

The 2020 Community Service Award

The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association annually recognizes a member of the Association who has demonstrated exceptional community service & leadership. **During ceremonies at the 113th Annual MGFA Meeting, the Association honored Larry Olsen as the 2020 Community Service Award recipient.**

Larry was born and raised on a farm in the Hendricks-Canby area. After graduating high school, he worked for the Porter Grain elevator for 4 years. In 1971, he was hired at the Farmers Co-op Association in Jackson, MN, working outside until he became grain manager in 1980. During his years at FCA, Larry served on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association for 15 years. He was also President of the Minnesota/Iowa Rail Shippers Association for 17 years.

In 1972, Larry joined the Jackson Fire & Ambulance Department. He was ambulance director for 15 years and fire chief for 6 years. While in the fire department, he served as an interior fire fighter, rescue and ice and open water scuba diver. He was very passionate about his work with the ambulance service and was EMS examiner for southwestern Minnesota as well as being on the EMS – SW Minnesota Board of Directors. He received a basic life support award for Minnesota, the Sioux-Valley Hospital EMS award, and a CPR life-saving award.

After 43 years of service to his community, he decided to retire from both departments.

Larry is also involved in his church. He is an usher, helps with the community Thanksgiving dinner and he and his wife, Judy, co-chair the annual Lutefisk supper with another couple.

He has also donated blood for the Red Cross Blood Mobile for many years, donating 9.5 gallons.

These days you will often see Larry shoveling snow, raking or mowing lawns, giving rides or working on woodworking projects for others. In his spare time, he likes to hunt and fish with family and friends, especially the grandkids.

Congratulations to Larry Olsen, the very deserving recipient of the 2020 MGFA Community Service Award, for his outstanding leadership, generous volunteerism and dedicated service to his community.



Laura Lemke, MGFA Executive Director and Larry Olsen, the 2020 MGFA Community Service Award recipient.