

LEADERSHIP *bismarck-mandan* *alumni association*

ISSUE DAY

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

BY CATHRYN SPRYNCZYNYATK ANDERSON

The final issue day of Leadership Bismarck-Mandan was Legislative / Political Involvement Day on March 9. Jason Matthews of JM Strategies spoke on how to build a political campaign. Matthews advised any aspiring political candidates to pick a dominant medium, dominate it and only after it is saturated go into a secondary medium. Matthew said all candidates should be able to articulate why they are running for office and why people should vote for them rather than an opponent. Finally, Matthews said campaigning has to be fun, and that people like to vote for the happy warriors.

The day closed with a candidate forum including Rick Becker, candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, and Brian Kroshus, candidate for the Republican nomination for State Auditor. All declared candidates in the Governor's race and State Auditor's race were invited. Becker and Kroshus were asked about why their private sector experience makes them qualified for their respective offices as opposed to those whose careers have been in the public sector.

Video recordings of the days speakers may be found at the Chamber of Commerce's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCymGZwCZv-tQUjw9oxwmMRQ>

Please let us know what you thought of the video coverage, and whether or not we should continue to provide that level of coverage for more issue days!

Legislative/Political Involvement Day Chairs:

- Jennifer Jackson, Class of 2013
- Kayla Ver Helst, Class of 2010
- Jason Anderson, Class of 2014



Rick Becker (right) candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, and Brian Kroshus, candidate for the Republican nomination for State Auditor, speak to the 2016 LBMAA class at Legislative/Political Involvement day on March 9 at the North Dakota state Capitol.

FEATURE MEMBER

Robin Thorstenson

Class of 2007

Training Coordinator

Starion Financial

What does the first 60 minutes of your day look like?

I jump into the day rather than easing into it. I'm up and walking the dog within the first 40 minutes. Then off to work. Unlike most people, I keep the radio off and use the silence in the car to decide on my priorities for the day. The first priority is coffee (sad, but true).

What was your first job? I was a Girl Scout camp counselor at the age of 14. I worked the camp system for six years. Loved it, which is probably why I plan to be a park ranger when I retire.

What would someone be surprised to know about you?

I wore leg braces and corrective shoes as a child to correct severe hip dysplasia. As a result, I wasn't particularly coordinated or athletic. So when I joined the rowing team at Washburn University, I began to see myself in a new way. I'm a big believer in reinvention of self.

What project, or achievement are you most proud of?

I'm proudest of the work I did with Memorial Blood Centers in Minnesota where I built a volunteer program from the ground up in an industry that didn't typically engage volunteers. The program is still very strong and a core group of volunteers that I recruited are still involved.

How have you been involved in the community?

I have walked dogs at Central Dakota Humane Society, delivered Meals on Wheels, and served on the United Way board. I currently serve on Dakota Media Access' board and am involved in two of DMA's special projects – the Dakota Digital Film Festival and KDAK radio. And volunteer at Bismarck's Animal Impound.

How could others become involved in that service?

Research shows that people are four times more likely to volunteer when personally asked. Consider yourself personally asked. Now, contact someone you know doing something you think is really cool and say, "How can I be a part?" If you don't know anyone involved with that group, contact me. I'll get you introduced!

What is a favorite quote or words that mean a lot to you?

My personal mantra is when in doubt, say yes. Some of the greatest experiences in my life have been because I said yes.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Leadership BISMARCK - MANDAN

LEADERSHIP BISMARCK-MANDAN PROJECT PRESENTATION

Date: 5/18/2016 - Time: 8:30am - 11:30am

Location: The Chamber of Commerce - 1640 Burnt Boat Dr., Bismarck

Leadership BISMARCK - MANDAN

LEADERSHIP BISMARCK-MANDAN GRADUATION

Date: 5/25/2016 - Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Location: Baymont Inn & Suites - 2611 Old Red Trail NW, Mandan

LUNCH & LEARN - Universal Playground Update

Date: 5/17/2016 - Time: 11:45am - 1:00pm

Location: Universal Playground - Eagles Park, Mandan ND
Cole Higlin from Mandan Parks and Recreation will be providing and update to the Universal Playground. We will be meeting in the newly constructed Multi-Purpose building next to the playground. RSVP by 5/11/16!

LUNCH AND LEARN



Members of LBMAA toured the Bobcat Acceleration Center in Bismarck on February 26, 2016.