



2009 Gold and Silver Circle Honors

2009 NATAS Board Members

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KBJR, Duluth

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Jim Schiffman
Lakeville Government Television, Lakeville

Tim Scully
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul

Jean Zimmerman
Wayzata High School, Plymouth

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**Official Web site of the
Upper Midwest Emmys:**
midwestemmys.org

About the Gold and Silver Circle Honors

The highest honor the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences can bestow is recognition of our broadcast pioneers – the men and women who have made significant contributions to both our industry and our communities over the course of their careers. These are national honors, presented locally by the Upper Midwest Chapter.

Gold and Silver Circle honorees are a celebration of extraordinary careers. Selection requires service to the industry, the community and to the next generation of broadcast professionals. Silver Circle inductees must have at least twenty-five years in the industry. Gold Circle inductees must have at least fifty years in the industry. The individuals we honor during the 2009 Upper Midwest Emmy Awards more than fulfill these criteria.

On behalf of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the National Awards Committee, and the Upper Midwest Chapter Board of Governors, it is our very great honor to present the 2009 Gold and Silver Circle honorees.

Bill Carlson

Bill Carlson was one of WCCO's most versatile anchors, and one of this region's most recognized and beloved personalities. His fifty-year career, at WCCO Radio and WCCO TV, is a testament to nice guys finishing first.

Carlson literally grew up in the broadcast business. He started at WCCO Radio as a page while still in high school. While there, he produced many popular WCCO Radio programs as well as establishing himself as an on-air talent. At the same time, he attended the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in radio and television speech.

In 1959 he transferred to WCCO TV where he began a television career that included nearly every phase of radio and television work including Assistant Promotions Director, Director of Operations, Associate Research Director, and Chief Announcer. He also hosted a phone-in talk show, a teen dance program and several game shows, as well as hosting WCCO TV's "The Morning Show", "The Midday Scene", "This Must Be The Place", and most recently, "WCCO 4 News at Noon".

Most known for covering the Arts and Entertainment beat for WCCO, Carlson interviewed hundreds of Hollywood stars over the years including John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart, Paul McCartney, Tom Cruise, Robert Redford, Barbara Streisand and Britney Spears. His interviewing style earned him the respect and admiration from all he met. His connections with the entertainment industry led him all over the world.

A native Minnesotan, Carlson was born in Thief River Falls and raised in St. Paul. He and his beloved wife Nancy Nelson Carlson were actively involved in animal rights issues, working extensively with the Minnesota Humane Society, and the Fun for Animals. They also worked with ex-offenders from the Minnesota prison system.

Carlson died in 2008, succumbing to prostate cancer. Loved and respected by his colleagues, he was a pro to the end, wrapping up his film reviews for the 2008 Academy Awards a mere week before he died.



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Jane Helmke

Jane Helmke is one of those rare individuals whose 27-year career includes only one station: KARE. Along the way, she has been a role model for women, mentored interns, created a unique educational opportunity for students, and helped colleagues earn greater recognition for their work.

Jane grew up in a southern Wisconsin Scandinavian farming community, starting her career in journalism at the junior high school newspaper. She carried that interest forward to Augsburg College in Minneapolis, graduating with a double major in Communications and Physical Education. Jane created the school's first sports information assistant position, which led to an interest in TV sports. In her senior year, she started as an intern in the sports department at WTCN (now KARE), after an unnamed competitor turned her down because he "didn't have time for girls in sports."

The small sports staff at WTCN gave Jane the opportunity to jump in and get deeply involved. Her first interview? Billie Jean King. That internship turned into a part time Production Assistant job in early 1983 with Jane hired to be the chyron operator and to create weather graphics. In 1985, Jane became Sports Producer, and Fill-in Sunrise Sports Anchor, the first female sportscaster in a Twin Cities newscast. Her on-camera career was short-lived as she focused more on producing. Jane was named Special Projects Producer in 1988 where, for the next decade she worked on numerous community service documentaries, primetime specials, documentaries, and primetime series including the popular Pat Miles Specials, Olympics coverage, and political campaigns and conventions. By 1996 Jane was named Managing Editor where she now works primarily with digital platforms, including overseeing kare11.com.

Jane has won numerous national and regional awards for her work: Regional Emmys, national AWRT, National Educational Film and Video Festival, Music Journalism Awards, American Film and Video Festival, and many more.

Jane served as a founding board member of the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and was instrumental in creating and defining the chapter. The popular "Emmys Class" taught at the University of Minnesota was her brainchild, and the unique curriculum her inspired work. She also spearheaded the effort that led to the first National Emmy for Regional Chapters in Breaking/Spot News and Investigative categories. This chapter's reputation for innovation and our focus on education are based on Jane's work.

Chester Reiten

Chester Reiten has had the unique opportunity to guide television from its infancy to its maturation into a digitally-delivered, full-grown force in our lives.

Reiten began his career in television at KCJB-TV in Minot, North Dakota in 1955 - soon after the station signed on as the state's first. Within five years, Reiten was the owner of the newly-named KXMC-TV in Minot and helped establish television in the region.

Reiten involved his station in the community by featuring local kids baseball teams on weekly live game broadcasts, broadcasting local musicians in live concerts, and using the station to broadcast critical alert messages during a devastating flood in 1969. KXMC also pioneered the now-commonplace broadcast of live sporting events.



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Reiten expanded his broadcasting interests into Bismarck, Dickinson, and Williston with affiliated television stations, and operated several radio stations in Minot.

In addition, Reiten served his community as mayor and state senator for several years and has been presented North Dakota's highest civilian honor, the Roughrider Award.

In the 1990s, Reiten transferred ownership of his television stations to his children. Son Tim is the president of Reiten Television and operates KXMB in Bismarck and KXMA in Dickinson. Son David is chairman of Reiten Television and operates KXMC in Minot and KXMD in Williston. Daughter Kathleen is at KXMB in Bismarck. He has two other children not involved in the industry: Melanie, who resides in San Diego and Steve, who lives in Harwood, North Dakota.

Chester Reiten and his wife Joy live in Minot, North Dakota.

The Gold Circle

2009
Bill Carlson*

2008
Bradley R. Jacobs

2007
Harold Crump

2005
Robert C. Fransen

2004
N. L. "Larry" Bentson*
Stanley S. Hubbard

The Silver Circle

2009
Jane Helmke
Chester Reitan

2008
Ron Gruber
Dick Heidt
Stan Turner

2007
Karen Boros
Bill Hanley

2006
John Bachman
Steve Edelman
Harry Jones*
Barbara Reyalts

2005
Charley Johnson
Jerome "Bud" Kraehling

2004
Bill Duhamel
Bill and Marietta Ekberg
Don Shelby

2003
Harold Crump
Dave Dedrick
Joe L. Floyd*
Al Gustin
Mel Jass*

2002
Roger Awsumb*
Stuart A. Lindman
Elaine L. Peterson
Francis Van Koynenburg*

2001
Frank Befera*
Robert C. Fransen
Ron Handberg
Steve Hemmingsen
Stanley S. Hubbard
Dave Nimmer

2000
Jason Davis
Stanley E. Hubbard*
Pat Miles
Dave Moore*
Donald Swartz

*Deceased