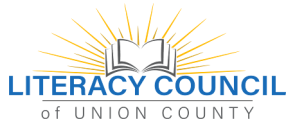




202 North Washington
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730
870-864-7080



RSVP

**EL DORADO
EXPRESS**

April-June 2025

www.eldoradoconnections.com

Volume XXXIV No. 2

National Volunteer Week - April 20-26, 2025



National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice and resources to meet the critical needs of our communities.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974, and has grown exponentially each year. It is an opportunity to honor the impact of all those who do good in our communities, and inspire others to make a difference and improve the world.

Today, as people strive to lead lives that reflect their values, the expression of civic life has evolved. Whether online, at the office, or the local food banks; whether with a vote, a voice, or a wallet -- doing good comes in many forms. We recognize and celebrate them all!

- www.pointsoflight.org

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

In January, volunteers came together for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service to assemble personal kits for patients of CARTI. One hundred kits were given to the ChemoAngel volunteer coordinator to distribute to patients. Thank you volunteers for all the donations and your service!



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)



The Income Tax Assistance programs are coming to an end for this tax season. We are so thankful for all of the RSVP volunteers who have made this year's program such a success. Your help has benefited many in our communities, including citizens from Columbia, Ouachita and Union Counties.

To date we have assisted 227 individuals who have received \$196,919 in total refunds. The following volunteers served this year: Larry Cave, Laura Doyle, Carla Grange, Linda Kalcich, Melva May, Bonnie Miears, Lynn Muckelrath, Annette Pate, Shirley Randle, Fayrene Rash, and Gretchen West



May 26, 2025



- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Betty White | 2-Melva May | 3-Debbie Langford |
| 4- Joan Tribble | 3-Elise Johnson | 6-George Gordon |
| 5- MarshaPatterson | 4-Dawn Petz | 8-Mary Ann Molsbee |
| 10-Don Ashcraft | 7-Jan Hughes | 12- Tim Fetterly |
| 13-Debbie Stinson | 10-Elizabeth Young | 13- Tom Hudson |
| 14-Robert Reynolds | 12-Judith Johnson | 16-Annette Sturgis |
| Betty Tucker | 20-Grace Case | 17-Susan Heilman |
| 17-Lydonna Primm | 21-Lydia Smith | 18-Carla Horne |
| Winfred Tubbs | 22-Verna Clark | 23-Bonnie Miears |
| 21-Wanda Bryant | Mary Crosby | 24-Lisa Murray |
| 22-Paula Esch | Carla Grange | 26-Marguerite Rodgers |
| 23-Dovie Jones | 23-Ronnie Bluford | |
| 26-Barbara Warrick | Donald Smith | |
| 27-Frances Erwin | 24-Josephine Wyrick | |
| 28-Connie Marsh | 25-Rosamond Corwin | |
| 29-Kay Plunkett | 27-Annette Pate | |
| | Inez Stith | |
| | 28-Elaine Butler | |
| | 29-Carolyn Cook | |
| | 31-Annette Davis | |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
RSVP Volunteers!!!



> Chemo Angels is recruiting volunteers to provide comfort and assistance to those patients receiving chemotherapy by offering refreshments, warm blankets and support to reduce discomfort, anxiety and stress.

> The Literacy Council needs volunteer tutors to empower and open new doors for an adult by helping them learn to read and reach their goal of a GED, a better job, or just learn to read better. Tutor training is available.

> Interfaith Help Food Pantry is looking for a volunteer who can pick up donated food from a local store and deliver to the pantry.

If you are available & interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please call 870-864-7080 for more information.



Volunteer Spotlight



Larry was born and raised around a small farming community in Upstate New York, near the shoreline of Great Lake Erie, about 50 miles south of Buffalo. He attended a small Central High School before completing his education at Syracuse University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering.

He began his professional career at The Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington. He then spent many years employed in the greater Cleveland, Ohio, area before concluding his engineering career at Lockheed Martin in Camden, AR, retiring after 30 years of service.

In retirement Larry enjoys boating, fishing, gardening with his wife, and taking nature walks around his home at Mustin Lake with their dog. He served as secretary/treasurer on the Mustin Lake HOA board for 20 years. And, of course, Larry enjoys volunteering for the Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC) and RSVP where he prepares individual income tax returns and assists seniors with medicare drug insurance options. Recently, Larry filled an open seat on the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Advisory Counsel. Larry, we appreciate your heart to serve!

*April Showers
Bring May Flowers*



Thefts, Schemes, and Scams

I do not like them through email.
I do not like them on my cell .
I will not like them on my phone.
I do not like them at my home.
I do not like them anywhere!
I do not like thefts, schemes, and
scams!



I do not like them, scammed I am.
You do not like them. So you say.
Listen! Listen! Because one day...
Listen close because one day...
Scams will never let you be.
There will be new ones, you will see.
Watch out for thefts, schemes and
scams!
-Kelly Phillips Erb

If you receive a suspicious call:



- **Hang up**
- **Don't** believe them
- **Don't** trust your caller ID
- **Don't** give them money
- **Don't** give them personal information
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov



SSA.GOV/SCAM

Social Security Administration | Publication No. 85-024 | June 2023 | Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense

**OLDER
AMERICANS
MONTH**



Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the

FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The 2025 theme, *Flip the Script on Aging*, focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. We join ACL in celebrating older adults and their contributions to our communities and offer support and opportunities for staying active and engaged as we age. For more information on Older Americans Month, visit www.acl.gov

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



Boosting Literacy in Arkansas: [The Vital Role of Volunteers](#)

Adult illiteracy rates in Arkansas are startling, with nearly **400,000 adults struggling to read and write effectively**. This issue affects individuals and ripples throughout communities, leading to economic and social challenges. Literacy councils across the state play a crucial role in alleviating this problem, and The Literacy Council of Union County is one of almost twenty such organizations operating throughout the state.

Literacy councils rely heavily on volunteers to carry out their mission with volunteers playing an essential role as tutors and mentors for adult learners. At the Literacy Council of Union County volunteers help individuals improve their reading, writing, and comprehension skills and use different approaches, including:

- One-on-one sessions tailored to students' individual learning styles.
- Group classes that provide a supportive environment that encourages peer learning.
- Online resources that utilize technology to reach more learners.

We provide training programs to equip volunteers with the tools they need, and we provide ongoing support to ensure that they feel confident in their roles.

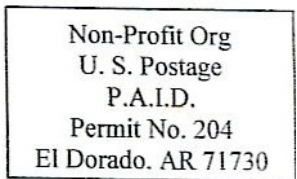
Volunteers have a direct positive impact on literacy rates. Contributing to this cause is rewarding and fulfills a sense of social responsibility. Seeing firsthand the improvement in learners' lives can be deeply fulfilling.

**Please consider volunteering and
contact the Literacy Council of Union County
(870) 864-7081 or email Linda.Rathbun@newhavenchs.org**



202 North Washington, Suite 107
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED



RSVP
Lead With Experience

RSVP STAFF

Julia Amis, Director
Dara Stanfill, Assistant Director

Literacy Council Staff

Linda Rathbun, Director
Carolyn Wilson, Literacy Facilitator

Advisory Council 2025

Annette Pate-Chair
Bonnie Miears-Co-Chair
Larry Cave
Bill Odom
Shirley Randle
Connie Short
Joan Tribble
Barbara Warrick

***EL DORADO
EXPRESS***

Transportation for Senior Adults 60 years of
age and older

870-864-7082

Do you need a ride to the doctor? To the
grocery store? Or to pay some bills? Give us a
call we can make it happen.

MISSION STATEMENT

*To provide a variety of opportunities for citizens
to participate more fully in the life of their
community through significant volunteer service
and to advocate for the aging population in
South Arkansas.*