

TEEA MESSENGER
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THE TEEA MESSENGER

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VOLUME 1

FEBRUARY 2014

GREETINGS TO ALL ACROSS THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS



Please mark your calendar for the 2014 TEEA State Conference to be held September 9 & 10, 2014, in Wichita Falls, Texas. The theme for the Conference is "Love, Faith, and Devotion". The host districts are Districts 1 & 2. Because of what TEEA has to work with in Wichita Falls, the host hotel, The Hotel at Wichita Falls (*formerly The Holiday Inn*), 100 Central Freeway, Wichita Falls, TX, 76306, is across the freeway from the Multi-Purpose Event Center (MPEC). The overflow hotel is the Best Western Plus University Inn and Suites, 4540 Maplewood Avenue, Wichita Falls, TX, 76308, and is about 15 minutes away from the MPEC and closer to shopping in Wichita Falls. At the time of printing, the host hotel has been in negotiations to change its brand name from The Holiday Inn to another hotel brand and is being called The Hotel at Wichita Falls. I have been assured that the contract that I signed dated January 14, 2014, with The Holiday Inn will

be honored. I now have a new contract in hand and you will be happy to know that the room rates are now \$79 plus tax per room per night, flat rate, 1-4 guests per room. The room price includes a full hot breakfast bar daily. The Best Western Plus University Inn and Suites has agreed to match this rate. If you have already made reservations, I would encourage you to call and confirm that you actually do have reservations. With everything that has been taking place at The Hotel at Wichita Falls; I wouldn't want your reservation to be lost in the shuffle. It is better to double check now, than to assume that you have reservations and when you arrive in September, you don't.

To make reservations for the host hotel, The Hotel at Wichita Falls, call 940-761-6000 and mention the TEEA block. To make reservations for the overflow hotel, Best Western Plus University Inn and Suites, call 940-687-2025 and mention the TEEA block. Both hotels have assured me, that you will be taken care of. However, if any of you have any problems making your hotel reservations, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will look into the matter for you.

The tentative 2014 Conference schedule will be 1 1/2 days with registration being on Tuesday, September 9 from 8 AM to 12

Noon and the Conference starting around 2 PM on Tuesday. Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning will be the business sessions. The education workshops will be scheduled on Wednesday afternoon with the closing Banquet happening Wednesday evening. Plans are in the works to make this the very best Conference possible with more concrete plans being shared in the June issue of The TEEA Messenger. Wichita Falls' Convention & Visitors Bureau has been very generous to TEEA for this State Conference.

Know that I am here to be of assistance to you by telephone at 281-342-8243, by cell 281-639-1051 (Verizon), by email at cathyhanzik@gmail.com, or by mail at 6477 Fenske Lane, Needville, TX 77461.

TEEA – Helping to Educate Texas!

With TEEA in my Heart,

Cathy Hanzik
TEEA State President

*Your character is who
you really are inside
yourself.*

For your information, here are the amenities listed for each hotel:

The Hotel at Wichita Falls

- Complimentary Wireless internet throughout the hotel
- Free onsite daily parking
- Full service restaurant
- Full service bar & lounge
- Room service
- Over 7,000 sq. ft. of functional meeting space
- Free USA Today newspaper
- Valet dry cleaning service
- Free cable with HBO & Video-On-Demand
- ATM machine
- Indoor pool & spa
- Business center
- Fitness facility

Best Western Plus University Inn and Suites

- Complimentary full breakfast
- Business center
- Fitness center
- Microwave / refrigerator
- Interior corridors with elevator
- Wheelchair accessible
- Complimentary USA Today newspaper
- Outdoor pool
- Wi-Fi
- 32" LCD Television
- Hairdryer, coffee / tea maker
- Free parking
- Meeting facilities
- Coin laundry facilities

ALUMNAE NEWS

Grace Glaze, Chairman



The Alumnae are pleased to award scholarships each year to young adults who are between the ages of 19 and 24 at the time of application. The applicant must be a former 4-H member or the son/daughter or grand-son-granddaughter of a current TEEA member. The applicant must remain a full-time student. The committee awarded five \$500.00 scholarships in 2013.

Applications are available from County Association Chairs, District Directors, and the Chairman of the Alumnae Committee. A copy of the application is located on pages 12 - 19 and 12 - 20 of the TEEA manual on the website (teea.tamu.edu) Click on forms, scroll down to Alumnae Young Adults scholarship application. Applications are due April 1, one copy to Alumnae Chairman (Grace Glaze) and one copy to State President (Cathy Hanzik). Addresses are on the application. Each County Chairman has a copy of the manual and you can also access it on the web.

Please encourage the young men and women who meet the criteria to apply for the scholarships.

Funds for the scholarships are raised from the Silent Auction at the state conference, donations and from memorials. Anyone may contribute to this scholarship fund. Please start planning on your donations for the auction. If you would like to honor someone with a memorial please send it to me: Grace Glaze - 2835 CR 385 - El Campo, TX 77437.

Alumnae, let me hear from you so I may share the updates with the members.

Have a wonderful year. Hope to see each of you at the state conference in September.

We are all born with a positive mental attitude. We learn to be negative.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

By Julie Neusch



I want to update you about what's going on with our Facebook page. Education Chair, Judith Finke and her FCS Agent, Tanya McGonagill have joined me as administrators of the TEEA Facebook page. I thank them for tweaking the page to look better. There have been 18 friends added, along with several postings, but we have a long way to go with this. We would like many more members to "friend" us, and we need many more postings on our page. This is just the beginning. You can post photos of your events, as well as short articles about what you've been doing. Tanya has recently posted some recipes, and you can do the same. You can post photos of crafts you're doing or send special messages of your love for TEEA. There are many more possibilities, but that is up to you. How much do you love TEEA? Enough to spread the word through Facebook?

I think all members would like to feel connected with other members throughout the state, and social media is one easy way to do it. As we connect with each other, we can also get the word out to our friends about what we are all about, and maybe get them interested in TEEA. For those of you who haven't been there yet, here's the url: www.facebook.com/TEEA.State. Page.

ATTITUDE

Look at each letter and it's numerical place in the alphabet.

- A 1
 - T 20
 - T 20
 - I 9
 - T 20
 - U 21
 - D 4
 - E 5
-
- 100%

4-Hers

"MAKE THE BEST BETTER"

By Violet Alexander



On the 9th day after God made a farmer, God made a farmer's wife to be by his side - like many of you. Then God looked down on his planned paradise and needed someone to show off his prized creations. He needed someone to get up before dawn to feed and exercise the animals in all kinds of weather, only to come home from school to feed, groom, exercise and clean the barn again. He needed someone to work alongside the farmer and drive a tractor. Learn how to better the yeild of crops and bale hay. He needed someone to set an example of good behavior, be on the honor roll, play sports or music and go to church. He needed someone to hold office in his club, conduct a meeting and raise money for a special project. God needed someone to do community service projects. He needed someone to change a tire and back a trailer. God needed someone to help a friend shear a steer, trim a goat or step into the ring to help a fellow student show his/her animal, ASKING NOTHING IN RETURN.

God needed someone to learn to sew a button on a shirt and bake a special cake for the annual cake walk. He NEEDED SOMEONE TO BE A HUMBLE WINNER AND A GRACIOUS LOSER. God needed someone to bond the family together as parents sit in the stands with a lump in their throats and tears in their eyes.

So GOD MADE A 4-H KID to **"MAKE THE BEST BETTER"**.

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

- Lou Holtz



Hello Ladies and Gentlemen. We had a GREAT conference in San Marcos. We had great educational programs and breakout sessions. We had fun at our LUNCH & LEARN and STYLE SHOW LUNCHEON. The facilities were wonderful with plenty of room for Cultural Arts, Country Store, and Alumni Silent Auction. If you didn't get to attend the conference, I hope you are making plans for 2014 in Wichita Falls.

I would like to introduce myself and let you know how to contact me. My name is Kay Jacob and my mailing address is 825 CR 91, Bishop, TX 78343. My telephone number is (361) 947-1070 and my email is hidenoaksranch2002@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

As a reminder, dues are now \$15.00. County Chairs, please use TEEA membership list - County Form page 6 - 8 and only list 20 names per page. Send this along with membership dues with the check made payable to TEEA, Inc. Treasurer and print *For Deposit Only* on the back of the check. This form and the dues are sent to your District Director. Also, please send to your District Director the TEEA County Association List of Presidents and EInS - County form page 6 - 13 and the TEEA list of association officers - County form page 6 - 12, All of these are forwarded to me by your District Director.

Again, if you have ANY questions, feel free to call or email me.

Thanks for all your support!!

Kay Jacob, TEEA State Treasurer
hidenoaksranch2002@gmail.com

"Through our willingness to help others we can learn to be happy rather than depressed."

- Gerald Jampolsky

BURNT BISCUITS

By Julia Moseley
President-Elect



Burnt Biscuits illustrates my prayer for you today. When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed. Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said, "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things....and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else."

What I've learned over the years is that accepting others faults - and celebrating each others differences - is a key to creating healthy, growing and lasting relationships.

That's my prayer for you today. That you will take the good, the bad and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

We could extend this to any situation. In fact, understanding is the basis of any relationship - even club members!

**TEEA EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH IN COMMUNITIES:
WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?**

Dr. Judy Warren & Dr. Joyce Cavanagh
TEEA Advisors

"... *Texas Extension Education Association, Inc. ...will strive through education to improve family and community life for all families, reaching across ethnic, age, cultural lines and including those with disabilities.*" TEEA's vision statement matches AgriLife Extension's vision and mission: "... *to be the premier provider of relevant continuing education...improving the lives of people...*" We collaborate to extend the TEEA State Education Programs to communities across the state. State Education programs are developed with AgriLife Extension's support. TEEA Delegates to the State Conference are trained to provide these important programs to club and community members in their counties. Clubs document the number of participants both from clubs and from the larger community in the **Club Monthly Report**. County Agents also have "customer satisfaction" forms. TEEA may be requested to occasionally use these feedback forms and provide to county agents. Knowing how many people were reached and the satisfaction level of participants gives needed information for TEEA and Extension. These demonstrate outreach in the community and interest in programs TEEA offers.

So, how does TEEA measure the "difference" these educational programs are making? The evaluation forms that accompany educational programs (on the

website and in the Conference program packet provided to each county delegation) can be used to determine improved knowledge as well as intention to change behavior. The evaluation forms are short and can document what program participants gain from TEEA's educational outreach. For example **Social Media/Social Networking** evaluation asks whether the participant plans to strengthen his/her password. In this day and age of computer security issues, showing that a TEEA program has strengthened password security for X # of people would be worth bragging about! As educators we always want to know what was gained through the educational experience. Sharing results of these evaluations with your County Extension agent can help him/her report TEEA's impact to County Commissioners and also to the State, demonstrating the impact of volunteer-led education.

Your TEEA State President, Cathy Hanzik, has charged a TEEA Board of Directors committee with simplifying the Club Monthly Report Form to streamline the report form and process. What do you want to know about the reach and value of TEEA's education? Please share your ideas/ input by contacting the TEEA Report Form Committee members:

Kay Taylor, Chair,
jamielay72@yahoo.com;
Lynda French, District 7 Director,
frenchlynda55@gmail.com.

RESOLUTIONS

The purpose of a resolution is to propose a change; make a recommendation; or acknowledge a person, club, or county. A courtesy resolution acknowledges the value of an event, the planners, etc.

Information on the rules for presenting resolutions, how to write a resolution, and how to submit a resolution can be found in Chapter 7 of the TEEA Manual.

If you want to propose a resolution this year, please contact one of the ladies in charge of the Resolutions Committee.

Cathy Hanzik, President has appointed Edith Jones, District 6 Director and Rosabelle Leal, District 1 Director to the Resolutions Committee. Their contact information can be found in Chapter 3 of the TEEA Manual.

*When we have accepted the worst,
we have nothing more to lose.
And that automatically means
we have everything to gain.*

- Dale Carnegie

GREETINGS!

I am the new editor of the TEEA Messenger. My name is Lela G. Goar and my email is: teeamessenger2013@gmail.com. This is the email I will use for all correspondence with the Messenger and I will be checking it each day. I do prefer getting articles via email because it is easier to paste into the newspaper without making any mistakes to the articles you send. Pictures are also easier to use if sent directly to me as an attachment. This does not mean I will not accept articles and pictures received in the mail. Make sure that you identify which district you are in and also who is responsible for the article.

I will do my level best to get every article in the paper, but do reserve the right to make editorial changes if necessary. This is your newspaper and I want to do the best job I can for you, the members.

If you have suggestions as to what you would like to see included, please feel free to email or write me with your suggestions.

Please take note that every district is not covered in this newspaper because I didn't receive any articles from those districts not represented. Margaret Boyd was very good to forward articles sent to her before my information was received by everyone, so I don't believe any articles were missed. This is your newspaper and I can only print what you send in.

One thing to remember. . . you must have your dues paid and turned in to the state in order for me to print articles you send and mail you a newspaper. Please make sure to pay your dues on time and make sure that your County Chair and Treasurer get them turned in to the District Director. Of additional importance is your address; make sure the address you send in is the one where you receive your mail. Also if you change your address during the year make sure we get those changes.

*Better to let 'em wonder
why you didn't talk than
why you did.*

“TEEA TIDBITS”

Millie Barrow, 1st V.P. Leadership
millie@txol.net

Hello everyone. Hope your holidays were safe and enjoyable and wishing everyone a blessed 2014. Winter is still hanging around I am ready for Spring... watching Mother Nature wake up with the beautiful colors of flowers and leaves on trees again... sunshine and gardening. God is such a great painter with such vivid colors. Of course, now is the time to plant onions and potatoes and cut back the rose bushes.

** My number ONE project this year is MEMBERSHIP ... how to increase our membership and how to hold on to our current members. Membership will be the Leadership Program at the 2014 State Conference in Wichita Falls. I need your help.... Please put your thinking caps on and email me with information on how your Club enlisted new members – what did you do to entice them to join TEEA? Do you have new ideas on obtaining new members?

** Forms, Forms, Forms..... This is my number TWO project. Email me with your opinions of TEEA forms – forms which the Club, Council (Association) and District complete and send in. Let me hear your thoughts – are all of them necessary? Would you change them? How would you change them? Can they be simplified? Many of our forms are really necessary as we gather important information from them for reports.

** Do not file 990 epostcards this year – we are handling that again. However, next year the filing will be done by each Club, Association and District. I hope to have all of the EINs straightened out so it will be easy for you. We will send out instructions NEXT YEAR.

** Make sure all Clubs, Associations and Districts are doing an annual financial review and the review is made available to all members. At your Spring Conference, District Directors must make sure members receive a copy of the District Financial Report

and a report of the financial review. Please use a Financial Review Committee. Refer to pages: CLUBS - Page 5-30; COUNTIES - Page 6-45; DISTRICTS - Page 7-43. These pages are in the TEEA Manual.

** Form Management and Other Activities Tool is a GREAT form - please review it and use it. In the TEEA Manual the forms can be found on: CLUB - Page 5-5; COUNTY - Pages 6-6 & 6-7; DISTRICT - Pages 7-6, 7-7, & 7-8. By using these forms and marking your calendar with the important dates it will be easier for everyone to keep up with reports.

** Elections for 2014 to serve 2014 - 2016:
Second Vice President for Programs
Secretary
Education Chairs from Districts 1, 3, 5, 9

Nomination and Qualifications for **Second Vice President for Programs and Secretary** can be found in the bylaws, Article VIII.

A candidate for 2nd VP for Programs and Secretary shall be endorsed by the club, county, and district in which membership is held. No candidate shall be presented who has not consented to serve. A club may not present a candidate until thirty days following the close of the TEEA State Conference. A candidate must be a current member of TEEA.

To be eligible for 2nd VP for Programs and Secretary, candidates must have served at least one year as an elected or appointed District Director or Education Committee Chair.

Nomination and Qualifications for **Education Committee Chairs** can be found in the bylaws, Article XIII.

The Education Committee Chairs shall be elected for a two-year term at the District TEEA Spring Meetings of the eligible districts and shall assume

office the first day of the month following the TEEA State Conference.

To be eligible for Education Committee Chair, a candidate must have served as County Chair or Vice-chair for at least one year.

Two weeks prior to the District Spring Conference, a club and a county presenting a candidate for Education Committee Chair shall notify in writing the District Director, giving the name and qualifications of the candidate. The endorsement must be signed by the President and Secretary of the club and the Chair and Secretary of the county association.

For further explanation of the time frame for election and specific duties of the offices, please refer to the State Bylaws in Chapter 13 of the TEEA Manual.

POSITIVE CHARGES

- * *When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade.*
- * *Never judge a day by the weather.*
- * *Don't be an "if" thinker, be a "how" thinker.*
- * *Find a need and fill it.*
- * *Be sure your actions are consistent with your communications.*
- * *Have vision.*
- * *Take control of your life. Don't allow circumstances to control you.*
- * *Understand that it's never too late to change or achieve.*
- * *Remember that you become what you think about.*

REPORTS, REPORTS

By Kay Taylor
2nd Vice President

SIMPLIFYING REPORTS IS THE GOAL of the committee appointed by Cathy Hanzik, TEEA President. The members are Kay Taylor, Chair, Millie Barrow, Kaylene Layton, Julia Mosely, Grace Glaze, and Lynda French. Cathy Hanzik, Dr. Judy Warren and Dr. Joyce Cavanagh will be acting as advisors to this committee as they have been meeting via conference calls.

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
2014-2015
TO BE PRESENTED AT STATE
CONFERENCE**

By Kay Taylor
2nd Vice-President

RESPECT FOR ALL by Bess Farr & assisted by A&M Consultant Dr. Herman Mahavedam

TO TOSS OR NOT TO TOSS by Gwen Risinger

ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY by Nelda VanHoose

TECH WIZARDS by Judith Finke & assisted by David Wright & Youth team

**CVU - CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER
UNIT RECOGNITION**

By Gwen Risinger
CVU Chair

Be recognized for your volunteer hours in the community! CVU record books may be obtained for \$3 from Gwen Risinger, 50 Delaware Creek Rd, Blanco, TX 78606. If you will be ordering several books in a club/county, please send one order and check. Completed books must be received by Gwen by August 1.

Email is gwenr08@gmail.com

Do you see difficulties in every opportunity or opportunities in every difficulty?

**4-H CONFERENCE CENTER
MEET THE CHALLENGE LIST**

Item	Each	#	Total
Furniture for Lodge Conference Area—Loveseat	\$350	4	\$1,400
Furniture for Lodge Conference Area—Chairs	\$250	8	\$2,000
32" Televisions for Lodge Rooms	\$300	23	\$6,900
6' Plastic Banquet Tables	\$ 90	50	\$4,500
Swift Set Stacking Chair	\$ 40	160	\$6,400
8' Laminate Tables for Dining Room	\$250	30	\$7,500
Chairs for Dining Room	\$ 40	200	\$8,000
72" Plastic Round Tables	\$240	24	\$5,760
Sheet Sets for Dormitory (275 twin)	\$ 30	275	\$8,250
Commercial Clothes Dryer	\$9,000	1	\$9,000
Hand Tools	-	-	\$2,000
LCD HD Projector for Auditorium	\$2,000	1	\$2,000

Additional Opportunities:

Replace furniture in common area of dorm	Per dorm	\$2,000
84 Bunk beds for dorms		\$24,000

At the TEEA Fall Board Meeting in Brownwood, the Board voted that TEEA's pledge of \$5,000 be used to purchase 4 loveseats and 8 chairs for the lodge with the balance of the Coins for Friendship donation used to purchase plastic banquet tables.

In November Joe & Violet Alexander honored TEEA by donating the \$2,000 for the LCD Projector that was a much needed item for the conference room at the center. This was from funds in the budget to cover Violet's expenses as the TEEA 4-H Representative each year. Thank you Joe & Violet for your generosity.

We encourage each of you to look at the list above and help the 4-H Center in any way you can.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Grady and Margaret Boyd, TEEA owes you a great debt of gratitude for your hard work and diligence over the past 3 years for serving as the editor of the Messenger. You did an outstanding job of getting everyone's articles in and publishing the papers in a timely manner. Thanks for your patience and understanding with everyone when they didn't always get the articles to you on time. We can only hope you will continue to come to the meetings and enjoy just being able to attend workshops and visit with all the friends you have made over the years. Thanks again for your dedication to our organization.

EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS: FUND RAISERS UPDATE

TEEA is a non profit 501 (c) 3 organization and each subordinate under our umbrella is non profit. Our category of exemption is Educational.

Exempt organizations should claim a sales tax exemption at the time of purchase for supplies, materials, etc., and provide a properly completed exemption certificate in lieu of paying tax to the retailer. This certificate is in our TEEA Manual - Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification. Our group organization's exemption has been established on the Comptroller's records.

Examples of Tax-Free Sales

Fundraisers

An organization does not have to register for a sales tax permit if all its sales are exempt items, or sales made through tax free fundraisers. Exempt organizations do not have to collect sales tax on meals and food products; including candy and soft drinks, if the items are: sold by a member or a volunteer of a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to education, when all net proceeds from the sale go to the organization for its exclusive use.

Auctions, Rummage Sales and Other Fundraisers

Each chapter (club) of an exempt organization under the religious, educational or charitable categories, and organizations exempted from sales tax based on their IRS Section 501 (c) 3 status can hold two one-day, tax-free sales or auctions each calendar year (January - December).

For one-day sales, exempt organizations are not required to collect sales tax. This exemption does not apply to items sold for more than \$5,000, unless the item is manufactured by the organization or the item is donated to the organization and not sold back to the donor.

For purposes of the exemption, "one day" is counted as 24 consecutive hours. These days should be pre-designated so purchasers are aware of the tax exemptions. Organizations are prohibited from collecting and keeping taxes on these transactions.

If two or more groups together hold a one day, tax free sale, the event counts as one tax free sale for each participating organization.

The designated one-day, tax free sale day is either the day the vendor delivers the items to the exempt organization or the day the organization delivers the items to the customers. Persons buying from surplus inventory on the designated date do not owe tax. Surplus items sold during the same day also qualify for the exemption. Surplus items sold on other days are taxable unless sold at the group's other tax free fundraiser.

All volunteer, organizations can hold a tax-free annual banquet or other food sale provided the event:

- * is not professionally catered
- * is not held in a restaurant, hotel or similar place of business
- * is not in competition with a retailer required to collect tax
- * the food is prepared, served and sold by members of the organization

A Club, County, or District can hold a monthly luncheon, tax free, providing the above criteria is met. This DOES NOT count as a tax free fundraiser.

Host Districts at the Annual State Conference do not have to worry about tax free fundraisers, i.e. Country Store, Auctions of various baskets. This also holds true for the Alumnae Auction. These sales will be counted as the State's tax free fund raisers.

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WILDORADO EE CLUB ACTIVITIES

By Mavis Green

At this time Wildorado EE Club is the only one in Oldham County, located in the northwestern part of the Texas Panhandle. District 1, Cluster C also includes Deaf Smith and Randall Counties. Charli Weatherford is the Oldham County Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences. She and husband Justin reside in Vega, which is the seat of Oldham County. Prior to Charli we had Amy Wagner (now serving Potter County) and before that our long-time Agent was Sherry Harder who is now retired. Agent and club members become friends and work together to better serve the youth and families of Oldham County. We are thankful for these Agents who can find answers to any questions we might ask and who keep us on track with our club activities.

Wildorado EE Club has thirteen (13) members; two have become somewhat inactive because of health issues, but they are still a part of our EE Club family. Family and farming is what has made our area of Texas a close knit community, with everyone interested in his or her neighbor and willing to lend a hand if needed. Four of our members are still actively engaged in farming, even though they no longer drive tractors and such. But we know that a farm wife is always a "gofer" for those who do the actual farm work; doing errands such as going in to Amarillo to pick up parts needed in equipment repair and assisting in moving farm vehicles from one field to the other.

2013 was a busy year and we have already planned many things for 2014. Our one fundraiser each year is a two day Arts and Craft Bazaar in November, at which vendors display wares and coffee and tea are available all day long. Three items are donated for the Food Sale Table by each member. Home baked bread and pecan pies are good sellers, as are cookies and popcorn balls. Lunch, consisting of beef stew and chili can be bought at a very affordable price.

A new batch of each of these two favorites is prepared each day of the Bazaar. The "Club Quilt" has been a part of our fundraiser since 1988. Made by members of the club, it is hand quilted. Each \$1.00 donation to our fundraising efforts gets one ticket in the hat for the drawing that is held the last afternoon of the Bazaar.

This two day event has become a sort of "Old Home Week" in Oldham County. Farm workers often come in from the field to have lunch at the Wildorado Community Center. Friends, who have not seen one another for awhile get caught up on all the news, enjoy the food and fun and look forward to the same thing next year. If you are in our neck of the woods during this annual event, come in and visit and meet the hard working members of the Wildorado Extension Education Club. They are: Ormalene Artho, Ruth Cretsinger, Charolyn Gouldy, Mavis Green, Sandy Lamb, Eva McKnight, Michelle Miller, Margie Moore, Wanda Ponder, Jacque Pratt, Sharon Scolley, Tino Short and Clara Slutz.

PRACTICE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS!

If you know someone who is going through a bad day or a difficult time in life, make it better by doing something - anything - to let him/her know someone cares. . . and don't let on who did it!

Laugh out loud often and share your smile generously.

Yes, it's a drag, but why not put your shopping cart back in its appointed place in the parking lot?

Visit a neighbor with a bouquet of flowers for no reason at all.

Send a letter to a teacher you once had letting him/her know about the difference she made in your life.

Let the person behind you in line at the grocery store go ahead of you.

GREENWOOD EE CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND FALL TRAINING

Attending the Texas Extension Education Association, District 3 Fall Training Program in Childress were delegates Bobbie Ashley (wearing her Ola Caldwell jacket), Dixie Range, Gerry Gollaway and Agent, Tanya Davis.



GREENWOOD EE CLUB CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

By Bobby Ashley

Joyce Enis, club member, hosted the December meeting with lunch in her home. Instead of exchanging gifts this year members made a donation to WARM. Pictured are May Haubold, Linda Hood, President, Marilynn Collins, Bobbie Ashley, Dixie Range, Carol Schaffer and Janice Millican.



PARKER COUNTY EEA HAS BUSY FALL

On October 3, 2013 the Parker County EEA from District 3 held a Mini-Conference at the Donna Brewer building in Weatherford. All the programs from the State Conference in San Marcos were presented along with helpful hints and craft ideas. Approximately 36 members and guests were present from the three clubs in the county.

On November 1, 2013 the Parker County EEA from District 3 held one of their yearly fundraisers (Home for the Holidays) at the Couets United Methodist Church in Weatherford. Programs consisted of decorating ideas, holiday appetizers, wreaths, gifts in a jar, keeping it safe at Christmas, bling fashion show and carols by Couets Christian Academy singers. They

also had raffle items, silent auction items, baskets and door prizes. Lunch was served consisting of 6 different soups and sandwiches.

The TEEA District 3 Fall Training was held December 5th in Childress. The program was led by District Director, Ola Culwell. She explained how the form for club, county, and state annual reports could be done on the computer. Julia Moseley, state president-elect, covered the new rules for tax exempt raffle items, etc. Thirty-five members were present even though it was really bad weather. A wonderful lunch was served and entertainment was by a local group. We had interesting raffle items and door prizes.



Pictured l-r: Ola Culwell, Cita Honeycutt, Wanda Lacey, Julia Moseley, Charista Smith, Kathy Smith, Barbara Sampson, & Sheila Woody

GREENWOOD EE CLUB HOSTS THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

By Bobby Ashley

The Greenwood EE Club hosted the annual Greenwood Community Thanksgiving Lunch for the 35th year in a row. Seventy people attended and had a great time and lots of good food.



Members: Joyce Enis, Dixie Range, Bobbie Ashley Ann Wattigney, Carol Schaffer, Lorri Golloway, Gerry Golloway, Linda Hood, Wilma Walker, Janice Millican, May Haubold, President Marilyn Collins, Marie Burchard and Agent Tanya Davis.

GREENWOOD EE CLUB INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

At the January meeting, the Greenwood Extension Education Club officers for 2014 were installed by Agent, Tanya Davis.



L. to R.—Dixie Range, Secretary; Janice Millican, County Delegate; Marilyn Collins, President; Bobbie Ashley, V. President; and Linda Hood, Treasurer.

Kind deeds **SHOULD** be returned.

- * *Always repay a kindness with more kindness.*
- * *Respond to a kindness shown to you by saying, "Thank you" or writing a note of thanks.*
- * *Remember -- family and friends all enjoy you returning their kind deeds.*

DISTRICT 4

HUNT COUNTY EEA

By Dinah Rainey
Judy Clingan

The Hunt County EEA has had a very busy three months so far, with the three clubs reaching 724 hours of service. All three clubs did projects for Christmas to help others.

Caddo Mills made house shoes for the ladies and socks for the men at Park Haven Nursing Home. Also crackers and candy sacks for all patients were given. They also volunteered 2755 hours to EEA.

Campbell Club volunteered 349 hours and contributed \$548.00 to EEA. They also contributed personal items, clothing and toys to WSN Varsity Club and served 100 hours with \$124.80 spent. The members made care packages of personal items for the homeless and soup kitchen of a local church and distributed them at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Members brought can goods for the Salvation Army and also gave \$250.00 to Clothe-A-Child. The club is hoping to broaden the projects for the homeless. During the month of January club member Judy Clingan, along with Dinah Rainey and a young lady volunteer, Brook Smithson, distributed drinks to the soup kitchen and called it "Just Because Day." The recipients were very grateful, as one commented, "There is nothing better than a cold Dr. Pepper."

On January 27 Andy Crocker presented a "Pharmacy Internet Fact or Fiction." A very informative presentation was given.

Members of all three clubs held an Alzheimer's Apron Workshop on February 10 & 11, 2014. The members sewed aprons and gave them to Alzheimer's patients.

In March a Fabulous Friday will be held and it will be on the subject "Let's Enter the Fair! The Hunt County Fair will be held April 25—May 3, 2014 and EEA is trying to receive more entries for the Creative Arts Building. We are looking forward to the spring events!

"TATERS TAKE THE LEAD"

By Kay Chastain

The Crafty Ladies EE Club in Emory, Rains County, District 4, presented the humorous and educational leadership skit "Taters Take The Lead" at their county's achievement awards day in January. The state delegates also presented all of the 2013 state workshops and member workshops to the members of the three clubs in the county. County chairman, Kay Chastain presented awards to members and clubs for their contribution in leadership roles and community service projects. Nutritional snacks and drinks were served to everyone.



Pictured are Kay Pressley, Cindy Callentine, Cindy Pollard, Shelby Wayne, Judy Vess and Kay Chastain dressed in some of their "tater" costumes.

RAINS COUNTY EE CLUBS ASSIST 4-HERS IN MAKING CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

By Kay Chastain

The members of the Rains Co. Extension Clubs assisted 4-Hers in making Christmas ornaments again this year. The ornaments were then placed on the tree in the Rains Co. Courthouse along with other ornaments that the group made last year. You can see these beautiful ornaments up close when you walk through the lower floor of the courthouse. This is an annual community service project for the 4-H clubs.

Extension members assisting in the workshop were Mildred Robbins, Cindy Pollard, Kaye Pressley, Kay Chastain, Sue Johnson, and agents Denita Young and Stephen Gowin.



Pictured are some of the 4-Hers who worked on the ornaments.

PIECEMAKERS QUILTING EE CLUB PRESENTS SENIOR SUITES CENTER RESIDENTS WITH CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

By Kay Chastain

The Piecemakers Quilting EE Club decked the residents' rooms at the Senior Suites Center with beautiful Christmas stockings for each resident. Everyone was finding just the right spot to hang theirs so Santa would be sure to see it and fill it at Christmas. The stockings were made and donated by the members of the quilting club. Those present and giving out the stockings were Cindy Callentine, Judy Vess, Kaye Pressley, and not pictured Kay Chastain.



XYZ CLUB OF SHELBY COUNTY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

By Ellen Manning

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The XYZ Club in Shelby County held their December meeting in the home of Margaret Robinson's granddaughter. After the Christmas dinner, Ginger Garrett showed members a craft project. They made a snowman using half shaving cream and half white glue. Ginger's daughters had made eyes and buttons, hats and neck scarves for finishing touches to the pictures. This was the third year that the December meeting was held in the Garrett home and guests have always joined in the festivities. At this meeting we were privileged to have our former FCS Agent, Claudann Jones and our new FCS Agent, Jheri-Lynn Smith. Ms. Smith completed her training in Nacogdoches at the end of December and moved into her office in Center at the beginning of 2014. We look forward to working with her.



Juanita Mouser and Johnnie Beth Freeman are showing the result of their efforts.

Never let someone better you simply because he was better prepared.

- HJB

Everybody ought to do at least two things each day that he/she hates to do, just for practice.

- William James

Victory belongs to the most persevering.

- Napoleon

Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity.

- HJB

UPSHUR COUNTY HAPPENINGS

Closing out the year, in October of 2013 the Southern Belles and Glenwood Club participated in Gilmer's Yamboree events by operating the snack bar and organizing the annual Canning and Yam Pie contest.



Joan Warren, sitting and Joyce Raabe taking care of business as another member looks on.

In November we had our Proclamation signed. It was adopted, ordered, and entered into the record in the minutes of the Commissioners Court of Upshur County, Texas, on the 15th day of October, 2013. The 1st week in November is proclaimed TEEA week in Upshur County, TX.

In December a Christmas tree was donated and decorated for the Upshur County court house by TEEA members from both clubs.



Today is a gift of grace. Share something precious with someone you like. Take 60 seconds to be nice to someone. Rejoice in the miracles of your life. Identify one thing you're happy about. Be glad you have family and friends. SMILE: Be grateful, you can!

January 2014 the clubs hosted a chili luncheon fundraiser with some of the money going to 4-H scholarship.



From left, Dolores, Velma, Rene, Nora, Virginia, Sandy, Orthea and Gwen, Members of Glenwood

On February 13th members of the Glenwood club gave the Gilmer Care Center a Valentine party complete with entertainment, and gave a birthday song and present to one of their clients who is bed-ridden.

We also gained an Extension Agent, Julie York.



One of our honorary members Betty Monasco enjoying the entertainment.



SUNSHINE CLUB ENJOYS CULINARY TREAT AT TSTC IN ABILENE

By Connie Adams

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On October 30, 2013 the Sunshine Club from Taylor County met at the home of Beth Ham for a short business meeting and then drove to the TSTC Culinary Arts Campus at 901 N. 1st Street in Abilene. They enjoyed a 4 course meal chosen from a full menu, cooked and served by the students.



Members present are (l-r): Beth Ham, Irma Garrett, Dorothea Bayer, Sheila Rose, Glenda Niccum and Connie Adams. Standing in the back are the teacher/advisor and our waiter.

DISTRICT SIX IN FAR WEST TEXAS

Is Alive and Doing Well

By Edith Jones

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The fall training meeting was held in Pecos County, Ft. Stockton, Texas on December 13, 2013. The meeting was attended by members from the five counties in District Six and our AgriLife Partners, Judy Gully, RPD, Abigail Prichart, Evans Kott, Karan Hef-felfinger, and Lindy Teft-eller.

After the preliminaries of the meeting were taken care of and the minutes of the 2012 Spring Conference were not available we got into full swing with the District Six Financial report. The changes lists were passed out and the web site to obtain them was given so that the chairmen could get the information from the web.

Information items from the Fall State Board meeting at Brown-wood were discussed. After a fabulous lunch, the needs of the 2013 Conference as Hosts from West Region were discussed. Plans for the Spring Conference are being made. Spring Conference will be on April 4th, in Brewster County.

Everyone is excited about the State Conference in September. Membership is a high priority in District Six and all have pledged to work on that project. So far there are four new members.

"DINNER TONIGHT"

By Lorene Denney

Stressing nutritious and economical meals for the family, FCS Agents from Llano, Burnet, and Lampasas counties presented the first of four multi-county healthy cooking school programs for an audience of 67 people in January at the St. James Lutheran Church in Llano. The event is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension, Scott & White, and the Texas Beef Council. Thanks to Scott & White the program is free to all participants.

Jennifer Page from Llano County demonstrated a menu of Beef and Black Bean Chili while at the same time noting food safety to avoid cross contamination. "Before beginning cooking, you should be sure that all utensils are clean, the cutting board is clean, hands are washed, and the food is scheduled to be cooked at the right temperature," she said.

Enjoying the family meal was emphasized by Karen DeZarn from Lampasas County as she discussed cooking chicken stroganoff in a slow cooker, along with roasted asparagus and bell peppers. "Family meals should be a pleasant experience. To do this, set a regular mealtime, show that family meals are important, eat around a table and enjoy mealtime talk." DeZarn said.

Burnet County Agent, Linda Wells gave a demonstration on quick and easy desserts while making a fruit trifle in less than 10 minutes. She also stressed making every meal special with table centerpieces by displaying several using themes representing holidays, special occasions, and color use.

"A human being is a part of the whole that we call the universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest - a kind of optical illusion of his consciousness. This illusion is a prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for only the few people nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living beings and all of nature."

- Albert Einstein

Panels of judges selected by random draw were able to sample each of the meals prepared by the agents and judge on taste and quality. Finished products of each dish demonstrated were prepared ahead of time and served to the audience at the end.

The second program will be held at the Scott & White Specialty Clinic on Hwy 71 south of Marble Falls and the third will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lampasas. Participants received a recipe book with all of the recipes that will be demonstrated in the four programs.

Melanie Potter, the new agent in San Saba joined the agents from Llano, Burnet and Lampasas for the presentation and, with the help of the other three agents, will be hosting a "Dinner Tonight" program in San Saba May 15th.



Pictured are two Llano 4-Hers who participated in the Food Challenge competition; Jennifer Page, Llano FCS Agent; Melanie Potter, San Saba FCS Agent; Karen DeZarn, Lampasas FCS Agent; and Linda Wells, Burnet FCS Agent.

"BIG CHECK" PRESENTED TO BURNET COUNTY COMMISSIONER

By Barbara Rieger

A "Big Check" was presented recently to Burnet County on behalf of all the Burnet County Extension groups and clubs.

Linda Wells, Burnet County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent; Lynda French, District 7 Director; and Lela Goar, Burnet County Chair, presented Russell Graeter, Burnet County Commissioner of Precinct 2, with the giant check in the amount of \$1,431,785.60 which represented 63,919 hours of volunteer services.

NEW EXTENSION EDUCATION CLUB FOR BURNET COUNTY

By Polly Krenek

In October of 2013 the Oatmeal Extension Education Club was "reborn" in Burnet County. Boasting seven members at this time, they are actively recruiting more members from the community and surrounding area. Polly Krenek, president, states, "We are committed to promoting the core values of the Texas Extension Education Association. Members are working with other Burnet County EE Clubs and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Burnet County to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development and community service."



L-R: Ellen Aiello, Kathy Phillips, Joyce Edwards, Carolyn Smith, & Lisa Newton. Not pictured: Polly Krenek & Lynda French.

The original Oatmeal Home Demonstration Club is documented in the 1936 yearbook but is believed to have started sometime in 1935. The club disbanded in 1980 due to a decline in membership and age of the members. In 1936 there were fourteen clubs in Burnet County, today there are now five. Interesting information from the yearbook states that programs in 1936 included Good Fitting Foundation Pattern, Canning, Cheese making, and Garden planning and seed selection.



Commissioner Graeter was a guest at the Burnet County Extension Christmas party held in December. The Christmas party was the fourth annual county-wide event.

REDBUD OAKALLA LENDS SUPPORT TO 4-Her

By Barbara Rieger

Last fall, the Redbud Oakalla Extension Education Club learned that an area 4-Her, Zac Edmondson, had earned the privilege of attending the national competition of the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA). They wasted no time in lending help with Zac's expenses for the trip.

They made contributions as a club and as individuals. The total amounted to a generous gift to help this talented and hardworking young man make the trip to Pennsylvania to compete.



Zac competed in breed identification and also judging as an individual and on a team. He and his team did well. He enjoyed the convention and was able to attend a youth fun activity and meet with kids from all over the nation.

After his return, Zac attended a Club meeting and gave a report of his trip and the competition. He thanked the members for their support and gift. He also thanked the Club for the "generous gift of time and finances you give to all the 4-H clubs in Burnet County."



Zac is currently President of the Briggs 4-H Club. He looks forward to the state show this April and hopes to again qualify for the ARBA National team.

BURNET COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD IN BRIGGS

By Barbara Rieger

There was lots of fun, food, and TEEA family at the county-wide Christmas Party held in Briggs and hosted by the Redbud Oakalla Extension Club. This was the fourth annual county-wide Christmas party held.

There were lots of pretty decorations, great food, and a program by Buddy Ferguson and Harold Harton. Harold, having grown up in Briggs, gave a brief history of Briggs and told several interesting and humorous anecdotes about things that happened in Briggs long ago. He and Buddy played and sang several songs, including some Christmas carols and an original song written by Buddy. Buddy has had a long, successful career as a guitarist, and is a six-time hall of famer, including being a member of the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame. Harold is an accomplished tenor guitar player and vocalist. The group of 67 attendees enjoyed the presentation of a history of Briggs and the songs they played and sang.

Tables were covered with red and green tablecloths and had lovely centerpieces. The menu consisted of a soup bar and taco salad bar with coffee and tea to drink. And, of course, there were plenty of delicious desserts.



Traditions started at the first annual party included a silent auction, door prizes, and contributions to food banks. The traditions continued at this party. Each club donated a large basket and many other items for the silent auction. A total of \$1,247 was raised to be shared among all the clubs and the county association. The food bank collection was very successful, with donations of \$578 in cash and 175 pounds of food.

Lake Victor Extension Education Club will host the 2014 Christmas party.



Buddy Ferguson and Harold Harton

“Let us always be open to the miracle of the second chance.”
- Rev. David Stier

GOOD NEIGHBOR CLUB OF COLEMAN COUNTY ASSISTS COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD

By Dora Newman

The Good Neighbor Club of Coleman County assists many community groups with their projects by raising money to help out. Here Dorothy McDonald, club treasurer, presents a

check for \$100.00 to Bonnie Brown, secretary and Michelle Sexton, chair person for the Coleman County Child Welfare Board.



“The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called ‘TRUTH’.”
- Dan Rather



By Barbara Rieger

Burnet County Extension Education club members have taken off for another exciting walk “across the state.”

Again this year, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Burnet County is sponsoring a “Walk Across Texas!” program. The program’s objective is for participants to establish the habit of regular physical activity. It is a free eight-week program and open to people of all ages, not just Extension Club members.

Teams of eight people and individuals will compete in the program. They walk both individually and with their teams and report their mileage for tracking. The goal is for each team to walk 830 miles, which is the distance across Texas.



Some of the walkers ready to break through the banner to officially start the walk.

This program is recognized by the Texas Department of State Health Services as a Best Practices for Physical Activity Program. The Best Practices for Physical Activity Program developed physical activity guidelines to help promote and support quality physical activity.

Deadline to register was February 5, and the official kick-off was on Valentine’s Day. The walk will end on April 4. Then there will be a big celebration and recognition event on April 11 at the Bluebonnet Festival in Burnet.

The program is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Burnet County and Burnet County Family and Consumer Sciences Committee.

EASTLAND EEA PRESENTS CHECK TO COUNTY OFFICIALS

By Millie Barrow

The Morton Valley EE Club hosted a breakfast for the Eastland County Judge, County Commissioners and County Courthouse employees. Below a check for \$90,011.10 is presented to Judge Rex Fields which represented volunteer hours and donations from the Eastland EE Association. Eastland EEA is comprised of two clubs:

Morton Valley EEC and Sunrise Homemakers EEC. We are so proud of all of our ladies and gentlemen and the contributions that are made to the Eastland County communities along with scholarships to the 4-H members.



DISTRICT 8

LEON COUNTY HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND 4-H SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

December 10, 2013 was the day all four Extension Education Clubs (Buffalo, Jewett, Leona-Centerville and Normangee) met for their annual Christmas party and fundraiser for 4-H scholarships. We gathered in the Jewett United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. with Buffalo providing breakfast snacks, Jewett arranging the decorations for the tables and a Christmas tree, Leona-Centerville organizing the Silent Auction, and Normangee coordinating the program.

All members in the four clubs brought a pot luck dish for lunch and toys for Child Protective Services (CPS) to distribute to children in our area ages up to 16. There was literally no room to add gifts under the Christmas tree thanks to the generosity of our county members.

The silent auction was a huge success with club members bringing items to sell. Each year Leon EEA (Extension Education Association) presents a scholarship to a qualified 4-H senior student of Leon County. All proceeds from the auction go into the 4-H scholarship fund. We were blessed to collect over \$1000 this day towards this fund thanks to the kindness of those present.

For entertainment we were privileged to have Kenda Mahaffey to sing Christmas songs both traditional and unique to some of us. Kenda's voice is unbelievably beautiful. The Lord has given her a gift which she shares with others through church and independent guest performances. If you have not heard her sing you are really missing a wonderful presentation.



(l-r): Accepting toys for Child Protective Services along with guest performer— Tuffy Loftin-Texas A&M AgriLife Agent, Kenda Mahaffey, Clara Jones-Leon EEA County Chairperson, Lenora Oden-Texas A&M AgriLife Officer Manager, Donna Ellis-President, Leon EEA

Kenda has lived in the Normangee (Flynn) area for the past 28 years. Her three children graduated from Normangee ISD. She has attended Living Truth Church in Madisonville for the past 22 years & sings on their Praise & Worship Team. "I've been singing all my life and will continue to do so in that heavenly choir; it's not just something that I do but it's an expression of who I am," says Kenda.

Donna Ellis, President of the Leon EEA, presented a welcome gift to Tuffy Loftin, the newly hired Agriculture Agent at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office. Tuffy started employment just last week and we are thrilled to have him work with the Leon EEA group. Donna presented an appreciation gift to Lenora Oden, Office Manager (extraordinaire!) from all those of Leon EEA. Lenora has been so generous with her time and talents on behalf of AgriLife and her hard work is not missed by us. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts. Nyanza Price, TEEA District Director for District 8, also gave Lenora an appreciation gift for her work from the District level.

After the presentations we all enjoyed a delicious lunch and visited with each other before leaving the gathering. Each of us went away with warm wishes for all to have a very Merry Christmas and good fortune in the New Year. Thanks to Lenora and Tuffy the toys will be delivered to CPS so others will have a Merry Christmas, too.

By Michaelene Perry
Leon EEA Reporter



(l-r): Lenora Oden, Clara Jones, Donna Ellis, Nyanza Price-TEEA District 8 Director and Tuffy Loftin after appreciation gifts were presented to Lenora and Tuffy.

TWAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY EEA



It was the week before Christmas, so much hustle and bustle, Mrs. EEA had to really, really hustle. The dog put in the yard, the cat hid under the bed, even a little mouse would not stick out his head. The grandkids were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of I-Phones danced in their heads. In HUTTO CLUB the ladies had their fruitcakes all made. Their presents were bought, all wrapped and paid.

The stockings were sewn by HERITAGE CLUB with care, also blankets for Linus children to share.

The MORNING GLORIES were pulling tabs and drinking as fast as they could, so Ronald McDonald could do families some good. When they get together, and this is no joke, what they have to drink is coffee and coke.

SUNDOWNERS CLUB always meet each month for dinner. They collect funds for the Round Rock Serving Center. For Christmas their cookie exchange is an annual event. They bake up chocolate chip, oatmeal and maybe mint. NEW HORIZONS took on Project Nest. They did great work, it was their best. Providing personal care kits, hats, scarves, and gloves, then added a gift card at Christmas with love.

At the Quilt and Gem shows we served up meals to eat. They liked our pies, they were a treat. Each

month we served up Lunch and Learn bounty. It's said by some we're the best cooks in the county. Exhibition Day shows that we are quite handy. We make all sorts of crafts, breads, pies, and candy. Books for Babies we give to hospitals all year. This is a project we hold quite dear. 4-H scholarships are always our goal. To support this project many tickets are sold. Our awards banquet occurs every year in December. With awards and good food it's an affair to remember.

The work is all finished we sat reminiscing, wondering what were things we might be missing. No matter, it was a good year, everything went all right. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Written by Delores Wenzel and
Ellen Dutkiewicz



HERITAGE EXTENSION CLUB CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL 2013

The Heritage Extension Club of Williamson County ended the year 2013 with a Christmas Club Luncheon at Marsha Bruhn's home. We were pleased that our new CEA-FCS Agent, Chelsea Stevens, could join us, along with some of our ex members...The fellowship, good food and laughs created a fun afternoon. Instead of exchanging gifts, we donated to the Georgetown Homeless High School Kids and a Single Homeless Mom.

Heritage Club had an active 2013 from making Linus Quilts, comfort pillows, donating Baby Books for the local Hospitals, Lunch & Learns, community service and being actively involved in all the fund raising events for the 4H Scholarship Fund. Everyone's efforts are so greatly appreciated by the community. We are looking forward to 2014 with new ideas for our clubs, working closely with our new FCS Agent, Chelsea, and making a difference for our families and youth.

We only wish the best for everyone involved in TEEA.

Cynthia Davis Heritage Club
Georgetown, TX
(Williamson County)



"The worst bankruptcy in the world is the person who has lost his enthusiasm."

- H. W. Arnold

DISTRICT 8 HOLDS FALL TRAINING

By Michaelene Perry
District 8 Reporter

On Tuesday, November 19, 2013, Texas Extension Education Association, Inc. (TEEA) District 8 held their Leadership Training at the First Baptist Church Hall in Hamilton, TX. Host counties for this event were Bell, Hamilton and Williamson. The purpose of this annual fall meeting is to present new, revised, or pertinent information to all Extension Education (EE) club members, especially officers. Nyanza Price, District 8 Director (and member of the Jewett EE Club) coordinated and emceed the event starting with the TEEA prayer, pledges to the U.S. and state flags and the TEEA Creed. Leon County had great representation at this gathering with 19 members present.

Planning Your Cultural Arts program, Facebook Uses—Do's and Don'ts, Organizations and the IRS, Organizing a "Lunch Bunch," Procedures and Bylaws Changes, and completing Monthly and Annual Reports were covered. On Cultural Arts J.P. Borah discussed how to host the event and suggested each county have a box with all supply items needed to organize the county Cultural Arts competition. Brianne Langdon, Family Consumer and Sciences (FCS) Agent from Hood County presented steps to create a Facebook page for EE groups. She gave ideas on what to have on the site page that was very informative, as well as caution on what is appropriate and what is not. What you place on a web page is permanent even if you delete it from your page. Once

information has gone viral, it is nearly impossible to delete! Millie Barrow, 1st Vice President for Leadership and Eastland EEA County Chairperson discussed IRS requirement for Non-Profit organizations with particular attention to fundraisers and raffles. Nyanza Price showed organizational tools from the TEEA Manual for officers to use to keep accurate reports with attention to deadline for submission of those reports. Iva Howard, Hill County Chairperson, discussed ideas to draw community persons to attend educational programs. Topics can be varied, but having a luncheon during the program helps to draw those who work.

Alice Lance, Somervell County and District 8 Director-Elect, presented a report from the TEEA Board meeting held earlier in November. She gave us an update on the District groupings responsible for State Conference and reminders on the 2014 upcoming State Conference.

Lunch was catered for all attendees and Door Prizes were given to members throughout the day. Closing prayer was given by Nyanza and the members were dismissed.

TEEA welcomes all interested individuals to join this worthwhile organization. Not only do we help support 4-H kids with their activities and provide scholarships for them, but we provide education, fun and activities for our community groups. Please check your local county Texas A&M AgriLife office for clubs in your area.



Front Row—Michaelene Perry, Carole Huebner, Linda Woodson, Nyanza Price, Celia Bell and J.P. Borah. Back Row—Peggy Taylor, Carol Russell, Sarah Puett, Donna Barrilleaux, Lynn Birran, Linda Van Ness, Fran Prather, Pat Ferguson, Helen Torrance, Wanda Crowder, Clara Jones, Judy Hutchison and Mamie Bell.

ANNUAL NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON HELD IN BELL COUNTY IN DECEMBER

Bell EEA's annual December New Member Recognition for 2013 honored Leedale club members; Wynona Williams & Laurie Veatch pictured with County Chair - Maxine Kalkbrenner, also (not pictured) Alice Hoelscher & Janice Powell. Tanglefoot club new members were Loretta Harms and Sharon Riley.



Members enjoyed a luncheon and were entertained by Kennedy-Powell Elementary School Choir with Christmas carols. Toys were donated to Temple Fire and Rescue's program "Rescue Elves" which benefits needy children of Temple.



Pictured with Temple Fire Department spokesman, Tom Pechal are: (l-r) Kimberly Kennard, Tom Pechal, Suzanne Smith, & Linda Willis.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

-Albert Schweitzer

SPRING FLING COMING TO HAMILTON COUNTY

By Linda Pledger
Hamilton County Reporter

Funny to be saying spring as we get hit again with yet another ice storm and cold in the teens. But Hamilton County is getting ready for their annual Spring Fling on March 31, 2014. St. John's Lutheran Church on Hwy. 22 just east of Hamilton is the place.



Come for the day ready to eat, shop, see friends, check out the silent auction, browse for spring plants, hope your number is called for a door prize and learn a few things along the way.



Hamilton EEC has been in preparations for Spring Fling since last October. It is always an enjoyable day. This year part of the program will be an original play by a club member called "Don't Mess With Texas Women". If you are a Texas history buff, this should whet your appetite to learn more about the part women played in Texas history. All are welcome and we are hoping the Ground Hogs torment is over by Spring Fling.

"Our lives are fed by kind words and gracious behavior. We are nourished by expressions like 'excuse me,' and other such simple courtesies. . . Rudeness, the absence of the sacrament of consideration, is but another mark that our time-is-money society is lacking in spirituality, if not also in its enjoyment of life."

- Ed Hays



The holidays did not slow Hamilton EEC down. Club meetings have been inspired by state programs. Members participated in helping with the 4-H Youth Fair the 1st of Jan. Hamilton County has a new agent and we have been delighted in being a part of "putting her through her paces".

An opportunity scholarship was given to a nursing student by the Pottsville EEC this winter.

The women of Hamilton County is our greatest concern. Touching as many lives as possible through AgriLife Education programs and the friendships that grow through activities focused on others.

HILL COUNTY EEA ASSISTS WITH 2014 COUNTY FAIR

By Iva Howard

Members registered entries, checked them in, arranged displays, judged and assisted with the judging. Hill EE members also assisted with the bake sale associated with the fair and the auction of the first place and champion winners. Everyone in the county looks forward to the County Fair and enjoys seeing what our children are learning and doing. Adults still participate in the fair.



Pictured are Mildred Burt, Mary Whittington, Pat Kidd, Iva Howard, Dorothy Brock, and Margaret Overman checking in a wreath made by a Hill County Resident.

MORTON VALLEY EE CLUB EASTLAND COUNTY SHOWCASES PROJECTS

By Millie Barrow

During a "show and tell" program at a Morton Valley EE Club meeting, Jo Haley modeled a pair of chaps her grandson had hand-made. Look at the beautiful work. Cheri Clark, club president looks on. Wonderful meeting with many interesting items displayed.



NOONTIME EE CLUB WINS AT WILLIAMSON COUNTY EXHIBITION DAY



Seven members of the Noon-time EE Club, Williamson County, District 8, are holding their ribbons (and dishes of food) which they won at the recent Williamson County Exhibition Day. Left to right are Stelly Guzy, Nelda McCain, Mary Lindsey, Charlotte Watson, Peggy Blair, Dedie Johnson, and Mary Johnson. They won a total of eight (8) blue ribbons, four (4) red ribbons, three (3) white ribbons, one (1) Reserve Champion, and two (2) Grand Champion. It was a winning day for Noontime!!!

HOOD COUNTY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

By Pat Neely

Hood County held its annual Christmas in October on Friday, Oct. 11, 2013, at the Granbury Church of Christ, Granbury, TX. This year, the event had a toyland theme. Members brought toy donations which were used as table decorations and donated to the local women and children's shelter. The program included multiple speakers consisting of: Ray Miller, Hood County Fire Marshall, Emergency Preparedness; Sherry Carlisle, owner of Planet Beach holistic spa; Glenda Ramsey, owner of Décor 'n More, decorating demonstration; and Brienne Langdon, FCS Agent, chocolate crockpot dessert. For a \$10 donation, 36 people enjoyed a baked potato lunch. We raised money through a sack auction and collected donations to buy more toys. Jennifer Burgess accepted the toy donations on behalf of the Ada Carey Women's Shelter which serves Hood county and neighboring counties.

At our Hood County Christmas Party, held at DeCordova Golf Club, we collected 26 pounds of food which was donated to the Christian Service Center pantry at the Granbury Church of Christ, Granbury, TX.

MORTON VALLEY EE CLUB ATTENDS 2013 STATE MEETING

By Millie Barrow

Morton Valley EE Club members from Eastland County that attended the 2013 State Conference. Members attended workshops and have already shared these informative programs with the Eastland Community.



Pictured from left: Janis Keith, Marji Lamb, Cheri Clark, Sue Allsup, Joyanne Hathcock, Millie Barrow, and Sandy Owen.

TANGLEFOOT MEMBER CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

By Polly Elizondo



The members of the Tanglefoot EEC celebrated the 100th birthday of long-time member, Lohma Davis. Ms. Davis has been a member of Extension for 80 years. The club presented her a cake and held a party to mark her 100 years.

Ms. Davis is a retired school teacher who worked in several Central Texas counties. She worked as a substitute teacher in Temple until she was 85. Ms. Davis was born in Bell County near Rogers, TX. And her ancestors were early settlers in Bell County. Ms. Davis says she learned the importance of hard work as a youngster on the family farm; a lesson which has followed her during her whole life. Ms. Davis says that she keeps her positive attitude because she finds plenty of reasons to keep going.

The Tanglefoot members enjoy her positive attitude and contributions to our club.



A smile - is a sign of joy.
A hug - is a sign of love.
A laugh - is a sign of happiness.



NOONTIME EE CLUB DONATES PAJAMAS

By Charlotte Watson

Members of Noontime EE Club, Williamson County, District 8, are holding some of their club's donations of pajamas for The Pajama Program. Through this nationwide program, new pajamas (and an age-appropriate book) are delivered to children of all ages who are in shelters or temporary housing situations in the area. These children most often have been rescued from a bad living situation with only the clothes on their backs. Noon-time donated a total of twenty one pairs of pajamas, tights, and onesies.



NOONTIME EE CLUB MEMBER PRESENTS PROGRAM ON MONGOLIA

Charlotte Watson, Noontime EE Club Member, Williamson County, District 8, wearing her Mongolian dress, prepares to present a program for the county Exhibition Day. Using Power Point and articles on display, Charlotte told of her experiences in Inner Mongolia last summer teaching English teachers how to teach English. The traditional Mongolian dress was custom made for her as a gift from her teacher/students. What an awesome experience Charlotte had while in China for four weeks.



DISTRICT 9 TRAINING HELD IN BEAUMONT

Betty Cowan

District 9 Publicity Chair

The District 9 Fall Training was held December 5, 2013, in Beaumont, Texas, with representatives from eight counties attending.

District Director Claudine Hare included on her agenda the following reminders:

1. Consideration of the 4-H Conference Center Wish List
2. Sending Messenger articles to our new

editor.

3. Reference to the manual, using a hard copy or electronic copy
4. Rules regarding raffles and fundraisers
 - A) District 9 Conference—April 2, 2014—Pasadena
 - B) 2014 TEEA State Conference—September 9,-10, 2014—Wichita Falls
 - C) 2015 TEEA Conference—September 15-16—Waco

The attendees enjoyed a nice luncheon of chicken gumbo, stew, salad, and an array of home baked cakes. There were 48 present.



Pictured are the District 9 Association leaders: (l-r) Helen Miller (Harris County), Karen Mills (Jefferson County), Julia Sikes (Brazoria County), Lydia Faust (Burlason County), Pat May (Fort Bend County), Kay Trott (Montgomery County), and Judy Bahr (Galveston County). Not pictured is Ramona Caskey (Lee County).



"Our lives are fed by kind words and gracious behavior. We are nourished by expressions like 'excuse me,' and other such simple courtesies. . . Rudeness, the absence of the sacrament of consideration, is but another mark that our time-is-money society is lacking in spirituality, if not also in its enjoyment of life."

- Ed Hays

DISTRICT 9 EEA OF BRAZORIA COUNTY 2013 BRAZORIA COUNTY FAIR

By Brenda Sturman

The Extension Education Clubs of Brazoria County had a very successful 2013 Fair. The raffle for the quilt and gift baskets brought in \$1,909.00. The Mart sold \$1,465.49 in cakes, cookies and other baked goods. These fund raising activities earned \$3374.49. There were 1,625 items entered in the 49 categories for competition. The following are some of the statistics for the year 2013.

HIGH POINT CLUBS

- Damon Mound EEC -4174
- Alvin EEC - 3138
- Brazoria Achievers -1767
- Angleton EEC - 86

HIGH POINT INDIVIDUALS

1. Theresa Winebrenner-1741
2. Kay Hansen-739
3. Doreen Jones-646
4. Mary Sinco-428
5. Brenda Buelow-397
6. Margaret Matejka-382
7. Brenda Sturman-320
8. Julia Sikes-310
9. Ellyse Bryce-299
10. Gloria Hudgeons-260

HIGH POINT ROOKIE

- Mary Sinco
- Damon Mound EEA



BURLESON COUNTY PRESENTS "BIG CHECK"

The Burleson County EEA presented a check to Judge Sutherland in the amount of \$134,057.03 in Commissioners Court on November 25, 2013. This check represents the volunteer hours the association and county clubs have donated throughout the year. The volunteer hours include many things, such as the out of state educational tour, Chilifest Volunteers, Christmas Cottage, Plant Sale, judging at various county fairs, and many more events in an effort to raise money for scholarships, community service and leadership opportunities for EEA members. Currently there are 48 members in the three chapters throughout Burleson County.



Picture includes from left to right (back row) Commissioner Landolt, Commissioner Schroeder, Commissioner Beran, County Clerk Anna Schielack, (front row) Betty Anderson, Lydia Faust, Judge Sutherland, Karen Gaas, Susan Ondrasek.

PORT NECHES EE CLUB CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

By Betty Cowan
District 9 Publicity Chair

On December 6, 2013, Port Neches EE Club hosted a Christmas Party for the Fetters Center in the local community. Honoring the Fetters Center has become an annual celebration for mentally challenged adults in the area.

This year's excellent program featured Mary and Neil Early, who are professional story tellers with their "Stories and More!!!" Ten honorees were given a \$15.00 Walmart gift card.

The group and the club members enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas luncheon.

BRAZORIA ACHIEVERS EE CLUB CELEBRATE LONGEVITY

By Kathy Wise

Four members of the Brazoria Achievers EE Club are 90+ years young and are still very active in club work, i.e. fundraisers and committees. They also work and participate in making and entering items to be judged at the county fair.



Pictured with the number of years in TEEA are: Susie Beverly—63 years; Evelyn Berge—41 years; Jean Rhoton—27 years; and Bertha Rhuby—14 years.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2013 AWARDS AND CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

By Brenda Sturman

The EEA of Brazoria County held its Awards and Christmas Luncheon on December 9. Awards were presented to members for their contributions to the organization. Ms. Toni Tax was presented the Member of the Year award by Ms. Sherri Blackstock.



Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the ONLY means.

-Albert Einstein

GUADALUPE COUNTY EE CLUBS SUPPORT 4-H AND LIBRARY

DISTRICT 10

Guadalupe County EE Clubs 4-H Committee held a workshop for members of three clubs to gather and make casserole covers for 4-H Food Show, Food Challenge, and Quiz Bowl participants. Twenty-four casserole covers were made during which members of Guadalupe County EE clubs and a guest enjoyed bonding, fellowship and lunch.



The casserole cover idea came from the Christmas in July demonstration that several members attended and participated in. The members attending making the cost very low donated much of the material and supplies for the covers.

Extra casserole covers and other items made from past years were sold among club members that raised \$76. A donation was made to the community library where the workshop was held. The remainder went into the 4-H EE budget.

POSITIVE CHARGES

- Concentrate on your assets, not your limitations.
- Keep an open mind.
- Make amends with enemies.
- Let your body language convey positive things about you.
- Work smarter, not harder.
- Take pride in your work.

WASHINGTON EE CLUB CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

By Judith Finke

DISTRICT 11

Washington Extension Education celebrated their Christmas Workshop on December 5th at Blinn College with Haley Ogle, from the Garden Market & Bakery, and Carolyn Matejowsky, motivationalist.

Beautifully decorated cakes centered the guest tables to give a festive flair and the scent of Christmas magic. Haley demonstrated basic cake decorating and revealed simple décor ideas for holiday parties.



Carolyn Matejowsky's presentation was rousing and stimulating in keeping the Goodness of Christmas in our hearts and spirits and emphasized the importance of removing stress during the Holidays.

The event was planned by the Expansion Committee JoAnn Buck, Michele Daniels, Kathleen Flick, MayDell Lanham, Valeria Mueller, Ruth Necker, Gail Pinto, Debbie Reed, Patty Schroeder, and Betty Vierus.

LAVACA COUNTY EEA MEMBERS SERVE THE COMMUNITY

By Gayle Bludau



Pictured are Lavaca County Extension Education Association members who volunteered their time at the 2013 Kid's Health Party to fulfill the community service aspect of the EEA mission. The Kid's Health Party is a county wide event to educate 5th grade students about the importance of healthy eating habits and exercise. Over 330 5th grade students attended. The EEA members served lunch to the students, as well as prepared the fruit before the meal.

CUISINE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

On Thursday, January 16th, EEA (Extension Education Association) of Austin County which is a direct part of the Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service converged to showcase "Cuisine From Around the World". Each Extension Education club in Austin County adopted a country and brought it to life. Members created exhibit boards which shared highlights, demographics and interesting aspects about their country. Most

importantly, each club prepared a array of dishes which represented the country's culture and heritage.

If you would like additional information pertaining to the event or want to become a member of this organization, please contact Michelle Allen at (979) 865-2072. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



Back Row L-R (4th Row) Joan Buenger, Knellen Quinterros, Malinda Schramm, Mary Smenkek, Audra Winkelmann, Carolyn Balke. 3rd Row Cindy Slator, JoAnn Reichle, Debra Kollman, Bonnie Schulz, Betty Thiel. 2nd Row Pam O'Brian, Evelyn Wilke, Jessie Kokemor, Judy Schulz, Doris Glenewinkel, Cody Hughey, Michelle Allen. 1st Row Kay Peschel, Delores Kuehn, Evelyn Kieke, Barbara Brown, Delores Winkelmann, Ellen Henske

EEABAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!



EEA (Extension Education Association) of Austin County will be hitting the streets to sell tickets to their Annual Baked Potato Fundraiser. Each year 500 baked potatoes are sold to raise funds to support their work and projects in the community. Funds are used to support local non-profit charities as well as educational programs which bring awareness to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. Their mission is to work with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

to strengthen and enrich families through educational program, leadership, development and community. This fundraiser is just one of many ways that EEA enjoys reaching out to the community it serves. If you are unable to purchase tickets from one of the many members in the organization, please feel free to come by the Extension Office (20 South Holland-Bellville, Texas). Tickets will be made available there.

TAITON EE CLUB ACTIVITIES

Taiton Extension Education Club celebrated Valentine a little early but the fun had was big. We shared with some of our shut-in friends by sending hand made Valentines. The room for the February meeting was decorated with a Valentine theme and many of the attendees wore red. Hostesses served lasagna, salad, garlic bread and a variety of desserts.

Members answered roll call by naming their favorite month and telling why it was special. April was mentioned most often with December and May vying for the second spot. The Community Service project of the

month with a donation given was to the Volunteer Fire Department.

Wharton County is gearing up for the Youth Fair and Rodeo. There will be approximately 5,000 entries in the Creative Arts Division. Four-H members are working on their projects and record books. The County Extension Association is selling raffle tickets on a Double Wedding Ring Quilt. Proceeds go to fund scholarships for 4-H members and non-4-Hers whose mothers or grandmothers are Extension Club members.

Plans were made for a Taco Salad fundraiser April 10th. Cindy Schmidt,

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KLEBERG EEA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

By Carla Elise Adams-Meyer

Kleberg Extension Education Association awarded scholarships to three individuals for their outstanding academic performance and their involvement in 4-H. KEEA raises funds through their annual afghan sale, plates sold for the judge's luncheon during the local county livestock show, and various donations. KEEA supports the local 4-H program through these scholarships, as well as serving as judges and tabulators for various competitions, purchasing year-end awards, and hosting the Annual Queen's Tea.

Scholarships were presented by Kay Jacob, KEEA president.



Hayley Elise Meyer, a senior at Kaufer High School in Riviera, received the Kleberg Extension Education Association's \$500 scholarship for her academic performance and involvement in 4-H. She has been accepted to Texas A&M University, where she will attend this fall majoring in Ag Leadership and Development. She is the daughter of Steven and Carla Meyer, and she presently serves as the Outdoor Country Teen Manager, Kleberg-Kenedy County President, D12's First Vice-President, and a member of Texas State 4-H Council.



Victoria Christine Garza received Kleberg Extension Education Association's \$300 academic scholarship for her academic performance. She plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station. She is a senior at Santa Gertrudis Academy High School. She is the President of her local 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Robert and Virginia Garza.



Cory Ray, a senior at Kaufer High School in Riviera, receives a Kleberg Extension Education Association's scholarship for \$200 for his academic performance and involvement in the 4-H program. He currently serves as President of his local 4-H Club and serves as Kleberg County's Reporter. Cory is the son of Warren and Cindy Ray, and he plans to study Diesel Mechanics.

"I have often thought what a melancholy world this would be without children, and what an inhuman world without the aged."

-Samuel T. Coleridge