

Jackson's Mill Mission Continues... with YOUR HELP

Dear All Star:

BIG MO is on our side.

YOUR time and YOUR service are badly needed as we move towards getting the Mount Vernon Dining Hall renovated. Thanks to you we have made a lot of progress in just over 10 years. With your special efforts, we have been able to reach many folks in the 4-H family, and we have raised a lot of private money plus getting the WV Legislature to appropriate \$1 million for Jackson's Mill last year. Imagine that—\$1 million—the largest single appropriation ever made for our beloved Jackson's Mill.

Remember, we aren't asking you for money this time. We want your TIME and SERVICE.

That brings me to our new Priority ONE—renovation of the Mount Vernon Dining Hall.

Now, we are talking BIG money. We must get the Governor and the Legislature behind us much like they were in the last legislative session. Fortunately, West Virginia University has made it Extension's No. 1 priority. That means the University President is supportive of this project, and it will go forward in WVU's asking budget for 2006. How much are we talking about? The figure is \$3 million. More than any other building on the Jackson's Mill campus, the dining hall must be brought into the 21st century. The dining hall is at the center of every program that comes to Jackson's Mill. It is limping along at present. If it ever falters, Jackson's Mill is out of business. Hence, you and I must impress the importance of this renovation on the Governor and the Legislature. Except for electrical work done two years ago, almost nothing has been done to the dining hall in the past 80 years.

How can you and I help?

Start by contacting your local delegates and senator(s). Call them or go talk to them in person. Tell them how thankful we are for their support last year and cite the \$1 million. Tell the Governor, too, by all means, if you know him. If you don't know him, then write to him and tell him we are grateful for last year's appropriation.

For some talking points and names and addresses, see inside.

Yours in Service,
Guy H. Stewart

TALKING POINTS

1. Tell them the 4-H All Stars and the 4-H family, made up of thousands across the state and the nation, have already built a new swimming pool, renovated Lewis County Cottage and will start the renovation of Northern Panhandle Cottage in 2006. Tell them the 4-H boys and girls in West Virginia had no swimming pool when they came to camp in 2003 and 2004. But the 4-H All Stars went to work and raised approximately \$470,000. We got a challenge grant from the Hugh I. Shott Jr. Foundation and significant help from West Virginia University when the costs overran the original estimate. Bill Adler of Lewis County took the chairmanship of the fundraising of \$260,000 for the Lewis County Cottage. Jeanne and Ted Carter of Ohio County took the leadership role in raising approximately \$250,000 in private money for the renovation of the Northern Panhandle Cottage (should start in 2006).
2. Tell them Upshur County has had considerable success in its efforts to renovate the Upshur County Cottage, but major work lies ahead. Other counties are raising funds for their respective cottages.
3. Thank them for appropriating \$1 million for health and safety issues at Jackson's Mill in the last session of the legislature. Tell them thousands of 4-Hers and their respective families and 4-H alumni in the state and across the nation were thrilled with the response to Jackson's Mill needs. Remind them that the \$1 million is the single largest appropriation ever made for Jackson's Mill.
4. Tell them the Mount Vernon Dining Hall is central to every program—youth and adults—that comes to Jackson's Mill. If it ever has to close for health or safety reasons or because of future deterioration, it will bring Jackson's Mill to its knees. It will be out of business.
5. Tell them Jackson's Mill needs to be brought into the 21st Century. Tell them not to forget that Jackson's Mill has been one of the Crown Jewels of West Virginia and not to let it die. It was the FIRST State 4-H Camp in this land.
6. Tell them 56,000 West Virginia youth are involved in 4-H and are supported by more than 7,000 adult volunteers. Furthermore, our WV 4-H program reaches 1 in 5 West Virginia youth—ages 9-19. West Virginia is a state that really knows how to camp. In summer 2005 we completed 103 weeks of residential and day camps. Almost 13,000 kids representing every West Virginia county went to 4-H camp. This is more than double the number who camped in 2000. West Virginia 4-H is on the move and deserves the attention and support of the West Virginia Legislature and the Governor.

Names and Addresses for the Governor and Legislative Leaders

For All Stars living out of state and All Stars living in West Virginia, it is important that you write to these leaders. In each case, out-of-state or in-state, cite up front that you started your 4-H membership in _____ County, or you assumed a leadership role in _____ County and that you have maintained an interest in the 4-H program for _____ years. Tell them you have a special interest in Jackson's Mill and perhaps cite certain activities that have had an important impact on your lives and that you hope that today's 4-Hers will have the same opportunities. Anything that you can say that will make Jackson's Mill important in the lives of today's boys and girls will be great.

Governor's Address: The Hon. Joe Manchin III
 State Capitol
 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
 Charleston, WV 25305

Letters to the House and Senate leadership are very important, too.

The Hon. Robert S. Kiss
Speaker, WV House of Delegates
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

The Hon. Harold Michael
Chair, WV House Finance Committee
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

The Hon. John Doyle
Vice Chair, WV House Finance Committee
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

The Hon. Earl Ray Tomblin
Senate President
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

The Hon. William R. Sharpe, Jr.
President Pro Tempore/Senate
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

The Hon. Walt Helmick
Chair, WV Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

Note: Go to www.legis.state.wv.us for other names and positions in legislature. Or, Call West Virginia's Legislative Information Office at 1-877-565-3447. Please get busy now.

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WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS

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