

editor's page

Journal Fly-by-Nights

No doubt most of us by now have sat through *Star Wars*, seen parts of it on television, heard about it on radio, or read about it in the local news. The theme throughout the entire production is the unseen but ever-present dynamic force that's always on the side of the good guys.

The *Journal*, as significant to the Extension world as *Star Wars* is to the entertainment world, also has its dynamic force. It's the Board of Directors that meet twice a year to conduct, plan, and help carry out ongoing and future *Journal* policies.

I was pleased to work with the board for the first time several months ago at its meeting held in conjunction with the National Association of Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

The board conducted its business efficiently. Some of us gave reports while others listened. There were new appointments made, and we learned about the *Journal's* financial status. Current rising costs and how these increases may affect future projected *Journal* costs, and whether *Journal* action was needed now to assure continued solvency in 1980 and beyond, were discussed.

There was talk about the popular *Journal* theme issue readers always enjoy. This issue now appears firmly institutionalized as a permanent part of the overall editorial structure. There was discussion about the forthcoming Editorial Committee orientation session, bringing these members together from across the nation to clarify guidelines for articles appearing in the *Journal*.

Discussion also centered around a significant new project—selecting *Journal* articles and combining them into booklets on subjects like 4-H, leadership, program development, and other professional concerns. This project is currently under way and we welcome any suggestions for possible volume topics.

The board indicated that the *Journal's* future depends on the interaction of various resources to assure the continued publication of relevant articles, the completion of specific editorial responsibilities, a degree of financial solvency, and an involved board. There was concern over expanding *Journal* contacts through use by Extension and academic professionals.

Your Board of Directors is constantly at work. Each member represents your interests but receives little attention for the board's collective efforts. Why does one agree to become a *Journal* director? It's certainly not for any financial remuneration, since there isn't any. It's not for taking on another task to fill time, since they're all busy professionals. There does, however, appear to be one main reason—their total belief in the *Journal's* educational force. It's for this reason that directors try to squeeze in one more meeting, change a weekend plan, purchase another airline ticket, leave home early, and return late. It's for this reason we can refer to them as our fly-by-nights. They're our dynamic force and we're mighty proud of 'em.

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