

# MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.46

July 2013

## From The Desk of the Governor

*07/08/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Cindy Braseth, District Governor*

Welcome to July! We are back from the International Convention in Vancouver and ready to complete final planning for our District Convention in Aberdeen in August. Vancouver was fantastic! The city is beautiful and I have to say, I thoroughly enjoyed the food! This convention was different from previous conventions in that our Service Leadership Programs were not only represented but highlighted in many ways during every session. Key Club International President Rebecca Riley and Circle K International President Josephine Lukito took the stage several times to make presentations. This signals a new direction for Kiwanis in that these "programs" are truly part of the Kiwanis family.



We also made history at this convention when we elected our first woman International Vice President. Sue Petrisin will take the gavel as International President at the International Convention in Indianapolis in 2015. She is not only the first woman to be Kiwanis International President, but the first woman to lead any International Service Organization. This is truly history in the making!

We are at the end of the discussion on the Strategic Plan. This plan will be presented along with a progress report of the implementation of the plan at the convention in Aberdeen. Goal 6 is "To improve District Convention and Region Conferences." Attendance at these events continues to drop which is a concern in that they are a major form of communication to members about what's happening at the District level and at International. They are also a way for District Leadership to hear from the members about what they feel is important. We have already made some changes to the District Convention for this year that I hope will be very positive. You will also see some changes in Regional Conferences next year. Please make sure that you let us know whether the changes are going in the right direction or not. We must make these events interesting and worthwhile for people to take the time to come. You will be the ones to tell us whether we have been successful or not. We will get feedback from those that attend, but I would also like to hear from those who don't as to why they don't. Our goal is to get to 400 attendees at convention in 2017. It would be great to beat that and get to 500!

Goal 7 relates to the International and District Foundations, the Eliminate Campaign and

District Outreach. You will hear updates on coming changes in the Foundations at the convention. You will want to be there or at least have representatives from your club to hear about progress and changes.

Goal 8 will continue to be a work in progress. This goal is to evaluate our current structure and to put in place an annual review of the structure to be sure we are meeting the needs of the membership and the District. Our current structure is 10 years old and there have been changes in member demographics that could impact structure. The review will be done by the strategic planning committee each year. Any proposed changes will be presented to the membership and the board prior to implementation.

I am going to make one last push for you to make arrangements to get to Aberdeen next month. It's a great place for a family vacation prior to school starting and it will be a great time! See you there!

## July Update

*07/08/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas*



A total of 37 Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanians and 9 guests represented our district at the Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, BC. If you were not able to join us at the International Convention, you can see about all the action on the Kiwanis International Convention's Web pages. Here is link to summary of the bylaw amendment results [Click here](#)

Next year's Kiwanis International Convention will be held in Japan., July 17-20, 2014. Think about attending next year! You can find information about the Japan

Convention on the Kiwanis International website [Click here](#)

Don't forget to register for the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention!! Registration is \$130 until July 15. After July 15 registration is \$155. You can access and print a copy of the District Convention Registration form and related information on our district website at:

[Click here](#)

Thank you once again to Club Secretaries for submitting your Club Election Reports for 2013-2014. The reports were due June 1, so if you have not entered your information online, please do so ASAP! Please include email addresses whenever possible. It is very important that we receive this information in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled.

Have a great summer and hope to see many of you at the District Convention in Aberdeen.

How to subscribe to MINNEKOTAN Newsletter: If you or someone you know does not receive the MINNEKOTAN Newsletter directly to your email address each month you can find a subscription link on our district webpage. (Highlighted in red)

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

## District Kiwanis Convention Reminder

07/08/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

We look forward to seeing you at the Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Convention in Aberdeen in August. For more information please check out the convention page on our district website [Click here](#)

Just a reminder the registration fee goes up after July 15th. Register now. You can do it online or by US Mail.



## Memorial Service at District Convention

06/23/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell



At last years District Convention in St. Cloud a memorial service was held on Sunday morning to honor all the great Kiwanians of the MN-DAK District who passed away during the last year. This very poignant service was very well received and will be held again this year on Sunday morning at our convention in Aberdeen, SD.

We would like ensure that we honor as many Kiwanians from our clubs as possible. If your club has lost a member due to death since the last District Convention please send the name and club of the deceased to Denis Cornell at [cornell.denis@gmail.com](mailto:cornell.denis@gmail.com) or to Steve Handegaard at [secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org). Information can be sent any time up until August 4th. We will also be collecting information during the convention to honor those who are not included in the service program.

## Start the District Convention with Education Workshops

07/02/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers

Two important education sessions, **Club Leadership Education (CLE)** and **Achieving Club Excellence (ACE)**, will be held at the 2013 District Convention in Aberdeen on Friday morning, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. These sessions are at no charge to attendees.

CLE will be for all 2013-14 club presidents, board members and club members. Remember secretaries are invited, but your attendance will not count towards distinguished club. Secretaries need to attend CLE online. This is a workshop to help a club officer's leadership role easier and for members to understand Kiwanis leadership.



The ACE workshop is held for all club officers and members to learn how to go from a good club to a great club. The more attendees from your club, the more you will take back to your club. Learn how to evaluate your club, plan for success, inform members and enhance your member's experience. This workshop will help you to know how to recruit and retain members.

Attending these workshops will help start your convention experience.

**Register by August 1<sup>st</sup>** by clicking on [www.mndak.kiwanis.org](http://www.mndak.kiwanis.org), the District website, for the registration form. Please specify which workshop you will be attending. We appreciate your registration so we can plan for materials.

## MN-DAK Service Director Column

*06/23/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross, Dist. Service Director*



We are now into July, which means we are only one month away from the MN-DAK District Convention to be held in Aberdeen, SD from August 9-11. Service will be front and center at the convention during Friday afternoon after the opening session. We will drive over to the Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club to work with approximately 175 children who will be there that afternoon. We will have volunteers reading to children, helping them with art projects and even doing some painting of the building! We also are asking each attendee to bring a pack of diapers that we plan to

donate to a local women's shelter in dire need of these products. If you can't purchase a pack yourself, ask your club if they would be willing to make this important donation. When you combine all of the individual donations of diapers we can really make a difference for the shelter!

The really big news this week is the excitement occurring in region 6 and 7 where the pilot book project is in full swing. We had 5000 new children books donated to Kiwanis by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) in Owatonna, headed by one time U.S. congressman, Tim Penny. The books are valued at \$33,950 and were purchased by SMIF for \$1 a book. I have truly enjoyed delivering the books to clubs in the project and value my weight lifting work at the gym the past many years!

As the Director for Service for MN-DAK I was able to visit 25 Kiwanis Clubs in Southern Minnesota that are located within the boundary of the 20 counties served by SMIF. All 25 Kiwanis Clubs contacted agreed to distribute and read these books to children under the age of 5, with a focus on disadvantaged children. I had the pleasure of visiting these clubs and presenting the need for aiding children prior to their starting kindergarten. The research strongly suggests that children who begin kindergarten behind others never recover. We feel Kiwanis can help. The 25 clubs have until November 1 to

complete the project. We will then evaluate the success of this venture and hopefully involve all clubs in Minnesota next year and ultimately all clubs in the MN-DAK District by 2014-2015. Our goal is to have a district service project that fits the our motto..."Serving the Children of the World."

My personal thanks to Tim Penny and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for donating the books and for the unanimous approval of the 25 Kiwanis Clubs in the 20 country area served by SMIF to be a part of this important service project

## **WE HAVE MOVED UP A LITTLE**

*07/02/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder*

Here it is July already and the district convention is right around the corner. We are still looking for items for the raffle. We have a few already and they are outstanding. If you want to contribute to the raffle, let me know at [ecschröder@alliancecom.net](mailto:ecschröder@alliancecom.net) if you plan on bringing something. You can use this as a tax deduction. We sure would like to have a quilt again this year if anyone is so inclined to do so.



There will be some major changes next year with International Foundation and these will be revealed at the convention. You will see a new foundation booth set up with all up to date information. Most of it is all in one hand out. So come to the convention and get the latest information.

We are at \$2.84 per member in our Annual Club Gift program. We need to really work on this and get it up to over \$3.00. Many clubs that have given in the past have not sent in their money as of yet. Please, if you haven't done so, send it in now.

Hats off to Lt. Governor Tom Allen in region 4. He has 100% of his clubs participating already in the Annual Gift Program and leads the district at \$5.15 pr. member.  
**CONGRATULATIONS TOM and Region 4 Clubs. JOB WELL DONE.**

Chuck Schroder

## **Recruit and inspire with "I Am Kiwanis" video**

*07/07/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Kiwanis International*

When you're recruiting someone to join your Kiwanis club, sometimes the best way is to tell them what they share with current members. With the inspirational new "I Am Kiwanis" video, now you can show them.

Unveiled at the 2013 Kiwanis International convention, the video is a brief overview of what Kiwanians are made of—from inspiration to compassion to community spirit. It can serve as a good reminder to current club members why they're Kiwanians. And when you show it to nonmembers, they might even find that they are Kiwanis, too.

See and download the video at <http://youtu.be/-k72daiwcXI>.

## **International Convention workshop presentations now available**

*07/07/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Kiwanis International*


Most of the Vancouver convention presentation materials are now available on the member website, [www.KiwanisOne.org](http://www.KiwanisOne.org), in the file library under Conventions & Events > KI 2013. For a direct link to that folder of files [Click here](#)

The easiest way to find what you need is to simply search for the name of the workshop session (or a part of the name) directly from the KiwanisOne Member Resources home page search box (upper right corner).

Even if you didn't make it to this year's convention, you will still find great value in the session materials. Some are suitable for guest presentations to your club or district.

## **How Important is Membership to your Club**

*06/21/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Sherry Scudder, Dist. Membership Director*

 Membership is the Blood line to your Club. We constantly need new members to help be the hearts and hands that serve our communities.

As District Membership Director, I see many requests that come in from International via e-mail and they are exciting - people wanting to find an organization that works with the youth and they want to help and get involved.

When was the last time you invited a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to a meeting or function? Have you invited them to help at a special project in your community? Have you invited a lonely friend to join the fun at your meetings? Open up and bring a friend to a meeting and let them know how much they are needed.

I will have two workshops at the District Convention in Aberdeen. I hope you can attend one. It will give you some tips on membership and the 5 R's to work with in finding members.

We need a transfusion in membership before it's too late.

Hope to see you soon.

Sherry Scudder

## **Club News**

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### **Aktion Club beats Kiwanis clubs in cancer bike-a-thon**

*06/13/2013 - Club: Day-Breakers, Albert Lea - Submitted by: Darryl Meyer/Arnie Mulso*

The photo shows Kent Erlandson, Cancer Bike-a-thon coordinator & Noon Kiwanis member, presenting trophy to four of the Aktion Club bike team members David Anderson (2nd high individual donations collected \$2320; Richard Olson; Kaylee Parmenter; Leon Bure \$1066.)



The 4 Albert Lea, MN Kiwanis clubs (Day-Breakers, Noon & 2 Golden Ks) have participated in the early May Bike-a-thon (100 mile ride sometimes weather shortened) for cancer research for many years. This has generated considerable interest among local residents and up to the metro. Kent Erlandson, Noon Club, in 2000 brought up having a traveling trophy to spice up the competition. The first 10 were won by Day-Breakers (7) Noon Club (3). Four years ago the Noon & Day-Breakers clubs co-sponsored a county Aktion Club with Arc. The Aktion Club joined the competition 3 years ago and have won it each year. Now the Aktion Club members say they will win every year and Ken, in presenting the trophy, said it may be time to have a 2nd place trophy.

## Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club honors over 50 B.U.G students

06/12/2013 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn



Fargo South Point Kiwanis members honored over 50 Madison School students at the their 12th annual B.U.G breakfast

Parents and many friends joined this group for breakfast and all of the honored students were awarded and recognized for their accomplishments this past year.

These students are selected not only for grade improvements, but also for classroom conduct, as well as their performance in school.

The entire staff at Madison is also invited to this event, and they are all recognized and receive a group gift as well as individual certificates.

The entire teaching staff and school officials feel this program is a great benefit for their school.

This school has a large number of students who arrive without a lot of knowledge of the English language and the BUG program is a way for teachers and students to keep a more focused position on their overall performance during the year.

Principal Bobby Olson is shown, presenting a certificate to one of the honorees.

## Pat Rittgarn Music Scholarship winner

06/12/2013 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

The Pat Rittgarn Music scholarship winner for 2013 was Emily Melichior, who is shown here with her parents and Larry Rittgarn.



This scholarship is presented to a Fargo North High School student who plans to include music in their Major or Minor program in College.

Emily will be attending UND in Grand Forks this fall.

Emily and her parents attended the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club for lunch after Larry attended the honors breakfast at Fargo North that morning.

This scholarship was made possible by memorials that were given at the time of Pat's death. The scholarship will be presented for 10 years and this was the 2nd year of this presentation.

## Party for Seniors 90 or over

06/11/2013 - Club: Watertown - Submitted by: Tim Oviatt



While the focus of the Watertown, SD's Kiwanis Club's support is on programs for young people, one tradition that the club has sustained is its annual "party" for the area's seniors who have reached the ripe old age of 90 (or more). This year's luncheon on June 3, was the 34th year for the recognition, and featured more than 70 "special" guests along with their accompanying friend/child/driver as well as Kiwanians. Four of the guests were over 100 years old and one couple had been married 72 years, reported Tim Oviatt, chairman of the organizing committee. Entertainment included a series of Scottish folk songs and ballads provided by Tom Beadnell.

## Minot Golden K celebrates 35 years

06/03/2013 - Club: Minot, Golden K - Submitted by: Richard Sabol, Sec.

Members of the Minot, (ND) Golden K celebrated their 35th Anniversary on Monday June 3rd. Minn-Dak Governor Cynthia Braseth was the guest speaker. Thirty members and spouses attended, along with fellow Kiwanians from Devils Lake, Bismarck Golden K, Bottineau and Brandon Manitoba. Numerous citations from North Dakota political leaders were shared with those present.

