



# Volunteer Voices

State Historical Society of North Dakota Heritage Volunteers

September - 2010

## Volunteer Recognition Banquet

The State Historical Society honored Heritage Volunteers for their 29 years of outstanding support of the Society on Tuesday, August 12. Director Merl Paaverud thanked the volunteers for their dedication and service. Board President Chester Nelson spoke and reported that last year, Heritage Volunteers donated 12,000 hours of service. "Your contributions both large and small make a difference to the State Historical Society and the great state of North Dakota". He also noted that volunteers help at our state historic sites, as well as in every corner of the North Dakota Heritage Center. Heritage volunteers were then treated to a delightful meal and entertainment by Bob Dolajak.

Doris Elness received the Hospitality Award for her enthusiasm and promotion of North Dakota and the State Historical Society. Doris works in the Heritage Center Museum Store and has been a volunteer since 1988, donating 3,944 hours of service.

The Curatorial Award, for the outstanding individual in a behind-the-scenes role, was presented to Marlene Hastings. Marlene has been a volunteer since 1987 and works in the SHSND's museum collections' area. She has donated 2,222 hours of service.

The Dedication Award is presented to the volunteer who served the most hours from May 1, 2009, through April 30 this year. This year's award winner is Verlyn Larson, who donated 417 hours of service as a volunteer in the State Archives and with the State Historical Society Foundation. Verlyn began working as a volunteer in 1999 and has 2,200 hours.

The Special Project Award was presented to Doug Wurtz for his work on the Ralph S. Thompson collection in the archaeology and historic preservation division. He has volunteered since 2007 and has donated 676 hours of service.

Erna Lahr received her 20-years-of-service award. In that time Erna has trained numerous information desk volunteers, including her husband, Ed. She has donated 3,350 hours of service.

Norma Rodlund received her 10-years-of-service award. Norma works as a docent in the main gallery at the North Dakota Heritage Center. She has also recruited her husband, Carl, and granddaughter Hannah. Norma has donated almost 800 volunteer hours.

When volunteers reach their first 100 hours of service, they are awarded a Heritage Volunteer pin. Receiving pins this year were Dolores Boint, SHSND Foundation; Emogene Doverspike, SHSND Foundation; Gordon Iseminger of Grand Forks, Historic Preservation Review Board; Bonnie Lindgren, Docent; Gary Ness, Information Desk; Sheena Schafer, SHSND Foundation; and Dalles Schneider, SHSND Foundation Board.

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Mark your calendars for the Governors Conference on North Dakota History, October 29 & 30, 2010. Conference registration for Heritage Volunteers is free. Volunteers are asked to pay for the workshop, if they choose to attend, and any meals.

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## Kris Kitko Live on the Lawn

Join us at the Former Governors' Mansion, Sunday, September 12 for family-friendly entertainment featuring local musician Kris Kitko. The program will begin at 2 p.m. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Free ice cream sundaes will be served while supplies last. In case of inclement weather the concert will take place at Camp Hancock, 101 West Main.

## **Heritage Volunteer Academy beginning Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

Continuing education is vital for all Heritage Volunteers, and this year we have developed a new format titled the Heritage Volunteer Academy. We will kick off the learning year at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 8 with a day trip for all volunteers, including an opportunity to get to know our new curator of education, Erik Holland.

Our day trip will depart from the parking lot south of the state library at 8:30 a.m. and return about 4:30 p.m. Stops will include the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Fort Mandan, Knife River Indian Villages, and Fort Clark. Lunch and coffee breaks are included. Your vehicles may be left in the parking lot for the day. RSVP is required by Monday, September 6 by calling 328-2674 or [bcampbell@nd.gov](mailto:bcampbell@nd.gov).

The next Volunteer Academy will be held on Wednesday October 13. At 9 a.m. the Docent Study Group for gallery guides will convene. This is the first of what we hope will be a number of specialized study groups for volunteers. The Docent Study Group for gallery guides will engage participants in museum thinking, and provide tools to increase the effectiveness of interactions and methods used to begin developing programs. Please sign up in the volunteer office if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have the appropriate number of handouts.

At 10 a.m. we ask all volunteers to join us for Home Room. As with all Home Rooms, we will begin with announcements about upcoming programs and events. Following announcements, Heritage Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics. Our first session will feature the exhibit opening that day, *Creating Sakakawea*. We will tour the exhibit and provide answers to questions you may receive from visitors. A number of topics have been suggested, gathering objects, discoveries in the archives, Indian culture, and archaeology are a few. Please bring your suggestions to the first Home Room so that we can incorporate them into future sessions.

All Heritage Volunteer Academy sessions will be held the second Wednesday of the month, October 2010 through April 2011.

### **Creating Sakakawea Exhibit Opening**

Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium gallery  
Please join us for a short program, followed by coffee and cookies.

North Dakota Heritage Center  
612 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

