

# Larry Somsen – 2014 SDASCOE Distinguished Service Award Nomination for Service to Community

Larry Somsen is first and foremost a dedicated husband, father and grandfather, he and his wife Marlene have raised 4 children, Brett, Betsy, Matt and Megan. He has 2 grandsons and 4 granddaughters with a 3rd grandson to arrive this year. He is never too busy to help babysit, attend recitals and concerts or just fill in for mom or dad whenever needed.



He is an active member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in DeSmet. He has served on the Church Board as an Elder from 2002 to 2004, and has been a Trustee for 12 years between 1993 and 2011. He has served the church in many areas. He has kept the sound System running for at least 15 years. He Shovels and sands the sidewalks for Sunday Morning services, and has done general maintenance for the church and parsonage even when he was not a Trustee. He has been the Chairman of the Budget, Auditing, Table and Chair Committees multiple times. He has been a Choir member for special events and sees to it that the church members can enjoy coffee and cookies before Sunday Morning Services.

When Hurricane Andrew devastated areas south of Miami, Florida in 1992, Larry donated his time and labor and traveled with a group from his church to this area to assist with clean up and reconstruction. His dedicated and caring attitude towards others can be seen as an everyday occurrence for Larry. He is always ready and willing to donate his time and effort to help others whether it is his church, his school, or his community. He takes it as his personal responsibility to

see to it that his elderly neighbors have a lawn that is mowed and a sidewalk and driveway that are cleared from snow and ice.

From the time Larry Somsen moved to DeSmet, South Dakota, he has done his best to be involved and supportive of most all aspects of this “Little Town on the Prairie”. He became involved in his church and his children’s activities. When his boys were in Boy Scouts, he was their den leader and the troops Cub Master for many years, dedicating his time and talents to support this worthwhile organization.

He has been an active “Bulldog” fan for many years. He is a member of the Bulldogs Booster Fan Club and was named “Booster of the Year” for the 21004–2005 school year. He assists the Cross Country coach by setting up the course and helping with anything needed during the home meets in DeSmet. He also currently serves as the “Official Scorer” for the DeSmet Girls Basketball Team.

One of his passions for this community has been his involvement and support of the “Laura Ingalls’s Wilder Pageant”. He has over the past 25 years sold tickets, helped build sets, run the lights and sound systems, and been a cast member for this annual event. The hours of dedication that it takes to help with this endeavor, is an awesome gift that Larry has willingly and freely given.

Another of Larry’s passions for his community can be seen in his participation in the annual “House of the Week” contest at Christmas time. Larry spends countless hours “decoration” his house and yard with lights each year and has been awarded the “Home of the Week” several times over the past 25 years.

Larry is currently serving his 19th year on the local city Tree Board and has also served on the DeSmet City Council. Larry has been a member of SDASCOE and NASCOE since he started working for FSA (formerly ASCS). He is currently serving as the Awards and Scholarship Chairperson for SDASCOE.

We are proud to nominate our CED, Larry Somsen, for the Distinguished Service to Community Award for 2014.

Sincerely,

Angie Goebel and Rochelle Stout