

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.23

August 2011

Conventions and Transitions

07/30/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Lowell Disrud, District Governor

We recently returned from the International Convention in Geneva. What a wonderful time and convention. Jane Goodall opened the convention telling of her years of work helping apes who are helpless and distressed. She told of the look in their eyes of fear when their life is in danger and the look of relief and thankfulness when they are helped. She said children have the same look in their eyes when they are in danger and distressed and their eyes sparkle with thanks when we help them. She commended Kiwanis for putting sparkle in children's eyes. Speaker for the closing session was Jamie Lee Curtis who has written several children's books helping children as well as adults understand the world and people around them. She was presented with the Kiwanis World Service Award for her work with children. She also joined Kiwanis and was presented with her membership pin. There were many excellent forums and workshops and time to meet Kiwanis friends and share ideas.



In a few days we will celebrate the 94th annual Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention in Sioux Falls. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there and know it will be a great convention. As you return to your club after the convention I hope you will share what you have gained from the convention- knowledge, enthusiasm, the Kiwanis spirit and dedication to do even more for children and communities. Also share what you learn about the ELIMINATE project and help get every Kiwanis member on board to accomplish Kiwanis goals as we work together to eradicate the suffering resulting from tetanus.

The month of August provides a time of transition. We are thinking about back to school and the school year routine. In Kiwanis we also are preparing transitions for a new year starting October 1 with changes in leadership positions. As I have interacted with other district governors and international leaders I have learned that the Minnesota-Dakotas district is unique in that we function as leadership teams with immediate past, current, and elect positions working as a team whether in the Governor, Lt Gov, or Club President positions. These teams along with the Secretary/Treasurer provide the leadership for the District, Region, or Club. No one person has his or her "year" with accomplishments. It's

a team effort. We as a district have accomplished much this year so far and that is because of a membership that cares and is dedicated to improving their world one child and one community at a time. As we transition into a new Kiwanis year I encourage you to think about how you will be involved and what new or different activities you will participate in. Every Kiwanis member is a leader so I hope that your leadership, whether as a member of your club or serving in some official leadership position, is rewarding to you as you help others enjoy a better life.

I hope to see you at convention.

PUT ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE

August Update

07/30/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



District Convention: Our District Convention in Sioux Falls is just a few days away. Lots of preparation and planning has been happening to ensure that this will be another great convention. It will be a great opportunity to learn new ideas, meet new friends and enjoy great Kiwanis fellowship. I hope to see you there. Further information about the convention can be found in the MINNEKOTAN and on the district website.

Club Secretaries: Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online club reports for the 10-11 year.

Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2011. When you use the 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 2011-2012. The reports were due June 1, so if you have not submitted your information online, please do so ASAP! We are still waiting for some 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. When filed online and the report automatically goes to both Kiwanis International and the District Office.

Don't get lost! The club locator ([CLICK HERE](#)) on the Kiwanis.org website is one of its most used functions. Prospective members and current members who are relocating use the search function to find a club in their area. But if your club doesn't have a valid postal address, site visitors won't be able to find you. Don't get left off the map! Club secretaries, make sure your club's address is valid and up to date via the Secretary dashboard at www.KiwanisOne.org/login

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District Convention Forums

07/30/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Governor Elect

The following forums will be offered at the District Kiwanis Convention August 5th and 6th.

First Timers Forum: This is an opportunity for members attending a district convention for the first time to meet other first time attendees and learn the in's and out's of attending the convention as well as House of Delegates voting rules and procedures.



Young Children: Priority One: Our keynote speaker for the opening session, Dr. Wil Blechman, will conduct a forum on Young Children: Priority One. Dr. Blechman is a rheumatologist who developed a major interest in children's issues as a result of his work with Kiwanis. A past president of Kiwanis International, Dr. Blechman was instrumental in developing the Young Children: Priority One program. In 2009, Dr. Blechman was made an Honorary Member of the Florida Pediatric Society and he is listed in Marquis' Who's Who in America.

The ELIMINATE Project: Our MN-DAK Project ELIMINATE Chairperson, Bill Daugherty, will conduct a forum on the Project ELIMINATE campaign. Learn how Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This deadly disease steals the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year.

Candidates Forum: The two candidates for the position of Governor-elect for 2011-2012, Cindy Braseth of the Kiwanis Club of Grand Forks Sunrisers and Jeff McKinney of the Kiwanis Club of Sioux Falls, will be introducing themselves and sharing their thoughts on the future of Kiwanis and the Minnesota-Dakotas District. You should not miss this opportunity to "meet the candidates".

Thinking outside the box for Service Projects: Kiwanis International Trustee Counselor, Pam Fleming will share her insights and experience in planning service projects which are effective, fun and successful. Break away from the ordinary and take your service to extraordinary.

Adults Working With Youth: The MN-DAK District Risk Manager, Ken Kohler, will present a forum on the Kiwanis Guidelines for adults working with youth. Learn your responsibilities for protection of our Service Leadership Program members, Kiwanis members, clubs and our organization.

Membership Panel: MN-DAK Membership Chair, Sherry Scudder and Region 7, Governor Elect, Don Felmlee, will present a panel discussion on membership initiatives. Sherry is back by popular demand following up on her critically acclaimed membership forum at the 2010 district convention in Fargo, ND.

K-Kids/Builders Club: K-Kids District Administrator, David Fairbrother and Builders Club District Administrator, Diane Johnson, will share the exciting world of the K-Kids program for elementary students and the Builders Club program for middle school students. Learn how Kiwanis is developing future leaders through these programs.

Key Club/Circle K International: Key Club District Administrator, Mary Beth

Townsend and Circle K International District Administrator, Matthew Schuweiler, will be presenting the fired up world of Key Club for high school students and Circle K for college students. Perhaps you might have the honor to meet the new Circle K International, Vice President, Melanie Walter from Winona State University.

Aktion Club: Aktion Club District Administrator, Larry Sonnek, will share his insight into Aktion Club a program for adults living with disabilities. Learn how your club can provide an extremely valuable service to your community by sponsoring an Aktion Club. This exciting Kiwanis program provides members with a feeling of inclusion and a sense of accomplishment.

Kiwanis International Foundation/MN-DAK Education Foundation: District Chair of Kiwanis International Foundation, Chuck Schroder and MN-DAK Education Foundation Secretary/Treasurer, Jack Zierdt, will share information about these foundations. Learn the importance of our support for these foundations and how our investments are returned in multiple ways.

Electronic Reporting: MN-DAK District Secretary/Treasurer and Web Master, Steve Handegaard, will share the in's and out's of navigating the Kiwanis electronic reporting system: monthly club reports; and adding, editing and deleting member records in the Kiwanis International database. This is a "don't miss" for all club secretaries, and especially new club secretaries. It is also helpful for other officers to know the features and capabilities of the online reporting system.

Web Navigation/Social Media: MN-DAK District Secretary/Treasurer and Web Master, Steve Handegaard, will share information on navigating the Kiwanis web site as well as the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Where Do You and Your Club Stand?

07/26/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Governor-elect



Does your club participate in the Kiwanis International Foundation, "Annual Club Gift" campaign or the Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation "Century Club" program? If not, why not? Do you know what these foundations do within our district and around the globe?

The **Kiwanis International Foundation** is the fundraising arm of Kiwanis International. The Kiwanis International Foundation was established in 1939 and in 1940 Walter Zeller made the first donation - 25 silver dollars which were auctioned for \$625.00 providing the initial nest egg which has grown into a multi-million dollar endowment today through the gifts of thousands of donors and Kiwanis Clubs worldwide.

The primary source of income for the foundation is through donations from Kiwanis Clubs and individuals.

Each and every Kiwanis member is a member of the Kiwanis International Foundation.

Your club donation through the **Annual Club Gift** campaign helps to underwrite Kiwanis projects around the globe through grants to thousands of Kiwanis family organizations and programs, disaster relief and underwriting worldwide service projects. *Your gifts*

also return scholarships to our district based upon the per capita giving of all district clubs during the Annual Club Gift campaign. This year we will receive two scholarships for each whole dollar of district per-capita giving. These scholarships are split between Circle K International and Key Club students attending schools of higher learning.

The **Walter Zeller Fellowship** is a new program in support of the *new worldwide service project, The Eliminate Project*. Through The Eliminate Project Kiwanis has joined forces with UNICEF to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) in 38 countries primarily in Africa and Southern and East Asia. Donors who give \$1,250 to The Eliminate Project—paid one time or over two years—may become Walter Zeller Fellows (named in honor of the first donor to the Kiwanis International Foundation). Walter Zeller Fellows receive a commemorative lapel pin and a medallion encased in a display box. Walter Zeller Fellows also receive a certificate and other forms of recognition to commemorate their support of The Eliminate Project.

The Kiwanis International Foundation has many other opportunities for giving in support of Kiwanis International programs around the globe. The **George F. Hixson Fellowship**, the **Kiwanis Leadership Society**, the **Sustaining Donor Program** and **Planned Giving** to name a few. Descriptions of these and other programs can be found on the KIF website: <http://kif.kiwanis.org/>

The **Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation** is a scholarship grant program of the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International. This foundation has been functioning since 1934, first as a revolving loan fund and since 1966 as a Scholarship Grant fund. The current assets of the MN-DAK Kiwanis Education Foundation are over \$750,000.

This year the MN-DAK Kiwanis Education Foundation awarded 55 scholarships to high school students throughout the district who are planning to attend a college or university within our district. Only the interest on the foundation assets is used toward scholarship awards. The growth of the foundation depends upon gifts from MN-DAK district clubs and individuals through **Century Club** participation, **Vantine Life Fellowship** recognition and **Joseph E. Messer Fellowship** recognition.

A Kiwanis Club in the Minnesota-Dakotas District becomes a **Century Club** member through a contribution of \$100.00 which can be taken from either the Administrative or Service funds. Participation as a Century Club member offers an on-going youth service opportunity for every club involved. Every club in our district should be a sustaining Century Club member and earning foundation recognition with a banner patch and listing in the foundation's annual report.

You become a **Vantine Life Fellowship** member with a contribution of \$100.00. While most Kiwanians become Vantine Life Fellowship members with a personal contribution, a Vantine Life Fellowship Membership can be used as a personal or club gift to recognize outstanding contributions of club members or officers.

The **Joseph E. Messer Fellowship** is awarded for a contribution of \$500.00 or a pledge of \$250.00 annually for two years. The donor or recipient will receive a foundation plaque. Being a Joseph E. Messer Fellowship recipient recognizes your continuing concern in helping our young people attain greater scholastic achievements.

For more information about the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation go to: <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/> .

The bottom line is that every club should be supporting the **Kiwanis International Foundation** and the **Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Education Foundation**. *The programs of these foundations benefit our communities and children around the globe.* I would bet that in some manner every community with a Kiwanis club has benefitted from one or both of these foundations at some time. If you do not know if your club

supports these foundations, check with your club president and encourage him or her to include contributions into your club budget. *The children of the world are depending on us.*

WALTER ZELLER FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

07/26/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

At the Convention, August 5-7th, in Sioux Falls please stop at the Eliminate Table and become a Zeller Fellow.



This award is unique to the Eliminate Project and recognizes a gift of \$1250. If you can contribute at the convention I will hand you a Zeller Fellowship medallion and lapel pin. You are also able to pledge your donation and receive the medallion and pin from KIF upon completion of the pledge.

I hope you stop and see me at the convention and possibly join in one of three forums on the Eliminate Project. This is an effort we can be very successful at and conquer Maternal Neonatal tetanus. REMEMBER OUR SUCCESS WITH IDD!! Let's do it again, now.

SEE YOU THERE!

District Service Project for Convention

06/22/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Mary Sieling, District Service Director



The Minnesota Dakota District Service Project in August will be in cooperation with the Mended Little Hearts Organizations throughout our District. This project focuses on our Kiwanis Young Children Priority One Project by supporting children with the Congenital Heart Disease Defect.

Mended Little Hearts, a National non-profit organization, is a support program for parents of children with heart defects and heart disease, and is dedicated to inspiring hope in those who care for the little heart patients of all.

www.mendedlittlehearts.org

Most people don't realize that congenital heart defects (CHD's) are the most common birth defect in the United States. Nearly twice as many children die from CHD's in the US than from all forms of childhood cancer combined. Also, CHD is not just a childhood condition, but a chronic disease state that has a lifelong impact on most people who have heart defects.

Congenital heart defect awareness is vital so that these defects might be detected earlier in order to save lives, so that funding for research is available to help find a cure for these defects and to help make treatment options better so children and adults with heart defects live longer, healthier lives; and so parents and caregivers of children with heart defects receive the information and the services that they need to cope so that they find healing and hope for the future.

- Nine of every 1,000 infants are expected to be born with heart defects, or 40,000 babies per year

- Cardiovascular disease ranks as the second leading cause of death for children under the age of 15, and congenital heart defects alone claim about 3,600 lives a year.

Partnering with hospitals and cardiologists to provide several programs, Mended Little Hearts connects families in crisis with other parents who have survived the shock of learning a child has a heart problem, navigated the maze of medical decisions and procedures, and mapped out a plan for the future:

Hospital Visiting: Accredited volunteers make on-site visits to parents whose children have been diagnosed with heart defects or are undergoing treatment. Outreach packets contain health information and brochures as well as entertaining items for the child.

Internet and Telephone Visiting: Parents receive support by communicating with trained volunteers over the Internet or telephone.

Group Meetings: Support groups help parents understand that they are not alone and that there is hope. Members listen, share their experiences, and discuss issues that impact the family.

Social Events: Mended Little Hearts programs are encouraged to conduct social events to bring members together to celebrate a theme and offer camaraderie among members and supporters.

The organization packages supplies in their **Life Flight Bags** and include \$10 WalMart gift cards, receiving blankets, stamped envelopes, mechanical pencils, phone cards, small hand sanitizers/wipes, puzzle books for parents while waiting in waiting rooms.

Their **Second Surgery Bags** hold hand sanitizers, candy bars, granola bars, gum, disposable cameras, coloring books and crayons, small notebooks, Kleenex packs, decks of cards, and kid oriented puzzle books.

We would like each of our Kiwanis clubs at the District Convention to contribute to this organization by providing the above items and participating in the project to put all these bags together. If you decide to participate in the form of a donation, please make your check to Mended Little Hearts.

Please look for the display at convention to contribute and help put together these packages for this most deserving organization helping children with Congenital Heart and Cardiovascular Defects.

If you have further questions contact Mary Sieling at mesieling@live.com

Click on the following to view or print flyers:
[District Service Project August 2011 Flyer.pdf](#)

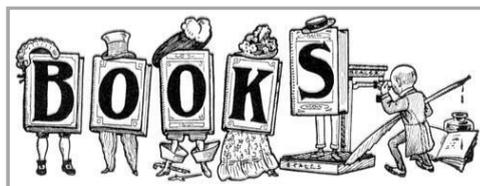
[Mended Little Hearts National Organization.pdf](#)

Used Book Store at District Convention

05/31/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Rachael Disrud and Arlyce Daugherty

Please! BAG UP YOUR USED BOOKS! We will have a used book store at our 94th Convention in Sioux Falls.

Our tradition is to donate the proceeds to a charity. This is a great time to look through your book shelves and share with those who may wish to read what you no longer need. Thank you in advance for spreading the word and filling our table with books to sell. We will also appreciate CD's or DVD's. Read! Trade! Donate! Share! Last year the proceeds went to a charity in Red Wing and the books not sold were purchased by a benevolent Kiwanian who sent them to a school in Africa. This year we will share with a charity in Fargo and/or Sioux Falls.



The Book Store will be open at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 5th and will be available throughout the convention.

Please let us know if you will take an hour to volunteer at our store. Thank you for sharing, for helping needy people and for the winning message of reading. Best of all, thank you for being a Kiwanian who "catches the fire" of our Kiwanian message by coming to convention.

Kiwanis on the Radio

07/29/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty



If you are driving to the District Kiwanis Convention on Friday morning and/or listening to the radio tune in to KELO AM 1320 out of Sioux Falls. Bill Zortman will be hosting his radio program called "Its Your Business" live from the Convention Center from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He will be interviewing numerous Kiwanis leaders and members.

ELIMINATE SILENT AUCTION

07/26/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

Have you remembered to bring a Silent Auction item to the District Convention? This silent auction is to benefit the Eliminate Project. The amount collected for your item will be reported to the Eliminate Project and your club will receive credit for funds raised.



Hope to see this auction each year and that it will be well received by the clubs. Let's kick it off right. August 5-7th at the District Convention. Thank you!!

Attended International Kiwanis Convention in Geneva

07/28/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

The Kiwanis International Convention was held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 7-10, 2011.

Attending from our Minnesota-Dakotas District were the following:



Lowell and Rachael Disrud- Fargo Rough Riders
Steve and Laura Handegaard- Fergus Falls
Courtney Taylor- Fargo
Alan Gregg- Brookings
Claire and Ruth Vermedahl- Albert Lea
Darryl and Jo Meyer- Albert Lea Day-Breakers
Michael and Catherine Brennan – Mankato
Stewart Ross- Mankato
Elizabeth Lawrence Ross- Mankato Diversity
Barbara Winfield, Anoka, MN Area Inc
James and Mary Jean Higgins- Northeast Minneapolis

Denis and Nancy Cornell- Spring Valley
Leslie and Jo Hittner – Winona Sunrisers
Teresa Warne- Moorhead Vikingland

Club News

Aktion Club Formed in St. Anthony

07/25/2011 - Club: Saint Anthony - Submitted by: Mary Dierbeck

St. Anthony is proud to announce the formation of their new Sponsored Club. They just had their 3rd meeting which was a picnic. The new officers pictured ran the meeting with the help of their advisors, Joan Keprios from eQuality and Jeff Franzen from MSOCS. Mary and John Dierbeck are Club advisors.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the St. Anthony Community Center, 6:30 to 7:30 PM. The Charter has been applied for and we have 10 charter members with more who plan to join.



Club members are very excited about doing Community Service and have signed up to help at the St. Anthony VillageFest in our Brat and Burger booth and at the Pancake Breakfast. This event falls on the same weekend as the Sioux Falls Convention.

Special thanks to our District Administrator Larry Sonnek who made about 3 trips to the cities to talk to our Club and to do a presentation at the first Aktion Club meeting with two Aktion Clubbers from Red Wing. Also thanks to Dianne Sparks who employs a couple of these great people at her Culver's locations. She did alot of the groundwork.

Mary Dierbeck

Lakes Country Triathlon - 2011

07/25/2011 - Club: Baxter Lakes Area and Friends - Submitted by: Bill Fortune III, Acting President

The Kiwanis Club of Baxter Lakes Area and Friends is proud to continue and enhance the



tradition of this beautiful and exciting triathlon. The Brainerd Lakes area has long been a great vacation destination and now an incredible location for the final triathlon in the Tri Minnesota Series. The Lakes Country Triathlon continues to build into one of the best triathlons in the state.

The race begins with a 1/2-mile swim in quiet Whipple Lake (known for its calm waters), then switches to a 17-mile bike through the rolling hills surrounding the Baxter/Brainerd Lakes area, and ends with a very flat 3.9 mile run through a quiet residential area. The Lakes Country Triathlon is a great race, be it your first or fiftieth!

Proceeds raised from this event will be put back into the community to benefit the youth in the Lakes Area.

About the Race

ATTENTION: Registration will close Thursday, August 25th at midnight. Mailed in entries must be postmarked by Monday August 22nd. No entries will be accepted after these dates. The course consists of a 1/2-mile swim, a 17-mile bike ride, and a 3.9-mile run. All cyclists must observe Minnesota traffic laws. Bike certified hard-shelled helmets are required. Drafting is prohibited. No listening devices are allowed on the bike course and are strongly discouraged on the run course.

The Baxter Kiwanis Club is making a load of improvements for 2011. We expect that the rough patches of the bike race will be resurfaced before the day of the event. We will also be giving high quality sportware wicking t-shirts to all of the participants. The Lakes Country Triathlon continues to build into one of the best triathlons in the state.

Also, check out the Kids Triathlon that the Baxter Kiwanis Club will be putting on Saturday, August 27 at 4pm. Proceeds Go to Supporting Youth & Community Programming.

For more information or to register go to this web site:
<http://www.lakescountrytriathlon.com/?pg=7&div=A>