Welcome to the latest news from around our Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District. In addition to articles by some of district leaders you will also find many interesting articles and photos from Kiwanis Clubs in our district.

As always we encourage clubs to submit news articles about their activities, service projects or fundraisers. To submit an article go the District News on our website and find “News-News Story Submission” page  http://mndak.portalbuzz.com/Page/1013

This document is a PDF summary of the latest news that can also be found on the district website. If you prefer you can also view all of our news articles directly on the district website. You can search by District, Division or Club and view or print each article individually or as a group. In addition the photos appear in a larger format on the website. Here is a link to the website  http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1012

An archive of current and past MINNEKOTANS can be found on our district website http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1014

Steve Handegaard
District Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis International
The Many Faces of Kiwanis: The Greatest Volunteers Anywhere - 7/31/2018
Submitted by: Dan Leikvold

The greatest reward of serving as the Governor of the Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International has been the opportunity to visit so many great clubs and to meet so many fantastic folks. I have visited many clubs and met many new folks in all three states. It is clear that the strongest aspect of our organization is our members and all of the great work that they do for our children and our communities.

Believing strongly in the value of putting public service over personal ambition is the centerpiece of being a Kiwanian. It is so nice to see so many volunteers who do so much to help so many. Because Kiwanis places such a large emphasis on helping our children and families, our organization stands apart from so many others. Kiwanis is simply a great vehicle for addressing those priorities and for “serving the children of the world.”

Thank you so much to all of the members and the clubs in the Minnesota Dakotas District, for all of the great work you have done, are doing, and will do, to help make the lives and the futures of the children and the families in our communities so much better. I look forward to working with the clubs and the members throughout the District in the years to come. To see some additional photos and information click on the following link: https://portalbuzzuserfiles.s3.amazonaws.com/ou-87/userfiles/files/august%20minnekotan-%20dan.pdf

District Convention is almost here - 7/30/2018
Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl

Here we are just 10 days away from our 101st Minnesota Dakotas District Convention! This year has flown by and we will soon be together for fun, education, and fellowship. We will have the opportunity to attend three forums Friday afternoon followed by a great buffet meal, our evening session, and then our entertainment. Saturday we will have a wonderful keynote speaker, Jay Vargas, who will speak from his knowledge of working with young people in the college setting. He has come from migrant worker to become a college professor. We will have our Division Caucuses and another forum in the morning also on
Saturday. Remember that we will have more entertainment following the banquet on Saturday night.

Remember to bring your diapers, used books, and an item for the silent auction. It will be so much fun to see all of you and renew our friendships! About twenty first time attendees will be with us so we can meet new friends, too. See you soon!

There is still time to register!! Here is the link to the online registration and other information: https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1010

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**August Update** - 7/30/2018  
*Submitted by: Steve Handegaard*

**Division Star Award Winners for 17-18:** Division Star Award winners have been selected in each of our 7 Divisions. The winners will be recognized at the Saturday Noon luncheon at the District Convention in Willmar. To view names and information about each of the recipients go to our district website at the following link:  
https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/24948

**District Convention:** Our District Convention in Willmar is just a few days away. Lots of preparation and planning has been happening to ensure that this will be another great convention. It will be a great opportunity to learn new ideas, meet new friends and enjoy great Kiwanis fellowship. I hope to see you there. Further information about the convention, including the 2018 Program Booklet, can be found on the district website. There is still time to register!

Click here to go to convention webpage: https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1010

**Club Secretaries:** Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online club reports for the 17-18 year. Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2018. When you use the monthly online reporting system you will not be asked to submit a separate annual report.

Thanks again to Club Secretaries for submitting the **Annual Club Election Reports for 2018-2019**. The reports were due June 1, so if you have not submitted your information online, please do so ASAP! We are still waiting for some club election reports! Please include email addresses whenever
possible. It is very important that Kiwanis International and the District Office both receive this information in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled. When filed online the report automatically goes to both Kiwanis International and the District Office.

Don’t get lost! The club locator (http://sites.kiwanis.org/Kiwanis/en/MembershipInterest/FindAClub.aspx) on the Kiwanis.org website is one of its most used functions. Prospective members and current members who are relocating use the search function to find a club in their area. But if your club doesn’t have a valid meeting location address, site visitors won’t be able to find you. Don’t get left off the map! Club secretaries, make sure your club’s meeting location address is valid and up to date via your online Secretary dashboard.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735
Phone: 218-589-7581
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

Minnesota Dakotas Foundation Scholarship Applications Due by January 27 - 7/29/2018
Submitted by: Bill Lardy

With most schools starting this month it is a good time to think about helping those students entering their senior year and planning to get more education after graduation. For them the cost of post-secondary education is especially daunting. The expectation of a large loan balance at the conclusion of a program of study is really a disincentive to get further education. Thus, scholarship assistance from the Minnesota Dakotas Education Foundation to more than 50 recipients each year is all the more important as a scholarship will reduce each loan balance.
It is important to point out that the scholarships are available to students enrolled in any post-secondary institution within the 3 States of the District. So, students planning to enroll in a community or technical college offering Associate Degrees and training programs for trades such as auto mechanics, plumbing, electrical, power plant management, and many more, should really consider applying.

Members of Kiwanis can help first by making contributions to the Education Foundation. Any contribution is held in perpetuity since only the income from the assets of the Foundation are used to fund scholarships.

Second, members can contact High School Counselors asking them to make students aware of the scholarship applications.

Third, Kiwanians can tell students themselves about the scholarships and where to find application materials. Tell family and friends. Placing an ad in a local paper, post information on the Club's website and on Facebook will help.

Kiwanis exists to help young people. Supporting the Minnesota Dakotas Education Foundation is an easy and effective way to do it.

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**Teachers Need Kids** - 7/29/2018  
*Submitted by: Theresa Looby*

A new academic year is about to begin. Teachers will be looking for helping hands – What better helping hands than the hands of K-kids?

You may ask – How can K-Kids help? There are several ways for K-Kids to help. Here are five (5) suggestions:

1. Displaying appropriate classroom behavior,
2. Responding in a positive manner to teacher requests.
3. Accepting leadership roles when asked.
4. Volunteering when asked.
5. Assisting with classroom neatness projects.

Each of these suggestions are in step with the goals of K-Kids – Leadership, self-respect, respect for others and volunteering.

Therefore, it is time for each Kiwanis Club to approach the principals and share with them the
positive attributes K-Kids bring to the school environment.
If you need help with information and talking to school administrators I am here to help. I want to help ensure that every Elementary School has a Kiwanis K-Kids.
You may call me at 605 490 8698. My e-mail is Stnl2438@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - 7/29/2018
Submitted by: Sherry Scudder

We are working on new clubs in Willison, North Dakota and Casselton, North Dakota then back to Bloomington, Edan Prairie and Egan, Minnesota to help nurture these new clubs. We will be working with the coaches and helping them to become stronger clubs. These clubs are in the new baby stages and we want to give them as much help as we can.

We are so proud of those who have added new members to your existing clubs and below is a list of the Division, Club Name, sponsor and new member. Give yourself a big hand. Your community and children in the community need you.

DIVISION 1
JAMESTOWN Hayle Wolf, Jennifer Rau
JAMESTOWN Michelle Watne, Janna Bergstedt
Potential New Club in Williston, ND

DIVISION 2
ALEXANDRIA GOLDEN K Steven Fagen, James W Johnsen
Potential New Club in Casselton, ND

DIVISION 5
PIERRE-FT PIERRE Jerry Wattier, Kody Kyriss

DIVISION 6
LITCHFIELD Darlene Kotelnicki, Betty Allen
LITCHFIELD Sponsor Unknown, John Karels
Again, Congratulations on your growth and continued service to your community. I hope to see you in Willmar for the District Convention, August 10-12, 2018. We will have great forums and a lot to share on new club openings. Don’t miss out on great information and fun.

Sherry Scudder
MN-DAK DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

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**Circle K International Convention - 7/29/2018**

*Submitted by: William Smith*

Circle K International Convention (CKIx) was held July 4 through July 8 in Chicago Illinois. Minnesota-Dakotas Circle K sent 7 members where we participated in caucusing, served as delegates, served the Chicago community in a day of service, and sat through workshops pertaining to needs of the organization. We also had time to explore the city, visiting the bean and riding the large ferris wheel at Navy Pier.

The convention was a great learning and bonding experience for each attendee from our district. It inspired us to look outside of our clubs and districts to see the big picture of what Circle K International is and what it truly represents. It convinced me personally to work towards getting Minnesota-Dakotas the recognition it deserves through awards and achievements at the international level! We have a great district and a solid district board to keep bettering and growing the district as a whole.

A personal experience from the convention I truly enjoyed was the Day of Service which was held on Friday, July 6. Everyone at CKIx was divided into groups and tasked with different projects throughout Chicago. The project I was a part of had two parts. The first being a park clean up at Lincoln Park where we pulled weeds from trail sides and a playground as well as picking up trash throughout the whole park. Following this first project, we ate lunch at various restaurants in the area then proceeded to take busses and a train to an organization known as Little Brothers, an organization that celebrates holidays and special occasions with elderly that have little to no family that visit them. Here we helped decorate holiday gift bags. We were able to finish about 54 bags with the time we had. They will need a total of over 1,200 to supply bags to each elder they are in touch with.
CKIx was truly eye-opening and a great experience for me as well as everyone that attended from our district, whether it was their first time attending or their third time attending. We got to serve the community, have fellowship with those from our district as well as others from around the globe, and we get to serve as leaders to our district in educating about internationals and how big and truly awesome Circle K International is.

William Smith, CKI Minnesota-Dakotas District Governor

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Annual Youth Protection training - 7/28/2018  
Submitted by: Peter Larson

At the recent Kiwanis International Convention, I completed the training to be the District Youth Protection Manager. I have three basic responsibilities:

* To communicate the basics of the Youth Protection Guidelines within the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District.
* To help clubs understand their responsibilities in youth protection.
* To be the connection between Kiwanis International and the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District/Key Club district on issues of youth protection.

I hope to meet many of you at the District Convention in Willmar where I will present a forum on the Youth Protection Guidelines. If you are unable to attend the convention, please contact me with any questions at my cell phone number 701-261-7012 or at my email: phlarson@midco.net.

Kiwanis International recommends that all Kiwanis members take youth protection training every year to keep up with the latest developments. October would be a great month to hold this annual training at a club level. I am available to help organize the training.

Kiwanis International has an excellent PowerPoint on youth protection and several other great articles at:

http://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/risk-management/youth-protection
There are 12 points to the Youth Protection Guidelines and I will be commenting on one or more of them each month in the Minnkotan. If you miss the training, please check out my articles and keep informed on the best way to keep the youth we serve and our organization safe.

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Children's Fund Top Five - 7/27/2018
Submitted by: Kathy Welle

At the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, we're dedicated to serving the children of the world. In fact, it's our mission. You're a Kiwanian, so you share that dedication. As your club's secretary, you can help us spread the word.

Below are the Children’s Fund’s top five messages for July 2018. Share these items with club members to keep them informed on how we can be of service to your club.

1. Did you hear about the #MNTChallenge? A group of generous donors put forth US$100,000 to challenge Kiwanians to raise an additional US$100,000 for The Eliminate Project, one of our five causes. During the Kiwanis International convention, we raised more than US$171,000! This success led the donors to challenge Kiwanians to reach the US$200,000 mark. Go to kiwanis.org/mntchallenge for more information.

2. As the Kiwanis year comes to an end, consider recognizing your club leaders for their hard work. A gift to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund or The Eliminate Project is a great way to honor passionate Kiwanians in your club. Learn more about the George F. Hixson or Walter Zeller fellowships.

3. Our next club grant deadline is fast approaching. If your club is interested in applying, submit a Letter of Inquiry online by September 1. Now is the perfect time to begin assessing your community’s needs and drafting your application.

4. Our staff wants to be a resource for you! We can give a presentation to your club (virtually or in-person), help you establish or manage a club foundation, assist with fundraising efforts, and so much
more. Just find your region’s Development Officer and reach out.

5. Be our friend! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up for our e-newsletter to receive regular updates on our causes, grant cycles and more. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to let us know. Send an email to childrensfund@kiwanis.org or call 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 254.

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**Children’s Fund - 7/27/2018**
*Submitted by: Kathy Welle*

Reminder - Bring Kiwanis Kids dollars to our District Convention in Willmar, Mn. August 10th-12th. These Kids Dollars will be designated to the Children’s Fund.

Also looking for raffle items for raising additional funds for the Children’s Fund during the convention.

Thank you.

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**Service - 7/26/2018**
*Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan*

Kiwanians, I’m looking forward to the District conversation.

We will have three clubs telling us how their service projects have worked for them. There will still be time for other clubs to tell us about their projects too. We want to not only congratulate them as they serve in their communities, but also get ideas on what we may be able to do.

1] The Sturgis Golden K club will tell us how they run their Food pantry. This serves their community
and the less fortunate in the area well.

2] Lt. Governor, Randall Schmidt from the Rochester Kiwanis will discuss how they have implemented their Hockey tournament for the kids in that community. He may discuss some other programs too.

3] Jeff Anderson from the Watertown Kiwanis will talk about how they have put 6 Scholastic Reading Oasises in the Watertown school system and 2 on the Rosebud Reservation without any out of pocket money coming from the club.

We hope you will enjoy the education and excitement that these clubs have provided for their communities. See you at the convention.

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**Stillwater Area Kiwanis Raises Money for New Playground - 7/26/2018**

*Club: Stillwater Area (The) - Submitted by: Steve Forseth*

Each summer, thousands of locals and visitors gather together for Lumberjack Days – a festival that celebrates the heritage of Stillwater, Minnesota. The event includes activities ranging from old time baseball to lumberjack demonstrations, and our favorites – the Kiwanis Mini Log Roll and Lumberjack Days parade.

Through our mini-log roll, we raise funds to support different causes for kids in our community. Participants purchase a numbered ticket for $1. Their number corresponds with one that is painted on a mini-log (a painted 1"x1" dowel rod). The logs are then dumped from a bucket at the top of a hill. The top 10 finishers receive an ice cream treat generously donated by one of our community partners. The top two winners from each of the six heats are also entered into a grand prize roll where they can win one of three prizes. Prizes are fun and eye catching – something that every child wants to take home! This year’s prizes included a 6’ inflatable beach ball, a 4’x4’ inflatable, ride on rubber duck and a $25 gift card to a local candy shop. In addition, one of our local grocery stores also donates cases of water that are sold during the mini-log roll and passed out for donations as we walk in the Lumberjack Days parade.

We are excited to share that this year’s Lumberjack Days festivities helped us raise over $1,000 to support a new playground at one of our local elementary schools! And it’s not just an ordinary playground either! Lake Elmo Elementary is building an inclusive playground that is accessible and
fun for children of all ages and abilities. We are honored to be able to do our part to support this important project and grateful to Stillwater Kiwanian, Marilyn Forseth for bringing it to our attention. We are proud of the difference we make in our community as we volunteer side by side with our active Key Club and Builders Club. Join us at one of our regular meetings held the 3rd Monday of the month from 11:30am-1pm at Acapulco Restaurant in Stillwater or follow our activities on Facebook at Stillwater Area Kiwanis Club. Want to learn more? Contact Steve Forseth at stevewforseth@gmail.com or 612-518-4290.

FRIDLEY KEY CLUB RECOGNIZED AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - 7/17/2018
Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Yangchen Namgyal, Co-Secretary of Fridley Key Club

On Independence Day, 7 Key Clubbers from Fridley High School –Gao-je Vang, Stefany Martinez-Perez, Hung Nguyen, Yangchen Namgyal, Hycha Thao, Zoha Hassan, and Madison Thompson –arrived at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. We, along with the rest of the Minnesota-Dakotas District, had traveled roughly 400 miles from West Saint Paul to make it to the Second City, which was a relatively short distance compared to the lengths trekked by clubs from Florida and even Taiwan, but our journey had begun long before.

Last October, Fridley Key Club organized Socktober, a reimagining of their usual Homeless Sleepout event. To participate, one had to be a member and also donate socks, which were the one of the least donated and yet most needed items in homeless shelters. So students from Fridley and the neighboring Columbia Heights constructed shelters out of cardboard boxes and slept outside to spread awareness and gain a more intimate perspective on homelessness. Afterwards, our amazing IP President Daegia Vang and brilliant Emily Rice co-wrote a 14-page document that explained the event’s plan, execution, results, and purpose; it was the deciding factor in Fridley Key Club placing first in the Single Service Award’s Gold Division at ICON.

The following March, Fridley Key Club supported the IP District Governor’s Project with Lock-In for Lives, an event that took months of planning and contributed hundreds of dollars to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Dedicated Key Clubbers like Publicist Salmah Youngmark and IP Treasurer Jennifer Ollila chaired event committees such as Dodgeball and Board Games to make the project as successful as it was.
Flash forward to July 6th, 2018: Fridley Key Club earned the Distinguished Diamond Level Club Award, the only club from the MinnDak District to receive this distinction. On top of that, we placed third in the Digital Poster Contest, thanks to the creativity of IP Webmaster Daniel Ajagbusi. And none of it would’ve been possible without outstanding Key Clubbers like Daegia anikd Jennifer and impactful service projects such as the Lock-In and Socktober. It was the efforts of IP District Bulletin Editor Gao-je Vang and IP Division 7A Lieutenant Governor Daniel Ajagbusi, who were distinguished for their tireless efforts and yet still found the time to be involved on a club level. It was IP Publicist Hung, who consistently communicated with General members and kept them informed. It was Board member Francisco Garcia, who chaired events with us and was always ready for service, and General members like Pa-Chee Yang, whose understated passion never failed to inspire.

But it was also the peerless support of Kiwanis Advisor Mary Bowen and Faculty Advisors Alexa Bailey, Katie Sneider, and Jessica Baker. It was the local Kiwanians who frequently collaborated with Fridley Key Club in events like Bell Ringing and important fundraisers such as Cub Bagging. It was the community of Fridley, MN that enabled us to serve by providing us with opportunities to help run community events like the Hayes Holiday Bazaar.

With supporters like you, it is little wonder that Fridley Key Club’s very own Emily Rice, who was just elected International President, chose to focus on the people that made Key Club great as her platform. Due to your support, we have been empowered to make a positive difference in the world from right where we stand, whether that is the humble city of Fridley or the bustling metropolis of Chicago. Thank you.

Yours in Service,
Yangchen Namgyal, Co-Secretary of Fridley Key Club
07/16/2018

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**Another Mini Library** - 7/12/2018
*Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn*

Bennett Elementary School in South Fargo is the latest mini library recipient. The Fargo South Point Kiwanis club continues to construct and erect mini libraries in the Fargo area. The latest library was built by a member of the club, decorated and painted by the art students at Bennett school. On the day it was installed, it
gained immediate use, as a small child checked it out as soon as the books were put in it.