

## The Spelling Bee

For the first ten years of our major fundraiser, the Literacy Council of Brown County (as we were known back then) held a Spelling Bee instead of the current Scrabble Bee.

I remember picking the words and dividing them into the categories of easy, intermediate, and difficult. The words were picked from that year's official Scripps Howard Spelling Bee word list. Teams would get practice booklets and prepare for weeks ahead of time. The venue was St. Norbert College, and it was always very competitive.

Every year, we ordered a large sheet cake to go along with the Hors d'oeuvres that St. Norbert prepared. One year, the bakery sent it over with the words Litercy and Counsel misspelled. Needless to say, we cut and served that one up as fast as we could.

Carol Loritz  
Office Manager 1996 – 2011

**'We like to think it was a team effort.'** — Bellin's Sandy Eland



Press-Gazette photo by Sandee Gierbers

**Making sure:** Associated Bank team members, from left, Pam Carlson, Jane DeMuth and Grace Meyer compare notes on the spelling of a word at the Corporate Spelling Bee Thursday at St. Norbert College. The event raised funds to promote literacy.

### Simply spellbound

**■ Corporate teams spell success for the literacy battle in Brown County**

**By Hilary Miller**  
Press-Gazette

The Bellin Psychiatric Center team finished first, but the real winner was literacy.

The Bellin team defeated Associated Bank Thursday night in the first Corporate Spelling Bee for literacy at St. Norbert College.

About 300 people attended the bee, sponsored by the Literacy Council of Green Bay and the Press-Gazette, raising an estimated \$10,000 for the cause, said Dale Berbiaux, event chairman.

"This is an effort to try and meet our budget needs," said Fort Rader, Literacy Council director.

The bulk of the money raised

came from corporate sponsors who donated \$500 for each team of three. The funds will go toward training tutors, providing staff support and ordering materials, Rader said.

In all, fifteen teams competed: Fort Howard Corp., American Foods Group, Green Bay Food Co., The Green Bay Press-Gazette, Bank One, Associated Bank, Fintar Bank, Shopko, Wisconsin Public Service Corp., The Larson Co., L.A. Edibeck Co., Valley Bank, First Northern Savings Bank, Bellin Psychiatric Center and Employers Health Insurance.

Larsen's Fighting Vogtles was the first team eliminated when it bungled the spelling of *resistible*.

As the bee progressed, moderator Nancy Nusbaum, mayor of De Pere, threw out more challenging words.

Many of them — such as *otalgia* (earache) and *lanasary* (a words few people had heard before).

Nusbaum pronounced each word and used it in a sentence. Competitors then had 20 seconds to correctly spell the word.

The First Northern team was eliminated when captain John Steinhrecker left the "e" off *syndrome*.

"I won't hear the end of this one," he said. In fact, Steinhrecker had the word spelled right, but his teammates convinced him that he was wrong.

After more than an hour of competition, only Bellin Psychiatric and Associated Bank remained in the running. Bellin won when Wil Shampo correctly spelled *imponderabilia*.

"We like to think it was a team effort," said Sandy Eland of Bellin Psychiatric.

"We're looking forward to next year," Eland said. "We're going to start participating teams."

