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## Lignite Public Service Award

*Outstanding service by public official to the lignite industry.*

- 1987 - Governor George Sinner
- 1988 - Senator Don Moore, County Commissioner Ed Schulz, & Asst. Secretary Allen Wampler, DOE
- 1989 - State Representative William Goetz & State Senator Harvey Tallackson
- 1990 - United States Senator Kent Conrad
- 1991 - State Senator Joe Keller
- 1992 - Karlene Fine, Industrial Commission  
Rep. Ben Tollefson
- 1993 - Senator Layton Freborg  
Senator Larry Robinson  
Representative John Dorso
- 1994 - Governor Ed Schafer  
Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp  
Ag Commissioner Sarah Vogel
- 1995 - Lyle Witham, Asst. Attorney General  
Don Gilchrist, former BLM Chief
- 1996 - Ed Englerth, ND Public Service Comm.
- 1997 - State Senator Gary Nelson  
State Senator Vern Thompson  
State Representative Mick Grosz  
State Representative Lyle Hanson  
Dennis Fewless, ND Dept. of Health
- 1998 - Adolph Miller, Mercer County Comm.
- 1999 - Bruce Hagen, ND PSC
- 2000 - Kirk Johnson, Senator Conrad's Office
- 2001 - Francis "Fritz" Schwindt, ND Dept. of Health
- 2002 - John Hoeven, Governor of North Dakota
- 2003 - David Glatt, ND Dept. of Health
- 2004 - Al Christianson, Mayor of Washburn  
Gary Allard, Mayor of Beulah
- 2005 - Wayne Stenehjem, ND Attorney General  
Martin Schock, ND Health Department  
Roger Collins, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- 2006 - Tom Bachman, ND Dept. of Health  
Dean Hildebrand, former Game & Fish Director
- 2007 - Randy Christmann, ND Senator  
David O'Connell, ND Senator  
Alan Carlson, ND Representative  
Joe Kroeber, ND Representative
- 2008 - Rich Wardner, ND Senator  
Charles Carvell – ND AG Office
- 2009 - Dwight Cook, ND Senator
- 2010 - Blair Thoreson, ND Representative  
James Kerzman, ND Representative
- 2011 - Senator Bob Stenehjem  
Karlene Fine, ND Industrial Commission
- 2012 - Layton Freborg, ND Senator
- 2013 – Todd Porter, ND Representative
- 2014 – Wayne Stenehjem – ND Attorney General
- Given in Spring for previous year**
- 2016 – Jack Dalrymple – ND Governor
- 2017 – Dave Glatt – North Dakota Department of Health  
Maggie Olson – North Dakota Office of the Attorney General
- 2018 – Jeff Delzer – North Dakota Representative

Ray Holmberg – North Dakota Senator  
2019 – Rich Wardner – North Dakota Senator  
Jessica Unruh – North Dakota Senator  
Todd Porter – North Dakota Representative  
2020 – Corey Mock – North Dakota Representative  
2021 (Spring) – ND Governor Doug Burgum  
2021 (Fall) – ND Lt. Governor Brent Sanford

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## Ambassador of Lignite Award

*Years of outstanding service to the lignite industry by retiring industry personnel.*

- 1987 - Lloyd Hillier Minnkota Power
- 1988 - Art Kane, Knife River Mining Co.
- 1989 - Larry Rutherford, Baukol-Noonan, Inc.  
Don Vraspir, Otter Tail Power Company  
Wally Kroeber, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company  
Don Kettner, United Power Association  
Ralph Sullivan, Cooperative Power
- 1990 - Lyle Lund, Minnkota Power
- 1991 - Alvin J. "Sparky" Wittmaier, KRCMC
- 1992 - Wally Stigen, OTP  
Con Aas, NSP
- 1993 - Philip Martin, UPA
- 1994 - Joe Maichel, MDU  
Ron Bertoch, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Marv Leer, United Power Association
- 1996 - Frank Mattern, Cooperative Power  
Loren Stadig, United Power Association
- 1997 - Merrill Lewis, Minnkota Power Cooperative
- 1999 - Gary Jacobson, Basin Electric  
Ken Ziegler, Basin Electric  
August Keller, NACCO  
Tony Rude, Great River Energy
- 2000 - Bob McPhail, Basin Electric  
Bruce Hagen, PSC
- 2001 - Wayne Tanous, MDU Resources Group  
Clifford Porter, Lignite Energy Council
- 2002 - Marlowe Johnson, Otter Tail Power Co.
- 2003 - Jim Roberts, Minnesota Power
- 2004 - John Bluemle, ND Geological Survey
- 2005 - Cathi Christopherson, MDU  
Jim Van Epps, Great River Energy
- 2006 - Bob Wood, MDU Resources Group  
Fletcher Poling, Basin Electric
- 2008 - David Schouweiler, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Fred Stern, Dakota Gasification Company  
Steve Hovey, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Dennis Boyd, MDU Resources Group  
Dan Sharp, MDU Resources Group
- 2009 - Mike Hummel, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Stuart Libby, Minnkota Power Cooperative  
Duane Steen, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- 2010 - Clint Wanek, The Falkirk Mining Co.  
Dean Peterson, North American Coal Corp.  
David Loer, Minnkota Power Cooperative
- 2011 - Marc Schulz, The Coteau Properties Co.  
Jim Ronholdt, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2012 - Stan Brannin, Basin Hydraulics  
Terry Hildestad, MDU Resources
- 2013 - Curtis Jabs, Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
John Dwyer, Lignite Energy Council  
Daryl Hill, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2014 - Bob Eriksen, Basin Electric Power Cooperative,  
Renee Walz, Lignite Energy Council

Luther Kvernén, Minnkota Power Cooperative  
John Lebersback, SaskPower  
Doug Mahowald – MDU  
David Sogard – Minnkota Power Cooperative  
Larry Wood – Wire Rope Works, Inc.  
Jim Huncovsky – Basin Electric Power Cooperative

**Given in the Fall or Spring for current year**

2015 - Richard Elliz – AZCO  
Don Boehm – Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Bob Fagerstrom – Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Dakota Gasification)  
Bob Ambrose – Great River Energy  
Diane Stockdill – Great River Energy  
Bob Benson – North American Coal  
Robert Swanson – Swanson & Youngdale

2016 (Spring)  
Pat Clement – BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Rick Matteson – MDU Resources

2016 (Fall)  
Gerry Schatz (Otter Tail Power Company – Coyote Station)  
Dale Toman (Minnkota Power Cooperative – Milton R. Young Station)  
Dale Ziegler (Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. – Heskett Station)  
Dennis Hill (NDRECA)  
Brent Sullivan (The Coteau Properties Co. – The Freedom Mine)  
Bern Tolosky (Dakota Gasification Company)  
William Kirk (The Coteau Properties Co. – The Freedom Mine)  
Mike Jones (Lignite Energy Council)  
Jim Deutsch (Public Service Commission)

2017 (Spring)  
John Graves (Minnkota Power Cooperative)  
John Weeda (Great River Energy)  
Jude Reilly (Industrial Contractors, Inc.)  
Jim Knox (BNI Coal, Ltd.)

2017 (Fall)  
Jan Rudolf – Ambassador of Lignite (Otter Tail)  
Doug Stoltz - Ambassador of Lignite (Falkirk)  
Steve Tomac - Ambassador of Lignite (Basin)  
Sue Black - Ambassador of Lignite (Minnkota)  
Becky Luhning - Ambassador of Lignite (Otter Tail)  
Chuck Kerr - Ambassador of Lignite (Great Northern Properties)

2018 (Spring)  
Joe Friedlander (North American Coal Corporation)  
Mitch Stafford (BTINet)  
Randy Leinius (Great River Energy)  
Dave McMillan (Minnesota Power)  
Tony Stroh (Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.)  
Cris Oehler – Otter Tail Power Company  
(passed away) Tyler Engberg (Northern Dewatering)  
Wayne Albrecht (The Coteau Properties Company)  
Rob Lighthizer (The Falkirk Mining Company)  
Herb Carpenter (Border States Electric)  
Rich Voss (Great Northern Properties)

2018 (Fall)  
Cris Miller (Basin Electric)  
Jeff Keller (Basin Electric)  
Ray Sorge (Coteau)  
Michael Reidman (Basin Electric)

Shirley Campbell (State of North Dakota)  
Charlie Bullinger (Great River Energy)  
Duane Miller (Basin Electric)  
Mike Risan (Basin Electric)  
Curt Pearson (Basin Electric)  
Brad Klepfel (Otter Tail)

2019 (Spring)

Terry O'Clair (North Dakota Department of Health)  
Bill Dodd ((North Dakota Public Service Commission)  
Rick Lancaster (Great River Energy)  
Chere Allard (Bismarck State College)  
Skip Oberg (Great River Energy)  
Bill Libro (Minnesota Power/ALLETE)  
Greg Dehne (The Falkirk Mining Company)  
Marvin Hemphil (Great River Energy)

2019 (Fall)

Mike Cashin (Minnkota Power Cooperative)  
Sandi Tabor (KLJ)  
Brian Bjella (Crowley Fleck, PLLP)

2020 (Year)

Kevin Thomas (Minnkota Power Cooperative)  
Mary Jo Roth (Great River Energy)  
Alan Welte (MDU)  
Dave Sauer (DGC)  
John Jacobs (Basin Electric Power Cooperative)  
Pat Wingenbach (Butler)  
Jeff Reiser (Dean's Bulk Service)  
Dave Sailer (Falkirk)

2021 (Spring)

Al Hodnik (Minnesota Power/ALLETE)  
Randy Crooke (The Falkirk Mining Company)  
Karen Thingelstad (Minnkota Power Cooperative)  
Lauren Laugtug (Otter Tail Power Company)  
Dennis James (North American Coal Corporation)

2021 (Fall)

Curt Latendresse (Central Machining and Pump Repair)  
Dan Dorfschmidt (Butler Machinery)  
David Farnsworth (Great River Energy)  
Ron Pickar (Komatsu)

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

# Community Service Award

## *Service to the Community*

- 2006 - Mike Hummel, BNI Coal  
Ron Harper, Basin Electric Power
- 2008 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative Employees
- 2009 - Otter Tail Power Company – Chuck MacFarlane
- 2010 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative;  
Minnesota Power; The North American Coal Corporation; Otter Tail Power Co.;  
MDU Resources Foundation; Xcel Energy; Crowley Fleck PLLP; United Printing
- 2011 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative, MDU Resources Group, Great River Energy,  
The North American Coal Corporation
- 2012 - Dakota Westmoreland Employees
- 2013 - Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
- 2014 - Minnkota Power Cooperative – Kevin Fee  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Tracie Bettenhausen, Karen Will, Lindsey DeKrey, Darrell Schulz  
Minnkota Power Cooperative/BNI Coal, Ltd.  
North American Coal
- Given in the Fall for current year**
- 2015 - Industrial Contractors, Inc. (ICI)
- 2016 – none
- 2017 – Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Erin Huntimer
- 2018 – Otter Tail Power Company – Maverick Thompson
- 2020 – MDU Resources – Teen Week
- 2021 – Did not award

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## Lignite Contractor/Supplier Award

*Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council by a Contractor/Supplier member.*

- 1987 - Matt Butler, Butler Machinery Company (Lignite Energizer Award)
- 1988 - Jeff Reiser, MN Valley Testing & Tom Geering, Highway Machine Company
- 1989 - Jim Watson, ICI Tribol
- 1990 - Larry Sweeney, Sweeney Brothers
- 1991 - Tom "Frenchy" Perreault, Indus. Lub.
- 1992 - Glen Wise, Butler Machinery
- 1993 - Joe Woodmansee, Woodmansee's
- 1994 - Harvey Albrecht, Ind. Tool & Repair
- 1995 - Jerry Grosz, General Trading Co.
- 1996 - John Borud, Minot Steel & Tube, Inc.
- 1997 - Duane Tietz, CrossCountry Courier  
Dave Polsfuss, Interstate Detroit Diesel
- 1998 - Merle Zander, Farstad Oil  
Dale Preszler, ServiceMaster of Central ND, Inc.
- 1999 - George Finley, Rocky Mt. Brake Supply
- 2000 - Border States Electric – Gary Miller, Herb Carpenter, Ike Carpenter, Curt Bethke, & Dick Melchior
- 2001 - Industrial Contractors, Inc. – Robert Nelson, John Engelhardt, & Darris Job
- 2002 - Mike Bergman, Vallen Safety Supply
- 2003 - Val Lundin, Motion Industries
- 2004 - Robert Swanson, Swanson & Youngdale
- 2005 - Mark Peterson, Westcon Industries
- 2006 - Don Pesek, Northern Water Works Supply
- 2007 - Rod Reetz, MVTL Laboratories, Inc.
- 2008 - Pat Finken, Odney Advertising
- 2009 - Curt Latendresse, Central Machining and Pump Repair
- 2010 - Jean Hins, Weber's Maintenance Service
- 2011 - Philip Solseng, Barr Engineering
- 2012 - Lloyd Bushong, Industrial Contractors, Inc.
- 2013 - Baranko Bros Inc.
- 2014 - RDO Equipment Company
- Given in Fall for current year**
- 2016 - Barr Engineering (Lyall Workman)  
Butler Machinery (Dan Dorfschmidt)
- 2017 – TriTec (Russ Smith)
- 2018 – Environmental Services, LLC (Tyler Schafer)
- 2019 – Barr Engineering  
Precision Machine & Welding (Keith Huschka)
- 2020 – Northern Coatings, Inc.
- 2021 – Abrasives, Inc.

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## Distinguished Service Award - Research & Development

*Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council's research & development program by industry personnel*

- 1992 - Curt Blohm, KRCMC
- 1993 - Chuck Reichert, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Steve Sherner, Minnesota Power
- 1994 - Kent Janssen, Dakota Gasification Co.
- 1995 - Curt Melland, Basin Electric
- 1996 - Fred Kuhn, Dakota Gasification Co.
- 1997 - Steve Benson, Microbeam Technologies  
William Peterson, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Dick Schwalbe, Minnkota Power
- 1998 - Andy Stewart, Cooperative Power
- 1999 - Clifford Porter, Lignite Energy Council
- 2000 - EERC – Steve Benson, John Pavlish,  
Gerry Groenwold
- 2001 - John Weeda, Coal Creek Station  
John Pelerine, Stanton Station
- 2002 - Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy  
Dennis James, The Falkirk Mining Co.
- 2003 - Dr. Steve Benson, Michael Holmes & John Pavlish, EERC,  
Clyde Bush, Basin Electric  
Luther Kvernem, Minnkota Power
- 2004 - Charlie Bullinger, Great River Energy  
Mark Ness, Great River Energy  
Rich Weinstein, Falkirk Mine
- 2005 - Mike Paul, Basin Electric  
John Weeda, Great River Energy
- 2006 - Dave Schmitz, Basin Electric  
Bob Stobbs, Canadian Clean Power Coalition
- 2007 - Diane Stockdill, Great River Energy  
Scott Klara, DOE, NETL
- 2008 - Mike Jones & Steve Benson, EERC
- 2009 - Ed Steadman & John Harju, EERC
- 2010 - James Sheldon, Basin Electric  
Charlie Bullinger, Great River Energy
- 2011 - Dave Smith, SaskPower
- 2012 - Doug Daverne, SaskPower  
Michael Monea, SaskPower
- 2013 - William Sawyer, Minnesota Power
- 2014 - Phillip Solseng, Barr Engineering  
John Lee, Barr Engineering

### **Given in Spring for previous year**

- 2017 – Terence Schmidt, North American Coal Corporation  
Troy Leingang, The Coteau Properties Company  
Jeremy Eckroth, The Falkirk Mining Company  
Sarah Flath, The Coyote Creek Mining Company  
Ryan Limb – North Dakota State University  
Jay Volk – BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2018 - William Sawyer – ALLETE Clean Energy  
Jim Sheldon – Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Craig Bleth – Minnkota Power Cooperative  
Jason Laumb - Energy and Environmental Research Center  
Wesley Peck – Energy and Environmental Research Center
- 2019 – Josh Stanislawski – Energy and Environmental Research Center  
Dean Bangsund – North Dakota State University

2020 – Gerry Pfau and Dan Laudal (Minnkota Power Cooperative)  
Charlie Gorecki (Energy and Environmental Research Center)  
2021 – Did not award

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## **Distinguished Service Award—Legislative Program**

*Outstanding service by industry personnel to the Lignite Energy Council's legislative program.*

- 1987 - Kent Janssen, Basin Electric
- 1988 - Mary Ann Johnson, Knife River Corp. & Dean Peterson, North American Coal Corp.
- 1989 - Bob Benson, North American Coal Corp.,
- 1990 - Rich Fockler, Basin Electric
- 1991 - Bob Wood, MDU  
Jim Hepp, MN Power
- 1992 - George Bartholomew, Basin  
Bob Wood, MDU
- 1993 - Duane Steen, MDU  
Ron Bertoch, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Dennis Boyd, MDU  
Steve Schultz, Otter Tail Power
- 1994 - Bill Suter, Coteau Properties Co.  
Daryl Hill, Basin Electric
- 1995 - Bob Benson, The Coteau Properties Co.
- 1997 - Dean Peterson, North American Coal  
Mary Ann Johnson, Knife River Corp.  
Mike Hummel, BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Gary Jacobson, Basin Electric  
Fletcher Poling, Basin Electric  
Dennis Boyd, MDU Resources Group  
Steve Schultz, Otter Tail Power Co.  
Bruce Kopp, Northern States Power  
Lynette Pederson, Northern States Power
- 1998 - Wayne Otterness, Basin Electric  
Steve Schultz, Otter Tail Power Co.  
Gary Andersen, Modern Industrial Inc.  
Herb Carpenter, Border States Electric
- 2000 - CoalPAC Golf Committee  
CoalPAC Walk Run Committee
- 2001 - Dean Peterson, The North American Coal Corporation
- 2002 - COALPAC Golf Committee  
COALPAC Walk/Run Committee
- 2003 - Wayne Otterness, BEPC (Retired)
- 2004 - Herb Carpenter, Curt Bethke, Dick Melchior, Jake Jacobson, Border States Electric
- 2005 - Curtis Jabs, Mike Eggl, Dale Niezwaag, Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Dean Peterson, North American Coal
- 2006 - Bill Libro, ALLETE/MN Power  
Will Kaul, Great River Energy
- 2007 - CoalPAC Golf Committee  
CoalPAC Walk/Run Committee
- 2008 - Jeff Kuch, Great River Energy
- 2009 - Curtis Jabs, Basin Electric;  
Duane Steen, MDU; Abbie Krebsbach, MDU
- 2010 - Al Christianson, Great River Energy
- 2012 - Gary Andersen, Esco Supply; Greg Dehne – The Falkirk Mining Co.; Randy Leinius – Great River Energy;  
Brent Sullivan, The Coteau Properties Co.; John Weeda, Great River Energy;  
Larry Wood, Wirerope Works, Inc.
- 2013 - Sandi Tabor, KLJ  
Jim Melchior, North American Coal Royalty Company

## Distinguished Service Award – Government Action Program (replaced Legislative Program)

### **Given in Spring for previous year**

2016 – Jay Kost, Falkirk Mining Company

2017 – Al Christianson, Great River Energy

2018 - Jay Skabo – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

- Dale Niezwaag – Basin Electric Power Cooperative

2019 – Stacey Dahl – Minnkota Power Cooperative

2020 – Did not award

2021 – Dale Nieszwaag (Basin Electric Power Cooperative)

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## Distinguished Service Award - Regulatory Program

*Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council's regulatory program by industry personnel.*

- 1987 - Alan Hurlbut, Baukol-Noonan, Inc., John Shultz, Basin Cooperative Services, Greg Smestad, Knife River Coal Mining Co. & Bill Kirk, North American Coal Corporation
- 1988 - Mary Ann Johnson, Knife River Coal Mining Co., Andrea Stomberg, North American Coal Corp., Dave Nilson, Basin Cooperative Services, & JoLynn Leindecker, Baukol-Noonan, Inc.
- 1989 - Jim K. Miller, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 1990 - Dave Schouweiler, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 1991 - Jim Melchior - NACCO
- 1992 - Mike Pole, MDU
- 1993 - Rick Patzman, MDU (formerly CPA)
- 1994 - John Graves, Minnkota Power  
Joe Friedlander, Coteau Properties Co.
- 1995 - George Hawkey, Coteau Properties Co.  
Jim Berg, Basin Electric Power Coop.
- 1996 - Greg Smestad, Knife River Coal
- 1998 - Randy Crooke, The Falkirk Mining Co.
- 2003 - Joe Friedlander, The Coteau Properties Co.
- 2004 - Joe Friedlander, Freedom Mine;  
Dave Schouweiler, Center Mine;  
Troy Leingang, Falkirk Mine;  
Mike Altavilla, Beulah Mine
- 2005 - Bob Eriksen, Basin Electric; Cris Miller, Basin Electric; Steve Hovey, BNI Coal; Mike Altavilla, Dakota Westmoreland; Bonnie Turner, Westmoreland Coal Co.; Steve Benson, EERC; Mike Holmes, EERC; John Pavlish, EERC; Dennis James, Falkirk Mining Co.; Rich Voss, Great Northern Power Development; Diane Stockdill, Great River Energy; Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy; Brandon Krogh, Minnesota Power; John Graves, Minnkota Power; Jay Skabo, MDU; Terry Graumann, Otter Tail Power
- 2009 - Kevin Cramer, Tony Clark & Brian Kalk, ND Public Service Commission
- 2010 - Lyle Witham, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2011 - Andrea Stomberg, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.;  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative – External Relations & Communications Dept.
- 2012 - Randy Crooke, The Falkirk Mining Company  
Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative; David Sogard, Minnkota Power Cooperative;  
Kevin Fee, Minnkota Power Cooperative; John Graves, Minnkota Power Cooperative;  
Mike Eggl, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Lyle Witham, Basin Electric Power Cooperative;  
Curtis Jabs, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Mary Klecker-Green, Basin Electric Power Cooperative;  
Deb Levchak, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Mary Jo Roth, Great River Energy;  
Bob Ambrose, Great River Energy  
Sandi Tabor, Lignite Energy Council
- 2013 - Jay Volk, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2014 - John Graves, Minnkota Power Cooperative
- Given in Spring for previous year**
- 2016 – Randy Christmann, ND Public Service Commission
- 2017 – Mark Thoma, Otter Tail Power Company  
Daniel Whitley, Dakota Gasification Company  
Mike Paul, Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Wade Boeshans, BNI Energy  
Mary Jo Roth, Great River Energy  
Mike Cashin, ALLETE/Minnesota Power  
Joe Friedlander, North American Coal Corporation  
Craig Bleth, Minnkota Power Cooperative  
Abbie Krebsbach, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- 2019 – Terry O’Clair – North Dakota Department of Health
- 2020 – Julie Fedorchak – North Dakota Public Service Commission
- 2021 – Did not award

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## **Distinguished Service Award—Education and Public Relations Program**

*Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council's education and public relations program by industry personnel.*

- 1987 - Doug Stone, North American Coal Corporation
- 1988 - Laurie Kupcho, North American Coal Corporation & Seminar Staff
- 1989 - Jim Kramer, BNI Coal
- 1990 - Basin Electric's Communications Services Division, Member and  
Public Communications Division
- 1991 - Jack Pippenger, Coteau Properties Co.  
David Loer & Minnkota
- 1992 - Jon Metropoulos & Sharron Waddingham, MDU  
Karen Will, Basin Electric
- 1993 - Jerry Fiskum, Mel Nelson, Dave Jameson, Minnkota Power Department of Marketing &  
Public Relations; Dave Loer, Minnkota Power
- 1994 - Tim Rasmussen, MDU  
Mel Nelson, Minnkota Power
- 1995 - Max Herbach, Minnesota Power  
Steve Simons, Cooperative Power
- 1996 - Mel Nelson, Minnkota Power
- 1997 - John Warren, Cooperative Power  
Warren Hudelson, Minnesota Power
- 1998 - Rod Nibbe, Knife River Corporation  
Mary Jo Sinner & Dewey Heggen, Basin Electric
- 1999 - Jim Kramer, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2000 - Jeff Beck, Magic City Campus, Minot, ND  
Cynthia Clausnitzer, Hughes Middle School, Bismarck, ND
- 2001 - Nirander Safaya, ND Public Service Comm.  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Karen Will, Ompie Adams & Terry Diekman
- 2002 - Lyndon Anderson, Lignite Energy Council
- 2003 - Diane Stockdill, Great River Energy  
Sheryl Massey, Basin Electric  
Floyd Robb, Ompie Adams, Ted Cash & Karen Will, Basin Electric
- 2004 - Greg Wheeler, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2005 - Roger Johnson, ND Department of Agriculture; Rick Lancaster, GRE; Floyd Robb, Basin Electric
- 2006 - Fred Stern, Dakota Gasification Company  
PAE Ad Sub-committee: Floyd Robb, BEPC, Margaret Hodnik, MN Power, Cris Kling, OTP,  
Therese LaCanne, GRE
- 2007 - Joe Friedlander, The Coteau Properties Co.  
Hank LaBore, Teacher  
John Weeda, Great River Energy
- 2008 - Dr. Wayne Sanstead, DPI  
David Farnsworth, Great River Energy  
Marsha Kelly, Kelly Media Counsel
- 2009 - Greg Wheeler, Duey Marthaller & ElectricAnika Schaff, Basin Electric
- 2010 - Pat Clement, BNI Coal Ltd.; Brian Rebel, Butler Machinery Co.; Tony Stroh, MDU, Heskett Station;  
Kay LaCoe, Lignite Energy Council; Daryl Hill, Basin Electric; Ed Murphy, ND Geological Survey
- 2011 - Floyd Robb, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2012 - Greg Wheeler, Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Carl Pederson, NDSU
- 2013 - Randy Crooke, The Falkirk Mining Company  
Doyle Johannes, ND Farmer

## Distinguished Service Award - Public Affairs/Relations Program

2014 - Cris Oehler – Otter Tail Power Company

### **Given in Spring for previous year**

2016 – Wade Boeshans, BNI Coal, Ltd.

2017 – Perrie Schafer – Environmental Services, Inc.

2018 - Sarah Flath – The Coteau Properties Company

2019 – Steve Burke – The Falkirk Mining Company

2020 – Kent Ellis (Bismarck Public Schools)

2021 – Mark Pierce (The Coteau Properties Company)

Geoff Simon (Western Dakota Energy Association)

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## Distinguished Service Award - Education Program

2014 - Jay Volk, BNI Coal, Ltd.

### **Given in Spring for Previous Year**

2016 – Kent Ellis, Bismarck Public Schools

2017 – Jessica Unruh, The Coteau Properties Company

2018 - Matthew Stoltz – Basin Electric Power Cooperative

2019 – Dan Daly – Energy & Environmental Research Center

2020 – John Weeda – North Dakota Transmission Authority

2021 – Basin Electric Power Cooperative

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Moved to one meeting per year – Annual Meeting in the Fall

2022 -

## Lignite Leadership Award

*Given to the outgoing chairman.*

1987 - A.J. “Sparky” Wittmaier, Knife River Corp.

1989 - Ron Bertoch, BNI Coal, Ltd.

1991 - Rich Fockler, Basin Cooperative Svcs.

1993 - Rich Fockler, Basin Electric

1994 - Ernie Fleck, Fleck, Mather & Strutz

1995 - Doug Kane, MDU Resources Group

1997 - Dan Swetich, The Falkirk Mining Co.

1998 - Kent Janssen, Dakota Gasification Co.

1999 - Matt Butler, Butler Machinery Company

2001 - Terry Hildestad, Knife River Corp.

2003 - David Loer, Minnkota Power

2005 - Ron Harper, Basin Electric

2007 - Don Shippar, Minnesota Power

2009 - David Saggau, Great River Energy

2011 - Bob Benson, The North American Coal Corp.

2013 - Al Hodnik, Minnesota Power / ALLETE

### **Given in Spring for previous year (even numbered years)**

2016 – Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative

2018 - Paul Sukut – Basin Electric Power Cooperative

2021 – Wade Boeshans (BNI Coal, Ltd.)

2023 – Nicole Kivisto (Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.)

2025 – Mac McLennan (Minnkota Power Cooperative)

## Lignite Lifetime Achievement Award

*Recipient had a long successful career in the lignite industry, with a majority of that time being spent in the Fort Union lignite region.*

2013 - John Dwyer, Lignite Energy Council

2015 - Bob Benson, North American Coal

2016 – Rich Fockler, Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Kent Janssen, Basin Electric Power Cooperative

## Staff Years of Service

### **2022**

~~Steve – 20 years (Fall 2022)~~

### **2023**

Kay – 15 years (Spring 2023)

Jonathan – 5 years (Spring 2023)

Shari – 5 years (Spring 2023)

Jason – 10 years (Fall 2023)

### **2024**

Dave – 25 years (Fall 2024)

Angie – 5 years (Fall 2024)

### **2025**

~~(Marie (she said no way LOL) – 20 years in Fall 2025)~~

### **2026**

Mike – 10 years (Fall of 2026)

### **2027**

~~Steve – 25 years (Fall of 2027)~~

Rachelle – 5 years (Spring 2027)

### **2028**

Kay – 20 years (Spring 2028)

Jonathan – 10 years (Spring 2028)

Shari – 10 years (Spring 2028)

Jason – 15 years (Fall 2028)

### **2029**

Dave – 30 years (Fall 2029)

Angie – 10 years (Fall 2029)

### **2031**

Mike – 15 years (Fall of 2031)

### **2032**

Rachelle – 10 years (Fall of 2032)

### **2033**

Kay – 25 years

Jonathan – 15 years

Shari – 15 years

Jason – 20 years