

January 2006

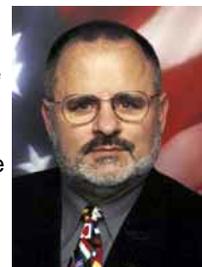
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MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

Stew's News

It's that time of year when many of us make New Year's Resolutions. I have made them now and then over the years, almost always related to trying to lose weight. My column for this month, however, has nothing to do with losing weight or any personal goals of my own. Rather, I would like to suggest some Resolutions for our District Kiwanis Clubs and members.



We have so many great clubs in our district that continue to be healthy and vibrant. However, there are other cases where clubs are struggling and are concerned about their future.

I give the following advice to clubs based on well over 50 club visits since becoming governor-elect of our district and over 70 club visits as Lt. Governor of region 6 a number of years ago. This is on top of belonging to two Kiwanis clubs with weekly meetings. For whatever it is worth, here are Resolutions that might be helpful to some of our clubs throughout the MN-DAK District.

1. Resolve to bring in new, younger, and more diverse members to your club. I am sure this one did not surprise you with all the focus we have had recently with member recruitment, orientation, and retention. I have visited way too many clubs recently that are in serious trouble and experiencing major problems—not because the club is not doing good things but rather that there are not many members left to do these good things.

Another problem one witnesses throughout our district is that too many clubs have grown older as no new members have joined recently to keep the average age down. In fact, recently we saw an entire club ending their existence with over 15 members still in the club. Seeing no future with a graying membership, they decided to end it all before there was no one left to fill out the form!

Clubs that have been proactive and looked into the future have realized that membership recruitment is crucial and cannot be put off any longer. Clubs that have lowered the average age of members have stayed healthy and have the people power to continue service projects and work to aid local communities.

There is a Golden K Club in the Twin Cities area that just recruited a member under the age of 30—now that is progress! If clubs make only one Resolution for 2006, recruiting new, younger, and more diverse members would be the Resolution to work on.

2. Resolve to celebrate club successes and individual achievements with gusto and passion. This may seem like an odd Resolution but it is important to the health of clubs and their members to minimize nitpicking and finding fault with leaders and issues.

We are all volunteers in Kiwanis (other than perhaps district secretaries who never earn what they deserve). Since volunteer leaders are not paid for their work, we need to find ways to enjoy the great things that occur in Kiwanis at all levels: international, district, region and local.

Clubs should honor those who have given of their time, even if it is only public recognition of some kind at a club meeting. I have been to club meetings where you would never know something really spectacular was done for the local community--no fanfare, no publicity, and no feeling of pride or accomplishment. It is so easy to dwell on the negative things rather than focus on positive ones. Perhaps the famous saying about the glass being half full or half empty comes into play here.

Perception is 9/10 of the law. If clubs celebrate the positive accomplishments and Resolve to minimize the negative we could see a great attitudinal shift for so many clubs that just don't see the great things they are doing for others. If our clubs don't celebrate their successes we can hardly expect the community to do so.

3. Resolve to develop the habit of regular club attendance. This is a tough one, I know. We are not the only Kiwanis district dealing with this bothersome issue. I was recently in another state as a guest speaker and half of a 120 member club attended the meeting—they were pleased so many came!

Regular club attendance is crucial to the success of clubs. Nothing makes a negative statement quicker than poor attendance to club meetings, especially when accompanied by excuses—"the program did not look interesting, I got busy today, no one cares if I come or not, looks like a poor meal today."

A good Kiwanian does not decide if he/she is interested in a particular club meeting-regular attendance is a habit that can be formed as easily as not attended often. The thrill of being at a meeting with Kiwanis friends should be more than enough motivation for anyone to become a regular club meeting attender (I made that word up).

No club has a clearer indication that a member will be resigning from a club than missing a number of meetings in a row. Clubs with a high percentage of members in attendance will have better meetings, more excitement, and a team feeling so lacking by clubs with poor attendance.

There are many ways to improve this situation-use your creativity. Most importantly, make members feel like they are missed if they do not attend meetings.

4. Resolve to participate in Kiwanis at all levels, not only at the local level. As I travel around our district I hear from many that this or that club does not care about anything other than their own club. I am saddened by this type of attitude. Clubs that do not reach out to learn about their region, district or international organization tend to be the first to complain about a needed dues increase or change in policy.

All clubs should be responsible for two delegates to attend the KI Convention and three delegates attending the District Convention, not to mention a large number attending the region conference. At these events, one learns about Kiwanis outside of the individual club. One makes friends and acquaintances outside the local club that can be powerful forces in member's lives.

Even if some clubs have no luck sending members to KI conventions, district and region events should be possible. And even if members do not attend these events, any club can have an educational minute or two to help members learn more about Kiwanis at other levels than local.

Club presidents who never discuss Kiwanis issues and concerns not directly connected to the local club do a disservice to their members. We all know that folks join Kiwanis for local reasons. That does not mean that members can't grow with education about the ENTIRE organization, beyond the city limits. Why not work toward the interclub and distinguished club award as a start toward achieving this Resolution?

5. Resolve to develop leaders who can help clubs become successful in their goals. This Resolution INCLUDES developing leaders who might become Lt. Governors, Governors and district administrators. This is an important Resolution that is crucial to the success of our district and region organization.

As I write this article we have a number of regions that have yet to identify a Lt. Governor-Elect for next year. No one has stepped forward as we move into the New Year to run for governor. Many clubs are struggling with a need for a new President-Elect. One club last year actually considered resignation due to no one stepping forward to become president!

Resolution 5 is related to 4. If club members learn nothing about Kiwanis outside of their own club what are the chances they will step forward to lead their region or district? One often hears at the time of asking a member to become a club president or district officer that he/she is too busy. All of us seem to be too busy in one way or another.

I have heard from recently retired Kiwanians that they are now busier than when they had a career in the workforce! My father taught me early in my life that no one is too busy for something they want to do—it is all a matter of priorities.

We need to help members of Kiwanis clubs realize that being a leader is a natural outcome of being a club member for a number of years. Leaders need to nurture future leaders. Leaders need to see the difference in accepting "I'm too busy" as a valid excuse versus using this as an attempt to keep Kiwanis as a low priority.

Leaders must work with club members to move Kiwanis up the chain of priority so that in time these people WILL step forward to make a difference for their club and beyond.

This is my list of some Resolution's I'd love to see clubs and members attempt this year. I know that one of my Resolutions

(besides losing weight once again this year) is to continue to work hard as your governor. I promise to do everything I can to build new clubs, make our district goals happen, and offer my support to our leadership team. If you think my visiting your own club would be beneficial I will do what I can to get to your meeting—give me a call or send an email. Won't you all join me in the quest to make Kiwanis even more than it already is in our district?

Together We Can, Together We Will!

Stewart Ross Governor, MN-DAK Kiwanis District

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer - January 2006

By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2006!

Following are some important reminders:

Electronic Monthly Club Reporting Update

We are only two months into our new online monthly club reporting system and as of this writing we have 61 % of the clubs in our district reporting online!! That's great. Let's keep working towards 100%. The top 3 regions in our district have 86%, 73% and 69% of their clubs reporting online. We hope that many more clubs will give it a try when they report their January activities. If you are 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.

Governor Elect Candidates Needed: Once again if you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2006-2007, please submit a picture of yourself and a short biographical sketch to the District Kiwanis Office, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 **no later than the last week in January**. If the material is received by that date it will be published in the February Minnekotan. Governor Elect candidates must be a Past Lt. Governor. The election will take place at the District Convention in St. Cloud next August.

Leadership opportunities: If you are interested in being a future District Kiwanis leader please contact your Lt. Governor, other officer or myself. Each year the district is in need of interested and



dedicated leaders. It can be a very interesting, rewarding and educational experience.

2004-2005 Annual Club Reports:

Thank you to those clubs that have submitted their Annual Club Report to Kiwanis International. The new style report replaces the old part I and II reports of the past. The new report is electronic and is based upon the achievement criteria set forth by Kiwanis International.

The report forms were sent electronically to the email address on file for the Club President and/or Club Secretary. Clubs who do not have an email address on file at Kiwanis International were sent a printed copy via the postal service. The Annual Club Report was due to Kiwanis International by November 15, 2005. If you did not complete the report, please call Kiwanis International at 1-800-KIWANIS to receive instructions on how you can still submit the report. Ask for Jodi.

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.

2005-2006 General Liability Risk Management Packets:

All club secretaries should have received this special packet of materials recently from Kiwanis International. Be sure your club is aware of the liability risks and your insurance coverage when sponsoring events. This packet of information provides you with most of the information you need to know.

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

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

Thanks for all your great work in Kiwanis.

Coralyn's Corner

CORALYN'S CORNER

This is my first column of the Kiwanis year and of the New Year as well. The subject that I want to discuss is "interclubing"; when Kiwanis members visit another club for fun and fellowship.

My husband and I are currently visiting in Plano Texas and this morning had the opportunity to attend a joint meeting of the Plano and the Richardson clubs. We introduced ourselves to the early birds and were greeted warmly and with interest when they found we were from Minnesota.

The speaker for the day was a gentleman and last year's president from the McKinney Kiwanis club, who had recently retired from the Texas Rangers (the state police force – not the baseball team!) Did you know that this group –the Texas Rangers actually began when Texas was still part of Mexico in 1823? Well, they weren't known as the Texas Rangers then, of course, but these elite fellows are an important part of Texas history. The speaker, Lee Young, showed us his Ranger badge which he informed us is made out of a silver Mexican peso coin – another tradition.

There is a story that there was a riot in a town to which one Ranger was sent. The local sheriff was appalled when only one Ranger came, but the Ranger said, "Well, you only have one riot, don't you!"

The competition is high to become a part of this renowned group of which there are only 112 Rangers today. One isn't just assigned. The competition is fierce and the requirements high.

So why am I relating this story? To make you aware of the absolute enjoyment of visiting other clubs and the great fun one can have in meeting fellow Kiwanians – listening to interesting speakers and coming away with the realization that we are part of an organization that is so much larger than our own hometown group – that we have common goals and that *Together We Can – Together We Will!*

Long-time, beloved Kiwanian Dies

The Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud deeply misses Deacon James C. "Jeff" Hennes who died on December 8th. Jeff had been a member of the club for 59 years joining in 1946. He had served both the club and the District well as a president and a Lt. Governor. Jeff was ordained a Deacon of the Diocese of St. Cloud in 1981 and served at St. Augustine's Catholic Church. Jeff served his church, his community and Kiwanis well with a life of selfless service. Most recently he had been involved in a Kiwanis project of serving the children of the world by packaging food for Kids Against Hunger - a project of the St. Cloud Kiwanis Club.

Jeff had a wonderful sense of humor which delighted his fellow members. He is also remembered for his invocations at the meetings which came from a sincere, loving heart.

He will be missed!

Madison Mayor Death A Loss for Kiwanis

Royce Hueners, Madison Mayor since 1995 and Kiwanis member for 34 years died suddenly October 24th as the result of a stroke. Royce was very active in Kiwanis throughout his membership serving on the Board of Directors and as Secretary. Ironically the Tuesday before his death he was flipping pancakes at a Kiwanis fundraiser.

Jon Hunter, publisher of the Madison Leader, said: "We believe Mayor Royce Hueners legacy as Mayor will be that he cared about the city, and worked extraordinarily long and hard to make it a better place."

Mayor Hueners was active in many Madison and statewide boards and committees promoting the betterment of the community and all citizens of South Dakota including South Dakota Retirement System Board, South Dakota Health Pool Board, South Dakota Municipal League (past president and Board), Madison Leadership Board, Chamber of Commerce Board, East Dakota Water Board, East Dakota Transit Board, Lake Area Improvement Corporation, Vermillion Watershed District Board, First District Board, Pan American Highway Board, Mayors Committee on Americans with Disabilities Act, Madison Area Planning (MAP) Committee, First Planning District Board and past president, several offices for Our Savior Lutheran Church, and board of directors for South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Royce was a compassionate and energetic leader and friend who will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

Kiwanis is better for the service that Royce Hueners gave since 1971.

Fergus Falls Loses Teacher, Long Time Kiwanian

Fergus Falls Otter Risers Club lost a long-time member and friend unexpectedly December 23rd.



59 year old James Bezenek was in his 19th year as a Kiwanis Member and completed a three year run on the Board of Directors September 30th. In his service to the Otter Risers Club he was currently an Assistant Chair of the Contribution Committee. In all he had 13 years of perfect attendance.

The Wahpeton Native and Moorhead State University Graduate taught 4 years at Princeton, Minnesota before beginning in Fergus Falls in 1971. At the time of his death he was teaching 3rd grade at McKinley School and had been a driver's education teacher for the past 25 years.

In addition to serving as a long time member of Kiwanis he was a member of the Knights of Columbus and had been an Exalted Ruler with the Elks.

The Kiwanis Family will miss James Bezenek.

New Rockford Kiwanis Club Charters 1st Aktion Club in North Dakota

The New Rockford Kiwanis Club has completed the chartering process of the first Kiwanis Aktion Club in North Dakota. The Kiwanis Club was also the first to sponsor a K-Kids Club in the state of North Dakota. The Aktion Club was chartered on September 23, 2005, with 24 members and the club held its Charter celebration on December 8.

Kiwanis Aktion Clubs are a sponsored program of Kiwanis International and provide service opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. The New Rockford Aktion Club is co-sponsored by the 4th Corporation which is an organization providing services to such adults.

The Aktion club will meet monthly at the same restaurant where the Kiwanis Club regularly meets. Between 4 to 6 members of the Aktion Club are also invited each month to attend the Kiwanis Club meetings. One of the Aktion Club members is also a member of the New Rockford Kiwanis Club. All Aktion Club members participate in Kiwanis and K-Kid projects as well as several projects of their own including sponsoring a Highway Cleanup on a state highway and a community recycling project located at the 4th Corporation. Kiwanis Club members who are advisors to the Aktion Club are Peggy Hibsich, Elaine Olson and Darlene Peterson.

The club has already participated in joint service projects with the New Rockford Kiwanis and K-Kids Clubs.

Holiday Extravaganza Coming January 7th!

For many people, holidays and music go together like Rudolph and his shiny nose. Whether we're decking halls or jingling bells, the familiar melodies of the season help set the stage for memorable time spent with family and friends.

This same nostalgic spirit will be felt when over 200 Kiwanis Family members gather in Fargo to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Circle K at the 2006 K-Family Holiday Extravaganza. Proceeds from this Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction benefit the Kiwanis District Education Foundation.

Known for its elegance, class, and genuine hospitality, the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center is the perfect setting to celebrate the holidays Kiwanis Family style! Our inaugural Holiday Extravaganza will be held in the spectacular

Crystal I Ballroom and can accommodate up to 250 guests. Whether you live in the Fargo-Moorhead area or are coming from *Bismarck, Duluth, Mankato, Red Wing, Rochester, Saint Cloud, Sioux Falls, Worthington or Watertown*, please join us for this great American Bash!

Thus far, our Star Spangled Guest Roster exceeds 200 people and includes 8 past Kiwanis District Governors, 2 past CKI Presidents, over 50 Circle K Members, 25 Key Club Members along with both the Key Club and Circle K District Boards. Numerous Kiwanis Family alumni from Arizona, Georgia, Illinois and Tennessee will be in attendance in addition to Kiwanians visiting from Georgia as well as Nebraska and Iowa. The only VIP's we are currently missing is you! Please consider joining us and ring in the New Year Kiwanis Family style!

Holiday Extravaganza Promises Fun for Everyone

Dear Kiwanians,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Circle K, we would like to remind you about a fun Kiwanis Family event happening on Saturday, January 7th at the Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel in Fargo from 6:30 pm - 12:00 midnight.

The K-Family Holiday Extravaganza is a Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction benefiting our Kiwanis District Education Foundation. Close to 200 Kiwanis Family members are coming together to celebrate the New Year by attending the 2006 Holiday Extravaganza.

We still have space available to accommodate about 25 couples and hope that if your plans have changed, that you might consider joining us? If you are interested, please contact Joe Blasko directly at 651 330-6812 or joablasko@comcast.net We will have a very limited number of meals available at the door but these will be gone very quickly.

We have some tremendous auction items available to bid on and would be extremely honored if you could join us!

Heidi Moldenhauer & Jenna Schaefer

Band Director Hits It Right on the Head!!

By Bill Zortman, District Public Relations Chair

As I start 2006 --- words from two former band directors continue to make their mark as we look to the future of Kiwanis.

Conductor Stewart Ross penned the slogan -- "Together We Can..Together We Will" at every Kiwanis function I attended in 2005. It takes the Togetherness to keep our Kiwanis Flag Flying and it takes a band director to keep our lines even and our trumpets in tune with trombones and flutes heard with the beat of the drum. Governor Ross will be remembered for endless energy, persistent pride, and contagious communication. We hope that with your help he will be remembered for growing Kiwanis Kindliness.

However for me --- words spoken off the cuff by a 91 year old former Red Oak, Iowa band director in the last days of 2005 may have meant even more. Dick Simpson was in Sioux Falls attending two funerals -- and our newest Daybreak member brought him along to speak to us. When I heard Scott Dougherty say at a 6:45AM meeting that we could learn a lot from Mr. Simpson --- I truly had my doubts.

That changed when I heard him speak -- without notes -- and from the heart. Mr. Simpson thanked all of us -- having just heard of the work Daybreak Kiwanis had done for the needy at Christmas. In his John Wooden (legendary UCLA Basketball Coach) manner --- he said he was sorry that Service Clubs like Kiwanis were having trouble with membership. Simpson said, "No one today has time to be nice to someone else." He said he was thankful for those of us that do.

As I pondered that message from a man who directed bands for 27 years --- I realized he was right. And instead of running away from that thought -- perhaps we need to promote our Kiwanis ranks as "The Service Club that takes time to be nice to someone else." Really, isn't that what we are all about?

Jokingly the 91 year old Simpson said his 92 year old wife is starting to get a little forgetful. As it turned out --- he knew two band directors that had tried to teach me how to play on key and march in step in Western Iowa in the 60's. He actually judged the two music contests that we competed with Iowa's best in those years. He remembered we lost to Glenwood High School -- but remembered that there was something about the Spartan Spirit in the West Monona Band.

When we talked about where his life and my life had led us since then --- he made me proud that I was still following the beat of a Kiwanis band that is Spirited and may not always win --- but will be remembered for making a difference.

I'll remember Dick Simpson --- and hope you will too. Please continue as Kiwanis members to "be nice to someone else" and lets make it the organization that takes time to listen even when the alto sax player is 91 years of age and now an active Elk.

Announcing new MN-DAK Internet Club

The MN-DAK e Kiwanis Club ***“The only Internet based Kiwanis Club in the*** ***MN-DAK District of Kiwanis International”***

Mission Statement

The MN-DAK Kiwanis Club is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in our Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International. Our members place emphasis on Serving the Children of the World as We Build our local communities.

Membership Requirements

Membership in the MN-DAK eKiwanis Club is open to men and women of good character, 18 years of age or older. Membership is effective upon the chartering of the new club when 25 paid memberships are received and club officers are selected. The membership in this club will be individuals who are interested in belonging to a unique second (or third club) or for whatever reason are not able to belong to a traditional club because of distance, business, time commitment, mobility, handicapping condition, or other personal reasons. Although the club will need to decide requirements of attendance, it is expected that members must maintain an "in good standing" rating to continue as a MN-DAK Club member. It is suggested that this will mean 70% participation in all club meetings and activities.

Membership Benefits

The MN-DAK Kiwanis Club will provide an opportunity for individuals to become active members of the world's premier service organization. Membership in the club will provide opportunities for community service, professional development of leadership and management skills, and boundless networking possibilities. Other membership benefits will include the opportunity to interclub with other Kiwanis clubs, supporting a sponsored youth program, and raising funds for local, regional, and International level projects.

Meetings

The club meets twice a month, the second and fourth Sunday at 9:00 p.m. in our online chat room. Regular meetings are accessed by members only. Prior approval must be secured by guests. The club web site includes the chat room, message board, documents, club activities, calendar, links, pictures, and newsletter. The club will also hold meetings where club members will have the opportunity to have face to face contact. These meetings will be at the various region conferences, MN-DAK District Convention, Region Council meetings, CLE sessions, and the Kiwanis International Convention. The Board of Directors meets on Wednesday at 10:00 p.m. the last week of each month. Committees set up their own meeting time in the chat room with times posted on the web site.

Officers and Board of Directors

The officers of the club will include a president, president-elect, vice president, immediate past president (after the first year of operation), treasurer, and secretary. The chairs of the standing committees will serve as members of the board of directors. Committee chairs will be appointed/elected for staggered two-year terms. Standing committees are: Membership, PR, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster, Community Service, Fundraising, Youth Services, YCPO, Sponsored Youth, Human and Spiritual Values, and Interclub and Fellowship. A vote of the executive committee and the board of directors can establish other committee chairs.

Membership Dues

Members pay a new member fee upon approval of their application for membership by the Board of Directors. The club will begin with 25 or more charter members. During the first year of operation this club will have dues of \$55 (\$50 to Kiwanis International and \$5 as a new member fee to the MN-DAK District). The estimated cost of membership after the first year is \$100.00 per year for dues payable on an annual basis which will be decided by the charter date of the club. The final amount of dues after the first year will be decided by the club members themselves.

Fund Raising

It is anticipated that the club will need to raise funds for service projects. This may include sale of souvenir items and other merchandise through our web site; sale of donated merchandise through online auctions such as eBay, and personally directed fundraisers approved by the club.

Community Service

Community Service is the heart and soul of our club. Each member is encouraged to participate in one of three levels of community service activities. Level one- each club member is encouraged to perform a community service project in his or her own community on a monthly basis. This project can be performed alone or with club members in the area, or with another Kiwanis club, with another community group, etc. Level two - each quarter the club will decide upon a project to do as a club. Members will submit project proposals over the web at a meeting for club approval. Club members will participate in the proposed project to the level of their ability. Level three - the club will perform a service project in the city of the District convention. Members will decide on the project and then perform the service while attending the convention. Other service projects will be decided by the club with approval by the board of directors.

Sponsored Youth

An investment in young people is essential to the future of Kiwanis. The All-MN-DAK Club will support Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, and K-Kids on an annual basis. The club will donate to the MN-DAK Outreach program and will volunteer time to Circle K and Key Club in the district.

Newsletter/Web Site

A monthly Newsletter is sent out to members via their email address. In addition, club members

can keep up to date by accessing our web site.

YCPO

Young Children are a Priority for our Kiwanis Club. Serving the needs of young children in a wide variety of projects will be emphasized on a quarterly basis.

Spiritual Aims

Club members are to be active in spiritual aims related activities within their communities.

Interclub and Fellowship

Many opportunities to network with other clubs either in person or via the Internet will be available to club members. The MN-DAK Club should be a leader in the number of interclubs completed each year.

Programs at Meetings

Like any other club there are brief but informative programs presented online at each meeting. These programs will include Kiwanis education, member education and information, sharing of ideas, human and spiritual values topics, etc. Club members take turns in presenting informational programs.

How do I Join?

If you would like to join the MN-DAK Kiwanis Club, please contact

Clover Ellingson

429 22St. S.

Fargo, ND 58103

Phone (701)729-7640

Email: ellingc@fargo.k12.nd.us or cloverjean@cableone.net

If you would like to be a charter member of this new club, fill out the attached membership form, print out, and send to Clover with a check for \$55 to cover dues for the first year of membership. Make checks out to: MN-DAK eClub. Checks will not be cashed until there are 25 charter members signed-up and paid for membership. Anyone who joins during the first year of operation of this club will be considered a charter member.

Sioux Falls President's Still Going!!!!

There are 25 clubs in South Dakota's Region 5. Roughly 20-25% of the Region's membership comes from Sioux Falls.

With a meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month at a Frying Pan restaurant -- there is more cooking than just the soup, salad, and sandwiches the 5 Sioux Falls President's enjoy.

During 2005 -- this group planned its first Sioux Falls - Kiwanis wide picnic. Each club enjoyed not only the brats, burgers, and beans -- but a chance to hear what the other 4 clubs were doing.

As new Presidents picked up the challenge in October -- the leaders are now looking to move the picnic from June to September, look to combine resources and volunteer opportunities on a website, and try to decorate a holiday tree in November 2006 at the State Capital to promote Kiwanis in Sioux Falls.

Year 2 of the President's pursuit could allow the 200 + members to become much closer. Some old time members have said -- "aw - we did it before and it really didn't work." Others have concerns that the clubs are in competition for members. But the mood of this group is pretty simple. Together -- 5 clubs has more to offer than 1. Members are looking for more

than check writing --- and we might make new friends by working together with other clubs.

Among the opportunities in 2006:

- Help in developing a new club in Vermillion -- which could be the first since 1997.
- Saving a club with sagging sales in salt snow melt. While postcards can be sent out to Chamber membership -- all of the clubs have an interest in seeing Kiwanis succeed.
- With some of the checks that are written -- would it be better to send checks from more than 1 club in the same envelope?
- Speakers --- sharing good information about who is speaking and when --- and doing more interclubs.
- The Downtown Club will have a website beginning in 2006. It will be the first in Sioux Falls. They have graciously invited other clubs to have a page on their site and to include information that will show the wide range of opportunities for Kiwanis hours and fellowship.
- Despite the fact that with the Kiwanis Foundation restrictions on scholarships in Region 5 -- the clubs will get out scholarship information to each school. 2005 produced a record number of applicants -- and hopefully the Foundation will feel the heat to reward Sioux Falls area with more consideration in the future.

Sioux Falls Downtown, Sioux Falls East, Sioux Falls West, Sioux Falls South, and Sioux Falls Daybreak will continue to work to improve the climate for Kiwanis --- and in doing so -- have some fun, do some networking, and help our kids and projects -- one opportunity at a time.

Lt Governor Past -- Bill Daugherty and Lt Governor Future -- Bill Zortman have been looking for buy in for the past year. And now as they left the last meeting in 2005 -- they had smiles on their faces. In their words --- The Clubs are Now Getting It. Together Kiwanis in Sioux Falls can be a fantastic force.

Holly Jolly Event a HUGE Success!

Volunteers from the Chisholm Kiwanis, KEY Club, KIDS PLUS, Chisholm Chamber of Commerce, American Bank and other local businesses and others, welcomed in the holiday season for the children of Chisholm by hosting the annual Holly Jolly Event. Over 250 children had their picture taken with Santa while their shared their Christmas wish list. A picture frame was crafted to hold their treasured picture. KEY Club and KIDS PLUS members created holiday tatoos for the children to show off to their friends and family. Families enjoyed a great meal and visiting with their neighbors. Children and families selflessly gave canned goods and boxed items to the local food shelf. The Spirit of the Season is alive and flourishing in Chisholm as is evident by the volunteerism of the people that came out to help with the Holly Jolly Event, in the generosity of the businesses that contributed, and especially the children, who's laughter and smiles bring joy to us each and every day during this holiday season.

Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Honors Guest Speakers in New WAY

The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club has honored speakers in the past by giving them a Kiwanis pen and more recently a club coffee mug. Club president and District First Lady Liz Lawrence-Ross had a better idea. She was able to secure a donation of children's books by the local company, Capstone Press. Each boook will have a label inserted that it was donated to the school in honor of the person who was the guest speaker that week. Talk about a win-win solution to providing guest speakers with a meaningful gift while doing service for the community at no new expense for the local club. The photo shows President Liz Lawrence-Ross holding a book being donated in honor of the guest speaker, Pete Steiner of a Mankato radio station.



Submit Your Club News to the Minnekotan and District Website!

There is a very easy way to submit an article and photos to the District Website and the Minnekotan. You can do it yourself. All you need to do is click on the "News" in the header of the district home page. Then click on "Submit a News Story". Fill in the blanks as you wish the article to appear. Be sure to click on "include in the Minnekotan" if you

want the article to display on both the website and the Minnekotan. Besides text you can also submit a digital photo file with each article. Once the article is submitted it is automatically sent to the webmaster who will then give final approval for publication. Give it a try!

Website Coordinator Being Sought for Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Website

We are currently looking for an individual interested in being the website coordinator for our Minnesota-Dakotas District Website.

Lori Larson our former website coordinator resigned the end of November and Bob Swanson of the Vikingland Club of Moorhead is serving as interim website coordinator until Feb. 1st. 2006. If you have the interest, skills and time we would like to hear from you. The position does come with compensation and the amount of time varies each month depending on special projects. We estimate an average of about 8 - 10 hours per month. It would be preferred that the person is a Kiwanian, but not a requirement.



If interested please contact Steve Handegaard at the District Kiwanis Office by January 15, 2006. secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org or 218-589-7581

Following is the current position job description:

POSITION TITLE: Web Site Coordinator
 NAME:
 CONTRACTED BY: Secretary, Board of Directors
 REPORTS TO: District Secretary/Treasurer

Duties:

The website coordinator will be responsible for development, implementation, maintenance, and support of MN-Dak District Kiwanis International web site, www.mndak-kiwanis.org. Keeps current on web technologies for possible inclusion into web site. Acts as liaison with web site developers/hosting services including the Club Reporting developer, currently Club Resource, LLC.

This job involves:

1. Helps develop, implement and maintain web-based applications.
2. Coordinates with web site host/provider and secretary to continually improve web site. Acts as liaison with web site developer/hosting service.
3. Works with partners and internal teams/committees to implement and incorporate new products into current web site format/structure. Leads projects as required to integrate new products into current online structure.
4. Supports volunteer efforts and provides customer service through participation with appropriate MN-Dak Kiwanis committees and contact with members. Club members are to provide content web-ready for the site.

Role:

The aesthetic and function of the website will be the responsibility of the webmaster, while the content will be put forth by Kiwanis members and various leaders, including the District Secretary and Governor. The webmaster will be responsible for the administrative and logistical upkeep of the website and proper citation of the content. The webmaster will work collaboratively with the website committees and the District Secretary.

Qualifications:

1. Thorough knowledge of the Minnesota-Dakotas District website including any sites the District has chosen to participate with for its members (i.e. ClubResources.)
2. Proven web site building experience with proficient experience of HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Adobe products required. MySQL experience also highly desirable;

3. Good customer service and oral/written communication skills.
4. Additional duties as assigned.

Club Bulletin and Brochure Contest Instructions.

CLUB NEWSLETTER AND CLUB BROCHURE CONTEST 2005-2006

CLUB BULLETINS WILL BE JUDGED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

30 members or less	White category
31-45 members	Blue category
46-70 members	Orange category
71-100 members	Silver category
101 members plus	Gold Category

CLUBS:

Send two copies of three issues of your club newsletter to your regional judging committee chairperson below. . Make sure to include your club name, club size, region, and contact person. Include e-mail address and telephone number.

REGIONS:

Regional winners must be sent to the District (Jo Hittner) by July 1.

Regional judging committees are picked by the REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION. They will pick one winner in each category and give two copies of three issues to the REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION to forward to Jo Hittner. Notice: clubs DO NOT send your entries to Jo Hittner.

Clubs will send their entries to the name listed in their region below:

- Region 1 Berniece Olson Box 592 Tioga ND 58852 bbolson@nccray.com
- Region 2 Larry Humble 1300 S. Washington Grand Forks ND LarryHum@hotmail.com
- Region 3 Don Lilyquist 1326 91 Ave. W. Duluth MN 55808 thelilybett@aol.com
- Region 4 Earl Stucke 2126 Cedar Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702 egstucke@earthlink.net
- Region 5 Randy Hohn 5412 Deer Creek Dr. Sioux Falls SD 57106 radhohn@sio.midco.net
- Region 6 David Fairbrother 620 13th St. NE Owatonna MN 55060 muffins3@msn.com
- Region 7 Dan Shafland 922 Linda Ave. Red Wing MN 55066 djshaf@charter.net

DISTRICT:

The District judging committee will pick one winner in each category for the District award. The winners will be announced at the convention.

DEFINITION OF A BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER

The terms Bulletin and newsletter are interchangeable. A Bulletin is a periodical document that informs Club members and others of news and happenings from within the Club, Region and District that would be of interest

Checklist for Evaluating Club Bulletins

Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly • Biweekly • Monthly • Other <p>(Content should be reasonably proportional to frequency.)</p>
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legibility • Layout/organization • Effectiveness of headings/headlines
Masthead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes name of bulletin, name of club, and date of issue
Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List major officers • Editor with phone number and/or email address
Kiwanis Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club meeting time and place • Nearby clubs meeting information (extra points)
Meeting Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next 1, 2, 3 meetings • Summary of last 1, 2, 3 meetings
Board Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of board actions
New Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named only • Biographical sketch (extra points)
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition for perfect attendance • Welcome back/We miss you notes
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note guests and their hosts
Sponsored Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on activities
Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kudos to members for club contributions
Personals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members' birthdays, anniversaries • Short items about members' family/business/community affairs
Club Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-club reports • Service/fund-raising reports
Kiwanis Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy, procedure, or history items
Division/District/International News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings, programs, actions
Fun Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quips, quotes, cartoons, contests to create reader interest.

CLUB BROCHURES CONTEST :

DEFINITION OF A BROCHURE

2005-2006

A Brochure is a document that is used to explain what our Kiwanis Club is and does. It is used as an advertising and publicity tool. It is not a periodical but contains general information about each club.

The following is the criteria for judging club brochures:

1. Easy to read
2. Attractive, with a finished look
3. Informative enough to lead a reader to a meeting
4. Include goals of Kiwanis International and the local Kiwanis club
5. History of service activities without mention of fund raising activities
6. Information is general enough to have long-term accuracy; that is the brochure does not have to be redone each year.

Judging the club brochures will follow the same general procedures as the newsletter with one exception – Send only one club brochures to the regional committee who will judge the best in their region. The winner in each region will be sent to the District for final judging.

Send you club brochure to the same contact person listed in the club newsletter contest.

New Rockford Kiwanis Club , Aktion Club and K-Kids Club join together for Service

On Wednesday December 14 the New Rockford Kiwanis Club assembled food baskets for 49 families in the New Rockford area. There were 35 baskets for families and 14 baskets for couples. This was the largest number of baskets we have ever put together!! This is one of the club's annual service projects and was co-ordinated by Kiwanian Kent Braunberger. Each basket contained a turkey(gift certificate from our club to buy one), stuffing, fresh fruit, soups, cans of vegetables, fresh buns from our local bakery, cranberries, sweet potatoes, and red potatoes. Our club donates the items and assembles the baskets which are then distributed anonymously through Eddy County Social Services. The Aktion Club delivered the food items from the grocery store to the Brown Memorial Building where the assembly was completed by Kiwanians, members of our K-Kids and a community volunteer. The Kiwanis and K-Kids Clubs also did Salvation Army Bell Ringing on Saturday December 3 and 10 in front of Hagens Grocery store. While it was cold we got nearly \$400 in donations for the Salvation Army

Kiwanis Public Service Spots Now Playing On TV Near You

It's a tricky game --- Public Service Announcements on Radio and Television. Back in the days of polyester pants, and ferdinand shirts --- stations were required to provide so much public service time to keep their FCC licenses. Today -- that has changed -- along with the number of radio and tv stations that any one owner may have.

When Kiwanis International spent a good chunk of change producing the spots --- we knew it would take some work to get broadcasters to give us FREE time. Some radio stations wanted to charge for it but we are happy to report -- with the Christmas holidays now behind us -- that the TV spots are appearing.

Kelly Manning--- Manager of KSFY-TV in Sioux Falls told Region 5 in a meeting at Madison that his station would run the

Public Service spots. Just before Christmas -- he emailed Bill Zortman -- District Public Relations Chair that the spots would begin running. Public Relations Ambassador Bobbi Nelson -- reported the first sighting from her home in Hartford, South Dakota and Lt Governor Elect Curt Pearson confirmed the viewing from Worthington, Minnesota. Pearson wrote-- "Gives one a good feeling knowing that we belong to the best service organization around."

Manning suggested to those attending the meeting in Madison in October -- to contact your local TV stations and asked them to run the Kiwanis PSA's. What's in it for the TV stations? Relationships, viewers, and ultimately the ability to charge more for commercials when they can show that they have developed audience loyalty.

KSFY serves South Dakota from Pierre east. In addition -- sister stations KVLV-TV in Fargo, KFVY-TV in Bismarck, KMOT-TV Minot, KUMV-TV in Williston, and KQCD-TV in Dickinson. Those stations serve all of North Dakota and a good portion of Minnesota as well.

Best suggestion? If you see the Public Service announcements write a letter to the TV station. If you don't see them --- call the station and tell them that other stations in the three states are running them.

At KSFY --- the Minn-Dak website is on the screen through most of the spot.

Keep us posted on what other TV and Radio stations are doing with the Public Service Announcements. If we don't take advantage of their showings -- it will be our own fault.

TAKE A BUS TO MONTREAL AND SAVE BIG BUCKS!!!

We have two buses engaged for a direct trip to Montreal. One from Duluth which will take a northern route and one from Rochester which will take a southern route. Arrangements are being made at both starting points for you to park your cars or vans in a secure location. Both buses will leave in the A.M. of 27 June and with relief drivers go non-stop (except for necessary stops for breaks and food) to Montreal arriving there on 28 June. We would then leave Montreal on 2 July and arrive back in MNDAK on 3 July.

Pricing is a bit complicated as we are using two different bus companies and the amounts depend upon how many passengers there will be. We do not intend to make a profit and of course do not intend to take a personal loss.

Leaving from Duluth the ESTIMATED cost would be approximately \$150 per person for 47 passengers and \$175 per person for 40 passengers.

Leaving from Rochester the ESTIMATED cost would be approximately \$185 per person for 49 passengers and \$198 per person with 40 passengers.

If it becomes necessary to combine passengers to leave from either Duluth or Rochester, whichever location has the most passengers would be the single departure point and the cost would be somewhere between \$150 and \$200 per person.

This all compares with Northwest Airlines @ \$601, Continental @\$621 and Air Canada @ \$634 per person quotes as of 12/30/05 from Travelocity for an individual adult fare this summer. These airfares are likely to go up according to all predictions of the cost of air travel. Bus travel is economical and convenient taking you directly to your convention hotel as well as picking you up there.

This would compare to a cost of \$500 per person for driving your own car (based upon two person in the car and mileage @.44/mile) plus parking, overnight costs and the driving responsibility. Take the bus and leave the driving to us!!!

2006 Kiwanis International Convention Registration and Housing Information

To find details about the 2006 International Kiwanis Convention in Montreal contact your club secretary or go to the the Kiwanis International website at

<http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/>

All club secretaries should have received a mailing with convention information and registration forms the week of December 26. The convention information will also appear in the February 2006 issue of the KIWANIS magazine.

Montreal is going to be a great Kiwanis experience! Hope to see you there! Let have a great turnout from the Minnesota-Dakotas District!



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