

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.38

November 2012

Greetings from the Desk of the Governor

11/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Cynthia Braseth, District Governor

WOW! Did October fly by for everyone, or just for me? It seems like I just completed my article for the October edition and now the deadline looms for November.

I have started my visits to the Regions, and I have to say, I am truly impressed by the work that each and every one of you is doing to live the Six Objects of Kiwanis and serve your local communities. I want to thank Regions 4 and 1 for the warm welcome I received. From watching smiling children try on and choose a new pair of shoes in Rapid City, SD; to a pretty impressive tour of the Kiwanis Food Bank in Sturgis, SD and ending in a trip back to Lewis and Clark times in Washburn ND, where Kiwanis clubs in Region 1 support Fort Mandan, I saw the diversity that is Kiwanis service.



I guess that's what I love about this great Organization. There are so many ways we can demonstrate the First Object which is: "To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life". As Kiwanians, we give generously of our time and money to make our communities and the world a better place. We should be proud of what we accomplish locally and let everyone in the community know what we do. We should also be proud to be part of Kiwanis International and the work being done to eliminate Maternal/Child Tetanus in the world.

I issued a Call to Action last month to support the District Education Foundation. I am challenging all of you, this month, to support the Kiwanis International Foundation AND Eliminate. The funds that the International Foundation raises go to fund local service projects that any club can apply to receive. My own club received a grant for \$5,000 three years ago for our local Park Board's annual Santa's Village project. Please, don't think that if you are giving to Eliminate, you are fulfilling your obligation to the Foundation. Both need your full support. So again, if you can make an individual donation, great! Make sure that your club is also continuing to include a donation to the Foundation as a budgeted item for this year. As much as we are a part of the communities we serve, we are also a part of a larger organization with a world-wide presence. We need to remember this and CONNECT with our brothers and sisters of the world.

Lastly, many of us have become very comfortable with where we are right now. I think it's time to be less comfortable and to look outside that comfort zone to new challenges. I have alluded to the fact that this year is going to be a year of change. I believe that even more now. Membership numbers for last year are grim and we must do something to reverse the trend. Now is the time, and it is up to us. No more waiting for next year, or the next Governor or International President. As I travel around the District, I am asking for input from members and club leaders. I know that is a dangerous thing sometimes, but I also know that there are a lot of ideas out there. You can be part of the change by attending your Regional Conference and being part of the discussion. Or, you can sit back and wait. It's your choice. I would love to see the remaining Regional Conferences packed, with standing room only. See you all there!

November Update

11/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, Dist. Sec-Treas



Monthly Club Reporting: Special thanks to the club secretaries for their excellent monthly reporting this past year. The information submitted is very valuable. Monthly Reports are submitted online by the 10th of each following month. Remember that this is not just the Club Secretary's job. A club secretary needs information to report, so be sure to keep them informed of your committee activities, etc.

The reporting program allows the club secretary to automatically send a preview of the monthly club report by email to the president, board members and others before submission. I would highly encourage you to do this. You may catch things that are not getting reported. The reporting program also allows the secretary to email the final monthly report to anyone in your club. To find out how the online reporting works there is a special page with videos and other helps at [Click here](#)

Does our club need to do an Annual Club Report??: Just a reminder, if your club completed all 12 of your monthly reports you do not need to complete a separate annual report. The Annual Report for each club will be automatically generated from the online monthly reports. Club secretaries can still modify any of the 2011-2012 monthly reports until November 30, 2012 if needed.

If you represent one of the few clubs that did not submit all 12 monthly reports online, then Kiwanis International is asking that you complete the online [2011-12 Annual Club Report](#) which will be available November 1. This form allows clubs to report service and administrative activities online (electronically) for the 2011-2012 year. Clubs are asked to complete the report on or before **November 30, 2012**. Again, please note this report is only for those clubs that have not completed all 12 of the monthly reports. Following is a link to the report: [Click here](#) No login is required for the Annual Club Report. If you have any questions about filing the Annual Club Report you can contact Kiwanis International by emailing memberservices@kiwanis.org or calling 1-800-KIWANIS, ext 411.

Distinguished Member and Distinguished Club Criteria for 2012-2013: Be sure to read the article by Governor Cynthia Braseth [Click here](#) There are significant changes in the criteria for this year.

Dues: I often get asked how the Kiwanis International and District dues break down on a yearly basis. They remain the same again this year: International dues = \$42.00 Liability Insurance = \$12.00 KI Magazine = \$8.00 District dues = \$30.00

To view current and past MINNEKOTAN newsletters go to www.mndak-kiwanis.org and click on "News".

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE MINNEKOTAN NEWSLETTER

If you do 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 lettering on our home page)

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A Note from your MN-DAK Kiwanis Service Director

10/23/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross

As the new Service Director of the MN-DAK District of Kiwanis my goal is to write a column for each issue of the Minnekotan while in this position. This first article attempts to make the case that service is the centerpiece of the best Kiwanis Clubs and leads to high retention of members and the bringing in of new members.

Many have heard me talk about the importance of helping club members become Kiwanians. I have long held the view that if a club has more than 50% Kiwanians instead of just members, those who join the club will soon become Kiwanians since they will have role models to follow. Clubs that consist of mainly members do not have the critical mass to move members to Kiwanians. It is rare to find a Kiwanian in a club full of members.

We have all heard the phrase "20% do 80% of the work in Kiwanis Clubs". I always recoil when I hear this since it is so often said as fact. We have many clubs where this is NOT true at all. When a need develops in a community most in the club get involved. And those who choose not to get involved are asked to join the others by those involved.

I sometimes have trouble helping others understand what I mean by the spirit that a Kiwanian brings to a club as opposed to a member. About 6 months ago I finally found the definition of a Kiwanian. I attended the funeral of a Kiwanian in our district who had died at the age of 96! In talking to his daughter I found out that at the age of 94 the daughter had to help her father move from the family home to a senior apartment complex. One day, after mustering all of her courage, she asked: "Dad, what would you think about Meals on Wheels." After thinking for a moment he blurted out, "Oh, I don't know my dear....if I can volunteer for them any longer!"

I love this story since it explains to us what is or should be at the core of our Kiwanis Clubs and what makes someone a Kiwanian instead of a member of a club. Service is not only something we see as important but something we can't help but do throughout our lives. Helping others is inspiring and makes us feel good. No need to feel guilty. No need to take drugs to get a high when we can help children to know our time on earth has a legacy and makes a difference. Kiwanians understand this and act accordingly.

Once we become a Kiwanian we can't help but ask others to join our great organization. We can't help but volunteer for projects available through the club. We can't help but enjoy meetings and fellowship with others with the same core values as us.



Kiwanis, in my 23 years of membership, has changed my life for the better and I know thousands of others who feel the same. However, there are not enough Kiwanians right now and too many members. We need our leaders, especially club presidents, to step up to the challenge to help members learn to become Kiwanians. This can only happen through education and passion. It is time to move our clubs to 100% doing the work, not just a handful. This can happen through meaningful service through our clubs. More on this in the next article. Have a great year in service and creating Kiwanians through a legacy of service!

Stewart Ross

MN-DAK Director of Service

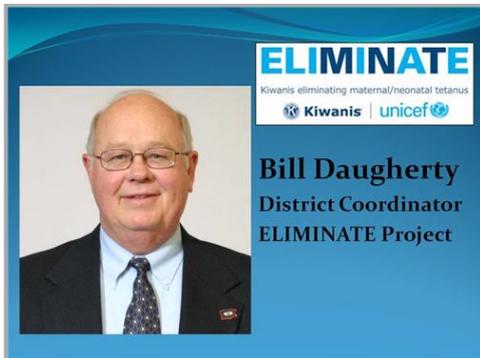
2012-2013

The Next Step Counts on You

10/30/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

Now that we have moved into a new Kiwanis year its time for us all to begin planning what our goals are for the Eliminate Project. Its time to consider individual Zeller donations by our members, we need to send in accumulated funds to KI so that we can bring the vaccines to the World to stop Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus. Work with and share efforts with your Sponsored Youth Clubs. They are so enthusiastic and can really help in fund raising projects with their sponsoring clubs.

Clubs need to set targets for the year. They need to explore the Global Service Society giving levels. This information can be found at the Eliminate Project web site. We were



happy to have Neil Hudelson of the Eliminate Staff in Minn-Dak during October. He covered many areas of our District to include the Bismarck-Mandan area, Rochester, Albert Lea, Willmar and Sioux Falls. During his visits he thanked all of us for our efforts thus far in the Project and encouraged us all to consider becoming model clubs and lead donor clubs. Wish you all well and hope to see you soon.

Strategic Planning for the MN-DAK District

11/01/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross

The Executive Committee of the MN-DAK District along with the Directors met for the first time in October over a weekend in Fergus Falls to begin developing a 5-year Strategic Plan. We started by "dreaming" what our district can be if we had a magic wand. Once we had some dreams we moved to developing goals with strategies to achieve those goals and ways to measure success toward those goals. A first draft was developed and the same group will meet again in Fergus Falls in early December. The entire Strategic Plan will be presented in detail to the full MN-DAK board in January at the winter board meeting. Once it is approved the plan will be shared with all



clubs, officers and members of the Minnesota-Dakotas District.

As the facilitator for this process I thank those working on this crucial project and know this will make a huge difference for our great district once we have a long-range plan in many areas that can be used by our officers for the future. Those working on the Strategic Plan include: Cynthia Braseth, Denis Cornell, Judie Rosendahl, Lowell Disrud, Bruce Klair, Colleen Hyde, Loreena Luetgers, Sharon Scudder, Stewart Ross and Steve Handegaard.

Webinars- Online Kiwanis Education

10/31/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, Dist. Sec/Treas



Webinars—quite simply, workshops delivered over the Web—are our way of meeting you where you are, with the information you asked for. Watch, learn and enhance your knowledge of Kiwanis, your club and your ability to serve. View webinars live at their scheduled time or catch them later on your own schedule. It's convenient—and free.

From these Webinars you will gain:

- Insight from other experienced Kiwanis leaders and experts
- Tools that will strengthen and grow your club
- Expert advice on increasing the impact of your current projects

Search the [schedule](#) for this season's hot topics and select those that are relevant to your position or your club. Registration is simple, and using webinar technology is as easy as e-mailing

If you missed a webinar session, not to worry, the webinar library is available 24/7 for your convenience. Search the [library](#). If you still don't see the subject you'd like to learn about, [suggest a topic](#) for future webinars.

IRS Tax Filing Requirements

10/31/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, Dist. Sec/Treas

A reminder to all club leaders that the Internal Revenue Service requires that all Kiwanis Clubs file an annual tax return by no later than February 15th. Most clubs will only need to file the online form referred to as the, postcard 990-N, due to their total receipts being below a certain threshold. Other clubs will need to file a more detailed 990EZ or 990 return. If you need help determining which return you need to file, please contact a local accountant or contact me at the District Office. Failure to file the required tax return form will result in loss of your club's exemption from Federal Income Tax.



Club Satellites are a Win-Win Solution

10/30/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Carol Grode-Hanks, Lt. Gov. Region 5

Being a Kiwanis member is both rewarding and frustrating. Too often, I hear fellow members say, "I feel bad I can't attend a meeting." Potential new members often feel, "I want to DO - I want to HELP" while others say it is nearly impossible to break away at noon for a meeting.

Let's face it- we all know Kiwanians come with many different needs, wants, and reasons for helping the world one child, one community at a time. So what is the solution? How do we make everyone happy?

Truth is, you can never make everyone happy. What you can do, however, is offer options for your club members so everyone has a good feeling about being involved with Kiwanis. When people say YES to being a Kiwanian, it's because they want to be involved. They want to DO. They want to HELP. They believe in our mission and the six objects of Kiwanis. It is our responsibility to make sure everyone feels a part of the family.

One option is the weekly noon or breakfast meeting. This satisfies those who like to socialize, share ideas, make things happen, and meet fellow business people in the community. Be sure to value their time- start your meetings on time; end on time, and offer quality programs. Be sure to invite the program speaker to become a member of your club.

Another option is a variety of projects AND offered throughout the year. Not everyone can help at the summer baseball tournament or the New Year's Eve ball. Make sure your club is providing opportunities to change the world throughout the year and with projects that are interesting to all members. A horse show, a fashion show, educational programs such as Read Around the World, Bringing Up Grades, Terrific Kids, a baseball tournament, a sportsman event- the list goes on and on. One way to involve new members is to ask them to develop an event or project and then have it approved and kick it off. What a great way to say, "I value YOU!"

Growing clubs is hard work, but Kiwanis International is there to help you every step of the way! Club satellites are becoming increasingly popular as are Corporate Memberships. Club satellites create an opportunity for Kiwanis clubs to expand in smaller rural areas, business parks, and retail stores. There is no minimum number of members to start a club satellite, and the host club benefits from the membership. If you know of a small group of individuals who cannot make meetings, but have a lot of energy and want to help kids... think club satellite!

Corporate Memberships are on the rise due to larger businesses that tend to have turnover due to transfers, promotions, etc. Banks, retail stores, restaurant chains, and school systems are great places to seek Corporate Memberships. The company pays the dues for the number of memberships they hold, and any employee of the company can attend the meeting. This helps increase the pool of volunteers available to help at your big fundraising events.

If you are interested in building your membership either traditionally by sharing your story and making the ask, or by a club satellite [more information](#) or corporate membership [more information](#), seek more information from kiwanisone.org. The website is there to help you change the world- one child, one community at a time.

Budget now to cover costs of convention attendance

10/31/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Kiwanis International

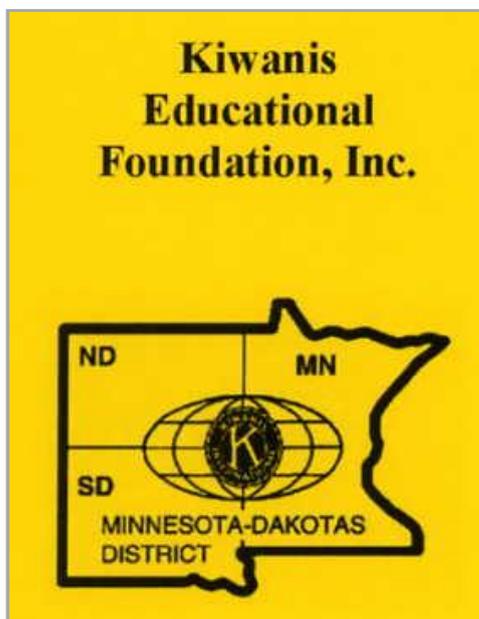
Just think: In less than a year from now, your club's convention delegates will be back from the Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver. They'll be sharing the latest news on The Eliminate Project, exciting ideas for getting members involved, strategies to ensure your club is known in its community and a renewed enthusiasm for being part of your club and of Kiwanis. It's an energy that money can't buy. But it does take money to get these delegates to the convention next year. That's why you should budget for it now.

The [convention budgeting](#) page will walk you through the list of expenses this line item should include. Consider it an investment in your club's future and a way to ensure that your club will have a voice in Vancouver.



Wish for the Future?

10/03/2012 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn



If you had an opportunity to write a check today or leave a gift in your will, would you want that gift to be spent as soon as the check is cashed or the will is read and monies dispersed? What if you could write that check or designate a gift and know it would continue to provide dollars every year after it was issued?

When you give that gift to the MN-DAK Kiwanis Foundation you are giving funds that will be available year after year and be there long after we are gone. Interest and earnings are the gifts that are generated from your donation, and that is the reason your gift will continue to be alive and provide scholarships for needy students for years to come.

The Foundation donations are not spent, so each year they continue to earn interest and help to create more scholarships. Please consider the MN-DAK Kiwanis

Foundation when you are making your yearly donations, and a gift in your will is a gift that will keep on giving, year after year.

Club News

New Holiday Event to be held in Mankato

10/31/2012 - Club: Mankato - Submitted by: Shannon Gullickson

The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club will host Kiwanis Holiday Lights for the first time November 23-December 31, 2012 in Mankato's Sibley Park. Kiwanis Holiday Lights is presented by the Mankato Area Foundation and CHS. The event will kick-off with a parade and opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 23. The parade is being coordinated by the Greater Mankato Young Professionals.



Kiwanis Holiday Lights will feature 1 million LED lights decorating trees, fences and buildings in the Sibley Park Grand Lawn area, as well as the family farm children's area. Santa will be on-site on Friday and Saturday evenings, and live reindeer will be on display for the duration of the event. A section of the lights will be choreographed to holiday music, and each non-profit involved in helping with the event will have a decorated tree devoted to their organization.

Scott Wojcik, Kiwanis Holiday Lights President said "We've been meeting for two years to develop this event, and are especially thankful to the LaCrosse, WI Rotary Club for their assistance. They have developed a great attraction, and we look forward to sharing a new holiday tradition with area residents and visitors."

The event is free and open to the public. Non-perishable food for area food shelves will be collected, as well as cash donations. Guests can drive or walk through the lights display, and warming houses and concessions will be available.

Over 1,000 volunteers from throughout the community are expected to participate in the event. Currently, volunteers are decorating the park on Saturday and Sundays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"This is a great project for our club, as well as the entire community" said Jolida Grabianowski, Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club President. "Greater Mankato is a regional hub, especially during the holiday shopping season. It makes sense to offer a free attraction like this to visitors as well as local residents."

To date, over \$126,000 has been raised from local businesses and individuals to help fund start-up expenses.

For more information visit www.kiwanisholidaylights.com

FABRIC DOLLS GOING TO AFRICA

10/31/2012 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Emma Broos

During October the Fridley High School Key Club and the Fridley Community Center JAMS Ladies partnered to sew and stuff 186 fabric ginger bread-like dolls. They will send them to the Little Dresses for Africa organization. That group will send them to



orphanages in Africa. This past year Key Club Members also made over 200 pillowcase dresses for this organization and are currently making more.

The Key Clubbers included colored permanent markers with the dolls. One side of the dolls is a plain muslin fabric and the other is a printed fabric of butterflies, flowers, polka dots or plaids. The doll recipients will use the markers to make faces and clothes on their dolls.

This project involved two stuffing and sewing craft sessions with over 50 members at each session. The JAMS ladies taught many of the members how to sew up the side seams. They showed considerable patience and praise!

The Members wait anxiously to hear from Little Dresses for Africa. They hope to receive pictures of the young girls with their new dolls from the organization. This project was so successful that the Club plans to do it again in the spring.

Emma Broos, Chair/Publicist

Fridley High School Key Club

SACA FOOD PROJECT

10/29/2012 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Jack Fite

On October 20 and 27 the Fridley High School Key Club and the Women of Today partnered in the distribution of bags and the collection of food stuffs throughout areas in Fridley. After collecting the donated items Key Clubbers and Women of Today Members took them to the SACA site in Columbia Heights where they were sorted and weighed. The project collected

1,449 pounds of food. These two organizations thank those who donated. It was heartwarming to see the many filled bags on doorsteps.



Jack Fite, Chair

Fridley High School Key Club

Watertown Project

10/17/2012 - Club: Watertown - Submitted by: Tim Oviatt

For several years the Watertown, SD Kiwanis Club has directed financial support to its "Coats for Kids" program, buying and distributing dozens of winter coats, snow pants and boots for elementary school kids identified by school officials as in need of the clothing. As a compliment to the "Coats for Kids" effort,



Watertown High School's Key Club collects used and purchases new winter hats and mittens for the school district to distribute to kids in need. The school district's policies restrict kids from participating in outdoor activities in the winter if they lack adequate clothing, so Kiwanis and Key Club try to make certain no one is left indoors with possible embarrassment or reduced self-esteem.

Coats for Kids has become a popular program for other groups and businesses to support financially through Kiwanis and Key Club. Recently the employees of Watertown's Great Western Bank donated funds from their "Dress Down" for work that they pay into every Friday for the privilege of dressing casual, to both the

Kiwanis Club's and Key Club's efforts to provide winter clothing for Watertown kids. Funds were also donated to the Watertown Middle School's anti-bullying program.

Pictured with Great Western Bank's employees are, left to right in the front row: Todd Brist, Watertown Middle School principal, Ryan Bouchee, group president of Great Western Bank, Sydney Strait from the Key Club and Jeff Dunn, president of Watertown Kiwanis Club.