Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

Let's welcome our New Big Chief!!!

My name is Steve Wood (Page 1970) and was elected as your State Big Chief last August. I want to thank you for your confidence in me to be your State Big Chief and I'm looking forward to serving and meeting you in the near future.

Do you remember when you were tapped into the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars? For some of us that was some time ago, however I would like for us to think how proud we were to receive this honor of becoming an All Star. When you are asked to be a judge, speak at a 4-H club, do a workshop, help with project, etc. - be sure to let the All Star pride shine through your "service" in unit, district, and/or state events.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Mid-Winter Conference in February... ...I look forward to seeing you there.

Steve Wood, Big Chief

...and a word from our Past Big Chief

Where have the last two years gone? It has been my pleasure to have served as your Big Chief for the last two years. I have learned a lot and enjoyed meeting a lot of you for the first time and renewing friendships from the past. I do regret that I have not been able to fulfill some of my responsibilities during the last few months because of health issues. I was very sorry that I missed Interstate, which was the first one that I have missed since I starting attending them more than 20 years ago. I heard a lot of wonderful things about the conference. Many thanks go to Jean Powers and Sarah Gregory who headed the conference. Also many thanks to all those who helped in any way. A special thanks to Susan T homas, who filled in for me at Interstate and during the Summer State Conference.

I am now on the mend, or at least I hope so. I hope to see many of you at Mid-Winters. Please give your All Star Support to the new Big Chief, Steve Wood. I know Steve will do an excellent job. Also many thanks to Bob Meadows for all his support as he enters retirement, Bob I wish you the best!!!

Elwanda Luttrell, Past Big Chief

"SERVICE" is our MOTTO

The official publication of the Virginia 4-H All Star Group.

Don't forget that we're on the web:

View the Virginia 4-H All Star Group:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Virginia_4-H_AllStars

To Subscribe to the Group listserv:
Virginia_4-H_AllStars-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Post a message to the group:
Virginia_4-H_AllStars@yahoogroups.com

For more information visit
http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/allstars.html

December 2007 Edition
Smoke Signals from our Districts

Northeast

The Northeast District 4-H All Stars were very busy this past year with plans for Interstate Congress 2007 and Summer Conference. With Virginia Beach as co-host, the conferences were a success. The conferences were fun and educational. Thanks to everyone for what they did for us. The Northeast District 4-H All Star Fall Planning Meeting will be at the Henrico Extension Office on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 6:30 pm. This is a dinner meeting. 4-H All Star nominations will be reviewed. All 22 counties are welcome.

Advisors: Kendra Kyle, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, Henrico Jocelyn Dailey, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, Goochland

Southwest

Southwest District Teen Weekend was held September 8th & 9th at the SWD 4-H Center in Abingdon. The theme was “Extreme 4-H”. 32 teens attended, including 7 International 4-H Youth Exchanges (IFYEs). Following Teen Weekend, the All Stars met and elected officers (see below).

On October 14th, the All Stars participated in the Corn Maze fundraiser for the SWD 4-H Center. For volunteering, the All Stars will receive half of the profits from that day. On December 8th at 1pm, the SWD All Stars will meet at the Smyth County Extension Office to review new nominations and finalize the date for our spring meeting. Southwest District Contest will be held on April 5, 2008. The All Stars will need volunteers to judge the public speaking competition as well as to sell concessions. Every year, the SWD All Stars provide the winner of the public speaking competition with a full scholarship to Congress and the runner-up with a half scholarship to Congress to compete in the State public speaking competition.

Next year’s Teen Weekend will be held August 22-24, 2008. Please contact Shai Cullop at scullop@radford.edu for additional information or to volunteer.

Chief Donna Hamm Scribe Michelle Cock
Lesser Chief Shai Cullop Historian Tamika Reynolds
T treasurer Rogene Nester Extension Advisor Daniel Collins

Central

Big Chief Amy Daubenspeck Farrow amydfarrow@hotmail.com
District Contact Pam Levinson shilevinson@aol.com 434-385-7907

Northern

Big Chief Courtney Kimble crpemt@aol.com 540-727-0370

Northeast

Big Chief Sarah Gregory snsgregory@vuu.edu 804-275-5806

Southwest

Big Chief Rory Nansel nansel@shentel.net 540-459-2294
District Contact Carol Nansel cnansel@vt.edu

Southeast

District Contact Josephine Carter 434-535-9133
District Contact Jean Powers jeanpowers@aol.com 757-421-3715

Northwest

Big Chief Donna Hamm dhamm@vt.edu 276-783-5175
District Contact Daniel Collins collindp@vt.edu

Northwest

Big Chief Rory Nansel nansel@shentel.net 540-459-2294
District Contact Carol Nansel cnansel@vt.edu

Other All Star Contacts

Past Big Chief Elwanda Luttrell 113 Kerns Circle Stephens City, VA 22655 540-869-7198 elwand@shentel.net

All Star Advisor Mike Martin Southwest District Director mjmartin@vt.edu

All Star Advisor Connie Bryant 1166 Cambria St., NW Christiansburg, VA 24073 540-382-2042 (H) 540-239-6849 (C)

Leadership Council Representative Audrey Lee aulee@vt.edu

Leadership Council Representative Lauren Hartburg wildabouthorses713@hotmail.com

Congress Cabinet Representative
**The Virginia Star**

**The Virginia Star**

**Claims of Honor**

**Dottie Nelson receives Hall of Fame Award**

Dottie Nelson, a 1974 Bland County All Star was recognized as the recipient of the 2007 Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars Hall of Fame Award at the 2007 Summer Conference in Williamsburg. Dottie has been active in all areas of All Star work. Offices held at the state level include Chief, Lesser Chief and Recording Scribe. She also served as Star Editor for eight years. Offices held in the Southwest District include Chief, Lesser Chief, Scribe and Reporter.

The IFYE program has been an important part of Dottie’s life having served as Vice President and Secretary of the National IFYE Foundation plus two terms on the National Board of Directors. Many of you know of her active work for IFYE’s in Virginia.

Dottie has also been active in the local, district and state leadership associations. At the local level, in addition to her All Star work, she has been an organizational leader, leader at the local fair and a judge in many contests.

Her world is not just 4-H and IFYE, but she finds time for her church, the Bland Festival of Leaves, Bland Volunteer Rescue Squad, Bloodmobile and other projects.

Jessica and Mac Ross were married on July 1, 2006. They both met when they were both on summer staff at NOVA 4-H Center. Jessica is a Stafford Co. 4-H All-Star. They live in Richmond, where Mac is a Henrico Co. police officer and Jessica is a recreational therapist at an acute care psychiatric hospital.

Dallas River Dillon was born May 13, 2006 to Molly Ring Dillon (Russell) and Vester Dillon. His older brother Larry Slade Dillon and proud grandmother Brenda Taylor Grizzle (Russell 1966) along with Uncle Jason Ring (Russell) welcome the new family edition.

**In Remembrance**

Eleanor Kash Evans, 87, died Saturday, May 26, 2007. Born in Fredericksburg on August 2, 1919, Mrs. Evans served on the Campbell County Board of Supervisors (1980-1987), and served as chairman in 1987. Eleanor is the only woman to have served on the Board of Supervisors. Eleanor was an outstanding Campbell County 4-H’er in the Clothing and Food Preservation projects. She was inducted into the 4-H All Stars in 1936 and in 1937 she attended the National 4-H Camp in W ashington, D.C. The participants slept in tents on the Mall. She was an organizational leader for the Eastside 4-H Club, Sherwill 4-H Club and Campbell County Horse and Pony Club. In 1982 she was inducted into the Virginia 4-H All Star Hall of Fame. Eleanor was a member of the 4-H Leaders Association (East Central District Outstanding Leader - 1980) and the Home Demonstration Clubs. She and her husband, Hunter, hosted IFYE’s from Denmark, Australia and Finland. Eleanor graduated from E. C. Glass High School and Madison College (James Madison University) with a B.S. in Home Economics and Physical Education. She was a retired teacher having taught at Concord High School and Rustburg High School. She is survived by three children, all 4-H All Stars, Douglas H. Evans Sr. (Campbell 1966) and his wife, Susan of Lynchburg, Layton E. Manus (Campbell 1966) and her husband, Thomas, of M int Spring, and Thomas W. Evans (Campbell 1969) of Concord.

George Victor Groseclose, age 46, of Ceres, Bland County, died November 20 at his home after a courageous 20-year battle with brain cancer. He is survived by his wife Carla M. Groseclose (an All Star) and his daughter Amber Groseclose (an All Star and 2004 IF YE ambassador to Austria and a 2007 IF YE Rep to Denmark). His brother and sister-in-law, Vincent and JoAnne Groseclose of Marion, are also All Stars, as well as sister-in-law for Michelle Warner. Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 23, at Sharon Lutheran Church in Ceres. Memorial donations may be made to the Sharon Cemetery Association, 860 W. Bluegrass Trail, Ceres, VA 24318. Sympathy cards may be sent to Carla and Amber Groseclose at 1770 Nebo Road, Ceres, VA 24318.

Virginia currently has two 4-H members representing us overseas in the International Four-H Youth Exchange Program. They are Amber Groseclose of Bland County, who is in Denmark for five months, and Emily West of Greene County, who is in Finland for a month with an extension tour to Estonia with a 4-H IFYE Ambassador group.

Amber Groseclose Newsletter

I then traveled to Nordjylland, or “Jutland,” the northern region of Denmark, to my first host family. On a trip to the northern-most point in Denmark, a town called Skagen, we stopped at Raabjerg Mile, the largest, moving sand dune in Europe. It was spectacular; a miniature desert in the middle of an otherwise very wet climate. Once in Skagen, I was able to experience a very unique phenomenon -- the meeting of two seas. Skagerrak (a straight belonging to the North Sea) and Kattegat (a bay extending from the Baltic Sea) meet in a clash of waves and one very nasty underflow, with a very noticeable temperature difference between the two. While the water is cold on both sides, one’s leg goes numb much faster in the Kattegat. Within my short stay here, I’ve already undertaken numerous adventures with this family, including adjusting to life in the presence of a seven month old baby and helping prepare for the regional 4-H animal fair, which is quite a huge production, with roughly 170 animals being shown in conjunction with a weekend camp. I’ve also spent a lot of time helping out on the family farm. They own a menagerie of animals from cows and chickens to pigeons and Shetland ponies, to, well, pigs. Here are currently 700 pigs on premises, with another 730 piglets due to join the family in the morning. Regulations and restrictions for a piggery are seemingly endless, but I have to admit, dressing up in the white smocks and boots is quite entertaining. Thus far, I’ve really enjoyed my exchange and look forward to the remaining four months here in Denmark. Hopefully they’ll be as wonderful as the first.

Virginia 4-H families are currently hosting:

China-Ying Yang (Katrina) from Taiwan for six weeks, in Dickenson & Shenandoah Counties.

Lisa Muhlegger from Austria for six weeks, in Bland County and Richmond.

Astrid W eiser from Austria for six weeks, in Roanoke and Fauquier Counties.

Zefi Hatzoglou from Greece for six weeks, in Pulaski and Wythe Counties.

We are awaiting the arrival of Sawin Klaewlaik from Thailand, who will be in Virginia for three months.

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Further information on hosting or traveling with the IFYE program can be obtained from State Coordinator, Dottie Nelson, P.O. Box 144, Bland, VA  24315; Work 800-752-0673, Home 276-688-4028, or email dottiefye@yahoo.com

**December 2007 — Page 3**
2007 Tapping and Summer Conference Report

State 4-H Congress was held at Virginia Tech in June 2007 and the Virginia 4-H All Stars were actively involved. T hanks are in order for Ray Daubenspeck and Steve Wood who provided orientation and insight to those All Stars who attended the meetings scheduled on the Congress program. Irene Lee, M ichelle Cock, and M ark Kips directed preparations for the All Star Consecration Ceremony that was held on Wednesday, June 20th. T hanks go as well to all other All Star members and officers who were in attendance and assisted in various ways or stood in the circle. T here were 70 new A ll Stars tapped in at the ceremony. Big Chief E lwood L uttrell welcomed the newly tapped All Stars, presented them with certificates, and provided other information about the organization.

Led by W illiam T homas, a class was held at Congress to assist and inform senior 4-Hers about the All Stars organization and to introduce the A ll Star nomination process. T here were other All Stars who assisted in preparing for and conducting the class: Susan T homas, Audrey L ee, M ichelle Cock, Donna H amm, and Lauren H arburtg. T he power point used for this class is available to agents upon request. (One copy of a disk with the power point has been given to the District Chief or a contact person from each district who was present for the 2007 Summer Conference Business M eting.) Please contact W illiam T homas for additional copies.

Additional items from the Summer Conference Business M eting which should be of interest to the general membership include the following:

- T here was a discussion regarding the need to continue to promote, familiarize, and acquaint agents with All Stars and the resources we represent for them. Everyone was encouraged to offer his/ her services.
- At the August 9th business meeting Chapter Charter Seals were awarded to Bland, Carroll, Frederick, and Shenandoah counties.
- T he Hall of Fame Award was presented to Dottie Nelson of Bland County.
- Debra Nester encouraged everyone to sign up for the list serve by contacting Daniel Collins at collindp@vt.edu.
- T he All Stars request that a phone number and email address be added to the nomination form currently in use. Sometimes this information is needed in the course of the nomination process prior to tapping the inductees.
- M idwinter A ll Star Conference is planned for the Charlottesville area the first weekend in February. T he theme is "Reconnecting with our American and All Star Heritage".
- Officers for the coming year were elected and installed. Carol B oyer conducted the installation and gave a charge to each officer. Officers elected can be found on the last page of the Virginia Star.

Virginia 4-H Foundation Update

T he mission of the Virginia 4-H Foundation is to ensure strong and vital opportunities for positive development of Virginia's youth through the solicitation, receipt, and management of private donations given to support 4-H. T H A N K Y O U to the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars for your investment in the 4-H F oundation, and for your hard work in endowing the Wayne Keffer Scholarship fund. Another exciting program of the 4-H Foundation is the mini-grant program. T he Foundation recently called for mini-grant applications for 4-H clubs and units throughout the state. Over 60 applications were filed for grants to start and enhance 4-H programming throughout Virginia.

For more information on supporting 4-H contact Ben Grove, Assistant Director of Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 216 Hutcheson Hall (0402), Blacksburg, VA, 24061. P h: 540.231.7640. E mail: bgrove@vt.edu. Grove was a 4-H'er in Rockingham County, was tapped as an All Star in 1998 and graduated from Virginia Tech in 2001.

A Look Back While Looking Forward

Many of you will remember the celebrations when Virginia All Stars turned 50, 60, and 75. T he 50th Anniversary was a major event on the Virginia Tech campus June 23 - 25, 1972. T he anniversary commemorative program was 89 pages in length complete with a history of the organization and a membership list. T he T heme was "Service Unlimited".

T he 60th was June 25-27, 1982 at Virginia Tech with the theme "A Stance of Service Throughout the Years". Current T reasurer I rine Lee, then I rine Ellis, was the Big Chief.

T he 75th celebration was held with over 200 A ll Stars at the banquet. T he theme was "From Glowing Embers to Brilliant Starlight". Not many of the current membership were around when the organization reached its 25th year in 1947-48. But you can be present to celebrate 85 years of service.

Virginia was the host state for Interstate which kept the 85th from being held in the normal fashion at the Summer Conference. T his will be the first ever, or at least the first for a long time, to be held at the M idwinter Conference. How did we get started as an organization?

"...Virginia 4-H folk caught the All Stars' vision and requested help in organizing its chapter. Accordingly, representatives from the West Virginia and Maryland chapters conducted the installation during the 4-H Short Course at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in August 1922. T he charter group consisted of nine active 4-H club members with outstanding records from seven counties and three members of the state Extension Service staff." (T his was taken from the W est Virginia A ll Star history.)

T his organization has a lot of history to reflect upon and we still have history to make. If you have items from the past that you think would be appropriate to share, please bring them for a display to be set up in the meeting room at the 2008 M idwinter Conference. If you would like to get involved in making history as we move toward 100 years as an organization, join us in Ruckersville!

Looking for Former Big Chiefs

T he role of Big Chief has been important in the 85 years of Virginia 4-H All Stars. Keeping things going is a real challenge in a large organization. Virginia 4-H All Stars has over 8,000 total members and over 2,000 life members. T he organization is indebted to those who have served as Big Chief.

Former Big Chiefs will be honored at the February 2 & 3 M idwinter Conference. T he Saturday evening banquet will focus on those who have provided leadership to the organization. Former Big Chiefs who are able to attend will be asked to speak for a moment on their 4-H and All Star experience. W e will also honor the memory of those who have served, but are no longer with us. Sadly, we have lost more than our share at an early age.

T he M idwinter Conference Committee is seeking to contact all who have served in that capacity. If you were a Big Chief and have not already been contacted, please contact W illiam & Susan T homas. (thomasvtcc64@verizon.net; 1012 Hendrick Street, Culpeper, VA 22701; 540-825-1873) If you were a Big Chief, please consider attend M idwinter’s so you may speak and be recognized for your hard work as an All Star.
Midwinter Conference Workshop Description

At the Midwinter Conference there will be two workshops offered as an alternative to historic tours or shopping. These workshops will be presented by Kayla Eppard (Green'e07) and her mother Rita. The workshops are described below:

1:30 – 2:15 -- Creating Designer Candles by Tin Punching
The process for making these candles involves cutting the foil to size, placing the pattern or stencil on the foil, and then using toothpicks to punch holes through the foil. Craft foam placed under the foil will protect surfaces. The foil is then wrapped around the votive and finished off. The instructor will provide some tea light and glass votive holders along with the required supplies as part of the registration fee. Participants are encouraged to bring in holder(s), if they own particular one(s) for which they desire to make a decoration.

3:00 – 4:15 – Designing Arrangements with Fresh Greenery
The focus of the second workshop is creating arrangements with fresh greenery accented by fresh, cut, or silk flowers. These arrangements will require a container or vase with oasis. Participants may supply their own container or purchase them from the instructor. The container may be glass, plastic, or any kind of container the participant desires to bring. Participants will then add fresh cut flowers, silk flowers, or props, ribbon, etc. Participants can take their arrangement home or donate it to go to an area nursing home.

Supplies Needed:
1. **Container with oasis or **vase. Silks will also be available from the instructor.
2. Knife, scissors, or pruner, - for cutting flowers and greens (bringing these would be helpful as instructor has limited quantities of these items).
3. Floral Tape, Wire, Picks**, Oasis, and Ribbon**
4. Fresh cut flowers and assorted greenery**
5. Floral Tape, Wire, Picks**, Oasis, and Ribbon**
6. Silk flowers** (Bring your own favorite silk flowers)
7. **All items marked this way may be brought from home or purchased from instructor for a small fee. M any of these items can be found at your local Dollar Stores or anywhere crafting items are sold.

If you have any questions about either of these seminars please contact Rita Eppard.

Please don’t hesitate to call with questions, ideas, or suggestions.


Creating these arrangements will be a lot of fun, and you will then be able to go home and make your own arrangements at almost any time of the year, right from your own yards.

“SERVICE” is our MOTTO

As I continue to learn how this process works, I continue to learn more about people in our organization! Please continue to enjoy this publication because hopefully it will only continue to grow. As of right now this newsletter contains 16 pages and because I have to add 4 pages to make it work, I need more information from those of you out there and I know MANY of you have things to share. I mean come on, we’re in 4-H where we do almost EVERYTHING in our communities! I hope this finds you well and I look forward to seeing you at Midwinter’s!!

— Daniel Collins (Smyth ’99), VA Star Editor
2007 4-H All Star Interstate Conference Thank You’s

Sarah Gregory and Jean Powers, 2007 All Star Interstate Conference Co-Chairs, would like to thank Virginia All Stars for their support in hosting the Interstate Conference at Williamsburg on August 2-5, 2007. With a combined effort from support and administrative staff from Virginia Tech, Virginia State, and especially the Chesterfield and Virginia Beach Extension offices, our responsibilities were lightened. Agents and administrative staff from the Northeast and Southeast District eased the load also. Joel Bunn, 4-H Agent, York County assisted with obtaining the pavilion at New Quarter Park for our picnic supper. Thank you York County Parks and Recreation Department for making available the resources at your beautiful park for our conference. Thank you, Carol Nansel and Bob Meadows, for being there for us. We would also like to recognize Kendra Kyle, 4-H Agent, Henrico County. Kendra spent the entire day and evening at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center setting up the live and silent auction and banquet facilities for our closing banquet. Proceeds from the live and silent auction along with the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Bear Raffle raised a total of $1,726.50 to be donated to the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center for on-going building and improvement projects. We must acknowledge the following All Star and 4-H members and organizations: Susan Thomas for her exemplary leadership while filling in for Elwanda Luttrell; Virginia Beach 4-H Leaders Association; Don, Diane, Ryan and Shane Horsley-Virginia Beach and Richard, Angela, and Angel Prince-James City County, All Star Families; and the Southeast District 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association for hosting and providing some of the delicious meals during our tours. Thank you Dr. Vergie Binford, Inspirational Speaker, for bringing us your memorable message Sunday morning. Lastly we must recognize those All Star Conference Committee chairs and their respective members who donated their time and expertise. Thank you, Virginia All Stars, for your donations for the auction, raffles, door prizes, conference bags, hospitality room refreshments, banquet decorations, hostess and thank you gifts, monetary donations and generosity during the auction. Your combined efforts made the 2007 4-H All Star Interstate Conference a memorable experience.

Jean Powers and Sarah Gregory, 2007 Interstate Co-Chairs

Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars would like to extend a special thank you to David Messick of Blue Ridge Coach Lines Inc. for graciously getting us to and from all events during 4-H All Star Interstate Conference 2007 on his new bus named after his granddaughter, Gracie MacRae “You are beautiful.”

Blue Ridge Coach Lines Inc.
9397 Shady Lane
Culpeper, Virginia 22701
(504) 825-7777
(540) 825-7412 fax

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To learn more, visit engage.vt.edu

Schedule for Midwinter 2008
February 2 & 3
Charlottesville Airport Best Western, Ruckersville, VA

Saturday, February 2
11:30 - 1:30 Registration
11:45 - 1:00 Lunch compliments of Greene County 4-H Clubs
1:00 - 1:15 Welcome - Orientation to Weekend; win door prizes
1:30 Depart for Montpelier/Civil War Museum/antique shopping/Plow & Hearth Outlet
1:30 - 2:45 Workshop at hotel (See Workshop Detail Page)
3:00 - 4:15 Workshop at hotel (See Workshop Detail Page)
4:15 - 4:30 Registration
4:30 - 6:00 Business meeting (Review of membership nominations; bylaw changes, invitation to 2008 Interstate in Maryland: reports)
7:15 Depart for Banquet at Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville - Professional dress
7:30 Banquet (Presentation of Keffer Scholarship, Reflections from Past Big Chiefs; All Star Heritage; Reunion year recognition)
9:30 or at the conclusion of the banquet
• Service project — Write personal letters to your State Senator and State Delegate expressing the value of your involvement in 4-H under the direction of Virginia Cooperative Extension. Encourage continued support of Cooperative Extension.
• Cut out Stars to be put on All Star nominees doors at State 4-H Congress
• Bowling - Dutch treat
10:15 - 11:45 Board games and Fun activities
Midnight Good night to all!

Sunday, February 3
9:00 - 9:15 Morning meditation
9:30 - 10:00 District meetings
10:00 - 11:30 Business meeting followed by IFYE presentation.
11:45 Depart for home. Have a safe trip.
"SERVICE" is our MOTTO

DEADLINE for the next Virginia Star is March 15, 2008.

The Virginia Star

Service is our Motto

2007 Proposed Constitutional Change

The Virginia Star

Join Friends from your Past – All Star Reunions

The normal attendance at Midwinter’s ranges from All Stars tapped in June of the past year to those tapped many years ago and a lot of those in between.

The planning committee has set reunion years to encourage connecting with past 4-H friends. While each and every All Star is welcome to attend, we especially want the following:

- Fifteen years – Tapped in 1993. Are you settled into life. You are hard at work in your job and/or caring for a family. If you have children they may be approaching 4-H age either as a Cloverbud or junior member. Why not get back in touch with 4-H?
- Twenty-five years – Tapped in 1983. You have a full and active life, but why not take a break and remember those 4-H years. Are you serving as a 4-H leader?
- Forty years – Tapped in 1968. With grown children, thinking about retirement, and a trip to a Midwinter All Star Conference just might be fun.
- Fifty years – Tapped in 1958. Are you retired yet or at least slowing down? Do you have grandchildren of 4-H age yet? This is the time of life for reconnecting.

These thoughts may well have missed you entirely, but we wanted to try and get some thoughts going. Your 4-H years were evidently a big part of your life or you would never have become an All Star. The All Stars need your involvement and support to move forward and hope you would enjoy reconnecting.

Are you wondering if that friend from your 4-H days is still around? You’ve lost touch but would enjoy seeing some past All Star friends. William Thomas, Culpeper ’76, maintains the database and would be willing to search requests for addresses of friends. Only about one in four All Stars has a known correct mailing address, but any address will be a starting point. Contact William at thomasvtcc64@verizon.net

Do you know an All Star who no longer receives the Virginia Star? If they are life members they should be receiving it unless we do not have their correct address. To get on the list send William Thomas their current address and if they are not life members, paying dues will move them to the active list.

2007 Proposed Constitutional Change

Future Plans Committee Chairperson, Carol Nansel, reported at Midwinter Conference that the By Laws are updated and current. The committee proposes a constitutional change. Under Officers and Elections they wish to add: may serve two. In addition, they recommend adding one past Big Chief to the Future Plans Committee and the formation of a Conference Committee. The Conference Committee would be made up of District Chiefs, the Lesser Chief, and the past Big Chief. The purpose of this committee would be to plan both Summer and Midwinter Conferences. Such a committee is proposed with the hope that persons would be more likely to accept an office in the organization if they did not have the full responsibility of planning these conferences. In order for this change to pass, it must be voted for by 3/4 of those attending the Midwinter Conference Business Meeting.
The Virginia Star

Reconnecting with Our Heritage – American and 4-H All Star 2008 Midwinter’s Conference

Come join in the celebration at the 2008 Midwinter Conference, February 2 & 3.

Our Midwinter Conference will be held at the brand new, award winning Charlottesville Airport Best Western in Ruckersville. Americans have just celebrated the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. Virginia 4-H All Stars are now in their 85th year. Come celebrate our American heritage with a tour of Monticello, the home of President James Madison, or tour the Civil War Museum in the Gordonsville Exchange Hotel. For crafters a third choice will be workshops at the hotel. See separate article for description of the workshops. Shoppers may choose to explore the many antique malls in the immediate area or the nearby Plow & Hearth Outlet and retail store.

Start the conference with a complimentary lunch served from 11:45 - 1:00 courtesy of several Greene County 4-H Clubs. Our very important business meeting to select 2008 All Stars will be held following the afternoon activities. The banquet will be at the nearby Blue Ridge Café. We will honor and hear from those who have served as a Big Chief of Virginia 4-H All Stars. During the banquet will be reunion years and All Stars by decades. Reunion years are 2003, 1993, 1983, 1968 and 1958.

You can Browse the displays at the hotel to learn about the history of the All Stars. We have a quantity of material but are looking for more. Would you happen to have material to share?

A special $10 discount is being offered as an incentive to those who have never attended a Midwinter Conference. If you are a brand new All Star or a ‘58 All Star coming to celebrate your 40th year. Come celebrate our American heritage with a tour of Monticello, the home of President James Madison, or tour the Civil War Museum in the Gordonsville Exchange Hotel. 

Conference Headquarters- Best Western Charlottesville Airport Inn & Suites
5920 Seminole Trail, Ruckersville, VA, 29686 Phone: 434-985-1855

T he Best Western offers double rooms with queen beds for $79.00. The total with tax is $84.53. All rooms have a microwave and mini fridge. The hotel offers a complimentary continental breakfast. The hotel opened in the fall of 2006 and has already received several awards.

The hotel is about 10 miles north of Charlottesville on Rt. 29 and 3 miles south of Ruckersville. The hotel is about 10 miles north of Charlottesville on Rt. 29 and 3 miles south of Ruckersville. Reservations must be made by January 18 to get the conference rate. In order to make a reservation, please call the hotel directly and let them know you are making a reservation for the 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference.

Make plans now and we hope to see you at this exciting All Star event!!!

Dress – Casual Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning;
Banquet – Business professional

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The Virginia Star

Reconnecting with Our Heritage – American and 4-H All Star
Celebrating 400 Years of American History and 85 Years of All Star History
Virginia 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference Registration
Ruckersville, Virginia
February 2 & 3, 2008

Name ____________________________________________________________ Male / Female
Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
NUMBER AND STREET ___________________ CITY ______________________ STATE __________________ ZIP ______________
Telephone (Home) ______________________ (Cell) ____________________________ Ext. __________________ Y ear Tapped ________
E-mail ___________________________ Un it ___________________________ Year Tapped ________
Guest(s) ___________________________________________________________ M / F ___________________________ M / F

Number of Persons T otal
Conference:
Full Conference $52 x _______ = $_______
Select One: Monticello ______ Civil War Museum ______ Workshops ________
Conference without tours or workshop $42 x _______ = $_______
Banquet only (not eligible for first time discount) $32 x _______ = $_______
Lunch Saturday (Courtesy Greene Co. 4-H Clubs) No charge (Number) ______

SUB TOTAL: $_______
Early Bird (Postmarked my January 17) minus $5 $_______
First time attending a Midwinter Conference minus $10 $_______
(Regardless of year tapped- not available on banquet only-M embers only)

D ues: A nual $30 + $_______
L ifetime $50 + $_______

Contributions:
New Star Fund (This helps support new member recognition and participation) + $_______
W ayne M. K effer Endowment Fund (This helps provide scholarships) + $_______
Memorial Fund – In memory of __________________________ + $_______

TOTAL: $_______

• Inactive members may become active by paying two years annual dues ($10 per year) or life membership ($50)
• Conferences guests, other than spouses, parents and/or children, must be approved by the Big Chief and/or 4-H Department Liaison. Guests WILL NOT receive discounted rates.
• No alcoholic beverages are permitted at All Star functions.
• Special Needs – Dietary, Handicapped, or Other: ____________________________________________
• Code of Conduct All Conference registrants need to read and sign the following Code of Conduct: As a Virginia 4-H All Star event participant, I will conduct myself during the course of this conference in a manner which reflects the qualities of an All Star.

All Star Signature(s):____________________ _____________________________________ Date:_______________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________ (If All Star is under age 18)

Make checks payable to: Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars ($10 service charge for returned checks)
Send registration and check to: Randy and Irene Leech, 4220 N Fork Rd; E lli son t, VA 24087
Registration questions: Phone 540-268-5373 - Home; 540 268-1018 - Fax; Email: ileech@vt.edu
Conference questions: Phone 540-825-1873; Email: thomasvtcc64@verizon.net