

# Volunteers Assisting Seniors formerly VIE June 2007

*The Center Mall, 1941 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 502, Omaha, NE., (402)444-6617*

## Fundraising Success!!

Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 was the date for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual VAS Golf outing. This year we had 42 golfers participate and the weather could not have been more cooperative. We were fortunate this year to have 6 Gold sponsors as well as 14 Hole sponsors in addition to many, many wonderful donations for our raffle. Our raffle brought in almost \$1,000.00 this year. VAS volunteer

Rick Scofield won a week stay in a beautiful cabin in Grand Lake Colorado in our big raffle. Thank you to the family of VAS staff member Kelly Simmons for donating the trip! Many people contributed to the success of the day and I would like to thank all of the VAS staff who worked hard in addition to our outstanding golf committee: Don and Joann Riewer and Marian

and Gerry Freberg. We could not have had such a great event without your hard work! We are so happy to share with others in the community the good work that our volunteers do and this was one more opportunity to see just how much our community supports us. Thanks!

*Jimel*



These guys and gals are having fun even before and after



Having fun relaxing on the course



The Top 2 Teams of the Tournament!!



**VOLUNTEERS  
ASSISTING SENIORS**

### Mission:

To Utilize the Skills, Education and Knowledge of Retired Volunteers to Assist other Seniors in Understanding and Pursuing their Entitlements

*SENIORS  
HELPING  
SENIORS*



**American Foundation for  
the Blind Launches Web Site  
for Seniors**

It's no secret that current rates of vision loss from diseases like age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy are expected to double as the nation's 78 million baby boomers reach retirement age. To help address this growing public health concern, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has launched the AFB Senior Site

(<http://www.afb.org/seniorsite>), designed for seniors losing their vision, their families, and the professionals who serve them. The site is rich with information-including photos, videos, articles, and resource links to enhance the independence of older people beginning to experience vision loss.

Visitors will also find inspiring messages from seniors who have been recently diagnosed with eye diseases. Their compelling stories offer a positive outlook and help dispel fears about what living with vision loss means

(<http://www.afb.org/seniorsite.asp?SectionID=68&DocumentID=3338>)

*\*\*NOTE: If you don't have internet access and would like to visit this website, come in to the VAS office and we will be happy to help!!*



**PLEASE,  
JOIN US!!**

**We are in the process of organizing the Volunteer Recognition Dinner in July. This event takes the place of our July meeting.**

**After ironing out the details, we will be advising everyone of the location, date and time.**

**Since VAS depends on every one of you, we hope to see every one of you there!! 😊**



**Homestead Exemption  
News**

**thank you...Thank You...THANK YOU...**

to all the volunteers who participated in the Homestead Exemption Counseling Event on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized and sponsored by AARP to coincide with their 2007 "Day of Service" and VAS was asked to work in partnership, along with cooperation from the assessor's offices. Six counseling sites in 5 counties (Cass, Dodge, Washington, Douglas and Sarpy) and 51 volunteers teamed up to produce outstanding outreach effort results. Over 120 HE filings were submitted with 75 applications being "first timers"!

Special recognition goes to our VAS volunteers who played a big part in the event's success. Hats off to: Juanita Moore, Leonard Finnegan, Jack Noodell, Linda Madgett, Gerry Freberg, JoAnn & Don Riewer, Joyce Mack, Jim Umshler, Judy Williams, Mary Sue Offerjost, Bill Hamilton and Rick Scofield. As always, thank you for caring!

*With Homestead season drawing to a close, please make sure that all of your homebound clients have been contacted for assistance. If you encounter problems, please call the VAS office so that we can follow-up with the assessor's office.*



***Thirty Magical Years***

***A Starry Eyed Future***

VAS (formerly VIE) was created in 1977 so this year marks our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate, VAS is hosting a gala benefit event on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the UNO Alumni Center on 67<sup>th</sup> & Dodge Street. The evening starts with a cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by dinner and a superb program.

Well known personality, Carol Schrader, has agreed to act as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening; while local humorist, Mary Maxwell and Dr. Ron Roskins, former Administrator of USAID and President Emeritus of the University of Nebraska, have agreed to be speakers for the event.

The initial groundwork has been laid, but there is much left to do. We can use your help! If you have suggestions or would like to get involved, please contact VAS volunteers Rick Scofield or Mary Sue Offerjost through the VAS office @ 444-6617.



## Movin' Along....

By Marian Freberg

*This month's column is guest written by Mary Guin Knoll. Mary Guin tells us of a very educational day she spent recently.....Marian*

**I guess** you could call it an ecumenical/melting pot day. It lasted from 8am to 6pm and all because I belong to Fifty-five (55) Plus through Methodist Hospital. Accompanying the group was 55 Plus representative, Marliss Rockwell, who is also a fellow VAS SHIIP volunteer!

Twenty-two of us rode the bus to the Lithuanian Bakery. We had a slide presentation on Lithuania and the proprietor's parents who fled to America in 1949 and became citizens who started a wonderful bakery.

Then on to St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church. There we heard about the country, its people, the church which is affiliated with the Russian church, and the gorgeous embroidery which the young girls do. Then we had Ukrainian coffee cake.

We next hit the Spanish Tapa Bar, Espana, in Benson, where we had tapas (lots of them) and cokes, etc. then a flamenco dancer did a number of dances and explained them to us.

About noon, we came to our next stop—the Hindu temple, where we had a very interesting explanation of the religion. They have never fought a war over religion; they believe everyone should worship God as he/she sees fit.

Then we drove to 98<sup>th</sup> and Giles Road to a Chinese tea house, Back to Guangzhou, for a tea ceremony and more food—very good. At this point our guide said not to fear—no more food!!

So we went to the Greek Orthodox Church where we listened to lots of information about the church and their saints. Their priests can marry before they are ordained. If a wife dies, the priest cannot remarry, but he is eligible to be a bishop. If the wife lives a long happy life, her husband will never be any more than a priest! Then we went down stairs for GREEK PASTRIES. We did not eat any dinner when we got home, but we had a really interesting day!! .....Mary Guin



On behalf of everyone at VAS, we extend our sympathies to the family and friends of longtime VAS volunteer

**Doris Slezak**

Doris had been with VAS since 1985 and passed away in May. She will be sorely missed.

Our condolences also to VAS volunteers

Bob Campbell, on the loss of his wife,

**Marjorie Campbell**

and George Campbell, on the loss of his wife,

**Phyllis Campbell.**

You are in our thoughts and prayers.



## From the Office...

**Well, we survived the month of May. Both daughters have now finished their college careers. At least, that's the story for now. Time will tell. Now, we're looking for housing—an apartment for one and a house in Shenandoah, IA for the other. We keep working toward the goal of an empty nest.**

**Now...about the trip to CA. We arrived on Saturday in 60 degree weather. The temperature didn't change much the entire 5 days I was there. My daughter and I were able to get in to see the taping of a Price Is Right show, but didn't get "called down" to play the games. It was a very long day, but we enjoyed our time together and made a lot of new friends while waiting in line.**

**The golf outing was a wonderful day—beautiful weather (before 5pm) and great company!**

**Thanks to those who made it happen!!**

**I like the opportunity to see so many VAS volunteers in different settings. Congratulations to the winning team and all the raffle prize winners.**



## VAS Wish List

8 1/2 x 11 White Copy Paper  
(Still in need of) Styrofoam cups  
Cream/Sugar (for coffee)

**The Wish List has saved VAS hundreds of dollars—thank you to everyone who has answered the call!**

# JUNE/JULY 07

**Monday**



**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

<p>11</p> <p><b>VAS Conservator Meeting 11:45am-12:45pm</b></p> <p><b>VAS General Meeting 1-3pm</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>Joyce Mack 1-3pm</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p><b>FLAG DAY</b></p> <p><b>Rick Scofield 9am—1pm</b></p>	<p>15</p> <p><b><u>Ask An Attorney Clinic</u> 11:30am-3pm</b></p> <p><i>Mary Guin Knoll</i></p> <p><b>Loren Parks 9:30am—12:30pm</b></p>	<p>16</p>
<p>18</p> <p><b>Bill Hamilton 1pm-4pm</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>Joyce Mack 1-3pm</b></p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>Harley Winchester 1pm-4pm</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Rick Scofield 9am—1pm</b></p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Loren Parks 9:30am—12:30pm</b></p>	<p>23</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Harry Bianchi 8:30am-Noon</b></p> <p><b>Joyce Mack 1-3pm</b></p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Harley Winchester 1pm-4pm</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Rick Scofield 9am—1pm</b></p> <p><b>VAS Board Meeting 1:30pm</b></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p><b><u>July 2</u></b></p> <p><b>Bill Hamilton 1pm-4pm</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Joyce Mack 1-3pm</b></p>	<p>4</p>  <p><b>Independence Day VAS Closed</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>Rick Scofield 9am—1pm</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>.....</p>					