



# NORFOLK COUNTY RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

*Your Invitation to Respond to Your Community*

614 High Street P.O. Box 310 Dedham, MA 02027 781-329-5728



Sep-Oct



*Dedham Savings Bank is the 2018-19 Leadership Sponsor of Norfolk County RSVP*

## 2018 Annual Recognition Luncheon enjoyed by 230 volunteers & guests

On August 9th, RSVP volunteers from all corners of Norfolk County congregated for an enjoyable afternoon of conversation, gifts, good food, raffle drawings, singing; Presidential pins and certificate awards. A lot of hard work was put in by RSVP Advisory Board Members to make this event a great success. Many thanks to Claire Howsberger, Lois Darr, Joanne Douglas, Debbie Fradkin, Laura Kulas, Dorothy Leonard, Roberta Poff, Ruth Pontremoli, Florence Pressler and Dan Seligman. Additional thanks to volunteers Bev Cohen and Jane Vuozzo for their planning and volunteer registration assistance.

This year marks the **225th Anniversary of Norfolk County.**

Commissioner Joseph Shea spoke about long history of county administration and community service which began on March 26, 1793.

We are grateful to **Dedham Savings Bank & Needham Bank**, which continue to be our Luncheon Sponsors.

2 RSVP volunteers were recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards, having volunteered over 4000 hours of their time as of this year. Congratulations to **Judith Briggs of Weymouth**, Meals on Wheels volunteer and **Walter Vetromile of Walpole**, West Roxbury VA Hospital volunteer for their dedication and service to the community.

*Norfolk County Director Frank Hegarty, RSVP Board Chair Claire Howsberger and Norfolk County Commissioner Joseph Shea at Luncheon Guest Registration.*



*Volunteers enjoying conversation.*



## REMEMBERING OUR PASSED VOLUNTEERS AND VETERAN RIDERS

In the past year and one half, we have learned of the passing of former and current RSVP volunteers.

We want to give thanks for and remember:

- Josephine Foley, Weymouth COA volunteer
- Naifee MacLaughlin, Norwood Hospital and Walpole COA volunteer
- Paul McLaughlin, Weymouth COA volunteer
- Carol Parillo, Norfolk County Sheriff's Mentoring volunteer
- Rose Silvestri, Dedham COA & Greenlodge School of Dedham volunteer
- Lionel Godbout, Weymouth School volunteer



*May each memory be a blessing!*

In recent months, many RSVP Rides for Vets drivers have been saddened by the loss of three Veterans who they have given multiple rides to over many months. We remember Veterans Ed T. of Franklin, Charles L. of Canton and Luciano A. of Dedham. We thank them for their service to our Country. We are honored to have served them in their time of need. We are pleased that their families have been able to express their gratitude for the 'Rides for Vets' service to us.

Most recently, we received ecards from Ed T. and his family during his treatments and after his passing. We want their drivers to know of their grateful expressions: "Have you heard... WE THINK YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING...With great thanks for your talents as a Ride for Vets Volunteer. The kindness you have afforded our parents, Ed & Connie has helped to create more beautiful moments in their 59+ years as a couple." With Love and Big Hugs for ALL YOU DO, Nancy & Patrick E. "THANK YOU! MERCI BEAUCOUP! GRACIAS! You've made so many moments possible!!! With Deep Appreciation, Ed & Connie T.'

## Sept 25<sup>th</sup> New School Volunteer Orientation Session

Our final school volunteer orientation & training session for this fall will take place on Tuesday, September 25 from 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon at the Sharon Historical Society Museum (16 High St, Sharon).

If you were not available to attend our earlier training session in July, we request join us on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Cris @ 781-234-3447 to confirm your attendance.

RSVP is funded in part by a National Senior Corps grant and sponsored by the Norfolk County Commissioners:

• Peter H. Collins of Milton, Commissioner

• Joseph P. Shea of Quincy, Commissioner

• Francis W. O'Brien of Dedham, Chairman



## Kudos to Quincy District Court Volunteer Harriet Barrett

Robin Mont, Probation Officer for Quincy District Court recognized RSVP volunteer Harriet Barrett for outstanding performance. "Harriet's filing abilities and computer skills are amazing. Through her excellent organizing abilities, Harriet was able to locate ten dismissed cases from *tons of cases* and retrieve them for the auditor. She organizes, does data entry and box labeling so efficiently and accurately." Thank you Harriet for a job well done!!!



Cris & Roberta Poff

## LUNCHEON 2018 PHOTO ALBUM

Sheriff's Honor Guard >  
< Wafa Lavell & Phyllis Spiro

Judith Briggs & Robert



Bettyanne Lang and ISS table



## Volunteer Profile: Joan Geist-Backs of Norwood 'Music Moves Our Souls'

"My name is Joan Geist-Backs and I have been volunteering for 5 years under the RSVP Volunteer Program. During this time I have been volunteering for the Dedham Council on Aging. Our singing group, 'The Troubadors' is lead by Tammy Allen, Outreach Coordinator. Currently we have around 18-20 members. Over the years, The Troubadors have visited many venues including the Endicott Mansion in Dedham and some Nursing Homes and Elderly facilities.

We put on a Variety Show, where we sing songs from the 40's, 50's 60's and beyond. We do Christmas Shows, Springtime Shows, Summer and St. Patrick Day shows. We do not have a piano player, but use a sophisticated Karaoke machine which provides us background music to sing along with, in various keys. We all get the chance to rehearse and critique ourselves. It really does take a lot of focus to transition from one song to another, but we rise to the occasion. The shows are approximately one and one half hours in length. Everyone has a favorite song to sing. Our director also chooses material for us. We use props from time to time and do wear costumes when in the spirit. We do skits and act out dialogue and dancing. Our repertoire consists of 15-20 songs. We do solo as well as group numbers. One of the ladies even brought in a small dog and she just held the dog in her arms while she was rehearsing. This resulted in a happy rehearsal for all.

The audiences we perform for show their enjoyment of our performance. We are inspired by all of them. We have been written up in the Dedham Times and we enjoy the exposure. I am glad to volunteer in the community since it gives me a great sense of satisfaction. All of our members blend in very well with each other. That is a great situation for volunteering. Every show we perform is a challenge, and we are proud to give back to the community. It is a very pleasant experience and gives us great purpose."

**Editor's note: Current RSVP members of the 'Dedham Troubadors' include: Peggy Atchison, Ayako Brooker, Dottie Burns, Adelia Cibotti, Margaret Dennehy, Joan Geist-Backs, Joan Mancuso, Kelley Nelma, Ethel & Bill Parelli, Claire Pauley and Roberta Poff.**

*From the RSVP archives: A 2015 holiday performance by the Dedham Troubadors.*

