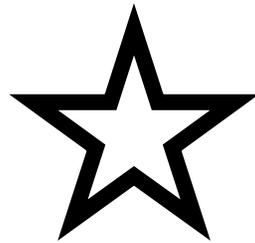


Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

Division Star Awards



2016-2017



Kiwanis®

Division 1

Gary Ochsner

Kiwanis Club of Minot Golden K



Gary Ochsner has been a member of Minot Golden K Kiwanis for eight years. He is very active in Minot Golden K and was participating in club fund raisers and service projects prior to officially being inducted into Kiwanis. He has held the following positions: board member, Finance Committee Chair, 2 term Club President, Division 1 Lieutenant Governor and is currently the Club Treasurer.

He received the Kiwanis International President's Award in 2014 and 2015. He is a Vantine Life Fellow; and has earned the Diamond Hixson and Diamond Zeller. He encourages club members to participate in club, division, district and international events and to live out the motto of Kiwanis to "Serve the children." He reminds club members that "Minot Golden K is a Kiwanis Club and members should participate in Kiwanis events at all levels."

Gary is an Air Force Veteran, serving 20 years active duty and 23 years in Civil Service. During his military and post military career he always had interests of children in his heart. He has been a Little League Baseball Coach and Community Commissioner. He coached youth basketball. He has been active with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts serving as Pack Cub Master and Troop Leader. He has also served as a Campfire Club Leader and on the board of a Girl Scout council.

He is active in his church. He has been a congregation/council president, treasurer, deacon; usher, taught Sunday School and confirmation classes. He has also been a member of the Men's Group. He is currently serving on the Call Committee for Zion Lutheran Church in Minot.

Gary and his wife, Joy, have been married 50 years and have two children.

Division 2

Tara Kempfer

Kiwanis Club of Fergus Falls



Tara deserves a Star award because she truly cares about the Kiwanis mission and lives it every day. Tara has initiated and continues to lead several projects and events that have significant impact on the children of our community. She takes on projects selflessly and is very generous with her time and resources in order to make sure that everything she is a part of has maximum impact. In 2015, she was a crucial part of organizing the Grand Opening event for an outdoor skating rink our Club co-sponsored with the city. She

knew this project would give children in our community a safe place to have fun while promoting physical well-being. Tara leads the annual Easter egg hunt and Teddy Bear Picnic for children age 0-6 years. She organizes everything from getting plastic eggs filled with age specific goodies to enlisting Club volunteers to hide the eggs in our Club-sponsored park. Tara is dedicated to helping the local United Way by spearheading fundraising efforts in our club for their annual ‘Stuff the Bus’ campaign which helps needy children attending elementary and middle school get supplies to start their new school year on a positive note.

Tara’s magnetic personality makes our Club a better organization. Our Club members know when Tara is part of a project, it will be a success because of her integrity and dedication to Kiwanis. She is a model ambassador for Kiwanis in both her personal and professional lives. She is committed to the Kiwanis mission of Children Priority One and demonstrates this through her acts of service. She makes our club and the Kiwanis organization better because of who she is and what she does. She is a shining star and truly a person our club is proud to call our own.

Division 3

Richard Hane

Kiwanis Club of Port of Duluth



Dick is currently a member of the Port of Duluth Club. He first joined Kiwanis in Red Wing, MN in 1973 and then joined the Port of Duluth club in 1984.

He has served this club twice as president and also served as club treasurer as well as serving as the current club secretary.

Dick is a retired Lutheran pastor who has been very active in numerous club committees such as the Reading is Fundamental program which he has coordinated for more than 10 years.

He and his wife, Judy, have been married 50 years as of last year. They both have been active Habitat for Humanity volunteers and have traveled to several building sites in other states over the past few years.

He and another member, Bob Ward wrote the Kiwanis Prayer Book still in use.

He is always among the first to step forward for projects such as Special Olympics, Breakfast with Santa, the Wine and Pasta dinner held for Project Heart to Heart, Inter-Club visits or special events both as a club member and the community in general.

Dick is a Hixon awardee and a Legion of Honor member for his long time service.

Division 4

Loren Christensen

Kiwanis Club of Spearfish



Loren is a dedicated Kiwanian who has served the Spearfish Club as President and has been on the Board of Directors. He is our “go to guy” in our club who steps forward whenever we need help with any of our projects. Loren rarely misses a meeting.

Loren helps with the advertising and promotion for the club in many of our projects including the Delta Dental Van, peanut sales, sponsors for our Spearfish Basketball Tournament, and sponsors for place mats at the Good Friday Luncheon and participates in the Chili Feed. He also chairs the Rotary/Kiwanis Salvation Army Bell Ringing Challenge at Christmas.

He is a member of our morning school crossing guards for the Creekside Elementary School and greets the young students as they arrive for classes.

Also Loren is a part of the team that does garage cleanup for the Spearfish Festival in the Park. This festival brings several thousand people to the park during the 3-day event.

Loren was a member of the South Dakota National Guard for six years. He continues to be of service as part of the Black Hills National Cemetery Honor Guard.

Division 5

Karyl Somers

Kiwanis Club of Watertown



At last summer's District Convention, Karyl Somers bid at the silent auction for a bracelet with many Kiwanis "K" emblems all around it and she won. She was the perfect winner to wear the bracelet! Of course, her name starts with K but the bracelet also makes the same statement Karyl does: *Kiwanis is important and should be proudly shared!*

Karyl joined the Milbank club in 1989 and served as its President before moving to Watertown in 1997 where she again served as President in 2008-2009. She was instrumental in establishing Coats for Kids—a program in which schools identify children who need coats. Our club promptly responds with a coat (now boots/snow pants) through a community partnership. Karyl's ongoing involvement with the local community foundation sustains the project.

After helping establish Watertown's annual prayer breakfast to support Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Karyl still regularly participates. Always willing to volunteer where needed, she helps select scholarship recipients, assists guests at the annual Over 90's luncheon, and supports Key Club and Builders Club.

Serving many years as club Treasurer (including now), Karyl continues to improve our budgeting process. She looks ahead and helps the board anticipate opportunities for improving our club and its administration. Aside from local involvement, Karyl has attended 14 district conventions! She chaired the local committee in 2009 when Watertown last hosted and now serves on the 2017 committee. Karyl lives out the Kiwanis mission statement as she is "dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time." She asks challenging questions and strives to maximize the beneficial impact of club projects. Karyl proudly wears her K. Karyl is a true star in Kiwanis and especially in Watertown's club!

Division 6

Doug Faust

Kiwanis Club of Mankato



Doug has been a member of Kiwanis and the Mankato Kiwanis Club for 22 years. He has been very involved in many club service projects over the years such as Salvation Army Bell ringing, Stuff a Truck and so many more.

Currently Doug serves as the Chair of the Kiwanis Thunder of Drums Committee. As chair Doug sees that everything is in place for this world-class event and every committee member and volunteer knows what they need

to do to pull this event off seamlessly and insures that this dazzling community event brings in dollars for local youth programs while collaborating with other organizations and companies. Doug has worked to expand on this already great event by adding a new Drum and Bugle Corps Clinic for high school band members where the students learn the basics of being in a drum and bugle corps. Doug consistently looks for ways to keep the event fresh. Under Doug's leadership, the event has created a significant cash reserve fund, while continuing to increase their annual contribution to our club which better funds our club's programs and other youth community programs.

When The Govenaires, a local participating corps had both their buses vandalized Doug was the first to offer the support of our club and the Kiwanis Thunder of Drums with a \$1,000 donation. Doug works tirelessly on the Kiwanis Thunder of Drums with an eye of an eagle overhead and simultaneously with an eye for detail. His peaceful and effective leadership style makes him someone everyone looks forward to working with. He does all of this without seeking attention or recognition.

Doug is also active in the community in many other ways. He produces and directs four social justice plays each year; writes a Good Friday production annually; performs with his musical group Friends and Family and produces CDs to sell as a fundraiser for his church.

Division 7

Donald Felmlee

Kiwanis Club of Red Wing Golden K



Don joined the Red Wing Golden K Club in 1998, and has been and continues to be very involved. He has served on our Board of Directors, gone through the chairs to serve as President in 2007-2008; Region 7 Lt. Governor Elect in 2010-11; Lt. Governor in 2011-12; and Past Lt. Governor in 2012-13.

Don's service to our club has included working on many projects and fund raisers, Highway Clean Up, and working in many capacities at our Spaghetti suppers, Prayer Breakfasts and work with elementary students building butterfly houses.

He has made many interclub visits, attended regional meetings, district conventions and two International conventions. Locally Don has chaired the planning and hosting of our Honor and Officer Installation Breakfast since its inception. Regionally Don has served on the planning committee for Region 7 Governors Education Day for the past 6 years and has worked on club building for the Marshall and Stillwater Kiwanis Clubs. In addition, Don is serving as chairman and treasurer of our Eliminate model club effort.

The Red Wing community has benefitted from Don's skills as he served as a volunteer on the Red Wing Food Shelf for 20 years and on their board for six years. He served on the Salvation Army Board for 10 years and has coordinated the Christmas Bell Ringing.

Don is an active member and volunteer at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He is a Life Member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion, and VFW. Golden K members Don and Mary have been married for 61 years. They have 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.