



Lutton receives Paul Harris Fellowship award



HONOR: Ashland Rotary Club President Joe Baudler awards member Dave Lutton the Paul Harris Fellowship at a recent meeting.

ASHLAND – Ashland Rotary Club member Dave Lutton was recently awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship honor by the club.

The Paul Harris Fellowship is named for Paul Harris, who founded Rotary in 1905. The fellowship was established in 1957 to express appreciation and recognition for an individual who has contributed \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Every Paul Harris Fellow receives a pin, medallion and a certificate identifying them as an advocate of the foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding.

In the Ashland Rotary Club's history, there have

been two past Paul Harris Fellow: Claude Lutton and Jack Reece. There are nine current Paul Harris Fellows in the club. They are Chuck Niemeyer, Craig Swerczek, Mike Wilson, Rod Reisen, Don Tweet, Don Fick, Father Gary Coulter, Russ Westerhold and Ryan Worrell.

A multiple Paul Harris Fellow is a member who has contributed over an additional \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. In the Ashland club, Jack Cooper is a two-time fellow. Dave Lutton, who has given over \$3,000 to the foundation, has been awarded the honor more than two times, making him a Paul Harris Fellow Plus-2.



Region V Choir performs at Rotary meeting

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Linda Plager, Area Director of Region V Services, provided the program for the Nebraska City Rotary meeting over the noon hour on Wednesday, March 14, at the Eagles Club. Plager presented Region V's Nebraska City Sign Language Choir who performed "You Are Beautiful". She then asked Andy Nelson, son of Rotarian Rex Nelson, to go into the audience to help instruct the Rotarians and guest audience on the sign language motions to that song. Andy said to his father Rex, "Watch and learn. Maybe you'll learn a few things."

Plager updated those attending about

the great services Region V brings to Nebraska City. She mentioned that Region V likes to see themselves as an Employment First Agency to assist those with developmental disabilities to be able to be implemented into the workforce.

Once within the workforce, each employee will be coached and mentored through the process to promote job sustainability.

Region V Services provides the education and support to people with developmental disabilities and similar needs in southeast Nebraska in order to promote relationships within the community and lessens the students' reliance on agency services.

Today, Region V Services of Nebraska

City (RVNC) supports approximately 55 people, ranging from junior high school students to senior citizens.

Services are individually developed on a by person basis, meeting their specific needs. RVNC provides assistance for vocational, residential, educational, and social needs. People supported by RVNC are a part of Nebraska City's workforce, organizations, churches, and neighborhoods.

Six people that are in the RVNC program currently have jobs away from Region V's Day Service Center. The program has a new Career Academy Class that will begin later this month.

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Students in this class will learn about applying for jobs as well as the skills they will need to keep the job.

RVNC began its program in July 1974. The RVNC program is governed by a board of 16 county commissioners from the 16 counties involved with the program; one being Otoe County Commissioner Dean Speth.

Also during the meeting, Plager handed out copies of the proclamation that Nebraska State Governor Pete Ricketts signed to address March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month.

The goal for this month is to create awareness about developmental disabilities, teach the importance of inclusion within every aspect of life, and to share the stories of individuals with a disability to show that a successful life is possible!

This important day dates back to 1987, President Ronald Reagan made the first public proclamation for March to be recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. His aim was to increase public awareness of the needs and potential of Americans with developmental disabilities.

Today, the mission remains largely the same in the aspect that the aim is still to increase public awareness; however, the main focus has shifted to the importance of inclusion and living life side by side. This year's theme is "See Me for Me!" This means looking beyond someone's disability and seeing them as a person and not just a person with a disability.

Plager closed her presentation by adding that aluminum can recycling is highly encouraged to provide jobs for those working at the Region V center and that they can be dropped off in exchanged currently for 25 cents per pound (amount subject to change).

For questions about Region V and the services they offer, contact Linda Plager at Region V Services Nebraska City at (402) 873-3306 or visit <http://www.region-vs-servicesnc.com/>



NCECBVI hosts annual Braille Challenge

The Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) hosted its 12th annual Braille Challenge competition earlier this year, with 24 students participating in events testing their braille skills in five categories: reading comprehension, braille spelling, chart and graph reading, proofreading, and braille speed and accuracy.

Students and their parents traveled to the school campus from all over Nebraska, from as far as the southwest corner of the state, to north-central Nebraska, and those right here in the southeast area.

"It's wonderful to see students and families come together from different areas of Nebraska," said Tanya Armstrong, Outreach Director at NCECBVI. "In addition to student friendships, parents have built relationships with each other and look forward to talking with each other on Braille Challenge day about the unique needs of raising a child who is blind or visually impaired."

This year, special guest Sergio Oliva, Director of National Programs from Braille Institute located in Los Angeles, Calif., spent the day at NCECBVI to learn about Nebraska's competition first-hand.

He gave opening remarks at the beginning of the event and was part

of the awards ceremony at the end of the day.

Oliva assisting with handing out certificates of participation to all students, door prizes to others, and awards for first, second, and third place winners in each of the five categories.

"This day is made possible by all of the support we receive from teachers, braillists, and other volunteers in the state," said Sally Schreiner, NCECBVI Administrator, remarked, "Local and national sponsors also help ensure this event continues to be offered year after year. All of these people help make Braille Challenge such a special day for students in Nebraska."

This year's local sponsors included: Nebraska City Rotary Club, Mid-Plains Eye Care, Plattsmouth Lions Club, Lifetime Vision Center, Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children, Columbus Noon Lions Club, Dr. Richard and Carol Legge, and the AER Nebraska Chapter, a professional organization for vision professionals. National sponsors of Braille Challenge included: Humanware, National Braille Press, and Seedlings Books for Children.

Other special guests at Braille Challenge included Steve Milliken, Director of Special Education for the Nebraska Department of Educa-

tion, and Pat McPherson, member of the State Board of Education.

"My favorite part of Braille Challenge is meeting everyone and getting to see my friends!" said one of the students.

The Braille Challenge is sponsored by the Braille Institute of America.

It is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind or visually impaired. State and regional competitions are open to students of all abilities, giving even emerging braille readers a chance to reach a personal best score.

Braille Challenge day is also a chance for students to make friends and share their challenges with peers.

This competition is the first step to the coveted Braille Challenge national finals held at the Los Angeles headquarters of the Braille Institute.

At finals, 50 students with the highest scores from around North America embark on another daylong competition to test their braille skills.

In past years, Nebraska has been represented at the national competition, and all are anxious to find out if another Nebraska student qualifies again in 2018. Finalists will be announced in May.