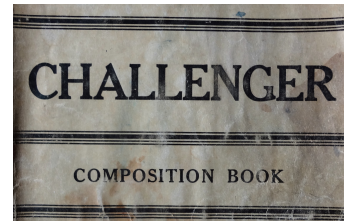




Journal from 1938

Excerpt from a Dakota Adventist girl's journal. Inscription on the inside cover reads:

- I got this book from my teacher.
- I was in the fourth grade.
- I was eight years old.
- It was in the year of 1938.
- I am so glad to receive this book.



A good citizen tries each day...

- to do his best work.
- to be kind to his playmates.
- to keep from whispering in school time.
- to pay close attention in class.
- to write neat papers.

"AM I A GOOD CITIZEN?" YES.

What we ought to do... a golden Rule.

Do unto others as you want others to do onto you.

Conference President Elected

The Dakota Conference Executive Committee met September 13, 2020 during a specially convened session for the purpose of electing a new president. After due consideration, the final vote showed overwhelming support for Elder Mark Weir to serve as conference president for the remainder of the current term.

"It was a joy to watch the executive committee rally behind Mark Weir as their president. I don't believe they could have found a better person to fill the big shoes of Neil Biloff than Mark," said Elder Gary Thurber.

Thanks was expressed to Elder Neil Biloff for his leadership and many accomplishments during the fifteen years he served as conference president. He will retire the end of the September.

Mark Weir has served as vice president of administration and education superintendent in the Dakota Conference for the last year; ministerial, evangelism and church planting director in the Upper Columbia Conference; pastor of church districts in Minnesota, Washington, and Upper Columbia conferences; and campus chaplain and Bible teacher at Auburn Adventist Academy. He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Bakke Graduate University, formerly Northwest Graduate School, in 2003; a Master of Divinity from Andrews University in 1987; and a Bachelor of Art in theology from Union College in 1983.

“My role is to help our churches and schools function better, our pastors and teachers to be effective as possible in their ministry; because if churches and schools are strong and healthy, our conference will be strong and healthy,” stated Elder Weir.

Elder Mark Weir will be the eighth president to serve the Dakota Conference since 1981 when North Dakota and South Dakota conferences merged. His term will officially begin on October 1, 2020.

Mark and his wife Judy have made their home in North Dakota for the last several months. The couple has three children: Natalie Weir, Alexandra (Erik) Short, and Bryson (Macy) Weir.



Article by Jodi Dossenko; photo by Jacquie Biloff.

Sioux Falls Students Help Animal Shelter

At the beginning of September, students at Sioux Falls Adventist School completed their first S.E.E. (Students Engaging for Eternity) project for the year. The students assembled rope tug toys to donate to Almost Home Canine Rescue, a local animal adoption organization. Using four long pieces of fleece, a square or spiral shaped rope was formed. Thanks to the students twenty-five dogs are going to be enjoying a new rope toy!

We are looking forward to more projects that will brighten someone's day and help members of our community!



**Rope tug toys for
Almost Home
Canine Rescue**

Article and photos by Elisa Wright, Sioux Falls head teacher.

Academy Students Attend Union Leadership Conference

Leadership Conference, done virtually this year, was not the typical experience. Despite the different circumstances, this did not interfere with speakers and presenters who preached God's Word and helped students uncover their leadership potential.

"I personally found the leadership conference to be a very educational and bonding experience. It helped me to discover many things I did not know about myself and about my peers", said Paw Lay and Anna. "Going off of that, it also helped me grow

closer with my leadership team so that we can have stronger school leaders. One thing that intrigued me was the variety of ministries S.H.A.P.E.s and temperaments that one could potentially have."

S.H.A.P.E. is an acronym that stands for Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences. A ministry S.H.A.P.E. is how someone serves according to their spiritual gifts. Knowing these gifts allows us to better serve and help people. In addition, the four different temperaments were presented: choleric or doers, melancholic or thinkers, sanguine or talkers, and phlegmatic or watchers. There were many wonderful speakers who spoke to the students about how God works in the world and how He leads individuals in leadership.

The speakers also presented about spiritual gifts and how one can use them to share God's love. "I also grew closer to my peers as we sat on Zoom for many hours as we learned about ways to lead and be an example for our peers. We kept each other energized, encouraged them to share during the questions asked, and bonded over multiple snacking sessions. Mr. O (Mr. Oucharek, DAA principal) also helped us to be happy by sharing an infinite amount of snacks with us until the meetings ended", shared Pway and McCarthy.

Other comments on the experience:

- "Leadership was inspiring and gave us all new ideas to attack the new school year with so that it will be a good year." - Colter
- "Leadership this year might have been different as it was on zoom but I still found it to be educational for me becoming a good leader." - Twainé
- "Leadership was educational and spiritual, and it made me full (of food) and alive." - Tasian



Article by Paw Lay Pway and Anna McCarthy; photos by Principal Anthony Oucharek.

ABC Located at Dakota Conference in Bismarck

Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm (If you happen to be in town during other hours, please stop by, we will try to accommodate.)

Friday: ABC & office closed

Dakota Conference Calendar

September -

- 26: [Camp Development](#)
- 27: Executive Committee - Conference Office (10 am)

October -

- 2-3: DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend - DAA ****CANCELLED**
- 2-4: Family Worship at The Lodge - Havana, ND
- 3: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 8-14: GC Fall Council - MD
- 9 -11: Women's Retreat - Abbey of the Hills, SD
- 10: [NAD Voice of Prophecy](#)

- 11-13: New in Ministry Training - Virtual
- 17: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 17: South Central Regional - Aberdeen ****CANCELLED**
- 21: DAA Home Leave
- 24: [Dakota Challenge](#)
- 25: K-12 Board Meeting - Conference Office (10 am)
- [Oct 31: Secondary Endowment](#)

November -

- 7: Fall Festival - DAA
- 14: Southeast Regional - Sioux Falls
- 14: [Annual Sacrifice](#)
- 16-19: MAUC Year-end Meetings - Virtual
- 21: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 23-29: DAA Home Leave
- 25-26: Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 28: [Dakota Challenge](#)

End of Week Blessing

May the goodness of the week behind you drive your energy to finish it well.
Just as creation culminated on the last day before the great rest,
May the days' work transform the week from good to very good.
May the sigh at the end of your work day be your greeting to the setting sun bringing
in the Sabbath.

As you put down your work, may you remember the words of Jesus when he put an
end to all our work.

"It is finished."

May you trust today that the work is finished. Even when it isn't.

As you come home at the end of the day

No matter what you have accomplished or left undone

May you remember that, you are very, very good.

Written by Pastor Casey Bartlett.

Job Opportunity

The Dakota Conference office is seeking to hire someone for the front desk/administrative assistant position. The individual will need to have public relation skills, computer processing knowledge and the ability to type, be self motivated, highly organized, and exercise confidentiality. Pay will depend on applicable experience and include retirement contribution, subsidized health insurance and educational discounts at Dakota Seventh-day Adventist

schools.

Interested parties should contact Mark Seibold for a job description and questions at: vp.finance@dakotaadventist.org

September 24 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Christopher Rittenbach; James River in Stutsman County.

If anyone has local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles and pictures to: j.dossenko@gmail.com

Dispatch Mission: To build a climate of encouragement and blessing through the sharing of witnessing and evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jodi Dossenko at j.dossenko@gmail.com. Bison [Copyright](#)

[!\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Facebook](#)

[!\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Website](#)

[!\[\]\(125d701e9425b54c764340b5671b38cd_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

[!\[\]\(21199eb166cc97331a0c54c649195dcc_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)

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