Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

Time is flying by! It seems like only yesterday that we All Stars were together for the Midwinter Conference. The weather shut down the state on our original date, but Virginia 4-H All Stars enjoyed a weekend of sunny weather and milder temperatures for the rescheduled Midwinter Conference in Richmond, VA on February 19th – 21st. Special thanks are due to Sarah Gregory and Irene Leech for doing double duty and arranging for the original conference as well as the rescheduled one! Northeast District, your fellow All Stars thank you for hosting an enjoyable Midwinter Conference. Our thanks go out too to the other five districts that also conducted their responsibilities in a fine manner. Raynell Ankey contributed to our time of fellowship as well by catering a lunch that enabled us to eat in a relaxed atmosphere at the hotel on Saturday. Conference participants are also commended for supporting the All Star’s ongoing service project by bringing school supplies and personal hygiene items to be distributed to those in need through the Richmond Capital Area Partnership.

Kayla Eppard, the Congress Cabinet Liaison, advised the All Stars that State 4-H Congress will be trying some new approaches this year. Congress is scheduled for June 14-17. This early date is resulting in a smaller number of participants since some school divisions will still be in session. On Monday, June 14th, All Stars are needed to assist with the Congress picture in late afternoon. New initiatives will receive a ceremony orientation and will be featured in the evening program in Burruss Hall on Monday as well. The Congress Cabinet would like to focus on All Star’s responsibilities in the evening, All Stars will be assisting with the Public Speaking Contest. The Consecration Ceremony is scheduled in the Ag Quad from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday evening. Ceremony practices will be held from 1:00 to 1:30 and again from 4:45 to 5:15 on Tuesday. The All Stars will enjoy a picnic meal together from 5:15 to 7:00 P.M. in the Ag Quad. Please bring portable chairs, we will need them! (Please refer to meal registration form on page___) There will also be an All Star sponsored ice cream social to close the evening for Congress delegates. Let me encourage those of you who can, to please join the All Stars in Blacksburg for these activities. For the first time in a good while, all Congress delegates are required to attend the Consecration Ceremony to with All Star awareness.

Let me remind those who wish to participate in the tapping ceremony that the required dress for the Consecration Ceremony is as follows: women—all white street length dress with no colored trim or ribbon, white shoes, and no jewelry except 4-H All Star jewelry; men—white dress shirt, navy blue pants, solid navy tie, dark shoes and socks, and All Star jewelry recommended.

The early weeks of 2010 have included anxious moments for those following funding for the Extension Service. To the best of my understanding, the Virginia Legislative Session for 2010 ended with Extension receiving a one million dollar cut in the second year, and instructions to report back on the specifics of the strategic planning they have been instructed to carry out, but also with the mandate for consolidating services still in the legislation that passed. In view of decreased staff, hard economic times, and budget woes, it is probably more important than ever for 4-H All Stars to offer their services.

Let me encourage those of you who can, to please join the All Stars in Blacksburg for these activities. For the first time in a good while, all Congress delegates are required to attend the Consecration Ceremony to with All Star awareness.

Opportunities for service await each of us, so let’s not leave them wanting!
Don’t forget, if you have a Facebook account we want you to be linked to us!!! All you need to do is look for us under Virginia 4-H All Stars...we will get you added so you can connect with All Stars from all over the United States!! If you don’t have an account yet, don’t think you’re too old to have one...it is easy and free. Sign up at www.facebook.com!

Just a reminder!!! The Virginia Star can be e-mailed to you...As our organization is being affected by the struggling economy, we must find ways to be a resourceful as possible. One way we have come up with is to have your copy of the Virginia Star distributed electronically to you. It’s fast, easy and the fun thing is you will get the Star much earlier than if you get it mailed to you!!! If you would prefer to receive your “Virginia Star” by e-mail please send an e-mail to Daniel Collins at collindp@vt.edu. Your name will be submitted to William Thomas to be left off of the Star snail mailing list. Thank you for supporting the Virginia 4-H All Stars!!!

All Star District Chiefs and Contacts

Central
Big Chief:
Amy Daubenspeck
adaubenspeck@chesterfielddp.com
District Contact:
Pat Levinson
shlevinson@aol.com
434-385-7907

Northern
Big Chief:
William Thomas
1012 Hendrick Street
Culpeper, VA 22701
thomasvtcc64@verizon.net
540-825-1873 (H)
540-522-1222 (C)

Northeast
Big Chief:
Sarah Gregory
9111 Omaha St.
Richmond, VA 23277
angregory@uvu.edu
804-275-5806

Southeast
District Contact
Josephine Carter
434-535-9133

Southwest
Big Chief:
Shai Cullop
scullop@radford.edu
276-782-7745

Northwest
Big Chief:
Rory Nansel
nansel@shentel.net
540-699-2294

District Contact
Carol Nansel
cnansel@vt.edu

All Star Advisor
Barbara Board (2010)
13811 Turtle Hill Rd.
Midlothian, VA 23112
board@vt.edu
804-744-7924

Bob Meadows (2011)
State 4-H Office
107 Hutcheson Hall (0419)
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0001
clovergram@verizon.net
540-231-6371

Reid Mackey (2012)
1060 Reid Rd.
Lexington, VA 24450
mackeyreid@gmail.com
540-463-5840

Leadership Council
Representative
Audrey Lee
1696 Parker Rd.
Bedford, VA 24523
aluie@vt.edu
540-596-3160

Steve Wood
300 Shenandoah Ave.
Edinburg, VA 22849
sidwood@shentel.net
540-984-4249 (H)/540-972-0254 (C)

Kayla Eppard
3072 Cott Rd.
Standardsville, VA 22973
aylahay13@aol.com
434-985-2729 (H)

All Star Advisor Representative
Audrey Lee
1696 Parker Rd.
Bedford, VA 24523
aluie@vt.edu
540-596-3160

Past Big Chief
Audrey Lee
1696 Parker Rd.
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Edinburg, VA 22849
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540-984-4249 (H)/540-972-0254 (C)
August 5-8, 2010 in Jackson, Mississippi  

Smoke Signals from our Districts

Thanks from the Northeast and Southeast Districts. It was great having you visit the River City, Richmond, VA for Midwinter’s on February 20-21, 2010. The Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars Conference accomplished many things – our business meetings, tours of the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, Edgar Allen Poe Museum, shopping, etc. Our service project of donations included 35 tote bags of school supplies and personal hygiene items and five (5) boxes of canned goods and staples to CAPAUP (Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People). Jacquelyn Bolden, Executive Assistant, was so grateful when she picked up and delivered the supplies to the agency. Our Wednesday evening “Giddy Up & Go Concessions” was a wonderful lunch served on Saturday. Thanks to the Music Club and 4-H youth of Prince George County for music during dinner. Thank you to the youngest 4-Hers, from Henrico – Stephanie Seay and Jennifer Seay, and from Chesterfield – Kennedi Briggs-Gary and Kingston Briggs-Gary, and our smallest guest, Renecia Allen, for a wonderful fashion show directed by Kendra R. Young, 4-H Agent Henrico County. The next Northeast District All Star meeting will be on May 23, 2010, at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center.

We will hold our third annual “End of Summer Welcome” picnic dinner to honor new All Stars. This will be at Graves Mt. Lodge in Madison County on Sunday afternoon, August 15. Mark your calendar now. We will honor our 2010 Stars. T-shirts will be given again this year and we will hold a silent auction. Send your e-mail address to William Thomas at thomastc64@verizon.net to receive more details for the “Welcome” picnic. Any Northern District All Stars interested in keeping up with Northern District activities are encouraged to contact William for more information. Partial scholarships to the Summer Conference will be offered to any Northern District All Star who will be attending the end of summer welcome this year. Franchine K. O’Neal is the first time. Contact District Chief William Thomas is interested.

We will assign a public speaking and other contest at our two district contests in the form of room chairs and/or judges. In addition we plan to offer partial scholarships to Northern District public speaking participants who will compete in Public Speaking at Congress.

Join us at Graves Mountain Lodge July 28 – 31, 2011 for the All Star Interstate Conference. If you live in the district, we would be pleased to have you involved.

The Southeast District All Stars had seven to attend the Midwinter Conference held in Richmond this past February. We all had a wonderful time. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was great. Our last meeting was held after our Spring District Leaders meeting in Petersburg, VA, April 10th, 2010. We will begin planning for the 2011 Midwinter Conference which will be hosted by the Eastern South District. We are looking forward to hosting this conference. Anyone who has any suggestions for this conference please feel free to let us know! In service, Josephine Carter, District Big Chief

The Southwest District All Stars met on Monday, March 29th at the Wylie County Extension Office. Plans were to be made for the 2010 Sr. District Activity Day that the SW District All Stars were hosting, but due to the winter weather and 4-H programs being delayed, it was decided that 2011 would be the first year for the Sr. District Activity Day. Plans were made for our Annual Spring Meeting to be held in May along with the Adult Volunteer Association in the Southwest District. This spring meeting will turn into an amendment event where All Stars and Volunteer Leaders’ meetings will be held the same location for convenience to volunteers and All Stars. The meeting will be held May 15th, 2010 at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Abingdon, VA. Plans are made for the 2010 Teen Weekend that will be held at the 4-H Center on the weekend of August 20-22.
The 2010 All Star Tapping Ceremony will be held Tuesday, June 15th at 7:30 PM in the Agriculture Quad of Virginia Tech’s Campus (between Price, Hutcheson, Smyth, Seitz, and Saunders Halls). For those that cannot attend Tapping Ceremony practice, there are other opportunities to participate in the ceremony including singing, setting up/taking down equipment, signing people in, distributing certificates, etc. If you would like to participate in any aspect of the Tapping Ceremony, please contact Lauren Harburg, State Scout. Please also remember that the official attire for the ceremony is navy and white with no jewelry except for All Star jewelry. Women wear white dresses and shoes. Men wear white shirts with solid navy ties, navy pants, dark socks and shoes. If you do not have this attire, please let us know. Many All Stars have extras they can bring if reminded in enough advance.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL STAR PICNIC DINNER

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 — Ag. Quad 5:15-7:00 PM
(Please make a copy of this form and return with your payment by FRIDAY MAY 21, 2010!)

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Extension Unit (County or City): __________________________
Valid E-mail Address: __________________________________________________

There will be two dinner option for the All Star Picnic: Hot plate and cold plate option.

The Hot Plate meal will be served buffet style with barbeque, cole slaw, buttered corn on the cob, dinner roll, dessert, along with iced tea, lemonade or bottled water.

The Cold Plate meal will be prepackaged for pickup with a large chicken Caesar salad, slice of fresh bread and butter, small fruit cup, dessert, along with iced tea, lemonade or bottled water.

Make checks payable to: Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars
Questions: Contact Irene Leech at ileech@vt.edu or 540-231-4191

Please return form to: Randy & Irene Leech
4220 North Fork Rd.
Elliston, VA 24087

If needed, add names on back!

The 2010 recipient of the Bradshaw Service Award is Michelle Cock, tapped in 2000 from Carroll County. This award is presented annually to one All Star with 15 years or less experience who was rendered outstanding service to the All Stars and the community. Michelle is currently serving as State Lesser Chief and has previously served on the state level as Scout, Recording Scribe, and chair of the membership committee. She is also currently the Historian of the Southwest District All Stars and has been Chief, Lesser, Chief, Scribe, and public speaking chair at that level. She has been her unit Scribe for the past three years. Her service includes judging public speaking and presentations at the county and district levels. She regularly attends All Star meetings at county, district, state and interstate. Michelle works as an engineer and is history buff, especially enjoying Renaissance festivals.

Each year two $600 college scholarships are awarded to deserving All Stars in memory of Wayne Keffer, a former State 4-H Director. This year’s recipients are Bethany Bowling and Daniella Harmon, both from Bland County who both attended National 4-H Congress in 2007.

Bethany attends Wytheville Community College majoring in the Radiology Technician program. She is described as being passionate about helping others, and this career path will be a challenging way to help others on a daily basis. She was an active 4-Her who competed in public speaking, Share-the-Fun, and presentations. She attended State 4-H Congress and participated in the interstate 4-H exchange, traveling to Minnesota and Michigan. She was secretary and president of her local 4-H club and Vice President of her County All Star Chapter. In high school she was captain of the girls basketball team and the cheerleading squad, plus an officer in several clubs and the senior class vice president. She works part-time at Stonerbrook Farm, a facility for American Saddlebred Horses.

Daniella is a junior at Radford University studying Marketing. In high school, she was class secretary and on the girls tennis team. She also participated in public speaking, presentations and Share-the-Fun, as well as the interstate exchanges. She was teen leader for her county’s 4-H roller skating trip and assisted with “Outdoor Survivor” and “Broadcast Journalism” classes at 4-H camp. She has been on mission trips to Mexico, participated in food drives, community building fundraising, her church’s Puppet and Drama Ministry, nursing home volunteer, and Relay for Life. She was the Regional FBLA secretary, FFA President and football cheerleading squad co-captain. She is already putting her marketing skills to work, as she is employed part-time at Bath & Body Works.

### Committee Appointments for 2009-2010

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<tr>
<th>Audit</th>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>James Christiansen, Chair</td>
<td>Dottie Nelson, Chair (Southwest)</td>
<td>Randy Leech, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Douglas</td>
<td>Ewonda Luttrel (Northwest)</td>
<td>James Christiansen</td>
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<td>Irene Leech</td>
<td>Mary Lou Toms (Central)</td>
<td>Margaret Douglas</td>
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<td>Jamie Christiansen</td>
<td>Cynthia Rowles (Northeast)</td>
<td>Geraldine Cubbage</td>
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<td>Geraldine Cubbage</td>
<td>Mary Elmer (Southeast)</td>
<td>Irene Leech</td>
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<td>Randy Leech</td>
<td>Mary Anne Barlow (Northern)</td>
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<th>Ceremonial</th>
<th>Future Plans</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Daubenspeck, Chair</td>
<td>Donna Hamm, Chair</td>
<td>Steve Wood, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derek Spangler</td>
<td>Pam Levison (Central District)</td>
<td>Audrey Lee (Central)</td>
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<td>Randy Leech</td>
<td>Carol Nunnel (Northeast District)</td>
<td>Kendra Kyle (Northeast)</td>
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<td>Irene Leech</td>
<td>Joycelyn Dudley (Northeast District)</td>
<td>Roger Suder (Northern)</td>
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<td>Michelle Cock</td>
<td>Billie Jean Elmer (Southeast District)</td>
<td>Bory Nunnel (Northwest)</td>
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<td>Lauren Harburg, Scout</td>
<td>Norma Sides (Northern District)</td>
<td>Rose Talbott (Southeast)</td>
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<td>Jamie Christiansen</td>
<td>Deb Nester (Southwest District)</td>
<td>Kathleen Jamison (Southwest)</td>
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<td>Steve Wood</td>
<td>Julie Martin (Past Big Chief)</td>
<td>Bob Meadows (Advisor)</td>
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<td>Connie Bryant</td>
<td>Red Mackey (Advisor)</td>
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<td>Lizzie Turner</td>
<td>Susan Thomas (Current Big Chief)</td>
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<td>Amanda Johnson</td>
<td>Barbara Board (Advisor)</td>
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<td>Julie Weddle</td>
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<td>Jim Hepner</td>
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Make checks payable to: Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars
Questions: Contact Irene Leech at ileech@vt.edu or 540-231-4191

Please return form to: Randy & Irene Leech
4220 North Fork Rd.
Elliston, VA 24087

May 2010 — Page 9
Dear Fellow All Stars,

All Stars learned at Midwinter Conference that the Congress Cabinet and the state 4-H staff are planning differently for State 4-H Congress this year. As a result of the early scheduling of State Congress for June 14-17 many school divisions are not releasing students to attend. Since, I was a teacher for 29 plus years, I see the other side of this too. I’m sure this is partly the result of block scheduling which causes students to lose such a large block of instructional time from any class missed. They miss fewer classes, but they miss the equivalent of two day or 90 minutes of instruction for each day that the class is missed. Of course, SOL testing and exams also play into the reluctance to release students this close to the end of school.

As a result, only 250-300 participants are expected for State 4-H Congress. Therefore, they are trying out some new things. The Cabinet asked, since All Stars is the highest honor a 4-Her can receive, why there is not more focus put on it. Specifically, they ask why all 4-Hers were not required to attend the All Star Tapping Ceremony. Therefore, they decided to focus on All Stars more and require all delegates to attend the ceremony.

Congress is also shorter. Delegates will only eat breakfast and leave on Thursday morning. There are also some changes in the election procedures which will occupy most of Wednesday. June 16, I understand. I don’t feel sufficiently informed to try to give you details about that, however.

Interstate 4-H All Star Conference 2011
Try your first All Star Interstate next July. If you have not been to one in recent years, next July is the time to return. Virginia will be hosting the 2011 4-H All Star Interstate Conference July 28 – 31, 2011. We will also celebrate 70 years of All Star Interstate Conferences. The first Interstate was held in Washington, DC in October of 1941.

Our theme, “Footprints in Time,” will tie in the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War with visits to battlefields at Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Brandy Station, and New Market as well as Colonial Fredericksburg, Luray Caverns, and the ambiance of Graves Mountain Lodge. Our Friday evening campfire we bring back many memories. Our guess is that this will be the first Interstate held at a facility that has such strong All Star roots. The Lodge is operated by Virginia 4-H All Stars Jimmy (Madison ’52) and Rachel (Loudoun ’50) Graves. Jimmy was the Big Chief in 1959.

Former State 4-H Director Jack Tyree will speak at the banquet. Culpeper resident, Virginia Morton, author of the popular book, Marching Through Culpeper, will kick off the conference. Plan to join All Stars from Maryland, West Virginia and Mississippi.

Your help is needed. Contributions are being sought to help reduce the overall cost of the event in order to have a larger than usual attendance. Contributions can be mailed to Jan Palmer, Treasurer, Northern District 4-H All Stars, P.O. Box 119, Washington, VA 22747. If you don’t have extra dollar, help is also needed as we make preparations so if interested contact Co-Chairs William and Susan Thomas, wetsbt@gmail.com —William Thomas, Culpeper ’76

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: __________

Add $5.00 late fee if mailed after January 22, 2010 x $5.00

Total: 

Send registration and check to: Attention: Randy and Irene Leech, 4220 N. Fork Rd., Elliston, VA 24087

Virginia 4-H All Star Dues:
• Annual………………………………………………………………………….. $10.00
• Life………………………………………………………………………………….. $50.00

Conferences guests, other than spouses and/or children, must be approved by the Big Chief and/4-H Department Liaison (Policy 107). Guest(s) WILL NOT receive discounted rates. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at All Star functions (Policy 110).

Special Needs - (dietary restrictions, disabilities, etc.) : _____________________________________________________________________

Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars ($10 service charge for returned checks)

Make checks payable to: Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars

Keeping in touch with our fellow All Stars
One of the great needs of the All Star organization is to have accurate, up-to-date addresses. I recently received an updated list of Madison county. All Stars thanks to Judy Ann Fray, Madison 1997. She worked on getting corrected addresses for over 160 All Stars tapped from the county in order to promote participation in the Northern District annual picnic. A number of life members were added to the Star list and others will now received their Star with the correct address. If you’re willing to work on getting a corrected list of those in your county this would be appreciated. It is difficult and takes time but is a great service to the organization and to those of us who have lost touch with the organization. If you know of All Stars who have changed names or addresses, please let us know. Send information on changes to webstb@gmail.com

May 2010 — Page 5
What do you want to do this summer? Swim? Bike? Go to a retreat? Do you want to visit someplace you have never been or would you like to go someplace familiar, surrounded by good friends? Do like to look at unique buildings and admire their architecture? Would you rather avoid the man-made and enjoy the sights of nature? Do you like to spend every possible moment outdoors in the summer? Maybe summer is not your thing at all and you would rather be skiing or on the ice! No matter which of those questions you answered “yes” to, the 2010 Summer Conference has something for you in the Hill City, Lynchburg, VA!

We invite you to:

- Reconnect with All Stars you have not seen in a while.
- Enjoy the banquet and entertainment.
- Hang out in our hospitality room after the banquet. We’re staying up ‘till at least 11 pm.
- Bring your family and make it a vacation.
- Find out what is going on in 4-H in your area, around the state, and in other states.
- Find opportunities to travel to other states with the All Stars, and learn about the International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) program.
- Participate in our on-going service project by bringing toiletries and school supplies to donate

**Full Conference Fee is only $52.00!**

**Holiday Inn Select**
601 Main Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
holidayinn.com/lynchburgva

**Make your reservations by calling**
(434) 528-2500 by June 9th
Group rate is $78 per night!!

Use group code: FHS/Education

**Directions to Holiday Inn Select:**
From north of Lynchburg — pass Amherst on 295 Bypass, take VA-210 to Downtown/Lynchburg Exit. Turn R onto Colony Rd. Colony Rd. ends, turn L onto VA-193S. Turn L at Commerce St. Take 2nd R onto 7th St. Turn R at Main St. Hotel on L.

From South of Lynchburg — take I-81/US-460W via ramp to Charlottesville/Amherst/Lynchburg. Take US-501N/Candlers Mt. Rd. ramp (L) to Buena Vista. Merge onto Candlers Mtn Rd/US-501N. Exit onto Lynchburg Expy/US-29BusN toward Charlottesville. Take Main St. (Randolph College) exit. Follow Main St. and hotel will be on L.

From East of Lynchburg — Take 460W to Lynchburg, take Candlers Mtn Rd. exit. Exit onto Lynchburg Expy/US-29BusN toward Charlottesville. Take Main St. (Randolph College) exit. Follow Main St. and hotel will be on L.

From West of Lynchburg — Take US-501N/Candlers Mt. Rd. ramp(L) to Buena Vista. Merge onto Candlers Mtn Rd/US-501N. Exit onto Lynchburg Expy/US-29BusN toward Charlottesville. Take Main St. (Randolph College) exit. Follow Main St. and hotel will be on L.

**Transportation will be provided to the following attractions:**
- Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest www.poplarforest.org is one of only two homes Thomas Jefferson designed and created for his own use. This was his personal retreat.
- Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre www.liberty.edu/snowflex is an all-season ski slope using an innovative synthetic material that simulates the slip and grip of snow.
- LaHaye Ice Center www.lahayeicecenter.net is an ice skating rink just down the road from Snowflex.

There are also attractions within walking distance of the conference hotel:
- Amazement Square www.amazementsquare.org is a hands-on children’s museum with four floors of exciting, interactive exhibits that visitors of all ages can climb, slide and discover.
- RiverWalk www.downtownlynchburg.com/play/outdoors.html is a lovely, level section of the James River Heritage Trail for walking, biking, or simply to enjoy on your way to Amazement Square (you will pass it as you walk along the trail).

And many more within a short drive (1-5 minutes) that you may choose to explore on your own:
- Old City Cemetery www.gravegarden.org
- Lynchburg Museum www.lynhburgmuseum.org
- Point of Honor www.pointofhonor.org
- Legacy Museum www.legacymuseum.org
- Anne Spencer House & Gardens www.annespencermuseum.com

Or, take the architectural walking tour, walk the 139 steps at Monument Terrace, and more! Visit discoverlynchburg.org

**Questions?? Contact Michelle Cock at (276) 733-9729 or theoriginalmcc@gmail.com**

**Lynchburg Attractions!!!**

**2010 SUMMER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**Friday, July 9, 2010**
7:30 - 10:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting Part 1 (John Lynch Suite)

**Saturday, July 10, 2010**
8:30 - 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting Part 2 (John Lynch Suite)
10:00 - NOON Conference Registration & Assemble Service Project Items (Left of hotel lobby—outside BCD)
12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch (John Lynch Suite) (Lynchburg) Deadline to register is Monday, June 21st
1:00 - 3:30 PM Explore the Hill City! (Group tour of Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest, Snowflex, Ice Skating, or explore on your own.)
4:00 - 5:00 PM Business Meeting (Poplar Forest Room)
6:00 - 9:00 PM Dinner and Entertainment (BCD Room)
9:00 - 11:00 PM Hospitality Time (BCD Room and John Lynch Suite)

**Sunday, July 11, 2010**
8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast (John Lynch Suite)
9:30 - 9:30 AM Vespers (BCD Room and John Lynch Suite)
9:30 - 10:15 AM District Meetings
10:30 - NOON Business Meeting (BCD Room)