

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.51

December 2013

Message from the Governor

12/01/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, District Governor

Regions 6 and 7 Education Conferences were recently held and both were great days! Those attending enjoyed an exciting day of learning more about Kiwanis as well as lots of fun and fellowship with other Kiwanians! I enjoyed seeing so many fellow Kiwanians and hearing about the great things being done to "change the world, one child and one community at a time." Region 6 raised \$800 at their silent auction which was donated to Eliminate MNT. It was decided to use it towards two Zellers so two people were able to purchase a Zeller for just \$850 each. What a great way to increase the Silent Auction funds! Region 7 raised \$1100 through their silent auction to be divided between the Minnesota Dakotas District Education Foundation and Key Leader scholarships.



A wonderful opportunity is open to all clubs and all Kiwanis members to donate for Key Leader scholarships by donating it through the MnDak Education Foundation making it a tax deductible donation. We are so excited to have Key Leader back in our District! Our goal is for a minimum of sixty students to attend so we are encouraging your club to sponsor one or more students to attend this weekend event. The cost per student is \$200, but if the student is a Key Club member, the cost is \$175. It is recommended that clubs have each student pay a small portion of the cost which will strongly encourage the student to be sure to attend. The Key Leader weekend is scheduled for May 16-18, 2014 at Camp Victory near Rochester. Key Leader is a weekend to teach confidence and leadership skills and is especially geared for 8th through 10th grade but older students are free to attend also. The United States Army is in partnership with Kiwanis in Key Leader as they have found it to be helpful in developing future leaders. Usually two or more Army personnel attend each Key Leader event as a part of the adult staff. Key Leader is a great opportunity for us to pay it forward to the next generation! Please consider what your club can do to sponsor a youth to attend! We are counting on you to make this event a success!

How are you doing in bringing in new members? The first step is asking your friends and work associates to join you in something you love. We all care about the children of the world and our communities and we ask so that we can grow our service! President Gunter is encouraging clubs that are below charter strength to develop a plan to reach

fifteen members by the end of the Kiwanis year. I know that clubs below charter strength are doing many wonderful things for the children of their communities but think of how much could be done with more members! Because of that, I have asked Tom Allen, our District Membership Chair, to work with all clubs below charter strength to develop their plan for growth. He has ideas that may be of help as we work together to grow our membership and he is willing to help in any way you desire.

We are all aware of the need of the people of the Philippines because of the destruction of Super Typhoon Haiyan. This area is home to more than 200 Kiwanis clubs in the Philippine Luzon and Philippine South Districts. The death toll is horrific. The Impact is grave. The relief effort will be massive. The Kiwanis International Foundation has sent two relief grants totaling \$10,000. These grants will provide much needed essential items such as food, water and medicine to those affected by the typhoon. Please keep the Philippines in your thoughts and prayers and please consider making an online donation to the disaster relief fund. [Click here](#) Your donations will help the Kiwanis International Foundation make emergency grants to Kiwanis-family clubs and districts in the affected areas. You can also mail contributions designated as "disaster relief" to Kiwanis International Foundation, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Myron and I wish you a very blessed Christmas and a happy new year! Just think of all the good we can do in the new year!

December Update

11/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



Greetings! The holiday season is upon us and it is a great time to get involved in Kiwanis service and help others in your community! We wish all of you and your families a very happy holiday season.

Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2014-2015, please submit a picture and a short biographical sketch not to exceed 600 words, along with an endorsement from your home club, to the District Kiwanis Office, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 **no later than February 15, 2014** to be included in the March issue of the MINNEKOTAN. Candidates can announce their intention to run at a later date, but may not be able to have an article in the MINNEKOTAN or district website. Governor Elect candidates must be a Past Lt. Governor. The election will take place at

the District Convention next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

Club Donations to Outreach: Special thanks to all of the clubs that contributed to the Outreach Program during 12-13. We look forward to seeing your contribution again in 13-14. Most Kiwanis clubs include this as an annual budget item. Dollars given to the Outreach Program are used by Key Club and Circle K District Boards to build new Key and Circle K clubs, to attend Kiwanis District Conventions and Kiwanis special meetings, and to acquire needed supplies and equipment. Our Circle K and Key Club District Boards are very busy and active. They need our financial support. Checks can be made payable to Kiwanis Outreach and mailed to me at the District Office.

Download International Convention Materials: Need help promoting the Kiwanis International Convention in your club bulletins and newsletters? Check out the convention Web site at www.kiwanisone.org/convention, where you'll find information about the convention as well as helpful downloads such as logos and ads.

Online Monthly Club Reporting: Since our online reporting is so very important, I would like to once again review the process for the 13-14 year. Your club should be submitting your monthly club report online by the 10th of the following month. Your Lt. Governors, District Officers, District Office and Kiwanis International are able to view your reports without you having to send any additional emails or hard copies. If you have any questions, please give me a call or send me an email.

Following are links to two very helpful tutorial videos:

New Kiwanis Reporting System - Part 1 - Login and Dashboard Tour [Click here](#)

New Kiwanis Reporting System - Part 2 - Monthly Reports [Click here](#)

Dues: I often get asked how the Kiwanis International and District dues break down on a yearly basis. They remain the same again this year: International dues = \$42.00 Liability Insurance = \$12.00 KI Magazine = \$8.00 District dues = \$30.00

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards will meet in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25, 2014.

District Kiwanis Leadership Directory: Just a reminder that you can view or print a copy of our district leadership directory on our district website [Click here](#)

Thanks again for all your great work in Kiwanis!

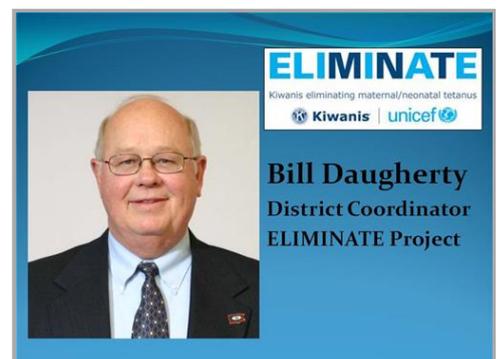
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information: Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735
Phone: 218-589-7581 secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

The Eliminate Project

11/26/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

Welcome to the St Anthony Club in Region Seven. They are now the 23rd Model Club in the District. There are several other clubs on the verge of declaring their becoming model clubs as well. Now is the right time of year to stress donation to the Eliminate Project. We are very close to surpassing 1 Million and should try to hit 1.5 Million by December 31st. We can do this via model club declarations.

Clubs in Region Two should be on the look out for a challenge from Lloyd Paulson of Moorhead. Lloyd has created a challenge program whereby he will provide 25% of an individual donation to a Zeller, a Hixson, or other personal donation to the Eliminate Project. Each Region 2 club will be getting information on this challenge within the next week.



Each club needs to review its giving effort to the Eliminate Project. There are still 35 clubs that have not donated to the Project. It would be great if all our clubs would be a part of this life giving program and help Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal tetanus from the world.

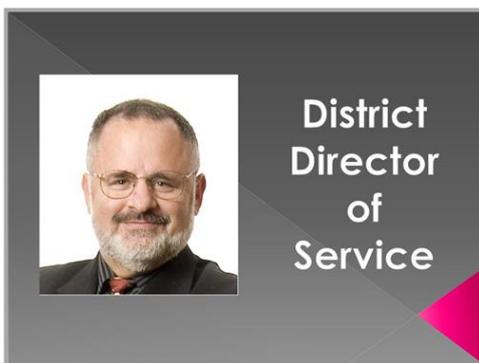
Check out the new "It starts with you" video: [Click here](#)

Signature Projects for Kiwanis Clubs

11/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross, District Service Director

"Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis International club, no matter where in the world it's located. Kiwanis members stage nearly 150,000 service projects, devote more than 6 million hours of service and raise nearly \$100 million every year for communities, families and projects. Key Club members pitch in 12 million hours of service each year, and CKI members another 500,000 hours of service! Aktion Club members donate another 92,000 hours of service every year. Add it all up, and

that's more than 18 million hours of service every year!"



I read this information today on the Kiwanis.org website. I go to that website every now and then just to see what a non-member might think about our organization. My guess is reading this makes one wonder why they did not know more about Kiwanis! This is a question I have continually grappled with throughout my now 25 years as a Kiwanian. Of course, I lived in Mankato, MN for the past 36 years, only recently moving to the Minneapolis area. In Mankato Kiwanis is famous...not only as THE service organization but also for the innovative and "signature" service projects they do year in and year out.

I have been talking more and more about "signature" service projects since becoming the Director of Service for MN-DAK just over a year ago. It seems many clubs have not considered or realized the power of

signature projects so I thought we could explore this concept in the column for this month. There is nothing wrong with clubs volunteering to help the Salvation Army or Habitat for Humanity or any other well-established charitable organizations in your community. But the power of a Kiwanis signature project is huge, especially when it comes to name recognition and recruitment of members.

In Mankato, the Kiwanis Club has a number of signature projects. The newest one is Kiwanis Holiday Lights. This project began during the Holiday Season last year and will have started a few days before you read this article for year two. It was a huge undertaking that not many clubs could achieve. Donations of well over \$100,000 from two local businesses got the project rolling. Sibley Park in Mankato was dressed up with a million lights and all sorts of other decorations. Every night from the day after Thanksgiving to Christmas hundreds of people drove through the park bringing food items for area food shelves and cash donations. The name Kiwanis was firmly placed in the minds of those driving through the park and equated with service to others, donations to others and the gorgeous view of holiday lights and excitement for families.

This is a perfect example of a signature project for a Kiwanis Club. The club did something no other organization has done in the city. The project is owned by Kiwanis and is recognized as such. In fact, the local Rotary Club honored the Kiwanis Club with their major service award last year!

Members of the Kiwanis Club have a renewed excitement and pride in being a part of the club when they read the many articles in the local paper and see video on the local TV station. During last year's event I was getting gas for my car at a station and when the clerk saw my Kiwanis shirt she nearly started to tear up. She wanted me to know what a wonderful thing Kiwanis was doing and that she planned to go back to the park to see the lights three more times when she could get off work...and bring her grandchildren with her.

I realize there are not many clubs in our district with over 100 members. However, that does not mean you can't dream and think big. What kind of project might work in your town that would be unique that no one else has thought of yet? What project could be known by everyone in your town as the Kiwanis project that brings a smile to everyone's face? What kind of need is evident in your town that could turn into a signature project for your Kiwanis Club.

We know that clubs with at least one popular and significant service project that is a "signature" project make a big difference in the pride of members and also their ability to recruit new members. If your club has a signature project please let me know so we can provide examples to other clubs.

If you need some help in coming up with a signature project for your club give me a call or invite me to a club meeting or board meeting to facilitate the discussion. I know from first hand experience signature projects are often the difference between a highly successful club that brings in new members regularly or one that has trouble finding new members and staying excited about what they do.

Stewart Ross, Director of Service for MN-DAK

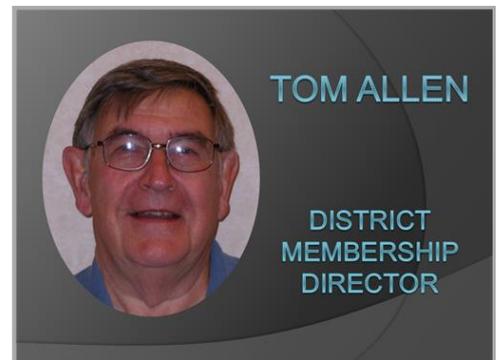
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Keep Your Club Healthy and Growing

11/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Tom Allen, District Membership Director

I'm Tom Allen, Immediate Past Lt. Governor from Region 4. Governor Judie Rosendahl asked me to serve as Membership Director for the 2013-2014 Kiwanis year. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. Just think how thankful your community would be if your club had more members! Of course strong Kiwanis clubs with many involved, dedicated members mean more children in your community and the world can benefit.

I'm especially concerned about clubs who are below charter strength. I want to share some ideas to help your club attain those magical 15 members and more. Here are some tips from KI for keeping your club healthy and growing.



Stay and serve. Always have a group of members at every club service project or event from beginning to end. That way, the club always has a presence and someone who can "talk up" Kiwanis.

Throw a party. Send out personal invitations for a Special Guest Day, then follow up with phone calls and e-mails. Why not invite special guests to your club several times each year?

Be flexible. Consider changing your meeting times and frequency. Some clubs meet only every other week. Some meet online. Remember that club satellites which meet at a different time than your standard meeting are still members of your club!

Reach out. Participate in every community activity and event you can. It's great publicity. Learn more about how public relations can help you grow.

Learn from the best. Visit other clubs to get ideas. Get involved at the region, district, and international levels.

Connect online. Learn more from other Kiwanis members on Kiwanisone.org.

Read your magazine. Read your magazine. Kiwanis magazine regularly features articles on growth.

Additionally, have you watched any of the fantastic webinars that are available on the KI website? Check out the following link at Kiwanisone.org [Click here](#).

Please feel free to contact me at tallen@rushmore.com, or 605-721-8859. Making your club strong makes your community stronger!

Japan Survival 101

11/27/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor, On To International Convention Ch

Visiting lands outside our borders introduces travelers to a variety of unfamiliar customs and traditions. During his visit to Fargo, President Gasser mentioned that the international convention itself will reflect an Asia-Pacific convention rather than those held within the Americas. So too will the culture be different.



Some oddities are beneficial to the timid tourist, such as the kiosks for paying the entrance fee - in English - at nearly every museum or major site. Most local sources will recommend that you *not* convert your money before arriving in the land of the rising sun. If you start to run low on cash while in the city, keep watch for a 7-Eleven convenience store with English-friendly ATMs.

Other courtesies will feel less comfortable due to homeland habits. While riding public transportation, you must refrain from taking any phone calls. In many sit-down restaurants, the patron must still serve his or her own drink. Beware of chop-stick etiquette! Stabbing (or leaving) chop-sticks in a bowl rice as you might a spoon in the United States is in fact a symbol of offering food to the dead. Be mindful of places that do not allow shoes, and wear nice socks. Whatever you do, don't take pictures too close to the Shinto shrines as people make wishes! This is a private moment, not to be interrupted by paparazzi.

To learn more about Suica cards, which side to ride the escalator, and other nuances of the Japanese culture, check out this recent CNN article: [Click here](#)

Kiwanis Club Risk Management

11/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Kiwanis International

While planning fundraisers and activities, your club will want to keep an eye toward safety to avoid accidents and reduce liability. Some activities inherently involve some risk, while with others, the risks aren't as obvious. Especially if you are the safety coordinator for a club or district, there's a lot to know about risk management: what is covered by insurance and what is excluded, what activities beg a waiver, and how to report a claim if an accident does occur. Use these tools to educate yourself and other club leadership on how to financially protect your club and physically protect members and participants.

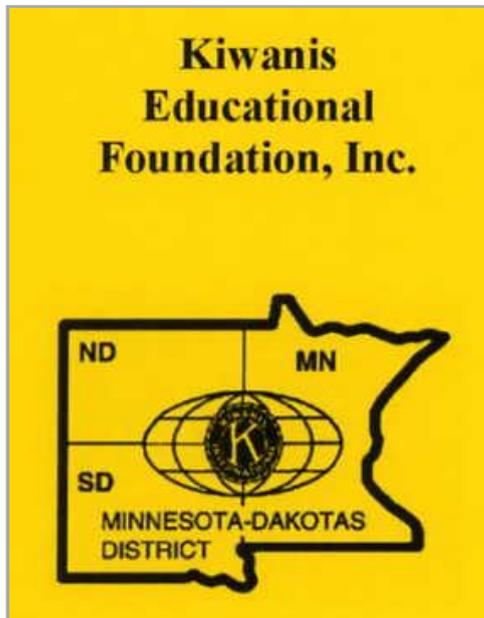
[Click here for club resources](#)

Minnesota Dakotas Education Foundation Scholarships

11/24/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Lardy

In a few weeks about 200 high school seniors from around the District will submit scholarship applications to Foundation Secretary Jack Zierdt. The review process will determine which of the applicants will receive one of the 60 scholarships the Foundation will award. Earlier this fall the Foundation Board determined that each successful applicant would receive \$815 for the 2014-2015 school year.

Given the cost of one year of post-secondary education this amount, while not



insignificant, does not go far to meet the student's needs. The Board would like the amount to be higher. However, only income generated by the endowment can be used and market conditions do not allow for larger awards.

There are 2 ways this can be remedied: 1. An improved market and 2. An increase in funds invested in the endowment. Only outside forces can improve the market. But every Kiwanian in the District can add investment dollars to the endowment. Scholarships are given to recipients in each region so a gift to the Foundation will help a graduating senior who lives near the donor. And the senior may even attend a college very near by. You can see your dollars at work.

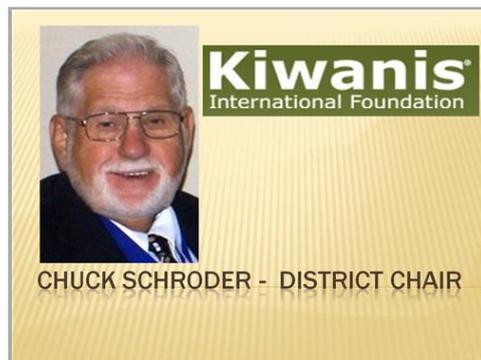
A gift of any size is helpful. Making the gift before December 31 will make it available as a tax deductible contribution for this year. Your gift will continue giving for the life of those who benefit from the Foundation's help. Please make a contribution today.

WE ARE ON OUR WAY

11/26/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

I told you in my last article that I would be covering the changes that are taking place with the International Foundation and this is what I'm going to do.

1. In our own district, I have asked two very energetic people to help me round up the items for our raffle next year at the district convention. They are Paul Redlinger from New Brighton, MN and Mary Dierbeck from Minneapolis, MN. They both were more than willing to help and I know that we will be getting some very nice items.



2. Something new was done this year by the foundation. A special letter was sent to all club secretaries with information on the Annual Gift and a billing form to be filled out and sent in with your club's check. This letter came from the foundation president Lance M. Incitti. The club secretary was asked to have this matter acted on as soon as they could, and send the check into the International Foundation with the form that was received.

3. I'm trying to make as many regional meetings as I can with Governor Judy and tell the story of the foundation. The latest one I attended was region 7 and what a turn out. I felt that when I left there our members had a better understanding of the foundation and what we do. There are going to be more demands for help coming in, such as the Philippines disaster and the disaster in South Dakota, and now in the South.

Next time I will have more information on the changes. In closing, I ask that your club please answer President Lance's letter and send your club's check in today. **THANK YOU ALL FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.**

E. Chuck Schroder

Region 6 Conference Recap

11/26/2013 - Division: Division 06 - Submitted by: Darryl Meyer, Region 6 Lt. Governor



The Region 6 conference held at the Mankato City Center Hotel on November 16 was attended by 43 members plus 8 giving a presentation. It received very positive comments by the 50% responding to the assessment form. The hotel facilities and lunch were described as more than expected. The seven forums and Governor's presentation provided a mixture of current topics that were seen as providing valuable needed information. The after lunch session by Ken Kohler, District Risk Manager, kept everyone's attention on serious issues with an almost endless series of lawyer jokes and quotes.

Twenty-three items were donated for the silent auction benefiting Eliminate. This brought in \$819.50, a suggestion that \$800 be used as match for 2 Zellers (@\$400 each) was accepted within a few days, resulting in a total Eliminate Project contribution of \$2,519.50.

Club News

Food for the homeless and hungry

11/24/2013 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Once again this year the public schools and many organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead area will attempt to fill the Fargo dome with food. There are so many people needing the food, and a very large group of students and families busy collecting food to hopefully provide much needed food for the needy.

The Fargo South Point Kiwanis club once again has delivered a load of food stuffs to Madison School that will be included with groceries that the students have collected, and all delivered to the Fargo Dome



Thanksgiving week.

Shown in the photo are some of the students from Madison along with South Point Kiwanis President Margaret Mowery, Immediate past President Mary Ann Berg, and Secretary Larry Rittgarn.

Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Aktion Elder Christmas Tree

11/24/2013 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby



Members of the Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Aktion Club are working with the Department of Social Services to once again have a Christmas Tree for the elderly. This tree is loaded with tags for gifts for the elderly in town who would otherwise have no gifts for Christmas. In December the Aktion club will meet to pick up the packages and wrap the gifts so that these people have a good Christmas.

Sturgis Golden K Donates to the Community

11/24/2013 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby

Members of Sturgis non-profits met with the Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club to receive checks for their organizations. Those receiving checks included Jr Achievement, Jaycee's Toys for Tots, Sturgis Community Center Scholarship Program, Youth and Family Services, Children's Library at the Sturgis Community Library, Little Mended Hearts, Relay for Life and Clothe A Kid. We once again also purchased dictionaries for all students in the 3rd grade in the Sturgis school system. Also pictured is Mick Hurlburt of Golden K who presented the checks.



Fargo South Point Kiwanis meeting location changes

11/22/2013 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry rittgarn

 Extensive remodeling the regular meeting location of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club has caused us to relocate. The relocation is not permanent but until further notice we will continue to meet at Applebee's also on South 45th Street. Applebee's is located across the street from Old Chicago.

We invite you to come and visit us anytime. During December our members will be very busy with bell ringing, fund raising at the Ramada Plaza Suites where we do coat checking, as well as wrapping Christmas packages for people at the West Acres Mall. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

Playground Equipment Installed

11/22/2013 - Club: Owatonna Golden K - Submitted by: Berlyn Staska

The Owatonna Park and Recreation Department issued a plea to update the old playground equipment at the Owatonna Jaycee Park. \$30,000 was needed. The City of Owatonna and the Owatonna Jaycee's each came with \$10,000. The plea again was put out to get another \$10,000. The Owatonna Kiwanis Golden K stepped in to help. The photo was taken on September 5, 2013 at the dedication of the new equipment, with member from the Owatonna Golden K Club, Owatonna Park and Recreation Department and the Owatonna Jaycee's



Willmar celebrates 90 years

11/11/2013 - Club: Willmar - Submitted by: Lori Tostenson



On Tuesday, October 29th, the Willmar Kiwanis Organization hosted over 50 guests to celebrate the 90 years of the organizations existence. President Maribeth Williamson welcomed the guests and Rev. Dennis Hier gave the invocation to start off the evening's celebration. Governor Judy Rosendahl greeted the guests and extended her wishes to the organizations continued success. Over 14 past presidents attended the evenings event.

Long time Willmar Kiwanian, Richard Hogle presented the organizations Touch-A-Life Award to James Buisman. This award is given each year by the Willmar Kiwanis to someone in Kandiyohi County that has shown outstanding volunteerism, dedication to service and has been a resident of Kandiyohi County. Richard Hogle, James Buisman and President Maribeth Williamson are shown with the Touch-A-Life Award (picture attached).

Dennis Hier awarded Richard Hogle of the Willmar Club, a Walter Zeller Fellowship Award for his dedication and recruiting of new members to the Willmar Kiwanis. In Richard's honor, the club has donated \$1,250 in Richard's name to Project Eliminate.

To wrap up the fun filled events of the evening, Earl Knutson and Carole Vennerstrom presented a video slide presentation of "A Not-So Serious History of Willmar Kiwanis". We are encouraged by the great success of the Willmar Kiwanis and look forward to another 90 years of fellowship and service to the youth of our community.