

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.24

September 2011

Thank You!!

09/01/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Lowell Disrud, Governor 2010-2011

As this Kiwanis year comes to an end and we transition to a new year Rachael and I want to thank every one of you for the opportunity and privilege of serving as Governor and First Lady of the Minnesota-Dakotas District. Each of you, whether a member of the executive team, Lt Governor teams, district administrators, club officers, or active club members has been so supportive and helpful. It truly has been a team effort and together we have had a great year. The Governor's visits in each of the seven regions were unique. All had the components of education, service, fellowship, and fun. Our District Convention, held last month in Sioux Falls, was a highlight for us as I hope it was for you. There have been so many great and rewarding experiences and new and renewed friendships over the past year. We look forward to continuing to serve our communities and especially our children with you in Kiwanis.



The ELIMINATE project has been introduced, explained, and kicked off this past year. Now it is time to get to work. We face a huge challenge to achieve the goal of eliminating the terrible pain and deaths caused by maternal and neonatal tetanus in the world. With this great challenge come opportunities to work together, to grow, and to have the satisfaction of being part of accomplishing something of great significance in the world. Each club and every member will receive information on how they can be involved and become part of this project. It will take all of us working together and many more who will become members of Kiwanis as we network in our communities to achieve this goal.

Our District has grown significantly this year in every Service Leadership Program (Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K Kids, and Aktion Clubs), thanks in a large part to the administrators and leaders in those programs. With some effort by each of us in inviting new members to join we could end the year with positive membership growth. We are so close. Now is a great time to invite that person that you have been thinking about asking to join but haven't gotten to it yet.

As I said at the District Convention, I hope you are comfortable as a Kiwanis member and as a member of your club but let's not get too comfortable. I challenge each of us to step out of our comfort zone- try something new, volunteer for a new position in your club, and most importantly invite someone to join. When you do, your Kiwanis membership will be even more rewarding.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve with you. THANK YOU!
And thank you for keeping the Kiwanis fire burning brightly.

FIRST LADY SAYS THANK YOU

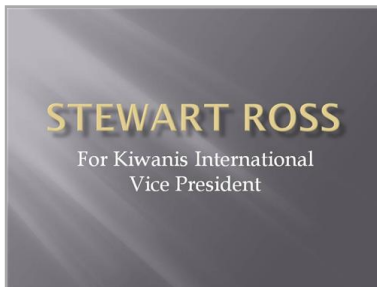
Thank you to all who supported me and helped in the "First Lady" activities during our District Convention. A special thanks to those who supported the book store. Many, many books were donated so we had a great selection. Proceeds were well over \$400 which went to the Minnesota-Dakotas District Education Foundation. This will help provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors who will continue their education in Minnesota or one of the Dakotas. After the convention we had several boxes of good

books left which were donated to homeless missions in Sioux Falls and Fargo. So many of you volunteered your time working at the book store which made it not only easy for everyone but a joy to be involved, get to know each other, and contribute to a worthy cause.

Thanks again.
Rachael Disrud

Kiwanis International Vice President Campaign

08/30/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jack Zierdt



The first, of many meetings, of the steering committee for the Vice Presidential Campaign Committee for Stewart Ross was held on Monday, August 29, 2011, in Mankato, MN. The committee will be working hard during the next ten (10) months in making decisions for running a First Class Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District campaign to elect the next Vice President of Kiwanis International at the convention in New Orleans.

Some decisions that were made during the first meeting were basic to setting up the committee and the functioning of a good campaign foundation. "Share the Magic of Kiwanis" theme will be the foundation we will build on. A lime green t-shirt for all of our MN-DAK members to wear will be printed with a logo and slogan will be available for all to buy. As soon as we know what the printed shirt will look like and the cost we will have an order blank available for all to order.

We need your help!! We are urging as many MN-DAK members as possible to register and attend the convention in New Orleans, June 28 – July 1, 2012. We need all of the hands, feet and bodies that we can get to campaign at the convention. We are urging each club in our district to send two (2) voting delegates to the convention to cast their vote for Stewart.

Some of the campaign ideas that we discussed were the use of a tri-fold brochure; newspaper; campaign buttons; website for campaign; use of facebook; power point presentation; slide whistles to make music as we campaign. We are checking on using the song "When the Saints Go Marching In" with our own lyrics about Stewart. The lyrics were presented to the committee and met with approval. If you have other ideas or suggestions of campaign techniques and materials, please submit them to Jack Zierdt. jjzierdt0706@charter.net

We are in the process of getting prices on brochures, newspaper, t-shirt, buttons, slide whistles so that we can establish a budget at our next meeting. We are planning on running a "First Class Style" MN-DAK District campaign with a projected budget of approximately \$10,000.00. If we can raise more funds than that, we will be able to do more than what we have been talking about so far. However, in order to have enough funds to cover this budget figure, we need some fund raising ideas or personal donations. Anyone wishing to make a personal monetary donation to the campaign fund can do so by completing the form below and sending a check made out to the Kiwanis Club of Mankato with VP Campaign on the Memo line.

Donations to the campaign committee for VP of Kiwanis International can be mailed to:
Mankato Kiwanis Club
Attn: Jolinda Grabianowski
PO Box 733
Mankato, MN 56001.

September Update

09/01/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Special Thanks and Congratulations: The 2010-2011 Kiwanis year is not over until the end of September, but I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to

Governor Lowell Disrud and First Lady Rachael for their hard work and dedication to Kiwanis this past year. Also, special thanks to all who served in a Lt. Governor, District Director or District Committee position. They all worked very hard to support Kiwanis on the Club and District level. Congratulations to Governor Designate Denis Cornell and First Lady Nancy who will lead our district beginning October 1. And last, but not least congratulations to Cynthia Braseth who will serve as Governor Elect during 2011-2012.



Sad News:

Past District Kiwanis Governor (1974-75) Garth White, 96, Newhall, California, died July 24, 2011. Survivors include his wife of 74 years, Milada, two sisters, four children, ten grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. You can view his obituary online [Click Here](#)

Official District Convention Minutes: The official minutes of the following meetings held during the District Convention can be viewed on our Minnesota-Dakotas District webpage (find District Leadership on the menu) or click on the following link: [Click Here](#)

District Board Meeting – August 5, 2011
2011 House of Delegates Session – August 6, 2011
District Board Meeting – August 7, 2011

Club Secretaries: Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online club reports for the 10-11 year. Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2011. With the monthly online reporting system you will not be asked to submit a separate annual report. In addition, all reports must be submitted to qualify for the Distinguished Club Award. Be sure to check your "Distinguished Club Tracker" to see how your club is doing towards Distinguished Club points.

Annual IRS Tax Reporting: Remember that all clubs must now file the appropriate IRS 990 Tax form each year. Failure to do so will result in fines and loss of nonprofit status.

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)

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

Thank You from Mended Little Hearts

08/31/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Dixie Varns

Mended Little Hearts/Thumpers of the Black Hills would like to thank the surrounding area Kiwanis so much for this great opportunity to meet and get to know who and what you are a lot better. I know now, there is a huge resource out there that we have not been using to the full extent that we should be. We both have a lot of the same goals, it just makes sense to work together. Thank you so much for all the donations - you will have touched so many families, so much more than you have touched ours. I loved meeting those of you that we were able to meet and know we would have loved to spend more time with you to learn even more.

Thank you so much for the 30 bags, plus the 60 to the other 2 groups. Plus we are able to fill another 30+ when we got home. Thank you for the Wal-Mart cards and for the monies that we will use to put back into the bags. I know these bags from our area will reach families in ND, WY, NE, and at least a 200 mile radius from Rapid City. These will be families that find out in the ER that their baby has a Congenital Heart Defect, and needs surgery immediately to have a chance to live and they have no time to go home



and pack and need to leave by Life Flight immediately to another state, away from all their friends and family. Thank you for making this a little less stressful for that family!

Thank you to everyone who bought honey so that one of our "Angel" Families are the recipient of the "Spinoza" Bear.

Thank you so much,
Dixie Varns – Mended Little Hearts/Thumpers
Coordinator

To view photos of the service project- [Click Here](#)

Cynthia Braseth Elected District Governor Elect

09/01/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Cynthia Braseth was elected District Governor Elect for 2011-12 at the Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Convention held August 5-7 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



The following appeared in her candidacy announcement included in the June Minnekotan:

I joined Kiwanis in 1994 because my employer strongly encouraged managers and above to belong to a service organization and because the Chairman of the Board of Directors at the hospital I worked at asked me to attend a meeting. You don't say "no" to the Chairman of the Board. I soon discovered, however, that the mission and values of Kiwanis meshed perfectly with my own values, so I have been an active member ever since. I firmly believe that the future is in our children and focusing on one child and one community at a time makes the goal of changing the world achievable. Kiwanis has been a place where I can work on projects to make the world better for our children and see the results of those efforts first hand. People today are looking for answers to so many issues and I believe that Kiwanis as an organization can provide many of those answers.

As a member of the Grand Forks Sunrisers Club, I have served as President, a member of the Board of Directors, chair of several committees and am currently the Treasurer. I served as Lt. Governor for Region 2 and am currently Education Director for the Region. In addition to Kiwanis, I have been active in national and state nursing organizations, the local YMCA board of directors and the Safe Kids Coalition in our community.

I am a native North Dakotan, raised in Kindred. I have been married to my husband Charles since 1972. We have no children, but as the oldest of six, I have several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Education: I graduated from Kindred High School. I attended the University of North Dakota and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. I also have a Certificate in Patient Care Management from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

Professional Career: I retired from Altru Health System July 1, 2010. I was employed there for 36 years and worked in several staff, management and executive positions during that time. Prior to that, I worked at Riverview Hospital in Crookston, MN for two years as a staff nurse and assistant head nurse. I am currently an Independent Distributor with Herbalife International.

Eliminate Project Off To Great Start

08/28/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty



Our Eliminate Project campaign got off to a tremendous

start at the District Convention, August 5-7 in Sioux Falls. On Saturday evening at the Governor's banquet 17 Charter Walter Zeller donors were recognized. Certificates and medallions were distributed by Dr. Wil Blechman, International Trustees Pam Fleming and Stewart Ross. Of this group 7 had donated prior to the Convention in Geneva while the other 10 donated during the District Convention.

Individual clubs also donated items for a silent auction. This activity garnered an additional \$1086 for the Eliminate Project. One of the items in the auction involved 8 soy candles in collector tins. There was a problem in determining a winner so these items were handled through a live auction by our own David Roehl assisted by Chuck Schroder and Jack Zeirdt. One of these candles went for \$85.00 and the others combined for a total of \$400.

Clubs need to start developing unique methods for fundraising dollars for the Eliminate Project. Club representatives need to be appointed and work with me through the four year process. Please contact me at Blldougherty@Yahoo.com if you are a club representative or want to volunteer in this effort to Eliminate Maternal Neo/Natal Tetanus worldwide.

Larry Rittgarns Says THANKS

08/28/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

This past year I gave up two very enjoyable jobs that Pat and I had held for several years. After Pat's death, I just did not feel I could continue doing the job of Kiwanis Education director, and also the Director of Conventions. Both of these jobs are very demanding and I did not feel I would do either of them justice.

At the District Convention earlier this month, I was honored with a Zeller award for the work I had done, and Pat was also given a Zeller award in her memory.

I know there were many Kiwanis clubs as well as Kiwanis members and friends that contributed to the gift of 2- Zeller awards and for that I am so grateful, and will always treasure the years spent in both of the jobs we held.

Thanks again and my heartfelt thanks to you all.



Kiwanis Educational Foundation of the MN-DAK District

08/24/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Dale Carlson

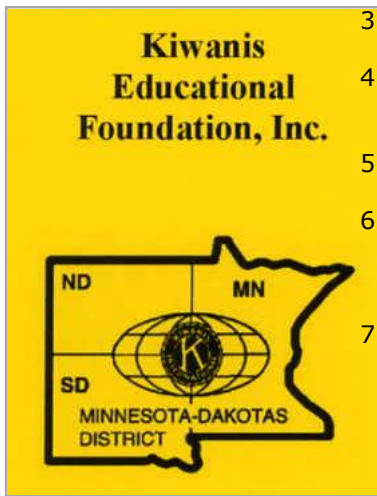
Actions at the District Convention, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, August 5-7. 2011

At the Friday afternoon convention session Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer of the Educational Foundation, presented the Foundation report. The endowment fund currently has about \$961,000 in the investment portfolio. We are striving for the \$1,000,000 level in the endowment fund. Only the interest from the endowment fund is spent each year. In April 2011 59 scholarships were awarded to students in the MN-DAK District to be used starting in Sept. 2011. The majority of these scholarships are for \$700.00. For the school year starting in Sept. 2012 we plan to award the same number of scholarships. The amount of these scholarships will probably be \$800.00 depending on donations given and the earnings received on the invested endowment monies. Students receiving these scholarships must be from the MN-DAK District and must attend a college or university within the District. Bill Lardy was elected to a 3 year term for one of the North Dakota Trustee positions and Dale Carlson was elected to a 3 year term for one of the Minnesota Trustee positions of the Educational Foundation Board.

The Board of Trustees of the Educational Foundation met on late Friday after the convention general session.

The following actions were taken:

1. Board minutes of May 15, 2011 were approved.
2. Jack Zierdt presented the Secretary/Treasurer report which was approved.



3. Dale Carlson was elected President for 2011-2012. Bill Lardy was elected Vice-President for 2011-2012.
4. The dollar amount for the 2012-2013 scholarships will be determined in early October and will be based on interest earned in 2010-2011.
5. The number of scholarships for 2012-2013 will remain the same as for the previous year.
6. The By-Laws of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation were amended as proposed at the May 15, 2011, Board meeting. These were minor amendments to keep the By-Laws current.
7. Chuck Schroder thanked the Educational Foundation for their continued cooperation with the Kiwanis International Foundation.

During the convention collections to increase the endowment fund were taken at the Friday afternoon session (\$667.61) and at the interdenominational church service on Sunday (\$681.00). As a result \$1348.61 has been placed in the endowment fund.

The month of November has been designated each year as the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation Month. All District clubs are asked to focus on the work of the Educational Foundation that month and all Kiwanis clubs and members are asked to support the Foundation with financial gifts.

WHERE DOES YOUR CLUB STAND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

08/18/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

The district convention is over and what a great convention it was. The forums were great and very informative and what about the guest speakers? Weren't they outstanding? Ann Backes Dodge did a great job as well as the people that help her. The International foundation was able to raise over \$1,200.00 and over \$14,000.00 was raised for "ELIMINATE". What a start for this district on this World Wide Project.



The International Foundation is in need of our help. With all of the flooding and wild fires, there has been a real demand for help. Our district was very lucky, the Club Satellite in Red Wing did receive a grant this time around, but many clubs didn't. We are sitting at \$3.68 pr member and our goal this year was to try and reach over \$4.00. If the clubs that have given to the annual gift campaign in the past and haven't sent in their money for this year would do so, we would be almost to \$5.00 pr member as we have been asked to do. Our Key Club members count on the scholarships along with Circle K. I might add that 5% of every dollar given to the annual gift campaign comes back to the district. We here in the district benefit from this as well. Right now it will only take \$3,000.00 to reach the \$4.00 mark. I know that we can do it and that you as members want to be part of a winning team. So check with your clubs and make sure that they have sent in the \$5.00 pr member to the Annual Gift Program to the International Foundation. **"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN"**.

Thank you all for what you are doing for Kiwanis.

E. Chuck Schroder,
KIF Chairman

Club News

Superior Kiwanis Donation Saves Life

08/31/2011 - Club: Superior - Submitted by: Barb Fisher

Superior Kiwanis donation saves life. A Superior father, Paul Winterscheidt, worked frantically to clear his 2 year old son's air way. Elliot had snagged a grape from the table and was choking on it. Abdominal thrusts didn't dislodge the fruit, and the boy ended up passing out. It took about three minutes for the fire dept to arrive. Jeremiah Glonek, fire department officer, entered the home with a Pediatric bag that the Superior Kiwanis had recently purchased and presented to each of the three Superior Fire halls. The bag has the needed equipment for all children and small adults, organized and color coded for speedy use when needed, which is very important when every moment can make a difference in life or death.



The Superior Kiwanis club recently donated \$1,300 for the purchase of the three bags, one for each Superior Fire Hall, and three Jump bags for three Douglas County Volunteer Fire Departments, one in Wascott, Gordon and Hawthorn. Our club was requested to help in this initiative and by Patricia Brinkman, from a club near Milwaukee and Elizabeth Davy, GFWC-WI EMSC Ped Bag Chairman, the GFWC paid the balance of the cost of the 6 bags in total.

See a local television news video [Click Here](#)

Visually impaired 5-year-old participates in Brainerd Kids Kiwanis Triathlon

08/29/2011 - Club: Brainerd - Submitted by: Jean Collins



Five-year-old Sam Simpson of Brainerd has had quite a summer. He is getting ready to enter kindergarten and he has been training for the Aug. 27 Kiwanis Kids Triathlon. Sam is legally blind, born with 20-1200 vision. He uses a cane to walk and relied on his mother Sarah to help him train for the event. Sam finished the event even though he fell on the run course. Each participant receives a medal and Sam was rightfully proud of his.

The Brainerd Kiwanis Club of Brainerd, MN has been sponsoring Kiwanis Kids Triathlon for four years. The Triathlon includes swimming, biking and running. There are two categories; 5-to-9-year olds and 10-to-14-year olds. There were 283 entrants in the event this year, in 2008 when the event started there were 187 entrants. Chris Robinson and Mike Dillon developed the idea to have the Kids Triathlon as a project for the Brainerd Kiwanis Club and have chaired the event each of the 4 years. They started the triathlon to provide kids with the opportunity to compete and develop a fitness regime. The main goal was to combat the rise in childhood and teen obesity. Safety is always a concern with a children's event so there were 90 volunteers in place so that participants are in the sight of a volunteer at all times.

Red Wing Aktion Club Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

08/29/2011 - Club: Red Wing Dawn Breakers - Submitted by: Larry Sonnek

The Good Lord provided a near perfect day for some exceptional people as the Red Wing Aktion Club celebrated its tenth anniversary with a picnic at Colvill Park along the beautiful Mississippi River in Pretty Red Wing, MN. Members and guests from four communities and six clubs came together to acknowledge this milestone. Some of the special guests who came to help celebrate with the Aktion Club members were



Former Lt. Governor Bruce Klair and his wife Phyllis; Lt. Governor Don Felmler and his wife Mary; and John and Mary Dierbeck from the Saint Anthony Club. It was particularly pleasing to have them join in the festivities in that they are chartering a new Aktion Club in their community and they came all the way to Red Wing as part of the celebration of their wedding anniversary that same day, August 23, 2011. In addition, many members of the Lake City Aktion Club and their supporters joined in the good times. It was great to have Jim Albright in attendance in that he was a driving force in the formation of the

Lake City Aktion Club.

Back in 2001, Kiwanian Al Nelson came back from a winter trip to Florida with this wonderful idea. He'd been to a meeting there of a club designed for individuals with disabilities. He convinced the Red Wing Dawnbreakers and Golden K Clubs to co-sponsor this idea of an Aktion Club - something no one had heard of previously. Because of his early persistence, the Red Wing Aktion Club became the fourth chartered club in the world. Now, with the strong support of both of these clubs and the outstanding work of advisor Jane Allen-Calhoun, the Red Wing Aktion Club is a strong and vibrant service oriented club celebrating ten years of member development and community service.

The Kiwanians served up the hamburgers and tables full of hot dishes as members and guests dined on an abundance of delectable foods. Any thought of weight loss resolutions were lost when attendees got to the dessert table. There was food aplenty as none of the eighty plus attendees seemed to want for more at the end of the evening. Larry Bale, the present president, called on the founding president, Dalyn Bruemmer, to read again the poem he wrote especially for the chartering event ten years earlier. The poem follows:

As we gather tonight for meeting in fellowship group and association;
it is a pleasure to gather in greeting for the very festive occasion.
We get together twice a month and discuss what projects to plan,
to contribute towards our community and put forth the best we can.
I value these members highly, enjoying what they all put forth.
They all very truly "touch my heart" in all of the talents they're worth.

We celebrated the ten wonderful years which have past and now, with eager anticipation, look forward to the next ten.

To see photos of event: [Click Here](#)

Aktion Clubs join for 2nd annual picnic

08/25/2011 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn



F/M Aktion club travels to Grafton, ND for the 2nd annual picnic with the Grafton Aktion club members.

3 van loads of members of the FM Aktion Club along with 2 members of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club traveled to Grafton, ND to gather with Kiwanis members and Aktion club members of the Grafton community.

The afternoon began with a tour of the Heritage Center in Grafton, and then a wonderful picnic dinner was enjoyed by all.

It was so nice to see so many members of both the Grafton, and the FM Aktion club enjoying a day together.

This event began a year ago when the Grafton club journeyed to Fargo to spend the day with the Fargo, Moorhead Kiwanians and members of the FM Aktion club.

President Joe Thomas and Secretary Larry Rittgarn from the Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club attended the event and had a great day with some of the Grafton Kiwanis members.

Minot Golden K moves meetings

08/19/2011 - Club: Minot, Golden K - Submitted by: Richard Sabol-Sec/Treas

The Minot Golden K members have been displaced along with many others in the Minot, ND area. The Golden K had been meeting at the Holiday Inn Riverside, until the Mouse River flood inundated the Holiday Inn. With the entire first floor filled with water the Golden K was forced to find a new meeting location. Thanks to the openness of the Grand International Hotel on North Hill, the Golden K was able to continue their meetings. They meet every Monday at 1:30 PM. Thanks to the staff at the Holiday Inn for moving all of the meeting equipment to the second floor for safe keeping. The Golden K members are looking forward to moving back to their meeting location in October.

