

Be Yourself

by *Brooklyn Adam*

Growing up, I never imagined myself as one of those “big kids” in maroon jackets whom I admired so much as a young showman. I thought only popular or special people wore them. The spring before I decided to run for the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors, I found myself thinking those same thoughts.

“I’m not important enough; no one knows who I am.” After talking to my parents about how awesome it would be for someone in our family to run for the board, I found the courage. As a quiet person, finding courage

was a challenge. It’s hard to strike up a conversation with strangers. I like keeping to myself and doing what is asked of me. I set a goal to be better, to try harder and to do more than what was asked.

The week before the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), I hadn’t decided what my goals would be on the board or what kind of difference I wanted to make. As a planner, this was tough. I eventually set my goals and knew I needed to overcome my fear of talking with strangers. I wasn’t sure how, but I knew I could.

The JNHE rolled around quickly, and I was prepared — or so I thought. I campaigned and reached out to each voting delegate, their families and state members. The conversations became easier. On my last night of campaigning, I talked so much I lost track of time. Then, I saw other candidates dressed nicely walking toward the main building, and I panicked. I realized I was almost late to our panel interviews and did not have anything to wear. With the help of the trade show vendors, I scrambled to find a dress and shoes. I had everything planned and went into my interview and speech with confidence.

The night of the announcements for the new junior board members finally came,

and they called my name. By the time I put on my new jacket, I had sweat through my khaki skirt and dug a hole in the shavings with the heels of my shoes. I cried tears of joy and celebrated with my family. It was such an accomplishment being elected.

Looking back

Now, I’m not exactly sure if I remember the goals I set three years ago or the words I said to those delegates, but I will never forget the words I decided to live by the week I ran. Those words were, “Be yourself.” I decided that even though a lot of people may not know me, it didn’t matter. What mattered is who I truly was on the inside, and I knew I had to show them that. I believe the delegates saw something in me that I struggled to find in myself, or else I wouldn’t have been in this position. I knew I wanted to be someone others looked up to, but I wasn’t sure how.



Brooklyn Adam



Chairman

Montana Lawrence,
lawre474@morris.umn.edu

Vice chairman

Abigail Spindle, abigail.spindle1@gmail.com

Communications chair

Bailey Morrell, bsmshowcattle5@gmail.com

Fundraising chair

Noah Benedict, nojo1132@gmail.com

Leadership chair

Luke Daniels, luke@circleh.info

Membership chair

Wyatt Lawrence, wytattherf99@gmail.com

Directors

Brooklyn Adam, brooklynadam113@gmail.com

JW Cox, jwcox2009@gmail.com

Samuel Lawrence, sflittingservices@icloud.com

Lauren McMillan, laurentmcmillan@gmail.com

Ralston Ripp, ralstonripp@gmail.com

Libby Rushton, libbyrushton2001@gmail.com

Director of youth activities

Amy Cowan

816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

JrHereford.org

For those of you who are struggling to find your place in this world, I encourage you to be yourself. People will see your potential when you can't, and will help you find the person you want to be. Allow yourself to see those things because you are important, you are special and you

are awesome enough to wear a maroon jacket.

I need to thank every single person who helped get me to where I am today. The list is long, but you know who you are. Thank you for seeing my potential, my leadership and my love for the Hereford family. I have learned more in the

last three years than I have in my lifetime, and I owe it to those who trusted me to serve on the NJHA board of directors.

Quotes to Live By

by **Samuel E. Lawrence**

"If you fall seven times, get up eight."

One of the most valuable reminders I received is God has a plan, and his timing doesn't always align with ours. Serving on the NJHA board of directors had been a lifelong goal. In 2017, I geared up and ran for the board. Unfortunately, I was not elected.

At the time, I was disappointed, but as the days, weeks and months went by, I made the difficult decision to run again. Next year, I, once again, found myself full steam ahead with hopes and aspirations of obtaining one of those coveted maroon jackets. The 2018 JNHE in Grand Island, Neb., was my year to get up an eighth time and make this dream come true.

"The roots."

It is easy to see an old oak tree standing strong and tall. In a way, an old oak tree and the JNHE are relatively similar. Everyone hears about how much time, effort and money go into an event as prestigious as the JNHE. Before serving on the board, I didn't realize how deep the roots ran to support the junior programs as a whole.

The tree of the JNHE and NJHA stems much farther than the board members, advisors and our leadership at the office. Countless volunteers and donors make our events possible.

"Village continued ..."

Not only does it take a village to make events like JNHE and Faces of Leadership (FOL) possible, but it also takes a large number of people to allow every board member to do what we do. Although we're honored to serve, our families play a huge role in our success.

I would like to publicly thank my parents, Scott and Susan Lawrence, and my two younger sisters, Sarah and Sage, for allowing me the opportunity to serve these last three years.

My parents have done a lot for my sisters and me over the years, but the most impactful thing they have done is allow us the opportunity to show all over this great country, second only to teaching and showing us how to live our lives for Christ.

If not for livestock, I have no idea what my life would look like or where I would be. Sarah and Sage, you two have picked up the slack at shows because I have either been working the ring or judging contests. Thank you for your continued support of my goals and commitments.

As many juniors navigate through school, college and



Samuel Lawrence

entering the job force, remember, God has a plan, and fear is simply misplaced faith. Take care and God Bless! **HW**