Is it pruning season? A message from Governor Rachael - 8/1/2020
Submitted by: Rachael Disrud

My dear Fellow Kiwanians

We have been through unique times together - a year of historic firsts. Steve Handegaard resigned from his position which he held for 15 years. The first part of our year involved the process of establishing a new person in a new location. Once we came to a conclusion of how to proceed, we set the date for the annual mid-year conference for leadership development, strategic planning and board meeting. What happened? The first ever snow storm closed highways!

We realized we must regroup! MNDAK would proceed with plans for our International President, Daniel Vigneron from Belgium to arrive in Fargo for a District visit. We were so excited! Then, COVID-19 hit! President Daniel could not get out of Belgium! We were forced to cancel all our plans which included a celebration of 100 years of Kiwanis clubs in MNDAK! When now? The Kiwanis International convention was cancelled for the only time other than during WWII. KI moved to election via a COUNCIL strategy due to COVID. We then needed to cancel our own MNDAK convention due to COVID!

Now, toward the end of the year, we are moving forward with the first ever MNDAK Council and Virtual Convention (VCON). Thank you to the convention team, clubs and Divisions for seeing us through this strange situation. Thank you to the St Cloud community who was committed to MNDAK convention and to Kiwanis. We thank you for all you have done to keep our hopes alive! We will be back to St Cloud and celebrate your community and Kiwanis through a future convention!

After much deliberation, I have tried to figure out what to say to you, our loyal Kiwanians who are working to keep our hopes alive and our spirits focused on our heritage, vision and mission. Thank you so very much for all you do and all you are. Please bear with me as I share what has come to my heart.

Pruning! This spring, I noticed a bush in our back yard that had become scraggly and had very few leaves and branches. I cut it back. It looked dead with just 4 wooden shoots coming out of the ground. What happened? The bush started to grow new shoots! Greenery started to come forth. More greenery and rich new growth continued to appear! This bush that nearly died, after pruning, was coming alive again. The bush is smaller and richer with more greenery and is growing larger each day.

Could this be an analogy of our Kiwanis? Think of the vinedresser in the fields. When they trim back the vines, the vinedresser cuts the vines nearly to the ground. The vines become restored with larger juicy grapes that produce a great product. The vines must then be nurtured, fed and tended in order to produce the best product possible. Is this happening to Kiwanis? Are we being pruned to produce a greater product? Are we being brought back to our roots, to our beginnings? Those who identified need in their community began a great thing over 100 years ago through developing our objects, our commitments and our focus. We are beginning anew with a vision for our future
which is based on our roots. Let us remember those who went before us. Let us think about the future we are paving the way for. The next generation is learning to serve and improve the world, one child and one community at a time. What is the example we are setting for them?

Sometimes I have thought we need to get out of our ‘box’ and work to understand future generations. We are now forced into the future that embraces technology. We are learning to engage our SLP’s which include Key Clubs and CKI’s at the college level. We are working to interact with K Kids and millennials plus we must strive to be aware of how AKTION clubs can be integral parts of our community. Our challenge is to be alert and focus on opportunity.

We are in exciting times. We are in an era where we must rise to the challenge, focus on the future, enhance the present, learn how to relate to one another, accept challenges, learn new skills and embrace one another. I am so very fortunate to become a part of you and the heart you represent during these challenging times. Thank you!

See you at VCON - MNDAK’s Virtual Convention! Watch for workshops to be scheduled after convention. Watch for an enhanced YouTube for MNDAK, view a great Facebook page and a website that is clearly updated. We are hoping you will be able, as you search the sites, to find information on convention and more. See you virtually and in person soon!

In service to you and our mission,
Rachael Disrud

Top 10 Reasons to Attend MNDAK 2020 VCON - 7/31/2020
Submitted by: Shara Fischer

10 - You can attend in your pajamas. The Minnesota-Dakotas Virtual Convention is the ultimate “come as you are” experience!

9 - You can say the Kiwanis International President and the MNDAK Kiwanis Governor were in your living room (no cleaning required).

8 - This is a great introduction to online training for those who are new to this learning format. Getting registered takes just a few clicks on your keyboard, and the meeting format will be easy to use with no software to download.

7 - Motivation. The annual convention is the best place to get motivated. You will come away with an attitude of gratitude for all that Kiwanis does to enrich your life and the lives of those in your community.

6 - It’s easy to find ourselves in a rut. Sitting in the same space can keep us from fresh thinking and new ideas. Breaking out of the typical convention format setting can spark us to new approaches that can help us engage with the community in new ways.

5 - Get inspired! You will be hearing new ideas and insights from Kiwanians in your district, your country, and
across the globe. After the convention you will be full of energy, passion, excitement, and motivation and that momentum is unstoppable! Your excitement will rub off on your club members, your club leadership, and your future potential members.

4 - Because your District Convention Committee (Bettye Hoff, Cathy Wogen, Dave Odette, Katie Ryan-Anderson, Linda McEntee, Lisa Theis, Rachael Disrud, and Shara Fischer) personally invite you to attend!

3 - Consider this an investment in yourself. It’s admitting that you still have things to learn. That you can get better. It’s a time investment in yourself, your leadership skills, and your Kiwanis Club. When you register to attend VCON, you’re investing in your own growth.

2 - If you miss this one, you will have to wait a whole year for the next MNDAK Kiwanis Convention!

And the top reason to attend VCON…

IT IS FREE! VCON is the most cost effective way to join with your MNDAK district friends and hear from top Kiwanis leadership about how they are Called To Action.

Saturday, August 8th from 9am to 12pm
Link to register: Click here

Joining is something you do, Belonging is something you feel - 7/31/2020
Submitted by: Bettye Hoff

Joining is something you do.......Belonging is something you feel. That quote from Brad Boyd has stuck with me since I heard him say it a few weeks back. It is so true. Joining Kiwanis has proved to be a strengthening and enriching experience. It is belonging to something bigger than me and with an amazing record for helping the children and communities of THE WORLD! Our mission is noble, our mission is strong, our mission is important. We are united even in this type of isolation and distancing. STAY STRONG!

One of the best ways to stay united is to communicate. In sending out communications to you, the member, I am getting a few that bounce back to me due to inaccurate email addresses. This is CRITICAL to have accurate contact information on each one of you. Please give your updated information to your club secretary to input into the KI site to keep our records accurate. thank you!

I would also ask that if your club secretary has not input the officers for next year - please do that as soon as possible.
I am still learning about this job and all it entails. I thank you for your patience and understanding. This has been an interesting learning curve since nothing seems to be on a "as usual" basis. We are learning how to look outside the box and come up with new approaches to so many things. Some of which I feel have been very beneficial and will most likely continue. I am looking forward to our history making VCON (Virtual Convention). If you have not registered, please do so. It is a couple clicks and you are registered.

Take care.

Bettye

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**KI Signature Project Entries - 7/30/2020**

*Submitted by: John Loken*

**2020 KI Signature Project MNDAK Entries**

Six clubs submitted entries in the 2018-19 KI Signature Project Contest, three in each Tier 1 and Tier 2. All of the entries represented worthy service projects that built up the Kiwanis brand in the community, as well as having very positive impacts in the community, involving 50-100% of membership and often working in partnership with other community entities. Our district can be very proud of these examples of service that exemplify Kiwanis in action.

**Tier 1 (27 or fewer members)**

**Early Risers Club of Austin**

- Service project, focused on K-5\textsuperscript{th} grade students
- Provides basic clothing, other supplies for children in need
- Has been in operation 4 years
- Report serving 1,000 people

**Austin Noon Club**

- Project is two separate track and field events during the summer
- Served 294 youth aged 3-15
- Has gained club 3 new members
- Aktion Club helps with some activities, Early Risers Club also helps
- Event is free to participants

**Kiwanis Club of West St Paul**

- Sponsors a Santa Breakfast, opportunity for pictures
- For kids, adults and families,
- Served 400, has 15-year history
- 100% of membership worked to support event.
- Key Club helped with kiddie games and set-up
- Partnered with YMCA & 2 members of another K club helped
- High visibility PR campaign

**Tier 2 (28 or more members)**
Kiwanis Club of Madison, MN

- Project is Kiwanis Gifts for Kids at the holidays
- 86 children were served, ages 1-10 whose families may not afford gifts
- Report 42 other Kiwanians helped the club
- Fund raising is done throughout the year
- Media cooperated to raise visibility of project in the county

Mankato Kiwanis Club

- Is a Christmas Lighting Project that attracts viewers to make donations of cash and non-perishable food items. Report $65,000 raised at last event.
- Other non-profits furnish volunteers and share in funds raised
- 40 of the clubs 100 members helped, along with 50 members of other K Clubs who helped
  - St Peter Kiwanis Club,
  - Circle K,
  - Aktion Club,
  - Builders Club
  - High community visibility

Kiwanis Club of St Cloud

- Annual Golf Outing fundraiser, 8-year history
- Involved 20 of 31 members, with 120 participants
- Raised $30,700 for children’s programming, scholarships and Kids Fighting Hunger
- Report gaining 5 new members from the project
- High Kiwanis identification with the event including traditional and social media
- Collaborated with Kohl’s Department Store
- Include a number of local partners
- Funds raised support an extensive list of local activities and needs.

A most impressive list. Thanks to all the willing hands that made this possible. Normally the contest awards are done at KI Convention where 10 clubs in each Tier are recognized.

K Dollars - 7/30/2020

Club: Spring Valley - Submitted by: Rita Bezdicek

The Spring Valley Kiwanis Club started collecting "K" Dollars in October and collected $523 until the middle of March when we had the shutdown. Secretary Denis Cornell and President Rita Bezdicek are displaying the "K" dollars. This money goes toward the Childrens Fund.
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY - 7/29/2020

Here is my membership article.

AUGUST - ADVANTAGE - AWARNESS

AAA

DON'T LET AUGUST GET AWAY FROM YOU. WE ONLY HAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 31ST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

Click Here for Attachment

Attached is a good membership tool to assist in introducing Kiwanis to potential members. It was developed by LymanToews and Vern Hagedorn. I am sure it will help Kickstart searching for new members during our dues waiver from KI and MN-DAK District. Call me for a referral for more information on this chart.

FEAR, can bring procrastination, the decision is ours to help build membership anyway we can for the benefit of the children. KI and other members have good ideas to share. Reach out, and though we are not touching anyone, use your responses to pick up the phone, call someone and share Kiwanis.

Take advantage of free membership until September 31st. Create awareness about Kiwanis and Do it in August AAA. Rake care and Stay HEALTHY.

Background checks are required - 7/28/2020

Submitted by: Peter Larson
I know everything is up in the air about how schools will open this fall. How will Key Clubs be affected by the new social distancing standards? Sorry, I do not have any answers for these questions but I do know that as of May 2020, if you do not have a background check you are not an SLP advisor. Here is a repeat from my May 2020 article about SLP Advisors:

Over the past year, Kiwanis International, concerned about the safety of the youth we serve and concerned about the revelations coming out of churches and the Boy Scouts of America decided to implement two significant policies.

The first was to require all SLP advisors to have a Kiwanis approved background check every two years. *There are still a few advisors that have not completed their background checks and as of May 1st they will no longer qualify as an SLP advisor.

The second was to require advisors to complete a youth protection course developed by Praesidium. There are seven lessons we need to complete.

To get your logon credentials, contact Melissa McMann at youthprotection@kiwanis.org. with your full name, email address and name of the SLP club that you are an advisor for.

The time frame for completing this training has not been established yet but now would be a great time to complete this training.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 701-261-7012 or at phlarson@midco.net.

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Invited to Virtual Interclub - 7/26/2020
Club: Rapid City - Submitted by: Vern Hagedorn

The idea of the virtual Interclub originated in a conversation between District Secretary Treasurer Bettye Hoff and Rapid City President Vern Hagedorn. The Fargo Rough Riders invited the Rapid City club to the virtual Interclub on Monday, July 20th hosted by Rachel Disrud who is a member of the club and conducted by Fargo President Lowell Disrud.

The Interclub was attended by eleven members from the Fargo club and seven members of the Rapid club. Following a little Fargo business, each member gave a brief introduction of themself. A question was asked about some of the Rapid club's service projects following information from one of the Fargo member's mentioning their service projects. Rachel made some District announcements which ended the hour meeting.
Vern, speaking for himself, felt this virtual Interclub using Zoom was as valuable as a face-to-face Interclub with the exception of not being able to personally meet and greet everyone. We will do it again to meet the requirements of an Interclub patch.

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**Club Meetings and Leadership Education are continuing...** - 7/25/2020  
*Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers*

Club Meetings: How is your club meeting? OR is your club meeting? Our members are waiting and relying on us to lead them through this.

Club Leaders: have you communicated with your members via Zoom, group club text messages or even phone calls? We need to be in contact or our members are going to think we don’t care, they won’t believe there is a need for them and quit because so far they are getting along without the meetings, etc. We can’t let that happen. Meetings can be held via Zoom or meet at a park with space and fresh air. Churches are open and maybe your own church will let you meet, bringing your own coffee or water and brown bag it or no food at all.

Members: if your club isn’t meeting, reach out to your club officers and take the lead.  
SO, LEADERS...let’s step up and lead our clubs. Remember we miss each other and we are Family!!! Kiwanis Family!! This is the time to take our leadership roles very seriously.

Club Leadership Education theme is:

**Back to the Future!** If we have the basics – we go to the future; If not – we stay in the past!

Club Leadership Education is moving forward with Kiwanis International working on new training modules for next month. If you haven’t participated in the 1.25 hour training sessions for each President, Secretary, Treasurer and/or Membership Chair, please sign on the following link to participate as the recordings of the webinars are available here: [WEBINARS](#)

In the meantime we hope all new officers are reviewing and learning from the Leadership Guides that were sent to each club. We are planning on contacting every club’s 2020-2021 president and secretary to participate in a call in the next few weeks. Information will be sent out shortly.

Thank you for being patient with us during this crazy time and am looking forward to meeting with all of you virtually.
Children's Fund - 7/25/2020
Submitted by: Kathy Welle

Kiwanians are called to action. This means we continue to serve children and communities, no matter what life throws at us. Learn more - make your gift at: Kiwanis.org/challenge.

This fiscal year the President’s Challenge for our District is $25,386 and 50% Club participation, to qualify for the annual Rebate. Rebates are 15% of the amount contributed, if we meet the challenge. The rebate will be used for Education Scholarships thru the District Education Foundation. By giving to the Children's Fund, you also are assisting with giving Scholarships to High School students.

As of 6/30/20, the total Club participation is at 32%. Currently we have 130 clubs and 41 clubs have submitted their contribution to the Children's Fund. Those clubs who have not made their contribution this year, would you submit it during the next month or two?
This would be a good time to submit your “K” DOLLARS.

Just a clarification: When an individual makes a contribution, that amount will be considered part of the dollar amount challenge, but not toward the 50% club participation. Any amount the club contributes is counted for club participation. This is important to qualify for the rebate.

Thank you to all the clubs that have made your annual contribution, and individuals who have assisted with meeting to the dollar challenge.

Make a Tax Deductible Contribution to District Foundation - 7/22/2020
Submitted by: Bill Lardy

We all know these are unprecedented times. The impact of the pandemic has been felt by nearly every single person and organization in the US.

The Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis Foundation is having the same experience as other non-profit charitable organizations caused by the pandemic; income has been reduced. With no District Convention this month there will be fewer funds coming in this year to support scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. This means the Foundation must rely on individual Kiwanians and Clubs for the money the Foundation would have normally received from fund raising efforts during the District Convention. Even though our income may be
less inflation means next year’s students will need our scholarships as much as ever.

While the Foundation has giving levels (Vantine Life Fellow and Joseph Messer Fellow) that qualify the donor for recognition any amount you can give is needed. Clubs that contribute $100 qualify for the Century Club designation.

PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO THE MINNESOTA DAKOTAS KIWANIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION. SEND IT TO JACK ZIERDT, FOUNDATION SECRETARY/TREASURER, 914 SOUTHERN PINE LN SW, ROCHESTER MN 55902. If your contribution is meant as a memorial or is given to recognize someone please indicate that in a note to Jack. Include name and address information.

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**Kiwanis Club of Fargo adapts in order to continue to serve F-M community** - 7/20/2020
*Submitted by: Mark Hensrud*

Though we recently started meeting in-person, here is a letter that was run in the Fargo Forum about our club.

Like countless other organizations, the Kiwanis Club of Fargo is rising to the challenge of delivering fellowship and service during the pandemic. We asked ourselves: What can we do? How can we help?

Our club focuses on supporting children, most famously through our annual Kiwanis Pancake Karnival. So, K-12 remote learning prompted us to create a new program to recognize teachers excelling in the remote learning environment. These extraordinary educators go the extra mile to connect with students, especially those most at risk.

Every week, we review nominations and present five local teachers with gift cards to local restaurants. It’s our small effort to encourage teachers to keep up the great work, while supporting the local economy.

Our teacher recognition initiative complements the annual grants we award to community organizations, using funds raised from our Pancake Karnival, which this year served over 9,000 of our friends and family at the Fargodome. As we say at the Karnival, “We flip for kids!”

Fargo Kiwanis has also found ways to keep our members connected while we’re required to be apart. Virtual meetings have replaced our weekly lunches, and afternoon online happy hours feed our need for community.

As the Kiwanis Club of Fargo celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, we’re working hard to continue our tradition of fellowship and service, even in the middle of a global pandemic. Let’s all remember to revel in the
good news out there, and consider how we can be part of it.

For more information on Fargo Kiwanis, visit our Facebook page.

Mark Hensrud, Kiwanis Club of Fargo, 2019-20 President