

RLND Class VI Update Seminar 7 by Michelle Wall

Understanding ND Ag and Rural Policies

January 2015

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Class VI's Bismarck seminar kicked off with ND Commerce Commissioner Al Anderson speaking as well as Kevin Iverson, and Sandy McMerty from the ND Commerce Department. They shared with us business statistics, population trends and advice on using social media to connect and develop our communities. Several of the many things we learned is that North Dakota is the 4th youngest state, the #1 state for young adults and that we've had nearly 600% increase in exports. Lunch was sponsored by Annie White Carlson (RLND Class V) owner of Morning Joy Farms.

Matt Sagaser gave us a tour of the North American Innovation and Acceleration Center for Doosan and Bobcat brands. This Bismarck showpiece boasts one acre of dirt enclosed for all season equipment trials and new product demonstrations. More than thirty companies were researched in designing the unique elements of the center that's goal is to accelerate innovation and encourage collaboration among its staff.

Then it was off to the Bank of North Dakota where we learned about the mission of the organization and how they are a resource for our communities. Thank you to informative speakers Janel Schmitz, Anita Qualia and Tom Ternes.

The evening concluded with the RLND Leadership Dinner where Jerry Doan, Black Leg Ranch and RLND Council Chairperson, spoke on The Power of One. Each individual can make a difference in his or her community and state. Jerry challenged us to choose how we can do so. The Leadership Dinner was sponsored by Farm Credit Services; Fargo-Mandan-Minot.



Sam Arndorfer and Will Meyer in mock hearing

Ag and rural legislative issues were front and center on Thursday. Connie Sprynczynatyk helped us understand the

legislative process and we participated in mock committee hearings. We put our new knowledge to use as we observed committee hearings at the Capitol. This year marks the first year of the Governor's proclamation of Rural Leadership North Dakota Day.



RLND Proclamation Day with Governor Dalrymple

Governor Dalrymple joined us for a group photo. Lunch was sponsored by the Dale Carnegie Business Group of ND. We were welcomed to the legislative wing by Senate Majority Leader Rich Wardner and House Majority Leader Al Carlson. Next, we spent time with our senators and representatives on the floor.

After a brief tour of the Heritage Center, we heard from Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring, Tax Commissioner Ryan Rauschenberger, and Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley. Each updated us on the current issues affecting North Dakota and fielded questions from Class VI. Thursday evening concluded with the Legislative Social at the Kelly Inn sponsored by the RLND Alumni Association. Legislators familiar with RLND got a chance to reconnect with the program. Those new to RLND learned about the value of the program and spoke one-on-one with participants, graduates and Council members.

Friday morning rounded out the Bismarck seminar with reflections and discussion about the International trip in February. Josh Kremer, USDA Rural Development and Pat Fridgen, from the ND State Water Commission presented on their respective areas of expertise. The seminar concluded with a joint lunch with the RLND Alumni and Class VI participants.



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

PROCLAMATION
RURAL LEADERSHIP NORTH DAKOTA DAY
JANUARY 15, 2014

WHEREAS, Rural Leadership North Dakota is a premier leadership development program implemented through the NDSU Extension Service; and

WHEREAS, Rural Leadership North Dakota has prepared and developed effective leaders to strengthen rural North Dakota for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, the program focuses on the importance of agriculture to North Dakota's economy from a local, national, and international perspective; and

WHEREAS, the program's intensive 18-month course has expanded the vision and ability of more than 100 participants to invest their time and talents in implementing community-based projects that have benefitted local citizens and North Dakotans statewide; and

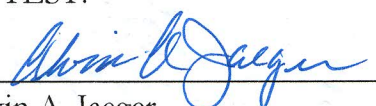
WHEREAS, the program has generated significant support from business and industry, organizations and individuals who understand that people are the greatest resource North Dakota has to strengthen communities and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Rural Leadership North Dakota will continue to develop skilled and visionary leaders for our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 15, 2015, **RURAL LEADERSHIP NORTH DAKOTA DAY** in the State of North Dakota.


Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State