

Ellen Elliott
NAE4-HA President



Home: Schenectady County, NY
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2010

4-H Efforts: Ten year 4-H member in Champaign Co., IL. 4-H professional, Albany Co. 1965-1977. Executive Director, Schenectady Co. 1977-1994. NAE4-HA President in 1980; board member 1974-1981. Led NAE4-HA board in work that created the first version of 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Model. Chaired the 1994 NAE4-HA Conference.

Honors: NAE4-HA President, 1980; Distinguished Service Award, 1975; 4-H Executive Development Institute, 1987-89; Epsilon Sigma Phi Excellence in Leadership Award. Chair, Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce; Chair, New York State 4-H Foundation; Board Member, Literacy Volunteers and Salvation Army; Schenectady YWCA Woman of Distinction Award.

After ten years as a 4-H member in Champaign Co., IL and graduation from Cornell University, Ellen Elliott began her 38 year career with Cornell Cooperative Extension in 1965 as a 4-H professional in Albany Co. In 1977, Ellen accepted the Executive Director's position in Schenectady Co. with an operating budget of \$1.3 million from multiple funding sources. Under her supervision, strong bonds were built within the community and county government. Over the years, she developed collaborations resulting in numerous youth programs including horticulture

job training, AmeriCorps literacy education for elementary students, family rooms in schools and an independent living skills program for youth in foster care.

Ellen served as National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) President in 1980 and was on the board from 1974-1981. In 1980, membership exceeded 3,000 for the first time and many new state associations were organized. She led the board in the creation of the first "Definition of the 4-H Professional" and worked with a contractor to conduct the "Image of the 4-H Professional" study which led to the first version of 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Model (4-H PRK). An evaluation by The American Society of Association Executives provided 11 recommendations that helped guide the development of NAE4-HA for several years. Ellen chaired the 1994 NAE4-HA Conference in Niagara Falls.

Quote: 4-H programs have a strong history and an even greater potential to make a difference in the lives of young people and their communities. It's a privilege to be part of a movement that has given so much to so many.



Ellen recognizing Schenectady Co. youth and adult volunteers.



Ellen with other NAE4-HA Presidents.



Planning for 1994 NAE4-HA Conference in Niagara Falls.

NAE4-HA – 2010



Dan Tabler

Senior Agent, 4-H Youth Development & County Extension Director

4-H Efforts: Ten year 4-H member in WV. A 34-year 4-H career including WV 4-H agent, Director of Jackson's Mill (WV), 4-H agent in Delaware and Maryland. NAE4-HA leadership includes PR&I Committee Chair and NE Regional Director. Created the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program used in several states. Led the establishment of the 4-H Distinguished Alumni Database and National 4-H Hall of Fame. Editor of "4-H Stories from the Heart."

Honors: WV 4-H Charting Pin, 1966; WV 4-H All Stars, 1967; National 4-H Congress, 1968. NAE4HA Distinguished Service Award, 1984; 25 Years of Service Award, 1997; Meritorious Service Award, 2004.

Dan Tabler was a member of the Rumsey Climbers 4-H Club for ten years in Shepherdstown, WV. He began his 4-H career as a Program Assistant, Jefferson Co. WV before becoming 4-H Agent in Hancock Co. in 1972-80. He then served as Director of Jackson's Mill, the state 4-H youth development conference center. He later served as a 4-H agent in Sussex Co. DE and Wicomico Co. MD, and completed his 34-year career as Maryland 4-H Volunteer Coordinator in 2005-2008. Dan is an active member of NAE4-HA, attending every national conference since 1973. He has held numerous leadership roles including chair of the Public Relations and Information Committee and Northeast Regional Director.

Home: Georgetown, DE
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2010

Dan noticed the major award programs of other youth organizations to recognize outstanding members. He developed the 4-H Diamond Clover Award, which is like the Boy Scout Eagle Award. It was established in Maryland and has spread to other states. Dan first hatched the idea of a National 4-H Hall of Fame in 1977, but it didn't come to life until 2002, the year of the 4-H centennial. To date the National 4-H Hall of Fame includes 238 people representing the nationwide 4-H family. Many states have since established their own state 4-H Halls of Fame. He recently served as the editor of a book, "4-H Stories from the Heart." Even in retirement, he continues to serve 4-H whenever asked and will do so hopefully far into the future.

Quote: I can't imagine my life without 4-H. I learned skills I still use everyday especially leadership, citizenship and public speaking. The many opportunities 4-H provided, particularly county and state camps, are cherished memories. Over 34 years I had the opportunity to serve as 4-H agent in West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland and the great honor of serving as director of Jackson's Mill. In these roles 4-H enabled me to give back some of what I had received. Helping create the National 4-H Hall of Fame, the Diamond Clover Award and serving as editor of "4-H Stories from the Heart" have been especially rewarding. None of this would have been possible without the life skills learned in 4-H as a member, professional and volunteer.



Dan served as Master of Ceremonies for the Class of 2003. He invited the laureates to share their own stories. They were so heartfelt and well-received that they inspired the book 4-H Stories from the Heart.



Dan proposed and helped create the Diamond Clover Award. Here he congratulates the first award recipient.



Dan has been active in NAE4HA since 1972 and attended every Conference since 1973. He's provided music for nearly every Northeast Breakfast for the past 20 years.