



# CLOVER CHRONICLE

News and features written by Pennsylvania 4-H Members.

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## State Council Honors Long-Time Volunteers

Happy New Year! The Pennsylvania 4-H State Council is starting the year off fresh with the third and final part of our interview series.

This time we wanted to have a chat with a few select volunteers who have been participating in the program for over 30 years.

These volunteers are people who continually motivate 4-H youths across the commonwealth to reach for the stars, and in some cases, even the green blazer that we as council members wear with pride.

Each volunteer was asked two general questions, as well as a few personalized ones — these are their pearls of wisdom.

### Nina Hill

The first volunteer we chose to spotlight is Nina Hill of Franklin County, who has volunteered in 4-H for 50-plus years. Involved in three different areas of her county program, we knew she'd have some great insights to offer.

#### *What made you want to become a volunteer of the 4-H program?*

I wanted to volunteer for 4-H because I didn't have much opportunity for 4-H as a child (in the 1950s) because of lack of leaders or lack of knowledge of availability. I did attend a meeting announced at my school and was told it was for boys. There was no horse program in Franklin County. Horses were my passion. I was a member of a community club for several years until we no longer had a leader.

#### *What is your favorite memory from your time serving in your leadership role(s), and why?*

I started my volunteer career as a leader of the horse club. One thing I did was coach Horse Bowl and Hippology. One of my 4-H'ers once commented "I learned that in Horse Bowl." My goal was for them to gain knowledge, not necessarily to win. I was honored to accompany my Horse Bowl team to Quarter Horse Congress to compete after they placed second at State Days. The last game was determined by a tie-breaker, so it was very close.

#### *What is one thing you feel could be changed/improved in 4-H, and why?*

I would just like to see continued opportunities for county, state and national events. I have helped to judge applications for county awards and participation in the extracurricular activities are what I look for.

#### *As a member of the Franklin County Program Development Committee, what do you see in the future of your county's youths?*

I think the future of 4-H depends on the quality of Extension staff. Currently we are very well represented. I don't see the whole picture so I don't know if the office needs more support or not. We had a period of time when there was a revolving door for educators. It takes a while to build a program, so it seemed like we were constantly starting over. I think we have a "stayer" now and I can see progress!



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#### *What is it like to work in a club that has a focus on Cloverbuds?*

I have worked with all ages in 4-H and I like all ages. I enjoy the Cloverbuds because while some are younger siblings and know the direction for their 4-H interest, some are new to 4-H and our club helps them to decide their direction.

### David Albright

The second volunteer we chose is very well known to a lot of us on Council. David Albright of York County has played a huge role in the 4-H shooting sports program as we know it today. Having volunteered for over 56 years, we knew we had to hear his story.

#### *What made you want to become a member of the 4-H program?*

Albright explained how he started as a youth in the program showing beef cattle; he then graduated and went to the Navy for four years. Upon his return he volunteered with his wife in a local club and then in 1985 a friend had reached out if he wanted to help start the shooting sports program in York County. He and three other friends got certified in all four disciplines and raised/sought the money and started the club. He has been there for almost 41 years and he is now certified in all disciplines.

#### *Do you have a favorite memory writing in the program?*

Seeing 8-year-olds who cannot shoot or handle a firearm, not hitting anything turn into kids who enjoy shooting sports he said, "I love seeing their spark in their eyes." Albright shared a story about a girl he trained who could not hold a rifle, and she turned into a girl who went to shoot competitively in .22 and air rifle and got involved in Olympic teams. He also said he loves to get to see the next generation coming in; he likes getting to see students he trained bring back their kids to be in the club.

#### *Is there room for improvement?*

He does not like all the red tape they have to jump through with the state, but a young and ambitious leader in 4-H shooting sports is working well to streamline all the processes.

#### *What direction does he want to see the project go into in the future?*

He only wants to see if it grows and advances. He hopes to get muzzleloader in York County, and wants to see more kids compete at Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska. He said if anyone is interested in helping to please come out because he does not want to see the club end.

### Barbara Warburton

The third volunteer, Barbara Warburton, has been volunteering for over 40 years. We knew she could give us an inside scoop on Sullivan County, serving on her county's Program Development Committee.

#### *What made you want to become a volunteer of the 4-H program?*

I got involved in 4-H as my children became of age to join. My oldest son, Bruce, was in several clubs, and Dora McCarty was his Dairy leader. As time went on and our daughter, Amy became of age to show and also Brian, Dora had retired and Betty Reibson became a dairy leader. As more kids became interested in showing, we started a second dairy club, The Future Leaders in the Dairy World. Our club is now 40 years old; we have kept the same name.

#### *What is a favorite memory from your time serving in your leadership role(s)?*

As far as memories, I guess they would be watching our young 4-H'er's grow during their eight or nine years in the club. I encouraged them to do demonstrations at county and district levels. Go to District Dairy Show, if they qualified and on to States. Not all of my 4-H'ers lived on a dairy farm, but they wanted to show a calf. I let these 4-H'ers pick a calf from my barn and it was up to them to teach it to lead and fit it for the show. Some even took the calf home with them to have more time to work with it. It was their responsibility to take care and show at our fair. One of these kids is now a FFA teacher.

#### *What is one thing you feel could be changed/improved in 4-H?*

I think we need to communicate more face to face. We had a pen pal

club where, within the club, we partnered with schools in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. At the end of the year, we visited the schools and the kids met their pen pals. These kids knew nothing about agriculture. We even let them name a calf on the farm. We did this for several years.

#### *Please describe what "Future Leaders in the Dairy World" is.*

The Future Leaders in the Dairy World is a 4-H club started 40 plus years ago. Members show their animals at Round-Up, district and state competitions plus our county fair. I have kept a scrapbook of the club's activities over the years. Times have changed as it is harder and harder to find time for meetings and do extra activities.

#### *As a member of the Sullivan County PDC, what do you see in the future of your county's youth?*

At one time we had 20 kids in our club. Dairy farms in Sullivan County have dwindled to maybe six. It used to be every farm shipped milk. We had three or four kids this year, and some younger children are coming along, so we are looking forward to more members. I have more parents stepping up to be leaders, so have taken a back seat, and let them take over the club. Not giving up, though!

#### *What made you want to become a volunteer of the 4-H program?*

Becoming a volunteer was not what I set out to do. However, my sister, Debbie, came home from a meeting and asked if I could lead a project. The members at that time were involved in sewing, cooking, gardening, rocketry and riflery. A month into the project meetings, my sister announced to me that I was now the leader of the club and Mrs. Guffey would be a project leader. Surprise!

#### *What has made you want to continue to be a volunteer for all these years?*

While I originally agreed to be the leader for one year, I found I became more involved with all the other projects the club members were working on, even if I had little or no knowledge about the project. I was learning right along

with them which at times made for some really interesting results. I was also given an opportunity to introduce an area of interest the scouting program did not allow — archery. With a club consisting of 13 boys and three girls, I was able to confidently lead a project I knew and was capable of teaching.

#### *What is a favorite memory from your time serving in your leadership role(s), and why?*

This is a hard one for me to answer as I have had so many great moments with my 4-H members, watching them achieve goals and awards they were unsure could ever happen. The most recent favorite memory is the first place of our county's potato judging team. My other memories include my archers placing at state contests, members who went to Regional and National 4-H Events in Dairy and Equine competitions, Public Speaking and Tractor Driving. The fact that I had some part in their success means a lot to me.

#### *What is one thing you feel could be changed/improved in 4-H, and why?*

For me, it's communication. I realize we are moving into the era of technology using the internet, smart phones, etc. There are some limitations to these, especially when we have areas in our county and even the state where 4-H leaders and members do not have access to these. I still think it is important not to forget physically mailing or calling some of our members since this may be their only way to learn of opportunities or events in which they may want to participate.

#### *What is it like to be the leader of a Potato Judging Club?*

This was never a role I ever planned to take on in my wildest dreams. Just explaining the potato judging contest to anyone garners the most unusual questions. Again, this happened only because my sister thought I may have 4-H members who were up for a challenge. She told me I needed to come up with two teams of at least three members each to participate at the Farm Show. You could only believe the looks I got when I brought this idea to a leader's meeting.

### A Sincere 'Thank You'

As you've read through these four individuals' experiences, we hope you've gotten a taste of two things: the opportunities that can be unlocked by volunteering in your local 4-H program, and the opportunities provided by volunteers for youth themselves.

If there are adults reading this article who currently volunteer in 4-H, State Council ourselves would like to personally thank you. You've put so much effort into your work and touched the lives of so many youth in the program. You put time, care and compassion into everything you do, and you are truly dedicated to making the best better.

Thank you once again to all of our lovely readers, and we will see you next month!

Administered in Pennsylvania by Penn State Extension, 4-H is a community of more than 6 million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Penn State Extension 4-H youth development educators in all 67 counties throughout the commonwealth administer local 4-H programs through non-formal education and outreach. To find your local program, visit the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h>.



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