

# MINNEKOTAN

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February 2010

## Time to Re-Energize

By Bruce Klair, District Kiwanis Governor

As I write this, the winter landscape outside my window looks bleak. I can recall my dad saying we must have half our hay and half our firewood left by the end of January if we were going to make it through the winter without problems. This only means that we still have a bit of winter ahead of us.

I googled "Beating the Winter Doldrums" and came up with over 200,000 suggestions. For those of us who are looking forward to spring, there are a ton of opportunities out there. On the top of my list is to step up and rededicate myself to Kiwanis activities. I encourage everyone to consider how they can improve their Kiwanis experience. Do more than just attend the weekly meetings. Volunteer to serve on a committee, explore a new fund raiser or service project. Attend the meeting of our sponsored programs. Circle K, Key Clubs, Builders Clubs, K-Kids and Aktion Clubs are honored to have you attend their meetings. Be sure to invite them to your Kiwanis Club meetings and include them in any activities your club has planned.



Now is the time to invite a friend or neighbor to a club meeting. It may take some coaxing, but once they are there they will enjoy the experience and will gladly come back again. Plan to do some interclubbing this month. We always come back with new ideas and new insights after visiting a neighboring club.

International President Paul Palazzolo reminds us that the time frame between the months of January and July are the most productive months for Kiwanis growth -- both for new Kiwanis Clubs and existing clubs. Our District is working in several communities to form new Kiwanis Clubs. Now, more than ever, every community needs an active Kiwanis Club to address their needs during these hard economic times.

We do have some encouraging membership reports from clubs out there. The Downtown Rapid City Club set a goal of 12 new members this year, and they have reported they are already half way to their goal, and have three more members they will install this month. Congratulations to them! The Red Wing Golden K Club formed a club

satellite at the boys correctional facility in Red Wing and recently installed 9 new satellite members there. A new club is being built in Tea, SD, and they are already meeting bi-weekly and planning some service projects. The West St. Paul Club has a club satellite in Apple Valley, and this group has made a goal of being up to charter strength by May. Clubs are being considered in Champlin, MN; in Marshall, MN; and Belle Fourche, SD. We have a great Lt. Governor team that is looking for even more opportunities of club building. Be ready to step up when they ask for help. Every community needs a Kiwanis Club!

Our hearts are saddened by the recent catastrophe in Haiti. The pictures on our television screens are almost too tragic to imagine. We hope every club in our District is addressing the needs of this tragedy as best they can. The Kiwanis International Foundation has provided a grant from its disaster relief fund to UNICEF to help in its effort to provide relief aid to Haiti. Contributions currently are being accepted by the foundation for its disaster relief fund, or you can send your contributions directly to UNICEF.

To contribute to the foundation, go to [www.kiwanis.org/foundation](http://www.kiwanis.org/foundation) and click on the "Give Now" button. To contribute directly to UNICEF, go to [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).

Saturday, April 10, is Kiwanis One Day. This is an opportunity to plan a service event in your community and show your friends and neighbors what Kiwanis Clubs can do and how much fun they can have doing it. I hope every club in our District is planning an event, and including their sponsored clubs in the activities.

We have another opportunity this year on April 10, since that is also the day that our International President, Paul Palazzolo will be visiting our District. President Paul will be arriving in Mankato, MN that afternoon to participate in a District service project, packaging food in a Kids Against Hunger facility. That evening will be a banquet, where Kiwanians from our District can meet our International President in a more formal setting and hear his message. Good food, good fellowship, great entertainment and an inspirational message from President Paul promises to make the evening a great event.

To learn more about the International President visit to our district [CLICK HERE](#). Your club presidents will be receiving all the details very shortly. There will also be more information about the event in the March MINNEKOTAN.



## 2008-09 Distinguished Clubs

Submitted by: Bill Lardy, Immediate Past Governor

Congratulations to 29 clubs for receiving the Distinguished Club Award for the year 2008-2009! This is a tremendous achievement for the district but even more it is a tremendous achievement for the 29 clubs, their officers and members. This distinction recognizes the great work done, the attention to detail and the leadership shown by every member of each club's leadership team and every member of each club.



There is a banner patch and certificate for each of the 29 clubs as well as pins identifying the president and secretary as "Distinguished." These items have not been received yet by the District. As soon as they are I will work with Governor Bruce, Governor Elect Lowell and the Lt. Governor team in each region to set a time when the award can be presented to each club.

Every region has at least one club receiving the award! I congratulate the Lt. Governor teams for their help and the encouragement they gave to their clubs to work toward this goal.

Following is a link to the full listing of clubs that qualified for the 2008-2009 Distinguished Club Award.  
[http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public\\_district/pub\\_Content.aspx?Page=78](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public_district/pub_Content.aspx?Page=78)

There is still time this year for many clubs to attain "Distinguished Club. The criteria for 2009-2010 can also be found at the above link. I encourage all clubs to work toward this goal. Making the grade is a measure of the vitality of the club and it's commitment to the Objects of Kiwanis.

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## Reveal Your Growth Potential.....

Submitted by: Vickie Walters, District Membership & NCB Chair

**Walk the talk** - Show your club and members of your community what Kiwanis is all about. Try to talk about Kiwanis to someone once a day. Not hard. Let them know what service projects you are doing for your community and ask them to join you!

**Stay Flexible** - The more flexible you are, the more attractive your club will be to new members.

**Reach Out** - Every member can make an impact by inviting just one person to join.

**Keep in in the family** - Tap into the potential of people who already know about Kiwanis in your community. Invite a member from your schools, city and county government, or just a good friend.



Please make sure you are communicating with your membership committee members and giving them support by asking guests to join you at your meetings as prospective members. Today, many children are still waiting for the kind of help Kiwanis members like you provide. The most effective way to reach those in need is to ensure your club stays strong, grows larger, and steps up when needed. It takes a lot of work to make a difference.

Reveal your growth potential to each of your members and recruit new members. The four areas of growth include: Membership, Service, Education and New Club Building. I want to make an impact this month with Membership. Please revitalize your membership committee and ask them for help in sponsoring a membership drive. Celebrate your Kiwanis club at each of meetings this month with Membership Growth! Reach out and just ASK!

# February 2010 Update

Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Secretary/Treasurer



**Lt. Governor Elect Candidates:** We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates for 2010-2011 in some regions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place April 30-May 2 in Fergus Falls.

**Governor Elect Candidates:** If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2010-2011, please submit a picture and a short biographical sketch not to exceed 600 words, along with an endorsement from your home club, to the District Kiwanis Office, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 **no later than February 15, 2010**. Your information must be received by that date to be published in the March MINNEKOTAN. Candidates can announce their intention to run at a later date, but will not be able to have an article in the MINNEKOTAN or district website. Governor Elect candidates must be a Past Lt. Governor. The election will take place at the District Convention in Fargo next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

## **Reminder about Kiwanis Clubs & IRS filing requirements:**

All organizations, including Kiwanis clubs must file the appropriate annual IRS tax form. The form used depends on your annual gross receipts. See IRS filing guidelines on the IRS website <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=217087,00.html>

Small, tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts normally are \$25,000 or less are not required to file IRS forms 990 or 990-EZ. But the Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires these organizations to file the new electronic form (Form 990-N) annually. Failure to file for three consecutive years could result in revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status. The standard information the IRS will require when filing the electronic Form 990-N is the name of your Kiwanis club, mailing address, Web site address (if applicable), employer identification number (EIN), annual tax period date, and a statement that annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less. Because Kiwanis operates on a fiscal year (October 1-September 30), the **filing due date is February 15th**.

**Tri-K District Board Meeting:** Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards met in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16, 2010. Minutes of the Kiwanis District Board meeting can be viewed on our district website or by clicking on the following [http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public\\_district/pub\\_Content.aspx?Page=74](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public_district/pub_Content.aspx?Page=74)

## **Club Elections, CLE (Club Leadership Education) & Distinguished Club Award:**

It is not too soon to begin thinking about election of club officers. Just a reminder that your club election report will be due June 1st. Also, just a reminder that the current criteria for the Distinguished Club Award states, The Kiwanis club president and secretary participate in the Club Leadership Education (CLE) training session (or equivalent) prior to assuming office - (20 points if both attend). In other words, to get the points for next year, you need to attend this year.

**District Annual Audit:** The Annual Audit of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Financial Accounts for the Kiwanis year 2008-09 was completed by Westberg Eischens, PLLP, Certified Public Accountants of Willmar, Minnesota. The report is on file at Kiwanis International and the District Office.

# 93rd Annual District Convention

Submitted by: Pat and Larry Rittgarn

**Mark your calendars**  
**August 13-14-15, 2010**  
**Doublewood Inn,**  
**Fargo, ND**



Lots of good activities for everyone, so plan now to attend this convention and help to make Kiwanis policy, have some Kiwanis fun and meet and greet all of your Kiwanis friends.

First Timers to the convention will again be honored with a special introductory luncheon and pre-convention session.

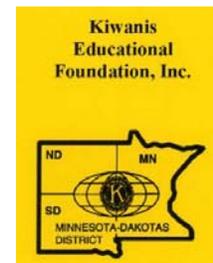
Club Presidents and Secretaries watch your mail in early May for all of the information about this convention. The web site will also contain all of the forms and information for your convenience.

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## Kiwanis Educational Foundation Scholarship Information

Submitted by: Jack Zierdt, District Educational Foundation

As of this date the deadline for submitting scholarships for this year is now over. We have received 240 applications from students as of this time. The scholarship applications are being packaged up and will be sent out to the Regional Service Directors for judging. There will be three judges in each Region doing the judging again this year. No Region will judge the applications from their own area.



The judging results from the Regional Service Directors are due back in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District by the end of March.

During the first part of April we will notify the winners of the 55 scholarships that we will be awarding this year. The scholarship awards will be in the amount of \$750.00 each. We are able to give out scholarships in the amount of dollars earned in interest each year through our investment program.

In order for us to give out larger amounts of dollars in our scholarships we need to have more money earning more interest. We are urging each and every club in our District to donate to the Century Club of the Education Foundation each year. If each club were to donate the \$100.00 annually to the Education Foundation we would have another \$15,000.00 to \$16,000.00 coming in each year to earn interest. Therefore, our interest earned would be larger and we would be able to give out larger amounts in our scholarship awards, and possibly even more scholarships.

For more information on the Century Club or the Foundation contact Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer of the Kiwanis Educational Foundation in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District at [jjzierdt0706@charter.net](mailto:jjzierdt0706@charter.net) or by phone at 507-289-7012. You may mail your Century Club donations to the Kiwanis Educational Foundation Office, 914 Southern Pine Ln SW in Rochester, MN 55902.

## HELP

Submitted by: Chuck Schroder, District Chair KI Foundation

Friends of the Minnesota/Dakotas District. The Kiwanis International Foundation is in need of our help. The contributions to the annual club gift campaign are far behind last year and the demands are much greater than last year at this time.



With the disaster in Haiti and the mud slides in California and other disasters around the world, help is needed for the children of the world. At the present time we are only at one (1) scholarship for Key Club and Circle K and last year we were almost to three for each at this time.

Congratulations are in order for the Bismarck, North Dakota club for receiving a grant for it's project. However several other clubs in the district and in other districts were turned down, for the lack of funds. So please have your clubs send in your annual club gift campaign dollars so we can continue to help the CHILDREN OF THE WORLD. -Thank You-

## WOULD YOU BELIEVE? A BEAR WITH A HEART?

Club: Sioux Falls Daybreak - Submitted by: KATHI HERREID, PRESIDENT

The Spinoza® Bear is a talking teddy bear that speaks and sings to the fears, insecurities, and physical and emotional challenges faced by the children who receive him. In the broad sense, however, the family (if there is one) becomes the secondary beneficiary as they share in their child's gift and gain strength and comfort of their own. One of the tracks on the bear's internal CD is entitled "Hold on to Me" and was created to help people cope with grief and loss, death and dying. Spinoza demonstrates the stages of grieving through a sensitive and comforting story followed by three beautiful songs.



The Spinoza Bear Project began in 1999, and since that time, more than 50 bears have found their way into the hearts and homes of children and families who have felt afraid and alone. In 2005, one of our club members lost her 37-year-old son to a sudden heart attack. The Club presented a bear to Jay's young daughter, and as Grandma Ruth sat with Alexis and "George" listening to his soothing voice, Ruth felt enormous strength and calmness. Since that time, Ruth has become the "official" spokesperson for our club – spreading the word about Spinoza. Ruth has truly paved the way to success for our Club's project, and in recognition for her passion and dedication, she was voted the Region 5 Regional Star in 2008.

Spinoza Bears are given to children who are facing serious challenges or a major crisis in their lives (i.e. long-term or terminal illness, abuse, death of a sibling or parent, extreme emotional crisis) and need the support of a friend who speaks just to them with a gentle voice or song, does not judge them on any level, and provides the security of a soft hug. A young toddler is soothed by his bear's gentle voice after the death of his baby sister, a young girl with cancer is better able to handle the pain of chemotherapy by hugging her new friend, and a teen who has been abandoned by his mother finds security in the words and songs of the bear who shares his bed every night.

Sioux Falls Daybreak Kiwanis Club members recommend recipients based on personal

knowledge of a challenging situation while other requests come to us from organizations and agencies where clients/patients have received bears in the past and from suggestions or requests from other Kiwanis clubs in our area.

In an effort to grow our project, we submitted a grant proposal to the Kiwanis International Foundation and received word in July that our request had been funded. With \$3,400 now available to purchase up to twenty more bears, we are moving forward as a club to change the world, one child and one community at a time with the help of a bear who is big enough and round enough to accommodate the hug of someone who needs it.

On the last day of 2009--- at our Daybreak meeting we heard from Karen Hattervig who heads up the Angel Car program in Sioux Falls. The retired attorney is one of six women that gave away 51 cars to single moms and dads in 2009. As we explained the Spinoza bear she told us that her 38 year old son-in-law had died suddenly and a few weeks later his 3 year old was diagnosed with leukemia. The child --Mathias -- was featured on a 30 minute show on KELO-TV. After hearing of the story -- Daybreak went into special business session and approved giving the family a spinoza bear. The head of the Angel Car program admitted -- "while I was learning about the bear I was wondering if I could afford to buy one." Now she doesn't have to and a head "angel" was thanked by our own "special spinoza angel program." More to come for those that need help in 2010. For more information [kherreid08@gmail.com](mailto:kherreid08@gmail.com)

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## Kiwanis International Bylaws -Amendment deadline approaching

The deadline to submit proposed resolutions and Kiwanis International Bylaws amendments is approaching. Proposals must be received by Kiwanis International no later than **February 15, 2010**.

An amendment proposes a specific change to the International Bylaws, while a resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intent on a particular topic unrelated to the Bylaws.

Proposed resolutions or bylaw amendments may be submitted by:

- A club by majority vote of its membership. Proposals cannot be accepted from a club board or an individual Kiwanian
- A district by a majority vote of its board of trustees or its house of delegates
- The Kiwanis International Board

Guidelines for submitting proposals can be found at <http://community.kiwanisone.org/media/p/1499.aspx>.

## Kiwanis selects three finalists for Worldwide Service Project

Kiwanis International is searching for its next global cause, and its International Board of Trustees has selected three Worldwide Service Project finalists: Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases for their Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) proposal; Malaria No More and the Canadian Red Cross for their joint malaria proposal; and UNICEF for its proposal on maternal and neonatal tetanus.

“The three remaining proposals are extremely impressive,” said Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo. “Any one of them would make a great Worldwide Service Project, and each would significantly improve the lives of millions of children around the world.”

Last fall, Kiwanis received nearly 200 Worldwide Service Project proposals. Earlier this month, the board heard presentations on four potential projects.

“Today, we begin engaging our members in the discussion on Kiwanis’ next Worldwide Service Project,” Palazzolo said. “By visiting [www.kiwanis.org/wsp](http://www.kiwanis.org/wsp), our 600,000 adult and youth members have the opportunity to view each proposal and participate in an online discussion forum.”

The Kiwanis International Board will announce the next Worldwide Service Project at the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas, NV, in June.

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## International Convention - Las Vegas, June 24-27, 2010

All clubs should be represented at the International Convention. Kiwanis Clubs in good standing are allowed to designate two representatives to the House of Delegates. Of course, you do not need to be a delegate to attend, everyone is welcome! Information and online registration forms can be found on the Kiwanis International convention website. <http://sites.kiwanis.org/VegasCON2010/home.aspx>



# HELPING HANDS SERVING CHILDREN IN NEED

Submitted by: DUANE TEWINKEL, Sioux Falls Correspondent

This past Wednesday night I joined in with over 20 members of Sioux Falls South Kiwanis Club in packaging 8,645 meals to be sent to Haiti. The program we were supporting that night is Kids Against Hunger. Bill and Arlyce Daugherty thought that this would be a much more meaningful way of celebrating their 42nd wedding anniversary than parking in front of the TV watching American Idol. We all agreed and had fun helping them celebrate their 42nd. So what do we do for number 43?



This short article not only focuses on what we as Kiwanians do in our local community but our wide outreach as well.

**Every hour of every day 12 children per minute die of starvation or malnutrition related diseases.**

Kids Against Hunger Sioux Falls' mission is to end that tragedy. Kids Against Hunger Sioux Falls packages and ships highly nutritious, life-saving meals to starving and malnourished children in developing countries and the United States. We do this by mobilizing the energy and caring of local children, teens, and adults on behalf of hungry children around the world. Kids Against Hunger Sioux Falls seeks to end the literal hunger of poor children receiving the meals, but also satisfies a hunger among prosperous Americans, a hunger for meaning and contribution.

We have a packaging headquarters facility in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at 2400 S Minnesota Ave next to the Avera Living Well Center. We also work with other organizations seeking long term solutions to the systemic causes of hunger. Our aim is for our meals to provide a stable nutritional base from which the recipient peoples can move their families from starvation to self-sufficiency.

Our volunteer base is growing at a steady pace. With this growth, we have been able to accomplish more, and have a larger impact upon our community. We welcome new volunteers with open arms. Please inquire today about how you can become a cherished part of Kids Against Hunger Sioux Falls.

## **Kids Against Hunger Sioux Falls' Mission:**

It is our mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the USA, especially here at home in Sioux Falls and the local area, and to feed God's starving children throughout the world.

It is our vision to set up food packaging satellites in the USA and around the world, and to spearhead community and youth volunteer packaging of Kids Against Hunger's highly nutritious meals. It is also our vision to deliver Kids Against Hunger's food through partnerships with humanitarian organizations in the USA and worldwide. Our Goal is to keep about 30% of the meals packed right here. We have donated to The Back Pack Program, Faith Temple food distribution, to Native American reservations, LSS Refugee Resettlement Program.

## **Learn More:**

[Four Minute Overview of Kids Against Hunger](#) (on YouTube)

***Kiwanis Clubs:*** We encourage you to submit stories to the MINNEKOTAN and the website about your successful **club service and fundraising projects!**

Here are a few tips:

- Stories should be “short and sweet” with one good (close up) action photo. Most often just one paragraph is all that is necessary to tell your story.
- Go to the new district website “NEWS” menu - Here is the new link [http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public\\_district/Pub\\_News\\_Submission\\_Form.aspx](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public_district/Pub_News_Submission_Form.aspx)
- Enter the requested information- Select “District News”, “Regional News”, or “Club News”, etc..
- Be sure to select current “date” and “year”.
- Your “Headline” should give the reader a very good idea of the content/purpose of the story/article, but as short as possible.
- Submit a photo if desired. One photo per article.
- Type your text into the editor box. It is best to type the text directly into the online submission page. Avoid cutting and pasting text from another word processing program. (If you do cut and paste, be sure to insert as “plain text”.)
- To be included in the MINNEKOTAN Newsletter stories are due 3 days prior to the end of the month. Stories are also displayed on the district website.

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To view more news and current and past MINNEKOTAN newsletters go to [www.mndak-kiwanis.org](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org) and click on “News”.

#### **HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE MINNEKOTAN NEWSLETTER**

**If you do not receive the MINNEKOTAN Newsletter directly to your email address each month you can find a subscription link on our district webpage. (highlighted in red lettering on our home page)**  
Be sure to select "MnDak Kiwanis Newsletter" from the list.

#### **Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:**

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