

honor

Degree of Honor Publication
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2018 Triennial Convention



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Message from Bill O'Toole

Degree of Honor has a long and proud history of making a difference in our members' lives and their communities. As part of our story, I am pleased to share that we are giving back more in member benefits, and making a greater impact in parishes, schools and local organizations.

How was this accomplished ... by diligently focusing on the things that make us different from other types of life companies.

As we continue our commitment of helping those in need, Degree of Honor will introduce a new Match Fund program and a new member benefit beginning January 1, 2019. You can read more about this program and new member benefit in the article below.

In the years ahead, we will continue to expand our fraternal and charitable impact which makes us unique. Together, we will accomplish even greater things and remain committed to moving the Society *Always Forward*.

Fraternally,

William R. O'Toole
President & CEO

Bill O'Toole and Hector Colon, President & CEO of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan at a co-sponsored reception and introduction to the community for LSS.

About the cover

Kristen Mueller, Vice President of Human Resources, Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Degree of Honor Advisory Board Member and her husband, John Niedfeldt-Thomas at the 2018 Triennial Convention.

New Special Needs Program

In celebration of our long-standing tradition of supporting members and their families, Degree of Honor will launch a new Match Fund program beginning January 1, 2019.

A two-year pilot project, called the Special Needs Program, will provide up to \$500 annually in additional match funds to lodges/service clubs that sponsor a fundraising activity benefiting a member or the family of a member with special needs, or a group that supports those with special needs or their caregivers.

Additional member benefits will also be introduced in 2019. On January 1, all Degree of Honor members will be eligible for \$100 annually toward the cost of a faith-based retreat. There is tremendous value to a faith-based retreat that can only be described as life-changing, and we hope that our members will take advantage of this benefit.

Check out our website to learn more about this program, our retreat benefit and the additional member benefits we offer: degreeofhonor.com/membership

2018 Triennial Convention

Gathering in Milwaukee, Wis., individuals from across the U.S. fulfilled their responsibility as delegates by electing the new Board of Directors and approving Society Bylaws at the 2018 Triennial Convention. The Convention was visible proof of our members' commitment to continue to move the organization *Always Forward*.

The Convention kicked off with a celebration of the Society's mission. President & CEO, Bill O'Toole awarded the Archbishop ListECKI Servant of the Poor Award to Bob Ilk, Chapter WI-52. He was presented with this award for his dedicated service to the community. A monetary donation was made in his name to the Saint Vincent de Paul Southside Meal Program in Milwaukee. Later that evening, delegates had the opportunity to personally interact with the new Board candidates.

Friday night's celebration ended with a friendly trivia competition. Delegates were quizzed on a variety of topics and prizes were awarded to the top scoring teams. On Saturday morning, the business session convened and delegates elected the new Board of Directors, voted to adopt changes to the Bylaws, and received reports from Convention committees. Bill O'Toole delivered a "State of the Society." Members of the leadership team then joined Bill on stage for a Q&A session to discuss plans for growth in the coming years.

The afternoon session highlighted two major aspects of the Society: faith and finance. Robert Powell, long-time financial journalist, provided his expertise, reinforcing the importance of saving for retirement regardless of your age. He also shared various tools and ideas on how to best prepare for your future needs. Vince Vitrano, Chair-Elect of Special Olympics of Wisconsin Board of Directors, and Cyndi Bentley, Special Olympics of Wisconsin athlete, shared a heartfelt presentation on the mission and vision of Special Olympics of Wisconsin and told Cyndi's amazing journey as a Special Olympic champion. To show our support, a \$5,000 donation was made to Special Olympics.

The evening concluded with a moving musical performance by Irish Tenor and Paralympian, Ronan Tynan.

Delegates returned home on Sunday motivated, inspired and optimistic about the future.



Volunteer of the Year Awards

Michael Thompson

As a charter member of St. Mark's U.M.C. in Evansdale, Iowa, Michael was exposed to the importance of helping others in his community early on. Over the years, Michael followed in his grandmother's and mother's footsteps by volunteering at multiple organizations. However, there's one organization that brings him the most pride ... the Honor Walk.

In 2006, Michael approached the St. Mark's Administrative Council with a request to display individual flags for Veterans, like his father and uncles, on Memorial Day along the pathway around his church. His request was approved for 20 flags and the Honor Walk was born. The Honor Walk wouldn't exist without the help of Iowa's Bravest.

Since 2006, the Honor Walk has grown to four yearly flag displays for Veterans and now emergency responders. As of November 2018, the displays included 292 Veteran flags and 94 emergency responder flags. Each flag is embroidered with the name of the veterans or emergency responders being honored. Michael requested his Volunteer of the Year \$1,000 donation be shared with the Honor Walk.

Mark Minion

Mark has a willingness to serve whenever needed. He has participated in many lodge events and volunteer opportunities over the years throughout Illinois, including music programs at nursing homes and elderly care facilities, helping families move, delivering food to the local food pantry and assisting older neighbors with lawn care and home repair. Mark also sings in the choir and occasionally substitutes as choir director. When Mark's wife experienced a shoulder injury and other health issues, he was there to lend a helping hand to her and the family business.

Mark's \$1,000 Volunteer of the Year donation will be earmarked to support the work of Mary Purvis in Guatemala.

Kaila Scumaci

Kaila began serving the community as a child and remains an active volunteer in West Virginia. She has served as Youth Director President for her local lodge, completed many service projects, acts as a mentor to younger children, tutors at her high school, participates in community cleanup events and helps with the children's choir.

Kaila has always had a soft spot for animals, especially at the shelter she volunteers at that helps more than 7,000 animals annually. At the shelter, she has worn many hats including help prepare vaccines, launder bedding, wash food bowls, walk the injured and rehabilitation dogs after surgery, and is co-creator of a music program to help the shelter dogs with relaxation.

It's Kaila's wish that her \$1,000 Volunteer of the Year donation be given to the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).



Michael Thompson



Mark Minion



Kaila Scumaci

Do you or someone you know exemplify a commitment to the community and caring for others?

If so, apply or nominate someone today by visiting: degreeofhonor.com/membership

Meet our 2018 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2018 scholarship winners! Scholarships are awarded to insured members who display a strong desire to learn, as well as a commitment to volunteer in their communities.

Please help us congratulate our 2018 winners!



Nicolas Antilla,
Elk River, Minnesota,
\$1,000 Honor U™,
Colorado State
University



Jesse Backstrom,
Bryan, Texas,
\$500 Continuing
Education,
Texas A&M University



Nicole Gangelhoff,
New Ulm, Minnesota,
\$1,000 Honor U™,
\$500 Honors
Program,
South Dakota State
University



Malia Gehrenbeck,
Chicago, Illinois,
\$500 Continuing
Education,
University of Illinois at
Urbana Champaign



Emma Groom,
*Eden Prairie,
Minnesota,*
\$1,000 Honor U™,
\$500 Honors
Program,
North Dakota State
University



Joshua R. Jarpey,
Ham Lake, Minnesota,
\$1,000 Honor U™,
Winona State
University



Vincent Lor,
Pontiac, Michigan,
\$500 Continuing
Education,
Oakland Community
College



Robert Meikle,
*Colorado Springs,
Colorado,*
\$1,000 Honor U™,
\$500 Honors
Program,
University of
Colorado Boulder



Anna G. Minion,
Bolingbrook, Illinois,
\$1,000 Honor U™,
\$500 Honors
Program,
Maranatha Baptist
University



Melody Minion,
Bolingbrook, Illinois,
\$500 Continuing
Education,
Bob Jones University



Rebecca Murphy,
*Mahtomedi,
Minnesota,*
\$500 Continuing
Education,
College of Saint
Benedict



Grace Roseen,
*Chippewa Falls,
Wisconsin,*
\$1,000 Honor U™,
\$500 Honors
Program,
Wartburg College



Kaila M. Scumaci,
Navarre, Florida,
\$1,000 Honor U™,
Belmont University



Olivia J. Walechka,
Muskego, Wisconsin,
\$1,000 Honor U™,
University of
Wisconsin Eau Claire

Honors Program

Calling all insured and social members age 5-18! Would you like to receive a \$25 gift card? Tell us in 150 words about your involvement or achievements with your family, faith, school and community and we'll award you a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card.

Be proud of who you are by sharing your story and let us reward you! *To learn more about the Honors Program, visit degreeofhonor.com/membership*

Give the Gift of Life Insurance



With the holidays just around the corner, chances are you have quite a few gifts left to buy. Why not give a gift that will leave a lasting impact? It might not be the latest new toy or the biggest present under the tree, but it's the gift that will keep on giving.

Show your spouse, child or grandchild how much you care about their future this holiday season by considering the many benefits the gift of life insurance has to offer.

Benefits of Life Insurance: Protection Against the Unexpected

You can't predict the future but you can help prevent against future uncertainty. It's hard to know if your loved ones will have health or financial problems down the road, but you can do everything in your power to help protect their future by purchasing a life insurance policy.

It's Affordable

Life insurance premiums are based on a variety of things including your age and health. Purchasing a life insurance policy when your loved ones are young and healthy will help guarantee them protection for years to come and will be a relatively affordable gift.

Avoid Holiday Shoppers

Do you prefer to avoid the massive crowds during the holiday season? If so, life insurance is the perfect gift for you. No long lines and no crowds of shoppers, just one call to an Insurance Solutions Team member will get you started.

It's For the Whole Family

Besides the family dog, not many gifts can be enjoyed by the whole family. However, life insurance is at the top of the list. Life insurance can provide protection and support for your entire family.

Provide Future Funds

Life insurance can provide financial support in the event of the unexpected but can also help provide funding for the future for things like education costs or building your dream home. Whatever stage of life you're in, life insurance can help you prepare for the future.

It's Unique

You can bet this will be the most unique gift your loved ones will receive this year. After they lose interest in the other gifts, life insurance is one thing that will never be forgotten and will help define the rest of their lives.

It's never too early to start your shopping. Talk to an Insurance Solutions Team member at 1-800-965-2547 to help you give the perfect gift this holiday season!

Impact Teams

Degree of Honor has a long-standing tradition of helping communities through the work of local lodges/service clubs. Our Impact Teams benefit empowers members to organize an individual service project, with the assistance of friends, family and others who are passionate about the same cause!

To learn more about how to make an impact, visit: degreeofhonor.com/impact-teams



An Impact Team in Waite Park, Minn., extended a hand of friendship to residents in assisted living.

Recipe
Corner

Harvest Bars

Thank you Ellie from Masury, OH, for submitting this recipe.

INGREDIENTS

Harvest Bars

1/4 cup softened butter
1 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs
2/3 cup canned pumpkin
1/2 cup chopped dates
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts

2 tablespoons flour (for dredging)
1/2 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon ginger

Lemon Icing

1 1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 tablespoon lemon extract
or cream
5 teaspoons water

Bar Instructions

1. Cream butter, brown sugar and vanilla together.
2. Add eggs and canned pumpkin, beat well.
3. Dredge dates and nuts in the 2 tablespoons of flour.
4. Sift together the remaining dry ingredients and add to the pumpkin mixture. Then add dates and nuts.
5. Bake in a greased 8x8 inch pan for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Lemon Icing Instructions

1. Combine powdered sugar, lemon extract/cream and water.
2. Add enough water to spread easily.
3. Once bars are cool, frost with lemon icing.



Submit your favorite recipe to be featured in the upcoming Spring edition of our magazine. Send a recipe that fits the season, upcoming holidays or is simply delicious! We will select the winner through a random drawing. To submit your tasty recipe, please mail to: 1100 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233; Attention Vicki Vlach or email vickivlach@degreeofhonor.com.



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Together, we make the perfect pair

At Degree of Honor, we don't answer to those on Wall Street. We answer to our members. We strive to enhance their lives and improve the communities in which they live – that's one of the many things that makes us different. Rest assured, your interests come first as we partner with you to build your financial future and protect your dreams.

Pair up with a company you can trust and protect what matters most!

To learn more about all the benefits Degree of Honor has to offer, contact the Insurance Solutions Team at 1-800-965-2547.

