

## 2008-2009

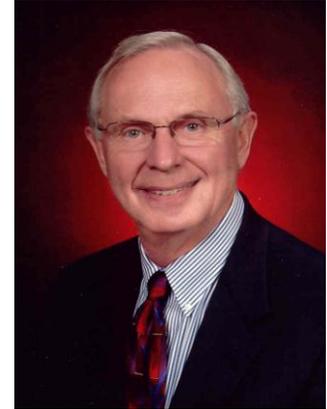
Governor: Bill Lardy, Bismarck, ND

International President: Don Canaday, Indiana

International Trustee/Counselor: Dr. Tadao Oda, Sendai, Japan

2009 District Convention: Watertown, SD

2009 International Convention: Nashville, TN



The position of District Governor is the highest position a person can achieve on the district level. And by far the greatest honor a Kiwanian can receive is to be chosen as District Governor. Serving in that capacity has been the most rewarding of my 30 years as a member of Kiwanis.

It was an honor to be nominated for Governor by Al Jaeger, fellow member of my home club, Bismarck; and have my nomination seconded by Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, also a member of my club. The greater honor was to be elected Governor. The District Executive Board consisted of Immediate Past Governor Bill Daugherty, Governor Elect Bruce Klair, Secretary/Treasurer Steve Handegaard and I. It was a pleasure to serve with these knowledgeable and dedicated Kiwanians. Their counsel and guidance were invaluable throughout the year.

The first major event I participated in was Key Leader Camp. The first regional conference was Region 1 at Fort Abraham Lincoln Park, Mandan hosted by Lt. Governor Darlene Vander Vorst. Regional conferences continued throughout the year with the final conference, Region 6, in Hutchinson, MN. The Region 3 Conference in Brainerd in March, 2009, was particularly memorable because of the Red River flood in Fargo. My wife, Dixie, and I were stuck in a traffic jam at the Fargo Red River Bridge. It took 1.5 hours to go 3 miles as only 1 bridge was open between Fargo and Moorhead. This conference, hosted by Lt. Governor Marwin Bogue, was also memorable because the keynote speaker was Past International President Steve Siemens. He is a very moving speaker and inspirational leader.

One goal for the year was to have every club named a Distinguished Club based on Kiwanis International requirements. With the great work of each club and the Lt. Governor Team 29 clubs achieved that designation. That was very gratifying as it recognized all the great work of so many clubs. Thank you to all the clubs' officers and members who worked so hard to get the Distinguished Club designation.

Kiwanis year 2008-2009 was special, too, because 2005-2006 District Governor Dr. Stewart Ross was elected to Kiwanis International Board of Trustees at the International Convention in Nashville. This was an auspicious occasion for the district since it had been many years since the district last had one of our members serve on the International Board. Stewart made us all proud!

The Nashville Convention was significant for another reason: Ryan Jorgenson, Sioux, SD received the Robert P. Connelly Medal for Heroism from Kiwanis International for rescuing a disabled person from a capsized boat. Ryan also received a \$500 savings bond from Kiwanis International. Ryan, who was 17 at the time of the rescue, was nominated by the Sioux Falls East Club.



A new club, the Baxter Lakes Area and Friends Kiwanis Club, was chartered in 2009. Karl Samp was elected as first club president. Brainerd Kiwanis sponsored the club. The organizational meeting was held May 12 and Charter Night was June 18. Lt. Governor Marwin Bogue was instrumental in forming the club. Past Governor Stewart Ross was also very much involved as District Director of Membership and New Club Building.

St. Cloud Kiwanis formed the Crow River Club Satellite at St. Michael/Albertville. On January 7, 2009, 13 members of the the Crow River Club Satellite were inducted into the St. Cloud Club. Past Governor Coralyn Dahl worked hard to recruit these members.

There were disappointments too. Two clubs were disbanded: New Rockford ND and Mandan ND Golden Age. And total district membership dropped 217 from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009, ending the year at 5,736.

I am so very glad to have had the opportunity to serve as governor. The successes the leadership team achieved are so impressive; it was an honor and privilege to work with them all. I am so proud and grateful for the hard work, dedication, enthusiasm and support of the Lt. Governor Team, as well the district directors and committee chairs. My heartfelt thanks go to each of them. To them I owe the successes we experienced during my year as governor. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to all Kiwanis members of the Minnesota Dakotas District. They gave me the opportunity to serve. I owe them my deepest thanks and appreciation.