

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

November 2015

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

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Melinda Elswick, Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 1 2016 Calendar
- 2 FYI
- 3 Artist of the Month Shawn Wallace
- 4 About Us

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of year and there is no better place to be than right here in the heart of these Appalachian mountains with friends and family as we reflect on the past few months and the many blessings we can be thankful for.

After the Foundation's first full year we can be very thankful that our name and mission is slowly making its way around Central Appalachia and beyond and that we are winding up the fund raising for the Appalachian Scholarship Fund. We are hoping to provide six scholarships (hopefully more) from this effort to local students. We are very thankful for your support and for the trust of those local businesses that sponsored this effort. We hope these scholarships will be a blessing for those students and families who are truly in need of the extra financial support. With so many job losses in our region due to the decline of the coal industry we are hoping to literally double these efforts next year.

We are also very thankful for each and every one of you who support us in our efforts. None of this is possible without you. So thank you and have a great Thanksgiving. God Bless.

*"None of this is possible
without you."*

2016 calendar is now available!

In support of the Appalachian Scholarship Fund, the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement has issued its 2016 calendar. The calendar features photos from around the central Appalachian region. For a \$20 or more donation you can get your copy of the 2016 calendar. 100% of the donations go to the Appalachian Scholarship Fund where scholarships will be made available to local qualifying students.

We want to take this moment to thank the local businesses that sponsored this effort. Without their help this program would not have been possible.

Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (Whitesburg, KY), **Kewloff Computer Shop** (Claypool Hill, VA), **Hurst-Scott Funeral Home** (Richlands, VA), **Fortune Realty of Richlands** (Richlands, VA), **David Mullins Wealth Management** (Richlands, VA), **John Peace—Agent, Farm Bureau** (Wise, VA) **Leonard Companies** (Lebanon, VA), **Wise Lumber and Supply** (Wise, VA), **ARC TV** (Norton, VA), **Select Graphics & Printing** (Coeburn, VA), and **Virginia Financial Innovation Corporation** (Norton, VA).

FYI—Was Al Capone in Appalachia?

It's no big secret that in these Appalachian mountains a good amount of moonshine has been made over the years. And during the early part of the 20th century our nation experimented with prohibition which led to one heck of a black market for the stuff. And as with many myths and legends that live on in the form of tall tales and stories passed down the years, it is speculated (confirmed in the minds of some!) that none other than notorious Chicago gangster Al Capone made his presence felt in Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee and Eastern Kentucky.

Many of you may already know this, but during the 1920's Johnson City, TN was known as Little Chicago. Most people assumed that was because of railroads coming through town. (Chicago was the leading rail city at that time—often referred to as Big Chicago.) Some, however, think it was called that because of ties to organized crime and the Capone crime family. There is no direct evidence to this but there is plenty of circumstantial evidence to make the argument. After all, illegal booze was Capone's money maker and Central Appalachia was known for moonshine. Also, Johnson City would have been a perfect stopping point on the way to his other home in southern Florida (now a well known route for smuggling booze during Prohibition).

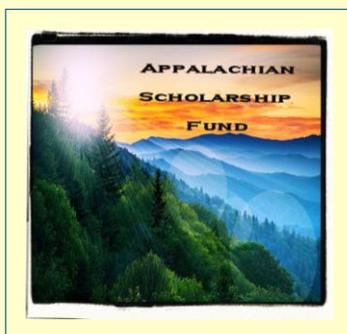
Also, there were many newspaper articles dating back to the mid 1920's referring to the growing crime in Johnson City surrounding the illegal industry of alcohol and the growing number of "thugs" in the region.

During that era Johnson City was one of the hardest hit areas in the nation with a neurological disorder called "jake leg" that was a result of consuming alcohol that had been tainted. Those that survived the disorder carried a unique hitch in their step as an effect of consumption. Part of the local folklore was that Capone even had a house in Wise County, VA where he stayed to conduct business.

Was Capone ever in our region? Maybe. Did his organized crime organization have a presence in the region during the days of prohibition? Probably. We may never know the truth, but it certainly adds to an interesting chapter of Appalachian history.

2016 Calendar Available Now!

Help support the Appalachian Scholarship Fund with your purchase of the 2016 FAA Calendar. For information email: info@supportappalachia.org



Make your tax deductible donation today!

October 2015 Artist of the Month— Shawn Wallace

Shawn Wallace may very well be one of the most interesting and talented artists you could meet in central Appalachia. A native of Clintwood, VA, a small town tucked in the mountains of Dickenson County, his life as an artist began at the early age of 14.

We were recently invited to his house where he had an impressive display of his paintings waiting for us when we walked through his front door. His main topic is to paint about life in Appalachia and he has won awards for his work in Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

“I use humor, satire, discomfort, common stereotypes and my background as a rural gospel preacher to explore the unique and sometimes dark side of my home of Central Appalachia and the South,” he says on his Facebook page. He spent some time with us as he discussed the the meaning and intent behind each painting he had on display. “My faith in God is a running theme throughout almost all of my work,” he explains.

Mullins currently resides in Jenkins, KY where he works from home on his art, while also ministering at a nearby church and teaching art classes for budding painters throught the region. You can follow Shawn on Facebook where you can find his contact information and details on setting up a public or private showing, signing up for one of his classes and for purchasing his unique work.

You can visit him online at:

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



The art of Shawn Wallace

*“My faith in God is a
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Mission Statement

The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement serves for the progress and enhancement of the Appalachian region through education, economic development of families and communities, and for the advancement of regional arts and culture.

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.

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