

MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

January 2009

Leading to Serve ... New Year, Fresh Start!

Bill Lardy, District Governor

Happy New Year!

Each new year brings opportunities to move ourselves in positive directions; opportunities to pursue new initiatives or recommit to existing plans needing more emphasis. May I suggest that among the choices you include increasing your involvement in Kiwanis?



There are fewer higher purposes than those proposed by Kiwanis: To change the world one child and one community at a time. Each Kiwanian, by increasing involvement in his or her club, brings improvement to lives of children and the overall community. The club itself benefits by becoming more vibrant and responsive.

Clubs, too, should commit to new initiatives and improvement of existing efforts. It is not too late to do a community analysis. Perhaps set aside a meeting early in this new year to discuss service project options. Ask members for suggestions on ways to make the club more inviting and interesting, one that others want to join. This involvement brings positive changes, personally, and within the club. The Minnekotan is a great way to garner new ideas! Read it every month. Make the Minnesota Dakotas web site one of your most visited internet sites.

One final suggestion for members and clubs: Please remember the Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation and Kiwanis International Foundation in your plans for charitable giving this year. Our gifts to the Foundations support people and projects which, in turn leads, to a better world.

Thank you, Kiwanians, for all you did for children and communities in 2008. May your efforts in 2009 bring even greater results!

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Happy New Year!

Update on Membership Initiatives: Several initiatives are underway to improve member retention and grow existing clubs. Club Satellites, Corporate Memberships and Company Based Clubs are the three initiatives that the Kiwanis International Board has approved. Clubs may start utilizing club satellites and corporate memberships immediately. For more details about these new membership initiatives go to the following link on our district website:

http://mndak.kiwanisone.org/Public_District/pub_Content.aspx?Page=166



Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2009-2010, 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, 2009. 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 Watertown next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for District Office Campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

Leadership opportunities: If you are interested in being a future District Lt. Governor, Regional or District Chairperson, etc., please contact your Lt. Governor, other officer or myself. Each year the district is in need of interested and dedicated leaders. It can be a very interesting, rewarding and educational experience.

Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville: It is time to start thinking about the Kiwanis International Convention to be held June 25-28, 2009. All clubs should be represented at the International Convention. One of our very own members, Stewart Ross, Past District Governor and member of the Mankato Kiwanis Club will be running for International Trustee. Be a delegate and vote for the future of Kiwanis! You can help shape the future of this great organization by representing your club as a voting delegate. 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! Club Secretaries will be receiving an annual convention mailing from Kiwanis International. Convention information will also appear in the Kiwanis Magazine and on the Kiwanis convention website. <http://www.kiwanisone.org/Pages/Resources/default.aspx?PageID=224>

Club Donations to Outreach: Special thanks to all of the clubs that contributed to the Outreach Program during 07-08. We look forward to seeing your contribution again in 08-09. Most Kiwanis clubs include this as an annual budget item. Dollars given to the Outreach Program are used by Key Club and Circle K District Boards to build new Key and Circle K clubs, to attend Kiwanis District Conventions and Kiwanis special meetings, and to acquire needed supplies and equipment. Our Circle K and Key Club District Boards are very busy and active. They need our financial support. Checks can be made payable to Kiwanis Outreach and mailed to me at the District Office.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards will meet in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17, 2009.

Scholarship Application Deadline

Submitted by: Jack Zierdt, Sec/Treas Educational Foundation

The deadline for the scholarship applications to be submitted by the District High Schools is two and one half weeks away. This is a reminder to the Kiwanis Clubs to get in touch with their high school personnel to make sure they meet the deadline of January 16, 2009.

Please make sure that you notify the high schools that they must send in the applications on or before the deadline date. Also, that the application sent in must consist of the original application and 3 photocopies of the total application packet, to make sure that the student does not have their application disqualified. Remind the high school that they are allowed to send in a maximum of three different student's applications.

Kiwanis Clubs having Designated Scholarships should definitely make contact with their high schools to make sure that they do not risk losing their Designated Scholarship because they missed the deadline date or did not follow the directions of sending the original and 3 photo copies of the complete packet.

If you have any questions and/or concerns please contact Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer of the Kiwanis Educational Foundation.

"IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME"

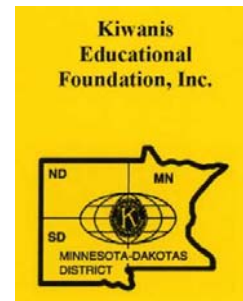
Submitted by: Ann Backes Dodge

In 1985, I had the privilege of listening to Sue McClernon, the first female Circle K International President from the Minnesota-Dakotas District give several keynote addresses. Her theme tended to be her favorite ten small words, "If it is to be, it is up to me."

What do these ten small words mean to you? What do they mean to the Kiwanis Family? As a business coach, I work with business owners on many different levels, one of the most important is succession planning. What will happen to their business if something happens to them? Or, they want to retire, what does that look like?

"If it is to be, it is up to me." It is up to every Kiwanian to participate in our Sponsored Youth Programs, whether your club sponsors a program or not. These programs are the Kiwanis succession plan. If we do not support and participate in these programs, who will be in Kiwanis? Is it not easier to recruit within our Kiwanis Family?

As the Circle K District Administrator, I see many of the Circle K members move on with their lives and never join Kiwanis. Why? The majority never are asked to join Kiwanis. Many of our sponsoring Kiwanis clubs don't know where their Circle K members relocate to after they graduate. In fact, some stay right in the area and still are not asked to join Kiwanis. Many of the sponsoring Kiwanis clubs do not participate in their Circle K events and activities, nor do they ask the Circle K members to participate in theirs.



Since the existence of this organization, Kiwanians have made a difference in the youth of today. Kiwanis will continue to make a difference in the youth of tomorrow. Support and participation are the actions that will cause change.

"If it is to be, it is up to me"... decide to make a difference in 2009. The Kiwanis Sponsored Youth Programs, our Kiwanis succession plan-the future of Kiwanis, depends on it.

In the Spirit of Service,

Ann Backes Dodge
Circle K District Administrator
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218-206-3406

Kiwanis International Foundation

Submitted by: E. "Chuck" Schroder, District KIF Chairman

Fellow Kiwanians of the Minnesota-Dakota's District. During these trying times of disaster, unemployment, and world unrest, we in this great district have continued to come through with our sharing of dollars to the International Foundation Annual Club Gift Campaign. Last year at this time, our numbers were \$2,350.00 or .33 pr. member. This year at the same time, we are at \$10,746.00 or \$1.81 pr. member. This is a great start for the year, but we have a long way to go.



Our district has been placed in a group with six (6) other districts of the same size. It is called the SILVER division. The top district is Michigan with over \$18,900.00 or \$3.19 pr member. At the present we are at the bottom. I know that we can do better and I feel that we will. The district that is closest to us is at \$2.20 pr. member. We need all the clubs in our district to help out and participate in the in the Annual Club Giving Campaign. The goal that has been set for us is \$5.00 pr. member. This was given to us a few years back and had been passed on to each club. Not only will you be helping the "Children of the World", but it will allow us to help our own Key Club and Circle K members by increasing the number of scholarships that will be allowed to be given by the Kiwanis International Foundation. In the past years we were only allowed 2 for each group of a \$1,000 each. Because of what you accomplished last year, we are going to be able to give 3 scholarships to each group and this is above what our great district foundation gives to graduating seniors from high school. So please help us become a contender in the race to lift our district to the TOP so we are able to help the "Children of the World" and fund those grant applications for the much needed projects around the world and in our country.

Our district has a lot of Hixson Fellowships. In fact our percentage is about the highest. The new program "Hixson Ambassador Fellowship" is another way to help. The only way you can become an "Ambassador" is by being a "Hixson". The cost to become an Ambassador is \$1,000.00 and this can be paid in several ways. It can be done in a lump sum, credit card, quarterly payments, monthly payments or over a three period. Your Lt. Governors have all the information and they can help you. If for some reason they can't, I will be happy to help out. You can contact me, Chuck Schroder (605) 582-6363.

In closing, I want to thank all of the clubs that have already participated at \$5.00 pr. member to the annual club gift campaign and encourage those that have not, to step up and take part. I hope that you all had a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. I know, TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN.

E. Chuck Schroder
District KIF Chairman

Kiwanis Spiritual Aims Projects

Submitted by: Rodger Wetzel, District Spiritual Aims Chair

Following are examples of 10 potential spiritual aims projects for consideration by your club's Spiritual Aims Committee. Choose one or two to implement this club year.

1. Schedule prayers by assigned members at regular club meetings.
2. Sponsoring or co-sponsoring a community prayer breakfast/lunch.
3. Spiritual-themed club programs before major religious holidays (include all major local religious holidays)
4. A speaker comparing the common themes in major world religions (e.g. Christianity & Judiasm & Islam)
5. A poster for all lodging facilities with local church service days/times.
6. A "pastor of the year" award to a pastor making a difference in the community.
7. A club handout for families on developing daily or weekly family prayer times.
8. A club handout on different types of prayers that are commonly used.
9. Sponsoring a mini-spiritual retreat for club members and partners (e.g. Sat. am)
10. Sponsor a scholarship for one seminarian each year.

Christmas Presents Arrive for the Kids

Submitted by: Roger Willers

Sam Larson-Frobig from South Pointe Kiwanis received a message that 1/2 of the gifts that were meant for the Churches United Homeless Shelter's Christmas party were not going to arrive. The email came the day before the party. She emailed Larry Rittgarn and he emailed the message to the seven clubs in the FM area letting them know.

On the 6:00 o'clock news that same evening the lady that manages the shelter was on TV telling the same story.

The next morning at 8:00 am when Larry arrived at the shelter with 2 bags of gifts (25 packages) there were 2 Kiwanis members from another club already there delivering their packages.

By noon that day several more had joined in.

We learned that Eide Bailly was donating \$150 for gifts, and then Sam reported at our Kiwanis meeting that noon that the Fargo North Key Club had a very large donation of gifts that they arranged through Kohl's department store. Way to go Key Club! You have to love those high schoolers!

Later that afternoon, two companies in Fargo through a challenge donated \$20,000 to the shelter, Roers Construction and Dawson Insurance. Tom Dawson a fellow Kiwanian was involved.

Before the day was over the shelter had received so many gifts and toys that they were going to be sharing them with several other agencies in the community. The cash gifts will make a tremendous difference for this wonderful agency. There is no doubt that Kiwanis makes a difference in Fargo-Moorhead area. Merry Christmas!

K-Kids and more for Vikingland Kiwanis!

Club: Vikingland, Moorhead - Submitted by: Roger Willers

This past week Vikingland received the charter for the new K-Kids at SG Reinertsen School in Moorhead. This is the third K-Kids club that Vikingland sponsors, Robert Asp School and Ellen Hopkins school in Moorhead also have K-Kids clubs. Vikingland also sponsors Circle K at Concordia College along with helping with Key Club at Moorhead High, which is sponsored by Moorhead Kiwanis.



Lisa Hanson, a counselor at the school, serves as the club advisor at Reinertsen. Since starting the new club with roughly 20 kids, they have already had two large

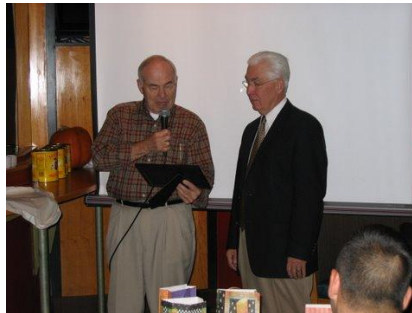
projects. They led the school food drive for the 'Fill the Dome' project, which was a student led project in Fargo-Moorhead area. All the surrounding area schools participated. The total project raised over \$60,000 and 67 tons of food that went to the Great Plains Food Bank for distribution to the various food pantries in the area. (Robert Asp school, led by their K-Kids group with Josh St. Louis their advisor, won the elementary school prize for bringing in the most food per student.)

Another project that the Reinertsen K-Kids took on was the Season of Hope project sponsored by First Link and Salvation Army. This project focuses on getting families in need gifts for kids and families at the holiday time. The kids met, made up posters, went to each classroom and presented a talk discussing the needs and what each class should collect if interested in participating. Each grade was assigned a different type of item. (Example, Kindergarten class was asked to bring baby items like diapers, baby bottles, blankets, etc.) Vikingland members went to the school and transported two vehicles full of donated items plus \$370 of various gift cards.

I don't know how many other clubs sponsor this many, if any, various youth clubs, but the joy and vitality these groups bring to Vikingland is amazing. I would certainly encourage all clubs to actively search out opportunities. These youth clubs are amazing! They always have the 'We Can' attitude! Let's get more clubs and kids involved!

Port of Duluth Kiwanis Honors Duluth School Superintendent

Club: Port of Duluth - Submitted by: Anna Tanski



The Port of Duluth Kiwanis Club recently honored Duluth School Superintendent Keith Dixon by presenting a Hixson award in his name. POD Kiwanis wanted to recognize Dixon's dedication to the students of the Duluth School District.

New Meeting Location for Aberdeen Kiwanis Club

Club: Aberdeen - Submitted by: Karen Widdel

The Aberdeen Kiwanis Club will start meeting at the Ward Hotel. This is located at 104 S. Main St., in Aberdeen, SD. We will continue to have our meeting start at noon. If you would like to attend our meeting you can find free parking on the 4th floor of the parking garage or on the street. Come and visit us soon. Please call if you need directions to the Ward Hotel. (Karen- 605-216-3676 or 605-229-7172).

UPCOMING DISTRICT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

- January 2-4, 2009 Key Club District Board Meeting- Alexandria. MN
- January 16-17, 2009 Minnesota-Dakotas District Board of Trustees Meeting- Fergus Falls, MN
- February 27- March 1, 2009 Circle K District Convention – Sioux Falls, SD
- February 28, 2009 4th Annual K-Family Extravaganza – Sioux Falls, SD
- March 26-29, 2009 Key Club District Convention – Alexandria, MN
- March 28, 2009 Region 3 Governor’s Visit and Conference – Brainerd, MN
- April 4, 2009 Kiwanis One Day
- April 18, 2009 Region 6 Governor’s Visit and Conference – Hutchinson, MN
- May 1-3, 2009 Lt. Governor Education Conference - Fergus Falls, MN
- May 15-16, 2009 District Past Governor’s Meeting - Fergus Falls, MN
- June 25-28, 2009 Kiwanis International Convention – Nashville, TN
- July 31-Aug. 2, 2009 Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention – Watertown, SD

To view more news and current and past MINNEKOTAN newsletters go to www.mndak-kiwanis.org and click on “News”.

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