



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

## Changes

*It's that time of year, when we pull out our piggy banks to buy those dozen roses, or we think of the most heartfelt things we can say or do for the person we love. One thing I have watched for the past 19 years is the changes in my life as well as in others that this holiday brings as I get older.*

### Defining love

I recall being a little girl and thinking, “ewww gross,” of all this mushy, I love you stuff. I remember being very upset and



**Kirbe Schnoor**

embarrassed when my parents kissed in public. It seemed so wrong because I felt like they were too old to do that. As year after year has passed, I have found a new meaning for this month of love.

I surpassed that little girl stage, transitioning into what they call the terror teen part. Still, all that “love stuff” was disgusting, but interest in the opposite sex did begin. At the high school age, I referred to love as awkward. That’s because I was young and not as smart as I thought I was. We believe love is what we want it to be.

So on this special holiday, I try to do the appropriate things for a significant other by buying them flowers, a bear or chocolates. Not that any of this has an important meaning, but it’s what we have been known to do. By putting a label on those things that say, “I Love You,” it shows our affection and explains our feelings.

Now, being in college and realizing this is where the real love can begin, I find myself laughing about it all. As I look back, I appreciate the affection my parents showed to each other. I appreciate the love they gave their family and friends, and for that I thank

them because I have found the true meaning for how I define love.

So, through this holiday time I want you to think beyond loving only one other person. Buy flowers for a stranger because they need to be loved; for the lonely person who doesn’t have anyone to show them affection; or for your parents, family and/or friends who have loved you unconditionally.

Through this month of love, expand your thought on that four-letter word. Remind yourself that to love someone you must love yourself. The word *love* is so strong, yet we have the ability to make a difference with it. By loving one another we are creating a difference within ourselves, and in the lives of others.

A great leader not only loves a friend but a stranger as well. There are so many things that the four-letter word *love* can do to one person. Morrie Schwartz says, “The most

### ► North Dakota Angus Ass’n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Mandan, Nov. 22



►Angus royalty are (from left) **Cassandra Hanson**, Enderlin, 2009 queen; **Lindsay Valenta**, Jamestown, 2008 princess; **Lynsey Frey**, Granville, 2008 queen; and **Amy Becker**, Carrington, 2009 princess.

important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in.”

Have a great month, and Happy Valentines Day!

— **Kirbe Schnoor, California**

### American Agri-Women scholarships available

American Agri-Women (AAW) provides two scholarships for farm, ranch or agribusiness women or their daughters, to pursue accredited courses in ag leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or any other courses directly related to agriculture.

- The Jean Ibendahl Scholarship was initiated in 1991 by AAW member and educator Jean Ibendahl. It is available to high school graduates and women, ages 18-23.
- The Sister Thomas More Bertels Scholarship was initiated in 1991 to honor a founding mother of AAW. It is available to women who are returning students in agriculture and are 24 years old or older.

Each scholarship is for \$500, to be used for tuition. An applicant must be a farmer, rancher or be the wife, daughter or other close relative of a farmer, rancher or other person employed in agriculture. She must have knowledge of or work experience in agriculture and show an economic or financial need. Grade point average (GPA) or placement scores on tests are considered.

Applications for each of the scholarships are due by June 1. A copy of the applications and the submission information may be found on the AAW web site, [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org). For more information, contact Marcie Williams, president, at [president@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:president@americanagriwomen.org).



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