



# **Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**

## **The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual** Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program

***The Best In  
The Business***

**Federal Employees  
of the Year**

# **Awards**

**2008**

The 31st Annual  
*Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program*

***The Best In The Business***

**Federal Employees  
of the Year**

**2008**

***Awards***

*Printing Courtesy of  
Veterans Affairs Regional Office*





# **The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**

## **Policy Board Fiscal Year 2008**

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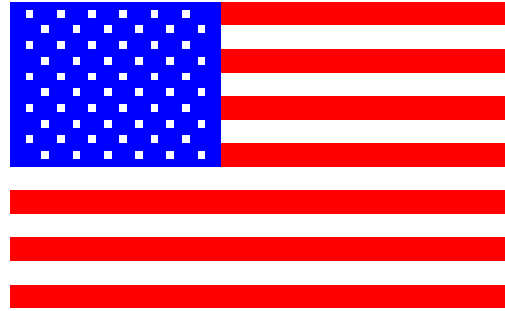
**Robyn Thorson**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Captain Duane Nestor**  
**U.S. Navy ROTC Detachment**

**Chester Slipek**  
**Farm Credit Administration**

**Barry Bahl, *At Large Member***  
**Veterans Affairs Medical Center - St. Cloud**

**Todd Duncan**  
**FEB Federal Leadership Development Council**



# Federal Employees of the Year Awards Program

*This program honors outstanding Minnesota Federal employees who have demonstrated exceptional performance and dedication as a public servant during Fiscal Year 2007.*

*It also honors Federal employees who have rendered voluntary time and service to the community in which they live.*

*We should all be proud of the many contributions to American society that the following individuals have performed in service to the Citizens of the United States of America.*



The  
**Federal Executive Board  
of Minnesota**

presents the

**2008  
FINALISTS**

for the  
**Federal Employees of the Year  
Awards**





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Karen Hilburn**

**Research Technician  
Agricultural Research Service, St. Paul, Minnesota**



Karen Hilburn has distinguished herself by her sustained superior service as the Environmental Officer of the USDA-ARS St. Paul Location Safety committee. Since assuming leadership, Karen has been instrumental in assuring the location is in compliance with the myriad of Federal, State, and local safety, health, and environmental regulations. In particular, Karen has simplified the process of negotiating the often complex web of regulations through regular training sessions, providing web resources, regular inspections, and acting as a general resource for the location. In addition to her activities on the safety committee, Karen recently initiated and helped develop a local intranet web resource called "Points of Diversity" celebrating diversity in the workplace.

### **Sharon Papiernik**

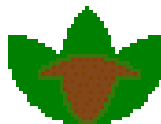
**Research Soil Scientist  
Agricultural Research Service, Morris, Minnesota**



Dr. Papiernik demonstrated exceptional leadership in organizing and executing a critical stakeholder meeting that identified and prioritized research issues relevant to a broad range of stakeholders of the Morris, MN ARS laboratory. She developed plans and written materials and coordinated the efforts of other location staff, the Area Director, and the meeting facilitator. This successful meeting greatly improved the visibility and credibility of the Morris ARS location among other ARS locations, other research institutions, and stakeholder groups. Dr. Papiernik has initiated a sustained effort to improve communication with stakeholders to ensure that the location's research is well-coordinated with stakeholder needs as the Morris laboratory positions for the future.

### **Patricia Fucile**

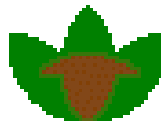
**Financial Analyst  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service**



Pat Fucile is a dedicated worker who single-handedly processed over 6,000 bills for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) during the past year and is always responsive to the needs of her customers. She is a military veteran and has been a member of the Patriot Guard Riders, an organization dedicated to honoring fallen service members, for the past two years. During this time she has participated in over 40 missions. She regularly plans and assists with Bingo at the Veterans' Homes in Minneapolis and Hastings, Minnesota. Pat is a founding member in an animal rescue organization that, over the past five years, has rescued numerous animals and placed them in new, loving homes.

### **Theresa Gmitterko**

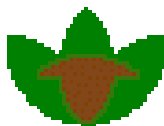
**Realty Specialist  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service**



Theresa Gmitterko is the lead Realty Specialist for the USDA, Marketing and Regulatory Program's Realty Branch. As the lead specialist she is often tasked with the most difficult and time consuming real property acquisitions and lease management issues. These actions require not only technical knowledge, but also an ability to coordinate and analyze large amounts of program space specification data; and to interpret and establish the data into workable formats and solicitations. Her perseverance and dedication to our program customers resulted in the award of multiple major leases.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Joanne Mann**

**Contract Specialist  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service**

Joanne Mann shows tremendous dedication in serving the procurement needs of the United States Department of Agriculture. Her responsibilities as a Contracting Officer in the Administrative Services Division require her to provide technical guidance and support to hundreds of program personnel in three different agencies located throughout the world. She is well respected and valued by customers and vendors for her procurement and e-Systems knowledge. She is a vital resource for other APHIS employees and is willing to lend a helping hand whenever possible. Her dedication and professionalism are clearly evident by her eagerness to accept additional assignments, such as emergency program details and program procurement training. She is highly organized and carries out her duties in a manner that few employees can attain. Joanne willingly takes on the most difficult work, puts in extra hours and fully supports the Agency's mission.



### **William Slininger**

**Supervisor Loan Specialist, Community Programs Director  
Rural Development**

Bill Slininger has been at the forefront of leading a new campaign to increase awareness and participation in USDA Rural Development's guaranteed lending programs. Bill created new goals and objectives plans for his entire staff in an effort to meet the new goals of the agency in the area of guaranteed lending and to better help his staff serve rural America. His work in promoting USDA Rural Development to lenders, health care leaders, community officials and other interested parties is an example of his strong leadership.



### **Linda Staab**

**Area Technician  
Rural Development, Faribault**

Linda Staab is an Area Technician located at the Faribault Rural Development Office. Linda has several years of Federal service and she's an exceptional employee and co-worker. Linda is a very dedicated individual who is always willing to take on additional duties and responsibilities. She always provides Agency customers with excellent customer service. Linda serves as a key front line employee and uses these customer service skills to positively and professionally inform customers of program opportunities and resolves program related concerns. Linda has a very positive impact on the customers we serve at USDA Rural Development.



### **Shirley Willis**

**Associate Market Administrator  
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service**

Shirley has worked for USDA for 26 years, currently with management responsibility for HR, accounting, economics, audit review and computers. Her excellent leadership and teamwork skills, along with her unmatched work ethic, make her a tremendous contributor to the Agency, the Federal Executive Board (FEB), her church and community organizations. Shirley represents the Agency on the Minnesota FEB, where she is Chair of the Diversity Day Subcommittee and was instrumental in ensuring the success of Diversity Day 2007. Shirley also functions as the Secretary for the FEB Diversity Council, and is the Agency coordinator for the Diversity Council's annual food, school supply and clothing drives.

*Department of Agriculture*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



**Contessa Garcia**  
Administrative Coordinator  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Tessa is recognized for her expertise; working knowledge of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policies and procedures and execution of the agency's day-to-day administrative operations. She routinely leads by example motivating others towards achieving specific admin goals in support of USDA and NRCS Management Initiatives. She provided invaluable guidance and assistance to management, fellow employees and external customers while performing her primary duties or collateral duties as the Freedom of Information Act Officer, Leave Donor Program Coordinator, and previously as the Hispanics Special Emphasis Program Manager. Tessa was instrumental in Minnesota's selection to host the 2007 National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCS) Annual Training Conference held in Bloomington, MN, and she also served as the Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the actual conference.

**Willis Goll**  
Agricultural Engineer  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Mr. Goll provides quality engineering assistance to solve natural resource concerns for rural and urban citizens of southeast Minnesota. On Sunday morning August 19, 2007, Willis answered the call to action from local Rochester officials to immediately inspect the integrity of the seven (7) NRCS designed and constructed flood control structures protecting the city. This request following the devastating August rain that caused wide-spread flooding damage in 5 counties. The NRCS dams that Willis helped design and construct all performed as designed and saved lives in Rochester; but the call to action on Sunday morning was only the beginning. Since that time Mr. Goll has been an instrumental part of the NRCS engineering team that stabilized eroded banks from the storm and saved 20 homes and businesses in Minnesota City and the City of Hokah from tumbling down these same eroded banks into the river or the flood plain below. "NRCS is the only local, state or federal agency that delivered what they said they would after the storm," this according to the Mayor of Hokah where Willis served as the lead engineer for the Hokah efforts.

**Marvin Kunkel**  
Civil Engineering Technician  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Marv Kunkel has served as the Civil Engineering Technician in Mora the past 12 years providing conservation engineering technical assistance to landowners in a 12 county area. He provides timely and economical designs of complex engineering water quality projects to farmers funded under the Farm Bill. Marv continues to improve professionally, including certification by the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies. Marv provides excellent training to field office technicians. He was selected as instructor for a statewide conservation application training session of new employees. Marv serves as the engineering technician representative on the NRCS state GIS committee. Marv Kunkel is an outstanding member of the conservation team with his dedication to landowners, farmers, and co-workers on water and land stewardship.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Thomas Neuenfeldt**

**Soil Data Quality Specialist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Tom's dedication and willingness to apply his skills and give extra effort this last year were instrumental in maintaining a high quality soils program in Minnesota and throughout the Region 10 Major Land Resource Area. Projecting a positive and helpful attitude combined with outstanding technical and communication skills, Tom provided direction to others, stressed accountability, identified training needs, embraced new technologies, and provided timely oversight to several soil survey projects. He represents the NRCS and his profession in a highly complimentary manner in his contacts with all internal and external customers.



### **Renee Doughty**

**Human Resources Assistant - Benefits  
USDA - Food Safety and Inspection Service**

Whether you are looking for expertise in health and life insurance or how to organize the "Gifts for Seniors" Program during the holidays, one person you'll find with a handle on both is Renee Doughty in the FSIS Human Resources Office. Renee provides not only enthusiastic and reliable service to both internal and external customers on benefits and awards, but also can be found organizing behind-the-scenes, morale-boosting programs like the annual Breast Cancer Awareness Jeans Day, office fundraisers for the Social Activities and Support Committee's donation fund and a St. Paul Saints baseball game outing. She also helps maintain the Federal Occupational Health Units information for the Agency.



### **Samilya Zurawski**

**Compensation Case Management Specialist  
USDA - Food Safety Inspection Service**

During the past year the Branch has experienced a complete turnover of personnel due to retirements and promotional changes. With these changes, Samilya has been a steady influence among her peers. She has balanced a tremendous amount of work, along with training a brand new staff and has been an excellent role model for her team members. She is consistently available for case consultations and is always eager to take on new and unusual challenges when presented to her.



### **S. Charles Sorenson**

**Attorney Advisor  
Department of Housing and Urban Development**

For the past 18 years, S. Charles Sorenson has served as the Attorney Advisor for the Minneapolis Office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this capacity he has conducted nearly 900 real estate closings, providing over \$3.2 billion of FHA insurance or capital advances for over 58,000 units of rental housing, cooperatives, condominiums, nursing homes and hospitals. It is his depth of expertise, the speed and consistency that he provides in reviewing closing packages, and the expeditious turn-around that he provides HUD clients that make him nationally recognized as one of the Department's best closing attorneys. Charles is also well recognized by his peers in the Minnesota Bar by the frequency that he is asked to speak at various legal seminars and Bar Association events.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

### Departments of Health & Human Services / Defense

**LaRae Koopman**  
Consumer Safety Officer  
Food and Drug Administration



Investigator LaRae Koopman demonstrates leadership as part of the District Import team. She independently and impressively performed over 800 hours of entry review and hundreds of field exams, sample collections, and label reviews. She planned, organized and presented multiple import training sessions. LaRae monitored work obligations and communicated program needs to staff. She is routinely sought out to provide guidance by peers and the import community. LaRae cultivates invaluable inter-agency professional relationships with federal, state and local agency counterparts. These relationships are integral to assuring public safety and accomplishment of the Agency's mission. LaRae maintains flexibility as Agency priorities change and never hesitates to take on new challenges.

**Leslie Canarr**  
Base Civil Engineer  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



Mr. Canarr accepted the major additional duties of developing and leading the MEO/BOS Transition Team to facilitate the conversion from the former structure to the new MEO/BOS structure. His efforts were significant in unifying 43 personnel from three separate organizations to functioning as one work unit, saving over \$1M for the contract period and accomplished this in 6 months. Les took on the additional duty as backups to the MSG/CC and MSG/CES/CC for the upcoming 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Operational Readiness Inspection requiring countless hours of additional preparation should the need arise. He is an excellent mentor to staff, promoting fairness, integrity and hard work. Les always leads by example and encourages others to excel.

**Julie Hamiel**  
934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Executive Officer  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



Julie Hamiel is the Executive Officer for the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. She represents the wing commander in interaction with other agencies, planned and organized wing functions and protocol for the entire year including DV visits, change of commands and retirements. She coordinates all wing Commander Calls and programs. Responsible for management of a wing budget over \$700k, allocates resourcefully and optimizes use of government dollars. Trained, equipped and successfully led deployment team supporting administrative functions ensuring wing staff is 100% deployable for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. Superb management and coordination of wing programs include OPR/EPR monitor, UTAPS auditor, ancillary training monitor and office manager for command section. She was responsible for writing the award winning package for the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2007.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Darryl Radford**

**Avionics Flight Superintendent  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**

Mr. Radford has provided significant contributions to the success of the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. With over 33 years federal service in the Maintenance Squadron, many people depend on him for his experience and leadership capabilities. Darryl routinely fills in for the Maintenance Superintendent during the Chief's absence making critical decisions supporting mission requirements. He volunteered to be the Unit Deployment Manager for the Operational Readiness Inspection spending numerous hours identifying hundreds of required mobility items and ensuring everything gets properly palletized for shipment. As key advisor he helped reduce the fly-to-fly time for aircraft Isochronal Inspections from 53 days nine months ago to 23 days. Mr. Radford's efforts have directly contributed to the 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron receiving the AFRC Maintenance Effectiveness Award for 2007.



### **Diane Welsh**

**Environmental Services Assistant (OA)  
Department of the Air Force - 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**

Diane was very influential in helping to shape the success of the engineering portion of the new Base Operating Support (BOS) organization. She took the time to help teach and mentor new BOS leadership on the proper ways to set-up and maintain the complex administrative tasks of this portion of the BOS. Her efforts saved hundreds and hundreds of hours of labor. Diane constantly assisted multiple organizations this year as a volunteer back-up timekeeper when others were out sick or had questions. She was always there to help. Always willing to lend a hand; completes work in record time yet still finds time to help others with administrative problems. Directly contributed to Unit being selected as AFRC Outstanding Civil Engineer of the Year 2007.



### **Rosalind Lanham**

**Contract Administrator  
Defense Contract Management Agency - Twin Cities**

Rosalind Lanham, Contract Administrator with Defense Contract Management Agency, is an outstanding employee. She is a highly motivated professional with a positive and caring attitude and a dedication to customer service. In 2007 she effectively closed 98% of her assigned contracts within the FAR mandated timeframe. Rosalind is a pivotal member of the Team with her knowledge, skills, and willingness to assist others with the various applications required in the administration field. Dedication to her Team was evidenced when she handled 100% of the administration duties while her teammates were involved in a negotiation. This feat is commendable as she maintained her extraordinary customer service while performing these additional duties. Rosalind is a valuable asset to our organization and an exceptional Civil Servant.

*Department of Defense*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Department of Defense

### **Bradley Moffett**

**Electronic Engineer  
Defense Contract Management Agency - Twin Cities**



Bradley Moffett, Electronic Engineer with Defense Contract Management Agency, exemplifies the commitment of Civil Servants to customer service. He consistently provides outstanding customer support during negotiations of multi-million dollar procurements. Brad's expertise was critical to the successful review and negotiation of NAVAIR's production, repair, and Performance Based Logistics Maintenance contracts. His knowledge of the program, product, and issues precluded the need for hiring additional engineer's even with the increased workload. His ability to analyze data and create a clear and concise report allowed the Navy negotiator to sustain findings in excess of \$8 million.

### **Charles Newville**

**Administrative Services Technician  
Military Entrance Processing Station**



Charles Newville has proven himself to be an invaluable team member. He achieved an "excellent" rating for Nov. 2005 and May 2007 Inspector General inspections. He was chosen as a member of the Western Sector Staff Assistance Team to inspect other Military Entrance Processing Stations. This year, he visited four stations (El Paso, Fargo, Denver and Anchorage). He filled a vacant Information Technology System position for 5+ months and he successfully managed the installation of a VTC suite and upgraded our CAT-ASVAB computer system.

### **Thomas Helgeson**

**Supervisory Facility Management Officer  
U.S. Army, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command**



As the Supervisory Facility Management Officer, Thomas is responsible for the overall operations of the Engineer Office responsible for maintenance, repair and new construction of Army Reserve facilities over a six-state region. His extraordinary attention to detail is vital to the ongoing success of the Army Reserve's current transformation, representing an additional 13 states under his responsibility. Even with the heavy workload and attending to issues that require his resolve, Thomas stretches his hours to attend to simple yet important administrative aspects as employee evaluations, counseling and awards.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Janet Rodriguez**

**Family Program Director  
U.S. Army, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command**

As the 88th Regional Readiness Command's Family Program Director, Ms. Rodriguez served her nation and fellow citizens in the sterling manner. She exceeded all expectations by improving existing family program processes, developing new business practices, and innovating systems that identify and address high-risk families. This initiative enhances soldier family data processing and ensures soldiers and their families receive assistance and care when needed.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

### **Jane Groth**

**Head Lock and Dam Operator  
Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District**

In 2007, Jane received a superior performance award for her outstanding contributions as a Head Lock Operator with responsibility for ensuring efficient and safe lockage for 15-barge commercial tows and a variety of recreational vessels. She performed routine maintenance of lock facilities, grounds, and major operating machinery for the lock and dam gates and conducted numerous visitor tours and presentations. She completed a lockmaster leadership development program, was a member of a regional safety team, and participated on the District Special Emphasis Committee. As an official in the employee bargaining unit, she was instrumental in negotiating a new labor agreement.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

### **Melissa Gulan**

**Supervisory Civil Engineer (Eastern Area Engineer)  
Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District**

Melissa Gulan epitomizes the "Level 5 Leader" that author Jim Collins describes so well in his best-selling book Good to Great. In her demanding position of Construction Area Engineer in Winona, Minnesota, Melissa has established herself as a leader who builds enduring greatness through a blend of extreme personal humility and intense professional will. She channels her ego needs away from herself and into the larger goal of building a great and enduring organization. Melissa's ambition is directed first and foremost to her team, not herself. The results are an office that consistently produces construction products at the highest quality with a close-knit staff who know they are appreciated and respected. Our customers throughout the Upper Mississippi River benefit every day from Melissa's leadership.

*Department of Defense*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Department of Defense

### **Donald Powell**

**Senior Project Manager  
Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Don Powell is a Senior Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Paul. He has served as Program Manager for the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program (EMP) since 1986. With Don's leadership, EMP is widely recognized as the most successful big-river ecosystem restoration program in the world. In 2007, Don managed the completion of three major ecosystem restoration projects. His unusual combination of leadership, engineering expertise, and outstanding "people skills" has made him a trusted partner of the river community. Don has served the public for 38 years and generously shares his knowledge and experience through mentoring others. He continues to show great dedication and enthusiasm for the EMP program and our river partners.

### **Richard Schueneman**

**Resource Manager  
Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

In 2007, Rich Schueneman exemplified outstanding civilian service to the nation through superior performance as Manager at Lake Ashtabula and Homme Lake in eastern North Dakota. With his leadership, the projects provided critical flood control, quality public recreation, and stewardship of public lands while maximizing use of federal resources to accomplish these missions. Rich's team building and coordination with partners and stakeholders raised the Corps of Engineers' stature in the area and resulted in valuable contributions to the federal effort from outside interests. Rich mentored his staff and encouraged employees to integrate into community and civic activities, leading this effort by example.

### **Thomas Galoff**

**Surface Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor  
Field Maintenance Shop, MN Army National Guard**



Tom distinguished himself by providing exemplary leadership of the Minnesota National Guard's Field Maintenance Shops 3 and 8. Due to recent deployments Tom assumed the supervisory role normally held by four supervisors. He supervised 36 employees responsible for the maintenance support of 42 military units with a combined total of over 1500 wheeled and tracked vehicles, plus ground equipment. His staff maintained a 95 percent equipment readiness rating despite having 12 coworkers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Tom always looks for the most cost-effective means of repairing or servicing equipment. His shop consistently passes all federal and state environmental inspections and is a test shop for "Green" products.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Abram Merkl**

**Computer Operations  
133rd Logistics Reading Squadron, MN Air National Guard**

Abram, who is currently deployed in support of OEF, aided immeasurably in the computer operations of the Logistics Readiness Squadron. He provided a detailed proposal of our units computer needs, submitting them to the base unfunded list. His attention to detail allowed the squadron to be fully funded for 22 computers and seven laptops that were severely outdated. He also developed a five year plan prioritizing the replacement of 183 communications components valued at \$52,567.00. His proactive approach has identified and rectified a deficiency in the computer budget plan.



### **Steven Tuttle**

**Fuels Superintendent  
133rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, MN Air National Guard**

Steve is the Superintendent of the 133d Fuels Management Flight who takes great pride leading his outstanding group of POL warriors. Through extraordinary leadership the fuels flight received an "Outstanding" during the September Unit Compliance Inspection and was recognized for "Top Team Performance" by the IG. Concluding our Logistics Standardization Evaluation Team inspection in June his team earned "best seen to date" and was awarded "Top Shop Award". Most recently his team received the 2007 American Petroleum Institute National Award, as the number one Fuels Management Flight in the entire Air National Guard. In addition, Steve deployed to Kyrgyzstan for 60 days, supported the Presidential visit and the I-35W Bridge Collapse.



### **Trancey Williams**

**State Equal Employment Manager  
Department of Military Affairs, MN Air National Guard**

Trancey demonstrates leadership by serving in multiple positions: the national Chairperson for the Equal Employment Managers Advisory Council, the North Central representative for Diversity, State Diversity Initiatives Coordinator, Special Emphasis Programs and the Minnesota Federal Executive Board Diversity Council. Williams has logged over 2000 hrs of community service, outreach to over 50 Schools and 30,000 students. He shared/developed best practices and coordinated training opportunities through the Minnesota F.E.B. during FY07. He hosted/coordinated 3 National training conferences in Minnesota. Each training event has brought recognition/revenue to the state and ensured essential training needs were met with low cost to the participating federal agencies.

*Department of Defense*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

**Gina Martinez**  
Financial Program Specialist  
Fish and Wildlife Service



Gina Martinez provided key leadership in the Midwest Region's efforts to support quality financial management. She responded to over a thousand requests for assistance/technical guidance from field stations throughout the Midwest. She also served as a lead instructor for financial management courses at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. Ms. Martinez also developed and led a variety of financial management courses in the Midwest. She also worked closely with several resource management programs to strengthen collection processes and served on a nation-wide team charged with improving cost documentation processes.

**Fabian Romero**  
Grant Administrator  
Fish and Wildlife Service



In 2007, Mr. Romero provided outstanding management of Hunter Education - an \$8,000,000 program providing firearms safety and ethics training for over 25,000 young hunters in seven states. He also led complex negotiations on a six-year \$45,000,000 fish and wildlife management grant. His success enabled his supervisors to leverage his success to another portion of the negotiation that was at an impasse. This breakthrough resulted in a larger, mutually acceptable grant. He maintained cordial relationships with all involved during negotiations, and he was asked to serve on a state hiring panel as a valued expert. Mr. Romero has been a 12-year member of the board of directors for the Kinderplatz Child Care and Education Center and he organizes Kinderplatz fundraisers on-site.

**Carla Thompson-Kurtz**  
Computer Specialist  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, MN Agency



Carla Thompson-Kurtz has been a Computer Specialist for over 20 years, starting with the US Forest Service, Indian Health Service and presently the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 2007 she provided excellent professional service for the BIA Midwest Region Office, BIA Great Lakes Agency, BIA Minnesota Agency, BIA field offices in Barraga, Michigan, Menominee Reservation, Red Lake Reservation, Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, Net Lake Reservation, and also Bureau of Indian Education. Carla also spends numerous hours as a volunteer with the Women of Nations where she serves as the President of the Board of Directors. The Woman of Nations provides an Abused Women's Shelter in St. Paul which provides services for abused women from throughout Minnesota.



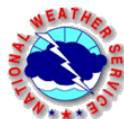
## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Matthew Freidlein**

**Meteorologist  
National Weather Service WFO Chanhassen**

Matt Friedlein provided tremendous leadership in furthering hydrometeorologic knowledge and outreach for NOAA's NWS. His can do attitude and tireless efforts to communicate the information we have in a positive manner are outstanding. He led efforts in term of getting our information out to the scientific community and our users by presenting posters at scientific conferences and taught severe weather preparedness to a variety of audiences with great detail and passion. Matt conveys information gained at presentations to our staff increasing their knowledge and he has done an excellent job utilizing our web page to disseminate meteorological information that in many cases is used verbatim by our media partners. His attitude and demeanour are infectious and it influences our staff in a very positive manner.



### **William Sites**

**Hydrotech  
National Weather Service- NRCFC**

Bill Sites has been a tremendous asset to the National Weather Service Water and Weather Forecasting Offices assisting with high impact flooding and weather events. Bill's attitude in terms of doing whatever it takes to provide assistance to the forecast and administrative staff is admirable. Bill has been more than willing in all cases to help out the forecast staff with the high impact events, whether that is calling spotters, issuing statements, quality controlling data or answering phone calls. In fact, it did not matter what office needed assistance, he was willing. Bill stepped in during a long term absence and provided administrative support for the other office without having to be asked and did it with the best of attitude.



### **Romeo Garcia**

**I-35W Bridge Replacement Project Manager  
Federal Highway Administration**

The I-35W bridge collapse on August 1, 2007 affected many people and focused unprecedented attention on the nation's bridges. Throughout the days and weeks following the bridge collapse, Romeo Garcia, the Minnesota Division Office Bridge Engineer, exemplified leadership, professionalism, technical knowledge and a collaborative, positive attitude in working through the tremendous number of issues and complexities surrounding the collapse and proposed reconstruction project. Romeo is currently serving as the Federal Highway Administration's engineer responsible for the \$234 million I-35W Bridge reconstruction project. This includes participation in activities related to design and construction oversight and representing the Division Office in contacts with Federal agencies, State agencies, local agencies, consultants, contractors, and the public. Romeo is an integral part of the project team to rebuild the bridge and is doing an outstanding job on FHWA's behalf.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Glen Hansmann**

**Operations Manager  
Federal Aviation Administration**



Glen Hansmann is an Operations Manager at the Minneapolis ARTCC. He is responsible for overseeing the safe movement of more than 5800 daily flight operations throughout the upper Midwest. Glen is responsible for scheduling and assigning training for more than 50 management personnel. He developed bi-monthly Air Traffic Control briefings presented to commercial pilots. Glen has served on several negotiating teams and workgroups. His cooperative and collaborative work habits have earned him praise and respect from employees, peers and supervisors. Glen serves as the President of the Parent Teacher Partnership Board with the Farmington school system. The Farmington Area Education Foundation selected Glen as the School Volunteer of the Year; an award given to an individual or family who has shown exemplary commitment to volunteering.

### **Tracey Headings**

**Airports Program Assistant  
Federal Aviation Administration**



Tracey is a highly professional member of the FAA Minneapolis Airports District Office (ADO) team, and is well respected by management and her peers. Her efforts greatly contributed to the ADO's success in meeting or exceeding Regional goals and the overall Airports Division Business Plan. Her accuracy in tracking current and previously issued grants, including payments, ensured that funds were used within required time constraints. Tracey's expert assistance enabled the ADO to issue 88 grants and 17 multiyear amendments totaling \$120 million. In addition, Tracey processed nine Freedom of Information Act requests, initiating record searches and drafting responses. Tracey is focused on providing exceptional customer service to FAA customers and stakeholders. She is responsive, providing requested information in a timely manner and follow-up as necessary.

### **Karrie Krear**

**Air Traffic Control Specialist  
Rochester ATCT  
Federal Aviation Administration**



Karrie has served as Chair of the FAA's Aviation Education Recruitment Opportunities (AERO) Committee for almost three years. The AERO Committee is the focal for local aviation-related FAA activities. She spends countless hours coordinating various aviation-related activities. Karrie also created a highly competitive Internship Program, soliciting applicants from four colleges. To date, 23 interns have participated in the program; 12 of which have been hired by the FAA. Karrie has taken the program beyond the original assignment, creating partnerships with other FAA offices as well as Mankato and St. Cloud State colleges. She has shared her expertise with at least five other FAA facilities across the country to implement similar programs. Karrie is commended for her contributions to the FAA's AERO Committee and Internship Program.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Cydney Welter**

**Air Traffic Control Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration**

Cydney Welter is an exemplary employee and outstanding example of “the best in Federal Employees”. She’s received recognition year after year at the MN FAA’s recognition ceremony for her contributions to the Agency. She is the “go to” person when there is a request for a speaker, and is the epitome of customer service for our pilots. As our Military Liaison she coordinates, prepares, and presents at the Army Guard Annual Safety Briefings for 200+ helicopter pilots. She coordinated the quarterly pilot customer meetings for 9 years, as well as presenting at flight school meetings. She shares her controller experiences at Harding High Career Days annually, as well other schools. She assists with ACE Camp mailings and security at the GODE exposition. Cydney’s volunteer efforts extend outside the workplace, participating in every FED Build for Habitat for Humanity since 2004.



### **Bruce Wherry**

**Air Traffic Systems Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration**

Mr. Bruce Wherry has been assigned to FAA field office in La Crosse, Wisconsin since 1990. For the past two years he has single handedly carried a two man equipment workload. During this period, in addition to his other duties, he oversaw a major safety upgrade to the La Crosse Air Traffic Control Tower and the relocation of the La Crosse (LSE) glide slope. He is the first to volunteer when co-workers with the Southeast Minnesota SSC needs assistance. He is the Go-To person for technical and administrative tasks. He is well respected by his peers for his technical skill and strong work ethic. Bruce always goes the extra mile. For the past two years Bruce has sacrificed or rescheduled his family vacation to complete the agency mission in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area.



### **Marc Williams**

**Airway Transportation System Specialist Environmental Technician  
Federal Aviation Administration**

Marc Williams is an environmental technician at the Minneapolis ARTCC in Farmington and also known as the “Money Man” to the Minnesota Special Olympics. Marc has been actively involved in the Northland 300 Snowmobile Ride fund-raiser for the Special Olympics since 1989. For that 1989 ride the required donation was \$300.00. By contacting friends and family Marc came in with \$1542.00 and that was just the beginning. They adopted him as the Trail Leader after that. Over the years his bond with the Special Olympics has strengthened. Marc has served on the board of directors and has held every position associated with the ride. Additionally, he has helped athletes run the Special Olympic Flame of Hope. He’s been involved with the Minnesota Winter and Summer games and has raised over \$100,000.00 for the Minnesota Special Olympics.

*Department of Transportation*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



**Jo Weber**  
Special Assistant  
VA Debt Management Center



Jo Weber has established herself as the go-to person for supervisors with human resource questions and employees with pay and timekeeping questions. Jo always ensures that employees and supervisors alike receive correct and timely responses on any personnel issue. At the same time, she manages DMC's copier leasing and training businesses and she is the public face of DMC for many agencies outside of the VA. Jo handles multiple tasks with self-assurance and attention to detail. Most notable, she has worked hard and with compassion to help families of former employees who passed away while employed or after retirement. We are honored to recognize Jo as Civil Servant of the Year.

**Timothy Knutson**  
Loan Specialist, Team Leader  
VA St. Paul Regional Office



**VBA**

Timothy Knutson is a Team Leader for a staff of ten employees at the St. Paul Regional Loan Center. In addition, Timothy is a member of the National Broadcast Committee. As a member of the committee, his duties include developing new ideas for training broadcasts and starring in broadcasts for both VA and industry employees. Timothy has also served his community by participating in the St. Paul Jaycees fundraising efforts and activities throughout the year and was a charity runner for the American Cancer Society in the 2007 Chicago Marathon. Timothy's efforts both on the job and in his volunteer work have benefited veterans and their families in addition to others in the community.

**Bonnie Lacki**  
Management Analyst  
VA St. Paul Regional Office



**VBA**

Ms. Bonnie Lacki has served veterans at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO) for 34 years. Although not a veteran herself, her passion for service to veterans is evident in her duty performance. Bonnie has undertaken the massive task of LMS Training Manager with tenacity; her commitment and attention to detail is unsurpassed. Bonnie has utilized her skills to provide leadership development in all five of the VARO's divisions. A deadline driven individual, Bonnie's work ethic has proven to be of immeasurable benefit when completing mandatory reporting. Her customer service is professional, thorough and timely. Bonnie's leadership and professionalism extends to public affairs activities; she has been involved in the Government On Display Exhibit at the Mall of America for over 8 years.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



# VBA

### Neil Lofstrand

Mail Clerk  
VA St. Paul Regional Office

Mr. Neil Lofstrand provided internal support through supplies, forms, equipment and systems furniture maintenance for the Pension Maintenance Center (PMC) and Support Services Division (SSD) in FY 2007. His knowledge and expertise in every aspect of the systems furniture and equipment needs ensured a smooth transition and quality service. In PMC, Mr. Lofstrand expanded the supply area ensuring supplies and forms are immediately available to employees. In SSD, Mr. Lofstrand provides facility service at a moment's notice with a smile and superior quality. Mr. Lofstrand has gone that extra mile expanding his dedication to duty and quality throughout the entire Regional Office. This service to internal employees is vital to the accomplishment of our mission in service to our nation's veterans.



# VBA

### Dale Todd

Assistant Loan Specialist  
VA St. Paul Regional Office

Dale Todd is an Assistant Loan Specialist for the VA St. Paul Regional Loan Center. Dale has 35 years of government service, which includes three years in the United States Army. In addition to being a dedicated VA employee, he has been involved with activities for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and this year his team raised \$6,900. He also participated in a Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Day at the Mall of America and attended the Cystic Fibrosis Conference at the University of Minnesota. This past holiday season, Dale also volunteered as Santa at the St. Francis of Assisi Animal Rescue to raise money for the organization. Dale's commitment to servicing others is evident through his government service and extensive volunteer work.



### LeeAnn Wolf

Regional Recruiter  
Peace Corps

LeeAnn Wolf has been the top Recruiter in the Minneapolis Regional Office of the Peace Corps for the past three years. She recruits at colleges that are consistently in the Top 25 for small colleges. LeeAnn truly believes in the impact our Peace Corps Volunteers are making around the world and does her best to keep the mission of the Peace Corps alive. She brings a wealth of intelligence and experience to all that she undertakes.

Department of Veterans Affairs | Peace Corps



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



# Department of Veterans Affairs

### Leonard Bemis

Housekeeping Aide  
Minneapolis Medical Center



When Leonard “Lenny” Bemis makes his daily rounds to clean the areas of the VA Medical Center assigned to him, he aims to please. He is happy to do an extra vacuuming when an office needs attention or put out a message to other housekeepers when a certain area is looking for extra boxes for a move or a cleaning out project. Lenny is especially attentive to the medical center’s recycling program and sees to it that bottles and cans come out of the trash and into recycling bins. He is also careful to make sure that no patient sensitive materials are in boxes marked for discarding. Lenny’s positive attitude and helpfulness are very much appreciated by the employees who receive his services.

### Gerald Cox

Medical Support Assistant  
Minneapolis Medical Center



Radiation patients and their families, many of whom come to the VA every day for weeks on end, find a welcoming and compassionate employee in Gerald Cox, Medical Support Assistant in Radiation Oncology at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Gerald makes sure that patients get a sunny greeting and a cup of coffee, have magazines to read while they are waiting, and have the T.V. tuned to an upbeat program. He has even made runs outside and over to the front of the medical center to get a wheelchair for a patient when there isn’t one available at the Radiation entrance. Gerald’s warmth and helpfulness make a huge difference in the lives of these patients and families who are dealing with difficult and frightening cancer diagnoses.

### Lori Danzl

Physical Therapist  
Minneapolis Medical Center



Lori demonstrates a high level of professionalism towards her patients and coworkers. She is extremely effective in the professional development of students as demonstrated on site as a clinical instructor and off site through her teaching at the University of Minnesota. She is a strong advocate of evidence based applications of physical therapy and enhances the overall competence of our department. She is compassionate towards her patients, always searching for the best application and utilization of appropriate resources and treatment techniques.

### Cheryl Farmer

Nurse Practitioner  
Minneapolis Medical Center



The Cardiothoracic Surgical Section at MVAMC nominates Cheryl Farmer, CNP for Civil Servant of the Year. Cheryl has worked with our service for the past 8 years. She provides excellent and independent pre- and post-operative care to all cardiothoracic surgery patients. She single-handedly runs the postoperative care clinic. She was sought out by the Minneapolis Community Technical College to provide career guidance and instruction to nursing students. She helped to design, collect data for, and write a paper published in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry entitled “Incidence and Predictors of Post-Cardiotomy Delirium.”



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Annette Flom**

**Human Resources Specialist  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Annette provided outstanding customer service and expert consultation with VA Medical Center supervisors throughout 2007. Her biggest accomplishment last year was the leadership she demonstrated to medical center. Her team led the HR office with 148 recruitment actions and 36 employee relations cases in addition to processing over 1,000 personnel actions. Annette's attention to detail was exquisite while handling our drug testing program which resulted in zero errors. Her compassionate approach to difficult and sensitive employee relations issues is remarkable.



### **Timothy Keple**

**ADS Pharmacotherapy Coordinator  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Mr. Timothy Keple has worked for the VA Medical Center for thirteen years. He has maintained leadership qualities long before his current position as ADS Pharmacotherapy Coordinator. Mr. Keple has challenged the system and coworkers in a respectful fashion when change is needed to improve care for our veterans. He has voiced and maintained a good and practical sense of ethics to improve the quality of our work environment and structure for our mentally challenged veterans. Mr. Keple's gifts are many, to include the use of humor at appropriate and difficult times. He is a joy to work with and makes the jobs of others worthwhile to come into work each day.



### **Sue Mance**

**RN Team Leader 2J  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Sue Mance has been serving the veterans and the agency for last 33 years. I have observed her for over 4 yrs and she has been consistently providing superior nursing care to the veterans. I have frequently been told by many of my patients as how much she has helped them and that she exudes warmth as well as confidence. She has consistently been the go to person by the new and old people on the floor and has always been eager to help out not just with words but with actions too. She has definitely been a great asset to the Veteran system and I am supported by many of my colleagues in this nomination.

*Department of Veterans Affairs*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

# Department of Veterans Affairs



**Jeffrey Newman**  
Manager - Physical Therapist  
Minneapolis Medical Center



Jeff Newman is Physical Therapy Clinic Manager at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. During his 30 years of service to the VA, he has continually supported ongoing staff professional development. This has created a cohesive, dynamic and motivated staff, fully engaged in providing superior service to our veterans. Jeff also serves as the Federal Affairs Liaison in our national professional organization offering 2007 congressional testimony on VA staff recruitment, retention and qualification standards. MVAMC, a designated polytrauma center for OEF/OIF wounded warriors, delivers effective, efficient and high quality physical therapy because of Jeff's supervision and guidance.

**Debra Pederson**  
Director of Patient Education  
Minneapolis Medical Center



Debra Pederson, the Minneapolis VAMC and VISN 23 Director of Patient Education, is committed to quality healthcare education not only for our veterans and their families but also for employees. Debra provides enthusiastic leadership to local, regional, and national "MyHealtheVet" programs. She organizes training and promotion and leads a research project on "MyHealtheVet." She has implemented other valuable patient education programs such as "Living Well, Helping Veterans Manage Their Health" and "Teach for Success." Deb has also developed promotion for programs such as the VA Farmers' Market, Champions' Challenge, and Pandemic Flu education—programs that impact both veterans and staff.

**Lynn Pinske**  
Program Assistant  
Minneapolis Medical Center



Ms. Pinske works with veterans in the Work Therapy Program from the time they enter the program until they are discharged. A majority of these veterans are emotionally drained, feel worthless, and lack a certain faith in humankind. Ms. Pinske makes a significant contribution, helping these veterans regain a sense of worth and emotional balance. If overloaded with paperwork, distraught, and a veteran interrupts her, Ms. Pinske never lets on that it might be an inconvenience to attend the veteran at that time. Ms. Pinske treats our veterans with dignity, appearing unaware of any deficits the veteran may have – from mental health issues to problems with hygiene.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Mary Jo Schuberg**

**Nurse Manager, Unit 1K  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

As Nurse Manager of a locked mental health unit, Ms Schuberg RN, MA has demonstrated the leadership qualities needed to oversee the unit level process of identifying and correcting environmental safety concerns that could contribute to patient or staff harm. She inspired the cooperation and confidence of the multidisciplinary team charged with the purpose of systematic environmental assessments. For each environmental safety concern identified, Ms Schuberg made significant contributions to a plan of corrective action that reduces or eliminates environmental risk factors.



### **Michelle White**

**Spinal Cord Injury Social Worker  
Minneapolis Medical Center**

Michelle White has been the social worker for spinal cord injured veterans for many years. She has a large caseload of patients that have complex medical and psychosocial issues. Because of her long term involvement with the SCI patients, she has effectively established a good rapport and provides consistent continuity of care to her patients and families who know and trust her. Michelle is a highly skilled social worker who is able to effectively problem solve, counsel, and diplomatically work with the community and other agencies in order to get services needed. She is well respected by her peers and the SCI team. She is a strong advocate for her patients and is dedicated, persistent and unfailingly kind.

*Department of Veterans Affairs*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Jared Angelle

Port Safety and Security Contingency Planner  
DHS - U.S. Coast Guard - Marine Safety Unit Duluth



During the 2007 round of Port Security Grants, Mr. Angelle's expertise proved invaluable to applicants interpreting complex Department of Homeland Security grant guidance and resulted in port stakeholders securing over \$1.2 million in funding. These grants reduced port wide risk and enhanced maritime domain awareness. With outstanding focus, Mr. Angelle also spearheaded a multi-day evaluation of the Port of Duluth and Superior's Area Maritime Security Plan. In close partnership with over 50 government and industry organizations, Mr. Angelle successfully tested planning assumptions significantly improving regional involvement in a multi-agency Unified Command in response to the Port's most probable Transportation Security Incident.

### Jill Charles

Assistant Port Director, Trade  
DHS - Customs & Border Protection



As the Assistant Port Director - Trade for the Port of Minneapolis, Jill Charles has provided the motivation and leadership to enable her unit to achieve outstanding results over the past year. During fiscal year 2007, commercial enforcement actions in the Port of Minneapolis increased dramatically – trade seizures were up by 200% and penalties increased by 950%. Her staff was able to accomplish these tasks in spite of significant staffing decreases in the inspectional force. This success is due in large part to Jill's management philosophy – provide the staff with the tools and support they need in order to get the job done!

### Rosanne Chick

Program Analyst  
DHS - Transportation Security Administration



Rosanne Chick is one of the most dedicated employees I have known in over 20 years of government service. Her efforts as a Program Analyst have been superb. She is responsible for the payroll and travel functions for over 850 employees in Minnesota. Her dedication is matched only by the care she has for our employees. She works tirelessly to help people solve their problems. I can always rely on Rose to be the subject matter expert and, if she does not know the answer, she conducts the necessary research to ensure the task is accomplished on time and without error.

### Jeanne Dahl

Purchasing Agent  
DHS - Customs & Border Protection



Jeanne Dahl served as a Purchasing Agent for 36 years. She has spent many years ordering supplies, equipment and services needed to keep the Minneapolis Hiring Center running. She has gone above and beyond her duties in helping to procure additional funds to keep MHC operational during times of budget shortfalls. Her knowledge and skill consistently enable her to perform the full spectrum of her duties in an outstanding manner. Her work ethic is beyond reproach and she is extremely dependable. Her attention to detail is excellent.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Tina Kalmik**

**Deputy Director of Mission Support  
DHS Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol**

Ms. Tina Kalmik is an Assistant Director of Mission Support in the Grand Forks Sector Headquarters of the United States Border Patrol. While in this position, Ms. Kalmik has demonstrated her willingness to establish and personify the teaming concept that has led to the success of our agency. Her continuous attention to detail and unselfish devotion to duty have illustrated to her peers that she is a critical, integral component of the leadership team. She has also received many accolades from national constituents, accompanied by numerous requests for advice.



### **Meagan Kelly**

**Deputy Assistant Federal Security Director for Screening  
DHS Transportation Security Administration**

Meghan Kelly is one of the most effective leaders I have worked with in 33 years of government service. She has provided engaged, positive leadership to her 750 TSA employees at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport, (MSP) and the aviation security results have been superb. Moreover, Meagan has led the implementation of several TSA security initiatives at MSP. She has done a phenomenal job at getting the greatest efficiency out of the work force while balancing her concern for the welfare of her employees and their families. Meagan's superb leadership skills are matched only by her solid judgment.



### **Christopher Rothwell**

**US Customs and Border Protection Officer  
DHS Bureau of Customs and Border Protection**

This is in support of Federal Executive Board recognition of Minneapolis Customs and Border Protection Officer Christopher Rothwell for his outstanding performance during 2007. The critical mission of this Department of Homeland Security agency is to protect the people of the United States by preventing the entry of people and goods which would do harm to the people of the United States. Customs and Border Protection Officer Rothwell has assisted with this mission by energetically and tirelessly serving as the training officer for the Port of Minneapolis.



### **Thomas Simpson**

**Deputy Assistant Federal Security Director for Compliance  
DHS - Transportation Security Administration**

This past year, along with his Supervisory TSI duties, Tom was deployed to the Duluth, MN airport as the Interim Deputy Assistant Federal Security Director. While in Duluth, he executed a new checked baggage screening plan which included managing all aspects of the screening program from equipment installation to training to completion of employee PASS reviews. He currently manages a staff of TSIs in Minnesota and works on new initiatives such as the Aviation Direct Access Screening Program and the Aviation Screening Assessment Program.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

### Tracy Traxler

**Supervisory Human Resources Specialist  
DHS Bureau of Customs and Border Protection**



Ms. Traxler was a major contributor to the successful development of the Mission Critical - Staffing Services Section in the Minneapolis Hiring Center. Her interpersonal skills have proven invaluable in the development of a section which has received numerous accolades as a customer service focused unit within the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. Without Ms. Traxler's constant efforts in developing subordinates; emphasis on quality performance; and leadership example, the Mission Critical - Staffing Services would not have been able to achieve the level of success it currently enjoys.

### Cynthia Reische

**Administrative Officer  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**



Cindy Reische is currently the Administrative Officer for the St. Paul Field Division of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) which encompasses the States of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. She is solely responsible for managing a budget in excess of one million dollars. Additionally she is responsible for travel reimbursements, personnel actions, personnel files, time and attendance, oversight of all awards, and continues to serve as the Executive Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge. Her loyalty, professionalism and exceptional administrative skills have allowed this Division to continue to operate smoothly and efficiently in spite of the fact that we have been short staffed for nearly two years.

### Jason Salerno

**Special Agent  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**



In 2007, ATF Special Agent Jason Salerno, Madison, Wisconsin, volunteered for a detail to the Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF) in Baghdad, Iraq. Besides his official duties, SA Salerno provided humanitarian aid to a poverty stricken Iraqi village in the IZ. With the US Army's assistance and SA Salerno's family and church in Wisconsin, they provided these families with clothing, food, water, hygiene supplies, toys, and soccer balls. SA Salerno also provided a twelve year old whose legs were deformed with transportation to an Iraqi Prosthetic Clinic for examination by an Iraqi doctor, she was also provided with a wheelchair. SA Salerno also ensured the other children in the family were given medical care; and the family a new refrigerator, air conditioner and a stove.

### Charles Shortridge

**Administrative Support Assistant  
Small Business Administration**



No matter what task Chuck is assigned or voluntarily takes on, he does it in a professional, courteous and pleasant manner. This year he took on the responsibility of managing the responses and sending information to recipients of our "disbursed loan letter". Chuck continues to increase his knowledge of SBA programs and services, as well as anticipate our customers' needs. He participates in webinars offered by the Minnesota District Office and the J.J. Hill Reference Library. On his own initiative, Chuck contacted our resource partners and other affiliates (such as the IRS and the Minnesota Workforce Center) to define how our customers can benefit from their services.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Christine Beltman**

**Technical Expert  
Social Security Administration  
Minneapolis, MN**

Cris Beltman, a Technical Expert in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, has distinguished herself as a leader in her work unit. Her outstanding work ethic and program knowledge have enabled her to provide excellent public service while training and mentoring others. She is widely regarded as an expert in all facets of an extremely complex program. In her role as a technical expert, she completes the most complex procedures accurately and timely. Additionally, she is able to break down complicated issues for clients in order to provide the appropriate service in a compassionate manner.



### **Cleavon Brent**

**Supplemental Security Income Claims Representative  
Social Security Administration  
Brooklyn Center, MN**

Cleavon Brent works as a Claims Representative in the Brooklyn Center Social Security office and has served in the Supplemental Security Income unit since 1999. In 2007, Cleavon was a key member of this team and contributed positively to the overall success of the unit. She provided excellent public service during the interviews she took and by ensuring that her clients' cases were processed and paid timely. Cleavon displayed leadership and teamwork by routinely pitching in to cover appointments and front-end interviews when the office was short staffed or at times of peak client traffic.



### **Patricia Ferguson**

**Claims Representative  
Social Security Administration  
Fairmont, MN**

Patricia Ferguson has been an employee of the Fairmont Social Security Administration for 25 years starting out in a clerical position and rising to the title of Claims Representative in 1993. Giving exemplary and commendable service to the public helped Pat become a "stand-out" among her peers. Always quick to take extra interviews and often involving herself helping colleagues solve difficult problems by using her outstanding abilities locating the right portion of administrative law and policy, Pat has proven herself many times over to be an asset to her position with Social Security. During her years of service she has demonstrated her leadership qualities by giving unlimited time to community outreach, serving as a work incentive coordinator, training her peers, and mentoring.



### **Kristen Frost-Tibben**

**Team Leader of Service Representative Unit  
Social Security Administration  
Edina, MN**

As Team-Leader of the Service Representative unit she manages the daily challenges of assuring the public is served in a timely and courteous manner. Kristen is also recognized for her knowledge regarding the processing of Social Security number applications, this fact is especially important as it relates to the complexity of Foreign applications. With increasing walk-in traffic and employee changes Kristen has shown the ability to keep the unit focused, they adapt to changes on a daily basis. She has created a team atmosphere that is proving to be very positive for our staff. The Edina staff is proud and pleased to have Kristen Frost-Tibben represent us as the Civil Servant of the Year.

*Independent Federal Agencies*





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards

### Joyce Lockhart

**Legal Assistant (Senior Case Technician)**  
**SSA/ Office of Disability Adjudication and Review**  
**Minneapolis, MN**



Joyce Lockhart is an outstanding Legal Assistant. She consistently completes assignments timely and efficiently, accepts new assignments with enthusiasm and adjusts to changing priorities with professionalism. As a legal assistant, Ms. Lockhart consistently maintains a high level of productivity in scheduling cases for hearings with utmost efficiency. She routinely coordinates schedules with representatives, vocational experts, medical experts, Administrative Law Judges and hearing monitors with ease. In addition to her scheduling duties she analyzes files, prepares hearing development and addresses workflow efforts as the Administrative Law Judges prepare their dockets for disability hearings.

### Judith Meyer

**Technical Expert**  
**Social Security Administration**  
**St. Cloud, MN**



Mrs. Meyer is a true professional. As a Title II Technical Expert (TE) in the St. Cloud, MN District Office, her job knowledge and leadership skills are beyond exceptional. Over the past year, she has maintained her full workload and trained all new hires within out district! As a TE, Mrs. Meyer has contributed to the Agency goals by taking on and working the most complicated cases. She is selfless in her work completion. She will take the time to assist other units in the office by processing their backlogs voluntarily. She leads by example! She truly represents the attributes of the "Civil Servant of the Year".

### Sheng Moua

**Teleservice Representative**  
**Social Security Administration**  
**St. Paul, MN**



As a Teleservice Representative in the Twin Cities Social Security Teleservice Center, Sheng demonstrates exceptional performance and commitment to the National 800 Number Network. She keeps well informed of systems and policy changes and has distinguished herself as an outstanding technician and interviewer. Sheng is extremely compassionate with her callers as well as her coworkers. She has an outstanding grasp of customer service and lives the Agency mission with every call she answers.

### Rosa Riera

**Service Representative**  
**Social Security Administration**  
**St. Paul, MN**



Rosa Riera is a Service Representative, a front line employee and face of Social Security. The office depends on Rosa's leadership and technical expertise, in a very busy environment. Her contribution is respected by her co-workers and the public she serves. Rosa is her unit's top producer, interviewing and assisting nearly 1000 visitors each month. Interviews can be lengthy, complex, and are conducted in both English and Spanish. The visitors may be new to the country, come from diverse backgrounds, have varied degrees of education or ability to understand, but regardless, Rosa gives each her full attention and each inquiry is handled to completion, with dignity and respect.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Rhonda Whitenack**

**Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration  
Minneapolis, MN**

Rhonda Whitenack, Public Affairs Specialist, for the Social Security Administration in Minneapolis, MN has made outstanding contributions toward strengthening the publics' understanding of Social Security and Medicare programs. Rhonda's leadership helps to increase public understanding of SSA programs throughout the Twin Cities Metro area and the State of Minnesota. She is the driving force behind the Speakers Bureau, which reaches over 5000 residents each year. Rhonda has been deeply involved with educational initiatives and provided needed services to the Hispanic, Native American and African American populous in Minnesota.



### **Monty Luhmann**

**Settlement Officer  
IRS - Appeals**

Monty is a highly dedicated employee. He is always willing to help other employees with any issues. Monty has always willingly volunteered to handle assignments outside of his purview as a Settlement Officer. Monty prepared and presented lectures to areas outside of Appeals to help them better understand how Settlement Officers work their cases. He is constantly called on by other functions within the IRS to provide assistance with tax law interpretation and guidance with internal procedures.



### **Dan Bade**

**Accounting Technician  
Postal Service, Eagan Accounting Services Center**

Dan Bade has been volunteering over ten years for Kozak's Road Runners; an adapted adult bowling league. They meet every Friday at Earle Brown bowling Alley in Brooklyn Center for two games of bowling. Dan used a half hour of annual leave every Friday during September through March. Dan coaches and helps adults who physically cannot roll the ball by setting up a ramp for them to push the bowling ball down. In addition, Dan has been bowling on an adapted adult league on Saturday's for two years. Dan is an exceptional employee; he often volunteers to take on additional responsibilities. He has a "can do" attitude and willingness to give of himself before others. He is an outstanding asset to the Eagan ASC.



### **Betty Bonin**

**Rural Carrier  
Postal Service**

Betty first worked for the USPS in 1974 as a contract cleaner for multiple post offices in the north metro. In 1984, Betty became a sub rural carrier and became a regular rural carrier in 1995. Betty fosters a positive image for the USPS in her capacity of rural carrier facilitator, influencing our new rural carriers in the Northland District. Outside of the postal service, Betty experienced the "sandwich" generation, by caring for her mother and her four grandchildren. Betty's four grandchildren, under the age of 10, with her youngest grandchild suffering from seizures (he is doing very well now!), keeps her extremely busy. In her role of facilitator, Betty exemplifies a positive image of the USPS.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Postal Service

### Jim Britton

Clerk  
Postal Service



Jim Britton should be nominated for Civil Servant of the Year for his work with Second Chance Animal Rescue. Jim has been a volunteer at this organization for the last 3 years and has provided a foster home for approximately 18 dogs over that time. Second Chance is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to rescuing, caring for and placing homeless companion animals. The foster home volunteers provide care and help the animals re-establish a positive bond with people. They also attend adoption days monthly in order to find homes and companions for the animals. Jim is always willing to foster a dog as soon as he has one adopted out and is proud of the service he is providing to the community.

### Anne Brunette

Clerk / 204 B  
Postal Service



When Anne is a Acting Supervisor, she listens to the employees' problems and tries to get results. She works very hard to help get the mail through the building and to fix problems using correct procedures. She's always there for us and knows what needs to be done and gets it done. Anne works very hard; she still cares about the mail, procedures and people. We know we can count on Anne.

### Tim Burns

Supervisor, Distribution Operations  
Postal Service



Tim Burns is a credit to the USPS and his community. Tim is a corporal in the Ramsey, Minnesota, Police Reserves. While in the Reserves, Tim has been on the Executive Board and is a training officer. Approximately 25 people have become licensed peace officers through this program. Tim has been the after-school football coach for the Sandburg Middle School in Anoka since 2003, he was the Teen Night Coordinator for Ramsey Elementary School from 1997-2005, h has been the Security Co-Chair for the Anoka Senior Party since 2004, and he has been a full-time employee of the United States Postal Service since December 1987. His dedication and leadership on and off the job are a testament to his character and professionalism.

### Helen Clarke

Sales Service Associate  
Postal Service



As the mother in a family where deafness has taken away one of life's gifts, and cancer took her sister, Helen Clarke is keenly aware of all that many of us take for granted. She strongly encourages people to protect and preserve what they have. Involvement with the Combined Federal Campaign, Booster Club, and a strong faith commitment that is demonstrated as church lector/ teacher of the Faith Enrichment Program, Ms Clarke shares her strength of purpose. She created a parent/teacher organization and volunteers teaching adult learners to read. Helen Clarke is an exemplary person with an awareness of and appreciation for the differences in people, and the variety of circumstances in which they live.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Dale Danner**

**Mail Handler Equipment Operator  
Postal Service**

Dale has worked at the BMC since June 1977. He is a very capable and dependable employee who knows his job well, has a strong work ethic and is respected by his co-workers. Dale is also actively involved in helping out his community in time of disaster and need, volunteering his time to the Meals on Wheels program. He has also volunteered his time to give children with disabilities a chance to come to his home and ride his horses. Dale leads by example and is long overdue and deserving of this award.



### **Daniel De Smith**

**Contract Technician  
Postal Service**

Dan is most visible to the BMC community as the driving force at the Duffers Golf Tournament. In 2007 and for nearly twenty years, he has arranged tee times, catering and prizes for over 80 BMC employees, family and friends. Dan was active in the South St. Paul youth athletic programs this past year. He coached his daughters' softball team to the state playoffs and cheers and chauffeurs them as their traveling hockey team season continues. In the past, Dan has pridefully represented the BMC on teams in the Eagan/Industrial softball league while coaching his son's Little League team.



### **JoAnn Edwards**

**General Clerk  
Postal Service**

JoAnn, as General Clerk, has helped numerous employees in our daily navigation of postal life. If we are in need of any postal related forms, information, phone numbers, date or times, she is the person we know we can turn to. She has been helping in this role for numerous years and knows where and how to obtain the information needed. She is one of the most valuable assets the BMC has on staff. Thank you JoAnn!



### **Randy Elsen**

**Manager, Distribution Operations  
Postal Service**

Randy Elsen is a Tour I Manager, Distribution Operations at the Minneapolis Processing and Distribution Center of the USPS. Randy's responsibilities include the manual and automated letter operations. He brings a keen analytical mind coupled with an "above and beyond" effort to improve on the methods to accurately sort nearly ten million letters daily. Randy shares his skills and knowledge freely with peers and subordinates to instill pride and ownership in the service we provide the American public. Equally important, pay locations that report directly to him have led the way to a 30% reduction in accidents/injuries. Randy's leadership and dedication have created a safer work environment for plant employees while maintaining the goals of the Postal Service.

*Postal Service*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



**Lois Fimmano**  
Acting Safety Specialist  
Postal Service



A citizen volunteer, Lois Fimmano has served her country for 31 years in the military and the USPS. Lois' passion for safety has led her to promoting safety throughout her career in the military and the USPS. Because of her expertise, Lois has been detailed from a letter carrier to a safety specialist for the last two years, training new employees and assisting post offices through Northland District. For three years, Lois has volunteered for Health Partners Hospice of the Lakes by visiting patients and providing respite for family members of the terminally ill. She two hours of training per month to hone her skills in patient care.

**Gary Fitch**  
Letter Carrier  
Postal Service



Gary Fitch's inspiration for Letters of Hope came from disasters such as the Tsunami and Katrina. In 2007 Fitch bicycled 2,800 miles from Seattle to Washington D.C. collecting Letters of Hope written by thousands of children. The letters contain the hope and dreams of a better world. He has continued his work locally through a program he initiated and is scanning the written hopes he collected during his trek on a disc. The NASA education department will send it into space on a space shuttle launch as a symbolic gesture. The actual letters will also be sent to our troops overseas. Fitch's exemplary work and dedication is being passed on to the future leaders of our communities from children. He is a true community leader.

**Bruce Fyksen**  
Driver Safety Instructor  
Postal Service



Bruce has worked for the Postal Service for 15 years; most of his postal time has been associated with facilitating Driving orientation. Bruce has also worked as a clerk, mail handler, city carrier, collections driver and Acting Supervisor. Bruce's postal experience has been instrumental in providing excellent communication skills in facilitating driver education for new employees. After recently receiving his degree in Christian Theology, Bruce volunteers his talents once a month at the New Hope Center. Bruce provides classes and motivational talks for ex-convicts and recovering chemically dependent men. Bruce is involved with his church in recovery ministries. In addition to his ministering, Bruce spends time mentoring his five grandchildren ages 2-17 years old.

**Scott Freitag**  
Supervisor, Customer Service, Main Office Windows  
Postal Service



Girl's Hockey? 'Yes', says Scott Freitag, Supervisor, Main Office Windows – and Boy's too! With his daughter's team in the playoffs, he quickly adds – only one step away from the State Tournament – the passion of fifteen years of volunteering to coach shines through. During the summer, Scott has fun as the umpire for fast pitch softball. Being active with regular exercise, and setting an awesome example for his children is ALL important. That same spirit is evident in Scott's commitment to the training function for Retail Associates. Without his willingness to release facilitators and support of on the job training opportunities – the program would cease to exist. Our organization is strengthened by this "coach" as he consistently scores goals for our team!



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Kevin Gibbons

Accounting Specialist  
Postal Service, Eagan Accounting Services Center

Mr. Gibbons has consistently worked to carry out the duties of his position to a level far above what is expected. He has reviewed returned checks accepted at Post Offices in southern California for patterns of fraud. His persistent reporting to the Postal Inspection Service resulted in the Inspection Service implementing a fraud task force in southern California to work the rampant fraud occurring in that area. Through his efforts, arrests are being made and fraud has been reduced in this part of the country. He inspires others in my group to work with the same zeal by sending emails to the group each time another arrest is made. Others look to him for guidance in spotting fraud and reporting to the Inspection Service.



### Mark Hines

Supervisory Criminal Investigator  
Postal Service

Mark came to Northland District in 2007 as a Supervisory Criminal Investigator for the OIG. Upon his arrival Mark contacted the PEDC to arrange a training session for several of the new agents who came from outside agencies. Mark's initiative led to identifying three Academy Facilitators who presented "A Day in the Life of" training covering the role of a Rural Carrier, City Carrier, and Sales Service Associate. Mark also made a point to ensure that the OIG would be involved in New Employee Orientation as well as our Supervisory program. The material presented defines clearly the expectations that are placed upon Postal employees. Mark has taken a proactive rather than reactive approach to ensure that employees are educated about consequences to inappropriate internal activity.



### Jim Hudoba

Acting Safety Specialist  
Postal Service

Jim Hudoba has been with the Postal Service since 2000 as an auto technician and later as a supervisor of vehicle maintenance. He has been an Acting Safety Specialist since 2006. Jim interacts with employees, managers and customers to provide the safest workplace possible. Jim facilitates and instructs new employees about safety in the workplace and at home. He is energetic, has a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. Jim recently has assumed greater responsibility as the Safety Specialist for MPOO areas 1-7 which encompasses over 800 Postal Facilities. Jim serves as a Eucharistic Minister at his church. He assists with parishioners who are homebound.



### Jane Kelley

Senior Operations Support Specialist  
Postal Service

I would like to nominate Jane Kelley for Civil Servant of the Year. Jane donates countless hours of her personal time to benefit the Sharing Korner Food Shelf and the St. Croix Animal Friends shelter. Based in a struggling St. Paul neighborhood, Sharing Korner provides food, clothing, and personal items to those in need. Every year Jane organizes a very successful food and clothing drive at the St Paul P & DC. She also coordinated volunteers to purchase and install the Sharing Korner's first furnace in the fall of 2007. Jane's dedication and passion for making a difference to those in need has helped raise several thousand dollars and much appreciated assistance for both the Sharing Korner and the St. Croix Animal Friends.

Postal Service



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### Jon Lueth

Secretary for Manager, Post Office Operations  
Postal Service



Jon is a great asset to the Post Office. He provides secretarial support to two Area Managers for Post Office Operations with over 90 offices. He also administers, creates and distributes sick leave awards, consolidates data, and assists other area managers. As a volunteer, he has sung at the Northland District Veteran's Recognition event, annual picnic and caroling at the holiday festivities. Jon has a fantastic singing voice, he sings in a church choir, two male quartets, male chorus, sings at funerals, weddings and also plays the handbells. He also is a parish visitor from his church which includes visiting shut-ins by giving them communion, and prays and sings to them. Jon is always willing to help and exemplifies what a volunteer is all about.

### Joe Maghrak

City Letter Carrier  
Postal Service



Joe Maghrak has been a city letter carrier in Minneapolis for 24 years. For 6 years, he has also trained newly hired carriers. Joe's pride in his job is carried into the classroom. He inspires new city carriers to provide excellent service to USPS customers. In 2007, the local USPS OIGs (Office of Inspector General) requested training on the daily activities of employees. Joe was selected to represent city letter carriers. He provided exceptional training to the OIGs on the daily city carrier tasks. Joe is an active member of his local church, serving on the Outreach Committee, as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. In December 2007, as he has done many years, Joe grew his beard to play St. Nicholas for the church children.

### Troy Meier

Sales Service Associate  
Postal Service



Troy Meier –Retail Associate from St. Paul, MN has provided guidance to new employees by facilitating the SSA training program and excelling as a Retail Coach. During FY 2007 Troy was asked to present information to the OIG in relation to what a day in the life of a SSA would entail. Troy's vast knowledge of the window operation provided the OIG with the insight they needed to be successful. Special interests include time spent with Troy's niece and nephew. Whether participating in Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, Soccer or Baseball games – Troy is cheering them on! The overwhelming desire to help others be successful combined with Troy's flexibility, commitment and dedication to strengthening the postal service – make him one of our finest facilitators.

### Tom Molloy

Customer Services Supervisor  
Postal Service



Tom Molloy joined the Associate Supervisor Program team in 2003. Headquarters quickly recognized his excellent facilitation and classroom skills, enlisting his services as a Master Instructor for all national ASP course offerings. Tom possesses all of the requisite skills necessary to effectively train others. He is renowned for his devotion to mentoring and developing other employees; many of whom have risen within the organization. Tom also served as a member of the team that designed the Manager, Distribution Operations course. He was instrumental in providing critical information and ideas for supporting activities and case studies which have made the program a success. Tom's superior classroom skills and breadth of knowledge have made him a unique asset for the Northland District and the Postal Service.

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Pattie Murphy**

**Small Business Specialist  
Postal Service**

Pattie is the Small Business Specialist for the USPS. She developed a lobby presentation display for hundreds of Post Offices promoting postal products. She coordinated the State Fair USPS Booth (14000 visitors) and Government on Display which received the 2<sup>nd</sup> place for best display two years running. She conducts training sessions on usps.com for various community groups – such as Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Organization Associations, Stamp Clubs, and Community Ed. She splits her time between volunteering/fundraising for the Humane Society – Walk for the Animals, Second Harvest Food Shelf, and Susan G. Koman Foundation Race for the Cure. Additionally she enjoys spending time co-coaching a first grade group of kids in the skills of basketball and is actively involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program.



### **Matthew Nelson**

**Supervisor Maintenance Operations  
Postal Service**

Matt Nelson is one of the hardest workers I have ever seen in 25 years at the Bulk Mail Center. He has taken on many challenges and successfully mastered them. Matt accepted the challenge to supervise in Mail Processing and within several weeks, he corrected all the wrongs of the Automated Parcel and Package Sorter (APPS) Machine. As a Supervisor of Maintenance Operations, Matt is second to none. He not only gets all his preventative maintenance done but gets work orders done as well. His leadership has inspired the Tour 1 mechanics to study and learn all phases of the APPS machine. Matt also promotes upward mobility and is an excellent teacher. He is happily married and volunteers as a wrestling coach.



### **James Reynolds**

**Mail Handler  
Postal Service**

James has worked at the BMC since 1983. James is a very conscientious and dedicated worker. Working with James is very easy as he is very professional in doing his job and will go out of his way to help a co-worker without having to be asked to do so. James has worked throughout the years with the Boy Scouts of America, volunteering numerous hours as a scout leader and has chaperoned many trips and activities for the Boy Scouts. James's hard work and dedication has enabled him to put his three boys through St. Thomas Academy. James leads by example and is very deserving of this award.



### **James Robson**

**Building Equipment Mechanic  
Postal Service**

James has exemplified himself within the postal community. He is a former rescue diver for the Navy. He currently coaches soccer for Special needs children. His time devoted to his community does not create a barrier for his work within the Postal Service. He has been a highly devoted person to all tasks in implementing and assisting the St. Paul facility in maintaining a high standard of building machine performance. His work should not go unnoticed, and is truly worthy of the Civil Servant Award.

*Postal Service*





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Postal Service

### **Jul Rohrer**

**Postmaster, Alma, WI  
Postal Service**



Jul is the Postmaster of Alma, WI. In addition to her regular position she is a Postmaster Trainer/Transfer Officer, a district trainer for Bank Secrecy, and the NAPUS District Director for the 546 area. She is responsible for assuring office transfers are done fiscally responsible, updating materials for the Postmaster/OIC program as well as the Transfer Officer package, and coordinates the training for the NAPUS state convention. She is considered the go-to person for other Postmasters throughout her area. Jul is active in her church, assisting with funeral preparation dinners and singing in the choir. She participates in a women's and couple's bowling league. She spends time quilting and is known for Prom and Wedding dress alterations.

### **Grant Rosenau**

**Electronic Technician  
Postal Service**



It is with great pleasure that I nominate Electronic Technician Grant Rosenau for the Skilled/Trades category. Grant works diligently at the Minneapolis Processing and Distribution Center in the Cancellation and Automation areas during the evening shift. He has become an expert with the equipment which processes letter mail. In particular, he has designed a work area where spare Ink Jet Printers can be maintained in a ready condition. Always willing to share his knowledge, Grant has trained fellow technicians on equipment maintenance and constantly contributes to improving the quality of the mail operation.

### **Janelle Rosenow**

**Operations Support Specialist  
Postal Service**



I would like to nominate Janelle Rosenow for Civil Servant of the Year. Janelle is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Coordinator for the St Paul P & DC. She meticulously organized and monitored the month long campaign. In addition to seeking employee donations through the CFC materials, donations were also made through the CFC Café. Janelle coordinated all the efforts to provide this week long event where food was prepared and available for sale to employees. The special event included a different theme for each day's food, a chili cook off competition, and a silent auction. All of the Café proceeds were donated to the Postal Relief Fund. The 2007 St. Paul P&DC CFC campaign was a success by raising \$22,850.

### **Renee Ryan**

**Health & Resource Management Specialist  
Postal Service**



Ms. Renee Ryan epitomizes the definition of a Public Servant. She not only does an outstanding job as a Health & Resource Management Specialist with the USPS, but has been an active volunteer with WAND (Woman Achieving New Direction) since 1998 and received the Volunteer of the Year Award through this agency. WAND is a non-profit organization committed to the career and economic self-sufficiency of single lower income, working mothers. After graduating from college with a degree in social work, Renee began mentoring single women and their children at WAND by planning and presenting numerous "self-esteem" workshops. She has assisted women and their children to build the skills and confidence they need in order to be successful in life.



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Gordon Silva**

Mail Handler  
Postal Service

Gordon Silva consistently displays a strong desire to perform any assigned task efficiently and effectively. He utilizes every minute of his day. He has an outstanding attitude and a strong desire to make any unit a success. He is constantly seeking ways to improve the performance of the APPS and any downstream operation. Mr. Silva's attitude and work ethics are infectious and inspire those around him to excel.



### **Jason Stevens**

Flat Sorter Clerk  
Postal Service

Jason Stevens is an active volunteer in the Ergonomic Risk Reduction Process (ERRP), which identifies potential job risks, and reduces risks for fellow employees. Jason has been involved in this process for two years. His involvement in this process has fostered over 70 risk reductions for employees, and equated to many employees not being injured. Through the efforts of Jason, the Postal Service has saved many employee injuries, hours and generated revenue. Jason Stevens is highly worthy of the Civil Servant Award.



### **Charlene Tate**

Plant Manager's Secretary  
Postal Service

As a homebound volunteer for the Minneapolis Public Library, Charlene not only brings books but shares her time and life experiences. As coordinator for the Women's Aglow program at the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility, she coordinates teams to go into the prison setting to sing, read, encourage and support residents, bringing life changing experiences to these individuals by giving hope, encouragement, support and reassurance. Charlene uses her own vacation time and financial resources in her endeavors. She does not ask for repayment but feels she receives more than she is giving. She is concerned for others and what she can contribute to their situation.



### **Vernon Towner, Jr.**

Electronic Technician  
Postal Service

Vern constantly monitors the radio and is aware of all the maintenance calls that come from mail flow. He will wait several minutes for a call to be cleared. After that time frame, Vern will automatically appear and help the mechanics trouble shoot and fix the problem. The people in mail flow as well as Vern's peers are always telling me how much they appreciate the man and his talents. Vern will never let anyone fail! Vern sets high standards for himself and always does that little extra work that most people would pass on. I know if we had more people like Vern, our FESD scores and productivity would be astronomical. I am very proud and honored to nominate Mr. Towner!

*Postal Service*



## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



Postal Service

### **Shirley White**

**MDO Minneapolis Dock (detailed to St. Paul MDO Automation)  
Postal Service**



Ms. White was an excellent supervisor and was promoted to MDO in 2007 and will do just as good of job as a leader to her supervisors, as she was to her clerks and mail handlers. She has the ability to bring out the best in her employees and believes in developing them. Ms. White has been working on her Masters degree at the University of Arizona via the internet. Ms. White is also active in her community. She has a degree in law enforcement, works with the legal and school systems as an arbitrator and is also involved in her church. She has a strong sense of family even though most of her family resides in California.

### **Brian Lee**

**Supervisor of Maintenance Operations  
Postal Service**



Brian has exemplified himself among his peers and in his community. He has been active as the coach of the local Jr High School football and softball teams. Brian has worked for the US Postal Service for over 25 years. He is coordinator of the EERP (Ergonomic Risk Reduction Process). Under his leadership, the EERP Team has initiated 76 job improvements with 50 being implemented; thus, reducing injuries by 30 to 50 percent at the St. Paul P&DC. One of the implementations is getting national attention. He is truly worthy of the Civil Servant award.

### **Brook Lemm-Tabor**

**Confidential Secretary, Human Resources  
Postal Service**



Brook Lemm-Tabor consistently goes beyond the normal and expected duties of her position and takes on additional challenges to produce exceptional results. Brook is a key resource for managing the National Performance Assessment process in the Northland District and demonstrates exceptional patience, diligence and professionalism in managing the critical events that make up the performance assessment process in the Postal Service. The success of the process for Fiscal Year 2007 could not have been achieved without Brook's efforts and she is deserving of recognition as Civil Servant of the Year.





## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



### **Donna Olson**

**Supervisor, Distribution Operations  
Postal Service**

This nomination is made on behalf of Donna Olson. Her leadership qualities are evident in her tireless accommodation to the needs of her work unit. These qualities were recently demonstrated through her assistance in removing a Mark II canceling system in order to improve the work and mail flows. Her operational skill set and ability to communicate clearly were the success of the project. Equally important is her involvement in the community. She has given selflessly to aid in the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast area in the aftermath of devastating flood damage. She has given of her time and energy, to help those in need. She is a wonderful and caring person who helps make the world a better place.



### **Daniel Stark**

**Postmaster  
Postal Service**

Dan Stark is the Postmaster of Cottage Grove. Prior to Cottage Grove, he was the Postmaster of Forest Lake for many years. Both offices have been successful under Dan's leadership. His positive attitude is contagious, and countless employees have benefited greatly under his tutelage. He has a passion for developing and mentoring people. Teaching others to develop their skills is vital to the continued success of our organization. He understands that tomorrow's leaders are today's employees and many of his past employees are currently in leadership roles. Dan is a member of the Northland District Diversity Committee which is committed to the success and development of all employees, regardless of background or level within the organization. He's a great asset to the Postal Service.

*Postal Service*

## Civil Servant of the Year Awards



*We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following people and organizations without whose help this year's awards program would not have been possible*

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### Civil Servant of the Year

**Award Plaques:** John Sorenson, Skylane Bowling

**Color Guard:** 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve

**Award Program Location:** Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hilton, Bloomington, Minnesota

**Master of Ceremonies:** Anne Lewandowski, Chair, Federal Executive Board

**Keynote Speaker:** Aundrey Sanchez, Minnesota Department of Veterans

*Acknowledgments*



## Receipt

**31<sup>st</sup> Federal Civil Servant Luncheon**

**May 9, 2008**

**Minneapolis Airport Hilton, Bloomington, MN**

**\$30.00**



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# The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual

Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program

# Awards



**2008**

