Welcome to 2012! Time to serve and grow!

01/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Governor

Happy New Year MN-DAK!!

Welcome to 2012. I hope that you all had a blessed holiday season with family and friends.

With the New Year comes new opportunities for service and growth. This is an excellent time to rededicate ourselves to the defining principal of Kiwanis, "to change the world one child and one community at a time". We are members of the greatest service organization in the world and the children are depending on us to improve the quality of their lives. Let us each renew our commitment to do more service and to build our existing clubs, as well as building new clubs, in the Minnesota-Dakotas District.

We have now completed the first quarter of the 2011-2012 Kiwanis Year. For club leaders this is an excellent time to review your goals and determine your progress. Schedule a community and a club analysis within the next few weeks to determine what changes might be advantageous to make your service more beneficial and your club more inviting to prospective members. Reviewing your clubs strengths and weaknesses will strengthen your club and will result in growth.

While you are reviewing your progress, be sure to include donations to the Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation and the Kiwanis International Foundation. The Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation depends on your Century Club donation to build foundation assets and to continue providing scholarships to high school students throughout our district. The Kiwanis International Foundation depends on the Annual Club Gift to continue underwriting grants for service projects and provide matching dollars for scholarships to Key Club and Circle K International members. The Eliminate Project is also gaining steam to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus in 38 countries in East Asia and Africa. Please remember to distinguish between your Annual Club Gift to the Kiwanis International Foundation and donations to The Eliminate Project. These two donations are separate and donations to The Eliminate Project do not count toward your Annual Club Gift.

I would also encourage all of you to mark your calendars for June 28th to July 1st and
plan to attend the 97th Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans, LA. We need as many attendees as possible from MN-DAK at this convention as one of our own, Stewart Ross, is running for International Vice President. That alone is reason enough to attend, but you will gain a valuable education, meet thousands of terrific Kiwanians from around the globe and return with a greater commitment to serving the children of the world. I guarantee that you will have an awesome experience. Register by February 15th for discounted convention rates.

I thank you for all that you do for the children in your community and around the world. Together we can make 2012 great. We can experience tremendous growth and we can, "Let them know us by our service."

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**January Update**

*01/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas*

Happy New Year!

**Governor Elect Candidates:** If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2012-2013, 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, 2012. 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 St. Cloud next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

**Leadership opportunities:** If you are interested in being a future District Lt. Governor, Regional or District Chairperson, etc., please contact your Lt. Governor, other officer or myself. Each year the district is in need of interested and dedicated leaders. It can be a very interesting, rewarding and educational experience.

**Reminder:** All clubs are required to file the appropriate annual IRS tax form. See the separate article from Kiwanis International. [Click here](#)

**Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans:** Sign up early and save! A reminder: Early-bird registration for the Annual Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans ([Click here](#)) ends February 15th. Sign up early and save $55 - $95.

All clubs should be represented at the International Convention. Be a delegate and vote for the future of Kiwanis! You can help shape the future of this great organization by representing your club as a voting delegate. Kiwanis Clubs in good standing are allowed to designate two representatives to the House of Delegates. Of course, you do not need to be a delegate to attend, everyone is welcome!

**Club Liability Information:** All club secretaries should have received a packet of information from Kiwanis International entitled, “General Liability 2011-2012 Risk Management Packet”. The packet contains information about your club liability insurance.
and risk management techniques. Be sure that your members are aware of what kinds of activities are covered by the insurance and what is not covered. Just a reminder that at the 2009 International Convention an amendment was passed that allows clubs to use funds from their service accounts to pay part or the entire general liability insurance premium. You can also view the insurance information online [Click here].

**Interclub Award:** I get lots of questions about the criteria for the Interclub Award. You can find the criteria on our district website in the Awards section- [Click here].

Remember the timeline for the Interclub award now coincides with our regular Kiwanis year- October 1st through September 30th.

**Online Monthly Club Reporting:** Since our online reporting is so very important, I would like to once again review the process for the 11-12 year. Your club should be submitting your monthly club report online by the 10th of the following month. Your Lt. Governors, District Officers, District Office and Kiwanis International are able to view your reports without you having to send any additional emails or hard copies.

Among other things the online monthly reports will again be the official basis for selecting the Distinguished Club Awards for 11-12. If you have any questions, please give me a call or send me an email. Reminder: Club Presidents also have viewing access to your monthly online reports.

**Tri-K District Board Meeting:** Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards will meet in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28, 2012.

**Thanks again for all your great work in Kiwanis!**

**Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:**
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

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

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**Interclub Awards- 2010-2011**

12/30/2011 - **District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Joe Hesch, District Interclub Chair**

49 Kiwanis Clubs met the requirements for the Annual Interclub Award. Congratulations to the Interclub Award recipients for 2010 - 2011.

**Region 1**
Jamestown

**Region 2**
Alexandria Golden K
Fargo
Fargo South Point
Grand Forks
Grand Forks, Sun Risers
Moorhead
Valley City
Vikingland, Moorhead

Region 3
Baxter Lakes Area and Friends
Brainerd
Chisholm
Cloquet Area Golden K
Grand Rapids
Little Falls
Port of Duluth
Spirit Valley, Duluth

Region 4
Lead
Rapid City
Rapid City Westside

Region 5
Mitchell
Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls Daybreak
Sioux Falls East
South Sioux Falls

Region 6
Albert Lea
Albert Lea Golden K II
Day-Breakers, Albert Lea
Early Risers, Worthington
Fairmont, Early Risers
Faribault
Hendricks
Madison
New Ulm
Owatonna Golden K
Pipestone
Slayton
Tyler
Westbrook

Region 7
Anoka, MN Area
Columbia Heights-Fridley
Lake City
North Suburban Golden K, St. Paul
Northeast Minneapolis
Red Wing Dawn Breakers
Red Wing Golden K
Rochester Day Makers
Saint Anthony
Spring Valley

(Criteria for Interclub Award- Click here )
DIVISIONAL COORDINATORS for ELIMINATE PROJECT

12/30/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

We have divisional coordinators volunteered in all of our Regions. Region One coordinators are Doug Wolf of Bismarck and Darlene VanderVorst of Mandan. In Region Two the coordinators are Josh McKinney of Fargo and at least one more to be named. Region Three will be served by Jean Collins of Brainerd, Joe Hesch of Duluth, and Scott Mescher of Hibbing. Region Four will be handled by Don Kennedy of Rapid City. In Region Five, Allen Herrboldt of Sioux Falls and one or two more to be named. Region Six is being coordinated by Dawn Fairbrother of Owatonna, Stewart Ross of Mankato, Dennis Leutgers of Worthington, and to be announced in the Willmar area. Region Seven has two coordinators in Don Felmlee of Red Wing and Herb Erickson of Rochester, still need one for the Twin Cities area.

If you are interested in joining this team of coordinators, working with clubs within your area, please contact me so that you can receive the training information and hit the ground running after the first of the year. Thanks

Bill Daugherty
Blddaugherty@Yahoo.com
605-332-0780

Annual 990 Filing Reminder

01/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Kiwanis International

Beginning in 2008, some organizations in the United States that were not required to file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)—including Kiwanis clubs—have a new filing requirement: the electronic postcard Form 990-N CLICK HERE

To file the electronic Form 990-N, you’ll need your club’s:

- official name
- mailing address
- website address (if applicable)
- employer identification number (EIN)
- annual tax period date
- a statement that annual gross receipts are still normally $50,000 or less.

Previously the threshold was $25,000 or less but for years ending after December 31, 2010, that amount was increased. Because Kiwanis International and most clubs operate on a fiscal year (October 1–September 30), the current year filing will be for the tax period that begins October 1, 2010, and ends September 30, 2011, with a filing due date of February 15, 2012.

* Refer to the IRS website CLICK HERE to see if the ruling applies to your club.

*Tax-exempt organizations with January and February filing due dates will have until March 30, 2012, to file their annual returns, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced.
The IRS is granting this extension of time to file because the part of the e-file system that processes electronically filed returns of tax-exempt organizations will be off-line during January and February.

The agency stressed that the rest of the e-file system will continue to operate normally and urged all individuals and businesses to choose the accuracy, speed and convenience of electronic filing.

In general, the extension applies to tax-exempt organizations whose normal filing deadline is either Jan. 17 or Feb. 15, 2012. Ordinarily, these deadlines would apply to organizations with a fiscal year that ended on Aug. 31 or Sept. 30, 2011, respectively.

The extension also applies to organizations that already obtained an initial three-month filing extension and now have an extended filing deadline that falls on Jan. 17 or Feb. 15, 2012. The majority of tax-exempt organizations will be unaffected by this extension because they operate on a calendar-year basis and have a May 15 filing deadline.

The extension applies to affected organizations filing Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, or 1120-POL. Form 990-N filers will not be affected. No form needs to be filed to get the March 30 extension.

To avoid receiving a late filing penalty notice, a reasonable cause statement should be attached to the tax return. If organizations receive late-filing penalty notices, they should contact the IRS so that these penalties can be abated. The IRS encouraged these organizations to consider either e-filing early -- before the end of December -- or waiting until March to file electronically.

**55 MN-Dak Education Foundation Scholarships Available**

12/30/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jean Collins

The Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation has 55 scholarships available to high school seniors throughout the Kiwanis District. The application packets went out to each Kiwanis Club in November. The applications must be returned to Foundation Secretary Jack Zierdt by January 27, 2012. This year’s scholarship awards are $800 for one year. The awards amounts are determined by the financial earnings of the Foundation’s Funds. Applicants must be attending a college or university in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota or Superior, Wisconsin.

After the applications are returned to the Foundation Office they are sent to evaluation committees. The evaluation committees are established by Foundation Trustees. Each Region’s scholarship applications are evaluated by a committee from a different Region. The Regions are rotated each year.

The Foundation is always pleased with the outstanding applications that are received. We are pleased to present the 55 scholarships to deserving students.

Kiwanis clubs can continue to support our Foundation by donating $100 to the
HAS YOUR CLUB CONTRIBUTED

12/26/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

I hope that everyone had a very Merry and Christ filled Christmas and hope that you have a Happy and Joyous New Year. We can be thankful that we didn't get all the snow they got south of us. It would have been nice for a little white dusting for the kids. But Santa made it through and found the Schroder household with no trouble.

I am however a little disappointed with where the district is standing in our giving to the International Foundations Annual gift Campaign. So far this Kiwanis year our clubs have only contributed $2,640.00 and last year at this time we had given $5,047.00. It is hard to to catch up once we fall behind. There are a couple of regions where not one club has participated. So far this year four clubs have submitted applications for grants and if the the foundation does not have the money, grants and scholarships will be cut way back.

I have talked to some of the clubs in each of our regions and with other district chairman and clubs think if they give to Eliminate, it counts towards their gift to the foundation. This is not true, they are two different things. We have to plan on doing both in our clubs. The Eliminate program is to eliminate maternal/Neonatal Tetanus from the face of the earth. It is only a five year program. The $5.00 per member, is what gives the Scholarships for Circle-K and Key Club and the grants to our clubs to do the projects they need help with. It is also what the 5% that comes back to the district comes from. Five cents of every dollar comes right back to our district. This should be a line item in your annual budget for your club as well as the $100.00 for the district foundation so that your club can be a Century club. Last but not least, for your club to become distinguished, you need to participate. This is an ongoing program from year to year.

Take a look at this web site and see where we are as a district and where your club is at as well as all the other clubs in Kiwanis. Click here

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND YOUR CLUB ARE DOING FOR KIWANIS.  
Chuck Schroder, KIF District Chairman

Did you know?

01/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Kiwanis

The top 10 biggest Kiwanis clubs on earth are:

Birmingham, AL (547)
Montgomery, AL (310)
Cheyenne, WY (296)
Submit an Article About Your Club Project

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

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
Kiwanis and Literacy


We hear increasingly how important it is that kids develop appropriate literacy skills by the end of 3rd grade. Indeed, I am asked with some frequency why I keep pushing for Kiwanians to interact with children in child care and preschool, when it would appear more important to be involved with these children in grades 1, 2 or 3. What do I mean with the use of the words, “interact” and “involved?”

I hope Kiwanians will read to these very young children and provide books for them to take home, but also to get a sense from the child care and preschool directors whether some of the kids might also benefit from clothing or food supplements as well or even such things as dental care! Kiwanians can supply some of these things to the director who would take care of things anonymously for the benefit of the child (one or more.)

However, let’s get back to the reading. Please open the following link and play the video, "Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters." Click here

Club News

Sturgis Aktion Club Shares Christmas Spirit


The Sturgis Aktion Club helped to spread the Christmas spirit by creating and distributing Christmas cards. The Aktion members spent two of their meeting times creating Christmas cards for the folks who receive meals on wheels deliveries from the Sturgis Meals on Wheels program. The cards were given to the director of the meals on wheels program in Sturgis. She then made sure that the volunteers delivered the cards with the meals.

The Aktion Club members created a few extra cards which they personally delivered to businesses within the Sturgis community.
Little Club....Big Year!


The Buffalo Kiwanis Club of 12 members has had a very busy year. Starting in February our club participated in 4 fish fries that netted the club $1000.00. We went on to man our booth at the E.C.F.E. (Early Childhood and Family Education) Fair in April with our old fashioned "Fish Pond" as our main attraction. It is a favorite of the kids and very often have around 400 little fishermen. We also donated $100.00 worth of books to give away as door prizes.

Then on to our Mothers' Day Plant Sale hosted by Ryan Auto Mall in Buffalo. They generously donated their showroom and we turned it in to a greenhouse adorned with patio pots, hanging baskets, annuals, perennials and a few veggie plants too. That was a huge success and proved to be our biggest fundraiser this past year. Our club has decided to take credit cards next year as we think this will increase our sales dramatically. We have made as much as $4000.00 at this sale and have silicated manpower from other civic groups such as Love, Inc. and students from the Phoenix Learning Center.

Then we have to gear up for our food booth at our local Arts and Crafts Festival serving our signature "Breakfast Burrito", Brats, Hot Dogs, pop and water. This fundraiser is weather dependant but we have only been rained out twice in 8 years. This year was beautiful and our club made over $1000.00 in one day. October brings another fun event. Buffalo Fire Department hosts an open house which is well attended every year. We have a "sucker pull" carnival game which raises money for our local food shelf and it is geared so that EVERY kid wins a stuffed toy. We give away Honeycrisp apples donated by Deer Lake Orchard and also a Carbon monoxide detector as a door prize. This year we netted $351.00 and that went directly to our food shelf. NOT DONE YET!

We sold poinsettias and holiday arrangements November in to December and personally delivered every plant that was ordered in 5 hours. Very Smooth.....this year. Our last big event was most rewarding. Our club decided to help the families of deployed soldiers in our area so we got a list of names and ages of the kids in over 20 families. Buying presents for over 40 kids is a daunting task but with generous donations of beautiful wooden toys, jewelery boxes, kaleidoscopes, trains & jalopies...with donations of wooden toy kits that the kids can assemble and paint, with donations of Disney products of DVD's, hats, posters and scarves....and with Buffalo Kiwanians spending $350.00....these kids made a haul!!!! Hopefully we could take some burden off the parents/soldiers as they serve and protect our country.

Then....to end 2011....Buffalo Kiwanians packaged food for "Kids Against Hunger". We had eight members package 3672 meals in just over 90 minutes. It was a fun service project and some of our members signed up to "fill in" if there is a shortage of help in other groups.

Our Club has been blessed with great members who are willing to go the extra mile for
the club. Hopefully we will gain some members this year as our calendar is already filling up!

Happy New Year to all our brothers and sisters in Kiwanis….and God bless as we serve the children of the world.

**Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club Christmas party**

*12/26/2011 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn*

The Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club members gathered together at Margaret Mowery's home for their annual Christmas party. The evening included plenty of fun, socializing and just good conversation.

Members of the club each brought a silent auction gift, and during the party members had an opportunity to place their bids on the items they hoped to take home with them. The evening also included a wonderful dinner provided by everyone and topped off with Margarets wonderful chili.

The silent auction earned the club nearly $300 which will be used to continue work with our many youth related programs. The club has also been very busy with Christmas wrapping at West Acres and coat checking at the Ramada Plaza Suites.

In January the club will be having their guest day on January 25 and hope to bring in some additional members at that time.

**With Help from Hundreds of Volunteers, more than 200,000 Meals Packaged for those in Need**

*12/15/2011 - Club: Jamestown - Submitted by: Janna Bergstedt*

Hundreds of volunteers turned up to help package 218,500 meals for Kids Against Hunger this fall in Jamestown, North Dakota.

The event was put on by the Jamestown Kiwanis Club. In just two months, $25,000 was raised for Kids Against Hunger, a food relief organization based out of Minnesota. The funds were then matched by a very generous anonymous donor for a total amount raised of $50,000. This money was used to purchase the ingredients for more than 200,000 meals.

On October 29th, nearly 500 volunteers gathered at a car dealership showroom to assemble the meals made of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and 21 essential vitamins. The meals will be sent overseas to countries such as Haiti and Somalia where starvation is devastating.

“It was wonderful to see the community come together,” says Janna Bergstedt. She continues, “With a child dying from hunger related causes every six seconds, this is a much needed program and we were honored to play such a big role.”

Bergstedt and Don Bentz, both Kiwanis members in Jamestown, put in countless hours fundraising, planning and executing the event.

“In the end, it was all worth it,” says Don Bentz. “This event was the biggest we’ve ever done for our Kiwanis Club, but what’s most important is that we helped feed thousands of children. By doing so, we’re living the Kiwanis mission of ‘changing the world one child and one community at a time.”
In April the Jamestown Kiwanis raised $23,000 and packaged 100,000 meals for the program. The club didn’t plan to do another packaging event so soon, but when the anonymous donor approached them with matching funds, they couldn’t turn down the opportunity to help more children.

Kids Against Hunger is a nonprofit, food aid organization with the mission to significantly reduce the number of undernourished children in the United States and starving children around the world. A single food package costs just $1.38, feeds 6 people, contains 21 essential vitamins, and is prepared in less than 20 minutes by adding boiling water. The Kids Against Hunger food packaging network has its international headquarters office located in New Hope MN. To learn more about Kids Against Hunger, visit their website at www.kidsagainsthunger.org.

**Teeter Totter Marathon**

*12/13/2011 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Alex Savre and Hayley Schroer*

Fifty Fridley High School Key Club members teeter tottered in Advisor Bowen’s family room for 52 hours straight. They started at 10 am Friday, December 2 and ended at 2 pm Sunday, December 4. Key Clubbers signed up in two-hour shifts to keep the teeter-totter moving throughout all days and nights. It was a grueling experience to those who forgot to bring pillows!

Members welcome this event each year as it creates a fun filled mini-center to those who participate. While teeter tottering, members watch tapes and DVDs, knit, talk, sing, dance and play games. They also enjoy the chance to visit and stay up all night in a safe place. And, of course, there is considerable eating. Pizza, doughnuts, cookies, chips, candy and juice are enjoyed and devoured. During the marathon this year one person donated seven pizzas. At midnight Crzy Mry helped them bake pizzas! During the event, participants draw rainbows, bugs, hearts, and poetry and other fancy artwork on the teeter-totter. Each year requires a newly painted teeter totter board. The old one is carefully and lovingly repainted by Mary’s husband, Dale.

The club raised $510.00 for Kiwanis’s new Eliminate Project, the elimination of Maternal Neonatal Tetanus by the year 2015. Every 9 minutes a baby dies of this disease in a developing country. For only $1.80 worth of drugs a baby can be saved. The Fridley Key Club saved 283 babies while having fun doing so. Nice work team!

Alex Savre and Hayley Schroer, Co-Chairs
Fridley Key Club
12/12/11

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

*12/07/2011 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Chloe Johnson*

The Fridley Key Club participated in Operation Christmas Child this year for the fifth time. Key Clubbers filled 137 shoeboxes to give hope to children receiving a gift for Christmas in developing countries. They put forth a great effort in filling these boxes with toys, candy, games, puzzles and toiletries that were packed with care!

Project Chairs Suzy Kersey and Paige Nocton made this project a great success! With the help of Christine Hitomi, Advisors Mary Bowen and Mrs. Burns plus several other adult volunteers, they made sure each box was full and contained appropriate items.

On November 19th Suzy Kersey and Chloe Johnson took the boxes to radio station KTIS,
the drop-off center for the Twin Cities. Volunteers from KTIS helped them unload the really full van. This project was a great experience from start to finish in giving hope to 137 children who will receive a shoebox for Christmas this year!

Chloe Johnson
Secretary of Key Club

**Former Club Secretary Recognized**

*12/07/2011 - Club: Wahpeton-Breckenridge - Submitted by: Dave Roehl, Club Secretary*

In October our club presented the first "Don Holen Memorial Award for Service Excellence" to Josie Cimbura, our former club secretary, upon her retirement from Kiwanis after 22 years service.

From left to right in the pic: Dave Roehl, Lt. Governor Region 2; Josie Cimbura; Mrs. Dorie Holen; Tim Schulte, President 2011-202.

** Caroling as a Family**

*12/01/2011 - Club: Fargo - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor*

The Kiwanis Club of Fargo celebrated the first night of December by caroling at local assisted living and senior centers. Caroling has become an annual event for this club, anticipated all year long. Unique this year was involvement by not only members of the North Dakota State University Circle K but also members from the newly chartered Davies High School Key Club. We would like to wish all of Minn-Dak a happy holiday season!