Celebrity Conductor Contest

NISO’s Second Celebrity Conductor Fundraiser will be held on February 2, 2013 in connection with the Winter Pops Concert. Prominent individuals have been invited to vie for the honor of conducting an orchestral selection that evening. They are vigorously garnering support from family and friends by soliciting donations for NISO. Each dollar donated will constitute one vote. The winning candidate will demonstrate his skill after the intermission.

Dave Bloemendaal – Orange City

Dave Bloemendaal is an Iowa farm boy who spent his early years in Newkirk and Hartley. He found a wife at Dordt College while earning a degree in secondary music education. Joyce was the accompanist assigned for his voice lessons. After six years of teaching vocal and instrumental music at Southwest Christian High in Edgerton, MN, Dave returned to Orange City, where he is now assistant manager at Bomgaars. He has been involved with choral and instrumental groups throughout his life. He has directed and performed in many Tulip Time productions, and has directed the church choir and the men’s chorus. Dave would be honored to be selected to direct a first-class orchestra like NISO.

Jack Schreurs - Sheldon

Jack Schreurs is currently Director of Human Resources at Rosenboom. Ever since joining the school band in 1960, he has been playing in instrumental groups. He was first trumpet for NISO’s forerunner, “The Sioux County Orchestra.” Now he plays with the Koinonia Brass Quintet, which includes his daughter and son-in-law. After earning a degree in K-12 music education from Dordt College, Jack taught instrumental music at several schools: Hull Christian, Western Christian High School, Dakota Christian, and Sheldon Christian. Jack has been a church choir director since 1972, currently at Immanuel CRC in Sheldon. He and Kathy have four married children, three living nearby. This Wisconsin native hopes that his childhood dream of conducting a major symphonic orchestra like NISO will be fulfilled this Groundhog Day.

Dennis Walstra – Sioux Center

Dennis Walstra came from Chicago to attend Dordt College and never left. Owner and operator of Walstra Plumbing and Heating since the early 1980s, Dennis has a long history of service to church and civic organizations in Sioux Center: Covenant CRC Council, City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Sioux Center Board of Adjustment, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, Sioux Center Centennial Committee, Dordt College Board of Trustees and Advisory Council, Sioux Center Christian School Board, and others. Since 2003 he has been Mayor of Sioux Center. He currently serves as President of the Policy Maker’s Council of the American Public Power Association and serves on the Energy, Environment and Natural Resource Council of the National League of Cities. Denny and Donna have three married children and five grandchildren. Dennis prepared for this competition by playing trumpet in the high school band. (Photo by Sioux Center News)

Denny Wright - Hull

Denny Wright grew up in Laurens, Iowa, and taught social studies at Boyden-Hull until retiring in 2004. He was the athletic director and girls’ track coach for almost thirty years, and baseball and softball umpire in NW Iowa for forty years. Community service includes these: Mayor of Hull, County Supervisor, Ambulance Squad member, Sioux Center Hospital Board member, American Reformed Church Council member, and Kiwanis President. Denny has received these awards: Hull Citizen of the Year, Employee of the Year, IHSAA Administrator Award (2005), and induction into the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame (2005). Although he knows next to nothing about music--beyond a mediocre job on trombone in high school--Denny is hoping to take up the NISO baton on February 2 and add yet another feather to his cap.