



Bob Upgren gets a standing ovation in Bismarck after his chalk drawing presentation in which he shared how we are all on the same path together, to "Be There" for others, and to improve lives—one person at a time.



During the evening recognition banquet, NMB President George Yanna presents Jamie Feldmann, president of Wisconsin Valley Branch 3, with the Gold Medal Award in recognition of her branch's 2004 accomplishments.

## What an **IMPACT** We Can Make!

*NMB volunteers exchange ideas, learn new skills, and receive recognition at regional seminars*

Every year, at its regional leadership seminars, National Mutual Benefit trains, motivates, and most importantly, recognizes its many volunteers. These branch leaders conduct charitable, educational, and patriotic efforts to improve the quality of life for people in the communities where they

live, and share with others the important value system upon which NMB was built. *Making a Difference—Together* was the theme for the 2005 Fraternal Leadership Seminars.

The first leadership seminar was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, where attendees from North and South Dakota learned about weathering tough times and stress on the farm, in the home, and in the community. They also learned how to strengthen families, hold effective meetings, communicate with our membership, and work with the media.

At the Madison, Wisconsin, seminar, volunteer branch leaders and professional insurance representatives attended workshops on building bridges and developing diverse partnerships in the community; volunteer recruitment and retention; and developing communication skills.

Two excellent motivational speakers from Bismarck were on hand at both meetings. Doug Bradford shared a humorous look at how Generation Xers



President Yanna presents the Gold Medal Award to Dixie and Terry Varns, 2005-06 co-presidents of Northern Black Hills Branch 73.

and younger work groups compare and contrast with Baby Boomers and Pre-Boomers. Bob Upgren, known across America for his energetic, innovative chalk presentations, spoke on changing behaviors through positive attitudes and being passionate about our mission to help others. Bob's chalk drawings will hang in the Spearfish, South Dakota, Agency office and at NMB's headquarters office in Madison, Wisconsin.

George Yanna, president of National Mutual Benefit, shared information on the strong financial status of NMB and how its motto of *people helping people in time of need* is just as important today as when the Society was founded. ♦



The Black Knights, a color guard from Madison, Wis., VFW Post 7591, opened the general session at the Madison Fraternal Leadership Seminar.