

2015, Full Steam Ahead

Our first full year and some lofty goals!

Happy New Year!

Now that we have our feet under us an organization, we are ready to move forward into the new year with some projects in the community that we invite you to be a part of.

Coalfield Assistance Program

As you know, we are accepting donations into the Coalfield Assistance Program. With this program, we want to make educational grants available to those out of work in the coal mining industry. We have discovered that there is very little money available for vocational training in the form of grants. This should not be confused with grant money available for degree programs through universities and community colleges. There is significant money available for certificate programs in the vocations such as electrician, welding, plumbing, etc... It is in this area that we hope to make a difference. Visit us online at www.supportappalachia.org and make an online donation or you can mail a check to us directly.



2016 Calendar

Our team and volunteers will be traveling around all of Appalachia throughout the year to spread the word about our organization and take photos for an upcoming calendar that we will make available later this year.

Community Garden

We are applying for grant money and accepting donations for a community garden in Southwest Virginia. It is important to stress the need for healthy living and the food grown can also be donated to local food pantry's to be collected by those that need food assistance. We are also looking for volunteers for this program.

Appalachia Streaming

We have applied for a sizeable grant that will allow us to develop this program to promote our regional history, heritage and artists, as well as work in documentary filmmaking all across Appalachia.



www.supportappalachia.org

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641



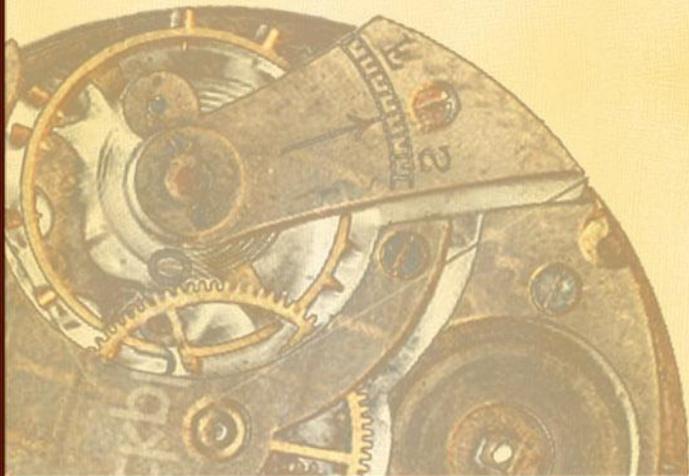
FYI

The Battle of Blair Mountain

We are surrounded by fascinating history here in Appalachia. Many of us may have never heard of the Battle of Blair Mountain before. For those in Logan, West Virginia it is something that is stamped into their culture and way of life.

Blair Mountain is listed in the National Register of Historic places and is the site of the largest armed uprising in the history of the labor movement in America. In fact, U.S. military was called in to quell the uprising which included bombers to take out the union members. Many of the labor organizers were veterans of World War I. It was out of respect for the infantrymen, whom they considered brothers, that the matter didn't escalate further.

We encourage everyone to take some time to read about this event and how it impacted the labor movement in the United States. It is just one event in the storied history of our region that has impacted the entire nation.



Artist's Corner



We are proud to have K.T. Vandyke and Driftin' Westward as our artist of the month! Vandyke, a Whitewood, Virginia native, is an award winning songwriter that has taken his brand of Appalachian music all across our region and heard beyond our borders. In 2012 he took first place in the Richard Leigh Songwriter's Competition for his song "Huck Finn" and was named a Telluride Troubadour in 2014, an honor given to the ten best singer/songwriters in the nation. He also won the Richard Leigh award in 2013, as well.

Driftin' Westward has upcoming shows in the Appalachian areas of Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. You can visit online at www.driftinwestward.com.

Congratulations on your success and we look forward to more great music and live shows!

*Photo credit to Randy Gentry.

Anna Wess---an Appalachian original

Once in a while a writer will come along that just sort of grabs your attention and makes you read from their soul whether you intended to or not. That is a good way to describe the works of Anna Wess of Richlands, Virginia.

Born and bred in these mountains, Anna has a way with words that make our surroundings come alive and feel like a part of us, right down to the core. Her take on Appalachian life, both the good and the harsh, is refreshing and breathes new life into our rich artistic heritage.

She took first place for her short story "Rural Legend" by the Appalachian Author's Guild at the 2014 Appalachian Heritage Writer's Symposium and is currently working on a much anticipated first novel. She has a sample of this upcoming work, as well as other writings, available on her website. You can find her online at www.appalachianink.net.

ARTISTS WANTED

The Foundation for Appalachian Advancement is in the process of seeking grant money for a unique program that will be used to highlight our region's culture, heritage, and artists. If you are interested in working with us in the future please email us at info@supportappalachia.org.