



We Serve

Rapid City (Downtown) Lions Club Lions You Should Know

Lion Orland Paulsen



Lion Orland became a member of the Rapid City Downtown Lions Club in October of 1957. By profession, he was a CPA who also found himself as the Lions Club President in 1969-1970. He had quickly become involved in the many fund raising events such as selling brooms, light bulbs, candy and meat. It was fun and they met a lot of people.

One of his most prize possessions is a medal he received from Joe Wrovleski, International President for Orland's work with the Youth Camp in the Black Hills. That camp continues to this day. For twenty-five years, Lion Orland and his

snowmobile club helped the Ski for Light program every year towing them up the slope at Deer Mountain Ski Area.

In 1981-1982 Lion Orland was the Club's Lion of the Year. In 1982-1983 he was the District Governor of 5SW and following he became the Chairman of the Council of Governors in 1983 - 1984.

On August 25, 1992 he was awarded as a Melvin Jones Fellow and became a life member of Lions in 1998. He greatly enjoyed traveling to district conventions, and multi-districts in Canada where they had 1200 Lions in attendance in 1977. He says, "Canadians were great!"

In January, 2003, Lion Orland was inducted into the South Dakota Lions Hall of Fame. He advises "... that you really get more out of Lions if you go to other Clubs besides your own and attend conventions." he says that, "the best memories are with people you have met."

Lion Orland is always extremely active in Club activities. He returned as Club President from 2005-2006 and served as the Treasurer for the District through 2015. His wife, Lion Mary Lou is an active Lion in the Evening Star Lions Club.

Lion Bob Haskell



Lion Bob Haskell was actively involved with the Downtown Lions around 1958.

He became a Life Member in Lions in May of 1961. In his lifetime as a Lion, he has sponsored more than 100 new Lions.

Lion Bob was a member of both the Downtown Lions Club as well as the Rushmore Club. Overall, this good Lion has been directly involved with starting eight new Lions Clubs including: Hill City, Deadwood, Black Hawk, Piedmont, Mobridge, Oneida, Ft. Pierre and Newell.

The original attraction to becoming a Lion was he “wanted to do something in the memory of his grandmother who went blind from cataracts.”

With his mission of helping to cure vision problems, early on, Bob became president of the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank. During these years, Barber Freight Company volunteered to help by transporting harvested eyes from throughout the state to the Eye Bank in Sioux Falls.

Lion Bob was the first President of the South Dakota Lions Foundation. He was exceptionally good at raising awareness, money and materials for worthy causes. He raised all the money for the Central States Fair Office Building which bears his name today. He also had all the final construction of the Lions Building there completed at no charge.

Lion Bob served as Council Chairman in the 1960's, District Governor in 1970-1971, was Downtown Lions Club president in 1972-1973, is a Melvin Jones Fellow, Lion of the Year in 1999-2000 and was inducted into the South Dakota Lions Hall of Fame in 2001.

Bob is proud that his only grandson is becoming an Ophthalmologist in 2020. His only two Great Grand children are the son and daughter of Rapid City Downtown Lion Kyle Krause and his wife Erin.

When he became a Lion over sixty years ago, the vision problems created by cataracts could not be cured. Bob wanted to do anything that he could to help cure vision problems. He is proud of his lifetime as a Lion.

Lion Dean Reichert



Lion Dean Reichert is a U.S. Air Force Veteran having served with a squadron of F-86 Fighter aircraft from 1952-1956. This service was during the Korean War but Dean notes that active combat engagement was not necessary during his time in the USAF.

Following his discharge, Dean served for 34 years in the Rapid City Fire Department with 19 years as the Deputy Fire Chief. Along the way, Dean became a Lion with the Rapid City Downtown Club in November of 1982. Less than five years later, Lion Dean had risen to Club President for 1987-1988.

He was active with the Central States Fair Board in the 1990's and helped to create the Lions Adopt-A-Building Lease program where as Zone Chairman he signed the on-going lease for the Lions Building on June 6, 1998. The soft serve ice cream machine, there still today, was donated by Lion Dean and his family.

Lion Dean and three other people got the South Dakota Eye Bank in order. Dean says that, "Dr. Wright was in favor but did not want Lions involved, so when that idea died away and we got it put together in Sioux Falls." Lion Dean was the second President of the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank. His work involved a lot of organizational activities. In October of 1993, Lion Dean received the Melvin Jones Award.

Dean was also President of the SD Lions Foundation for a time. In 1994, he became the Lieutenant Governor for District 5SW followed by the position of

District Governor for 5SW in 1995-1996. In 1997, he would earn the coveted Helen Keller Award.

The following year, Dean was elected as the Council Chairman for the Multiple District 5 Council of Governors serving in 1996 - 1997. The Multi District 5 includes all of the states of South Dakota and North Dakota along with the Province of Saskatchewan in Canada.

If that wasn't enough effort and responsibility, Lion Dean followed by throwing his hat into the ring to become an International Director. He was all in and when interviewed for this biographical sketch, said that he lost by a mere 13 votes. He says that, "If seven people had voted for me instead of for my competition, I would have become an International Director that year." The position would have been one of only 34 in the entire world! Lion Dean became a Lifetime Lions Member in 2003

Lion Dennis Schaar



Dennis Schaar joined the Rapid City Downtown Lions Club in December of 1982.

Lion Dennis was particularly gratified and proud to work with many local Lions and Clubs to raise tens of thousands of dollars through Calendar sales for Northern Plains Eye Foundation and CVSI for children's vision screening initiatives in western South Dakota.

He has been president of the Rapid City Downtown Lions Club on three separate occasions in 2002-2003; 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Along with this excellent record, he has also been the Club's Lion of the Year in 1994-1995; 2001-2002 and 2014-2015.

It is no accident that in 1984, Dennis also joined the Naja Shrine Club. His reason of so much time and energy being devoted to both groups is simply stated, "I love philanthropy. The Shriners have 23 hospitals in North America offering free care to all who need help." During his flying career, Dennis had also been the Master of a Masonic Lodge in Georgia and a District Deputy to the Grand Master of Georgia.

Captain Dennis Schaar's 35-year flying career began as a ground school instructor at Pan American Airways in 1964, then on to Eastern Airlines as a pilot in 1966 until they closed down in 1989. Captain Schaar quickly moved on to United Airlines where he continued his flying career until retiring in March of 2001.

Lion Dennis was the recipient of the heralded Melvin Jones Award during the 2001-2002 and became a Life Member of the Lions Clubs International in February of 2003.

Lion George Gladfelter



Lion George Gladfelter joined the Rapid City Downtown Lions Club in October of 1978. Lion George was Lion of the Year for 1984 -1985 and served as the Club's president from 1986-1987. In 2003 - 2004, Lion George Gladfelter was the recipient of a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

About the year 2005 or so, Lion George inherited the Rapid City Downtown Lions Club's website from Lion Dennis Rist who was the first person to create an on-line Club Directory. Since those beginning days for the Club website probably around 2004, Lion George has meticulously updated and improved the website over the years as the R.E. Minder.

In addition to the Club's website, Lion George serves as the in-house photographer as well as the over-seer of the bylaws for the Club. He is a very steady and reliable fellow Lion. For a second time in 2010 - 2011, Lion George was honored with the Lion of the Year award.

Lion George was ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church in 1990 and has been a leader in the local Black Hills Astronomical Society. He was originally from Indiana, and taught at the South Dakota School of Mines for many years. Lion George is a proud Lifetime Member of Lions Clubs International.