REPORT OF LIONEL P.A. MUTHIAH: GOVERNOR: 1995-96

I was encouraged by several long time Kiwanis friends to run for the office of Governor of the Minnesota Dakotas District. I waited till I had retired from "active" ministry in the United Methodist Church, before I gave this serious thought.

Once I made my decision to run. I wrote to several Kiwanis friends of long standing asking for their support. I also, made several personal appearances before clubs and told them about my background and Kiwanis experiences. It was at the Rough Rider Kiwanis Club of Dickinson, ND where I first used the term "dark horse." I told them that on various occasions a "dark horse" becomes the winner i.e. an unknown or unexpected. In this case it was also a play on the words because of my color!!

I chose as my theme "Building Tomorrow Today". This was to emphasize the fact that I was laying the foundation for the future of Kiwanis, recognizing that every Governor builds on what others have done.

My goals were:

1. to encourage service projects to meet the needs of youth
2. to focus on the development of Builders Clubs
3. to encourage each club to center on one of the objects of Kiwanis International in a tangible way
4. to put emphasis on International Understanding
5. to continue to develop the Kiwanis standard of inclusiveness of people with handicapping conditions, women and racial minorities.

INSTALLATION AS GOVERNOR

This took place during the District Convention in Minot, ND, August 4-6, 1995. This was the 50th year of the end of WW2, so I decided to recognize those who had been in the services. There was resounding applause as men and women of each of the services stood up when called upon.

It was great to have all my four children, the twins Lorene and Lora, Robert and his wife, Lisa, and Richard present.

MID WINTER CONFERENCE

This was held in Alexandria, MN, February 2-4, 1996. The day we left Mandan, ND was a very cold winter day with a wind chill of -86 degrees F. In spite of the blizzardy conditions there was an attendance of 134 out of 185 who had registered. This speaks well of the hardy nature of those of us who live in the upper mid-west, as well as the commitment of each Kiwanian present. Those who did not make it used wise judgment and this does not undermine their commitment at all.

As I thought of our weather conditions and the visits to each Division I decided
on the advice of my North Dakota born wife, Marion, that we should start at the furthest Division before the first snowfall. So we started off for Duluth, MN in Division 10 on October 23rd, 1995. Soon after we passed Brainerd, MN the skies got darker. About thirty miles from Duluth, we ran into the first snowstorm of the season and had to pull off the road and take shelter in a restaurant. After an hour's delay we continued our journey only to find that when we got to Lt. Governor John Cummings home in Superior, WI, the weather was clear because of the lower elevation of the city!

VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT SIGURDSSON

When the Fergus Falls Kiwanis Club celebrated their 75th anniversary, our Board was invited to attend the function, the guest of honor was International President Eyolfur "Eddie" Sigurdsson. (Guess who had the pull to get him there? None other than Past International President Merald Enstad.) Eyolfur also met with our Board. As host Governor, I was glad to congratulate the Fergus Falls Club and to welcome the International President to our District. Incidentally, the procession from the local airport to the motel was a fleet of antique cars, with Eyolfur and his wife, Sjofn, riding in one.

HARRIS WALLER ELECTED TRUSTEE

The International Convention held in Salt Lake City, ID from June 21-25, 1996 was a momentous experience for all District participants. This was when our Past Governor, Harris Waller, under whom I was a Lt. Governor, was elected an International Trustee. All our delegates, their spouses and friends are to be commended for their hard work and enthusiasm in getting Harris elected. Salt Lake City was also memorable because I was able to arrange for Tongan dancers, singers and musicians to perform at our District dinner. Their high energy, melodic rhythms and Polynesian dances brought the house down. I was personally glad for this experience for all since International Understanding was one of my platforms.

IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS

The Steering Committee under the leadership of Past Governor Chuck Schroeder, were able to "get the word out" about this World Service Project. Local clubs were challenged to come up with creative ideas to help raise funds to eliminate iodine deficiency around the world. The educational task was:
1. to teach more about IDD
2. to help others understand what lack of iodine in salt does to a person
3. to ask each member to make a personal contribution
4. to seek funds from corporations and to seek for community support.

The Committee decided to "apportion" each club by membership. This was not widely received. However, many clubs contributed what they could and some went far above expectations.
3.

Iodine deficiency results in goiter, infant mortality, cretinism and mental retardation among other ailments. There are 1.5 billion people in 110 countries who are threatened by iodine deficiency. Only one teaspoon of iodine is necessary for a lifetime of prevention of iodine deficiency disorders.

It is hoped that before too long we can end this scourge because Kiwanians cared. On October 9, 1996, I was able to have Governor Ed Shafer of North Dakota issue a proclamation designating the day as "Kiwanis Worldwide Service Day."

KIWANIS 3 R's

Earl Trude, who was appointed by me as the chair of Human and Spiritual Values, came up with a novel idea. He focused on the Objects of Kiwanis. He coopted Dwaine Peterson and together with a committee developed a pilot program that Kiwanis International could use to celebrate the Objects of Kiwanis. The committee came up with the concept of "3 R's". These "outline the Objects of Kiwanis, reduce them to manageable memory for application and help to memorize and apply the Objects." The "3 R's" serve as criteria for deciding whether actions or policies are right or wrong. The "3 R's"—Reliability, Responsibility and Respectability encode the Objects of Kiwanis by serving as an outline for memory recall. Reliability recalls the first two Objects—hear to God and true to humankind. Responsibility relates to Objects three and four—responsibility for ethical standards and for citizenship. Respectability recalls the last two Objects—respect for friends and community and respect for law, the flag and righteousness. Kiwanis International passed the Minnesota Dakotas "Kiwanis 3 R's" to District Chairpersons on Human and Spiritual Values by asking them to write to Earl, the creator of the 3 R's, for more information on how to use the 3 R's to celebrate the Objects of Kiwanis International.

EXCERPTS FROM REPORT TO DISTRICT CONVENTION: AUSTIN, MN

Membership on Sept. 30th, 1995 was 9120
on June 28th, 1996 was 9248 an increase of 128

As of July 5th, 1996 Circle K: 15 clubs
Key Clubs: 55
Builders Clubs: 10

No new clubs
1 new club
2 new clubs

182 members went to the International Convention in Salt Lake City. There were 93 guests making a total of 275. We attained 92.3 % of our quota of 298.

We recognized Secretary/ Treasurer Emeritus Floyd Christianson for having the distinction of being a 50 hear member of Kiwanis.
EXCERPTS FROM TALK TO DIVISIONS

In order to "Build Tomorrow Today" we must plan, we must promote, we must participate. In order to plan we must know what our goals are. Once the goals are set we need to plan strategies with target dates to attain them. In order to do this we must ourselves participate and involve every member.

As Kiwanians we are community builders. Pam McAllister has said, "The fabric of the new society will be made of nothing less than the threads woven in today’s interactions." We are called to join each other for action. We are called to join each other to plant seeds of hope for a better world—a world renewed through Kiwanis.