**Friend of Running** nominations sought

Know someone who has shown outstanding support of running in the community?

Prairie Striders Running Club will be giving out its 12th annual Friend of Running Award at its Feb. 16 Frostbite Fun Run and Potluck.

Nomination are due Jan. 24. Please include specific examples of the nominee’s contributions. The selection will be made by a committee of past recipients. The award recipient will be encouraged to attend the Feb. 16 gathering and agree to have his/her honor publicized in local media.

Past winners:

• 2007 — Bob Bartling, president of the original board of Prairie Striders when it was formed by then SDSU cross-country coach Jay Dirksen on Sept. 12, 1969.

• 2008 — Dirksen, head cross country coach at the University of Nebraska from 1983 to 2011.

• 2009 — Scotty Roberts, director of the marathon in Brookings from 1981 to 2003.

• 2010 — Tom Bezdichek, president of the club from 1982 to 1990.

• 2011 — Matt Bien, president of the club from 2003 to 2009, Brookings Marathon race director 2007 to present.

• 2012 — Steve Britzman, director of the Hobo Day 5K since its founding in 1996 and the Arbor Day 5K since its founding in 1989.

• 2013 — Chuck Tiltrum, a Prairie Striders race director in the early 1990s and race course certification chairman for South Dakota during the 1990s through The Athletics Congress.

• 2014 — Reed Hart, an advocate of running and lifetime member who gifted the club with $20,000 from his estate.

• 2015 — Mary Bjerke, a vital part of the Brookings Marathon planning committee for more than a decade who also runs in or volunteers with other Prairie Striders races.

• 2016 — Shari Landmark, director of the “I’m Ready for Summer” Triathlon, long-time past director of the Jack 15 and president of Prairie Striders 2010-12.

• 2017 — Lorne Bartling, a charter member and club president in 1972-73 who was ranked first nationally for the 60-64 age group in the one-hour run in 1981.

Information can be submitted at run@prairiestriders.net or mailed to Prairie Striders, Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006. To submit a nomination online, go to: www.prairiestriders.net/friend-of-running.html.