



CERTified Mail

Volume 6 – August 2007

Gwinnett County, Georgia --- www.gwinnettcert.org

Hello CERTS:

I want to pass on to you that our 2nd Annual meeting was both an important one as well as a success.

To address the first point, the meeting was important because we had the pleasure and honor to have the Director of GEMA, Charley English come to our meeting and be the keynote speaker. By his attendance, we have struck a milestone that Gwinnett CERT is a serious resource that cannot be overlooked for the work we are doing for Gwinnett County. Other noteworthy speakers were Gwinnett Police Chief Charles Walters who also stated his appreciation for our organization and pleaded with us as Gwinnett CERT's to stay plugged in. Tommy Rutledge, Gwinnett Fire PIO also spoke to us providing kind words for CERT as well as some funny comments as he is always known to offer.



Alan Doss, Chief Walters, Tom Mulheron



Charley English with Tom Mulheron

Last but not least, our final speaker was Alan Doss who explained how CERT is running point for the development of Gwinnett County Citizens Corp which is the umbrella from which CERT is a part of and that the CERT organization is an example to model after in the area of volunteerism.



Alan Doss, Tommy Rutledge, Tom Mulheron

As for the second point of our meeting being a successful one. In attendance we had 68 CERT graduates along with guests from organizations like ARES, Citizens Police Academy, Citizens Fire Academy, and the Gwinnett Citizens Corp Council. We continue to grow and we have increased our graduate ranks by nearly 40 people.



Some members chatting with speakers after the meeting

An interesting metric at our meeting was while Tommy was offering thank you letters to all those who assisted in the Gwinnett Glows event on July 4th, half of those people were not at our meeting. This tells such a good story that not only did we have 68 CERT people at our meeting, there were at least 10 people who are regularly involved with CERT who could not make it that evening. Add those people to the list of 68 as well as the 15 people who called me personally letting me know they could not make it. That brings our total up to 93 people out of the 168 CERT graduates that are directly involved and plugged into what we are doing. That to me is a wonderful statistic that we have at least 55%, and I am sure that is higher, of our ranks that is directly plugged into the CERT organization.

Our organization is unique in that we are one of very few CERT organizations that is a non – profit organization and is volunteer run and managed. We are different because we partner with governmental agencies which offer advantages to both parties. We believe our model of Volunteer run and managed will be the model of CERT organizations in the future for as we all know that our community emergency responders are and will no doubt be taxed by lack of resources in a large scale emergency.



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Letter from Tom, continued:

We are not only a non – profit organization but we are an organization that has just received its 501c3 status which allows us to carry forth to a new level. This status will allow us to market our organizations as well as fund raise for monies that will support CERT and it's visions into the community. Those visions are to staff four to five Battalions that line up with the Gwinnett Fire Battalions with a response trailer that can be mobilized to a location to assist emergency responders. We will look to increase refresher and additional training for Cert.'s to be more effective to themselves and there communities. A major goal for us is to take the CERT training into the community, the businesses, churches, and neighborhoods. And finally we want to be a household name in our community and be an organization that people want to be a part of which will be the end all goal as everyone be prepared in case of an emergency.

I thank you all for the continued support and I look forward to seeing you at our next event

Tom Mulheron
Program Director, Gwinnett CERT

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SAR Training Opportunity for CERT Grads

Saturday September 29th we will hold a SAR (Search & Rescue)

Exercise from 7:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Lunch will be provided

The location will be in Snellville.

Come to this if:

You've done Search & Rescue and want to keep sharp

OR

You've never done Search & Rescue and want to test yourself in a safe environment

This will be a combination exercise, some field time, and some classroom time.

To register email bruce@gwinnettcert.org with your name, email and phone.



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CERT Volunteer Opportunity

Where: Gwinnett Mall of GA in the food court.
When: Sunday, September 16th. 6 am to 12:00 noon

We have been asked to support a large scale exercise with Gwinnett County.

This exercise will entail a Chemical scare where police and fire will coordinate and set up a decontamination area which will be utilized as well as the distribution of medications. Gwinnett County is looking for 75 to 100 volunteers to be role players and actors in this exercise.

This is the first time that CERT has been asked to participate in a Gwinnett County Exercise and we would love to have a great showing. So please consider this event and put it on your calendar to attend.

Register early: First 75 CERT folks that register and attend will receive a t-shirt.

To register, send an email to djubon@gwinnettcert.org with your name, email and phone number.

Invitation from the CPAAA

Thursday, October 18th at 7 pm.

We have been invited by the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association to attend a tour of the new Gwinnett County Police Department training facility. Cpl. Christina Hughes will conduct a tour of the new GCPD Training Facility (located at 854 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville) for the CPAAA, CFAAA, & CERT.

Anyone who is interested should send an e-mail to Mark Lemke at mlemke@cdtechno.com so he can compile a list. He needs your full name, organization/s (CPAAA, CFAAA, &/or CERT), a current phone # & description (i.e. cell, home, work, etc.), a current e-mail address & description (personal, work, etc.). Even if you think he already has this info for you, please don't assume so; lists get "stale", and he may have old information or not be able to associate a name with the e-mail address, etc.



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Volunteer Recognition

We have been certified into the Presidential Volunteer Service Award Program. This program allows individuals to record ones volunteer service to the community which includes CERT and any other volunteer service or organization you are part of. Please visit this website and log your hours of service as far back as 2006. This program is based on the honor system and is administered by Gwinnett CERT.

From here forward, any CERT activities, meetings that you are a part of will be entered by the administrator. All other volunteer activities should be entered by you. Awards, which are Presidential pins along with a letter from the President, will be ordered and given at our next annual meeting for those who meet goals. The award levels are: Bronze = 100-249, Silver = 250-499, Gold = 500 +.

Web site: www.presidentialserviceawards.gov

Log in: Your e-mail

Password: PVSAPassword

If you have difficulty or questions, please contact Tom Mulheron 404-451-6061 or Dorothy Jubon 678-482-0703