

# Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

January 2016

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

[www.supportappalachia.org](http://www.supportappalachia.org) and  
[www.ourappalachia.org](http://www.ourappalachia.org) info@supportappalachia.org

## Goals for 2016

J.C. Schweingrouber, President/Director

For many of us a new year can mean a new beginning. A new year can also mean new opportunities, as well. This past year our organization spent time telling people about our mission statement and goals. We put that ahead of fundraising because we felt it was best that the communities we are trying to serve get to know us first before we ask for financial support. It's about building trust from person to person, and from town to town.

In 2015 we established the Appalachian Scholarship Fund. Several local businesses around Central Appalachia have sponsored this effort and we developed a 2016 calendar to promote the effort. We still have some calendars left, and for a donation we will send you a calendar. Our goal is to offer scholarships in both Virginia and Kentucky later this Spring.

We also intend to extend our reach the first quarter of this year into West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Currently we are registered in Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Ohio. Our goal is to add three more states to our reach in 2016.

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*The best way to predict  
the future is to create it.*

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## 2016 calendar is now available!

Have you gotten your 2016 Calendar in support of the Appalachian Scholarship Fund yet? If not, what are you waiting for? We have a limited supply left and for a donation made payable to the Appalachian Scholarship Fund we will send you a 2016 calendar. **100% of your donation goes to local students to help pay for higher education expenses.**

Thanks for your support and please help us spread the word about this great program.

Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641.

## Revitalizing Appalachia—A Grassroots Initiative

Times have certainly changed a lot in Central Appalachia over the past few years. The decline of coal as the central piece in our economic livelihood has resulted in some tough times for families that have seen drastic life changes due to heavy job losses. In some cases entire communities have changed. Some speculate that in the next twenty years, without some significant improvement, some small towns and communities will disappear, swallowed up by their counties.

Around the region various citizens organizations have popped up to work toward similar goals that we have here at the Foundation. This is much needed and we hope to see concerned citizens throughout the region become more active in directing the future of our communities.

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement Director James Hibbitts is spearheading one such effort in Southwest Virginia. Revitalization-Appalachia Initiative is a think tank in the early stages of formation with the goal of sparking public discourse as to the future of our towns and counties. “It is necessary that the people that have lived in our towns and communities their entire lives have a say in the vision and direction of the region. We need to have a public discussion to decide what we want to look like twenty years from now. If we don’t use our voices from a grassroots level then elected officials in Richmond will certainly decide for us.”

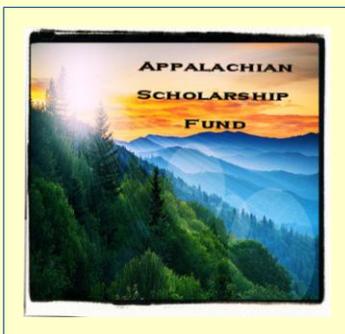
Hibbitts has engaged many in leadership positions in parts of Southwest Virginia to form this organization. You can find and engage in some discussion already forming on their Facebook page by searching Revitalization Appalachia Initiative. The group is seeking to discuss all ideas in relation to economic and cultural diversification and the improvement of living standards in Southwest Virginia. Of course, many of these same concerns resonate throughout all of Central Appalachia that has felt the pain of the decline in coal.

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### **2016 Calendar Available Now!**

*Help support the Appalachian Scholarship Fund with your purchase of the 2016 FAA Calendar. For information email: [info@supportappalachia.org](mailto:info@supportappalachia.org)*

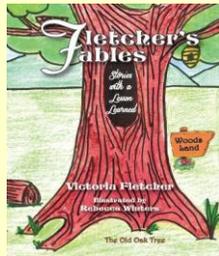
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*Make your tax deductible donation today!*

## January 2016 Artist of the Month— Author Victoria Fletcher

Victoria Fletcher of Damascus, Virginia is a member and Secretary of the Appalachian Author's Guild, a committee member of the Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium and a member of the Lost State Writers Guild. She is author of numerous books including Blessings in Bible Times, The Bible Tells Me So: New Testament Bible Stories for Children, Fletcher's Fables: Stories With a Lesson Learned, among others.



Fletcher taught public school for 30 years in Washington County, Virginia before retiring and putting more focus on her writing. “I began writing poetry when I was twelve. I had a class assignment and then the poems just kept coming.”

When it comes to others that inspire her writing, she quickly names C.S. Lewis and E.B. White among her influences. “My first Old Testament Stories book won the Xulon Press Choice Award for Children’s Bible Story Books.”

If you are looking for some meaning and uplifting reading for your child or young adult you should definitely check out her links below. You can purchase books online or directly from her if you’d like a signed copy. You can also find her at various books signings around the region throughout the year.

You can visit her online at <http://www.victoriafletcher.biz/>. You can also follow her on her blog at <https://victoriafletcherbooksblog.wordpress.com/>.

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*“I am hoping my books  
will be a source of  
enjoyment for readers.”*

*Victoria Fletcher*

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Foundation For Appalachian Advancement current Board of  
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## The Spirit of Giving

### *Foundation For Appalachian Advancement*

As we come closer to the end of a great 2015, most of us consider donations to our favorite charities. There are many great charities out there to support and like most of us, we tend to support things that have a special meaning to us or charities that are close to home. We Appalachians are a hard working people and a very generous people. Friends helping friends. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Many of us will choose to support cancer research, children's hospitals, or local animal shelters. As you consider your donations this time of year, we ask that you consider a small donation to the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. Whether it is for the Appalachian Scholarship Fund, promoting economic diversification, or promoting our arts and culture, we care about

every donor and every penny given in good spirit. We strive to be good stewards of your generosity and use the donations as efficiently as possible. Those of us that are involved are all volunteers. No Director or Officer is salaried. That gives us the flexibility to make sure that your donations are spent wisely and effectively to support the programs that you believe in.

We appreciate your support and ask that you consider our mission statement and our goals throughout Appalachia to help those in need and promote our culture to the best of our ability.

Thank you.

**Foundation For Appalachian Advancement**

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