

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.64

February 2015

Message from the Governor

02/01/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Sherry Scudder

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Clubs in the MN-DAK District a wonderful 100th Happy Birthday. I appreciate the extra mile that many clubs went through and are still planning a 100th birthday/anniversary celebration for Kiwanis. Thank you Chamberlain for celebrating with new members and a membership drive, wish I could have attended- I will return. Madison also had a nice celebration. I invite everyone who had a celebration of some sort to write about it in the MINNEKOTAN AND SEND A PHOTO, TOO.



I was fortunate to attend the 100th Birthday/Anniversary of Kiwanis with the 1st Club located in Detroit. Steve Handegaard and his wife Laura were there also, he is a fine photographer as you can see above. We also had a Kiwanis International Council meeting so business came first. We discussed some amendments that will be taken to the house of delegates.

I want to thank the Lt. Governor's team for their participation and ideas given at the Minnesota-Dakotas District Tri-K meeting. I am so proud of all your accomplishments that were reported. The Regions should be proud of your teams. They have the clubs and your communities in their sight. We are always looking for members who want to share their time, talents and treasures.

We are still looking for a Lt Governor elect for Region 5. It is time again to submit your Lt. Governor elects to Steve at the District Office so we can prepare for them at Lt. Governor's training the 1st part of May.

We are continuing to work on our District Strategic Plan and we will be seeking members who would like to be a part of the process. The committee has decided to add 2 at large members so you can submit a letter of interest to Steve Handegaard.

I wanted to close with a Happy Valentines to all and to thank you for hearts as big as gold. I know Kiwanians have big hearts and enlarge them daily through the service you provide. Remember to get your talent ready for the District conference. We need one act per region (must be a member of a Kiwanis club or SLP) Also we are looking for singers to make up a choral for our convention to compliment our talent show. Please contact me if you are interested.

Keep up the good work.
Governor Sherry

February Update

01/31/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2015-2016, 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, 2015. 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 2015-2016 in some regions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place May 1-3, 2015 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.

District Annual Audit: The Annual Audit of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Financial Accounts for the Kiwanis year 2013-2014 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.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards met in Fergus Falls, MN on January 16 and 17, 2015. 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.

Raffles and Drawings and Alcohol Guidelines Revised and Clarified: At the January 2015 board meeting the Minnesota-Dakotas District Board revised and clarified our District Policies and Procedures related to Raffles and Drawings and our Alcohol Guidelines. The policies were revised to conform to the guidelines of Kiwanis International on these topics. Following are the changes:

Raffles and Drawings: *Clubs may participate in lotteries, raffles, drawings, or other games of chance, provided that they are not in violation of the laws, mores, customs, and traditions of the country, state, or province in which the clubs exist. Nothing contained herein shall permit any club by its activities to impugn the good name of Kiwanis. Should violations occur, appropriate disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with these Policies and Procedures. This provision is intended to cover all such activities wherein funds are sought to be procured or raised from the public and is not intended to cover drawings held at a meeting of a Kiwanis club and confined primarily to the membership, the principal purpose of which is to encourage attendance*

and/or fellowship. (source: Kiwanis International Bylaws – Raffles and Drawings, Article VII, Section 4)

Alcohol Guidelines: *Alcohol may be served or consumed at Kiwanis events in a legal and responsible manner, provided such serving or consumption is done in accordance with the customs and applicable laws where the club or other Kiwanis entity is located. Because the presence of alcohol at a function greatly increases the risk of personal injury, Kiwanis clubs and other Kiwanis entities must be conscious of liability exposure whenever alcohol is offered. All Kiwanis entities should adhere to the alcohol guidelines established by Kiwanis International when providing alcohol at an event. (For detailed guidelines see Kiwanis International Policies and Procedures- Procedure 173 – Alcohol Guidelines for Kiwanis Clubs and Other Kiwanis Entities.)*

While attending any Kiwanis event that is produced primarily by or for the benefit of youth, adults are expected to refrain from consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or the use of tobacco products during any portion of the event. (source: Kiwanis International Policies and Procedures)

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

MNDAK Kiwanis 2015 Convention Corner

01/31/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Liz Lawrence-Ross

It may be only February, but the 2015 MNDAK Kiwanis convention in Grand Forks, ND is only 6 months away on August 7th-9th and your convention committee is already busy making plans for celebrating 100 years of Kiwanis there with all of you. The Canad Inn is connected to the Alerus Convention Center and there are many other hotels across the street within walking distance so everyone may choose their own accommodations. Next month we will provide a list of hotels with rooms blocked for our convention.



Last summer our convention in Minnetonka was a huge success and we plan to build on that with more vendors to share ideas and more advertisers in the program to help defer convention expenses. If you or someone you know are interested in either being a vendor or an advertiser please contact me at your earliest convenience. Of course if you are interested in serving on the convention planning committee we'd love to have your help, just let me know.

Please mark your calendars now to join in the 100th Year of Kiwanis celebration August 7th-9th in Grand Forks, ND.

Looking forward to seeing you there,
Liz Lawrence-Ross MNDAK Kiwanis Convention Director

District Strategic Plan

01/30/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers

Several years ago a group within the Minnesota Dakotas District formed a Strategic Plan for the District to change from 23 Divisions to 7 Regions, which the district passed. Kiwanis International's districts are all divided by divisions.

Some questions have been asked recently about the status of the District's Strategic Planning Committee. We, the committee, would like to address some of them here. Also, if anyone has additional questions, please contact one of the committee members, as we represent the District and you, the club member. The committee wants to continue an open dialogue with everyone.

A new Strategic Planning committee was formed in September 2012 which consists of the current positions, not individuals: Governor, Governor-Elect, Immediate-Past Governor, District Secretary, Directors of Administration, Education, Service and Membership. Therefore this committee changes each year.

The committee meets two times a year in conjunction with the District Board meetings to keep cost at a minimum. The committee has spent many hours to review, evaluate and set goals for the District with a purpose of what is working, what isn't working and what can we do to make the District better. Thus, the "District Strategic Planning Document" for 2012-2017 was adopted and is available on our district website under the District Leadership tab.

The committee would like to communicate what is happening with the Plan.

Membership: the District is losing members and the committee is continually analyzing it with hopes that The Formula from Kiwanis International will help the District in this area. The clubs that are growing usually have strong leadership, good service projects and communicate Kiwanis to their members. Bruce Klair, Kiwanis International District Growth Chair, told the District Board in January that we need to "invite" people to visit and then join our clubs. We aren't like the armed forces who "recruit" members.

Service Leadership Programs: the District has more K-Kids, Builders, Key Clubs, Circle K and Aktion clubs than two years ago. A "Thank You" to everyone who values the importance of youth leadership and start new SLPs.

Service: the SW Minnesota Initiative Foundation has presented thousands of books to the District for Kiwanis clubs in the southeastern part of Minnesota to read and give to children in their communities. Now, we have the OASIS program being introduced to the District and clubs having an OASIS in their local school. Club members are becoming more aware of new service projects for their clubs.

Education: Club Leadership Education is struggling with the sessions held throughout the district. Work will continue to improve this. Online is more popular because of convenience, however, the discussions and getting to know other Kiwanians is missing with this. Education handbooks have been developed and distributed to the Lieutenant Governors, all club presidents and secretaries and a handbook to copy for each club member.

Communication: the Minnekotan continues to be the main communication tool as well as email. Clubs are encouraged to submit more articles about their service projects, etc. The District developed a credit card system for convention registration to save costs of envelopes, stamps, etc. as much as possible.

District Convention and Region Conferences: the conventions have seen an increase in attendance with fun and informative forums. The goal is a high quality experience for attendees, not to keep the cost as inexpensive as possible, as the conventions are self-

sustaining. The past evaluations revealed that the attendees like the vendor's displays and information, therefore, the committee is looking for more. The advertising in the program has helped defray the cost of the program and would like to have more for this year. This is another way we can keep the convention registration lower. Also, Region Conferences are having more of an emphasis on education to help members, along with it being the Governor's visit. However, attendance is declining.

District Structure Review: a continual analysis of the regions because of size, number of clubs per region and travel for the Lieutenant Governor teams. This is becoming a challenge in a few regions.

Again, the committee invites your questions and comments to make this a District that every member can be proud of.

Sherry Scudder, 2014-2015 Governor

Judie Rosendahl, 2014-2015 Immediate Past-Governor

Kent Hochgraber, 2014-2015 Governor-Elect

Steve Handegaard, District Secretary-Treasurer

Colleen Hyde, Administration Director

Loreena Luetgers, Education Director

Stewart Ross, Service Director

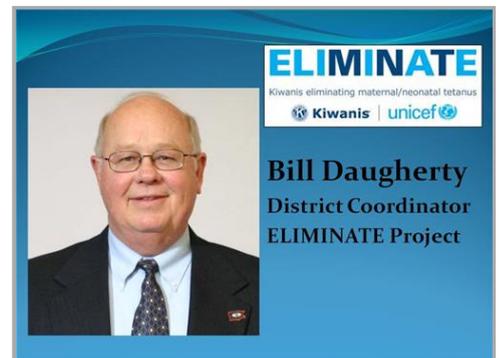
Bruce Klair, Kiwanis International Growth Chair

Liz Lawrence Ross, Convention Director

The Eliminate Project and Campaign Timeline Update

01/28/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

As of the end of 2014 we have pledged or donated \$1,433,669.12 to the project. We originally set a goal of \$3 Million. We have to get our funds sent in in order to get closer to our goal. There were so many pledges going into KI during the end of December they were unable to load any information from Jan 1st to Jan 16th. These numbers will appear on the report due out Feb 16th.



Remember our guest last year throughout the district riding his motorcycle to every state in the Union? He's back this summer! Added to the effort are veteran motorcycle groups from the American Legion and VFW. The goal is to have members of local vets clubs join the ride as it goes through the district. May 7-11 will see the ride in North Dakota (Mandan-Bismarck) Right now the leg into SD is in flux. They could go across ND to Fargo and down I29 to Sioux Falls or opt for the ride from Bismarck to Pierre. More on that will follow. From Sioux Falls the ride will go to Omaha and Lincoln, NB. The ride will enter Minnesota from Wisconsin in early June. Dates to be determined, should be in Minneapolis June 12-16. Again more info will be forth coming.

Wanted you to be aware of this effort and perhaps clubs along the routes could think of ways to garner funds for the Eliminate Project in conjunction with the ride.

When Kiwanians embarked on The Eliminate Project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, we knew that our members possessed the drive and determination to see the mission to its completion. With our great success to date, over US\$75 million in funds raised, the attainment of our US\$110 million international goal is clearly in sight. To ensure that we have adequate time to reach our full potential and raise the funds necessary to eliminate this deadly disease, the Kiwanis International Foundation Board

has voted and determined that the active fundraising for The Eliminate Project will be through December 31, 2015. Under this timeline, each district will have one more district convention to raise funds, secure Model Clubs and celebrate achievements. Year five of The Eliminate Project has always been designated as the Year of Celebration. And celebrate we will. Our campaign has raised the most money in the shortest period of time for a single cause in Kiwanis' history. In Indianapolis during our centennial convention, we look forward to celebrating our Gift to the World-a world without MNT- and kicking off our final march to victory! Now more than ever, we are committed to saving and protecting the lives of millions of mothers and babies from MNT around the world. We know we will achieve our goal and ask for your continued dedication and resolve to realize our victory.

Kiwanis International Convention Registration Now Open!

01/27/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor

Registration



Yoga, happy hour networking, touring the Kiwanis International Office – these are just a few of the things you can include in your 2015 convention schedule. If your interest or availability only extends to the basic education and business sessions, you are able to pay for that alone. You are also welcome to register for only the specific programs that catch your attention. However, Kiwanis Executive Director Stan Soderstrom recommends that people opt for the full registration package. “There will be lots of new things in this year’s convention.” This all-inclusive premium package involves access to the Fellowship Breakfast, Kiwanis Fireworks Night at the Ballpark, and the Next Century Gala Night. Other perks include drink tickets, t-shirts, swag bags – and a discounted rate.

Room & Board

The Minnesota-Dakotas District has been assigned to the Omni Severin Hotel. You are not required to stay at this hotel, but if you choose to do so, you may enjoy being in close proximity to friends from our region. Director Soderstrom recommends our hotel as the most comfortable in Indy. He adds that the restaurant has the best Short Rib Sliders, complete with crispy onions and blue cheese vin. This hotel is also connected to the Circle Center Mall and the Indianapolis Convention Center, providing quick transportation to additional dining, shops, and most Kiwanis events.

Website

For more information, [Click here](#). Topics covered include airline travel, elections and amendments, travel insurance, and more.

Region 2 Kiwanis Family Rally

01/24/2015 - Division: Division 02 - Submitted by: Peter Larson, Region 2 Lt Gov

Karley Thorson, Circle K Rolling Plains Lieutenant Governor, sponsored a Kiwanis family event at the Moorhead High School on Saturday, Jan. 24th. 50 Key Club, Circle K, Kiwanis and Golden K Kiwanis members met and after a breakfast and ice breaker we all got busy with service projects.



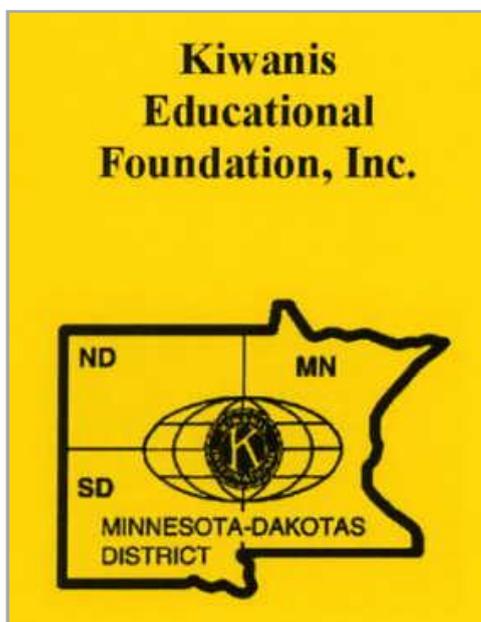
45 Kiwanis Dolls were sewn, stuffed and bagged to be given to the Children's Miracle Network at Sanford Medical Center. This project was sponsored by the Moorhead Kiwanis Club.

12 Tie Blankets and 39 Bibs for Babes were completed and will be sent to Project Night Light. This project was sponsored by the Moorhead High Key club. 20 Bead Bracelets for Eliminate were made by coloring and rolling paper beads, sealing them with nail polish and threading them onto fishing line with clasps. The proceeds from the sale of the bracelets will go to the Kiwanis International Eliminate Worldwide Service project. This project was sponsored by the Concordia Circle K club.

Kiwanis family clubs that attended were: Fargo North High School, Fargo South High School, Moorhead High School and West Fargo High School Key Clubs, Concordia and NDSU Circle K Clubs, Moorhead and Vikingland Kiwanis Clubs and the Fargo Golden K Club.

Has your club sent a "Century Club" contribution yet??

01/27/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell



Has your club sent a "Century Club" contribution yet??

The *Century Club* program of the Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation offers an on-going youth service project for every club. A Kiwanis Club in the Minnesota-Dakotas District becomes a *Century Club* member with an annual suggested contribution of \$100.00 that can be taken from Youth Activities funds, Project Profit funds or Administrative funds.

The foundation depends on *Century Club* contributions of \$100.00 from clubs in our district to build foundation assets and to continue providing scholarships to high school students throughout the district. Last year the Minnesota-Dakotas District Education Foundation awarded over sixty \$815.00 scholarships to high school students in the district. The *Century Club* contribution

should be included in the annual budget of each and every club and sent to the foundation secretary as soon as the club budget is approved. The Century Club contribution form is available on the MN-DAK District Kiwanis web site under the Foundations tab. Mail your *Century Club* contribution to: Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation, 914 Southern Pine Lane SW, Rochester, MN 55902.

In the 2013-2014 Kiwanis Year the foundation received over \$8,000.00 in century club contributions. This is an excellent figure. However, if each and every club contributed the

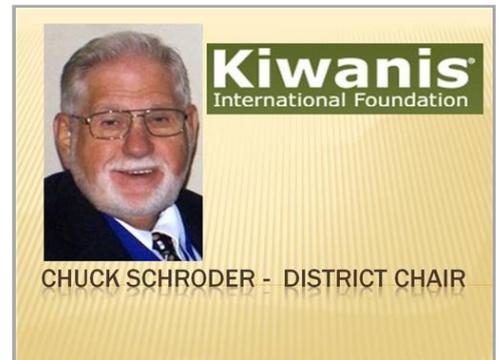
small sum of \$100.00 to the *Century Club* program this figure would be over \$14,000.00.

This year is the 100th Anniversary of Kiwanis International. If your club has not made a *Century Club* contribution in the past, this is a great time to start. Check with your clubs treasurer to determine if your club is a *Century Club*, if not encourage your president and your board of directors to become a *Century Club*. Do it for the future leaders of this great organization.

WE ARE ON THE MOVE

01/25/2015 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Chuck Schroder

I first want to say THANK YOU to those clubs and individuals that have contributed to the annual gift program and have sent money into the Kiwanis International foundation. Our goal for this year is \$30,255.00 and as of December 31,2014 we were at \$15,736.61. WE ARE ON THE MOVE. But this couldn't happen without YOU the CLUBS and most of all YOU the MEMBERS.



CHUCK SCHRODER - DISTRICT CHAIR

We need to keep the pace going. If your club has not sent in their \$7.00 pr member, please have them do so right away. We are still trying to get every club in the district to contribute to a Hixson for one of their member or have a MEMBER get a Hixson on their own. Don't forget, both the club and the individual get credit for that gift. Just think if 30 clubs out this district would get a Hixson, look where we would be. So please lets work on that. You can also honor someone in your community or a member with a Tablet of Honor for \$2,000 or join the Leadership Society for \$250.00. It all counts.

This can be done. Again THANK YOU, for all you are doing for the children of the world. Without you the members, KIF couldn't do the work they do.

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).

Club News

Kiwanis Leader Passes Away

01/30/2015 - Club: Rapid City - Submitted by: Dan Leikvold

Rapid City Kiwanis Club member Jackson Hammitt passed away recently. Dr. Hammitt was extremely active in the Rapid City Club and had stints in leadership positions in Kiwanis International during his time in Chadron, NE. He served as Lieutenant Governor of Division 6 (western Nebraska) and Governor of the Rocky Mountain District (western Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming). He and his wife, Peggy, attended nearly 20 Kiwanis International conventions. Dr. Hammitt was an educator, a philanthropist, a friend, a husband, and a Kiwanian. He was a great success in a life spent largely in the service of others and will be missed in Rapid City and throughout Kiwanis International.

[Click here](#) for more.



SOUTHERN MN. INITIATIVE FOUNDATION PARTNERHIP

01/30/2015 - Club: Rochester Day Makers - Submitted by: Richard Odell, Lt Gov Region 7



This is the second year of a partnership between 27 Kiwanis Clubs and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). The foundation is committed to distributing books and literacy programming directly to young children in our 20-county region (basically Mn-Dak Kiwanis Regions 6 and 7). Despite the significant strides that have been made, 40% of our Minnesota children are still entering kindergarten unprepared. This leads to them falling behind their peers and some never catch up. This year over 10,000 books at a value of over \$67,000 and 23 different titles were distributed

among the Kiwanis clubs.

Rochester Day Makers were bold and asked for 400 of the free new books to distribute (we received 420). The committee decided against giving more than two books per child (convinced that the more children we could send home with a book the more likely they would be placed in a home that truly needed them). We heard comments from preschoolers like, "this is the first book that has ever been given to me". We had a really successful year, first in locating and then in reading to hundreds of underprivileged preschoolers here in Rochester. With the number of students to whom we were able to read, we only gave one book per child and still placed all the books we received. Although we have no way of knowing if any of these students were siblings, we can still feel certain to have reached 250 to 300 different families!

[Click here to read more and see photos](#)

Spearfish Kiwanis Club Donates

01/28/2015 - Club: Spearfish - Submitted by: Deb Looby

During the Christmas season the Spearfish SD Kiwanis Club became aware of a young mom who was in Hospice care and has a 15-year old son. The mom has cancer and they knew it would likely be her last Christmas. Needless to say, she has been unable to work

and was struggling to put things together for her son for Christmas as well as his birthday which is right after Christmas.

The Spearfish club rallied and gave \$272 to the mother to use for whatever she needed. A member of the club took the check to Hospice and they were very grateful that the Kiwanis stepped forward to help this family. Said a member of the club: I can't begin to express my gratitude to the Spearfish Kiwanis Club for all you/we do to help people in need. I'm proud to be a member

Sturgis Golden K Aktion Club Elects Officers

01/28/2015 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby



Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Aktion Club recently held election of their officers for the 2015-2016 club. Pictured are the new officers of this club!

Sturgis Golden K Food Pantry

01/28/2015 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby

Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis has opened their new food pantry in Sturgis. We are so excited! With the help of a \$100,000 grant from the John T Vucurevich foundation we were able to start the process. More information on other donations after the grand opening this week.



Kiwanis 100 Years North Hennepin Club Celebration

01/25/2015 - Club: North Hennepin, Minneapolis - Submitted by: LTG '13-'14 Gail Heyda

Region 7 club, North Hennepin along with interclubs St Louis Park and St Louis Park Golden K celebrated Kiwanis' centennial at the clubs' meeting on Monday, 1-19, 2015 at The Heathers, Crystal MN. With all the centennial party favors from KI, we had a good



lunch meal with great fellowship. I presented a program on the 100 years from 1915 to current with an emphasis on North Hennepin's history on many of our members, Past Governor '80-'81 Bill Hopkins "Take Time to Care" and the growth of 23 new clubs including the start of "The Golden Buffaloes". Club President Mark Morris, Kiwanis since 1985 shared some club trivia and Randy Herman, Kiwanis since 2010, shared his story of his first visit to North Hennepin and how he was met by Bill Hopkins and they talked for an hour and he joined that day. Three of Courtney and my grandchildren, Charlie(8), Gabrielle (7) and Autumn (4) joined us and had fun wearing a Kiwanis name badge and being part of our meeting. The celebration was a

nice way get together with all our shared memories and fellowship. Happy 100 years KI!

Prayer Dinner: Praying the Psalms

01/17/2015 - Club: Fargo Rough Riders - Submitted by: Fargo Rough Riders

The Fargo Rough Riders Kiwanis Club held its revived Prayer Dinner on January 12. Psalms was the topic selected to cross the variety of faiths within the club.

Members and guests were asked to share a favorite psalm and how it impacted their life. Some referenced family members in their selection; others spoke of a hard time that was helped by reading a passage.

Kiwanian Dave Knecht led a discussion about how the psalms cover all depths of human emotion. The evening concluded with a memorial moment to remember members who have passed in recent years.

The club has used these people as inspiration to raise funds for the Eliminate Project, dedicating a new memorial Zeller each time enough dollars are collected through service projects and personal donations.



Operation Sandwich Donation

01/09/2015 - Club: Brainerd - Submitted by: Dennis Lamb



Working in conjunction with the United Way of Brainerd, the Kiwanis Club of Brainerd collected donations for Operation Sandwich, a program established last summer to help provide food for those who are in need, particularly our area youth. A drive was established again before Christmas break so children in need would have food to eat during the holiday break. Many of our students rely solely on school lunches for their meals, so

this was an effort to make sure they had something to eat over the holiday break.

Peanut butter, soup, cereal, and other breakfast-type items were collected and then boxed by Brainerd Key Club volunteers.

Also helping support our collection was the Trinity Children's Center, who collected food items over a two week period. In total, the United Way packed 85 boxes and 35 bags of food and these were distributed to needy families before Christmas.

Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Chooses Key Clubbers

01/09/2015 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Yash Khatavkar, Fridley Key Club

Two Fridley Key Club members, Yash Khatavkar (12th Grade) and Praise Hall (11th Grade) tied for first place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy audioessay contest at VFW post 363 in Fridley. Both went on to the district level of competition, where Yash Khatavkar proceeded to take second place.



Fargo Flips for Kids

01/08/2015 - Club: Fargo - Submitted by: Kiwanis Club of Fargo



Fellow Kiwanians and other service groups sometimes ask us what we do to make our annual Kiwanis Pancake Carnival seem so big, yet so easy. Past pancake chair Craig Tait explains that it's no secret: our strongest tool is the community.

The Kiwanis Club of Fargo debates every year which aspect is more important about the Carnival: the community event or the fundraising. We want to deliver a fun, interesting, and memorable event for our patrons, and we want to collect the most funds yet to give back through grants for local shelters, development centers, and other organizations that prioritize children. Kiwanian Tait has determined in recent years that our best talent is flexibility, both in handling issues that arise the day of the event and in learning from the past so that the day after the event, we're already considering what needs to change for next year.

The club board and event planners have a tradition to set a goal for each Carnival. This year's mission is to study expenditures and minimize the loss. While we see the good of donating extra supplies to local shelters, we know that the money saved by not over purchasing will boost our bottom line – which means more dollars for our community grants program. In addition to the overall goals, each committee regularly analyzes what it can tweak to do its job more effectively, efficiently, and effortlessly. Those overseeing table service study how to divide the room so that the volunteers can provide better service for the diners. The entertainment committee has made great strides in recent years by involving Games Galore and local Boy Scout troops and by redeveloping the music schedule to include local celebrity speakers. Our Champion for Kids award involves not only worthy community leaders who serve children but children themselves as the artists of the awards.

Every Carnival presents as many new reasons to celebrate as it does new challenges.

The Kiwanis Club of Fargo thanks its members, its outside volunteers, and the community itself for making this event so great, year after year. If you would like to be a part of this experience, please visit our website at www.fargokiwanis.org or come to our event at the Fargodome, all day on February 7.