FIGHTING HUNGER

Employees from First National Bank recently volunteered their time to help pack over 3,000 meals for children in need of our care. If you would like to learn more about how your business can help, please visit www.kahyankton.org.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

New NAIFA-Lewis & Clark officers are, from left: Roy Wilcox, Doug Frederick, Julie Auch and Cathy Becker.

NAIFA Reborn In Yankton

Current office positions were established at the NAIFA-Lewis & Clark April 18, 2012 meeting: Cathy Becker, Secretary/Treasurer; Julie Auch, National Committeeperson; Doug Frederick, President-Elect and Roy Wilcox, President. The officers will complete the current year term to June 30 and be the officers for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013.

NAIFA-Lewis & Clark was chartered in 1959 at the time the local association was called Lewis and Clark Association of Life Underwriters. There were then and are today nine local associations tied in with the South Dakota State Association of Life Underwriters and the National Association of Life Underwriters.

In 1999 the National, State and Local Associations changed their name to: National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).

NAIFA-Lewis & Clark has had five members that have held the position of President fo NAIFA-South Dakota, with the most current being Paul Steffen, 1995-1996. Others were Byron Bymers 1991-1992, Dennis Westgard 1988-1989, Dale Oleson 1977-1978 and Howard Winstead 1969-1970. The local NAIFA-Lewis & Clark hosted the State Conventions the year our local members were State President.

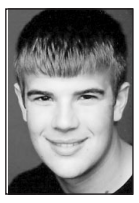
NAIFA Code of Ethics establishes the responsibility for each member: "To hold my profession in high esteem and strive to enhance its prestige; To present accurately and honestly all facts essential to my clients' decisions; To perfect my skills and increase my knowledge through continuing education."

NAIFA-Lewis & Clark has held meetings in February, March and April this year the third Wednesday of the month. The May meeting will be held at the NAIFA-South Dakota State Convention in Aberdeen May 16-18. The June 20, 2012, NAIFA-Lewis & Clark meeting will be held at noon at Minerva's.

Students Earn Sanford Scholarships

Anderson

Christopherson


Ellison

Girard

Hessman

Leichtnam

Zalud

VERMILLION — Sanford Vermillion Medical Center (SVMC) and Dakota Hospital Foundation recently awarded $5,000 in academic scholarships to area high school students.

HEALTH CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

• Kristina Zalud, a 2012 graduate of Vermillion High School was awarded a Sanford Vermillion Healthcare Career Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. Zalud will be attending the University of South Dakota this fall majoring in pre-medicine. Kristina is the daughter of Garreth and Trudy Zalud.

• Melissa Hessman, a 2012 graduate of Irene-Wakonda High School was awarded a Sanford Vermillion Healthcare Career Scholarship in the amount of $500. Hessman will be attending the University of South Dakota this fall majoring in health sciences. Melissa is the daughter of Ruth Hessman and Doug Hessman.

• Samantha Girard, a 2012 graduate of Vermillion High School was awarded a Sanford Vermillion Healthcare Career Scholarship in the amount of $500. Girard will be attending the University of South Dakota this fall majoring in medical biology/pre-med. Samantha is the daughter of Mark and Chris Girard.

• Lauren Leichtnam, a 2012 graduate of Vermillion High School was awarded a Sanford Vermillion Healthcare Career Scholarship in the amount of $500. Leichtnam will be attending the University of South Dakota this fall majoring in nursing. Lauren is the daughter of Les and Rita Leichtnam.

• Katie Anderson, a 2012 graduate of Ponca High School was awarded a Sanford Vermillion Healthcare Career Scholarship in the amount of $500. Anderson will be attending the University of South Dakota this fall majoring in health sciences. Katie is the daughter of Ray and Karen Anderson.

The purpose of the Sanford Vermillion Healthcare Career Scholarship is to identify and retain outstanding Vermillion area students dedicated to furthering their education in a health related occupation at the University of South Dakota.

EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Area students Kaleb Christopherson and Mitchell Ellison were each awarded a 2012 Dakota Hospital Foundation Employee Dependent Scholarship.

• Kaleb Christopherson, a 2011 graduate of Gayville-Volin High School was awarded a $1,000 scholarship. Christopherson plans to attend South Dakota State University this fall majoring in wildlife and fisheries science. Kaleb is the son of Jill Christopherson and Rick Christopherson. Jill is an administrative assistant at Sanford Vermillion.

• Mitchell Ellison, a 2012 graduate of Vermillion High School was awarded a $1,000 scholarship. Ellison plans to attend Briar Cliff College majoring in health sciences. Mitchell is the son of Nancy Ellison and Doug Ellison. Nancy is the laboratory manager at Sanford Vermillion.

The purpose of the Dakota Hospital Foundation Employee Dependent Scholarship is to identify outstanding achievement on the part of employees' children who are planning to pursue a postsecondary education in a two or four-year college, university or vocational-technical program.

Six Organizations Recognized For Excellence

MINNEAPOLIS — The Performance Excellence Network (formerly the Minnesota Council for Quality) honors six recipients of the 2011 Performance Excellence Award (formerly the MN Quality Award), five from Minnesota and one from South Dakota. The Award is based on the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence and is the culmination of a rigorous evaluation of an organization's management system. Evaluation Criteria includes leadership, strategic planning, customer-focused processes, measurement systems, workforce processes, and operations and recognizes organizations that are systematically improving results.

The six organizations receiving the Award were Avera Sacred Heart Hospital (Yankton), which is also the first organization in the state of South Dakota to receive this recognition, Byron Public Schools (Byron), Cardinal of Minnesota (Rochester), Designs for Learning (St. Paul), Marshall Public Schools (Marshall), and Rochester Community & Technical College (Rochester). All six organizations were recognized Tuesday evening in a celebration at The Great Hall in St. Paul, attended by nearly 400 leaders from Minnesota and South Dakota.

In addition, the former Minnesota Council for Quality celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and revealed its new brand name of the Performance Excellence Network at the Tuesday conference and celebration.

Brian Lassiter (President of the Performance Excellence Network, formerly the Minnesota Council for Quality) presents Pamela J. Rezac, Ed.D., President and CEO of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and Doug Ekeren, Vice President of Planning and Development at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital with the Network's Advancement Award.

Commenting on Tuesday's awards ceremony, Brian Lassiter, president of the Performance Excellence Network said, "In today's 'new normal,' I don't think we have a choice. We have to improve; we have to reach higher levels of performance - higher levels of excellence. I believe our customers, our patients, our students, and our citizens in our two States need it. I believe our great country needs it."

"We're on a quest to be the best," said Pam Rezac, CEO of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, the first-ever recipient of the SD Performance Excellence Award. "We chose Baldrige not to win an award, but because it was the gold standard for performance in the country, and we have improved our performance greatly by using the framework." Avera also recently received an honor from CMS/Premier for being a top performer in the nation in clinical quality for three consecutive years; they have received recognition by Health Grades for outstanding patient experience.

The event also recognized the 2011 Board of Evaluators, a group of about 130 volunteers supporting this program. Evaluators include CEOs, other business managers and professionals, physicians and surgeons, school superintendents and school teachers from throughout the state, each giving more than 100 hours of volunteer service to help other organizations reach higher levels of performance.

"The Baldrige-based Performance Excellence Award framework is about getting better, faster," says Dr. Peter Carryer, Vice Chair of the Performance Excellence Network board of directors and retired CEO of Mayo Clinic Health System, a four-time participant in the Award process. "I have seen these concepts help my organization and my community of Rochester improve performance. On behalf of the Network board of directors, I congratulate the six organizations that are on the journey to excellence."

There are four award categories - commitment, advancement, achievement and excellence - to honor the appropriate stage of their improvement journey. Since 1991, 121 Minnesota organizations and now one South Dakota organization have received recognition.

The event also featured keynote remarks by four organizations that have received the nation's top recognition for performance excellence, the Baldrige National Quality Award: Freese & Nichols (Ft Worth), Henry Ford Health System (Detroit), Nestle Purina (St. Louis), and Richland College (Dallas). Spencer Cronk, Commissioner of Administration, offered remarks on behalf of Governor Dayton and Lt Governor Solon regarding the importance of continuous improvement to the productivity, competitiveness, and success of the State of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

MEETINGS

YANKTON AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Yankton American Legion Auxiliary met June 18, 2012, with President Betty Adam presiding with 18 Auxiliary members present.

Helen Simpson reported we have 111 members. She introduced a new member, Myrna Hunhoff. Helen has forms for membership and encourages members to recruit new members. Please update addresses and phone numbers for next year's Auxiliary book.

Marlys List reported on Girls State which was held in Vermillion May 28 through June 1, 2012. Girls State attendees donated generous amounts of food and clothing to the Women of War Home in Belle Fourche, which is the only home for female veterans in the United States.

Cheers Chairman, Audrey Lubbers reported that she sent a sympathy card to the family of Verena Heimes and a get well card to Sandy Langland.

President Betty Adam read a letter from Linda Youngbluth, District 8 president.

She has received 24 out of 34 year end reports from the District 8 units. She plans to hold 4 county workshops in September for the purpose of helping the Units fill out the forms correctly.

Results of the election of officers are: president: Betty Adam; First Vice president: Joyce List; second vice president Theresa Brandt; secretary: Dianne Bahn; treasurer: Priscilla Mazourek; chaplain: Kathleen Ekeren; Sergeant at Arms: Martha List and Mary Kuchta.

Betty Adam, Joyce List and Marlys List gave reports on the Department Convention held in Watertown June 16-17.

There will be NO meetings in July and August. The next meeting is Sept. 17, 2012, and will be held in the VFW basement.

INTERCHANGE, INC.

Interchange, Inc. met at noon on June 18, 2012, at Minervas. The presiding officer was Kathy Jacobs. The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Guests included Julie Auch of New York Life, guest of Mary Kay Cwach, and, Cynthia Miller of Riverfront Broadcasting, guest of Gwen Steckler. Pam Kettering announced that United Way is currently conducting a Community Survey to assess their services. The survey can be accessed via their website. Kathy Jacobs announced that the Friends of the Library are hosting this evening a free concert by Stringbeans, a popular children's music group from Lincoln, Neb. Hostess Mary Kay Cwach of New York Life introduced the speaker, Barb Hanson, co-owner and Office Manager of Hanson Briggs Advertising Inc. Barb presented an overview of their services. The company specializes in a wide variety of products and services for all printing and promotional needs with an emphasis on providing personal service. The company was originally owned by Bob Briggs and purchased by Barb and her husband, Matt, in 2004. In 2011 they purchased Sodak Printing to meet a growing demand for printing. They are currently located at 1213 W. 9th Street in Yankton which is the former location of Color Me Kids.

The next meeting will be on June 25 at noon at Minervas with the hostess Melea DeJean. The speaker will be Jerry Oster from WNAX who will speak on the news business and doing the news at WNAX.

RC HARMONY SWEET ADELINES

RiverCity Harmony Sweet Adelines' June meeting was held on Monday June 10. Marlene Herman (new president) called the meeting to order. Secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved.

Many happy and welcome comments were discussed about our Sing Out programs to Randolph, Neb., Care Center and Majestic Bluffs Assisted Living Center in Yankton.

President Marlene reminded us were singing at the Freeman Salem Home on June 18.

The show chairmen were assigned to hire a Show Quartet for our October Show. Meeting was adjourned.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB 6217

Toastmaster Steve Anderson called the Club 6217 June 14 meeting to order and asked Joyce Stevens to be vote counter, attendance taker and to lead the invocation. Stevens "mother's prayer" emphasized that all things are possible with God.

At this noon meeting in the Benedictine Center Anderson welcomed two guests, Mari Helen Rogers and Sister Delores Rush. Anderson also called on two speakers. The first speaker was Gale Vogt with "Driven" about his racing avocation. The second speaker was Greg Stach with "Roasting MJ!"

Vogt's visual aide manual speech included pictures, like "1 Bad Cad" and postcards for autographing. He chronicled his lifelong passion for racing from his youth to present day racing on Saturday nights at the Wagner Speedway. "It's in my blood!" said Vogt.

Stach toasted and roasted Rogers using various archery terms to describe Rogers. Some of these phrases were "straight as an arrow" in life, "hitting the bull's eye" in love, and possible career changes once Rogers moves to Las Vegas. Rogers announced he'll be teaching archery to special needs people, such as children and injured soldiers.

Rogers had a "myriad of items" in a grab bag and allowed one Mulligan (put back) if the respondents didn't recognize the object. The Best Respondents award was a tie. Winners were Taylor O'Bryan, who described "a travel hot pack" and Tim Bohn, who was sure he could use that "what's-it" electrical item.

General Evaluator Eileen O'Connor's team consisted of Chelsi Hames counting "so"; Kary Beltz timing, and Muriel Stach's "forte" word of the day. The Best Evaluator trophy went to Jen Hovland, saying she too is a "gear head."

Other members from around the room complimented Rogers on his contributions to the Club: Hovland, "kept the meetings positive"; O'Bryan, "did demonstrations"; M. Stach, "introduced giving notes to speakers"; Vogt, "encouraged visual speaking"; Stan Sudbeck, "brought diversity"; G. Stach, "brought a change of attire"; Jane Miller, "lives life to the fullest"; Bohn, "published in archery magazine"; and O'Connor, "inspirational".

Bohn called the business meeting to order. He checked on the progress of the Club goals and announced that there will be no noon meetings on July 5 (due to the holiday) and July 19 (due to the annual Club pot luck picnic at 6:30 at Bohn's residence).

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