

ExperienceWorks

Prime Time News

Volume 1 - Issue 1 - July 2009

Message from the President



Welcome to the first Prime Time Award Honorees e-newsletter! We are pleased to announce the quarterly e-newsletter exclusively for Prime Time Award Honorees. The e-newsletter will be mailed to you each quarter and will also be available online at www.experienceworks.org. We encourage all of our past honorees to share stories about yourself and your work. We hope that you will take this opportunity to reconnect with each other and we will keep you up-to-date on current Experience Works programs and activities. Our past Prime Time Honorees are an important part of Experience Works and we look forward to staying in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia A Metzler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia A. Metzler

The Walmart Initiative

Walmart and Experience Works are partnering on an important initiative that will help mature workers who do not qualify for government programs get the training they need to find jobs in their communities. The program is currently operating in Arkansas, Florida, Missouri, Pennsylvania and New York. Walmart and Experience Works have a history of partnering, including Walmart's active sponsorship of the Prime Time Awards. Over the last 10 years, several Walmart employees have been recognized as outstanding older workers for their achievements on the job and in their communities. Since June 2008, 39 Experience Works older workers in 17 states were hired by Walmart.



**Celebrate National Employ
the Older Worker Week**

September 19-25, 2009

Capitol Hill Happenings



Experience Works President Cynthia A. Metzler conducted a briefing on the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) on May 14th, highlighting the need for Congressional support for the SCSEP. To read more about the briefing on [Older Workers and the Senior Community Service Employment Program](#), please [click here](#), or go to www.experienceworks.org.

2009 Champion Awards

Experience Works is changing the Prime Time Awards program to the Champion Awards. Each of the 30 states and Puerto Rico, where Experience Works operates the SCSEP, has submitted the name of a participant, host agency and employer. A national winner in each of the three categories will be selected to attend a celebration in September in Washington, DC. This year eight individuals, all over 100 years of age, were nominated to be America's Outstanding Oldest Worker. Stay tuned for more information!

Prime Time Notes



2008 Prime Time Awards Group Photo

2008 Honorees

Gaetano Amato (CT) works at Springfield College, the birth-place of basketball, and he was interviewed by three local newspapers following the Prime Time Awards.

Ray Barney (WA) works at a civil engineering firm and serves on the board of directors of a nonprofit that helps low income residents in his community.

June Butterfield (WV) works for the West Virginia Board of Fish and enjoys staying active.

Gladys Chersack (NJ) works for the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs and enjoys going to Rutgers University football games and being active in the Philanthropic Educational Organization.

Max De St. Jeor (UT) works at Carquest Auto Parts and was honored by Carquest for five years of service.

Jessie Lee Donathan-Howard (NC) works for Home Care Nursing Services providing services to the low-income home bound, and she participates in youth conferences to discuss self-motivation and work ethics. She continues to entertain by portraying Minnie Pearl.

Jean Hines (MO) works on airplane parts for Boeing and Lockheed and enjoys hearing from high school classmates and her local state representative.

Howard Koch (OH) recently retired after 58 years as a practicing dentist and 72 years of working (since the age of 12) in jobs from paperboy, to

grocery store clerk, to typist, to serving as a bombardier, to taxi driver, and driving a bakery route - all before becoming a dentist.

Charlie Kourajian (ND) works for the Main Street Downtown Association, serves on the Jamestown City Council and as Commander of the American Legion Post 14 of North Dakota.

Viola McNeace (CO) works part time, attended the Centenarian Celebration in Denver, gardens and is working on her book, "Something from Nothing."

Bernice Metzger (MI) works at the Court House and Township during tax season, keeps in touch with Indiana honoree Ester Richards and has a very active family life with children and grandchildren.

Esther Richards (IN) works as an associate at Walmart and while working had an encounter with someone who had read about her trip as Prime Time Honoree to DC in the newspaper, and she keeps a scrapbook of her visit to DC.

Ross Roe (OR) a GM dealer for over 52 years, operates Roe Motors GM with son Steve and daughter Lori, is a civic volunteer, and started the local non-profit Re-Tree Youth Tree

Plant, and is writing two books, "Life in Short Sheets" and "My Visits with the Sea."

J. Blaine Runner (NE) continues to work and enjoy life!!

Robert Trueblood (ID) is a substitute teacher 4-5 days a week and in summer school, and was honored by the board of trustees for 16 years as a substitute teacher, and honored by Clark State College Alumni Magazine for a lifetime of accomplishments.

Ted Ross (SC) works at Dillard's Department Store, enjoys meeting people and making new friends, is active in community activities including the Rotary luncheon, a veterans golf dinner where he was the only veteran from the Horse Calvary (WWII), plays bridge, was active in the presidential election, and won 1st Prize for his Julius Caesar costume at a charity fundraiser.

David Viste (MT) works for Trivent Financial for Lutherans, is president of his church, is the master of a retreat for Montana State Prison inmates and is leading a highway clean-up for a detachment of the Marine Corp League.



2007 Prime Time Awards Group Photo

2007 Honorees

Henry Deel (VA) works and is interested in legislation that protects seniors who continue to work from paying Social Security taxes.

Rocco DiChiara (CT) works and helps other people; he enjoys working in his garden and yard.

Bonnie Dick (OH) works as an employment consultant with CGI Federal, helping people in job transitions, and is a speaker and advocate for the value of older workers in the workforce.

Eunice Esposito (NY) is the Town Clerk in the Town of Rotterdam in New York State.

Grace Fischer (SD) works for the Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau, volunteers for

the Aberdeen Community Theater, is president of her condo association and is helping her grandson's wife open a new daycare/preschool.

Elizabeth Isaacs (NM) works at Isaacs Hardware, is involved in local clubs, is part of the Red Hat group and is planting a bigger garden this year.

Richard Ott (ND) is Executive Director of AID, Inc., a local charity that operates two thrift stores, two food pantries, and two help centers. Experience Works participants work for the charity.

Kenneth Raymond (WY) is still ranching and hunting on his 45,000 acre spread in Wyoming with his faithful companion Pete (a very smart border collie).

Robert Senseny (DE) is the Harbormaster at the Port of Wilmington in Delaware, and enjoys the family beach house and boating, and recently visited Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, with his wife.

Elvin Soll (IA) works at the Terribles Lakeside Casino in Osceola, and is pleased to be part of the Prime Time Honoree Family.

John Norman Tower (MI) works at a marina and is active in the board of trustees and the choir at church. He volunteers at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo restoring aircraft and is involved in cub scouting with his great-grandson.

Fred Williams (FL) works as a case manager, conducting assessments for Meals on Wheels clients, most of whom

are in their 80's and who live life to its fullest.

Jack Wilson (AR) writes a column for the Pocahontas Star Herald since 'retirement' 20 years ago as Circuit Court Clerk of Randolph County, Arkansas.

Pendleton Woods (OK) is the Executive Director of the American Citizenship at Oklahoma Christian University.

2006 Honorees

Helen Aringdale (IA) works at the Columbus Gazette newspaper where she has proofread and written a column since 1944, and is active in the Columbus Community Heritage Museum, the Hope Bible Church and in community conservation activities.



2006 Prime Time Awards Group Photo

James Bell (MT) works at the accounting firm of Denning, Downey & Associates.

Ira Cornett (KY) works everyday at the machine shop he started in 1948 and specializes in rebuilding antique engines for customers across the United States.

Janet Frye (IL) works in banking, has mastered a computer system conversion, and manages the family farm. She won 1st Place for her apple pie in a baking contest and hosted the family's annual Easter egg hunt.

Roswell Henke (ND) works in radio advertising for Clear Channel Radio in Bismarc, bikes upwards of 35 miles a day and plays tennis.

Sally Gordon (NE) is in her 26th year of serving as the first female Sergeant at Arms in the Nebraska Unicameral (state legislature), and received honors for her service.

Dorothy Malson (AR) works at the River Valley Health and Rehab and plans to work forever; she had a heart attack in February but has recovered.

Tinye Marshall (MS) is busy making quilts, crocheting,

visiting rest homes with other active seniors from church, baking cakes for friends and helping her son in the garden.

Mary Ellen Menapace (NM) retired last year, but she remains active in her community and with her family. Her good friend was the 2007 Prime Time Honoree from New Mexico.

Harriet Miller (IN) works as a candidate selection associate at Aon Consulting and is a partner in Harmony Associates, and also RV's across the country with her grandchildren.

Sheldon Gross (OH) works full time and enjoys good health!

Audrey Reisdorfer (MN) is an RN at the Worthington Regional Hospital and is in good health!

Vivian Rouson (DC) works at the St. Augustine Church, volunteers at the Prime Time Health Center for African-American Women, is a summer faculty member at Xavier University's Institute for Black Studies and is a facilitator for the Eldership Retreat.

Betty Westerbur (WA) continues to enjoy working every day and staying busy!



2005 Prime Time Awards Group Photo

2005 Honorees

Fleeta Clark (AR) retired from Winslow City Hall, volunteers for the Winslow Community Meals and is an active member of Winslow Methodist Women.

Bernard Douda (IN) is doing well in his community.

Jim Fabiano (NH) works three days a week, is a highly decorated World War II Navy veteran (received 10 service medals) and was a player with the Boston Braves.

Finetta McIntyre (MD) is a job developer with the Family and Children Services in Baltimore.

AnnMarie Jerdan (NV) works at Mass Mutual Financial where she is the oldest agent in the country and enjoys a happy and healthy family life.

Gilbert Poesse (NE) works preparing the news at KBRX, Top Dog in Country radio station, and he will be attending his grandson's wedding, with his wife, in the Turks and Caicos.

William Reynolds (ND) has recently completed a full color rendering of plans for a new county fairground in his community.

Milton Roth (IA) is owner of Roth Jewelers in Waterloo, Iowa and enjoys traveling, fishing, photography and says that the Experience Works award was the highlight of his life.

Rudolph Vickery (GA) works in ER security at the Athens Regional Medical Center in Athens. "Some people work to live, but I live to work."



2004 Prime Time Awards Group Photo

Hilda Zouhar (MT) *conducts activities at the Clark Fork Riverside Retirement Center, leads the Wii bowling league and is organizing a bowling banquet.*

2004 Honorees

Dorothy Cragin (WI) *works at Divine Savior Nursing Home and takes care of her elderly neighbor. Divine Savior Nursing Home honored Dorothy for 50 years of service with a special appreciation luncheon and a trip to Italy with her daughter. She also has a new Siberian Husky pup, Tuski Lynn.*

Nancy Dawson (ND) *retired from North Dakota Stockman's Association; she is the president of the local Philanthropic Educational Organization, is*

involved in her church, mows her large yard and is involved in her grandchildren's school and athletic events.

Mafalda DiOrio (RI) *retired in 2007 from the Westerly Pawcatuck Area Chamber of Commerce but is looking to get back into the job market and make more contributions.*

Thelma Hauser (DC) *is a senior social worker for Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (since 1957), was honored by the Secretary Veterans Affairs in January of 2008 for 55 years of service, was selected to participate in an international exchange program in South Africa and for the last 15 years has volunteered at the Washington Center for Aging Services visiting folks who have no family.*

Gail Henrichs (IA) continues to work in her beauty shop as she has for the last 63 years, is president of Auxiliary #88 in Allison and celebrates life with her family with a big breakfast every Sunday!

Else Yelton Hess (UT) is an RN; she got married in June 2007 to Eldon Hess, and they took an eight-week, 8,000 mile motorcycle trip.

Kenneth Jennison (KS) is a public service director for six radio stations, serves on the boards of Prostate Cancer Support Group, Salina Recue Mission, Salina Downtown Committee, Salina Area United Way, and in 2005 celebrated his 50 wedding anniversary with family and friends

Verne Lawson (SD) had some hip problems last fall and he has taken time off from work but is looking forward to going back to work at the Civic Center. He and his wife are also moving to another home and she is a caregiver for a 108-year-old lady.

William Lipkin (NJ) teaches as an adjunct professor at five New Jersey colleges and universities since July 2008 and is president of the New Jersey State Federation of Teachers.

Carl Ostrom (WA) he retired at the age of 92 and is doing well!!

Gloria Young (ME) is a clinical social worker specializing in trauma and she continues to garden, canoe, and dance.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit your stories and photos for the next edition of the Prime Time E-newsletter.

Contact Susan Rodriguez by email at susan_rodriguez@experienceworks.org

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2003 Honorees

Edith Akers (WV) has retired because of health reasons from the Pipstem Resort State Park after 21.5 years and was honored by her colleagues, and she continues to be active in the community and in her political party and works out three times a week at the YMCA.

Erma Gausman (NE) volunteers for activities at the Friends Memorial Hospital and she makes pressed flower greeting cards, does puzzles and believes elders should keep busy, socialize and stay in good shape.

Kate Thoofft (MN) works as a Head Start home visitor for Western Community Action in Marshall and has no plans for retirement!

2002 Honorees

Thomas Clayton (TX) is 97 and retired and now travels; he was the oldest person to ever go white water rafting down the Royal Gorge. He will be visiting Hawaii this summer.

Eileen Jensen-Kercheval (CO) retired from TV and is now

servicing on a nonprofit board for people with depression and who are suicidal. She has conquered serious illnesses and is happily traveling with her husband.

Lewis Lanier (NC) has retired at the age of 88!

June Massey (RI) works in city parks, maintains the gardens of three customers, is involved in political campaigns, the Grey Panthers, the Senior Agenda Council and cultural activities.

Gayle Peck (ID) works at Anesthesia Associates and volunteers at the Greater Pocatello Senior Center and the Silver Chorale Chorus, and is a board member for the Southeast Idaho Senior Games.

Dorothy Richardson (OK) works at Integris Baptist and will turn 93 in December 2009!

Russell Wyatt (SD) works full time doing ranch and farm appraisals in western South Dakota from his office in Hot Springs and turned 83 in June 2009!

Pearls of Wisdom

Ray Barney (2008 Honoree, WA) – *“Cold beer and warm, young blondes are what keeps me going - not playing checkers at the old folks home!”*

Rocco DiChiara (2007 Honoree, CT) – *“Keep active as long as you can; it helps your body and mind.”*

Jessie Lee Donathan-Howard (2008 Honoree, NC) – *“As I ripen with age, I am like a bank account I can make withdrawals on my journey of this life, but this worker prefers to make daily deposits!”*

Richard Ott (2007 Honoree, ND) – *“Retirement is okay for older folks, but us young sprouts need to keep on working!”*

Robert Senseny (2007 Honoree, DE) – *“Retire? Don’t think that’s in the future - it’s not work when you enjoy what you do!”*

Jeanne Vaughn (2005 Honoree, TX) - *“A positive attitude will help you down the road when sorrow meets joy as it often will. The world needs the wisdom of we seniors that we have developed and experienced through life in an uncertain world.”*

In Memory

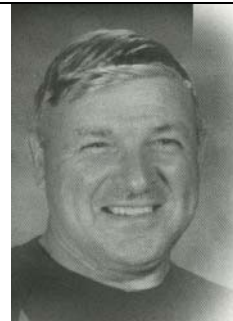
Experience Works extends our sincere condolences to the families and friends of our past honorees.



Joseph L. Yankee
RI, 2007 Honoree



Garnet Tripp
MI, 2004 Honoree



Richard Comtois
VT, 2003 Honoree

Jack will be celebrating his 101st birthday in August!

Congratulations!



Poem submitted by Jack Borden (2008, TX)

Lord, thou knowest I am growing older.

Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as the time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful and not nosey; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom and experience, it does not seem a pity not to use it all. But thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Experience Works

Legacy Society

Experience Works is a nonprofit organization that depends on grants, sponsorships and contributions to carry out our mission to help older Americans obtain the training they need to find good jobs in their local communities. The Experience Works Legacy Society provides individuals with the opportunity to support our mission through a planned gift through wills, trusts or estate plans. If you would like more information on the Experience Works Legacy Society, please contact Joy Braun, Director of Corporation and Foundation Relations at 703.682.2276 or at Joy_Braun@experienceworks.org.



Contact Information

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