
MANKATO DOWNTOWN KIWANIS CLUB

www.mankatokiwanis.org

Meetings each Monday, 12:05 – 1:00 p.m.
Mankato City Center Hotel (Free Parking)



Kiwanis[®]

www.kiwanisone.org

KIWANIS MISSION: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION GUIDE

2017 - 2018

GETTING STARTED

HISTORY OF KIWANIS

“Kiwanis” is an American Indian term “Nun Keewanis” which roughly means “Self Expression.”

Founded in Detroit, MI on January 21, 1915 by Allen Browne, the first Kiwanis Club began as an all male club, as did most organizations of its day. The original name was “The Benevolent Order of Brothers” and its purpose was the mutual exchange of preferred treatment in professional and business dealings. The purpose was changed to “provide community service” and remains the Kiwanis purpose today.

It was not until October 1987 that women could join, and this major progression did not come easily. The Mankato Kiwanis Club is proud to claim that 3 of our former club presidents, Dr. Dwain F. Petersen, Jim Manahan, and Scott M. Taylor, were instrumental in accomplishing this goal at the international level. The club also demonstrated progressive diversity by electing a Jewish president in the 1930's when other clubs were barring Jews from their memberships.

The Mankato Kiwanis Club was chartered on Saturday, February 19, 1921. The Griebal Tea Rooms on Hickory Street hosted this historic event. Even though the Mankato Kiwanis Club was the first service club established in the city of Mankato, it was the 418th club formed in the United States. There were 90 charter members. Our club has averaged between 100 – 125 members for many years and is one of the largest in our district.

THE SIX OBJECTS OF KIWANIS

1. To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life
2. To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships
3. To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards
4. To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship
5. To provide, through Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities
6. To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism, which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill

THE PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF KIWANIS MEMBERS

1. Attendance at all local meetings and other Kiwanis Club meetings
2. Attendance at District and International conventions and conferences
3. Participation in inter-club visits
4. Personal involvement in all club activities
5. Possible leadership positions at the club, district, region, or international level
6. Voting rights

PEOPLE TO KNOW

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each Kiwanis club is governed by elected officers and a Board of Directors. The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club officers and members of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Officer Name	Position	Term Expiration
Briana Barr	President	9/30/2018
Karen Rekstein	President Elect	9/30/2018
John Kind	Vice President	9/30/2018
Shannon Sinning	Immediate Past President	9/30/2018
Alex Swanson	Treasurer	9/30/2018
Sharon Taylor	Secretary	9/30/2018

Board Member Name	Term Expiration
Stan Bruss	9/30/2019
Becky Kunst	9/30/2019
Clarissa Meissner	9/30/2019
Ron Younge	9/30/2019
Mary Hokanson	9/30/2018
Joslyn Manske	9/30/2018
Mat Thibert	9/30/2018

President's Role:

Chief Executive of Club
 Conducts Club Meetings
 Presides at Board Meetings
 Coordinates Committee Functioning
 Represents Club at All Activities
 Serves on Board

Immediate Past President's Role:

Advises President
 Serves on Board

President-Elect's Role:

Serves on Board
 Fills in for President at Club &
 Board Meetings as Necessary
 Member of Membership Committee

Vice-President's Role:

Oversees Arrangements with Hotel
 Secures Program Speakers

Secretary's Role:

Maintains Club Records
 Prepares Official Club Reports
 Keeps Records of Various Awards

Treasurer's Role:

Manages Club Funds & Pays Bills
 Issues Financial Reports

Board Members' Role:

Attend Monthly Board Meetings
 Serve Two or More Years on Board
 Vote on Various Club Activities

THINGS TO DO

COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

AKTION CLUB/AKTION CLUB THEATRE: Wilbur N-Frink

DeniseNeushwander-Frink@ecumen.org

- Aktion Club provides service opportunities to a wide variety of people
- Aktion Club @ Pathstone Living provides volunteer opportunities for residents
- Aktion Club Theatre provides theatrical experiences for those who may not have access

FUNDRAISING: Shannon Sinning

ssinning@gardnerfinancialmn.com

- Organizes current fundraisers (Pancake Breakfast, Russ Sparks Golf Tournament)
- Develops new fundraisers
- Mankato Cookout

KIWANIS CAMP PATTERSON: Dave Cowan

dczarcon@aol.com

- Oversees camp caretakers
- Sets camp budget, weekly rates, & summer camp schedule
- Suggests purchases & improvement projects to Camp Patterson, Inc.
- Camp Patterson, Inc. Chairperson: Shannon Gullickson

KIWANIS HOLIDAY LIGHTS: Scott Wojcik

scott.wojcik@northflowsolutions.com

- Committee members are Kiwanis Holiday Lights Board Directors
- Oversees all aspects of this signature event

KIWANIS READING OASIS: Laura Stevens

laura.stevens@cmsouthernmn.org

- Secures reading volunteers to fill shifts at Hoover Elementary School
- Ensures all volunteers have completed necessary background checks
- Maintains collection of reading materials

KIWANIS RECREATION AREA: Matt Kearney

matthewkearney86@gmail.com

- Partners with the City of Mankato in development of area just north of Hwy. 14 & 169
- Suggests improvements/monetary support for dog park, archery range, & bike trails
- Arranges for club volunteers to do clean-up & small projects, as needed

KIWANIS THUNDER OF DRUMS: Doug Faust

dafaust@hickorytech.net

- Oversees all aspects of this signature event held in late June/early July
- Midwest's premier drum & bugle corps competition at Blakeslee Stadium, MSUM

MEMBERSHIP: Wendy Kind
swimmom33@hotmail.com

- Holds new member orientation meetings & updates guide
- Helps with member retention through cards, Member Spotlight, & Recognition Program
- Records, archives, & presents club history

MNDak BOOK PROJECT: Karen Rekstein
karen@greatriverins.net

- Provides free books to children in the community
- Educates parents about the importance of early childhood literacy
- Arranges for volunteers to read to children

MUSIC AWARDS: Joe Meidl
joe@themusicmart.biz

- Honors local high school musicians
- Asks area band, orchestra, & choir directors to nominate one student in each group
- Arranges for award winners to perform at a club meeting each spring

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Shannon Sinning
ssinning@gardnerfinancialmn.com

- Increases awareness of our club in the community
- Submits press releases for upcoming events
- Promotes good will for our organization as a whole

SCHOLARSHIPS: Jeff Lang
jeffrey.lang@CLAconnect.com

- Reviews scholarship program annually
- Fills out forms for district scholarships
- Works with local high schools and colleges to find recipients for awards

SERVICE: Lori Benike
labenike@scheels.com

- Coordinates service projects for club
- Finds members to chair each project

SPONSORED LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS (SLPs): Clarissa Meissner
cmeissner@eidebailly.com

- Builders (Middle Schools), Key Club (High Schools), & Circle K (MSUM)
- Supports club advisors in budget planning & service project development
- Develops new youth clubs when feasible

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Kathy Brynaert
brynaert@hickorytech.net

- Works with schools to select students for this award
- Arranges for students, parents, & counselors to attend award presentations
- Introduces Student of the Month at award meetings

OFF YOU GO!

VOLUNTEERING

We are a service organization. Members are encouraged to be active volunteers. It's easy to get involved with any of our service projects. Just sign up when the clipboards are passed around.

- Adopt-A- Highway Project (Hwy 66)
- Kiwanis Camp Patterson Clean-Up
- Kiwanis Holiday Lights in Sibley Park
- Kiwanis One Day
- Kiwanis Reading Oasis at Hoover Elementary
- Kiwanis Recreation Area Clean-up
- Kiwanis Thunder of Drums
- Mankato Cookout
- Mankato Marathon
- MNDak Book Project
- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- Russ Sparks Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The best way to start volunteering and meet fellow members is to serve as the Table Host, Song Leader, or Invocation Leader at our weekly meetings.

GUESTS

Membership growth is an important element in our club. Current members are continually encouraged to bring prospective members to meetings. Guest meals are paid for by the club. Sponsors are asked to introduce their guest, supply them with an application form (found at the Sign-In Table), and give completed forms to the secretary or president. The board reviews and approves new members.

Kiwanis members are also welcomed guests at all Kiwanis clubs worldwide. Seek out a Kiwanis meeting in other cities when travelling. Bring back a signed Visitor Form and share your experience with our club.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

Corporate Memberships allow business members to send a representative to meetings when they are unable to attend. (Each membership pays for one meal per week.) Please ask your representative to sign in and wear a name tag when substituting for you at meetings. Your fellow business associates may also volunteer for our service projects, however a background check must be completed before working directly with children.

NEWSLETTER & MAGAZINE

Members receive a weekly club newsletter sent to their provided email address. It contains club announcements and reminders, as well as information on upcoming speakers and events.

“Member Spotlight” is a feature you won't want to miss. Contact Kyle Mrozek, newsletter publisher, at kylemrozek@gmail.com with items you would like included.

Your membership also includes a subscription to Kiwanis Magazine, a publication of Kiwanis International. Ten issues a year will be sent to your home or place of business.

DUES & DONATIONS

A budget is created each year by the club president and is approved by the board. The budget estimates revenue and costs expected for the club year, October 1 through September 30.

Members are billed \$170 quarterly. Your membership fee includes international, district, and local dues, Kiwanis Magazine, insurance, and meals. (A portion of each meal is paid for by the club.) The current billing secretary, Beth Colway, will hand out billing envelopes at meetings in October, January, April, and July. If you are not present at those meetings, your bill will be sent to your home or place of business. Payments are to be made within 30 days of receipt of your invoice and may be mailed or handed to the current club treasurer, Alex Swanson.

Members are encouraged to share news with the club. A donation to the Good News Can may be designated toward any of our tax deductible foundations: Camp Patterson Inc., Kiwanis Holiday Lights, Inc., or Mankato Kiwanis Foundation which helps provide for our student scholarships. Undesignated contributions will be used to support our Activity Fund and are not tax deductible.

Please consider making a donation to The Eliminate Project. Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a deadly disease that steals the lives of nearly 49,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club has a goal of raising \$82,500 for this cause. Through September, 2016 we have pledged/raised \$60,000 in contributions, helping to save and protect over 33,000 lives. If you have questions please contact Mike Brennan, Matt Norland, Joe Farnham, or Dwain Petersen and visit www.TheEliminateProject.org.

BEFORE YOU GO!

Leave of Absence

At times members may need to ask for a leave of absence. Leaves may be for one to three months and do not affect attendance records. Members need only to pay dues while on leave. Requests must be made in writing and submitted to the club secretary, Sharon Taylor, at staylor@hickorytech.net for board approval.

Resignations

Resignation from the club must also be in written form and submitted to the club secretary, Sharon Taylor, at staylor@hickorytech.net for board approval. Members in good standing will be allowed to resign. Please make sure all financial commitments are completed before resigning. Membership in Kiwanis can be transferred to any other Kiwanis club in the world.

Leave A Legacy

As a member of Kiwanis it is a privilege to give back through service, donations, and participation in our amazing projects and fundraisers. It is a great way to make a difference in the lives of children in our community and around the world. Please consider leaving a legacy through the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club by including the club and its foundations in your estate plan. Speak to our current club president for more information.

