

Dale and Lela Sandrock – One Imperative Award

We have not presented the One Imperative Award in several years, but we received a nomination this year that we simply had to honor and thought this was the best way. The One Imperative Award recognizes a person or organization who consistently uplifts the entire community. Some of you may not know the names **Dale and Lela Sandrock**, but I guarantee you, or someone you know, has benefitted from their generosity.

To get the Sandrocks here today, we had to tell Dale that Lela was winning an award, but surprise! Today we honor them *both* for their years of extraordinary kindness and inspirational commitment to our local communities. Dale tends to be the face for their work and was even recognized as the 2018 Marigold Festival Grand Marshall. Lela is the wind beneath his wings, always there to help however she is able.

The Sandrocks have been quietly elevating the community for decades, doing whatever they can to make this little corner of the world a better place. They started a program to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and support the organization throughout the year. They provide two scholarships each year to PCHS graduates who need financial assistance to earn a four-year degree. Lela's grassroots effort going door to door selling cheese for Kiwanis is the stuff of local legend and makes them the top cheese-sellers many years. The Sandrocks are also responsible for the Kiwanis kettle corn maker, and the funds raised through those food sales are distributed to many deserving local organizations. Just recently, there was a ribbon cutting for the new Sandrock Sports Park in North Pekin, which was donated by the couple when they learned that the schoolchildren did not have a local track. The Sandrocks have also supported the Pekin Barbershop Chorus, the Tazewell County Museum, 4-H, the summer band concerts at Mineral Springs Park, Salvation Army, Carol's House of Hope, AMBUCS, and more.

It is evident from this lengthy and yet incomplete list that Dale and Lela Sandrock have been quietly elevating our community in different ways for many years, and their efforts will be appreciated for generations to come. This is why we award **Dale and Lela Sandrock** the YWCA's One Imperative Award for 2025.