

## **KJERSTAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY (June 2014 Newsletter)**

**By Paul Reisch, Newsletter Editor**

Every other month the SD ASFMRA newsletter ends with a page outlining Kjerstad Member Scholarship opportunities. Our chapter has 36 members (almost half of current 74 members) who were not members at the time of Jerry Kjerstad's death in October 2006. The intent of this article is to provide members (especially these 36) with an historical perspective of the Kjerstad Member scholarship.

The chapter lost valued member Jerry Kjerstad on October 15, 2006. Jerry was Chapter President in 1993-94 and involved in national activities (especially Leadership Institute) from that time until his death. From Jerry's obituary:



Jerald Elnoris "Jerry" Kjerstad, age 64, of Piedmont, died Sunday, October 15, 2006, at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

Jerald Elnoris Kjerstad was born March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1942 in Quinn, South Dakota, the son of Elnoris and Ila (Bean) Kjerstad. Jerry grew up on the ranch by Quinn. He graduated from Wall High School in 1960 and he received his BS in Agriculture Economics with a Business Option Degree from South Dakota State University in June of 1964.

Jerry became a loan officer and appraiser with the Federal Land Bank Association of Chadron, Nebraska. He was with the Farm Credit Service System until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1984. During his 20 years of appraisal and appraisal review career with the Farm Credit System, he was located in Spokane, Washington, Washington D.C., and Omaha, Nebraska.

Jerry returned to the Quinn area to manage his ranching interest and establish a real estate business in 1985. The appraisal real estate business was moved to Piedmont in 1993. Jerry is the president of Kjerstad Realty, Inc., which provides

a full range of real estate appraisal, brokerage, and consulting services. Jerry approached his business like he did all aspects of his life with leadership, dignity, and respect.

Jerry was united in marriage to Margy White on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1963, in Wall, South Dakota, and to this union were born three children Rick, Tina, and Lisa. Jerry was a lover of life and adventure. He was always there for his children as a Boy Scout Leader, baseball and softball coach, driving instructor, riding coach, and whatever else was needed. Jerry shared his love of life with his children and his grandchildren every day. He also loved his horses, hunting, fishing, and wine. Jerry's heart reached out to so many people and he gave every person he met a true gift of genuine friendship.

He was a member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, South Dakota Alumni Council, South Dakota Buckaroos, Custer Trail Riders, and the US Marshal Posse.

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## **KJERSTAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY CONTINUED**

From October 2006 Newsletter - Wade Buck President Message:

He always had a smile for you. He always made me feel welcome. Even with all his talent and experience he treated me like an equal. He was one of those people you wanted to be around.

These were just some of the statements I heard over the past couple weeks and at Jerry Kjerstad's funeral. All of these go to support what a well-liked and respected man Jerry was.

It is with heartfelt sorrow my sympathy goes out to Margy and her family. While I can't say I understand how the family feels or pretend to know how this has impacted their lives, I can say as friend of Jerry's, I understand Jerry will be missed. He will be missed by the family, business associates, friends, students and the community of which he was a vital part.

For many of us, our community involvement is primarily local, fairly immediate, and tends to have an easily defined boundary. Based on my knowledge of Jerry and more so, on the comments by those who knew him best, Jerry's community didn't fall into that defined boundary. Whether it was spending time with family and friends, working, or traveling, Jerry touched people.

Jerry certainly touched this chapter. He played an active role in the early development of the chapter as well as the ongoing success of the chapter. Jerry mentored many, and was willing to give of his time and talents.

My son Cody said it very well, while saying a prayer for Jerry, when he said "God Bless Jerry, he's a really nice guy."

Kjerstad Member Scholarship Development:

For several years, SD ASFMRA provided registration fee scholarships for a member to attend Leadership Institute and national meeting attendance for the first time.

At the November 2006 board meeting, an exploratory committee (Ron Ensz, Allan Husby, and Paul Reisch) was established to revisit the National Meeting Scholarship and other ways to provide financial support to our members. At the May 17, 2007 board meeting, this committee presented a proposal titled:

### **JERRY KJERSTAD MEMORIAL CHAPTER MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The proposal focus:

- A lasting memorial of Jerry's contribution to our chapter.
- A means to generate funds that can allow expansion of chapter support for members in accord with the chapter mission of *Enhancing Our Members' Ability to Succeed in Their Rural & Agriculturally Related Professions!*

Consensus at the board meeting was that support and participation from chapter members for the funding part of the proposal was essential for the success and sustainability of the program over the long term. The July member breakfast meetings were utilized for board discussions with chapter members to determine if strong member support for the proposal existed.

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## **KJERSTAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY CONTINUED**

After receiving this member input, the chapter board announced implementation of Phase 1 scholarship opportunities for members under this program at the January 2007 annual membership meeting:

- Leadership Institute attendance
- National meeting attendance for the first time
- Pay member registration fee when receiving accreditation at national meeting.

Funding is handled outside of the normal chapter operating / budgeting process. A separate money market account has been dedicated for this program. Scholarships are paid from this account. Chapter fundraising projects, continuing education profits, and interest accrual on the account pay for the scholarships.

In May 2010, President Tom Jass announced that due to excellent recent education programs and excellent member support of those programs, chapter finances were at all-time highly positive position. The Board passed a motion to transfer \$25,000 of excess chapter funds into a separate and distinct Kjerstad Member Scholarship fund. It is the Board's intent to never tap these funds for chapter operating or other uses. These funds are to be used only to support the Kjerstad Member Scholarship Program.

The Board also passed a motion to create a new permanent committee to administer this program. The committee is called the Kjerstad Member Scholarship Committee. The committee is made up of the President, Past President, President Elect, Treasurer and one at large Member appointed by the President. The member is appointed at the beginning of each president's new term, at the same time he is appointing all of the other chapter committees.

With this action, the following scholarship opportunities were added:

- \$500 scholarship for first education course that is a part of accreditation track after becoming a new member.
- \$500 scholarship for accreditation education for those committed to achieving accreditation.
- Pay for cost of the accrediting exam.

In August 2012, the SD ASFMRA Board of Directors approved the following addition to the scholarship:

- Pay up to two \$500 scholarships annually to attend the National Meeting for members who have attended the National Meeting in the past. Those intending to attend a National Meeting would state their intent to do so to the President and Treasurer. Then, those submitting their intent will be in a drawing for one of the two scholarships. The scholarship would be for members that are not reimbursed their costs by their employer. The scholarship would be limited to the same winner once every three years if several are entered in the drawing.

This addition provided encouragement and support for members to attend the ASFMRA national meeting, a valuable forum for networking and education.

Those who knew Jerry can review the scholarship objectives as shown on the next page and think of many ways that Jerry touched chapter members that relate to these objectives. The Kjerstad Member Scholarship is a fitting lasting memorial of Jerry's contribution to our chapter.