

March 2006

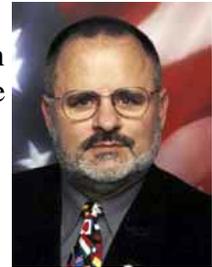
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MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

Stew's News

Being in a number of leadership positions throughout my career, not the least of which is the honor of being governor of the MN-DAK district of Kiwanis, I am often asked for advice on leadership issues. My first response is usually "who am I to give advice on anything?" The trouble with advice is that you can't tell if it's good or bad until you've tried it! I have long felt that advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't. As anyone knows, it is a lot easier to give advice than to take it.



Well, let my give it a try with this column. In my position as the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Minnesota State I am often giving advice to our more than 600 professors so why not give it a try here. I have a 19 year-old daughter and a 21 year-old son so I have spent considerable time giving advice....even when it was not requested...or listened to!

Let's start with a story, everyone likes a good story!

Once upon a time, there was a large mountainside, where an eagle's nest rested. The eagle's nest contained four large eagle eggs. One day an earthquake rocked the mountain causing one of the eggs to roll down to a chicken farm, located in the valley below. The chickens knew that they must protect and care for an egg, so an old hen volunteered to nurture the large egg.

One day, the egg hatched and a beautiful eagle was born. As could be expected, the eagle was raised to be a chicken. Soon, the eagle believed he was nothing more than a chicken. The eagle loved his home and family, but his spirit cried out for more. While playing a game on the farm one day, the eagle looked to the skies above and noticed a group of mighty eagles soaring in the skies. "Oh," the eagle cried, "I wish I could soar like those birds." The chickens roared with laughter, "You cannot soar with those birds. You are a chicken and chickens do not soar."

The eagle continued staring at his real family up above, dreaming that he could be with them. Each time the eagle would let his dreams be known, he was told it couldn't be done. That is what the eagle learned to believe. The eagle, after time, stopped dreaming and continued to live his life like a chicken. Finally, after a long life as a chicken, the eagle passed away.

My first piece of advice for any leader is this: you become what you believe you are; so if you want to be an eagle instead of a chicken, follow your dreams, not your self-imposed limitations. In too many cases our problems are caused by a lack of vision or dreams. We limit ourselves with limiting thoughts. If you think you can do something, you are well on your way to doing it.

Great leaders have one trait in common—they continue to learn. Money can be lost or stolen, health and strength may fail, but what you have committed to your mind is yours forever.

So, my second bit of advice is this: perpetual hunger for learning is the key to success in life. When you stop learning, YOU stop. And some of the best learning is the result of asking the right questions, not necessarily striving to have all the right answers. If you think you know all the answers, you haven't asked all the questions.

Good leaders ask the right questions, they have not found all the right answers. As your governor this year I continue to ask questions. I don't expect to have all the answers but if we can keep asking the right questions we just might find a few good answers. While we looking for the right questions we can also work to develop self-esteem to its fullest. In a poker game the more chips you have the more you are willing to take risks with your bets. Life is a little like this too. The more self-esteem you have the more you are willing to take leadership risks. The more risks and mistakes you are willing to allow yourself, the better chance you will have for success.

Great leaders are also famous for goal setting. Too many Kiwanis club presidents do not set goals. They just slog through their year, drifting from this meeting to that meeting. I am convinced this is not just because they forgot or did not think to set goals. The more obvious reason, based on my 30 years of teaching, is that it is sometimes too risky to set goals. By having goals we can see how we are doing; it makes us accountable to ourselves. For some this is a dangerous thing indeed. Even if I am sometimes unsuccessful, I can live with that as long as I know I had set goals to achieve something important.

You see, the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goals. The tragedy lies in having no goals to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity to not dream. Not failure, but low aim is the sin.

Imagine an airline pilot coming over the speakers and announcing: "I have some good news and some bad news for our passengers today. The bad news is we have lost our radar. The good news is we have a tail wind and wherever we are going we are getting there at the rate of 600 miles an hour." We can't allow ourselves to be pushed by the winds of circumstance. We must set our course and apply all power available!

I have received many awards in my career but there is one I never want to win and one no great leader will ever win...the Christopher Columbus Award. This award is bestowed on a person who does not know where he is going, has no idea where he is when he arrives, and upon returning home, does not know where he has been.

And this leads nicely into another trait of great leaders. They are dreamers! A dream is an ideal involving a sense of possibilities rather than probabilities, of potential rather than limits. A dream is the wellspring of passion, giving us direction and pointing us to lofty heights. It is an expression of optimism, hope, and values that can capture the imagination and engage the spirit. Dreams grab us and move us. When I think about the power of dreams I am reminded of the words of the poet, Langston Hughes:

"Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die,
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams for when dreams go,
Life is a barren field frozen with snow."

I have a professor friend who prepared a special test for his soon-to-be-graduating college seniors. The test questions were divided into three categories and the students were instructed to choose questions from only one of the categories. The first was the hardest and worth 50 points. The second, a bit easier, was worth 40 points. The third, the simplest, was worth only 30 points.

Upon completion of the test, students who had chosen the hardest 50 point question were given A's no matter how they answered the question. The students who had chosen the 40 point question

received B's. Those who settled for the easy, 30 point question were awarded C's.

The students were frustrated with the grading of their tests and were angry. After receiving their tests, they demanded an answer from the professor. The professor leaned over his podium, smiled, and explained, "I wasn't testing your book knowledge. I was testing your aim!"

Yes, the key to success in any endeavor is to have a dream that inspires you to go beyond your limits.

I want to share with you my favorite story about goal-setting and dreaming (many Kiwanians have heard me tell this story at events and meetings so I apologize if you have heard this already).

A good and faithful man fell upon financially hard times. One night in his distress, he dropped to his knees, lifted his eyes toward heaven, and prayed, "Dear God, I am destitute. Please let me win the lottery—and soon! The next week, he was optimistic his condition would change. But after three months, his faith began to waver, and by the end of a year, he became angry that he had not yet won the lottery.

"Are you there, God?" he pleaded. "I believed you would help me, yet an entire year has passed without you answering my prayers." Suddenly, a dark cloud appeared in the sky, lightning flashed, and a voice boomed from the heavens: "I hear you...I hear you. In fact, I've heard your every prayer, but give me a break. The least you could do is buy a lottery ticket!

The moral of the story? Those who decide to wait to be rescued from their plight will undoubtedly wait a very long time. It is good to dream but one must also work toward making that dream become a reality. We need to dream what we want to be and then work toward making that dream a reality! Our leadership team for MN-DAK this year has the dream and continues to work hard to make these dreams become reality. Some have already come true, others will come true soon. Some may take shape next year.

Too often we are trapped by our comfort zone. You know, that place where it is safe but not very exciting or stimulating. That place where it is OK to not risk...to just get by. Here is a little poem about the comfort zone that I have always cherished. You see, for years I lived in the comfort zone until I finally figured out I didn't like being there.

I use to have a Comfort Zone
 Where I knew I couldn't fail
 The same four walls of busy work
 Were really more like jail.
 I longed so much to do the things
 I'd never done before,
 But I stayed inside my Comfort Zone
 And paced the same old floor
 I said it didn't matter,
 That I wasn't doing much
 I said I didn't care for things
 Like diamonds, furs and such
 I claimed to be so busy
 With the things inside my zone,
 But deep inside I longed for
 Something special of my own.
 I couldn't let my life go by,

Just watching others win.
I held my breath and stepped outside
And let the change begin.
I took a step and with new strength
I'd never felt before,
I kissed my Comfort Zone "goodbye"
And closed and locked the door.
If you are in a Comfort Zone,
Afraid to venture out,
Remember that all winners were
At one time filled with doubt.
A step or two and words of praise,
Can make your dreams come true.
Greet your future with a smile,
Success is there for you!

Another trait I want to mention is probably the most important for great leaders--commitment. I have noticed this trait in only the most successful Kiwanis leaders I have met. There is a big difference between interest and commitment. When club presidents are interested in doing something, they do it when it is convenient. They too often put it off, they procrastinate. When they are committed to something, they accept no excuses, only results.

Michelangelo's career as a sculptor and painter wasn't handed to him on a silver platter. Although he possessed great talents, his accomplishments and fame came only after he invested himself to the point of physical exhaustion. Michelangelo spent years lying flat on his back on a scaffold, painting the fresco in the Sistine Chapel. By the time he completed this magnificent project, he was virtually blind from the paint that had dripped in his eyes. Now that's commitment! Because he was willing to invest himself, he created art that has been admired for more than four centuries. He created a legacy that may never end.

People willing to commit themselves will improve the quality of their life as well as the world around them.

One final trait I always find in great leaders is a great attitude. You can either look at problems as problems or as opportunities. We all know that circumstances are uncontrollable. Life's events happen. Our responsibility is to choose our responses...our attitudes. Situations will color your view of life, but you have the power to choose what the color will be!

Every opportunity has a difficulty and every difficulty has an opportunity. Making your attitude work for you begins with acting in a manner consistent with the mental state you desire. You are who and what you are today because of the attitudes you choose. The choice is always yours. Poor leaders allow others to color their own attitudes.

Never let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. We are who we are today because of the choices we made yesterday. Likewise, tomorrow will become the result of today's choices. We are free up to the point of choice, and then the choice controls the chooser.

I am told the Canadian Northlands experience only two seasons, winter and July. As the back roads begin to thaw, they become muddy and vehicles traveling through the backcountry leave deep ruts. The ground freezes hard during the winter months, and the highway ruts become a part of the traveling challenges. For cars entering this undeveloped area during the winter, there is a sign which

reads, "Driver, please choose carefully which rut you drive in, because you will be in it for the next 20 miles.

So my final wish for all of you is choose carefully the path your life takes. Once you choose, your choices will control you. You are free to choose, but the choices you make today will determine what you will have, be, and do in the tomorrow of your life.

My wish is for each of you to continue to be role models for others around you. I challenge you to dream what might be and then work to make those dreams come true. Make your Kiwanis club something special. Help other Kiwanians develop the attitude that can truly make a difference for others. Together We Can...Together We Will.

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer - March 2006

By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer



Following are some important reminders and updates:

New Member Fee: There still seems to be quite a few questions about the change in the "New Member Fee". Beginning in October, 2005 clubs are billed \$55 for all new members. That fee is paid at the time you send in their Membership Form. The \$55 fee includes everything due to Kiwanis International and the District and is good from the time they join until the next dues billing period for your club. Remember that your club is now billed for dues only once per year. \$50 goes to KI for dues, insurance and the magazine and \$5 comes to the district for dues to the district. As before, send the Membership Form along with a check for the one-time new member fee of \$55.00 to Kiwanis International. Also, send a copy of the Membership Form to the District Office.

Electronic Monthly Club Reporting Update

Thanks again to all of the clubs that are submitting their monthly club reports online. The new system seems to be working very well and we appreciate the cooperation of all of the club secretaries. If your club is one of the few that has not been using the online version, contact your Lt. Governor or the District Office and we can get you started anytime. Your monthly club report can be entered online by the club secretary or any other designated person that has internet access.

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.

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 are included in the March Minnekotan.

Club Election Report: It is not too soon to begin thinking about election of club officers for the 2006-2007 Kiwanis year. 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/>

After you have registered for the convention you will receive your convention registration receipt. You must have this with you when you register at the international convention to receive your packet and credentials. Remember to bring it along. If you are your club's delegate be sure your club secretary completes and submits your name on the "Delegate Certification Form". That form is due to Kiwanis International and a copy to the District Office by April 30, 2006.

New Club Chartered: Welcome to the new Hastings Kiwanis Club! If your club is nearby, plan to make an "Interclub" visit soon!

Thanks for all your great work in Kiwanis.

MINNESOTA-DAKOTAS KIWANIS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 2006

MINNESOTA-DAKOTAS KIWANIS DISTRICT
MID-WINTER TRI-K CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING
HOLIDAY INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
GALLERY #7
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21, 2006
Friday, January 20, 2006
Dinner Gallery 7 6:00 p.m. Kiwanis, Circle K, Key Club

- The meeting was called to order by Governor Stewart Ross at 7:13 p.m.
- Invocation was given by Governor Elect Coralyn Dahl
- Roll call was taken by Steve Handegaard, District Secretary/Treasurer.

Members Present:

Stewart Ross Governor
Coralyn Dahl Governor Elect
Jean Collins Immediate Past Governor
Steve Handegaard Secretary/Treasurer

Lt. Governors 2005-2006 present:

Barb Egan Region 1
Larry Humble Region 2
Ed Reich Region 3
Kay Cox Region 4
Vicki Walters Region 5
Herb Hoff Region 6 (arrived Saturday morning)
Dennis Blesener Region 7

Lt. Governors Elect 2005-2006 present:

Kelly Schmidt Region 1

Lowell Disrud Region 2
 Chris Kellett-Sawdey Region 3
 Frank Ferguson Region 4
 Bill Zortman Region 5
 Curtis Pearson Region 6
 Paul Michels Region 7

District Directors present:

Larry Rittgarn Education
 Chuck Nielsen Membership
 Bruce Klair Service
 Jean Collins New Club Building
 Larry & Pat Rittgarn District Convention Co-Directors

Guests present:

Joe Blasko Circle K Administrator
 Joe Carmany Circle K Assistant Administrator
 John Nistler Circle K Governor
 Paul Spyhalski Key Club Administrator
 Mary Beth Townsend Assistant Key Club Administrator
 Karin Anderson Key Club Governor
 Claire Faust Builders Club Administrator
 Ben Kocourek Kiwanis International Club Development Manager
 Bill Daugherty Governor Elect Candidate
 Colleen Hyde Guest

- Introductions of special guests: Governor Stewart gave a special welcome to Ben Kocourek, Kiwanis International Club Development Manager and Bill Daugherty, Candidate for Governor-Elect from Region 5. Governor Stewart introduced and thanked Jean Collins for assuming the role of Immediate Past Governor due to the resignation of Past Governor Walt Roetter.
- Approval of previous minutes: Steve stated that the Minutes from the August 12 and 14 Board meetings had been emailed to all board members. Steve pointed out that a correction needed to be made in the August 14 minutes. The minutes should be changed to indicate that it was Larry Humble that moved to accept the district auditor and not Larry Rittgarn. Larry Humble moved to accept the August 12 and 14 Board Minutes with this correction. Seconded by Dennis Blesener. Motion passed.
- Kiwanis Moments: At various times during the meeting volunteers were asked to share their own special Kiwanis Moment. Governor Stewart, Larry Humble and Vicki Walters shared one of their Kiwanis moments.
- District Secretary/Treasurer Report- Steve Handegaard reported that at the present time our current budget summary is as follows:

- o Checking \$ 5,203.88
- o Savings Account \$26,353.08
- o CD Investment (reserve fund) \$37,154.23
- o Edward Jones Investment (reserve fund) \$16,830.00
- o Edward Jones Money Mkt. (reserve fund) \$ 8,111.91

Total \$93,653.10

Steve pointed out that our income is down from previous years as of this date. In part this is due to the new yearly dues billing schedule, less income from each new member than in past years and a decrease in total members from last year. Steve also shared that we are saving significant dollars per year by making greater use of email and the district website. Steve reminded the board that each month they receive a Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Financial Summary report. Steve reviewed a number of line items of special importance to Lt. Governors, District Directors and District Administrators.

Steve also reminded the board that that we need to maintain a designated Reserve Fund with at least 35%, but not more than 50% of its annual budgeted expenses based on the budget for the year in which the budget is approved. The Reserve Fund is for the purpose of meeting unusual expenses which may occur and any withdrawal of monies must be approved by $\frac{3}{4}$ votes of the entire Board of Trustees.

Steve stated that, based on recent monthly club reports, our District membership count on October 1st 2005 was approximately 6084. That is down from an estimated count on October 1, 2004 of 6571 members. Steve also stated that we currently have 168 clubs in our district. With the new Hastings Club and possible internet club that would bring the total to 170 clubs.

· Director of Service Report – Bruce Klair

- o Reminded the board that the month of February is Read Around the World month and asked that board members please help promote the effort.
- o All club annual reports were sent directly to Kiwanis International this year, and for various reasons they received a very poor response. This will make it very difficult for the District to select and present any awards for club service hours at the convention next summer.
- o A district service project is being planned for the district convention this coming summer. Those attending the convention will be invited to help package food for the Kids Against Hunger project in St. Cloud.
- o Jack Zierdt sent along the message that scholarship applications have been sent to all schools. The completed applications must be returned to Jack soon and by Feb. 1 he intends to send the completed applications to all Regional Service Directors for judging. He also indicated that there is a concern by some schools with this time schedule, since most other scholarships do not have to be submitted this early.

· Director of Education Report – Larry Rittgarn

- o At this time the education program consists of 1 Master education instructor and 11 certified education instructors.
- o Coralyn Dahl and Stewart Ross are temporarily off the role until they complete their other district duties.
- o In the meantime during the times we are running with less than a full slate of instructors, Pat and Larry will fill in with a CLE session in St. Cloud and Region 6 if needed.
- o At the District Convention this year there will be an education booth staffed with one of the instructors on a rotating basis. The Club Analysis procedure will be

featured.

o If anyone has names of persons that might be interested in becoming certified instructors they should contact Larry.

- Director of Administration Report- Dan Neller was unable to attend.
- Director of Membership Report- Chuck Nielsen

o Chuck reminded the board of our District membership goal of "plus one member on September 30".

o Besides growing new clubs we also need to concentrate on retention.

o Hastings club organized and going well.

o Redwood Falls club was attempted, but did not work out.

- Director of New Club Building Report- Jean Collins

o Jean reminded the board of the 2005-2006 goal of 7 new clubs. The Hastings club is organized and the internet club in process. Some other communities where preliminary work is being done are: St. Cloud State University, White Bear Lake, Northfield, Woodbury, Stillwater and Apple Valley.

o The importance of finding a need in the community before building a club was discussed.

o Ben Kocourek, Kiwanis International Club Development Manager complimented Governor Stewart, Bruce Klair and Dennis Blesener on the great work they have done in building the Hastings Club. Ben also reminded the board that he is a resource for our district on club retention and growth in addition to new club building.

- MN-DAK Kiwanis International Foundation Report - Jack Zierdt was not able to attend, but Governor Stewart reported that the K-Family Extravaganza was very successful. Significant dollars were raised for the foundation.

· Outreach Report – Steve distributed the December report on Outreach which lists the clubs and dollar amounts. To date the District Office (end of December 2005) has received \$675.00. Outreach funds are used to help support the Key Club and Circle K District Boards.

· Monthly Club and Lt. Governor Reporting- Steve reported that the online club reporting system is working well. About 100 clubs had reported online in December. Lt. Governors were reminded to continue to encourage clubs to submit their monthly reports online. Steve distributed a revised version of the Lt. Governor Monthly Report Summary. Once all clubs are reporting online it will no longer be necessary for Lt. Governors to do this summary report.

· Lt. Governor Reports on Club Visits: Steve also reminded Lt. Governors to submit their club visits reports. "Lt. Governors' Report on Training and Contact Visits" was due December 1, 2005.

· Review of District Goals – Governor Stewart Ross gave a power point presentation reviewing the District goals for 2005-2006 and current progress towards those goals. District Goals for 2005-2006 include:

o End the year with plus one or better membership growth.

o Build at least 7 clubs.

o 50% of clubs achieve distinguished status.

o Organize and develop a K Family Holiday Extravaganza

o Develop state of the art website and improve communications.

- o Leadership team will us a "Communicator" email system.
 - o Improve attendance at conventions and region conferences.
 - o Have largest delegation (based on our size) in all of Kiwanis at the KI Convention in 2006.
- Reimbursement of Lt. Governors at required Meetings – Stewart emphasized that when the budget permits we want to include all three Lt. Governors from each region in board meetings. Steve also distributed a handout clarifying who gets reimbursement for meetings based on the budget for this current year.
 - Because of the late hour Lt. Governor Region Reports were tabled until Saturday.
 - Meeting recessed at 9:58 p.m.

Saturday, January 21, 2006

- Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
- Meeting reconvened at 8:24 a.m.
- Kiwanis Moments: Karin Anderson and Bill Zortman shared a Kiwanis Moment.
- Report on Circle K:
 - o Joe Blasko thanked those that attended the K-Family Extravaganza in Fargo. Approximately 208 people attended and close to \$2500 was raised for the Foundation.
 - o Plan to move the K-Family event around the district in the future.
 - o Heidi Moldenhauer was recently elected Circle K Trustee.
 - o District Circle K is working on landing the Circle K International Convention in Minneapolis in 2010. Final decision is expected in February.
 - o John Nistler announced the Minnesota-Dakotas District Circle K Convention to be held March 3-5, 2006 at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. This is the 45th Anniversary and they would like all K family to become involved.
 - o Joe Blasko distributed a District Circle K budget.
- Report on Key Club:
 - o Karin Anderson reported on the Fall Rally which was held October 29-30 in Aberdeen. 27 clubs attended.
 - o Karin announced that the Minnesota-Dakotas District Key Club Convention will be held March 24-26 at the Willmar Conference Center. Two special service projects will take place during the convention – making fleece blankets and a book drive.
 - o As of this date it was reported that 29 Key clubs have not paid dues. If not paid by Feb. 1st they will be declared inactive by Kiwanis International. Karin challenged Kiwanis Clubs to support their local sponsored club.
 - o Paul Spyhalski announced that Mary Beth Townsend will move up to District Administrator and he will stay on as Assistant and handle finances.
 - o Paul challenged each region to have a Key Club or Circle K Chair.
 - o Paul distributed the Key Club budget.
 - o Paul also distributed copies of the revised District Key Club Bylaws.
 - o Kay Cox moved to approve the Key Club Bylaws and Budget as submitted. Herb Hoff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Report on K-Kids and Key Leader

- o Governor Stewart reported that we still need to find someone to fill the position of K-Kids Administrator.
- o Dates for the Key Leader Training are June 16-18 at Camp Lakodia. This is the first time this training will be held in our district.

- Report on Builders Club:

- o Claire Faust reported that we have 15 active Builders Clubs in our district.
- o Claire pointed out the importance of working with the Jr. High age group.
- o Claire reported on the Administrators Conference he attended in Dallas, Texas.
- o Anyone interested in starting a Builders Club should contact Claire.

- Report on Aktion Club:

- o Governor Stewart mentioned we are searching for a new Administrator.

- Update on Kiwanis International Convention in Montreal – June 28- July 2, 2006

- o Steve distributed a convention schedule.
- o The Minnesota-Dakotas District caucus is scheduled for Thursday, June 29 at 4:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Montreal
- o District Bus transportation to the convention was discussed.
- o Governor Stewart will be hosting an informal reception during the convention. All participants from our district will be notified of the exact time and location.

- Kiwanis Moments: Larry Rittgarn, Pat Rittgarn and Governor Elect Coralyn shared Kiwanis Moments

- Raffle Resolution- Larry Humble moved to accept the new raffle resolution as it was approved at the House of Delegates at the 2005 District Convention in Aberdeen and that it be added to our District Policies and Procedures Handbook. Seconded by Dennis Blesener. Passed unanimously. Following is the wording as approved:

"Be it resolved that this amendment regarding Policies and Procedures, Item J Fundraisers, number 4 shall be changed to:

Raffles will be allowed by local Kiwanis clubs of the Minnesota-Dakotas District, provided they follow all local, state, and federal laws. These club raffles shall only be used for service account projects and programs and shall not exceed the amount of \$15,000 raised, or held more than once in a Kiwanis calendar year. Raffles can not be used for club operations, dues, meals, or benefits. The Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District has no responsibility in getting a license for raffles, or with the operation of raffles."

(Note: Changes to the District Policies and Procedures can be made by a majority vote of the District Board of Trustees but in this case the Board asked that the House of Delegates also take action on the proposal.)

- Other Policies and Procedures changes- Past Governor Walt Roetter went through the District Policies and Procedures Handbook and recommended a number of wording changes to bring the policies up to date to changes already approved by the board. Other minor language changes were also proposed. Dennis Blesener moved to accept the changes/updates as submitted. Seconded by Kay Cox. Motion passed unanimously.
- Annual Club Report Status- Steve Handegaard reviewed the new Annual Club Reporting process. This year Kiwanis International distributed and collected the reports by email and hard copy. Kiwanis International indicated that they would provide the district with a summary of all of the reports, but as of this date no summary has been received at the District Office.

- Annual Club Awards for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 - Steve distributed a draft list of all of the awards that are available for clubs in our district. Board members were asked to review the list and let Steve know if there are any missing or if there are any awards that will be discontinued.
- District Budget Concerns- Governor Stewart and Steve shared information about membership trends and district budget projections. It was noted that during the last 12 years our District membership has decreased from 9355 in 1994 to 6571 in 2004. The District Budget is almost entirely dependent upon dues so drop in membership has caused severe strain on the district budget. Our District Dues are currently \$20 per year. It was also noted that the most recent increase in dues happened in 1998. Various scenarios were discussed projecting different membership levels and dues amounts. It was noted that the district budget has already been decreased significantly over the years to a very minimum level today.

After much discussion the board voted to send a proposal to the District Convention this summer asking to raise the dues. The dues are part of the District Bylaws and need to be considered and approved by the House of Delegates.

Dennis Blesener moved that the District Board submit a proposal to the House of Delegates to amend our District Bylaws by increasing our district dues by \$10.00 per year, changing district dues from \$20 to \$30 per year. Seconded by Barbara Egan. (10 yes votes- Barb Egan, Larry Humble, Ed Reich, Kay Cox, Herb Hoff, Dennis Blesener, Steve Handegaard, Jean Collins, Coralyn Dahl, Stewart Ross and 1 no vote- Vicki Walters) Motion passed.

- The new member fee was also discussed. The current District new member fee is \$5.00. However, when you add in the dues new members paid during the second half of the year, it was actually about \$15 for each of the past 7 years. Due to the new billing system instituted by KI most new members now only pay \$5 to the district during the first year. To recapture that decrease in payment, that amount would need to be added to the new member fee. It is basically just a different way to bill the member for this payment. After much discussion the board voted to submit a proposal to the District Convention asking the House of Delegates to consider an increase in the District new member fee.

Herb Hoff moved that the District Board submit a proposal to the House of Delegates to amend the District Bylaws by changing the district new member fee from \$5 to \$15. The motion was seconded by Ed Reich. Motion passed with 9 yes votes (Barb Egan, Ed Reich, Kay Cox, Herb Hoff, Dennis Blesener, Steve Handegaard, Jean Collins, Coralyn Dahl, Stewart Ross) and 2 votes against (Vicki Walters, Larry Humble).

- Bill Zortman suggested the concept of selling advertising space or sponsorships on the District Website. Following discussion, Larry Humble moved that Bill Zortman and Colleen

Hyde be appointed as co-chairs of a committee that would be formed to develop some policies and procedures for selling sponsorships on the website and that the committee's recommendations be presented at a special Board meeting to be held for that purpose at the Lt. Governor Education program in May. Barb Egan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

· Club Development Manager Report – Ben Kocourek reminded the board that if we really want to grow we need to do service and if we want to do service we need to grow. Ben also reminded the Board that he works in three areas and so should we:

- § Recruiting for existing clubs.
- § Starting new clubs
- § Retention of members.

· Circle K Update – John Nistler, Circle K Governor reported that many Circle K Clubs in the district are in need of help and support. He encouraged Lt. Governors to call all Circle K Clubs in their region to see how they are doing and ask if there is anything that Kiwanis can do to help. John also asked that Lt. Governors report results of their calls to Governor Stewart and Joe Blasko by Feb. 3.

· Governor Stewart reminded the Board of the March visit to Mankato by Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens. The visit is not an official visit to the district but there will be a special banquet on Wednesday, March 22 hosted by the Mankato Kiwanis Club. All Kiwanians are welcome. Registrations are to be sent to Governor Stewart Ross. The next day, March 23, President Siemens is presenting a program called "Don't Die Until You're Dead" for the Greater Mankato Chamber of Commerce as part of their 2005-2006 Professional Development Series.

· Governor Elect Coralyn reminded the Board that we need to fill the 2006-2007 Lt. Governor Elect positions as soon as possible and to please submit the names to the Executive Board. The Lt. Governor Education program will be held May 5-7 at the Holiday Inn in Willmar. Coralyn asked each region to report on progress:

- § Region 1- Cheryl Lane was already elected
- § Region 2- still open
- § Region 3- still open
- § Region 4- still open
- § Region 5- Still open
- § Region 6- Two candidates running for position.
- § Region 7- still open

· District Convention 2006 Report- Larry and Pat Rittgarn, Co-Directors invited everyone to attend the 2006 District Convention in St. Cloud, August 4-6. Some changes for the 2006 convention include:

- o Adding participant ribbons.
- o A fun theme.
- o Starting at 1:00 p.m. on opening day.
- o Adding a continental breakfast for everyone on day of House of Delegates.
- o Service project for participants – Kids Against Hunger.
- o New and Innovative Forum topics
- o Kiwanis Moments
- o More exhibits

- o Shorter reports
- o Making the convention program booklet easier for participants to follow.
- o Group singing before the official start of sessions.
- o And much more.

Everyone was reminded to watch the District Website for more convention information in the near future.

· Future District Conventions: Larry and Pat Rittgarn led a discussion about our future district conventions and the importance of scheduling and planning as far in advance as possible. Currently the District has signed contracts for the following conventions:

- St. Cloud – August 4-6, 2006
- Fargo – August 3-5, 2007
- Moorhead – August 8-10, 2008
- Watertown – July 31, August 1,2, 2009
- Fargo – August 13-15, 2010

Larry and Pat presented various options and ideas for future conventions and also reminded the board that the location is still wide open after 2010. However, we do need to start working on a location for 2011 very soon and board members were asked to get any suggestions to them as soon as possible

· Proposed change to the bylaws concerning District Convention:

Larry Rittgarn proposed the following changes to the by-laws of the Minnesota Dakotas District – Kiwanis Int. The changes are mainly to bring bylaw language up to date with previous changes already made to Policies and Procedures and Job Descriptions.

Article VIII - Conventions

Sec 1. The district’s annual convention shall be held at a place and date selected by the District Convention Director (s) and approved by the Board of Trustees, 5 years in advance of convention.

Rational: District policy no longer uses host clubs, and District Director (s) are working 5 years in advance for convention.

Sec 2. Delete

Rational: We no longer have host clubs

NOTE: Numbering from here on changes due to the deletion of Sec 2.

Sec 3. Now become sec 2

Sec 4. Becomes sec 3, with the following change.....Delete last sentence relating to the Governor and Sec-Treas responsibility.

Rational: No longer have host clubs and District now has District Convention Director (s) managing conventions.

Sec 5, Becomes sec 4, with the following change..... District Convention Director(s) will be in charge of credentials, and Governor shall appoint the Committee on Elections.

Rational: District Secretary-Treasurer has acted as Credential chair in the past, so Credentials now handled by District Convention Director (s). If additional committee personal is needed, to be appointed by Credential chair. Governor will appoint Committee on Elections.

Sec 6, becomes 5

Sec 7, becomes 6

Sec 8, becomes 7

Sec 9, becomes 8

Sec 10, becomes 9

Sec 11, becomes 10, with the following changes.....The District Convention Director (s) shall upon approval of the Governor and Secretary-Treasurer establish

Rational: Removal of the words Host convention committee and replacing with the insert shown above.

Proceeds from the convention are to be expended under the supervision of the District Convention Director (s) & District Sec-Treas.....

Rational: The District Convention Director(s) supervise the expenses of the convention, and convention expenses are vouchered to the District Secretary-Treasurer for payment.

Sec 12, becomes 11

Sec 13, becomes 12

Sec 14, becomes 13

Sec 15, becomes 14, with the following changes..... After the District convention the District Convention Director (s) shall make a report to the Secretary-Treasurer who then will transmit a copy to..

Rational: Convention Director(s) are to submit convention report to District Secretary-Treasurer and he will in turn transmit a copy to the ExecutiveLarry Humble moved that the District Board submit the above proposed District Bylaw changes to the House of Delegates at the 2006 District Convention. Seconded by Kay Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

· District Trainer/Club Leadership Education Report – Larry Rittgarn

o This year a series of CLE sessions will again be conducted throughout the district.

o Lt. Governors should confirm all sites, dates, and times for each session in their region by the time they arrive at the Willmar Lt. Governor education program in early May.

o There is no limit to the number of sessions that are done as long as a minimum of 10 people are in attendance plus the instructor.

o At least one Lt. Governor from each regional team is required to be at each site.

o All President elects, new and old secretaries will be encouraged to attend. If the club has a separate treasurer they should also consider attending.

· Due to time limitations Governor Stewart asked that Region Reports by deferred to the Online Communicator.

· Governor Stewart opened the floor for any other items of discussion.

- Steve asked for suggestions on when and where to hold next years Tri-K Board Meeting. Steve indicated that the dates of January 19 & 20, 2007 are open with the Willmar Holiday Inn. No objections were voiced for these dates. Other locations such as Fergus Falls and Wahpeton/Breckenridge were suggested. The possibility of having it on the same day of the 2007 K-Family Extravaganza was discussed. Joe Blasko indicated that the 2007 Extravaganza is already booked for another date and location but could possibly be changed. Steve and Joe indicated that they would check out the possibility of a joint event on those dates.
- Seeing no further business Governor Stewart asked for a motion to adjourn. Larry Humble moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Vicki Walters. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Handegaard
District Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District
January 31, 2006

K-Kids Initiated At 2 Sioux Falls Schools

The Sioux Falls Downtown Kiwanis Club took advantage of the opportunity to start a new kids project in Sioux Falls by initiating K-Kids in the elementary schools. K-Kids is the Elementary School version of Key Club and similarly has a community service and leadership focus.

To start, two K-Kids clubs are being sponsored by the Downtown Club in two very different elementary schools. The clubs were started in partnership with the Sioux Falls Scholl District After-School Childcare program offered on-site at the elementary schools.

Discovery and Lowell were chartered in October, 2005. The club members are students in 2nd through 5th grade and they meet every two weeks. During the first couple of meetings the members elected officers and learned basic parliamentary procedure and implemented it. The officers completed a training session to learn their individual role as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Members now know how to make motions and to cast their votes to make decisions as a club.

Each club decided to make their first project a Charter Party to celebrate the start of their club. The parties were held in January, 2006 and allowed the club members, their parents, and school officials to learn more about what K-Kids is about and to lift up the charter members in each club. Treats were served and each member was given a membership certificate and Kiwanis pin. The students all had fun planning and decorating, and the parents and faculty were impressed with the organization. Kiwanis International was very good about furnishing supplies and membership materials.

The clubs are now organizing a clean-up project for their school grounds and exploring the needs of various local charities to learn how they might give in a specific way.

If you are interested in hearing more about how K-Kids was started in Sioux Falls, contact Downtown Kiwanis member Laurie Knutson, 605-366-7149.

CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE DESERVES KIWANIS SUPPORT

The Central Asia Institute (CAI, Bozeman, MT) is the stateside support organization for the program of organizing and supporting the building and operation of village schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan directed by Minnesotan Greg Mortenson.

Just a few years ago, Greg was vacationing there and became so interested in the challenge of

educating children, especially girls, in a rural Muslim-dominated area that it has become his full time mission. A graduate of the Roseville, MN schools, he has been able to come to terms with both tribal and Islamic authorities in creating elementary schools using local labor and teachers, using primarily funds contributed from U.S. sources to CAI, a 501(c)(3) entity created for the purpose. Over 50 schools are now in operation. Some of them are little more than huts with a blackboard, but others have a building built from local materials by volunteer labor.

The project has been featured twice in PARADE magazine, which has generated support from a wide variety of individuals and organizations interested in serving children.

Children in a rural Muslim area, especially girls, may not receive any education, even a rudimentary one, that would result in their becoming literate and able to form their own ideas about living or to pass them on to the next generation. It took a significant initial effort for Greg to convince village elders and their Islamic authorities of the acceptability of such education and that it was not forbidden by the Quran.

The Board of the Kiwanis Club of North Suburban Golden K St. Paul, one of the largest of the 30 clubs in Minnesota-Dakotas Region 7 (essentially the Twin Cities metropolitan area), voted to adopt support of CAI as an ongoing or signature project of the club, now in its fourth year. Thus far, support of \$2,500 annually has been generated primarily by tax-deductible member contributions to the North Suburban Golden K Foundation, leaving funds generated by the club's fund-raising projects for the support of local community work such as the club's food shelf, Builders Club, college entrance scholarships, Head Start, Scout councils, youth & family services, after-school programs, and the like.

As a continuing project to replace IDD (to which the club contributed over \$40,000 during the active IDD years), CAI has the dual attributes of 1) providing funds to an area of the world with more "bang for the buck" than anywhere else in terms of serving children, and 2) fostering an activity begun from within our own District and continuing that connection.

Clubs or club members interested in assisting in this effort or in finding out more about it are welcome to contact CAI directly at P.O.Box 7209, Bozeman, MT 59771 (website www.ikat.org or e-mail cai@ikat.org) or to contact the North Suburban Golden K Kiwanis Club at 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN 55113, e-mail caldw009@umn.edu.

Little Club, Big Heart, Produces Sioux Falls Spinoza Bears

Meet Brandon Borszich. A cute, smart little job who was ready to start kindergarten last when until he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. It is a cancer of the blood cells. Brandon's family is from Chamberlain but the attending doctor suggested that he be moved close to Sioux Falls to be close to medical facilities.



While Great Western Bank is hoping to raise \$7800 to provide a home for Brandon and his mom for a year -- the Sioux Falls Daybreak Kiwanis Club was asked to present Brandon with a Spinoza Bear.

Pete Scott -- Daybreak President -- and Great Western Bank personal banker made the presentation to a grateful family. The Spinoza Bear -- costing roughly \$150 -- provides a companion for the 4 year old with soothing messages about life and those that care.

Daybreak Kiwanis has presented similar Spinoza Bears to families from all over South Dakota. Some of those have been facing a terminal disease -- others had lost a parent early in life. The Spinoza Bear also comes in several languages.

What we have found in Sioux Falls -- when a Daybreak Spinoza Bear listens --- children and families listen.

Sioux Falls Kiwanis Supports 1st Mall Golf Charity Building

We all know you don't play much golf in the Dakotas and Minnesota in February. Or do you play much miniature golf at a charitable site in the biggest Mall in South Dakota.



With that as the why not's --- the Sioux Falls Kiwanis Clubs --- agreed to be among the first charitable organizations to band together to provide volunteer hours to help the MS Society, the Homebuilders Associations of Sioux Falls, and the Sioux Falls Stampede Hockey team with a unique event.

During February --- The Homebuilders Association constructed 9 separate miniature golf halls to be played throughout the Sioux Empire Mall. Sponsors provided sign money and patrons would try to beat a golf course that would have made Tiger Woods and Chris DiMarco scream.

The 5 Sioux Falls Kiwanis Clubs --- meeting now for more than a year have been looking for projects to not only make money -- but put their members to work providing community hours. This event did just that.

The idea has caught the attention of other Mall's across the country ---- and amount of money raised was still being added as February was closing.

In the minds of the Kiwanis Clubs -- in this case led by the Sioux Falls Daybreak Club --- it was an idea that let members come together and share the efforts -- while showing their pride in Kiwanis. Something that beats par each and every day-- - snow, rain, or shine.

Rochester Sunrisers Members recognized by International President

Lyle Solem, one of our districts past Governors was invited by Steve Siemens, our International President, to inform him when anyone in Kiwanis should be contacted in recognition of their accomplishments. Lyle sent a note to Steve, and within 3 days of their receiving their rewards, they were personally contacted by him on the phone. This just shows the commitment that our International President has to Kiwanis.



The people recognized were:

The President presented to Jim Paulson with a Hixson, as the Sunrisers Kiwanian Of The Year. He was recognized for his dedication to our Sunrisers Kiwanis Club and always available to step in and help on many projects when a member had to cancel their commitment to one of our service projects.

Another recognition the President makes is called the Presidents Bell Ringer Award. This award is given to an individual that helps develop new programs and is willing to work on them. This year the President selected Cathy Farley for the Sunrisers Bell Ringer award. Cathy was recognized for her dedication and support of our Read Around the World program we sponsor in one of our Elementary Schools. Cathy coordinates the signing up of members and school parents to sit and read or have the child read to the adults. Cathy is a new member in our club in the past year and she is very enthused about Kiwanis and working with young children.

We also presented to our present President Wanda Mitchell a Hixson in anticipating she will be doing an outstanding job as this years president. Wanda has stepped up to the job and is doing a very good job. She has developed job description for all the committees and is monitoring them.

Madison Celebrates 84th Anniversary

Dakota State University's 3rd President helped the Madison Kiwanis Club members celebrate their



84th anniversary.

Gen. William Henry Harrison Beadle, played by Madison Kiwanis member Gene Hexom, spoke to the group during their Club's Anniversary week on February 7th. Beadle served as DSU's 3rd President from 1889 to 1905 when the university was called Madison State Normal School.

The University was later named General Beadle State Teachers College by the state Legislature in 1947 upon the urging of Kiwanis member and local legislator J.H. Lammers. The university kept that name until 1969, when it was renamed Dakota State College, It was eventually renamed Dakota State University on July 1st, 1989.

Beadle's connection to the Madison Kiwanis Club can be traced back to 1922, when the club was first organized in South Dakota.

That year, the Mitchell Kiwanis Club sent a delegation to Madison to organize and sponsor the new club. By February 9, 1922, when it was organized, 50 people had signed up to join the club.

The Madison Club was chartered on June 6, 1922. The 55 members held their charter banquet at the Lake Madison Lake View Hotel on the historic Chautaugua grounds. Helbert Holridge welcomed the many guests. Lt Governor Silas Morros of the Minnesota-Dakotas District presented the charter, which was accepted by E.C. Higbie, 1st President of the Madison Kiwanis Club and President of DSU at the time.

The following are some highlights during the club's history:

- During the depression years in the 30's, the club continued to be a civic leader, bringing gifts to underprivileged children.
- During the 40's, the businessmen who were part of the group helped farmers during harvest time by shocking grain and threshing the crops. The club also sponsored the Flandreau Kiwanis Club in 1946.
- During the 50's, the group spearheaded fund raisers for a swimming pool at Westside Park.
- In 1965 -- the club held its first Pancake Day. Several interclubs from neighboring towns came for the event. The Madison Kiwanis Chorus, under the direction of President Kenneth Lotspeich, sang for the occasion. The funds raised for the project were used to erect a large native stone monument marking the Baughman city park on Madison's Eastside. The park was named for land donated by longtime Kiwanis Member Daniel Baughman.
- The group celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1972 with a program at Madison High School.
- In 1980 the Kiwanis Barbershop Quartet was formed, The group, still singing today, performed during Madison's Centennial Celebration. During the 80's, the club planted trees on Egan Avenue as a community beautification project.
- During the 90's and even today, the group continues its many community service projects.

The Madison Kiwanis Club is currently in the midst of a membership drive and meets every Tuesday at noon at Nick's west of Madison

See Who Is Featured in the Kiwanis International Magazine!

Check out your February 2006 Issue of the *Kiwanis Magazine*. On pages 49 and 51 you will find articles relating to clubs in our Minnesota-Dakotas District. Congratulations on making the International news!!

Page 49 – An article entitled “Manure universally ripe fundraiser” explains unique fundraising project of the Otter-Risers Club of Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Page 51- An article entitled “Stay out of the kitchen” highlights another fundraising event conducted by the Moorhead Kiwanis Club, Moorhead Minnesota. This article is also featured on the Kiwanis International website.

<http://www.kiwanis.org/magazine/0206chawutefi.asp>

And, also, on page 51 you can read about our very own District Governor Stewart Ross in the article entitled, “Fish out of water? No way.”

Remember if you have something that you would like others to hear about, please submit your articles to the District Website and maybe even Kiwanis International.



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