



# VIP



4-H Youth Development

Volunteers' Ideas in Practice

## IN THIS ISSUE – Winter, 2001

President's Note.....	1
Call for Officer Nominations .....	1
Call to Past MVLA Officers .....	1
Annual Conference Update.....	2
Harvey's Tips.....	2
Call for Workshop Proposal.....	3
100th Birthday of 4-H .....	3
MVLA Lifetime Memberships .....	3
Clover Award .....	3
4-H Calendar .....	4

### 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.*

## CALL FOR 2002 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 the 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 2002, 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, 2002! 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!

## A note from Patrick, Holiday Greetings

*The time is getting near for the Annual Volunteer Conference – February 22-24, 2002, at Camp Wesley Pine Gallman, Mississippi (Copiah County).*

*The Volunteer Leader Conference is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to obtain workshop ideas, programs, and funshops to take home for local club activities.*

*The Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Choir will also make its debut appearance. I encourage each person to attend the conference and bring at least two people to help make this year's conference one of the best ever.*

*And there's still time for anyone who would like to become a lifetime member to join up! The goal of lifetime membership is 100 by February 2002.*

*Have a safe Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing each of you at the Annual Volunteer Leaders Conference in February 2002.*

*Patrick Morgan*  
MVLA President

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO 4-H!

**"4-H - CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AND COUNTING"** is the theme for the Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Conference this year and the past officers of MVLA are considered one of the best reasons we have to celebrate 4-H's birthday. We would like to invite and acknowledge all past MVLA officers at the Annual Conference February 22-24, 2002.

## A CALL TO PAST OFFICERS OF THE MVLA

All past officers of the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association are asked to contact Harvey Gordon, 4-H Volunteer Specialist, to ensure he has your current address and let him know what office and year you served in that office. If anyone knows of former officers who aren't receiving the VIP newsletter, please contact Harvey and he will put them on the mailing list. Harvey's address is listed below.

- *Raymond Radcliff*  
Past President

## LAST CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MVLA CONFERENCE

The Mississippi Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference will be held February 22-24, 2002, at Wesley Pines Conference, Retreat, and Camping Center, Gallman, MS.

The Annual Conference will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and conclude on Sunday by 10:00 a.m. This year's Conference provides an excellent opportunity for 4-H Volunteers, Extension faculty, and friends of 4-H to participate in outstanding workshops, great fellowship, and fun!

Our theme this year is "*4-H CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AND COUNTING*" and we hope that you and your volunteer leaders plan to share in this event. Our goal is that every county have a volunteer represented at this year's Annual Conference.

We are also inviting all past officers of the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association and recipients of the Outstanding Volunteer Leaders award to attend this year's conference. Please help us locate these individuals.

We also encourage all delegates to bring items for the live auction and silent auction that represent at least a \$10.00 value. The live auction will be held after the Annual Banquet on Saturday night in the Durr Wise Retreat Center. This fund raiser promises to be one of many enjoyable moments experienced during the conference.

The registration fee for full-time delegates is \$75.00 and includes all activities, meals, banquet, annual membership, and lodging. The registration form for the conference will provide additional details. Meals and lodging will be in the Durr Wise Retreat Center. Lodging is limited and will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Registration fees must be in the State 4-H Office before rooms can be reserved.

Please return the registration form and all required fees to the State 4-H Office no later than February 1, 2002, c/o Harvey Gordon, Box 9641, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Make checks payable to MVLA. Registration forms are available at your county Extension office.

*-Harvey Gordon*

## Harvey's Tips

### "PARENTS' PARTICIPATION IN 4-H WORK"

The interest and participation of parents in 4-H is highly important to tenure of volunteer leaders and members and to the overall effectiveness of the 4-H program. There are several important factors that need to be considered on the involvement of parents in 4-H.

1. Parents should be asked to help. The most help comes from families where both parents are asked to help. As 4-H leaders you should request help from parents. Be specific in what you want parents to do. Some examples may include, locate a meeting place; get a speaker for the banquet; chaperone the barbecue contestants; teach a clothing class. Parents volunteer the first time more readily if they are asked to do something on a short-term, one-time basis.
2. Parents need to be reassured and recognized for doing good work, particularly by the person who asked them to assume a responsibility. An example of a events that parents can be recognized for is serving as coordinator of the parents' appreciation activity. Giving praise and saying thank you to parents goes a long way. You might choose to write a news article thanking parents for their support. If you have money, plan a tea, coffee, or luncheon to honor parents.
3. Parents need to be better informed about the 4-H project work or community service that their child is doing. Parents will support what they know about. Ask parents to attend a project progress meeting.
4. Exhibit a positive attitude of wanting parents to help rather than merely expecting that they will volunteer.
5. Develop a variety ways parents of different talents, different means, and varying amounts of time can participate. Not all people do the same thing well. Find out who can and will do certain tasks. The person who will never appear in a public meeting will build a booth or float.
6. Special efforts should be made to encourage fathers to participate and take leadership positions. This will help maintain a better balance between boys and girls in your club or project group.

Parent participation can be the success or failure to your club. Ask them and they will help you, inform them and they will support you, and exhibit a wanting attitude and they will volunteer.

## CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

The planning committee for the Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum met to plan for our "2002" forum in Eatonton, Georgia.

Workshops will be presented on Friday, October 4, and Saturday, October 5, with funshops in the evenings. While we would like all workshops to be experiential, funshops are those that tend to be more recreational or craft related in nature.

The planning committee encourages each state to submit at least three workshops and one funshop proposal. Approximately twelve to fourteen workshops will be taught at each time slot along with at least five to seven funshops each night.

Suggested workshops include Volunteer Management, Entrepreneurship, Communication Skills, Leadership Development, Agriculture in the Classroom, Work Force Preparation, Service Learning, and Field and Stream.

The planning committee is looking for a variety of topics that will enhance both the traditional and non-traditional 4-H program. Mississippi 4-H has several outstanding programs that can be offered at the forum.

While October seems a long way off, we need to finalize workshops for promotional materials rather quickly. Nomination forms on which to submit workshop proposals can be obtained from your county Extension office. Promote this opportunity and return the proposals to me before *February 1, 2002*. A tentative program will be mailed to you as soon as workshops are identified.

For more information, contact Harvey Gordon.

## NEW MVLA MEMBERS AWARD PROGRAM

### *MVLA Clover Award*

The Mississippi 4-H Volunteers Leaders Association Board has established a new award category, the "*MVLA 4-H Clover Membership Award*".

This award will recognize counties that enrolled 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 Leaf Award* – Fifty percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.
3. *Three Clover Leaf Award* – Seventy-five percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.
4. *Four Clover Leaf Award* – One Hundred percent of the county's volunteers are members of the State Association.

If you have 4-H volunteers who aren't yet a member of the State Association, please encourage them to join the fun by filling out the attached MVLA Membership Form. Annual membership fees are \$5.00 and lifetime memberships are \$100.00.

– *Harvey Gordon*

## JOIN THE 4-H BIRTHDAY PARTY

The year 2002 is the 100th "BIRTHDAY" of 4-H and Mississippi will be celebrating a century of giving the youth of Mississippi and the Nation a better opportunity to succeed.

Plans are 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. Watch for activities in your area and plan now to TAKE PART AND CELEBRATE!

– *Morris Houston*

### ***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 70 Lifetime Members. Lifetime Members contribute \$100 to support 4-H scholarships and the Lifetime Memberships can be paid in partial payments.

Wouldn't it be great to have 100 Lifetime Members by our 100<sup>th</sup> 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. – *Debby Martin*

## 4-H Calendar of Events

### JULY

1 DEADLINE: Volunteer Records due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: Senior Records, Volunteer Records, and 4-H resumes due

15 DEADLINE: Registration for 2002 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum due in State 4-H Office.

20 Mississippi's Birthday party for 4-H, Ag & Forestry Museum – Jackson

### AUGUST

10 DEADLINE: Registration for Southwest District Fall 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum.

17 DEADLINE: Registration for Southeast District Fall 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum.

### September

1 DEADLINE: Community Pride Progress Reports due in State Office

14 Northwest District 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum

### October

2-6 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum  
Rock Eagle

6 4-H Sunday

6-12 Mississippi & National 4-H Week

19 National Make a Difference Day

### November

9 Northeast District Fall 4-H Leader Forum – Verona

16 Mississippi Association of 4-H Volunteer Leaders Board Mtg. – MSU

18-24 North America Riding for the Handicapped Association National Conference

### JANUARY

15 DEADLINE: Outstanding 4-H Volunteer Leader Nominations due in State 4-H office

### FEBRUARY

1 DEADLINE: MVLA Officer Nominations due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: Registration forms for Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum Workshop Proposals due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: 4-H Legislative Page Applications due

22-24 Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference at Wesley Pines Conference, Retreat, and Camping Center - Gallman, MS.

### MARCH

1 DEADLINE: Spring Community Pride Grant Applications due in State 4-H office

1 DEADLINE: Registration for South Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Beef, Horse, and Goat Symposium due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: Registration for North Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Beef, Horse, and Goat Symposium due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: 4-H All Star Applications due in State 4-H Office

1 DEADLINE: Citizenship Washington Focus Registration due in State 4-H Office

23 Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association Board Meeting - MSU.

26-28 Governor's Conference on Volunteerism - Jackson.

### APRIL

1 DEADLINE: MVLA Scholarship Application due

6 South Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Beef, Horse, and Goat Symposium - Laurel.

13 North Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Beef, Horse, and Goat Symposium - Pontotoc.

14-20 National Volunteer Week.

20 North Field and Stream Event – West Point

27 South Field and Stream Event – Collins

### MAY

1 DEADLINE: Volunteer Years of Service form due in State 4-H Office.

1 DEADLINE: State 4-H Awareness Team Applications due in State 4-H office.

31 4-H Entomology Camp – Holmes Com. College

### JUNE

4-6 State 4-H Congress - MSU

6 MVLA Board Meeting - MSU

11 Southeast District Junior 4-H Achievement Day

12 Southwest District Junior 4-H Achievement Day

13 Northwest District Junior 4-H Achievement Day

14 Northeast District Junior 4-H Achievement Day

## 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. Deadline for the next VIP Newsletter  
will be March 1, 2002.*

*Lisha Hopper,  
VIP Reporter*

---

Harvey L. Gordon  
State 4-H Youth Development Specialist

