

Oregon 2004



Hometown: Hickman, NE
Nominated by: Oregon 4-H
Year Inducted: 2004

Alberta B. Johnston

Deputy Director, Oregon State University Extension

4-H Statistics: Extension professional for 40 years: County Extension Agent in Wyoming, specialist in Montana and Oregon, and finally Deputy Director for the Oregon State University Extension Service. Became volunteer Executive Director of Oregon 4-H Foundation in 1990. Guided the development of the foundation into one with an annual income that has increased from about \$300,000 to over \$1,000,000 in 2003; assets have grown to more than four million dollars including two million in endowments. Active in the University Women's Club as a volunteer and supporter. Served for many years as the historian of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Gamma Chapter, and a strong supporter of the state 4-H agent association.

Alberta volunteers as Oregon 4-H Foundation Executive Director. She encouraged the Foundation Board of Trustees to involve youth, resulting in a minimum of three youth Trustees. She has guided stronger communications between Foundation staff and Extension staff, promoting the need to work together on behalf of 4-H. The Foundation has completed a strategic plan; redesigned their vision and mission; and developed a long range plan. The plan includes a capitol development plan for the 4-H Center, which has built five new cottages, renovated the dining hall and upgraded many other facilities in five years. Honoring her example of giving, a special endowment fund has been created in Albert's name.

Alberta worked in Extension for 40 years - Wyoming County Agent, Montana and Oregon specialist, and finally Deputy Director, Oregon State University Extension Service. Shortly after retiring in 1990, the 4-H Foundation Executive Director position was eliminated. Alberta accepted a "temporary" volunteer assignment that has lasted for over 12 years. She has guided the foundation into one with an annual income that increased from about \$300,000 to over \$1,000,000 in 2003; assets have grown to over \$4,000,000, half of it in endowments. Alberta is active in the University Women's Club, served for many years as Epsilon Sigma Phi Gamma Chapter historian, and is a strong supporter of the state 4-H agent association.



Alberta with all the other living Oregon State 4-H Program Leaders: Jim Rutledge, Duane Johnson, Alberta, and Joe Myers.



Alberta receiving a standing ovation at the 4-H Centennial Celebration where she was recognized for her years of service to 4-H.



Jim Rutledge and Alberta Johnston in front of the Garfileld Centennial Print that she purchased and donated to the State 4-H Office for the main office at Oregon State.