



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

We cannot believe where the time is going! October is already here which is hard to believe! While in one way it feels as if time is standing still in 2020, the Association feels that our 4-H year is flying by! With the start of October upon us, it is time to start thinking of the next year ahead.

The start of October and fall also signals the end of our Volunteers' Association year. With our annual meeting on Saturday, October 10th, we look forward to acknowledging our current officers, electing a new secretary, and providing updates on our work within the past year to assist volunteers, deliver development opportunities, as well as provide timely information. We hope you will join us at our annual meeting! *(Details are below)*

As always, the Association would like to thank you for all of your service to our youth within the Maryland 4-H program. They are lucky to have dedicated individuals who believe in them, see their potential, and strive to help them make their best better!



The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association will be held this **Saturday, October 10th at 10:00am**. Please reserve this date on your calendar as we look forward to having you join us! The annual meeting serves as an opportunity to recap our year, elect incoming officers, fill our committees, and this year we will vote on the proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes. 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

Per our bylaws, the Association is required to provide 60 days notice of any proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes. This has been done in August and September. Please find the proposed changes in red and highlight in the document linked here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n1-Y2gIpwZqECxHj2W8LePNB-rRcKATO/view?usp=sharing>

The proposed changes are being recommended by the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association Executive Board as they work hard to advance the Association into 2020 and beyond. The Association was created in 1996 and since that time, very few revisions have been made to the bylaws and constitution; however, the needs of volunteers and the outlook of the 4-H program have changed dramatically. Therefore, the proposed changes are necessary to match our society, volunteer's needs, and the University of Maryland Extension system.

As you review the proposed changes, please do not hesitate to send any questions to [md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com) We want all of our volunteers to be informed as much as possible before the vote occurs at our annual meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, we will also be electing a new secretary. If you would like to nominate yourself or a candidate, please email [md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com) Any questions about the position can also be emailed to that address. We look forward to receiving many nominations!

**Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association**



## We are currently accepting nominations for the position of Secretary.



**Responsibilities:**

- \*Shall keep records of the proceedings of all meetings
- \*Shall receive and file communications
- \*Shall communicate notice of called meetings
- \*Shall serve as an ex-officio of the Membership Committee

**Qualifications:**

Candidates for office in the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association must currently be enrolled and active as a University of Maryland Extension (UME) 4-H volunteer in Maryland for at least three (3) consecutive years.

**All nominations should be emailed to [md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com) along with a brief biography and picture. Questions regarding the position can also be emailed as well.**



This fall, the Maryland 4-H Program is proud to offer 5 single-day volunteer development training days. Volunteer's United! is open to any adults 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\*

Western Maryland in Allegany County– November 14th\*

Frederick County– November 21st\*

Mid Shore in Caroline County– December 15th\*

*\*Session subject to being transitioned to a virtual platform should this be required by health and safety protocols.*

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

On behalf of National 4-H Council, it is our honor to inform you that Cathy Dobos has been voted the Northeast Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award and National Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award for 2020!

Simply put, Cathy Dobos excelled as a 4-H volunteer because it represented such an important part of her life's work. Her skills, talents, and dedication transformed a suburban 4-H club into a model of organization and success that grew in stature and size every year. Members thrived on the many programming choices, newfound skills in 4-H project areas, receipt of ribbons and judging sheets, archiving of accomplishments in record books, close friendships, and the reward of community service. Cathy made it possible for each member to reap the benefits of the 4-H program with her guidance and commitment.

In 1996, Cathy began writing and distributing a monthly 4-H club newsletter. Her creation of educational and fun club interactive displays on nutrition, exercise, science, and Maryland trivia gave many early opportunities for youth to branch into leadership and public speaking. She wrote scripts for officer installations and club recognition programs; held 4-H demonstration critiques at her home; crafted schedules, officer duties, new-family packets, and a guide to fair-entry procedure; and oversaw programming aspects that brought in new activities. She incorporated 4-H bike hikes, family camping weekends, a club recognition program, pre-fair flowerbed planting, and club-led nutrition activities as a regular part of the club's agenda. Her 4-H members reached out with displays and activities at several community festivals, provided meals to homeless shelters, collected supplies for soldiers, and used their skills to create hats, blankets, citizenship baskets, and more for charity. In 2010 Cathy was invited to give a seminar to other club leaders at the State 4-H Volunteer Forum on how to run a successful 4-H community club.

Cathy also provided leadership at the County level as a co-planner for their Healthy Lifestyles workshops for thirteen years, contacting guest speakers, selecting program themes, designing publicity materials, and leading nutrition workshops that gave teens a chance to take part in the teaching.

At the State level, Cathy joined forces with other adult volunteers to sponsor a State 4-H Aerospace Workshop and Challenge for ten years. Their efforts produced first-place aerospace winners at the national level for five years. Cathy's role was to lead all communications and publicity efforts; compose the exams and study-guide glossary; organize volunteers, agendas, and supply lists; and lead the Junior sessions.

Cathy's club was invited to present the National 4-H Science Experiment to National 4-H Council staff for three years. Praised for its professional nature, her slideshow and script from the 2012 Eco-bot experiment was posted on the NYSD website for others around the country to use. Taking up well over half of her free time for over a decade, her involvement in the 4-H club program was an asset to the club members she served, and the county, state, and national programs.



## 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 yet 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 7-9 pm and pre-registration is required at <http://go.umd.edu/volunteeroffhrs>



## 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>



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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