

Branching Out *to benefit others*

National Mutual Benefit Branch 73 Newsletter

December 2009

Greetings to members of National Mutual Benefit Branch 73! We have had a very busy year, complete with family events, community outreach activities, fundraisers, and donations. Branch 73 was extremely pleased to be able to do a small part to help the people of our community. Here is a recap of 2009's Branch activities.

Fraternal Leadership Seminar

We started our year out with six of our board members attending the Annual NMB Fraternal Leadership Seminar held in Bismarck, ND on February 20-22, 2009. NMB Branches from North and South Dakota met for an educational and fun-filled weekend. This is a great time for renewing friendships and making new ones. We enjoyed sharing ideas for future activities and fundraisers, and hearing about the ones that were held this year. It is always amazing how many volunteer hours NMB volunteers give each year!



Branch 73 receives the Gold Medal Award from National Mutual Benefit President George Yanna at the 2009 Fraternal Leadership Seminar.



Children and adults alike enjoyed hunting for Easter eggs in May.

Easter Egg Hunt

April brought our Easter Egg Hunt, along with a nice spring storm. Therefore, the Egg Hunt was rescheduled, and the Easter Bunny finally arrived on May 9, 2009 at Salem Park. Surely the non-NMB members who were celebrating a birthday at the park that day were wondering if the Easter Bunny had lost track of time! Thanks to Sara for being our Easter Bunny again this year. To all of you who came out to hunt eggs in May, we hope to see you again next year! Our Coloring Contest winners were: Haley Patino for the 7-10 age group and James Meyer for the 3-6 age group.

JOIN HANDS DAY

JOIN HANDS DAY is a national day of service sponsored by America's Fraternal Benefit Societies. Our local NMB members team up with youth for a community service project. This year we partnered with Our Savior's Lutheran Church Youth

Group and helped an NMB member complete odd jobs around her house and yard. If you know anyone who could use our help next May, please call the Spearfish office.

Marci Steedly Fundraiser

A Matching Funds Benefit was held for Marci Steedly on May 15 at Hudson Hall. A soup supper, bingo, and silent auction were held to help defray medical costs due to a surgery.

Children's Miracle Network

In June, Branch 73 presented a check to the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) in the amount of \$500. Hugh Hart, recently-retired District Manager of the Western Dakotas Agency, was present at the Rushmore Mall and presented the check in front of a live television audience. Branch 73 donated 50 hours of volunteer service in the Spearfish area to receive this \$500 Community Benefit Grant. CMN has been



Our Savior's Lutheran Church Youth Group and Branch 73 members teamed up to paint a woman's house for JOIN HANDS DAY.

instrumental in many people's lives that we know and care about. They purchase life-saving equipment for the neo-natal unit at Rapid City Regional Hospital, where premature babies are cared for, and they also help with parents who need to travel to have additional medical care or other post-delivery care. Every year they are able to save more and more lives due to the new and improved care that is given and money donated during the telethon. Branch 73 is very proud to be a small part of this event.

Flag Day

This year three American flags were presented by our Branch in the Spearfish area. One large flag was presented to the new Spearfish Recreational Center for their opening day on May 23. Two other flags were presented to the Fire Department and its sub-station. Each year on Flag Day, Branch 73 is involved in flag presentations in the Spearfish area. We have also given to individuals who display the flag at their home. If you know of an organization in



112 people enjoyed each others' fellowship, picnic lunches, and the opportunity to cool off at the Spearfish Recreational Center!

need of an American Flag, please contact the NMB office in Spearfish.

Waterpark Event

This was the first year for our Waterpark Activity in the new Spearfish Recreational Center. The day was beautiful, warm and perfect for an outing at a wonderful new waterpark. We had about 112 people come join us and the kids and adults alike had a grand time. Everyone stayed and enjoyed the day, had picnics, and played on the slides and in the water as they enjoyed their friends and families. Next year we hope to be all organized and ready for an even larger group. The people at the Rec Center were so helpful and very nice to work with, which made it a pleasant time for everyone. Thank you Spearfish for this wonderful family recreation facility. Branch 73 will be joining you again!

Miniature Golf

Branch families enjoyed an afternoon of golf at the new miniature golf course in Spearfish on August 16. It is located behind the Lucky Strikes Bowling Alley. Participants enjoyed two rounds of golf on this sunny Sunday afternoon.



Members of Branch 73 present the new Spearfish Recreational Center with an American flag.



Hugh enjoys one of his retirement gifts—a new pair of cowboy boots to wear on the ranch.

Western Dakotas District Manager Hugh Hart Retires

Sunday, August 23 brought lots of people to the Senior Center in Spearfish for a very special occasion. Our very own Hugh Hart retired as District Manager of the NMB Western Dakotas Region. Hugh has been instrumental in supporting NMB members through local branch events, fraternal fundraisers, and with their insurance programs. He is our very favorite auctioneer and a good friend. Hugh and his wife, JoAnn, will be enjoying their winters in Arizona and will be back in the Black Hills area for the summer. We will miss him as our mentor, but congratulate him on a successful career in the insurance business with National Mutual Benefit.

New Manager Named

At this time we also want to congratulate David Yost on being named our new District Manager for the Great Plains Agency located in Huron, South Dakota. David knows his stuff and enjoys helping people, whether offering insurance coverage to families or helping new representatives in the business. We look forward to working with David and his staff and welcome them aboard!

Eleventh Annual Poker Run

Brad Doyen had his hands full when he agreed to help us with our Poker Run this year. Little did he know what he was getting himself into! First, the original date for the Run, August 9, was pouring rain. Then, if that wasn't enough, on the second date, September 27, it was about 54



Paul Stadler (Vice President of Marketing), Hugh Hart, and David Yost (District Manager of the Great Plains Agency) celebrate their business friendship at Hugh's retirement party.

degrees and very windy. But, as they say, the show must go on! About 17 loyal riders bucked the wind and cold to raise money for the elderly. A big "thank you" goes out to all who still came out and helped us on that day. And thanks to those riders, we are shopping for 18 senior Spearfish residents this Christmas. So, what do you think Brad, do you want to try it again next year?!

Patty (Langley) Maki Benefit

Patty Maki, a long-time member of National Mutual Benefit, found herself in a situation of needing a cornea replacement. Her need for assistance was brought to our attention and it was decided to help as much as we could to raise some extra funds for her out-of-pocket expenses. The fundraiser, held at the Black Hills State University Jacket Legacy Room, included a taco bar, casino games, and silent auction. Area businesses, friends and family donated items for the silent auction. The University provided the venue and food from University Dining Services. We had about 80 people in attendance and all had fun playing games and eating tacos. We were able to give some extra money for needed expenses, so we feel it was a successful event.

Robin Bury Fundraiser

A Matching Funds Benefit was held for Robin Bury on October 10 at the Methodist Church in Spearfish. The fundraiser was to help defray medical expenses. This event, sponsored by family, friends, and National Mutual Benefit included a silent auction, rummage sale and a cake walk.



Hugh Hart presents Branch 73 treasurer Ruth Doyen with the South Dakota Fraternal Congress Fraternalist of the Year award.

Halloween Carnival

This was our first time at the Holiday Inn Halloween Carnival, and the families there really enjoyed the evening. Lots of candy was distributed along with some promotional items for the kids. The event seems to get bigger and bigger each year. Over 3,000 kids came through, and this type of activity provides a safe environment for the little ones. We hope to see you there next year!



College Scholarship

Our branch annually offers college scholarships to graduating high school seniors to help with the cost of tuition, books, and living expenses. This year we offered two scholarships to 2009 graduating seniors in the Northern Black Hills. Qualified candidates must be an NMB member or child of a member.

This year the recipients were Alyssa Dietz (pictured above) and Kelli Hartl (pictured below). They each received a \$500 scholarship.

Turkey Bingo Benefit for NMB Member Elsie Bradley

On November 21, we held our annual event, Turkey Bingo, at the Senior Center in Spearfish. This year we used the funds raised to help out a friend in the Spearfish area who had been injured in a car accident in July. We can't remember a time, if there ever was one, that NMB member Elsie Bradley has ever missed Turkey Bingo. That's why we felt it was so appropriate to dedicate this activity to her this year. We had chili, hot dogs, desserts, drinks, and played bingo. Everyone enjoyed the evening and we felt great about raising a few dollars for Elsie.

Elderly Christmas Shopping

Every year NMB Branch 73 adopts an area elder care facility during the holidays. The money we raise at our Poker Run goes toward purchasing gifts for the elderly, along with Branch board members and other NMB members completing 100 hours of community service within our community. This year we adopted Serenity Corner and Tuk-R-Inn, both located in Spearfish.

This sums up the year for Branch 73. If you would like to help with any activities or have a couple of hours you would like to spend on helping someone, please call Ruth at the Spearfish office. Anyone is welcome to learn more about our local branch at our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. If there is anyone interested in serving on the Branch, please call Ruth at 642-4778. We would love for you to have fun with us!

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

Mark Twain

Don't forget to document any hours you donate in your community or school on behalf of NMB and turn them in to Ruth!