here is a new month for the Governor’s Awards for Volunteerism and Service. The award ceremony will now be presented during April, which is National Volunteer Month. Nomination Forms will be sent out the first week in January, to be returned in February. We encourage everyone to begin thinking about your two-page narrative so that when the nomination is sent, you will be ready to reply.

We apologize for the change of date and hope that April will be kind with its weather! The Redbud will be in bloom so the drive to Frankfort should be lovely.

NANCY MACDUFF TRAINING

The “Recruit, Strengthen, Value, and Energize Volunteers!!!” training session was held on Tuesday, September 21st at the Holiday Inn – Capital Plaza in Frankfort, Kentucky. 43 eager “pupils” attended this training workshop presented by Nancy Macduff.

Nancy is a nationally recognized consultant in Volunteer Management. Her years of personal work experience provide a real-life approach to the challenges many of us face every day on the job.

(Continued on page 6)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 23rd. This is the LAST year we will be doing our beef stew drive! Be sure to call us with the number of cans and the number of ounces per can. If you would like to participate in developing next year’s theme, we will be doing that in February. Let’s make this a banner year!

AMERICORPS LAUNCH 2004

“...make our people safer, smarter, and healthier... strengthen our communities... take action... seek common ground... persevere... I will get things done.”

Although these words were spoken on the front steps of the state Capitol building in Frankfort, the occasion wasn’t a campaign rally. Instead, these words were spoken at the launch of the AmeriCorps' 10th year of service to the Commonwealth. Three days of training, orientation and fellowship wrapped up Sept. 30 as 175 new AmeriCorps members took the oath.
Throughout the newsletter are small bits for your enjoyment. Keep an eye out for them.

The happy dancing man is always accompanied by a “funny.” Lighten your mood a little with a short joke.

This thinking man is followed by wise witty words from many sources. Allow him to engage your mind.

This is accompanied by a brain teaser. Go ahead, see if you can catch the solution.

This icon indicates that interesting statistics follow. It also begs the question: are all things number? From the philosophy of Pythagoras who said, “all things are number.”

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KCCVS MISSION

To promote all Kentuckians working together to meet actual community needs in a way that fosters personal, family and community pride and an enduring ethic of service.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Middlesboro, Kentucky is the only city in the U.S. built within a meteor crater!
- The world’s longest cave, Mammoth Cave, was first promoted in 1816, making it the second oldest tourist attraction in the U.S., preceded only by Niagara Falls!
- The public saw an electric light for the first time in Louisville, Kentucky! Thomas Edison introduced his incandescent light bulb to crowds at the Southern Exposition in 1883. www.kytourism.com/facts_fun.aspx
administers the state AmeriCorps program.

Sometimes called the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps has placed nearly 2,500 members in service programs across Kentucky since 1994. And, AmeriCorps members have been getting things done – from mentoring and tutoring children, providing disaster response and supporting homeland security to building low-cost housing and providing debt counseling and essential services to the homeless and at-risk elderly.

Members and must complete 1,700 hours of service during a one-year term for which they receive an annual living allowance of $10,197. After one year of service, they are eligible for an educational award of up to $4,725 to help pay for college or repay student loans.

Administering the oath of service, Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence expressed gratitude for the enormous contributions AmeriCorps members make in the lives of so many Kentuckians.

"I couldn’t say in two hours what your service means to the Commonwealth, so I’ll simply say two words. On behalf of not only Governor Fletcher and myself, but all Kentuckians, thank you," Pence said. He challenged members to "ask what's possible, not what's easy" in their AmeriCorps service and throughout their lives.

The theme of this year’s AmeriCorps launch was "AmeriCorps members leave tracks." Before the swearing in ceremony, members shared some of their hopes and expectations for the tracks they’d leave during the next year.

Sue Meadows, a 47-year-old mother of two, serves as a housing counselor for victims of domestic violence at the Shelter of Hope in Ashland. For 30 years before joining AmeriCorps, she decorated cakes at a bakery.

"For the first time in 30 years I can say I love what I do," Meadows said. She will graduate from Ashland Community College in December with an associate’s degree, and will use her educational award to pursue a career as a women’s shelter operator.

Jessie Crozier, 18, moved to Northern Kentucky from Central Illinois just to be part of the Kentucky AmeriCorps program. He has very high expectations for his year of service with the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky. "I'm here to change the world one family and one house at a time," he said.

Ed Beacom, an older member of the 2005 recruiting class who works with the Senior Connections program of the Green River Area Development District in Owensboro (GRADD), was impressed and inspired by the selfless attitudes of the younger members.

"There are so many young people here willing to give their time at a point in their development when most their age are trying to figure out how to get their first beemer (BMW)," Beacom said. "It will be very much to their advantage in the future to have sacrificed and served and they'll make an enormous difference to a lot of people."

Karen Griffin of Hancock County, a recently divorced registered nurse and mother of two college students, said her AmeriCorps service with the GRADD Homeland Security program exposed her to a new career path.

"I'm fascinated by the training I've received and experience I'm getting working with law enforcement, fire and rescue and disaster response groups," Griffin said. After her AmeriCorps service she plans to use her educational award to pursue a masters degree in emergency management.

Eileen Cackowski, Executive Director of KCCVS said every AmeriCorps recruit is one person going into service and an entirely different person afterward.

"While they all join out of a spirit of service, most have other motives for joining," she said. "But, at the end of their service, it's never the job or education award they consider most valuable. It's always the lives they've changed for the better, the hope they've inspired and the good they've done that means the most to them."

There are eight Kentucky AmeriCorps programs serving 67 counties. For more information on the AmeriCorps programs, go to page 7, or contact KCCVS via phone or email.
A program that replicates the spirit of the GI Bill is the AmeriCorps program. He can be reached at don@mcnay.com and you can read a brief bio about him as well as read other columns he has written at www.donmcnay.com

Achieving the Next "Greatest Generation"

There has been reflection recently on the achievements of the people who fought in World War II, dubbed by Tom Brokaw as "The Greatest Generation." After winning the bloodiest conflict in history, veterans were able to come back from the war and get an education through the GI bill.

College educations were rare in the pre-war era. The GI Bill allowed those who developed a sense of purpose during the war to become educated and contribute more to society. World War II veterans often go out of their way to credit the GI Bill for allowing them to go to college. I have seen many do it unprompted and it is obvious they have tremendous gratitude that the GI bill was available.

I went to college in the late 1970's and needed grants, scholarships and loans to make it through school. Most of my classmates did the same. I don't recall anyone praising Pell grants or student loans after they graduated or making much of an issue of it. I think the difference is those who went to college on the GI bill felt like they earned it. The GI bill was a reward for serving our country, but also leaders recognized that America needed an educated work force.

I was on the television show Comment on Kentucky a few weeks ago and the host Al Smith asked me about the economic impact of budget cuts in education. I answered that it depends on whether you viewed education as an investment or a cost. Businesses can make immediate profits by slashing research and development. Those businesses can show short term gains by sacrificing the future. Governments can do the same thing. It is easy for governments to slash education budgets and not feel an immediate effect. An educated society is something that is hard to quantify and the payoff is usually years in the future.

A program that replicates the spirit of the GI Bill is the AmeriCorps program. Young people serve a year or two in jobs that help their communities. They receive nominal pay and a bonus at the end to be used for college tuition. Both my daughter and son-in-law spent two years in AmeriCorps and it changed their lives. They got to do meaningful work that helped other people and themselves. They came back to college with a sense of purpose and knowing they had enough money to get through school. They have both been active in their communities and living examples of the AmeriCorps ideal.

Our country is mourning the loss of President Ronald Reagan this week. I have friends who have never understood why I voted for him in 1984 and thought he was a great president. I did not agree with many of his policies but appreciated his optimistic view of America's promise and future. President Reagan did not serve in the active military but was a part of that group of people who came of age in the World War II era. He was a leader who believed that the "greatest generation" was not his, but a generation still to be born.

Programs like AmeriCorps allow young people to serve their country. Granting them the opportunity to receive an education and use that education to lift up society is a way we can assure that the greatest generation is one still to come.

All information about Don McNay and his article, have been printed with permission, and may not be duplicated without Mr. McNay’s knowledge and consent.

NEW JOB OPENING AT KCCVS

National Service Manager

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service in Frankfort, Kentucky is seeking applicants with a background in volunteer management and training.

Must have knowledge of the field, the ability to create training modules, and adapt to a variety of organizations. Ability & background in training directors of volunteers. Background in national service helpful. Excellent communication (oral/written) skills required.

Interested applicants must complete & submit an application for state employment. This is an FRTL position! Applications can be downloaded at the personnel cabinet website: http://personnel.ky.gov/

Please submit application, resume and no more than one page discussing your approach to volunteer management to:

VMTP
275 East Main St. 3W-C
Frankfort, KY 40621

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D

This position will remain open until filled.
Questions?  Contact Shannon DeLong:
Email: kccvs@ky.gov
Phone: 502-564-7420
Toll Free: 800-239-7404
The right to vote is arguably one of the most important rights of citizenship in a democratic country, yet a substantial number of U.S. citizens choose not to exercise this right.

Historically, both voting and registration rates are higher in Presidential election years than in “off” years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “...in the election of November 2000, 111 million people, or 55%, of the voting-age population (18 and older) voted.” Excluding non-citizens from the voting-population pool makes the voter turnout rate 60% for the United States. Kentucky’s voter turnout rate, in 2000, was 56%. One important step in getting turnout rates to increase is to have more of the voting-population pool registered, because “most people who are registered to vote do vote – 86% in the 2000 election.”

Did you know that in the 2000 election the number one reason given for not voting was “too busy!” (20.9% of registered non-voters cited this as their reason.) Another 12.2% claimed to be “not interested!” How can someone not be interested in exercising their democratic right to vote??? 4% and 2.6% of registered non-voters used the reasons “forgot” and “inconvenient,” respectively, to explain their lack of participation in this process that our country was founded upon.

Not to get on a soap box or anything….KCCVS just wants to encourage everyone of voting age to participate and help improve Kentucky's voting statistics, as well as playing a part in history!

Statistics and information given are from the U.S. Census Bureau. Plenty of more information, statistics, and data about voting can be found at their website:


“Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach a person to fish and you feed them for a lifetime.”

I’m sure you have heard this quote before……but do you know who said it? (Answer on Pg. 6)

**NEW KCCVS STAFF MEMBER**

Shannon DeLong is the new as Administrative Specialist at KCCVS, a position formerly held by Carrie Byrant. Shannon graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky in May 2004. Shannon grew up in Nicholasville, Kentucky with two parents in the school system: her father, Sam, is a West Jessamine High School Graphic Arts teacher, and her mother, Carol, is a Wilmore Elementary School secretary. Shannon now resides in Georgetown near her fiancé, Michael Ramsey, and her two cats: Jasmine and Jezebel.

**IT'S A BOY!!!**

Carrie Byrant is now happily working as a stay-at-home mom with her new baby boy, Caleb Jackson Bryant, who was born on July 12th, 2004. At birth he weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. Jack is now a healthy, 14-pound charmer and joins Carrie’s family of husband, Billy; 10-year-old son Chase; and 6-year-old daughter, Bailey. Everyone at KCCVS wishes Carrie and her family the best, and, Carrie, don’t forget to keep sending us pictures!

**BABY JOKE**

For weeks, a 6-year old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The 6-year old was obviously impressed, but he made no comment.

Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever became of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

http://www.jokes-jokes.net/Baby-on-the-Way.html

**BRAIN TEASER**

Add one letter to each word below - anywhere in the word - so that each numbered pair becomes two words of opposite meaning. For example, adding a P and an L to PLUM and SENDER (respectively) would result in PLUMP and SLENDER….Now you try…Answer on Page 7.

1. BUGLER EXERT
2. KID MAN
3. STALE SHAY
4. RAID SOW
5. FLAT SIN

**FIRST-LINK of the Bluegrass Volunteer Center is now going by the name United Way of the Bluegrass Volunteer Center. Their address and other contact information is still the same.**
Karen Marsee, former Youth and Access Programs Coordinator for KCCVS, has changed jobs and moved to the Office of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC) as a new AmeriCorps Program Director. The new program is called FRYSC Corps and is sponsored by Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services. FRYSC Corps members will be directly supervised by Karen and FRYSC. The program will have 20 members, which will provide reading tutoring for academically at-risk students utilizing the “Great Leaps” Reading curriculum. The program aims to increase reading levels, correspond improvement in academic subjects, and improve retention rate for tutored students.

The Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers provides administrative support, technical assistance, and training to the local school-based Family Resource and Youth Services Centers. The primary goal of these Centers is to enhance student ability to succeed in school through the removal of non-cognitive barriers to learning. These Centers are designed to promote the flow of resources and support to families in ways that strengthen their functioning and enhance the growth and development of each member. Each Center has a unique blend of program components depending on location, available services, local need, and community input. In schools where Centers are located, teachers report improved student performance in schoolwork, homework and peer relationships. Parents report greater satisfaction and involvement with the schools.

FRYSC MISSION
To enhance students’ abilities to succeed in school by developing and sustaining partnerships that promote:

- Early learning and successful transition into school
- Academic achievement and well-being
- Graduation and transition into adult life

http://cfc.ky.gov/frysc/

Nancy’s workshop was divided into several areas of concentration.
1. Tips on Rural Volunteering.
2. Effective Leadership.

Within each section Nancy engaged the attendees in group activities and problem solving. At the start we were presented with a small town scenario and the task of recruiting volunteers for various needs. During this activity each group shared ideas on how they would involve local help to solve local concerns. One of the most useful and often overlooked tips is:

- List the benefits on the volunteer job description.
  This provides the answer to the age –old question: What’s In It For Me? or WIIFM...

The next step was a discussion on Leadership- What makes a good Leader and can Leadership be taught? Nancy’s handouts on the Socratic Teaching Method and Peer Leadership provided the context for our interactive group conversations.

The third focus area, Measuring Worth and Results reinforced our individual program’s initiatives, goals and performance measurements. Is there a need? What is that need? Don’t reinvent the wheel. Has a need assessment already been done? Talk to people. What is the impact? Is it qualitative or quantitative?

The final topic of the day was on Energy and Self-Motivation as a leadership tool. Leading others requires building relationships, talking with people, finding your audience and keeping in touch. Let your volunteers know what they accomplished, how their time has made a difference. Be specific.

Everyday we are faced with new challenges in Volunteer Management Ms. Macduff’s workshop offered an organized approach, with valuable insights into helping us make our programs better.

For more information on Volunteer Management visit the Macduff/Bunt Associates electronic gazette:
www.volunteertoday.com

Article submitted by Dee Loar
RSVP - Brighton Center
Appalachian Self-Sufficiency Program
Director: Sharlet Butler
Toll-Free: 800-737-2723
Sponsor: Big Sandy Area District Development
# of Members: 15
Program Mission: Members provide pre-employment training to TANF and/or TANF eligible individuals and will assist those elderly who are facing barriers that hinder self-sufficiency.

Student Service Consortium Center
Director: Nancy Thames
Phone: 859-622-6543
Sponsor: Eastern Kentucky University
# of Members: 21
Program Mission: Members implement K-12 literacy tutoring programs for 800 students with at least 85% improving vocabulary, comprehension and reading skills.

Kentucky PROMISECorps
Director: Steve Swim
Phone: 606-783-2719
Sponsor: Morehead State University
# of Members: 40
Program Mission: Members provide reading tutoring to 400 at-risk students with 85% of the students increasing their reading level performance by at least two reading Levels. Members will also develop and maintain Four Sites of Promise.

KY-READS
Director: Shannon Bailes
Phone: 270-684-5300
Sponsor: Barren County School District
# of Members: 25
Program Mission: In structured reading sessions, members and community volunteers will raise the reading comprehension levels of K-5 students a minimum of two reading levels. Members will also provide support to the parents/guardians of the children in an effort to create a literacy rich environment.

Getting Things Done for Kentucky’s Homeless
Director: Jake Mercier
Phone: 502-223-1834
Sponsor: Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
# of Members: 21
Program Mission: Members counsel low-income families/individuals in permanent and transitional housing with 85% achieving their housing goals. Members also serve as construction assistants at non-profit agencies rehabilitating and building housing in low-income communities.

Senior Connections
Director: Dave Clark
Toll-Free: 800-928-9094
Sponsor: Green River Area Development District
# of Members: 20
Program Mission: Members seek to improve the quality of life for the at-risk low income elderly by providing in-home assistance in the areas of chore, home repair, home management, caregiver relief and home safety education. Members initiate, implement and participate in senior-centered activities; are trained in disaster response and assist in local community projects.

GRADD Homeland Security Corps
Director: Dave Clark
Toll-Free: 800-928-9094
Sponsor: Green River Area Development District
# of Members: 10
Program Mission: Members are placed in rapid response agencies to educate individuals in public safety, public health and disaster preparedness issues; train agency affiliated volunteers; and assist in developing closer collaboration among local response agencies.

Senior Service Corps Conference
In September 15th the ballroom of the Bowling Green Convention Center looked like a scene straight out of the movie Cocoon. Two hundred and 45 seniors (55 or older) from across the state of Kentucky and a small portion of Eastern Tennessee gathered for the opening dinner of the Kentucky Senior Service Corps Association’s 2004 volunteer conference. All of the seniors work in their local communities through one of four types of programs: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program or Kentucky Seniors Saving Medicare. The seniors were welcomed by Cheryl Allen, Associate Director of Community Action of Southern Kentucky, this year’s hosting agency and Bowling Green’s Mayor Sandy Jones. Susan West of WUHU FM was the keynote speaker for the opening dinner.

Thursday September 16th the volunteers spent their day attending workshops such as Estate Planning and Other Legal Matters, Methamphetamine Lab Awareness, Cancer Awareness, Seniors and Nutrition, Self-Defense for Seniors, Terrorism Awareness, Disaster Preparedness, Surviving Tornadoes and Yoga Basics for Seniors. A bus from Community Action of Southern Kentucky transported to the mall any senior who wanted to get in some afternoon shopping.

Thursday night the ballroom was the scene of their long anticipated “senior” prom. Each senior entered the ballroom on a red carpet and was provided a corsage or boutonniere. Ernie Small and The Ernie Small Blues Band provided the music. The seniors danced the night away under a balloon arch and sipped sparkling punch from a champagne fountain.

On Friday morning the seniors attended one last workshop after breakfast. There was six workshops to choose from such as; Medicaid Awareness, Fire Safety and Your Home’s Hidden Dangers, Cultural Diversity, Negative Drug Reactions From Over-the – Counter Medications and Weatherizing Your Home. The seniors were entertained at the closing luncheon by William Turner a professor at Hopkinsville Community College.

Submitted by Sandi Knight, Director of Senior Services, Community Action of Southern Kentucky

Answer 1. BUNGLER, EXPERT (from Pg. 5) 2. KIND, MEAN 3. STABLE, SHAKY 4. RAPID, SLOW 6. FLOAT, SINK

WHAT'S ON OUR CALENDAR?

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

- AmeriCorps Grant Application Information Dates:
  - All forums will be held from 10 AM to 2 PM (local time)!
  - Big Sandy Area Development District, Prestonsburg – October 18, 2004
  - Brighton Center, Newport – October 19, 2004
  - Kentucky Community Action Agency, Frankfort – October 20, 2004
  - KY-READS, Hissville – October 21, 2004
  - Green River Area District Development, Owensboro – October 26, 2004
  - For More Information, Contact KCCVS!


- Application Training Dates in Frankfort
  - November 9, 2004 from 12 Noon to 3 PM
  - November 10, 2004 from 10 AM to 1 PM

- Veteran’s Day – Thursday, November 11, 2004


- Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 25, 2004


NEXT ISSUE:

- Governor’s Awards Information
- A note from Commissioner Marla Montell
- Commissioner Spotlight on Lee Nimocks
- Make A Difference Day highlights

The Commission’s web site is http://volunteerky.ky.gov/