

2018 Hall of Fame Inductees

The SDML Hall of Fame honors those elected and appointed officials and employees who have served municipalities in South Dakota for 20 or more years.



Mary Jo Nelson, Deadwood, 20 Years

Mary Jo started her employment in January 1998 as Finance Officer. She attended the University of South Dakota and Black Hills State University and graduated with an Accounting Degree, and obtained her M.B.A. from USD. Mary Jo has two children, Hans and Maggie, both living in Colorado, and is married to Tom. She has served on the Deadwood Jam Board, Deadwood History Board, Deadwood Chamber of Commerce, and Deadwood-Lead Economic Development Board. She loves to grow flowers, cook for family and friends, and travel to new places.



Randy Pfarr, Deadwood, 20 Years

Randy was hired as a parks technician April 6th, 1998. He worked for the Parks Department for two years and transferred into the Water Department. He was promoted to Water Superintendent in October 2016. Randy enjoys the daily challenges of the Superintendent position and continues to strive to uphold the water quality standards for the City of Deadwood. Randy and his wife, Joyce, have two children, Aaron passed away from cancer in 2011, their daughter Adrian and her family live in Sioux Falls. Randy is an avid hunter, fisherman and is currently restoring a 1948 Chevrolet pickup.

Shannon Crawford, Fort Pierre, 28 Years

Shannon began working for the City of Fort Pierre in 1989 as a junior in high school. He worked after school from 3 to 5 on a work/study program. Following graduation in



1991, he became a fulltime employee in the Parks Department. Shannon currently works in the Streets Department. He has worked under two city superintendents and four mayors.



Robert Ricketts, Fort Pierre, 35 Years

Bob holds the record for longest-serving Alderman in Fort Pierre. He was elected to the Council in 1974, served briefly as mayor in 1975, was re-elected to the Council in 1985, and has served continuously through the current time. Bob is a 1958 graduate of Fort Pierre High School, attended Black Hills University, and lived in 28 states while pursuing a career in construction. Bob and his family moved back to Fort Pierre in 1969, purchasing a mobile home court and working in construction for First Dakota Enterprises for 20 years before retirement.



Vernon Thorson, Fort Pierre, 31 Years

Vernon began his municipal career working for the City of Pierre Water Department for 11 years. He then began a job with the Fort Pierre Water Department in 1998, being promoted to Fort Pierre City Superintendent in 2000 and continues to serve in that position. Vernon also farms and custom harvests on a part-time basis. He was chairman of the Hughes County Extension Board and helped with the Hughes/Stanley County transition to the Stanley County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. He currently serves on the Community & Youth Involved Center board and frequently volunteers to prepare and serve many large community meals.

Dan Holsworth, Hermosa, 24 Years

Dan Holsworth served on the Planning and Zoning Board for 3 years prior to his 21 years on the Hermosa Town Board. Dan has served as Trustee, Vice President, President and Volunteer. He never hesitates to lend a helping hand. He has been instrumental in the progress of Hermosa's infrastructure and has donated hundreds of hours building Hermosa into the outstanding community it is. Dan has been a major force in advancing Hermosa's development by promoting growth for business as well as residential areas. Dan's main interests are his family and the Hermosa community.

Dale Fortin, Huron, 20 Years

Dale Fortin has been the Solid Waste Superintendent for





the City of Huron for 20 years. During his leadership, he has implemented the automated garbage collection system; yard waste collection for composting. The City composts more tonnage in compost than municipal waste and sells the compost throughout the State. Dale also launched the Recycling program for the City in 2013. He serves on the Green Energy Task Force and is a Vice President for the S.D. S.W. Management Association. He also previously received the Innovation Award from them for his inventive ways to make things come to fruition.



Lisa McWethy, Huron, 20 Years

Lisa has lived in Huron all her life. She went to SDSU and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Sociology and a Minor in Criminal Justice. She started working for the Huron Police Department 911 Dispatch Center in 1998 and became the Dispatch Supervisor in 2007. She is married to Skip McWethy who is a Probation Officer for the State of South Dakota. They have one son Peyton who is currently studying to become a nurse.

Vanessa Row, Keystone, 28 Years

Sandi McClain's nomination: I have worked closely with Vanessa for over 10 years as a Board Trustee for Keystone. In fact she has worked with over 42 trustees throughout her tenure. This individual works miracles. She is kind, thoughtful, intelligent and a true team player. She has been the only Finance Officer in the state to be nominated twice for the Finance Officer of the year, an honor for any Finance Officer in this state. She serves in the community at the UCC church as an officer, volunteering for over 10-20 events through out the community. She always helps a neighbor or citizen in the Town of Keystone when she can. She has served the Town of Keystone for 28 wonderful years and is retiring in December of 2018. She will be greatly missed and the Town of Keystone will always be

indebted to her service and expertise.

Jeff Wray, Madison, 20 Years

Jeff Wray began working for the City of Madison Electric Department in June of 1998 as an apprentice lineman. He has continued his education by completing the Merchant's Advanced Lineman Program and was promoted to Lead Lineman in 2016. In his time with the City, Jeff has been a vital part of the electrical team in completing numerous projects and upgrades within the city.



Patricia Richardson, Madison, 20 Years

My name is Patricia (Pat) Richardson. I was born and raised in Madison and have been married to Charlie Richardson for 46 years. I have two children and three grandchildren. After I was the librarian at Madison Middle School, Nancy Sabbe, from the Madison Public Library, offered me the opportunity to apply for a position at the city library. Some of the best things about working at the Library include, having great workers, enjoying a pleasant atmosphere, engaging the public on a daily basis, and seeing all the newest books and materials on the market.

Kory Bauder, McLaughlin, 20 Years

Kory has worked in Utility Maintenance for the City of McLaughlin for 26 years. McLaughlin Mayor Arnie Schott recognized Kory's dedication to the City and his work stating that he is up at 5 a.m. every morning, either picking up trash or shoveling snow. Kory is known for his willingness to go out of the way to help the citizens of McLaughlin, both on and off the clock.



Perry Ankrum, Pierre, 24 Years

Perry started his employment with the City of Pierre in 1994 working in the Water Department. In 1997 Perry transferred to the Street Department as a heavy equipment operator. Perry is happily



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married to his wife Sandra for 25 years. They have one son Adam who Perry enjoys spending quality outdoor time with that consists of hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes and UTV's. Perry's dedication and experience make him a huge asset to the City of Pierre Street Department.



Gary Badger, Pierre, 34 Years

Gary has been with the City for 34 years. In that time he has worked as an animal control officer, meter reader, water department laborer, and finally operator at the Water Reclamation Facility. Along with

being an operator, he was the city's lift station mechanic and now works in industrial pretreatment. Gary is passionate about cooking for others and catering for events. His experience and institutional knowledge have been invaluable. Gary looks forward to participating in the community and local politics after retirement.



Dan Bowman, Pierre, 21 Years

Dan worked as a seasonal for the city for a couple years before starting full time as a baler/equipment operator in 1997. He worked at the Solid Waste Baling Facility and Landfill. He operated all the heavy

equipment at the landfill including the front end wheel loader, garbage compactor and scraper. He also filled in for the yard waste and garbage collection routes. In 2012 he was promoted to the bale truck driver position. At the Solid Waste Baling Facility he operates the baler, front end wheel loader, compost turner, skid steer and drives semi to haul garbage bales to the landfill.



Jim Fahey, Pierre, 42 Years

Jim was born and raised in the City of Pierre. In 1976 Jim began his employment with the City as a maintenance worker in the Parks Department. In 1978 Jim was promoted to Cemetery Superintendent, a

position he holds to this day. Jim has supervised over 3,000 burials at Riverside Cemetery and is a highly respected consultant on policies and procedures for Cemetery operations, both municipal and privately owned. His visionary thinking led the City to purchasing additional land long before it was needed to prepare the City for burials well into the future.



Dale Gourneau, Pierre, 21 Years

Dale has been with the City for over 20 years and began his career working in the ditch on the construction crew laying water main, he then became a well technician before moving on to his current position as

a meter and locate technician. Dale has repaired numerous water mains, flushed hundreds of fire hydrants, located

thousands of miles of water and sewer lines, repaired and changed out thousands of water meters, touch pads and nodes all while displaying excellent customer service to our consumers. Dale's most recent accomplishment was the installation of the AMI system. This was an entire swap out of every water meter in town along with overseeing the entire project from start to finish. Dale has always had pride in his work and taken care of the folks in Pierre in the best way he knows how. If someone needs help with their water they know they can call Dale and he will be there to help.



Derek Gray, Pierre, 30 Years

Derek began his 31 year tenure with the City as a part-time Auto Cad Technician in November 1987. He became a full time employee in April of 1988 performing drafting and other Engineer technician

duties. Derek has created and maintained the City street & utility mapping system; initially in CAD format and recently in both CAD & GIS platforms. In addition to drafting and mapping, Derek also assists with overseeing both survey and construction roles as needed.



Jerry Harrowa, Pierre, 27 Years

Jerry started working for the city of Pierre as an equipment operator at the landfill in 1991. In 2001 he became the Landfill Crew Leader. He operates all the heavy

equipment at the landfill including the front end wheel loader, garbage compactor and scraper. He is responsible to make sure the day to day operations get completed, with the help of a baler/equipment operator about 7-8 months of the year and solely responsible the other 4-5 months of year.



Dennis Jensen, Pierre, 29 Years

Denny has been working for the city of Pierre for over 29 years. A majority of those years he has been working for the Fire Department where he started in 1999. Since starting with the fire department:

- He has created a strong relationship with the volunteers throughout the years.
- He has kept all of our equipment in tip top shape and in a ready to respond state.
- He responds to large fires where he will immediately diagnose and repair any equipment issues while on scene.
- Like many jobs, he covers numerous duties as assigned.

Denny is truly a valued employee for the city of Pierre.

Valerie Keller, Pierre, 21 Years

Valerie began her 21 year career with the City in April of



1997 as Solid Waste Superintendent and has been an active long term member of the SD Solid Waste Association. She manages the activities of the solid waste group that include residential collection, yard waste and recyclable diversion, waste baling & transportation and operation of is a regional landfill. In addition to managing daily operations Valerie has been involved in three landfill construction projects, two landfill closure projects, and construction of the current baling/transfer/waste diversion facility.



Bill Kelley, Pierre, 22 Years

Bill started his employment with the City of Pierre in 1996 as a meter reader. In 1998 Bill transferred to the street department and is the crew leader of the sign and marking division. Bill has been happily married to his wife Yvonne, for 6 years. Bill loves the outdoors. His hobbies consist of long trips around the US on his motorcycle, and in the winter going snowmobiling with friends. Bills dedication and knowledge make him a valuable asset to the City of Pierre Street Department.



Todd Kelly, Pierre, 37 Years

Todd Kelly was born and raised in Pierre. Todd began his employment with the City in the Parks Department in 1981 working as a carpenter. Todd was promoted to Parks Superintendent in 2005 and holds that position today. In his 30 plus years with the City Parks there is not a major project or improvement that Todd was not involved with. His most notable achievement was restoring over 200 acres of green space destroyed by the 2011 flood. The beauty of the Pierre Parks and the trees within them is a testimony to his hard work.



Judy Langbehn Ulvestad, Pierre, 23 Years

Judy began her library career in 1992 working 2 evenings a week and every other weekend. During the day, she was employed with the Pierre School District. In 1995 Judy started working full time at Rawlins Library in the circulation department. Eventually, she became manager of the Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Departments. Many of the challenges she faces center around technology. "You almost master your software and then it is time to upgrade to the next best thing" she says. Eventually, Judy hopes to spend more time with her family, friends, books, and maybe travel to some of the places she has visited in books.

LeRoy Madsen, Pierre, 21 Years

For the 22 years that LeRoy has been with the City, he has held a variety of positions. As a part time golf marshal, water department laborer, and custodian at city hall in the first few



years as an employee. He served as a meter reader for 19 years and helped in the transition to the cities new wireless meters. As that task came to a close, LeRoy was transferred to the Water Reclamation Facility. In retirement, LeRoy is looking forward to taking it easy, visiting the grandkids, and riding his Spyder motorcycle.



Mark Metzinger, Pierre, 26 Years

Mark began his career with the City of Pierre in 1992 with the Water Department where he worked for three years. In 1995 he transferred to the Street Department as an Equipment Operator. In 1999 he was promoted to Assistant Street Superintendent and became Street Superintendent in 2004. As Street Superintendent Mark has been instrumental in bringing new approaches in street maintenance to Pierre including Otta Seals, thin lift overlays, fog sealing, scrub seals, brine pretreatment, and other road maintenance technologies.



Rex Newling, Pierre, 23 Years

Rex began his career for the City of Pierre in June 1995. He originally started in the Parks and Recreation Department doing electrical work and park maintenance. His career progressed as he was transferred to the Electric Department for the City of Pierre where his main duties included electrical work, and he veered away from park maintenance. He is an integral team member of the department as he maintains the city's signal lights. Rex currently holds the Electrical Contractor's License for the City of Pierre. He is an asset as he also helps the Street Department with snow removal in the winter months.



Mike Parker, Pierre, 30 Years

Mike Parker began his employment with the City of Pierre in 1988 as an Operations Maintenance Technician for the Airport Department. In 2003, Mike transferred to the Park Department as a Maintenance Worker. Mike assists with irrigation and building maintenance. Mike is a benefit to the city ensuring the parks and city buildings are well maintained.



Jay Penrod, Pierre, 25 Years

Jay has worked with the City of Pierre for 25 years as an Operator and Lab technician at the city's Water Reclamation Facility. Jay graduated from Northern State University with a degree in Industrial Management. Having been raised, and raising his own family in Pierre, Jay is invested in making the community the best place possible. He enjoys golfing, sports and gardening.

**Glen Perry, Pierre, 22 Years**

Glen came to Pierre from the town of Bruce, SD. He attended collage at SDSU. In 1996 he was hired by the City of Pierre Parks Department. In 2000 he moved to the Cemetery Department to become the lead maintenance worker. Since that time Glen has proven he has skills in the operation of equipment, maintaining equipment used at the cemetery and all maintenance work done at the cemetery. Glen has helped in the development of a new cemetery for the city that will last for over 100 years. Glen is very professional when it comes to customer service.

**Sharon Pruess, Pierre, 20 Years**

Sharon began her 20 year career as City Planner in May of 1998. She is a Certified Flood Plain Manager and a member of the SD Planners Association. Sharon has been instrumental in establishing comprehensive zoning and access management within the community. Some of her more notable endeavors include Annexation studies, Transportation Plans, and Comprehensive Development Plans.

**Doug Rasmussen, Pierre, 20 Years**

Doug started working for the city of Pierre as a Refuse Collection Driver in 1998 and continues working in that position. Changes to the collection program over the years eliminating the yard waste collection route and combining the solid waste collection route to two days a week. His position includes working at the Solid Waste Baling Facility operating the baler and front end wheel loader.

**Calvin Russell, Pierre, 20 Years**

Calvin Russell began his employment with the City of Pierre in 1998 as a refuse collection driver for the Landfill Department. Calvin transferred to the Street Department in 2001 working as an Equipment Operator. In 2007, he transferred to the Park Department as a maintenance worker and chemicals applicator. Calvin is an asset to the city helping maintain the parks and other city owned property.

**Jeanne Simpson, Pierre, 21 Years**

Jeanne Simpson began her employment with the City of Pierre in 1997 as a custodian for the Airport Department. Jeanne was promoted to Airport Operations Technician in 2003. In 2005, Jeanne transferred to the Parks Department as a custodian for city hall and other city owned facilities. Jeanne's ability to maintain the city buildings doesn't go unnoticed and she

is a valued resource to the city.

**Toby Stertz, Pierre, 21 Years**

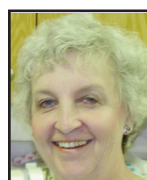
Toby Stertz began his employment with the City of Pierre in 1997 as a Well Technician for the Water Department. Toby was promoted as an Equipment Operator in 1999. In 2000, Toby transferred to the Park Department as a Maintenance Worker and promoted to Heavy Equipment Operator in 2012. Toby's abilities and well-rounded knowledge of large equipment are a benefit and value to the city.

**Scott Swenson, Pierre, 28 Years**

Scott Swenson began his employment with the City of Pierre in 1990 as a Maintenance Worker for the Parks Department. Scott was promoted to Senior Maintenance Worker in 1997 with an area of expertise in irrigation. Scott designs, Installs, and maintains the cities irrigation systems and does the plumbing maintenance on city facilities. Scott's skills and capabilities are a true asset to the city

**Steve Valland, Pierre, 43 Years**

Steve has worked for the City of Pierre for over 40 years. Steve started his longtime career with the city in September of 1975 as an Apprentice Lineman in the Electric Department. Over the years, he has worked his way up to Lead Lineman. Steve has been an essential member of the City of Pierre's Electric Department as he worked on and oversaw numerous projects due to the city's needs and its growth. Steve was fundamental as the City of Pierre made the transition from overhead to underground. Steve's hard work and longevity have been instrumental in shaping the department.

**Patricia Weeldreyer, Pierre, 34 Years**

Patricia started at the Library as an evening desk clerk on February 1, 1984. She worked a couple evenings a week and some weekends. She enjoyed this so much, Pat took on the role of part time Circulation Assistant on December 1, 1985. She would work 5 hours a day. She enjoyed the added responsibilities which included covering books as well as some ordering of books along with regular desk duties. In December of 1991 Pat became the Children's Librarian, her favorite position at the Library! She loves working with children whether it is picking out a book, doing a craft, or singing the wheels on the bus go round! She did serve as the interim library director for about a year and a half in the late 90s while the city

of Pierre was looking for a new director while continuing her duties as the Children's Librarian. As you can see Pat Weeldreyer has worked at just about every position the library has to offer, and has enjoyed them all. She loves to see patrons using the library and has seen many changes over the years. She still loves that adults and especially children come in to find that book they just want to read!



Kirby Welch, Pierre, 22 Years

Kirby's 22 year career with the City of Pierre began in November of 1996 as the City carpenter. He became an Engineering/ Building Technician in October of 2001 until January of 2006 when he advanced to the position of Building Inspector. Kirby is highly skilled in many aspects of construction including land surveying, site/civil construction and building construction. Kirby is a valuable asset to the City due to his knowledge of construction codes & practices, his ability to communicate positively with the public, and his strong work ethic.



Penn Williams, Pierre, 36 Years

Penn began his employment with the City in the Golf Department in 1982 working as a Maintenance Worker. Penn transferred to the Park Department in 1990 as a Maintenance Worker and was promoted to Herbicide Technician. Penn oversees the application of herbicides, insecticides and aquatic vegetation control for the city. Penn is an asset to the city helping maintain the parks and other city owned property.



Steve Hanson, Spearfish, 23 Years

Steve started with the city in July 1994 as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Steve left the city for one year to pursue other interests, but returned to his position in June of 2002. Steve is a certified Class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator and was involved in multiple plant upgrades and process changes. In December of 2005, the City purchased the Spearfish Canyon Hydro Electric Plant No.1 from Homestake Mining Company. Steve's knowledge and experience with electrical and mechanical equipment made him the perfect fit to become a hydro operator and assist with the operations and maintenance of the 107 year old hydroelectric facility. Steve continues to learn new and old ways of operating and assisting in maintaining the 4 megawatt hydroelectric facility built in 1911.



Tom Westphal, Virgil, 34 Years

Tom has been the Chairman of the Board for the Town of Virgil for 34 years. During his tenure the town experienced difficulties with the aging water mains. With due diligence, Mid Dakota Rural Water was incorporated throughout the town. Tom is very proactive with maintaining the towns appearance. When is not busy serving his community, you can find him cheering on the Wolsey-Wessington Warbirds!



Rick Hustead, Wall, 21 Years

Rick has served on the Wall City Council since 1997. Rick believes serving on the Council is an important responsibility. He has enjoyed many challenges and opportunities during his tenure. Rick especially enjoyed working on the Main Street renovation project in 2011 and 2012. It was a huge improvement that rectified past design deficiencies. Rick was also involved in the City's purchase of a portion of the old school property in 2009; used for additional downtown parking, which has been a tremendous asset to Wall. The latest project was the remodel of the City Office/Community Center, built in 1984.

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