

Fraternal Advisory Council Members Recognized

National Mutual Benefit member volunteers, Grant Gintz and Cindy Ludtke, were recently recognized at the 2010 Fraternal Leadership Seminar for their contributions to the Fraternal Advisory Council. After more than three years of service, Grant and Cindy have stepped down from their roles on the council.

The Fraternal Advisory Council is a group of NMB member volunteers who discuss new programming ideas for the branch system and suggest improvements to enhance and streamline program guidelines and branch bylaws. Their input helps to keep NMB's fraternal programs and benefits up-to-date with current volunteer trends and member needs.

Grant Gintz of Madison, Wisconsin, is President of Branch 400, which serves Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Richland, and Sauk counties. He was named NMB's Fraternalist of the Year in 1997, and has been a member of NMB for over 23 years. Grant is a long-time volunteer with many nonprofit organizations,

and brought a youth-oriented perspective to the council as a former school guidance counselor.

Cindy Ludtke of Suring, Wisconsin, is President of Branch 925, which serves Marinette, Oconto, and parts of Shawano and Waupaca counties. Cindy's experiences and teaching background proved

to be very beneficial to the council over the last three years.

National Mutual Benefit thanks these two special council members for the time and effort they spent to help improve the society's volunteer initiatives supporting those in need. ♦



Grant Gintz enjoys a day with his wife, daughter, and grandchildren at Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison. Branch 400 organizes an annual family outing and picnic at the zoo each summer.



Cindy Ludtke poses with her family after a Branch 925 event.

Branch President Named Fraternalist-in-Action



In January 2010, The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFC A) recognized Joann (Jo) Steinmeyer of Menomonie,

Wisconsin, as a Most Valuable Participant in the Fraternalists-in-Action program. The Fraternalists-in-Action program was formed to recognize volunteers who embody the true spirit of fraternalism through their volunteer efforts and commitment to their communities. Since its inception in 2006, the program has recognized over 300 dedicated volunteers.

We are proud to join with the NFCA to recognize Jo, a lifelong member of National Mutual Benefit, for her achievements. Throughout the years, Jo has held various positions on the board, and currently serves as President of Branch 927. She is dedicated to leading the branch in fraternal efforts that improve the quality of life for people in the Menomonie area.

Jo finds it extremely rewarding to help those in the community suffering from adversity. Recently, Branch 927 was involved with a benefit for two sisters who had both been diagnosed with cancer. The event raised funds to help cover medical and living expenses for both families during this difficult time in their lives.

She also organizes an Easter egg hunt every year for the young people in Menomonie and helps to put together Christmas baskets for the elderly. Jo also enjoys enhancing her community through activities such as highway cleanup projects.

Jo retired three years ago after 22 years of employment with the University of Wisconsin-Stout. During the last ten years of her employment there she was a Custodial Supervisor and worked with many students, which was a very worthwhile experience for her. Jo is also the Secretary of the Irvington Booster Club, which is very involved in the community. ♦

Long-Time Agent Recognized for Fraternal Service

Joseph E. Gloude-mans, FIC, LUTCF, of Little Chute, Wisconsin, was honored with a 25-year service award from the Wisconsin Fraternal Insurance Counsellors in a surprise presentation in September 2009. The Wisconsin Fraternal Insurance Counsellors (WFIC) is a non-profit state trade association for fraternal insurance professionals.

Joe was celebrated during an awards luncheon at the 2009 joint annual meeting of the WFIC and the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress (WFC). The 2009 Lodge of the Year and the WFIC of the Year awards were also presented at this event.

The award was presented by WFIC President Karen Stiles, Catholic Knights; WFIC Secretary/Treasurer Steve Schultz, Catholic Family Life; and from National Mutual Benefit President George Yanna, Vice President of Fraternal Services Anne Rogers, and Superintendent of Agencies Fred Graves.

The award consisted of two pieces, a beautiful rosewood clock/hygrometer/thermometer, along with a special surprise—a framed letter from the Green Bay Packers organization.

The letter said, in part, “The Green Bay Packers congratulate you on your retirement from the WFIC after 25 years of dedication. You are to be commended for your commitment and years of service. We wish you only the best as you continue your career as a Fraternal Insurance Counsellor. You represent the best of fans,” signed The Green Bay Packers.

The letter meant a great deal to Joe. “I’ve been a Packer fan for many years,” he stated. “They’re a team that keeps things rolling. I’m in my fifty-third year of going to Packer games—been going since 1957 when that stadium first opened,” he added.

Joe served on the WFIC Board as its Secretary/Treasurer for the majority of the



(Left to right) Superintendent of Agencies, Fred Graves, Vice President of Fraternal Services, Anne Rogers, and NMB President George Yanna present Joe Gloude-mans with the WFIC 25-year service award during the 2009 annual meeting.

past 25 years, beginning in 1984. He served as its President from 2001-2002, and most recently as a Director.

As Secretary/Treasurer, his main duties were to oversee the WFIC annual meeting, including site selection and contracting, space and meal allocations, registration, and the printed program. In this position, he worked closely with Wisconsin-domiciled fraternal benefit societies to have meeting materials prepared and ready to go each year. He also coordinated with hotel staff around the state to make sure the meetings ran smoothly.

Joe started his career with NMB in 1966 as a member of the National Mutual Benefit Fox River Valley Agency. So far in his insurance career, he has been named Wisconsin Fraternal Insurance Counsellor of the Year (1982), has qualified for President’s Conference 16 times, and has earned the Lives Award six different years.

Congratulations to Joe Gloude-mans

for his dedicated service to the fraternal system in the state of Wisconsin, and for his loyalty and service to the members of National Mutual Benefit in the Appleton/Little Chute area he serves. ♦



Former NMB President William Wenger presents Joe Gloude-mans with the WFIC of the Year plaque awarded by the Wisconsin Chapter of Fraternal Insurance Counsellors in 1982.

Team Schmitt Named Agent of the Year



It is our privilege and pleasure to recognize Team Schmitt, Peter and Barbara Schmitt, of the Fox River Valley Agency as our 2009 Agent of the Year.

Team Schmitt's top priority remains putting the needs of their clients first. In return, their clients have rewarded them

with their trust. Team Schmitt's integrity and work ethic have also earned them the respect of their peers, as they continue to be mentors and role models to many agents at NMB.

Both Barbara and Peter are passionate about the benefits that life insurance can provide. They feel that owning life insurance is synonymous with having peace of mind. "We're so fortunate to be in a business that has such tremendous value to

people," Peter states enthusiastically.

The Agent of the Year award recognizes the agent who submitted and issued the highest level of production, most closely represents NMB's sales and service philosophy, as well as exemplifies the concept of fraternalism. National Mutual Benefit is proud to congratulate Team Schmitt on an outstanding year! ♦



AGENCY OF THE YEAR *Fox River Valley*

"It gives me great pleasure to work with these fine people. It is the journey we are traveling together that is so much more rewarding than the honors we receive."

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Fourteen out of the past 17 years, Fox River Valley has achieved Agency of the Year status. In addition, this agency has produced the Agent of the Year an incredible 16 times during the same time period.

As an agency that strives to challenge itself both individually, and as a whole, their legacy will be one of a caring, close-knit group of professionals who want and strive for high achievement. After a challenging year, they still managed very respectable results.