

The Caring Connection



Long Island State Veterans Home
AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
Volunteer Services Newsletter

Spring, May 1 2011

National Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 10-16 was National Appreciation Week. It's a nice way to celebrate and recognize all the wonderful work that volunteers do in our country and community.

We had a couple of nice events during the week and plenty of goodies to munch on in the office. On Tuesday, we had Lee grace Cannella, the Director of Therapeutic Recreation do a special in-service for us about the field of Therapeutic Recreation, all the new innovative programs we have and about our special Snoezelen Room for sensory stimulation programs. Lee shared with us her journey into the field of Therapeutic Recreation. She also brought with her some equipment from the Snoezelen Room so we could get a hands on experience. All the participants found it very informative and interesting.

On Wednesday we had a small event for the volunteers in the Education Center. We had a light lunch and an ample amount of desserts. Not the place to be if you were trying to watch your diet!!!! Thank you to all the volunteers who brought a contribution to our luncheon, it was much appreciated.

During this event we had a slide show, music and games. Jonathan Spier, Director of Community Relations attended and spoke for Senior Staff.

He thanked all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Jonathan also gave us an update on the State budget. Although the Veterans Home is experiencing less budget cuts than the worst case scenario, we are still going to be hit with a total budget cut of about 3.5 million dollars, this is about 8% of our budget. This is a larger hit than anticipated. All departments were asked to make an immediate 6% budget cut in March. We are cutting and trimming our budgets without it affecting the quality of care or quality of life that we provide.

Jonathan emphasized how vital volunteers are in supporting our mission and keeping a positive environment for the residents during these tough times. He also mentioned the need for all of us to come together.

If you know of any groups, organizations or companies that would like to make a donation, we are always looking for more sponsors of special events and recreation trips, to the Home. Information can be found on our website in the "How to Help" section.

Congratulations to our winner of the Name That Newsletter contest: Joe Nardi came in first place with "The Volunteer Pulse". Carol Goett was our runner up with "The Heartbeat of LISVH".

Inside:

See "Susan's Corner" for information about:

- The State Budget & How the Volunteer Dept met the requirement of a 6% budget cut.
- Hand crafted items auction: help raise funds for the Volunteer Department.

Congratulations to our volunteer, Clare Lorser for receiving a Certificate of Special Recognition by Suffolk County for her work with veterans and volunteer work in the community.

Hand Crafted Wares Auction

Help the Volunteer Department raise money for our recognition program. During our Recognition Luncheon we will be holding an auction of hand crafted items. I already have commitments from my parents for two, matted and framed water color paintings, I will contribute a beaded jewelry set, and if my sister has her pottery wheel up and running by then, we will have a donation of some pottery as well. I am looking for talented volunteers to make a donation to this auction. Do you do cross stitching? Knitting? Crocheting? Rug Hooking? Painting? Photography? Please consider donating one of your hand crafted items for our auction. Speak to Susan, ASAP if interested in donating something, or if you can get a donation from a friend or family member. Any paintings or photographs would need to be properly framed for hanging. All items should be new, finished, ready for use and nicely presented.

Happy Birthday Volunteer!

May

Patricia Abbatiello
James Bassett
Kumkum Bhasin
Amy Druhm
Karen Faber
Joseph Feiss
Yentl Garzia
James Grey
Michael Hengerie
Charles Hickmann
Daniel Jackson
Patrick Kearney
Patrick McStay
Gerry Mignon
Kimberly Paulsen
Anthony Russo
Carol Scarpinella
Seymour Schlachter
Naveen Shoaib
Dorothy Solomon
Rose Marie Tronolone
Khine Aye Mya Tun
Douglass Zhong

June

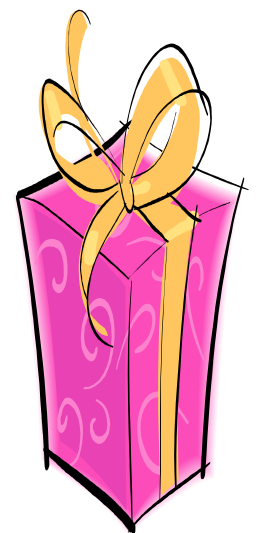
Chris Bahl
Paul Bocci
Edward Bram
Eileen Byrnes

Kevin Chen
Eleanor Contreiras
Emily Cooper
Vannia Cordova
Joseph Dougherty
Sharon Epstein
Loretta Fafard
Kristin Hayes
Celestine Honu
Jane Ingoglia
Alfred Kafanabo
Kirpal Kochar
Robert Leonardi
Tony Martelli
Irmgard Miller
Debby Murrin
Joseph Nolan
Geraldine O'Brien
Andrew Pang
Werner Reuss
Rosemarie Rubenbauer
Lorraine Schweers
Ilona Sharapan
Maggie Sherriff
Johanna Tsouris
Fred Weinstein

July

Arlene Aspromgos
Timothy Bedell
Michael Cafarella

Jerry Carr
Richard Dambeck
Justine Davies
Joseph DeBernardo
Sarah Dennehy
James Gunn
Laura Haller
Lennon Henry
Maggie Knight
Kenneth Kramer
Richard LaMonte
David Lance
Marlene Lenobel
Mary Liotta
Samantha Lotter
Danielle Maher
Kirsten Meyer
Jan Daniel Navarra
Sean O'Come
Caroline Parker
Richard Pigott
Jim Raleigh
Alyson Rofrano
Louie Ruocco
Michelle Schub
Kent Wang
Honora Wichrowski



***Best Wishes On Your
Special Day!!!***

Susan's Corner

Dear Volunteers,

As many of you know the State is facing a huge deficit. Being a New York State agency, this affects the Veterans Home. Our budget has been affected in three ways. Firstly: \$900,000 was cut by the "NY State Agency Reduction in Workforce Act", this was taken from our operating budget. Secondly, we are also affected by Medicaid cuts since 80% of our residents are on Medicaid. The Medicaid cuts equaled 1.9 million. On top of all that we are forced to increase our fringe benefits for employees from 31% to 33% per employee, this equaled \$800,000. The total cuts we are facing are about 3.5 million, this is about 8% of our budget.

Back in March each department at the Veterans Home was asked to propose a 6% cut to their operating budget to go into affect immediately. This was in anticipation of the cuts that were coming down from Albany.

The Volunteer Department did its part and proposed a 6% cut from our overall budget. In order to make this proposal I took into consideration the following: I did not want to affect the services we provide the residents or the Home. I wanted to minimize the impact on our outside partnerships with organizations such as the Red Cross or Stony Brook University. I wanted to keep intact staff hours.

To help me determine what could be cut (since we already run pretty lean), I turned to the survey I did of volunteers last year regarding our recognition program. The volunteers surprised me by rating the Holiday Party as their favorite recognition event. The June Recognition Luncheon came in second and last was the lunch we did for National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

I needed to cut \$6,000 from our budget that mostly consists of staffing. The biggest expenditure we have is our outside catering, coming in at \$8,000 a year. As a result, this is where I needed to make some cuts.

We will have two small events during National Volunteer Week, instead of the large luncheon and one small event. The Recognition Luncheon in June will be conducted in the facility. We will still be inviting those volunteers who are active and have done 50 hours in the past year (May—April). We will have a very nice event with the expertise of the Dietary department including a very nice hot luncheon, desserts, decorations and a nice program (with pins, special awards and certificates).

The Holiday Luncheon we will still have outside of the facility. However instead of a catering hall, I am looking to hold it at a Veterans Post or Firehouse. The room would have to hold about 125 people. We are looking for a volunteer who can get us this type of space for free or at a very minimal cost. Please speak to me if you can help us out with this. We will cater the event, with possibly an addition of some pot luck dishes. It will be a very nice get together for everyone, a nice way to bring in the holiday season.

I am also going to be doing a fundraising auction event at the Recognition Luncheon to raise money for the department and the Holiday Luncheon. Please see the article on page 2 for details.

Connected in caring,

Susan K. Helmus

Director of Volunteer Services

Welcome! New Volunteers



We're Glad You Found Us!

February

Amy Lester
 Jessalynn Borja
 Ellen Schnebel
 John Desio
 Kristin Carle
 Michael Cafarella
 Jasper Alindogan
 Amy Druhm
 Rebekah Lester
 Robert Gonnely
 Hannah Ralph
 Myra Morris-Gjurkaj

Amit Kumar
 Samantha Lotter

March

Khine Aye Mya Tun
 Kirpal Kochar
 Ariel Cruz
 Andrew Chung
 Ning Wang
 Hye Ji Oh
 Stephen Miro
 Mary Gange
 Caroline Parker
 Jessica Murray
 Anthony Mikolich

Michael Greene
 Marian Gerges

April

Nancy Allegretti
 Yentl Garzia
 Meagan Groneman
 Samantha Thomas



"Freedom lies in being bold". ~ Robert Frost

Celebrating You! Thank You For Your Years of Service!

February

17 Years

Fred Weinstein

13 Years

Patricia Blinn

11 Years

Alonzo Werner

Chris Bahl

8 Years

Ralph Goodwin

6 Years

Richard LaMonte

4 Years

John Mitchell Armbruster

Robert Leonardi

Carol Goett

Frank Goett

2 Years

Alexis Cahill

March

15 Years

Barbara Tyler-Lewis

Lou Lehe

13 Years

Joseph Dougherty

Gerard Galvin

12 Years

Joan Johnson

11 Years

Janet Argentieri

Angela Salvatore

Robin Salvatore

10 Years

Edward Doerrbecker

9 Years

Richard Orefice

8 Years

Lawrence Tronolone

Rose Marie Tronolone

5 Years

Carol McGeever

Joseph DeBernardo

3 Years

Pacelli Kearney

2 Years

Lucio Cassara

April

10 Years

Louis Piergiorgi

8 Years

Joseph Nardi

5 Years

Paul Napoli

Robert Bein

Robert Capolino

4 Years

Marilyn Brewer

Joseph Nolan

Barbara Smith

Carol Newton-Addressi

3 Years

Anthony Russo

Janet Masini

Nicholas Menechella

2 Years

Matthew Meyer

Daniel Jackson

Ronald Kelson

Eileen Byrnes

Carmela Keating

Richard Pigott

We are looking for people to join our Holiday Party Team. We will need assistance with a theme, decorations, finding a location and a caterer, organizing Pot Luck Dishes, as well as set up that day. Consider helping us out by joining our organizing Team.