V.I.A. hosts annual Scholarship Award Luncheon

Connie Wyszniewski

There was an air of excitement and energy at the Doylestown Country Club on Tuesday, June 4, when the Village Improvement Association (V.I.A.) met for the annual Scholarship Award Luncheon.

President Marianne Chabot opened the meeting with the welcome of James Brexler, president and CEO of Doylestown Hospital. Following the pledge of allegiance, Donna Walker, former V.I.A. president, reflected on the value of friendship.

“I have met many friends through the years at the V.I.A.,” Walker said. “I think of them as my best friends.” Brexler gave a brief summary of the energy which exists in the V.I.A., praising them enthusiastically for the invaluable work that they do.

“It makes me feel good,” Brexler said. “This is really powerful. Give yourself a hand.”

Mary Ellen Stanton, chairman of the education committee, started the scholarship presentations by bestowing the V.I.A. Ruth K. Boland Memorial Nursing Scholarship award to William “Billy” Clooney, a member of the Central Bucks High School South football team who has been accepted as a nursing major at Temple University. Clooney gives 100 percent of his time, constantly challenging himself with honors courses.

Ruth K. Boland was a former V.I.A. president and Designer House chairman whose family funds the Clooney Scholarship award. At the luncheon, William Clooney, Ruth Boland’s daughter Kathy Boland and William’s tutor and captain of the junior varsity soccer team, reflected on the value of his education at the V.I.A., and was “blown away” by the invaluable service of V.I.A. members.

HOBY winners are determined by hallmarks in teamwork, leadership and critical thinking. Audrey Tucker, chairman presented the award.

Louise Woodruff, chair of the V.I.A. community recognition committee, presented plaques for the Community Recognition Award to Kimberly Weinberg, Orillia, president CB Cares Educational Foundation, and to David Weinstein, Central Bucks High School South.

Weinstein was awarded the University of Michigan, majoring in biochemistry-pre-medicine. Motivated by his father’s untimely death from an aneurysm, his goal is to become a brain surgeon.

Excelling in honors and AP courses, Weinstein was in the top 10 percent of his class and a member of the National Honor Society. He played varsity soccer as a two-time captain and most valuable player. Volunteering 242 hours in the transport service of Doylestown Hospital rounds out his busy schedule.

Schisselbauer, who graduated before the luncheon, was in the top five percent of his class and received the National Merit Scholarship Award, having completed seven of the most difficult AP courses at Archbishop Wood. President of the National Honor Society, he was an organizer, tutor and captain of the junior varsity hockey team, and is a lifeguard at the Hatfield Aquatic Center.

When not playing ice hockey, baseball or basketball, Schisselbauer has shadowed doctors at St. Luke’s Hospital and Fox Chase Cancer Center. He will major in biological engineering-pre medicine at Temple University.

Ross will attend St. Joseph’s University majoring in chemical biology, followed by medical school. She hopes to open a Bucks County practice as an orthopedic surgeon. With several AP and Honors classes to her credit, she graduated with distinguished honors.

Twice tearing her ACL while playing varsity soccer and lacrosse was an overwhelming setback for her. There was a time out of eight months in her junior year, which coincided with recruitment time. The eight-month recovery period provided down time to ponder and plan her future career path.

She is credited with 268 hours of volunteer work at Doylestown Hospital’s transport service.

The HOBY award (Hugh O’Brian Youth) went to Heath H. Berensmann, a Central Bucks East sophomore who will attend the Pennsylvania-East HOBY seminar to be held at Temple University. She did her homework and researched the V.I.A., and was “blown away” by the invaluable service of V.I.A. members.

Students show creativity

Nineteen Central Bucks West High School senior photography students exhibited their work May 31 to June 2 at The Bucks County Project Gallery in Doylestown. Photography teacher Stephanie Ferraro, in collaboration with gallery owner Stephanie Lisle, organized the show. The exhibit opened with a special reception for the artists and their families.

Photography students and parents from Central Bucks West enjoy Friday’s opening reception at the Bucks County Project Gallery.

Central Bucks West senior Cari Lamba poses with her photograph.

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