



*Keeping the Legacy Alive*

# THE TORCH

THE WV 4-H ALL STARS

SPRING 2022

## *Nominations Portal Gets an Update!*

**Jill Devrick, Special Committee Chair**

Last fall a special committee was formed to review the process for nominating new 4-H All Stars. The committee met multiple times to evaluate the requirements to become an All Star, the various membership categories, and the information required on the nomination form. After much discussion, it was agreed that the criteria for the three current categories: Member, Leader, and Member-Leader, should remain the same, but that the online submission form and instructions needed improvement.

In November, I gave a report to the Executive Committee recommending changes to the submission form put forth by the special committee. Agreeing that the revisions will guide those submitting nominations in providing more consistent, detailed information and examples of service, the Executive Committee accepted the report and approved that the changes be completed prior to the beginning of the 2022 nomination process. I am pleased to announce that the updates have been made and a short step by step video has been recorded to assist those nominating candi-

dates through the process of navigating our new form. For your convenience, please view this video on our YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/wvFCjOAOig4>. Many thanks to Alaina McCartney for implementing the revised nominations portal as a Google form which can be viewed at <https://forms.gle/Xii3vGzkjdaVf9fW9>. The portal is now open, and nominations will be accepted until April 15, 2022.

It was my pleasure to chair this committee and I offer a big How How to our committee members: Ayla Mathias, Jordan Pruett, Locke Wysong, Sheryl Sergent, Chad Proudfoot, Brent Clark, and Alaina McCartney. Their input and suggestions regarding the nominations process were invaluable in taking this first step in making these changes. Please note that while the new form is active for use in 2022, the committee has begun working on additional changes, including the handling of special-case nominations, that will be proposed to the Executive Committee in the near future.

## **4-H—Adapting with COVID**

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

As we have completed our second year of adapting with COVID, I couldn't be prouder of the flexibility, creativity, and perseverance of our 4-H program, our youth, our volunteers and our 4-H professionals. Whether it was in-person, online, or a combination of both, we ensured that youth and volunteers had the opportunity to experience 4-H in a variety of ways over the past two years. No matter the delivery method, it is important to note that every time we changed, shifted, or pivoted, it was done to keep those involved in 4-H as safe as possible. While the 4-H experiences of the past two years may not have been what we were used to, they still met the critical goal of providing positive youth development experiences throughout our state. Through all of this, an important lesson we have learned is that by doing things differently, we can sometimes find solutions to challenges and discover better ways of doing things. As we

move through 2022, we will continue to do all these things as we work closely with WVU, State, and local officials to

**(Continued on page 2)**

### **Important Dates**

**Friday, May 13, 2022**

Executive Committee Evening Meeting  
Jackson's Mill

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

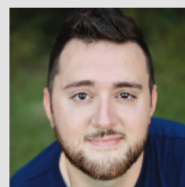
New Member Selection  
Dorsey Center, Jacksons' Mill

**Friday, September 30, 2022-Sunday, October 2, 2022**

All Star Annual Conference  
Jackson's Mill

# The Chief's Signal

**Abrebrum Schoonover**  
**Chief, 4-H All Stars**



Who's ready to get back to Jackson's Mill? I am and here's hoping 2022 will be the year we do just that. My name is Abebrum Schoonover, but you're welcome to call me Abe. I am the new Chief of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars and I'm ready to get to work for you and this great organization. I grew up in Kingwood, Preston County, WV and was a member of the Monongalia County 4-H program. Like so many of you, Alpha 2 is my second home and I spend a fair amount of my time planning ways to create magical experiences for those attending camps where I'm on staff. Ask anyone that has been on a committee with me, once I get an idea in my head, I am determined to follow through and make it become a reality. I come from a 4-H family and am honored to have the opportunity to serve you as Chief.

Undoubtedly, the past two years have been quite challenging. As an organization, we were forced to find new ways to do what we've been doing for over 100 years. We have been fortunate to have had a team of leaders helping us navigate those trying times. In fact, not only did we continue bringing in new All Stars, but through technology, many members were able to participate in both meetings and Consecration – events they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to participate in. Seeing how our organization has persevered and evolved has allowed me to

reflect on how we, as a program, have changed through the years. For example, we no longer bring a chicken to attend camp; camps are no longer segregated between boys and girls; and you don't even need to bring quarters for the pay phones outside of the assembly hall. All impactful in their own rite, we have weathered countless changes over time; however, how well we have adapted to change doesn't make us All Stars, but rather our shared values and purpose in service to the 4-H program and the countless youth participating across West Virginia. As your Chief, it is my goal to use this momentum to continue moving our organization forward. As such, I've encouraged my executive committee to put Service at the forefront as we develop our strategy for the future of the Order. This organization is very important to me, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I value every one of our members and promise to do my level best in service to you. Let us be guided by those who came before, and open to that which is yet to come.

Recently, while listening to one of my favorite musicals, some of the lyrics struck a chord with me and I'd to close my first Signal sharing them with you. They are, *I see stars; So many stars tonight; You could make diamonds dull; You are so beautiful; I see stars; You shine as bright as day; I will look out for you; We'll light each other's way; You're all stars!*

## 4-H—Adapting with COVID (Continued from page 1)

explore the best possible ways to bring people together and to provide positive experiences to everyone associated with 4-H. I am excited for what 2022 will hold!

Also, we look forward to the resumption of residential county camps as well as providing more opportunities to come together at Jackson's Mill during the upcoming year. In 2021 we had the chance to do more in-person activities through late spring and into the summer before the rise of the Delta variant in September. There was a great deal of frustration in not being able to be at Jackson's Mill this past fall for the yearly 4-H All Star Conference which unfortunately occurred during the peak of the variant. With consultation from the WVU COVID Safety and Health Committee and considering the safety of all those planning to participate, the decision was made to shift to an online meeting and consecration for a second consecutive year. I am optimistic that we will be able to come together again this year as we continue to follow any COVID guidelines that are in place. The great news is that many of our popu-

lar 4-H events are returning to Jackson's Mill in 2022. Code Camp, Dance Weekend, Shooting Sports Instructor Training, and Youth Outdoor Adventure Weekend are all scheduled to occur throughout the winter and spring. Preparations are also in place this summer for Older Members Conference and Alpha camps. While many of our favorite events and activities will happen again, all of them will have new and exciting elements that will allow them to change and grow. There is a great deal of excitement in 4-H as we head into 2022!

Through all of the challenges and changes, it is also important to remember the many opportunities and successes that have been presented to us. Many of the struggles over the past two years have resulted in ways to improve our 4-H program and the All Star organization. We will continue to do what All Stars and 4-Hers do best – be guided by those who have come before, and be open to that which is yet to come...



# Constitution and Bylaws Revised

During the WV 4-H All Stars Annual Business Meeting held in September 2021, the membership approved revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order. Since 2008 was the last time either document was officially reviewed, Past Chief Sheryl Sergent appointed a committee and charged them with examining both documents and proposing any amendments for approval. The following is an outline of the changes approved during our 2021 annual meeting.

Should you be interested in a full version of the revised Constitution and Bylaws, please visit the All Stars website. If you are unable to access them online, please email Brent Clark at [brent.clark@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:brent.clark@mail.wvu.edu) for a hard copy.

• **The word University was added to clarify the Extension Service is that of West Virginia University.**

• To hold our leadership accountable, language was added stating that a reasonable effort should be made to notify all members, active and inactive, of all meetings and general activities for their possible participation.

• **Language was amended to identify the officer maintaining the finances of the Order as Treasurer; that Scouts are elected by geographic district and lists the names of the elected committee chairmanships.**

• Language was amended to qualify which positions are voting members of the Executive Committee.

• **Language was amended to place the responsibility of proposing an annual budget with the Finance Committee and approval of the budget with the Executive Committee. The language also requires that approval be completed prior to the start of the fiscal year, July 1, not during the annual business meeting.**

• Language was amended to provide for minimum timeframes for the Executive Committee to meet prior to and after the Annual Conference. The language also clarifies the Chief's requirement to notify Executive Committee members of those meetings.

• **Language was added to encourage diversity on the Executive Committee by limiting the number of Executive Committee members from any one county to serve on the committee in the same year.**

• Language was added to allow the Executive Committee to elect a new First Lessor Chief in the event the current office holder is removed, resigns or is unable to fulfill their duties of office.

• **Language was added to clarify the names and compositions of the Standing Committees, which chairmanships are elected positions and designates which other officers shall serve as chairperson of a specific committee.**

• Language was amended to allow committee members to leave their positions whenever they choose and requires that special committees be evaluated annually to determine if it is still acting within its original intent and if it has completed its original scope of work.

• **Language was amended to require that both in-person and, when possible, a virtual/interactive option will be available for members to participate in the Annual Meeting.**

• Language was amended to provide a minimum notification of all meetings to members through publication of *The Torch*.

• **Language referencing Camp Wide Meetings was removed as obsolete language.**

• Language was amended to streamline the definition of terms of office. The language also removes term limits for both the elected Treasurer and Membership Chairperson and gives those serving in these two offices the ability to be elected more than two consecutive times.

• **Language was amended to remove the Second Lessor Chief from being required to serve on the Membership Committee and leaves open the ability for the Chief to use his/her two Lessor Chiefs to assist in performing other duties, when appropriate.**

• Language was amended to require the Treasurer to present financial reports to members at all regular meetings and to file the tax obligations of the Order.

• **Language referencing a committee chairperson's responsibility to groom their successor as committee chair was removed.**

• Language was added to place the responsibility of preparing an annual budget within the scope of the Finance Committee.

• **Language was amended to require the three members of the Nominations Committee be elected to staggered three-year terms. Further, the committee is also responsible for ensuring that all nominees standing for election meet the qualifications to serve on the Executive Committee.**

• Language was added to create a Constitution and By Laws Review Committee. The language outlines the duties and composition of the committee and requires a minimum timeframe of five years for document review.

• **Language was amended to set a framework for the process of electing new members to the Order. Step one being the Nomination process. The amendment also requires the verification of service, age, etc. by the local Extension Office prior to submission.**

• Language was added to provide the Executive Committee with the ability to adopt the process of moving forward with membership nominations once they have been received.

• **Language was amended to provide the Chief a 15-day window to proceed with their stated duties after the selection committee process has been completed.**

• Language was amended to provide local Extension Offices the ability to notify a Leader/Volunteer with their invitation to membership. This will allow the individual the opportunity to accept or decline their invitation to the Order

• **Language was amended to clarify that notification to member nominees may be kept secret with their Agent, Leader or Parent to decide if they will be told of their selection.**

• Language was amended to provide for the next step in the selection process and requires the Executive Committee to accept the nominees selected by the Selection Committee. Once accepted, the initiates move to Consecration and Initiation. This removes all mention of allowing a revolving door of renominations until an initiate attends a ceremony

• **Language was added to provide all new initiates the opportunity to participate in Consecration and Initiation ceremonies by allowing the Executive Committee to conduct ceremonies throughout West Virginia, instead of just during State 4-H Camps, State 4-H events and the Annual All Star Conference being held at Jackson's Mill**

• Language was added to prevent disruption at State 4-H

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## Past Chief Donna Gail Michel Passes Away

A beloved daughter, wife, mother, cousin, aunt, teacher, friend - Donna Gail Michel passed at her home on Monday morning, February 28, 2022, in Flagstaff. She was born in West Virginia on June 12, 1939, the second child and first daughter of Donald P. Plymale and Gail Brand Plymale. She grew up on a farm in Wayne County, West Virginia, and was active in a 4-H Club.

Educated at Buffalo Elementary School, and a graduate, Class of 1957, of Buffalo High School, Donna Gail earned two degrees in English at West Virginia University. During high school and college, she worked at 4-H camps in the summer and was elected to the West Virginia 4-H All-Stars, serving as their Chief in 1981.

On Saturday, August 4, 1962, Donna Gail married Reverend L. Craig Michel, a United Methodist minister, who survives her. Their first child, a son named Jon, was born in 1967; and their daughter Mary Elizabeth (Beth) followed in 1968. Jon lives in Melbourne, Florida; while Beth, passed away in 2014, lived in historic Dorchester, a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts.

Donna Gail Michel was a teacher, for forty years,



of High School English, Gifted Studies, and Holocaust Studies. Her teaching began at Morristown High School in Morristown, New Jersey; and in West Virginia she taught at high schools in Mercer, Kanawha, and Upshur Counties, the last twenty years being spent at Buckhannon-Upshur High School, where she also coached the Academic Decathlon Team in six national competitions. She was the first teacher of Holocaust Studies in the State of West Virginia; and during the summer of 1990 she studied at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial and Center in Israel.

Donna Gail was an avid traveler and had visited all seven continents, including Antarctica in 2002.

In Flagstaff Donna Gail was a member of the Trinity Heights United Methodist Church and was active in P.E.O. and the Coconino Chapter of the DAR. Until her move to Arizona, both Donna Gail and Craig represented the West Virginia 4-H All Stars at many All Star Interstate Conferences.

A Memorial Service will be held, at a later date, in Upshur County, West Virginia.

## VA All Stars Celebrate 100 Yrs!

**Chad Proudfoot, Second Lessor Chief**

2022 marks the 100th year for the Virginia 4-H All Stars. To celebrate this momentous event, Virginia is planning a great Centennial Celebration to be held in Blacksburg, VA July 22-24, 2022. Our fellow All Stars are extending an invitation to West Virginia All Stars who may want to attend and join in the celebration. Details are still being developed, but plans are to include tours of the Virginia Tech campus, a service project with a local retirement community, and a great "birthday party," among other activities. Registra-

tion cost will be \$110, which will include five meals. Lodging will be available at the Inn at Virginia Tech on the university's campus, and if space becomes limited there are many other lodging options available in the Blacksburg area. As soon as information is available, we will be sure and post it on the WV 4-H All Star Facebook page.

If anyone has questions, or would like to be sent information, please email William Thomas, Centennial Celebration Chair, at [wetsbt@gmail.com](mailto:wetsbt@gmail.com)



# Jackson's Mill—100 Years of Camping

2021, while challenging for us all, was a year to celebrate Jackson's Mill and its 100 years of 4-H Camping. Unfortunately, with the cancellation of our conference last Fall, we were unable to celebrate in person, but the history behind this anniversary is one that needs to be shared with both our new Inductees and our long time All Stars, alike.

As such, we were pleased to hear from Joe Obidzinski, Program Coordinator for History and Heritage Programming with WVU Jackson's Mill, who shared an article



he authored, and photos shared from the Jackson's Mill Archives, to be published in this issue of *The Torch*.

Many people may know that Jackson's Mill was the name of this area in Lewis County before it was a 4-H camp. The most well-known Jackson to live there was Thomas Jackson, who eventually became a Confederate General and went by the name "Stonewall" Jackson. However, the land was known as Jackson's Mill long before Thomas and his sister, Laura moved there as children in 1831 and long before it was a 4-H camp. The first Jackson to settle on the land we know as Jackson's Mill was Colonel Edward Jackson. Colonel Edward served in the American Revolution and moved his family to this land in the years that followed. By 1800, he operated a gristmill along the bank of the West Fork River. Edward's business flourished and the mill became the first post office in the area. After his death in 1828, Edward's son, Cummins, took over the operation. Cummins continued to expand on what his father built and eventually moved the mill from the opposite bank of the river to its present location. A large portion of the mill had to be rebuilt after a fire, so the mill that stands today dates from 1841. Records indicate the Jacksons also operated a water-powered sawmill directly beside the gristmill, as well as a blacksmith shop, carpentry shop, and a small store. With such prosperity, Cummins eventually built a substantially larger house. In 1849, Cummins left for California but died shortly after his arrival. With the death of Cummins Jackson, Jackson's Mill would never be the same.

Following Cummins Jackson's death, the mill went

through various owners. The first owners were John White and his wife Katherine Jackson White. After Katherine died, William and Hulda Moxley purchased the property and mill, but eventually lost the home due to financial issues.

A local miller, Joseph Clifton, purchased the property in 1886 and began work to renovate the house, but he died shortly after. Over the next few years, the mill ceased operation (the last reported grind was in 1892) and Clifton's widow and daughter rented the house. In 1913, they sold the home

to A.T. Watson, but the house burned to the ground the following December.

In time, the land once owned by the Jacksons was parceled up. Eventually, all that remained was a small plot of land on which sat the gristmill. While no longer the prosperous milling operation, it was still an attraction; both due to the notoriety of "Stonewall" Jackson and the picturesque nature of the grounds and river. People regularly visited and picnicked in what is currently the Heritage Area of Jackson's Mill.

The experimental and innovative electric trolley later ran from Weston to Fairmont, with a stop just across the river from the Old Mill. In 1921, the Monongahela Securities Company acquired the land from Mr. Watson with the intention of drilling for oil, but they didn't own the property for long. Later in 1921, the West Virginia State Legislature appropriated money to secure a site for a State 4-H Camp facility, and a group of 4-H members and staff held the first State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill that summer.

Following the success of the first 4-H camp held in Randolph County (Camp Good Luck) in 1915, State 4-H leader and visionary William "Teepi" Kendrick understood the importance of camping as a reward for 4-H members. He saw it as an opportunity to shape young people by encouraging them to reach their fullest potential. Kendrick aimed to create a place where young people could be "trained [in] leadership by stretching the boys and girls to see the Four-Fold Life standards and to inspire them to lift themselves toward it." Jackson's Mill provided Kendrick and Charles "Uncle Charlie" Hartley the perfect place. They

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# Jackson's Mill—100 Years of Camping (Continued from page 3)

had grand visions of the site's potential. At the time, their hopes stretched far beyond their immediate capabilities, but holding the first camp at Jackson's Mill that summer became their priority. After much planning and effort from Kendrick, Hartley, and several others, the first State 4-H Camp was held at Jackson's Mill in the summer of 1921.

That summer, seventy-five (75) people attended the first state 4-H camp held at Jackson's Mill. As campers arrived at Jackson's Mill, they found a lush green field perfectly suited for outdoor activities, tents, and a temporary shed. The Jackson gristmill building served as a meeting space and sleeping quarters, and campers spent time swimming in the West Fork River near the old mill. After morning classes, they had afternoon recreation time and evening council programs.



Everyone shared responsibilities like cooking, cleaning after meals, and picking up trash throughout the campsite. With the success of the first camp, Kendrick and Hartley set to work with like-minded folks who shared a vision to expand opportunities and amenities at Jackson's Mill. By the following year, these hopes started to become a reality and have grown and prospered for over a century.

For a full history on Jackson's Mill, please visit the WVU Jackson's Mill Facebook page.

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**Region 1:** Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants and Wetzel Counties

**Region 2:** Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor and Tucker Counties

**Region 3:** Calhoun, Gilmer, Jackson, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood Counties

**Region 4:** Barbour, Braxton, Clay, Lewis, Randolph, Upshur and Webster Counties

**Region 5:** Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton Counties

**Region 6:** Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam and Wayne Counties

**Region 7:** Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, and Pocahontas Counties

**Region 8:** Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming Counties





# Hands To Larger Service

## BARBOUR COUNTY

Every nine minutes, someone is diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. Thanks to Stephanie Santilli, 4-H and community members in Barbour County worked diligently to support the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network through their Purple Scarf of Hope initiative. 27 different cancer patients/survivors in ten states, including West Virginia, were able to receive a bit of HOPE as a result of these members hard work and dedication.



Larry Conant of Belleville, WV, received a “Purple Scarf of Hope.” He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer three years before passing away on July 28, 2021. Larry was a West Virginia 4-H All Star.

## PLEASANTS COUNTY

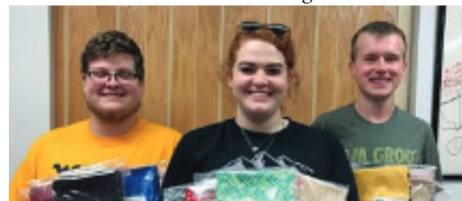
Thanks to a group a Pleasants County 4-Hers led by Grant Lead Mariah Evans, residents of the local assisted living facility were gifts 32 specially designed pillowcases through the 4-H All Stars Hands to Larger Service Mini-Grant. Creating new friendships while learning new life skills was the goal of this project. The residents were grateful to the team members for thinking of them and presenting them with these special gifts. Team members were Mariah Evans, Maddie Brammer, Jonathan Goodfellow, Dillon Johnson, Stephanie Hopper, Stella Amos and Mary Hooper.



*This resident was excited to show off her new pillowcase.*



*Members learned new skills like operating a sewing machine.*



## WAYNE COUNTY

Knowing that world geography is important for young people to learn, this group of Wayne County 4-Hers set their sites on helping students and residents of Wayne County to learn this valuable lesson by painting life-sized world maps on the walls of Buffalo Elementary School and the Wayne County Extension Service. By partnering with Buffalo Elementary Energy Express, team members learned value skills of teamwork, planning, partnership, and communication, all for the betterment of their community. Team members were Grant Lead Duke Parsley, Brenna Barnett, Benton Hall, Connor Hall, Bekah Napier, Josie Parsley, and Addy Smith.



# Help Us Keep the Faith!

Carol Ann Jackson Young, Lewis County All Star

Standing in the center of beautiful Jackson’s Mill is the All Faith Chapel. With its stately steeple reaching for the sky, the Chapel has served both youth and adults over the decades as a place of prayer, meditation, and refuge. For many of us, it is the place where significant events in our lives have taken place, and where we return to recall such fond memories.

In 1959, the United Methodist Men of West Virginia finished their five-year campaign to build the All Faith Chapel and donated it to Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp. Now, more than 60 years later, our majestic Chapel is in need of several upgrades and the support of the WV 4-H All Stars is vital in keeping our All Faith Chapel as a vibrant and spiritual epicenter of Jackson’s Mill.

I applaud the dedicated Jackson’s Mill staff for their years of steadfast determination in maintaining the Chapel, but un-

fortunately, it now lacks the necessary funds to repair and replace several large and small-scale items in and around the structure. Recently, an assessment of the Chapel’s needs was completed. I would like to share with you that some of the items the assessment found have been: the roof has been repaired, the altar has been replaced (please see the attached photo) and new kneeling rails have been put in place. However, inside the Chapel, the kneeling pads need replaced and the benches are in need of repair and refinishing. In addition, new hardware needs to be installed. On the outside, surfaces require repainting/staining, the altar stone and falling garden wall need to be repaired and new exterior lighting needs installed. While this draws your attention to just a few items on the list, you can see that both large and small renovations are

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**WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS**

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## Help Us Keep the Faith! (Continued from page 7)

necessary to restore our Chapel to its former glory. Our latest estimate puts the total cost of this project at approximately \$16,000.

What has been most endearing to me is, while the Chapel belongs to WVU Jackson’s Mill, when contacted about the need for many necessary improvements, the United Methodist Men of West Virginia did not hesitate to once again step up to the plate. They have initiated a campaign within their own organization to raise the necessary funds to help finance these repairs and to establish an endowment of \$50,000 to assist with the Chapel’s future upkeep. Moreover, thanks to our good friends at the WVU Foundation, a fund has also been

established to accept tax-exempt gifts to help our cause.

The All Faith Chapel is part of our 4-H heritage. It is my hope that you will help support this important project with your contributions so both current and future WV 4-Hers can experience our Chapel just as many of us have over the years.

Your gifts to help support the All Faith Chapel may be given in any of the following ways:

1. WVU Foundation - Checks can be made out to the WVU Foundation and mailed to the following address: WVUES Development, c/o Lauren Seiler, 818 Knapp Hall, PO Box 6031, Morgantown, WV 26506. Please reference either “2v620-Chapel” or “Mill Chapel” in the memo line of your check. To make an online gift, please visit <https://give.wvu.edu/allfaithchapel>.

2. The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. - Checks can be made out to The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338. Please note the gift is for the All Faith Chapel on the memo line. To make an online gift, please visit [www.UMFWV.org/gift](http://www.UMFWV.org/gift). For further assistance, please contact the Foundation staff at [info@umfwv.org](mailto:info@umfwv.org) or call (304) 342-2113.

Should you decide to establish a Legacy Gift please contact either Foundation.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the All Faith Chapel. If you have questions about the project, please feel free to contact me at [rcayoung@comcast.net](mailto:rcayoung@comcast.net).



### THE TORCH

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

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# Constitution and Bylaws Revised (Continued from page 3)

Camps by requiring new initiates, both members and Extension Professionals/4-H Leaders/Volunteers to attend their respective camp on a full-time basis and must attend both Consecration and Initiation ceremonies offered during that camp. Initiates may not attend just for the ceremonies, themselves, and leave camp.

• **Language was added to clarify that an approved record of service qualifies membership and will automatically recognize new initiates as All Stars regardless if they were able to attend their initial Consecration and Initiation. The language further suggests they participate in a future ceremony.**

• Language was amended to clarify the ability to provide opportunities for initiates to be inducted during events outside of State 4-H Camps and the Annual Conference.

## Are You A Life Member?

Alan Rollins, Membership Chair

Early developers of the All Stars had the foresight to plan for the financial operation of the organization well into the future. It was decided that members would be asked to pay one life membership fee, and the proceeds would be invested to create an All Stars endowment. For many years, the state All Star organization operated on the interest only from that endowment. The success of the endowment is not surprising, because 5,167 All Stars have paid their dues building an endowment of more than \$100,000.

However, in these days of lower interest rates, the organization cannot make it on interest only. For the past few years, the Executive Committee has been conducting various fundraising activities to balance the budget. But don't count the endowment out yet. In fact, out of all the All Stars reading this article, 2,427 members haven't paid their dues. If you are among the nearly 2,500 who haven't paid yours, won't you consider paying this year? It's a solid way to support the work of the All Stars, and it gives you full voting privileges on All Star business.

You can contribute by simply sending your \$50 dues to Treasurer Jordan Pruett at 334 Buckeye Hollow Road, Princeton, WV 24740. If you are unsure if you are a life member, email me at alan@drinkinghorses.com and I will research our database for you. With your continued support, you will be ensuring that you receive the *Torch*, the All Stars will continue honoring outstanding 4-H members and leaders, and we will continue contributing to 4-H efforts throughout West Virginia.

## GET YOUR TICKETS WHILE THEY LAST!

Jordan Pruett, Treasurer

Last Fall, the Fundraising Committee kicked off a great fundraiser to raise additional funds to provide scholarships and community service grants (i.e. Hands to Larger Service) to our hardworking and dedicated 4-Hers across West Virginia. While the initial response was lower than expected, tickets remain for sale. For your donation of \$20, you have the chance to win our Grand Prize of a \$1,000 Visa Gift Card. Also, we are giving members who purchase tickets, the opportunity to choose which category they would like their donation to go towards.

Tickets can be purchased by scanning the enclosed QR Code or by completing and detaching the form below and mailing it along with your payment to Jordan Pruett, 334 Buckeye Hollow Road, Princeton, WV 24739.

There are only 100 entries for this drawing, so hurry and make your donations today. The Grand Prize drawing will take place live on our All Stars Facebook page, Saturday, April 30, 2022.

To donate: scan the QR code or detach and mail this form to:  
Jordan Pruett, 334 Buckeye Hollow Road, Princeton, WV 24739.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosing: \_\_\_\_\_

Where would you like your donation to go? (circle the category of your choice)

General Use | Awards and Recognition | Camp Scholarships |  
Community Service Grants | Consecration Costs

Fundraising Efforts | Life Membership Foundation Fund | Postage Costs |  
"The Torch" Costs | Website Costs

