

# MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.41

February 2013

## Greetings from the Desk of the Governor

*02/05/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Cindy Braseth, District Kiwanis Governor*

I have written in previous articles that a group of District Leaders has been working on a five year strategic plan for the District. The final draft of the plan was presented to the District Board of Directors at our Tri-K Board meeting last week. We had a four hour discussion which centered around eight major goals identified in the plan, the strategies to implement them, how we will measure whether they have been accomplished and the entities responsible for each. All Regions were represented and we encouraged everyone to ask questions, comment and respond to the conclusions of the strategic planning committee. Board members were then presented with the option to vote on the plan as presented and discussed, or table the vote until the next board meeting in August. The decision was made to proceed with a vote and the plan was passed.



This vote was the culmination of a process that started in September, 2012 under Governor Dennis Cornell. The members of the committee were chosen for their specific positions that they hold in the District as well as specific areas of expertise they all have. All of us have the opportunity to work with and interact with members across the District and have a good "feel" for the issues. We started with a dream, "If you could design the perfect Kiwanis District, what would it look like." We compared notes and developed our vision for the future. This vision is what guided us as we developed the plan.

We have eight goals. They are Membership Growth; Service Leadership Growth and Support; Service Growth; Improved Kiwanis Education; Improved Communication within the District, Regions and Clubs; Improve District Conventions and Regional Meetings; District Foundation, Kiwanis International Foundation, The Eliminate Campaign and District Outreach; and Current District Structure. I will cover each of these goals more specifically over the next few months. The plan will also be presented at the District Convention where the membership will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. The plan is intended to be a living document, which means as the environment changes, the plan could change.

I want to thank the dedicated leaders who spent several hours putting this plan together:

Stewart Ross, Service Director and Facilitator  
Cindy Braseth, Governor  
Judie Rosendahl, Governor Elect  
Dennis Cornell, Immediate Past Governor  
Lowell Disrud, Past Governor

Sherry Scudder, Membership Director  
Loreena Luetgers, Education Director  
Colleen Hyde, Administration Director  
Bruce Klair, New Club Director  
Steve Handegaard, District Secretary-Treasurer

## February Update

02/05/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



**Governor Elect Candidates:** If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2013-2014, 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, 2013. 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 Aberdeen next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

**Lt. Governor Elect Candidates:** We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates for 2013-2014 in some regions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place April 26-28, 2013 in Fergus Falls.

**Reminder about Kiwanis Clubs & IRS filing requirements:** All organizations, including all 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 25 and Saturday, January 26, 2013. 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:**

It is not too soon to begin thinking about election of club officers for 2013-2014. Just a reminder that your club election report will be due June 1st.

**District Annual Audit:** The Annual Audit of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Financial Accounts for the Kiwanis year 2011-2012 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:**

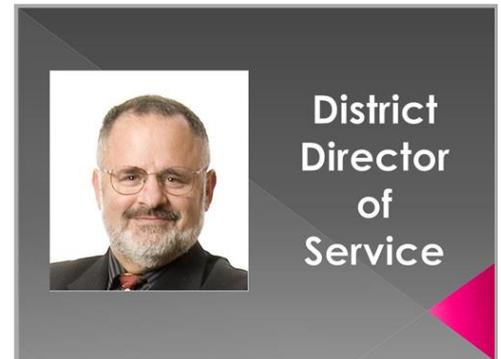
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office  
P.O. Box 735

Dalton, MN 56324-0735  
Phone: 218-589-7581  
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

## **MN-DAK Service Pilot Study**

*01/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross*

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I announce an agreement with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation SMIF and the Minnesota-Dakotas District. SMIF works to improve communities by improving the education opportunities for children up to age five. There is much research that suggests children who are prepared for school continue to flourish throughout their lives as compared to children who are unprepared.



We have had a number of meetings with the SMIF which is located in Owatonna, MN in region 6 of the MN-DAK Kiwanis District. Some of you may have heard of the director of SMIF, Tim Penny (one time member of the U.S. House of Representatives). SMIF covers a 20 county area in south central and south eastern Minnesota which includes 27 Kiwanis clubs in region 6 and 7.

In June of 2013, SMIF will provide 15,000 new children's books to clubs who volunteer to be part of the project. I look forward to visiting these 27 clubs in the next few months as we gear up for this work. Clubs that volunteer will receive a portion of the free books and have members take books to Headstart and other places where young children congregate. Our goal is to reach as many disadvantaged children as possible. We will expect members of clubs to read to children and give ALL of them a number of books to take home. We also expect clubs to hold a few forums in town for parents of children about the importance of reading to children at early ages.

If this first pilot study is successful we then plan to work with other Minnesota Initiative Foundations to broaden the program to the entire state next year. If this can be accomplished we will broaden the program a final time for our entire MN-DAK District as we gear up to include both North and South Dakota.

Securing the 15,000 children's books gives us a start. The project has great potential and can leave a wonderful legacy for our entire district in a short amount of time. We look forward to seeing this new service project take shape. We are truly serving the children of the world through this new project.

Stewart Ross, Director of Service for MN-DAK

## **2011-2012 Distinguished Clubs**

*02/02/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell*

The following clubs in the Minnesota-Dakotas District are being recognized as distinguished clubs under the 2011-2012 Distinguished Club Criteria:

Sioux Falls  
South Sioux Falls  
Sioux Falls East



Sioux Falls Daybreak  
Huron  
Hendricks  
Ortonville  
Madison  
New Ulm  
Early Risers, Worthington  
Fairmont Uptown  
Pipestone  
Austin  
Albert Lea  
Day Breakers, Albert Lea  
Lake City  
Spring Valley  
North Suburban St. Paul  
Saint Anthony  
Columbia Heights-Fridley  
Anoka, MN Area Inc.  
Rochester Day Makers  
Red Wing Golden K

To qualify as a distinguished, a club must excel in service, leadership, education and growth. Clubs were recommended for distinguished status by their Lt. Governor and the District Governor. I heartily congratulate each of these clubs for your commitment to the Defining Principle of Kiwanis and to the Six Objects of Kiwanis. Arrangements will be made for presentation of Distinguished Club for the 2011-2012 Kiwanis year as soon as the materials arrive from Kiwanis International. Again, congratulations and thank you for your service to the children of the world.

## Region Star Awards

*02/04/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Colleen Hyde, District Administration Director*

**Rationale:** There are many Kiwanians in our district who serve their clubs and their communities with unwavering commitment who are never recognized. This award is an opportunity for clubs to acknowledge those efforts by nomination, and to publicly recognize and honor them before their peers at the district convention, should they receive the award for their region. Another goal is to motivate Kiwanians to attend a district convention to either receive this award or to support a fellow club member as he/she is honored for this award. A final goal is to encourage "regional pride" centered on each year's award recipients.



**Process:** Each club in the district is allowed to nominate ONE member for the award each year. The deadline date is APRIL 1st to your Lt. Governor. Each region determines their own process to select ONE Kiwanian for the award from that region. (The Lt. Governor of each region must submit regional winner to Steve Handegaard by May 1, 2013)

Clubs are to submit written justification as to why the member selected deserves to be the "Regional Star" for their region. To download Nomination Instructions and Format (go to district website/awards) [Click here](#)

It is important to point out Kiwanis work but any service completed by the individual will also be considered. Work over their entire Kiwanis career should be considered, not just the current Kiwanis year. Included is an essay of no more than 300 words maximum which summarizes and describes the nominee's accomplishments. These summaries will be printed for each region's winner and distributed at the District Kiwanis Convention. Examples of last year's winners' summaries can be found on our district website/awards at: [Click here](#)

**Criteria for Award:** All currently paid members of the Minnesota Dakotas District are eligible for the award with the exception of current club presidents, current immediate past presidents, current presidents elect, current vice presidents, current governor and current Lt. Governors. District board members that don't fit the above description ARE eligible for the award. Please note: club secretaries and treasurers ARE eligible for the award.

**Special Note:** If possible clubs are encouraged to pay for the winning "Regional Star's" district convention registration and/or motel-travel expenses. Perhaps the club could send the member as one of their official delegates. The district will furnish the award itself which will be presented publicly by the governor at the district convention. Those selected for the award will be strongly encouraged to attend the convention to receive the award in person, and will be asked to submit a digital photo (head shot) in jpeg format, higher resolution (at least 500 KB).

## Kiwanis Club Health Evaluation

*01/22/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers*



We are well into our Kiwanis year and sure that the club officers have transitioned into their responsibilities. We hope that each meeting is easier and more enjoyable for you. Now is a good time for club officers and members to evaluate the health of our club and here are some ideas.

First, are the club meetings fulfilling the member's expectations? Are they fun and informative?

Second, are the board meetings held regularly and the business matters handled in a timely fashion? Are the board members active and decisive?

Third, are the committees meeting regularly and the committee members attending with ideas? Are the committees' programs and service projects active? Are the committees suggesting new service projects and evaluating the current projects?

Fourth, monitor the growth and stability of the membership of the club. Are there members who are not actively attending meetings? If not, have your membership be responsible to have a designated member that they contact if they aren't at the meetings. Everyone likes to know if they have been missed, and this is a great way to let the member know they are important to the club and fellow members.

Fifth, invite individuals to visit your club meeting. Let them get to know you and then they will want to join. Invite them and take them with you to a service project and/or fundraiser and let them experience how much fun your members have working together and getting to know one another. Member involvement is essential for a healthy club.

Lastly, we want you, the club officers, to have the skills and resources from the Club Leadership Education sessions that you need to lead your club for the year. Members want their club to operate smoothly with cooperation from the leaders and members.

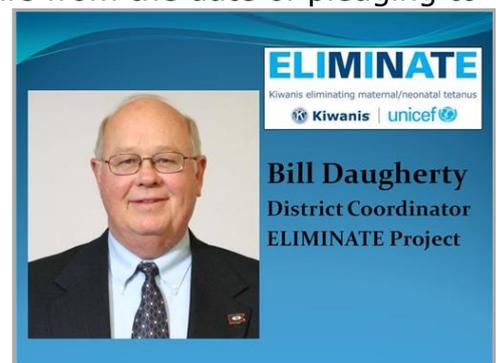
Education for the club helps new members and also keeps the established members. This can be accomplished with a new member orientation for the whole club at a regular meeting as a program. If your club has not done this, I would suggest it. All the information you need is on the Kiwanis website at [Click here](#) to download the power point and a script is available also. Let's keep our club members "healthy" in Kiwanis!

## The Eliminate Project

*01/27/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty*

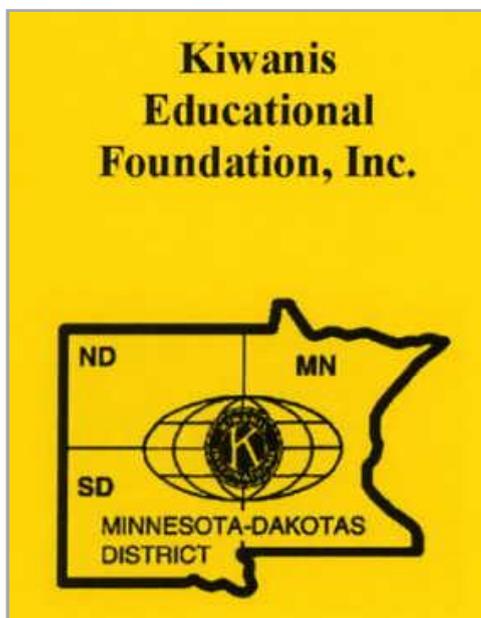
More good news, the Albert Lea Club has pledged to be a Model Club. They have become the 14th Model Club. We have a goal of hitting 30 model clubs by the end of the Kiwanis year. There are at least 22 clubs that have been donating funds that could declare their becoming a model club right now. An important reminder, when a club declares that they will be a model club they have five years from the date of pledging to complete the donation. The timeframe for pledging is set to end at the International Convention in Indianapolis in 2015. But clubs will have additional time to complete their donations.

We all need to begin thinking of the District Convention in Aberdeen this August. Clubs are being asked to consider items for a silent auction for the Eliminate Project. This is an excellent means of raising funds for the clubs making the item donation.



## Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation Scholarships

*01/27/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer Kiwanis Education*



As I write this article for the Minnekotan, the student part of the application process for the Kiwanis Educational Foundation Scholarship is completed. The deadline for postmark, which was January 25<sup>th</sup>, by the High Schools to mail in their candidates application and photocopies has also come and gone.

Now we will go in to the judging phase of awarding the one time award of \$825.00 to the winning recipients. Kiwanis members at the Regional level during February and the early part of March will do the judging, of the student applications. The recipients of the scholarships that will be used during the 2013 – 2014 academic year within the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District will be notified in April.

In order for the Foundation to continue to award the 59 scholarships and increase the dollar amount each year we need your help! Your individual donations to the Vantine Life Fellowship, the Messer Fellowship and **each club's annual donation to the Century Club** will allow us to

continue adding to our investment program. We need to continue to add, each year, to the investments of the Foundation to improve interest earnings each year. Remember, we can only use the interest earnings each year to fund our scholarships.

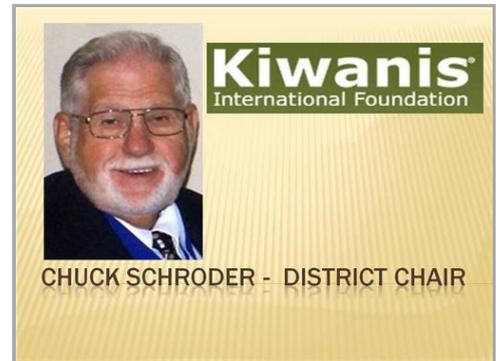
## **WE CAN DO IT**

*01/27/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E.Chuck Schroder*

I just received the latest report from International and the numbers are looking positive. We are over \$2.00 pr member for the district and we are only 4 months into the current

year. However, each club needs to step up and contribute their share to the annual gift program if we are going to make our goal of \$6.00 pr member.

I received the applications for scholarships to be judged, and let me tell you, they are very good. We are going to have a very hard time selecting the winners. We are able to give 3 scholarships to Key club and 3 to Circle K. There are going to be some disappointed young people when they are not chosen. It would really be nice if we could reach the \$6.00 mark and be able to give 6 scholarships to both groups. There are also many grant requests coming in and not enough money to cover them and so they are being turned down.



Lets show International what we can do here in the Minn/Dak by reaching the \$6.00 mark. Thank you all for what you are doing the children of the world.

## **Reminder to all Kiwanis Clubs- IRS Filing due Feb. 15th**

*12/31/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas*



Just a reminder that all Kiwanis Clubs must file the appropriate form with the IRS by February 15th.

If your club's gross receipts is \$50,000 or less you are required to file the IRS' electronic postcard Form 990-N. (The definition of gross receipts is any and all income to your accounts, even if it is an in-and-out item.)

If your club's gross receipts normally exceed \$50,000 and up to \$200,000 you are required to file Form 990EZ.

If your club gross receipts are greater than \$200,000 then you must file Form 990. Failure to file for three consecutive years could result in revocation of your tax exempt status.

For more information about these forms and IRS requirements, visit the IRS website [Click here](#)

# Club News

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## \$100,000 for ELIMINATE

01/31/2013 - Club: Fargo - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor

In October, the Kiwanis Club of Fargo declared a commitment to the \$100K Club. It wasn't the beginning of our fundraising efforts, but it sparked motivation in our members on a personal level to contribute. One member says of his decision to commit to the Zeller Fellowship, *"I was inspired by [the Eliminate videos]*



*and by the amazing impact Kiwanis has on the world. The fact that collectively we can completely eradicate a problem like this that impacts tens of thousands of people every year is amazing to me. Kiwanis helped rid the world of IDD, and we're going to be successful with MNT as well. Imagine if someone told us that, by contributing a few dollars, collectively we could eliminate cancer or Alzheimer's. We are blessed to be part of this organization, and together we can change the world for thousands of women and children."*

Another member says that he and his wife, also a member, felt the need to pledge to the fellowship because they always strive to support organizations that help youth who are in need, worldwide.

Our methods for attaining money have varied. One member's MNT armband sparked conversation with a non-member, and that person showed his support by mailing a check to our club. Another member negotiated a weekly piano slot at the local mall, posting flyers about the Eliminate Project and dedicating all tips toward the cause. After a handful of members worked at a community event, they agreed for the donation from that project to go straight to the campaign office.

Our next big push for the Eliminate Project will be on Saturday, February 9th, and you're all invited! That weekend will host the 55th Annual Kiwanis Pancake Karnival. All money collected from ticket sales will be redistributed by our Grants Committee around the Fargo/ Moorhead area. However, we have big plans to promote MNT this year. Every hour, we will be sharing videos provided by Kiwanis International about this worldwide service project. Bins will be stationed around the FargoDome for freewill donations, and our Key Clubbers will be selling MNT armbands on the floor. We have more in the works, but you'll have to join us that day to see it!

## Legion of Honor members

01/31/2013 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Two Legion of Honor certificates and pins were presented. Mary Ann Berg, President of the "Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club was presented certificate for 25 years in Kiwanis (Mary Ann was the first female to join Kiwanis in the Fargo/Moorhead Area).

Odell Krohn also a member of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club was presented a 50 year Legion of Honor certificate, and his pin which also stated that he was a Past Lt. Governor. Odell originally joined Kiwanis in Harvey, ND.



## Tines For Troops

*01/31/2013 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Suzy Kersey*

During January the Fridley High School Key Club along with the Columbia Heights/Fridley Kiwanis Club made Valentines to send to troops serving in Afghanistan. This year the Key Club held three workshops. The Kiwanis Club held one. This year's project was particularly special as the cards will go to soldiers who are from Minnesota, many living in nearby cities.

Each hand-made Valentine contained a personal, handwritten note stating how much the writer supported the troops. The members wanted to help raise the morale of the American troops. Valentines were adorned with stickers, doilies, clipart, lace, ribbon and pink or black decorative duct tape. 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 750 Valentines. That number would supply five per soldier. In addition, Key Clubbers sent the troops Sweetheart Candy, red gummy hearts and Tootsie Roll Suckers.

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 Clubbers and Kiwanians say, "Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day!"

Suzy Kersey, Publicist  
Fridley High School Key Club

## Dodge for Darfur

*01/31/2013 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Emma Broos*

The Fridley High School held its annual Dodge ball tournament, "Dodge for Darfur" on Friday, February 1st. It had an amazing outcome this year with 12 teams participating.

The winners of the tournament were the "Ballsagna" senior boys. The second place and third place teams were "Ball Me Maybe" and "We Throw Underhand." The competition was fun to watch. Overall, \$910 dollars was raised with 25 Key Club members volunteering and 78 students playing. All proceeds will go to UNICEF to relieve Darfur genocide.



Emma Broos, Freshman Representative  
Fridley High School

## Women of Rochester Day Makers Kiwanis Club Honored

*01/27/2013 - Club: Rochester Day Makers - Submitted by: Judy Zierdt*

Following the slide show program on the "25 Years of Women in Kiwanis", Rochester Day Makers honored their 26 women in the club with the "I Care!" Award certificate. At the present time, women make up 29.5% of our club membership of 88 members.

We, also, honored Margee Jacobson with the "25 Years of Women in Kiwanis" pin as the only woman Charter member.



## "Doing Good Together: A Partnership"

*01/02/2013 - Club: Anoka, MN Area Inc - Submitted by: Janice Clemens*



On Dec. 6th, Anoka Area Kiwanis partnered with Anoka County Head Start students and their families for an evening of fun and activities focusing on "Doing Good Together!" Each young participant was issued a "Passport to Giving" to guide them through the evening's activities to create 4 things: 1) a festively designed placemat donated to Meals on Wheels, 2) a greeting card with cheery words of encouragement for ill Head Start students, 3) a polar fleece blanket that was given to needy Anoka County families at Christmas

Committee and Toys for Joy event, and 4) ham and cheese sandwiches that were delivered to folks in need in the area.

In addition, a story corner was set up with stories being read aloud to the children. Each child also got to select and take home a book of their own. This the the third year that Anoka Area Kiwanis has partnered with Anoka County Head Start to provide this opportunity.

Pictured giving books to young children are Kiwanians Diane Henning, Shirley Christenson, Darlene Thell, and Shirley Curbow. This event is chaired by Kiwanians Marlene Colvin and Diane Henning.