

# 2010 FRATERNAL SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS



**LIKE** the 2010 Fraternal Leadership Seminar theme states, *Real People, Real Ideas, Real Connections*, are what National Mutual Benefit member volunteers are all about.

The seminars were held this year in Deadwood, South Dakota, and Green Bay, Wisconsin, where over 400 member-volunteers gathered together to share their best practices, learn about new organizations to partner with, and celebrate their successful year of volunteerism in 2009.

A new format was introduced at this year's seminars. Expo-style booths were set up with photos, ideas, and information about local, community, and national organizations, and about National Mutual Benefit's different fraternal and insurance programs.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

Terry Nebelsick, Principal of Huron High School in South Dakota, was the keynote speaker for this year's Dakotas regional

seminar. He has been an educator for over 30 years, was recognized as South Dakota's High School Principal of the Year in 2000, and is a high school and college basketball referee. Terry spoke on his experience in schools and getting kids involved in volunteering.

Other workshops included NMB Director Maureen O'Hern Hahn speaking about how to secure your financial future. During this presentation, Maureen shared basic information for investing and



District representatives share information about NMB life insurance and annuity products at the insurance booths in Green Bay.



Member volunteers learned the basics of securing their financial future from NMB Director Maureen O'Hern Hahn at both seminars.



The Green Bay Police Department Honor Guard presents the American Flag; Wayne Baumgart leads the Pledge of Allegiance.



Dick Lane, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and President of the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress, leads a roundtable discussion in which branches exchange ideas for educational topics for branch events.



Left to right: Audra Carlson, Gbenga Oketona, and Frank Hammelman get a headstart on ideas for their 2010 branch calendar.



Branch leaders and district representatives' children enjoy games and crafts while their parents attend sessions.

planning for retirement. Maggie Corry, Fraternal Assistant, conducted a workshop on how branches can strive to be their best using the resources the Home Office offers.

Bob Prentice, a motivational speaker from Wessington, South Dakota, held workshops covering the advantages of having a positive attitude and outlining the keys to developing better leadership skills. Great Plains Agency District Manager David Yost summarized the benefits of a branch holding forums and bringing in speakers to share timely topics on safety issues, financial planning, and other topics of personal interest.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM WISCONSIN

The leadership seminar in Green Bay opened with a presentation of the colors by the Green Bay Police Department Honor Guard. Wisconsin Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, welcomed attendees and shared

his views on the importance of volunteerism today.

Bill Collar, a retired educator and coach from Seymour, Wisconsin, was the keynote speaker. A Social Studies Teacher of the Year, Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, and Wisconsin Football Coach of the Year award winner, Collar has written two books on youth character and success. He gave a dynamic keynote address, combining motivational principles with common sense and humorous anecdotes.

There were several educational sessions, including roundtable discussions about fundraising and educational events led by Dick Lane of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and a presentation on personal finance by Maureen O'Hern Hahn. Bill McClenahan of Martin Schrieber & Associates explained the importance of inviting elected public officials to participate in local service projects and fundraisers. Bill Collar provided a

follow-up workshop on the importance of being a strong communicator.

### FRATERNALISTS HONORED

At the conclusion of each seminar, a banquet was held to recognize volunteer branch leaders and their 2009 accomplishments. Art Schramm of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, was honored as Fraternalist of the Year and was given the prestigious President's Award. Jeffrey Riess of Elmwood, Wisconsin, received the William J. Wenger Award for his grassroots efforts with his local branch. (Both stories are featured in this magazine.)

If you'd like more information about volunteering and how you can make a difference in your community through your local NMB branch, e-mail Fraternal Services at [fraternal@nmlife.org](mailto:fraternal@nmlife.org). We can help you make an impact on your neighbors, friends, and loved ones. ♦



Branch teens spend time making Valentine's cards and decorations for senior citizens.



Teenagers from NMB branches catch up with old friends and make new ones at the annual leadership seminar.



Branch leaders learn ideas to improve communications in their branch, workplace, and home life.



Wisconsin Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson urges NMB member volunteers to continue their efforts to help families in their local communities as the need arises.



NMB branch leaders stop at several booths to learn more about NMB grant programs, volunteer initiatives, and partnership opportunities with community organizations.



Former Seymour, Wisconsin, social studies teacher and football coach, Bill Collar, gives a dynamic motivational message to volunteers in Green Bay.