



## **We hope you and your family are staying healthy!**

During this season of thanks, the Association's officer team would like to thank you for being a 4-H volunteer. We are appreciative of your time and commitments to helping our youth across the state make their best better. They are lucky to have dedicated individuals who believe in them, see their potential, and strive to help them make their best better! While we may be bias, we believe Maryland 4-H has the best volunteers!

The fall also signals another season of 4-H programming efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continually state, thank you for your continuing ability to adapt to virtual platforms and unique engaging opportunities for clovers all the way to our seniors. Maryland 4-H has provided updated in-person programming policies for indoor and outdoor which now allows up to 23 youth and 2 adult UME trained volunteers as long as each participant has 56 square feet of personal space. To read the latest information available please follow <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h>.



We hope that you will make plans to join us at our next **General Membership Meeting on November 19th!** Due to the approaching holiday season, this will be the Association's last meeting for 2020. We hope to see you online! To join us on Zoom, please use the connection information below:

Zoom link: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/94604103643>

Call-in option: 301-715-8592 / Meeting ID 946 0410 3643

As a reminder, the Association is open to ALL volunteers, faculty, and staff. There are no dues or fees associated with our organization. Instead, we provide opportunities for volunteers to access training, collaborate in fellowship, and share ideas. Everyone is welcome!



This fall, the Maryland 4-H Program is proud to offer 4 remaining single-day volunteer development training days. Volunteers' United! is open to any adult interested in enhancing their knowledge, skills, and abilities. These sessions are scheduled to be hosted across Maryland in collaboration with a local 4-H Team, the Maryland 4-H State Office, the Maryland 4-H State Council, and the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association. Each is scheduled on a Saturday from 10 am-3 pm, but varies in the educational workshops provided.

Individuals may register for one or all of the remaining sessions and registration is NOW open!

**Session dates and locations include:**

Anne Arundel County– November 7th (virtual only)

Western Maryland in Allegany County– November 14th\*

Mid Shore in Caroline County– December 12th\*

Frederick County– December 19th\*

*\*Participants may select to participate either in-person or virtually. Cost will vary, find out more at <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/volunteers/training>.*

A direct link to the registration portal is available at <https://go.umd.edu/volunteersunited2020>



Volunteers embrace the 4 H's, but the Volunteers' Association is committed to embracing the 4 C's to help strengthen and further develop our volunteer base: Celebrations, Challenges, Communication, and Commitment.

## CELEBRATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Mary K. Smith** from Cecil County who was recently elected as the 2020-2021 secretary for the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association. We are very happy to have representation from the northeast part of the state and look forward to Mary joining our executive committee.

## CHALLENGES

With the continuation of COVID-19 and the lingering impacts it has on our volunteers, members, and clubs, the Association is committed to helping you! Please share your challenges with us at [md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com) as we are currently gathering this information to direct our work for 2021. We want to ensure we are supporting volunteers as much as we can!

## COMMUNICATION

Have you registered to attend the volunteer office hours? The MD 4-H Volunteers' Association and Maryland 4-H Volunteer Specialist are hosting question and answer sessions to support all club leaders and volunteers in navigating the next steps as 4-H starts to resume in-person programming. Each session will be on Zoom from 7-8:30 p.m. and pre-registration is required at <http://go.umd.edu/volunteeroffhrs>



At the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association, the Bylaws and Constitution were updated to include many revisions which were proposed to try and bring the Association into the 2020 decade. The most notable changes that were accepted include the following:

- **One year term limits for all officers** - Many volunteers over the last several years during our nominations process shared they were uncomfortable committing to two years in office. As the Association evaluated our current society, we began to realize that many individuals are more comfortable with short episodic commitments versus long-term commitments. As a result, we are hoping this bylaws change will allow us to be able to more effectively find volunteers who are willing to step into leadership roles moving forward.
- **The elimination of the treasurer's position** - The Volunteer's Association had ~~both~~ a treasurer and a financial advisor, both of whom had overlapping positions. With the need for all of the Association's money to go through the Maryland 4-H Foundation, the treasurer did not have any direct oversight duties; therefore, the position was eliminated and the financial advisor will be the executive committee officer responsible for working with the Foundation.

To read the most updated copy of the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association Bylaws and Constitution, go to <https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/Constitution%20&%20Bylaws-2020%20Finalized.pdf>

### COMMITMENT

Your voice is important and we need volunteers like you to assist with our committee work! We are trying to grow the Association, fill our committees, and develop leaders who will take on officer roles in the future. Joining a committee is a great way to engage with fellow volunteers, as well as to help ensure we are meeting everyone's needs! To express your interest in serving on a committee, please complete the brief form located at <https://forms.gle/UVwxXsyyUsb6NrCS9>

The Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association is currently seeking nominations for the Young Alumni Liaison position. The Young Alumni Liaison(s) will be chosen through an application and interview process to serve a one-year term. He/She will be tasked with welcoming new volunteers ages 18-25 and helping to ease the transition from that of 4-H member to volunteer. If you are interested in serving in this position, please fill out the application below. All applications and supplemental materials are due at 11:59pm on Friday, November 6th. All applicants should be between the age of 18-25 and be an official UME certified volunteer or be signed up for an upcoming training within the next 6 months. To access the Google Form application, please follow the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d//1FAIpQLSchbo X8bWxFCLCRQhoj4 c27nWcF67M22JU jF5c81St26XQ/>



Please feel free to follow and contact us through Facebook or email.

More information about the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association may also be found on the Maryland 4-H program website.

**Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/MD4HVOL/](http://www.facebook.com/MD4HVOL/)

**Email** - [md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com)

**Website** - <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/volunteers/md-4-h-volunteer-association>

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