

SD hospitality a hit at NASWA

By Andy Szilvasi

The 69th annual conference of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), recently held in Rapid City, Sept. 12-15, was a huge success for the South Dakota Department of Labor (SDDOL) and the NASWA organization.

Approximately 200 people from around the nation attended the conference. The theme of the conference was "Great Faces, Great Places" and revolved around showcasing South Dakota's hospitality.

The festivities kicked off with a pre-conference welcome picnic in Memorial Park in Rapid City on the evening of Sept. 11. Nicer weather could not have been asked for, the food prepared by the culinary arts team at the Boxelder Job Corps Center could not have been better, and the Black Hills Bluegrass Band offered a down-home, heartland welcome. An evening hospitality room graciously sponsored by the South Dakota Chapter of IAWP kept

attendees fed and 'relaxed' with South Dakota wines, fine spirits and South Dakota featured munchies.

Since conference content is not always the most energizing material, SDDOL made sure that attendees were never at a want for something to do. Whether it was evening excursions to Deadwood, afternoon getaways to Custer State Park, Black Hills Harley Davidson, or scheduled dinners at Crazy Horse Memorial or Mt. Rushmore, there was *always* something going on to keep attendees occupied and happy.

The scheduled evening meal at Crazy Horse Memorial on Sept. 13 was a tad chilly, but attendees still enjoyed themselves and many got to meet Ruth Ziolkowski, matriarch of the mountain sculpture.

In addition to the beautiful scenery and the inspiring story of the mountain, attendees were treated to the laser light show displayed on Crazy Horse after dark. This is the first summer for the

laser show and it proved to be fascinating.

The conference culminated with a very special evening at Mt. Rushmore on Wednesday, Sept. 14, with a short speech by Mt. Rushmore superintendent Gerard Baker, a wonderful dinner at the visitor center, and a video shown on the amphitheater big-screen after the lighting ceremony, starring attendees and the activities held during the week.

Dozens of the attendees sought out staff members during the conference thanking them for a wonderful time. It was not uncommon to hear "this was the best conference I have ever attended, bar none." Even the vendors present had an exceptional conference stating that visitations and sales at their booths were the best they ever had at a conference.

Simply put, South Dakota "got 'er done" with a lot of hard work, dedication, and support of dozens of SDDOL staff.

International president slated to attend District X Conference

Planners for the 2005 District X IAWP Conference recently announced that International IAWP President Thelma Hill, North Carolina, would be in attendance to speak about various things the international association is working on, and to talk about the WPDP program.

The District X Conference is being held in Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 22-24.

In addition to Ms. Hill's presentation, the conference program also includes John Scott, Federal projects offi-

cer with the United States Department of Labor Region 5 office in Chicago.

Mr. Scott's presentation topic is the Workforce System's transition to a Demand Driven System, and the federal Demand Driven Initiatives.

Specific topics include the initiatives being led by the Business Relations Group in Washington, D.C., including the National Business Partnerships, the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, and the National Business Learning Partnerships.

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A Message from the President

By Rich Vincent
SD Chapter President

Hello to everyone. I hope all is well and preparations are being made for the winter months. The UI call center is also taking its figurative last breath before the layoff season of the coming winter takes place.

Membership is the backbone to any organization. The voice that a body conveys carries weight based collectively on the numbers of that voice. While the number of members is not always the ultimate factor in the strength of a unit, it is commonly noticed by others.

The amount I choose to give monetarily and in participation to IAWP is a small commitment to the larger picture of the issues we deal with on a daily basis. Our membership ensures that on all levels of IAWP our opinions and concerns are heard. Issues that deal with legislation on all levels with Labor and Employment services, budgeting concerns, etc., are just a few areas that our membership assists with.

As your president, I am asking for every member to contact a minimum of two people about joining IAWP prior to our state educational conference next May. Not all encounters may bring in a new member or a positive encounter but it will be an effort nonetheless.

SD IAWP in the past few years has remained constant at 100 members. The membership will not always be there, and we cannot ensure our success in years to come if new members are not recruited. I believe we owe it to ourselves and to our chapter to do what we can to assist in the long-term survival of our state chapter. I am not asking for miracles, just an honest effort to approach co-workers and those in partner agencies to ask if they would consider being a "voice" that shares our common interests of protecting the missions and objectives of the Department of Labor and the work that it does.

So as you are approaching potential members to join IAWP remember these words from John F. Kennedy: **Sure it's a big job; but I don't know anyone who can do it better than I can.**

THANK YOU in advance for any and all efforts towards membership.

Rich

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Darla Bockorny recaps 25-year career

Editor's Note (by Jane Merrit): A retirement open house is set for Friday afternoon, 1-4 p.m. on Sept. 23, at the South Dakota Career Center in Brookings, to honor manager Darla Bockorny. Because of the significant role Darla played in the formative years of my own career with South Dakota Department of Labor, I take editorial liberty to publish this special tribute to her. When I started as a Job Service Representative in Brookings in 1989, Darla was responsible for training me, which placed her naturally in a role as mentor to me. The high respect I gained for her as I watched her do her job made the decision to join IAPES a no-brainer when the invitation to join came from Darla. Earlier this year, when Darla's daughter, Linnea Solem, served as keynote speaker for the IAWP state conference in Watertown, I asked Darla to share some memories, which follow here, in Darla's own words.

By Darla Bockorny

I started at "Job Service" April 14, 1980. Jobs were very hard to come by at that time and the only thing open was the "front desk" job. I happily applied and accepted that job (for \$3.83 per hour, increased to \$4.10 per hour in July, which was tough with two children to support) thinking that I would see every job order that came in and I would be out of there or would get promoted.

In 1981 I was promoted to Job Service Representative and became a man-

ager of the Northeast Area in 1995, and Brookings Career Center manager in 2001.

I was part of the Employer Relations Team for several years in the 90's before going into a local office manager role. I've had various other special duty assignments over the years.

I joined IAPES in 1980 (fall) and was recruited by Fred Binder and Rich Husman, I think. I attended my first IAPES Educational Conference the next spring, in 1981, in Yankton, and received (to my surprise) the Outstanding Performance Clerical Award (that was a State Chapter Award we used to give). I've continued membership since that time and have only missed about three State conferences during that time.

I've held most sub-chapter offices, some more than once. I was South Dakota Chapter President 1986-87. During that time we started the fall "One Day" event designed for new membership growth to acquaint people with what their professional association, IAPES, was all about.

I was committee chair of Award of Merit, Legislative Affairs, and Education over the years. Also chaired the 1993 South Dakota IAPES Educational Conference that was held in Brookings, and helped with the 1982 conference. Then when I moved to Watertown in 1995, we hosted that conference as well, though most of the work was already well planned by the time I moved there in November, before the spring conference.

A Reminder from the Awards Chair

Let's remember to be on the lookout for our documentation for the award nominations we are planning to make right after the first of the year.

Take a look at our South Dakota IAWP website for additional guidance. There is a wealth of information for awards on both the International and South Dakota websites.

We have some very deserving co-workers and partner agencies who have done and are doing a tremendous job. Let's get the word out with a nomination from IAWP!

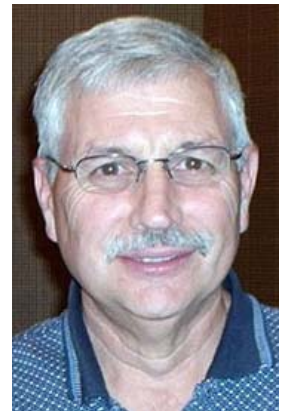
Check the website for a list of the various award categories and criteria for each award. Then use the online nomination form to fit the required information into the proper format and see what happens.

Chapter officers Rich Vincent, Tom Meyer and Jaci Benjamin want to hear South Dakota called off as much as possible when awards presentations are made at the 2006 IAWP International Conference in Kentucky next year. If we work together we can make this happen for us all.

Do not forget membership!! Let's encourage co-workers of the value of IAWP and bring them on as new and renewed members. That is a challenge for all of us. South Dakota has had a good record of membership and we want everyone to know about that by getting membership awards at International.

IAWP is an excellent professional organization! Let's all support it. Keep in touch.

Denis



Southeast Sub Chapter sends 3 to District X

By Dee Healy

Southeast Sub Chapter President
The IAWP group has not met but is planning to meet this fall to discuss some of the issues surrounding IAWP.

Denis Leise will be attending the District X Conference in Kansas City on September 22-24. Retirees Bob Titus and Marilyn Huntley also will be attending from the Yankton area.

Hurricane Katrina has devastated the lives of numerous IAWP members. In response to requests from members seeking information on how to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the IAWP 2005-06 Board of Directors has compiled a list of helpful Web sites, links, numbers, and resources to assist you. (This list, which the IAWP Board of Directors asked South Dakota chapter officers to distribute to IAWP members, is printed in its entirety on page 6.)

As you reflect on the simple blessings you have in your life, please remember those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Please distribute the attached flyer to your IAWP membership.

Sincerely,
The IAWP 2005-06 Board of Directors

IAWP members feel effects of hurricane Katrina

By Mary Riddell

IAWP Administrative Office

Various members of the IAWP family have been in contact with some of the members affected by Hurricane Katrina. Following are some updates from several of them:

Marilyn Minor, former District VIII Director, from Pascagoula, Miss., reported her home has major damage, her brother's home is destroyed, and her office is destroyed. Marilyn will probably be relocated to Jackson, Miss.

Margaret Dethloff from Moss Point, Miss., had moved her mother and herself from the coast prior to the hurricane. She has relocated temporarily in Jackson, Miss.

Gail Grice from Jackson, Miss., reports she and her family are fine, but the gasoline shortage, etc., is awful.

Margaret Fletcher from Baton Rouge, La., apparently is okay.

Linda White from Livingston, La., reports she is fine. Her daughter and family have lost two vehicles and two homes (one in Louisiana and one in Mississippi.)

Eddie Filce, Bernard Blank, Lonnie Rogers, and David (?) of Louisiana, whom many of us have seen numerous times at the international conference, are all okay. Eddie reported his home was without power for four days, and he had slight roof damage. Eddie is in Morgan City about 50 miles west of New Orleans, where they are taking many Unemployment Insurance claims. However, because of their close proximity to the gulf, they are not being set up as an evacuation option for the New Orleans citizens.

A Conference Report from District X Director

By Daniel L. Hays
District X Director

Reaching Out to Help Those in Need

A Hurricane Katrina Benefit Silent Auction is being held at the District X Conference Sept. 22-24, with proceeds going to America's Second Harvest to provide food and assistance to hurricane victims in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. If anyone who could not attend the conference wants to participate in this effort, contributions may be sent to:

*Daniel L Hays
120 Boonville Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Phone (573) 522-9962*

This year the awards nomination process was made much easier. We did not mandate that the awards nominations conform to the International format, but accepted nominations done in any fashion. All we asked was that the nominations include information as to the reasons for the nomination – so the judges would have something to judge. The three categories for District X awards this year were member individual, member group, and non-member group or individual. Awards were to be presented at the luncheon Friday, Sept 23.

Several of Missouri's best wineries were invited to help showcase the Missouri wine industry at the Friday evening event, *Missouri's Great Grape Escape*.

Other plans for the conference included (yes, I stole this idea from a session at this year's International) a game of **WPDP Jeopardy**. Each state was asked to bring a Jeopardy Team (like quiz bowl in high school) consisting of 2-3 people. Check with someone who attended this year's conference to find out who was crowned as the District X WPDP Jeopardy Champion.

Saturday morning after breakfast we will get down to business with the general business session. Among other things on the agenda will be voting on the proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws, which were published for South Dakota members in the July/August 2005 issue of *South Dakota IAWP Messenger*.

My goal was to have 50 people in attendance.

Daniel L. Hays
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Notes from Retirees

By Dennis Coull
SD Chapter Retiree Chair

Hey, you retirees, you better contact me and let me know what is happening with you, or I may have to make something up about you. You would not want me to do that would you? I have heard from a few of the retirees, so will pass that information along. -DC

Nadene Bamsey retired in April 2005 from the Rapid City Career Center. Then, she and husband **Roger** (a former DOL employee) headed North To Alaska. I don't think that they went searching for gold. They went to see the sights. And, it sounds like they saw some beautiful sights, not only in Alaska, but also on the way to and from Alaska. They traveled over 7,400 miles and saw lots of beautiful lakes, mountains, waterfalls, trees, and glaciers. It was good to have **Nadene** stop in the office when they got back. I would like to thank Nadene for the many years of her faithful service to IAWP. She said that she now knows what other retirees said after they retired: When did I ever have time to work? -DC

Talking about North To Alaska and searching for gold, I had a chance to visit with Robin Fansler. She mentioned that her husband, **Jim Fansler**, does some gold prospecting each year. No, not in Alaska, but in Arizona and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Due to the fact that Robin is still employed by BIT in Aberdeen, I can only assume that Jim has not found the Bonanza Gold. I suggested that Jim get together with **Don Aaker** in their search for gold. Don and his wife Sheila have been gold panning in the Black Hills for several years.

-DC
How about that **Joe Doyle**! Now, there is a name from the past. He was just named the South Dakota Outstanding Older Worker for 2005. In September, he will go to Washington, D.C., where he will be honored as part of the Experience Works Prime Time Awards Program. (To us old timers, Experience Works is what used to be called the Green Thumb Program.) For many years, since he retired from DOL, and then from the Rapid City Regional Hospital, Joe has been training and testing people for their CDL (commercial drivers license). He also gives truck driver training through Western Dakota Technical Institute in Rapid City, and is now adding a school bus driver training program. He has also been involved in motorcycle safety training in western South Dakota. Congratulations to **Joe Doyle** for this much-deserved honor.

-DC
I did visit with **Phil George** just before he retired as head of LMIC in Aberdeen. I asked him if he were retiring for good, or if he planned on another job of some kind. He mentioned something about "as long as he could still get on the golf course...." It sounds like he has good plans. But now, the rest of the story. I have heard from several reliable sources that Phil has now put the golf course in about third or fourth place of importance. Would you believe that he now has at least two contracts that he is doing? Some for the Department of Labor and some with Black Hills Vision. So, Phil, I hope that you enjoyed your retirement while you had it. I also understand from the very reli-

able sources I talked to that he does try to ensure that these contracts do not usually interfere with enjoying a 4-day weekend. Congratulations, Phil, on your retirement and your new responsibilities. -DC

This is September. The ice cream cone was invented in September. A little bit late for the summer of 1903, but, better late than never. Right? -DC

And finally, my wife asked me the other day if I ever think about the hereafter. I replied, "Yes, I think about that all of the time. I go into a room, look around, and say, 'What was it I came in here after?'" Can any of you relate to that? -DC

That is it from the retirees. Let me know what you are up to so I can get it in the newsletter.

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Retirees: Remember to call, write, or e-mail me with your news, whenever the news happens.

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Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

How You Can Help: Donate Now

According to the U. S. Freedom Corps, at www.usafreedomcorps.gov, the most effective way to assist relief efforts is by making **cash contributions** to relief funds established by the respective state governments in the disaster area.

Alabama Governor's Emergency Relief Fund

Please mail checks or money orders to:
Alabama Governor's Emergency Relief Fund
P.O. Box 1523
Montgomery, AL 36102

Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation

Please mail checks or money orders to:
Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-240
PO Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Mississippi Hurricane Relief Fund

Please mail checks or money orders to:
Mississippi Hurricane Relief Fund
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

The U.S. Freedom Corps Web site also has some helpful resource links: [How to Get Help: Disaster Assistance for Victims](#), at www.fema.gov; [Finding Loved Ones](#), at www.firstgov.gov; and [Health and Safety Information](#), www.bt.cdc.gov.
See the additional link for more relief organizations: <http://www.wbhm.org/News/Katrina.html>.

Humanitarian Organizations

There are many humanitarian organizations conducting relief operations in the affected area. Below are two resources for finding these organizations:

[FEMA - Organizations Accepting Donations](#) at www.fema.gov.
[Network for Good - Help Victims of Hurricane Katrina](#) at www.networkforgood.org.

Give Blood

Donating blood ensures secure blood supply for all Americans. For more information, contact the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org. There is also a site in Spanish at www.cruzrojaamericana.org.

Hurricane Housing

For information concerning hurricane housing go to www.hurricanehousing.org.

Volunteer

Hurricane Katrina volunteers are being urged **not** to report directly to the affected areas unless directed by a volunteer agency. Visit the [USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network](#) at www.usafreedomcorps.gov to find opportunities to assist in ongoing relief efforts and prepare for future disasters.