

Share the Warmth!

Members enjoy laughter and learning at the 2017 Fraternal Leadership Seminars

The 2017 Fraternal Leadership Seminars were held in Deadwood, South Dakota, in February and in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in March. During these annual events, branch leaders and their families come together to enjoy a weekend of recognition for all that they do to help others. They also network with peers, participate in workshops, and develop leadership skills. This year's theme was *Share the Warmth*,

which reflects NMB's motto of *People Helping People in Time of Need*, as well as the warmth that NMB's members display through their acts of kindness.

A highlight of both seminars was a keynote speech by NMB Director John McHugh entitled *A Blanket in the Boardroom*, in which John shared the impact that NMB members make through volunteering. Other high points

included interactive workshops on topics such as recruiting like-minded people to achieve goals and presenting yourself as a leader, as well as panels from branches sharing unique projects in their respective communities.

If you are interested in learning more about getting involved in your local branch, contact us at (800) 779-1936 or fraternal@nmblife.org. ♦

(1) District Representative Bruce Pautz and his wife Brenda from Dodgeville, Wisconsin, enjoy their first Fraternal Leadership Seminar. (2) Ife and E.J. Oketona of Naperville, Illinois, and Mackenzie Smit of Brandon, Wisconsin, present a blanket made for President George Yanna, thanking him for his continued leadership. (3) Marcia Tennyson of Verona, Wisconsin, and Donna Wieglerling of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, share ideas at the La Crosse seminar. (4) The La Crosse BoyChoir provided entertainment after dinner on Saturday night. (5) Members of Branch 717 (Oconomowoc, Wisconsin) share information on their new projects including Knitted Knockers and a Quilt-A-Thon. (6) District Manager Kent Stadler (left) and NMB Director John McHugh share a laugh in La Crosse. (7) Leone Geppert (left) and Lindsey Richards of Spearfish, South Dakota, take a quick photo break in Deadwood. (8) Branch members of all ages discuss the attributes of a successful leader. (9) Mary Stilen (left), Dave Olson, and Brittani Stilen (right) enjoy their time at the Wisconsin seminar. (10) Branch 85 Vice President Mike Koehler of Midland, South Dakota, toasts President George Yanna in Deadwood. (11) Susi Stephens (left) and her mother Vi Bergum of Madison, Wisconsin, enjoy some downtime in La Crosse. (12) President George Yanna presents Christina Thoennes-Draves of Racine, Wisconsin, with the Gold Award. (13) Members of Branch 91 (Dickinson, North Dakota) share their efforts to improve their community over the past year. (14) Branch members and staff exchange ideas on how to reach out to NMB members. (15) President George Yanna and his wife Carol (far right) pose with The Potter Family, who provided entertainment in Deadwood. (16) Over 240 attendees at the La Crosse seminar listen intently to Director John McHugh's keynote speech. (17) Branch members discuss ways to engage more NMB members in their branch efforts. (18) Ainsley Carlson makes a fleece blanket to donate. (19) General Manager of Agencies Jeff Long (left) and District Manager Brian Passehl presented workshops on financial responsibility and retirement.

