The Kiwanis Year 2002-3
Marion Muthiah, Governor
“Build With Enthusiasm”

It was the second year of the implementation of the new Strategic Plan which changed Divisions to Regions in our Minnesota-Dakotas District. The idea of present, past and future officers working in tandem was very new during our 2002-3 year. It took off partially in at least 6 or our 7 new Regions.

Our International President was Juan F. “Ito” Torres from the Philippines. It was a real joy to work with him and his delightful wife, Alice. Ito’s goals, presented at the International Convention in Indianapolis, were “SEE the future” as spelled out in Succeed with service, Excel with membership and Educate everyone. My goals continued as “WHAT” are we to do in our district: Work for new clubs, Have a good time, Act out love and concern and Trust Kiwanians to be enthusiastic.

A Theodore Roosevelt theme, “Bully For Kiwanis” was played out with Steve Stark impersonating the former U.S. president. We visited Bonanzaville and had our Family Picnic Meal there. Nelson Tucker, International Trustee from California came as our Counselor for the coming year, assisted us by giving a workshop, and installed our new officers.

A contest for new Kiwanis songs was held during the year. A number of new lyrics to old tunes were submitted and printed in a “Kiwanis Singers Songbook.” Each of the songs was presented by the Fargo-Moorhead Kiwanis Singers sometime during the 2003 District Convention. The winning lyrics, “We’re a Service Club” were written by Margie Gettel of the Fergus Falls Club to the tune of “You’re a Grand Old Flag”.

My thanks goes to “my” Lt. Governors Hardy Lieberg, Cindy Braseth, James Patrick, Jim Thvedt, Chuck Neilsen and Mary Dierbeck. Mary was named Distinguished Lt. Governor. I would also thank Andrea Stephens, Administrator of 6 K-Kids Clubs (2 were new this year), and Nancy McDonald, Builders Club Administrator of 13 Builders Clubs (5 of which were new this year.) Five new Aktion Clubs
were built to add to the one existing one. Thanks to Administrator Alan Nelson. Clover Ellingson was the Key Club Administrator. There were 66 Key Clubs in the District. Joe Blasko assisted 14 Circle K Clubs during the year. The work with our young people continues to be an important emphasis for our District.

Dan Wolf and Jodi Bergerson were Circle K Governors during my year. Joe Goldade and Lindsey Bowman headed Key Club.

I would be remiss not to thank the four District directors of Administration, Education, Membership and Service, namely, Bernadine Martin, F. Larry Rittgarn, Roger Burkel, and Jack Zierdt respectively. Most of the regions had counterparts and the efforts to liaise between District and Regional officers gained ground. The idea of Regional teams using all their Directors was new and still needs lots of work. Many other faithful club members make the work of Kiwanis progress. The work is done on the local level and much of it does not get the praise it deserves.

Jean, Chuck and Marion

It was a joy to work with Jean Collins, Immediate Past Governor and with Chuck Jacobson who will take over the reins from me. It was a year of growth and fun for me.

Tom Horan, District Secretary/Treasurer, guided, reminded, and instructed me throughout the year. Thanks, Tom.

Crzy Mary, Tom Horan and Lindsay Bowman

The Circle K and Key Club conventions were full of zest and vigor.

I gladly bequeath all the remaining ENTHUSIASM to next year’s leadership.

We’re a service club,
We’re Kiwanis, it’s true
And we serve others with dignity
We embrace each day
Doing good on the way
Serving God in our home community
Children, they come first
Our hearts with love burst
As we serve so willingly
As we carry on
As we sing our song
Kiwanis, just like family.

Tune: “You’re a Grand Old Flag”
Words: Margie Gettel, Fergus Falls