

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.56

June 2014

Message from the Governor

06/01/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, District Governor

I am sure each of you is enjoying our beautiful spring weather or is it summer? Either way, it seems to energize us after a long, cold winter. I am looking forward to many Kiwanis activities in the near future. On May 31, Myron and I enjoyed the Region 3 Education conference in Duluth and on June 12, we will be in Sturgis for the Region 4 Education Conference and then to Mitchell for the Region 5 Education Conference on June 14. I hope to see many of you from those Regions and get to know you better!

I challenged the Lt. Governors in January to become Distinguished Members this year. To receive this distinction a Kiwanis member must sponsor two new members and participate in two Kiwanis service projects. Distinguished members will receive a letter from International Kiwanis President Gunter Gasser and a Distinguished Member lapel pin. I know the tough part of this is to sponsor two new members. I am half way there but the second new member is alluding me at this time. We still have four months to accomplish this goal so I will continue to strive for that. How about you, Lt. Governors? I am sure there are some who have already accomplished this and I congratulate you wholeheartedly! For others, please continue to ask your friends and co-workers to join your club! Thanks so much!



In the March Minnekotan, I shared with you the requirements of being a Distinguished Club. [Click here](#) How are you doing with that? Again the toughest part of that is probably ending the year with a net increase in membership. Many of our clubs are in the positive side for growth and that is our goal for every club. A few clubs that were below charter strength have risen above fifteen and I certainly want to congratulate you for the hard work to accomplish this. Many other clubs are adding new members and that is so exciting for me! Thanks so much!

In April, the International Kiwanis Board granted associate Kiwanis membership status to all members of Key Club International and Circle K International who are 18 years and older once they have completed their time with KCI and CKI. This status allows younger Kiwanians to stay connected to our organization and participate in service opportunities and special events. These Kiwanians will automatically join the Key Club or Circle K

alumni group instead of having to opt into the organization as they currently do. The hope is that this will encourage them to continue a life of service with Kiwanis.

Typically MN-DAK loses a great number of members in September. There are many reasons for that but I would like to encourage all of us to find ways to minimize the impending membership loss. I would like to encourage each club secretary to process their adds and deletes as they happen so a membership plan can be implemented using real numbers. Working together now will help us reach our goals for Kiwanis in the future.

Kiwanis clubs often lose members who do not feel fully engaged in club activities. If members haven't attended club meetings or participated in service projects, perhaps they need to be "reMEMBERed". There is a five step plan that addresses this situation:

1. Review the club membership roster to identify members who have become inactive.
2. Assign club members to contact missing members.
3. Contact members by phone or with a personal visit.
4. Invite members to attend a special meeting or project.
5. Conduct a fun meeting to celebrate the club's members and accomplishments.

I hope this procedure will help you "remember" your inactive members.

Thanks for taking your time to read the Minnekotan! I hope that you will encourage your club members to read it also. Perhaps you could print it off and take it to your members who do not have email. I find that there are always new and interesting articles in it each month. I would like to encourage you as an individual or your club to send in a news item. Sharing about individual clubs make it so much fun!

I am wishing you a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Minnesota Dakotas District Convention August 8-10. What a great time we have with our fellow Kiwanians!

June Update

05/31/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



Club Election Reports for 2014-2015: Thank you once again to Club Secretaries for submitting your Club Election Reports. 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. The new Kiwanis year that starts in October is only 4 months away.

It is Kiwanis Convention time again! Both the District and International Conventions will provide some great learning and fun times this summer. To date 2688 total registrations have been received for the **99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Japan, July 17-20**. Minnesota-Dakotas District has 11 members and 3 guests attending. You can check out some of the convention happenings at [Click here](#)

The District Kiwanis Convention in Minneapolis, August 8-10, is going to be a great time. I hope to see all of you there. The Official Call to Convention letter was mailed to all Kiwanis Club secretaries the first week in May. The mailing contained

registration forms and also your club's delegate certification form. The registration fee goes up after July 7th. Register early! You can register online and also access and print a copy the District Convention Registration form and related information on our district website [Click here](#)

Outreach Program: Has your club contributed to the Outreach Program this Kiwanis year? Our Circle K and Key Club District Boards are very busy covering the three states building our Sponsored Youth Programs. They need our financial support. Checks can be made payable to Kiwanis Outreach and mailed to me at the District Office.

Club Secretaries: Remember to file your Monthly Club Reports online by the tenth of each month. If you have any problems filing your report, contact kiwanisone@kiwanis.org or myself at secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

Interclub Award: Just a reminder that the club visit timeline for Interclub Award coincides with the Kiwanis year – October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. Award patches will be distributed to qualifying clubs after the September 30 deadline. A complete summary of Interclub Award Criteria can be found on our website [Click here](#)

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:

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Phone: 218-589-7581/218-589-7581
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Convention Corner

05/31/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Liz Lawrence-Ross

MNDAK KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

August 8-10, 2014

Minneapolis Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka, MN

It's time to send in your registration and make your hotel reservations. The "call to convention" packets were mailed out to all club secretaries May 1st and the deadline to be entered for registration incentive prizes is July 7th.

New this year is a one-day registration fee of \$125 for Saturday-only attendees. The full convention registration fee is \$160 for Friday through Sunday.



Also new this year, we are offering clubs, businesses or organizations business card size advertising space in the convention program for \$35. The form to apply is available on the MNDAK website and is due by June 25th. Click here for [vendor form.pdf](#)

Part of the Friday night entertainment will be a talent show contest, so start rehearsing your acts now!

Liz Lawrence-Ross
MNDAK District Convention Director
bigsissterliz@yahoo.com

Twenty-First Century Skills and SLPs

05/25/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Mary Beth Townsend, Key Club District Administrator

Everyone is talking these days about the need to prepare our students with 21st Century skills. These skills are the ability to think critically, to solve problems, to work in a team, to collaborate, to be resilient, and be self-motivated.

Amazingly, these are the same skills our students get when they learn leadership and volunteering skills in one of our service leadership programs: K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, or Aktion Clubs (SLPs.) As a Key Club advisor and the Key Club District Administrator, I see my students go through *transformational* change when they take part in Key Club activities. Key Club takes our students from wherever they might be, whatever skills they may have, and builds on their capacity to lead and to serve.

I see it every time I take our students on a trip. They get complimented frequently on their demeanor. They work well together; they clean up after themselves. They are polite, positive, and conscientious. They handle disappointment without pouting. They learn from their mistakes and move forward. They take positive risks by taking on challenges in their community, leading projects for the first time, and running for office.

I see more growth in students in a year of Key Club on the District Board which meets in person five times over the course of a year than I do in four years of high school in students who are not in Key Club. Why?

We do so many things right with our service leadership programs:

- * We give students the opportunity to take appropriate risks.
- * We give them the support to try new things.
- * We give them an inclusive culture.
- * We get them talking to adults.
- * We teach them how to communicate appropriately, whether in person or via social networks.
- * We model for them how to run meetings and how to chair a project.
- * We teach them how to deal with disappointment when a project doesn't go as planned.
- * We teach them how to work as a team to get things done.
- * And we let them lead.

In Key Club, and in our other SLPs, we have created a *Culture of Excellence*, and it shows. I encourage anyone who is not actively involved in working with youth as part of an SLP to find one and attend a meeting. Or, attend one of the Key Club district events: Fall Leadership Training Conference in October at Camp Ihduhapi in Loretto, Minnesota or District Convention in St. Cloud in April, and see the kids running the events. Better yet, I encourage you to sponsor a service learning program and be a part of an amazing effort to create 21st Century skills in young people today.

Youth Protection Guidelines Revised

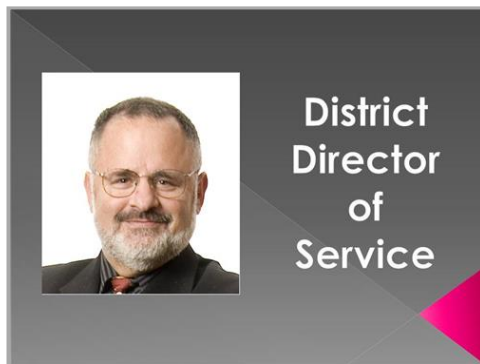
05/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Ken Kohler

Revisions have been made in the Youth Protection Guidelines, mainly dealing with background checks. We also received an update on Procedure 119, the procedure they require when dealing with background checks.

Following are links to two documents that summarize these updates:

Director of Service Report

05/28/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross



It is with great excitement that I write this month's column on service for the MN-DAK District. Last week I spent much of a day helping to sort and pack 10,000 children's books for delivery to clubs in southern Minnesota. As most of you have heard, the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) donated 5000 books to 26 Kiwanis Clubs last year. The project was a huge success with over 3000 pre-school children being read to by members of the clubs and all 5000 books disbursed during those reading times to children, many at Headstart Programs.

This year, based on our report for year one, SMIF donated 10,000 books to the same clubs in the project last year. The books are valued at over \$67,000!! We thank Tim Penny, president of SMIF for his generous donation to Kiwanis. Having packed the books myself with the help of Region 6 Lt. Governor Darryl Meyer, I can attest to the magnitude of the project. I assure you 10,000 books, even children's books, are heavy!

Although we did not have any luck getting free books for other clubs outside of the 20 counties served by SMIF, we do think that the Southwest Minnesota Initiative Foundation out of Hutchinson may join in next year, getting books to the rest of our Region 6 clubs in MN-DAK. We did have one minor "breakthrough" with a small foundation in Fergus Falls purchasing 450 books from SMIF and delivering them to the Detroit Lakes Kiwanis Club.

As part of the MN-DAK 5 year strategic plan, we hope to get this project going in all of the district in the next few years. Our initial success in southern Minnesota is a good sign. We are proud of what has been accomplished in the first year of the project and look forward to doubling our reach with 10,000 books this year.

We have also been working on the summer MN-DAK Convention in the Twin Cities. We are planning on a number of presentations at a forum on service projects by clubs in Region 7 and another by the Mankato Kiwanis Club explaining how they created a massive, signature project known as the Kiwanis Holiday Lights. We also have time Saturday morning of the convention for a number of hands-on service projects that will not only demonstrate how the project works but also get members involved "doing" the various projects.

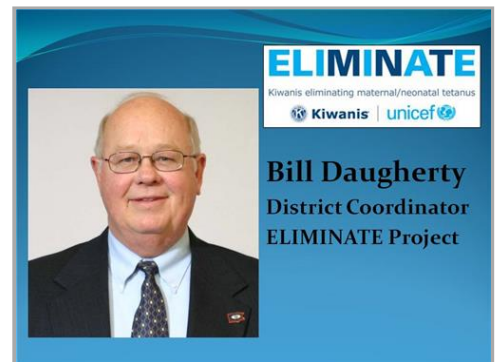
Finally, due to the incredible success of the call for diapers at the district convention in Aberdeen last summer we have again asked clubs and club members to bring a package of diaper to the convention. There are many places in the Twin Cities where mothers and their children stay for safety reasons and all need diapers as you might imagine.

Thanks to all of our Kiwanis Clubs for the great service work done throughout the year. Kiwanis is all about service to others. Keep up the great work.

The Eliminate Project

05/29/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

May was a very active month. First, hats off to the Willmar club for surpassing their initial pledge and now becoming a Model Club. That is the kind of effort we all need to put forth. Seems as though May was the time to get out in Region 2. I was involved in four presentations beginning with the Past Governor's dinner and meeting in Fergus Falls on the 16th and 17th. Great meeting with all these leaders in Kiwanis and talking about the Eliminate Project. Visits were also done to Detroit Lakes on the 20th and the Otter Risers of Fergus Falls on the 21st. Both clubs were interested in the Eliminate Project and what they could do to bring our District to our goal of \$3 million. As we made our way home a program was given to the Wahpeton-Breckenridge club at Noon on the 28th.



We now have 29 model clubs and 1 100K club. We are looking for more clubs to make a five year pledge to be a Model Club. Remember our District Convention is coming in August and to bring a silent auction item for the Eliminate Project. Clubs bringing items will be credited with whatever funds are donated for the silent auction item from their club.

Minnesota Dakotas District Education Foundation

05/29/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Sherry Scudder

Thank you for all your donations to the Education Foundation. I am new at this but want to let you know a little about the MN-Dak Education Foundation.

We had our Annual Foundation Meeting on May 17, 2014. I am happy to report that judging of the scholarship applications went smoothly with \$815 given to all the recipients.

Unfortunately Dale Carlson has chosen to step down from the Chairmanship after serving for 12 years. (Good Job Dale during those 12 years) Denis Cornell will assume this position at the Convention. However, Bill Lardy, will be up for election at the Foundation Board during the District Convention in Minnesota.

A letter has been sent to clubs requesting them to be Century Clubs just by donating \$100 for this recognition. We have received over \$6,000 for scholarships in this

Kiwanis Educational Foundation, Inc.



manner.

I am proud to serve on this Foundation Board and hope that your club decides to contribute so we can give out more scholarships. See you in August at the convention.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING

05/09/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for two of our clubs in this great district. First to the Kiwanis Club of the Black Hills. They received a grant from the International Foundation for their Children's Dental Bus project. This is a very worthwhile program they have and hats off to them for taking the time to complete the grant application.

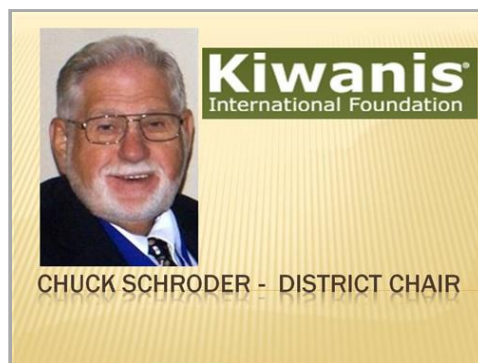
Second, to the Aberdeen Noon Kiwanis Club. They received a grant for the Boys and Girls Club of Aberdeen area for state of the art playground equipment. I know for a fact that they spent long hours putting their applications together. Now comes the manual work of putting the equipment together by the members.

Your club can be a recipient of a grant as well. The information is on the foundation web site and if you have trouble that way, you can contact me and I have applications that I can send you. They are very simple to complete and all it takes is a little time. Both of these clubs are annual contributors to the foundation. This is why it is so important for your clubs and you to contribute to the annual gift program. There has been a real demand on the foundation in the past few months, but we are strong and the money is coming in and your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those clubs that have sent your money in this year and there is still plenty of time for those who haven't yet.

Travel Tips

05/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor, On To International Convention Ch

As you pack your bags for Tokyo, Minneapolis, or wherever your summer travels may lead, keep these packing tips in mind. Stow your shoes in plastic bags to avoid footprints on your favorite shirt. In addition to saving space, rolling clothes can help prevent wrinkles. Ladies, if you are carrying necklaces that have thin chains, use drinking straws to keep them from tangling.





To survive long flights, pack a few things to be comfortable, such as a small pillow and a good book. Be sure to move around during the flight: stretch in your seat, reach for your toes, and take the long way back to your seat after that much-needed bathroom break. Don't forget to stay hydrated! In addition to accepting a serving of water whenever the flight attendants offer, you should keep a 3 oz bottle of lotion handy too. Eat light and healthy, and take your vitamins!

If you are traveling abroad, let your bank and credit card companies know where you'll be. Carry information about your destination as you may need to list specific details about where you will be staying on your immigration documents. Stash copies

of your passport at the bottom of your suitcase and with your emergency contact person back home. Many modern hotels will have outlets that can handle your American appliances, but it never hurts to pack an extra power converter/adaptor. Review your destination's restaurant traditions: some countries consider tipping an insult. When you are carrying a bag while touring, use something with a cross-body strap. Beware of pickpockets who slit the bottom of your bag and empty the contents without your notice.

Stay safe, and have fun wherever you go!

Club News

Pat Rittgarn Scholarship Winner

05/29/2014 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

McKinley Solberg was the recipient of the Pat Rittgarn music Scholarship that is awarded each year at Fargo North High School.

Pat Rittgarn loved music, and singing was her way of life.

At the time of her death, it was decided to use some of the memorial monies for scholarships and since her daughter Roxanne graduated from Fargo North, it has now been 3 years since this scholarship was started, and it will continue for 7 more years.



McKinley was honored at the Fargo North honors breakfast, and then she attended Larry's Kiwanis club meeting that same day and was introduced to the membership.

McKinley will attend UND this fall, and will be studying Music Therapy.

Pat was a charter member of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club and served as its

president, board member, and secretary.

Pat was also part of the Pat and Larry team that managed the district conventions for a number of years.

Adopt a School reception

05/29/2014 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn



The Fargo South Point Kiwanis club was honored at the Adopt a School reception.

The club has worked with the Madison School for 13 years, and continue to support a very successful B U G program as well, as reading to students, providing back packs, school supplies, assisting in the "fill the dome" program.

This year Margaret Mowery, the current president and Mary Ann Berg, the immediate past president presented a short review of all of the things we have been doing with the Madison School children and staff during the past year.

This program is such a rewarding way for our members to be involved, as there are so many things we can be doing with the school and students, and all members feel good about having this as a major service project.

MINOT GOLDEN K INTERCLUBS TO BRANDON

05/28/2014 - Club: Minot, Golden K - Submitted by: Richard Sabol, Secretary

Seven members of the Minot Golden K (ND) travelled to Brandon Manitoba for a Interclub visit. After being checked at the border we drove into Brandon, meeting at the University of Brandon by our fellow Kiwanians. After a great meal and fellowship, the meeting opened with the singing of the two National Anthems. followed by President Gary introducing the Minot members and telling what activities our club participates in.



We also had the opportunity to meet a few members of the Brandon-Assiniboine club as they were visiting. The program was given by one of their members about the Resolute Desk/Ship that was presented to President Rutherford B. Hayes by Queen Victoria in 1879. The desk is still in use in the Oval Office of the White House. After the meeting we visited for a short time then returned to Minot. This was truly a International interclub.

Trail Project

05/28/2014 - Club: The Turtle Mountains - Submitted by: Jan Nahinurk

Turtle Mountain Kiwanis members recently beautified a section of the community walking path along Highway 5. The pathway along the Oak Creek bridge is designated as an area to be maintained by the club as a community service project. Club members raked

leaves, picked up trash, weeded around shrubs, and added rock along the pathway.

Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Satellite Entertains Afterschool Program

05/27/2014 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby

Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Satellite Club entertained the after school program with a May Day Party. 60 children were in attendance. Kiwanis provided games, entertainment and snacks.



Devils Lake Kiwanis Chosen as Unsung Hero

05/25/2014 - Club: Devils Lake - Submitted by: Dave Nick

The Devils Lake Kiwanis Club was recently named Unsung Hero for the Devils Lake Community. Each month, a recipient is chosen for recognition of their contribution to the community, presented a plaque and honored at the summer Chautauqua Picnic.

Our club was selected for providing Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to members of the community who are unable to be with their family. Most of these folks are elderly and they come to the local Senior Center for great food, interaction with friends, and entertainment. For those who can't drive, club members either pick them up or deliver food to their home.

Our club has been serving Christmas Dinners since 1963, to fill a need for those traveling by train through North Dakota, who were unable to find any restaurants open on Christmas Day. It has since evolved to providing the main meal on Christmas to elderly seniors in our community.

We added Thanksgiving Day in 1973, again to fill the need of providing a great meal of turkey with all the fixings.

These two special days have become traditions for club members and their family-helping others, serving others, and our children have learned valuable lessons too.

In the past couple of years, many non-Kiwanians have volunteered for both events. I guess the word has spread about how rewarding it is to help others.

End of the Year Banquet

05/14/2014 - Club: Lake Agassiz, Fargo - Submitted by: Lydia Jacobson

The Fargo North Key Club, which is in region 2 of MinnDak District, has had a great year! On Monday, April 28 our Key Club had our end of the year banquet, which was quite successful. At this banquet we handed out letter awards, celebrated this successful year, and recognized our advisors.

Recently, our board took a trip to St. Cloud for the annual DCON convention. At this convention, we received many awards. The board as a whole won a distinguished club patch, an eliminate patch, third platinum single service, governor's project, first place platinum achievement, second place district theme, and first place major emphasis. Individually Davis Redmond, Jake Stibbe, and Sam Lim received distinguished officer awards, Martha Semanko won third place in a speech, and Kally Kvidera won top 5 in the talent contest. This was a big year for our chapter.



Our assistant advisor, Bonnie, is retiring this year. She has served as the advisor for 14 years now and will be a huge loss. Also, our head advisor for our club, Clover Ellingson, has served for 20 years now! We have had great advisors.

Watertown Spring Clean-up

05/12/2014 - Club: Watertown - Submitted by: Tim Oviatt



As a part of Watertown's annual citywide spring clean-up, the Kiwanis Club signed on to "de-litter" McLaughlin Park and the banks of the former sand pit that is now a part of the park's landscape. Members of Watertown High School's Key Club also pitched in.

Worthington K-Kids Projects

05/07/2014 - Club: Early Risers, Worthington - Submitted by: Sherry Benton

Our K-Kids have had an extremely successful year. They were the proud participants in the Veterans Day Program at their school, Prairie Elementary, Worthington, MN. They decorated table placemats for the Veterans and then served them breakfast at the early hour of 7:00 A.M.

The next project was one that has been on their agenda for several years. They collected over \$5,300.00 dollars for the Pennies for Patients project that furnishes funds for local area families with a child with cancer. It was an unbelievable dollar amount for these kids. The project ended with Assistant Principal,



Zach Dingman, receiving a mohawk haircut and also over 50 pies in the faces of the staff. It certainly gave the whole school a lesson in community involvement and being a volunteer.

Then to proceed with their next project, they collected over 660 lbs. of food for the local food shelters. They ended their fantastic year with a bowling party with over 60 kids participating. What a wonderful experience to be involved with the kids and our two faculty advisors, Cory VanBriesen and Josh Langseth. They have enriched our club, Early Risers of Worthington, MN, and our community.

Minnesota Food Shelf Hunger Hero's

05/05/2014 - Club: Saint Anthony - Submitted by: Mary Dierbeck



Aktion Club of St. Anthony was recognized this spring for their work in the Hunger Hero's Program for Minnesota Food Share. Members held a food drive to benefit the Little Kitchen Food Shelf, spring of 2013. The Little Kitchen director had come in to talk to our Club Members at a previous meeting.

As part of the drive, Aktion Clubbers asked friends and neighbors for food donations as well as cash donations. Dianne Sparks, owner of the Culver's in St. Anthony where two of our members work, Chad Udem and Paul Dahlen, let them solicit "dollar coupons" to fellow employees and customers. Together the club of 19 members raised \$1100.00. In addition 600 lbs of food was delivered to Little Kitchen Food Shelf.

In the picture Chad Udem on left and Steven Rangitsch (President 2012-2013) right, were featured in Minnesota Food Share's E-Newsletter. They also received a signed Timberwolves basketball. The Club hopes to do the food drive again for 2014-2015.

Kiwanis --Crookston Pioneer 100's

05/02/2014 - Club: Crookston Pioneer 100 - Submitted by: President Elect Susan Sylvester

Kiwanis- Crookston Pioneer 100's hosted their Annual French Toast Breakfast Benefit along with assistance from the Crookston Music Department. Students performed their musical talents while all enjoyed breakfast. They also helped serve the breakfast. Crookston Kiwanis Club provided all the food and cooks for the successful event. A free will offering was taken.



During Crookston's Annual Triple A Banquet, Kiwanis made a \$1000.00 donation from the fundraiser to the Music department. left to right; Immediate Past President Bruce G. Reichert, President George French, President Elect Susan Sylvester, Music Department, Belinda Fields, Chris Gough, Kyle Entzel