



SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING
San Luis Obispo County

Central Coast

July – August – September 2010

Volunteer's Voice

Senior Volunteer Service of San Luis Obispo County and North Santa Barbara County
is partially funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM 660 PISMO STREET SAN LUIS OBISPO 805-544-8740

RSVP News by Marie Brinkmeyer

The biggest news this time is the number of volunteers and sites we honored during the recognition events held in April of this year. You will find the names of the honorees in this issue of our newsletter, in addition to the names of our RSVP Supporters. These amazing numbers are a testament to the dedication of our senior volunteers in supporting the various nonprofit and government or public agencies in our communities, and to the high regard in which our supporters hold RSVP volunteers.

The number of our hours served during 2009 finished out at over 176,000. When we consider how many agencies were served by our volunteers with those hours we can begin to appreciate exactly how much impact RSVP has on our communities.

We are always seeking ways to let others know about RSVP and encouraging new enrollees. If you have friends or family who you believe would benefit from RSVP membership please refer them to us. We do not ever want to be a well-kept secret.

Our cooperative effort with Community Partners in Caring for a Good Neighbor Program is coming along nicely. We intend to have a formal "kick-off" event sometime during September to let the public know more about it. We will need lots of willing hearts and hands to respond to the emerging needs. If a person-to-person assignment is of interest to you this may be just what you are seeking.

Of course our RSVP group is not the only one making such significant contributions this past year. Information I just received from our major funder, the Corporation for National & Community Service, speaks to the increase of dedicated volunteers nationwide and throughout the world. An upward trend is noted as we reach out to one another during these difficult economic times.

We are celebrating you and your spirit of helping others, and applaud your hard work and dedication to enriching the lives of others while enriching your own. You truly reflect the American tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. By volunteering, you are making an investment in individual lives as well as the community at large. Thank you for sharing your time, talents and energy.

Have a wonderful summer!



Welcome New Volunteers

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Mary Ann Ackerman | Ralph Latino |
| Jan Altieri | Priscilla Licon |
| Gaspar Amorim | Cynthia Martin |
| Marilyn Anderson | Shirley Mills |
| Ann Benoit | Lillian Minjares |
| Cathie Besheer | Linda Murphy |
| Patricia Binger | Valerie Norman |
| Darlene Brainard | Pennie Oakes |
| Linda Brannock | Josefina Pascual |
| Ilene Brill | Norma Jean Perez |
| Marie Bukey | Edward Pratt |
| Marsha Carlson | Margaret Pyott |
| Angela Carpenter | Thomas Rathbone |
| Roy Cinowalt | Sylvia Reynoso |
| Cynthia Cinque | Ruth Rinker |
| Gary Collins | Barbara Robinson |
| David Cote | Clarence Rusconi |
| Samuel Cotton | Judy Salamacha |
| Elinore Cottrell | Corrado Sansone |
| Ella Craig | Kevin Sargent |
| Sterling Daley | Sandra Shay |
| David Dodd | Mary Sorenson |
| Dan Eames | Stanley Tharp |
| Bobbie Graham | John Thayer |
| Stephanie Greene | Shirley Walker |
| William (Bill) Harland | Richard Weaver |
| Tandra Holt | Jeannette Wedl |
| Jeanne Hutchison | Phyllis Wicks |
| Cynthia Jelinek | Mary Winters |
| Penny Kaprelian | |

New Stations

- Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center - Santa Maria
- City of Santa Maria Recreation & Parks Department
- Community Partners in Caring - Buellton
- Edwards Community Center - Santa Maria
- Guadalupe Union School District
- Grizzly Youth Academy - San Luis Obispo
- Minami Community Center - Santa Maria
- Nipomo Food Basket (Bank)
- One Cool Earth - Morro Bay
- Paul Nelson Aquatic Center - Santa Maria
- Santa Maria Arts Council
- SLO Noor Foundation - San Luis Obispo
- SLOBUNS - Arroyo Grande
- Veterans' Memorial Community Center - Santa Maria

Notes from Bernadine (aka BZB)

Recognition time is behind us for another year, but, as always, it has brought up questions/issues regarding reporting, yearly totals, etc. When determining these numbers to recognize Volunteer with Most Hours, those with 300 hours or more, etc., our system automatically gives us that information, **BUT, all we have to go by are those hours actually reported to us by you or your station!!**

It is, of course, always possible that a human error was made somewhere along the way – an hours log lost or misplaced, numbers transposed, etc. – you get the picture. If you feel that your volunteer service has not been properly acknowledged, by all means bring that to our attention! It might be a good idea to check with us prior to the end of the year – November, perhaps – to make sure our records match your records. If you think your Station Coordinator is reporting your hours, check to be sure that is the case. It has been our experience that many volunteers think the Station is reporting their hours, when, in fact, they are not.

We certainly want to acknowledge **every single hour** that each volunteer so lovingly and generously serves. Working together, we can become more efficient and accomplish this task. Thank you once more for your dedication and cooperation.

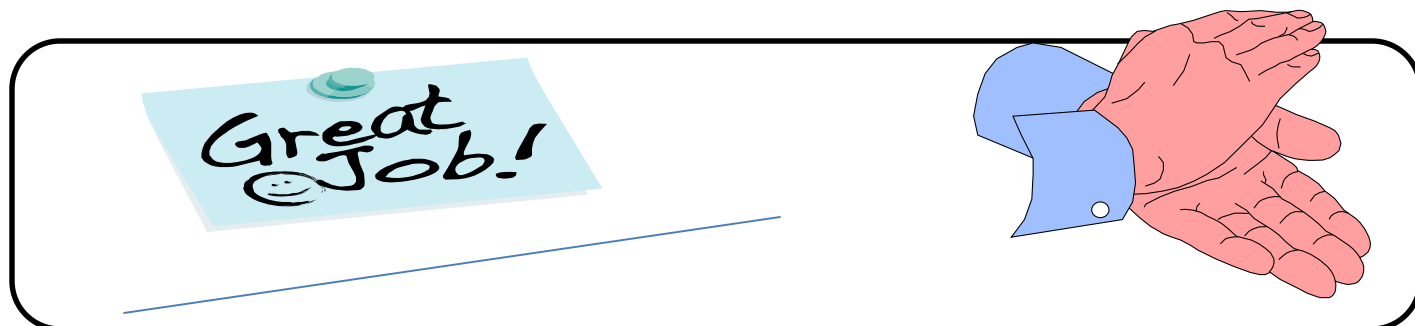
RSVP DIRECTOR HONORED!

By Barbara Barker

Marie Brinkmeyer, Executive Director of RSVP was named “Older Worker of the Year” for 2009 by the Area Agency on Aging. The award was presented at the Older Americans Month Celebration Luncheon held on May 11th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo.

Marie received the award because she is always willing – even eager – to take on one more task to satisfy the need of someone who has asked her for assistance. Whatever the request by the caller on the other end of the phone, Marie almost never says no and frequently offers to personally perform the task requested.

Marie’s energy level and willingness to serve far exceeds that of most people her age, or any age for that matter! Marie finds a way to help regardless of budget restrictions, logistics, and time limitations. She goes on and on just like the *Energizer bunny* far above and beyond the call of duty! More than 90% of Marie’s efforts directly serve senior citizens. Marie is one of the most benevolent, most giving and most caring people you will ever meet. The entire RSVP staff is extremely proud to serve under Marie’s devoted direction. Congratulations to a most outstanding and deserving recipient!



RSVP VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT 2010 RECOGNITION

In April, three very special events were held at Atascadero Lake Pavilion, the Santa Maria Radisson Hotel, and Camp San Luis Obispo honoring local RSVP volunteers for 38 years of community service. In a generous show of support, more than 120 local businesses came together and donated door prizes for the dessert reception ceremonies, or made cash donations for Table Sponsorships to help defray expenses for all three events. Senior volunteer honorees were as follows:

Carol Conway “Spirit of Volunteerism” Awards - SLO County: Pearl Munak (Northern District), Marianna Frost (Central District), Bert Berringer (Southern District); Santa Maria/Northern Santa Barbara County District: Chief MSGT Norman Marous

Station of the Year Awards - SLO County: Hearst Castle Visitors Center (Northern District), San Luis Obispo Senior Center (Central District), Central Coast Exploration Station (Southern District); Santa Maria/Northern Santa Barbara County District: The Natural History Museum of Santa Maria

Volunteers of the Year - SLO County: Charles Capper (Northern District), Mary Venancio (Central District), Carol Stave (Southern District); Santa Maria/Northern Santa Barbara County District: Darrell Freese

Volunteers with 1,000 or more hours - SLO County: Jan Gould, Evelyn Jeys, Virginia Kasper, Patricia McKaye, Freda Murphy, William Murphy, Gil Orosco, William Pluma, Agatha Reardon, Sandra Stallings, and Marie Wilson; Santa Maria/Northern Santa Barbara County: Roberta (Bobbie) Alleman, Sharon Eames, and Franca Lockard

Volunteers with 700 or more hours - SLO County: Edna DeBardelaben, Gerald Fialho, Bonnie Fiske, Judythe Guarnera, Mary Huether, Carol Judd, Rosemary Lindgren, Jane Line, Robert Lyon, Patricia Machen, Thomas Mercer, Trudy Minott, Brenda-Eileen Newton, Beth Peterson, Teddy Pickett, Virginia Pope, Lynn Rogers, Loretta Scholfield, Sandra Short, George Shyavitz, and Paul Wilson; Santa Maria/Northern Santa Barbara County: Fred Holmes, Carmen Kyle, and Hugh Thompson

Money Tree Winners: Atascadero Lake Pavilion - Edna DeBardelaben \$50 and Christina Hatch \$100; Santa Maria Radisson Hotel - Lilly Godsey \$50 and Carmen Kyle \$100; Camp San Luis Obispo Officer's Club - Virginia Gasior \$50 and Frosty Frost \$100.

Frosty Frost donated his \$100 winnings to the Oceano Elks "Purple Pig Project". The project provides station wagons and physical therapists to underprivileged adults and children with varying physical issues who live in California or Hawaii.

All volunteers who served 300 or more hours were recognized with certificates, and, of course, many thanks!

How About Being an RSVP Supporter?

RSVP is receiving less grant funding this year and we are looking for creative ways to make up the difference. We invite our volunteers (with family and friends as well) to be **RSVP Supporters**. If you'd like to be part of this group, please send us a donation and you will be listed in our next newsletter. If this is a successful fundraiser then we will continue it throughout the year. No distinction will be made based on amount of the donation and no amount is too small. Lots of small donations will translate into helping us make up the funding loss. Whatever amount you give is fully tax-deductible and will be put into our "**Community Campaign**" Fund. Checks may be made payable to: Senior Volunteer Services and our Federal Tax ID is 77-0433542. If you have **any questions** please give us a call at 544-8740.

RSVP SUPPORTERS

Our gratitude to all those who continue to support
the efforts of RSVP of the Central Coast!

AAAA Kleen Carpet Cleaning	F. McLintocks Saloon & Dining Room
Albertson's	Merrill Gardens
Stephen Allyn	Mildred "Midge" Mossberg
Alzheimer's Association	Tricia & Sean Mulcahy & Family
Area Agency on Aging	Cynthia & Don Miller
Mark Asmus/Shift Salon	Tonny & George Murray
Steve Austin	New Frontiers Natural Marketplace
Barbara & Ellen Barker	Catherine & Harold Oster
Bernadine & John Barrow	Palm Theater
Evelyn Beale	Panera Bread Basket
Beverly's	PathPoint - SCSEP
Dan Bittner	Pay It Forward
Marie & William Brinkmeyer	PCPA Theaterfest
California Pro Painting	Susan Polk Insurance
Cal Poly Arts	Paul Provence
Caring Callers	Rabobank – Pismo Beach
CASA	Rabobank – San Luis Obispo
Cayucos Senior Citizens Club, Inc.	Ralphs Grocery
Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum	CDR (Ret) Donald T. Rohde
Crushed Grape	Cherie Romine
Curves	Ruby Red Fashion Boutique
Bruce Detter III	San Luis Obispo Little Theatre
Tony Diaz/Cutting Edge Salon	San Luis Obispo Police Staff Officer Association
Friends of Hearst Castle	San Luis Sourdough
James Gentilcore	Santa Maria Arts Council
Hearst Castle & National Geographic Theater	SESLOC Federal Credit Union
Doris Highland	Spencer's Fresh Markets
House of Bread	Splash Café & Artisan Bakery
Housing Authority, City of SLO	The Gathering at Santa Maria
KCBX.net	Trader Joe's
KJUG	Transitions – Growing Grounds Farm
Ross Kongable	United Way – Northern Santa Barbara County
L2 Design	Anna Unkovich
Long Term Care Ombudsman Services	Marie & Paul Wilson
Madonna Inn	Peter Wilt
Diane Maiorano	Dorothy Yelda
Manse on Marsh, The	Dennis Eamon Young Photo

2ND ANNUAL RAFFLE!

RSVP is in need of your help in selling raffle tickets for our 2nd Annual Raffle - our major fundraiser of the year.

Due to the difficult economy we have suffered the loss of some of our funding. We need to be able to offset that loss and this is a chance to "make up the difference" and have a bit of fun in the process. We've lined up an exciting array of prizes for this year's fundraiser and have kept the ticket price at a reasonable **\$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.00**. By this time you should have received your book of 10 tickets and we hope you will support us by selling them or purchasing them yourselves. If you need more tickets please give us a call at 805-544-8740 or 805-922-9931.

The prizes are:

- 1st Prize - One week in Hawaii – Including airfare for two
- 2nd Prize - \$1,000 worth of groceries from Food 4 Less
- 3rd Prize - A Two-night stay at a luxury Avila Beach Hotel, including dinner for two

In addition to these exciting prizes for the winners, we have some great prizes for those who sell the most tickets....overnight stays at local hotels, dinners for two at local restaurants, golf for two at local courses, and wines from local wineries.

YOU might be our next winner. Tickets are on sale from now through August 26th – with the winning tickets to be drawn on the Dave Congalton Show on August 27th at approximately 3 p.m.

If you have any questions please give us a call, and thank you for your support of RSVP.

SAVE THESE DATES

During either November or December 2010 RSVP will be the recipient of a 5% Wednesday at New Frontiers Natural Marketplace (they will most Likely be in their new location by that time). Actual date to follow in our next newsletter. RSVP will receive 5% of the sales for the particular day. Very generous indeed!

April 7, 2011 – San Luis Obispo Little Theatre – RSVP will be the recipient of the "box office" proceeds for the final dress rehearsal of the Pulitzer Prize winning play – "the gin game". A simple game of cards between an elderly man and a woman passing the time in a retirement home becomes much more. As the stakes of the game rise, so does the tension between the two, who, with both humor and poignancy, confront the hands life has dealt them. This promises to be a wonderful "night out" and we hope to pack the house with our RSVP volunteers and supporters.



Give us a call

Let us know how (and why) you enjoyed the Recognition Event(s) this year and if you have any suggestions for ways to improve. We want to hear from you. We were fortunate to have a volunteer serve on our 2010 Events Committee and it was at her suggestion that we shortened the "formal" part of the program and instead allowed plenty of time for visiting with one another, and eliminated the live music as it seemed too distracting.

If you have time and the interest we are looking for other volunteers to serve on the 2011 committee and would welcome your involvement. Remember – our number is 805-544-8740 or 805-922-9931.

Heartfelt thanks for all the good works you do – and the many ways you make our communities better places to live!



Editor:
Marie Brinkmeyer

Contributors:
Barbara Barker
Bernadine Barrow
Diane Maiorano
Nancy Rodriguez

Publication of the Volunteer's Voice is made possible by Silver Streaks (folding and sorting for bulk mail). Quarterly Publication - RSVP of the Central Coast.

Senior Volunteer Services
660 Pismo Street
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

Nonprofit Organization
U S Postage
PAID
San Luis Obispo, CA
PERMIT No. 207

Greetings from Northern Santa Barbara County!

Let me first start by quoting, William Feather:

“Something that has always puzzled me all my life is why, when I am in special need of help, the good deed is usually done by somebody on whom I have no claim.”

This is a great description of a volunteer! They do it not for fame or fortune but for the most powerful and yet overlooked fact that it benefits humanity.

My name is Nancy Rodriguez and I have the honor of being your Northern Santa Barbara County Area Coordinator. I came on board at the best time. April was my starting month and I immediately got my feet wet with our Volunteer Recognition Events. Those were a blast!

It gave me an opportunity to meet remarkable men and women who provide unselfishly to our communities. Being a volunteer myself in church and occasional community events, I quickly became aware of how narrow my knowledge was regarding the volunteer networks we have in the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. A whole new world has been opened up to me. The strength and support our volunteers give to our children, elderly, sick, needy, disabled and general population is a remarkable testimony to how much our communities are loved.

My goal for the Santa Maria office is continue to build a stronger network of volunteers and stations. Please be aware that I am easily accessible and attentive to your needs. I recognize that our stations appreciate how invaluable you are to them and my objective is to continue to reinforce that awareness.

I am proud to be a part of a remarkable staff at RSVP. My office hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-1pm and my number is 922-9931. I am usually there but do leave from time to time to visit our stations and volunteers. I look forward to meeting more of you as I make my rounds.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rodriguez