

# MOUNTAIN VOICES



Volume 15, Issue 9

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

September 2014

The mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is . . .

*. . . to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.*

## From the President Fulfilling Our Mission

*The object and purposes (of MSSA) are the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect and denomination.*

The familiar words above are lifted from our charter of corporation, adopted on October 31, 1882. Thus, our reason for being was firmly established 132 years ago. This purpose is secure, unchanging, and protected. From time to time, we have used this statement of purpose as our mission statement as well. However, I think we can all agree that the above lan-

guage does not exactly roll off the tongue when you are asked, **“What is this Monteagle Sunday School Assembly you keep talking about?”**

Unlike a statement of purpose, every organization's mission statement should be scrutinized periodically to ensure that it accurately and concisely articulates what we do on a daily basis to fulfill our purpose. A mission statement should be unique to the organization and clear to us *and* the general public.

*(continued on page 2)*



## Quick Thinking Saves the Day

We all owe Security Officer Kelly Layne a big thank you for a job well done. Last month, while on patrol in the Mall, Kelly witnessed a lightning strike in the Cabbage Patch. He immediately dispatched Monteagle Fire and Rescue and began his search for the strike area. Monteagle Fire responded in minutes by which time Kelly found a tree that had been struck by lightning and a small fire being fueled by a live power line.

Thanks to a perfect response by all involved, we avoided a possible catastrophe.



2014  
MSSA  
Calendar

October 13-19 Sewanee  
Family Week

October 4  
Board Meeting 9AM

November 7-9 Sewanee  
Homecoming

November 22  
Board Meeting 9AM

**Mountain Voices**  
Ann Ewing, editor  
Martha Ann Pilcher, design/layout

Deadline to submit items for the next issue is Sept. 25th. Send articles to aewimg62@gmail.com

## From the President *continued from page 1*

After much work with our consultant and word-smithing the Monteagle way (months and months of discussion on Every. Single. Word.), the Board approved the following wording:

*bly grounds, buildings and facilities;*  
 ✓ *Sound financial management to ensure the sustainability of the Assembly.*

*Additionally, stated values, or things we cherish, were adopted:*  
 We Believe:

- *A safe, caring and friendly environment promotes spiritual, moral and intellectual growth for people of all ages.*
- *In the value of the Assembly's Chautauqua heritage and in our community traditions*
- *Our interdenominational Christian beliefs are the bedrock of our commu-*



*The mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.*

*We do this through:*

- ✓ *An active and varied program of events and activities for members, guests and the community at large;*
- ✓ *An emphasis on developing values, character and leadership among our children and young people;*
- ✓ *Promoting and fostering an intergenerational and family-friendly environment;*
- ✓ *A membership engaged in governing the Assembly and guiding its future;*
- ✓ *Taking care of the Assem-*

*nity.*

- *In the centrality of our responsibilities to the children and young people in our midst Education is key to a happy life, recreation sustains our bodies, and cultural enrichment is central to creating a civil society.*
- *In being good stewards of the natural and built community around us and in being good neighbors to those beyond our gates.*

Our Assembly is a hard place to describe. It is more of a feeling than a collection of words. However, your board and I believe these words manage to beautifully express the nature of who we are and what we strive to nurture and protect now and into our future. Stepping back and examining ourselves will help us make sure we continue to sustain the vision set forth in 1882. Rest assured, our reason for being, our purpose, is staying the same. It is how we express our mission, or how we

achieve that purpose, that we are modernizing and making more relevant to our MSSA family and friends.

**Next month, I'll share the goals and strategies adopted by the Board as the first step of our strategic plan. If you can't wait, you can view them on the website!**

*Kent Ballow,  
president*



Golf  
Carts  
Drivers

## Take Heed

We received this word of warning **from a summer guest...sounds like** a huge pain in the neck you want to avoid:

*Hi Scott. I write this note to you in hopes of preventing another HUGE inconvenience my wife and I have experienced. We thoroughly enjoyed our week long vacation at MSSA in the last week of July. We rented a golf cart like many others. However, unlike the many others who crossed the street in the golf cart to the little grocery store (I forget the name), my wife was ticketed by two police officers. They told her they need to send a message. And, as it turns out, they did. They gave her a criminal ticket, not a traffic ticket! To make matters worse, this requires that my wife attends court in person. Not easy to do when we are parents of 3 children, live in Cincinnati, and my wife who is a school teacher, only gets 2 personal days all year.*

*(continued on page 3)*

## Committee Chairs Keep MSSA Running



Many thanks to the committed committee chairs who volunteer to keep things on the rails at MSSA. Have an idea? Your first point of contact should be the appropriate committee chair! Here's a list:

Adventure Program – Norman Blake  
 Annual Fund – Lanier Frank  
 ARC – John Sisson  
 Archives – Morgan Merrill  
 Auditorium Task Force – Scott Parrish  
 By-Laws – Judith Humphreys  
 Cemetery – Bob Hudgins  
 Cottage Rental – Robin Thompson  
 Development – Dianne Black  
 Dining Hall – Jean Jervis  
 Education – Dawn Logan  
 Finance – Bob Monfore  
 Gate ticket Task Force – Barry Moody  
 Landscaping – Linda Parrish  
 Legal Counsel – Neil Kunkel/Overton Thompson  
 Long Range Planning – Britton Watson/Paula Walker  
 Marketing & Communications – Ann Ewing  
 MAEFC – Keith Barton  
 Membership – Anne Dennington/Judi Murray, Co-Chair  
 Outreach – Ginny Gordon/Katie Trahan, Co-chair  
 Program/Platform – Meghan Hudgins

## Share Your News in Mountain Voices

Our newsletter is a great way to communicate with each other throughout the year. Follow these simple guidelines to help ensure you are represented:

1. Ann Ewing is the editor...not the writer. Please submit articles you have already written...not just pieces of information. That said, if you are not a writer, Ann is always willing to help you flesh it out/make it sound more interesting, etc.; just ask her to edit your article. She will always return it for your review before it is included in the layout.
2. When writing, think about answering the following questions; who, what, when, where, why. Your article should generally address all these.
3. Be sure to sign the article and indicate if it is coming from a committee (so Ann doesn't have to look it up). Such as Ann Ewing, chair, pr committee or Jane Doe, member, long range planning committee. FYI, names of committees and positions within them are not capitalized.

4. Think of a catchy title-- something that grabs attention and makes the reader want to know more.

5. Send accompanying photos if you have them. Martha Ann, our talented layout artist, has a limited stash and loves it when they are provided.

6. Deadline for submission is the 25th of each month. Try to meet the deadline but if you can't, let Ann know the copy is coming. She can often give you a couple more days.

7. Please submit article WITHOUT bolding, italics or fancy indents or line spacing—we have to remove them for re-formatting. Do not put headlines in all caps—we have to change those too.

8. Don't take it too seriously or put too much pressure on yourself or your piece. The goal is to inform our members, not pen an award-winning piece for the New York Times. :)

*Ann Ewing, editor,  
Mountain Voices*

Property, Security, Safety – Bill Cox  
 Sustainable Resources – Sallie Stevens  
 Tennis – Betsy Peebles  
 Trails – Kirke Martin  
 Warren Chapel – Cullen Hornaday  
 Altar Guild – Virginia Curry  
 Burris Cottage – Pam Maloof  
 Worship Music – Judith Humphreys  
 Sunday School – Margaret Rixham  
 Welcome – Stephanie Smith  
 Youth – Susie Elder/Caroline Wildman

## Golf Carts

*(continued from  
page 2)*



*Please discuss this in any meetings you may have and please tell the attendants at the gate to stop any golf cart drivers from going through. Hang a sign next to **the exit...something!** anything. I would hate for another happy visitor at MSSA to be over \$1,000 in the hole and two days off work because they drove across the street in a golf cart.*

# Scenes from Summer 2014





## The MSSA Website:

### A Year-Round Window to Our World

Have you visited [mssa1882.org](http://mssa1882.org) lately? Do you have any idea what you can find there? Suppose you come up with a brilliant idea you need to share with the Sustainable Resources Committee. How would you know whom to contact? Members can access the section that lists all the committee chairs and their contact information! You can even **look at the committee's job description** to see if it is one you might consider volunteering to join!

Do you intend to go to the Board meetings, but end up sleeping late or golfing instead? Well, the approved minutes of the Board of **Trustees are posted for members' viewing** as well, and reading them is a great way to keep up with Board business! Exciting reading indeed! And if you have a question after reading those minutes, you can find out how to contact your caucus representative or **any board member by looking... you guessed it...at the website!**

If you are thinking about re-modeling or making changes to your cottage, ARC guidelines are posted to the website. Our by-laws and rules and regulations are also there for handy viewing.

Are you considering making a substantial **donation to MSSA? (And you are, aren't you?)** The philanthropy section shows you the various ways you can make a gift and you can make an online gift or pledge.

The MSSA website is a great way to keep **up with Assembly business when you can't** be there. And, if you are missing summer, did I mention, there are some great videos to watch? Be prepared, you may need a hankie!

Cottages Available for Transfer:



Cottages in red have been REDUCED.

#6	Windcrest	\$550,000
#98	Idlehour	\$275,000
#129	Hallelujah	\$375,000
#136	Endevor	\$595,000
#146	Boutcher	\$595,000
#156	Robin Hill	\$250,000
#165	Once Upon A Time	\$685,000

## Assembly Family

Martha Cates Buffington ("Marty"), age 68, of Monteagle, TN, passed away August 5, 2014. Marty was a high school English teacher before she became a full-time homemaker. She was a member of the Charity League of Birmingham and served on the Administrative Council of Mountain Brook Baptist Church. In addition, she served on the 1996 Olympic Committee that hosted the Olympic soccer events in Birmingham. She was one of the hostesses at the Olympic Village. In Monteagle, she served as Education Chairman for the Morton Memorial United Methodist Church. She also served on their Administrative Council. She was a member of the Board of Trus-

tees of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly and served as the Landscaping Committee Chairperson. She is survived by her husband Ronald Paul Buffington; her brother Ray A Cates, Jr. of Ocala, Fla.; her children Holly Buffington Stevens of Atlanta; Heather Buffington Barry of Birmingham; Jonathan Paul Buffington of Manchester; and Rebecca Buffington Beckler of Dana Point, California; and her grandchildren William Bruce Kimbrough IV, Robert Andrew Stevens, Catherine Bennett Stevens, Raelyn Electra Beckler, and Renick James Beckler.

Sara Franklin Homer died August 20, 2014. Sara was the daughter of Ernest Baber Frank-

lin, Jr and Corinne Scales Franklin, and the granddaughter of William Lee and Sara Stevens Scales Lincoln and Bettie Orr and Ernest Baber Franklin, all of whom predeceased her. She is survived by her loving husband of 21 years, David Joseph Homer, her brother Ernest Baber Franklin, III (Judy) of Nashville, and her large extended family. Sara was born and raised in Nashville and spent much of her childhood and youth in the Assembly grounds. In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree or make a donation to the Beer-sheba Springs Medical clinic or the charity of your choice.

## ARC Project Submission Deadlines

Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trust for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the General Manager. Projects submitted by the following dates will be reviewed and presented at the board meeting following the submission.

September 30      January 15      May 1      July 15

The ARC is available throughout the year to advise members on their project planning prior to submission of a request. Not sure if you need ARC approval? Check with the General Manager first.

### Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

PO Box 307  
 Monteagle, TN 37356  
[www.mssa1882.org](http://www.mssa1882.org)  
 Office                      931-924-2286  
 Fax                         931-924-2346  
 Housing (Direct)        931-924-9000

General Manager- W. Scott Parrish  
[scott.parrish@mssa1882.org](mailto:scott.parrish@mssa1882.org)

President- Kent Ballow  
[keballow@yahoo.com](mailto:keballow@yahoo.com)

#### Key M SSA Contacts

Platform Superintendent-Becky Nelson  
[becky.nelson@mssa1882.org](mailto:becky.nelson@mssa1882.org)

Business Manager- Diane Cruise  
[diane@mssa1882.org](mailto:diane@mssa1882.org)

Bookkeeper- Arlene Bean  
[arlene@mssa1882.org](mailto:arlene@mssa1882.org)

Facility Superintendent- Rick Duncan  
[rick.duncan@mssa1882.org](mailto:rick.duncan@mssa1882.org)

Housing Program Mgr.- Ruth J. Patterson  
[ruth.patterson@mssa1882.org](mailto:ruth.patterson@mssa1882.org)

### Call Security

For any non-emergency, please call 931-607-8615 to report a disturbance or anything that seems odd or out of the ordinary.

[Always call 911 for Emergencies.](#)

### M SSA Alcohol Policy

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the board of trustees.