

December 2005

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# MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

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## Stew's News

Audrey Gutteresen. Probably not a name most of you know. The MN-DAK District is a large area, both in terms of members and geographic size. As governor of our great district I am honored to visit our seven regions, K-Family events, and numerous club meetings. I had briefly met Audrey at the region 7 conference in Red Wing in early November. Little did I know that would be the last time I would see her. Our district lost a great Kiwanian, Audrey Gutteresen, the current president of the Ardenview Kiwanis Club near Minneapolis. When Audrey did not show up to ring the bell for the Salvation Army folks became concerned, this was not like Audrey, a very organized person. Sadly, she had passed away and now leaves a huge void for the club to fill. By all reports, Audrey was a true Kiwanian who relished her role as president of the club. Her husband, who passed away a few years ago, was also a leader in the club. Last week was a very special trip for me as I was able to attend her memorial service.



It was a wonderful service which included the choir (of course, Audrey was a hard worker for the church and sang in the church choir). I was able to meet Audrey's children and a brother along with many Kiwanians in attendance. We also had a short "meeting" after the lunch with some members of Audrey's club. They are concerned about such a huge loss to their club. They have agreed to grieve for a few months and make no decisions for at least six months. The club has gotten smaller over the past years and have not had a new member for some time (does this story sound familiar to any of you?). I kept thinking during the service that we need to aid this club (and other clubs in the same predicament) to honor the work of Audrey.

Audrey met her husband in kindergarten and they were friends from that day forward. They were together 55 years! This past year, on their anniversary, Audrey went to the place they always had dinner on each wedding anniversary in recent years. She sat alone at a table and brought letters from her husband which she read while having dinner. As tears welled in my eyes hearing this story it was easy to understand why the church was full at her memorial service. This was a special woman and a special Kiwanian!

If ever there was a reason to commit to new club building, revitalizing Kiwanis clubs, and recruiting new members, Audrey's passing should be a wake up call for all of us. We need to continue to develop more Audrey's throughout Kiwanis. We need to bring members into clubs who someday will become a president or secretary of their club. We need to develop new clubs to take the place of those that lose their way and dissolve all too early.

Our district has a plan for the next two years. I continue to work closely with governor-elect Coralyn Dahl. Together we plan to work hard for our district this year and next year... as a team. We are already seeing important successes. In the next few weeks we will have a new club built in Hastings, Minnesota. We continue to research and plan for many more new clubs you will soon be hearing about in the near future. Our leadership team continues to work to aid clubs in becoming

distinguished this year—nothing could revitalize many clubs like working toward distinguished status. Communication is improving throughout the district led by our terrific district website located at:

<http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/>

We thank our webmaster, Lori Larson, who has done a wonderful job of developing a professional site. When you finish reading this column please look around and see the stories of our district clubs and members. We have many other ideas which you will soon see on this site. Unfortunately, Lori has resigned this position effective with this issue of the Minnekotan. We are happy to announce that Bob Swanson has stepped forward to act as an interim webmaster. Bob is a member of the Moorhead Vikingland Kiwanis Club. As we continue to make communication a top priority for our district, regions, and clubs, the district website will play a key role.

The month of December is sometimes a challenging one for Kiwanis Clubs. Although the Holidays take their toll on attendance and we become busy with so many preparations, it is important to continue the great work we are doing. At this time of year, our service to our communities and beyond becomes even more important.

In closing this column, I want to leave you with a beautiful poem that Audrey's daughter read at the memorial service. Perhaps you can find a use for this poem yourself:

#### **FOR THOSE I LOVE, FOR THOSE WHO LOVE ME**

When I am gone, release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do,  
You musn't tie yourself to me with tears.  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave you my love, you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness.  
I thank you for love you each have shown.  
But now it's time I traveled on alone!

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part,  
So bless the memories that lie within your heart.  
I won't be far away, for life goes on,  
So if you need me, call and I will come...  
Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near.  
And if you listen with your heart you'll hear  
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then...when you must come this way alone...  
I'll meet you with a smile and "Welcome home."

--Author Unknown

**Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer - December 2005**



By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer

Greetings! The holiday season will soon be keeping us all very busy. Laura and I wish all of you a very happy holiday season. These are times when there are many special opportunities for Kiwanis members and clubs to do service in our communities. Have fun helping others!

**Governor Elect Candidates:** If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2006-2007, please submit a picture of yourself and a short biographical sketch to the District Kiwanis Office, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 **no later than January 15, 2006**. If the material is received by that date it will be published in the February Minnekotan. Governor Elect candidates must be a Past Lt. Governor. The election will take place at the District Convention in St. Cloud next August.

**Leadership opportunities:** If you are interested in being a future District Kiwanis leader please contact your Lt. Governor, other officer or myself. Each year the district is in need of interested and dedicated leaders. It can be a very interesting, rewarding and educational experience.

### **Electronic Monthly Reporting**

Special thanks to all of the clubs that filed their monthly reports using our new online club reporting system. We had 90 clubs in our district file their October reports online. That is great for our first month. We hope that many more clubs will give it a try when they report their November activities. If you are still in need of the instructions, let me know. Online reporting is due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each following month, same as before.

### **2004-2005 Annual Club Reports:**

Thank you to those clubs that have submitted their Annual Club Report to Kiwanis International. The new style report replaces the old part I and II reports of the past. The new report is electronic and is based upon the achievement criteria set forth by Kiwanis International.

The report forms were sent electronically to the email address on file for the Club President and/or Club Secretary. Clubs who do not have an email address on file at Kiwanis International were sent a printed copy via the postal service. The Annual Club Report was due to Kiwanis International by November 15, 2005. **If you have not submitted your report, please do so as soon as possible.** If you have misplaced your report form you can simply go to the Kiwanis International website and complete the form online at <http://www.kiwanis.org/resources/club/annualclubrep.asp> or call Kiwanis International at 1-800-KIWANIS and request a hard copy.

**Tri-K District Board Meeting:** Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards will meet in Willmar, MN on Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21, 2006.

Thanks for all your great work in Kiwanis.

### **Kiwanian Honored for 50 Years of Perfect Attendance**

Ivan Bartels a Mitchell, SD Kiwanis Club member since June 1, 1949 was honored by his club for 50 years of perfect attendance on Wednesday, November 16. Ivan has been active in all areas of the Mitchell Club.



## Mitchell Club Donates Teddy Bears

The Mitchell Kiwanis Club recently donated Kiwanis teddy bears to the Avera Queen of Peace Emergency and Trauma Services Department in Mitchell, SD for young children who are admitted as patients. Pictured from left are Kathy Hettinger, RN Director of Emergency and Trauma Services and Marlene Bennett a Mitchell Kiwanis Club Young Children Priority One committee member.



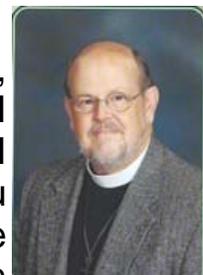
## Most Successful Peanut Drive in 2 Years

The No. Suburban Golden K. on tuesday Nov 15th, 2005 took in a new member who is age 27. Jeremy Newhouse is a financial Rep in Roseville and was sold a case of peanuts. He inquired about Kiwanis and was invited to attend a meeting. He proceeded to attend the next meeting and signed up for membership. He was inducted yesterday Nov 15th, 2005. He is the youngest member ever taken into our club. We now have 116 members. The club just completed its most successful peanut drive in the 2 years the club has been selling Kiwanis peanuts. The club took in about \$12,000.00 and cleared about \$9,000.00. We sold to individuals, small businesses and went to large corporations and recieved donations. All in all it was a most successful endeavor. The N. Suburban Golden K Kiwanis, the Arden View Kiwanis and the N. Suburban Kiwanis held a breakfast for 21 outstanding youth from different churches in the Northern Suburbs. The youth told of their roles in the churches they represented. This event is held each year.

## Human and Spiritual Values

Tis the Season . . .

Many of my fellow Kiwanians, including our District Governor, are teachers. So in the spirit of this season and their profession, I offer a small bit of homework. Take a piece of paper and write "I am thankful for (    fill in the blank. )" Repeat this exercise until you have moved way beyond your quick and easy responses. Take your time and have fun with this exercise. Be honest with yourself. Then pick out one or two of the people on your list and thank them! If they ask the reason for the thanks, tell them that they came up on your "Thankfulness" list.



Celebrate this season through thanks giving and it will be a holiday "A holy-day" season.

--Al Thompson

## Fergus Falls Noon Kiwanis Club Hosts Root Beer Float Social for Key Club

Every year the Fergus Falls Noon Kiwanis Club hosts a Root Beer Float Social for the local Hillcrest Key Club. Hillcrest Key Club members and Kiwanis members gather together at the Merald and Jeanette Enstad home and enjoy an evening of ice cream floats and socialization.

Pictured dishing up the ice cream at the November 7 Root Beer Social are Fergus Falls Noon Club Members: Merald Enstad, Past International President; Steve Handegaard; Paul Newton and Jim Worner.



## Region 7 Education Day Article

Governor Ross enjoys a day with Region 7 Clubs on November 5th, 2005 at the Mississippi National Links Golf Club in Red Wing, Minnesota.

Stewart Ross and wife Liz were welcomed by 80 Kiwanians gathered for our fall meeting. Along with a great luncheon, Kiwanians, Key Clubbers, Circle K and Aktion Club members shared ideas in an open forum. Governor Ross offered encouragement for building 3 new clubs in Region 7 this year.

A silent auction was held which raised \$600.00 to be divided by our District's Outreach program and our Districts Foundation.

Engraved Kiwanis Clocks were awarded to these Lieutenant Governors for their 3 year commitment since our Region conception: Alan Nelson, Mary Dierbeck, Herb Erickson and Denny Harris.

Our current Lieutenant Governor Team and spouses, Dennis and Kathy Blesener, Paul Michels and Colleen and Denny and Mary Harris were in attendance. Many other dignitaries were there, including, Jack and Judy Zierdt, Chuck and Margee Jacobson, Lyle and Donna Solem, Les and Jo Hittner, Fred Dresser, Bruce Klair, Herb and Joan Erickson among others.

## Scholarship Applications

Scholarship Applications for the Educational Foundation 2006 scholarship were mailed to all club presidents in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District today, Wednesday, November 9th. This is time dated material so please deal with it immediately. The applications need to be completed and returned by the schools to the office of the Educational Foundation of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District on or before January 20, 2006. If you have questions please contact Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer of the Foundation.

## REPORTING KIWANIS SERVICE HOURS

A club service project must be approved by the club's Board of Directors and must have a direct benefit to the community.

Credit for service hours are given to the club when the service project has been approved by the club's Board of Directors prior to the event, and the following criteria are met:

1. Service to an approved project with no money involved.  
*Example: Reading to children at a day care center.*
2. A targeted service project for which the club raises funds that are restricted specifically to that project.  
*Example: The club's Board of Directors approves a fund raising project that will provide a day care center with play equipment.*
3. An approved project that combines money and hands on service.  
*Example: The club's Board of Directors approves a fund raising project that will provide a day care center with play equipment, and four Kiwanians set up the equipment.*

Service hours **are not** counted for:

- Fund raisers when the money is put into the club service account for future use.
- Personal service hours such as ushering in one's church, singing in one's church choir, or any activity that is not first approved by the Board of Directors and the participation is **not available to all members**.
- Credit is not given for activities that are a direct benefit to the club, such as board meetings, committee meeting, internal fund raisers.

## KIWANIS CLUBS & IRS FORM 990

Tax Exempt organizations are required to report revenue results each year to the IRS under most conditions. Each club Treasurer and President should be aware of their club status and requirements. Clubs are exempt from filing a report if annual gross receipts (dues, assessments, interest, dividends, rent, project revenue, special event revenue, etc) are less than \$25,000. If a club does receive a 990 package from the IRS it should file regardless of revenue. Clubs with revenue less than \$100,000 and assets less than \$250,000 can file form 990EZ. The IRS website [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) is your best source of information about requirements. Your return is due by February 15 each year.

## You're Invited To Develop the Leader Within You

The Minnesota-Dakotas District CKI, is pleased to invite you to attend a special leadership development seminar in conjunction with our K-Family Holiday Extravaganza. The seminar will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2006, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm over at the Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel in Fargo.

The Develop the Leader Within You Seminar is a one-day session that will teach participants a variety of tips and techniques designed to enhance your own leadership abilities as well as developing other leaders. This seminar is ideal for members of K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Club and Circle K as well as anyone interested in developing future leaders.

With topics such as the Secrets of Motivation, Confidence in Leadership, Goal Attainment, and Conflict Resolution you will emerge from this seminar with a thorough understanding of all course concepts and poised to apply what you have learned immediately in a real and practical way.

In addition, you will also discover the 12 reasons why members leave student organizations and how to develop a recruitment and retention plan to keep your organization on the cutting edge.

This is a leadership development program and many student governments and student activities offices will provide financial support to clubs and organizations to send their members to this type of program. Our presenter is Mr. Dave Kelly, America's Student Leadership Trainer a nationally recognized facilitator of leadership programs for students. This seminar is designed to be both fun and interactive and ignite your passion for leadership. ,

The cost of this leadership development seminar is \$30 and includes lunch and all of your conference materials. Join us on this journey of discovery and Develop the Leader Within You! Questions please contact Joe Blasko at 651 330-6812 or [joablasko@comcast.net](mailto:joablasko@comcast.net).

To Learn more about Dave Kelly, check out his website at: [www.gonzospeaks.com](http://www.gonzospeaks.com).



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