



*Keeping the Legacy Alive*

# THE TORCH

THE WV 4-H ALL STARS

SPRING 2021

## The Chief's Signal

*K.J. Keys*  
*Chief, 4-H All Stars*



Did you get the link to the Zoom meeting? Well, like me, I am sure you have heard that a few times lately. My name is K J Keys from Huntington, WV and I am the new Chief of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars. It is hard to believe it has been a year since we published the last *Torch*. But a lot has happened over the past twelve months and I realize what a challenging time it has been for many people, including our state's youth. Unfortunately, all county and state 4-H in person camps and activities were cancelled in 2020 and many of those activities, including our meetings, were moved to a virtual platform. Nevertheless, our Board of Directors has continued planning and the dedicated staff of WV 4-H has worked diligently to continue putting the needs of our 4-Hers in the forefront during these trying times. Since May 2020, the Board has met by Zoom, including our annual business meeting, election of officers and Consecration. Yes, it was different, but just as special

### Virtual Consecration 2020

**Jordan Pruett, Medicine Man**

As we all know, COVID-19 changed many things in 2020, but one thing that remained certain was our Executive Committee's resolve to recognize our 4-H youth and adult volunteers from across the State of West Virginia. In doing so, it was decided to move forward with a virtual induction for the class of 2020. Our committee worked diligently to come up with ideas to make sure this unique consecration showcased each new inductee in a special way, and we did. With the assistance from WV All Stars from across the country, we welcomed 193 new members and celebrated them by reading their records of service that qualified them for membership. If you were unable to join us live, we encourage you to visit our website at [www.wv4hallstars.com](http://www.wv4hallstars.com) and view the video of that special day. As always, we look forward to seeing all the good works our class of 2020 will continue doing, in the name of service, for our communities, our country, and our world.

since many current All Stars joined in to execute a meaningful event. Also, as we transition to even more virtual and electronic forms of communication, we will continue accepting nominations for both All Stars and Outstanding County All Stars by electronic submission. As we take this time to look at our Year in Review, I am hopeful for a better 2021 where we can come together as All Stars in support of the great work our 4-H program does across West Virginia. Here's to seeing each other at the Mill soon.

## Your Opinion Counts

We need your help! A sub-committee of the West Virginia 4-H All Star Executive Committee has been tasked with updating the group's Constitution and By-Laws Document. We have a brief survey we would like for all current All Stars to complete. There are three ways in which you can access the survey:

- 1) Look for the survey on the West Virginia 4-H All Star Facebook group
- 2) Watch for an e-mail with information on the survey.
- 3) For those who are not online, you can reach out to us via USPS mail to WV 4-H All Stars c/o West Virginia 4-H Program. 619 Knapp Hall, PO Box 6031, Morgantown, WV 26506-6031 and request that a paper copy of the survey be mailed to your home address.

The results of the survey will guide the sub-committee in updating the Constitution and By-Laws of the group to ensure the document is up to date, remains relevant, and best reflects the future of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars. The Survey will remain open through April 15, 2021.

## *4-H – The Virtual Year*

### **Brent Clark, Director, 4-H Youth Development WVU Extension Service**

As I sit here at my computer wrapping up another week of online meetings and communication related to our 4-H program, I have taken time to reflect back over the past year. Who would have ever imagined the challenges and changes we have encountered? Throughout its long history, 4-H is no stranger to adapting and moving forward in innovative ways to meet the needs of youth. In West Virginia we have worked in recent years to include more electronic communications, access to online resources, and offered more distance technologies for youth, families, and volunteers to stay engaged in 4-H. We have also developed exciting new camps and opportunities that allow youth to lead our advancement into new technologies. Our 4-H STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) efforts are Nationally known, with West Virginia University Extension partnering for two consecutive years with National 4-H Council and Google in the development of the 4-H National Youth Science Day Challenge. This computer science based curriculum reached over 200,000 youth across the Nation in each of those two years. There is no doubt that West Virginia 4-H has been a leader in technology and innovation for many years.

With all the technology, online, and virtual progress we have made throughout the years, none of us could have ever expected to move to an almost completely online based 4-H model during the past year. Meetings, programs and events through a screen have been most of our 4-H life since this time last year. We have tried our best to adapt to new platforms and technologies, while balancing the challenges of connectivity and uncertainty throughout our world. Our amazing 4-H faculty and staff immediately found ways to provide new online 4-H experiences in the days, weeks, and months following the March 2020 shutdown. Within one week of the WVU and statewide shutdown, seven online project workshops were created, promoted and offered to youth throughout our state. We wasted no time in making sure that 4-H was there for our youth. We have transitioned meetings, changed events, and created new workshops and trainings in online formats. Camps, Energy Express, Fairs, Livestock Shows, 4-H Enrollment, Clubs, and Special Interest groups have all turned virtual over the past year. We have persevered in offering 4-H to as many youth as possible considering the restrictions and safety measures we have all been working through.

Through all of the challenges and transitions that have happened, it is also important to note the many opportunities and successes that have been presented to us. It is sometimes difficult to overlook the many great things that have happened over the past year. For example, we

have reached a record number of new families and youth who have never experienced 4-H or Extension before. They have signed up for our workshops, registered for camps and entered our contests. They have participated in what we have offered, at a time when there were not as many opportunities available to them. Our faculty, staff and volunteers have accepted the challenge of going virtual with 4-H and faced it head on. We have formed new teams, events, and activities that have made our 4-H program stronger. These changes have ensured us that we will continue to reach new youth with innovative and interactive experiences in the months and years ahead. We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to be excited about.

This innovation and forward thinking can also be seen throughout the West Virginia 4-H All Stars. Many of you have stepped up to the challenge in trying to find solutions in keeping youth active and engaged over the past year. As an organization, the 4-H All Star Executive Committee also transitioned, much like our 4-H program, online formats allowed the group to be innovative, include more participants, and engage individuals like never before. Support of these actions and changes have been extremely well received and will only help the All Stars continue to evolve and serve as examples to others.

At a time when it could have been very easy to not take action, stay the course, and wait until a “normal” year to resume All Star activity, the WV 4-H All Star Executive Committee rose up to the occasion and led by example. This should come to no surprise for those of you who have been actively following the All Stars over the past few years. In fact, the change to an online format for the WV 4-H All Stars over the past year was one that was made easier, through all of the changes and enhancements the group has made in recent years. Change can be uncomfortable and scary; however, it can also help us to grow and ensure we remain relevant. I encourage our membership and leadership to continue being that example of innovation and change for our 4-Hers.

While it has been a difficult and challenging year in many ways for each of us. I hope you take comfort in knowing that 4-H never stopped offering opportunities to youth. 4-H and the WV 4-H All Stars have been here, and we will continue to be here. We will continue to adapt, change and innovate in the months ahead. Many of the struggles over the past year have resulted in ways we will continue to improve our 4-H program and the All Star organization. It should always be our goal to ensure that we are on the cutting edge of providing positive youth development opportunities to as many youth as possible. Thank you for all you do to ensure that happens.

# Jackson's Mill Continuing to Serve

WVU Jackson's Mill had the privilege of hosting a drive thru Covid-19 vaccination site for eligible folks from the area. Vaccines were distributed by the Lewis County Health Department in the Multipurpose Arena and the events have been a huge success!



## All Star Origins

**Chad N. Proudfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesser Chief**

While many of our members are familiar with the service conducted by the All Stars on the state and local levels, some of our newer inductees may be interested to know more about the founding of our order and its place in 4-H history. While 4-H itself did not originate in West Virginia, the program quickly gained a foothold in the Mountain State after its establishment in Springfield, Ohio in 1902, with the first Corn Club (the predecessor to 4-H) being established in Monroe County in 1908. By 1912, William H. Kendrick (later to be warmly known by his nickname "Teepi") became the State 4-H Leader and set about working with agents around the state to establish 4-H youth development programs in every county.

Under Mr. Kendrick's leadership, a week-long Prize Winners' Course was held annually in Morgantown to provide "inspiration and enlightenment" to those 4-H'ers who had become county champions in many project related competitions. Prize Winners' Course participants were awarded 4-H pins to recognize their achievements, often earning pins one H at a time to emphasize the ideals of fourfold life development. Beginning in 1917, Kendrick began awarding outstanding Prize Winners' Course

participants with a special five-pointed red star pin with a fifth H representing "honor" for those who had shown exemplary qualities of leadership and service.

Kendrick occasionally referred to these awardees as "All Stars," and at the Prize Winners' Course in 1919 he suggested that these members form an organization to help perpetuate 4-H ideals throughout life. With general agreement from those present, C.H. "Uncle Charlie" Hartley and Water C. Schnopp formed a committee to write the first constitution and consecration service. By 1921, the organization was officially functioning, new members were being inducted, and the first All Star Banquet was held. By 1922, All Star chapters were initiated in Maryland and Virginia, making West Virginia the official Alpha Chapter.

While much has changed over the more than 100 years of 4-H All Star history, the basic premise still remains. The Order of 4-H All Stars exists to recognize members, volunteers, and supporters for their outstanding leadership and achievements, and it strives to carry the 4-H dedication to service out into the world. All Stars believe as it states, in part, in the 4-H Creed, "I believe in my country, my state, my community, and in my responsibility for their development."

# SCOUT REPORTS

## BERKELEY COUNTY

Berkeley County 4-H has truly used the pandemic as a spring board to offer convenient in-home activities to its members. Over the course of the last 9 months we have offered 9 different kits that members, or nonmembers who want to join, can pick up from the office and complete at their leisure. We have kept our kids engaged by utilizing the Padlet platform, to provide them a secure space for them to share their work. Our kits have included multiple different STEM projects, crafts that coordinate with seasons or holidays, and even activities to stay physically and mentally fit. The crown jewel of our boxes must be the community service components that are included. Our projects have ranged from food collections, toy drives, cookie trays, and most recently making handmade Valentines to go out to seniors who benefit from the Meals on Wheels program in the county. We are truly thankful for the collaborations that have come out of this, and hope that we can continue to aspire to hold the ALL STAR motto of "Service" at the forefront of our community!

## GRANT COUNTY

### Pam Boggs – Region 5

Grant County 4-H Clubs have been busy with virtual contests and events. They ended 2020 with a pumpkin decorating and ornament decorating contests, which were creative and artistic. All winners were determined by a combination of both online and in-person voting.

Congratulations to 2020 4-H Pumpkin Contest Winners: Decorated Division: Junior – Nick Vance; Cloverbuds – Zayleigh Ketterman. Painted Division: Senior – Karli McCaslin; Junior – Emily Adams; Cloverbuds – Rainer Ketterman. Carved Pumpkin Division: Katie Rohrbaugh.



Congratulations also goes to the 2020 Ornament Contest Winners are: Most Creative – Isaiah Goldizen for a pasta star; Cloverbuds – Caroline Anderson for a gingerbread family and Elijah Goldizen for a small pasta star; Juniors – Olivia Layton for a reindeer ornament and Emily Adams for a painted Santa; Seniors – Rylee Adams for painted bulbs and Savannah Wilson for a blue and orange tie-dye ornament; CEOS – Tracey Mullenax for a snow globe ornament.

4-H Agent Alex Coffman reported there are several amazing virtual special interest (SPIN) classes being taught statewide and she is teaching the Global Foods cooking class.



## GREENBRIER COUNTY

### Teresa Hoff Poole — Region 7

The Greenbrier County 4-H All Stars met for their annual meeting via the WVU Zoom platform on January 26, 2021. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this was our first meeting in a year and had excellent attendance. All Stars President Melinda Workman discussed plans for upcoming fundraisers. County Extension Agent Robin Haynes reported on how virtual project workshops and virtual 4-H clubs meetings were going in the county. She also reported the after school 4-H club meetings she started this term went very well and with good attendance. Jo Long gave the 4-H Foundation Report and announced that \$4 dollars for 4-H will be one of the fundraisers in 2021. With the success of this meeting, the group decided to meet via Zoom again in March to elect new officers and finalize the fundraisers. Also, we are hoping to have more information about plans for in person county camp by the March meeting.

## OHIO COUNTY

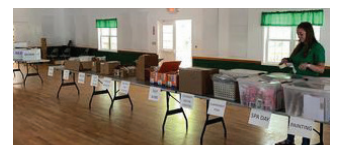
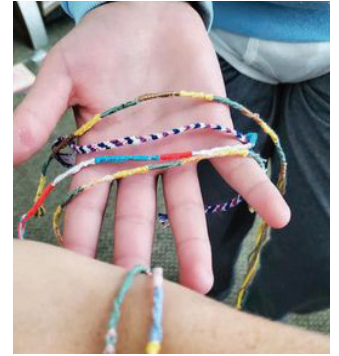
### Patty Crupe, Region 1

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Ohio County-H All Stars were unable to participate in the annual glove, scarf and hat drive for children in need throughout Ohio County, so the club made a financial donation to the Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry this past holiday season. Recently, club members began work on their 2021 All Star nomination and they continue to give memorials on behalf of local All Stars who have recently passed. It is their hope to participate in the "Rise against Hunger" campaign with a local church this Summer.

# Tri-County Virtual Camp Crushing Covid 2020

*Michael Withrow,  
Berkeley County 4-H Agent*

We were all extremely disappointed when residential camps were cancelled this past Summer, but, in short order, agents and staff in Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties were able to adapt our programming to provide an exceptional Tri-County virtual camp that exceeded expectations. In all, 238 campers and 33 volunteers participated in Crushing Covid 2020 where we offered an array of options to accommodate the diverse interest of our group. Campers were asked to choose which activities they wanted to participate in and submit their request to our local offices. Once compiled, a group of volunteers packed a "Camp in a Box" kit personalized to each camper. On the Saturday before camp, campers visited Camp Frame to pick up their boxes and kicked off a week that included 23 classes, tribal meetings, nightly messages, and even a council circle to end the week. Out of the 238 participants, 199 also participated in posting photos and videos of their activities to a private Facebook group where we ended with nearly 9,000 interactions total! In fact, many parents were excited that we were able to serve our 4-Hers in such hard times and even commented that, after participating in virtual camp, their children were looking forward to attending a residential camp in the future! Overall, 64% of our participants completed at least 6 activities and completed our BINGO week activity, to receive a special token to commemorate this, hopefully, once in a lifetime event! We have provided a few photos from our week of virtual camp for your enjoyment.



# My Hands To Larger Service Mini-Grants

**Jenny Murray,  
Communications Chair**

In 2020, the West Virginia 4-H All Stars pledged financial support to a new mini-grant program for 4-H members across the state called “My Hands to Larger Service.” With these grants, members can showcase the skills they have learned and, with a small amount of seed money, could complete a community service project they designed and fulfilled by going step by step through the grant writing processes as outlined for them. To say the creativity of the 2020 applicants was outstanding would be an understatement and six mini-grants were approved for projects in the Spring of 2020. Unfortunately, based on the nature and scope of these projects, several were put on hold due to the coronavirus outbreak. Thankfully, two mini-grant recipients were able to complete their projects in 2020 and two are currently in progress.

The Wood County Teen Leaders, under the direction of lead 4-H teen leader Emma Daley, was awarded a grant for their Recycled Sleeping Mats for the Homeless project. The teens used the grant funds to build weaving looms to make sleeping mats for the homeless in Wood County. Several 4-H families have collected thousands of plastic bags to help with this project, as it takes about 700 bags, to make one mat. Emma led a virtual camp class and other workshops teaching more than 25 people how to make PLARN (plastic yarn). The mats take 4-6 hours to make and to date they have completed three mats and are on their way to finishing three more. As a way to encourage other teen 4-H members to get involved, these teen leaders have provided their looms to other 4-H teens in Wood County so they can also make mats. It is their hope to continue this project year after year and donate the mats to the Salvation Army. The looms were constructed by Emma’s father, a 4-H volunteer.



*Emma writing the mini-grant request with 4-H Extension Agent, Jodi.*



*To make things easier, Katie sorted the bags by color and size.*



*A collection of plarn—plastic yarn. We used 10 bags for each ball.*



*The finished peg loom. We used dowel rods and oak boards.*



*Emma and Katie hosted a virtual workshop teaching other 4-H members and leaders how to make plarn.*



*Katie helped build the looms we used to weave the mats. She used a mitre saw, a drill press, and measuring tools.*



*We collected bags from 4-H members and leaders, neighbors and friends. Here, Erin sat among donated bags.*



*Cate and Ali cut plastic bags. Each bag made two loops. Once 20 loops were cut, we tied them and made a ball of plarn.*



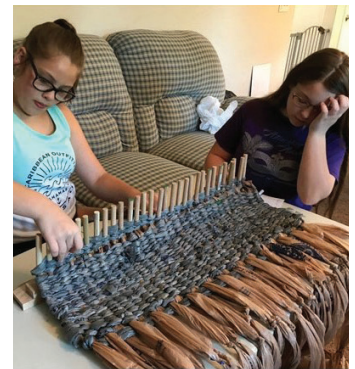
Erin and Audrey learned how to make their weave tight and showed great teamwork. Erin used about 700 bags to make one mat.



"This project is going to help the environment and our local homeless population."—Emma



Erin and Audrey placed bags on the loom. The base was 30 rows with four loops on each.



Cate and Ali had trouble with their mat because their bags kept breaking. Making the mats could be tiring and frustrating.

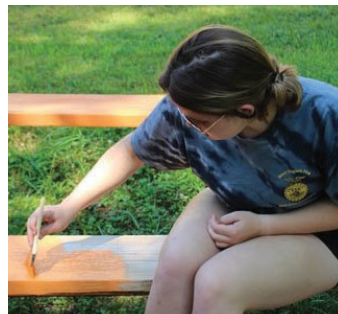
(Continued from page 6)  
The second completed mini-grant was awarded to the Braxton County Junior Leaders, under the direction of lead 4-H member Drina Kearns with the goal of cleaning and staining the Council Circle structure at Holly Gray Park. Since this facility is used by many entities both in Braxton County and the surrounding area, these Junior Leaders saw a need and wanted to make sure this newly renovated structure would be completed and ready for the community to use for years to come.

The two additional mini-grants currently in progress are sewing pillowcases for the long-term nursing home residents in Pleasants County and building inclusive activity stations for a playground in Taylor County.

At the September 2020 Virtual All Stars Conference, members voted to renew their support and fund the mini-grant program again in 2021. Applications for 2021 were due February 1<sup>st</sup> and are now under review and the awards will be announced in March. It is our hope to display reports from 2021 mini-grant projects at the 2021 State Fair of West Virginia and the 2021 West Virginia 4-H All Stars Conference.



Jamie Yoder stains the Delaware section.



Julianna Rexroad has Cherokee covered.



Drina Kearns and Ellen Collins making the Seneca section shine.



The Junior Leaders with the finished project.



Melody Jarrell checks out the finished project.

## Where, Oh Where Have Our Members Gone?

Alan Rollins, Membership Chair

Did you know that since the West Virginia 4-H All Stars was formed in 1919 we have inducted nearly 9,500 4-H members, leaders and volunteers? What a testament to the great work our 4-H program has done over the years promoting positive youth development. Unfortunately, through change of location or death over the years, we have lost touch with 3,371 members and do not have any updated information for them. Do you think you can help us update our membership list?

A full list of Lost All Stars is now located on our website at [www.wv4hallstars.com](http://www.wv4hallstars.com). Should you know any of these members, can you please notify our Membership Chair Alan Rollins by email at [alan@drinkinghorses.com](mailto:alan@drinkinghorses.com) or by USPS at P.O. Box 191, Elizabeth, WV 26143. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter. I will keep you updated on our progress in future newsletters.



**WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS**

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# John Loyd Tribute: A Life Well Lived



Recently, West Virginia and the WV 4-H All Stars lost a stalwart in 4-H Youth Development with the passing of Former WVU Extension 4-H Agent and Past All Star's Chief, John Loyd.

John served as the Extension 4-H Agent in Barbour County from 1956 until retirement in 1993. Throughout his career, John's life was devoted to community engagement, youth development and professional service.

He gave decades of time in service to others. John was a founding member of the WV Association of 4-H Agents and one of the original incorporators of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents where he served in a variety of offices and on various committees in both organizations.

John was instrumental in professionalizing the role of 4-H Extension Agents throughout the state and nation. At a time in West Virginia when all new agents were hired to serve 4-H and then "promoted" to Agriculture or Home Demonstration posts, John and fellow agent Jimmy Johnson worked tirelessly to show that youth development was a worthwhile permanent career. His work made sure that 4-H agents began to receive equal pay and treatment in

the Cooperative Extension world.

John was also a founding member of the Barbour County Fair. In 1996, he was awarded the Hardees' American Heritage Award by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions for his work with volunteers at fairs and festivals and was inducted into the WV Fairs and Festivals Hall of Fame. John received many honors and awards for his service and leadership: WV Extension Unique Teaching Award, Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished All Star Award, NAE 4-HA Distinguished Service Award.

John served as Chief of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars from 1964-1966, was enshrined into the West Virginia Agriculture & Forestry Hall of Fame and, in 2016, was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

## THE TORCH

*The Torch* is the official publication of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars.

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