



**NATIONAL  
MUTUAL  
BENEFIT**

A Fraternal Life Insurance Society

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

### **NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism** *National Mutual Benefit Member Sue Vlasnik named Fraternal MVP*

**MADISON, WI, November 10, 2006** – National Mutual Benefit (NMB) is proud to recognize Sue Vlasnik of Luck, Wisconsin, and member of Branch #828, as a National Fraternal Congress of America Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant). Fraternal MVPs are “Fraternalists-in-Action” who volunteer their time and energy to strengthen their communities through leadership roles in local branch activities and other charitable endeavors.

“Sue is the epitome of our member volunteers. She is hard working, wants to help every single person she possibly can, and has a heart of gold,” said NMB President George Yanna. “We are proud that Sue was honored by the National Fraternal Congress of America as NMB’s very first Fraternalist-in-Action.”

Vlasnik is a charter member of Branch 828, having helped National Mutual Benefit form the branch, and has held the office of President for the past 18 years. In 2005, she led her branch to the highest honor an NMB branch can earn, the Gold Medal Achievement Award. Vlasnik is a strong communicator, keeping in touch with NMB members in her branch area through branch newsletters. She also corresponds with her Wisconsin State Representative, Mark Pettis, to educate him about the goals and accomplishments of their fraternal branch and invite local elected public officials to attend charitable activities the branch organizes to give service to their communities.

Vlasnik was instrumental in organizing a benefit for an NMB member in the community who was in need of expensive eye surgery. By holding a homemade spaghetti dinner, silent auction, and a raffle, the branch raised about \$10,000 as part of an NMB Matching Funds project. Last year under Vlasnik's leadership, Branch 828 worked with people from the Luck community and the staff and parents from Luck school to raise \$17,000 for new playground equipment.

Vlasnik and her branch have even mobilized volunteers in times of natural disasters. In 2001, a severe tornado hit a small community in Siren, Wisconsin. Vlasnik organized a small group of volunteers who helped with the clean-up efforts. This past year, her branch held a Hurricane Katrina Fundraiser, where 18 volunteers served 117 pancake breakfasts, contributing 87 volunteer hours and raised \$1,060 to be sent to victims down south.

Fraternal MVPs are named through the National Fraternal Congress of America's Fraternalists-in-Action program, which recognizes individuals whose unique stories best represent 21<sup>st</sup> Century fraternalism. These fraternalists demonstrate exceptional compassion and vision through their volunteer leadership and activities.

### **About National Mutual Benefit**

National Mutual Benefit, a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, promotes community outreach and volunteer activities on the local level through subsidiaries call "Branches." Each NMB fraternal branch is provided financial and material resources from the headquarters office to organize and carry out charitable, community improvement, educational, and patriotic programs to improve and enrich the lives of others and the communities they live in.

In existence since 1902, National Mutual Benefit provides financial security to individuals, families, and business owners through its life insurance and disability income insurance programs and other financial services. NMB members are also afforded value-added fraternal benefits, at no additional cost, such as scholarships for young adults, discount programs, and assistance grants when disaster, illness or death strikes a family.

## **About the NFCA**

The 120-year-old NFCA unites 75 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million people in 36,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member networks. Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. Combined, the NFCA's member-societies maintain more than \$315 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2004 alone, contributed almost \$390 million to charitable and fraternal programs. In addition, fraternalists volunteered approximately 91.5 million hours toward community-service projects during that same period. For more information, visit the NFCA's Web site at [www.nfcenet.org](http://www.nfcenet.org).

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