



Home: Cedar Bluff, VA
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2007

Nancy Ascue

4-H Agent and NAE4-HA President

4-H Efforts: Smyth Co., VA 4-H member who won many honors. Hired as assistant agent in Tazwell Co., 1961. Transferred to Russell County in 1963 - serving as 4-H Agent and County Extension Directory until retirement in 1991. First president of Virginia Association of Extension 4-H Agents, 1970. NAE4-HA Vice President, 1973. NAE4-President - first from the Southern region, 1975.

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1972.

Nancy was a Smyth Co., VA 4-H member who won many honors, including showing the grand champion market steer for three years at the Bristol Jr. Steer Show and Sale. After graduating from VPI (VA Tech) in 1961, she was hired in Tazwell Co. Two years later she went to Russell Co., working there as 4-H agent and County Extension Director until retiring in 1991. She and her coworkers managed a 4-H program with over 1500 children engaged in School Enrichment. Nancy believed in community clubs and is the primary reason Russell Co. had the strongest club program in SW Virginia when most 4-H programming was still school-based. She was a strong advocate of volunteer club leaders and realized early that a positive, long-term relationship with a caring adult was important to a young person's development.

Nancy saw great value in residential camping. During her tenure, camp enrollment doubled to 245 campers and staff, the largest camp ever at the Southwestern 4-H Center. Nancy got involved in NAE4-HA in 1967. The Virginia Association of Extension 4-H Agents was formed in 1970 and elected Nancy as their first President. She was very instrumental in Virginia winning the bid to host the 1973 conference in Roanoke, VA. Nancy was elected NAE4-HA Vice President in 1973. In that role she was responsible for nurturing membership and set what was considered an impossible goal of 1500 members. As a result, NAE4HA membership set a new record of 1520 members, exceeding 1000 for the first time. Nancy was elected NAE4-HA President in 1975, the first from the Southern Region.

Quotes from those who remember Nancy Ascue:

"Being in your presence is always an inspiration to me." "You are a true leader among leaders." "She had special talents in motivating youth and adults." "Nancy was a strong believer in community 4-H clubs and also in residential 4-H camping." "She recruited and trained 4-H leaders to provide long-term leadership to 4-H members." "She worked tirelessly to advance the 4-H profession." "Nancy was proud when titles were changed to '4-H Agents'." "She as an attractive, innovating, well organized dynamic and positive 4-H professional who helped others to also achieve and to aspire for greater accomplishments. Nancy strengthened 4-H everywhere."



Carl Smith
Milwaukee County 4-H Youth Development Agent
and Past President of NAE4-HA

4-H Efforts: Started as a 4-H volunteer in Dane Co., then spent 35 years as 4-H and Youth Agent in Columbia and Milwaukee Counties with 5 years as office chair of Milwaukee County. A founding member of the University of Wisconsin - Extension Department of Youth Development. Member of WAE4-HYDP and NAE4-HA for 51 years. NAE4HA Board for 12 years, Program chair for the 1968 NAE4-HA Conference, and President in 1969. Donor to Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Retired 4-H Agent Endowment Fund.

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award in 1969 and the American Spirit Award. Kiwanis Club International Hixson Award for outstanding leadership.

As Milwaukee County 4-H Youth Development Agent, Carl provided leadership to one of the largest 4-H Urban programs in the country with local partners. He supervised five part-time 4-H staff assistants and motivated many 4-H youth and volunteers. He was on the NAE4HA Board for 12 years, including the office of President in 1969. He was Program chair for the 1968 NAE4-HA Conference in Michigan. Carl served on the WAE4-HYDP Board for 13 years, including as President and Secretary. He was on the committee that created the Department of Youth Development and served as.

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Department Chair for 3 years. Carl spent 5 years as office chair of Milwaukee County - University of Wisconsin Extension with a staff of 68.

While retired, Carl continues his involvement with 4-H. He's attended two NAE4-HA conferences, including service to the 2006 NAE4-HA Conference in Milwaukee. He judges about 12 fairs each year and has been a 4-H photography volunteer for 3 years. A Kiwanis Club member for 34 years, Carl's held leadership positions that include president, secretary, board member, committee chair and Lt. Governor for the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District. Carl is active in his church, American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Toastmasters International and is a member of the prostate cancer support group at Froedtert Hospital.

Quote: 4-H has played a major role in my life for the past 55 years. My first 4-H experience was a a volunteer 4-H Leader in Dane Co., Oregon, WI. Then I spent 35 years as a 4-H and Youth Agent in Columbia and Milwaukee Counties. For the past 53 years I have been judging 4-H exhibits at county, district and state fairs.

It is an honor to represent Wisconsin in this year's National 4-H Hall of Fame. I share this award with my family, colleagues, and my friends. I am truly blessed.



Carl with Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson, at the 1965 Milwaukee Co. 4-H Fair ribbon cutting.



Carl seated with Luci Baines Johnson at 1965 Milwaukee County 4-H Fair celebration.



Carl has been judging at county, district and state fairs for over 50 years.