

# The Pulse

Quarterly News

## Workforce Professionals ND Chapter

April 2021

Volume 7, Issue 2

### Communications Team

- Cindy Lynk
- Deanna Saragosa
- Pat Kelly

## Member Spotlight



Chad Howard is our IAWP spotlight this quarter. Chad works with Job Service in the I.T. Department as a Computer and Network Specialist. He started in October and just completed his six-month probation period. Guess he's a keeper! Welcome aboard Chad. Before moving to Bismarck to work for Job Service he worked as a Systems Administrator with First Western Bank & Trust in Minot.

Chad started with Job Service in the middle of a pandemic where almost everyone was working from home. It's been challenging to jump in a new position, learn new systems, processes, and work with new people without face-to-face interaction. Both socially and professionally it's been a bit of an obstacle he has had to overcome.

A couple of things he does to alleviate some of these challenges is by joining IAWP and our Central Office E.A.T. Committee. The E.A.T. Committee puts on events and activities for our building. It's been a way to meet a few more people from our Central Office but also other agencies through IAWP. Within IAWP, Chad is a member of the Conference committee. He appreciates the ability to have input and working with others to organize seminars, conferences, and other opportunities IAWP sets up. Chad will be hitting the road April 6-8 to collect I.T. surplus inventory from many Job Service local offices and is looking forward to being able to meet people around

the state.

Chad enjoys spending time with his family and he likes to travel when he can. He prefers driving over plane because he enjoys the sites and scenery of traveling and the freedom to be able to stop anytime he wants to explore. His favorite destination is the Colorado Rocky Mountains near Vail. Chad has taken hiking and kayaking trips, attended live concerts and sporting events, and traversed the highest paved roads in North America.

Chad has one younger sister that lives and works in Glen Ullin, ND and one niece that lives in South Dakota. Chad's parents are planning to move from Minot to Colorado and build a new home there soon.

## Learning Tree - IAWP Education and Community Development Funding

Are you a member of a Community and Professional Development organization? Why not ask IAWP to contribute towards your membership this year? Already paid your dues for this year? No problem. Just submit a receipt to [Elaine Wentz](#)

for reimbursement.

Or, are you, your spouse/partner or child taking any college coursework in 2021? Then, why not apply for IAWP Educational funding?

One of the benefits of being a member of the North Dakota

Chapter IAWP is the Learning Tree program. Our "tree" has two branches; Education and Community and Professional Development. For more information and to apply, visit our chapter website and go to the [Learning Tree](#) page.

### In This Issue

President's Chat .....	2
Improve Virtual Meetings .....	2
Identity Theft and UI.....	3
Retiree's Corner - North Dakota's Hidden Gem.....	3
Survey Coming .....	4
Trip to Arizona.....	4
Puzzle Contest.....	5
Committees .....	6

### Special Points of Interest

- Welcome to our newest members; Hannah McInnes-Schooler and Sabina Abaza.
- Congratulations to Joe Hall and Chad Howard. They were our quarterly \$25 local business gift card winners.
- Congratulations to Cindy Lynk. She was the door prize winner from our Virtual Social.



Break time and reading rejuvenates your mind; so take a break, and read *The Pulse* today!

## President's Coffee Chat by Brenda Cornell

Call to action. I know I work with a great

bunch of people and our IAWP group is among the best. There is a but, you always know there is one, but we need your assistance. We are one of the few states in our area that have the support of our agency. To keep operating effectively we need your help. Our board needs new members. It is a great way to gain some leadership skills with a lot of support. We currently need a Treasurer and a President Elect. We are allowed

administrative time for our meetings. Neither role is overwhelming, so please put some serious thought into joining the board. If you are interested, let me know.

Can you believe the last year? I went back to the Fargo office for the first time in almost a year, on March 3, for the day. It was Deja-vu as I looked at the calendar in my office it was on March 2020. Some major changes of room layouts, but the great staff was still the same.

We are planning our first in-person event, a Construction Job Fair, within social distancing guidelines and CDC

recommendations. It seems everyday is a new challenge. With vaccines becoming available, maybe something "normal" is around the corner, like an in-person Fall Conference. We will certainly have it on our radar and watch the state numbers and guidelines to see if we can make it happen.

Let's make 2021 a better year. Join the board and help us make things happen.

## How to Improve Virtual Meetings in 5 Easy Steps

[www.mitel.com](http://www.mitel.com)

Virtual meetings aren't new. Many companies with partial or entirely distributed workforces have been using them for years. As more companies turn to [remote work](#), these meetings have become essential to keep businesses moving forward. But like with many productivity tools, there are areas where we can improve virtual meetings to make work more efficient and inclusive.

It's important to have a smooth virtual meeting with the right collaboration and communication tools to work in real-time as they serve as a centerpiece for remote

settings. Whether it's to do with audio issues, late attendees, or even just distracted participants, we're here to give you 5 tips on how to improve virtual meetings.

### 1. Plan for Participation

To give a virtual meeting more of the feel of an in-person meeting, participation is key. One way to encourage participation is to have participants introduce themselves if everyone is not familiar with each other. If most people on the call already know one another, you can also promote

participation with a quick ice breaker before diving into the meeting—like having everyone share something positive about their day. It can be anything, big or small. This gets everyone engaged so they're more likely to participate.

### 2. Set Objectives

Sometimes virtual meetings jump around and cover too many topics because attendees don't get to see each other face to face. Avoid doing this by setting a specific purpose for each meeting. [Continue reading here.](#)

## WORKFORCE360 Virtual Conference - April 15 & 16

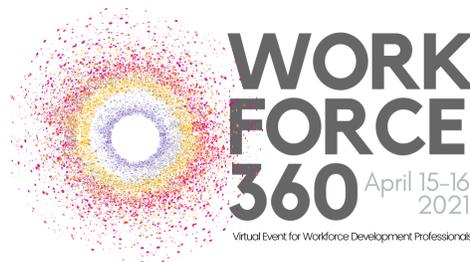
The Workforce360 Virtual Conference, will be held on April 15-16, 2021. Workforce360 is an annual, national conference hosted by the International Association of Workforce Professionals. Workforce360 targets workforce and economic development topics and offers a unique opportunity for attendees to gain knowledge of developing issues from industry thought leaders. This

conference will provide new ideas and understanding.

To register and find more information on the conference, go to [iawponline.org](http://iawponline.org).

Remember, the NDIAWP will reimburse you your registration once you've attended the conference. Send your receipt to

Cindy Lynk for reimbursement.



# Identity Theft and Unemployment Benefits

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

States have experienced a surge in fraudulent unemployment claims filed by organized crime rings using stolen identities. Criminals are using these stolen identities to fraudulently collect benefits across multiple states.

Because unemployment benefits are taxable income, states issue [Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments](#), to recipients and to the IRS to report the amount of taxable compensation received and any withholding. Box 1 on the form shows "Unemployment Compensation." You should report fraud to the issuing state agency and request a corrected Form 1099-G.

For details on how to report fraud to state workforce agencies, how to obtain a corrected Form 1099-G, a list of state contacts and other steps you should take if you are a victim, see the U.S. Department of Labor's [DOL.gov/fraud](https://www.dol.gov/fraud) page. Please follow Department of Labor guidance on reporting fraud and protecting yourself from additional scams.

## You may be a victim of unemployment identity theft if you received:

- Mail from a government agency about an unemployment claim or payment and you did not recently file for unemployment benefits. This includes unexpected

payments or debit cards and could be from any state.

- An IRS Form 1099-G reflecting unemployment benefits you weren't expecting. Box 1 on this form may show unemployment benefits you did not receive or an amount that exceeds your records for the unemployment benefits you did receive. The form itself may be from a state in which you did not file for benefits. While you are still employed, a notice from your employer indicating that your employer received a request for information about an unemployment claim in your name.

[Continue reading here.](#)

# New Grants to Expand and Diversify Registered Apprenticeships

USDOL ETA News Release March 18, 2021

WASHINGTON, DC— The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the availability of approximately \$87.5 million for grants to expand [Registered Apprenticeships](#) across the nation, with up to \$40 million of those funds in grants awarded to states that implement required diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and demonstrate their commitment to adopt, expand and promote these efforts.

[Grants](#) ranging from \$2 million to \$10 million based on state-specific capacity and needs. The grants will build on the [Executive Order signed by President Biden on strengthening Registered Apprenticeship](#). States are our critical partners in expanding and modernizing Registered Apprenticeships while ensuring that these valuable opportunities are available to all Americans.

ensuring equity and access for everyone in this country," said Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Labor Patricia Smith. "These grants will allow the federal government to work with states to provide new avenues of opportunity to America's workers by expanding Registered Apprenticeship programs."

[Read the News Release here.](#)

States can apply for [State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation](#)

"The Biden-Harris administration is committed to building back better while



## Retiree Corner

by Merlin Beto, Retiree from Wahpeton CSO

### North Dakota's Hidden Gem

By Cathy Beto (Merlin's wife)

It is undoubtedly safe to assume that few families have the state of North Dakota on top of their "list of states" to visit! For most, our state is perhaps not even on the list at all! But in the far western reaches of North Dakota lies the most wonderful vacation spot ever!

The tiny little town of Medora sits amidst the beautiful Badlands and offers an amazing combination of history, beauty and culture! From the awesome views, the wildlife and an array of outdoor activities available in nearby Theodore Roosevelt National Park, to the historical Chateau de Mores, home of the Marquis de Mores, founder of the town and his wife, Medora, for whom the town is named, to the beautiful outdoor Burning

Hills Amphitheater, there is something for everyone in Medora!

Whether one is an outdoor enthusiast, a history buff, in search of the performing arts, a culinary connoisseur or just in search of a warm, friendly place to visit, Medora delivers!

The town itself takes one back to earlier

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Trip to Arizona

by Cindy Lynk

In January, my husband and I, along with our dog Teddy, enjoyed two and a half wonderful weeks in Arizona. We spent a week camping and hiking along the Colorado river. The state park was a perfect base for our adventures. It was located on the river and surrounded by cliffs that changed color with the angles of the sun. Absolutely stunning!

We also had an opportunity to spend some time in Lake Havasu City visiting family. Did you know that the original London Bridge is located there? It was dismantled block by block, brought over and rebuilt. The bridge connects the city to an island just across the channel. There is a very nice Riverwalk with fun shops, restaurants and bars.

Our second week of camping was in the canyon region which of course is at higher elevations and a lot colder. In fact, while we were there, the temps were warmer in Bismarck. One morning we

woke to frozen water lines. Even with that, the scenery is beyond compare.

If travel is in your future plans, I would highly recommend a trip to AZ. Maybe not during the summer when they get so hot, but definitely during the winter.



River Island State Park



London Bridge, Lake Havasu City



Grand Canyon National Park  
Cindy, Mike and Teddy

***Survey Coming - Your response is needed and appreciated.***  
Watch your inbox for the survey on holding an in-person fall conference.

## North Dakota's Hidden Gem

*(Continued from page 3)*

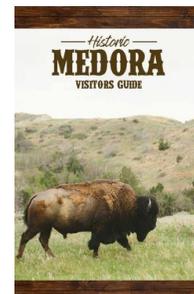
times with its old western buildings, the wooden sidewalks and small specialty shops. Some of the best food in the west can be found in the eateries there. A particular highlight offered is the Pitchfork Fondue where steaks are cooked on, you guessed it, pitchforks.

A drive through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, beginning with the Welcome Center and Museum, is a wonderful way to spend a few hours or a day!

At night, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, an amazing cast presents the Medora Musical, each evening. It showcases the history of our Old West and “wows the crowds” night after night with wonderful singing, dancing and acting and the intermissions are filled with talented performers from all over the globe.

When my family & I moved to North Dakota almost 30 years ago, we visited Medora one of our first summers here. We never tire of the beauty, the friendly, small town atmosphere and the wonderful opportunities the hidden gem

provides. No matter where we’ve traveled in the United States and abroad, we return to Medora each year. Retired or not, if you’ve never been there, you owe it to yourself to “stop by and stay awhile.” You won’t regret it!



[Medora Visitors Guide](#)

# Earth Day Word Search



Earth Day is celebrated annually around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970.

Complete the Earth Day word search puzzle and submit it to Cindy Lynk for your chance to win an “earth friendly” IAWP stainless steel, reusable water bottle.

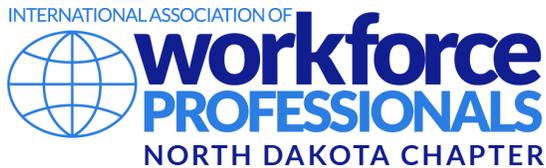


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Earth Day

T	R	E	S	E	D	M	E	O	E	N	O	Z	O
E	R	S	V	N	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S
R	N	E	G	Y	X	O	N	O	I	S	O	R	E
E	E	E	V	U	A	I	E	Q	U	A	T	O	R
H	A	R	E	O	A	C	T	S	O	E	N	O	R
P	O	T	T	R	L	H	R	R	R	C	O	A	S
S	C	C	R	A	G	U	A	U	S	R	I	O	C
O	R	E	E	U	A	I	T	R	S	N	T	G	F
M	T	O	O	A	N	A	E	I	F	T	A	C	L
T	R	R	U	F	N	I	A	O	O	I	T	O	O
A	D	H	A	S	C	U	R	Y	D	N	O	R	W
H	E	L	A	A	I	E	U	O	O	R	R	E	E
T	L	F	L	E	S	X	E	L	T	N	A	M	R
P	X	G	R	T	E	T	A	M	I	L	C	S	S

- REVOLUTION
- NATURE
- MANTLE
- RAINFALL
- TERRAIN
- EQUATOR
- DESERT
- AXIS
- ATMOSPHERE
- MOUNTAINS
- RAINFOREST
- OCEAN
- OZONE
- CLIMATE
- OXYGEN
- CORE
- FLOWERS
- GLACIERS
- ROTATION
- EROSION
- DROUGHT
- TREES
- CRUST



IAWP  
 1000 E Divide Ave  
 PO Box 5507  
 Bismarck, ND 58506-5507  
 Phone: 701-328-1643  
 Fax: 701-328-4000  
 E-mail: clynk@nd.gov

We're on the Web!  
[iawpnd.com](http://iawpnd.com)

### Member Benefits At-A-Glance

- ◆ Conferences
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Networking
- ◆ Professional Development/Recognition
- ◆ Publications/Newsletters
- ◆ Learning Tree Training/Educational Funds

## Board of Directors

- Brenda Cornell, President
- VACANT, President-elect
- Cindy Lynk, Treasurer (temp)
- Cindy Lynk, Exec Secretary
- Barry Glum, West Area Representative
- Becky Lankow, East Area Representative
- Elaine Wentz, Central Representative
- Merlin Beto, Retiree Representative
- Nathan Kimball, Webmaster
- VACANT, Past President

### Our Mission

*The North Dakota Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) is dedicated to providing networking and professional development opportunities for members to seek solutions to workforce issues.*

### Our Vision

*To provide educational and training opportunities for our membership, to enhance the workforce development profession and to ensure the success of our respective agencies/organizations.*

### \$\$ Learning Tree Funds Available \$\$

The learning tree committee has funds available for educational and professional development. Remember, educational funds are available to members and their families. Applications are available on our website



<http://www.iawpnd.com/learning-tree.html>

## Committees

Communications:

Cindy Lynk, Deanna Saragosa, Pat Kelly

Conference:

Barry Glum, Chad Howard, Brenda Cornell

Membership:

Tammy Barstad, Dusty Hillebrand

Retirement:

Merlin Beto

Learning Tree:

Elaine Wentz, Mary Houdek, Nathan Kimball

Training:

Becky Lankow, Marlys Morgenstern,  
 Danica Chaput