

VIP

Volunteers' Ideas in Practice

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Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association Mission Statement

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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Annual Membership in MVLA grew to over 500 in 2001. Currently there are two hundred and forty eight annual members reenrolled in MVLA.

In order to increase the number of annual members we need you renew your membership with your state association. The Annual Membership fee is \$5.00.

Fill out the enclosed membership form and return your check payable to MVLA and form to Harvey Gordon, Box 9641, Mississippi State, MS, 39762.

Thanks for helping us to reach a milestone in Association membership last year. We are counting on you to help us exceed last year's numbers. JOIN TODAY!

-Debby Martin, MVLA Treasurer

-Receiving the first life time memorial contribution for the late Mr. Athaniel H. Moody from Florieda K. Mason.

-Providing support for Mississippi 4-H Volunteers to attend the Southern Region Leader Forum. We are in the process of making plans for the 2003 Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference. The Annual Conference will be held February 21-23rd, in Gallman, at Wesley Pines Conference and Retreat Center. We are having a great year! Let's keep the momentum going by attending the Annual Conference. See you in February.

MVLA President Message Sharon Davis

Wow! Another Rock Eagle trip has come and gone. We had a great time and have so much to share back home. If you have never been, make plans now to participate in the next trip. We were among six hundred delegates from thirteen states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Patty Tucker from Lee County, District Director for the Northeast District, served on this years' Regional planning committee.

We have accomplished several of our goals this year. Our lifetime membership has grown to 102 and currently we have over 300 annual members in our Association. We really need to enroll about 200 annual members if we are going to reach our goal of 500 for the year. With your help, I believe that we can do it. If you are not a current member, all you need to do is fill out the enclosed membership form and mail it to Harvey Gordon in the State 4-H Office.

Our District Coordinators have been planning and conducting Leader Forums in the Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Districts. The Fall Forum for the Northeast District will take place November 9 in Verona. There are some great workshops lined up. Make plans to attend.

Your Association has conducted Livestock Symposiums in the North and South half of the state. This has been a great opportunity to train a new group of 4-H volunteers.

Our Association coordinated the "Heritage Events" during the 100th birthday celebration of 4-H. Your 4-H Volunteer Choir provided the headline for entertainment during the celebration. Fun and games as well as square dancing enriched the more than 1000 persons who visited the Heritage Events.

Other accomplishments included:

-Recognizing over fifty 4-H volunteer for years of service ranging from 10 to 60 years.

-Presenting the first MVLA Scholarship to David Willard, a 4-H'er from Oktibbeha County.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CONTINUES

2002 has been an exciting year for the Mississippi 4-H program, and for all 4-H. It has been our 100th anniversary. Our Centennial Anniversary Celebration actually began in October 2001 at the State Fair. Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Dr. Lester Spell helped officially open our year of celebration during 4-H Day at the Fair.

The National 4-H Organization, in recognition of our 100 years of "Making the Best Better" developed a nation wide, county-by-county program to promote 4-H and in the process, develop a vision for benefiting our nation's youth and communities well into the 21st Century. This was accomplished by county "conversations" where local celebrations brought together 4-H youth, agents, volunteers, community leaders, parents and representatives from other youth serving organizations to discuss and recommend actions to benefit all youth. Reports from these meetings were forwarded to our state 4-H office for consolidation. They were used to develop a State Conversation in conjunction with the annual Mississippi 4-H Legislative Luncheon on February 12th of this year. Over 130 legislators and state leaders, and over 200 youth, parents, youth development leaders, and guests attended the State Conversation.

The report of our Mississippi conversations was then developed and taken to Washington D.C. in February by a group of youth and adult delegates to participate in the national conversation. During three days, reports from every state were consolidated and a national proposal was developed. On May 14, 2002, delegates representing the National 4-H Organization delivered the "Final Report" of the National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century to the President, National Agency Heads, and Congress. At the same time, states delivered copies of these reports to state leaders.

On July 20th, almost 2000 individuals attended the Mississippi 4-H Centennial Festival at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson. It was a great day of competitive events, renewing friendships, recognizing individuals of our 4-H history, and of hosting a groundbreaking for a Mississippi 4-H Museum. The 4-H museum project is still in its infancy. It is a project that will eventually allow us to record and display the great heritage of 4-H in Mississippi, provide recognition to individuals and organizations that have made 4-H such a vital part of Mississippi history, and to build our 4-H program into its second century.

We will be looking to the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders for participation, guidance, and leadership as we start our second one hundred years. Our first century of success can be attributed to many factors, none more important or vital than the dedication, care, and support of our own 4-H Volunteer Leaders.

Fund-raising Tips

All of us involved in 4-H know the importance of financial support to our youth program. Some are very successful in raising money while others seem to have a difficult time. Here are ten quick suggestions to consider in your fund raising efforts.

- 1 Have an annual budget that considers needs over at least three years.
- 2 Have a fundraising plan designed to help meet these needs.
- 3 Share and discuss your budget and plan with County 4-H Agent.
- 4 Determine when others are holding major fundraising activities in your area. Try and avoid these, and plan to find the "best" time to approach sponsors and donors.
- 5 Develop one or two major fundraising activities per year. By developing these into specific events and times and promoting them, supporters begin to associate with them and to expect your request. You may have a few lesser efforts if needed.
- 6 Avoid last minute requests for "emergency" assistance... if possible.
- 7 Avoid frequent and repeated requests for support. Carry your fundraising needs to major donor candidates on an annual basis if possible.
- 8 Make your donors and supporters a part of your Club. Invite them to activities, send a Christmas card, get their photo with your kids and provide them copies, get appropriate photos in the local paper. Say Thank you...often.
- 9 Don't try and raise all the funds yourself...use committees and kids.
- 10 Keep excellent financial records.

Fund raising activities and plans may not meet immediate success. Be patience, provide quality activities, and understand most things begin small before growing into great things.

CALL FOR 2003 NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

This year is really passing by quickly and we all have things that we are rushing to complete before the new year begins.

As a past-president of the Mississippi Volunteer Leaders' Association, I know just how quickly time can pass, so I want to get this request in early and ask each person to help me with it as if you are the only one who can help! I'm talking about nominating our future officers who will lead this association next year.

These are working jobs and they are very important. We need the very best leaders we have to work in the MVLA. They will make decisions that will directly impact our future, so nominate peers who you know will work and lead us forward!

In 2003, we will elect a new president-elect, vice-president, parliamentarian, and secretary (2 year term).

Let's choose *workers* and if you are asked to run please just say- "*I'll be glad to*". Send in your slate of nominations- today or by February 1, 2003! The nomination form is enclosed. Copy it and nominate a worker for each office and send it to Harvey Gordon at the State 4-H office at the address below. Your input will directly impact our future! - *Patrick Morgan*
Past President

Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum

Mississippi's fifty-nine delegates made their way to the winner's circle at the 2002 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum. We were among six hundred delegates from thirteen Southern States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands who received training to improve their skills as 4-H volunteers.

Sharon Davis, MVLA President, from Lafayette County, coordinated our group to the Forum. Patty Tucker from Lee County, District Coordinator for the Northeast District, served on this years' Regional planning committee.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

It's time to start planning to attend the Annual Volunteer Leaders Conference that will be held at the Wesley Pines Conference and Retreat Center in Gallman, MS on February 21-23.

Join your fellow Volunteer Leaders for a weekend full of workshop, funshops, comraderie and plain old fun!

See your extension agent for applications or contact Harvey Gordon at the State 4-H Office at 662-325-3353. Let the learning and games begin!!!!

4-H Record Form Computerized

The 4-H record program offers youth and adults the skills needed in becoming great record keepers. The 4-H record program encourages members and adults to establish goals, assume responsibility for record keeping, collect data using systematic procedures, and evaluate their progress.

The Mississippi 4-H Record has encountered some changes that offer a more user friendly method of collecting data. There are three new and revised forms for both members and adults. The new forms are: **Form 1046 - Mississippi 4-H Report Form** for ages 12-18; **Form 1045 - Mississippi 4-H Report Form** for ages 8-11; and **Form 192 - Annual 4-H Volunteer Record Form**.

Both of the member forms (1045 & 1046) are online via MSUcares - . After getting to the site, click on 4-H Record Program. The form for senior and Intermediate 4-H members is a PDF file and is available for members to type their report form and print the finished product. However, the junior form is available for printing purposes only.

The Annual 4-H Volunteer Record Form will be on line within the next few weeks. This form has been revised so if you have forms that were printed prior to 2001, please discard them!

If you have old national reports forms, please discard them immediately. These forms are not valid any longer!

With the 2003 year being the year of the 4-H club, we are encouraging all counties to get more involved with the Mississippi 4-H Record Program. If your county reports in the ES-237 as having 4-H members, volunteers, and community clubs, we are encouraging all counties to have their counties represented in the Mississippi 4-H Record program. Let's make 2003 and beyond the greatest year of all times for the 4-H Record Program!

Harvey's Tips

BUILDING A VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

(NOTE: This is the first in a series of three articles on this subject.)

A strong 4-H Club team develops as persons, who are aware of the mission of 4-H youth development, discover that 4-H provides for learning in which they want or need for their children or themselves. Motivation for leadership is rooted in consent to common goals and the satisfaction of personal growth.

The club leader plans for or helps the 4-H club team to plan for a leadership system of which makes the wisest use of the human resources available to the club. A strategy for building a volunteer leadership system should include twelve functions. I will discuss the first four of these functions in this issue of the VIP Newsletter. They are:

1. **Creating and maintaining awareness of the mission of 4-H youth development.** The mission or purpose of 4-H attracts persons to the program, and provides the larger goals around which they gather and toward which the team work together. The 4-H club team can promote understanding of human development through informal education by interpreting 4-H to all families of 4-H members, help each family feel a part of the club, interpreting the need for volunteer leaders in 4-H, and interpreting the 4-H program to the local community.
2. **Choosing to share leadership roles.** Team building begins with the decision to share leadership. Sharing leadership is not always easy to do. The leader of the team who chooses to share leadership takes a risk. By trusting others, the leader feels that the other person will follow through with the job accepted, and will find satisfaction and growth in doing so. The leader believes that the club will be stronger for having a broader base leadership.
3. **Carefully define leadership jobs, and planning to distribute them evenly among families.** What jobs does your 4-H club need to have done? The answer to the

question will depend on the size of the club, the kind of program that is planned, and the ages of the 4-H members. All clubs must have officers and adult leaders. It is important to distribute the jobs among the families of your 4-H club.

4. **Inviting an adult to consider a job.** A person who has chosen to accept a job will be much more committed to doing it well. Giving the person a choice begins with personal contact. The person-to-person '1 to 1' approach is the most effective way of asking! The primary leadership roles of the 4-H club, (organizational leader and project leader) will usually be taken by persons who are active in the club program and familiar with 4-H. The case in which this is not true is when a new club is being organized. Normally you recruit the volunteers that are willing to assume the roles and train them.

In the next issue of the VIP Newsletter I will discuss four additional functions necessary to Building a Leadership System.

2002 MVLA OFFICERS

President – Sharon Davis
Past-President – Patrick Morgan
President-Elect – Virginia Whittington
Vice-President – Linda Clayton
Secretary – Kathleen Smith
Treasurer – Debbie Martin
Parliamentarian – Brenda Crawford
Historian – Renetta McMillan
Reporter – Lisha Hopper

District Coordinators

Northeast District – Patty Tucker
Northwest District – Sherry Sanders
Southeast District – Angie Williams
Southwest District – Edna Smith

4-H Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 1- Community Pride Grant Applications due
- 1-4 National Junior Horticulture Association Convention
- 5 Fall Session TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class
- 8-9 Southern Field and Stream Adult Volunteer Leader Training Workshop – Pearl, MS
- 8-10 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl – Louisville, KY
- 8-10 Youth Leadership Team Training – MSU
- 9 Junior Dairy Quiz Bowl – Rankin County Extension Office – Brandon, MS
- 9 Northeast District Fall 4-H Leader Forum – Verona, MS
- 9-11 North American Invitational Dairy Judging – Louisville, KY
- 12 Fall Session TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class – MSU
- 16 Mississippi Association of 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Board Meeting – MSU
- 18-24 North American Riding for the Handicapped Association National Conference – Chantilly, VA
- 20-22 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference – Louisville, KY
- 29- Dec. 3 – National 4-H Congress – Atlanta, GA

DECEMBER

- 1 Deadline: Ownership for Beef Breeding, Commercial Beef Heifers, Hogs, Purebred Dairy Animals, Commercial Dairy Heifers and Dairy Goats for District Shows and Mississippi Junior Round-up
- 6-7 Congress Planning Meeting – Raymond, MS
- 7 Sew with Wood – Jackson, MS
- 15 Deadline: Nomination forms and computer entries due on Hogs Showing at District Shows and Junior Round-up
- 17 State 4-H Department Holiday Open House – MSU
- 28 4-H All-Star Holiday Luncheon – Canton, MS

JANUARY

- 3 Deadline: Livestock (Beef Breeding, Dairy Goats, Commercial Dairy Heifers and Purebred Dairy Animals) Entries for District and Round-up Shows

JANUARY(cont)

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.

9-12 Western 4-H Round-up:
National 4-H

- Classic, Western Division, and National Livestock and Meats Judging, Consumer Judging – Denver, CO
- 11 North Mississippi 4-H Livestock and Dairy Judging Workshop – Verona, MS
- 15 Deadline: Outstanding 4-H Volunteer Leader Nominations due in State 4-H Office
- 15 Deadline: Entries for Beef Grooming Premier Exhibitor Program and Ultrasound Steer Evaluation Contest
- 23-25 Northwest District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Batesville, MS
- 23-25 Northeast District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Verona, MS
- 24-26 Southeast District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Hattiesburg, MS
- 27-27 Delta District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Greenwood, MS
- 27-30 Southwest District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Jackson, MS
- Jan. 30 – Feb. 6 Dixie National Junior Livestock and Dairy Show – Jackson, MS

FEBRUARY

- 1 Deadline: State 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association (MVLA) Officer Nominations due in State 4-H Office
- 1 Deadline: Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum (SLRF) Workshop Proposals due in State 4-H Office
- 1 Deadline: 4-H Legislative Page Applications due – MSU
- 10 4-H Foundation Board Meeting – Jackson, MS
- 11 4-H Legislative Day – Jackson, MS
- 21-23 Master Naturalist Association Meeting – Gallman, MS
- 21-23 Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association (MVLA) Conference – Wesley Pines Conference and Retreat Center – Gallman, MS
- 28-Mar. 2 Youth Leadership Team Training – MSU