



For immediate release:

August 14, 2013

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Steve Raukar honored for work to reduce and address poverty

St. Louis County Commissioner and AEOA Board Chair Steve Raukar has been honored with the Steve Chadwick Advocacy Award. The award, presented by the Minnesota Community Action Partnership (MinnCAP) at its annual conference, recognizes community leaders who actively work to reduce poverty. Upon receiving the award, Raukar said "I am honored to have received this award and humbly accept it on behalf of all those who in their daily lives lend a hand up to those in need. As an elected public servant, I have always believed it my responsibility to advocate for the resources to wage the war on poverty so that the tide of prosperity raises all boats, and in doing so, provides opportunity for those less fortunate to help themselves."

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) Executive Director Harlan Tardy nominated Raukar for the honor, stating, "Steve Raukar has been a tireless leader for Community Action at all levels. Steve is almost always the first elected official I know who consistently steps up to advocate at all levels of government to raise awareness as to the issues and causes surrounding poverty. He understands it, believes in our mission and will always be the one who asks 'how can I help or what can I do?'. He is one of the main reasons that AEOA is as strong as it is, and respected nationwide."

The Steve Chadwick Advocacy Award recognizes those who share in the beliefs and dedication of Steve Chadwick. Chadwick, who died of cancer in 1995, is the former executive director of the Duluth Community Action Program, dedicated himself to building a community that values diversity and gives everyone opportunity for meaningful work. This award is given annually to an individual who is currently involved in a community action agency either as a staff person, director or volunteer including board members.

Raukar has served as AEOA chairperson since 1994. He's been a St. Louis County Commissioner since 1989.

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