

*Welcome to the Algona Morwens Kiwanis Club*  
*A brief history of the Morwens Club*

The Kiwanis International year 1971-72 saw Algonian Wes Bartlett as the president of Kiwanis International. His home club (The Kiwanis Club of Algona) determined that a new club would be started and chartered in his year as president. Royal Nold and Elgin Allen (still active members) co-chaired the building committee. The need for another Kiwanis Club in this area was brought about because of the number of men whose occupations did not allow them to come to meetings at noon. The new club was to have its meetings in the morning. A petition was filed to Kiwanis International for the chartering of this new club. The formal charter is dated October 1, 1971, the first day of the Presidency of Wes Bartlett, thus the Morwens Kiwanis Club was the first new club chartered under his Presidency. The name "Morwens" was suggested by English teacher Jack Celoni. "Morwens" is Old English for Early Morning. Ray Johnson was the first President with Lynn Kueck serving as Pres. Elect. Four original Charter members are still involved, they are, Gene Will, Chuck Kline, Walter Reemtsma and Lynn Kueck. All have served the club as Presidents with Kueck serving a second term in 1996-1997, the 25th year of the club. The Morwens have 49 members at the close of the 2012-2013 year. They meet at 7:00 am on Wednesdays at the Chrome Country Inn. Although many of the early Morwens members were "youngsters" by Noon Club standards there may actually have been a reversal in this over the past years. The Morwens have provided five Lt. Governors in Marion Battani, Roger Kurtenbach, Frank Merrill, Floyd Hutzell and Rev. Mark Holmer who was the 2004-05 Division 2 Lt. Governor.

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In 2002 the Algona Morwens, with cooperation of the Algona Noon Kiwanis and Algona Golden K Kiwanis organized a new Aktion Club in our community. This organization is the newest member of the Kiwanis family of Service Leadership organizations. This group is organized in Algona to serve people with disabilities from Exceptional Opportunities. About forty members meet on the first and third Tuesdays at the Algona First United Methodist Church. Their first president was Steve Hertzke. In 2011 the Aktion Club presented Steve Hertzke with a Hixson Medallion. In 2012 the family of Mark Hertzke presented him a Walter Zeller Medallion. The Algona clubs are proud to have started the first Aktion Club in the Nebraska-Iowa District of Kiwanis. As of October 1, 2013, there have been thirty six chartered Aktion Clubs in the District with Morwens member Floyd Hutzell serving as District Aktion Club Administrator.

The Morwens are proud to support the Kiwanis International and Nebraska-Iowa District Kiwanis Foundations with annual club gifts. They are also proud of the fact that sixteen members are Hixson Fellows (Kiwanis International Foundation) with four being at the Diamond 1 level and six members are Bartlett Fellows (NE-IA District Foundation). Each of these are obtained by a \$1000.00 gift to the respective foundation. These members have stepped up to help the children of the district and world. Also, two members are charter members of the Walter Zeller Fellowship. Three other members and one spouse are members of the Zeller Fellowship. This is in support of the new Kiwanis International ELIMINATE initiative to eliminate MNT (Maternal Neonatal Tetanus). This requires a gift of \$1,250 to the Kiwanis International Foundation.

The Morwens are proud to be the home club of the 2007-08 Nebraska-Iowa Governor – Rev. Mark Holmer. This is the highest office in Kiwanis ever held by a member of the Morwens Kiwanis Club.

The Morwens have been very involved in our community. Over the past years they have conducted fund raisers to make significant pledges to the Kossuth Regional Health Center, Algona Family YMCA, State 5 Theater, Kossuth County Nature Center and now are in the middle of a \$15,000 pledge to the new 3 story addition to the Kossuth Regional Health Center. When there is a need in the community the Morwens members step up. Signature service projects are bicycle helmets to all community third graders, dictionaries to all area school third graders, fishing derby, and pumpkin decorating. We thank the community for participating in our fund raising projects to make these service projects possible.