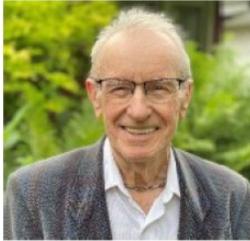


# Special Feature - Up Close and Personal

## Thief River Falls Chapter #2328 & Federation Board Member

Adapted by Roxanne Ianovich



By now, all of you know Bill Svensgaard, our Minnesota Federation of NARFE 1st VP Membership, because of the enthusiasm, creativity and positive results he has brought to recruiting new members. You also know him as a humble and positive person. But, did you know that Bill was once a Peace Corp volunteer in Brazil? Did you know that he is an artist? Or that he retired in 2002, a University of Minnesota Extension Professor Emeritus after 26 years with 4-H Youth Development.

**Added to all his numerous awards from various institutions and organizations, including 4-H, Bill has just been named to the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Congratulations Bill, on this well-deserved and distinguished honor!**

Bill was born and raised in Thief River Falls, Minnesota where his journey with 4-H began. He credits 4-H with broadening his horizons, teaching him leadership, collaboration and networking skills that he used throughout his life and career in youth development. 4-H afforded him the opportunity to teach and work with diverse communities across the globe, and to develop programs that also addressed social issues such as drug abuse and violence. Always an educator and artist at heart, he created exciting learning models and opportunities here in Hennepin County, six Minnesota Indian Reservations, three state prisons and the Komi Region of Russia, for which he received the Minnesota 4-H Points of Light Award.

Even in “retirement” Bill continues to teach, create, and make contributions to every organization he joins. In addition to his leadership role in NARFE, he was an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, creating youth development programs for a variety of groups. He also chairs the Minnesota’s Vintage 4-H Retirees and Minnesota History Committee, and is writing the 100 year history of Hennepin County 4-H. Bill is thankful for 4-H, and we are thankful for him.