

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.66

April 2015

A message from the Governor

03/25/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by:

Happy Spring to all. What an amazing month. I think I found all the weight I lost when I attended three fundraisers for Foothills who held a pancake breakfast, Rapid City held a pancake breakfast as well, and the Sturgis Golden K had a soup supper with dessert too. What a time to recruit members for these wonderful fundraisers so that they continue and grow. We need members to do service and since April is Membership month, invite a friend to one of your April Meetings.



Also try to plan a service project for Kiwanis One-Day. This day would be great to introduce your friends to service and perhaps they may join also. Make it meaningful and fun. Sometimes it is best to get them involved – then ask them to join the club.

I had lunch with Circle K Governor, Kate Ross. She informed me of all the service projects they have going on and is looking forward to our District Convention and invites Kiwanis Members to include the Circle K Members to assist with service projects in their area.

Are you planning to attend District Convention, August 7-9, 2015 in Grand Forks, ND. What fun we have planned for you with a great speaker, great workshops, a talent show, silent auction and meeting newly elected officers. Plan now and get a group together to share a ride.

I anticipate calling a teleconference meeting of the Lt. Governors on April 2 or 3rd so be sure to have your presidents or yourself contact them with comments and concerns. Steve will send a notice and an agenda. We are still looking for Regional Lt. Governors. If you are interested, please contact myself or Steve Handegaard. We know there is someone suited for the position and I know you will benefit in Leadership, skills, education, friendships and extending your family of Kiwanis. It is a great experience.

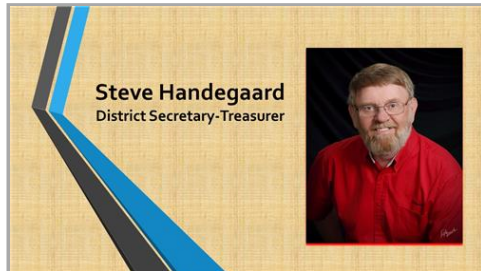
I want to mention a few kudos and Congratulations to the Mankato Club for being invited to Washington D. C. regarding the Holiday Lights Program and Welcome to New Aktion Club in Harvey.

I want to encourage you to make a list of the members that we have lost this year and submit their names to Steve Handegaard for the Remembrance Service at District

Convention. We just lost Warren Prascher in the Sturgis Golden K, Jackson Hamilton in Rapid City and we want to keep in our prayers Dick Hogle in Region 1. Please keep your thoughts and prayers for their families.

April Update

03/31/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



District Kiwanis Convention: Mark your calendars... the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention will be held August 7-9, 2015 in Grand Forks, ND. All clubs should be represented at this annual convention. More information will be coming soon!

Monthly Club Reports: Thanks again to club secretaries that submit their club reports online each month. Your reports provide very valuable information to the district officers and Kiwanis International. (Reminder to club secretaries: Be sure that your club monthly reports are submitted online by the 10th of each following month.)

Club Elections: Just a reminder that your club election results will be due June 1st. Club secretaries should submit the club election reports online through the same KiwanisOne webpage that we use for monthly club reporting. We hope that you can at least submit your 2015-2016 club president and secretary by that time. Others can be added or changed at any time.

Kiwanis International Convention: Indianapolis: Besides registering for the convention, be sure to report your club's two International Convention delegates and two alternates to the International Office by April 30 on the Delegate Certification Form. Be sure to send copy to the District Office. You can download a copy of the form from the Kiwanis International Convention website.

Lt. Governor Education Conference Planned: Governor Elect Kent Hochgraber, along with the Lt. Governor team for the upcoming 2015-2016 Kiwanis year will be meeting May 1-3 in Fergus Falls. They will be learning more about their role on the district level and developing district plans and goals.

District Kiwanis Foundation Board and Past Governors Meeting: Both of these groups will be meeting May 2-3 in Fergus Falls.

As always, think Membership Growth at all times! Only through maintaining and growing our membership can we be the vibrant service organization that is truly "Serving the Children of the World".

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

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

Phone: 218-589-7581

Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

Convention Corner

03/30/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Liz Lawrence-Ross

MNDAK KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

August 7-9, 2015
Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this great 100 year celebration of Kiwanis! The committee is looking forward to seeing all of you there. Each month we'll post more information about the convention as it becomes available here in the Minnekotan.



The deadline for registration and reserving rooms is July 6th. Only 4 months left until the convention, so please contact me sooner than later if you have any ideas or suggestions for the convention, or if you would like to be on the convention committee.

Happy Spring MNDK!

Liz Lawrence-Ross
MNDK District Convention Director
bigsissterliz@yahoo.com

Key Leader Camp

03/31/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Deb Looby



Time is fast approaching for Key Leader Camp in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. Lt. Governors PLEASE get the message out to your club presidents to get in touch with their high school counselors. This is such an awesome opportunity to bring young leaders across the district together in a weekend of leadership

and fun.

Key Leader Camp is for those students entering 9th grade or in any high school grade. It will be held at "Dakota Frontier Camp" located by Bear Butte just east of legendary Sturgis and only 50 minutes from nationally known Mt Rushmore. Check in will be in the afternoon on July 10th with leadership and personal growth training Saturday afternoon and check out shortly before noon on Sunday, July 12th.

Registration is easy! Simply go to www.key-leader.org and register. Camp fees are \$250.00 with \$100.00 paid by the district for the first 60 registered who register using the passcode. You must use the following passcode when registering to receive the \$100 scholarship. Passcode is: **MNDK15** Also be sure to hit the redeem button after entering the code or the \$100 will not be taken off.

We are very much in need of counselors, cooks, nurses - anyone! Please get in touch with me.

I would appreciate it if any presidents would email me addresses of schools so that I can get posters out right away!

Think Camp! July 10, 11, 12!

District Kiwanis Governor Elect Candidate for 2015-2016

03/25/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Peter Larson, Governor Elect

Candidate

Peter H. Larson
2110 8th Street South, Moorhead, Minnesota
56560
Phone – 701-261-7012 -- e-mail –
phlarson@midco.net



I have been a member and treasurer of the Moorhead Kiwanis Club for twenty years. I was a member of the club for one month before being approached to take over the position of Treasurer. I was the 2012/2013 President of the Moorhead Kiwanis Club.

Lieutenant Governor Elect Region 2, Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District– 4/1/2013 to 9/30/2014 and Lieutenant Governor Region 2, Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District – 10/1/2014 to 9/30/2015

Born in England where my father was an Army sergeant attached to an anti-aircraft unit. I was raised in Moorhead MN, where I graduated from Moorhead High School.

Out of high school, I enlisted in the United States Air Force as an Electronic Sensor System Repairman. I worked on the SR-71, RF-4C, and AC-130 gunship. I was honorably discharged after my second tour of duty in Thailand.

During my second tour of duty in Thailand I was married to Jungva (Mon) Paravudti in Korat, Thailand. Since my return from Thailand, we have made Moorhead, MN, our home, buying our house here in 1980.

We have three children, Ut Larson, John Larson and Christine Kahnke. We also are blessed to have two grandchildren, Molly and Adam Kahnke.

I was a Cub and Boy Scout leader while John was involved in scouting. A highlight of that time was a trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico when John was 16 years old. We hiked fifty miles through the mountains for ten days enjoying a number of scouting activities each day.

I attended Moorhead State University where I earned the degree of Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Accounting.

My accounting degree and military service landed me a job at the Internal Revenue Service where I worked in Fargo, North Dakota as an Internal Revenue Agent before finishing my career as a Senior Tax Specialist. As an IRS Agent, I audited small business income, employment and excise tax returns. My emphasis was on excise taxes where I audited North Dakota excise tax returns and maintained a system of records on companies making excise tax exempt sales in the state. My duties as a Senior Tax Specialist included holding small business workshops, holding tax preparer liaison meetings and promoting the use of electronic filing of income tax returns by tax preparers across the state of North Dakota.

While in college and while employed by the Internal Revenue Service, I continued my military career as a member of the North Dakota Air National Guard. I was an Airborne Radar Repairman working on the F-101, F-4D, and F-16A aircraft. I retired after twenty one years of service with the rank of Master Sergeant.

For twenty years, I was President or Chief Steward of National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 2.

I took an early retirement from the IRS due to a realignment of resources in the Small Business Taxpayer Education area.

For thirteen years, I have volunteered to provide free tax return preparation services through the VITA and AARP tax preparation programs.

I am on the board of the Moorhead Area Education Foundation where I have been the treasurer for eight years. Since 1991, this organization has issued \$1,329,084 in scholarships to 1,528 students. In 2014, 66 students received \$100,789 in scholarships.

For five years I have been on the board of the Arc of West Central Minnesota where I currently hold the position of Board President. Our mission is empowering all people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Membership Is Our Ticket To Even Greater Service!

03/25/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Tom Allen

For many years the month of May has always been Membership Month for Kiwanis. Recently however, Kiwanis International leadership thought, "Let's all capitalize on the



excitement and momentum of Kiwanis One Day, the global day of service!" We can do that as we shift Kiwanis' annual Membership Month to April! After all, Kiwanis One Day is the one day when most Kiwanis clubs really "Share It and Live It"!

Kiwanis International says that Kiwanis One Day is often a time when clubs increase their connections with their communities. Here are a couple of suggestions offered on how to turn those connections into greater and lasting impact.

- **Seek out community partnerships.** Partnerships and sponsorships can help bring clubs more visibility and

funding—and more members too! Use the relationships you've developed in your community to bring more people, businesses and other entities into your Kiwanis One Day event.

- **Follow up.** Reach out to anyone who participated in your Kiwanis One Day activities to tell them more about your club—and how many other ways there are to serve year-round.
- **Host an open house.** Capitalize on the extra promotion. Consider hosting an open house shortly after your Kiwanis One Day festivities to help community members learn even more.

Although the hour is late, your club can still plan and incorporate a membership drive in conjunction with your Kiwanis One Day project and celebration. Let's make this change work for our clubs and grow membership in the Minnesota-Dakotas District and in Kiwanis. More hands make the load lighter and the amount of service we can give our communities so much greater! LET'S GO!

Club Leadership Education

04/01/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena L. Luetgers

The 2015 CLE sessions are scheduled to be held throughout the district. These sessions are designed for the President-Elect and members. All sessions are listed on the district website on the Education/CLE tab.

[Click here for CLE Schedule](#)

Registrations for each person attending can either be sent or emailed to the contact person. Please submit the club, name of attendee, email and position of each for the 2015-2016 Kiwanis year and specify which session the participant will be attending.



The expense of the participant's meal can be reimbursed by the club with their paid receipt. This is the only cost for attending a session. We ask that all participants registered for the sessions are prompt, if possible, so each session can begin on the designated time.

Club president-elects and members have two options:

- Classroom education; and
- Online session NOTE: (click "complete" when finished, or it will not give credit for the session)

Club secretaries have one option:

- Online training: a self-paced online experience that gives you flexibility to learn when you have time. You can complete the training all at once or multiple visits to the site. NOTE: (click "complete" when finished, or it will not give credit for the session)

NOTE: Club secretaries must take the online training to qualify their club for distinguished status for 2014-2015.

CLE is a valuable tool to help officers, as well as members, to learn about Kiwanis, attain knowledge and learn leadership skills for their position. Please check out www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/learn/club-leadership-education and the "Learn" and "Lead" sections. Under this section is education for the board member, treasurer, club members, committee chair, membership chair and youth protection. Many club members took these online sessions last year.

Prizes: We will be drawing names for some prizes at the District Convention. These will be given to individuals that either attended a classroom session, online session and District Convention session. Also, the club that had the most members attend the combined sessions listed above by August 1st will receive a gift. So, be present at the convention to maybe receive your prize.

If you and/or your club have any questions in regards to the CLE sessions, please contact me and I will be glad to help you. luetgersloreena@gmail.com

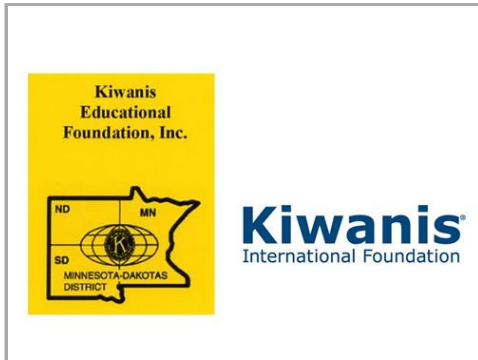
We look forward to providing you with the information and skills that will help you in your leadership roles.

District and International Foundation Updates

03/30/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Chuck Schroder and Jean Collins

Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation Judging Scholarship Applications Submitted by: Jean Collins

The Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation always looks forward to this time of year as it is involved in presenting over 60 scholarships to outstanding students. The judging is done in the regions and is rotated each year with a region never judging their own area students. The judging teams have always talked about the outstanding students that they are judging and how hard it is to make decisions. Soon the winning students will receive notification of their scholarships. The students do not receive the



money until they have registered and attended the college of their choice.

Historical note, the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation was started by a generous donation from Joseph Messer an Aberdeen South Dakota Kiwanian. He felt moved to make the donation because when he went to college some anonymous donor paid some of his college bills and it made a difference in his education. The Foundation still receives donations from the Messer family even though Mr.

Messer has passed away. His legacy has helped thousands of students throughout the years.

I encourage you to make a donation to the Foundation so that our scholarships can be funded at a higher level each year.

YOU CAN HELP Submitted by: E.CHUCK SCHRODER

When you make a gift to the Kiwanis International Foundation, not only will you be recognized for your annual and consecutive giving, but your club will be recognized as part of the Today Club program. As of December 31, 2014, 252 clubs have met some level of the Today Club program (1 Diamond, 6 Gold, 18 Silver, 227 Blue).

If an individual has completed their pledge for The Eliminate Project, will they consider making a two year pledge to the Children's Fund to become a Hixson Fellow by making a US \$500 gift in both 2015 and 2016.

Encourage clubs to designate at least one fundraising event each year for the Kiwanis International Foundation Children's Fund. The Kiwanis International Foundation e-newsletter has tons of stories and resources about the foundation. Members can subscribe to this newsletter at [Click here](#).

The Annual Club Gift continues to be a strong program within the Kiwanis International Foundation. Clubs will continue to receive recognition for any size gift to the foundation. We encourage clubs to reach the Today Club Status of US \$10.00 per member average. The Children's Fund campaign runs from October 1 to September 30 every year. The foundation needs your annual Support.

Don't forget that U.S. clubs and foundations need to fill out their 990 no matter the size of their foundation or club. Did you know that the Kiwanis International Foundation qualifies for corporate matching gifts? If a donor makes a gift to our foundation, their employer may double or triple their donation. You can learn more about this at www.kiwanis.org/matchinggift or contact Chuck Schroder.

The Presidents Challenge is the foundation's way of recognizing district and division

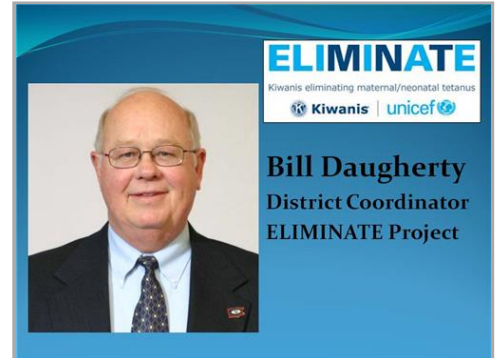
leaders for their financial support of the foundation. They only need to increase their district or division's three year giving average by 10% to qualify for recognition.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.

The Eliminate Project

03/29/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

Time to begin thinking about the KURE Ride this May and June. Remember last year when Bob Burlison rode throughout the USA for the Eliminate Project? Well he's doing it again but this year he will be joined by motorcyclists across the nation. We are looking for groups in Minn-Dak that would enjoy riding May 11th-14th through North and South Dakota. Check your area and let me know if you have riders available from Montana to Bismarck and then on to SD.



Also need riders in the Twin Cities area June 12th-16th from the Wisconsin border to the Iowa border. Looks like a fun ride perhaps down I35. Let me know if you have a group interested.

Reach me at blldaugherty@yahoo.com Thanks.

Region 7 Northern clubs-Kiwanis One Day Service Project

03/28/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: LTG '13-'14 Gail Heyda



We kicked off the 9th Annual Kiwanis One Day project on Saturday, March 28, 2015 with our 4th year of "Building Dressers" at Bridging, Inc in Roseville, MN. The clubs contributed \$6800.00 to build 85 dressers. Bridging, Inc distributes donated furniture and household items to the community in need. The participating Kiwanis Family clubs include Key Clubs from Fridley, Columbia Heights, Anoka, Andover, Park, Roseville and St Anthony High Schools, Circle K Club from the University of Minnesota, Kiwanis Clubs from Anoka Area, Columbia Heights-Fridley, Coon Rapids, Minneapolis Downtown, North Hennepin, North Suburban St Paul, North Suburban St Paul Golden K, Northeast Minneapolis, St Anthony, St Louis Park

Golden K, Stillwater Area, and the many friends/guests who joined in.

Kathy Welle, Columbia Heights-Fridley Kiwanis, and her team always does a great job organizing this event. See picture of event with all the fun.

Club News

Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt

03/30/2015 - Club: Fergus Falls - Submitted by: Fergus Falls Noon Kiwanis

The Fergus Falls Noon Kiwanis Club held our annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 28 at Northern Pacific Park in Fergus Falls. The event for kids 6 years old and younger drew well over 200 kids. 2700 easter eggs were found and scooped up in about 7 minutes. The eggs contained candy, gift certificates and other prizes.



Stillwater Area Kiwanis April Event - - a Bluegrass Bonanza

03/30/2015 - Club: Stillwater Area - Submitted by: Judy Gulden



Please see Facebook Page: St Croix River Valley Bluegrass (Kiwanis) for photos and the poster. Poster can also be viewed here [Click here](#)

St. Croix River Valley Bluegrass Bonanza April 19

The Stillwater Area Kiwanis Club [showcases](#) a bluegrass bonanza on Sunday, April 19, from 1- 6 p.m. at

the *Heights Hall and Club* in Oak Park, Minnesota, to benefit organizations and agencies that serve local children in need.

The lineup includes some of the finest Bluegrass bands in the region, including the Platte Valley Boys, Blue Hazard, Thrift Stone Sonata, and Brian Wicklund's Fiddle Students.

Brian Wicklund's Fiddle Students will set the afternoon in motion with original and standard tunes. These fiddle performers have been lucky to learn and improve their craft at camps from instructors and musicians hand picked by Brian Wicklund, another St. Croix Valley talent known widely in Bluegrass communities across the nation.

The featured band, **Platte Valley Boys**, is celebrating 40 years playing traditional bluegrass in the Upper Midwest. Originating from the Twin Cities area, the Platte Valley Boys have existed in one form or another since 1975. These Boys are a favorite bluegrass group in Minnesota because they bring both talent and fun to every performance. Band members include guitarist **Tony Andreason**, **Scott Stebbin** on mandolin, **Catie Jo Pide** on fiddle, **Ross Willets** on bass, and founding member **Ron Colby** on banjo.

Also performing will be local group **Blue Hazard**, whose members are originally from Stillwater and Marine on St. Croix. Since bursting onto the bluegrass scene in 2000, the group has recorded three albums and is currently working on its fourth. The group's three sibling members started out playing bluegrass with their father: brothers **Luke Gruber** on mandolin, **Dale Gruber** on fiddle, and their sister, **Hannah Johnson** playing guitar and leading vocals. On banjo is **Uriah Nibbe** and on bass **Clara Wicklund**.

Thrift Store Sonata, a St. Croix Valley based folkgrass/ bluegrass band, will add high energy to the afternoon with traditional old time and bluegrass songs in addition to their own material and creatively arranged contemporary covers. Having played together since 2011, Thrift Store Sonata will have something for everyone and you'll want to get up and dance. The band includes **Chris Brown** on guitar and vocals, **Tuke Weston** on upright bass and vocals, **Alissa Jacobsen** on fiddle and backing vocals, and **Dan Gerber** with washboard, spoons, and banjo.

The Stillwater Area Kiwanis Club is sponsoring this special event as a benefit for organizations and agencies that help local children in need and promote the leadership of youth in our community. Nonperishable packaged food and children's mittens, hats and scarves will be collected as well. Tickets \$18.00 at door, cash or check or visit www.evenbrite.com

Contact for the event: Judy Gulden, 651- 439-8368

Pioneer 100 Club Brings Terrific Kids to Crookston

03/27/2015 - Club: Crookston Pioneer 100 - Submitted by: Cynthia Braseth

For a fairly small community, Crookston MN has several service clubs including Kiwanis, Lions, Shriners and Sertoma. These clubs share many members and do many projects together to benefit the community. This has been great for the community but has made it difficult for the Kiwanis Club and our Mission of Serving Children to stand out.



When our current President, Susan Sylvestor, was inducted in October, she made it clear that her main goal was to make our mission more visible in the community. The Lions have a very active Leo Club in the high school, so that did not appear to be a good option. Besides there were already several joint projects focused on students that age. She had seen a presentation at the District Convention the year before on Terrific Kids and presented that to the club as a project they could take on. It was unanimously adopted and the work began.

Susan and another member Butch Schieicher, visited the Kiwanis Club in Wahpeton ND during one of their meetings where they celebrated the Terrific Kids to see how it was done. They then contacted the administration at Highland Middle School and were directed to meet with the 5th Grade Teachers. The teachers were thrilled with the prospect of a program that would reward their students for meeting goals.

The teachers became very involved in setting goals for each student and then selecting the most deserving student each month. They also write a paragraph on each certificate explaining why this student was selected.

It has been so much fun to be at the celebrations when the students and their parents are presented with the certificate and a host of "goodies." The reaction of the students is fun to watch as the paragraph written by their teacher is read aloud. The teachers are also there to share in the celebration.

The word is spreading in the community as well. Susan has met with several businesses in town to discuss sponsoring the program. There are several who have agreed. The biggest issue now is how to display the sponsors on the t shirts that the students get!

I would say the goal to make our Mission more visible in the community is well on its way to being accomplished.

Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club invited to Washington, DC

03/25/2015 - Club: Mankato - Submitted by: Matt Norland

On March 11th the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club was selected to participate in a



special invitation to the Kiwanis' White House Community Leader Briefing in Washington, DC. The Mankato Kiwanis club was 1 of 27 clubs nationwide to be selected because of the community impact made through their signature service project, Kiwanis Holiday Lights. Matt Norland, club president and Scott Wojcik, president of Kiwanis Holiday Lights will be attending the special event on April 29th in Washington, DC. The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club and the Minnesota-Dakotas District can be proud of the difference we are

making locally and the difference is certainly being recognized.

Link to news coverage and video [Click here](#)

Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club opens new Kiwanis Reading Oasis

03/25/2015 - Club: Mankato - Submitted by: Matt Norland

On March 17th the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club officially opened a new Kiwanis Reading Oasis at Hoover Elementary School. The mission of a Reading Oasis is to provide a safe and nurturing area within the school where students and their families are welcomed to come and read, explore and learn together. Through the generous sponsorship of the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club and Scholastic Book Fairs, Hoover Elementary School has received this incredible gift of reading which will benefit our school community for years to come. This new service project will provide Kiwanis volunteers an opportunity to read with and mentor children at the school on a weekly basis.



Link to news video [Click here](#)

Jamestown Kiwanis donated \$10,000 to children's hospital

03/24/2015 - Club: Jamestown - Submitted by: Katie Ryan-Anderson



The Kiwanis Club of Jamestown recently donated \$10,000 to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The funds benefit Sanford Children's Hospital in Fargo. In 2014, the hospital cared for more than 2,000 children from across North Dakota.

The money will help purchase life-saving medical equipment, special programs unique to sick and injured children, research and education.

Cutline: President Jan Barnes presents a \$10,000 check to Hillery Mork of the Sanford Children's Hospital in Fargo, N.D.

Anoka Area Kiwanis Club Reaches Eliminate Goal

03/23/2015 - Club: Anoka, MN Area Inc - Submitted by: Jan Clemens

Anoka Area Kiwanis Club is extremely proud to announce our club has reached its Eliminate goal. The club decided on a \$20,000 goal which averages \$400 per member and meant that more than 11,000 women and all their future babies were protected from MNT.



To raise this money, initially we asked members to donate their spare change ("Your change can make a change") at each meeting. Then one of our members, Bruce Frank, agreed to sell raffle tickets at one meeting a month (\$1 per ticket, or 6 for \$5) with the winning ticket holder receiving half the pot. Most of the time the winner donated their winnings to Eliminate. For 2 years, the proceeds from our annual bake sale were also earmarked for Kiwanis and donations were also solicited from guests at our annual pancake breakfast. Our sponsored Builders Club got into the act with several activities that raised funds for Eliminate. In addition, four of our members pledged or were honored by the club to become Zeller awardees.

As contributions started to lag, another member hatched a plan to get more of our members contributing. It was announced that an anonymous donor would match all contributions raised from March 2015 through December 2015. With that challenge, about 25 of our members donated during those months. Some made a one time donation, some donated a set amount each month, some donated at each meeting. With great anticipation and excitement, our club had reached its goal by the end of December. The anonymous donor, Kiwanian Sonja Rehbein, was announced at that time. Sonja received the Diamond Zeller award at our March 19th meeting. We are so grateful for her generous contribution to such a worthy cause and for helping us reach our goal much earlier than anticipated.

Our 5 Zeller awardees are Bruce Frank, Sonja Rehbein, Barb Winfield and Karen Hand.

Ukuleles For Madison Elementary School

03/22/2015 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn



Jeff Swanson, president of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club and its members, presented 5 student ukuleles and one teacher ukulele to the music department at Madison School.

Several of the students are shown in the photo, along with Jeff, and he is showing them some of the finger positioning etc, and needless to say the students were eager to learn to play these instruments, Ukuleles have become a very good teaching tool in the lower grades of our public schools and Madison School had not been lucky enough to have received any of these "cool" instruments.

The presentation was attended by several South Point members, and major coverage by all 4 of our local TV stations, plus a good live interview on one of our statewide radio stations.

Fargo South Point has also enjoyed 14 years of work with Madison School in which we have implemented the BUG program and also a reading program for students.

The BUG program has been going for the entire 14 years, and it culminates each spring with an honors breakfast at the school, hosted by the Fargo South Point club.

Save Babies & See the World!

03/17/2015 - Club: Fargo - Submitted by: Kiwanis Club of Fargo

If you could have dinner anywhere in the world, where would you go? This is a popular question from Fargo Kiwanians who are selling tickets for a Michigan-inspired fundraiser. Ten dollars buys you a chance to win a \$5,000 voucher from Kvamme Travel. All proceeds for the project will go to the Eliminate Project, so each ticket also protects five women and their unborn babies against maternal/neonatal tetanus. The Kiwanis Club of Fargo invites you to consider where in the world you would like to travel, and contact us for more information.



Owatonna Noon Club hosts Read Around the World with Celebrities

03/11/2015 - Club: Owatonna - Submitted by: Jerry Ganfield



Nearly 50 children & parents participated in the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna's "Read Around the World" event Saturday, February 7 at the Owatonna Public Library to hear seven celebrity readers share favorite children's books for pre-school to third graders. Afterwards each child received a free book of their choice plus milk and cookies.

Readers this year included Sue Brown, local children's book author; Anna Hagen, OHS Key Club vice-president; Tim Penny, Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund CEO; Bill Barnard, Owatonna School board vice-chair; Keith Hiller; police chief; Shelley Whitehead, Owatonna Today show host; and Darla Lager, Owatonna Public Library Children's Librarian.

This annual Kiwanis event encourages children to value and explore books with the encouragement of their parents, teachers and community leaders. The Kiwanis Club of Owatonna, a Kiwanis International affiliate, meets at noon Wednesdays, and welcomes

all to membership in support of the needs of young children. President is Dean Kirchner with Ross Brown, president-elect; Cindy Barta, secretary and Jerry Ganfield, treasurer.

For more information contact Jerry Ganfield (507)390-8394.

Photo: Anna Hagen, vice-president of OHS Key Club, reads a favorite children's book at the Kiwanis "Read Around the World" event at the Owatonna Public Library Feb. 7.

Nothing like the wisdom of a child

03/10/2015 - Club: Spring Valley - Submitted by: Brenda Stier President (2014-2015)

My granddaughter, Kylie, will be 7 in May. I picked her up after school in Stewartville yesterday, and we headed to Rochester to go to a few stores. As we were driving back home in the car, she was jabbering away (as always) in the back seat. She looked out her window and saw two different groups of geese overhead, flying in their v-formations. She started to tell me all about how the one goose leads the way for a while, and then when that one gets tired, it drops back and another one goes to the front for a while. I listened quietly as I drove, and she then summed it up by saying "they all work together to make the work easier".

As I was still pondering on her words, she then said "Like Kiwanis". It took me a second, and I asked "Like Kiwanis?". And right away she replies, "Yea, because everyone in Kiwanis works together to make the work easier."

Nothing like the wisdom of a child, huh?

Brenda Stier President (2014-2015)
Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley

Catching Dreams

03/09/2015 - Club: Fargo - Submitted by: NDSU Circle K



The North Dakota State University Circle K dedicated time after a recent club meeting to make CD dream catchers for the local children's hospital. They hope these bright decorations will be a cheerful touch for the young patients spending time in this ward.

If your favorite SLP would like to replicate this project, they will need blank CDs and an array of craft supplies. NDSU used colorful yarn and cord, beads, feathers, and bells. Supplies can be attached by tying, gluing, and taping. The creative possibilities are unlimited!