

North Central

A Beautiful Day



The North Central Group met in Galena, Illinois, September 9, 10, and 11, 2018, at the DeSoto House Hotel. The DeSoto House is the oldest hotel in Illinois and the hotel welcomed the North Central Partners for a third time. The beauty of this Illinois historic city offered perfect fall weather in a peaceful atmosphere. The DeSoto House has had many historic candidates spend the night: Stephen A. Douglas and Tom Thumb; General Ulysses S. Grant's Presidential campaign began at the DeSoto House; Abraham Lincoln spoke from the second floor balcony in support of John Fremont (the Republican candidate for President in 1858); and Stephen A. Douglas campaigned on the same balcony where Lincoln had spoken.

Glenn Weisjhan, North Central President, organized and presided over the event along with the help of his wife, Linda. Glenn and Linda went above and beyond to offer some unique experiences that included small gifts from the Wiesjhan's home area in Minnesota. The North Central club was started 42 years ago in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The attendance was slimmer this year, with 42 in attendance.

The Sunday evening program began with President Glenn welcoming those attending and introducing the First Time Guests, Roberta "Jean" Terry and Linda Wanger. President Glenn led

the Pledge of Allegiance and Bruce Motsinger offered the Blessing prior to everyone enjoying a buffet dinner.

John Brennan conducted the Memorial Service for those Partners that are no longer with us and have passed since the 2017 meeting. This is always a touching remembrance.

Partners attending from the greatest distance were Vyda Bridwell, Mesa, Arizona; and Charles Powers, Green Valley, Arizona. The group in attendance represented: Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, South Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Texas. Gene Siefken and Paul Koebele had the honor of being the longest retirees at the meeting. Announcements and acknowledgements were followed by President Glenn reviewing the meeting agenda for the Gathering. Gene offered instructions for the golfers.

Monday morning started with breakfast at your leisure. The golfers began playing at 9 AM with four teams competing. The group played on a perfect Monday morning and enjoyed lunch following the outing. The non-golfers had a choice to stay in Galena and enjoy shopping or just touring the quaint little town. Nineteen elected to travel about 20 minutes across the mighty Mississippi River to Dubuque, Iowa, for



Carol Brennan, Linda Raih and Judy Motsinger



Gaylord & Carolyn Rasmussen, JoAnn Stewart, Carol & Ed Ullrich

a tour of the Museum of the Mississippi River and Aquarium. The museum is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institute. On the second floor of the museum a traveling DaVinci exhibit offered both the art and history of this famous man. Participants had the choice to stay for lunch at museum or to walk the Mississippi River Boardwalk viewing sculptures on the walk or to drive the short distance to the Stone Cliff Winery. The group did a hands-on walking tour of the winery followed by lunch at the winery. The taste experiences were expanded as a part of the lunch included a soup from the area, "Turkey and Dressing" (the verdict is still out on this dish). Following the return to Galena, Linda Raih made many of the ladies very happy by offering a "Bracelet Making Class" for those interested in learning a new skill. Each lady proudly wore the new bracelet to the Banquet.

The Reception and Banquet were held on Monday evening beginning with a Social Hour. Guests were welcomed by the officers and spouses: President Glenn and Linda Wiesjhan; Vice President Don and Linda Grunewald; Treasurer Larry and Martha Orth; and Secretary Jean and Bill Lewis. President Glenn opened the evening by calling the group to order and asking John Brennan to offer the Blessing. The banquet meal served selections of New York Strip with a Cabernet Reduction Sauce, Salmon with Lemon Butter Sauce, or an Iowa Stuffed Pork

Chop. Cheesecake choices topped the meal. Following the scrumptious meal the officers were introduced as well as Vyda Bridwell who is now serving as the Foundation Representative and has assisted graciously in the transition of her former additional responsibilities of being both Secretary and Treasurer for North Central. Tom Clarke was introduced as the National H.C.S.C. Representative. There were seven former North Central Presidents in attendance and they were recognized: John Brennan, Joe Caravella, George Gray, Tom Hellman, Gene Siefken, Ed Ullrich and Bruce Motsinger.

The entertainment for the evening was Magician, P. T. Murphy, who entertains in Chicago as well as Galena. P.T. amazed the audience with his magic skills. Following the magician, President Glenn surprised those present by presenting H.C.S.C. pins to those Partners who were in attendance.

President Glenn, on behalf of the Partners, presented a beautiful gift to Vyda Bridwell for nineteen years of service to North Central as both the Secretary and Treasurer for the group. The inscribed crystal bowl brought thank you words filled with tears from Vyda. The group gave Vyda a well deserved standing ovation for the tireless, dedicated, and accurate work for North Central.



Vyda Bridwell receiving a thank you gift for her 19 + years of service as Secretary/Treasurer, from the North Central LMG Presidents.

Vyda Bridwell

Bruce Motsinger passed out the golfing awards to both the first and second place teams. Next, participants' names were drawn for door prizes.

Tuesday morning, September 11, offered a buffet breakfast prior to the North Central Annual Business Meeting. President Glenn called the business meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the "911 Tragedy for the Lives Lost and for the Families that Remain." The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Larry, the Secretary's report was given by Jean, and Vyda provided the Foundation Update. A motion was made by Ed Ullrich and seconded by John Brennan to accept these reports, and the reports were approved. A donation of \$500 to be made to H.C.S.C. Foundation was presented as a motion was made by Bruce Motsinger, seconded by Larry Orth, and approved to be sent to H.C.S.C. Foundation. Tom Clarke gave an update on the National Gathering which will be held September 28-30, 2019, in Sacramento, California. Tom also shared some of the side trips that will be available to the participants. Tom encouraged the members to go on-line to see what is happening with the National H.C.S.C. Alumni Club.

The Annual North Central meeting was then turned over by President Glenn to the President-Elect Don Grunewald, who called for the

election of the Vice-President/President-Elect for 2019/2020. A motion was made by Tom Clarke and seconded by Tom Hellman to accept Glen Thompson as the Vice President/President-Elect and the motion was approved. President Don thanked everyone for attending. Carol Brennan offered a prayer for those attending and for safe travels home. Carol read the words to the old Irish folk song/blessing. President Don adjourned the meeting until June 8, 9, and 10, 2019, at Lake Lawn Resort, Delevan, Wisconsin.

Attendees: Vyda Bridwell, Joe Caravella & Guest Jan Kelling, John Brennan, Tom & Sandra Clarke, George & Dorothy Gray, Don & Linda Grunewald, Tom & Mary Hellman, Bruce & Linda Hill, Fred Klokonos & Guest Karen Petersmeyer, Paul J. Koebele, Bill & Jean Lewis, Bruce & Judy Motsinger, Larry & Martha Orth, Charles J. Powers & Guest Sharon Haumschild, Ronald & Linda Raih, "Ras" & Carolyn Rasmussen, Gene Siefken, Ted & Jo Ann Stewart, Roberta "Jean" Terry & Guest Linda Wanger, Glen Thompson, Ed & Carol Ullrich, Glenn & Linda Wiesjhan and Robert D. Wells.