

The BRIDGE



*4-H History:
Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Now.*

Vol. 13, No. 1

February, 2024

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A New Era

by Suzanne Boarts, NAE4-HYDP Past-President; Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

As part of the 2021 NAE4-HYDP Strategic Plan, our DEI goals were to:

- Increase membership and participation from 1890 and 1994 Institutions.
- Meet with leaders from 1890 and 1994 institutions to explore and recruit engaging members.
- Determine strategies to hear from current members and learn more about their challenges and opportunities.

All three of these goals were accomplished by October 2023 through the hard work of the President's Council, the Equity Committee, and the DEI Task Force. At the Spring meeting of the Board of Trustees, **Sue Isbell**, Standing Rock Indian Reservation 4-H Educator, North Dakota State University, and **Louis Milligan**, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Kentucky State University, provided an exceptional presentation to the board as representatives of the Equity Committee. As a result of this presentation and years of exploring, investigating, and listening, the NAE4-HYDP Board voted to add two Regional Director positions to the Board of Trustees effective 2023-24 to represent the 1890 and 1994 institutions. At the 2023 NAE4-HYDP Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, Milligan and **Ann Wadsworth**, 4-H Director/Executive Assistant, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, North Dakota, were installed as Regional Directors.

We are excited that we will be able to continue to include more land grant institutions and youth development professionals in our association. This is one of the first steps to opening our association to more institutions and partners who share our vision and mission. Together we can share ideas, programs, and resources to benefit the young people across our country. We can all make a difference working together through networking and professional development.

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Seeking Less Turbulence and Warmer Times

By: Bernadine L. Wiesen, 2023-2024 President, NAE4-HYDP

Editor’s Note: Bernie lives in New York. She wrote this article in January this year. At the end of the article, she added: “No joke – just got in from doing chores outside and so glad to be back in the house. The cold really is not bothering the livestock, thankfully, just us humans and our little dog. Our other dog loves the cold and snow.”

It has been a whirlwind since our Fall Conference, and I am adding more and more onto my NAE4-HYDP plate with the goal of meeting the needs of our membership to the very best of my ability. My primary lane is to continue to guide the implementation of our strategic plan which is the framework for our objectives and goals as an association. Feel free to check out our strategic plan at <https://www.nae4hydp.org/page/StratPlan2023>.

Immediately following our NAE4-HYDP Conference in October, **Craig Presar**, Past-President, NAE4-HYDP, and I jumped on a plane and after some significant turbulence landed safely in Denver. We represented NAE4-HYDP at the FALCON Conference (First Americans Land Grant Consortium – 1994 Land Grant Institutions).

We made some great connections and hosted a round table the second day where we had some excellent dialogue. Craig and I were thrilled to be joined by our new Board member **Ann Wadsworth**, 4-H Director/Executive Assistant, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, North Dakota, who was there representing her institution. It was so beneficial to have Ann with us! She helped with the round table processes and fostered some new connections. We have made some wonderful strides in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts but we have a great deal of work to continue. Thank you to all who have worked hard to get us to where we are with the addition of two Directors to our NAE4-HYDP Board of Directors, one intentionally representing 1890 (**Louis Milligan**) and another 1994 (**Ann Wadsworth**) Land-Grant Institutions. We have an ongoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force that is continuing to work hard to help our association achieve equal access for all extension youth workers to our association.



(L to R): Bernie Wiesen, Ann Wadsworth, & Craig Presar

Please check out the year end impact reports that are available in video form as well as a comprehensive written impact report for the association. The board works very hard all year round. You might be surprised to see all the work and efforts the Board drives on behalf of our membership. These can be found at our NAE4-HYDP website - <https://www.nae4hydp.org/>.



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Like Music to Our Ears

By Ron Drum, PA 4-H Member, 1967 - 1977

Music. Throughout human existence music has been one of the glues that has held us together. According to Plato, music “gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.” Not to be outdone, National 4-H Spokesperson Jennifer Nettles has said that “Music has the power to heal and unite people.” So, it is no surprise that almost from the beginning of 4-H, music has played a role. Many 4-H Clubs elect a 4-H Song Leader” as one of their club’s officers and a 4-H Camp just would not seem the same if the campers didn’t sing for their breakfast or, while watching the embers of the evening campfire die away, sing “Lights Out 4-H”.

There is no “national” 4-H song or anthem or the like. There are a few songs, however, that have been offered up as potentials. In 1927, a woman named Fannie R. Buchanan put words to music composed by Rena M. Parish. Buchanan was a member of the Iowa State Extension Staff. If you have information about Rena M. Parish, send it to: Editor@4-HHistory.com and we’ll include it as a “4-H Fact” in a future issue of The BRIDGE.

Together, Buchanan and Parish created two “4-H” songs, “Dreaming” (for girls) and “A Plowing Song” (for boys). Although they both are called “4-H songs”, neither seems to have anything to do with 4-H membership other than describing the lifestyles of most 4-H’ers at the time the songs were written. If you would like to hear either, or both, of the songs being sung, they were both recorded by West Virginia 4-H, apparently in 2014, and posted to their YouTube channel “West Virginia Songs”. West Virginia 4-H even included the words so listeners can follow along!

The “About” section of the YouTube channel “[West Virginia Songs](http://www.youtube.com/@wv4-hsongs344)” [www.youtube.com/@wv4-hsongs344] says the channel was created by 4-H campers at West Virginia Older 4-H Members Conference 2014 with the intention of keeping alive the traditional songs of 4-H camps in West Virginia. Many campers begin at camps with no knowledge of the songs, are expected to learn them in a short period of time, and remember them for years. This channel is building a collection of the songs so that 4-H’ers around West Virginia and the United States can learn and sing them throughout the year. Each song uploaded will have all the lyrics to the song in the description to aid in learning and remembering the songs.

Drop by and listen to any or all the 4-H songs posted to date. Or just go to the song you want to hear.

To listen to “[Dreaming](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzsqUYvoa4k)” click on the title or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzsqUYvoa4k>.

To hear the “[Plowing Song](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq75gScTG4Y)” click on the title or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq75gScTG4Y>.



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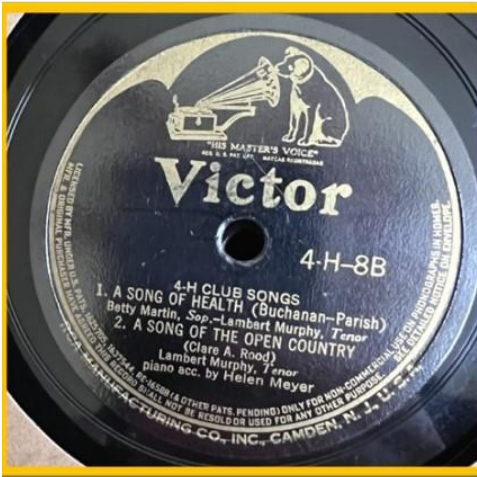


Now if you want to hear them as they were FIRST recorded by Lambert Murphey, a tenor, singing “A Plowing Song” and Betty Martin, a soprano, singing “Dreaming”, visit the UMaine Extension Franklin County office in Farmington, Maine. That is where we discovered this record. You will probably have to bring the record player, however. And truth be known, we are not certain this was the FIRST recording of the songs, but we, and our friends in Franklin County, like to think they are.

Buchanan and Parish combined on several songs eventually called “4-H songs”. In addition to “Plowing” and “Dreaming”, the 1954 National 4-H Club Song Book, published by the National

4-H Service Committee, Inc., included three more songs the Buchanan and Parish team produced: “Song of Health” (’29)”, “4-H Friendship Song” [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mijrH8f6g7k>](’32), and “4-H Field Song” (’33). Like the 1927 efforts of Buchanan and Parish, each of these songs speak to 4-H ideals, but none mentions “4-H” anywhere other than in the names.

If you can’t get to Maine, perhaps you can go to Georgia and visit retired State 4-H Leader Bo Ryles. He also has the above record marked 4-H - 8A & 4-H - 8B as well as its mate marked 4-H - 9A & 4-H - 9B. Below are his records.

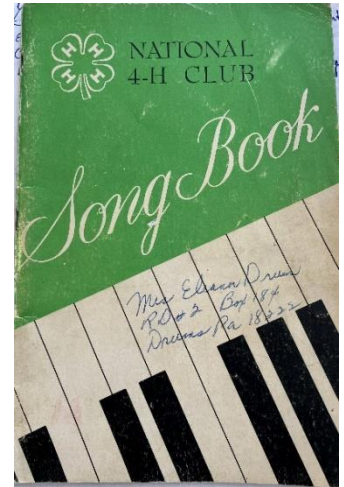


The 1954 Song Book offered an interesting collection of songs for 4-H’ers to sing such as Folk Songs (ex.: “Alouette”), Spirituals (ex.: “I Ain’t Gonna Grieve, My Lord, No More), Old Favorites (ex.: “Home on the Range”), Religious [Christian] numbers (ex.: “Fairest Lord Jesus [crusader’s hymn]”), and, of course, “4-H Songs”; 78 songs in all.

The photo below is of the battered, written in, and dog-eared personal copy carried to every Sugarloaf Valley 4-H Club meeting by the Editor’s mother, Pennsylvania 4-H Volunteer Eleanor Drum.

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The “4-H songs” included, among others, “4-H Ceremonial Song” by Edith Barker (’32 – mentions “our beautiful emblem”); “4-H Hymn” by Conrad Thompson (’37 – part of last line reads: “...God bless 4-H we all do pray...”); “National 4-H Club Pledge” by Frederick Stanley Smith (’41 – the 4-H Pledge put to music); “4-H Chorale”, music by Addisk Barthelmeh and words adapted from Sarum Primer, 1558 by C. C. Lang (’49 – includes lines about Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.); and, oddly enough, a song called “[Witchcraft](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5DgTAn8Sic)” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5DgTAn8Sic].



Written by Margaret Snyder but not dated in the Song Book, “Witchcraft” is “dedicated to 4-H Members and Leaders”. Not to worry, however, the words tell us that “there is no witchcraft” so we must rely on the “memories we cherish, 4-H Friends, of you.”

There is a 1933 march included called “The Pride o’ the Land”, words by Anna M. Priestley and music by Edwin Franko Goldman, “dedicated to the National 4-H Clubs: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health”.

America, we pledge to thee our Heads, our Hearts, our Hands,
Our splendid Health shall prove thy wealth, Thou dearest of all lands.
America, our strength and zeal Thy shining sword shall be;
We pledge our youth to stand for truth, for right and liberty.

One more 4-H song offered by the 1954 Song Book is titled “A Place in the Sun”. Like “Plowing” and “Dreaming”, this song could also be considered a “national 4-H song” contender. It was introduced on November 30, 1948.

A paragraph about the song’s history is included on the back of the sheet music as follows:



“A Place in the Sun” was written especially for the 4-H Clubs of America by Fred Waring and Jack Dolph. It was introduced on the Fred Waring Show of November 30, 1948, on the program sponsored by the American Meat Institute over the NBC network. One hundred and forty stations carried this program to six million listeners in America and Canada. Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians salute the 4-H boys and girls everywhere and congratulate them for the great work they are doing in “creating better homes today for a more responsible, citizenship tomorrow.”

At first glance, one might think it is just a more up-to-date version of “A Plowing Song”. The chorus says, “Give me a place in the sun! With the clear blue sky above.” It goes on to yearn for clean fields full of “living green that my hands have made to grow!” However, in the last sentence, it finally gets around to the 4-H connection, somewhat, saying, “Here’s a **Health** to the land that my **Head** and **Hand** and **Heart** have learned to know!”

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Fred Waring was an American musician, orchestra leader, and radio personality of the 1940's. He was once referred to as "the man who taught America how to sing." He was born in Tyrone, Pennsylvania in 1900 and died in State College, Pennsylvania July 29, 1984. Dolph was Waring's chief writer.

Introduced in 1948, "A Place in the Sun" was still popular in 1960. Either that or National 4-H Council had lots of the sheet music to get rid of, because it was listed as available for purchase in the 1961 Supply Catalogue, page 25, 50 cents per copy.

So, here is the part about the "music to (Y)our ears"! YOU get to tell US a thing or two about this next "National 4-H Song" contender and/or any other 4-H Songs you enjoy or believe might be contenders for the title of "National 4-H Song". What can you tell us about the 4-H Song entitled: "H's Four"? Send your "noteworthy" responses to: Editor@4-HHistory.com

Listen to the West Virginia 4-H'ers sing "H's Four" at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_FmC2wDtpM.

For more information about 4-H songs and music go to: <https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/Music/>.



4-H Fun FACT

"Citizenship is global and that's where the emphasis has to be. I see us linking young people around the world, holding cultural exchanges via video and computers. Extension must define and develop the 'global citizen' to assist in making positive decisions for our planet. Global economy, global ecology and cultural awareness; they're all part of citizenship education in the years to come."

Dr. Leah Hoopfer, Deputy Administrator, 4-H Youth, Extension Service, USDA quoted in the November 1989 issue of [NAE4-HA News and Views](#) (Vol. 42, No. 5, page 4).

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Tell Us Your 4-H History Story

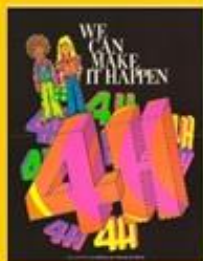
Share your photos and stories of the history YOU made in 4-H!

We know you've made 4-H History. So, tell us about it! The world wants to know YOUR 4-H history!

Send your articles to: Editor@4-HHistory.com

Submissions longer than 500 words must include a 500-words or less summary. The in-depth articles will be posted to our web-site and linked to the summary that will appear in the newsletter.

Thanks for reading The BRIDGE. Look for our next issue May 15, 2024!



The BRIDGE Editorial Board:

*Sue Benedetti, Gwen El-Sawi, Tom Tate, Jane Jopling, Bonita Williams, Betty Gottler,
Linda Horn, Ron Drum*

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