

The Next Stage

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

NOVEMBER 19, 2005



CHRISTMAS WITH GOOD FRIENDS & GOOD FOOD ...THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH!...

The annual Christmas party has been scheduled for **Thursday, December 8th, at the Redstone Arsenal Officers and Civilians Club, social hour beginning at 6:00 p.m., and the buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m.** (same delicious food as last year). Cash bar available as last year. Your committee (Don Wilson and Fouts McCauley) were able to keep the price at **\$16 per person** (same since 2001!). Dress will be Christmas attire, or Tux...if it still fits.

Remember, since HDAA subsidizes this party, only members who are current with their '05 dues (and their guests) are eligible to attend, so make sure dues are current (call Nita: 726-0215).

Paid reservations are required by noon Friday, December 2, and may be submitted to HDAA P.O. Box 4185, Huntsville, AL 35815-4185.

The RSA Provost Marshall's Office requires all attendees (and guests) have their full names on a submitted list (as appears on

drivers' licenses), so please submit that information with your reservation. Entry to RSA should go smoothly if you follow these simple instructions: ensure your vehicle is "weapon-free", you have a current picture ID (driver's license) for all passengers, a current tag registration and proof of vehicle insurance.

RSA has a new Visitor Check-in Facility at the Rideout Rd. entrance, which should expedite the check-in process. You should plan to be at the RSA gate by 5:30 to assure you don't miss any of the social hour.

The RSAOCC recommended using only the Gate 9/Rideout Rd-Research Park Blvd for ease of entry; but other gates may be open. Call 876-4195 if you have any questions regarding RSA entry.

If you don't drive after dark and need a ride, call Nita Boyd at 726-0215. Share the evening with a group of friends...it will be a wonderfully memorable event.

Come have fun and win one of \$1,100 worth of prizes!

Christmas Party: Thursday, Dec 8th
6 p.m. Social - 7 p.m. Buffet Dinner
RSA Officers'/Civilians' Club
Cost is \$16 per person
Reservations by Friday, 12/2
To P.O. Box 4185, HSV, AL 35815-4185



ANNUAL ENGINEERING LUNCHEON

Friday, December 16, 2005—11:00 a.m.

Green Hills Grille, Sanderson St, Huntsville

Call Nita/726-0215 to give GHG a headcount. See you!

MEDICARE PART D: PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

ATTEND A 30 MINUTE SEMINAR—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 5 P.M.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL (SE Corner, Airport Rd/Whitesburg Dr)

SPEAKER: BILL HAWKINS, ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR FOR ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH (AARP-ALABAMA)

Effective 1/1/06, ATK will no longer provide prescription drug coverage for those eligible for Medicare. At that time, Medicare will offer **Part D** to those currently holding Part A. If you are not yet drawing Social Security, you won't sign up for Part D until you do. Enrollment will begin on 11/15/05, continuing through 5/15/06, after which, a penalty will be imposed that will continue as long as you have Part D. You must sign up for Part D by 12/31/05 to have prescription coverage starting on 1/1/06.

Enrollment is not with Medicare, but with insurance companies approved by Medicare to provide Part D coverage in your state. Read your *Medicare & You 2006 Handbook*, especially regarding Part D and the list of insurance companies approved in your state. Pick several of these companies and call them for a sign-up package. Review these packages to determine which company best suits your expected prescription usage in 2006. If the company you selected does not provide the coverage you expected, you can change companies **once** prior to 15 May 2006, after which you can change once a year at the end of year enrollment period.

One method of finding the lowest cost insurance company is to use the www.Medicare.gov web site. Once on the web site, select "Compare Medicare Drug Plans", then select "Find Medicare Prescription Drug Plan", enter your personal data, then follow the prompts and enter the drugs/doses you take. It will show you the cheapest insurance company plans that fit your specific needs in your state. If you don't have a high-speed internet connection, contact someone you know who does to help you with expediting the process.

The Huntsville Senior Center is offering 1-on-1 help to seniors; call 880-7080 for an appointment. You will need new prescriptions on 1/1/06 for the drugs you take on a regular basis. When you get these prescriptions, ask your doctor about available generics, which will save you money. Some plans charge **no** copay for generics. Tell your doctor if you need a 30-day/11 refills supply or a 90-day/3 refills supply. Some insurance companies limit some drugs to a 30-day supply. Some plans offer mail-order prescriptions, which will reduce your trips to the pharmacy.

(continued on Page 2)

Medicare Part D (continued from Page 1)

BE AWARE of possible **scams**. Insurance companies will not sell their plans door-to-door, nor will they enroll you in their plan by phone unless YOU make the call. Stay aware.

Another Reminder:

LIVING WILLS

If you have a Living Will that is several years old, you need to have it updated. The Alabama legislature has a new format for an Advanced Directive for Health Care that replaces the old Living Will. There may be local attorneys who will prepare this form for you at no charge, and these forms are also available at most hospitals.

OUTSTANDING FALL DINNER!

Congratulations to Mark Locker and Jerry Webb for a wonderful evening at the Barnhill's Grill in September. The food was great, and socializing with good friends is always an enjoyable evening. Attendees at the dinner were: Helen Acuff, Barbara Atchley, Bill/Amma Barnes, Pat Barnes, Jo/Billy Beal, Nita Boyd, John D. Brown, Billy/Evelyn East, Bill/Doris Fiser, John Grider, Jack/Helen Hagler, Mahlon/Lula Harvey, Faye/David Jones, Jimmy/Betty Jordan, Andy/Rosa Karabinos, Mark Locker, Jim/OlaAnn Lee, Footh/Angele McCauley, Paul McFall, Helen Mitchell, Jake/Betsy Reep, Don/Joyce Royston, Walt/Sue Terry, Gene/Iva Thomas, Harold/Earlene Webb, Jerry/Nancy Webb, Marc/June Whitfield, John L. Williams, Roy/Betty Willis, Don/Patti Wilson.

Check out some of the other regular events you might want to attend, below.

Monthly:

1st Wed: Ladies lunch, 11:15 am. Call Joyce Royston/539-4338 for details.

2nd Tue: Breakfast at Mullins/Andrew Jackson Way, 07:30. Call Bill Russell at 650-5400 for details.

3rd Wed: Lunch at El Palacio, 12:00. Call Sam Zeman at 881-6099 for details.

3rd Sat: This breakfast meeting has been temporarily postponed.

Come Join Us!

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS....

Vernon Bush recently received Huntsville Botanical Garden's Butch Damson Volunteer of the Year award for his "knowledgeable, loyal, creative, generous, faithful, amazing,



and inspirational work" at the Garden. His accomplishments can also be seen at the Green Mountain Nature Trail on Monte Sano, and the Jackson County Park in Scottsboro. Vernon is shown at left with a 300-pound pumpkin he grew at the Botanical Garden.

Congratulations, Vernon, on a job(s) well done!

John DeHays is an Appalachian Trail hiker. During the last 9 years, the trail has taken him about 1920 miles in 13 states. This past summer he was in New Hampshire and Maine trekking along the crests of the White Mountains and Mahoosuc Range, a rugged and scenic area. A high point was the summit of Mt. Washington (shown above). Next year,



John has 255 miles to finish the entire Trail. *Keep on trekkin', John. So much world, so little time.....*

Paul McFall recently suffered a few broken bones in his foot when having an argument with a tree (it apparently didn't want to be trimmed), but he seems to be improving. *Bobbie says it just barely slows him down!*

Jake & Betsy Reep celebrated their 50th anniversary on 8/21/05, and their daughters Kathy Zicarelli and Kim Gayle, ably assisted by sons-in-law Raymond and Tim and six of their grandchildren,



hosted an informal dinner party for ~130 of the Reep's friends on 9/3 at Monte Sano Lodge. *Congratulations, Jake and Betsy, shown above, on achieving this major milestone in life!*

Denise Thirkill-Green is doing well after her surgery, enjoying life to the fullest. Below are MaryLou Thirkill, Paul Green, and Denise.



Next Board Mtg:

(2nd Thurs each qtr)
Jan 12, 2006
5:00 pm, Faith Presbyterian Church, SE corner of Whitesburg/Airport. Come see what your Board does for you! **Contact a Board member if you're interested in serving on the Board, or have input.**

Dates to Remember:

2005
11/29: Part D Seminar
12/8: Christmas Party (RSAOCC)
12/16: Engr. Lunch

2006
Spring Breakfast TBD
Summer Picnic TBD
Fall Dinner TBD
Christmas Party TBD

Details will follow...

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD NOMINATED FOR 2006

(Highlighted names only to be voted upon at the Christmas Party business meeting.)

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Tom Bryant
Nita Boyd
John DeHaye
Mary Ann Williams

Directors (06) Deane Herbert
 Mark Locker
 Bobby Tanner
 Sharon Turner
 Jerry Webb
 Harold Whitesides

Directors (07) Nita Boyd
 John D. Brown
 Ron Clements
 Paul McFall
 Cecil Stokes
 Don Wilson

Directors (08) **Bill Barnes**
Dave Flanigan
Jim Hamner
John Nelson
Gene Thomas
Sam Vance

Ex Officio: **Nita Boyd/Membership**
Jim Lee/Historian
Cecil Stokes/WebMaster

Retiring from the Board: John DeHaye, John Grider, Jack Hagler, Gene King., Barbara Plonka, Sharon Sears. Thanks for a good year!

MORE FRIENDS IN THE NEWS....

Millie Wallace reports from Rogersville that she's doing better and looking forward to a complete recovery from additional repair work to stints put in arteries ~30 years ago. The challenge is to improve blood flow to her lower extremities without causing leaks in the plumbing. We all hope Millie continues to improve. How can Tunica flourish without her and Lucille!

Harold & Jackie Whitesides have taken another exciting trek via motorcycle in wide open spaces of our western states. What adventurous folks...keeping young. We hope pictures are forthcoming!

Bill Savelle says he certainly appreciates all the Thiokol "family" and friends who have visited with him. It means a

All of the difficulties in life just make the good times all that more precious & memorable...

So, remember...

Don't ever give up!



ID THEFT SEMINAR

The ID Theft Seminar, with FBI Special Agent Scott Baucom, offered good information about tracking ID thieves, and what can and cannot be done to prosecute them. He reaffirmed what many of us already know, but it bears repeating:

- Never provide your Social Security, credit card, bank routing or account numbers or verify your address to a caller unless YOU initiated the call.
- Don't carry personal ID numbers in your wallet.
- Don't use your date of birth, SSN, or service ID numbers as a log-on or password over the Internet.
- Always use a shredder when disposing of documents that contain identification, service, account or routing numbers or other personal information.
- If you suspect you have been lured into disclosing personal information online or over the phone, contact your bank and/or credit card company immediately.
- Remember to get your free annual credit check reports to keep a close watch on expenditures.

Be aware, stay alert, keep yourself from becoming vulnerable to those trying to steal your hard-earned assets.



lot to know so many people care, and our Thiokol family is definitely a caring bunch.

Please keep **Jess Hopkins** in your thoughts and prayers (undergoing dialysis); and....

Thanks to all who gave of your time, efforts and donations for the many hurricane evacuees (and we know you are MANY)...you're truly earthbound angels!



The Next Stage

The Huntsville Division Alumni Association
P.O. Box 4185
Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2005 MUST BE CURRENT
TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!
WE DON'T WANT TO MISS YOU...OR YOUR GUESTS.
DECEMBER IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO PAY '06 DUES.

35815-4185 1117

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

THE NEXT STAGE

NOVEMBER 19, 2005

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 225. Editor: Patti Wilson.

Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185. The 2005 HDAA Board consists of President Bill Barnes, Vice President Tom Bryant, Secretary Kathy Reynolds, Treasurer Foots McCauley, and Directors: John DeHaye (05), John Grider (05), Jack Hagler (05), Gene King (05), Barbara Plonka (05), Sharon Sears (05), Deane Herbert (06), Mark Locker (06), Bobby Tanner (06), Sharon Turner (06), Jerry Webb (06), Harold Whitesides (06), Nita Boyd (07), John D. Brown (07), Ron Clements (07), Paul McFall (07), Cecil Stokes (07), Don Wilson (07). Ex-officio members of the Board are: Nita Boyd, Membership Jim Lee/Historian, and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

For Internet information, see: <http://home.hiwaay.net/~hdaa/>

See You at the RSA O/C Club 12/8!

In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of dear friends and prior coworker:

John Bensinger: Joining Thiokol in 1962, he worked in Accounting.

He will be sorely missed by us all.

Our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost other loved ones, as well. If we have missed condolences, it's because we were unaware.

REMEMBER:

You must sign up for Medicare Part D by December 31, 2005 to have prescription coverage starting on January 1, 2006.

