

February 2006

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MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

Stew's News

February should be an exciting month for the MN-DAK District. The region 3 conference occurs during the first week and the region 6 conference toward the end of the month.

We continue to work toward building more new clubs and Kiwanis International President, Steve Siemens visit to Mankato, MN is being planned as I write these words. These region conferences are an important part of the district plan; those who attend have a great time, learn new things to help their clubs and meet other Kiwanians they don't always know or often see. However, the most important aspect of these regional events is it encourages good communication.

Even with all the electronic communication we have today, it seems the old "face-to-face" meetings still have the most power and value. As any leader will tell you, communication has the potential of being a powerful positive tool in their repertoire of skills. The words we use often determine the success and failure of our interactions.



According to research psychologists, the average one-year-old child has a three-word vocabulary. By fifteen months children can speak nineteen words. At two years of age, most youngsters possess a working knowledge of 272 words. Their vocabulary catapults to 896 words by age three, 1,540 by age four, and 2,072 words by age five. By age six the average child can communicate with 2,562 words.

Our word accumulation continues to grow, yet effective use of them does not necessarily follow. Even though the average adult speaks at a rate of 125 to 200 words per minute (I am even faster when I talk about Kiwanis) and up to 18,000 words per day, this does not mean messages are clearly relayed.

"Words, like glasses," wrote Joseph Joubert, "obscure everything which they do not make clear." Mark Twain put it this way, "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug." Joseph Conrad commented, "Words have set whole nations in motion and up heaved the dry hard ground on which rests our social fabric. Give me the right word and the right accent and I will move the world." Consider the wisdom of Sigmund Freud: "Words have a magical power. They can bring either the greatest happiness or deepest despair; they can transfer knowledge from teacher to students; words enable the orator to sway his audience and dictate its decision. Words are capable of arousing the strongest emotions and prompting all men's actions."

Words. They are powerful. Choose them carefully. Organize not only your thoughts before you speak, but determine which words best communicate the message you want to send. Attempt to speak in the other person's language rather than your own. You don't believe me? How about this famous story: Two guys were walking down a country road when Pete said to Joe, "Look at that cow with one eye." So Joe directly placed his hand over one eye to look at the cows!

As your governor this year I sometimes see a lack of good communication that causes so many problems that do not need to occur. Sometimes I have not communicated well and do not choose the right words for a given situation. The important thing is your leadership team for 2005-2006 is doing everything possible to communicate and to improve our communication. My hope is that officers and their clubs continue to do the same. It is a never ending battle but at least we need to fight the battle.

Without quality communication in our Kiwanis Clubs we are doomed to misunderstanding, distrust, confusion, and even chaos at times. And I am not just talking about improving newsletters. I am asking all of us to think carefully how we communicate with each other. The way we communicate with others and with ourselves ultimately determines the quality of our lives.

As I finish this column I am reminded of a famous quote by Adlai Stevenson that we should all take to heart: "Man does not live by word alone, despite the fact that sometimes he has to eat them."

--Stewart Ross, MN-DAK Kiwanis Governor

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer - February 2006

By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer

Following are some important reminders:

District Annual Audit: Our Annual Audit of the Kiwanis year 2004-2005 is now complete. It is on file at Kiwanis International and the District Office.



Electronic Monthly Club Reporting Update

As of this writing we have **70 % of the clubs in our district** submitting their monthly club reports online!! When I reported last month we were at 61 % That's great progress! Let's keep working towards 100%.

If your club is still in need of the instructions, let me know. Online reporting is due by the 10th of each following month, same as before. Club secretaries are finding this to be a very easy and efficient way to submit their monthly report.

Remember that the nice thing about our new online monthly club reporting system is that it is totally web based. By that I mean a club secretary can walk up to any computer in the world that has internet access, log on to our District Website, click on the "login" for our online reporting and complete the report.

Club secretaries can also share their password with someone else in the club, if needed. When logging in it asks for the secretary's email address and password. An alternate reporter would need to know the regular secretary's email address and of course the password. The program does not care who is actually doing the entering as long as you can know and enter those two things.

If your club is **not** submitting your report online, please continue to send us the paper version of your monthly club report. Please send a copy to the District Office and a copy to your Lt. Governor.

Leadership opportunities: We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates in some regions. Contact your Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place May 5-7 in Willmar.

Kiwanis Clubs & IRS FORM 990:

Tax Exempt organizations are required to report revenue results each year to the IRS under most conditions. Each club Treasurer and President should be aware of their club status and requirements. Clubs are exempt from filing a report if annual gross receipts (dues, assessments, interest, dividends, rent, project revenue, special event revenue, etc) are less than \$25,000. If a club does receive a 990 package from the IRS it should file regardless of revenue. Clubs with revenue less than \$100,000 and assets less than \$250,000 can file form 990EZ. The IRS website www.irs.gov is your best source of information about requirements. Your return is due by February 15 each year.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards met in Willmar, MN on Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21, 2006. Minutes of the Kiwanis District Board

meeting will appear in the March Minnekotan.

Club Election Report: The Kiwanis year is flying by. It is not too soon to begin thinking about election of club officers. Just a reminder that your club election report will be due June 1st.

Remember to mark your calendar: Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention, St. Cloud, August 4-6, 2006.

International Convention Montreal- 2006: All club secretaries should have received information in the mail. You can also get all of the necessary forms and information on the Kiwanis International website <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/>

Thanks for all your great work in Kiwanis.

KI President Steve Siemens Vist to Mankato, MN on March 22-23

ATTENTION MN-DAK KIWANIS MEMBERS!! YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, STEVEN SIEMENS



The Minnesota-Dakotas District proudly announces a visit by the Kiwanis International President, Steve Siemens to Mankato, MN on Wednesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 23. Please read details below.

March 22, 2006 The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club will host a banquet in honor of Steve Siemens from 6-8 p.m. The cost of the event is only \$30 which includes dinner, entertainment and presentations by MN-DAK Governor Stewart Ross and Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens. The Mankato Holiday Inn is holding a group of rooms that evening for only \$59.00 per room.

March 23, 2006 The Greater Mankato Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present Steve Siemens as part of their 2005-2006 Professional Development Series. Steve will present a four hour workshop (8-noon) titled, "Don't Die Until You're Dead!! Learn some steps you can take to add enthusiasm to your life, job and world. You will also learn how this enthusiasm can enhance your personal and professional relationship. Leave inspired and refreshed to make life worthwhile and rewarding. Instead of the normal \$75 fee, Kiwanians will be charged only \$50 for the workshop.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please check all that apply:

_____ March 22nd MN-DAK Banquet (6-8 p.m.) (\$30)

_____ Steve Siemens workshop at Mankato Civic Center on March 23rd (\$50)

_____ Amount enclosed

Please make checks out to:

Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Kiwanis Club _____

Send form and check to:

Stewart Ross
720 Grant Avenue
North Mankato, MN 56003

Deadline to register is March 17, 2006
Register early if attending Steve Siemens workshop as class sizes are limited.

You must pre-register for March 23rd workshop through the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club to receive discounted rate.

You must call hotel for reservation—mention Kiwanis discount. Call 507-345-1234.

This could be a great interclub event you will not soon forget!

For questions call:
MN-DAK Governor Stewart Ross at 507-389-1098
or email at stewart.ross@mnsu.edu

Advertising Proposal Draws Preliminary Approval

A 16-member Kiwanis "Patrons" Team has been created to look for the right ingredients to increase networking among Kiwanis men and women and at the same time generate "much needed" revenue in Kiwanis.

In the annual Kiwanis Winter Board meeting in Willmar -- approval was given to create the organization that will bring back a "how to" proposal that will include taste, generating revenue, and not affect the navigating of the web site.

Former Region 2 Lt Governor Colleen Hyde and Region 5 Lt Governor Elect Bill Zortman will co-chair the committee that includes representatives from each of the seven regions, past, present, and future Lt Governors, the Governor, the Governor-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and three current, past, and future District webmasters.

The 16 members of the Kiwanis Patron's Team will be soliciting ideas from members across the three states. If you have ideas on how it should work -- feel free to contact the members listed below:

Webmasters -- Lori Larson, Bob Swanson, Arday Ardayfio

Lt Governor Class 2004-2005 -- Lori Larson (Region 2), Mark Stewart (Region 4), Bill Daugherty (Region 5)

Lt Governor Class 2005-2006 -- Larry Humble (Region 2), Denny Blesner (Region 7)

Lt Governor Class 2006-2007 -- Kelly Schmidt (Region 1), Chris Kellett Sawday (Region 3), Bill Zortman (Region 5), Curtis Pearson (Region 6)

Governor's Team -- Stewart Ross (Region 6), Coralyn Dahl (Region 3)

Secretary Treasurer -- Steve Handegaard (Region 2)

Here are some of the issues that we need feedback on:

- Work on guidelines to be brought to the table for a "special" Board meeting in May in Willmar.
- Seek ideas how we can generate income for Minnesota-Dakotas District

- Set guidelines about what would be acceptable and what wouldn't be.
- Set rates for patrons, advertisers, etc
- Determine if links, lists, or other would be the most reasonable approach
- Determine where the advertising or patron list or links would be on the website -- Minnekotan, District Pages, Regional news pages, or Club Resources
- Determine if it would be just Kiwanis members, friends of Kiwanis, or others that could use our website.
- Determine who and how the advertising would be submitted to.
- Patron Team would solicit input from members in their own region to collect and submit ideas.

Those who discussed the proposal at the January meeting in Willmar agreed that it could provide an excellent opportunity to not only network, but attract new interest in the website and help our members and potential members to provide products and services in the Kiwanis family and beyond.

As usual --- your help as a Kiwanis member is needed.

Minn-Dak Kiwanis District Convention

The Kelly Inn will be the headquarter hotel for the convention, and the attached convention center will be hosting several of the events as well as the hotel itself.

Plan now to attend, and make it a family event, as we are planning even more family events this year then ever before.

Watch next months issue for more details.

The Hastings, Mn Club Invites Kiwanians to Charter Night Celebration

In January the Hastings, MN Kiwanis Club was organized with 26 charter members. The group has had a number of meetings already and is already planning service and fundraising projects in the community.

All Kiwanians are invited to join them in a celebration on Tuesday, February 28th from 5:30 to 8 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. The cost of the event is only \$15. The charter night takes place at the Green Mill in Hastings, MN.

If you are interested please contact Christy Green, the club secretary at: clgreenpoca69@earthlink.net

If you have any questions or need more information contact Governor Stewart Ross at 507-389-1098 or stewart.ross@mnsu.edu

SUCCESS ACADEMY, A SUCCESS

One year ago the Fairmont, Minnesota Early Risers Kiwanis Club began a mentoring program at Fairmont Junior High School for 7th and 8th grade students. The basic premise of the program is to provide adult mentors for students who need encouragement and techniques for



improving their academic skills, together with some attitude change possibilities. The mentoring role is taken by Kiwanis members who meet at school monthly over lunch with 15 students selected by counselors and teachers. In addition to lunch and personal improvement discussions between mentor and student, a speaker or speakers add to the learning activities. Recent examples include the School Resource Officer discussing the life threatening dangers of illegal drug usage and two senior students who shared how they “turned around” their academic skills after struggling early in their high school careers. Future topics will include visits from school student leaders in the Target Club and the District Activities Director discussing involvement in positive school activities. A recognition picnic for students and their parents will culminate the year.

The Kiwanians who have been involved have witnessed a real growth in communication with their student and an appreciation for the concern of an adult figure from the community. The school has had nothing but positive reaction from both teachers and administrators.

Mitchell Club Receives Wal-Mart Grant

The club's board voted to give \$500 to the local Love Feast Task Force to be used toward the purchase of school supplies, tennis shoes and books for children attending this bi-monthly outreach program. Another \$500 will be used to purchase Kiwanis teddy bears for the Avera Queen of Peace Trauma Center for young children being admitted to the ER. The remaining \$1,000 will be put into the Kiwanis Woodlot Park playground equipment fund. The park is in another 'face lift' phase and will be rededicated May 31, 2006 in conjunction with the clubs 85th birthday.



Bill Daugherty Announces His candidacy for Governor Elect 2006-2007.

The journey we are on is a continuum and it is still vital. After encouragement from several Kiwanians I am announcing my candidacy for Governor Elect. I look for your support at the District Convention in St. Cloud this August. I have received the endorsement of the five clubs in Sioux Falls.



Just ask, has been my motivator in Kiwanis. I was asked to join South Sioux Falls in 1990. Then I was asked to be a Vice President in 1992. The President elect moved out of town and I was elected President in 1993. Again I was asked to be Club Secretary in 1995. I am still serving in that capacity. At a Regional conference I was asked to be a candidate for Lt. Governor elect and I became a Lt. Governor elect- elect. Then I served as Lt. Governor in 2004. I am currently Immediate Past Lt. Governor for Region 5.

These three plus years have been tremendous. I have enjoyed working with the clubs in Region Five. I have found friends in the Lt. Governor ranks with those that I have served with and continue to see at meetings and conventions. I have enjoyed the responsibilities of being an active Lt.

Governor.

I look forward to working with Governor Coralyn Dahl and Past Governor Stewart Ross. We will be a great team. Things have truly been happening in the District. I want to see them through and continue with the good things we are developing.

With your vote in August, you can be assured that I will work for the District; I will always keep the membership in mind and will strive to make Minn-Dak the best. I accept and look forward to the challenges to come. We need to keep our motto in mind ... Together We Can...Together We Will.

Education: BA University of Sioux Falls
MA University of South Dakota
Fellow Institute for Court Management
US Army 1964-1966

Career: State of South Dakota, Unified Judicial System 1975 – 2004
Minnehaha County District Court 1969 – 1975
Court administrator for 29 years
Board member Sioux Empire Federal Credit Union '05-'08

Family: Married to Arlyce Daugherty. Three children: Jennifer, Phoenix, AZ;
Bill, Worthing, SD; and Sara, Boston, MA. Three grandchildren.

Your vote will be greatly appreciated in August. I'm ready to continue this part of the journey and want you with me.

William "Bill" Daugherty
Candidate for Governor-Elect

Read Around the World

Each year Kiwanians are encouraged to take part in "Read Around the World", an annual program that spans the month of February advocating the importance of reading with children. Clubs are encouraged to set aside time and plan reading events in support of **Read Around the World**, February 1 through March 3, 2006. Clubs are encouraged to team up with their sponsored Circle K, Key Clubs, Builders, K-Kids and Aktion Clubs to stage programs that encourage kids to enjoy reading. Clubs can provide reading activities, increase access to books, motivate and inspire. If clubs are looking for ideas, consider one of the following:

- Conduct a book party
- Host a book related field trip
- Sponsor a "read-in"
- Plan a story marathon
- Organize a "books-open" or "TV-off" day
- Stage a make-a-book party

--Host a book character theme party

Clubs can contact their local elementary school principals for other ideas. Many schools have reading events that clubs may be participating in already. For other ideas, check the Kiwanis International website at www.kiwanis.org. Just select "service" from the bottom left hand column and follow the links.

Participating clubs are also eligible for a banner patch for their participation. What a rewarding service project it can be to reach out to young children, help them open a book, and discover a new world!

KIWANIAN BACK IN THE BARBER CHAIR!

For the first time in two and a half years, Kiwanian, Merle Brecke was back in his friend, Pete Peterson's barber chair. It was time, he said to finally snip the ponytail that reached almost halfway down his back. "It's been a long time since I've sat in this chair," Merle said.

It's not that Merle's a young rock star with long, luscious locks or even that he's a steadfast hippie. He's never worn his hair this long-his wife, Betty, said the barber usually "scalps him." Actually, Merle's 15-inch ponytail began as a joke.

Merle and Pete were bowling one night, Merle said, when Pete began to joke that Merle's hair was getting a bit long.

"Pretty soon you'll be growing a ponytail," Pete said. So that's just what Merle did.

Through the grapevine, Merle said, he learned about Locks of Love and decided donate his ponytail to the nonprofit organization.

"If you're going to do it, you might as well give it away," Merle said.

Locks of Love, based in Florida, provides hairpieces to poor children who suffer long-term hair loss, mostly from a condition called alopecia areata. The organization originally worked in connection with a for-profit wig company and attained non-profit status in 1997, spearheaded by a woman whose daughter lost her hair.

In its first year, the Locks of Love Web site reports, it produced 21 hairpieces for children. Now it has made more than 1,000 and delivered them to children younger than 18 years-old in all 50 states and Canada.

"The prostheses we provide help to restore their confidence enabling them to face the world and their peers," the Web site states.

In order to help the charity, Merle did have to put up with some teasing, he said. But it was worth it-and his granddaughter is probably the only second-grader who can say she got to braid her grandfather's hair.

And this wasn't the only time Merle's gotten a little wild with his hair. About two decades ago, 65 of his co-workers at Josten's pitched in \$1 to see him shave off his locks.

"We were poor and we bought a quarter of beef," Betty said, laughing.

This time around, the gesture was for charity. Merle's fellow Kiwanis member, David Fairbrother, said Merle's donation exemplifies the Kiwanis spirit.

"In donating his locks to Locks of Love," David said, "Merle is truly demonstrating the Kiwanis motto, 'Serving the Children of the World' We hope that a deserving child receives his locks, who needs it worse than Merle."

While Mele said he'll miss his long ponytail, his wife, Betty, wasn't as nostalgic about it.

"When the wife spends more time on her husband's hair more than on her own, something has to be done," Betty said.

"I tried to do it myself," Merle said, "and it was always off to the side."

"I'll miss it," he said as Pete started in.

"I won't," said Betty.

Chisholm Kiwanis Hosts Ice Fishing Event

Mark your calendars for February 18th, and plan a drive to Chisholm for the annual Chisholm Kiwanis Ice Fishing Event on Longyear Lake. Registration starts at 10am, and fishing from 11am to 4pm. Cost is \$5 per hole with a 2 hole maximum per person. There will be cash prizes, drawings, concessions, and fishing. What more could you ask for on a Minnesota Saturday afternoon. For more information, contact Sharon at sp@nhs-nss.com or call 218-254-5757.

Club Leader Education CLE will soon begin

The District education instructors are preparing once again to lead workshops throughout the district.

These workshops are designed for the Club Presidents and other officers that need to prepare for the coming year when they will take office.

We encourage club secretaries and treasurers to also attend so the team can prepare together and be ready to lead on October 1 when the new Kiwanis year begins.

Watch for the schedules in May, and your Lt. Governor teams will have more information for you very soon.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR POSITION ANNOUNCED

The Kiwanis International Board has created a volunteer position of financial advisor and currently is seeking candidates. The advisor will counsel the board on financial matters with emphasis on continued execution of sound financial decisions, and will work with staff and auditors relative to the organization's finances. Kiwanians who may be interested in serving in this capacity should possess a bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent and business acumen with corporate nonprofit accounting or audit experience. Current or former practice as a licensed CPA is preferred. Must be willing to travel several times a year to attend board meetings.

This is an unsalaried, volunteer position with reimbursement of expenses only. To request a full position description or for appointment consideration, contact Human Resources at FAinfo@kiwanis.org. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2006.

INTERCLUB CRITERIA FOR 2005-2006 PATCH

1. 2 members attending another club's meeting - not just a fund raiser, social event etc. It should have a meeting format.

2. Conventions, region / cluster meetings etc. don't count. It's an inter - "club" activity
3. The meeting can be of any K-Family club.
4. To qualify, you must have a minimum of 8 different clubs visited. More than 8 may be reported, but there must be 8 unique names visited to qualify. (I do look for duplicates)
5. There is no location restriction, but attending clubs within your region/cluster is encouraged. It is NOT essential that they be in your region!!!! Somehow that was put out by error last year - big confusion resulted.
6. Reports may be sent vial e-mail, snail mail, pony express etc. by June 15th of this year.
7. There is no required or formal report form. Just list the date, club attended, who attended and one-way mileage distance. Also, be sure to tell me your club name and region plus the name of the person submitting the report.

Reports should be submitted to:

Joe Hesch

3854 E. Superior St.

Duluth MN 55804

218-525-2857

jhesch@aol.com



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