

# editor's page

## A New Beginning

January is the traditional time when many of us reflect on the past and look ahead to the new year. This year, 1977, is a very special time. It's truly "A NEW BEGINNING."

Not only is it a new year, but it's the beginning of our third century as a nation. With a new president and a newly revitalized sense of commitment to democratic ideals, this should be the beginning of an exciting new era.

For the *Journal*, we start this new year with more subscriptions than last year, a stronger fiscal condition, and a stronger commitment from our clientele. We approach this time with renewed dedication and vigor to fulfill our mission as an outstanding professional journal.

For me personally, the coming year brings a new beginning. I've joined the Adult Education faculty at Kansas State University and as a result the *Journal* has moved from North Carolina to Kansas for the last six months of my editorship. Our family will be exploring a new state and learning about our new community.

There's something special about new babies, new lambs, new plants, a new school, a new home, or new community. They bring back memories of our previous experiences and provide the opportunity to reflect on what might be ahead. I find myself, as I watch a toddler, recalling our own children's first steps. Then I find myself reflecting on what this child will be like as he becomes a teenager and reaches adulthood.

Traditionally this is the time for New Year's resolutions. Personally, I've found resolutions to be a futile effort because they're usually nothing more than idle thoughts of what might have been. The beginning of a new year is, however, the time that we ought to set goals—purposeful, carefully thought-out goals. Goals are targets toward which we can direct our thoughts, feelings, and actions. They give direction to new beginnings.

The Cooperative Extension Service has a good "track record" in setting and achieving goals. We can be proud of our accomplishments. I wonder if most professionals really set goals for themselves? If we do, we're likely to set them for our work. We aren't likely to give much thought to setting goals for our own personal growth and development. I know I usually haven't. But when I do, I've found them helpful and satisfying. As a result, my new beginnings have been better beginnings.

Now is the time—a very good time—for each of us to set new goals for ourselves—personally and professionally. This is the time for A NEW BEGINNING. We ought to use it to begin to reach for our fondest dreams or goals.

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