



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

We need your assistance to help your Association to reach a goal of five hundred (500) annual members and two hundred lifetime members by February 2004.

Annual membership fees are \$5.00 and Lifetime membership fees are \$100.00.

If you have not renewed your 2003 membership with Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association, fill out the enclosed membership form and return your check payable to MVLA and form to Harvey Gordon. Your membership helps us to be a voice in Mississippi 4-H.

DON'T WAIT! JOIN TODAY!

Foundation scholarship for needy 4-H volunteers to attend the Annual Volunteer Conference next year. Keep Harvey informed of any changes in your address, phone, or email address. If you have an email address, let us know, so we can email the VIP newsletter to you.

We have 114 lifetime members to date and we would like to add at least 25 more or even go to 200 total lifetime members by the end of this year.

Thanks so very much for being part of a fantastic 4-H family and all the hours you contribute to making 4-H a success. 4-H is truly a way to keep making the BEST BETTER at whatever age we are. Robert Schuller said, "If it is to be, it is up to me." Take the challenge.

Virginia Whittington
MVLA President

President's Message

Greetings! Volunteers are special with more than 4,000 4-H volunteers in Mississippi.

I was motivated recently when I spotted a patch of four leaf clovers. Yes, I have pictures of them to share. It inspired me to grasp a look at our future. We have a great organization with a 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. May I challenge you to be a functioning part of this organization? We learn ourselves by being a part of the team.

My personal goal as your president is to move forward with the positive aim of developing our youth to become leaders and productive citizens in our society. Guiding 4-H'ers in clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and healthy lifestyles. Volunteers are essential in the lives of the 4-H youth. A collaborative volunteerism is making a joint effort with other organizations to be a part of the whole team through using their resources, share the load and motivate the world. Yes, reach out to all with the green clover. Contact your 4-H agent and volunteer where needed in your county. It even takes clean up crews to get the job done.

Plans are being made for the Annual 4-H Volunteer Conference 2004 on Feb. 27-29 at Gallman, MS. Mark you calendar and plan to meet me there.

The Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum is just around the corner so make your plans now to be on the bus. We would like to be represented with at least seventy-five volunteers this year.

Ask others to join our State 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association because some just need an invitation. Explain the benefits of being part of a team. Your State Association has established a State 4-H Foundation Scholarship for youth and the State 4-H

Volunteer Years of Service Recognition

During the 2003 State 4-H Congress Awards Program sixty-five Volunteer Leaders were recognized for their continuous service to the 4-H Program in Mississippi.

Volunteers receiving sapphire clover pins for sixty years of service Thelma Harris from Adams County and Dessie Burks from Madison County were awarded the sapphire clover pin for **sixty** years of service.

Marion Carmichael from Hinds County was the recipient of a genuine larger emerald pin for **forty-five** years of service.

The 4-H Clover award of the sapphire clover for **thirty-five** years of service was presented to Arella Bacon from Adams County, Buddy Kerr from Lowndes County, and Tommie Perry from Madison County.

The **thirty** years of service ruby clover pin was awarded to Aggie Carson and, Bernice Jefferson from Madison County, Tony Thompson from Oktibbeha County, and Sally Hunt from Panola County.

State Senator Bill Canon from Lowndes County and Rosella Davis from Madison County were presented the genuine green emerald clover pin for **twenty-five** years of service.

The two-point diamond center pin stunningly signifies **twenty** years of service was presented to Cherie Humphrey from Covington County, H. Ruth Brown, Velma Glass, and Robert Jefferson from Madison County, Dr. Mike and Jan Williams from Oktibbeha County, State Representative Pat and Jerri Montgomery from Pontotoc County, and Ivan Kiani from Scott County.

Recipients of the genuine pearl clover pin for **fifteen** years of service were presented to Debbie Holbrook and Francis Mosley from Clay County, Linda Clayton from Lauderdale County, Olivia Sansing from Lowndes County, Terry and Francine Miller and Cathleen Poe from Oktibbeha County, Melanie Kiani, Patricia Trash, Boyd Ware, and Bob Webb from Scott County, Raymond and Sherry Radcliff from Tallahatchie County, and Janet Calder from Yalobusha County.

The **ten** years of service gold clover pin was awarded to Marilyn Turner from Adams County, Vicki Mcilwain and Lisa Shelton from Clay County, Wendy Cawthorn from Copiah County, Patricia Cross and Paula Moore from Desoto County, Patsy Leist from Hinds County, Angie Williams from Harrison County, Gail Wood from Lauderdale County, Kathleen Smith from Lee County, Tammy Smith from Lowndes County, Joanne Raymond from Madison County, Robert O. Neel from Marion County, Lelonzia and Janie Donald from Monroe County, Deborah Kay Brown, Arthur and Nora Goliday, Tom and Cynthia Hill, Jed and Charlene Jones Jr., Larry and Marcella Tipton, and Phillip and Karen Williams from Oktibbeha County, and Chuck Howell, Dorothy Speights, and Joe Whitten from Pontotoc County.

All of our 2003 years of service recipients are to be congratulated for their continuous service to Mississippi 4-H. All volunteers are vital to the success of Mississippi's premier youth development program, 4-H.

- Harvey Gordon
State 4-H Specialist

2003 MVLA OFFICERS

President – Virginia Whittington
Past-President – Sharon Davis
President-Elect – Patty Tucker
Vice-President – Connie Williams
Secretary – Kathleen Smith
Treasurer – Debbie Carnathan
Parliamentarian – Sherry Sanders
Historian – Renetta McMillan
Reporter – Lisha Hopper

District Coordinators

NE District – Mildred Smith
NW District – Ella McPherson
SE District – Angie Williams
SW District – Nancy McCardle

Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum

The Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum will be held October 1-5, 2003 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center near Eatonton, Georgia.

We are planning to take two buses filled with Mississippi 4-H volunteers to Georgia. The bus routes will be determined after the registration is finalized.

The registration fee will be \$225.00 and is due in the State 4-H Office, Monday, July 28th.

This is a great opportunity to participate in workshops and funshops and build friendship with volunteers from Pouter Rico, The Virgin Islands, and the twelve other Southern States. Watch for additional information on the Forum from your local 4-H agent. The Forum planning committee is working on finalizing the plans.

Get Your 4-H License Plate Today

Support the Power of YOUth in Mississippi by purchasing a 4-H license plate.

The 4-H license plate design has been approved by the Mississippi State Tax Commission, and the drive to sell them is underway; 4-H must pre-sell 200 before the State of Mississippi will produce them.

The cost of these license plates is \$30.00 over and above the usual cost of your license plate, however *for a limited time applicants can purchase a license plate for only \$15.00. This is a great deal and is limited to the first 100 applicants.*

Applications for 4-H license plates can be obtained from your local Extension Service Office or from the MSU Cares websites at http://msucares.com/4h_Youth/license.html.

- Betty Rawlings

Call for E-Mail Addresses

Your 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association voted recently to start sending the VIP Newsletter to you via e-mail.

If you would like to be added to our list serve, mail your e-mail address to: Harvey Gordon, Box 9641 Mississippi State, MS 39762. A type written copy of your e-mail address would be preferable.

We would like to serve you better via the VIP Newsletter.

Thanks for being a Mississippi 4-H Volunteer.

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!

Woman credits 4-H for successes in life

By Keryn Page

MISSISSIPPI STATE -- For Patty Tucker, getting her teen-age daughters involved with Mississippi 4-H proved a smart move for the entire family.

Starting out as a volunteer leader, with duties that ranged from club chauffeur to club chef, Tucker worked her way through the program and now boasts a 24-year relationship with the club.

"Patty got involved with 4-H as a club leader because she wanted her two daughters to be involved in 4-H," said Sherry Smith, 4-H youth development agent with Mississippi State University's Extension Service and a close friend of Tucker. "At the time, she didn't realize all the tools she would gain herself. She has grown in 4-H along with her daughters."

Tucker, who worked as a secretary for the Mississippi Department of Transportation for 25 years, recently accepted the executive director position with the Northeast Mississippi chapter of the American Red Cross.

"Patty's experience with 4-H gave her the skills to look for something different and more challenging. She credits her 4-H training and experiences for giving her the self-confidence to even try something like this," Smith said.

"The skills I developed over the years being a volunteer leader and working with the 4-H program drastically changed my life for the better," Tucker said. "4-H has had a great impact on my life. Without 4-H, I wouldn't have many of the skills I have now -- public speaking, leadership, organizational and record-keeping skills."

Tucker said she knew she wanted to get involved with 4-H when she saw the positive changes the program had on the young people in Lee County, where she lives.

"I saw the impact it had on the kids in our community. It helped develop their skills and also increased their sense of citizenship and pride in the community," she said. "I knew 4-H was something I wanted my whole family to be involved with, and it has definitely been a family affair."

Her two daughters, Camille and Emily, both received state and national awards during their 4-H days, and her husband, William, serves as a volunteer leader with the Union Baptist 4-H Club in Lee County. Tucker is club adviser for that chapter.

Tucker did not realize the impact the 4-H program

would have on her own life, both personally and professionally. Helping 4-H youth with projects like record books and public speaking benefits volunteers just as much as the children, Tucker said.

"I strongly feel that 4-H is a learning experience not only for young people, but that it is a learning experience for adults as well," she said. "There was a time when I didn't feel confident speaking in front of a group of people. But helping 4-Hers develop those skills -- and serving in various positions throughout my years in 4-H -- have given me the ability to speak with ease in front of a group."

In addition to her new position with the Red Cross, Tucker serves as club adviser for her local 4-H club, treasurer of the Lee County 4-H Advisory Board, president-elect of the Mississippi Volunteer Leaders Association, and Mississippi representative to the planning committee of the Southern Region of Volunteer Leaders Conference.

Through her years volunteering with Mississippi 4-H, Tucker said she has formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

"These people believed in me even when I didn't have the confidence to do something. They encouraged me to go ahead and go for it," she said. "They encouraged me not to limit myself."

"All the 4-H staff -- and I've worked with a lot of local and state Extension staff over the years -- have been very helpful to me," she added. "Over these past 24 years, the Extension staff has been my extended family."

Golf Shirt Design Contest

Volunteers planning on attending the 2003 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum can participate in the Golf Shirt Design Contest. The winning design will be on the Mississippi delegation golf shirts.

Artwork designs are due to Harvey Gordon in the State 4-H Office by *July 15, 2003*. His mailing address is: Box 9641, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

The winner will receive a \$50.00 scholarship toward the registration fee for the Southern Region Volunteer Leader Forum at Rock Eagle, Georgia. The scholarship is sponsored by the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association.

For more information, contact Harvey Gordon at

4-H Calendar of Events

JULY

- 10-12 NE District Horse Show & Judging Contest – MSU
- 10-12 NW District Horse Show & Judging Contest – Greenville, MS
- 10-12 SE District Horse Show & Judging Contest – Hattiesburg, MS
- 10-12 SW District Horse Show & Judging Contest – Jackson, MS
- 15 **Deadline: Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum Golf Shirt Design Contest Entry due in State Office**
- 15-19 State 4-H Horse Championships – Jackson, MS
- 19-24 4-H Entomology Camp – TBA
- 22-25 State 4-H Cooperative Business Tour – MSU
- 22 **Deadline: Junior & Intermediate 4-H Records, 4-H Club Records, County 4-H Council Records, 4-H Volunteer Association Records, 4-H Wildlife & Fisheries Volunteer Records**
- 22-26 National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Event – New Mexico
- 23-27 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational
- 25 **Deadline: Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum Registration due in State 4-H Office**
- 28-30 State 4-H Teen Leadership Conference
- 28-Aug1 National 4-H Forestry Invitational – Weston, WV
- 30-Aug 3 Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship – Perry GA
- TBA State 4-H Leadership Conference
- TBA State 4-H Senior Retreat

AUGUST

- 1 **Deadline: Ownership for Breeding Beef, Dairy Animals, Steers, Hogs, Lambs and Market Goats Showing at Mississippi State Fair**
- 1 **Deadline: Ownership for steers and lambs showing at Mississippi State Fair, District Shows & Junior Round-up**
- 7 American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Show – Ft. Worth, TX
- 15 **Deadline: Nomination forms, Nose Prints, and Computer Entries due on Lambs and Steers Showing at District Shows and Junior Round-up**

- 23 **SE District 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum – Jones County Junior College**
- TBA North American Riding for the Handicapped (NARHA) Regional 5 Workshop

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Deadline: 4-H Enrollment Due**
- 1 **Deadline: Community Pride Progress Reports Due in State Office**
- 6 **NW District 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum – Greenwood, MS**
- 15 **Deadline: Entries for Breeding Beef, Commercial Beef Heifers, Hogs, & Dairy Animals showing at the Mississippi State Fair**
- 19-28 Mid-South Fair – Memphis, TN
- 20 4-H Day at Mid-South Fair
- 20 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
- 20 4-H Dairy Judging Contest
- 21-23 National 4-H Engineering, Science, & Leadership Event – W. Lafayette, IN
- 29–Oct 3 National 4-H Dairy Conference
- 30 Mississippi State Fair Exhibit Judging

OCTOBER

- 1 **Deadline: Ownership for Market Goats for District Shows and MS Junior Round-up**
- 1 **Nomination Forms and Computer entries on Market Goats showing at District**
- 1-5 **Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum (SLRF) - Rock Eagle, GA**
- 1-12 Mississippi State Fair – Jackson, MS
- 5 4-H Sunday
- 5-11 Mississippi & National 4-H Week
- 11 MSU Homecoming
- 13 Mississippi State Fair Take Down
- 12-18 National Character Counts Week
- 15 **Deadline: Nomination Forms & Computer Entries on Market Goats Showing at District Shows & Mississippi Junior Round-Up**
- 25 National Make a Difference Day

Harvey L. Gordon
State 4-H Specialist

The VIP newsletter is published by and for 4-H Volunteers and the 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.