

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.17

February 2011

What's The Score

02/01/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Lowell Disrud, District Governor

We are approaching half time in this year of Kiwanis service and it is time to look at the score. How are we doing? Are we on track to accomplish what we set out to do last October? Is your club on track? Are you on track? Will we make our district better or will it be just another year? Will your club improve or will it be just another year? Will your Kiwanis experience be more rewarding this year or will it be just another year? We have a little over a half a year left to accomplish our goals.

Our Service Leadership Programs (Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, Aktion Club, K Kids) continue to grow and provide more service to our communities. However, membership in traditional Kiwanis clubs continues to decline. Our membership in the district has declined by 130 members since October. The need is there. There are people in our communities who will benefit from becoming Kiwanians. What is your club doing to grow, do new things, think creatively and provide new service? What are you doing as a member to make your club more interesting, provide more fellowship and to bring in new members? Now is the time to assess, adjust, and move forward.



THANK YOU to Larry Rittgarn for his years of service in many capacities. He has served as District Education Director for 19 years and as District Convention Director for 8 years. Larry is working closely with Loreena Luetgers in the transition to serving as District Education Director and CLE Leader. Larry has laid much of the groundwork for our next District Convention in Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls clubs and leadership are working hard to make the convention a huge success. We hope to identify an interim District Convention Director to serve this year and will be looking for someone to serve in that capacity more long term during the coming year. If you would like to recommend a person who could serve in that role please let me know. On a personal note I thank Larry for all he has done for me. We will look to Larry for his input and advice in the future.

I hope your Kiwanis year is going well and it is rewarding for you. Keep the Kiwanis fire burning brightly and do what you can to put smiles on kids faces in your community and

around the world. "PUT ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE."

February Update

01/31/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



Special Thanks and Best Wishes to Larry Rittgarn:

By now you have probably read that Larry Rittgarn has resigned from both the District Convention Director and District Education Director positions. We were saddened to see this happen, but we certainly understand and respect his decision to do so. I had the privilege and opportunity to work with Larry and of course his late wife Pat for many years on various Kiwanis events and programs. They were the ultimate team. Larry's enthusiasm, dedication, generosity, friendship and outstanding leadership has certainly been an inspiration

to me and will be greatly missed by everyone in our district.

Lt. Governor Elect Candidates: We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates for 2011-2012 in some regions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place April 29-May 1 in Fergus Falls.

Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2011-2012, 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, 2011. Your information must be received by that date to be published in the March MINNEKOTAN. Candidates can announce their intention to run at a later date, but will 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 in Fargo next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

Reminder about Kiwanis Clubs & IRS filing requirements:

All organizations, including Kiwanis clubs must file the appropriate annual IRS tax form. The form used depends on your annual gross receipts. See separate article for more details.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards met in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 14 and Saturday, January 15, 2011. Minutes of the Kiwanis District Board meeting will be viewable on our district website soon. I will also include a link to the minutes in the March issue.

Club Elections, CLE (Club Leadership Education) & Distinguished Club Award:

It is not too soon to begin thinking about election of club officers. Just a reminder that your club election report will be due June 1st. Also, just a reminder that the current criteria for the Distinguished Club Award states, The Kiwanis club president and secretary participate in the Club Leadership Education (CLE) training session (or equivalent) prior to assuming office. So, in other words that means to get the points for next year, you need to attend this year.

District Annual Audit: The Annual Audit of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Financial Accounts for the Kiwanis year 2009-2010 was recently completed by Westberg Eischens, PLLP, Certified Public Accountants of Willmar, Minnesota. The report is on file at Kiwanis

International and the District Office.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

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Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581
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Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

50 YEARS HOW SWEET IS THAT!

01/24/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Ann Backes Dodge

50 Years HOW SWEET IS THAT!

The Minnesota-Dakotas Circle K District is celebrating
50 years of service at the Minnesota-Dakotas Circle K
District Convention
March 4-6,2011
in
Fargo, ND at the The Holiday Inn.

Please take look at the flyer that contains more details.

[CLICK HERE](#)



We hope to see you there!

We look forward to serving the campus and communities in the
Minnesota-Dakotas District another 50 years!

Yes, the time has come!

01/31/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Nearly 19 years ago, I accepted the job of "District Education Director" for the Minn-Dak District. During the 19 years, I have had the good fortune to work with some of the top leaders in our district. It also was wonderful to work with some of the trainees, and then as the years went by, it was equally wonderful to see many of them become the district leaders for our great district.

The club officers, district leaders, and even Circle K and Key club leaders have sat in on some of the classes, and with the fantastic team of instructors that I had working with me, it was a great and rewarding time. The team of instructors have all been marvelous and hopefully many of them will remain on the team.



But all good things do have to end and so shortly after January 1, I submitted my resignation from all of the education programs and asked our Governor to recognize my assistant Loreena Ennenga-Luetgers as the new Director of Education.

Kiwanis will always be a major part of my life, and I look forward to continuing with my membership in the Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club. Thanks to all of you for helping to make my Kiwanis life one of the greatest trips in my lifetime.

Convention Director says GOODBYE!

01/31/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Larry Rittgarn has stepped down as the Director of Conventions for the Mn-Dak Kiwanis District. Yes, its true, I have resigned as the director of Conventions effective immediately.

As you all know this past year, I lost my partner and co-director of conventions, and since we were a team for 8 years, it just was not something I felt I could do without the love of my life. Pat and I had over 40 combined years of managing conventions and meetings, and as a team it was a wonderful challenge each year to do one more, and try and out do the previous ones.

I just do not have the desire to go any further with the program and have turned over all books, plans and contracts to the district executive board, and they are currently working out the details.

It was such a great experience and one that I hope some of you will look at and pick up and enjoy it like we did. Thanks again for all of your wonderful support, and help during the past 8 conventions.

Photo note: Oscar Knight, International Trustee attended the Minnesota-Dakotas District Board meeting January 13-15. Oscar Knight (on the right) congratulates Larry Rittgarn on his many dedicated years of service to Kiwanis.



Kiwanis One Day-April 2, 2011

01/29/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Governor-Elect



Well here we are...it's February already. Is your club planning a project for "**Kiwanis One Day**" on April 2nd? If not, why not? This is the time to plan for the one day of the year that Kiwanis International asks all clubs around the globe to participate in service to their communities on the same day. This is our opportunity to "Let them know us by our service".

I know that there are already many great service projects being planned for April 2nd. Let's use these projects to get our story out and let our communities know all that we do and have done at home and around the globe. Invite your local news organizations to your event and tell the Kiwanis story.

This is also an ideal opportunity to invite prospective members to accompany you in service to your community. Service is our business and once someone is exposed to the service we do, they will want to be involved. Just ask this question, "If you could be part of an organization that is changing the lives of children in

our community and around the globe, would you want to be involved?" Could you say no in answer to that question?

So, let's get planning for some great service in our communities. We have less than 60 days left until "**Kiwanis One Day**" on April 2nd.

Put a Log on the "Fire of Kiwanis"

01/27/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Vickie Walters

Together Achieve Growth with new membership in your club. I am asking that each club examine their structure and check in with your Membership Chair in your clubs. Helping your membership committee to grow your club is a must to be able to keep the blaze of your Kiwanis fire going. Have you introduced your Membership Committee at your club meeting recently? To invite a friend, co-worker, or family member to join your club will bring energy and new ideas for service to add to the enjoyment of club meetings and events.

I want to inform you again about a program provided by Kiwanis International that involves keys. The program is available to all clubs for free, which provides recognition to those members that bring in new members. For the first member brought in they receive a bronze key, two members a silver key, and three members a gold key. Your club secretary can order these keys free from Kiwanis International. Please start collecting those keys to increase the blaze of your Kiwanis Clubs. Hold a Membership Committee meeting to set a plan of action to start igniting your club for



growth. When our clubs are at full blaze is when our motto "Changing one child and one community at a time" will be accomplished.

I want to offer my help to your Membership Committees so please e-mail me at vickie.walters@hotmail.com or call me at 605-480-0316. The first step is to start the talk of new membership in your clubs and set a plan of action to bring new members to the fire of Kiwanis Action! Yours in Kiwanis.

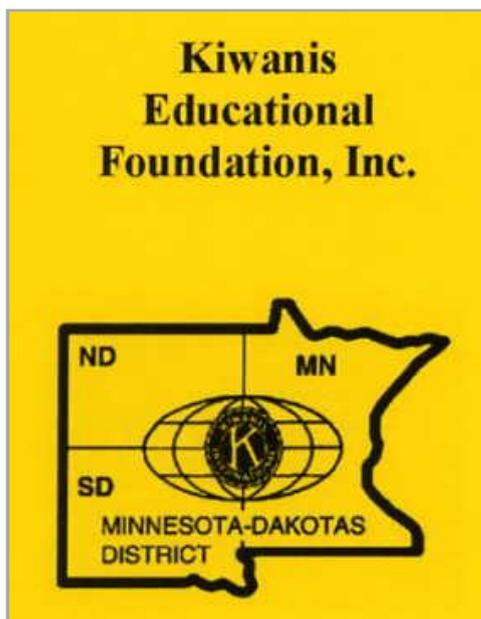
Century Club Information for District Kiwanis Educational Foundation

01/24/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jack Zierdt

Each Kiwanis member and every Kiwanis Club in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District is a member of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation.

The foundation's function is to award scholarship funds to graduating seniors from high school seniors within our district, that will be attending an institution of higher learning in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota or Superior, Wisconsin. This function allows each club within the district to have an on-going youth service project. Therefore, we need each and every club to support the foundation by contributing annually to the Century Club.

Funds for this donation can be taken from Youth Activities funds, Project Profit funds, or Administrative Account funds, whichever is the most convenient for the club. As of this time in our Kiwanis year we have received donations to the Century Club or a club gift donation from 22 of our District Kiwanis Clubs and a gift donation from Region 5 of our district.



We are asking each member to check with their club board of directors to make sure that the annual donation to the Century Club has been budgeted and paid. If it has not been paid we would encourage the club to make their donation at this time for the 2010 - 2011 Kiwanis year.

The Century Club donation of \$100.00 or a gift of any amount to the foundation can be sent to:

Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer
Kiwanis Educational Foundation
Minnesota-Dakotas District
914 Southern Pine Ln SW
Rochester, MN 55902

We thank each of you for your continued support of our club to annually join the Century Club of the Foundation.

IRS Tax Filing Requirements

12/30/2010 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

The IRS "grace period" for filing of Form 990 tax returns by Kiwanis Clubs has now officially ended. If the fiscal year end of your Kiwanis Club is September 30th, you must file one of three possible tax returns by no later than February 15, 2011. Failure to do so could mean the loss of your exemption from Federal Income Taxes. If your fiscal year end is other than September 30th, you could already be in violation of this policy.



For the 2009 tax year, which includes the period beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010, the filing requirements are as follows:

Form 990 Annual Gross Receipts \$500,000 or more
Form 990-EZ Annual Gross Receipts under \$500,000
Form 990-N Annual Gross Receipts under \$25,000

Gross Receipts are the total amount the club receives from all sources during its annual account period, without subtracting any costs or expenses.

Many Kiwanis Clubs will be able to use the Form 990-N. The 990-N is a postcard return that must be filed online. You can access the filing site by clicking on the following link: [Click here](#)

When you file your Form 990-N, you will need your club's EIN (Employer Identification Number). If you do not know what that number is, we have a list for most of our clubs in the district office.

Please do not neglect this filing requirement. Failure to do so could lead to very serious consequences for your club.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this procedure, please contact me in the district office.

Submit an Article About Your Club Project

12/29/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

A screenshot of a web form titled "News Submission Form". The form has a "News Details" section with radio buttons for "District" (selected), "Region", and "Club". Below this are fields for "HeadLine", "News Image" (with a "Select" button), "Submitted by", "E-mail", and "Date" (with a calendar icon).

Clubs are encouraged to submit articles to the electronic MINNEKOTAN and the District Website

Communicate with membership- inform, educate, motivate, recognize, share ideas

Article topics:

- Topics included in the MINNEKOTAN should be of general interest to members across the district or region.
- Clubs are encouraged to highlight service projects and successful fundraisers or other significant events. Short and sweet articles with one good (close up) action photo. Anyone can submit the article online.

Tips for submitting an article:

- Go to the new district website "NEWS" menu - Here is the link [Click here](#)
- Enter the requested information- Select "District News", "Regional News", or "Club News", etc..
- Be sure to select current "date" and "year".
- Your "Headline" should give the reader a very good idea of the content/purpose of the story/article, but as short as possible.
- Submit a photo if desired. One photo per article.
- Type your text into the editor box. It is best to type the text directly into the online submission page. Avoid cutting and pasting text from another word processing program. (If you do cut and paste, be sure to insert as "plain text".)
- Shorter and sweet is better! Less than 500 words recommended. Avoid repeating information that can be found elsewhere on the KI or district website. Share links when appropriate.

Articles due:

- Generally due 3 days prior to the end of the month to be included in the Monthly MINNEKOTAN Newsletter.

Club News

Tines for Troops

01/28/2011 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Monique Bibeau

During January for the sixth consecutive year, the Fridley High School Key Club along with the Columbia Heights/Fridley Kiwanis Club made Valentines to send to troops serving in Iraq. This year's project was particularly special as the Minnesota-based Unit consisted of the soldiers who were adopted throughout the year by the Key Club and Kiwanis Members. The word "adopted" means that teams were formed and assigned to individual soldiers. Each team wrote a letter once a week and sent a care package once a month to its adopted soldier. Many of these soldiers, who were stationed on the front lines in Iraq, were in the mountains for as long as six weeks at a time. They welcomed the letters and the goodies.

Each hand-made Valentine contained a personal, handwritten note stating how much the writer supported the troops. The Key Club Members received the satisfaction of knowing they helped raise the morale of American troops. Valentines were adorned with glitter, stickers, doilies, clipart, lace and ribbon. Each Valentine was an elaborate production! The project was remarkable because everyone could use his or her own style, ideas and art media.

The Club set a goal of making at least 300 Valentines. That number would supply two per soldier. In addition, Key Clubbers sent the troops Sweetheart candy, red gummy hearts and red licorice. The project was so successful that over 410 Valentines were sent.

The Fridley Key Club hopes that the troops will read the Valentines again and again and that they will know how much they are appreciated. To every soldier Key Club says, "Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day!"

Monique Bibeau, Project Chair and Club Treasurer
Fridley High School Key Club



Local doctor relates experience with Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus

01/25/2011 - Club: Willmar - Submitted by: Willmar Kiwanis

Willmar Kiwanis Club tapped a nearby resource to provide information on maternal/neonatal tetanus as the club prepares active support for ELIMINATE, the joint Kiwanis/UNICEF campaign to eradicate the disease.

Dr. Paul Buhr, a family practice physician at Renville County Hospital in Olivia spoke at a recent Willmar Kiwanis club meeting of his experience with the disease. Dr. Buhr and his family took part in three medical missions under the auspices of the American Lutheran Church. He served in Madagascar Africa during a six year period early in his career. Dr. Buhr described his experience as a life changing event.

During his mission to Africa, Dr. Buhr saw about 80 cases of tetanus a month. He stressed the fact that eradication of the disease will be an ongoing process, as members of each succeeding generation must be inoculated. Although newborns are protected for an initial period when the mother has been inoculated, babies must then also be inoculated.

Dr. Buhr expressed his enthusiastic support for the Kiwanis project goal by offering to speak to Kiwanis groups within a reasonable distance. Dr. Buhr has offices in Renville and Olivia. He may be reached at (320) 523-1460.

Hendricks, MN Kiwanis Club to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

01/13/2011 - Club: Hendricks - Submitted by: Julie Hogie

The Kiwanis Club of Hendricks, MN is planning to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Club on Monday, February 14th at Christ Lutheran Church, 104 East Henderson, Hendricks. A dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

The club was chartered in February of 1961 under the sponsorship of the Tyler, MN Kiwanis members. Harvey Buchholz and Donald Gillund are charter members of the club and current members. The Hendricks club would welcome any guests to celebrate with them on this festive evening.

Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to Harvey Buchholz in early February. Harvey can be contacted at 507-275-3521 or harvdee@itctel.com