



The Volunteer Voice

RSVP

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Volume VIII, Issue 3
May & June 2011

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County, Ohio

Volunteer Appreciation Cruise



Volunteers enjoyed the beautiful spring day while cruising the Muskingum River.

The Volunteer Appreciation Cruise remains a favorite RSVP event! One-hundred-and-fifty volunteers and guests soaked up the April sunshine and enjoyed the river voyage.

While the day was beautiful, it wasn't without a few glitches. Excessive rain early in the week caused the river to rise, and the Valley Gem was unable to load passengers from her berth at the Ohio River Museum. Volunteer Coordinator, Ashby Seyler-Schmidt, stood in the museum parking lot, and redirected everyone to the boat dock behind the Armory. Even with the delay, the boarding went well and we were only a few minutes late getting underway.

The boat ride was a gift to the volunteers from The Friends of RSVP and Marietta Memorial Hospital. The delicious peanut butter and oatmeal raisin cookies were baked by Vesta Kidd and her staff at Washington Morgan Community Action Senior Nutrition. The Friends donated the lemonade.

Volunteer Appreciation Week makes us stop and take stock of the contributions our volunteers make in the

community. County Commissioners Cora Marshall and Tim Irvine were on hand to celebrate our volunteer's accomplishments and to visit with everyone during the cruise.

Thank you for all you do to make Washington County a better place to live.

In observance of
Memorial Day

Our office will be
Closed Monday, May 30th



RSVP

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County

Sponsored by:

The Corporation for National Service
Ohio Department on Aging
Washington County Commissioners
The Senior Levy
The Friends of RSVP

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Volunteer Coordinator - Ashby Seyler-Schmidt
RSVP Office Volunteer - Pam Hess

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The Volunteer Voice is printed bimonthly. Articles must be submitted by the 22nd of the month to be considered for publication in next issue.

Send submissions to the attention of Ashby:

RSVP Volunteer Voice

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hello again...

by Lisa Valentine, Director

I am so over winter! The fact that trees are covered with flowers and leaves are starting to unfold gives me hope that winter is finally really gone.

Spring is the time for new awakenings and in keeping with that, the next few months at RSVP are jam-packed. We will spend the first part of May preparing for the last part... The weekend of May 20-22 finds RSVP with two major projects running at the same time.

Tai Chi Master Ralph Dehner will be back to teach Level 2 classes to our current teachers, and Level 1 to our new recruits. The addition of an instructor in the Beverly & Waterford areas will complete our coverage of the county. Judy Grize and Carolyn Miller have been teaching the Marietta classes and by adding another volunteer instructor here, we can fill some of the new requests for classes.

On Friday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m., our volunteers and tai chi students are invited to a reception at the O'Neill to "Meet the Master." Ralph will give a short talk, followed by a tai chi sword demonstration. The Friends of RSVP will provide light refreshments. Be sure to call the office and let us know you plan to attend. I have seen the sword demonstration and it is quite beautiful.

That same weekend, we are also hosting the I77 Safety Break. Gary and Evelyn Worstell are co-chairs of this committee and they have the project under complete control, including the volunteer schedule. What would we do without leaders like them? The Beverly Lions Club is loaning us their trailer so our volunteers will be protected from the weather... which we all know can go either way this time of year! The Safety Break encourages travelers to stop at the rest area, move around a little and grab a snack; they return to the road more focused. It is also a great way to increase public awareness of RSVP. We are taking donations of canned pop, individually packaged snacks and homemade cookies (with no icing, please). Let me know if you can help.

We follow a busy May with our favorite volunteer month... June. Plans are being finalized for the Annual Recognition Dinner. The Recognition Committee selected a theme that we think the men will really enjoy ~ Soaring High with RSVP! The table decorations the committee selected are sure to please! The venue will be the Lafayette Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. We are so lucky to have such an elegant setting for our dinner. Hope to see you all there!

Annual RSVP Recognition Dinner

Soaring High with RSVP is the theme for the upcoming Annual Recognition Dinner. Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 16 and get set to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism at the Lafayette Hotel. Invitations will be going out soon.

Carol Wharff, Executive Director of the Marietta Community Foundation will be our guest speaker. The Foundation plays an important part in Washington County by providing grants to many of your volunteer organizations. Service awards will be presented by our sponsor, the Washington County Commissioners.

Volunteers who served 48 hour or more between January 1 and December 31, 2010 will be treated to a complementary

dinner. New volunteers and those who served less than 48 hours will receive their dinner at half price, or \$6.00. Guests and Station Representatives are welcome to attend for \$12.00.

Many of you have asked if we could include your hours on your invitation – so for the first time, you will know exactly how many hours you served the

previous year when you open the invitation. Reservations may be called in, but we ask that if you owe a balance on your dinner, that you stop by the office or mail your payment in advance of the dinner. The Recognition Committee feels that this will expedite registration and lessen the bottleneck that occurs at the door.

We hope to see you all at the dinner!

Soaring High with RSVP

Lafayette Hotel

June 16th ~ 6:00 p.m.

Community Garden

Do you miss gardening or have you always yearned to just give it a try? Would you like to add a few fresh vegetables to your table and share your harvest with those in need?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, the Harvest of Hope Garden Project is tailor made for you!

RSVP has signed on to manage a 20' x 20' garden plot in the Community Garden. OSU Extension Master Gardeners will offer hands-on classes in the garden, focusing on planting, weeding, pest control and harvesting. All the seeds, plants, tools and equipment will be supplied.

The first session in the garden, to be announced soon, will familiarize volunteers with the rules of participation, where the equipment is stored and how to turn on the watering system. We will plant our beds that day. Volunteers will then be free to work in the garden on their own.

Let Ashby know if you would like to be one of the gardeners – and make plans to attend the planting session. After that, we will divide the chores among the group and continue working alone or in pairs.

When the gardens are in full bloom, RSVP volunteers will host a donation vegetable stand once a week in the parking lot at the garden to which all of the participants in the Community Garden contribute. Residents pay whatever they can for the freshly picked bounty.

Come garden with us! Call Ashby today at 373-3107!

RSVP Glee Club

RSVP volunteers Carolyn Miller and Milt Baker want to start a Glee Club. They got the idea from a movie called “Young at Heart.”

The movie is about a group of fun-loving senior citizens that get together to perform shows that are upbeat and well... Young at Heart. The movie gives the audience a backstage pass to see the trials faced by seniors learning something new and how the power of music is truly life-affirming.

Carolyn and Milt envision the group singing upbeat songs from show tunes to current music. The goal is to follow the seasons and put together four shows a year that will be performed without holding music, packed with fun and flair.

They are looking for volunteers who want to sing, a director with a little funk and a piano player who can still rock! If this sounds like something you want to try, or you know someone who might be interested, call Ashby at the office and she will get you connected with Carolyn and Milt. Come on... try something new.

Garden for a Healthier Diet



**Plant
Pick
Enjoy**

The Volunteer Voice
RSVP of Washington County
333 Fourth Street • Marietta OH • 45750

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit #10
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Volunteer Opportunities

Area Agency on Aging

AAA Ombudsman Program would like to have an advocate for senior rights at every area nursing home.

Campus Martius and the Ohio River Museum

Museum docents conduct tours of the Rufus Putnam House and the W.P. Snyder, Jr. sternwheeler. Training provided.

The Castle

Museum docents conduct tours and assist with day to day interpretation of the Castle. Training provided. Also in need of gardeners, groundskeepers and handymen. Current projects include painting, landscaping and woodworking.

Franciscan Community Meals

A Scheduler is needed to help coordinate delivery routes and volunteer shifts. Drivers are needed to deliver meals on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at lunchtime.

WASCO

Volunteers needed to listen to the Bus Radio and make schedule corections as they occur. Training is provided.

Washington State Community College

Mail room assistant. Any day but Tuesday. Assist staff, post outgoing mail, sort incoming mail.

For more information call 373-3107

Meet the Master!

You are cordially invited to meet

Master Trainer, Ralph Dehner

Tai Chi for Health

Tai Chi & Sword Demonstration

Friday, May 20th at 5:30 p.m.

O'Neill Center, 333 Fourth St.

Call 373-3107 if planning to attend