

editor's page

The Wisdom of Our Founding Fathers

When our forefathers wrote the Constitution of the United States they demonstrated unusual wisdom and foresight. They wrote a document that has withstood the test of time and stress. At various times in our history the validity of the document has been reaffirmed. The most recent and perhaps most crucial time was what we have come to know as the Watergate Era.

The Articles of Incorporation of Extension Journal, Inc., (EJ, Inc.) is another document whose writers had unusual foresight and wisdom. Most of us see the sole function of the EJ, Inc., as the publishing of the *Journal of Extension*. When the *Journal* was started, the writers of the Articles of Incorporation saw a larger mission. They said "the purpose of the corporation shall be educational through furthering professional development of the staff of the Cooperative Extension system in the United States." They went on to say:

The corporation, in attaining its objective of professional improvement for Extension workers, may sponsor, organize, finance, manage, conduct and evaluate seminars, conferences and workshops and prepare and publish documents having to do with such events and programs and engage in other activities whose basic purpose is the improvement and development of the Cooperative Extension system.

Now that the *Journal of Extension* is enjoying unprecedented support and acceptance, it's time to ask some difficult questions.

What can and should the EJ, Inc., do to meet these stated objectives?

How can the EJ, Inc., further enhance staff development in the Cooperative Extension Service?

Should the EJ, Inc., sponsor training programs in specialized areas such as newsletter writing, personal development, and time management?

Should the EJ, Inc., sponsor a "think tank" for the exploration of the possible future growth and directions of the Cooperative Extension Service?

At the June Board of Directors meeting, the directors and the staff discussed these ideas. How do you feel about them? Share your ideas with board members and/or the staff. You'll find them enthusiastic and willing listeners. The *Journal* is 15 years old and if it's to fulfill its mission, the time is right for a bold futuristic sta-

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