

Quick takes

October 13, 2013

The Herald-Star

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HONORED: Nikolas A. Kamarados, a certified financial planner with the Prudential Western Pennsylvania Agency, has achieved membership with the Million Dollar Round Table for the ninth consecutive year.

MDRT is the premier association of financial professionals. Founded in 1927, it's an international, independent association with more than 35,000, or less than 1 percent, of the best of life insurance and financial services professionals. MDRT membership is recognized internationally as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business, according to officials.

RECOGNIZED: The Center for Organ Recovery and Education, a federally designated nonprofit organ procurement organization serving Pennsylvania, West Virginia and parts of New York, recognized 24 West Virginia-based hospitals with the West Virginia Governor's Award for Life 2013, a list that includes Weirton Medical Center, Wheeling Hospital and Ohio Valley Medical Center.

The awards ceremony took place during the West Virginia Hospital Association's annual meeting recently at the Greenbrier Resort. The award recognizes area hospitals that have been successful in supporting organ, tissue and cornea donation within their own health care facilities and have achieved increased donation rates as a result.

"Our hospital partners are the critical link between donation and transplantation," said Susan Stuart, president and CEO of C.O.R.E. "With compassion, they help a patient's family understand the options and then communicate how their loved one's legacy can live on through donation. At C.O.R.E., we are proud to work with these hospitals and to recognize them for their ongoing commitment to organ, tissue and cornea donation. As a result of their efforts, more lives are able to be saved or enhanced through organ, tissue and cornea donation in West Virginia."

With the support of U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, a former governor, the West Virginia Governor's Award for Life was implemented in 2007 through a collaboration of the West Virginia Hospital Association, C.O.R.E. and the other organ procurement organizations that serve West Virginia: Lifeline of Ohio (LOOP), LifeNet Health and Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA).

Nationally, more than 119,000 people are awaiting an organ transplant. At least 18 will die each day without receiving one, including two from C.O.R.E.'s service area. For every person who donates their organs, tissues and corneas, up to 50 lives can be saved or dramatically improved, they said.

For information about C.O.R.E., visit www.core.org or call (800) DONORS-7.

ACHIEVED: All 27 of the 2013 practical nursing graduates at Eastern Gateway Community College passed the National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nurse.

To date, half of the graduating class is employed while several other graduates are taking classes with plans to further their nursing education, said Program Director Diane Roney.

The graduates who are now licensed practical nurses include Michelle Barajas, Wintersville; Amanda Bateman, Wellsburg; Aimee Black, Steubenville; Jennifer Cehrs, East Liverpool; Sierra Chipps, Steubenville; Rachel Daugherty, Hammondsville; Kristin Fisher, Jewett; Kelly Gaspard, Irondale; Stephen Gundrum, Mingo Junction; Amelia Harding, Toronto; Lisa Hinerman, Steubenville; Trisha Kindberg, Smithfield; Michelle Marshall, Toronto; Jessica McAfee, Scio; Tanya McCraley, Wintersville; Aubrey McGee, Wintersville; Elizabeth Milligan, Amsterdam; Travis Moore, Steubenville; Patricia Osborne, East Liverpool; Shauna Palmer, Jewett; Megan Roupe, Toronto; Sarah Shaulis, Scio; Kathleen Tharp, Steubenville; Shari Tressler, Bloomingdale; Malinda Truby, Mingo Junction; Crystal Wells, Toronto; and Alice Woods, Follansbee.

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