Region Star Awards

2011-2012
Arden Butts has been a Kiwanis member for 19 years. For the past 40+ years Arden taught school, coached athletics and was a school counselor, always working with children in secondary, junior high and elementary settings.

Arden was president of the Minot Education Association, North Dakota School Counselors, and a member of Who’s Who in the Upper Midwest. He is a member of Masonic and Shrine Lodges, L.C. Jensen Legion Post, Ryder, ND, Advisory Board of North Central Human Service Center. He served on the Minot State University Alumni Board for six years. He has served on many local election boards.

Arden is a past president of Minot Golden Kiwanis. He is chairman of the awards committee, Picnic and Halloween Booth committees. He has also served as Banquet Master of Ceremonies. He is also a Past Lt. Governor of Kiwanis in our region of the Minnesota-Dakotas District.

He was instrumental in organizing, fund raising and erecting a Veterans Memorial Wall in Ryder, ND. The Memorial Wall has 400 names of veterans from the Ryder area. Arden is an active member of his church, having served as president of the congregation, a member of the Trust Committee, an usher and lesson reader. He was chairman of the annual Lutefisk Supper, a large fund raising event for the church.

Arden was a delegate to the Kiwanis District conventions at Austin, Minnesota and Pierre, South Dakota.

Arden is greatly appreciated for his involvement in the Minot Golden K Kiwanis and with the youth of our community.
Region 2

Margie Gettel
Kiwanis Club of Fergus Falls

God, Family, Community – These are priorities for Margie Gettel. This is evident in how she lives every day-inspiring others with her infectious smile and positive outlook.

Margie has been a member of the Noon Club for 16 years, serving as president in 2009-10. She may be best remembered for her amazing leadership when we hosted the 2004 district convention. Many said it was one of the “Best District Kiwanis conferences ever,” thanks to Margie’s creativity and attention to detail.

The year Margie was president she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She took time out to care for herself, but she never complains. Now, through her volunteer work at the Cancer Center she motivates and supports others. She co-facilitates a breast cancer support group, shares her experiences publicly and volunteers in many ways.

At Our Lady of Victory (OLV) church Margie is a trustee, chairs the stewardship council, participates in LifeTeen and Marriage Enrichment programs…and even plays the flute occasionally. Father Greg describes Margie as “a beautiful Disciple of Christ.”

Margie served as Kiwanis VP, president elect, PR director and social “queen.” She plans fun activities that represent our club in a positive way including our 90th Anniversary, Teddy Bear picnic, Easter Egg hunt, club auction, pancake breakfast, Peanut Day and more. Everything she touches has her signature touch.

Husband Tony and their daughters Mary Margaret and Susie are the lights of her life. Margie hopes her legacy is this: She died with a smile on her face, a song in her heart, and with integrity.
Marwin Bogue
Kiwanis Club of Brainerd and the Baxter Lakes Area and Friends

Marwin Bogue joined the Kiwanis Club of Ames IA Town & Country on January 16, 1986. He served as President of the Ames Town & Country club in 2000-01. He also served as their secretary for 9 years and secretary of the Brainerd club for 2 years and secretary of the Baxter club for 3 years. Marwin served as Lt. Governor of Region 3 of the MN-Dak District in 2008-09. He is a George F. Hixson Fellow. He is a dual member of both the Brainerd and the Baxter Lakes Area and Friends clubs.

Marwin enjoys working with other Kiwanians in service projects and assisting members to become “real Kiwanians” with service hearts. He has become a certified educator and loves assisting new leaders to work into becoming real leaders in their clubs and not be pushy about it. Since January he has been working with the new K-Kids club at Baxter Elementary and enjoys teaching the students leadership skills.

Shortly after graduating from Ames HS he took a job with the City of Ames Electrical Department working as the record clerk. He worked his way up through the ranks and became Power Plant Superintendent and held that position for 15 years. He retired in December 2002 and moved to the Brainerd area.

Marwin is very active in his church; serving as council President. He works monthly on the churches’ Pastees fundraising project.

Marwin has been married to his (first) wife Maxine for 53 years. They have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls and they have 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.
Lonnie Tutsch
Kiwanis Club of Rapid City Downtown

Lonnie joined the Downtown Kiwanis in 2004. He volunteered to serve a three year term beginning in 2005 and a second three year term in 2008. Lonnie has been instrumental in helping Downtown Kiwanis with club fund raising through our annual peanut sales and by manning numerous shifts at the East gate at the Central States Fair each August in Rapid City. He served for six years on the Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park Committee, a children’s environmental learning park developed in conjunction with the Downtown and Westside Kiwanis Clubs in Rapid City. He can always be counted on to assist in cleanup projects at the park, plus he secured grants for part of the irrigation system, cement for the sidewalks around the shelter, and for signage to inform visitors about the native plants in the park.

Lonnie’s greatest contribution to his club and the children of Rapid City began in 2006 with his management of the Shoes for Kids Program. He coordinates with the school district’s homeless child coordinators along with the middle school and elementary school counselors to determine eligibility of children for the shoes. He currently is working with the Cornerstone Rescue Mission’s Dear Ones Daycare to determine the need for shoes for their children. Lonnie has been responsible for providing shoes and some socks for 1550 children.

Since Downtown Kiwanis was awarded the matching Kiwanis International Foundation Grant in 2009-2010, he has worked with the school staff to expand the program. Again in 2010-2011 when Rapid City West received the Kiwanis International Foundation Grant & gave it to the Downtown to administer, more children received shoes. This year Lonnie helped get an additional $5500 grant that may become continuing. The Shoes for Kids Program is serving children at Horace Mann, General Beadle, Knollwood, Rapid Valley, Robbinsdale, South Park, Valley View, and Wilson Elementary Schools as well as South Middle and North Middle Schools.
If a person were to look in the urban dictionary under True Kiwanian, the definition would be Paula Deckert. While she has only been a Kiwanian a short time, she is the 'real deal.' When I asked her to join Kiwanis, she didn't think twice before committing to a mission that was true to her heart. After her YES, I asked, oh, by the way, would you be the treasurer? OF COURSE! Never have I had to worry about our finances with Paula in charge. She joyfully fulfills her duties as treasurer and would love to be President someday.

She lives our mission of serving children. After being in Kiwanis a short 6 months, she attended an international convention. She hasn't missed a district convention and always comes back with more excitement and a list of projects we can do. Her attitude is we can do it! No is not an option—especially when children are involved. She started several local projects and has committed to being our Eliminate chairman. Paula doesn't miss an opportunity to grow as a member, a leader, a person who makes a difference.

When Paula tells her story of why she is a Kiwanian, it is without dry eyes. Her heart is as big as they get and she does everything she can to make a difference in one child, one community. Every child is important to Paula and she will do anything she can to make sure children are safe, healthy, and loved.

Project involvement includes: Little Dresses for Africa (organizer and chair); Blankets for abused children (organizer and chair); Young Children Priority One (chair); Read Around the World; Safety Net books for 4th grade students; Spaghetti Feed (co-chair) and Farmers Market. Other activities include: community theatre group, church activities, and library events.
Doug Ketcham has always had a genuine interest in kids and that is one reason he was interested in joining the Olivia Kiwanis Club. Most of the money they raise goes to help local kids. Doug would love every child to have the wonderful childhood that he had.

He has always been very generous with his money, time and talents whether it be helping at the youth center in Olivia or working with youth at the Olivia Methodist Church or serving on the Olivia school board or helping kids learn woodworking skills.

Doug’s love of singing was also shared with kids. He led Sunday School kids in song every week for years. Almost every song Doug learned as a kid he has taught to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Doug has an amazing amount of energy for a 96 year old. He is young at heart and enjoys the friendship of his much younger Kiwanis friends. People are drawn to him because of his out-going personality and his positive attitude.

Doug is an outspoken supporter of Olivia. He has written many letters to the editor in support of local business and with ideas of bringing new business to Olivia. He was an asset to the Olivia Planning Commission because of his years of knowledge about Olivia and served until he was 80 years old.

(It is with great sadness that we report that shortly after the submission of Doug’s nomination for this award, he passed away on April 22, 2012.)
Marge Frost
Kiwanis Club of Red Wing Golden K

Marge joined the Red Wing Golden K in 1998, and has been and continues to be very involved. She was a Distinguished Club Secretary from 1999 – 2001 and went through the chairs to serve as President in 2004 -2005. Marge was elected Lt Governor Elect of Region 7 in 2007-08, served as Lt Governor in 2008-09, and Past Lt Governor in 2009-10.

From 2005 through the present year she has co-chaired our cooperative education program “Brain Game” whereby an approved book is distributed to all new parents by our local hospital paid for by the Hospital Auxiliary and Red Wing Golden K. Since 2005 approximately 1900 books have been given to Fairview/Red Wing Hospital.

In addition, Marge served as Newsletter Editor for 3 years, was instrumental in our becoming the first organization to sponsor a fund raising breakfast at our Applebee’s Restaurant. Orientation programs for new members, co-chairing a Hot Dog Stand Fund Raiser, involvement in Daffodil Delivery Days, and reinstatement of our Prayer Breakfast have been among her many projects on our behalf.

Marge has attended every MN-DAK convention since 1999 with the exception of 2011 when she was serving as care giver for husband Milt. In addition, Marge has sung in the Kiwanis Khorale every year. She has been in attendance at Kiwanis International Conventions from 2004 through 2012.

An ordained Elder and Deacon or her church, she has also co-chaired two building committees there. Her community volunteer commitments are many.