National Dairy Shrine has been in existence for over 65 years and I believe that the founding fathers would be very pleased with how the organization has grown and prospered. I am very certain that the founders would be amazed by the new technology improvements at the NDS Museum and Dairy Hall of Fame. What a great way to honor the industry leaders of yesterday and today. Future improvements will allow all visitors even greater access to the stories and achievements of these great dairy leaders. The expanded Joe Eves Library and changes to the museum exhibits only further enhance the museum visitor experience. Current museum exhibits will be undergoing even more enhancements to help inform the public about the rich dairy history on display.

The other major goal set forth by the founders was to encourage dairy leaders of the future. I believe that those founders would be very pleased with the organization’s ability to provide for over 670 scholarships over the last 65 years. In addition through partnerships with other dairy associations another 100+ dairy students have received scholarships. Many of these scholarship recipients are now prominent leaders in the dairy community. Based on the comments of the numerous people that serve on our scholarship selection committees the latest generation of dairy students certainly have the ability to take the dairy industry to even greater heights in the future. Certainly these scholarship dollars and the recognition of their achievements have encouraged many to stay focused on a future in the dairy industry.

All of this progress has been funded by the lifetime memberships of over 18,500 people and numerous donations of money, time and talent by many supporters of National Dairy Shrine. Much has been said about the greatest generation of the 1940’s and 50’s and they have definitely had a great impact on National Dairy Shrine. NDS needs to continue to replace this generation with new generations of dairy leaders. NDS needs to evolve with the culture. The current National Dairy Shrine Board of Directors has been focusing on several long range initiatives to better position the organization for the future.

NDS now has a presence on Facebook and is looking to reach more dairy enthusiasts with social media listings. The NDS website has tons of information about NDS and is a great source of news releases and access to the Chronicle newsletter. Future plans include promoting the image and mission of the National Dairy Shrine. Finally the NDS Board would like to promote the addition of numerous new NDS lifetime members. I would like to challenge you to help recruit a new member to National Dairy Shrine in 2016. A simple one-time lifetime fee of $50 will insure that the vital role of NDS in enhancing the dairy industry will remain strong and vibrant.

New members can also be the source of future volunteers who can serve on award or scholarship selection committees or on the NDS board of directors. As an organization we need to continually revitalize our membership volunteers to make sure we stay vibrant and prominent in the dairy industry. Please visit with your friends or co-workers to make sure they know the benefits of being a NDS member. Reach out to anyone that has a role in the dairy industry from producer to processor, marketer, salesman, researcher, student, communicator or just a cheese lover to see if they would like to pay forward for the dairy industry we love.

Another resolution for 2016 could be to give back to this great dairy industry by donating your time or making a donation to one of the many activities of National Dairy Shrine. Small donations can achieve great progress when pooled and wisely invested for the goal of preserving a strong future for the dairy industry.

Some of you that are estate planning for the future should also consider the National Dairy Shrine in your plans. What a great way to insure that future generations of dairy enthusiasts will have an organization that is devoted to honoring the past, recognizing the present and promoting the future.

I certainly wish you a very healthy and prosperous year in 2016 and hope that all of you take some time to help National Dairy Shrine in some way this year.
The National Dairy Shrine is again looking for applications for its annual scholarship program. Applications are accepted from March 1 until the deadline of April 15. Official scholarship application award forms are available on the NDS web site, www.dairyshrine.org under scholarships. The scholarships available include:

- NDS Kildee Scholarships are offered in two categories. Graduate and Undergraduate
- NDS Student Recognition Program for graduating seniors
- NDS /Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI) Education & Communication Scholarships for Juniors & Sophomores
- NDS Junior Merit Scholarship for College Juniors
- NDS Sophomore Merit Scholarship for College Sophomores
- NDS/Maurice Core Dairy Scholarships for College Freshmen
- NDS/McCullough Scholarships for Incoming College Journalism or Communication majors
- NDS/Iager Scholarship for students at 2 Year Post Secondary Schools
- Klussendorf scholarships for students in their first, second, or third year at a two or four year college or university
- McKown scholarships for students in their first, second, or third year at a two or four year college or university

Members Who Have Affirmed National Dairy Shrine with a Gift in Memory or as to Honor

Donations for NDS Scholarship Funds
Lynnae Rodeffer
Gail Yeiser
Mary Sowerby
Ray & Margaret Schooley
Second Look Holsteins
Alecia & Jonathan Lamb

In Memory of George Opperman
Paul & Gretchen Dixon
Steve & Leota Larson
Charleston Orwig
Robert Hagenow
Tom & Barbara Lyon
Cooperative Resources International
Jane Kimberly
Robert & Carolyn Bolger
James Leuenberger
Robert Heilman
Nadine Stoner
Gregory & Monica Yoder
Theodore & Karla Koehler
Philip & Karen Jerg
Carol Schreve
Caryl Hines

In Memory of Clinton Leuenberger
James Leuenberger

In Memory of Charles Larson
Richard Nelson

In Memory of Willis Armbrust
Doug Wilson

In Memory of Merton Sowerby
Farmshine Publications

In Memory of Gordon Wheeler
James Leuenberger

In Memory of Allen Meyer
Claus Dairy Farms

In Memory of Willard “Bill” Clark
Doug Wilson
Robert Heilman
Claus Dairy Farms

In Memory of Greg Lyon
James Leuenberger

In Memory of Anna Ayars
Don & Dorothy Peterson

In Memory of Austin Ayars
Don & Dorothy Peterson

In Memory of Mark Lyon
Doug Wilson
Robert Heilman
Claus Dairy Farms

In Memory of Greg Lyon
James Leuenberger

In Memory of Mary Schirm
David Selner

In Memory of Arnold Knight
Charles & Barbara Sattler

In Memory of Herb Behnke
James Leuenberger

In Memory of Dallas Burton
Kip & Marilyn Herzog

In Memory of William Hageman Sr.
Kevin & Julie Larson
Charles & Barbara Sattler
Kevin Stiles

In Memory of Mary Schirm
David Selner

To Honor Tom Lyon
James Leuenberger

To Honor Doug Wilson
James Leuenberger

Donations for Klussendorf Scholarships
Hettie Lancaster
Arthur Klussendorf
Progressive Commercial Dairy Manager Grant

By Karen Knutsen

Progressive dairy managers are setting a pattern and National Dairy Shrine wants to celebrate it! You’ve charged ahead with your dairy operation and not only introduced, but applied new management and business practices that have helped achieve higher profitability. The Commercial Dairy Manager Grant not only recognizes your management savvy, but also your leadership roles in local, state and national associations such as milk cooperatives, DHIA, AI companies, 4-H, FFA and more. National Dairy Shrine wants to inspire other dairy managers to achieve similar goals.

Am I qualified?

• The Progressive Commercial Dairy Manager Grant is open to an individual, couple, owner or operating partners that have a managerial role in a dairy operation

• Nominees must be within the ages of 21-50 at the time application due date

• Application can be completed by the individual or by another person who supports the individual's nomination

• Applicants do not need to be members of NDS, but we sure will encourage them to join!

What’s in it for me?

• The recipient of award will receive a travel grant to use for a National Dairy Shrine approved educational event in the value of $2000 ($1500 at the time of the trip and $500 when the post trip evaluation form is submitted to NDS).

• NDS fully supports the use of this money to further your knowledge. We hope you also take the chance to interact with fellow dairy managers and share your own experiences along the way.

• Winners will be recognized at the prestigious annual National Dairy Shrine Awards Banquet held next fall during World Dairy Expo

• Chances are you’ve found too many reasons not to get away. This is a great way to attend an enjoyable educational event like a management conference, trade show or even dairy herd visits.

Why should I take the time to enter?

• We know as our industry is more “connected” through social media, we actually face a bigger challenge of truly learning from each other. The dairy industry is loaded with creative, out-of-the-box, successful managers and experts that we could all learn from. You, or someone you know, are setting a great example for future dairy producers, so help us share that story!

Please consider completing the simple application form found on the NDS website www.dairyshrine.org. The application deadline is March 15. Applications for other NDS adult awards like Guest of Honor or Pioneer are also available on the website.

NDS Membership, Grant & Scholarship Sponsors

Dairy Management Inc.
Dairy Farmers of America
Elanco Animal Health
Lely North America
Allflex USA

Students tour the Hoards / National Dairy Shrine Museum

Students from all over the United States ventured to the museum in Fort Atkinson Wisconsin to view the dairy history displays, dairy memorabilia exhibits and learn more about the past, present and future of the dairy industry.

Student Dairy Cattle Judging teams from 26 states in the 4-H division, 18 universities in the collegiate division and 10 post-secondary schools were hosted at the NDS Museum for a Sunday tour, September 27th. These students viewed the judging trophy and champion cow displays with great interest. On Monday another group of 4-H Students from 28 states toured the Museum as part of the National 4-H Dairy Conference. These students enjoyed the educational displays and the National Dairy Hall of Fame. Just during this weekend the museum hosted approximately 500 visitors to the facility. These students were very impressed and many promised to revisit the museum again.

These students were just a part of the numerous visitors (over 1000) hosted during the first week of October at the Hoards / National Dairy Shrine Museum and assisted by the excellent museum host staff.
March 15, 2016
Applications due for Guest of Honor, Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder, Pioneer, Dairy Manager Grant and Graduate Production Awards. Applications can be found at www.dairyshrine.org.

March 1 to April 15, 2016
All student applications will be accepted for the various National Dairy Shrine scholarships. Please refer to the website www.dairyshrine.org for more information, procedures and application forms for all scholarships.

October 6, 2016
National Dairy Shrine Annual Meeting, Reception and Awards Banquet in Madison, Wisconsin.