

2008 GRHS Youth Committee Annual Report

The GRHS Youth Essay Contest is attracting more attention every year. This year's entries were from Canada, Ukraine and nine of the United States. Three GRHS chapters had Chapter Essay Contests. One of our essay contest judges commented about the quality of the essays, "This Year Again, a Quantum Leap Forward! Better, Better!"

Contestants found the essay contest information on the internet, at schools, libraries, in newspapers and at chapter meetings; but no matter where they found it, most said they were encouraged by their grandparents and/or parents to write about their family history. One contestant said that after she found the info on a website and visited with her family about it, the family began to share what they knew. She said, "It really bonded us as a family." Young people are thrilled to learn about the history, heritage and culture of their ancestors.

This year all Middle School and High School Youth Essay Contest winners were honored at awards events at their respective schools. There is no better recognition for a student than to receive an award in front of their peers. This is also very good publicity for the Youth Essay Contest and the Society.

The presentation of GRHS Youth Essay Contest awards will take place during the convention at the Friday, 1 August, luncheon...just after the Friday morning symposium, where some of the winning essays will be read. This is the first year the \$250 Gwen Pritzkau Scholarship will be presented to the highest scoring High School Senior. This fund was created so a person or organization can make tax-deductible contributions at any time by sending their donations to HFGR-Gwen Pritzkau Fund, 1125 West Turnpike Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-8115.

The GRHS Youth Committee will have a booth at the convention, where we will offer unique items for sale to raise money for scholarships. The 2009 Youth Essay Contest Rules & Entry Forms will be available. Workers at the Convention Youth Booth will give assistance in promoting the contest. With the help of GRHS Chapters and members, we will continue to offer scholarships to university undergraduate students and high school seniors. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund can be made during the convention at the GRHS Youth Booth or by mail to GRHS Youth Committee, Vera Hoff, Chairman, 4212 Canyon Lake Drive, Rapid City SD 57702.

The GRHS Youth Committee members, from CA, TX, WY, SD, NV, AZ, MN, ND & Canada, have been at work promoting the GRHS Youth Essay Contest and the results are beginning to show. As chair of this committee, I commend them for a job well done.

Vera Hoff, Chairman
GRHS Youth Committee