

Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

Snap out of it

Do you sometimes find yourself with people who do not give 100% and complain all the time to others?

If so, you are not alone. Many people put up with that kind of behavior on the job, in activities or in relationships. The key to solving the problem is pinpointing it and correcting it.

I once was on a committee with an individual named Kelley. I couldn't attend a conference, meeting or activity without hearing her complain about something. The food was bad, the speaker's voice was annoying, or she was tired. The list goes on.



Jamie Meyer

I wanted to get the committee's opinion of my observation, so I confronted the others to get their feedback. Everyone felt the same about her attitude. The constant complaining had to stop. The only thing it was accomplishing was making the rest of us irritable. We casually confronted her and discussed the problem as a committee. To our surprise, she took it great! Come to find out, she had been going through some tough times and found herself relaying only negative vibes to others. She appreciated us for confronting her instead of talking behind her back.

The situation could have had another outcome. Our committee could have ignored the problem, thus causing greater distress and achieving no resolution. However, we chose to *help* and to *confront* the problem, and it made our committee stronger and more supportive of each other.

When dealing with others, you must understand that everyone has different outlooks, backgrounds and feelings. If you find yourself in a similar situation, confront it. Otherwise, it won't be resolved, and it only will get worse over time.

10 commandments of human relations

- Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
- Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, but only 14 to smile.
- Call people by name. The sound of our own name is music to our ears.
- Be friendly and helpful.
- Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is genuinely a pleasure, and if it isn't, learn to make it so.
- Be genuinely interested in people.
- Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.
- Be considerate with others' feelings. There are usually three sides to a controversy: yours, the other fellow's and the right one.
- Be alert to serve. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
- Add to this a good sense of humor, a bit of patience and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded manifold through life.

God bless.

— **Jamie Meyer, Douglass, Kan.**

- **Wisconsin State Fair Junior Angus Show, West Allis**
Judge: Dr. Dave Nichols, Manhattan, Kan.
Showmanship judge: Frank Kaehler, Saint Charles, Minn.

(l) Showmanship champion
Stacey Luety, Clinton



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Serving on the Board of Directors for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for 2000-2001 are (seated, from left) **Sonya Smith**, Lebanon, Tenn., chairman; **Brandon Douglas**, Gentry, Ark., vice chairman; **Allison Porter**, Jefferson, Ga., communications director; **Sy Olson**, Hereford, Texas, Angus Foundation director; **Miranda Grissom**, Prague, Okla., leadership director; and **Jamie Meyer**, Douglass, Kan., membership information director; (standing, from left) **Christy Walther**, Mount Crawford, Va.; **Jessica Sawyer**, Bassett, Neb.; **Tom Patterson**, Columbus, Mont.; **Heath Johnson**, Tupelo, Miss.; **Ryan Sweeney**, Mason, Mich.; and **Brittney Burns**, Kickapoo, Ill.