

To: Grand Computers Members, Sun City Grand
From: Leon D. Chapman, President, Grand Computers
Subject: December 2006 Newsletter

***** Winter '06 Class Registration *****

Registration for Winter Classes will be January 5 for volunteers and 6th for all other club members. Registration on January 6th will begin at 9:00 am with check-in as usual at 8:00 am in the Pima/ Apache Room. Club members must pay their annual dues (\$20.00) at check-in prior to registration in the Computer Club Training Room.

A new on-line registration is being implemented and members will be issued their personal password and code to register for classes via the new on-Line registration process for Winter classes and also for future classes. Staff will assist members in implementing this new procedure.

We expect to make the class schedules available about the middle of December on-line and in the Club room. Several new classes for Digital Camera/Photo related processing have been scheduled to accommodate members who have been waiting to learn how to operate their camera and picture processing activity.

Ken Raske
Education Director

Note: You must renew your membership for 2007 to enroll in classes on Jan 5-6. You can do that ahead of time by stopping by our Open Use room any time in December.

***** THERE ARE ENROLLMENT CHANGES COMING *****

We have made the transition to a web based system that provides the monitors with a calendar and the ability to sign up for their monitoring times over the Web.

Our new web based enrollment system will be utilized during our Winter enrollment with assistance from our Education department. The enrollment process will be similar to the previous enrollments (as noted above by Ken), with the class enrollment being performed by the student (with help) using the WWW. Each member will require a password to be able to use the new system. This will all be explained by Ken Raske's assistants during our January 5-6 enrollment. It is our plan to fully begin using our WWW enrollment system for the Spring enrollment. That would mean you will be able to enroll at home for the Spring classes over the WWW if you are a club member.

Our new monitoring system and enrollment system is being developed by Bob Crawford who is also our web master. He has done an outstanding job and deserves recognition for his great work. Bob, Thanks for all your efforts!

***** Club Survey-WE NEED YOUR INPUT *****

The Board has decided to take a survey of our members to help provide inputs for future direction of the club. We have implemented a simple survey of 10 questions that is easy for everyone to take. We need your input and hope that everyone will take the survey. The survey may be taken at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=877572977992>

Just copy the above URL into your Browser address and hit return.

The survey will only be active until December 25--be sure to take it before Christmas. We are paying for a web service for this survey, so it will only be available for a short period of time.

*****DUES INCREASE*****

In the past few months, the Board performed a life-cycle cost analysis on our classroom and open use room. This analysis included a 3 year life estimate on computers and all software. The classroom revenue is roughly breaking even on student class fees to maintain and replace our classroom equipment and software in about three years. The open use room cost replacement to break even assuming 1359 members was \$16.92. Our current annual membership was \$10. The Board voted and approved the raising of the Grand Computer annual fees to \$20 based upon this life-cycle cost analysis. The details of this life-cycle cost analysis were presented at our General meeting on November 1. A motion was made and seconded to raise our annual dues to \$20 starting December 1, 2006. The motion passed unanimously. The class fees remain the same, \$5 / two hours of class.

If you have experience or talents to offer to Grand Computers, please consider volunteering.

Digital Photo instructors needed. If you have skill in processing digital photographs on a computer, please consider volunteering as an instructor. The club would like to offer more classes in digital photo processing on both PCs and Macs. Contact Ken Raske, krask@cox.net, if you are interested.

*****NEW TECHNOLOGIES SIG*****

Be sure to check out the New Technologies SIG at:

http://grandcomputers.org/NewTechnologies_SIG.htm

They have some interesting topics this year and meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4-6pm in the computer classroom.

PERKS FOR CLUB VOLUNTEERS:

Able to enroll early to obtain the classes they desire.

Qualifications:

- * Monitors who have served 3 times since last registration

- * Class assistants
- * Instructors
- * SIG facilitators
- * Board Members

Attend the Volunteer Dinner in March (Free dinner & door prizes).

Qualifications:

- * Monitors who have served 5 times in previous calendar year
- * Class assistants for 3 classes in previous calendar year
- * Class registration assistants
- * Instructors
- * SIG facilitators
- * Board Members
- * Past Presidents

If you haven't volunteered as a monitor, class assistant, or instructor, we are looking for a few select people just like you to help us at Grand Computers. Please stop by our general use room and sign up. It is through our volunteers that we are able to keep the computer general use room open from 9am-4pm Monday-Friday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We also are looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Cleaning of our computer rooms - 1 time / month (Saturday)
(Contact Edward Jones at cadillac6721@yahoo.com)

Instructors & Assistant Instructors
(Contact Ken Raske at krask@cox.net)

*****NOTES FROM CAM*****

CAM is sponsoring a food drive for the St. Mary's/Westside Food Bank.

1. 11-15 December - drop off non-perishable food or a check at CAM office.

Leon Chapman, President, Grand Computers
