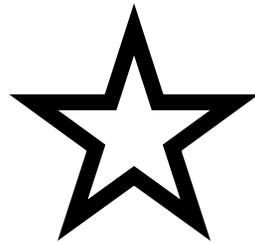


*Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International*

# **Region Star Awards**



**2014-2015**



**Kiwanis®**

## ***Region 1***

### **Weyburn Niewoehner**

Kiwanis Club of Minot Golden K



Weyburn Niewoehner is a 50+ year member of Kiwanis. He is a charter member of the Rolla Kiwanis Club and served on the Board of Directors and Interclub Chairman. He is currently a member of Minot Golden K Kiwanis serving as Interclub Co-Chairman. He is Past President, Board Member, Interclub Chairman and Past Lieutenant Governor of Region 1. He was instrumental in establishing the Turtle Mountain Kiwanis Club in Bottineau, ND. He is a Vantine Life Fellow and received the Kiwanis International President's Award in 2011.

Weyburn is a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in rural Upham serving on the cemetery lawn and mowing crew and a past Sunday School teacher. He attended and graduated from Worsham College of Mortuary Science of Chicago serving his apprenticeship at Thomas Family Funeral Home, Minot. He was owner operator of Niewoehner Funeral Home, Inc. of Rolla for 43 years.

He is a member of the Minot Railroad Museum serving his 13th year on the board of directors. He volunteers as a guide and operates the Magic City Express Railroad at Roosevelt Park, Minot, every Saturday. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Weyburn is a licensed private pilot and past member of the Minot Elks Band, 15 years. He currently serves on the Upham School Reunion Committee and is caretaker of the Upham School Museum.

He and his wife Mae have been married 58 years and have two children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Minot Golden K Kiwanis proudly nominates H. Weyburn Niewoehner for the Region 1 Star Award.

## ***Region 2***

### **Rick Stern**

Kiwanis Club of Fargo



Rick Stern is an exemplary member of the Kiwanis Club of Fargo. He has been an active member for 42 years and served as president and numerous other positions. He is an active participant in club meetings, socials, and service projects. He makes himself available for volunteering whenever the club is in a pinch; such activities have recently included answering phones at Prairie Public and overseeing games at Fight the Frost. He participates every year in Christmas caroling at local assisted living facilities, and he is our most frequent recruiter. Rick never thinks twice about inviting a client or friend to attend one of our meetings, and he ensures that all visitors feel welcome.

Rick serves as the unofficial historian of our club. Having attended the Kiwanis Pancake Carnival nearly every year since its inception, his stories span from attendee to volunteer to team leader. He is a regular volunteer during setup, and his smile never fades as he welcomes people the day of the event.

Rick was a key player when Fargo welcomed President Gasser to the Minn-Dak District. He was similarly a crucial player when our club celebrated the naturalization of one of our members in 2014, organizing the citizenship ceremony at a regular club meeting and collaborating with fellow members to make the occasion as joyous and patriotic as possible. Rick is quick to announce any fellow member's achievements, whether within or outside of Kiwanis activities. Former members stay on his radar as well, and he often pulls them back into the ranks of Kiwanis. If he has to inform the club of someone passing, he always includes a happy story of that person as a Kiwanian.

Rick is an unwavering leader in our club and community, and he is a well-deserving candidate for the Region Star Award.

## ***Region 3***

### **Becky Dryburgh** Kiwanis Club of Brainerd



It is with great pleasure that the Kiwanis Club of Brainerd nominates Becky Dryburgh for the District 3 Star Award.

Even though Becky is one of our newest members, she is a very key member in our Club's success. Becky joined in 2011 and quickly got involved. Becky took over the B.U.G. (Bringing Up Grades) Program, and has really made it a success. She coordinated efforts between four different elementary schools and we had 100% participation between students, teachers, and principals! This year, we gave out 20 B.U.G. Awards! She was elected to the Board of Directors in 2012 and is currently serving her second term. In addition, she serves as Chairperson of Young Child/Priority One Committee and has been very active in identifying needs within the community. Because of her hard work, she was selected as Kiwanian of the Year in 2014!

Outside of Kiwanis, Becky serves as Director of Trinity Children's Center and was instrumental in getting her young students involved with 'Operation Sandwich', a food drive initiated for needy kids and families during the holiday season. Several boxes of food items were donated to this project. She is also a trained First Responder, and was key in providing an AED training session for our club members. She is also an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Becky is a great supporter of other Kiwanis programs and events, such as our Salvation Army Bell Ringing, working at the County Fair Booth, Kids Triathlon, and our Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up. Becky has been at the center of almost all of the youth-initiatives our club has been associated with during the past four years.

Becky is married to Steve, and is the mother of two sons, Dalton and Cody.

## ***Region 4***

### **Mark Stults**

Kiwanis Club of Spearfish



Mark is a dedicated Kiwanian who has served the Spearfish club as President and has also served as a Distinguished Lt. Governor. More important than his past accomplishments is his current commitment to the club.

Mark heads up the preparing the food for our Good Friday Prayer Luncheon. He ensures there are enough members scheduled to prepare the room for the event, prepare and serve the food, and to clean up afterward. Mark is always the first one there and ensures that everything goes smoothly and, of course, is the last to leave.

Another major event for the club is doing the garbage cleanup for the Spearfish Festival in the Park. This event brings several thousand people to the park to see the approximately 150 craft and food vendors over a three day weekend. As the club chairperson Mark makes sure that there are enough members scheduled throughout the weekend to keep the park clean. More importantly, Mark makes sure that everyone has fun while we are working. He sets up what we lovingly call "Garbage Central," where we gather and visit and really get to know each other between making the rounds through the park, driving the garbage trucks and throwing the bags of garbage into them.

Mark is also the club's chair for Kiwanis International's Eliminate project. Mark frequently reminds us of the importance of this project and encourages the club's members to generously contribute. He again makes it fun by inviting a member to volunteer to match the contributions made during a meeting as we pass the Eliminate can around.

The club also works to ensure the safety of young people by serving as the crossing guard at Creekside Elementary School as they arrive in the morning. Of course, Mark is one of our members who is out there, having fun with the children, wishing them a good and productive day in school.

## **Region 5**

### **Mary O'Neill**

Kiwanis Club of Brookings



The Brookings Noon Kiwanis Club is honored to nominate Mary O'Neill, our treasurer, for the REGION STAR AWARD. Mary has been an active member of our club since September 28, 1990. Mary is a true "Kiwanian", **not** a "pay my dues and that's all I need to do" member.

We can always count on Mary; sometimes it's difficult to recruit volunteers to perform the necessary duties involved in our fundraising and community events but it is Mary who always goes the extra mile. Mary is always laying ground work prior to our projects and her name is first on the signup sheet to work an event. Whether it is cleaning tables and serving milk at a pancake feed, or picking up garbage in the road ditches, Mary is there with a smile on her face. And it is always a pleasure knowing that we'll see her husband, Doug, at our major events volunteering with Mary as he gives his complete support to her involvement in Kiwanis.

Mary's volunteerism is "a lot about kids". She participates in choir and "Kids Night Out" in her church, and also served on the Board of Directors for East Central Court Appointed Special Advocates. Mary is a "semi-retired" college professor and is still heavily involved with the foreign student population; she and her husband welcome the students into their home to give them a sense of having a "family" who cares about them when they're attending SDSU.

Mary has a complete handle on the workings of the Kiwanis Organization. It's the little things that need attention to make an organization successful. We are so fortunate to have Mary in our group to keep us on task as she never forgets what needs to be done. Mary is very important to our club and certainly worthy of the REGION STAR AWARD. We are proud of her!

## ***Region 6***

### **Scott Wojcik**

Kiwanis Club of Mankato



Scott has been a Kiwanis member since 2006 and he currently serves as the committee chair for the Mankato Kiwanis Foundation, Kiwanis Holiday Lights, and he was club president in 2010.

Scott Wojcik is the President of Kiwanis Holiday Lights. Kiwanis Holiday Lights was created as a celebration of Holiday Lights for the Greater Mankato Area that builds on past traditions and promotes the communities we serve, while raising non-perishable food donations for those in need.

Kiwanis Holiday Lights is a program of the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club and since 2012, Kiwanis Holiday Lights has donated over \$100,000 back to community non-profits, collected over 40 tons of food for area food shelves, and attendance has exceeded well over 300,000 visitors. The Kiwanis Club could not make such a positive difference without the support of hundreds of volunteer organizations and business sponsors. However, Scott Wojcik's leadership is the key reason why Kiwanis Holiday Lights has been so successful. Scott has been leading this ongoing signature service project since the very beginning and each year the event grows bigger and better.

Recently, Kiwanis Holiday Lights was invited to attend a special Community Leader Briefing on the White House campus in Washington, DC to recognize the positive impact this project has made.

In addition to his passion for Kiwanis Holiday Lights, Scott is involved with his church, The Miracle League of North Mankato, and All Pro Dads.

## ***Region 7***

### **Lyle Solem**

Kiwanis Club of Rochester Sunrisers



It is with great pride and appreciation for his service that the Rochester Minnesota Sunrisers Kiwanis Club recommends Lyle Solem for the Region Star Award. Lyle is being nominated for his dedicated service of 44 years to Kiwanis and the Rochester community. Lyle is a charter member of the Rochester Sunrisers Kiwanis club chartered on December 3, 1970. He is the only remaining member in our club that is a Charter Member and this year was recognized for 44 years of perfect attendance.

Lyle has been a very active and supportive Kiwanis member and a dedicated community member. He has a passion for service and is a Kiwanian in every sense of the word. In the past, and for the last 5 years, he has chaired our Sunrisers Youth Committee supporting our KI mission to encourage youth to read. At the present time he is Co-chair and working on getting a Scholastic/Kiwanis International supported Oasis Reading Room in one of our Elementary Public Schools in Rochester, MN to help improve K-5 grade students reading skills.

In the community of Rochester and as a member of SCORE, Lyle has dedicated time to mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs to achieve their goals of becoming successful business people. As a father of 3 girls, he served as a member of the River Trails Girl Scout Council for 25 years. Lyle has also demonstrated his faithfulness, leadership and service to his church community as a council member several times over the years. Lyle currently serves as a Trustee on the Board of Directors of the South Dakota State University Foundation in Brookings, a position he has held for 14 years.

Lyle's qualifications and years of service make him an excellent candidate for this award. In addition to many Kiwanis and community leadership positions he served as Minnesota-Dakotas District Governor in 1996-97.