

### The Charles N. Cadwallader Award

This award is presented in honor of the Great Rotarian, Charles N. Cadwallader, who served as President of Lincoln Rotary Club #14, as District Governor, as a Director of Rotary International, and who was the sponsor of eleven Rotary clubs in the district. The award is presented to a Rotarian in District 5650 who has made a monumental contribution in one or all of the avenues of service: Community International, Vocational, Club and Youth Service. The award has been endowed by a gift of Charles N. and Ruth Cadwallader. Past recipients:

1963	Elijah Leavitt	York
1964	William W. Cook, Sr.	Beatrice
1966	Al V. Sorensen	Omaha
1967	Paul W. Hyland	Lincoln Northeast
1968	Ervin J. Schneider	Auburn
1969	Dr. Ben H. Greenburg	York
	Dr. Donald J. Bucholz	Omaha West
1970	Robert L. Voss	Fremont
1971	Bernard J. Klasek	Wilbur
1972	Ken Wortman	Aurora
1973	J.D. Anderson	Omaha
1974	Elmer E. Magee	Lincoln #14
1975	E.J. "Pat" Keim	Fremont
1976	Vernon E. Fisher	Shenandoah
1977	Eugene J. Ely	Auburn
1978	Hugh L. Tinley	Omaha
1979	James M. Paxton	Omaha West
1980	David A. Lemen	Council Bluffs
1981	Everett R. Jones	Beatrice
1982	Earl T. Luff	Lincoln #14
1983	John Paustian	Lincoln Northeast
1984	Dr. Sol Kutler	Omaha Suburban
	Walter E. Truex	Norfolk
1985	I. Joseph Pemicone	Omaha
1986	Erwin H. Goldenstein	Lincoln #14
1987	Dr. Clarence Zimmer	Friend
1988	H.W. "Bud" Henricksen	Fremont
1989	Kermit R. Hansen	Omaha Suburban
	Wayne O. Tanderup	Seward
1990	Larry McNichols	Omaha Suburban
1991	Thomas E. Gouttierre	Omaha
1992	Dr. Donald W. Miller	Lincoln #14
1993	Paul F. Foster	Shenandoah
1994	Rudolph E. Tomek	Humboldt
1995	David C. Livingston	Lincoln #14
1996	William R. Mann	Nebraska City
1997	Robert L. Carlisle	Norfolk
1998	Dr. Ann Coyne	Omaha Suburban
1999	Roger R. Ludemann	Lincoln #14
2000	William E. Ramsey	Omaha
2001	Dr. George Lytton	Lincoln South
2002	Dan Rose	Wayne
2003	Lyle Sapp	Omaha Suburban
2004	Mary Linn Sonnemaker	Bellevue
2005	Nicolette S. "Nicki" Klein	Lincoln South
2006	William Schmeeckle	Lincoln #14
2007	J. Robert Perrin	Omaha Suburban\
2008	Joseph K. Roberts	Lincoln South
2009	Joanne Peters	Omaha Suburban
2010	Robert Knox	Council Bluffs
2011	Harry Reyburn	Omaha Suburban
2012	Ozzie Gilbertson	Lincoln East
2013	Roxy Orr	Omaha Suburban
2014	Thomas Cardwell	Lincoln South
2015	Charles Erickson	Lincoln East
2016	Dorothy Zimmerman	Beatrice
2017	Curt Peters	Omaha Suburban
2018	Dr. John Herdman	Lincoln South



## Presents the 2019 Cadwallader Award



**Gretchen Bren**

**Nominated by Omaha Downtown**

**Rotary District Conference  
July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## Gretchen Bren

Gretchen Bren started in the computer industry as a service manager for an Apple computer store in Council Bluffs in 1983...not a common role for a woman at the time. She became interested in training and business processes and she changed her focus in those directions. She has been training on Microsoft products since 1985. She joined Rotary in 2007 as the Executive Director of Omaha Downtown, a role she filled for ten years. After leaving that role, she joined Turner Technology—a company co-founded by her husband, Gary—as a special projects manager.

Gretchen was a member of Omaha Downtown for 12 years, is currently a member of Omaha Night, is a member of the Rotary Wine Appreciation Fellowship (a charter member of the local chapter) and the Rotary on Pins Fellowship. She has been to five International Conventions including Los Angeles, Montreal, Sydney, Seoul, and Atlanta. Gretchen is a Paul Harris +5 and a Level 1 Benefactor of the Foundation and as a result of her efforts in support of the Rotary Foundation's mission, she was awarded the Citation for Meritorious Service.

Gretchen has been married to Gary since 1989 and is the proud mom to two cats, Athena and Artemis. In her free time she loves to read, drink fine wines, and travel.

**International Service.** Gretchen's most significant contribution to International Service is her involvement with Polio Eradication:

- Since December of 2008, she has been on 15 immunization missions to Mali, Chad, Nigeria, Madagascar, India, and Pakistan. The trips to Chad were the only Rotary Polio missions ever done into the country. The second trip there involved driving overnight 500 miles across the desert on hard-pack roads to the all Muslim community of Abeche in eastern Chad.
- Gretchen serves as the Chairperson of the Polio Survivor's and Associates Rotary Action Group and she developed and supports their website.
- Gretchen was awarded the International Service Award for a Polio-Free World in 2014. This award is only given to no more than 10 Rotarians worldwide each year.

**Vocational Service.** Gretchen has applied her vocational skills in all the avenues of service, but there are several notable contributions relative to her training and facilitation skills:

- Gretchen was part of the original group of facilitators brought on board to revive RLI in our District in 2008. She has been involved in the facilitation of

sessions at over 30 RLI events in the last 11 years. She serves as the registrar for Heartland RLI and she developed and supports the Heartland RLI website.

- Gretchen was part of the original group of facilitators in our District trained in 2015 for Club Visioning. She has taken part in most of the 16+ Visioning events held in our District over the last four years.
- Gretchen as either been the lead District Trainer or part of the training committee for the last five years.
- Gretchen was asked to facilitate sessions for District Trainers at ChiZone in 2017, Celebration Zone in 2018, and will be facilitating the trainer sessions at Zone in Kansas City in September of 2019.

**Community Service** One of the best examples of her community service is her contribution to the 9/11 flag memorial at Memorial Park. Lynn Castrianno lost her brother Leonard—who worked at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 101st floor of the North Tower—on 9/11. Starting in 2004, Lynn started placing flags in Memorial Park for the 11 days surrounding 9/11. There is one flag labeled with information for each person who died that day: 2,977 flags. Gretchen got involved in with the project in 2009 and has helped every year since. In 2011 it was clear the flags needed to be retired and replaced.

Gretchen contacted Woodmen of the World and got them to donate new 3,000+ flags so there would be spares. Then she worked with local printers to identify a label and printing solution that would stand up under exposure to the sun and the elements for years. Once the new flags and labels were in, she organized a group to get the labels on the flags and to get the flags organized by location. Gretchen also designed a large chart that is used both as a poster on site and as a map to placing the flags by location groups

**Youth Service.** Aside from her involvement in Polio Eradication, Gretchen's most significant contribution to youth has been her involvement with the Omaha Downtown Rotary Honor Roll program. It has three pieces: The 8th Grade Honor Roll, the 10th grade Student Service Excellence Awards in partnership with the BBB, and college scholarships for high school seniors that were honored in 8th grade.

While supporting these three programs was part of her job while she worked as Executive Director, she spent hundreds of hours volunteering before she took that role and worked many hours outside work time as well. She has continued to invest 150-200 hours a year supporting these programs since she left the Executive Director position. She writes and supports the web application process for the 10th grade and scholarship programs and plays a key role in the scoring and evaluation process for both programs.

**District Service.** In addition to her contributions as a facilitator and trainer, Gretchen has been the District Polio Chair for the last six years.