

# California 4-H Association

February 2012



University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

The California 4-H Association is committed to improving our professional skills and development, exchanging new program ideas, methods, and techniques, while getting to know 4-H Youth Development Program colleagues across the state.

## A Message from the President



Welcome to the New Year! Over the past year, I have spoken to many of you regarding how the Association can be more responsive to your needs. In April of 2011, the association was invited to take part in a membership survey to assess your professional development needs. There were 36 respondents which included 26 Program Representatives, one Academic Coordinator, and nine Advisors. One hundred percent of respondents were willing to participate in professional development training. 64 percent preferred mini-workshops of one hour and 61 percent preferred receiving professional development training by our own 4-H staff. Half

of the respondents preferred separating training by staff position and half preferred both online and face-to-face training. 83 percent of respondents preferred professional development training in research areas of design and reporting of data, while 61 percent preferred professional development training in communication areas of social media.

In order to communicate the Association's activities, we have created a quarterly newsletter and Facebook page. I have asked Mandi Bottoms to be our newsletter editor. She may contact you from time to time asking for information or wanting an article to showcase your programming. However, this newsletter is in need of an appropriate name. Please submit your ideas for a name to Mandi ([mlbottoms@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mlbottoms@ucdavis.edu)) by Thursday, March 29th. The winner will be announced at the Youth Development Conference in April.

We look forward in visiting with you at the CA4-HA reception and business meeting during the Positive Youth Development Conference in April at UC Davis. Don't forget to find us on Facebook or visit us on the web.

*Matthew Portillo*

California 4-H Association, President

## Did You Know?

Sacramento County 4-H members were recently featured on the National 4-H website for their service to their local community. The 4-H members solicited donations of bikes and bike accessories to distribute to families, encourage an active lifestyle and provide a means of transportation for those in need. To view the complete story, visit [www.4-h.org/about/revolution](http://www.4-h.org/about/revolution). Click "Stories of Responsibility."

## GREGORY BECOMES LIFETIME MEMBER OF CA4-HA

The California 4-H Association would like to recognize Peggy Gregory, former 4-H youth development advisor and director of UC Cooperative Extension in Kings County, for recently becoming a lifetime member of CA4-HA. Peggy has made significant contributions to the association during her 37 years of ANR service. She retired December 31, 2011. Congratulations Peggy!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 2012 Western Region 4-H Science Academy will be held on March 26-28, 2012 at the University of California, Davis. The Academy will involve 4-H staff from the thirteen western states in a three-day conference emphasizing 4-H science education in five tracks, professional development, evaluation, curriculum, partnerships and fundraising. California 4-H staff are invited to participate. For more information, visit [ucanr.org/sites/wregion4H](http://ucanr.org/sites/wregion4H) or contact Steven Worker at [smworker@ucdavis.edu](mailto:smworker@ucdavis.edu).

California 4-H  
Association  
Website



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## California 4-H Association Officers

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## Relevant Research

What is American identity? How does a wavering sense of American identity among today's youth impact our nation? Research findings reveal young Americans that are prone to distance themselves from their role as American citizens (Andolina et al, 2002), not be proud of their American citizenship, and disinterested in politics (Levine, 2007). American identity is an important aspect of youth development, relating directly to youth civic development and engagement.

A recent article featured in *Applied Developmental Science*, *America as a Philosophy: Implications for the Development of American Identity Among Today's Youth* raises some interesting questions about fostering a sense of civic responsibility. With citizenship as a significant component of how we deliver positive youth development in the context of 4-H, staff and volunteers alike have an essential role to play in connecting youth to their communities, country and world. Malin summarizes that national identity goes through a formative process that is shaped and influenced by experiences and interactions with American society. One way to engage youth in their communities is through service-learning. The launch of the 4-H Revolution of Responsibility campaign encourages a "movement of positive change in every county across California." The University of California 4-H Youth Development Program will be awarding 1,000 grants to support service-learning projects and empower youth to be change agents within their communities. For more information, visit [www.ca4h.org/Support/RofR](http://www.ca4h.org/Support/RofR).

Andolina, M.W., Jenkins, K., Keeter, S., & Zukin, C. (2002). Searching for the meaning of youth civic engagement: notes from the field. *Applied Developmental Science*, 6(4), 189-195.

Levine, P. (2007) *The future of democracy: Developing the next generation of American citizens*. Medford, MA: Tufts University Press.

Malin, H. (2011). America as a philosophy: implications for the development of American identity among today's youth. *Applied Developmental Science*, 15(2), 54-60.



## 2012 NAE4-HA Conference

Orlando, Florida • October 21-25, 2012

Join fellow 4-H advocates and educators at the 2012 NAE4-HA Conference, "Discover Your Treasures in Florida..." Conference participants will engage in seminars on wheels, professional development workshops, and exhibits. Come make new friends and learn more about the great state of Florida while staying at the beautiful Hilton in Walt Disney World only steps from Downtown Disney. Reconnect with friends and colleagues while discovering the vast diversity Florida has to offer—from the beauty of the Everglades and the treasures of the first coast in St. Augustine to the magic of three major theme parks and the marvels of space exploration at the Kennedy Space Center.



Memories from the 2010 Conference (left to right): John Borba proudly showcases National Shooting Sports in the exhibit hall; Keith Nathaniel and Jane Chin Young receive recognition for service; Russ Hill, Steven Worker and Jim O'Neill share ideas at the Awards Banquet.