

August 2007

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MINNEKOTAN

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Governor Highlights International Convention, Congratulates Key Clubs and Urges help for Service Project

On the eve of our district convention, I am feeling many emotions – excitement, nervousness, anticipation. Where has the time gone since our last convention in St. Cloud and what has our district accomplished? These and other questions are what we will be looking at in Fargo. We know that all of you who read this issue of the Minnekotan will not be joining us, but your delegates and other members will bring back the ideas and the excitement of knowing that our district is moving forward.



Our International Convention in San Antonio was filled with excitement, great forums and workshops and something that few knew about, but was a highlight for my husband and I. All the Governors of Districts of Kiwanis International met on Monday morning and headed off in busses for a very special service project. We went to the San Antonio Respite House and helped with some of the projects there. The Respite House is a place where parents and caregivers of special needs children can bring those children for a day or for a specific amount of time, so that those parents have the opportunity for rest, work, or appointments that otherwise they would not be able to attend. Across the street from the Respite House is a “bereavement” house, which welcomes those who have lost family members, and many of the children who are brought to the Respite House have short life expectancy. They counsel and they listen, and they always send the family member home with a teddy bear. One of Orin’s and my tasks, along with quite a few others was to sort out and box the many, many teddy bears, box and label them and set the attic in order. It actually was a fun task and the morning went quickly. Then we went to Respite Care and played and fixed lunch for the children. Orin has a wonderful story about helping a young boy frost a cookie. Ask him about it at the convention! This was a true highlight of the convention. Wish I had more “room” to tell you all about it.

I know that you will see a wonderful article on the Key Club Convention and the Fridley Key Club winning First Place in Service at that convention, so I will not go into great detail. I just want to give my congratulations to Mary Bowen and her fantastic club for working so hard on the hospital dolls. Congratulations to former Key Club Governor Kathryn Sitter for being a distinguished Governor! We can be very proud at the accomplishments of each and every Key Club in our District. I am impressed with their service and caring.

It is so heartwarming to hear all the stories of what all of our clubs do in this district, and from what I have heard, so many of you are even now gathering up many items for the Service Project at the district convention. If you are reading this on Wednesday, August 1, you have two days to gather those items and get them to the convention, so that we can provide our service men and women a “boost” in their day – knowing that there are many in Minnesota, North and South Dakota who are thinking of them and wishing them the best. Thanks for catching the Spirit. See you at the convention!

Update from the Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer - August 2007

By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer



Greetings! Those of us that attended the Kiwanis International Convention in San Antonio had a great experience. Sixty one Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanians and 16 guests were registered for the convention. There were 5515 total participants at the convention representing 2040 local Kiwanis Clubs. It was a convention filled with fun, fellowship, learning, and inspiration.

Attending an International Convention gives you an opportunity to understand and experience the great impact that Kiwanis makes in the lives of children and adults world-wide. Educational programs and forums provide many new ideas for Kiwanis Club leaders. In addition, there is always the interesting and often exciting “House of Delegates” session. That is where the business items of the organization are discussed. On most topics you will find a wide range of opinions and debate. Remember you can check out all the results of the International Convention at the International Kiwanis Website <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/>

The local Kiwanis Club is where all of our important work happens. Events such as the Kiwanis International Convention and other International and District events help to support the work and enthusiasm of all that is done locally. The importance of each and every club is even evident in the International Convention House of Delegates session. Every club, regardless of its size is entitled to send two voting delegates. Make sure that your club takes the opportunity to send delegates next year! Next year’s convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 26-29, 2008.

Following are a few reminders and updates:

- Don’t forget!! The Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention is coming up August 3-5 in Fargo, North Dakota.
- A list of the 2006-2007 **District Kiwanis Educational Foundation scholarship recipients** has been posted on the district website. You will find a link to the report in the tan box on our district home page: <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/>
- **Club Secretaries:** Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online reports for the 06-07 year. Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2007. With the new monthly online reporting system you will not be asked to submit a separate annual report.
- Thanks again to Club Secretaries for submitting the **Annual Club Election Reports for 2006-2007**. The reports were due June 1, so if you have not submitted your information online, please do so ASAP! We are still waiting for 29 club election reports! Please include email

addresses whenever possible. It is very important that Kiwanis International and the District Office both receive this information in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled.

- As of July 1st the Kiwanis International Website has a very new look. Please note that there are now two different sections to the website. There is the more general information part of the site at <http://www.kiwanis.org/> and also a new section entitled “Kiwanis One” at www.kiwanisleader.org The “Kiwanis One” section will be valuable destination for Kiwanis leaders. Take a moment to visit the site for ongoing web conversation (blog) called “Leadership Matters”, as well as videos, electronic presentations, and other resources.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

Steve

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INCOMING PRESIDENTS: What should you be doing to prepare for your year as President?

Committees: It's a good idea to give some thought to the people you would like to work with in the next twelve months. Allow yourself some time to obtain committee chairs, as they sometimes need convincing!

Budget: Work with the treasurer and secretary as well as the outgoing president to set a budget for the coming year. You can certainly follow last year's budget as a guide, adding line items that were not included previously, and eliminating items that no longer apply. Don't forget to budget for convention (District and International) and regional meeting attendance, CLE for next years officers, Outreach and Foundation contributions, social events, and of course, dues!

District Convention: Hopefully you are planning to attend. You will have opportunities to learn from other Kiwanians , get new ideas for meetings, programs, and service projects, and to understand how our organization functions on a larger level.

International Convention: While it is done and gone, if you were fortunate to attend, share your experiences with your club, and encourage your president-elect to plan to go to Orlando next summer!

Goals: Spend some time thinking about your goals for the coming year. Consider both Club goals and personal goals. Presidents are traditionally challenged to bring in two new members during their year as a way to inspire and set an example for their clubs!

Regional, District and International resources: Familiarize yourself with the district and International

web sites; you'll find an amazing amount of information available! Make contact with your Lt. Gov. team member, invite them to visit your club (set a date) and ask them to be the program for the day. Also make sure that they have your e-mail and postal addresses as well as your phone numbers so that they can easily keep you informed of regional and district news.

Club analysis: Consider surveying the club membership, formally or informally, as a way to determine if there are ways to change and improve the operation of the club.

Taking the time, making the effort to prepare in advance will likely make your first few weeks as president go smoothly and successfully.

Congratulations and GOOD LUCK! Have a great year!

Submitted by Colleen Hyde
District Administrative Director

Six Fridley Key Clubbers Attend Key Club International Convention

Six Fridley Key Clubbers Attend
Key Club International Convention
By: Katy Parrott

During July 11-14, Orlando, Florida flirted with nearly 100 degree temperatures, but the real reason it was smoking was the six Fridley and two thousand other Key Clubbers gathered for the 64th Annual Key Club International Convention. Key Clubbers came to celebrate another year of outstanding service at the Disneyland Dolphin Hotel. They came from Aruba, Barbados, Jamaica, Canada, Costa Rica and the United States to learn, share and meet other Key Clubbers.

The first day featured a "Meet and Greet" session where Key Clubbers could have their pictures taken with a gator and roll down an alley as a human bowling ball. It was a great opportunity to meet other Key Clubbers and to trade district pins. Some attendees had 30 different pins by the end of the convention.

The second day had workshops. Next year's club officers received training for their positions. Other Key Clubbers attended the motivational program "Make the Audience Move." The Key Club Board hosted a Service Fair in the afternoon. Fridley Key Club Members constructed a display showcasing their Dodge for Darfur Project. They attracted quite an audience with their mini-dodge ball game. In the evening Ethan Zohn, the TV Show *Survivor: Africa* winner, spoke about Grassroot Soccer, his non-profit organization which trains African professional soccer players, role models to many, to teach children about HIV/AIDS. The evening finished with a Hollywood Glam Dance full of the glitz and glamor Key Club has to offer.

The third morning attendees heard presentations by the candidates for International Office positions. Workshops followed in the afternoon. Topics were "Selling Sand in the Desert," Service Project Swap Shop," "March of Dimes," "Be an IT Person," "Secrets to College Success" and "Improving Your Communication Skills." Jenna Bush, President and Mrs. Bush's daughter, spoke about her internship representing UNICEF in the evening. Was security tight! "Don't do this. Don't do that. Don't ask this." Judson Laipply, a motivational speaker, spoke and entertained with his comedic, popular dance routine to finish the day.

The last day started early with the “ Step Up and STOMP Out Aids Charity Walk.” For a \$10.00 minimum entry fee the event raised nearly \$30,000 for Ethan Zohn’s Grassroot Soccer. Following breakfast, Key Clubbers attended additional workshops and elected a new President, Vice President, and 11 Trustees. At the evening Farewell Session, Kiwanis International President Dave Curry installed the 2007-08 International Board and retired the 2006-07 Board. The 64th Key Club International Convention ended with a bang as it traveled back to the ‘50s with poodle skirts and greased back hair for a closing dance.

The Fridley Key Club received several impressive awards at the convention. It received First Place in the Major Emphasis Program for its K-Family Project which involved making 600 trauma dolls for hospitalized children. The Club also received a Distinguished Diamond Level Club Certificate. Katy Parrott was named Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lt. Governor.

Jack Vantine, 1956 Governor of the Minnesota-Dakotas District, passed away

Jack Vantine, 1956 Governor of the Minnesota-Dakotas District, passed away at his home in Bismarck, ND on July 11, 2007. Jack was recently diagnosed as having terminal cancer. Jack was born on February 15, 1917. He became a member in 1937 at the age of 19 and remained an active Kiwanian for over 71 years. He provided leadership to the District Educational Foundation for 34 consecutive years and was currently President Emeritus, Minnesota-Dakotas District Educational Foundation.



The Kiwanis Club of Bismarck had planned to have a ceremony for Jack, dedicating the children's playground at Bismarck Kiwanis Park to him.

Condolences may be sent to Jack's son, Liess Vantine, 420 15th Street NE, Apt. 7, Mandan, ND 58554-2157.

CLINT & LOIS BOOK STORE

Yes at this years District Kiwanis Convention, we will again feature a new and used book store.

Bring your books so others can read them and you can in turn take a new bag full back home.

All types of books will be offered, so bring what you have along to the convention and turn them in at the Book Store in the pool area at the Holiday Inn.

All proceeds from this project will go towards paying for the shipping costs to send the care packages to our service men and women overseas.

Get the members of your club busy collecting books so they can be brought to the convention and sold for a good cause, and for others reading enjoyment.

Crayons Still Being Collected for Haitian Students

In a land of plenty with 64 crayons or more in every box -- its hard to image that giving one crayon per student would make any difference.

Carol Woltjer --- President of Sioux Falls South in 2005-2006 worked with the George, Iowa Kiwanis Club on a project that took the crayons to Haiti. 1500 pounds of them in 2006. It was enough to give each child one -- maybe two different crayons.

Even though Carol gave up the gavel --- she didnt give up the desire in her heart to continue helping. This year the pitch was made ---- and not only Sioux Falls South -- with other Sioux Falls Clubs jumped in. Tracey Vik is tied with the Sioux Falls School System --- and as a charter member of the Sioux Falls Diversity Club --made the rounds to hit a dozen or so schools for the used crayons that were being discarded.

There is still time to help. July 11th is the cut-off date -- and if you can help. Email Carol at carolwoltjer@nabs.edu. One color can change a life --- one crayon at a time for each child.

Key Leader Registration is open at Key-Leader.org

Please encourage students to sign up early for the Key Leader event in Minnesota on Oct. 5-7. The camp will be full at 100 students. This is the weekend of a lifetime.

Contact: Cloverjean@cableone.net

"The Brain Game"

The Kiwanis International slogan of "Serving the Children of the World" is being lived out in Red Wing, Minnesota. The Golden K Kiwanis Club, in a collaborative effort with Fairview Red Wing Medical Center and Fairview Red Wing Auxiliary, now provides a copy of "The Brain Game" to every new mother who participates in post-natal classes (about 400 a year). To date, we have provided 525 copies (25 in Spanish).

"The Brain Game" is a colorful, professionally produced book that contains many suggestions for parents and other caregivers to use with children from birth to three years of age, a critical time in a child's brain development. If proper nurturing and stimulation are not given during this time, it cannot be done successfully later in life! Ann Warrington, Fairview's Director of Post-Natal Education, enthusiastically reports that the book is proving to be very valuable. This cooperative effort has real potential to make a difference in the future of Red Wing area children.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS GRANT

Through the efforts of the Worthington Early Riser's Kiwanis Club the local Manna Food Pantry Inc., Worthington, Minnesota, was able to receive a grant of \$2500.00 from Kiwanis International.

The needs in Nobles County have been, and continue to be, great. The Manna Pantry distributes a variety of food, hygiene and household supplies with the help of volunteers. It relies on the contributions from individuals, churches, corporations, foundations and public grants. Kiwanis International provides such a foundation from which these monies, grant, were awarded. Clients can choose their own food thus eliminating waste which might occur with unwanted products.

Other programs provided by the Manna Pantry include the Dolly Parton Imagination Library which provides children, ages 0-5, with a free book each month in zip code 56187.

Kiwanis Baby Cupboard provides free baby food and diapers which are a courtesy of the Worthington Early Riser's and

VOKK clubs. Baby Cupboard also supplies the Back Pack Program which provides free school supplies to all children K-5.

The Manna Pantry, and Baby Cupboard, is open Monday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The Manna Food Pantry, Inc. is an outlet for Kiwanis to serve the community and exemplify the Kiwanis Motto of "Serving the Children of the World".



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