

2009 GRHS Youth Committee Annual Report

What an exciting, fruitful year this has been for the GRHS Youth Committee! We have weathered the storms and emerged stronger than ever.

The GRHS Essay Contest is our major work each year. This year we received 38 entries, more than ever before. They came from 16 states: SD, CA, TN, CT, MI, ND, MD, MN, FL, NE, NC, NY, CO, AZ, PA, ID, and Chile, South America. This year many of the contestants found the Essay Contest on the Internet. Our judges have commented that the quality of the essays goes up each year.

The presentation of GRHS Essay Contest awards will take place during the convention at the Saturday, 12 September luncheon. Miss SD 2008, Alexandra Hoffman, and her sister Miss SD Teen 2008, Elizabeth Hoffman, are invited to present the awards.

Our Middle School and High School Youth Essay Contest winners were honored at awards events at their respective schools. We tried to find GRHS members who live in the same area as the essay contest winner to do the presentations. What better way to recognize a student receiving an award than in the presence of their peers? This is also very good publicity for the Essay Contest and for GRHS. Several school principals have requested the information for the 2010 Essay Contest so they can promote the contest in the fall. A note from one principal said, "Thank you for your work to promote not only literacy but cultural appreciation." We received thank you notes from winners thanking us for the recognition and awards they will receive by winning the contest, but also for our 'push' to research the stories of the Germans from Russia.

The \$250 Gwen Pritzkau Scholarship will be again be awarded to the highest scoring High School Senior. This fund was created to promote the GRHS Essay Contest. Interest only can be used for scholarships so we encourage GRHS members, Chapters or organizations to 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 2009 GRHS Convention, where we will offer unique items for sale to raise money for scholarships. Please note that the University Undergraduate scholarship for 2010 will be \$1000. Contributions to the GRHS 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 2010 GRHS Essay Contest Rules & Entry Forms will be available at the Youth Booth. 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

Many thanks to our GRHS Youth Committee for their interest and work in promoting the GRHS Youth Essay Contest.

Vera Hoff, Chairman
GRHS Youth Committee