

The Aging Network

Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Serving Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties in Ohio

www.aaa7.org Helping You Age *Better!*



SUMMER 2010

Thanks Given and Awards Presented at Annual Appreciation Brunch

Giving thanks. That was common place at this year's Area Agency on Aging District 7's (AAA7) Appreciation Brunch, which was celebrated June 21, 2010, at the Southern Ohio Medical Center Friends Center in Portsmouth.

Throughout the special event, several individuals and groups throughout the Agency's 10-county District were recognized for their service and dedication to not only the Agency as a whole, but more importantly, the communities and seniors served by the Agency.

Special Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. awards that were presented at the event to individuals or groups included:

William A. Jenkins Award

This year's "William A. Jenkins Award" was presented to Alvin Norris, Executive Director of the Adams-Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc. (ABEOI), a community action organization serving Adams and Brown counties. The AAA7 presents the award annually to an outstanding contributor to the southern Ohio aging network.

Norris is a 1974 graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology, and a 1994 graduate of the University of Dayton, where he earned a master's degree in education.

Norris began his employment at the ABEOI in September 1974 as a social worker in the Child Development Program. In May of the following year, he was promoted to Youth Program Director before assuming the role of Manpower Director in October 1976. In 1980, Norris became the Executive Director of ABEOI, the position he continues to hold today.

Norris' leadership with low-income senior housing and the needs of the elderly, including a senior nutrition program and in-home services, have certainly served Adams and Brown County seniors well. The AAA7 presented this special award to Norris for his over 35 years of dedicated service to rural southern Ohio residents in the greatest social and economic need, and for his ongoing commitment to better the lives of those living in Adams and Brown Counties.



Pictured is Alvin Norris who receives his award from AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura.

The award is named in memory of William A. Jenkins, a native of Gallia County, who helped build the aging

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Our Mission

Assisting individuals to maintain independence and personal choice by providing resource options and services.

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network in southern Ohio through the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Legislator of the Year Award

This year's "Legislator of the Year Award" was presented to State Senator John Carey.

Senator Carey was instrumental in helping with legislation, that was signed into law on May 27, 2010, surrounding Home First, a program which broadens access to home and community-based services for Ohioans when waiting lists exist, giving many older Ohioans, their families and caregivers the choice they desire and deserve. This "Home First" legislation extends the program to older adults leaving hospitals or in abusive and/or self-neglect situations, as well as those who have depleted their assets in assisted living facilities, or whose physicians have signed that they are at risk of nursing facility placement within 30 days.



Pam Matura, Executive Director of the AAA7, recognized Senator Carey for his willingness to be a true champion of such an important cause, and his role as one of Ohio's best champions for older adults. Matura also made mention of the "close to home" feel of the legislation as the initial idea came forth from a conversation she had with Senator Carey regarding the issues Home First now addresses. Matura applauded Senator Carey for his advocacy, leadership, and vision that helped transform the idea to a state law that can now benefit a great number of older Ohioans.

Pictured is, left to right, Pam Matura, Senator John Carey and Larke Recchie, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The Senator was presented with a special shadowbox in appreciation of his dedication with the Home First legislation.

Trailblazer Award

This year's "Trailblazer Award" was presented to the AAA7 Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

The Ombudsman Program was recognized for its hard work and dedication with "Home Choice", a program that was designed to assist individuals when moving from a nursing home to life back in a home or community-based setting. The Home Choice program, made possible by funds from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will enable around 2,200 Ohio seniors and persons with disabilities to experience the smoothest transition possible between their nursing home stay and return to home.



The Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, under the leadership of Kaye Inoshita, RN, was recognized at the event for their tireless work and dedication to individuals who need personalized assistance with this special transition.

Pictured are, left to right, Rex Sanders, Kaye Inoshita, Larke Recchie, Cindy Oakes, Debbie Collier, John Hogan and Pam Matura.

Partnership Award

This year's "Partnership Award" was presented to Melanie McPeak of Edgewood Manor in Wellston, and Russ Pruitt of Pleasant Hill Manor in Piketon.

Both McPeak and Pruitt were essential partners and supporters of the AAA7's Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Home Choice program, as mentioned with the Trailblazer Award.



According to Kaye Inoshita, RN, Director of the AAA7's Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, both McPeak and Pruitt are social workers who went beyond their normal responsibilities to help residents transition back into their communities. This included assistance

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Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has made the Home Choice program one that is making a difference in the lives of others.

Pictured, left to right, is Melanie McPeak, Larke Recchie, Kaye Inoshita and Russ Pruitt.

Intergenerational Service Award

This year's "Intergenerational Service Award" was presented to Brownie Troop #1926 from Minford in Scioto County.

Over the year, Brownie Troop #1926 has volunteered at a number of events to help seniors who are enrolled in the Agency's Residential State Supplement and Assisted Living programs. The Troop delivered Easter baskets and Christmas stockings to 100 residents living in adult group homes in Lawrence County, and most recently sponsored an Ice Cream Social at Holzer Assisted Living in Jackson where one of the residents shared that although they enjoyed the ice cream very much, spending time with the girls was the real "treat."



Troop Leader Dawn Blankenship reports that the community service projects have been the girls' favorite. "The girls love showing others that they are cared about and through their volunteer work, are able to see firsthand that although they are young, they can still make a difference in someone else's life," she commented.

Pictured is, front row, left to right, Samantha Pitts, Ashley Blankenship and Brooklynn Anderson. Back row, left to right, Pam Matura, Parent Volunteer Jody Pitts, Kaitlyn Blankenship and Troop Leader Dawn Blankenship. Not pictured is Hope Caudill, Julia Lundy and Taylor Simpson.

Special recognition was also given at the event to the following groups and individuals:

Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteers

Pictured, left to right, are Ombudsman Cindy Oakes, Volunteer Doug McCoard, Volunteer Lavon Shields, Volunteer Jan Harper, Volunteer Debby Mersiel, Pam Matura, Volunteer Joyce Harber, Ombudsman Program Director Kaye Inoshita, Ombudsman Debbie Collier and Ombudsman Rex Sanders. Not pictured are Ombudsman Volunteers John Brewer, Rich Burton, Sharon Fagan, Sherry Headley, Margaret Miller, Lois Nause, Paul Plymale, Jerry Towler and Kim Wicker.



Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest Volunteers

Pictured is, left to right, Pam Matura, Daniel Dotson, Mary Maxson, Annabelle Miller, Irena Skaggs, Joyce Haag, Lavon Shields, Jane Bragg, Anna Summers, Betty Means, and RSVP Director Susan Rogers. Not pictured are Rita Baker, Betty Bouts, Helen Brohard, Carolyn Coon, Phyllis Fulk, Virginia Horn, Jayne Horton, Carolee Lewis, Rosemary Matthews, Rushie McAllister, Inez Miller, Bob Powell, Vickie Powell, Barbara Shelton, Phyllis Taylor, Phyllis Wade and Ruth Yates.



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AAA7 Nurses Recognized

The work of America's 3.1 million registered nurses to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals was the focus of this year's National Nurses Week, celebrated annually May 6-12 throughout the United States.

This year, the American Nurses Association (ANA) selected "**Nurses: Caring Today for a Healthier Tomorrow**" as the theme for 2010. Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession.

Through the Area Agency on Aging District 7, nurses cover a wide range of services to individuals in the Agency's 10-county District which includes Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

Nurses with the AAA7 wear many different hats and take on a variety of roles including advocate, assessor, case manager, consultant, health educator, and care planning coordinator. Nurses conduct these functions for the many programs available through the Agency that provide individuals with assistance to support independent living in their own home. Nurses recommend and refer these individuals to services like personal care/homemaking, adult day care, assisted living, home repair, transportation, home-delivered meals, and client advocacy in order for them to remain safely and independently as possible in their home.

"We applaud and salute our nurses throughout our Agency during National Nurses Week in May and all throughout the year," stated Pamela K. Matura, Executive Director for the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. "Through their hard work and dedication, seniors in our region have the resources that make it possible for them to live safely and securely in their own homes."



Adams County Office Nurses



Gallia County Office Nurses



Pike County Office Nurses



Scioto County Office Nurses

Older Americans Month Proclamations in May



ADAMS COUNTY - Seated, left to right, Adams County Commissioners **Brian Baldridge, Roger Rhonemus and Justin Cooper**. Standing, left to right, are **Melody Stapleton**, Director of the Adams County Senior Center; **Tina Lightcap** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7); and **Kathleen Finnegan**, Board Member with the AAA7.



GALLIA COUNTY - Front row, left to right, **Linda Oiler** with the AAA7; **Shirley Doss** with the Gallia County Council on Aging; and Gallia County Commissioner **Justin Fallon**. Back row, left to right, are Gallia County Commissioner **Joe Foster**; Gallia County Commissioner **Lois Snyder**; and **Kathy Lathey** with the AAA7.



JACKSON COUNTY - Seated, left to right, Jackson County Commissioners **Jim Riepenhoff, Ed Armstrong and Tom Walton**. Standing, left to right, are **Sharon Bowman, Sarah Tobert and Aggie Stevenson** with the AAA7; **Janet Massie** with the Jackson County Senior Center; and **Andy Graham**, Board Member with the AAA7.



PIKE COUNTY - Seated, Pike County Commissioners **Teddy West, Harry Rider and Blaine Beekman**. Standing, left to right, are **Teresa Gillespie** with the AAA7; **Patricia Strickland**, Board Member with the AAA7; **Jessica Bowers** with the AAA7; **Bertha Scowden** with the Pike County Senior Center; **Alice Ward**, Board Member with the AAA7; and **Diane Renner**, Director of the Pike County Senior Center.



BROWN COUNTY - Left to right, **Doug Green**, Board Member with the AAA7; **Sue Brooks**, Director of the Brown County Senior Citizens Center; **Karen Sowards** of the AAA7; and Brown County Commissioners **Margery Peltz, William R. Geschwind and Ralph Jennings**.



HIGHLAND COUNTY - Left to right, Highland County Commissioners **Gary Heaton, Shane Wilkin and Thomas Horst**. Standing, left to right, are **Suzanne Hopkins**, Director of the Highland County Senior Center; **Harold Walker**, Board Member with the AAA7; **Sharon Bowman** with the AAA7; and **Susan Royse** with the AAA7.



LAWRENCE COUNTY - Left to right, Lawrence County Commissioner **Les Boggs; Jim Malone** with Lawrence County Community Action (LCCA); **Darlene Greene** with LCCA; Commissioner **Jason Stephens**; **Karen Wilcoxon** with the AAA7; **Beth Frazier** with LCCA; **Chuck Harper**, Board Member with the AAA7; **Carolyn Hopper** with the AAA7; and Commissioner **Douglas Malone**.



ROSS COUNTY - Front row, left to right, **Jodi Riley**, Director of the Ross County Senior Center; **John Stultz**, Board Member with the AAA7; and **Joy Polley** with the AAA7. Standing, left to right, are Ross County Commissioners **R. Douglas Corcoran, James M. Caldwell and Frank Hirsch**.

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28th Annual Art Show Recognizes Senior Talent

The artwork of local seniors was recently showcased at the Area Agency on Aging District 7's (AAA7) 28th Annual Senior Citizens Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest that was held at the Esther Allen Greer Museum and Gallery, located on the campus of the University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, Ohio.

Ohio residents age 55 or older were eligible to participate in the Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest that was on display from June 1 through June 10, 2010. Examples of art categories that were entered in the Contest included acrylic, charcoal, counted cross stitch, mixed media, oil, pastels, pencil, and photography. Judging themes included abstract, animals and birds, cartoons, floral, landscape, portraits (humans), seascape, and still life, in addition to essays and poetries.

A special Tea to honor the artists was held on June 10 where winners were announced and recognized. Artists representing the District's 10 counties were in attendance.

A complete list of winners is located on the Area Agency on Aging District 7's website, www.aaa7.org.

Special recognition was given to this year's Victor Potts Award Winner (Best of Show), Pat Thompson of Adams County; this year's People's Choice Award Winner, Rick Mitchell of Gallia County; and the 2009 Victor Potts Award Winner, Sandra Lane of Gallia County.

Older Americans Month....continued from Page 5



SCIOTO COUNTY - Left to right, **Tammy Nelson**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Scioto County Commissioner Vernal G. Riffe III**; **Renee Ellis**, Director of the Scioto County Senior Center; **Scioto County Commissioner Thomas Reiser**; **Teresa Reed-Powell** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and **Jennifer Horn** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7.



Left: 2010 Victor Potts Award Winner, **Pat Thompson** of Adams County, who is pictured with her winning art piece, "Winter Apple."



Right: 2010 People's Choice Award Winner, **Rick Mitchell** of Gallia County, who is pictured with his winning art piece, "Abandoned." Also pictured is his wife, **Becky** (left), and AAA7 Executive Director **Pam Matura** (right).



Left: 2009 Victor Potts Award Winner, **Sandra Lane** of Gallia County, who is pictured with the 2010 Art Show promotional poster featuring her 2009 winning piece, "Raccoon in Our Backyard." Presenting the framed poster to Sandra is AAA7 Executive Director **Pam Matura**.



VINTON COUNTY - Front row, left to right, **Laura Frazier** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Rhoda Price**, Director of the Vinton County Senior Center; **Lisa Burleson** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Deanna Tribe**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and **Jane Ann Burns**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7. Back row, left to right, **Bonnie Perry** with the Vinton County Senior Center; **Angela Horn** with the Vinton County Commissioners Office; Vinton County Commissioner **Thomas H. Morgan**; Vinton County Commissioner **Michael M. Bledsoe**; and Vinton County Commissioner **Jerry Zinn**.

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Outstanding Seniors

(As Selected by Each County Senior Center)



Pictured is, left to right, Pam Matura, Richard Crabtree (Highland County 2009), Ruth Crabtree (Highland County 2009), Bonnie Fitzpatrick (Lawrence County), Isaac Burton Young (Adams County), Violet Williams (Pike County), Sharon Fenner (Highland County 2010), Hugh Fenner (Highland County 2010) and Jeannette Fenner Knauff (Highland County 2010). Not pictured are: Charlotte Patrick (Gallia County), Ray Fenner (Highland County), Bud Fenner (Highland County), Judith A. Bowling (Jackson County), Lena Brown (Lawrence County), Wilma Graves (Ross County) and Norma Bennett (Ross County).

State Awardees

(District Honorees from the Ohio Department of Aging)
Elder Caregiver of the Year Award - George Gray of Scioto County. Pictured below, left, with Pam Matura.
Senior Hall of Fame Inductee - Dr. Mel Simon of Gallia County. Pictured below, right, with Barbara Riley, Director of the Ohio Department of Aging, Pam Matura and Kay Allbright with the AAA7.

Joined Hearts in Giving – Earl and Betty Miller of Scioto County.

Joined Hearts in Giving – Hugh and Barb Cahill of Brown County.



The Area Agency on Aging District 7 was pleased to host another successful Appreciation Brunch to extend its thankfulness and appreciation to all the individuals and groups who make its District so special.

AAA7 Announces New Slogan

A new slogan has been developed for the Area Agency on Aging District 7!

Why a new slogan? To help the public better identify with the Agency and understand its mission and vision. Something quick, to-the-point and memorable. The Agency's "fight song"!

The new slogan was chosen from a number of entries that were submitted by staff throughout the Agency. In fact, 75 slogans were entered by many staff representing the four office locations.

All entries were presented to the AAA7 Management Team without the names of the staff member who submitted the slogan in order to support a fair and balanced process. It was a hard decision, but after much thought and consideration, the new slogan was decided – **"Helping You Age Better."** The slogan nicely sums up the Agency's helping nature while presenting a positive image and outlook on the aging process.

Look for **"Helping You Age Better"** in upcoming and future promotion, advertising, and other similar activities to help aid the AAA7 in our outreach, education and communication to our communities and public.

The Area Agency on
Aging District 7
Helping You Age Better!



Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

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Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. serves the following counties in Ohio: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

Services are rendered on a non-discriminatory basis. Those interested in learning more about the services provided through the

Area Agency on Aging District 7 can also call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277. Here, individuals can talk directly with a nurse or social worker who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs.

Senior Expo is September 10th!

After taking a year off, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) Senior Expo is back and set for Friday, September 10, 2010. This popular event will take place at the Scioto County Fairgrounds in Lucasville from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. This year's theme is "Wild, Wild West."

In the past, the AAA7 Senior Expo has welcomed over 3,000 visitors to this one-day event that has served as a favorite throughout the district. Features at the Senior Expo include exhibit booths, free health screenings, Bingo, door prizes, live entertainment, a cake auction, food, games, and much more. The event's program will include Dick Lucas, "The Piano Man", from 10:00 am until 11:30 am; the Veterans Program from 11:30 am until 12 Noon; Cake Auction at 12 Noon; and the Joe Freeman Band immediately following the Cake Auction until the close of the event.

WANTED!

**YOUR ATTENDANCE AT
THE 2010 SENIOR EXPO!**

SPONSORED BY YOUR
AREA AGENCY ON AGING DISTRICT 7

WILD - WILD - WEST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(GATES OPEN AT 8:00 AM)**

**SCIOTO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
LUCASVILLE, OHIO**

The Area Agency on Aging District 7's (AAA7) Senior EXPO welcomes over 3,000 visitors to this one-day event that is a favorite throughout the district. Features at the EXPO include exhibit booths, free health screenings, Bingo, door prizes, live entertainment, a cake auction, food, games and more!

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

ATTENDANCE IS FREE!

If you are interested in sponsoring the event or participating as a vendor, please call Sharon Bowman with the AAA7 at 1-800-582-7277. Sponsorships will be accepted until the day of the event.

HOPE TO SEE YA 'PARDNER!