

## **MVLA MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mississippi Volunteer Leaders' Association's mission is to provide a collective voice to promote youth and adult development through teamwork, support, leadership opportunities, and motivational encouragement in partnership with the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

### **MVLA MOTTO**

***Together we will make a difference. Mississippi 4-H Volunteers Do!***

### **GOAL**

***The Mississippi Volunteer Leaders' Association is dedicated to making the best better.***

### **FIVE YEAR GOALS**

- Every 4-H Volunteer in Mississippi knows about the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association.
- Increase membership to 25% (1,200) of all 4-H Volunteer Leaders in Mississippi.
- Have an active 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association in each county.

### **ACTION STEPS TO ACHIEVE GOALS**

- Produce a MVLA marketing brochure.
- Work through Extension staff to promote MVLA throughout the state and continue providing networking and recruiting opportunities through district forums, annual conferences, and the Southern Regional Leaders' Forum.
- Provide support for county 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Associations by providing coaching, speakers, and an information network and resource pool.

### **MVLA PURPOSE**

- To promote the 4-H Program and encourage community support so that all youth will have the opportunity to benefit from the 4-H Program.
- To help further the mission and objectives of the 4-H Program.
- To serve as a supporting body for the State 4-H Program.

### **MVLA OBJECTIVES**

- To promote and improve the status of its members.
- To encourage educational improvement through all opportunities.
- To provide the exchange of ideas, methods and techniques with other 4-H volunteers and volunteer associations.
- To motivate and increase interest in being a 4-H volunteer.

## **Advantages of Being a Member of the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association**

*'4-H People' all seem to have one thing in common –  
They love 4-H and feel a huge need to share the 4-H experience with anyone  
who will listen.*

To channel all this positive energy, the Mississippi Volunteer Leaders' Association (MVLA) was established to provide a '**Power Line**' to disperse this energy across the state. You never leave an MVLA activity without feeling recharged and ready to make a difference!

Members of MVLA share a vast network of resources and people who are motivated by the same goal – to support Youth Development through 4-H. But the MVLA goes one step further and intensely promotes ADULT Leadership Development. Through the MVLA forums and conferences held throughout the year, MVLA members receive information on how to improve their 4-H programs, they have the opportunity to network and share real-life experiences with other volunteer leaders across the state and country.

At the MVLA forums and conferences, members can talk to Extension specialists and personnel to gain valuable insight into Extension Programs and for life-long partnerships. Through the MVLA, members gain a greater understanding of the needs and challenges of Extension personnel, as well as educating Extension personnel on the needs of volunteer leaders. The MVLA serves as a bridge to help Extension staff reach more youth throughout the state, even in times of budget-restraints and personnel shortages.

The most important personal advantage of being a member of the MVLA, however, is the '**Face-to-Face**' connection **YOU** have with other adult Volunteer Leaders who share the same challenges and opportunities. This connection can provide you with a lifetime of memories and a network of friends and resource people across the state and country.

The MVLA also does one more very important thing; it serves as a collective voice from across the state, which speaks to ensure that 4-H provides opportunities for young and old alike well into the next century. Through this collective voice, we are able to:

- Provide funding for 4-H activities.
- Promote the need for 4-H to our elected officials.
- Impact the future for thousands of young people in Mississippi.

The MVLA is truly a '**Power Line**' into the future of 4-H'ers and adult leaders in Mississippi.

