM THE
VICE
PRESIDENT**

**JAMIE
BOAS**

Look for an email to sign up for the new IEPYE year coming soon. Anyone registered and paid for both national and state dues before Nov 19 at 4:30pm will be entered into the drawing for ONE OF TWO FREE MEMBERSHIPS for 2019-2020! The drawing will take place live during our IEPYE time during Annual Conference. Dues are \$105 for both national and state or \$25 for state only.

*Must be present to win



**CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT IEPYE**

AWARD WINNERS

Several Illinois Extension 4-H professionals are being recognize for achievements at the state, regional, and national level through the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

CONGRATS, JUDY MAE!



ILLINOIS 4-H COMMUNICATOR WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR BLOGGING

A series of blogs on the achievements of Illinois 4-H members has earned Judy Mae Bingman the national communicator award in the personal column division by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4HA). She will be honored at that group's annual conference in November. While at the national convention in White Sulphur Springs, W.V., Bingman will teach two workshops: impact report writing and storytelling.

Media communication manager for Illinois 4-H since late 2013, Bingman has received national communication awards for content development of news stories, 4-H promotional packages, and photography. Bingman joined University of Illinois Extension in 1983 and has earned additional national awards for her work in newsletter production, marketing piece development, and feature writing while serving White, Clay, Jasper, Fayette, and Effingham counties. During her career, she earned the NAE4HA Achievement in Service, Distinguished Service, and Meritorious Service awards.

In the 12-state North Central region competition, Bingman earned the top spot for the Illinois 4-H CloverSeed publication, a 76-page annual report highlighting Illinois 4-H program, club, and member accomplishments.

WRITTEN BY JUDY MAE BINGMAN

ILLINOIS EXTENSION 4-H EDUCATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

April Littig will be awarded the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Distinguished Service Award in a ceremony Nov. 7 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.



Littig provides leadership for 4-H youth development initiatives and club programming in a five-county unit that includes Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott counties. In her nine years with Extension, she has worked on several developmental programs, including Illinois 4-H community clubs, new Latino audience outreach, employable youth programming, healthy living initiatives, social and emotional learning, and camping.

Her work with the Greene County United Way brought vital programming on healthy relationships and life skills to 300 students in the North Greene school district. Her \$6,000 21st Century Learning Grant provides programming for 14 after-school sites, reaching youth from 5 to 14 years of age. She is a trained instructor for the Be Safe anti-bullying program, and provides oversight to the unit's implementation of many state programs, including Welcome to the Real World, Health Rocks, Relationship Smarts, Inherited Traits, Be Safe, and National Youth Science Day.

Littig has inspired youth to make a greater impact in her communities, including annual food drives, meal-packaging events, birthday bags, angel trees, and safe trick or treat events.

Littig volunteered as chairperson of the Scott County Family Violence Prevention Coordinating Council, raising public awareness of domestic violence. She serves on the Morgan-Scott Mass Transit District Board and volunteers on the Morgan/Scott Interagency Committee and Morgan County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Committee.

"April has done an exceptional job of building relationships and networking with volunteers and youth across our five-county unit," says Aaron Dufelmeier, Extension county director. "April embraces our mission and has the vision and knowledge needed to help our youth succeed. She constantly works to create, develop, and deliver programs that allow youth to gain a sense of belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery. April portrays an upbeat and positive approach to educating young people."

WRITTEN BY JUDY MAE BINGMAN

WAY TO GO, APRIL!

AWESOME JOB, DONNA!



NUGER HONORED FOR 4-H STEM PROGRAMMING

The expansion of youth science programming in northern Illinois has earned an Extension 4-H youth educator national recognition. Donna Nuger receives the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Distinguished Service Award and will be honored at a ceremony Nov. 7 at the group's national meeting.

Nuger serves families in Kane, Kendall, and DuPage counties where her work in science, technology, and engineering programs has expanded 4-H participation. Working with more than 15 partner organizations, 4-H robotics clubs flourished, reaching more than 400 youth a year. Nuger guides 4-H Science Ambassadors who teach peers in a range of topics, from soil conservation and environmental science to biology and aerospace engineering. She led a group of teens to the National Ag Innovators Conference in Washington D.C. and then mentored the group for a yearlong program teaching soil conservation to hundreds of their peers.

"Donna's attitude of making things possible, her ability to think creatively to solve problems, and her genuine belief in the capabilities of others is always evident," said Christina Heidrich, 4-H parent and volunteer. "Donna has the unique ability to connect and understand people and somehow extract and elevate the essence of who they are through conversation, activities, assignment, and mentorship."

Donna began her Extension career in 2004 as the University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth educator for Kankakee County.

WRITTEN BY JUDY MAE BINGMAN

**LOOK FOR NOTES FROM SARA MARTEN
ABOUT APPLYING FOR AWARDS NEXT YEAR!**

4-H HUNGER AMBASSADOR SUMMIT EARNS CITIZENSHIP AWARD

An Illinois Extension 4-H hunger awareness program has earned the top citizenship award for the 12-state North Central region of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. The program will be recognized Nov. 6 at the group's national meeting in White Sulphur Springs in West Virginia.

Sixty teens investigated the issues of hunger, such as lack of transportation to stores, cost of healthy food options, food portions and waste, and the lack of media attention, at the Illinois 4-H Hunger Ambassador Summit. Former Extension staff recognized for the award include William Million, Carolyn Hansen, and Elizabeth Miller.

WRITTEN BY JUDY MAE BINGMAN

EXTENSION STAFF HONORED FOR AG LITERACY PROGRAMMING

Youth in western Illinois have a better understanding of where their food comes from following a University of Illinois Extension program that earned the agricultural literacy specialty award by the state's professional 4-H youth association.

A team of Extension staff serving the five-county unit that includes Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott counties received the award Sept. 6 at the Illinois Extension Professionals for Youth Education's annual fall meeting in Springfield. The team includes April Littig, Duane Friend, Tanya Hetelle, Kenneth Johnson, Michelle Berg-Vogel, and Aaron Dufelmeier.

More than 300 students learned how their food is produced, said April Littig, Illinois Extension 4-H youth development educator. "The program helps connect young people more closely with the food they eat by giving them ag experiences, such as milking a cow."

The students learned about farm animals, the value of clean water to the life cycle, the process of growing fruits and vegetables, and how agriculture by-products impact daily activities.

WRITTEN BY JUDY MAE BINGMAN

GREAT JOB, TEAM!



MEET THE BOARD



Michelle Cox

Northern Region Director

Favorite Think about IEPYE: My favorite thing about IEPYE is having an opportunity to network with other Illinois counties and states Extension staff.

Favorite Program Offered: I have two, Tackling Tough Skills and Health Rocks!

Fun Fact/Hobby outside of 4-H: Outside of 4-H, I mentor youth who have gotten off-track with on-time high school completion.

Amy Leman

East Central Region Director

Favorite Think about IEPYE: Opportunity to network with peers.

Favorite Program Offered: All things evaluation!

Fun Fact/Hobby outside of 4-H: I'm a group fitness instructor at the YMCA and enjoy distance running.

Myla Munro

Professional Development Chair

Favorite Think about IEPYE: Opportunity to network with peers.

Favorite Program Offered: 4-H Food Challenge or anything with 4-H Teen Teachers

Fun Fact: I was one of 12 in my high school graduating class. No, it wasn't a parochial school.

Hobbies outside of 4-H: Showing Horses, Traveling, and Cooking/Baking

Shelby Carlson

Professional Development Chair

Favorite Think about IEPYE: Being able to build my network professionally while getting to know the team personally.

Favorite Program Offered: Welcome to the Real World and anything livestock

Fun Fact/Hobby Outside of 4-H: I am the oldest of 4 kids all born within 5 years. It was annoying growing up but now we love it!



MEET THE BOARD



Judy Schmidt

West Central Region Director

Favorite Think about IEPYE: I love that in IEPYE, you get to talk and work with people you wouldn't normally get to work with as often. There are many opportunities for networking and learning new things..

Favorite Program Offered: I love the 4-H teen teacher program! I engage teens in teaching nutrition/cooking and STEM. I love watching the teens grow in their leadership and their interactions with the younger youth.

Fun Fact/Hobby outside of 4-H: My two kiddos interests are my hobbies :-)-so right now that includes dance for my 7-year old and soccer(or whatever sport is in season for my 10-year old).

Jamie Boas

Vice President

Favorite Think about IEPYE: My favorite thing is working as a team and getting to know other educators and staff members better.

Favorite Program Offered: 4-H Teen Teachers and Food Challenge

Fun Fact/Hobby outside of 4-H: I love to travel, both domestically and internationally. The beach is my favorite!

**Newly Appointed
Board at Fall
Meeting in
Sangamon County**



LIFE MEMBER REPORT

Greetings from Champaign! This is our first Life Member Report as a new committee for IEPYE. There are four of us on this committee – Bill Million, Denise Kistner, Larry Wachtel, and me, Deb Stocker. I am currently serving as chair of this group. Our responsibilities include keeping life members informed of what's happening in IEPYE, arranging get-togethers during the year for our Life Members, and providing a historical perspective on our organization (including working on our 50th anniversary celebration for next year).

For our newest members who may not know what a Life Member is, we are retired UI Extension colleagues who were members of IEPYE and decided upon our retirement that we wanted to continue our support of and involvement in this organization. Some of us worked in youth development our entire career; others started in youth development but may have moved to another Extension position before retirement ... but still felt that we wanted to be involved in youth development work in some manner. There are 22 of us on the current membership list.

We plan to provide a look into our Life Member's lives with each IEPYE newsletter. Due to time constraints, this first article is by yours truly. I retired August 31, 2018 after 38+ years in youth development work and the past 14 months have flown by! I'll be honest, I spent the first several months in a fog – trying to adapt to not having 60-70 hour work weeks, a clear calendar and not seeing my colleagues and the teens I worked with. It was not easy, but now I'm really enjoying having my time to do what I want when I want.

😊 I'm spending much more time with my daughters and grandchildren (11, 10 and 4) and travelling with my husband. I've started sewing again (at least for my granddaughter and her dolls), and yes, I'm enrolled as a 4-H volunteer for my grandson's club. I help with organizing our project leaders, serve as a project leader for photography and visual arts, and work with all the members on their 4-H records and award applications. (Go figure!) I'm also sorting through stuff in our house, cleaning out and preparing for a move to my family farm in the next couple of years. That includes running down to Madison County almost every week during the spring and summer to cut grass, landscape, and generally take care of the farmhouse as well. Plans for the future include some gardening (my flower beds need some major TLC!) and more travelling. Although I do truly miss seeing the friends I've worked with for so long, I've decided that this retirement gig isn't too bad after all!

Stay tuned for more information in the future about our Life Members!

WRITTEN BY DEB STOCKER