

ETCOG HAPPENINGS

REACH CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Approximately 500 East Texans who work with the elderly received training on October 16-17 at the 21st Annual Regional Education on Aging, Caregiving & Healthcare (REACH) Conference at Maude Cobb Convention Center in Longview. The Conference is hosted each year by the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) which is administered by the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG).

The conference, themed "Wild About REACH," is a collaborative effort to provide educational workshops, plenary sessions and networking opportunities for professionals, caregivers, and anyone interested in Aging issues. This year, REACH provided attendees a choice of 36 workshops over the two-day event, access to 57 exhibit booths, and accreditation and/or continuing education hours relative to the attendees' field of work.

HEALTHCARE REFORM SEMINAR

On October 24th, Brinson Benefits along with ETCOG hosted Health Care Reform, a complimentary seminar to help employers understand and comply with health care legislation. The seminar had approximately 40 civic, governmental and business leaders in attendance and focused specifically on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Attendees learned about required communications they must have with their employees by March 1 and also received tips on handling crucial conversations.

ETCOG RECEIVES 12TH CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

For the twelfth year in a row, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the East Texas Council of Governments by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. Congratulations to our Department of Administrative Support Services for their excellent work!

ACHIEVEMENTS



EDUCATING SENIORS ON OPTIONS WITH OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Area Agency on Aging has been hard at work educating seniors on Medicare's Open Enrollment which began October 15th and will close on December 7th. Our Benefits Counselors have been available by phone, appointment and at special events to help seniors choose their health and drug plans. Beginning efforts in August, the AAA has conducted many events, scheduled a total of 43 benefits counseling events to be held by the end of Open Enrollment, and is adding new events daily. The AAA also partnered with the Aging & Disability Resource Center of East Texas on an ad campaign for Open Enrollment and Extra Help with prescriptions which will have over 220,000 impressions!

HIRING RED, WHITE & YOU! VETERAN'S JOB FAIRS TO BE HELD STATE WIDE ON NOVEMBER 15TH

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards and the Texas Veterans Commission will host veterans job fairs statewide on November 15. The job fairs are part of TWC's Hiring Red, White & You! campaign, a joint initiative supported by Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Medical Center surgeon and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston professor Dr. James H. "Red" Duke Jr., and the Texas Veterans Commission to connect our returning veterans in Texas with employers who are hiring.

"The talent and experiences our veterans bring back from their service in the military are an important, and, all too often, untapped resource for our communities," Gov. Perry said. "The Hiring Red, White & You! campaign is a great opportunity to help veterans utilize their skills to get a job in Texas, and help employers find talented and experienced individuals to fill open job opportunities."

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that the national unemployment rate for all veterans is 6.7 percent. In contrast, for those veterans who served in the military post 9/11, the unemployment rate is higher at 9.7 percent. "The Hiring Red, White & You! statewide job fair event seeks to connect Texas veterans with Texas employers who value the skills, experience, discipline and other exceptional qualities inherent with a military background," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "These job fairs will feature an unprecedented statewide employment effort aimed at making the transition of our veterans to the civilian labor force a successful one. I also encourage our veterans to take advantage of the services available to them at Workforce Solutions offices across the state."

Local Events

Workforce Solutions East Texas - Longview
2430 S High St.
Longview, TX 75606
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Workforce Solutions East Texas - Tyler
4100 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGIONAL SAFETY EXERCISE NEXT WEEK!

The East Texas Council of Governments, in partnership with Regional Advisory Council Trauma Service Area Regions F and G, the City of Canton & Van Zandt County Emergency management, will conduct a Full Scale, Regional Safety Exercise on November 6-8, 2012 in Canton, Texas.

This 72 hour, around the clock event will begin at 7:00 AM on November 6, and will incorporate local and regional emergency responders; local, regional, and state public works agencies; private business partners; and various state / federal agencies and over 60 participating hospitals through the Regional Advisory Council Trauma Service Area Regions F and G; and EMTF Region 4.

The multi day exercise, involving 400 to 500 participants will test many areas of emergency management and medical response. Scenarios during the 3 day exercise will include: a structural collapse, a dive rescue recovery, a confined space-low angle/high angle rescue, a dam break, a hazardous material spill a wide area search and rescue, medical special needs sheltering and two active shooter enactments.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THE EAST TEXAS RECEPTION

The East Texas Council of Governments cordially invites all East Texas elected officials, civic, business and not-for-profit leaders to join us as we visit with our legislators in Austin and let them know what is important to East Texans. A lunch reception will be held on Tuesday, February 19th, at the elegant and historic Mansion at Judges Hill to honor the work of our legislators as they are in session.

Sponsorships are available from \$500 to \$5,000 to pay for the event costs. All sponsors will be recognized at the event. Please see the sponsor form at the link below to view the sponsor levels and correlating benefits. All event details, as well as options to pay online for sponsorships and event tickets can be found at <http://www.etcog.org/518/East-TX-Reception.htm>.

The deadline for becoming a sponsor or purchasing an event ticket will be February 5, 2013. Tickets to the event are \$50 and require prior registration and payment. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Formal invitations will be mailed in December.

East Texas Council of Governments

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ETCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY); 1-800-735-2988 (Voice); 1-800-662-4954 (Español).

