



2026 Awards

Each year, the North Dakota Medical Association honors a physician and a non-physician who have made outstanding contributions to the medical profession, patients, and their community.

The awards will be presented during NDMA's 2026 Annual Meeting on October 16. NDMA will recognize the recipients of the following two awards:

NDMA Physician Community and Professional Services Award

This award was established in 1977 to annually recognize and honor physicians for outstanding leadership and services to the people of North Dakota and to the profession of medicine.

Criteria

1. The recipient must be a physician member of NDMA;
2. The recipient must be living;
3. The recipient must not have been a previous award recipient; and
4. The recipient must have compiled an outstanding record of community service, apart from his or her specific identification as a physician, that reflects well on the medical profession.

NDMA Friend of Medicine Award

The Friend of Medicine Award was created in 1999 to formally acknowledge non-physician residents of our state who have distinguished themselves by serving as effective advocates for health care, patient services, or the profession of medicine in the state of North Dakota.

Criteria

1. Must be either living in or operating a business enterprise in the state;
2. Must not be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy; and
3. Must have distinguished himself or herself by serving as an effective advocate for healthcare, patient services, or the profession of medicine in North Dakota.

NDMA Physician Community and Professional Services Award Past Recipients

Paul J. Beithon, MD	Wahpeton	1977
Nelson A. Youngs, MD	Grand Forks	1978
Richard S. Larson, MD	Velva	1979
Robert W. McLean, MD	Hillsboro	1980
James H. Mahoney, MD	Devils Lake	1981
Phillip O. Dahl, MD	Bismarck	1982
Melvin S. Jacobson, MD	Elgin	1982
Dean R. Strinden, MD	Williston	1983
Robert C. Painter, MD	Grand Forks	1984
Edward J. Hagan, MD	Williston	1985
William R. Fox, MD	Rugby	1986
William C. Riecke, MD	Bismarck	1987
Robert B. Tudor, MD	Bismarck	1988
George M. Johnson, MD	Fargo	1989
Keith G. Foster, MD	Bismarck	1990
Robert L. Geston, MD	West Fargo	1991
John W. Goven, MD	Valley City	1992
Herbert J. Wilson, MD	New Town	1993
Lee A. Christopherson Sr, MD	Fargo	1994
Mack V. Traynor, MD	Fargo	1995
Raman A. Patel, MD	Tioga	1996
Dennis E. Wolf, MD	Dickinson	1997
Clifford J. Klein, MD	Valley City	1998
Ralph L. Kilzer, MD	Bismarck	1999
Raymond S. Gruby, MD	Bismarck	2000
John L. Crary, MD	Fargo	2001
Marlin JE Johnson, MD	Bismarck	2002
Rupkumar Nagala, MD	Oakes	2003
Steven K. Hamar, MD	Bismarck	2004
Clayton E. Jensen, MD	Detroit Lakes	2005
Glenn M. Thoreson, MD	Mayville	2006
Bruce G. Pitts, MD	Fargo	2007
Bernard J. Hoggarth, MD	Grand Forks	2008
Timothy J. Mahoney, MD	Fargo	2009
Robert R. Tight, MD	Fargo	2010
James D. Brosseau, MD	Grand Forks	2011
Vani Nagala, MD	Oakes	2012
John M. Leitch, MD	Fargo	2013
Roger W. Schauer, MD	Grand Forks	2014
Joseph E. Adducci, MD	Williston	2015
Julie A. Blehm, MD	Fargo	2016
Kimberly T. Krohn, MD	Minot	2017
A. Michael Booth, MD	Bismarck	2018
Gary W. Ramage, MD	Watford City	2019
Michael R. Brown, MD	Grand Forks	2020
Casey J. Ryan, MD	Grand Forks	2021
Paul J. Carson, MD	Fargo	2022
Joshua Wynne, MD	Grand Forks	2023
David R. Field, MD	Bismarck	2024
Robert P. Sticca, MD	Fargo	2025

NDMA Friend of Medicine Award Past Recipients

Sen. Judy DeMers	Grand Forks	1999
Rep. Rick Berg	Fargo	1999
Rep. Wanda Rose	Bismarck	1999
Sr. Michael Emond, PA-C	Hettinger	2000
Sherlyn Dahl	Fargo	2001
Kelly Schmidt	Minot	2002
Mary Muhlbradt	Minot	2002
Vern Hedland	Valley City	2003
Evan Lips, Sr.	Bismarck	2004
Thomas Clifford	Grand Forks	2004
Robert Peabody	East Grand Forks	2005
Carol Meidinger	Bismarck	2006
Kent Brackel	Hettinger	2007
Congressman Earl Pomeroy	Bismarck	2008
J. Patrick Traynor	Fargo	2009
Senator Byron Dorgan	Bismarck	2010
Bruce Levi	Bismarck	2011
Senator Kent Conrad	Bismarck	2012
Dan Kelly	Watford City	2013
Dave Molmen	Grand Forks	2014
Burt Riskedahl JD	Bismarck	2015
Joyce Saylor, RN	Mandan	2016
Randy Eken	Grand Forks	2017
Jerry Jurena	Bismarck	2018
Jeana Peinovich	Fargo	2019
Kirby Kruger	Bismarck	2020
Molly Howell	Bismarck	2021
Desi Fleming	Fargo	2022
Renae Moch	Bismarck	2022
Carma Hanson	Grand Forks	2023
Ted Uecker	Hettinger	2024
Renee Daffinrud	Bismarck	2025

**Deadline for Submission:
August 31, 2026**

The NDMA Executive Council will determine award recipients. Please return the completed form and any accompanying material to North Dakota Medical Association, 1622 E Interstate Ave, Ste A, Bismarck, ND, 58503-0512. If you have any questions, contact the NDMA office at 701-223-9475 or email donna@ndmed.com.

