

**Elect**

Ann Nieuwenhuis

**MY EXPERIENCE**

**Comstock Township Supervisor**  
**Common Sense Solutions**

### **Education**

Master of Arts, Home Economics with emphasis in Communication, 1988, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Bachelor of Science, Home Economics and Family Living, 1973, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

### **Professional Development**

- 200+ hours County Commissioner training focused on finance, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture and tourism, and health and community services.
- 4500 hours of professional development with Michigan State University.  
Subject matter: strategic planning, intergovernmental cooperation, land use, water quality, program planning & evaluation, continuous quality, public relations, media communication, grant writing and fiscal management, and etc.
- Leadership Kalamazoo, Graduate, class of 1994

### **Community Involvement, 2008 to present**

- Regularly attend Comstock Township and City of Galesburg meetings
- Comstock Daze committee 2011 -12, volunteer /supporter 2008-2010
- Kalamazoo River Trail Way, assist fundraising committee
- Volunteer for Burn Camp fund raiser -- Apple Bee Pancake Breakfast
- Member of Comstock Communities for all Ages Project, chaired survey project
- Member of 2010 Greater Galesburg Day committee, volunteer 2008-09
- Volunteer for Galesburg 2010 Clean-up day
- Volunteer for 2009-10 Senior Expo
- Instructor for Michigan Association of Counties: "Running for Public Office"

### **Professional Experience**

**Kalamazoo County Commissioner, 2009 to present**

- Michigan Association of Counties Agriculture and Tourism Committee, Chair 2011 to present, member since 2009
- Kalamazoo County Commission Board vice-chair and board liaison to the Older Adult Services Advisory Committee 2009-2011
- Vice-chair of Health /Community Services standing Committee, 2009
- Council of Government board liaison
- Advocate for Agriculture

**Western Michigan University Instructor, 2010 to present**

- Family and Consumer Science Department (FCS)
- Consumer Education, required class for business and FCS majors

**Even Cut Services, LLC, 2004 to present**

- Co-owner of a Lawn Care and Snow Plowing business

**Emergency Planning Specialist, Michigan State University, Statewide, 2009 to 2010**

- Identified critical emergency issues within a community, accessed organizational role, pulled together partners, resources, and implemented practical solutions.
- Brought diverse groups and individuals together in an educational setting and enabled the group to build bridges and create unique community partnerships, while ensuring that the talents of each individual was honored and appreciated.
- Developed and maintained excellent relationships with agricultural industry plus county, state and federal partners.
- Utilized technology to teach and communicate with audience participants across the state.
- Successful grant writer, repeat grant-funding indicative of program success, dependability and recognized by funders for innovative programming.

**State and Local Government Area of Expertise Team, MSU**

Extension, 1994 to 2008

- Catalyst and facilitator for community development and public policy.
- Conducted strategic planning for County Commissioners, elected officials and county staff in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Van Buren and St. Joseph counties plus Kalamazoo and Texas Townships.

- Author for County Commissioner academy curriculum and instructor for newly elected and seasoned county commissioners. Designed county government curriculum for high school students.
- Instructor for Citizen Planner, a land use series designed to equip key decision makers with the technical knowledge and leadership skills needed for “best practices” in land use management.

**County Extension Director**, MSU Extension, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1992 to 2008

- Extensive business administration including budget development and analysis for over one million dollars annually in county, state, federal and grant budgets.
- Provided leadership for eight Extension County Educators, six district agents, accounts manager and department manager plus indirect supervision of twelve program assistants and support staff.
- Responded quickly, effectively, and decisively to organizational issues. During county budget crisis utilized a wealth of community contacts for a positive outcome.

**Public Information Officer**, Kalamazoo County Government, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1999 to 2007.

- Responsible for educating citizens on emergency preparedness and for the distribution of accurate critical information to residents during countywide disasters.
- Coordinated the creation and dissemination of county heat index advisories. Educated media on new protocol. Many materials used statewide.

**Family and Consumer Science Educator**, Michigan State University Extension, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1974 to 1992.

- Recruited, trained, and coached a diverse staff of nutrition instructors and maintained a positive and pro-active team environment.
- Developed innovative educational programs for limited resource families, replicated statewide, nationally and internationally.

**Professional Accomplishments** since 2008 to present:

- Member of newly established sub-committee (2009); Agriculture and Tourism within the Michigan Association of Counties. The committee creates an avenue to focus on prominent issues in Agriculture and Tourism. The meetings provide educational information for County Commissioners and bring first-hand interaction and discussion with pertinent interest groups and state department staff. Serves as chair of committee since 2011.
- Michigan was the first state to create, implement and evaluate a rapid response and information Animal Health Network connecting the Michigan Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian to non-commercial backyard livestock and poultry owners in all 83 counties. Funding is from a FAZD and USDA CSREES Special Needs grant.
- February 2009, Michigan was the first state to participate in the Strengthening Communities through Agro-security Planning project funded by FAZD. The focus is to address unique capabilities rather than design numerous scenario response plans.
- MSUE completed a Business Continuity Planning (BCP) project with four Michigan county Extension offices near nuclear power. Also providing BCP training to municipality staff—completed training with 83 County Clerks fall 2009 and Michigan Township Association members January 2010.
- Brought attention to the issue of unaffordable equine in the state of Michigan, subsequent committee by-products include a well-stocked web site with accurate information, a 3 part educational series available on DVD and PSA's on the issue.
- Assisted with STOP Sign research project designed to implement farm gate bio-security. Two campus specialists are evaluating best practices on this important subject area. Publications will include recommended policy and protocol.
- Facilitated five statewide DNR town hall meetings to discuss the Chronic Waste Disease findings and to learn the state's response in managing this emerging animal disease. DNR awarded MSUE Partner of the Year Award for this work in 2009.
- Facilitated the PrV (pseudorabies) response with 4-H county fair swine in the four quarantined areas. Designed and presented a discussion guide that enables fair boards

to create an animal emergency response plan. Taught "All Hazard" planning in February 2010.

- Partnered with the MDA and Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibits (MAFE) in response to the 2008 PrV (pseudorabies) outbreak. Subsequently created a discussion guide for creating an Animal Disease Outbreak Plan and conducted workshops at the MAFE annual meeting and subsequent zone meetings.

### **Professional Honors/Awards**

- Michigan Farm Bureau County Agriculture Year Award (2009)
- Department of Natural Resources Partner Award (2009)
- MSU Diversity Award, cancer screening project Hispanic women (2006)
- WMU Distinguished Member Alumni Academy (2001)
- Chamber's Performance Excellence Award for Strategic Planning County CQI Steering Committee (2001)
- National Emergency Preparedness Media Award (2000)
- Southwest Regional Award: Groundwater Program (1997)
- Michigan Children, Youth and Family Award (1993)
- Golden Loaf Award recognized for efforts to reduce hunger (1991)
- National Distinguished Award (1991)
- Michigan Distinguished Service Award (1989)
- Exceptional Performance Award (1988)
- National Showcase for Excellence (1988)
- National Excellence in Communications TV Award (1985)
- MSU Extension Most Improved Nutrition Program (1983)
- Granted Continuous Employment (1979)
- Equal Opportunity Award (1976)

### **Professional Affiliations**

- WMU Alumni Association, joined 2011
- Republican Party, Women Republican Party joined 2008
- Michigan Farm Bureau, member since 1990
- Michigan Association of Counties, Ag and Tourism Committee member 2008 to present, Chair of committee since 2011
- Kalamazoo County Advocate for Senior Services (KCASI), 2010
- Sunrise Kiwanis, 2008 to 2010
- League of Women Voters, 2008 to 2011
- Michigan Association of Emergency Managers, 2008 to 2010

- Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Advisory Board 1992-2008
- WMU Family/ Consumer Science Advisory Board, 2000 to 2007
- National Association of Public Information Officers, 2000 to 2007
- Kalamazoo Rotary, 1993 to 2007, various committees/projects
- Michigan Association of Extension Educators, 1974 to 2008

## **Publications**

- "Protecting your Investment"—Steps to Create An Effective Animal Health Fair Emergency Response Plan, Discussion Guide, 2009
- Winning Strategies for a Successful Campaign, 2000, handbook designed to assist citizens considering running for public office.
- Second Time around Curriculum, 1999, Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren, co-researcher /author, sold internationally.
- "2000 and you", a free comprehensive workbook with practical information in preparation for Y2K, 15,000 copies distributed.
- County Government- It Touches All of US, 1998, co-authored high school curriculum, numerous resources, shared statewide.
- Managing Your Money, Leader's guide and participant workbook, 1992, published in Eric Clearinghouse on Adult Education.
- Mom and Me Parenting Curriculum, co-authored teen parenting curriculum 1990, curriculum implemented nationally.