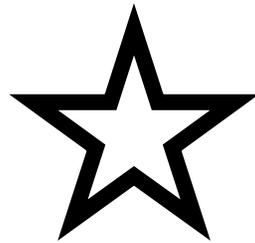


*Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International*

# **Division Star Awards**



**2015-2016**



**Kiwanis®**

## ***Division 1***

### **Don Bentz**

Kiwanis Club of Jamestown.



Improving the world, one child and one community at a time. That's the mission of Kiwanis members and if there was ever a member of our club that has lived out this mission, it would be Don Bentz. Don has been a member of the Jamestown Kiwanis Club since 1976.

Over the last 40 years he has held several positions in the club including club president, vice president, board member, and chair for several events. In addition, Don has nearly 30 years of perfect attendance for the club.

Don was instrumental in the club's primary community event, Kids Against Hunger. He was the one who insisted we do it and also co-chaired the event. We've held five successful packaging events since and thanks to Don over 832,000 meals have been packaged for hungry children in the US and around the world.

Don is a very dedicated volunteer at the Salvation Army thrift store in Jamestown. He spends approximately 800 hours a year helping to go through donated items and helping to operate the local store.

Don is a dedicated Christian and has been a member of the First Church of the Nazarene in Jamestown for 15 years. He is an active member who attends every Sunday, volunteers with the toddler church program, is involved in a men's group and also has sung on their worship team. And if these activities weren't enough to qualify him, consider this. Don and his wife, Joyce are such amazing and selfless people that over the course of their lives, they have had 70 foster children in their home! From infants to age 16, they have given their time, their home and their hearts to so many children in need.

## ***Division 2***

### **Walter Meidinger**

Kiwanis Club of Fargo Roughriders



Walter Meidinger is the only remaining charter member of the Fargo Rough Riders Kiwanis Club, established in 1972. Walt actively participates in all areas of Kiwanis. He offers constructive and thoughtful ideas for growth and leadership development, participates in service projects, recruits engaging speakers, and is a proactive member of Service and Finance committees and Board. Walt warmly welcomes guests and new members. He is a team leader while giving credit to others. Walt's leadership in working with the Children's Museum produced a grain elevator and a barn. Walt led in the design of a miniature golf course that includes a replica of the state capital. He also worked with other members to improve Fraser Hall by building shelves and remodeling their kitchen to accommodate special needs of residents. Walt led a team to update the reading area at the Nokomis. In addition, Walt delivers books to Roosevelt and McKinley Elementary Schools in honor of speakers at club meetings. He works each year with Rough Riders at a pancake feed to benefit Special Olympics and the Special Olympics Summer Games. Walt is currently helping lead a Dictionary project for Jefferson school. Walt serves his community and Kiwanis club with kindness, generosity, and dedication to make a better world for children. Walt demonstrates amazing leadership qualities as he encourages others, shares in brainstorming events, is open to ideas, shares new and innovative thoughts when appropriate and gives credit when someone needs encouragement. It is amazing that a person who participated in building a club 44 years ago continues to be active in the growth, quality of service and mission of Kiwanis.

## ***Division 3***

### **Janice Erickson**

Kiwanis Club of Grand Rapids



Janice comes from a Kiwanis family. Both of her parents were members of the Grand Rapids Golden K and her father was a charter member of that club. Her grandson is now a very active member of her club and her granddaughter is secretary of the Circle K club.

Janice joined Kiwanis in Nov of 1987 right after Kiwanis International agreed to accept women as members. She was the first woman to join in the Grand Rapids community. She has chaired the youth services committee and the fund raising committee. She has served several terms on the club board of directors. While serving as club president she received the Distinguished President Award and while serving as club secretary received the Distinguished Secretary Award. Janice was also one of 2 ladies who were the first lady Lt Governors in our district.

She has been a very active volunteer in her church, serving as organist and pianist for many years, and doing anything else that needs doing. She is a hospice volunteer, and volunteers as a senior driver taking others to medical appointments. She also volunteers at the local food shelf and Ruby's Pantry once a month.

In the past she has worked in the local schools reading with young students, and working on a high school curriculum committee. Janice also coached youth t-ball and softball teams. She is a Hixon recipient and now has 29 years of perfect attendance. Janice continues to serve her community and the Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club as Secretary and is also a Division club counselor.

## ***Division 4***

### **Dan Leikvold**

Kiwanis Club of Lead



Dan Liekvold serves his club, community, and his division in a variety of ways.

Dan is a 12 year member of the Lead Kiwanis Club; served as President and Lt Governor and was the driving force in netting the club 15 new members last year. He seems to be able to juggle 20 different balls at one time and is very proficient at what he does. He knows everyone in town and they know him. He has been superintendent of Lead School District and has been in the education field for 32 years. Dan was a teacher and coach for 12 years prior to his years serving as an administrator. He serves as President of the South Dakota Superintendent's Organization.

Kiwanis is all about children and so is Dan. He is on numerous boards involving children such as the Children's Alliance Child Care Center in Lead. He serves on the board for Northern Hills Jr. Achievement and serves his community as Chairman of the Dakota Land Trust, Lead-Deadwood Community Foundation, Meals on Wheels, Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of SD Public Broadcasting.

With all that he does for the community and Kiwanis he has time to spend with his wife Tracy and their children Taylor and Braden. They hike, bike, ski and walk the dogs keeping him fit and his brain always working!

Dan thinks outside of the box and is proficient in all that he encounters. What an asset we have in Dan Liekvold!

## ***Division 5***

### **Shirley Krause**

Kiwanis Club of Clear Lake



Shirley Krause is an absolute star in the Clear Lake Kiwanis Club. In addition to her hard work and dedication to our many service projects, she takes responsibility to ensure awards and thank-you notes are completed, makes coffee and washes silverware at meetings. Often times when we meet for cleaning up the road ditches near Clear Lake we find that Shirley is one half mile down on one ditch before the rest begin. Such is her dedication to the club, our community and most importantly, the children. We began a mentor program with the local school recently and the counselor from the school in charge of the program indicated that Shirley is one of the best. Her heart knows no bounds, and her actions show her dedication to the children knows no bounds as well. Shirley is active in all of our Kiwanis fundraisers and service projects and takes on leadership roles in all of those activities. She is a true example of leadership in action and leadership by example. She will take on any task required to be completed and ensure the task is completed successfully.

In addition to being actively engaged in Kiwanis fundraising and service, she serves the community and the children of the community. She is active as a volunteer in elementary school classrooms, with the Hospital and Home Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary, United Methodist Church Board, United Methodist Women, Quilting, Meals on Wheels Delivery and as an officer for the District conference of United Methodist Women.

Her life is one of service, and her example shines on our small Community of Clear Lake and Deuel County.

## ***Division 6***

### **Dick Polley**

Kiwanis Club of Albert Lea Day-Breakers



Dick Polley serves the Day-Breakers Kiwanis Club and Community of Albert Lea in a quiet, yet powerful and influential way, whether it is humanitarian, faith based, or civic responsibility. He was the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award and his lifetime commitment to the community has been to give back more than he has received. He wants to make the community a better place to be.

Dick has been a member of the Albert Lea Day-Breakers Club for 40 years, serving as President and on the board for several terms. Dick is always available to give the prayer at Kiwanis Club meetings, as needed, and always has a thought for the day available. He organized a prayer time at the local radio station which he and members participated in for several years. His prayer at Kiwanis always includes a petition that the club will help make Albert Lea a better place to live.

Dick has not served in public office but is politically active in his quiet way, always seeking and supporting candidates that are aligned with his community purpose. He is an advisor to political leaders (elected or other roles) in the community and his opinions are greatly appreciated. His list of volunteer activities is long but he has many other connections and associations that make him stand out as a significant community asset.

On the Planning Commission, Dick was a great listener to the public and guide to the Commission, asking the appropriate questions that led the other members to positive conclusions. He plays a similar role in club meetings.

## ***Division 7***

### **Denis Cornell**

Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley



Denis Cornell has been a member of the Spring Valley Kiwanis Club for 16 years and he has held the following offices: President, Lt. Governor, MNDak District Governor, and Club Secretary, 2013 to present. He is also presently District Director of Administration.

Denis has been very active in the Spring Valley Club since the day he was inducted as a member. He is very willing to help with all club activities and very conscientious about completing committee

responsibilities. He was very instrumental in getting a Youth Protection policy written for our club and having background checks completed by members working with Youth Sponsored Programs.

Our club was a Model Club for Eliminate and we reached our goal in five years. Denny earned a Diamond Zeller and encouraged other members to donate to reach our club goal. Nancy Cornell, his wife, is a very active Kiwanian in our club and they make a great team for projects. He has participated in fundraisers for all club projects such as the school Back-Pak program, scholarships, Food for Kidz, and community park benches. Denis has held many leadership roles in our club, the sub-division, and district. Denis also has attended many KI Conventions and MNDak Conventions.

Denis likes to sing and he has been a member of church, community and the Khorale groups at the district conventions. He is an active member of his faith community and helps to keep Spring Valley beautiful by planting and watering the potted plants in the business district.

Denis has been the “glue” of our club for many years. He is a good listener and communicator in groups and has a sense of humor. He is a true Kiwanian in every way.