



The Focused Fire Newsletter - Copyright © Affinity Systems LLC, April, 2014 Issue 10

RSVP + UWEX

Community Service Information Classes

1. What Works for You, Selecting the Right Digital Equipment for Your Life Style
2. Internet Security and Identity Theft
3. Purpose for this Issue

For the past four months, it has been a pleasure working with Mike Theiss, Information Technology Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Marathon Campus, and Tony Omernik, RSVP Director for the United Way of Marathon County. They have worked diligently on programs to educate senior citizens through an outreach program. It is an honor to be a member of their dedicated team working to help seniors enjoy their computers while remaining safe both on and off line.

While assisting Mike on a training session, we observed an elderly woman, of slight stature and need of a cane, carrying a huge portable computer. She had purchased the machine to replace a discontinued service allowing her to log directly into the internet and access her e-mail and Facebook. Her new computer provided functionality that is quantum leaps above her needs while adding significant complexity, making it difficult for her to use.

Five weeks ago, while brainstorming possibilities with Mike, I suggested a class to help seniors select the right technology for their lifestyles, and another on internet and identity security. Mike had things moving with Tony in what seemed like nanoseconds. They took care of everything else while I prepared the classes. While developing the Power Points, the need for co-presenters' became obvious.



During a class at Mosinee, Paige Hulse, Channel 9 News, was doing a feature on the RSVP program. Paige is a very bright millennial, adapt with technology and when asked to discuss the smart phone, she did a great job.

An e-mail to Paige asking her to present at the class on "Selecting the Right Technology," resulted in an immediate affirmative response.

Several days later, while attending an event sponsored by Marathon Saving Bank, Norah Brown agreed to help with the internet security and identity theft class. Norah deals with the aftermath of poor decisions, and has tremendous knowledge about the subject.

1. What Works for You, Selecting the Right Digital Equipment for Your Life Style

At our March 20 session, "What Works for You, Selecting the Right Digital Equipment for Your Life Style," it was obvious, as handouts magically appeared, people to sign up attendees, facilities ready to go, coffee, and donuts, that many people were involved and deserved credit for making the sessions a success. Along with Tony and Mike, the following people deserve credit.

United Way RSVP of Marathon County
Carol Pasnecker
University of Wisconsin, Extension
Mary Kluz
Nancy Anderson
Janette Baumann

There were approximately forty senior attendees at the session. Most owned digital equipment, and were somewhat knowledgeable about the topic. The problem, in summary, is that devices from smart phones through laptops are converging in applications and functionality, affecting mobility and lifestyle.

I presented the equipment options. Paige zeroed in on the key piece of equipment, the smart phone, and with poise and confidence did an excellent job of explaining the technology.



2. Internet Security and Identity Theft

On March 27, Norah and I presented the session "Internet Security and Identity Theft," to approximately forty attendees, supported by those previously noted.

I started the session by explaining that each of us has an invisible self, our information, which grows throughout our lives, and emphasized the need to protect that invisible self as we would life itself. The balance of the first session keyed on the specifics of internet security and identity theft.

Norah did a splendid job of explaining solutions and provided examples of poor judgment. Her detailed knowledge and practical day-to-day experience tied perfectly into her presentation. At the end, she provided everyone with a lifeline; financial organizations would happily help them set up an automated bill paying system.



Both sessions received positive reviews. The greatest complaint was difficulty reading the PowerPoint handouts. To correct the situation, we have posted both on this website, CompetitiveAmerica.us.

3. Purpose for this Issue

The purpose behind this newsletter is to give everyone credit for their hard work, and for making our community a better and safer place to live. We had three persons from private industry involved. Paige from Channel 9, Norah from Marathon Saving Bank, and myself from Affinity Systems LLC. Contrary to increasingly popular narrative, private industry quietly contributes significant money, time, and talent to better our communities.

Everyone including participants, presenters, and support people have my sincerest appreciation. It takes a great team to convert thoughts into reality. Mike and Tony, the world needs more people like you.

Paige and Norah, you are stars. Thank you very much.

Wayne L Staley
Owner/Systems Consultant/Author
Affinity Systems LLC
Rothschild, WI 54474
715-573-8911
wstaley@affinitysystemsllc.com

