

Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition

February 2009 Newsletter



T.H.E. Coalition
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Woodland Park Public Library Workshops for Local Nonprofits

For nonprofit organizations, the old adage, "May you live in interesting times" has never been more fitting. Headlines and talking heads rehash reports of economic instability and falling markets. The nonprofit literature warns of plummeting individual and corporate donations accompanied by deep cuts in foundation and government grants. Boards of Directors face genuine concerns about keeping their organizations afloat.

The best way to navigate this uncertain financial climate is to make sure your organization has the tools to counter the "sky is falling" syndrome. Rampart Library District and T.H.E. Coalition have teamed up to offer a series of educational workshops specifically designed for small nonprofit organizations. By improving the grant research and writing process, fine-tuning fundraising techniques and following sound financial management, your organization can take charge of its future rather than feel defenseless against the whims of Wall Street.

All sessions are free and take place at the Woodland Park Public Library. Although reservations are required—call Lynn Harrison, Reference Librarian at Woodland Park Public Library, at 687-9281 x 103. The 2009 schedule (subject to change) is:

Thursday, March 12, 2–4 pm

Grantseeking: Learn how to identify foundation and corporate giving programs using the Colorado Grants Guide and the Foundation Directory, both online. Facilitated by Lynn Harrison. Space is limited, so register now !

April or May (date and time to be determined)

Researching Individuals: Identify the role individual donors play in your fundraising strategy, explore potential major gift donors, and learn about the research tools for effective cultivation and solicitation strategies.

May (date and time to be determined)

Government Grants for Nonprofits: Understand how to find and apply for government grants through www.Grants.gov, the main portal for federal grants.

June (date and time to be determined)

Beginning Grant Writing: Learn the basic skills needed to begin a grant writing program for your nonprofit. Facilitated by Marion Vance.

Tuesday, July 21, 10 am–Noon

How to Host Successful Special Events and Fundraisers: Put the FUND back in FUNDraising by staging a special event that will motivate new and old donors alike. Facilitated by Ben and Jamie Caperton, fundraisers extraordinaire and owners of Charitable Treasures in Woodland Park.



Lynn Harrison at the "Workshop for Grant Seekers" in September 2006

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From the Board: Words from Marion Vance and Helen Dyer

As I step down as Chair of T.H.E. Coalition, I thank our Board, partners, members, and the public support that helped make 2008 such a productive year. Thanks in particular to the volunteers who brought new energy and expertise to our major project, we moved closer to the goal of acquiring and rehabilitating the century-old Midland Depot in Divide.

In my new capacity as Vice Chair, I'll be putting priority on things T.H.E. Coalition can do to support its member organizations. Principal among these is the Nonprofit Resource Center at Woodland Park Public Library, created in partnership with Rampart Library District. Our plan is to expand and upgrade the hardcopy and online information accessible at the Library and to offer workshops on how to make best use of all that is available. Small, practical, hands-on training sessions will be scheduled according to needs and interests of the local nonprofit community.

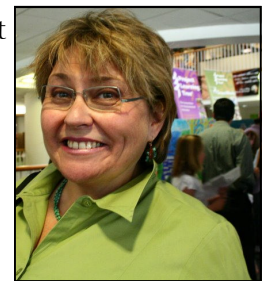


Marion Vance and Miss Ellie

Marion Vance and Helen Dyer are both founding mothers of T.H.E. Coalition. Marion has been instrumental in completing the requirements to obtain private and foundation funding for the Depot project. Helen will further the ongoing effort to purchase, stabilize and preserve the Depot.

While pondering my new leadership role with Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, it became apparent that we have respected our overriding belief in a "culture of collaboration." One of our most significant achievements to date is preservation in perpetuity of the Pikes Peak Conservation Corridor between Woodland Park and Divide. The partnership between Palmer Land Trust, Rural Land Preservation Group, T.H.E. Coalition, and Teller County Parks is a grand example of "the power of collaboration."

Collaboration isn't always easy, but when successful it is always rewarding. Objectives should be clearly defined yet flexible enough to include spontaneous revision. Any issues that surface must be immediately resolved, with "compromise" and "respect" as the words of the day. Participants should listen to different views and welcome new ideas.



Helen Dyer, Chair of T.H.E. Coalition

We invite new and renewing members to join us as we carry out our collaborative projects –acquisition of the Midland Depot and enhanced services to our members. Be sure to fill out the membership form on Page 5 and mail it right away!

Pikes Peak Sustainable Business Network

Catamount Institute, a long time member of T.H.E. Coalition, is proud to announce its newest initiative, Pikes Peak Sustainable Business Network (PPSBN). The creation of PPSBN is in response to a call for collaboration to support sustainable business practices in the Pikes Peak Region. The business membership network serves as a point of entry for businesses seeking to improve their impact on the triple bottom line: the social, economic, and ecological resources of our community.

In targeting sustainable business strategies, the PPSBN addresses key principles of leadership, education, energy and water conservation, waste and pollution, community involvement, employee satisfaction and working conditions. Members receive expert consultation and informational resources, as well as benefit from collaborating with peers through a wide network of businesses with similar goals. In a supportive and educational environment, PPSBN challenges businesses to discover and implement practices designed to make them more adaptable to change and less susceptible to the uncontrollable forces of a global economy. In March 2009 PPSBN will launch a membership drive and has already secured generous start-up financial support from many organizations in the Pikes Peak community.



For more information, visit the Website at www.ppsbn.org.

Get to Know ... Jane Lass

Many of you know Jane Lass through her involvement with 4-H as a livestock leader and her activity with the Teller County Fair Board. Jane also served on the C.S.U. Extension Advisory Council and continues on the local advisory committee for the Teller County Extension Office. But did you also know that she was chosen the 2001 Colorado CattleWoman of the Year? Or that in 2005 she received the Teller County Colorado Cares Award for her volunteer service to preserve our environment and the Governor's Colorado Cares Volunteer Service Award, presented at the Governor's Mansion in 2006? And that she and her husband Dick are known for raising crossbred Salers/Angus cattle on their Silver Springs Ranch in Woodland Park?

Life for Jane now has little in common with the Rhode Island native's early years. The highest mountain in the "Ocean State" is 840 feet, while the elevation at her home is ten times that! Jane grew up with a love for the outdoors and Dick had a goal of becoming a veterinarian in his high school years. However, neither dreamed they would eventually artificially inseminate cattle, check calving cows at 2 a.m. in minus 10 degree temps and assist cows with difficult deliveries.

After graduating from Woonsocket High School in the northern part of Rhode Island followed by a course at Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Providence, Jane moved to Boston where she landed a job in the office of the President of Northeastern University. After a couple of years, Jane tired of the traffic, the all too frequent nor'easters that paralyzed the city with freezing rain and snow and the hot, humid summers with no air conditioning.

In 1969, Jane headed west to the city of Denver where she hoped to find a job that didn't include typing and filing. She got a job serving cocktails at the high-end Manor Vail Resort where she met Dick Lass, a construction superintendent taking time off to ski at Vail. They married several months later and Jane followed Dick to his different job sites around the country. While on a job in Colorado Springs they found a very run down Silver Springs Ranch up the Pass and, with their two children, the work began.

Jane soon found that "easing in" to ranching just didn't happen. They still lived in Colorado Springs when a calf from their first herd was born too weak to stand and nurse. They took the calf to their city home where Jane enlisted the help of a nurse neighbor to help insert the esophageal feeding tube to administer the calf formula when Dick was at work. She laughs that the calf learned to walk on her shag rug! The calf died despite all the effort which was her first devastating lesson in ranch life.

In spite of the hard work and long hours that ranching requires, Jane has fallen in love with her lifestyle and the commitment of the fellow ranchers she has met. She delights in her spectacular views of Pikes Peak and the waterfowl that return every year to the ponds in her pasture. Anxious to protect the rural nature of Teller County, Jane was a founding member of the Rural Land Preservation Group and has helped organize several workshops for local ranchers/landowners on conservation easements.

Fortunately for Teller County, the Lassés have made Woodland Park their home since 1981 and have given back to the community in many ways. Jane continues helping as secretary of the 4-H Foundation Board, is an active member of the Pikes Peak CattleWomen and is on the vestry of St. David of the Hills Episcopal Church. She also serves on T.H.E. Coalition's Board of Directors and is an active member of the Midland Depot Working Committee.



Jane at the "Women in Ranching Exhibit" in the Colorado History Museum, Denver

Coming July 2009: Marigreen Pines Tours!

Contact Ute Pass Historical Society at 686-7512 or uphs@qwestoffice.net for information and to reserve your tickets. Call soon because this once-every-three-year event is always a sell out!



T.H.E. Coalition

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Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Members of T.H.E. Coalition include nonprofit organizations, county agencies, local businesses and individuals that share a common mission: *to facilitate preservation of the historic, cultural, environmental, recreational, and scenic resources in and around Teller County, and to broaden public understanding regarding the significance of those resources.*

2009 Nonprofit Workshop Schedule

(Continued from Page 1)

September (date and time to be determined)

Basic Finance for Small Nonprofits: Learn the basic principles of financial management, including chart of accounts, record keeping, and generating key financial statements.

October (date and time to be determined)

Basic Budgeting for Small Nonprofits: Learn how to develop operating and program budgets, how to monitor your budget, and how to present your actual vs. budget income and expense reports.

For more information or to register, call Lynn Harrison at Woodland Park Public Library, 687-9281 x103. And, be sure to visit the Nonprofit Resource Center located in the Colorado Room on the third floor of the Library.

T.H.E. Coalition welcomes your comments and suggestions for our newsletter ...

- Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?
- Do you have ideas for articles or other content?
- Will you share your writing and desktop publishing skills with us?
- Can you lend a hand with periodic mailings?

Contact Nancy Desilets at 719.651.5339 or via Coordinao@TheCoalitionCO.org.

We look forward to having you on our volunteer team!

Thank you ... Partners, Donors & 2009 Members!

Ardmore Associates · Dee Breitenfeld · Catamount Institute · Catamount Center · City of Woodland Park · The Cowhand · Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company · Paul & Nancy Desilets · Divide Chamber of Commerce · Mike & Helen Dyer · Gold Rush Signs · Intermountain Rural Electric Association · William & Stephanie Jackson · Lynn Harrison · Pete Kuyper · R.E. Lane LLC · Dick & Jane Lass · Dave Martinek · Mel McFarland · Park State Bank · George and Jeannie Parkhurst · Rampart Library District · Rocky Mountain Western Heritage Center at the Colorado Salt Works · Shipping Plus · State Historical Fund · Teller County Historic Preservation Advisory Board · Ute Pass Historical Society · Dick Unzelman · John and Marion Vance and more!