Hi Southwest Region Colleagues:

What a pretty and busy time of year! I continue to enjoy my drives and visits with all of you. So far, I have been in Miami, Greene, Warren, Fayette, Mercer, Auglaize and Hardin Counties. This week are Preble and Clermont. I continue to be amazed at the outstanding programs you all are leading. Keep up the wonderful outreach we are having! Have a great week!

Sincerely,
Barb

Upcoming Workshops:

THE Resource for Becoming the Leader You Were Born to Be!

Join me for...

- Nashville: Sept. 11-12
- Houston: Oct. 20-21

LEARN MORE HERE.

Outdoor Photography Workshop...

MANSFIELD, Ohio — Just a few spots are left in Capturing Nature’s Wonders, an Oct. 18 outdoor photography workshop taught by Jim Doty Jr., author of Digital Photography Exposure for Dummies, at Ohio State University’s Mansfield campus.

Participants “will learn the simple steps that make the difference between ordinary snapshots and extraordinary photos,” said Kathy Smith, head of Ohio State University Extension’s Ohio Woodland Stewards Program, the workshop’s sponsor.

OSU Extension is the statewide outreach arm of Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

Registration for the workshop, which is $90 and includes lunch and dinner, can be made online at go.osu.edu/qen.

Details on the workshop, including its camera, equipment and book requirements, are at go.osu.edu/qej. The workshop is limited to just 12 participants.
Thoughts to Ponder

John Wayne was one of the biggest film stars ever. And his legacy has been hindering leaders for a long time.

Unwittingly, in many of his movies, John Wayne "proves" that you can succeed alone. All you need is the biggest will, the most stamina, and the fastest gun.

John Wayne taught (well, perhaps reinforced) the myth of the single hero.

But the Duke’s world was a world of scripts and make-believe.

You lead in the real world.

You can’t do it alone, not if you want to succeed at the highest levels. You must engage your team. You must let them in. You must challenge them. You must allow them to try (and fail).

You can’t do it all yourself; you don’t have enough time in your day. You can’t do it all yourself; you aren’t John Wayne.

In other words: you can’t achieve your maximum potential until you get help and assistance from others.

Put another way, the only way to have great success as a leader is to delegate.

Here are two mindsets that will help you with delegation . . .

Share responsibility. To delegate, you must share the responsibility for the outcome. Think about it this way. When do you get the most satisfaction from your work: when you are given and feel ownership for a task, project or outcome, or when you are watched and constantly being questioned?

Others feel the same way you do, so give them that opportunity. Give people a picture of success, help them see the big picture and get out of their way.

Allow for mistakes. When people are learning, they will stumble and stub their toe. It happened to you and it will happen to them. If you want people’s best efforts, you have to allow space for errors and mistakes. When people understand the big picture and believe in where the group is going, the mistakes will be honest ones and can (and will) be corrected. Your job is to provide the safety net and to help make sure they learn from (and consequently, don’t repeat) the mistakes. If you want more productivity and engagement, this is what you must do.

By:
Kevin Eikenberry
Chief Potential Officer
The Kevin Eikenberry Group

Happy October Birthdays…

- October 1 Susie Broidy-Program Assistant, Clark County
- October 9 Mark Badertscher-Extension Educatore, Hardin County
- October 10 Barb Hennard-Extension Educator, Auglaize County
- October 12 Adam Shepard-Extension Educator, Fayette County
- October 20 Melinda Morrison-Educator/Director, Champaign County
- October 21 Brian Raison-Educator/Director, Miami County
- October 24 Beth Miller-Educator/Director, Auglaize County
- October 25 Cheryl Barber Spires-Program Specialist, Region
- October 25 Linda Good-Office Associate, Miami County

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

- October 6 Preble/Clermont
- October 7 Delaware
- October 8 Delaware
- October 9 Admin. Cabinet
- October 10 Vacation
People tend to order their lives according to “conventional wisdom,” a generally accepted set of principles that may include centuries-old folk sayings or that may have arisen from contemporary experience. These sayings and beliefs have become so ingrained in the public mind that they are often referred to as “common sense.”

In both your business and your personal life, following conventional wisdom is usually the “safe” approach. But, the people who make a remarkable difference in the world are typically those who examine conventional wisdom with a critical eye, using “uncommon sense.”

Most people don’t question conventional wisdom. It’s just “the way things are.” Others see it as a handy starting place for examining their own values. Using uncommon sense, they often discover wisdom that is far from conventional.

Somewhere along the way, someone questioned conventional wisdom, examined it from all sides, developed new principles, and produced human progress.

Common sense told the medieval world that the Earth was the center of the universe and the sun revolved around it. Copernicus followed uncommon sense to a new understanding of the universe and our place in it.

*Uncommon Sense* is not aimed at turning conventional wisdom on its head or debunking the wisdom of the ages. It seeks, instead, to encourage a creative look at things often taken for granted, to provide fresh insights into old verities.

I have lived long enough to acknowledge the value of wisdom based on generations of experience. I have also lived long enough to know that those who follow conventional wisdom uncritically may end up in a rut that leads nowhere.

So when I hear someone quote an old saying that suggests it’s the wisdom of the ages, I start looking for footnotes and often find them with the nuggets of uncommon sense they contain. That sort of skeptical examination has served me well, and I recommend it to those who want to enjoy, discover, and achieve fulfillment in their lives.

The conventional explorer, in crossing a stream, may look at the stones rising from the water as islands of stability in the swirling current. And that they may be. But the creative explorer will stop and turn the stones over to determine whether priceless gems might lie beneath or what veins of gold might be incorporated in their mass.

Ancient adages are like those rocks in the stream, assuring the crosser that it’s safe to step here. Those old saws serve a useful purpose. But unless we’re willing to turn them over and look at the other side, we may never know what nuggets of wisdom, what omens of triumph, what uncommon principles lie underfoot.