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Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association Mission

To provide a collective voice to promote youth and adult development through teamwork, support, leadership opportunities, and motivational encouragement in partnership with the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

A note from Patrick,

It is a pleasure to serve as your President of the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association.

This is going to be a very exciting and productive year for the association. A number of centennial activities will be conducted in the celebration of 100 years of 4-H existence. However, it is my goal to have at least one hundred lifetime members by February 2002 Annual Conference.

This year a new feature will take place at the Annual Conference. The Volunteer Choir will provide music. You will be hearing about the choir in the future. Southern Regional Volunteer Leader Forum is fastly approaching. This is a great opportunity to network with other leaders and pick up on excellent ideas/activities for local clubs.

I also attended Fall Leader Forum at the Southwest and Southeast Districts. Northwest and Northeast - beware! South Mississippi is on the move. At least thirty-six new members joined during these forums.

I look forward to working with each of you this year.

*Patrick Morgan
MVLA President*

Be a Lifetime Member for the Time of Your Life!

Membership in the MVLA continues to grow! Thanks to the 350 volunteers who have paid their \$5.00 annual dues.

We currently have 61 Lifetime Members. Lifetime Members contribute \$100 to support 4-H scholarships.

The Lifetime Memberships can be paid in partial payments.

Wouldn't it be great to have 100 Lifetime Members by our 100th birthday!

Although our year is based on January to January, we will accept your membership at any time.

See Debby Martin, MVLA Treasurer, or a MVLA officer for more information.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT FORUM 'ROCKS AND ROLLS'

The Southeast District Volunteer Leader's Association 'Rocked and Rolled into Action' on Saturday, August 18 at Jones County Community College with their annual fall forum.

4-H Volunteers, Senior 4-H'ers, county agents, and other 4-H personnel attended hands-on workshops that included robotics, expressive art, gardening, sewing projects, ATV safety, a portion of the ROPES course, health, Rockin' 4-H meetings, and Cloverleaf exhibits.

Patsy Douglas led an interactive workshop on team building and Dr. Johnny Purvis jolted the adults with an informative talk on "Recognizing the Destructive Behavior in Youth." Each workshop gave attendees useful ideas to take to their clubs.

Now all that attended are ready to "Rock and Roll into Action!"

By Sharon Wilcox

Chevron Companies Sponsor Community Pride Grants

Chevron's Community Pride grant program helps provide youth with incentives to improve their local community.

For more than a quarter of a century, the Chevron Community Pride grants have been accessible to youth-serving organizations. By investing in environmental education projects for K-12 youth, the Community Pride grant program helps youth learn cooperative skills that will bring success and prepare them as future leaders.

This prestigious program recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of the "best of the best" Community Pride programs by awarding and recognizing the groups at Congressional District and statewide levels.

Community Pride grants are awarded semi-annually, based on the educational involvement of youth and the participation of community organizations to improve the community and enhance the environment.

The Community Pride grant packet is available from your county Extension office, and has complete information about the program and outlines regulations on how to apply for the grants.

NOTE: All Community Pride grant proposals must be submitted under a fall or spring schedule. Fall proposals are due in the 4-H Department on November 1, and spring proposals are due on March 1.

Each grantee receives a cash grant and a certificate of achievement from Chevron Companies.

For more information visit the MSU-ES web site at www.msucare.com/4h_Youth/communitypride.html or contact Betty Rawlings at 662-325-3350 or by email at rawlings@ext.msstate.edu

By Betty Rawlings

Time for 4-H Day and Annual Alumni Reunion

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2001.

This is 4-H Day at the State Fair in Jackson and the date of our Second Annual Alumni Reunion.

Tentative plans are to begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Mississippi Cattleman's Building.

By Morris Houston

Harvey's Tips

HELPING THOSE WHO HELP YOUTH

Happy volunteers strengthens your 4-H program

The greatest assets you'll ever have are the people who volunteer to work for youth. If you take the time find out what interest and motivates each of your volunteers, then it's much easier for you to build a strong 4-H program.

You need volunteers as much as they need to contribute to the 4-H program. If you let them, your volunteers really can make a difference.

- ✓ Recognize each volunteer for a job well done. It can be done with praise, a pat on the back, a plaque or lunch.
- ✓ Volunteers want to make worthwhile contributions. Let them. Be a good listener so you can understand every idea or suggestion your volunteers give you. Ask for their suggestions concerning the 4-H program, and willing to make whatever changes necessary to implement their good ideas.
- ✓ Volunteers should feel as though you really rely on them to help you make decisions. Once you decide on what needs to be done, then, give them the opportunity to help you figure out how, when and by whom it should be done.
- ✓ Volunteers always do a better job when they understand exactly what you want them to accomplish. Train, support, guide, and develop your volunteers. Let them know what is expected of them and how their performance will be evaluated.
- ✓ Your volunteers should always know you are available, approachable and interested in them personally, as well as in the work they do.

Make your volunteers feel important, and they will work to make you successful.

By Harvey Gordon

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

A unique birthday gift opportunity for 4-H

Southern Farm Bureau, a supporter of 4-H for many years, will host the Southern Farm Bureau PGA Golf Classic in Madison, MS during late October of this year. They have offered 4-H (and others) the opportunity to benefit from this national event through their "Birdies for Charity" program.

Included in your newsletter is a pledge form that allows you to make a 1 cent (\$.01) or 2 cent (\$.02) pledge for each 'birdie' made by the professional golfers who are participating in the Southern Farm Bureau PGA Golf Classic. The golfers normally make 1500 – 1800 birdies over the course of the tournament, meaning a 1 cent pledge would equal \$15 – \$18. A 2 cent pledge would equal \$30 – \$36. You will be contacted later about paying the pledge.

While the 4-H Centennial Celebration will receive funding assistance from the National 4-H Foundation and Congress, additional funds are needed to insure all our youth, volunteers, and supporters have a year to remember.

All of your pledge will go to the Mississippi 4-H program to celebrate our Centennial Anniversary and to promote the 4-H benefit to all of Mississippi.

In addition to every penny coming back to 4-H to help our youth and program, there are additional great reasons to support this unique effort.

1. Your pledge is tax deductible
2. With a 2 cent pledge, you will receive your 2002 Mississippi 4-H Alumni Membership at no additional cost (a great way to renew or begin your alumni membership)
3. The organization with the most pledges will receive from the Tournament additional \$10,000. A great bonus that will go directly to our youth program
4. With each pledge, you may take a guess at the number of "birdies" made during the tournament and possibly win a new 2002 Buick automobile (provided by the Tournament) or other great prizes.

This has been a tremendously successful program in other states that have PGA Tournaments. It can become a major source of support for the Mississippi 4-H Program over the coming years. Forms can not be duplicated. Call Amanda Winston, 662-325-9888 if you need additional forms.

Return your completed pledge form ONLY to: Mississippi 4-H Birdies, Box 9641, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or directly to Century Club Charities on the back of the pledge form.

We thank you for your support of 4-H.

By Morris Houston

JOIN THE BIGGEST BIRTHDAY PARTY IN 4-H HISTORY!!

The year 2002 is the 100th "BIRTHDAY" of 4-H and Mississippi will be joining in the celebrating.

One full century of giving the youth of Mississippi and the Nation a better opportunity to succeed.

We invite you to be an active participant in this exciting time. Plans are now being made to incorporate our celebration into current 4-H events and activities, and to hold special events.

"Birthday Parties" are being planned for your county to celebrate and to hear your thoughts and views on the 4-H direction in our second century.

We'll have a State Celebration, then send a special delegation to Washington, D.C. to meet with groups from every state to develop a plan for the future.

This plan will then go to Congress and the President. It will be a year of celebration, reflection, and preparation as we prepare to "Make the Best Better" for another 100 years.

Watch for activities in your area, event schedules and details are coming soon, but plan now to TAKE PART AND CELEBRATE!

By Morris Houston



Government First-Hand Citizenship in Action

During this time of national unrest in light of the recent terrorism, perhaps the time has never been better for us to focus on our government and our role as good citizens of the United States of America. Four-H offers its members and volunteers the opportunity to do just that. Each summer Mississippi 4-H ers and adult chaperones travel on a bus to the National 4-H Center and our Nation's Capitol for a week of fun and fellowship as they learn about the governmental process. This event is known as Citizenship Washington Focus and it is hosted by the National 4-H Center staff.

In recent years our numbers have begin to dwindle for this trip because of the increased cost of this experience. However, when you consider the benefits and opportunities that this trip gives our 4-H members, the cost is minor. Next summer, Mississippi has requested the third week in June as our week in Washington for CWF. The cost will be \$750. A deposit of \$100 is due by February 15, 2002 with the remainder of the money due on May 1, 2002. The \$750 will be well-spent on transportation on an MSU bus to and from Washington, meals and lodging for a week at the National 4-H Center, tours and field trips to most of the sights of the area, speakers and entertainment and other learning experiences during the week. It's really a bargain when you consider the cost of a vacation to Washington. Encourage your 4-H members who will be at least 15 next summer to start saving their coins now to make this trip possible.

As volunteers, we are asking you to support and promote this learning experience for your 4-H members. Perhaps you can help to defray the costs for the young people in your county with personal contributions or by soliciting funds from local sponsors to help with expenses. Each county has the opportunity to send young people and volunteers on this trip. If you have not been on the CWF trip yourself, you need to sign up.

By Nelda Starks

4-H VOLUNTEER CHOIR

Plans are underway to organize a State 4-H Volunteer Leaders Choir. All interested 4-H volunteer leaders should contact their Agent with 4-H responsibilities for a registration form. Registration forms are due in the State 4-h Office by October 1, 2002. The 4-H Volunteer Choir organizational meeting and rehearsal will be held in November. The Choir will perform during the Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference, which will be held February 22-24, 2002, at Camp Wesley Pines located in Gallman, Mississippi. This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to combine their talents. We are hoping to assemble a good group of volunteers.

By Harvey Gordon



NEW MVLA MEMBERS AWARD PROGRAM

Mississippi 4-H Volunteers Leaders Association Board has established a new award category, the "MVLA 4-H Clover Membership Award". The purpose of this award is to recognize counties that enroll their 4-H Volunteers Leaders as members of the State Association in 2001. The number of paid memberships will be divided by the number of volunteers that the county reported in their Extension Service Annual Report. Counties will be recognized in the following categories:

1. *One Clover Leaf Award* – Twenty-five percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.
2. *Two Clover Leafs Award* – Fifty percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.
3. *Three Clover Leafs Award* – Seventy-five percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.
4. *Four Clover Leafs Award* – One Hundred percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.

If you have 4-H volunteers who have not become a member of the State Association, please encourage them to do so by filling out the attached MVLA Membership Form. Annual membership fees are \$5.00 and lifetime memberships are \$100.00.

By Harvey Gordon



4-H Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

Sept. 30 – October 3 – National Association of Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (NCEFCS) - Portland, OR

1-4 — National 4-H Dairy Conference

2 — Mississippi State Fair Exhibit Judging – Jackson

3-14 — Mississippi State Fair – Jackson

2- State Fair 4-H Exhibit Judging

6 - Junior Lamb Show

7 - Beef Showmanship

7 – Junior Steer Show

8 – Junior Swine Show

8 - Junior Beef Breeding Show

9 - Senior 4-H Livestock Judging

11- Senior 4-H Dairy Judging

12- 4-H Dairy Sweetheart Contest

12– Open Dairy Show

13 – 4-H Day

13 – Junior Dairy Show

13 – 4-H Beef, Cookout

13 – 4-H Pork Cookout

13- 4-H Poultry Cookout

13 – 4-H Fashion Revue

3-7 — Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum – Rock Eagle, GA

7 — 4-H Sunday

7-13 — Mississippi and National 4-H Week

11 – Foundation Board Meeting

11 – Junior Horse Judging Competition

12 – AQHA Congress – Horse Judging Contest

13 – 4-H Alumni Reunion

13 – MSU Homecoming

13 – Alcorn State University Homecoming

13– Agriculture Alumni Breakfast

14-20 – National Character Counts Week

16 – Wood Magic

16 – World Food Day

20 – Make a Difference Day

21-27 – National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) - Bismarck, ND

NOVEMBER

1 — Community Pride Grant Applications due

2-3 — 4-H Field and Stream Volunteers Leader Training – Collins

2-4 — 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl – Louisville

2-5 — National Junior Horticulture Association

Convention (NJHA)

3 — 4-H Tailgate party

3-5 — North American Invitational Dairy Judging – Louisville, KY

5-9 — District Training – 1

10 — NE District 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum

12 — National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest – Louisville, KY

14-16 — National Poultry and Egg Conference – Louisville

17 — MVLA Board Meeting

22-23 — Thanksgiving Holiday

23-27 — National 4-H Congress – Atlanta, GA

2001 MVLA OFFICERS

President – Patrick Morgan

Past-President – Raymond Radcliff

President-Elect – Sharon Davis

Vice-President – Marilyn Walters

Secretary – Connie Williams

Treasurer – Debbie Martin

Parliamentarian – Roxie Smith

Historian – Renetta McMillan

Reporter – Lisha Hopper

District Coordinators

Northeast District – Carol Monts

Northwest District – Artie Bibbs

Southeast District – Sharon Wilcox

Southwest District – Bonnie Hardin

The VIP newsletter is published by and for 4-H Volunteers and Mississippi State Extension Staff.

Send story ideas to Harvey Gordon, 4-H Volunteer Coordinator, Mississippi State University or Lisha Hopper c/o Mississippi State 4-H and Extension Office, Mississippi State University.