



Sarah D'Ascenzo is on the countdown now leading up to the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant and looks for some help along the way.

'Let's keep this thing rolling' says Miss Farmington director

The 1989 Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant is officially under way.

Before the month is out, 12 young women will begin their round of workshops in grooming, poise, mock interviews and intense rehearsals in their quest for the roses of victory, the crown, the scholarships, the prizes, the title of Miss Farmington and a chance to vie for the title of Miss Michigan.

"We've got a good thing going for us, now let's keep this thing rolling," said Sarah D'Ascenzo, Miss Farmington executive director. "We have got to handle the pageant like a business and I need more help to do it."

D'Ascenzo's priority need is for people to take a seat on the Miss Farmington Scholarship Board of Directors to give it direction.

"We need sponsors for the girls. We need advertisers for our program. We are looking for someone

who will pay for our sound system the night of the pageant — it costs a minimum of \$2,000 to stage the production. We need donations to help boost the amount of money we can give in scholarships," she said.

"We are looking for volunteers who can give us anything in the way of theatrical experience that will help us put on a production. We have a tradition of staging extravaganzas and we want to keep it that way."

THE "WE" SHE speaks of is a very few of the faithful who form the core of the pageant.

In the past few years, the pageant has been put together "hodgepodge and at the last minute," D'Ascenzo said.

"The day before the pageant last summer I finally found someone to work the lights for us. And one of my volunteers — Bruce Huber — did the behind-the-scenes work of four."

"There is generally a sold-out house pageant night," she said. "There is no end of requests for Miss Farmington appearances — particularly throughout Founders Festival weekend. Everybody seems to want a Miss Farmington and it is such a beautiful thing that we can do for our young women."

Just why can't one of the wealthiest communities in the county do it right?"

D'ASCENZO SAID she took the job of executive director because "I owed it for all that it meant to Roxanne."

Roxanne D'Ascenzo took the crown in 1982 and said at the time she would be using her scholarship money in pursuit of a career as a professional dancer. She now has that career, based in Los Angeles, and will be coming back to Farmington early this summer to choreograph the big production numbers for pageant night.

"We have an exceptional high number of wins in the Miss Michigan and Miss America pageants. Matter of fact, each of our Miss Farmingtons is a living success story."

D'ASCENZO ADMITTED to frustration as she begs for money and help to keep the pageant going, but said there is a great deal of satisfaction tied to the work she does leading up to the July event.

"Some of the contenders we get have never been on a stage before. We put them through a lot of paces, a lot of education in the workshops, teaching them how to handle difficult situations, how to be their own PR person, drilling them on current events, setting up the mock interview."

"It is very gratifying to see what can — and does — happen in those short six weeks while we're getting ready for the pageant," she said.

D'Ascenzo can be reached by calling 385-5200 or 661-2048.

She is Stroke Victor of the Year

ETTIE BARKHOLZ, a Farmington Hills resident and a member of the Kan-Doo Stroke Club, has been named "Stroke Victor of the Year" by the American Heart Association of Michigan's Committee on Stroke.

Barkholz accepted the award during "Spring Fling," an annual gathering of the members of stroke clubs throughout the state, which took place this year in Rochester.

Barkholz was nominated for the award by Bob Battel, president of the Kan-Doo club which meets in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Cen-

ter, who said he was not surprised to learn she had won.

"I have known Ettie for four years and think she is an excellent candidate for the award. She had a stroke in November 1982 and has been an inspiration to other stroke survivors since she joined our club," Battel said.

Within 18 months after Barkholz suffered her stroke, she bought a computer, learned how to use it and then learned how to type using her one good hand.

In October of 1985 she published

the first copy of "New Hope," a quarterly newsletter for stroke survivors and their families that now has a mailing list of 700.

Barkholz remains the news gatherer, reporter, editor and publisher of the newsletter that runs about 8-10 pages per issue. She prints news, announcements, features, humor, common concerns of stroke survivors and the optimistic philosophy of the Kan-Doo.

Her Thursdays and Fridays are always spent as a volunteer in the Speech and Language Pathology Department in Beaumont Hospital while she continues as an active member and motivator at the Kan Doo Stroke Club meetings.

She swims three days a week and helped to organize a swim team for stroke survivors.

"In November of last year Ettie's husband died," Battel said. "Despite this tremendous personal loss, she has continued to support and encourage other people."



The biggest award handed out during Spring Fling is always kept a secret until the winner is announced. Staff photographer Jim Ridor took this picture at the moment Ettie Barkholz realized the Stroke Victor of the Year Award was hers.

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club circuit

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party at 8 p.m. Friday in Roma's of Livonia, Schoolcraft Service Drive, west of Inkster Road. The singles' hotline number is 562-3166.

THE AUXILIARY OF JEWISH HOME FOR THE AGED has elected Beatrice M. Breiner as its president for the coming term. Installation ceremonies begin at noon Thursday, June 1, in Congregation Shanay Zedek, Southfield. Entertainment for the afternoon is a fashion show by Threads.

Farmington Hills residents who will be installed as members of the board of directors that afternoon are Sherry Geren, Sara Berlin, Florence Aaron and Barbara Moehman.

All inquiries are taken by Pearl Bodrin, 357-1157.

LARYNGECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 1, in St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road. Inquiries are taken by Jean Purdy, 476-7855.

There will be no meetings for the group during July and August.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48-24. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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