



Making a Difference

April-June, 2010

Vol. VIII Issue 2

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Etowah & Cherokee Counties
800 Forrest Avenue, Room 219, Gadsden, AL 35901 (256) 549-8147

In The News:

Tax Season

SOD quarterly workshop

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." ~ Proverb

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Director's Corner

Is Spring finally here? We have had so much snowy, freezing, winter weather – but finally a few warming signs are showing. The grass & the trees are a little bit greener, and the plants & the flowers are showing some color. Daylight Savings Time has begun, so we have more day now. Spring is the season of rebirth & renewal – not just for plants and

animals, but for us too. It's the time to take a fresh look at ourselves, our situations and our surroundings and decide on the best course of action. RSVP is doing just that, looking at ourselves in a dubious way, trying to decide which way to go next, should we stay just the way we are or make an about face? Some things are decided for us, by our Federal



Sponsor (Corp. for National Service) and our local sponsor (Etowah County Commission), and some things are decided by us, according to what's going on in our community. We are striving to remain current, and bringing all of our volunteers and partners along for the ride. So – buckle your seat belts – it's time for action!

News

Guess what? Tax season is almost over! There are only a couple of weeks left to file a tax return if you're one of the lucky ones who have to do that every year! Our dedicated tax volunteers are continuing to work hard at eight locations across Etowah and Cherokee Counties to provide this service as conveniently

as possible. There are also a lot of credits you can take this year for different things – if you bought a new car in 2009, if you bought a new house in 2009, if you made some energy efficient home improvements in 2009 – you may qualify for some rebates for any of these things.

Our most recent quarterly meeting was very good and educational. Rick Bearden, pharmacist & owner of Rick's Drugs, spoke to our group about how to be safe & careful with all of the medicines we deal with. Be sure to tell your doctor & pharmacist everything.



STATISTICS

New volunteers this
Quarter - 4
Resigned volunteers
This quarter - 6

Total volunteers -
451

Hours produced -
16,050

Value of hours -
\$120,375.00

Success Story

RSVP's tax counselors have been working extremely hard these past several weeks. You probably can speculate the effort and care that goes into completing someone's tax return, but these people also put forth a lot of effort before they even begin doing taxes. We have 20 volunteers this year, all of whom

completed a training program and passed an IRS test before they were certified to prepare taxes. Even after this, they are working tirelessly to complete returns and then e-file these returns. The people who e-file these returns have to follow up and document to make sure they are received by the IRS,

and if not they correct any errors and get the returns transmitted quickly. It's no wonder accountants and CPA's make so much money, but RSVP volunteers do it for free!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Habitat for Humanity – volunteers are needed on Wednesdays & Saturdays to work on new homes in the Adams Park subdivision.
- Red Cross – both chapters (Etowah & Cherokee) need volunteers for many different activities, including becoming trainers for classes.
- Head Start – volunteers are needed at the main Head Start campus to help monitor visitors. All visitors need to be signed in & out and issued a name tag while they are in the building.
- Even Start – volunteers are needed to work with children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. You work with whichever age group you want to.
- Tele-Chek – if you know of a homebound person who could use a reassurance phone call during the day while they are alone, let us know! We have volunteers who do this Monday – Friday.
- For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP at (256)549-8147.

*“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” –
Anne Bradstreet*

Volunteer Recognition

The East Alabama Area Agency on Aging and the Anniston Star hosted a spelling bee on March 9th, and one of our RSVP Volunteers, Ms. Mary Cylar, entered the contest and did extremely well. Ms. Cylar proved to be a *formidable* contestant! I think next year we may have our own contest and send the

winner to Anniston. What do you think about that? Another RSVP volunteer we would like to recognize is Mr. Bobby Vermillion. Bobby is getting RSVP into the computer age by hosting an RSVP Facebook page and posting a lot of pictures there for the entire world to see what you

are accomplishing, right here in Etowah & Cherokee County, Alabama! The winner of our on time – time sheet drawing is Ms. Joe Ann Dooley, who volunteers at Gadsden Regional. Ms. Dooley has volunteered with RSVP since 2003 & has over 1400 hours on record. Congratulations Ms. Dooley!



Upcoming Events

- **April 1** – Quarterly Seniors Outfitted for Defense meeting @ 10:00. Rebecca Parrish will be speaking on pre-funeral arrangements.
- **April 2** – Good Friday, Etowah County Courthouse closed.
- **April 4** – Easter Sunday.
- **April 8** – Elliott Health Fair @ Convention Hall. 8 – 11.
- **April 28** – RSVP Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon from 10:00 – 1:00.
- **May 9** – Mother’s Day.
- **May 14** – Hokes Bluff Health Fair 8 – 11.
- **May 25** – Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center Annual Banquet. Pam Tebow will be the keynote speaker. Call 546-8677 for more info.
- **May 31** – Memorial Day. Etowah County Courthouse closed.
- **June 20** – Father’s Day.
- **June 30** – Carnes Health Fair in Attalla 8 – 12.

TIDBITS

- ❖ Rx Help is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 – 4 and can help anyone (not just senior citizens) having trouble with their prescription medicine expenses. Call 549-8147 for an appointment.
- ❖ American Red Cross offices in Gadsden and Centre are offering many classes for volunteers, from CPR to babysitting. Call 927-3797 or 547-8667 for more information.
- ❖ Extended Family is a support group for people with a family member in prison. They hold a monthly meeting on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 in the Cherokee Baptist Association Building in Centre (1575 W. Main St.) if you are interested in more information.
- ❖ The Family Success Center is offering Smart Steps for Stepfamilies, Together We Can, & Basic Training for Couples classes this Spring. Call 547-6888, ext. 109 for more info.

Sudoku

7	9					3		
					6	9		
8				3			7	6
					5			2
		5	4	1	8	7		
4			7					
6	1			9				8
		2	3					
		9					5	4

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		5		9				1
					2		7	3
7	6				8	2		
	1	2			9			4
			2		3			
3			1			9	6	
		1	9				5	8
9	7		5					
5				3		7		

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*“The day the Lord created hope is probably the same day He created Spring.”
~ Bern Williams*

RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick
Van Driver/Volunteer
Coordinator – Faye Russell
Secretary/Bookkeeper –
Donna Patterson



RSVP Advisory Board

<i>Chairperson</i> – Pat Hill	Thelma Edgar	Joe Neal
<i>Vice Chairperson</i> – Joyce Cox	Juanita Elrod	Wanda Neal
<i>Treasurer</i> – Jane Brittain	Perry Gwin	Sharon Simmons
<i>Secretary</i> – Millie Cartrett	Joyce Farrell	Elsie Watters
	Deborah Henderson	Ila Mae Wright
	Jerre McNeal	

Local Merchants who Support RSVP

Visit these local merchants and say “Thank you for supporting RSVP”!

Alley’s Carpet	Regions Bank	Wal-Mart
Belk	Regis Hair Salon	Willow Tree
Corporate Pharmacy Service	Riverview Regional Medical Center	
Gadsden Regional Medical Center	Salvation Army	
Kyuka Water	Sports Mania	
Peppermint Pony	Superior Bank	
Red Lobster	Sutton Bridge Exxon	



Inside Story Headline

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your

service.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, Business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

If you explore the Project Gallery, you will find many publications that match the style of your newsletter.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help

determine how frequently you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headline is an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.



Inside Story Headline

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Word offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is

virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

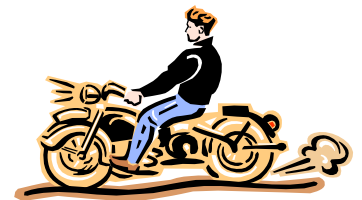
You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a

column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content.



"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



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Caption describing picture or graphic.

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Inside Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New

Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, and market studies.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your reader.



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**Company
Name**

Address line 1
Address line 2
City, State, 4321



Phone:
03 6155 0000

Fax:
03 6155 0000

E-Mail:
name@hotmail.com

***Add your Business
Tagline here.***

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Example.com

Back Page Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

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Continued Story Headline

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A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is

to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can

write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

About Our Organization...

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



**CUSTOMER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 4321**