



## Virginia 4-H All Star Chapter

107 Hutcheson Hall  
Virginia Tech (0419)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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# Smoke Signals from the Big Chief

Greetings Virginia 4-H All Stars!

What an honor it is to have been elected to serve as your State 4-H All Star Big Chief this year. Thank you for putting your trust in me! I am looking forward to learning as I go and balancing the challenges with the rewards of leadership. I began 4-H in Culpeper County in 1998 at the age of nine in the Heads Up! horse club, where I held nearly every office at least once. Soon, I expanded to 4-H summer camp, public speaking competitions, participation in the Culpeper-Madison-Rappahanock Farm Fair, and eventually induction into the Culpeper 4-H Honor Club. Due to lack of consistent 4-H Agent in Culpeper, I ended up joining the Madison Centaurs 4-H horse club, holding offices, joining competition teams, and pursuing my goal of being inducted into the Virginia 4-H All Stars. At the 2005 Virginia State 4-H Congress, standing side-by-side with my horse club leader, I was inducted as a Madison, 2005 Virginia 4-H All Star. The following year I aged out of 4-H and moved to Amherst, VA where I attended Sweet Briar College, earning an A.B. in History. I transferred biology credits to Randolph College where I received the equivalent of a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry. After re-connecting with my former 4-H horse club leader, I began volunteering with the 4-H horse program and pretty quickly ended up applying for the Caroline County 4-H Agent position, which I officially began in October 2013. I've spent the last two years first as shadow Scribe and then a year as the Recording Scribe for the 4-H All Star Executive Board, before being elected to serve as Big Chief this year.

As anyone who knows me can tell you, I love words and using them to create imagery which will inspire the reader. In that spirit, I would like to start off my time as Big Chief with a few focus words for our 4-H All Star Chapter to consider, discuss, and perhaps act on. One of my favorite words is *passion*. As 4-H All Stars, we all have a burning passion inside of us for working with youth, to help them become the strongest and best versions of themselves. Our passion is bright enough to illuminate even the darkest corner of these kid's lives while celebrating their joys and victories! We carry our passion into contests, camps, clubs, homes, and hearts. Take some time this year to reflect on what parts of your time in 4-H have meant the most to you. Who inspired you? Who held your hand? Who believed in you? And think about how you can become that passionate person in the life of another young 4-Her.

Next, I present the word *tradition*. Virginia 4-H, of which we are an integral part, is steeped in tradition. From Native American tribal songs, to camp packs, to the clover and our colors of green and white, and a tradition of endless giving, 4-Hers put their heart and soul into everything they do, and it shows! All Stars have a unique set of traditions that govern their ways of giving back to the 4-H program, socializing with each other, and inducting in the next generations of Virginia 4-H All Stars. Traditions give us a sense of belonging and history. They add color, beauty, and order to our proceedings. Traditions bind us together and provide memories that will last a lifetime.

(continued on page 3)

Big Chief	Lesser Chief	Treasurers
<b>Anna Rij</b> 122 Dorsey Lane Bowling Green, Virginia 22427 <a href="mailto:arij@vt.edu">arij@vt.edu</a> 540-419-4589	<b>Wendy Martin</b> 1644 Advance Mills Road Ruckersville, VA 22968 <a href="mailto:Wendymartin96@gmail.com">Wendymartin96@gmail.com</a> 434-985-3380	<b>Randy &amp; Irene Leech</b> 4220 North Fork Rd. Elliston, VA 24087 <a href="mailto:ileeche@vt.edu">ileeche@vt.edu</a> / <a href="mailto:randy.leech@aecom.com">randy.leech@aecom.com</a> 540.268.5375(H)/540.231.4191(IW) 540.520.2531(RC)/540.230.5373(IC)
Scout	Corresponding Scribe	Recording Scribe
<b>Kate Elmer</b> <a href="mailto:kelmer144@gmail.com">kelmer144@gmail.com</a> 540.838.5148	<b>Taylor Reed</b> PCC Box 965, 250 Brent Lane Pensacola, Florida 32503 <a href="mailto:taynreed15@gmail.com">taynreed15@gmail.com</a> 804.385.3263	<b>Spencer Gee</b> 4450 Rivanna River Way, PMB#6379 Fairfax, VA 22030 <a href="mailto:Spncr_g@yahoo.com">Spncr_g@yahoo.com</a> 276.970.2254
Past Big Chief	Virginia 4-H Liaison	Associate Director 4-H
<b>Kayla Blincoe</b> <a href="mailto:Aylakay131@aol.com">Aylakay131@aol.com</a> 434.466.7775	<b>Glenda Snyder</b> Virginia 4-H Office/4-H Foundation Liaison 107 Hutcheson Hall - Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA 24061 <a href="mailto:gsnyder@vt.edu">gsnyder@vt.edu</a> 540.521.9647	<b>Dr. Cathy Sutphin</b> Associate Director of Virginia 4-H 107 Hutchison Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061 <a href="mailto:cmsutph@vt.edu">cmsutph@vt.edu</a> 540.231.6371

 **Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
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# The Virginia Star

The official publication of the Virginia 4-H All Stars.

December 2015 Edition

**“BY AIR, LAND OR SEA EXPERIENCE HAMPTON’S HISTORY”**  
**February 5 - 7, 2016**  
**4-H All Star Mid-Winter Conference Registration Form**

**All Star District Chiefs and Contacts**

Central	Northern-East	Eastern-South
Big Chief	Big Chief	Big Chief
<b><u>Amy Daubenspeck</u></b> 2500 Pocoshock Place, Suite 104 Richmond, VA 23235 <a href="mailto:adaubenspeck@chesterfieldp.com">adaubenspeck@chesterfieldp.com</a> 804.276.2150 (W) 804.306.7715 (C)	<b><u>William Thomas</u></b> 1012 Hendrick Street Culpeper, VA 22701 <a href="mailto:Thomasvtcc64@verizon.net">Thomasvtcc64@verizon.net</a> <a href="mailto:wetsbt@gmail.com">wetsbt@gmail.com</a> 540.825.1873 (H)	<b><u>Jean Powers</u></b> 3368 Hungarian Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23457 <a href="mailto:jeanpowers@aol.com">jeanpowers@aol.com</a> 757.421.3715 (H) 757.567.3465 (C)
District 4-H Agent Contact(s)	District 4-H Agent Contact(s)	District 4-H Agent Contact(s)
<b><u>Bonnie Tillotson</u></b> P. O. Box 488 Appomattox, VA 24522 <a href="mailto:btillots@vt.edu">btillots@vt.edu</a> 434.352.8244	<b><u>Anna Rij</u></b> P. O. Box 399 Bowling Green, VA 22427 <a href="mailto:arij@vt.edu">arij@vt.edu</a> 804.633.6550	<b><u>Jackie Tull</u></b> P. O. Box 60 Accomac, VA 23301 <a href="mailto:haymakercr@vt.edu">haymakercr@vt.edu</a> 757.787.1361
Northern-West	Eastern-North	Southwest
Big Chief	Big Chief	Big Chief
<b><u>Geraldine Cubbage</u></b> 670 Phoebe Lane Luray, VA 22835 <a href="mailto:ghcubbage@embarqmail.com">ghcubbage@embarqmail.com</a> 540.778.3227	<b><u>Sarah Gregory</u></b> 9111 Omaha St. Richmond, VA 23237 <a href="mailto:sngregory@vu.edu">sngregory@vu.edu</a> 804.275.5806	<b><u>Deb Nester</u></b> 131 Cardinal Circle Road Laurel Fork, VA 24352 <a href="mailto:debvester@yahoo.com">debvester@yahoo.com</a> 276.398.2075 276.730.5624(c)
District 4-H Agent Contact(s)	District 4-H Agent Contact(s)	District 4-H Agent Contact(s)
<b><u>Dara Booher</u></b> 965 Pleasant Valley Road Harrisonburg, VA 22801 <a href="mailto:dneal@vt.edu">dneal@vt.edu</a> 540.564.3080	<b><u>Kendra Young</u></b> P. O. Box 90775 Henrico, VA 23273 <a href="mailto:kekyle@vt.edu">kekyle@vt.edu</a> 804.501.5160	<b><u>Robyn Raines</u></b> 2536 Hillman Highway Abingdon, VA 24210 <a href="mailto:robinar@vt.edu">robinar@vt.edu</a> 276.676.6180

**Other All Star Contacts**

All Star Advisor	All Star Advisor	All Star Advisor
<b><u>Connie Bryant (2016)</u></b> 1165 Cambria St. NW. Christiansburg, VA 24073 <a href="mailto:conniedbryant@hotmail.com">conniedbryant@hotmail.com</a> 540.382.2042	<b><u>Michelle Dickerson(2017)</u></b> 755 Roanoke St. Suite 1G Christiansburg, VA 24073 <a href="mailto:adickerson@vt.edu">adickerson@vt.edu</a> 540.382.5690	<b><u>Robert Tillotson(2018)</u></b> 8868 Red House Road Appomattox, VA 24522 <a href="mailto:ricochetrobert56@gmail.com">ricochetrobert56@gmail.com</a> 434.841.6055 434.352.2889

**Virginia Star Editor:** Glenda M. Snyder, 107 Hutchenson Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA24061.  
[gsnyder@vt.edu](mailto:gsnyder@vt.edu) 540.521.9647

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Male/Female) Name on nametag: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit & Year Tapped: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ M/F  
Special Needs/Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

	Cost	# of People	Subtotal
<b>Full Conference (<i>not including tour choice</i>)</b> (meeting facilities, banquet dinner)	<b>\$50.00</b>		
<b>TOUR- Virginia Air &amp; Space Center (includes IMAX film)</b> <a href="http://www.vasc.org/">http://www.vasc.org/</a>	<b>\$17.50</b> <b>Seniors \$15.50</b>		
<b>TOUR- IMAX (film Only)</b>	<b>\$8.00</b> <b>Seniors \$7.00</b>		
<b>TOUR- Hampton History Museum</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>		
<b>TOUR- Virginia Tech Seafood AREC</b> <b>(Applied Research and Extension Educational Center)</b>	<b>Free</b>		
<b>Saturday Box Lunch (optional)-</b> (ordered in advance from Cosmic Café @ VA Air & Space Center) Combos include: small bag of chips, 12oz drink and cookie. Combo A: Cold Cut Sandwich served on a Kaiser roll, with lettuce & toma- to *Choice of Ham or Turkey ( <i>circle one</i> ) Combo B: Café Combo with two hot dogs Combo C: Chicken Fingers	<b>\$8.00</b>		
<b>Saturday Banquet Dinner – Buffet</b> (Down South Buffet: Creamy Cole Slaw Southern Potato Salad, Fried Chicken, BBQ Pork Ribs, Sweet Cornbread and Biscuits with Whipped Honey Butter, Braised Collard Greens, Baked Mac n’ Cheese, Cheddar Mashed Potatoes, Warm Apple Cobbler & Chef’s Pies, Sweet Iced Tea with Lemon) Each Buffet Selection includes: Warm Rolls and Butter Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee and Iced Tea)	<b>\$35.00</b>		
<b>First Time Attendee Discount</b>	<b>-\$10.00</b>		
<b>Virginia 4-H All Star Dues:</b>	<b>Annual.....\$10</b> <b>Life.....\$70</b>		
<b>Contributions:</b>	<b>New Membership Fund</b> <b>Keffer Scholarship Fund</b>		

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Virginia Chapter of 4-H All Stars** (\$10 returned check fee)  
Mail to Irene and Randy Leech, Treasurers, 4220 North Fork Rd., Elliston, VA 24087 Registrations can be emailed by  
**9:00 am on January 22, 2016** to: Irene Leech @ [ileech@vt.edu](mailto:ileech@vt.edu); or Randy Leech @ [randy.leech@aecom.com](mailto:randy.leech@aecom.com).  
**A late charge of \$5 is due with all registration postmarked after the deadline**



### Lodging Information:

**Waterfront Hotel with breathtaking views of the Marina**  
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**Complimentary High Speed Wireless Internet**  
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[www.cphamptonmarina.com](http://www.cphamptonmarina.com)



Room Rates are **\$82.00** night/plus tax.  
Please make your reservation directly with hotel. Rooms are listed under 4-H All Stars.

When making a reservation for Midwinters, **please use this code: B4H.**

Guests may call toll free at 1-866-375-6054, or simply use the booking link at <http://goo.gl/rSTiZm>. Just enter the arrival and departure dates, number of persons, and then click on check availability.

### **Directions to Crowne Plaza**

#### **From I-64 East & Newport News/Williamsburg Airport:**

- Exit #267 (Hampton University/Settlers Landing Road).
  - Turn right at the traffic light onto Settlers Landing Road.
  - Continue over a small bridge to the next set of traffic lights.
- Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel is located on your left.

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#### **From I-64 West & Norfolk International Airport:**

- Exit #267 (Hampton University/Woodland Road).
  - Turn left at the traffic light onto Settlers Landing Road.
  - Continue over a small bridge to the next set of traffic lights.
- Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina hotel is located on your left.
- 

**Hotel Video-** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdikeqkNDKI>

# ***The Virginia Star***

(continued from front page)

Finally, one of the more controversial words in any person's vocabulary: *change*. For some, the word change is threatening and brings feelings of discomfort and unease. To others, it may seem completely at odds with the meaning of tradition. However, I choose to (and hope you will too) view the word as refreshing, promising, and limitless! In 1902, boys and girls had separate 4-H clubs, the races were divided, and 4-H was just beginning to establish itself. Now, over 100 years later, 4-H has changed quite a lot and yet, it still remains true to the traditional and founding values upon which it was built: positive youth development. All Stars in Virginia began just shy of 100 years ago and I have to believe we have gone through some changes along the way. Groups that don't embrace changes become stale and stagnate. They wither and blow away as they become irrelevant to the newer generations. 4-H All Stars are poised in a wonderful place to help shape the future of 4-H by finding ways to change some of our traditions without losing the integrity of our mission. We have the ability and indeed duty to clean out the stacks of useless papers and cobwebs so that we can air out and show off all that is wonderful about our organization. An old Hebrew proverb says that "a man who bends too far will break." I can't argue that this is true; if bent too far, anyone would break. Consider the image of a dancer though. A dancer spends hours training and stretching in order to help the body bend in the right places and to its' fullest ability. That is the sort of change I think we should be embracing. All Stars has an incredibly important place in the history, present, and future of 4-H but we must learn to stretch ourselves – just as the youth stretch themselves, in order to reach our full potential.

With these three words in mind – *passion, tradition, and change* – I challenge each and every one of you to find a way to combine these three words into your work with Virginia 4-H All Stars this year. Look for the passion in our organization and deepen it. Find the traditions which matter most and reaffirm their history and importance. Let go of what is no longer relevant so that refreshing, promising, and limitless changes may be welcomed and new traditions born. My hope is that together, we will build a stronger and more youthful organization which will continue to carry out our motto of service through passion filled traditions and the sort of close-knit friendships for which 4-H All Stars are known.

Last, but certainly not least, I've got some business items to share! *I would like to thank all those who have given of their time, talents, and treasures over this last year.* 4-H All Stars is truly a service oriented group and I know we have many, many un-sung heroes among us. Your enthusiasm and giving hearts have not gone unnoticed. Thank you! *Welcome to the 2015 tapped All Stars!* You all are the next generation of All Stars and we welcome you to join in on serving your local 4-H programs and participating as volunteers in every level of Virginia 4-H. Finally, I'd like to personally invite all Virginia 4-H All Stars to join us for our very exciting annual **Midwinter's Conference: "By Land, Air, or Sea Experience Hampton's History!" to be held in Hampton Roads Virginia, February 6 & 7 2016!** Look for details and registration information inside this edition of the Virginia Star!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Anna Rij*

Anna Rij



### In Honor and Memory of Our Fellow All Stars:



Kenneth Edward Dawson, 88, died on September 10, 2015, born in Newark, Ohio, on May 3, 1927, Ken grew up in Pittsylvania County, Va. He graduated from Spring Garden High School in Chatham, Va., in 1945. After serving in the Army from 1946 to 1948, he enrolled in V.P.I., graduating in 1952. He taught at Wytheville High School and Jefferson Senior High School in Roanoke, and returned to Virginia Tech in 1956 as Assistant Professor. Ken received a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia and a PhD from the University of Maryland. Having traveled to 60 countries and all of the United States, Dr. Dawson helped develop liaison relationships between Virginia Tech and many nations including China, Japan, Brazil, Haiti, Yugoslavia, Portugal and Egypt. Kenneth attended Rock Eagle Georgia Volunteer Leaders National Conference for many

years. Helped developed the International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) foreign exchange program in Virginia. Served as the Founding President of Southside Virginia Community College: 1969-1973, Tapped into All-Stars 1974, Director of the Virginia 4-H Program : 1973-1983, VT Professor of International Development and Director of Training: 1983-1992 (retired in 1992), Member of the Montgomery County 4-H Administrative Board: mid 1980's- 2002 Kenneth Dawson shared his faith in Jesus Christ through his kindness and generosity by teaching Sunday school for over 50 years, and serving as an active deacon. At death, he was a member of Belmont Christian Church. Ken was very active in civic organizations. He was longtime chaplain of the local A.A.R.P. and served as President of several Rotary Clubs. To those left behind, Ken Dawson says, "Love one another deeply, serve the Lord with gladness, and thank Him for every blessing. Life is good!"

His positive influence in the lives of countless youth and adults in the Virginia 4-H program is evidenced by the productive and contributing citizens that they have become today.

**"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you."**

**- Mother Teresa**



### EMANCIPATION OAK (Located at Hampton University)

The Emancipation Oak stands near the entrance of the Hampton University campus and is a lasting symbol of the university's rich heritage and perseverance. During the Civil War, Union General Benjamin F. Butler's "contraband of war" decision at Fort Monroe in 1861 changed the fates of many African-American slaves, enabling hundreds to reach freedom behind Union lines. Although previously forbidden an education by Virginia law, the rising number of "contrabands" camped in the area prompted the establishment of schools for those freedmen who exhibited "a great thirst for knowledge".

The peaceful shade of the young oak served as the first classroom for newly freed men and women, eager for an education. Mrs. Mary Peake, daughter of a freed colored woman and a Frenchman, conducted the first lessons taught under the oak located on the University's campus. Classes continued with the The Butler School, which was constructed in 1863 next to the oak. One day in 1863, the members of the Virginia Peninsula's black community gathered to hear a prayer answered. The Emancipation Oak was the site of the first Southern reading of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, an act which accelerated the demand for African-American education. With limbs sprawling over a hundred feet in diameter, the Emancipation oak is designated as one of the 10 Great Trees of the World by the National Geographic Society.

### Air Power Park

The park features an indoor museum that is currently open seven days a week from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. The indoor museum features rooms dedicated to the Military Branches of service, a collection of Balsa wood models donated by a local gentleman, and a NASA exhibit that tells all about space exploration.

### St. Johns Church

St. John's Episcopal Church was established in 1610 is the oldest English-speaking parish in continuous existence in the United States of America. English settlers from Jamestown established a community and church on the tip of the Virginia Peninsula on July 9, 1610, one month after Lord De La Warr arrived at Jamestown with supplies that effectively ended the Starving Time in that settlement. This new settlement was named after the Algonquian-speaking Kecoughtan who lived in the area

### Service Project

**Can Food Drive for the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank: Please drop off your donated can goods during registration. Help Hampton 4-H make a difference in our community.**





## Smoke Signals from our Districts

### HAMPTON ROADS 4-H ALL STAR MIDWINTER TOURS

#### Virginia Air & Space Center

Imaginations will soar at this hands-on, minds-on science center that features interactive exhibits, a five-story-high IMAX Theater and Cool Science every day! Explore 100 years of flight with more than 30 aircraft, take the yoke at a number of flight simulators, and see awe-inspiring space-flight artifacts. Be amazed by the *Apollo 12* Command Module and NASA's new *Orion* space craft. Investigate science, technology, engineering and math through Cool Science and changing exhibits. Watch a movie or be part of one in the state-of-the-art Riverside 3D IMAX Theater! - See more at: <http://www.vasc.org/#sthash.UmKpdT1g.dpuf>

#### Hampton History Museum

The Hampton History Museum contains an impressive collection. Start your tour in a Kecoughtan Indian longhouse, pass through the hold of a tobacco ship and visit the ruins of the city burned to the ground during the Civil War. The Hampton History Museum serves to increase the awareness and understanding of the history of Hampton by maintaining an educational and research center for the collection, exhibition, interpretation, preservation and promotion of the vast historic resources of the City.

\*\*\*\*\***Free Tours**\*\*\*\*\*

#### VT Seafood AREC

Welcome to the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hampton, Virginia. Core research and extension programs at the AREC focus on seafood safety, seafood quality of animals and products, business and marketing support for the commercial and aquaculture industries, engineering, thermal processing, intensive saltwater recirculating aquaculture, and education/outreach for industry and consumers. The Virginia Seafood AREC also has a strong international program. The Virginia Seafood AREC currently functions as a regional Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) training center. **(First 25 to Sign-up)**

#### Fort Monroe: Freedom's Fortress

Fort Monroe National Monument spans the American story through the 21st century: American Indian presence, Captain John Smith's journeys, a safe haven for freedom seekers during the Civil War, and a bastion of defense for the Chesapeake Bay. A public planning process will determine future public services and programming at this new national park with a centuries-old tradition. The Casemate Museum is operated by the Commonwealth of Virginia with curatorial support provided by the United States Army.

#### Hours of Operation:

The Casemate Museum is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm; and daily Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Casemate Museum is also open Memorial Day, Labor Day, and November 11, but closed Easter, Thanksgiving, December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1. Guided tours for pre-formed groups of 10 or more (school groups Grade 3 and above) are available.  
Phone Number: 757-788-3391

### **Northern District East**

A recognition picnic for 2015 Northern District All Stars was held Sunday afternoon, August 9th at Graves Mt. Lodge in Syria. The meal was free for 2015 All Stars who were presented with a choice of a special designed t-shirt or All Star jewelry. The meal for others was \$11.

We had 30 All Stars and 24 guests for a total of 54 in attendance. This included seven 2015 All Stars. Seven counties were represented. We had one or more All Stars representing each decade from the '40's to the present.

Our silent auction was a success once again both in terms of funds raised and the interest in the activity. As a result of donations and the auction, the District Treasury netted almost \$500. That money is used to support district activities

We met at Pepper's Grill in Culpeper on November 10th to review our district's forms. We had agents from four units and volunteers from three. We were pleased with the overall quality of the forms and the number of counties represented. We will have met again on Thursday, December 10th to review the state forms. The District All Star Chapter covered the cost of lunch for those who participate.

William Thomas—District Chief

### **Northern District West**

The district had already held three meetings throughout the year in conjunction with the Northern District 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association. During the meetings, the 2015 Mid-Winters hosted by the district was discussed, as well as officers for the upcoming year. It was decided that each member attending Interstate would receive \$25.00 from the district; they would also pay lodging costs for the member in charge of hospitality during the conference. The following officers were elected for the 2015-2016 year: Geraldine Cabbage as Big Chief, Elwanda Luttrell as Lesser Chief, Susan Stamand as Scribe, and Carol Boyer as Treasurer. The district wishes to meet with Anna Rij and the Northern East All-Stars at a later time.

Geraldine Cabbage—District Big Chief

### **Southeast District**

The Southeast/Airfield District assisted in the Southeast District 4-H All-Stars in hosting the 2015 VAA4-HVL Conference. At the conference Billie Jean Elmer, District Advisor, presented workshops on the new All-Star Nomination form. The district assisted during district contest, and donated \$150 to the State All-Star Association for additional expenses during the 2014 Summer Conference. The district has plans to meet October 24, 2015, jointly with the Southeast District 4-H Adult Volunteer Leaders Association, and hold officer elections.

Jean Powers—SE District Big Chief

### **Southwest District**

Southwest District 4-H All Stars thank everyone for their help in hosting the 2015 Interstate Conference held in Roanoke. Special appreciation goes to Michelle Cock who served as chair for the conference.

Southwest District Membership Committee met November 19 to review applications and nominations for membership into the All Stars.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16 at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Abingdon. This will be an opportunity for members to decide on service projects for the upcoming future. For more information on the Southwest District 4-H All Stars, check out our facebook page or contact District Chief Deb Nester at [debner@yaho.com](mailto:debner@yaho.com)

## 2015 Interstate Conference Information

**4-H All Star Interstate Conference for 2015** was hosted by the Virginia 4-H All-Stars in Roanoke, Virginia. Michelle Cock, Interstate 2015 Chair, reported that there were 46 full-time participants. She thanked Mary Gee, Jeff Gee, Connie Bryant, Deb Nester, and Tamla Nichols for helping with different parts of the event.

## Upcoming Events – HOLD the DATES!

### **Virginia 4-H All Stars Summer 2016 Conference**

For the **Summer 2016** Conference, being planned by Kayla Blincoe, Wendy Martin, and the Central/Holiday Lake District, it was suggested that the conference be held at Zion's Crossroad in Louisa and Fluvanna counties. The dates mentioned for the conference included July 9, and several entertainment ideas, including a theater company, were discussed.

### **Midwinters Conference 2017**

The **Midwinters 2017** conference is being hosted by the Southeast/Airfield District All-Stars with the help of Past Big Chief. They hope to hold the event in the Virginia Beach area, with a possible tour of the Military Aviation Museum in the area.

### **Virginia 4-H All Stars Summer 2017 Conference**

The Northern West/NOVA District is hosting the **Summer 2017** conference with hopes to hold the event at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center.

## All Star Award Deadlines

Don't forget to send in your nominations for the following awards by January 1:

...the C. Dean Allen Award for Excellence, recognizing a Unit Extension Faculty member with three (3) or more years of service to All Star and/or 4-H international opportunities for youth.

...the Bradshaw Service Award for a 4-H All Star of 15 years or less membership who has rendered outstanding service to the All Star organization and other community service exemplifying our motto of service.

...the Dottie Nelson Service Award for Excellence in 4-H International Programs, recognizing a 4-H All Star or Volunteer with three (3) years or more of service in providing 4-H International opportunities for youth and families.

...the Wayne Keffer Memorial College Scholarship (two of \$800 each) for Virginia 4\_H All Stars who are currently college freshman, sophomores, juniors, seniors or graduate students.

Forms may be obtained on the website as <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/all-stars/index.html> or by contacting our Awards Chairman, Dottie Nelson, at 276-617-1065 or [dottiefye@yahoo.com](mailto:dottiefye@yahoo.com)

## "BY AIR, LAND OR SEA EXPERIENCE HAMPTON'S HISTORY"

### 2016 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference Tentative Schedule

#### **Friday—February 5, 2016**

7:30 - 10:00 PM      Executive Committee Meeting (VCE- Hampton City Conference Room)

#### **Saturday—February 6, 2016**

8:30 - 12:30 PM	Conference Registration
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Service Project
10:00 – 12:30 PM	IFYE meeting and All Star Committee Meetings
12:45 - 1:45 PM	Lunch (box lunch @ VA Air & Space Center or nearby restaurants)
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Group Tours (VA Air & Space Center, Hampton History Museum, VT Seafood AREC)
3:00 PM	Check in to the hotel
5:00 - 5:45 PM	4-H All Star Business Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 PM	4-H All Star Banquet, Youth Entertainment, Evening Program
9:00 – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Time- Hospitality Room

#### **Sunday—February 7, 2016**

7:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast (on your own @ nearby restaurant)
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Vespers
9:30 - 10:00 AM	District Meetings
10:00 – 11:00 AM	General Meeting/District Meeting
11:00 PM	Safe Travel!! — See You At 4-H All Star Tapping Ceremony



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