

LION MEL OLSON
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Mel Olson was born and raised on a farm in rural North Dakota. He earned a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in education and has worked for many years in the field of education serving as a teacher and coach, a secondary principal, a Superintendent of Schools, the North Dakota State Director of Career and Technical Education and now the Executive Director of the North Dakota State College of Science campus in Fargo.

Mel has been active in his church and community and has served on numerous committees and boards at a local, state and national level. Mel takes pride in the fact that he has risen to a leadership position in every organization that he has been involved in throughout his professional life. He served as the president of the board for numerous school administrators associations and was the president of the North Dakota State Board of Public Education and the State Board for Career and Technical Education for a number of years. He also served on the National Board of Directors of Career and Technical Education.

Sports have always been a significant part of Mel's life and the life of his family. He played high school and college sports and continued on to coach numerous high school sports for a number of years. Mel later went on to become the president of the board of directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association and a member of the board of directors of the National Association of High School Leagues. He also refereed high school sports for more than 20 years. Mel's family members have also been very active in sports and music and have received many awards for their performance.

Mel joined the Capitol City Lions Club in Bismarck in 1997 and worked on many committees and activities prior to moving to Fargo and joining the Fargo Lions in 2002. He was elected president of the Fargo Lions in 2006 and has served on the board of directors of the club for six years. Mel has been a very active Lion serving on numerous committees and participating in most club activities. He has received a 100% attendance award five years and was selected as the recipient of a Melvin Jones award. He was also selected to serve as a Zone Chair and is currently the District Governor-elect from District 5NE.

Mel and his wife Kim have three children and four grandchildren. Kim has also spent much of her life working in education, serving as a teacher and an elementary principal. She also worked as a corporate training coordinator and is currently employed as an educational grant administrator. Their son Todd is the athletic director for the Fargo School system and his wife, Beth is a teacher. Their daughter Pennie is an accountant at the Ralph Engstad Arena in Grand Forks and their daughter Emily is a marketing specialist for a health care system in Stafford VA.

Lion Mel has numerous hobbies including watching his four grandchildren participate in sporting events, golfing, fishing and working with stained glass. He also enjoys jogging and has run 2-3 miles a day for more than 35 years.