



Virginia 4-H All Star Chapter

4220 North Fork Road
Elliston, VA 24087

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Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

Dear 4-H All Stars,

Thank you for your service to 4-H and your community! These last 15 months have certainly challenged us to create new ways to help others. I have received my vaccinations and hope you have gotten your vaccination(s) so we will soon be able to be together again in a safe way.

We will welcome new 4-H All Stars to our chapter on Saturday, June 26 at 7:30 PM. Some will be in person at one of four 4-H centers and others will join virtually. A committee of 4-H All Stars has been working on the ceremony. The link for the welcome event and orientation to follow is located elsewhere in this newsletter. We will also invite our new members to join us at the next in person induction ceremony.

Please join me in congratulating our award recipients announced during the virtual 2021 Midwinter Conference:

Hall of Fame Award—Jim Hepner, Jr.

Bradshaw Award (for a member with 15 or less as an All Star) -Kate E. Turner

Dottie Nelson Award for Excellence in 4-H International Programs—Ethel Showman

Wayne M. Keffer Memorial Scholarship Recipients—Rilie Bess and McKenzie Wills

Many of you participated in the tapping ceremony survey. Thank you for your input. A committee is using this information to make recommendations to revise the tapping ceremony. The goal is to create a respectful, meaningful, and historical ceremony that is relevant to the new members being inducted. Any proposed changes will be voted on at Midwinter 2022.

Our summer conference will be virtual on Saturday, July 24 starting at 9:30 AM. The link for the registration form is included in this newsletter. We do ask that you register so you will receive the link automatically.

Our organization and will be 100 years old next summer. Please save July 22-24, 2022 for the celebration at the Inn at Virginia Tech. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in service,

Nancy Massie Moga

Big Chief, Virginia Chapter 4-H All Stars



May 2021 Edition



2021 4-H All Star New Member Virtual Welcome Event

Due to Covid 19, the 2021 Tapping Ceremony will be virtual again this year as the 2021 4-H All Star New Member Virtual Welcome Event.

Date and Time: Saturday, June 26, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Register at <https://forms.gle/k5FmvgTWPyEysv6o8> before June 21, 2021 to receive the link for the virtual 2021 4-H All Star New Member Virtual Welcome Event.

You will receive the 2021 4-H All Star New Member Virtual Welcome Event link during the week of June 21-25, 2021.



**Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars
2021 Summer Virtual Conference
“Virginia 4-H All Stars: Hope for the Future”
Saturday, July 24, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.**

The Skelton Chapter is excited to be hosting the 2021 Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars Summer Virtual Conference on July 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. We had all hoped we could be back together in July for Summer Conference but the Executive Committee believed it would be safer to have one more virtual conference. Please hang-in there and things will get better.

A Zoom social time will open our virtual conference at 9:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 9:30 a.m. Our Big Chief will conduct the business meeting with committee, chapter and conference reports, and other items on the agenda. We will take a 15-minute break at 10:45 a.m. and return at 11:00 a.m., continuing with the agenda. The meeting will recess at 12:00 noon for a lunch break and reconvene at 1:00 p.m. to complete any items on the Agenda, after which there will be a brief IFYE program, installation of officers and a few fun activities. We hope you will take advantage of this time to socialize with others, as we would after an in-person conference.

Please register on-line to receive updates and the Zoom link. Also, do not forget to check the Virginia 4-H All Star Facebook page in June and early July for any updates and reminders. Use this link for registration: <https://forms.gle/AJEkE85J6iSNW2Fn9> or complete the Registration form in this Star and e-mail to Pamela Levinson at shlevinson@aol.com.

Congratulations!!!



Hall of Fame Award—Jim Hepner, Jr., a 1999 4-H All Star, has served Shenandoah County as 4-H All-Star Chief for many years. He works to keep the chapter active through service, fundraising, and leadership development. He uses any occasion to speak to 4-H’ers, leaders, and parents about the 4-H All-Star organization and encourages members to apply for selection. Jim sees the 4-H All-Star Tapping ceremony as the beginning of service to 4-H, not the end of a member’s involvement. He supports the County 4-H program through various leadership roles.

Dottie Nelson Award for Excellence in 4-H International Programs—Ethel Showman, a 4-H All Star and active Shenandoah County 4-H Volunteer. Ethel has been a host family on 12 different occasions, 3 for the International 4-H Youth Exchange program, and 9 through LABO. Ethel was selected as a National LABO Chap-erone for the US Outbound Exchange to Japan in 2015. While there were no delegates from Shenandoah County on that trip, Ethel worked with outbound delegates from across the US to prepare for the trip, and to assist them while they were in Japan. She hosted several international visitors from Brazil who visited through a Virginia Tech Exchange to learn about our agriculture.



Bradshaw Award (for a member with 15 or less as an All Star) - Kate E. Turner, a 2009 4-H All Star from Surry County, is the 2021 Bradshaw Award recipient. She has served as Scribe for the Skelton Chapter since its inception in 2015 and for the last four years has represented 4-H All Stars by serving on the Scholarship Selection Committee for the Southeast District Horse Leaders Association. As a 4-H All Star she has served as a judge for the statewide 4-H Public Speaking contests for the past four years.

Congratulations!!!

Wayne M. Keffer Memorial Scholarship Recipients!



Rilie Bass, a Goochland County 4-H All Star is a JMU Freshman concentrating in Public History and Anthropology with plans to pursue a career in the museum field. She believes the uniqueness of each cultural and societal member with their ancestral past, is something special and the world should embrace it. She has served in many capacities in her county 4-H program from teen leader to 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador. She is a founding member of the Goochland Trailblazer Club. She is a state and national 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador and served as a VA 4-H Shooting Sports Program Mentor.



McKenzie Wills, a Fluvanna County 4-H All Star is a WVU student, concentrating in Agriculture and Extension Education planning to teach Agriculture and shape future 4-H All-Stars. She has been an active member of the Fluvanna 4-H club, the Livestock Club, and a County Contest Days volunteer. She has served at the State and Interstate levels and continues to be active in these areas. She has received numerous leadership and service awards.

Dates to Remember!

- * June 25-27, 2021-4-H Congress at four 4-H Centers-Central District: W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Center, Northern District: Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Southeast District: Airfield 4-H Educational Center, Southwest District: Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center
- * June 26, 2021 7:30 virtual and some in person All Star Tapping Ceremony
- * July 24, 2021 9:30 Virtual Summer Conference
- * October 15-newsletter deadline
- * November 1-membership forms due to chapter 4-H agent
- * December 1- membership forms due to state
- * February 5-6, or Feb 12-13, 2022- Midwinter Conference
- * July 22-24, 2022 All Star 100th Anniversary at Virginia Tech



“Virginia 4-H All Stars: Hope for the Future”

Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars

Summer Virtual Conference Registration

Skelton Host Chapter

July 24, 2021

Name: _____ Unit & Year Tapped: _____

Name: _____ Unit & Year Tapped: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ **E-mail: _____

All Star Signature(s) _____ Date: _____

Registration Deadline: Monday, July 16, 2021

All Star Dues: * Annual (\$10.00)	
** Life (\$75.00)	
*Inactive members may become active by paying annual dues or **Life membership dues. Only Verified Active All Stars who are Life Members or have paid Annual Dues for 2021 will be able to participate in voting during the business meeting.	
Contributions:	
New Star Fund (supports new member recognition & participation)	
Keffer Scholarship Fund (Supports endowment fund for two annual \$800.00 Scholarships)	
Total	

You may register online for this conference at this link: <https://forms.gle/AJEkE85J6iSNW2Fn9> or you may choose to complete this Registration Form and send to Pamela Levinson shlevinson@aol.com.

Send a copy of this form with Membership Dues and/or Contributions payable to Virginia Chapter of 4-H Stars, to Randy and Irene Leech, 4220 North Fork Road, Elliston, VA 24087. (\$25 service charge for returned checks).

The Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars 2021 Summer Virtual Conference will be conducted on Zoom.

For more information regarding the 2021 4-H All Star Summer Virtual Conference, contact Pamela Levinson at shlevinson@aol.com.



100th Anniversary of Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars

1922 - 2022

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

Friday evening July 22 through Sunday morning July 24, 2022

Have you marked your calendar in anticipation of attending this once in a lifetime experience? Are you a 4-H All Star that has attended one or more Summer or Midwinter Conferences? Did you ever assist with a tapping ceremony at 4-H Congress? If so, you really don't want to miss being part of this celebration next July! If you have never participated in a state level 4-H All Star event during your years of membership, this is a must for your first!

The West Virginia Chapter, organized in 1919, celebrated their Centennial in 2019 as part of the 4-H All Star Interstate in Morgantown, WV with a second celebration at Jackson's Mill. Maryland will celebrate their Centennial August 19-22, 2021 as part of the Interstate conference. Virginia had good representation in West Virginia and will participate in the Maryland celebration. Virginia will host the next Interstate Conference in 2023. Our Centennial will be the only "stand alone event" of the three.

Over 10,000 youth and adults have become Virginia 4-H All Stars since the original 12 in 1922. We do not have a good count on how many could be listed as "living today". We do know that around 3,000 are in touch through print and digital issues of The Star. Others keep in touch through Facebook and their local 4-H program. We have lost touch with thousands of those who opted only for an annual membership and have never provided address changes. If you know of 4-H All Stars that are not in touch with us, please connect them with us. Please share Centennial information with them as well.

One of the conference planning challenges is, "Will we get an expected 100 - 140 persons in attendance?" That is reasonable based on past "big events. Might it be 200 or more? We hope so! The attendance is up to those reading this and similar articles! We would love to start getting feedback on interest in attendance to help in planning.

An email has been setup just for Centennial communications. The Centennial Conference email address is 4hallstarcentennial2022@gmail.com

If you are thinking about participating or planning to participate in this "once in a lifetime" Virginia 4-H All Star event, send us an email letting us know of your plans. This will insure you receive the most up to date information.

Questions? Interested in getting involved in some part of this event? Send an email to 4hallstarcentennial2022@gmail.com

William E. Thomas
Conference Chair
540-522-2421

Billie Jean Elmer
Conference Vice Chair
804-586-3706

In Remembrance...

Betty Jo Bates (Bedford County, 1947 All Star) age 90, of Culpeper, Virginia graduated from Mary Washington College with a degree in education with a major in art and a minor in Spanish. She taught public school for 30 years, taught 6th grade Sunday School, was an integral part of beginning the Culpeper Baptist Child Development Center and served on innumerable committees. She was a long-time member and past president of the Culpeper Garden Club.

Joyce Evelyn Hicks Bolt (Carroll County, 2002 All Star) As a graduate of Hillsville High School in 1963, she began her career as the most amazing administrative assistant employed by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where she served for 39 years providing service to the agricultural community. She modeled to her family the importance of hard work and always doing your best. She loved her work and helped to make a difference in her community.

Reverend Dr. Donn Keith Langfitt (husband of Patricia Langfitt, Charlotte, 1981) and a regular at All Star conferences) served as a minister for nearly 60 years in the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina and Virginia. In addition to his ministry, he served as a volunteer firefighter, radio host and disc jockey. He enjoyed the storytelling process, and wrote poetry and humor columns for multiple publications throughout Virginia and North Carolina.

Nancy Pence's (Frederick County, 1984 Honorary All Star) blood truly ran green as she was the 4-H Leader of the Mt. Airy 4-H club for many years, active in 4-H local, district and state levels, a member of the Virginia Association of 4-H Leaders, and active in the Interstate 4-H All Star Conferences, as well as the Virginia 4-H All Stars.

Gerald "Jerry" Marshall Reynolds (Craig County 4-H All Star) was a 1976 Virginia Tech graduate. Jerry loved 4-H and 4-H Congress at Virginia Tech. He was a talented pianist and enjoyed playing during the 4-H Share the Fun Shows during 4-H Congress at Virginia Tech in the past few years. He was an avid Virginia Tech Hokie Fan. He was a free and accepted Mason.

Joseph Larry Sykes (Carroll – 1963 All Star) grew up in Coal Creek and attended Danville Tech to become a machinist. Larry served his fellow man in many roles. He joined Laurel Fork Volunteer Fire Department in 1973 and served continuously until his death, holding many posts, including Chief and as an EMT.

Jack Marshall Tyree (West Virginia—1937) recognized many times for his lifelong leadership and service to youth, he retired as the Virginia 4-H program Director in 1975 after a career in West Virginia and Virginia. He received the Virginia 4-H Diamond Leadership Award, the state foundation's highest honor. In 2002, he was named to the National 4-H Hall of Fame. He continued to support 4-H as a consultant and donor long after retiring.

Please email the Virginia Star to me!!!

Why should I have *The Virginia Star* Emailed to me?

- * Receive the newsletter quicker
- * Save postage
- * Save paper



To receive "The Virginia Star" by e-mail please send an email with your full name, mailing address and the email address you would prefer added to the mailing list to va4hallstars@gmail.com. Your name will be submitted to William Thomas to be removed from the Star snail mailing list.



Embroidered 4-H All Star Polo, sweatshirt, notecards, etc.

To promote and market the Virginia 4-H All Star Program and Brand, the Executive Committee voted to offer an embroidered polo shirt to its members. Please contact Shields Jones (Albemarle 1969) at shields@nichollsauction.com or 540.220.1130 to receive information about this program.



Looking at our membership as we celebrate our Centennial!

In anticipation of the **100th Anniversary celebration** next **July 22 - 24, 2022**, we are looking at interesting highlights of our membership. Some membership information we have. Other information will require help of the membership.

Since our first 12 members in 1922, over 10,000 persons have been inducted into the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars. Based on our mailing list, we know our membership can be found in at least 26 states in addition to Virginia. The vast majority, however, are still living in Virginia.

Our membership is in line with the country by surname. As in the nation, Smith is the most common name with 120 followed by Johnson at 101. The next three are slightly different from the country but still match the top three. Jones at 75, Brown at 69, and Williams at 67 round at the top five. Are you one of those?

It appears that over the years, Rockingham has produced the most 4-H All Stars with 310. They were the only unit with over 300. Next was Montgomery with 258 followed by four other units with over 200. They were in order of Fairfax, Loudoun, Shenandoah, and Virginia Beach. Every Extension unit has produced one or more 4-H All Stars. Since names of deceased All Stars were deleted from the membership list at several times over the years, consider these numbers as the best we have!

At a typical Summer or Midwinter Conference, you might find All Stars tapped from 20 or more different units. Likewise, a similar number will be attending as residents of 20 or more units. In recent years Shenandoah County will often have the most members in attendance.

We know from our mailing list that 4-H is a "family affair" since we only send one newsletter to an address. More than 100 addresses list three names, dozens have four names and at least three include five names. Knowing that, we are looking for more details. As we celebrate, it would be fun to know:

1. Who is the oldest living Virginia 4-H All Star? - Please send name, county and year tapped with contact information for that person or someone to be the contact. Email: 4hallstarcentennial2022@gmail.com
2. What All Star family has the most generations? We have a number of three generations. Any there any with four, five or six generations? Let us know if you are one of those.
3. Does your family have the most 4-H All Stars in an "immediate family"? For our purposes we will consider immediate family to be grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Start counting then drop us an email.

4. What family has the most All Stars when you count only parents and their children?

At the conference we will be asking things such as who traveled the greatest distance to attend the Centennial? What All Star family has the most generations in attendance? Who is the earliest tapped All Star in attendance? What is the largest number in attendance in one family group?

In 2014 we could no longer deliver to Rural Route addresses from our mailing list. That change meant we lost contact with many members that we could never regain! Please share a copy of this with any All Stars you know .

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The Virginia Star

Become a Centennial Donor! \$\$\$

Your help is needed! Preparing for the 4-H All Star Centennial celebration is more involved than our normal conferences. The celebration will feature five meals, a printed Virginia 4-H All Star history, exhibits and more. This will make the registration fee more than usual for a conference. To reduce the overall cost of attendance, we are seeking donors, big and small.

Help us make the Centennial more affordable for newly tapped 4-H All Stars, younger members and every-one planning to attend. Donations or sponsorships are needed **prior to setting the registration fee, no later than the end of this year.** Donations will be accepted any time for the celebration.

The more funding given to support the Centennial Conference, the lower the cost for participants.

Invest in our Virginia 4-H All Star Centennial and you are investing in our membership and our organization. Join us in making our Centennial Celebration special by donating today. Would you ask a business or organization that you are involved with to donate? Are you one of those "All Star families" with five or six or even 10 family members who might chip in to make a "family" gift? The goal is to offer an affordable event that will attract a record turnout for a Virginia 4-H All Star event.

For more information, contact us via email at 4hallstarcentennial@gmail.com

These donor levels will be recognized throughout the weekend as part of the program.

Donor Levels:

Star	\$1,000 and above
Diamond	\$750 to \$999
Clover	\$500 to \$749
The 4-H's	\$100 to \$499

Make checks payable to "Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars" with a notation that it is for the "Centennial Celebration". Donations should be sent to: Randy & Irene Leech, 4220 North Fork Road Elliston, VA 24087.



2021 4-H ALL STAR Interstate Conference



2021 4-H All Star Interstate Conference & 100 years of Maryland 4-H All Stars Celebration

Comfort Inn Resort in Grantsville, MD
August 19-21, 2021

Join us for the 2021 4-H All Star Interstate Conference and the Maryland 4-H All Star Centennial in Grantsville, Maryland, August 19-21, 2021. It'll be a great conference with a Deep Creek Lake Boat Tour, and visits to the Flight 93 Memorial, Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, Amish Country, Farmer's Market Historic Train Depot, All Star themed Corn Maze, Spruce Village Artisan Village, historic museums and more. Visit the Maryland 4-H All Stars website at <http://www.maryland4hallstars.com> for more details. Early bird registration of \$200 deadline: **July 20, 2021**

Questions? Contact: Debra E. Friend, Conference Co-Chair, 301-533-1010 or email docdeb13@gmail.com
Marvin E. Beckman, Conference Co-Chair, 240-321-2112

Younger Member Committee

Welcome back to the Younger Member Committee! The executive committee appointed Rilie Bass (Goochland, 2019) to the chair position earlier this year. The current goals of the inclusive committee include recruitment of members age 25 or younger, creating an active representation on the @va4hallstars Instagram page, and educating youth members with the traditions, opportunities, and experiences of past, present, and future All Stars. More information can be found in the PowerPoint below.

To become a member, you must be an outstanding member of the Virginia 4-H All Star organization, age 25 or younger, and desire to encourage our younger members!

For those who are interested in becoming members of the committee (or potential mentors), please fill out the form attached. For any further questions, reach out to Rilie Bass at rpbass.va@gmail.com!

Young Member Involvement Form: <https://forms.gle/QoJCT97CCUnhxNsk9>

VA 4-H All Star Executive Committee Presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xPbw-9_8VpAPu69y8suFzY7JKoLIaz1gbwMQtt8IjPg/edit?usp=sharing

Virginia 4-H All Stars Centennial Celebration

The Inn at Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia 24066

July 22-24, 2022

