Region Star Awards

2013-2014
John Gerding is a 34 year member of the Mandan Kiwanis Club. He has served as a board officer as our Secretary/Treasurer for 30 years and will be retiring from those duties in October.

As a mid-sized club with a current membership of 39, John has filled big shoes serving as our Secretary/Treasurer. Over that time period John efficiently completed many reports, kept records and performed a variety of duties for our club and on behalf of our club to the region and district.

The Mandan Kiwanis Club and members would be hard pressed to find a project or event that John hasn’t been involved in, from building a baseball complex and playground to Special Olympics Bowling & Regional Track meet, Salvation Army bell ringing, Annual breakfast, Head Start book distributions, classroom reading and playground beautification, The International Eliminate Project, Community Baseball program, State Cross Country Meet, Girls Track & Field, Summer Library reading, Golf Tournament, Scholarships, Care and Share, Adopt a Highway, Prayer breakfast, Sponsored Youth, Picnic, and our annual awards dinner.

John has been a leader in the Mandan Community. He served on the Mandan School Board for 12 years and was the Mandan City Fire Marshall for 25 years. He has also served on a variety of Mandan City Committees. Since his retirement as Fire Marshall 11 years ago he has been serving “Meals on Wheels” and as a Mass server at weekday church services.

He and his wife Arlene have been married for 47 years and hope to spend more time and traveling with their 5 children and 11 grandchildren.
For decades Carlton has volunteered his time and talents for organizations and causes of many kinds. The list of organizations and projects that Carl has served includes projects participated in by our Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis organization as a whole, projects and committees at Carl’s church (of which he has been an active member since 1962), and also projects based on needs in Carl’s community.

For example, for many years Carl and his wife have been delivering Meals on Wheels one Wednesday of every month. The second Monday of every month they prepare and serve meals at Churches United for the Homeless, Moorhead’s homeless shelter; this is in addition to the times that Carl has served meals at Churches United with our Kiwanis club, as we serve there the fourth Wednesday of every month. Carl has been a member of Vikingland Kiwanis since 1977, and has been both club president and “Viking of the Year” twice during that time. He has served on many committees and volunteered time for innumerable projects; he is one of the die-hards that the rest of us can always count on to pitch in wherever and whenever it is needed.

But perhaps Carl’s greatest accomplishment, at least as far as Kiwanis is concerned, is his success in recruiting members. He has been the chair of the membership committee for many years, and is well known in our club for his passion on the subject. Over the years he has recruited at least 20 people to our club. Even taking into account the membership turnover rate, at this point Carl is personally responsible for a minimum of 30% of the membership of our club. In these days of declining volunteerism, that alone is worth an award.
Dr. Scott Mescher has been a member of the Hibbing Kiwanis Club for the past 37 years. He has served his club as president, board member, secretary, treasurer and also served as Lt. Governor for Region 3 in 2009-2011. He has held numerous chair positions for both service projects and fund raisers. He currently is chair of the Eliminate project for the northern part of Region 3 and is a Zeller Award contributor.

Scott is married to his wife Claudia and has three children, Meredith, Emily and Craig. Last Labor Day he began his 41st year of seeing patients in his optometric practice and he still finds it a great joy helping friends and neighbor maintain their vision and see their best.

“If you know Scott, you will realize that Kiwanis is close to his heart with their emphasis on helping young people. He has chaired and rarely missed the annual pancake feed, helped marshal two Hibbing parades, parked cars at the fair and many more Kiwanis projects. In addition to his outstanding volunteer work as Kiwanis member, Scott has been a fantastic volunteer throughout the community. Mescher joined the Jaycees in 1977 and was a member until the late 1980s. He was selected as one of the Jaycees’ 10 Outstanding Young Minnesotans in 1985.

He has been involved with the United Way, including serving as president. He’s also a past board member and chair of our Hibbing hospital, Hibbing Community College Foundation board, past chair of Junior Achievement of Hibbing, Blandin Leadership training graduate, member of the Elks, the Hibbing Curling Club, Algonquin Club, Knights of Columbus and the “Last Friday of the Month Club.” An Eagle Scout himself, Mescher is also a past district chair for the Boy Scouts and was a Cub Scout leader when their son was active. He’s also taken overseas optometric missions to Nicaragua, Jamaica, the Grenadines and most recently, Peru.
Bob has been a member of the Lead/Deadwood Kiwanis club for 33 years with 27 years of perfect attendance. He has served as club president twice, been on the board of directors for 21 years, serves as the facilitator for the key club and manages the programs for the weekly club meetings. Of late, he is on the committee to develop and run the Kiwanis Mile High Bike Challenge, which has the potential to become a major fundraising activity for the club. On a broader level, Bob has been the Lt. Governor, served as the district youth coordinator, is a certified Kiwanis instructor and is an accredited representative for Kiwanis International. He received the Claire E. Faust Award for his work with Circle K.

On a church and community level, Bob has been and continues to be very involved. He is a member of Trinity United Methodist and has served on the Administration, finance and trustee committees. In the community, Bob is dedicated and very passionate about serving. He currently serves on the board of the Black Hills Mining Museum and on the board of the Community Fund.

The above are easy to see and document. But what they do not define is Bob’s deep value to our club. He has been in the club for 33 years, yet his enthusiasm, optimism and energy level are that of a new member. He is the first to volunteer whenever there is a need. He is totally involved in every meeting. He always has a positive and constructive comment. These assets are what really contribute to the viability of our club and our community involvement.
Arlyce joined Kiwanis in 2007 and became club treasurer in 2008. Arlyce significantly improved the accounting of the club's funds and keeps the Board and membership advised of the status of the Club's accounts. She has also brought in new members.

When our club decided to sponsor a Builders Club at the local Boys and Girls Club in 2011, Arlyce volunteered to be the club adviser. Arlyce developed a plan of having different members of the club attend the meetings of the Builders Club. This resulted in the development of a great relationship between the two clubs.

Arlyce attends most of the Regional meetings including Club Leadership Education, Governor's visits as well as inter club visits. She is active in the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention with the used book sales and Eliminate fundraising activities.

When our club decided to become a Model Club for the Eliminate Project, to raise funds Arlyce introduced a weekly drawing for baked goods, homemade jams and assorted candies. It is now a traditional part of our club meetings each week. Once the club began reading each week to day care children ages 3-5, Arlyce began purchasing nearly new childrens books from thrift stores for us to read and donate to the YES Day Care center.

She makes sure that all the members get recognized for their participation and efforts in club fund raisers. Arlyce always has a special treat for each member on special occasions such as Valentine’s Day, May Day or Halloween. She never forgets a thank you to whomever does something regardless if it is large or small. Arlyce reflects the true nature of a Kiwanis member in every club related activity.
Maynard Meyer
Kiwanis Club of Madison

Maynard Meyer has been a member of the Madison Kiwanis Club for thirty-one years. He has been an active member since that time serving as chair of the publicity committee. He has organized many parade floats for Kiwanis as well as creating the Madison Kiwanis website and recently created a face book page for the Madison Kiwanis Club which he keeps updated regularly. He has served on nearly every Kiwanis project throughout the years. He has created a very successful annual fundraiser through his radio station, donating air time and organizing the process. Maynard was awarded the 1998 Outstanding Citizen Award from the Madison Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Madison School Board for twelve years. He has served on the Madison City Council for eighteen years and is serving as the Assistant Mayor at the present time. Maynard is the director of the Madison Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board as well as being Chamber President. He is on the Tourism Board for the area as well as the Economic Development Authority for the city of Madison.

Maynard started the local radio station in 1983 and in 2012 he was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcaster’s Hall of Fame which is very noteworthy as small market radio personalities are seldom nominated for this honor.

Maynard has been involved with many successful fundraisers in Madison such as restoring the Madison Library, providing funds for the city owned theater to purchase digital projectors, and raising funds to update the swimming pool.

Maynard is highly involved with his church serving on the church council and is currently the church president. He maintains the sound system, and plays in the band at the church.
Nancy Cornell  
Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley

Nancy has been a member of the Spring Valley Club for 5.5 years. She has held the club offices of President-elect and Distinguished President.

Nancy was the originator and chairman of our spaghetti supper for Food for Kidz for three years. The supper is held at the school café during the basketball season and the Key Club and Builder’s Club help with serving. She was instrumental in getting the Builder’s Club chartered in the junior high school. She is one of the Kiwanis advisors to the club.

She is the club coordinator for the ELIMINATE project. Our club is a model club and we have earned twelve Zeller awards. Our community hosts an Almonzo Bike Ride in May. Last year 1200 bikers participated in the ride. Nancy is chairman of the Spaghetti supper our club serves to the bikers with the proceeds going to the ELIMINATE project. She has also chaired the unique fundraiser at the Four Daughters Winery for our ELIMINATE project for two years.

Nancy was on the Membership Committee. She continues to conduct member orientation. She obtained our first corporate member. She is always looking for innovative membership development. She has been working to get a satellite club in Spring Valley. The meetings have been held at the Dairy Queen.

In 2012, she organized a group of members to make trauma dolls, a new service project for our Club. The dolls were donated to the Spring Valley Ambulance Service. She also participated in the Book program for club organized by Stewart Ross. She has attended all district and international meetings since becoming a member and has made interclub visits to Kiwanis Clubs, Key Clubs, Circle K and Aktion Clubs. She has also attended sub-region meetings of these clubs.