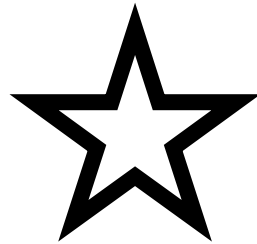


*Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International*

# **Region Star Awards**



**2009-2010**



**Kiwanis®**

## ***Region 1***

### **Charles L. (Chuck) Peterson**

Kiwanis Club of Bismarck



Chuck joined Kiwanis on March 1, 1968 as a member of the Bismarck Club. Chuck served as Bismarck Kiwanis Club president in 1985-1986. He is involved in all Bismarck Kiwanis club projects. For many years he has headed up our club's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. He explores and initiates each year new ways to increase revenue. Three years ago he identified a local charity as a partner and primary beneficiary of the fundraiser which significantly increased our income.

For the past 2 years Chuck has worked tirelessly on member recruitment. He uses marketing techniques and strategies he has used with his own business. He constantly encourages club members to invite guests. In addition, he solicits names of potential guests and sends letters of invitation to them. He is the club's most active promoter. Chuck's commitment to Kiwanis is shown weekly by his attendance, and he is first to volunteer for projects. Chuck leads by example.

Chuck's leadership can be described as constant, approachable, fair, visionary, of high integrity, and dedicated.

Chuck's community involvement is second only to his commitment to the Bismarck Kiwanis Club. He has served on the Board of Directors for the local food pantry. He serves on the City/County Planning and Zoning Commission. He is currently treasurer of the Mayor's Reelection Committee. Chuck is also an active, committed member of a church committee whose goal is to encourage and foster religious vocations. He recruits as strongly for this group as he does for Kiwanis.

## ***Region 2***

### **Jack Mouritsen**

Kiwanis Club of Fergus Falls (Noon)



Jack is what you might call a ‘late starter’ to Kiwanis, but he has fired up our entire club! He spent most of his adult life working in the Twin Cities, but after retiring he moved back to his childhood hometown of Fergus Falls and promptly joined the Noon Kiwanis Club. That was two years ago – and he seems like he’s been with us for decades!

Not long after joining the Fergus Falls Noon Kiwanis Club, Jack became our official greeter. He seldom misses a meeting, and greets every person who walks in with a firm handshake or, if you are lucky, a bear size hug. His giant smile and sincere appreciation for each and every one of us, makes coming to Kiwanis a delight.

Jack is always one of the first people who will sign up to help out with a community project. A call went out for volunteers to help give away free food to needy families, and who was the one with the huge smile greeting clients and helping them carry food? Jack, of course. When the Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast came around, there was Jack, working hard to make this one of the most financially successful projects we have. When a storm came up and knocked boat docks into pieces up and down the shoreline, guess who was there pulling pieces from the lake and putting them back together for his neighbors? That’s right, Jack.

Whether he’s volunteering, greeting fellow Kiwanis members, spending time with his grandchildren, working out at the YMCA or cross country skiing, or sharing a laugh with his neighbors – Jack does it with joy in his heart. Jack is a shining star.

## ***Region 3***

### **Kevin Dens**

Kiwanis Club of Baxter Lakes Area & Friends



Kevin joined the Kiwanis Club of Brainerd on September 29, 1986. He served as President of the club in 1993-94. He was Chair for the Iodine Deficiency committee in which our club earned over \$18,000 for the project. He is a George F. Hixson Fellow. He founded the Brainerd Kiwanis' very successful Clean-up Blitz service project that is also a good fundraiser. He helped organize and was advisor to the Brainerd Builders Club. In 2009 he helped organize the

new Kiwanis Club of Baxter Lakes Area and Friends, and has now transferred his membership to that club. Kevin is the current Chair and Race Director for the Lakes Country Triathlon, a major project of the Baxter Lakes Area and Friends club.

Kevin had a stellar 14 year Jaycee career from 1986-2000. He served as chapter President in 1987-88 receiving the Silver Key. He was Chairman of the Board and Management Dev. Vice President 1988-89. He served as Secretary 1989-90 and Newsletter Director 1990-91. He was Chairman of the outstanding \$100,000 Fishing Extravaganza in 1992 when it was in the early development and still works with the Extravaganza each year. He has also served and volunteered for many other community organizations.

Kevin has been married to his wife Cathy for 25 years and they have three children; Jennifer 22, Christopher 20 and Sarah 18. The children were all members of Builders Club and Key Club. They are definitely a family dedicated to giving to their community in numerous ways.

## ***Region 4***

### **Wayne Klein**

Kiwanis Club of Spearfish



Wayne has always been our “go-to guy.” He is a very busy business man in a demanding business; however, he always takes the time to support our club. Wayne is constantly promoting and supporting our club by bringing in new members. He is our Community Service Committee Leader and sits on the Board of Directors.

He arranges for the scheduling of our weekly programs. For one program, Wayne paid traveling expenses and gathered a truck load of bicycles for children.

Wayne helps sell all the left over peanuts. He has made the chili for our club to help support the Northern Hills Training Center Cook Offs. He rings the bell for the Annual Salvation Army Fund Raiser. Wayne volunteers as crossing guard. He volunteers to help cook and clean up at our club’s Annual Good Friday Prayer Breakfast. He promotes the club by participating by driving his ATV in all the parades:

Please consider this deserving man, who is so important to our club and does it all without expecting or wanting any recognition. It's just who he is, a devout family man, walking his walk through life and fortunately for the Kiwanis Club of Spearfish, he is one of us.

## **Region 5**

### **Tracy Vik**

Diversity Kiwanis Club of Sioux Falls



The Diversity Kiwanis Club of Sioux Falls was chartered in 2006 and within a year the club started working on a project that has warmed the hearts of those of us in Kiwanis as well as the freezing bodies of students identified as homeless. A young, energetic Lincoln High School Key Club member Kaitlin Vik (Veek) suggested to her mom Tracy that she should bring a tie blanket program to the new Diversity Club and the Sioux Falls School System. Very quickly the Vik family, Sioux Falls Schools, the Key Club and their sponsor Sioux Falls East grew the program. Other

Kiwanis Clubs had fleece tie parties --- and provided volunteers of all ages to help tie blankets for those identified as homeless through the Sioux Falls schools. 2500 blankets have been tied in four years. More than 300 volunteers helped this last year with Project Warm Up -- with all 6 Sioux Falls Kiwanis Clubs helping.

There is rarely a club project she isn't involved in --- collecting crayons for Haiti; Lend a Hand backpack program with food going to needy families in the Sioux Falls Schools; the Guatemala Shoe project; and a coat drive for refugee families at Lutheran Social Services to name a few. LSS named the Diversity Kiwanis Club their charitable organization of the year in South Dakota. She is partnering with the Spanish Speaking Association and has helped them locate 50 computers for after school activities.

Tracy maintains the Diversity Kiwanis website and has agreed to become Club Vice President in the future.

Tracy Vik is among the next generation of stars that is reaching out to make a difference.

## ***Region 6***

### **David Cowan**

Kiwanis Club of Mankato (Downtown)



David Cowan, a member of the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club since 1986 (24 years) is the recipient of the region 6 award. David was president of the Mankato Kiwanis Club in 1993-1994. He has been the chair of the Camp Patterson Committee since 1995. In this capacity he helps clean the camp each spring, works with the resident camp caretakers, repairs buildings as needed, and works on scheduling student groups to use the camp each summer.

He also sits on the Camp Patterson Foundation Board that has assets over \$150,000. Camp Patterson is on the northeastern shores of Lake Washington in the Mankato area. The camp has been an important part of the Mankato Kiwanis club since 1927 when land was donated by a member of the club. The Camp currently is worth over 2 million dollars. Students attend the camp through subsidy from the club. Each student is currently charged only \$41 a week for use of the camp. Each summer as many as 2500 campers live at the camp for at least one week.

David is a dedicated Kiwanis member who cares deeply about the camp. He has invested time and energy to the camp over the past many years. Without David's continuing commitment the camp would not be as successful as it has been for decades. David is truly a special Kiwanian who cares about children. He demonstrates this through his unselfish work with Camp Patterson each year for the past 15 years!

## ***Region 7***

### **Bob Weir**

Kiwanis Club of Red Wing Golden K



Bob's career - 16 years as a teacher and 17 as an administrator – has been devoted to “serving the children of the world.”

In Kiwanis he has served as a board member for two terms; historian for four years; collects and reports the service activities of members each month; serves on the golf tournament committee; heads the Young Children Priority One committee and coordinates its project “Sunshine Corner”, a preschool at the Y.

In 2007 he was recognized as Kiwanian of the Year and in 2008 he became a Hixson Fellow. Most noteworthy is the fact that immediately upon joining Kiwanis he became liaison for the Builder's Club at the middle school and has held that for position for 11 years!

Red Wing benefits from his willingness to serve through Faith in Action, Meals on Wheels, food shelf, and AARP Driver Training. His church also benefits from his service on the church board, usher, and “Making Connections Ministry Team.” Bob has done all of this while serving as care giver to his wife Jan who is disabled with MS.

We are proud of Bob, our Region 7 STAR!