

May 2006

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MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

Stew's News

It is May in the Midwest; what a wonderful time as the trees begin to bud, the grass turns green and the air becomes warm. We are now into the final five months of our Kiwanis year. A good time for clubs to take stock of how things have gone and what still needs to be accomplished.

One of our district goals this year was to end the year without any losses in membership. We have no idea how we are doing but hope every club tracks their ratio of new members to members who have left the club. If you have a negative go to work to bring in new members until it is a positive. If it is a positive, congratulations. Now see how high you can go!



Another goal for the district was to open 6 new clubs. We have already created two new clubs in the district with a grand total of 89 new members! We are currently working to open a club in Northfield, MN and later in Woodbury, MN. We also continue to have hope that an eClub for the district can soon begin organization. Considering we had not had a new club in the district in the past five years this has been a great year for new club building.

Congratulations to everyone who has helped make this possible. We hope clubs that are below charter strength look at their own club as a club building issue. Bringing in new members to existing clubs is just as crucial to the success of our district and clubs as new club building.

The Holiday Extravaganza back in January was a huge success for the district and will continue again next year, bigger and better than ever.

The district website continues to improve. Our biggest problem at present is to find ways to encourage members to visit the site! We will be working to improve things during the summer. Thanks to our new webmaster, Arday, things continue to improve. Take a look at: <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/>

We continue to work on improved communications in our district from governors to Lt. Governors to Administrators to clubs. We still have much work to do but things continue to improve.

Finally, you will soon be seeing the invitation to the summer District Convention in the first weekend of August. This summer it will take place in St. Cloud, MN. Pat and Larry are working hard to create a great convention. We have changed a number of things of this convention. We will again feature our district Kiwanis Khorale—a group so good they are not to be missed. Please consider attending the convention this summer. If for no other reason, to be a delegate to vote on important district concerns.

At the same time, consider a summer trip to beautiful Montreal. The International convention will be held in early July, a gorgeous time to be in Canada. We would love to see you at the convention serving as a delegate for your club or simply to learn more about Kiwanis International and meet and greet Kiwanis friends.

In early May the new district team under the able direction of governor-elect, Coralyn Dahl, will be meeting in Willmar, MN—preparing for another Kiwanis year. We still have much to do this year but transitions are crucial in Kiwanis and we hope this one will be one of the smoothest in our history.

Thanks for all you do for Kiwanis, your communities and our children. I am proud to be your governor as I travel around the district and see and hear the wonderful projects being accomplished for others. There is no better service organization in America—and you are a part of it. Congratulations.

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer - May 2006

By Steve Handegaard, Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary/Treasurer



Following are some important reminders and updates:

Call to Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Convention!! The Official Call to Convention letter has been sent to all Kiwanis Club secretaries. The mailing contains registration forms and also your club's delegate certification form. Early bird convention registrations are due before July 10. Register early! You can also access and print a copy the District Convention Registration form on our district website at: <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/story.php?articleid=1024&id=3>

Club Election Report for 2006-2007 due June 1st: Bylaws state that clubs should hold their election of officers for the upcoming year between the first meeting in April and the second meeting in May. The club election report must be filed by June 1st. It is very important that this information is received in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled by Kiwanis International and the District Office. You can find a copy of the election report on the Kiwanis International website: <http://www.kiwanis.org/lit/download.asp?id=244>

Please send a copy of your Club Election Report to both Kiwanis International and the Minnesota-Dakotas District Office, P.O Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 by June 1st. Please include email addresses for anyone that has one. (Be sure to write or type the email address clearly. It is best to type as email addresses are often hard to interpret.)

Lt. Governor Elects 2006-2007: Welcome aboard! The following Kiwanians will be serving as Lt. Governor Elect during 2006-2007. Cheryl Lane, Region 1; Mary Sieling, Region 2; Barb Fisher, Region 3; Lyle Sonnenschein, Region 4; Beverly Werner, Region 5; and David Fairbrother, Region 6. As of this date the Region 7 position has not been filled. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place May 5-7 in Willmar.

501 (c) 3 Update: The application to the IRS from Kiwanis International is still being considered by the IRS. The District has also completed the necessary Bylaw changes and Articles of Incorporation amendments to qualify for the 501 (c) 3 status. At this point we can only wait until the IRS approves the change. Once that decision is made we will inform all club secretaries of the necessary procedures to be eligible for 501 (c) 3 status.

District Kiwanis Foundation and Past Governors Meeting: The District Kiwanis Foundation Board and Past Governors Meeting will be held on May 19-20 at the AmericInn in Fergus Falls.

Electronic Monthly Club Reporting Update

Once again, thanks to all of the clubs that are submitting their monthly club reports online. 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.

International Convention Montreal- 2006: As of April 27 we have 60 Kiwanians and 18 guests from the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District registered for the Kiwanis International Convention in

Montreal. The total registration count is at 4711. The total convention goal is 10,690 participants. There is still time to register for the International Convention. 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/>

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581
Fax: 218-589-7582
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

Hope to see you at the District Convention in St. Cloud.

Steve

2006 Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention Registration Form

DISTRICT CONVENTION REGISTRATION Minnesota-Dakotas District-Kiwanis International 89th Annual District Convention-St. Cloud, Minnesota August 4-5-6th, 2006

Name: _____ Telephone (____) _____
 First Last

Name on badge: _____
(Please print and use name you want on your name tag)

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Number of children registered: _____ Names and Ages: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Club Name: _____

Club Address: _____ Region Number: _____

(1 – 7) (IMPORTANT)

Please check all items that will apply to your registration:

____ Delegate _____ Member _____ First Timer _____ President
____ Delegate at large _____ President Elect _____ Secretary _____ Guest

REGISTRATION FEES

Kiwanian	\$100.00 (After July 10 - \$130.00)	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest	\$100.00 (After July 10 - \$130.00)	\$ _____
Children	\$ 40.00 (Children – Number _____)	\$ _____

Your registration will include all of the following:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Friday evening dinner and entertainment | 5. Sunday brunch | 9. Partners/children/tours |
| 2. Saturday continental breakfast (NEW) | 6. Hospitality/refreshments | 10. Program booklet |
| 3. Saturday Noon lunch | 7. Entertainment | 11. Bus Transportation |
| 4. Saturday night banquet | 8. Workshops | |

NOTE: All registrations must be received no later than July 15, 2006. Payments must accompany this form. Late fees will be charged if postmarked after July 15, 2006. Should you find that you cannot attend, a 50% refund will be issued if your request

is postmarked by July 15, 2006. All cancellations postmarked after July 15, 2006, but not later than July 20, 2006 will receive a 25% refund. **NO REFUNDS** will be made for requests postmarked after July 20, 2006. **NO REFUND REQUEST BY TELEPHONE.**

Make checks payable to: Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Convention
Mail to: Pat & Larry Rittgarn, District Convention Directors
 Box 9442
 Fargo, North Dakota 58106

Convention Information or Questions – contact:
Pat Rittgarn
 701/293-7171 or 701/388-7860
 e-mail to either of us at prittgarn@msn.com

Larry Rittgarn
 701/293-7171 or 701/371-9634
 FAX 701/293-7171

HOTEL Information:

Please call- BEST WESTERN KELLY INN direct for room reservations (320/253-0606)

(Room rates \$89.60 including tax for 1-4 per room) Payable directly to the Motel

Call today and reserve your room for this years District convention.

Risky Business . . .

While I am far from an expert, I have spent a day at Kiwanis International Headquarters listening and taking notes on this topic. I also met and visited with the Kiwanis International Risk Manager, Lisa Heindricks, as well as Adam Reiff, Senior Account Manager for The Hylant Group, and Denny Flahault, Account Executive for The Hylant Group. (The Hylant Group manages the insurance account for Kiwanis Int'l)

The position of District Risk Manager includes the following responsibilities:

Communicate the liability insurance program to the district.
 Provide club training and club safety coordinator training.
 Communicate with the Kiwanis Int'l Risk Manager concerning district issues and activities.

Duties:

Learn and understand the contents of the General Liability Risk Mgmt Packet.
 Serve as a resource for clubs, providing information and training to club safety coordinators.
 Submit risk management articles to district bulletin.
 Provide workshops at district conventions.
 Ensure that each club appoints a safety coordinator who is familiar with the RM packet .
 Obtain contact info for club safety coordinators and maintain communication w/them.
 Communicate regularly w/Int'l Risk Manager.
 Attend annual Risk Manager training at Kiwanis International.

Reports to:

Kiwanis International Risk Manager, and District Governor

I will be submitting risk management information each month to the Minnekotan, so watch this space!

And if you have questions about club liability, feel free to contact me at hyde@cord.edu or at home: 218-233-0508, at work: 218-299-3815.

Or contact Lisa Heindricks, Kiwanis International, 800-876-3061, lheindricks@kiwanis.org

Or Adam Reiff, Account Manager, Hylant Group, 800-442-7475 x7179, adam.reiff@hylant.com

In the meantime, avoid any *risky business!*

Past International President Merald Enstad

Past International President Merald Enstad, pictured here with club member Dave Eilertson, still enjoys his Kiwanis activities and his pancakes! The Fergus Falls, MN, noon Kiwanis club is 3 years ahead on pledge payments to the city of Fergus Falls on a park improvement project which is funded largely from the proceeds of our annual pancake breakfast.



Merald Enstad is consistently the number one ticket seller for this event. We hope our fellow Kiwanians enjoy seeing the winning smile of our number one Kiwanian!

Judge Tom Stringer dies

1. Thomas M. "Tom" Stringer, 62, a noon Kiwanis member in Fergus Falls, MN since 1988 died while vacationing in Mexico. Tom was born in Canby, MN. He served in the US Army in South Korea. In 1967 he married Judith M. Thurnbeck. Tom is survived by Judy and their two children. At the time of his death Tom was a judge in the 7th Judicial District.

Judge Stringer dedicated much of his time to numerous local and charitable organizations. He could always be counted on to participate in Kiwanis activities. The decision of the Stringer family to have memorials dedicated to either the Women's Crisis Center (Someplace Safe) or the United Way of Otter Tail County is symbolic of the spirit of Tom's life.

Gene Hexom Chosen as Madison's new mayor

Kiwanian Gene Hexom was elected by an overwhelming majority of voters in the April 11 election. Hexom will complete the term of former mayor and fellow Kiwanian Royce Hueners who died in late October.

Change of Date for Clear Lake 50th Anniversary

We had to change our date for the anniversary. The new date is Monday, May 22, 2006 Meal at 6:00 Short program 6:45 Guest Speaker, VJ Smith from Brookings 7:00 He is the author of "The Richest Man in Town" Thanks Jane Evenson

Bob Bigwood passes

Robert M. Bigwood, a noon Kiwanis member since 1950 died peacefully in his sleep Feb. 4, 2006. Bob was born in St. Thomas, ND and served in the US Army Air Corp. during World War II. Bob graduated from the Univ. of Minnesota in 1947, joined Otter Tail Power Co. in 1948 and married Barbara Lone Barr in 1949. Bob rose to the rank of CEO and Chairman at Otter Tail. He was very active in Kiwanis and a variety of local and national charities and in Republican party political activities. Bob is survived by his wife and their five children. Memorials are direct to Grace Lutheran Church or the Fergus Area College Foundation.

Reading Around the World Project

The Mitchell Club collected 70 pre-school age children's books and donated them to the 1st Lutheran



Child Learning Center in thier community. Pictured is Dave Astrup Pastor at 1st Lutheran Church and active Kiwanian handing books to the children at the Learning Center.

PEANUT DAY TO BE HELD BY SIOUX FALLS EAST AT TWO LOCATIONS

Golf Tournament for District Convention

WHAT: Minn-Dak Kiwanis Convention Annual Golf Tournament WHERE: Territory Golf Club 480 55th Avenue SE St Cloud, MN WHEN: Thursday, August 2006 TIMES: 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM COST IS \$40.00 per person for 18 holes including half a cart ITEMS OF INTEREST 4 person Best Ball Golf w/Handicaps Practice balls - 11 AM at driving range Shotgun Start prizes (2') (3) (4) ENTER NOW! One or more! NAMES(r) CLUB: Send Entry form and check(s) to: Brock Swanson 480 55th Avenue SE St. Cloud, MN 562301 Questionst Call Brock at 320-258-4653 or email at bswanson@territorygc.com

GOVERNOR STEWART ROSS GIVES A SIX MONTH UPDATE ON THE MN-DAK DISTRICT

[Click here](#) to read the update.

SIEMEN'S PEOPLE BUILDER SEMINAR GET RAVE REVIEWS!

Due to the length of this article, [please click here](#) if you are interested in reading the whole article.



WHAT HAPPEN'S WHEN THE TRACY KIWANIS CLUB LOSES ITS MEETING PLACE?

When the *Mediterranean* restaurant closed in Tracy, Minnesota, in April 2005, not only did the Tracy Kiwanis club lose its meeting place but also its twice a year Waffle Brunch fundraiser. In the late summer of 2005, the Tracy Ambulance Service offered the use of a room in the ambulance garage for the Kiwanis to meet with the local grocery catering the meals. The length of time it took to secure a new meeting place prevented the club from holding a fundraiser that year.

After discussing various fundraising ideas, the Board of Directors decided to contact Dad's Belgian Waffles headquartered in Danube, Minnesota. Club President Clint Peterson and Secretary Mary Katherine McVenes contacted Cal Lueck, and after discussing menus and other details, President Clint signed a contract with Dad's Belgian Waffles to host a spring fundraiser.

The preparations for the waffle breakfast went into high gear. April 2, 2006 had been chosen as the date with serving from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every member received ten tickets to sell. Advanced ticket sales assured the club that the contracted guarantee had been met. Many sold more than their ten, with the honor of selling the most going to President Clint Peterson at a total of 117.

A light rain was falling when several club volunteers arrived at the high school at 7:30 a.m. on April 2 to help set up the equipment. Moose and Karon Zimmer, from Dad's Belgian Waffles, supervised the workers. Moose was in charge of the waffle machines and Karon handled the kitchen duties.

Twenty-two enthusiastic members of the club, five spouses, one daughter and one granddaughter worked the shifts. Several of the Kiwanians worked more than one shift. Even Lt. Governor-Elect

Curt Pearson helped to serve coffee and wait on the customers.

When asked about the waffles, customers had only positive comments from “very delicious” to “fantastic.” Would they attend our fall fundraiser if the same waffles were served? “Absolutely,” was the unanimous reply.

There was little doubt that the fundraiser was a huge success even though there was a brief power failure at one point. Proceeds will be used for student scholarships, Children’s Miracle Network, community and school projects as well as club activities.

One might ask the question: Why would people be willing to devote a Sunday morning for a fundraiser? A few of the Kiwanians took time to share their reasons

Retired Tracy Elementary School Principal, and former Lt. Governor Vernon Grinde wanted to continue working for children. When his wife Doris was appointed Tracy’s postmaster, the retiring postmaster John Vahle told her that Tracy postmasters always joined Kiwanis. Doris and Connie Roemer were the first women to become members of Tracy Kiwanis.

President Clint Peterson had to wait until he retired as band director for the Tracy High School to join Kiwanis. This seemed a natural extension of his interest in the youth of the community. Not only is he an active member in the club, but he organized and conducts the community band.

In 2003 the Mayor of Washington, DC, and the President of the Women’s Auxiliary of Mount Vernon invited the community band to play in The National Festival of the States and represent Minnesota. The Kiwanis club donated money toward the expenses for the trip as did many individuals and groups in the community.

Mary McVenes was invited to join Tracy Kiwanis by Vernon and Doris Grinde. A few years after joining, she became secretary and still holds the position after thirteen years. She is an asset to the club.

President-Elect Les Onken and Treasurer Steve Peterson both cited interest in community involvement as their reasons for joining. Les belonged to Tracy Kiwanis for several years but had dropped out. At the urging of one of the members, Dave Mix, now deceased, Les decided to join and has been an active member since.

Ernie Surprenant, a long time member, was impressed with what Kiwanis stood for. Marlene Buck joined after her husband passed away. She felt it was the right thing to do, to carry on his work with Kiwanis.

Vincent Lanoue was looking for something to do and liked the people he met when he first attended a meeting. As an employee of Minnwest Bank South, Laurie Iverson wanted to learn more about Kiwanis and this gave her an opportunity to know the people in the community.

Members of Tracy Kiwanis include educators, business people, farmers, a minister and a priest. Many are retired. “Serving the Children of the World” is taken to heart with this group.



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