



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

The Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association wants to thank our volunteers for all that you are doing to continue spreading the 4-H spirit. August brings back the prospective opportunity to resume very small groups for in-person programming, provided the Restoring Maryland 4-H In-Person Program plans are followed including that the proper paperwork is completed and approved PRIOR to meeting with 4-H youth. We know this opportunity is very exciting as many leaders and volunteers have missed the face-to-face interaction; however, it is essential that you work with your local program office and staff. For your safety and security, all paperwork is required. The Association does not want any of our leaders and volunteers to put themselves in a jeopardizing situation. Stay tuned for more specific details from your local programs! (More information is available at <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/volunteers/covid-19-resources-volunteers>)

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for engaging with us over the past few months as we all learn how to navigate the challenges thrown at us. It has been excellent to see representation from all across Maryland on our general membership meetings. However, we also want to remind you that we are here to help all the time, not only during monthly

meetings! Please feel free to reach out to the Association using the information at the end of this outreach newsletter.



## We want your input!

We are happy to provide the opportunity for volunteers to participate in monthly general membership meetings from the comfort of your own home! Monthly meetings are open to any and all University of Maryland Extension volunteers and are an opportunity to dialogue with one another, share resources, and provide input as to the ever-changing needs of the Association. We are here for you and nobody can tell us what you need better than YOU!

Our upcoming membership meeting dates are below:

**August 10th** - Program: Fundraisers and Financial Guidance for Clubs During COVID-19

**September 17th** - Program: State Council; Providing Opportunities for our Teens

To join the meeting, you may either connect virtually through Zoom or use the call-in option.

Details are below:

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

**Call-in** option: 301-715-8592 and meeting code 946 0410 3643



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

The Maryland 4-H Volunteer Awards are designed to recognize enrolled UME 4-H Volunteers for their dedication, hard work, and support of the Maryland 4-H program. There are a few awards that are designed to recognize non-4-H individuals or groups for their support of the 4-H program, including the Friend of 4-H Award and the Partner in 4-H Award.

The nomination requirements are different for each award, focusing on either a specific quality or form of support rather than just a volunteer's years of service. All enrolled UME 4-H Volunteers are eligible for nomination, but they may be honored in award category only **once**.

The nomination process opened July 1 and closes September 30. You can access additional information and the online nomination portal through the volunteer website at <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/maryland-4-h-volunteer-awards>

If you have a volunteer celebration to be included in the next Volunteer Outreach monthly email, please send a short description to [maryland4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maryland4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com)

## CHALLENGES

Looking for ideas to support your volunteer work at the club/local program level or are you wondering how other programs and leaders are planning for continued engagement of families? The North East Region 4-H Volunteerism Working Group and the North East Region 4-H Covid-19 Volunteer Support Team recently held a share fair opportunity for ideas to be shared with others. No worries if you could not attend, the link below will take you to the PDF document with all of the submitted/shared ideas!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cvaDqN1J4HtgV0mf14fJx30TyXixjHL3/view?usp=sharing>

The Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association is very excited to be re-engaging with our volunteers throughout the state. In our re-engagement efforts, the Association wants to ensure that ALL volunteers know of their membership and ability to participate in our monthly meetings, training opportunities, and future events. The Volunteers' Association is open to all University of Maryland Extension trained volunteers! There is no membership application or fee to join. **We are here to help everyone!**

## Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association

The Volunteers' Association is open to all University of Maryland Extension trained volunteers! There is no membership application or fee to join.

**We are here to help everyone!**

The Association serves volunteers in the following capacities:

Training/Development

Mentors

Networking Opportunities

Delivery of Information

Advocates



You can stay connected with us at:

facebook.com/MD4HVOL OR md4hvolunteersassociation@gmail.com

## COMMUNICATION

If you have served as a volunteer for 5+ years, you are expected to complete a volunteer refresher training, which is available as a video that can be accessed through the Volunteer Training webpage available at <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/volunteers/training>

This training was created in response to requests from long-serving volunteers for a “refresher” on volunteer expectations and supported by data from the 2019 Maryland 4-H Volunteer Needs Assessment where volunteers expressed a clear need for training on 4-H Program Management competencies. It is designed to “refresh” an individual’s knowledge and understanding of volunteer and 4-H expectations and is intended for those who have served for five or more years as of 2020 (on-boarded as a UME 4-H Volunteer in 2015 or earlier).

## COMMITMENT

We are committed to re-evaluating the structure, role, and responsibilities of a volunteer, as well as the Association as a whole! The Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association is looking to change the way they support volunteers by advancing their practices, outreach, and communication into the decade of 2020 and beyond! Given the advancements, changes, and shift of demands in our society, please provide your input as to how you would like to see the Association change in the next 10 years.

**Please provide your input by clicking [HERE](#)**

All input will be taken into account as the Association starts to discuss changes, which will be presented during future General Membership meetings with a final plan to be presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting on October 10, 2020.

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The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association will be held on Saturday, October 10th. 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, vote on the proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes.

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n1-Y2g!pwZqECxHj2W8LePNB-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

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.



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>