

VASP Voice
November 2007

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VASP Website Up and Running

Submitted by Helen Harrison

As of August, VASP has a new website at www.vaspdovia.inpgh.org.

By the gracious, in-kind donation (\$1,500) of services of Website Designer Phil Herrington, III (fly by night productions, ltd.) and free Internet hosting provided by PittsburghFreeNet, VASP has its new website.

After much planning and input from VASP board members and Helen Harrison, the site reflects the VASP of today—a resource for professionals who manage volunteers.

If VASP members haven't already received Usernames and a Password to access the "Members" page, they are urged to contact Pat McCarthy at mccarthyp@einetwork.net. Usernames and passwords will change yearly to maintain security.

Remember: The website is only as good as the information that goes into it, so be sure to send current information of happenings, events, meetings and such to Cherie Hugh at cahugh@hearth-bp.org. Helen Harrison will act as liaison between VASP and Phil Herrington.

September 27 General Meeting Kicks Off Programming Year

Submitted by Tracy O'Neill

VASP's first general meeting of this programming year took place on Thursday morning, September 27th in a comfortable room in Mt. Lebanon Library. Though participants are a

world away from 1860s Siam, the theme song for the event could have easily been Rogers and Hammerstein's "Getting To Know You" from *The King and I*.

After the obligatory cup of fresh brewed coffee, the meeting kicked off with VASP members pairing up with a person who had shoes similar to theirs. The couples then chatted for a bit to obtain enough information to introduce one another to all of the attendees.

Since getting to know one another was the primary focus of the meeting, after the initial introductions, each Volunteer Manager could then take time to talk in depth about the organization they work for and the types of volunteers they coordinate. Clearly beneficial to all involved, sometimes the introductions opened up conversations about management issues, success stories, and "live and learn" experiences.

In short, this meeting set a friendly tone for the rest of the VASP programming year. True, programs in the year to come will feature informative speakers and helpful seminars, an integral resource to those who want to grow, but having the luxury of just sitting and talking to one another at the September meeting was a real treat. Attendees were reminded that there are other Volunteer Managers out there working, as they are, to provide fulfilling and helpful experiences for volunteers in Southwestern PA.

Oldest Baby Boomers Turn 60

Submitted by Pat McCarthy

In 2006, the oldest of the baby boomers, the generation born between 1946 and 1964, turned 60 years old. Among the Americans who celebrated their 60th were our two most recent presidents, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Other well-known celebrities reaching this milestone include Cher, Donald Trump, Sylvester Stallone and Dolly Parton. To commemorate this occasion, the Census Bureau has compiled a collection of facts relating to perhaps our most celebrated generation.

The Boomers

78.2 million – Estimated number of baby boomers, as of July 1, 2005.

7,918 - Number of people who turned 60 each day in 2006, according to projections. That amounted to 330 every hour.

James & Mary - The most popular baby names for boys and girls, respectively, in 1946. Today, the names Jacob and Emily lead the list; James ranks 17th among boys, and Mary is 63rd among girls.

50.8% - Percentage of women baby boomers in 2005.

9.1 million - Estimated number of baby boomers in 2004 who were black. Also, 8.0 million boomers were Hispanic.

32% - Proportion of Alaska's population that was part of the baby boomer generation, as of the last census. Baby boomers also comprised 30 percent or more of the population in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. In contrast, Utah (23 percent) was the only state where baby boomers constituted less than 25 percent.

Then and Now

141 million - Estimated U.S. population in 1946. Today, the nation's population stands at about 298 million.

33% and 5% - The proportions of adults age 25 and older with at least a high school diploma and at least a bachelors degree, respectively, in 1947. By 2004, the respective proportions had risen to 85 percent and 28 percent.

The Future

\$2,695 - Average annual expenditures on health care in 2004 for people ages 45 to 54, the age group that is the heart of the baby boom generation. When budgeting medical expenses, baby boomers should expect increased health care spending as they age; for instance, those age 55 to 64 spent \$3,262, and those 65 and over, \$3,899.

57.8 million - Number of baby boomers living in 2030, according to projections; 54.9 percent would be female. That year, boomers would be between ages 66 and 84.

2.1 - The number of workers for each Social Security beneficiary in 2031, when all baby boomers will be over age 65. Currently, there are 3.3 workers for each Social Security beneficiary, according to Social Security Administration.

4,041 - Number of continuing care retirement facilities in 2003. Many boomers could have parents in need of such facilities or may have to move into such a facility themselves in the future.

Staying Young and Fit

27,813 - Number of fitness and recreation centers nationwide in 2003. These are good places to visit on a regular basis for boomers who are trying to become or stay physically fit.

11,938 - Number of cosmetics, beauty supply and perfume stores in 2003. These stores carry numerous anti-aging skin care products aimed at people in this age group.

Source: Special Editions of the U.S. Census Bureaus *Facts for Features*

Boomer Connections @ Northland Library is presenting a series of workshops and panel discussions to help boomers explore answers to the issues listed. Check out our website at www.northlandlibrary.org to view a complete listing of these programs. Many boomers will be considering a change of career or lifestyle as they reach their

50s.....perhaps taking the step of following their dreams in a field they've always wanted to pursue, full-time or part-time, or stepping out to launch their own businesses.

Instead of planning for retirement, many baby boomers recognize that they want to work for another 20 years, remain productive, and maximize their potential. Some boomers are personally evolving. They are considering changing their career paths, "recareering" themselves into completely different job descriptions. Perhaps you've been asking yourself the questions: *What are my skills? What job is right for me?*

Member Profile: Randy Detweiler
Submitted by Helen Harrison

1. **Name:** Randy Detweiler
2. **Position:** Program Coordinator
3. **Organization:** Highmark PALS (People Able to Lend Support)
4. **How long have you been at this organization?** 10 years
5. **To whom do you report?** Manager
6. **What are your major strengths?** Recruiting/managing/training
7. **If you could change anything about your job, what would it be?** Nothing
8. **Number of volunteers:** 450
9. **What kind of screening process do you have in place for volunteers?** 2 hour training and criminal and vehicle clearance
10. **What kinds of volunteer recognition do you provide for your volunteers?**
Gateway Clipper in Pittsburgh, Pride of Susquehanna in Harrisburg
11. **What volunteer recruitment method have you found to be most successful?**
Recruiting from Silver Sneakers, mail and outreach meetings
12. **What volunteer opportunities exist at your organization?** All in home services except for personal care and quilting/ leading book club

Member Profile: Marcia Boyle

Submitted by Helen Harrison

1. **Name:** Marcia W. Boyle
2. **Position:** Field Coordinator—Beaver County
3. **Organization:** Foster Grandparent Program—locally sponsored by the American Red Cross of Southwestern PA
4. **How long have you been at this organization?** Seven+ Years
5. **To whom do you report?** Project Director Michael Parker
6. **What are your major strengths?** Teaching, motivating, and supporting others.
7. **If you could change anything about your job, what would it be?** Raise the stipend for the volunteers from the current \$2.65 per/hour.
8. **Number of volunteers:** Always changing, currently 58 (with a lofty goal of 75)
9. **What kind of screening process do you have in place for volunteers?**
Application, Personal Interview, Letters of Reference, and three-month “Probation”
10. **What sort of training/orientation do you provide your volunteers?** Two weeks (40 hours) including program history, information, policies & procedures; units on child development, individual differences, and special needs; units on volunteer self-esteem and stress management; peer shadowing; and details specific to assigned site.
11. **What kinds of volunteer recognition do you provide for your volunteers?**
We have a wonderful, six-county celebration each June, when we honor exceptional volunteers and mark anniversary years of all. (All of you should come at least once!!) Each county group also has a back-to-school picnic in September and a holiday party in December. We try to celebrate individual accomplishments during our monthly in-service meetings, especially during Nat’l Volunteers Week in April and Older Americans Month in May.
12. **What volunteer recruitment method have you found to be most successful?**
Personal referrals from current Foster Grandparents.
13. **What volunteer opportunities exist at your organization?** Helping special needs children with emotional support and assistance in developing basic skills.

14. **And, finally, what would the other VASP members be surprised to learn about you?** During a dozen of the years I was teaching, motivating and supporting at home, church, and schools, I ran *The Initial Business*, for both wholesale & retail monogramming & embroidery customers.

15. **Personal Stuff:** Marcia & Jack (her husband of 37 years), reside in Chippewa Twp., Beaver County, but travel a lot with their fourth child Boomer (the golden retriever), frequently visiting their three children, two spouses, and four grand-dogs.

National Volunteer Organizations Update

Submitted by Tracy O'Neill

Corporation for National and Community Service – Though it’s a long way off, you might want to start planning for the 2008 National Conference on Volunteering and Service. It will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from June 1st through the 3rd.

Points of Light / Hands On Network – More than 3 million Americans volunteered for Make A Difference Day on Saturday, Oct. 27. It is America's largest day of service. To date, more than 20 million people have volunteered on this annual "day of doing good."

Make A Difference Day is sponsored by USA WEEKEND Magazine in partnership with Points of Light & Hands On Network. Actor and philanthropist Paul Newman and the Newman's Own Foundation are supporting Make A Difference Day for the 14th year. Newman will help select 10 volunteers to receive National Awards and share a total of \$100,000 with their charities.

For details, go to <http://www.pointsoflight.org/> or <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/>.

VolunteerMatch Update

Submitted by Cherie Hugh

VolunteerMatch recently teamed up with MySpace to launch a new volunteer search feature on www.MySpace.com called "Volunteer Space." So, if your volunteer opportunities are listed with VolunteerMatch, you're actually going to get double your money. Really, though, listings are free. Visit www.myspace.com/volunteerspace to search opportunities.

VolunteerMatch reminds us that this is the part of the year when their 1.3 million registered members start their search for a great family volunteering experience by

putting "holiday" in their search terms. VolunteerMatch's Advanced Search option lets volunteers zoom through listings to find volunteer opportunities with the exact keywords they seek. Take a moment today to update your account and check that important terms like "holiday" or "Christmas" are included to capture the seasonal volunteer audience. Your opportunities will then show up in VolunteerMatch search results for the right audience at the right time. www.volunteermatch.org.

Sharing Volunteers

Submitted by Cherie Hugh

At a recent Board meeting, Christine Meurer discussed the concept of VASP members "sharing" volunteers. It was her suggestion that we should compile some kind of list of our volunteers who might be willing to volunteer at various VASP members' events. We all have volunteers who are available for our one-time or two-time events during the year who may be interested in doing one or two other events during the year. We could do our fellow VASP members a favor by sending them their way! I don't think there's any danger of anyone "stealing" volunteers from someone else! Actually, if you volunteered as well, this could be a great experience for you volunteering alongside your volunteers!!

I think compiling a list would be hard to manage (e.g. who would keep it, how would we keep it current), so I suggest we all do the following:

1. Put together a quick list of our volunteers who might be interested in doing other one-time events
2. When you have a big event coming up and need volunteers, "advertise" in the VASP newsletter or send an e-mail to the VASP membership

When someone puts out a need, we could all check with our list of volunteers and see if anyone is interested. This is a great way to use our VASP network!

Editorial Information

This e-newsletter has been compiled by Cherie Hugh using information provided by VASP members. Newsletters will be e-mailed to members on a quarterly basis around the 1st of February, May, August, and November (theoretically!!). VASP members are welcome to submit articles or information for inclusion. We also have writers who could research topics of interest to members, so let me know if there is something you want to read about! Articles will be used as space permits and may be edited.

Please note that attachments will not accompany the newsletter, so items must be sent to me as Word documents that can be copied into an e-mail. Deadline for submissions is

the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example, if you have something for the February 2008 newsletter, I should have it by January 15.

If you are interested in assisting with future newsletters, please contact me at cahugh@hearth-bp.org or (412) 939-2302 ext. 12. Thanks!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!!!

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