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— M A Q U O K E T A —

SENTINEL-PRESS

Volume 155, No. 73 ■ 2 sections 28 pages Plus Supplements ■ Saturday, January 31, 2009 ■ \$1.00 per copy

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Firefighters honored

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Several Maquoketa volunteer firefighters were honored and the department's activities during the past year were reviewed at the department's recent annual dinner.

The event was held Jan. 17 at the Maquoketa Country Club.

Assistant Fire Chief Al Muhlhausen was presented with the department's highest honor, the Maquoketa Firefighters Memorial Award in recognition of his service to the department.

The award previously was called the Leo Clasen Memorial Award in honor of the longtime department member who died several years ago. The award was renamed this year to honor all past Maquoketa firefighters.

Muhlhausen became the first two-time winner of the award. He also received it in 2000, the first year it was given.

"I'm overwhelmed," an emotional Muhlhausen said after Doug Gonner, last year's award winner, made the presentation. "This really means a lot."

Muhlhausen also paid tribute to his wife, Nancy, and three daughters as "the four girls in my life who let this be possible."

Muhlhausen, a 20-year veteran of the department, is employed with the Maquoketa Community School District's transportation system.

Fire Chief Mark Beck was presented with a watch for having completed 25 years of service. He has served as chief for 11 years.

Muhlhausen and Keith Burns received plaques for having completed 20 years of service. Bob Mitchell and Ric Schmidt were honored for having completed 10 years.

Beck also introduced three new members of the department who have joined in the past year. They are Chris Raker, Justin Koontz and Bjorn Beck.

Beck noted that for the first time in a couple of



MSP photo by Doug Melvold

Several Maquoketa volunteer firefighters were honored for their service at the fire department's annual dinner held Jan. 17 at the Maquoketa Country Club. From left are Assistant Chief Al Muhlhausen, who received the Maquoketa Firefighters Memorial Award, the department's highest honor, and an award for completing 20 years of service; Bob Mitchell, who was recognized for completing 10 years; Keith Burns, who completed 20 years; Ric Schmidt, who completed 10 years, and Fire Chief Mark Beck, who was presented with a watch for 25 years of service.

years, the department has a full roster.

He also recognized five lifetime department members in attendance. They were former Chief Harold Lubben, Gale Stickley, Bob "Red" Lane, Lloyd Nabb and Jerry Weis.

Beck also reviewed the department's event-filled past year.

The January 2008 fire that destroyed four downtown buildings and damaged two others and in which 29 area fire departments assisted in frigid cold was "the most disastrous fire in our lifetime," he noted.

The expansion project to add three new truck bays and construct a new two-story office and training room facility was completed.

The department hosted the Iowa Firemen's Association Convention in September.

The department also purchased new bunker gear, partly through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Beck noted that the department answered 90 fire calls during 2008, an increase from the previous year. Of that number, 55 calls were in the city; the remainder were in the rural areas that the department serves.

The department also responded to approximately 40 rescue calls.

He noted that the average response time, from the time the call was received until the first units arrived on the scene, was nine minutes. Beck said that time was up slightly from past years, but said that may be due to an increased number of rural calls.

Average attendance at a fire was 15, up two from 2007. He also noted that the department was called out on Tuesdays more often than any other day.

The average length of service for Maquoketa firefighters is 11.7 years.

Six seniors named DAR Good Citizens

By KELLY GERLACH

Six seniors from high schools in Jackson County were named DAR Good Citizens for their work in 2008.

The Lawrence Van Hook Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented the awards during the Good Citizens Award Tea Saturday, Jan. 10 at the United Church of Christ in Maquoketa. DAR members, Good Citizen winners, parents and school sponsors were invited to the event, which was held without delay despite the wintry weather.

This year's recipients included the following students:

■ Lauren Marie Ehrler of Andrew Community High School, daughter of Luann Ehrler, counselor Denise Durant;

■ Kaitlin Christine Kilburg of Bellevue Community High School, daughter of Randy and Christine Kilburg, counselor Katie Bormann;

■ Barbara Joyce Anderson of East Central High School, daughter of Rodney and Pamela Anderson, counselor Renee Friedrichsen;

■ Jennifer Mary Ihrig of Maquoketa Community High School, daughter of Bill and Carol Ihrig, counselor Julie Kinrade;

■ Katherine Marie Fogel of Marquette High School, daughter of Tim and Sue Fogel, counselor Randy Rubel; and

■ Kallie Jo Tebbe of Preston Community High School, daughter of Lonnie and Margie

Tebbe, counselor Careyanne Wood.

The five Jackson County students received the honor based on applications submitted to the Lawrence Van Hook DAR chapter. Members of the chapter mailed letters to guidance counselors in the Jackson County school districts. Those counselors then presented the voluntary application project to the schools' seniors.

Good Citizens are chosen based in part on dependability, service, leadership and patriotism — qualities of high importance to the DAR.

Participants completed the application and provided letters of recommendation to accompany the form.

Some of the applicants chose to write an optional essay, which was worth 50 points. Jennifer Ihrig's essay won her \$25. The prize was donated by Lucille Sunleaf Strawman, a DAR chapter member formerly of Bellevue who currently resides in Johnston. Ihrig's essay now advances to the district level.

The local DAR chapter selects one Good Citizen from each high school (which has applicants) in Jackson County each year. Award recipients receive a pin and certificate.

Guest speaker at the afternoon tea was Charlie Easterly, elementary guidance counselor for the Maquoketa Community School District.

The DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American his-



Photo Contributed

DAR Good Citizens were recognized during a special tea Jan. 10. The Lawrence Van Hook Chapter of the DAR honored six Jackson County high school seniors, including from left, Jennifer Ihrig, Kaitlin Kilburg, Lauren Ehrler, Katie Fogel, Kallie Jo Tebbe and Barbara Anderson.

tory and securing America's future through better education. There are 168,000 members around the world. Membership is open to women 18 years old or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.