

Volunteers Honored at July 22nd Luncheon

The SMP Volunteer Corps was honored July 22 at a luncheon at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant. Special guest speaker Shannon Goodwin, Special Agent with the OIG/HEAT Medicare Fraud Strike Force, mesmerized the group with stories of various investigations.

Although not all volunteers were able to be present, each of the 15 fully trained volunteers was introduced and thanked for their contributions to SMP. Ron Rindone was presented with the 2010 SMP "Make a Difference" award in recognition of several new ideas he has proposed to help us spread the SMP message of Protect, Detect and Report.

Other volunteer awards given included a canvas SMP tote bag, perfect for carrying SMP materials to education sessions and outreach events. The tote was given to all volunteers who have contributed more than 25 hours of time. Nicoletta Giannico and Ron received their tote bags at the luncheon. Not on hand to receive their totes were volunteers: Maria and Ralph Oneal, James Hebert and Ann Nauman. As volunteers hit the 25 hour mark, they will receive their tote.

Louisiana SMP program manager, Julie Mickles Agan, also showed everyone the lovely silver star-shaped desk clock that all volunteers will earn when they have donated 100 hours to SMP work.

All volunteers were presented with our brand new SMP t-shirts and a gift bag of goodies bearing the "Make a Difference" logo. "Make a Difference" was chosen as the theme for our first year of work since we do believe that everything we do, no matter how big or small, to educate Medicare beneficiaries to "Protect, Detect and Report" fraud helps in the fight to save our tax dollars from scam artists.



Shannon Goodwin (left), special agent with the OIG/HEAT Strike Force, with Ron Rindone, winner of the 2010 "Make a Difference" award at the luncheon