Midwinter Conference in Farmville was absolutely inspiring! I might never have discovered High Bridge or the Moton museum if not for All Stars. In my two years as Big Chief, I have learned so much by traveling to conferences around our great state. How time has flown! The All Stars have completed many service projects, inducted many members, and advocated for Extension. I have many great memories, but I would rather talk about what lies ahead.

On Wednesday, June 19th, we will induct more than 100 tappees into our organization. That number is a testament to the expansion of the 4-H program, but it means we need more All Stars than ever to help with all aspects of the ceremony! Our Summer Conference will be “Back to Our Roots” July 19th – 21st in Sandston with tours in New Kent. The Interstate Conference will be hosted by West Virginia, August 1st – 4th at Jackson’s Mill 4-H Center. Jackson’s Mill is the birthplace of 4-H All Stars.

The Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars has pursued its own Federal Income Tax Exemption number under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service tax code. This will not change the way we operate, but we hope it will give us greater efficiency for the future! We are also in the process of revising our by-laws to more closely reflect the intent of our organization. Many thanks to everyone who has given input and helped us through this process. Thanks to all the officers, advisors, chairs, and committee members who have given their time to All Stars over the years!

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Yours in service,

Big Chief, Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars
YES! I want the Virginia Star e-mailed to me!!!
By having your copy of the Virginia Star distributed electronically to you, you help us SAVE! 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 va4hallstars@gmail.com. In your email, include your full name, current mailing address and unit tapped! Your name will be submitted to William Thomas to be left off of the Star snail mail--mailed to you!!! If you would prefer to receive your “Virginia Star” by e-mail please send an e-mail to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Virginia_4-H_AllStars

Send 4-H All Star Information to:
va4hallstars@gmail.com

If you have a Facebook account we want you to add us!!! All you need to do is search Virginia 4-H All Stars...one of the group moderators will get you added so you can connect with All Stars from all over!!! If you do not have an account yet, don’t think you’re too young to have one...it is easy and FREE!!! Sign up at www.facebook.com!

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.4-h.ext.vt.edu/groups/allstars/4h_allstars.html
**Back to Our ROOTS!**

2013 4-H All Star Summer Conference

Richmond, VA - Homewood Suites (Airport)

July 19-21, 2013

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**Room rates are $83.00/room plus tax!!**

**Schedule of Summer Conference Events**

**Friday, July 19, 2013**

7:30-10 PM Executive Committee Meeting, Hampton Inn Board Room

**Saturday, July 20, 2013**

7:00 - 10:00 AM Continental Breakfast (Only for Friday Night Hotel Guests)

8:30 – 10:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting

10:00 – Noon Conference Registration

Noon - 1:00 PM Lunch (Boxed Lunch or nearby White Oak)

1:00 - 4:30 PM Group Tours (on bus to New Kent Winery & St. Peter’s Episcopal Church)

Jumppology and Shopping at the Virginia Center Commons Mall

4:30 - 5:45 PM Business Meeting and Farm Program

6:00 - 8:30 PM Dinner on the Farm (Paul Davis Farm Pavilion)

Lawn Games - sack races, cornhole, bocce ball, Frisbee, etc.

8:30 PM Head back to Homewood Suites

8:45 - 11:00 PM Hospitality Time - Hospitality Room/Breakfast Area/Pool/Exercise Room

**Sunday July 21, 2013**

7:00 - 10:00 AM Continental Breakfast (Only for Saturday Night Hotel Guests)

9:15 - 9:45 AM Vespers & Memorial Service

9:45 - 10:30 AM District Meetings

10:45 - Noon Business Meeting

12:00 PM Safe Travels! See you at Midwinter Conference!

2:00 PM Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game at The Diamond

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**The Southwest District All Stars met on Monday, December 17th at the Smyth County Extension Office. We reviewed All Star Nomination Forms for 8 counties that included 6 adult honorary forms and 3 extension employee forms. We discussed more opportunities for the Summer for the Southwest District All Stars.**

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**Midwinter Conference for 2014—Save the Date!**

Mark February 1 & 2, 2014 on your calendar now and plan to join fellow 4-H All Stars for our annual Midwinter Conference. Northern District – East will host the 2014 Midwinter Conference in Orange, VA. The award winning Orange Holiday Inn Express will be the headquarters.

With the theme of “Investing in Our Future,” we will be focus on past winners of the Keffer Scholarship. They will be recognized at the Saturday evening banquet. Our guest speaker will be John Dooley, who is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Virginia Tech Foundation. John is better known to the 4-H family as Director at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center (1982-1991); his time as Director of the VA 4-H Foundation (1991-1995) and as Director of Virginia 4-H (1995-2001).

Saturday’s activity will include a tour of Montpelier, home of James Madison. For the 2008 Midwinter Conference, we toured the then under renovation home...now we will have a chance to see the completed renovation! There will be additional afternoon options as well and we will have a service project.

Mill Valley Barbeque will cater lunch and the banquet at the hotel. Mill Valley Barbeque is owned and operated by Rodney Lillard, a 1980 Madison 4-H All Star.

We are bringing back a focus from past conferences where we recognized reunion years. A special invitation will be sent to those tapped in 2004 (10 year); 1994 (20 year); 1984 (30 year); 1974 (40 year) and 1964 (50 year). In many cases those fellow All Stars who were tapped the same year as you, were friends from your county or district who you may have competed against (or on with teams); traveled with 4-H events; camped together for years; were members of the same club; or had some of those many 4-H experiences that 4-H alumni enjoyed. Look for more details and registration forms in your December issue of The Star. For information contact Northern District East Chief William Thomas by email – wetsbt@gmail.com.
ARTICLE I – Section 4 – Honorary Members

Current Wording:
A. The State 4-H Staff may nominate a maximum of six (6) unit Extension staff and four (4) state or district Extension personnel for Honorary membership. These nominees shall have rendered outstanding service to the 4-H program for at least five years, two of which shall have been in Virginia.
B. The unit membership committee may annually nominate three (3) adult volunteer leaders for honorary membership into the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars. A maximum of eighteen (18) adult leaders may be inducted annually into membership. A nominee must have rendered outstanding service to the 4-H program for at least five (5) years, two of which shall have been in Virginia.

Proposed:

Section 4 – Members Inducted as Adults
A. The State 4-H Staff may nominate a maximum of two (2) District or State Extension personnel for membership. The district membership committee may annually nominate a ranked list of unit Extension staff to the state membership committee. The state committee may select a total of 12 unit Extension staff nominations. These nominees shall have rendered outstanding service to the 4-H program for at least five years, two of which shall have been in Virginia.
B. The unit membership committee may annually nominate three (3) adult volunteer leaders for membership into the Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars. The district membership committee may annually nominate four (4) adult volunteer leaders to be placed on the ballot. Any additional nominees shall be submitted to the state membership committee in a ranked list. A maximum of twenty-seven (27) adult leaders may be inducted annually into membership. The state membership committee may select nominees at-large from any district to fulfill the maximum. A nominee must have rendered outstanding service to the 4-H program for at least five (5) years, two of which shall have been in Virginia.

ARTICLE IV – Standing Committees

Current Wording: The standing committees of this organization shall be Executive, Membership, Future Plans, Ceremonial, Resolutions, Auditing, Budget, Nominating and Conference. These committees shall be appointed by the Big Chief, except when otherwise stated in the Bylaws.

Proposed: The standing committees of this organization shall be Executive, Membership, Future Plans, Ceremonial, Resolutions, Auditing, Budget, Nominating, Conference, Awards, and Younger Member Involvement. These committees shall be appointed annually by the Big Chief, except when otherwise stated in the Bylaws.

Add:

Section 10 – Awards Committee
The Awards Committee shall be composed of at least one member from each district in addition to the chair. The duties of this committee shall be to review award nominations and scholarship applications and select the recipients.

Section 11 – Younger Member Involvement
The Younger Member Involvement Committee shall be composed of the Congress Cabinet Liaison and other interested All Stars. The chair must be less than 25 years old. The two most recent Bradshaw Award winners shall serve as mentors. It shall be the duty of this committee to encourage All Stars under age 25 to attend conferences and actively participate in All Star activities.
The 2013 All Star Tapping Ceremony will be held Wednesday, June 19th at 1:15 PM in the Agriculture Quad of Virginia Tech’s Campus (between Price, Hutcheson, Smyth, Seitz, and Saunders Halls). For All Stars who would like to serve as scouts or stand in the circle to welcome new All Stars there will be a practice on Wednesday, June 19th from 8:45 - 10:15 AM. There will be a 4-H All Star Orientation for New Tappees immediately following the tapping ceremony from 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Please contact Michelle Cock, Big Chief with questions about the ceremony!

Calling all 4-H All Stars to join us in this year’s All Star Tapping Ceremony! By participating in this year’s ceremony you can be involved in a new All Stars’ unforgettable memory! Any interested, current All Star may participate in the ceremony as a part of the circle. We will also need Scouts to lead 6-8 tappers to the Big Chief, announce their names and counties, lead them back into the circle and place them in front of current All Stars. If you are interested in serving as a Scout please contact the State Scout, Kayla Eppard at 434-466-7775 or aylakay131@aol.com by June 10th. If you have a preference for who you would like to Scout, also include this in your email or phone call. Please note the tapping attire for the ceremony. You will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony unless you strictly follow the prescribed attire.

IN GREAT MEMORY...

- Laurel Stewart Woodbeck (Fairfax ’77) passed away in California on October 19, 2012. Laurel was the twin sister of Craig Stewart (Fairfax ’77). She is also survived by her older sister, Kathy Stewart Powers (Fairfax ’71) and predeceased by her older brother Jeff Stewart (Fairfax ’73 ) and parents Julie Stewart (Fairfax ’82 ) and Dr. Allan Stewart. Other 4-H All Stars who survive Laurel are her niece, Julie Powers Barb (Culpeper ’90) and nephew, Chad Powers (Culpeper ’93). Laurel was a stay-at-home mom who enjoyed raising pure breed Boxers. Laurel was a life time active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2266.

- Dr. Hubert John Gerken Jr (Montgomery ’74), of Burlington, N.C., died Oct. 27, 2012. John was named in her honor for Wythe County 4-H. extension agent for the Wythe County Cooperative Extension Service. She had recently had an Endowment (Wythe ’93) died March 21, 2013, in Wytheville, VA. She retired as an extension agent for the Wythe County 4-H Extension Agent, 4-H volunteer and community leader. Dr. Martin was a professor and/or instructor (Montgomery ’79). She retired from the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension after 45 years of service as well as the Leadership and Service Award from the Virginia Beef Cattle Association, and 30 year service recognitions from the USDA and Virginia Tech. In 2010, he was named an outstanding alumnus of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Animal Science Department.

- Dr. Joyce Anderson Martin (Montgomery ’83) of Lenoir City, Tennessee, formerly of Bassfield, Mississippi passed away December 26, 2012. She is survived by husband Kenneth (Montgomery ’86), sons Daniel (Montgomery ’83) and Mike (Montgomery ’85) and daughter Linda Martin Paschal (Montgomery ’79). She retired from the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension after 45 years of service as a 4-H Extension Agent, 4-H volunteer and community leader. Dr. Martin was a professor and/or instructor at Pearl River Junior College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State College for Women and Virginia Tech.

- R. DeVil Dickinson, (Spotsylvania ’39) died March 11, 2013 in Fredericksburg, VA. He helped start Dickinson Equipment and was active in the community, local government and the Republican Party. Spotsylvania County awarded Dickenson and his wife the annual Governor Spotswood Award in 2010.

- Katherine Ratliff Miller (Wythe ‘93) died March 21, 2013, in Wytheville, VA. She retired as an extension agent for the Wythe County Cooperative Extension Service. She had recently had an Endowment named in her honor for Wythe County 4-H.

- Marcia Burnham Meador (Jamestown 4-H Center, 1994) died March 21, 2013. For over 30 years she worked for Cooperative Extension Services in Maine, Fla. and Va. providing leadership in youth (4-H) and adult programs.
This year's recipient has been a 4-H Volunteer Leader for over 21 years and was tapped as an All Star in 1999. His service to All Stars has included being Chief of his County 4-H Chapter for 4 years and using every opportunity to promote membership in the All Star organization. He is involved in his county 4-H Public Speaking and Presentations Contests by recruiting judges, room chairs, video operations, award sponsors, committee assignments and workshop presenters. He is currently the 4-H County Council advisor and regularly serves as a judge and assists with project judging. He has initiated some project judging for All Stars in need. Christmas Caroling for older All Stars in their homes and Christmas ornament/nack making with 4-H members. He is active with his district All Star chapter where he has given leadership in assisting with conferences, teaching workshops, review district nominations and regularly attend State Conferences as well. This year's award winner is Jim Hepner, Jr. of Shenandoah County.

C. Dean Allen Award for Excellence

This year’s award winner has an extensive background as a 4-H member. 4-H All Star, 4-H Volunteer Leader and Agent. She manages a large 4-H program that is grounded on the fundamentals of a strong volunteer leader base, strong community clubs, an active 4-H All Star Chapter, day camps, local competitions, judging teams, 4-H project work, Cloverbad and teen programs, interstate and international exchanges, an after school 4-H program, achievement night recognition and a large livestock program. She is a graduate of Virginia Tech and was an IFYE to Germany. She has received a number of awards on the district, state and national levels! Among those awards, she has garnered recognition as the Outstanding NW District Agent. She has worked with volunteer leaders and Virginia 4-H All Star Hall of Fame; from Epilson Sigma Phi she has been awarded the State Outstanding Individual, State International Service Award and the State Mid-Year Award. From the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, she has received the National World Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development Award and the Distinguished Service Award. As part of the international program in 4-H, she was a chaperone for the Virginia delegation to Japan and provided her husband, Rory, the opportunity to visit Finland. She has developed a regular exchange with the Dominican Republic in her own county. This year’s award goes to Carol Nansel, who currently serves as the State Liaison for Virginia 4-H All Stars and this award is named after C. Dean Allen, former State Liaison!

Dottie Nelson Award for Excellence in 4-H International Programs

This year’s award was given as respect and recognition to individual who started a 4-H parent to 3 children who traveled on interstate exchanges to Minnesota, Texas and Oregon. She helped in working with the program to raise funds and work collaboratively with the 4-H program for these trips. Traveling focused her interest on the fun and the educational value of what it accomplished for kids. She and her family began to host international exchange delegates in 1989 and haven’t stopped since!! They have hosted more than 40 youth from Denmark, Peru, Turkey, Japan, Ukraine, Argentina and Finland. She has traveled with the Virginia delegation to Japan in 1999. From 1999 to 2003, she served as the assistant Virginia Coordinator for the year-long 4-H Exchange program and after the retirement of Tom Baker, she moved into the role as the State Coordinator. Since 2004, she has placed 12 youth and 77 FLEX delegates. She annually attends the National 4-H Exchange Coordinators Conferences to further her skills and has recently brought Virginia to be known as the Most Outstanding for Exchanges. She has served on the National 4-H Exchange Board of Directors and works very well with the agents throughout the state with the program. She works very hard to raise money for the program and is a constant advocate for 4-H and her programming. She was tapped as a 4-H All Star in Nelson County and credits 4-H and All Stars with making her who she is today! Our winner is Rebecca Moyrer!

Wayne Kefffer Memorial All Star Scholarships

A junior Music major at Liberty University with Choral Specialization, Lauren Harburg has served on State 4-H Cabinet, attended National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference. She has spoken at the Legislative Trail Ride and did many projects with horses throughout 4-H. She competed in Horse Shows, Hippology, Horse Bowl and horse judging teams where she competed in state, regional units and national events among state and state. She has held leadership roles with the Virginia 4-H All Stars as the Congress Cabinet Officer, State Scout, Lesser Chief and Chair of the Committee for Involvement of Younger All Stars. She has done numerous service projects that include community cleanups, singing at nursing homes, homeless shelters, church child care, packing Christmas boxes, donations, playing the harp at numerous events and teaching kids with disabilities how to ride horses. She plans to pursue further studies in music and would love to teach music theory on a collegiate level. Lauren is a 2006 All Star from Albemarle County.

Dakoda Harris is a 4-H member who has been active in a wide variety of projects that include Wildlife, Entomology, Dog Care, Public Speaking, Photography, Leadership and Performing Arts. He has used his artistic talents to win the State 4-H Dairy Poster Contest, County Fair Pinks and Silly Sppad contests and decorated shoes contest. He has participated in 4-H Camp and State 4-H Congress. He was captain of his History academic team, SCA President, Class President, Class Secretary and captain of the Bland County baseball team. He and his family have hosted numerous exchange delegates and he has traveled to Japan for an exchange. He is very active with community service that ranges from fundraisers to litter pickups and assisting community organizations with events. Dakoda is in a band and plays the guitar and mandolin. Dakoda is currently attending New River Community College and is majoring in Electronics, Instrumentation & Control Automation. He is a 2010 All Star from Bland County.