



## Red Nose Response Newsletter

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Volume 2, Issue 4-April-May 2008

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### Greetings Red Nose Responder!

If you think you missed the April issue of our news to you, you didn't. We did. Actually we did so to clarify some of the news items. So, we are calling this the April-May issue.

This has been an exciting and productive 2 months for Red Nose Response. The training videos have been made and edited. The training manual has been released to the Board for edits and final approval. And the RNR pins and patches were seen on many of the responders attending the WCA and COA conventions.

Our hospitality rooms and exhibits at both conventions proved to be a perfect way to meet you and answer questions about how to be a Responder. Dianna "Lil' Smidgeon" Hale created a PowerPoint presentation that ran at both conventions. Your organization, RNR, was well represented both in Orlando, FL and Richmond, VA.

We now have **31** new responders who signed up at those two events. We are thrilled and welcome them to RNR!

Don't forget, if you have RNR news of any sort, send it to one or both of the co-editors! We'd love to publish your news here.

Barbara "Sparky" Bird, Arla "Go-Go" Albers Co-Editors

#### A First Hand Story From the Floods in Missouri

*Pam Bacher tells her experiences*

Red Nose Response responder Pam Bacher



#### We have the BEST webmaster

*Thank you to Pabo*

It isn't often that you find someone who is willing to use his/her expertise so generously as the guy we found for the Red



found herself right in the middle of a disaster when the floods hit Missouri in March. She shared her story and her escapades with Red Nose Response and we offer an excerpt here.

Pam organized a group of people to assist in shelters and help in other areas. The group included clowns and non clowns, all who wanted to help.

One of the shelters had an animal shelter attached to it, a rarity and very important to pet owners. Pam, a self described animal lover, accompanied the Humane Society of Missouri to help in a city in the boot hill of Missouri.

Pam writes, "We rescued not only dogs and cats but roosters, chickens, and even a couple of cows and a calf. I have to say there has to be a skit in a bunch of people chasing chickens. We laughed until we cried on that one."

Pam's crew performed a wide array of response and "soft response" services. At one point she says, "We decided we would do more good on the front line and went to help sand bag and take food to the workers."

While I know that Red Nose Response is clowning for a purpose, we are playing down our clown costumes and makeup. They still know we are clowns, that's for sure, by wearing badges, name tags and such. I have found that even a hug will help them to carry on."

Pam's final comment in this first hand report was "I have to tell you that I am not a young person anymore and I ache from head to toe at the moment but I feel good inside."

## RNR Training Tools-Videos and Training Manual

*In production and ready to be seen*

These training tools are so close to being seen by all of you. The videos were shot in early April and are being edited. As soon as they are finalized they will be on the web site for all to view.



The first video is about "Dress Code" and it discusses what not to wear when responding after a disaster and what to wear. Remember that **less is more** in these situations. This video stars Bob and Teresa Gretton and an unknown clown of horrible dress and makeup who slightly resembles Elaine Vercellone, but you didn't hear it here.

Nose Response web site.

Last May we shared with you a photo of our webmaster, Clayton "Pabo" Robertson. He has been creatively responsive to our many requests to "get this up on the web site" and he has given that site life and color.

In appreciation for his many volunteer hours given to Red Nose Response, the Board voted to surprise Pabo with something a bit more tangible, the heart glass award pictured here.

Thank you again Pabo for all of your support and assistance. And to our readers, go to the site often for updates, alerts and information about training.

### Webmaster

## RNR Power Point

*Showcase for Red Nose Response*



Dianna Hale, RNR Secretary created a very effective Power Point presentation for use at both the WCA and COAI conventions.

It was shown at both events and stimulated a lot of interest and many questions.

This slide show tells the viewer what RNR is and what we have done. It also contains a very timely and important section on tornadoes. There is something there for all to learn and it does it in a visual and interesting manner.

Our webmaster has worked hard to get this upon the web site for you to see, to download and to use in your communities. It would be an excellent demonstration for alley meetings. It shares with the viewers the heart and soul of RNR. And it's interesting, too!

Please view the slideshow by clicking below. You might be surprised at how much you didn't know about disasters and how to react to them.

### Power Point slide show

## The Pins and Patches are now available

*I must have one!*

Convention attendees at both the World Clown Association in Orlando, FL and Clowns of America International in



The training manual is a huge production. Indraft form it is already more than 50 pages. Ourintention is to make a condensed version ready to mail toall the State Coordinators and ultimately have thefull volume on the web site.

We are aware of how important training inthis type of comic relief clowning is to our responders. We get requests almost weekly for this which is over andbeyond the Red Cross training. We do intendto have aportion of the manual a dynamic, livingdocument so that responders can add your own experiences suggestions, and the key points learnedalong the way.

## Do you know what 2-1-1 is?

*2-1-1 National Information & Referral Listing*

**2-1-1** is a fairly new informationalnumber that has been added to the national telephone/communication system (i.e., 9-1-1,4-1-1, 6-1-1, etc.). It provides information oncommunication services and volunteer referrals. Theimplementation of **2-1-1** is being spearheaded by United Ways and comprehensive and specializedinformation and referral agencies in states and localcommunities.



People who need essential services can now be connected to 398 Cities and States across theNation including District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Canada has five (5) locations (<http://www.211canada.ca/>).

**2-1-1** assists those who have endured much hardship through disasters. It directlychannels into city governmental services and organizations.

### Volunteering to help

### From the PowerPoint Presentation....



### Another slide....

Richmond VA this past monthwere the first to see and purchase the RNR pins and patches.

For those of you who have had too many years of sewing patches on uniforms, and sashes and jackets, be cheered. These patches iron on!

The current silver pins are a LIMITED EDITION and when gone will be replaced with a slightly different one. If you want to be the proudowner of the pin you see pictured you need to order it now.

These are available from any RNR Boardmember. The price for either a pin or a patchis \$5.00. Contact one of the Board members ifyou would like to purchase one or both.

You will find the names of the RNR Board onthe web site. Simply send your request to any one ofus, by name, (i.e. [barbara@rednoseresponse.org](mailto:barbara@rednoseresponse.org) or [elaine@rednoseresponse.org](mailto:elaine@rednoseresponse.org)) and we will haveyour order on its way.

### Pins and Patches

## And Speaking About Conventions

*COAI and SECA*

Look for Red Nose Response at the SECAconvention on



September 3-7, 2008 in Jacksonville, FL. Board members Bob Gretton and Dianna Hale and RNR advisor Teresa Gretton will be hosting ahospitality room at that event. Meet your fellowresponders, share experiences, ask questions anddefinitely tell other clowns just why they should also sign up.

Pictured with this story is the award won bythe Red Nose Response theme party table at the AprilCOAI convention in Richmond VA. The convention theme was racing and there were many funny andcreative tables.

The RNR table was an instant attraction to all attendees. You could sign up to race two others with all thebreath you could muster to see whose red foam nose would reach the finish line first. This setup wascomplete with a time keeper and the huffing andpuffing kept up all evening. The winners of each lap thenraced the other lap winners. The one with the most wind(fastest foam nose) was awarded a trophy filled with "little money".

The theme party winners were selected by those attending the party. Our RNR table took second place. Not too shabby with thanks primarily to the efforts of Elaine Vercellone, WE ARE WINNERS!

### **Forward this Newsletter**

Know someone who might be interested in joining RNR? Forward this newsletter to them, so they can see what it's all about. You'll be glad you did!

You are Red Nose Response! The organization would not exist without you and your generous offers to help and get involved. Take whatever disaster training courses you can find in your area. Share your experiences and suggestions. Tell other clowns about Red Nose Response and watch their eyeslight up, just like yours did. Help us grow.

Sincerely,

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Red Nose Response

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