

Older Americans MONTH

With a significant percentage of Florida's population over the age of 65, Florida has a vibrant and diverse older population whose social and economic contributions make a difference in communities statewide. Since 1963, communities and agencies across the state and nation have recognized May as Older Americans Month.

This year, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) celebrated this year's theme "Unleash the Power of Age" and the contributions of older Americans in the state's achievements. The PSC showed seniors across the state how to save money on utility bills and assisted eligible consumers in applying for the Lifeline Assistance discounted telephone service program.

"We look forward to visiting with Florida's seniors each May to share important information that can help stretch their pocketbooks," said PSC Chairman Ronald A. Brisé. "Older Americans Month also provides an opportunity to commend this important population segment for helping to make Florida a great place to live, work and play."

Throughout the month of May, the PSC partnered with senior centers and aging advocates to hold educational sessions at the Eustis Senior Center, Union Congregational Church in Tavares, James Wyche Senior Center in Groveland, Leesburg Senior Center, South Shore Community Center in Miami Beach, the Covenant Palms in Miami, and the Alliance for Aging, Inc. in Miami.



PSC Outreach Coordinator Thelma Crump (second from right) is pictured with three Ms. Senior Jacksonville contestants at the Expo.

Also in conjunction with Older Americans Month, the PSC participated in the Jacksonville Senior Expo. The City of Jacksonville organized the expo to give seniors information on senior services. More than 5,500 seniors attended this event that included vendors from the Departments of Business and Professional Regulation and Agriculture and Consumer Services, and federal, city, county, non-profits, private businesses and organizations, and also health care, physician organizations specializing in senior care,

assisted living facilities, and residential services. Jacksonville Mayor, Alvin Brown, offered remarks and kudos to the organizers and participants.

For more information on Older Americans Month, please contact your local Area Agency on Aging by visiting www.eldercare.gov or 1-800-677-1116 to find ongoing opportunities to celebrate and support older Americans.

Click here to find additional information on Lifeline Assistance, tips on water and energy conservation, and free copies of our consumer publications.