Ohio State University Extension

Southwest Region Forum

April 6, 2015

Barb’s Notes and Quotes

Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

Greetings! We hope you had a great weekend! This is an exciting month as I am out visiting all of you and celebrating all your Extension work. This week I’ll be in Butler, Preble, Logan, and Union Counties and at Adventure Central.

CEDs – don’t forget our Carmen Connect/phone conference on April 22. We’ll make it as short as possible!

Educators and program staff (not SNAP or EFNEP) – you won’t want to miss Spring Conference on April 29. It will be a great day of learning, sharing and fun! Keith Smith will be joining us for a portion of the day. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

Welcome Carrie Ellington to the Program Assistant position in Champaign County.

Have a great week!
Barb
Happy April Birthdays…

- April 1 Harold Watters - Field Specialist, State
- April 4 Nadine Fogt - Extension Educator, Fayette County
- April 12 Maryann Andrews - Office Associate, Auglaize County
- April 16 Patty Corfman - Office Associate, Region Office
- April 21 Erica Bowers - Office Assistant, Mercer County
- April 24 Sarah Misiakiewicz - Program Assistant, Auglaize County
- April 26 Annie Davis - Educator/CED, Logan County
- April 30 Kathy McConkey - Office Assistant, Clark County

The strongest people aren’t always the people who win, but the people who don’t give up when they lose.” ~Anonymous

“Wisdom begins in wonder.” ~Socrates

“Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you handle it.” ~Anonymous

“There will always be someone who thinks you can’t succeed. Make sure that someone is never you.” ~Anonymous

“The strongest people are not those who show strength in front of us, but those who win battles we know nothing about.” ~Anonymous

OSU Extension Director Search Update . . . (Source: Jeff Sharp, Ph.D., Chair, Associate Dean & Director Search Committee)

Over the past two months, our search committee for the Associate Dean & Director, OSU Extension has been working hard to develop and finalize the position profile as well as a timeline for the search process. We are pleased to share that the position profile will be widely available early next week and has already been posted on the Journal of Extension Job Board. We strongly encourage you to take the opportunity to review the full position profile when it is made available on the CFAES website and to share it with appropriate and qualified individuals. As the search progresses, we will widely distribute additional information regarding the overall schedule and opportunities for engagement. Again, we encourage you to disseminate the announcement broadly among your colleagues and professional networks. This is an outstanding opportunity to attract world class candidates to Ohio State, and it will take each of us promoting the tremendous opportunities that exist here at The Ohio State University.

Barb Brahm’s Schedule
- April 6 Butler/Preble
- April 7 Campus
- April 8 Dayton/Montgomery
- April 9 Administrative Cabinet
- April 10 Logan/Union
From the book:

**The Butterfly Effect**

_How Your Life Matters_

_by New York Times bestselling author Andy Andrews_

Not long ago, I finally told the story of when, at the age of twenty-three, homeless and scared, I was given guidance in a most unusual fashion by an old man named Jones. What the old man told me did nothing less than change my life and my future. He said... “With a little perspective you can live a life of permanent purpose.”

When I asked what he meant, the old man answered with a question. “Do you sometimes find yourself unconsciously judging your actions by level of importance?” I frowned a bit, not certain I understood. “For instance,” he continued, “the time you spend with friends is important, but the time you spend with family, is more important. You might rank an hour fishing as very important, thirty minutes visiting a sick friend in the hospital much more important than the fishing, and a sixty-second conversation with a convenience store clerk as not very important at all.”

I nodded my understanding and he returned to his initial point. “When you know that everything matters—that every move counts as much as any other—you will begin living a life of permanent purpose. A life of permanent purpose will make you a better parent, a better spouse, and a more valuable friend. Your productivity and financial success will soar to new heights while the old days of uncertainty, doubt, and depression fade into the past.”

Of course, that conversation with Jones changed me. But even more, it became the guiding force that produced the kind of speaker and author I have become. You see, I understand fully that my very value as an author and speaker must ultimately be judged by the success you achieve. And as I consult with companies or speak to organizations and teams, I am keenly aware that much of my client’s (your) ability to succeed beyond imagination depends upon my ability to prove this very concept!

When a sales organization sees proof that casual conversations in town matter just as much as an arranged meeting with a major prospect—

When the second string right-guard sees proof that his every action on and off the field, whether he plays or not, is as critical to the team’s successful season as everything the starting quarterback does—

When a teenager sees and understands proof that every choice made in leisure today will affect the choices that will be available to him in more pressing times ahead—

When one lives a life of permanent purpose, sales figures soar, team chemistry thrives and teenage decisions become wiser and more cautious. And these are just a few examples of what will happen...Simply put, when we understand that every action matters, every result of our actions immediately improves!

In these pages, I know you will find hope and direction for yourself, but I am most excited that you will now be equipped to lead others to their own life of permanent purpose! My hope for our families, our places of worship, our businesses, our nation, and our world is an incredible life of permanent purpose that can be achieved when at last we understand: Every move we make and every action we take, matters not just for us, but for all of us...and for all time.
Dependent Eligibility Verification Deadline Reminder and FAQs . . .

If you were one of the approximately 6,900 Ohio State employees required to verify your dependents’ eligibility for Ohio State health benefits, you will need to submit a reply by the April 16 deadline. Those who do not verify eligibility by the April 16 deadline will lose coverage immediately. The university has contracted with Xerox HR Solutions (Xerox) on the verification process. During the week of March 16, Xerox sent U.S. Mail contact to those 6,900 employees chosen for verification. The Office of Human Resources has put together a FAQ document for those affected who have questions regarding the process. [http://hr.osu.edu/benefits/hb_dependentcertification](http://hr.osu.edu/benefits/hb_dependentcertification)

If you have additional questions, you can contact the Office of Human Resources Customer Service at service@hr.osu.edu or 614-292-1050/1-800-678-6010. Ohio State is committed to offering high-quality health care coverage while being good stewards of its resources by managing costs of its benefits programs. Covering ineligible dependents may be unnecessarily increasing plan costs by millions per year based on an average annual per dependent cost of more than $4,600. After numerous questions about this deadline, here are a few items that might help clarify your questions:

1) If you have gone through the dependent eligibility process before, you will not need to verify again. This process will be primarily for newer employees.
2) There will be a second contact for those who do not respond and an appeal process is available to provide the information.
3) You may contact Xerox directly and inquire if you are on their list. You will need to provide your social security number. Their phone number is 1-877-248-1595.
4) Any other concerns can be answered by the frequently asked questions links below or by contacting OSU HR Customer Service at service@hr.osu.edu or 614-292-1050/1-800-678-6010.

Save the Date - New OSUE Employee Welcome Festival on October 22 . . .

Calling all new employees and stakeholders who help make the Welcome Festival a success! If you have joined OSU Extension since our fall 2014 welcome fest, please hold October 22 to join in the fun and have the opportunity to connect with your new OSU Extension colleagues.

The Welcome Festival is a tradeshow-type event that provides a fun and engaging way for new employees to learn about OSU Extension, build relationships with colleagues, develop skills helpful to the job, and explore connections to the Ohio State network. More details and information on how to register will be available in September.