

Lebanon Celebrates 75th Extension Anniversary



From the left, Sen. David "Chip" Brightbill, of Palmyra, presents a state Senate proclamation honoring the 75th anniversary of the Lebanon Extension Service to president of the extension board Lloyd Early.



From the left, Rep. Ed Arnold presents a House proclamation to Denis Hoke, retired extension agent, in recognition of his 35 years service. Hoke retired without fanfare in June.

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Swanger attended providing testimony to the continued value of the service. Also attending and speaking was U.S. Congressman George Gekas.

Several were members of the program, while all continue to be involved through their representative positions.

Alletta Schadler, extension director and home economist for 21 years, gave a recollection of the service and her involvement with it. She became teary eyed when talking about the value of volunteers.

"I used to have a hard time asking people to volunteer," Schadler said. "I always thought that it was my job to do everything, until . . ."

She paused, tilting her head back slightly, tears visible.

"Until someone thanked me for allowing them to volunteer. They said that no one had ever had that much confidence in them to allow them to volunteer. They said that no one had ever had that much confidence in them to allow them to do something for other people."

She then talked about the value of volunteers who she said are responsible for the success of the community outreach program which is the extension service.

Ed Arnold served as master of ceremonies, introducing Sen. David Brightbill. Arnold credited the senator with the legislative effort that resulted in funding assistance that made possible construction of the large fairgrounds building.

Brightbill, in taking the podium, then presented a Senate proclamation to Lloyd Early, president of the extension board of directors.

The proclamation stated the value of the extension service to the better living conditions and education of all countians.

"Since its beginning, this valuable organization has embodied cooperative effort between federal, state and county government for the benefit of the citizens of Lebanon County," Brightbill said.

"Guided by local volunteers, its professional staff has provided up-to-date information and new ways to increase the profitability of agriculture; strengthen community leadership; improve diet, nutrition and health; improve the quality of family life; develop youth through 4-H and leadership programs, and manage our soil, water and environment.

"Today its mission remains true to its origins while keeping pace with the technology of the times. The Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania heartily congratulates the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Lebanon County upon the joyous celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary and offers best wishes for continued exemplary service in the years to come."

Arnold also presented a proclamation of appreciation to Denis Hoke, retired associate extension agent, who left without fanfare in June.

The presentation was a surprise for Hoke, who had asked that everyone downplay his retirement. He spoke briefly, thanking the people of Lebanon County for receiving him so well and for being so cooperative in efforts to work to better the community.

Born and raised in York County, he said he was glad he never had to relocate, because the people and the agricultural interests are much alike and "I always felt at home here."

Other retired agents, include Newton Bair, who compiled a history of the extension service in Lebanon and presented it, and home economist Agnes Moot, took the podium and talked about the value of the program.

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