

April 2005

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# MINNEKOTAN

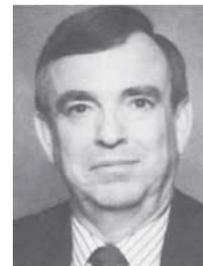
Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

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## Governor's Gab -April 2005

by Walt Roetter

Kiwanis International has created a new defining statement of what it means to be a Kiwanian and I think they have said it pretty well. " Kiwanis is a global organizations of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time". That sums us up as a worldwide volunteer organization devoted to children.



When I was at the North American Governor's Conference we talked in length about what message this defining statement would carry to the world. I think it convey the heart of Kiwanis, we are an organization of volunteers working to improve the lives of children around the world and in so doing we are improving the communities of the world. I had only one small disagreement with the wording, I think we are "dedicated to improving" not just "changing" the world, but if you assume that good Kiwanians would only work to improve the world by making changes then you have us defined.

Our focus on children could never be more important than it is now. We have seen and continue to see too much mistrust and even hatred in adults and these are the ones who have the most influence on the children around them. We must show these young leaders of the future through our deeds that it is better to help our fellow travelers on this planet than to hate them. The Iodine Deficiency Disorder elimination program was a great example of that effort, we support the elimination of IDD in all countries not just the ones that like us for the moment.

While we work to improve the world one child and one community at a time, we need to remember that our organization is one of those communities we strive to improve. We need to be mindful of helping it grow in both numbers and unity. We are a big district and there are many miles and differences between the corners of our District but we are all part of the Kiwanis Family here in the Minnesota-Dakotas. Supporting one another and the District through leadership and participation are critical to our future. While some Districts, but not many, have a few more miles to cross, they have several large population center that define their Districts. We are, for the most part, a group of small cities and clubs, but we produce some of the greatest service in our communities. Our numbers could be greater, and we are working on that, but we are a strong family that focuses on the overall good for the our clubs, Regions, and District when we set about to accomplish something.

We are going through a change in our organization, the great leadership team that created the new organizational structure, are stepping aside as was the plan. They have given their time and talent to get us started, and continue to do so by taking on other roles in the organization, but we must have new leaders to fill those positions. We need Lt. Governors in Key Club, Circle K and Kiwanis, there are new Regional Directors for New Club Building positions that need someone who is committed to making us grow, all of the Regional and District Directors should have assistants training to take the job in the near future, the SOAP organizations need administrators and assistants. The only way we can build the team leadership concept envisioned in the District Strategic Plan is to have people working together and stepping up to the leadership position across the District. That is what "dedicated volunteers" do!

So now my fellow dedicated volunteers we have work to do, so let's continue our strong traditions of service to our communities.

## Tom's Final Thoughts (as secretary/treasurer) - April 2005

Greetings,

Serving the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District as District Secretary/Treasurer for 14 years has been a rewarding experience. I was a Kiwanis member in three clubs, Morris, Willmar Noon, and currently Moorhead Vikingland for 32 years and counting. Marcia and I have met Kiwanians all around the world, and have made lifelong friends in our District. Serving THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD has changed my life.

As I look back as a Member, President, Lt. Governor, Governor, Key Club District Administrator, Kiwanis International Committee Chairs, District Committee Chairs, and District Secretary/Treasurer, I am thankful. Kiwanis is a great Service Organization and I am proud to be a part of it. Our Minnesota-Dakotas District is the best.

Marcia and I plan now to enjoy full retirement with our family, and travel. It was my pleasure to work with all of you through the years. Thanks!!

Congratulations to Steve Handegaard, new District Secretary/Treasurer. Effective immediately please send all mail to Stephen K. Handegaard, District Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324-0735 Office phone 218-589-7581 Office Fax 218-589-7582 e-mail [Secretary@MNDak-Kiwanis.org](mailto:Secretary@MNDak-Kiwanis.org).

Remember to mail all the Kiwanis Education Foundation information to Jack Zierdt, 632 Lyndale Avenue, Spring Valley, MN 55975 phone 507-346-7969. e-mail [jjzierdt@centurytel.net](mailto:jjzierdt@centurytel.net).



## Greetings from New District Kiwanis Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings to Kiwanis Members in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District,

First of all let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Steve Handegaard and I will be officially stepping into the District Secretary/Treasurer position when Tom Horan retires on April 15, 2005. I am very excited about this new opportunity to serve in Kiwanis! I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Kiwanis has been an important part of my life for many years. I joined the Fergus Falls Noon Club in 1986 and have been a member of that club ever since. Among other Kiwanis positions, I have served as Fergus Falls Noon Club President and Lt. Governor of Region 2.

My wife Laura and I have four children. The three oldest, Jason, Kristen and Amanda are married (and working!) and Matthew, the youngest, is attending the University of Minnesota in Duluth. We live in a rural setting near Dalton, Minnesota. (Dalton is located about 10 miles from Fergus Falls.) I have been employed by the University of Minnesota Extension Service for the past 28 years.

As April 15 draws near Tom Horan and I are working very closely to make sure we have a smooth transition. Clubs can already start sending me reports and other things that do not specifically need to go to Tom. The new Minnesota District Kiwanis Office contact information is as follows:

**Mailing address:**

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office  
 P.O Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324-0735  
 District Office phone: 218-589-7581  
 District Office fax: 218-589-7582

Email: [secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org)

All of the above is currently up and running. Tom Horan's District Office phone and address will also continue to be operational until April 15.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Horan and Marcia for all of their dedicated service to Kiwanis. I always knew they did an outstanding job. As I become more familiar with the internal workings of the District Secretary/Treasurer position, that is even more apparent to me!! I am sure that Tom will remain very active in Kiwanis in many other ways in the future.

Also, congratulations and thank you to Lori Larson, from the Fergus Falls Otter Risers. Lori will take over my current position as Region 2 Lt. Governor beginning April 2. Lori is the same Lori Larson that is providing excellent leadership for our Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Website.

Special thanks to those that are serving in leadership positions on the district and regional level Governor Walt and many others are working hard to build and support Kiwanis at the club level.

In closing I would like to remind you of the importance of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Website and the "electronic" Minnekotan. This is our major district communications tool. Make it a habit of yours to come back to the website regularly. Remember that your club can also submit information and articles. Please share ideas that have worked well for your club...photos, too!

Thank you for all of the great service you do for others through Kiwanis!

Steve Handegaard

## **H. G. Van VanderVorst Past District Governor has died.**

H. G. Van VanderVorst passed away on Monday, March 28, 2005. Van VanderVorst was District Governor 1983-84.

He is survived by his widow, Darlene. Cards of condolence may be sent to Darlene at her address in Mandan, ND. The funeral service will be on Monday, April 4, 2005 at 2 P.M. at the Lutheran Church in Mandan, ND.

## **Kids Against Hunger fund-raising event is April 22**

St. Cloud, Minn. – The second annual Kids Against Hunger Appreciation Banquet and Fund-raiser is April 22 at Best Western Kelly Inn, 100 Fourth Ave., sponsored by the Downtown St. Cloud Kiwanis Club.

A new feature of this year's event is wine tasting with Coborn's Liquor during the social hour and silent auction.

In November 2003, the Downtown St. Cloud Kiwanis Club adopted Kids Against Hunger of Central Minnesota in Sauk Rapids as a long-term project. Kids Against Hunger utilizes volunteers to assemble a highly nutritious food package for hungry children in Minnesota and around the world.

Last year, the Kiwanis Club raised \$10,000 at the event. In addition to the banquet, the Kiwanis Club's members package food twice per month, and help Kids Against Hunger with administrative tasks, such as writing thank-you notes to donors.

The cost of the event is \$30 per person. Corporate/family tables can be purchased for \$350. Tickets for the April 22 event can be obtained from all Downtown Kiwanis members, by calling Melinda Sanders at (320) 251-1414, or via e-mail to msanders@quinlivan.com or zitzow@cloudnet.com.

### Schedule of events

5:30 p.m. - Social, Silent Auction and Wine Tasting

6:30 p.m. - Buffet dinner with roast chicken and glazed ham

7:15 p.m. - Kids Against Hunger Update by Executive Director Janet McConkey

7:30 p.m. - Entertainment by vocalists Father Kevin Anderson, Newman Center;

Anita Fischer and Rebecca Kapsner

8:30 p.m. - Announcement of Silent Auction winners

Mike and Pam Beard organized the local program Kids Against Hunger of Central Minnesota, a satellite of Feeding Children International in 2003. Last year, Janet McConkey became the executive director of Kids Against Hunger of Central Minnesota.

Kids Against Hunger is blessed with many volunteers, but they struggle to find the funding to purchase the food supplies. For example, the cost of a two-hour packaging session (3,240 meals) is \$500.

Since opening on March 1, 2003, Kids Against Hunger has packaged more than one million meals for those in need. Ten percent of all food packaged at Kids Against Hunger is donated to local food shelves. Ninety percent of the food is shipped to children in orphanages, hospitals and feeding centers in developing countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central America.

On Feb. 12-13, 1,500 volunteers from Central Minnesota packaged about 400,000 meals for tsunami disaster survivors. That effort was made possible with the help of Kids Against Hunger of Stewart, the MESSAGE program, Digital Green, the United Way of Central Minnesota, the Central Minnesota Community Foundation and the Norman Skalicky Foundation.

Food is packaged and stored at the Benton Business Park, Sauk Rapids, in space donated by R.A. Morton and Associates. Shipping has been free via U.S. government shipping programs for humanitarian aide and generous in-kind donations from the MESSAGE program and Anderson Trucking.

## Otter Risers go Door-to-Door for 30th Year

It has become an annual rite of spring for the past 29 years around Fergus Falls: Knock knock. Who's there? Kiwanis. Kiwanis who?

If you're home in Fergus Falls or the surrounding area on Saturday, April 2, an Otter Risers Kiwanis Club member on your doorstep should be able to give you the answer: We're selling fertilizer and compost to support our area youth.

The Otter Risers Kiwanis 30th annual fertilizer and compost sale kicks off this Saturday. Club members will blanket Fergus Falls and other areas looking to give people a great phosphorus-free product for a great cause.

Fertilizer drive coordinator Rick Schara says all proceeds from the sale are donated to various causes throughout the year.

"We've given away thousands of dollars to more than 30 different organizations in the last five years," Schara said, noting that those groups are listed on the club's website: [www.otterriserskiwanis.org](http://www.otterriserskiwanis.org). "There aren't many people who aren't touched in some way by our efforts."

Schara said many club members tell of regular customers who look forward to their annual spring purchase.

"We have members who are asked what took them so long," he laughed. "When you are knocking on doors every spring for thirty years, it becomes sort of a tradition. Even if someone doesn't buy fertilizer, they sometimes give a donation to the cause."

Three years ago the club added compost, recycled leaves and grass processed by the city of Fergus Falls.

"Wednesday morning six of us screened and filled almost 200 bags of compost," Schara said. "People now have the option of buying compost for their gardens, yards and flower beds."

This year's fertilizer selection features four quality products: Crabgrass Control, Weed & Feed, Save Our Lakes and Garden.

"This fertilizer is some of the best on the market with no fillers," Schara said, "and people will find our pricing to be excellent since our distributor locked in prices last fall" before the spike in energy costs. "It's really a win-win for the customer and the community projects and organizations we support."

In addition to door-to-door sales, the Otter Risers will have a booth at the community college Garden Day Saturday where products can be viewed and purchased. To make sure a representative stops at your house or to arrange delivery a different day, contact Schara at 218-739-2832.



## International Reading Experience Put Kiwanians on a Flying Carpet

Sioux Falls Multi-Cultural Center brought two cultures



together --- Region 5 Kiwanis members and their Governor and 1st Lady with International Students.

Meetings and Regional Sessions come and go as do Governors, Lt Governors, Club President's and members --- but what three dozen Region 5 members will remember is a Saturday in February 2005 when they took the time to read to students literally from Around the World at the Sioux Falls Multi Cultural Center.

The Multi-Cultural Center opened its doors in April 1997. The Center was created through cooperation by ethnic leaders, businesses, law enforcement, educators, community advocates, and others. The "center for diversity" formed by so much cooperation is unique -- making a very positive statement about the people of Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls currently has the fastest-growing percentage of foreign-born residents for a U.S. Metropolitan area. The city has more than doubled its immigrant population during the 1990's. More than 10,000 immigrants and refugees from more than 60 different countries currently living in Sioux Falls.

With that as the backdrop --- and a part of the Augustana Reads program -- the Kiwanis Governor Walt Roetter and his wife Susan took time to read to the energetic students from several countries. Those that took part each had the opportunity to talk with the youngsters about what they were doing and how important they are to Kiwanis Clubs not only in Sioux Falls but all over Eastern South Dakota.

Qadir Aware, Executive Director for the Multi-Cultural Center said that we work together to build a bridge of understanding and respect for our culturally-diverse community, and we change "tolerance" within our community to 'celebration'. Sioux Falls Multi-Cultural Center brought two cultures together --- Region 5 Kiwanis members and their Governor and 1st Lady with International Students.

The afternoon was one of 'celebration' of community for Kiwanis members -- as they bridged not only the generation gap, but the international boundaries to communicate with some of South Dakota's newest residents. Hopefully, they will want to join the Kiwanis family and someday return to the Multi-Cultural Center to read to the newest generation of proud Americans.

## **Mankato's Camp Patterson Hypes Low Tech**

Nestled on the shores of Lake Washington, Minnesota, is a camp that annually hosts more that 2,000 children during the four month camping season.

"Mom, don't go! This is another world; there's no t.v.; video games don't exist. Why I am being punished?" - Young camper just arrives.

With 150 beds spread among 14 cabins, Camp Pattersen facilities have been bringing campers in touch with "The Basics" since 1923 thanks to hard work of volunteers in the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club.

"They get the high tech cyberspace alternatives served up to them on a plate every day at home. We're not here to duplicate that experience." said David Cowan, Camp Patterson Committee Chairperson from the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club.

"Roughing it builds character!" he commented.

Groups like the YMCA and 4 H find this "no tech" approach refreshing. Yes, there are plenty of watercraft, but no motors. So it's kayaks, canoes, rowboats, and paddleboats if you want to cruise the lake shore.

There is a huge playing field, a regulation volleyball pitch, and outdoor basketball court, but all require a physical investment on the part of each camper. Plenty of swimming and fishing opportunities keep the young ones busy, and the groups renting Camp Patterson's facilities augment these activities with archery, among other skill lessons.

A fire ring exists to roast those marshmallows and hot dogs and is just the right ambiance for a camp fire song or two. Flag

raising ceremonies are common fare and are sure to produce a tear or two among adults.

A one or two week camp gives kids time to make friends with something other than a computer screen.

"Dad, I don't want to go! Can't I stay just a little while longer?" - Young camper about to leave.

A good number of the existing members of the Mankato club still remember that their first camping experience was at Camp Patterson. It's a family habit that is hard to shake.

<http://www.mankatokiwanis.org/patterson.htm>

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## Worthington Prairie Elementary K-Kids Collect for Tsunami Victims

Members of the K-Kids Club at Prairie Elementary School, Worthington, Minnesota heard the stories of children without parents and of entire families left homeless following the Tsunami disaster in southern Asia on Dec. 26th. This fueled a desire to raise money to help these victims.

From Jan. 31 through Feb. 4 a series of special activities was conducted at the school. Activities included on Monday teachers could pay \$1.00 to wear blue jeans to school, while students paid \$1.00 per day to take part in activities that included getting to chew gum in class, wear their hat in class, wear their warm winter pajamas or bring candy to school for a special treat.

Many students donated more than \$1.00 or more than \$5.00 for the week and some teachers put in a \$10.00 or even a \$20.00 donation. Everyone had fun and at the end of the week a total of \$2373.50 had been raised. This money was sent to the Kiwanis International Disaster Relief Fund for Tsunami Victims for distribution.

Heidi Fritz and Laura Louwagie are the faculty who advise the K-Kids. The Worthington Prairie Elementary School K-Kids Club is sponsored by the Worthington Early Risers Kiwanis Club. Everyone involved was surprised and pleased by the outpouring of support.

## Listening: The Key to Communication

Public Relations Presenters (Bob Swanson, Bill Zortman and Vickie Apel) listened to the audience in a pre-session PR presentation. The audience told them they wanted a "hands on" demonstration of how to toot their horns via the internet.

Putting together a presentation is a relatively simple process even when it is done by three individuals and constructed via e-mail. But the trick to a good presentation is hitting the mark with the audience. It doesn't matter if the presenters think they have constructed terrific, timely and totally awesome information because when the information is given to the audience and they are not interested, you can put them to sleep in a heartbeat.

Making sure they hit the mark, Bob, Bill and Vickie hosted a pre-panel discussion on public relations. They asked the audience the following questions:

What do you need? What will help you the most? Do you know how to submit a story online? And even better yet - Have you been online and seen how easy it is?

The response? There were plenty of questions, and the presenters had answers. The presentation changed, the process was fun and everyone learned how easy it is to submit a story. Everyone who attended the large presentation walked through the process of submitting a story online.

Now there are no excuses. We can "toot our own horns" and get that information out there.

## 5 Sioux Falls Clubs Present the ABC Rug to Multi-Cultural Center

Looking for a gift to a school or library? Why not consider the Kiwanis International Rug that gives for a lifetime ---- and its as simple as ABC!!



For weeks -- 5 Sioux Falls Kiwanis Clubs worked at putting together a gift for the Multi-Cultural Center that would thank them for hosting the 2005 Region 5 Meeting on February 26th.

Little did they know that the impact of a few hundred dollars and a colorful Kiwanis rug would have on those who serve 10,000 immigrants from 60 countries in Eastern South Dakota.

Qadir Aware -- Executive Director for the Multi Cultural Center joked that it was too big for his office --- but that it would be displayed proudly for years to come.

With Kiwanis International projects promoting children and reading, the Kiwanis rug will serve as a reminder of dedication to children of the world.

All the thanks Kiwanis members needed were the smiles on the faces of the children who spent a rare Saturday afternoon at the Multi-Cultural Center. The relationships created on this Saturday will stay with Susan and Walt Roetter, Bill Daugherty, and all of the Kiwanis Region 5 family for years to come.



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