

FAA Seeking Donations For Appalachian Scholarship Fund

Last month we began our drive to raise money for the second annual Appalachian Scholarship Fund, a program of the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. To spread the word about the program we notified numerous churches and small businesses throughout the region about our efforts and we hope this will begin to bear fruit in the coming weeks.



We do have lofty goals for this program, hoping that we will receive \$5,000 in donations this year. 100% of your donation in this program goes to deserving students from our region to help with the high costs of post high school education. It is available for students going to college or to vocational schools.

If you would like a copy of our application please email us info@supportappalachia.org. Much thanks to foundation director/officer Melinda Elswick for heading up this annual program.

Last year we were fortunate to give assistance to a deserving young lady from Tazewell County, VA that is pursuing her degree in nursing at a local community college.

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement to Sponsor Meet the Artist Events

FAA board of directors approved a program to promote artists throughout the region called Meet the Artist. The goal is to hold regular events throughout the year that will feature our local artists to introduce their art and work to a wider audience. Our hope is that it will be a venue that will allow the artists to engage the public and provide Q&A sessions about their work. If you would like to be a part of this effort (or want to recommend an artist to us) please contact us at info@supportappalachia.org.

We will be reaching out to our previous artists of the month as well as others to help spread their work throughout Central Appalachia and beyond.



This program will be headed up by directors/officers James Hibbits of Wise County, VA and J.C. Schweingrouber of Tazewell County, VA.

Future events will be publicized on our website and on our Facebook page.

www.supportappalachia.org

<https://www.facebook.com/supportappalachia/>

SOAR (Supporting Our Appalachian Region) To Hold Events in Eastern Kentucky

S.O.A.R. will be holding Summit 17 (an annual event) on June 5th at the East Kentucky Expo Center in Pikeville. S.O.A.R., which serves 54 counties in the Appalachian region of Kentucky, holds this annual event to bring in citizens, businesses, and organizations from all across the region to showcase their views and efforts to improve the Appalachian region of Kentucky.

S.O.A.R. will also be hosting its Listening Tour as part of the celebration of Kentucky's 225th Anniversary. That event will be held on April 17th at Big Sandy Community and Technical College at the Prestonsburg Campus.

For information on these events, and others, you can visit S.O.A.R. online at www.soar-ky.org.

Farmer's Markets - A Great Local Resource For Healthier Living

As the warm weather gets closer, many farmers markets open up all across our Appalachian region. Part of our mission here at the FAA is to support all things local, and that includes our friends and neighbors that own and operate small businesses. It includes our friends and neighbors who own and operate farms locally that are vital to our communities.

We encourage you to look for your local farmers markets in your town and county,

and support those across the region. One local farmers market that is located here in Central Appalachia is the Abingdon Farmers Market in Abingdon, VA. People drive from miles around to shop here on Saturday mornings all spring and summer long.



There are many reasons to support your local farmers.

*You get to taste real flavors! The fruits and vegetables found here are the freshest available. Fruits are allowed to fully ripen in the field and brought directly to you. There is no long distance shipping and gassing of the foods to simulate the ripening process, or sitting for weeks in storage before being delivered to you. Fresh from the farm!

*Most of the food found in our grocery stores are processed and grown using pesticides, hormones and genetic modifications. These could have harmful health effects. Foods found at farmers markets are a stark contrast, many of our local farmers going to great lengths to avoid these processes.

*Variety! You'll likely find a much larger variety of produce than you will find in your grocery store. Also, many of the vendors will provide you with cooking tips and recipes.

<http://www.abingdonfarmersmarket.com/>

**ARTIST OF THE MONTH—
JESSE PAUL**

When it comes to being an artist, Jesse Paul of Rockbridge County, Virginia views art as a way of life, a passion that is to be lived out in any form that she sees fit. “I’m an artist, in any way I can be,” she says proudly. “Mainly I am a photographer, a sketcher, then painter, followed with calligrapher, quilter, jeweler, pyrographer, taxidermist, author, sculptor. Beauty is in our hearts, and I want to show it to the world, so that they may want to show it too.”

Her work has been displayed at numerous locations including The General Assembly Building in Richmond (pictured below), The Nelson Gallery Juried Art Exhibitions in Lexington, VA, The Marshall Museum at the Virginia Military Institute and the large mural found at Rockbridge Medical Lab to name only a few.



Jesse was bitten by the artistic bug early in life and was inspired to follow all forms of life from her friends and family. “My favorite piece of Jesse Art is the book I illustrated about my pet rooster, it’s called “Jobe, The Chicken that had a tough life.” This started out as a joke, I was with the kids on the chicken farm one day and grabbed a carpenter’s pencil and grain bag and started drawing silly pictures of our poor rooster after the dog snatched his tail, and when he got bumblefoot and had to have surgery.”



Jesse will soon have a website dedicated to her art, but in the meantime you can contact her on Facebook to follow and purchase her amazing work. Thanks, Jesse, for being our artist of the month.!

<https://www.facebook.com/smilinjesses/>

