Greetings from the Governor

01/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, District Governor

As I ponder the winter weather we all are experiencing, I feel a strong sense of thankfulness for many things, not least is a warm house and a warm car to take me wherever I choose to go. I am also so very thankful for my many Kiwanis friends, all of you! I am thankful for all that we are accomplishing for the children of the world and especially for the children of our own communities! I am so thankful for the Student Leadership Programs (SLPs) we have in the Minnesota Dakotas District. I wish to extend my thanks to each club who sponsors one of our SLPs such as K Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, or Aktion Club as well as commending them for their great work!

Approximately 50% of our clubs sponsor at least one SLP and many clubs sponsor many more. Our goal as stated in the Strategic Plan is for this number of supporting clubs to grow each year. I am asking for each club to look at their community and determine where you can put your time, energy, and resources to help more children by chartering a new Service Leadership Program. To enable us to learn more about our SLPs, an administrator from each of the SLPs will share with you each month in the Minnekotan. Please look further in the Minnekotan for the article by Denis and Nancy Cornell, Administrators of the Builders Clubs. I extend heartfelt thanks to the Administrators who work faithfully and with great dedication!

As Kiwanis members and clubs, we have an opportunity to support the Key Clubs and Circle Ks of the Minnesota Dakotas District by donating to the Outreach Program. The Outreach monies are given entirely to help support the District Boards of Key Club and Circle K when they attend District conventions and other special meetings, to assist in building new Key Clubs or Circle K clubs, and to acquire needed supplies and equipment beyond what their budgets would allow. This program is mainly intended to be funded by those Kiwanis clubs who do not sponsor a Key Club or Circle K but would still like to be involved with our young adults in these very worthwhile programs. Our Service Leadership Programs are our fastest growing entity of Kiwanis which makes our involvement extremely important. We have developed a banner patch which will be sent to each club who donates any amount of money to Outreach this year. This patch shows hands outstretched in giving to others. Each club has recently received a brochure from
Steve Handegaard, our District Secretary, with additional information. Please consider giving your most generous gift to help our Minnesota Dakotas Key Clubs and Circle Ks!

I am so excited to be able to share with you some very good news! The membership of the Minnesota Dakotas District is up 59 so far this year! I can see that you are all asking others to join in the fun and fellowship of Kiwanis! I want to thank everyone who has brought in a new member this year! Let's all strive to add a new member by the end of this year! If we were able to accomplish that, we would double our membership! Just think of the party we would have besides all the service we could do for the children of our communities and around the world!! I see two keys to adding new members. One key is for everyone to feel the need of new members in our clubs and the other is to ask and keep asking! Don't ever give up! I know we can do it! Thanks again!

February Update

01/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

**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. 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 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 2014-2015 in some regions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place April 25-27, 2014 in Fergus Falls.

**Reminder about Kiwanis Clubs & IRS filing requirements:** All organizations, including all Kiwanis clubs must file the appropriate annual IRS tax Form by February 15. The form used depends on your annual gross receipts.

**Tri-K District Board Meeting:** Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards met in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25, 2014. 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 2014-2015. 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 2012-2013 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.
99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Japan: The convention will take place July 17–20, 2014. Online registration is open now. Click here

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:
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P.O. Box 735 Dalton, MN 56324-0735
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Region Star Awards - 2014-2015

01/29/2015 - 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 1st.)

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).

The Eliminate Project

01/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

Some of our members took trips to Mexico or the islands, but our leadership had a wonderful time in Fergus Falls for the Tri-K conference Jan 24-25. It was good to meet the Lt Governor teams as well as most of our Districts leadership. The Eliminate Project had a 15 minute time slot Friday evening to bring all in attendance up to date as to where the District is in its effort to raise $3MIL. We are just over 1.1 Million as of Jan 16th.

Stewartville has just pledged to be a Model Club thus we now have 24 clubs making that pledge. We have a goal of having donated an additional $600,000 by March 31st of this year. Quarterly we will have new goals identified and striven to attain. That means more clubs need to seriously consider and pledge to be model clubs. The thing to remember... you have FIVE years from the date of pledging to attain the clubs pledge level. It can be done. We just need to surprise ourselves and do it.

As you know individuals can contribute in a significant way through the Zeller Fellowship donations. There are now three different Zellers, the regular Zeller, a Mother's Day Zeller and the Presidential Zeller available. All require a $1250 donation over a two year period. Also the Zeller donation can be done using a credit card over time or a one time payment. Join with your fellow Kiwanians and become a Zeller Fellow in the next two months.

Circle K District Convention March 7-9, 2014, in Moorhead, MN

01/29/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Anne Christensen, Circle K District Governor

Minnesota-Dakotas Circle K invites you to attend the annual Circle K District Convention (DCON)! This year, DCON will take place in Moorhead, MN, at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel March 7-9, 2014. The theme this year is Save the Day with Circle K! We hope you’ll consider joining us for our fun superhero themed weekend.

Saturday night, March 8, 2014, will be the Kiwanis Family Extravaganza. If you cannot make it to the whole District Convention, we encourage you to attend the Extravaganza. The event includes a silent auction, dinner, keynote speaker, awards, and scholarships. After the Kiwanis Family Extravaganza, we will be having The Eliminate Project Pieing Fundraiser where you could pie Key Club, Circle K, and Kiwanis leaders (including Governor Judie Rosendahl)!
If you are interested in attending Minn-Dak Circle K's District Convention or have any additional questions about the convention, please contact CKI Governor Anne Christensen at anne.christensen@mines.sdsmt.edu or call (605) 838-8846. You can also find DCON registration forms at Click here. The registration postmark deadline is February 19, 2014.

The Circle K District Board looks forward to seeing you at District Convention in March!

**Five Reasons to Sponsor a Builders Club**

*01/27/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis & Nancy Cornell*

1. It's not complicated. Go to: [Click here](#)

Builders Club is the largest "student-led" community service organization for students age 12-14. Sponsoring a Builders Club expands your world as well as theirs. Working with Builders Club students will energize and enlighten you. Their humor and lightheartedness are contagious and will brighten your day.

Builders Club helps build strong leaders for tomorrow. Sponsor a Builders Club this year and you will be rewarded for years to come. Sponsoring a Builders Club is not complicated. The sponsorship tool kit has quick links and PowerPoints to get you started. We are here to help you get started. Contact us with any question you might have.

Eighteen Kiwanis clubs in our district have made the leap to sponsor a Builders Club. Two of our Kiwanis clubs sponsor multiple Builders Clubs. Why not add your club to this list?

Denis and Nancy Cornell  
Co-Administrators, Builders Club  
Minnesota-Dakotas District  

e-mail: denisc@centurytel.net  
  nancyc2@centurytel.net  

Phone: 507-346-2044  

**Director of Service Column**

*01/27/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross*
Back in the spring of 2013, I met Tim Penny (retired congressman from Owatonna, MN). We met at a series of meetings at Minnesota State University Mankato. I represented the faculty and he represented the business community. At one meeting he came over and asked if I was active in Kiwanis. He had a smile on his face since he no doubt saw my Kiwanis pins on the suit lapel and the Kiwanis shirts I wore to meetings now and then.

He asked if there was any way to get Kiwanis Clubs in the area interested in reading to young children and delivering books to the children and their families. To say I was excited by the opportunity is putting it mildly. I had just taken on the position as MN-DAK Director of Service and was wondering what I could do to excite our clubs about hands-on service. This was a match made in heaven!

We ended up with a pilot study that began in the summer of 2013. As president of the Southern MN Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Tim was able to secure 5000 new children’s books for 26 Kiwanis clubs that I was able to recruit into the project. They had to be clubs in the counties SMIF serves. Our goal was to see how many children we could read to and get the 5000 books to by April of 2014. This was no small task as it turned out and kept me very busy with 26 presentations to the clubs in the counties that SMIF represented. It was wonderful to see every club decide to take this project on!

I just finished the final report for Tim and SMIF and am very proud of the results. Kiwanians always amaze you with what they can do when they get behind a project in mass! Here are the statistics on the project. I hope you are as proud as I was as I wrote the report!

3,203 children were read to during the program.

5000 books were distributed to the children, parents of children and some places such as Head Starts for their libraries. The majority of children who received books were disadvantaged in some way.

147 parents met with a Kiwanian and learned about the importance of reading to young children.

277 Kiwanians (no double counting) participated in the reading and book distribution program.

I am happy to announce that due to the success of this pilot study, SMIF will donate even more books to Kiwanis this summer for a second year of the program. I don’t have the final number yet. We expect all 26 clubs to do this again and hope to add another 22 clubs in southwestern Minnesota through a different Initiative Foundation. Work in now in progress to see if that is possible.

Our hope is to keep spreading the program until it is found in all of MN-DAK. After such a successful pilot study we all look forward to this in the next few years. Stay tuned!

Kiwanis Foundation Updates

01/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by:

District Kiwanis Educational Foundation Scholarships
Submitted by Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer Kiwanis Education

Greetings to all of the members of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District. As I sit here
composing and writing this article for the February Minnekotan three thoughts come to mind. First of all, on behalf of the Kiwanis Educational Foundation Board, I hope that this finds each and everyone of you staying warm and out of these harsh elements of the cold spell we are presently experiencing (Tuesday, January 28, 2014).

I am sitting here with a sea of brown envelopes surrounding me that the U S Postal service has been dropping off at my front door recently. The contents of these envelopes are the applications from hopeful high school seniors applying for scholarships for next school year. It is always very heartwarming at this time of year to see that the work of you and your clubs making the schools and their students aware of the available scholarships. The mailing deadline for this present application process was last Friday, January 24, 2014. The next couple of weeks will consist of registering the applicant’s names on spreadsheets and putting the applications in to the appropriate regional packets to be mailed out to the judges in the regions for selection of the winners for this year's $815.00 awards that will be given out by your Foundation.

Your Foundation is very grateful for the individual and club gifts that we continue to receive. These gifts are what allow us to be able to continue giving out the many scholarships on an annual basis to graduating seniors from our districts high schools. The third thought coming to my mind for the writing of this month's article is to say Thank You to the 43 clubs that have already donated to this year's Century Club or Gift funds. We would like to ask the members to check with your club treasurer to make sure that the Century Club donation has been sent in for this 2013-2014 Kiwanis year. It is the continual giving by our clubs to the Foundation that allows us to continue offering scholarships to the many deserving seniors graduating from our high schools. It would be great to be able to report that each club in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District has contributed to the Century Club Program of the Foundation.

Thank you for the continued support of your Kiwanis Educational Foundation!! Jack Zierdt

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION – You Can Make a Difference
Submitted by Chuck Schroder, District Chair

Things are moving along and some funds are coming into KIF (Kiwanis International Foundation) and this is good. I would like to report that I had my first monthly conference call this month and it was very productive and informative. Our district has a goal for this year of $30,600 and this was reached by going back 4 years. This is very attainable for this district when you look at what we have done and how they are counting the dollars given. Everything is credited to this that is sent to the foundation other than what is given to Eliminate.

The first item this month I would like to cover is: THERE ARE NO MORE MATCHING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KEY CLUB OR CIRCLE K. The new program is as follows, and keep in mind we are competing against every other district in Kiwanis. The Top 5 districts per capita in Kiwanis Children’s Fund (Annual Gift) giving will be eligible for: 1st: 5 US $2,000 scholarships for Circle K International and/or Key Club International members in your district and US $1,000 gift card to Kiwanis Family Store for district club with highest per capita giving. 2nd: 4 US $1,500 scholarships for Circle K and/or Key Club members in your district. US $750 gift card to the Kiwanis family store for district club with highest per capita giving. 3rd: 3 US $1,000 scholarships for Circle K and/or Key Club members in your district. US $500 gift card to the Kiwanis family store for district club with highest per capita giving. 4th: 2 US $1,000 scholarships for Circle K
and/or Key Club members in your district. US $250 gift card to the Kiwanis family store for district club with highest per capita giving. 5th: 1 US $1,000 scholarship for Circle K and/or Key Club member in your district. US $100 gift card to the Kiwanis family store for the district club with highest per capita giving. Remember we are competing against all other districts for this.

The second item for this month is a new program that just was handed out to help each of you to give to KIF. Many of us have already joined Goodsearch.com to raise funds for Kiwanis International Foundation. Goodsearch donates money to your favorite cause when you search the internet, shop online or dine out at local restaurants! Use Goodsearch.com to search the internet and they donate a penny per search to your cause. Use Goodshop.com when you shop online and they donate a percentage of every purchase and offer over 100,000 coupons to help you save money too! Sign up for their Gooddining program and they'll donate a percentage of your restaurant bill when you eat at any one of thousands of participating restaurants. It's really easy: it's free and turns simple everyday actions into a way to make the world a better place. Please sign up today to help me and others support the Kiwanis International Foundation. Go to www.goodsearch.com to get started.

Until next time, THANKS FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING FOR KIWANIS.
Chuck Schroder

CONVENTION CORNER

01/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Liz Lawrence-Ross

MNDAK KIWANIS 2014 DISTRICT CONVENTION

August 8-10, 2014
Minneapolis Marriott Southwest

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

Please contact me sooner than later if you have any ideas or suggestions for the convention, or if you would like to be on the convention committee.

Thinking about August heat these days!

Liz Lawrence-Ross
Convention Director
bigsisterliz@yahoo.com

MnDak District Convention/Region 7 2014

01/26/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Region 7 Lt Governor Gail Heyda

District Convention Director Liz Lawrence-Ross and District Service Director Stewart Ross visited Region 7 Lt Governor Gail Heyda and Kiwanians at the Region 7 council meeting at Culvers, St Anthony, MN on 1/9/14. They updated us on the new Twin Cities Online Kiwanis club and it was fun to hear of the online chats and current service project with
the Mankato Kiwanis club. Region 7 clubs were invited to participate in the 2014 MnDak District Convention, August 8-10 at the Marriott SW Minneapolis. Many great service projects were shared and are in the planning stage for the convention. We look forward to seeing our district clubs there and sharing time with you. We would like to invite you to come to Minneapolis for a memorable summer convention!

Club News

Aktion Club Awards

01/31/2014 - Club: Albert Lea - Submitted by: Jim Albright

David Anderson, of the Freeborn County Aktion Club, in Albert Lea, MN, is shown receiving awards and certificates for his First Place 2012-13 MnDak District and International Aktion Club Poster Contests. He also won the same honors in the 2011-12 contests, and a Second Place by the International, the previous year. His Club Advisor, Jo Lowe, is shown holding a copy of his recent winning entry. Jim Albright, the past District Aktion Club Administrator, presented the awards.

The Red Wing Aktion Club was also honored with a First Place District Certificate for their Scrapbook entry. They had won a Second Place International award in this category the previous year.

350 Hours of Service

01/30/2014 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Kati Stevenson

December 13th through 15th was a crazy time at Mary Bowen’s house. The Fridley resident is the Fridley/Columbia Heights Kiwanis member in charge of Fridley High School’s Key Club. Every December, Mary opens her home to her Key Club and they put on a Teeter-Totter Marathon. They pull out the wood teeter-totter from its home in her rafters, then paint it and make sure it’s in good working order for all 50 hours of use.

When the event starts, Key Clubbers come in pairs every two hours to take a turn on the teeter-totter. They pledge money for every hour they stay, then spend their time watching movies, hanging out, and, of course, bobbing up and down and up and down in Mary’s basement. Mary jokingly states, “They keep me up all night, those darned kids!” Board members also take four hour shifts, supervising and ensuring that the fun never stops!

This year, 63 Key Clubbers accumulated over 350 hours of service, contributing $450 to Kiwanis’s Eliminate Project, this year’s focus for the Fridley Key Club. The teeter-totterers were also joined by members from the Columbia Heights/Fridley Kiwanis Club and several of Mary’s nearby neighbors. Sophomore Isabelle Nocton, the chair of this
event, says, “We couldn’t imagine anything we’d rather be doing on this weekend.” Her co-chair, fellow sophomore Kati Stevenson, agrees. “We first chaired the Teeter-Totter Marathon last year, and now I think it’s become the highlight of our Key Club experience.” All in all, the Teeter-Totter Marathon is a great way to give back to the global community and have a little fun while doing it!

Tines for Troops

01/30/2014 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Isabelle Nocton

The Fridley Key Club participated in ‘Tines for Troops during January. This year the Key Club made Valentines to send to troops called to duty. The members gathered in the cafeteria on January 14th and on January 21st to have fun making ‘Tines with paper and craft materials. They stayed from 3:15 pm to the time when they were all “crafted-out” and had completed the planned number of Valentines.

The event organizers placed paper, ribbon, stickers, dollies, clip art and pens at the work tables. People got creative by folding, cutting and gluing the many different items together. Each valentine was signed with a special handwritten message. Some people crafted while others signed the cards. It was an efficient and fun way for the Valentines to be completed.

The workers made 350 Valentines at the two workshops. The Valentines were sent to a Minnesota based troop in Afghanistan in time for the very special day. The Key Clubbers enjoyed the event and plan to do it again next year.

What Golden K Means To Me

01/30/2014 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Sharon Scudder, Governor Elect

I joined a Golden K Kiwanis Club, not knowing what it meant. After I met the members, I thought I had been invited to joint an elite group of members and so the Golden K to me was a Precious Stone. My club is made up of the best group of citizens in the community. They all have given of themselves to serve. Never in my mind did I relate the Golden K to age until I started visiting other clubs and learned how they interpreted their Golden K Clubs. Some Golden K clubs like to meet for fellowship and program meetings as well as their service. I am sure many clubs are like that, however, just a month or so ago one of our 91 year old member recruited a new retiree and that is how
our Golden K can survive, new and younger members – but always remember our older members are assets and good resources. It is not always looking back but looking ahead that makes for good clubs.

I am happy that I had foresight to realize I was not in a Golden K because of Age, I was there because it is a precious commodity to our community and children. I have respect for all our members, Gold, Silver, Bronze or whatever precious stone or metal they are. Golden K is only a name as the members make up the club.

South Sioux Santa

01/20/2014 - Club: South Sioux Falls - Submitted by: Carol Woltjer

Members of South Sioux Kiwanis Club in Sioux Falls, SD, had the unique privilege of playing Santa Claus for a humble family of five during the recent Christmas Season.

We were made aware of this family’s needs by personnel at the local day-labor dispatch agency. The father shows up there early each morning to ensure that he receives work for the day – and, according to agency personnel, he would willingly work seven days a week. The mother is disabled. Two of their children are in middle school, and the other is in high school.

After receiving permission from the family to make contact with them, a representative of the club attempted to connect with the father by phone. After leaving several messages, she finally received a return call from the mother. The father’s pride kept him from responding to initial calls. Upon hearing that members of the club would meet the mother and father at a local Wal-Mart and that they could spend up to $500 for whatever would make Christmas special for their family (gifts, food, and/or clothing), the mother wept. A date was set.

When representatives from South Sioux Kiwanis arrived at Wal-Mart on the designated date and time, they were met by the mother and her aunt. Again, the father could not bring himself to participate. The women were told that they could spend up to $500 on this shopping spree, that it was Christmas for the WHOLE family and not just the children - so there needed to be gifts in the cart for both mother and father, and that they should call our cell phone when they were finished. The South Sioux elves then went to a local restaurant to enjoy food and fellowship.

South Sioux Kiwanians were humbled when they got the call and met the women at the check-out. The only food items in the cart were two bags of oranges for the stockings. There were no toys, music, or electronics. In the cart were bed pillows for all, winter boots for the children, socks and under garments for every member of the family, gloves and hats, and over-the-counter medical supplies. With tears in her eyes, the mother expressed her deep appreciation.

South Sioux Kiwanis was blessed to not only give this family a nice Christmas but also to give them their dignity. When the mom walked in the house with sacks and sacks of gifts, her children did not know from where the resources to make those purchases came. The mother was so thrilled that her children would not need to be embarrassed in gym class any longer. They now had underwear.

It was a very Merry Christmas for South Sioux Kiwanis Club!