

April 2006

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MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

Stew's News

March 23, 2006. A date we will long remember in the MN-DAK District and perhaps Kiwanis International. Why? That is the date we opened the first ever Kiwanis Diversity Club in the country in Mankato, Minnesota—population 44,000. This new club was a dream of mine for some time. The problem was making it a reality.



Dreaming is often the easy part, making it happen takes work--hard work. Some of you may remember my comment at the district convention last summer when I suggested it is time for Kiwanians to ask people to join their clubs that are NOT like them. Here is the story of the new diversity club in our district. It is a feel good story that should make you proud to be a Kiwanian in general and a member of the Minnesota-Dakotas District in particular.

Driving back to Mankato a couple of months ago from a meeting in Northfield on building a new club there I started to think about diversity and the lack of it in Kiwanis and what one person could do to change the situation. I have been to many International Conventions and District Conventions over the years and have visited so many clubs in the past couple of years I can hardly keep track of them all. The worry I have had is the lack of diversity I have seen in Kiwanis (or any other service club for that matter).

It is one thing to say diversity is important. It is an entirely different matter to find a way to make it happen. When I got back to Mankato after the 90 minute drive I knew what to do next. I went to my electronic contact list of the 38 diversity educators here in Mankato of which I am one. We were trained some time ago and in tandem go into the schools to work with classes to help them see some of the problems we have with diversity, prejudice, and other concerns and how we might improve the situation. I contacted all 38 diversity educators and asked if they would be interested in joining a new kind of Kiwanis Club, one that would celebrate diversity and have a large core of members who are people of color. The response was amazing with many joining immediately. We ended our club building efforts with one half of all diversity educators in Mankato as members of the new club! At the same time I visited the Dean of Diversity at Minnesota State University where I work. Michael Fagin, an African American, was dazzled by the idea of a Kiwanis Diversity Club and joined on the spot. He also gave me a list of people of color in the Mankato area to contact. We sent emails to folks on the list and were stunned by the response. Within the first 48 hours of recruitment we were near the 25 required members to start a new club. Now the best part of all. Once we had a core of folks interested in diversity and another core of people of color we began to recruit others interested in the idea. We were stunned by the response of so many who asked us upon hearing of this new club, "How much are dues, I will write the check right now?"

In the end, we opened the club on March 23rd with 61 paid members. Since then we have heard from others interested in joining. By a stroke of good luck, President Steve Siemens was in Mankato that week for a workshop he does as a motivational speaker. As Steve whispered to me at the banquet in his honor last Wednesday, "I need to make some money now and then to get through this year as KI president!" Steve came over and gave a powerful talk to the new club. He pointed out that they would be a model for Kiwanis clubs of the future. So there you have it in a nutshell.

The story of the new Mankato Kiwanis Diversity Club. A club that will be a shining light to other districts in the coming year. By the way, here are the amazing statistics on the new club. Out of 61 members there are over 20 people of color. There are more women than men. There are 24 members with doctorate degrees (including a number of people of color). The president and president elect and a number of board members are African American. Not your typical Kiwanis Club is it?! The charter night is scheduled for June 1, 2006. Please consider sending one or two representatives of your club to the event. We are doing great things in the MN-DAK district and the opening of a new diversity club ranks up there with some of our most important achievements in the past many years and this is our second new club this year with more planned.

Together We Can...Together We Will. And at least with the new Diversity Club in Mankato—Together We Did!!! Note: The photo is of those members of the new Diversity Club in attendance at the March 23rd meeting.

Coralyn's Corner

THE DISTRICT – MIDYEAR



My column this month concerns many aspects of our district and where we are at this mid point of our Kiwanis year.

My first concern: Are you registered for the Montreal Convention? We want to have a great turnout from our district this year. Many of us have not been to Montreal or have not spent much time there and are really looking forward to getting the European flavor of a great city. Much has been planned and I know that we as a district will be having a couple of opportunities to have great Kiwanis fellowship and fun while we are there.

As of Saturday in Moorhead, Stewart will have visited all the Regions in the District. I have been fortunate to have been present at several of these get-togethers and have enjoyed meeting many of you. As we have stated so many times this year, Stewart and I and Jean, too have truly been working as a team, and we will continue that aspect of leadership in the coming year.

Where are we as a district? Well, if the past month has been any indication, we are having a great year! The Hastings Club was chartered at the end of February and then we had the privilege of attending the formation meeting of the Mankato Diversity Club last week. What an exciting day and how fun to meet the members of this club who have come together with a common goal to serve the children of the world as Kiwanians.

The evening before meeting with the Diversity Club, we also had the honor of attending a banquet in honor of Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens. He truly has a magnetic personality and gave us a wonderful talk on being a Kiwanian. Thank you Liz Lawrence-Ross and the Mankato Downtown Club for arranging this great evening!

Many of us who attended the banquet stayed on to hear Steve speak the next morning to a large group of business people. We can be proud of the motivation he brings to communities and clubs alike.

New clubs are in the process of being built in Northfield and Woodbury, so we will have time for more celebration with our new Kiwanians.

Not everything in the district is rosy, however, as we look at budgets and where we stand financially. We have lost many members over the past decade, and we continue to lose members as we become a more and more mobile society and our membership becomes older. How do we turn this around? Stewart and his team are doing all they/we can to stimulate new growth in new clubs and building up the current clubs, but we cannot be complacent. Remember one of the goals for this year was to end the year with a **plus one** in membership. That sounded easy, didn't it! But as we look at our numbers, we know it will be difficult. Each one of us can help, simply by asking another person to attend a meeting with us and then explaining the service that we do not just for our communities but for communities and children all over the world. It is not a matter of just more members, but with each new member, we can do so much more to help those who need our aid so much. Please help your club and the district by asking a friend, a neighbor and fellow worker, or even a stranger to your club. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer - April 2006

By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer

Following are some important reminders and updates:

Lt. Governor Elects 2006-2007: We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates in Region 2 and 7. Contact your Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place May 5-7 in Willmar. It is very important that we have a full team from every region in attendance at the May meeting.

District Kiwanis Foundation and Past Governors Meeting: The District Kiwanis Foundation Board and Past Governors Meeting will be held on May 19-20 at the Americinn in Fergus Falls.

New Club Being Chartered: Welcome to the new Mankato Diversity Kiwanis Club! Watch for more information about their upcoming charter night event. Plan to send a delegation from your club.

Electronic Monthly Club Reporting Update

Thanks again to all of the clubs that are submitting their monthly club reports online. We appreciate the cooperation of all of the club secretaries. If your club is one of the few that has not been using the online version, contact your Lt. Governor or the District Office and we can get you started anytime. Your monthly club report can be entered online by the club secretary or any other designated person that has internet access.

New Member Fee: There still seems to be quite a few questions about the change in the "New Member Fee". Beginning in October, 2005 clubs are billed \$55 for all new members. That fee is paid at the time you send in their Membership Form. The \$55 fee includes everything due to Kiwanis International and the District and is good from the time they join until the next annual dues billing for your club. \$50 goes to KI for dues, insurance and the magazine and \$5 comes to the district for dues to the district. As before, send the Membership Form along with a check for the one-time new member fee of \$55.00 to Kiwanis International. Also, send a copy of the Membership Form to the District Office.

Club Election Report: Bylaws state that clubs should hold their election of officers for the upcoming year between the first meeting in April and the second meeting in May. The club election report must be filed by June 1st. It is very important that this information is received in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled by Kiwanis International and the District Office.

Remember to mark your calendar: Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention, St. Cloud, August 4-6, 2006.

International Convention Montreal- 2006: All club secretaries should have received information in the mail. You can also get all of the necessary forms and information on the Kiwanis International website <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/>. After you have registered for the convention you will receive your convention registration receipt. You must have this with you when you register at the international convention to receive your packet and credentials. Remember to bring it along. If you are your club's delegate be sure your club secretary completes and submits your name on the "Delegate Certification Form", which is due to Kiwanis International and a copy to the District Office by April 30, 2006.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581
Fax: 218-589-7582
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

Bring a friend to your Kiwanis meeting next week! Thanks for all your great work in Kiwanis!

Steve

Kiwanis International President Visits Mankato, MN

On March 23rd Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens was in Mankato, MN preparing to give a four hour workshop the next day. Lucky for the MN-DAK District, Steve was willing to also attend a banquet in his honor, organized by the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club with president Liz Lawrence-Ross presiding. Nearly 70 Kiwanians, including some Circle K students at Minnesota State University attended the event. Governor Stewart Ross presented a mid-point review of the district goals and Steve Siemens gave a one hour presentation on why it is a great time to be a Kiwanian. At the conclusion of the event, President Siemens presented Governor Stewart Ross with a plaque in appreciation for his recent \$5,000 contribution to the Kiwanis International Heritage Society. It is hoped others in the district decide to donate to this great society that helps people from all over the world.



"Aunt" Beverly Says Yes To Region 5 Lt Governor's Role

Region 5 is the biggest of the seven territories in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District. It's not easy to travel the roads from Pierre to Yankton to Sioux Falls to Millbank. Region 5 is very fortunate to have added Dr. Beverly K. Werner to the Lt Governor Team.

Beverly served as President of the Aberdeen Kiwanis Club and was given high marks by Convention Director Larry Rittgarn for her work making the 2005 Aberdeen Convention such a success.



Dr. Werner joins 2005-2006 Lt Governor Vickie Walters of Madison, 2006-2007 Lt Governor Bill Zortman of Sioux Falls, and 2004-2005 Lt Governor Bill Daugherty of Sioux Falls in Region 5. Mr. Daugherty is a candidate for Governor-Elect at the St. Cloud Conference in August. Werner will be a part of the District Training in Willmar on May 5th, 6th, 7th.

Werner's background includes growing up on a small Wisconsin farm just east of the Twin Cities with a sister and five brothers. Her first job was that of coach and teaching elementary physical education in her hometown. Her MA is in counseling and her journey took her to a Missouri Junior College, Pittsburg State University, and Kansas State where she completed her Ph.D.

In 1996 she worked as Director of Career Services at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina before becoming Director of Career Development and Placement at Northern State University in 1999.

Her background in Kiwanis includes Pittsburg, Kansas, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and now Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Since moving to Aberdeen she has led and co-led youth groups at her Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Dr. Werner said "this has been extremely rewarding to see teenage youth learn to express their faith and give to others the compassion and help they need (from cleaning up a neglected yard to talking with nursing home residents to building a playground)". She says the greatest sources of joy are the thirteen who call her aunt. Today four of those are serving in our military.

We promise never to call her "Aunt B" but we are all proud to call her part of our Leadership Team that has the vision of working with family, friends -- young and old -- and Kiwanis Members from Kansas to South Carolina and the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Beverly Werner --- welcome aboard!!!

MN-DAK Delegates to Vote on Dues Adjustment for District at August Convention

At the January Tri-K Board meeting the MN-DAK Board of directors voted to send a proposal to the delegates of the district attending the 2006 convention in St. Cloud in August for their consideration. PROPOSAL: Raise the district dues \$10 per year, from the current \$20 to \$30 per year beginning with the 2006-2007 Kiwanis year.



JUSTIFICATION: Based on current membership numbers, seven years of no dues increase for the district and other concerns, our MN-DAK District is at a crossroads. Here are some points to ponder: *We have lost 35% of our net membership in just the past 10 years *We will end this current year with a projected \$30,000 deficit *We have slashed the district budgets for the past years from a high of over \$194,000 in 2000-2001 to the low this year of only about \$157,000 *We have no major cuts such as the paper Minnekotan for \$20,000 last year *Any new cuts in the budget will seriously impair the operation of the district which could lead to even greater membership losses over time *In the past two years we have seen a net loss in membership of 659 and 487 respectively *Based on the past two years we must plan for a worst case scenario of losses averaging around 500 net members each of the next couple of years (our hope is we can turn this around but leadership means we must not use wishful thinking at this point) *Many of our members will feel a dues increase of \$10 per year is too steep—the lack of a dues adjustment in the past couple of years with the huge membership net losses has led to this situation *MN-DAK is currently one of the districts with the lowest dues and new member fees. There are a number of districts, many smaller than MN-DAK, that already have their dues set at \$30 per year, or higher. *During the current year we are LOSING \$10 in new member fees for each new member compared to the past 7 years because of the change in dues collection and new member fees by Kiwanis International *We have been left with NO good options concerning the MN-DAK budget. If we are to truly lead this district we must present the best possible option and we must be ready to explain why this option is really the only one we have that can continue to balance a “bare bones” budget.

The last thing anyone wants to do is raise dues in a service organization. No doubt, that is the reason our district is facing a financial crisis. In the last decade the MN-DAK District has had a NET membership loss of about 35%. We have gone from 9255 members in 1995 to about 6084 (this is our best estimate) in 2005. Put another way, the district has lost a total of 3171 members in a ten year period. This translates into lost income over the same period of \$63,420. Dues for the district were last raised 7 years ago (1998-1999). They were raised \$4.50 per member, per year to the current \$20.

This dues adjustment helped the district out of a financial hole. Prior to this the district had three years of negative budgets: 1996-1997=(\$11,230) 1997-1998=(\$3,591) 1998-1999=(\$4,697) The dues adjustment of \$4.50 per member, per year created a surplus budget for the next three years: 1999-2000=\$22,617 2000-2001=\$24,555 2001-2002=\$14,204 Unfortunately, three years after this dues adjustment the district was once again dealing with negative budget numbers: 2002-2003=(\$8,415) 2003-2004=(\$18,256) 2004-2005=(\$23,172)—this year the paper Minnekotan was cut which saved \$20,000 in a one time budget reduction that moved the deficit to \$3,172 that year) At the same time that these huge deficits were being reported, the budgets were being slashed from a high of \$194,650 in 2000-2001 to the current budget for 2005-2006 of \$157,561.

This means the district is attempting to get by this year on a budget \$37,089 less than it was 5 years ago. When one considers inflation over a five year period it is truly amazing that our district continues to run on a budget cut this severely. Even so, this year's budget is expected to end up as much as \$30,000 in the red. Looking at the numbers above this should not be a surprise with a loss of the budget last year of \$23,000+. The only reason it did not seem so bad last year was the major cut of the paper Minnekotan. There are no more cuts to make of that magnitude. The next cuts in the district budget will be severe and lead to serious hemorrhaging. Taking the estimate of a loss of \$30,000 this year, we must find a way to cover this loss plus prepare for the next few years of continuing net loss in membership should this occur. Let's look at a possible scenario using past membership numbers of our district.

If the dues adjustment proposal is passed by the convention delegates this summer the dues for 2006-2007 (by the end of that period) will bring in an estimated \$165,000 in revenues (based on a projected loss of 500 net members this year). \$30,000 would need to go to the 2005-2006 year's deficit which leaves only about \$135,000 for an operating budget. This approximates the budget for 2005-2006. Looking at the second year of the dues adjustment we could expect an estimated \$150,000 in revenues (based on a projected loss of another 500 members) plus new member fees of \$15 per new member.

This budget would still be considerably lower than even the budget PRIOR to the dues adjustment in 1998-1990. Depending on how many members are lost each year, it would not take long to get back to the budget we are using this year. If membership losses continue the trend we have seen for the past decade, and the huge losses in the past few years, one could assume even with this \$10 dues adjustment for next year, we will be looking at a negative district budget as soon as 2009-2010. If the district comes out of this tailspin in net membership loss, the budget lines could be created for new club building and for TAG team members helping clubs build membership—areas most other districts have budgeted for. What is problematic to the district is this: at a time when we need to create resources to build our district we are looking at a "bare bones" budget. Some districts have as much as \$20,000 for new club building efforts.

Our district has a total of \$1,200 dedicated to this. It is time for our membership to invest in the district so that we can work to strengthen our clubs and membership.

International Convention Selling Out

Kiwanis Resource Exchange forums are now posted on the convention web site,

www.kiwanis.org/convention. The e-mail message shown below has just been sent from the Intl. Office to all (North American) Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, and Lt. Governors who have e-mail addresses in the membership database. By clicking on the message, Kiwanians are taken directly to the International Convention website to check out this year's selection of great educational opportunities on leadership and motivation, membership growth, service projects, service leadership programs, and club administration.

If you need either the registration or housing form, both may be found in the February issue of KIWANIS magazine or online at www.kiwanis.org/convention.

You may also secure forms by contacting the International Office.

Dwain "Pete" Petersen, On to Montreal Chairman

See you in Montréal!

89th Annual Kiwanis Convention is coming.

Convention headquarters will be the Best Western Kelly Inn, and the adjoining convention center.

Registration information will be in you club mail boxes the first week in May, so watch for it, and get your reservations in to assure you a great time and a great convention.



We have added additional features to this years agenda, including one more meal, great tours, family service projects, and yes a cruise to the South Seas.

The cruise will be extra special as you will not have to leave you're the convention center, so there will be no mosquitoes, need for sea sick pills, or any extra walking.

Yes, we truly promise you a fun fun weekend,

Thursday afternoon will begin with a golf tournament for all of the early golfers, then Friday at 1:00pm (Yes 1:00 pm) we will begin the official convention.

Shorter sessions-more meals-less walking, great tours, and a family service project, all for one price, so watch for your information packet, and the official call to this years 89th annual District Kiwanis Convention.

Pat and Larry are hoping to see you in Saint Cloud in early August.

New Minnesota-Dakotas District Webmaster

Welcome to our new District Webmaster, Arday Ardayfio. Here is a little background information about Arday. Arday was born in Ghana West Africa. At the age of 21 he moved to the United States to further his education at Concordia College. He graduated with a double major in Computer Science and Business with a minor in Psychology. While attending Concordia, he was very involved on campus as technology commissioner for student government, resident assistant, a member of the orientation committee and served on several other committees.



After graduation, Arday started work as an Admissions Representative at Concordia College and has been working there ever since. Arday joined the Kiwanis Club of Fargo in October of 2003 and was invited to serve on the board in 2004.

Arday has helped to develop the Fargo Club website and provide the club with more online services. His club saved \$6000 by putting the former weekly mailed bulletin online. Those savings can now be used to provide more scholarships for students.

In addition to Kiwanis activities, some of Arday's other interests are: meeting new people; entertaining guests; and reading and listening to audio books on Management, Business and Religion.

If you have any questions about our District Website or questions about developing a club presence online please contact Arday at Ardayfio@gmail.com

First New Club in District is Opened in Hastings, MN

The first club to be opened this year in the MN-DAK district occurred at the end of January in Hastings, MN. The club begins with 26 members, average age only 48. The president is only 35 years-old. The club is located in region 7 and was built with the help of many district Kiwanians but special recognition go to Lt. Governor Dennis Blesener and Bruce Klair of the Red Wing morning club (the sponsor of the new club). The charter night was a wonderful event with many clubs in region 7 and a couple in region 6 bringing monetary gifts totaling over \$600. The club has already discussed some service projects and fundraising ideas and will be an important fixture in their community for many years to come.



Congratulations to the Hastings, MN Kiwanis Club! To the right of the new banner for the club is the new club president, Dave Semser.

LT. GOVERNOR, HERB HOFF, PRESIDES OVER THE REGION 6 WINTER CONFERENCE

Lt. Governor of Region 6 Kiwanis, **Herb Hoff**, opened the conference by introducing the guests present and welcoming everyone. Lt. Governor-Elect of Region 6 Kiwanis, **Curt Pearson**, gave the invocation, and Immediate Past Lt. Governor of Region 6, **Dwain "Pete" Petersen** lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America".

Past Lt. Governor of Region 6, **Loreena Ennenga**, now serving as the Region 6 Director of Service, introduced the guest speaker, **Whitney S. Buesgens**, Camp founder and President of Camp Love's Embrace, Inc. (Please see this article elsewhere on the Region 6 page.)

The Director of Administration is responsible for the Club Newsletter and Brochure Contest. He provides the information to the Clubs of the criteria used for judging at the District Convention. He also forms a committee to judge and select the best of the Region 6 Newsletters and brochures in each group and submits the best to the District Chairperson for the competition among the other regional entries. It is sent to the District three (3) months before the District Convention. All Clubs are encouraged to have a newsletter and a brochure about their club. These two items can be used to help recruit new members! Clubs are also encouraged to pass their newsletters and brochures to friends, neighbors, relatives, etc., It also helps the public to become better acquainted with the work of Kiwanis.

The Director of Administration works with the Region 6 Newsletter Editor to encourage clubs in Region 6 to submit articles for the Region 6 Newsletter and also send the best articles to be printed in the District Newsletter, *The Minnekotan*.

The Director of Administration encourages the Clubs to attend the Winter Conference, the District Convention and the Kiwanis International Convention so they can become Distinguished clubs. Also, each Club is encouraged to work hard so their members can become distinguished as well.

This is but a brief overview of the many responsibilities the Director of Administration is responsible for completing.

Iris Tarvestad is the current Director of Education. This position helps all Region 6 Clubs to attend the **CLE** (Club Leadership Education). It is very important each year for the President, President-Elect and the Secretary of each Club attend this training. It is also a good idea to have the incoming Vice-President attend. CLE is very beneficial for all officers to attend. You always learn something new and you also have the opportunity to learn what the responsibilities are and you are also given tools to help you be a good officer in your Club. It is held at different times and in different locations so all Clubs in Region 6 have a chance to attend. The Kiwanians who teach this program have been specially trained to become **CLE** trainers. They are here to help members of your Club to have the tools to help you and your Club to be successful.

Loreena Ennenga, a past Lt. Governor and CLE Trainer is the current Director of Service. The Director of Service issued a challenge to all Region 6 Clubs to "Get involved and do service projects; not just do fundraisers and/or throw money and/or a check at a need! Pancake and/or Waffle Breakfasts **ARE NOT** service projects! They are fundraisers! Clubs need to share ideas on the different types of fundraisers and projects their Club is involved in and don't be afraid to share those same ideas with other Clubs!

We did not receive any information about Membership and New Club Building as the person from the District was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

The Circle K Administrator, Joe Blasko, spoke about the great success of the 1st K-Family Extravaganza. The next K-Family Extravaganza will be held the first Saturday in January of 2007! Joe is encouraging all Kiwanis members to attend!

REMARKS FROM GOVERNOR, STEWART ROSS

Governor of the Minnesota, Dakotas District, **Stewart Ross**, spoke about what we need to do to make the Minnesota-Dakotas District a viable, first rate, positive example for all the other Districts to emulate. Please remember this is a **TEAM** effort; not a **STEWART** effort. Kiwanis is **NOT** the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Sertoma Club, the Optimists Club, etc., No, we are the **KIWANIS CLUBS** who help the children of the world! Our new motto is: **“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.”**

Memorize this motto! This motto is a good start when working to recruit new members into your club.

Problems can be Problems! So, let's turn this phrase into ***“Problems can be opportunities!”*** ***“Change happens ONLY when the pain is so bad that you must make a change!”*** “Our goal is to end the Kiwanis year on September 30, 2006 with at least a ***PLUS ONE*** new member!” “Our Clubs need to move into the 21st Century!”

Governor Ross stated that starting on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, we will be working to build a new Kiwanis Club in Northfield, MN. The Faribault Daybreakers will be the sponsoring Kiwanis Club. In May, we may be starting a new Kiwanis Club in either Apple Valley, Eagen, Lakeville, and/or Woodbury. We will keep everyone updated as we work on building new Kiwanis Clubs.

Mankato, MN. now has a new Mankato Diversity Club. We expect to have 54+ members. Over half of these type of Clubs have people of color as members! There are a large group of young professionals in this Club. This is the Club of the future in Kiwanis!

Tuesday evening, February 28, 2006, we will be chartering a new Club in Hastings, MN.

Governor Ross wants at least 50% of the Kiwanis Clubs in the Minnesota-Dakotas District to be Distinguished! Your Club only needs 80 points out of a possible 120 points to become a Distinguished Club. He also wants at least 50% of the Kiwanis Club members to also be Distinguished! Your Club members only need to be part of two service projects, sponsor two new members into your Club and attend the Region Winter Conference and the Kiwanis District Conventions to become a Distinguished Member of Kiwanis.

Governor Ross also said, “We need to improve communications, improve attendance at the Regional Winter Conferences, the District Conventions, and Kiwanis International Convention.” Our Kiwanis Clubs also need to “Blow their own Horns” Be proud of your service projects! Share your project ideas with other clubs and they can do the same for you.

Governor Ross said it is time that, “We must learn to Dream.” “We must have more workers, and less advisors!” “We must unleash our energy!” “We must take some risks.” “We need to work together as a team to accomplish our goals.” “We need to enjoy our successes.” “We need to learn to celebrate.” Remember: “Together we can...Together we will.” “We are going to keep growing new clubs.” We must also turn around the idea that members of some of our Kiwanis Clubs seem to have the notion that, “It is **NOT** important to be involved in Kiwanis at the

District and International levels! It is just the opposite, “We **MUST GET INVOLVED** at the District and International levels!

Also, **Governor Ross** stated that, “**We must have Kiwanis Education Time at each Kiwanis Club meeting!**” It is time for our Kiwanis Club members to **TAKE THE MICROPHONE AWAY FROM THE NAYSAYERS and NEGATIVE KIWANIS!**

“We need to keep positive!” “We need you to help us build more Kiwanis Clubs!” “We need to get more people to join Kiwanis!”

\$560.00 DONATED TO CAMP LOVE’S EMBRACE

A collection of money was taken to give to Camp Love’s Embrace on behalf of **Governor Stewart Ross and first lady, Liz Lawrence-Ross**. \$560.00 was donated!<SPAN style="FONT-WEIGHT: bold; FONT-SIZE: 11pt; LINE-HEIGHT: 100%; FONT-FAMILY: 'Century Schoolbook'; mso-ansi-language: EN; mso-default-font-family: 'Century Schoolbook'; mso-ascii-font-family: 'Century Schoolbook'; mso-latin-font-family: 'Century Schoolbook'; mso-greek-font-family: 'Century Schoolbook'; mso-cyrillic-font-family: 'Century Schoolbook'; mso-latinext-font-family: 'Century Schoo

Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Outreach Program

Annually, a Kiwanis club which sponsors a Key Club or Circle K Club provides \$500 to \$2000 – and sometimes more – to support the activities of that club. This money supplements club dues, provides scholarship assistance to District Conventions and defrays transportation expenses to these conventions.

The Outreach Program allows Kiwanis Clubs which do not sponsor a Key Club or Circle K Club to aid these Sponsored Youth Programs at the District Board level.

Clubs are encouraged to give to the Outreach Program. Gifts are divided equally between Key Club and Circle K, unless specified otherwise. Interestingly, Kiwanis Clubs which sponsor a Key Club or Circle K Club are some of the most consistent givers to the Outreach Program.

Thank you to all of the clubs that have already sent in a donation for the 2005-2006 year.

If you or your club would like to give to the Outreach Program, make a check payable to: “Minn-Dak Outreach Program” and mail to:

Steve Handegaard, District Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

The Key Club and Circle K Members of the Minnesota-Dakotas District thank you!

Region 6 has first election for Lt. Governor-elect since new district plan was started

The region 6 conference was held for the first time in Redwood Falls, MN on February 25th. A good time was had by all and the region was especially proud to have the first election for a Lt. Governor-elect for the first time since the new district plan was instituted five years ago. David Fairbrother was elected for the position by those in attendance. Iris Irstad ran a fine campaign and everyone hopes she will consider running again. One highlight of the conference was a presentation by

a freshman student at Augustana College. Whitney Buegens, age 18, started a special camp called, "Love's Embrace." for young people ages 7-14 who have lost a parent in the past year. She started the camp three years ago as a two-day overnight camp that now goes for one week. An amazing young lady, we were happy to hear she is a member of the Augustana Circle K Club—we all knew she must be a Kiwanian. At the end of the conference, Lt. Governor Herb Hoff announced that Governor Stewart Ross and his wife, Liz, did not want a gift but instead asked for a donation to a charity. Herb then asked those in attendance to donate to the camp. To everyone's surprise (we should have expected this from Kiwanians) well over \$500 was raised which will fund two scholarships for children to the camp this summer. The camp is located near Slayton in region 6. At the conference it was announced that region 6 had a new club forming in Mankato and another to be built soon in Northfield, MN. Region 6 is excited by these new clubs and anxious to see Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens on March 23 in Mankato, MN. The photo shows the two candidates with Governor Ross and Lt. Governor Herb Hoff.

It's Just a Banner -- But Is a Symbol of Sioux Falls Fellowship

When former Governor Chuck Schroeder approached the five Sioux Falls Kiwanis Clubs and two members of the Lt Governor's Team about the need to use a banner --- it turned out to be much more.



As is usual -- it took three months for Kiwanis members to decide to spend \$150. The issue was not the money -- but it turned out to be whether there would be four or five clubs in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls West was having second thoughts about what they were doing. Their Salt project had been given a slap by a Fergus Falls Salt Company --- and when funeral homes, department stores, and many others said they wouldn't pay the increase -- seasoned members suggested they didn't have the energy to continue.

After the 5 Sioux Falls President's met in February -- they opted to have the other four clubs all appear and tell how much they would love to have them in their clubs. The Kiwanis members at Sioux Falls West were treated to four brief --- what Kiwanis means to us reports that included spinoza bears, pancake feeds, and many other 'magnificent moments' that could have been bottled. In short it was the best Kiwanis Kindness many had seen in years.

It was Former Governor Schroeder who took off his East Sioux Falls Kiwanis hat and told them --- "Look -- we don't want you to quit. We'll put together a group to help you revitalize."

After soul-searching -- the club voted a couple of weeks later to CONTINUE. Now a group that includes Former Governors Schroeder and Ren Fetzer along with Governor Elect Candidate Bill Daugherty and Lt Governor Elect Bill Zortman have vowed to do a report card on the club's thoughts with brief discussions with each member. The hope is take the good, the bad, and often the unsaid -- and help the club look at itself and then attract new members. Another Sioux Falls Club that has energy -- and has the youngest membership in the City --- continues to raise money -- win awards --- but lose membership because of being a morning club. Sioux Falls Daybreak will also get the help of the group.

Governor Elect hopeful Daugherty explained, "What we are doing for Sioux Falls West could be done for any club that has lost direction, members, or energy. We will work to let them know they aren't alone -- and have a big Kiwanis family behind them."

The Sioux Falls Banner will be used by all five clubs in events this year that will take the banner to the Sioux Empire Fair, Prayers Breakfast, Rodeos, the second annual picnic and other community events that have the Kiwanis touch.

It's not just a banner --- it's a symbol of togetherness that is uniquely Sioux Falls Kiwanis.

M.R. "Bob" Cox Past District Governor Dies

M.R. "Bob" Cox passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2006. Bob was Minnesota-District Governor 1992-93. During the time Bob was Governor he lived at Winona, Minnesota, but most recently he and his wife Avis were living in Massachusetts. Bob's slogan during his year as District Governor was "Kiwanians Care". He was very dedicated to Kiwanis and serving young children. Bob is survived by his wife Avis.



St. Cloud Kiwanis loses a Dedicated Kiwanian

The Downtown St. Cloud Kiwanis Club was saddened by the death of a beloved member Dr. Robert H. Wick on March 8, 2006. Dr. Wick was a former president of St. Cloud State University and brought many faculty members into the Kiwanis club. He continued to be an active member of Kiwanis, attending meetings up to his death and actively interested in the service of the club. He was particularly interested in helping young people achieve educationally, spiritually and in service to their communities and to the world. Bob achieved great accolades over his many years in higher education, but he was proudest of his family and his work for Kiwanis and the many other organizations he helped with his dedication to service. He will be missed.

Long-Time Kiwanis Secretary Dies in Rapid City

"Amos" L. "Shine" Lingard, 94, a longtime Rapid City resident, 51 year veteran of Kiwanis activities, and retired South Dakota School of Mines chemist died February 21st at the Rapid City Regional Hospital following minor surgery.

Amos was a member of the Downtown Rapid City Kiwanis for 51 years and served as secretary of the club. He is remembered as a kind person concerned about helping others and did that -- in and out of club activities.

Amos was born to Amos and Pearl Lingard on November 12th, 1911 at Princeton, Kansas. He grew up on a farm but academics were his calling. He earned his doctorate in physical chemistry from Kansas University in 1940. He married Wilmar Long of St. Hohn, Kansas in September of 1940. Their daughter Bonnie Kay was born in 1941. Amos worked as a chemist for Serval, Swift and Co. until 1953. From 1953 to 1979, he worked as an analytical chemist and assistant director at SD School of Mines and Engineering Experiment Station.

He leaves his wife of 65 years, his daughter and her husband, a grandson, a grand daughter, 3 great grandchildren, and two nieces and a nephew.

Services were held at Campbell, Paula, & Quinn Funeral of Rapid City with burial at Pine Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

(Tom Allen) of the Rapid City Downtown Kiwanis Club asked us to include the obituary in the Kiwanis Regional and the Minnekotan.

CLEAR LAKE, SD CLUB TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Kiwanis Club of Clear Lake , South Dakota will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on Sunday, May 7th, 2006. A buffet dinner and program in honor of this special event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Country Inn restaurant located at 17530 SD Highway 15.

Past members and spouses of the Clear Lake club and other members from the Minnesota-Dakotas District are invited to attend.

The cost for the meal and program will be \$15.00 per person. Please RSVP to Jane Evenson at 605-874-2417 or jkevenson@hotmail.com by April 28, 2006.

WALK, DRIVE OR FLY TO MONTREAL

Kiwanis endorsed Litwack Travel at 1-877-548-9225, is the best way I have heard of to get your airline tickets. Some Kiwanians are getting theirs for as low as \$437. per person for a non stop flight on Northwest Airlines on June 27 & July 2.

Dwain "Pete" Petersen, Immediate Past Lt. Gov. Region 6

On to International Convention in Montreal Chair

However you travel, Montreal is one of the best venues for an International Convention to ever come down the pike. Since we could not fill a bus some Kiwanians are driving, van pooling and even flying.

However you get there is not as important as getting there. Make your registration before April 15 and save money. Check the February Kiwanis Magazine or go to <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/>

See you in Montreal by June 28, 2006!

Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club continues Reading program at Madison School

Members of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club in Fargo, have agreed to provide readers for 2nd and 3rd grade students at Madison School.

Each week 1 or 2 members of the club spend an hour with 30-40 students as they read one or two books to them and then assist them in selecting books to read on their own the rest of the week.

The club finds this project both satisfying to the members and extremely fun for the students.

Madison School has over 26 languages in the school and over 60 dialects that are spoken.

CAMP LOVE'S EMBRACE: A PLACE WHERE GRIEVING KIDS CAN GRIEVE AND EMBRACE THE LOVE THEY'VE LOST!

As part of our Region 6 Winter Conference, Past Lt. Governor of Region 6, **Loreena Ennenga**, now serving as the Region 6 Director of Service, introduced the guest speaker, **Whitney S. Buesgens**, Camp founder and President of Camp Love's Embrace, Inc.

Whitney founded Camp Love's Embrace at the age of 14! Can you imagine this 14-year-old young lady with an idea to help grieving children who goes out and raises the funds to make her dream come true? Well, she convinced the Kiwanis Clubs in Slayton and the surrounding area to donate and help her dream come alive! This camp is run by contributions from individuals, businesses, and corporations. Camp Love's Embrace, Inc. has seven (7) Board of Directors. Whitney is now a freshman at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Whitney Buesgens is now 18 and a freshman at SDSU.

Camp Love's Embrace is a place where grieving children, ages 7 to 14 can come and grieve and embrace the

love that they have lost. The Camp is held at the Lakota Retreat Center on beautiful Lake Shetek near Slayton, Minnesota. They will have their annual Camp on May 20 and 21, 2006. They encourage children to make a loss timeline, make a family tree. These children need physical, mental, and emotional support to help them heal. The children need to know that there are people who can help them with their grief.

Grieving children often feel very isolated because they rarely know anyone their age who has experienced the death of a family member or someone very close to them. And their parents—their primary source of emotional support—are grieving the same death.

Children see their parents sad or crying and fear that by sharing their own pain with them, they will make their parents even more sad. So they become protective of their

parents and keep their feelings to themselves. It is critical to a child's well-being that there is someone with whom the child can share the pain and sadness without worrying about needing to protect that individual from their pain. If these children can find other children their own age who have had a similar experience, they can validate each other's feelings and lessen their own sense of isolation. They can help heal each other.

Camp Love's Embrace is an overnight camp for children ages 7-14 experiencing grief

related to the death of a loved one: Mother, father, sibling, grandparent or best friend. Each child will be paired with a trained, competent "buddy" and will receive the benefits of counseling by qualified, skilled counselors, and fun activities in a beautiful setting.

The children are given the opportunity to express their grief through art, music, play, circle time, and rituals. They are encouraged to talk about the person, 'share the stories and embrace the memories of their loved one.

CAMP LOVE'S EMBRACE—CONTINUED

Many of the Camp's activities are just plain fun. The Camp facilities will allow the children places to hike and enjoy nature, play softball, basketball and other outdoor games or just spend time meeting with their new friends.

The Lakota Retreat Center is modern, clean, and handicapped accessible. There are 17 spacious bedrooms with private bathroom/shower facilities. The fireside room provides a beautiful space for some of the group activities and a place to find peace and relaxation all while overlooking a peaceful lake. Meals are eaten together at the Retreat Center.

Camp Love's Embrace is held rain or shine. It is a safe, fun supportive time for children to continue their journey towards healing.

Mourning for the loss of a loved one is a process. There are no deadlines when the child should be "healed"! Each child mourns in their own way. The Camp has mentors to help the kids work through their grief.

Camp Love's Embrace is completely **FREE** to any child who wishes to attend. This is in thanks to the generous contributions of many individuals, businesses, and corporations.

The number of children who can attend are: the first 15 children are accepted on a first-come, first serve basis. The next 5 children are chosen based on the greatest need. That takes a total of 20 children. So, if you know of a child who is in need, you need to register the child early to guarantee placement. They accept children from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa. The Camp hopes to have a larger group attend in the future. However, they need more volunteers and more contributions to accomplish their goal.

For more information on either registering for this camp, making a financial contribution and/or volunteer to mentor children to this camp, please contact:

Whitney S. Buesgens, Camp Founder

2827 Maple Road

Slayton, MN. 56172

507-836-8431

E-Mail: whitney@campLoveSembrace.com

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU FROM THE "BOOK GUY" IN REGION 6!

There are not enough "Thank You's" in the world to thank all of you in Region 6 who cast your ballot to elect me as the next Lt. Governor-Elect for 2006-2007.

I would also like to thank my wife and fellow Kiwanian, Dawn, for her many talents in helping me organize and compose all of my campaign literature, cards, brochures, and publicity. I could not have achieved this success without her! She is one talented lady!

I want to wish Iris Tarvestad the very best in the future as she is a fine Kiwanian. I would like to encourage her to think about running again in the future. Iris, we need you and your many talents in Region 6.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BECOME INSPIRED TO HELP

This is a fine example of a "Shining Moment" for the Westbrook Noon Kiwanis Club and their "Terrific Kids" program.

It is also an excellent example of our Kiwanis Motto: **"Kiwanis is a global organization, of volunteers, dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time."**

It also shows us how **one person, Joyce Vortherms, CAN make a difference** in the lives of children!

In 1995, after their Interclub visit to the Pipestone Kiwanis Club, the Westbrook Kiwanis Club voted to implement a similar "Terrific Kids" program in their community. Joyce Vortherms, became inspired and she took charge of this program. Joyce has the unique ability to connect with class members in a most positive manner. Joyce Vortherms has had tremendous success in the past ten (10) years!

Joyce chose the 4th grade as it is a transitional time for those students who are about to enter the Middle School arena. Joyce has enjoyed the full cooperation of 4th grade teacher, Marcia Erickson, who usually makes the final recommendations for the "Terrific Kids" awards.

The program commences in October. At that time, the kids have a 45-minute session on alternate Tuesday mornings. These sessions focus on the Goals to becoming a "Terrific Kid" for the first three (3) or four (4) months. Scholastics, while important, are

not the primary focus of this program.

The **goals** are as follows:

1. **Responsibility.** (For personal items, Lesson Assignments, etc.).
2. **Citizenship.** (Respect for others.).
3. **Random acts of kindness.**

As the year progresses, students that have achieved these goals are identified and receive "**Tokens of Recognition**".

In recent years, these Kiwanis members have been assigned as "Secret Pals" to the students. The "Secret Pals" also send holiday, birthday and Achievement cards. The Club has dinner with the class in the fall and again in the spring. The "Secret Pals" are revealed to the kids at the spring dinner.

The Westbrook Kiwanis Club is extremely proud of **Joyce Vortherms** and the great work she is doing in conducting this program.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact Elmer J. Anderson at either ejandme@rrcnet.org or 507-274-6446.



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