

MINNEKOTAN

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November 2008

Leading to Serve ... with Membership Growth

Last month brought sobering news from Kiwanis International: The Annual Membership Report for 2007-2008 showed a loss for the year of 312 members. If ever we were waiting for a wake-up call, this is it.



This decrease means reduced ability to perform service projects and raise funds to benefit children in each community where clubs have lost members, or where clubs have disbanded entirely. Now, when the service Kiwanians do is needed more than ever, we find ourselves less able to meet those needs.

Yet, tools are available. During the August District Convention over 25 committed Kiwanians completed a Together Achieving Growth (TAG) Seminar, preparing them to help clubs put programs in place to retain members and recruit new members. The TAG Team is ready to go to work! In addition, Kiwanis International has supporting information to help clubs increase membership.

Past Governor Stewart Ross, District Membership Growth and New Club Building Chair is the best in Kiwanis International. He is leading the effort to build new clubs in Apple Valley, Albertville/St. Michael and Baxter.

The ultimate objective is to better serve the children of each community. We do that with clubs conducting meaningful projects that directly impact children. Having enough members is critical. I commend clubs that have a membership growth plan in place. To clubs who have yet to plan for a net gain of 4 new members this year I encourage getting started now while the Kiwanis year is young.

Ask your Lt. Governor Team for help. Ask Stewart Ross for help. Ask me for help. We are anxious to help but we need to be asked. Our children, who are our future, need us to answer the wake up call. Together we can make it happen.

Bill Lardy, Minnesota-Dakotas District Governor

Update from the Minnesota-Dakotas District Secretary-Treasurer November 2008

Monthly Club Reporting: Special thanks to the club secretaries for their excellent monthly reporting this past year. The information submitted is very valuable. I urge you to again get off on the right foot by reporting your Monthly Reports online by the 10th of each month. Remember that this is not just the Club Secretary's job. A club secretary needs information to report, so be sure to keep them informed of your committee activities, etc. The reporting program allows the club secretary to automatically send a preview of the monthly club report by email to the president, board members and others before submission. I would highly encourage you to do this. You may catch things that are not getting reported. The reporting program also allows the secretary to email the final monthly report to anyone in your club. To find out how the online reporting works there is a special page with videos and other helps at <http://www.kiwanisone.org/Reporting>



Annual Club Report: Just a reminder, if your club completed all 12 of your monthly reports you do not need to complete a separate annual report.

Distinguished Member and Distinguished Club Criteria for 2008-2009: The Kiwanis International Criteria for 2008-2009 are posted on the Kiwanis International Website at the following link: <http://community.kiwanisone.org/media/p/2919.aspx> Be sure to review the criteria for Distinguished Club. Please note they are different than last year.

Kiwanis Club IRS Tax Filing Requirements: All organizations, including Kiwanis clubs must file a 990 in one form or another. Clubs with total receipts under \$25,000 have not had to do this in the past, but must do it now. Go to the following link to view "Frequently Asked Questions" http://mndak.kiwanisone.org/Public_District/pub_Content.aspx?Page=99

There is now a new form called 990N for clubs with receipts under \$25,000. If a club goes three years without filing they will lose their tax-exempt status, so we need to make sure everyone files. You can also learn more about the 990N and other filing requirements right on the IRS website <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html> In addition, it is always a good practice to get the assistance of a local qualified tax person when completing the forms. They should be familiar with the process as this filing requirement is not specific to just Kiwanis.

990s are due four and a half months after the club's year-end so clubs with 9/30 year-ends, which I assume is just about everyone, must file no later than February 15th.

Kiwanis Dues: I often get asked for a breakdown of Kiwanis International and District dues. Here it is: International dues = \$42.00 Liability Insurance = \$12.00 KI Magazine = \$8.00
District dues = \$30.00 and the new member fee is \$55.00

If I can be of any assistance, please let me know. Have a great Kiwanis year!

Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

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Campaign to Elect Stewart Ross Trustee of Kiwanis International

This month I want to urge all clubs to consider sending a delegate to the Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee which will happen in June 2009. Many clubs in the district send their president-elect as a way to give their leader an opportunity to find out all they can about Kiwanis International and become acquainted with all the opportunities and materials that are available to each club.

This year will be particularly important and exciting as we campaign for Stewart Ross as our representative to the board of K.I. We need many, many people to help us in this campaign. It will be fun, informative and a most wonderful way to meet many other Kiwanians as we see what an impact our district can make on the international scene.

Stewart
Ross
for
Trustee



Talk to your club leaders and board. Plan to go yourself! I truly believe this will be one of the most exciting conventions that we have had in recent years and you won't want to miss it!

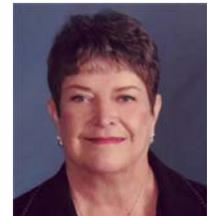
In previous issues, I have told you of Stewart's qualifications, so refer to the previous issues if you are not aware of what he does for you with Kiwanis International. This is a man who will serve us well in the coming years, but we need to get him elected. Let's go to Nashville!

Coralyn Dahl, Campaign Chair

Kids Against Hunger is service to Young Children: Priority One

Coralyn Dahl, District Service Director

It was interesting to read about the clubs that were inspired by the Kids Against Hunger booth at the convention at Orlando this summer. Those of us in Minnesota and the Dakotas can feel a bit smug about "getting there first" with many of our clubs very involved with feeding impoverished and starving children throughout the world.



The Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud has been helping at the KAH warehouse for over five years now when our then president went to New Orleans and responded to the Kids Against Hunger story at the International convention there. The Mankato Kiwanis clubs have all been involved with the KAH packaging, and I know that Little Falls, Superior and some of the Duluth Clubs are also involved in packaging and fundraising for Kids Against Hunger.

This is service at its best as we strive to save lives! But did you know that it is also a wonderful project for Young Children: Priority One? As Kids Against Hunger often targets the very young in order to give them a healthy start at life, it fits into that criteria of the 0-5 year olds perfectly!

What is your club's story? How did you get involved with Kids Against Hunger? I would really like to hear your stories and report on them in the Minnekotan. Please send me your stories via email at clbdahl@aol.com



The Traditional First Weekend of October Key Leader Event

Submitted by: Clover Ellingson. District Key Leader Chair

The Key Leader event held the first weekend of October at Inspiration Point, Minnesota was a success in the lives of many students and adults that attended. For the second year in a row, the weather cooperated and was perfect.

There were 54 people at the event this year. The adult facilitator was Nancy Short who was not only inspirational but also delightfully funny. We had a few students that returned for an encore weekend and also adults who returned as well.

There are many clubs from our district that sponsored students and have budgeted for next year as well. Sponsorship has ranged from 2 students to 6 students. If your club is sponsoring or budgeting for key leader, please email district chair Clover Ellingson with that information at cloverjean@cablone.net.

Watch for updates on the next event.

Kiwanis International Foundation

Wow! What a year we had last year. Our district raised over \$21 thousand dollars through the Annual Club Gift Campaign. Because of this, we will be able to offer 3 Key Club and 3 Circle K matching \$1000 scholarships this next year. We were able to give 2 to each organization last year. We also were able to host an Honors Reception at the District Convention.

Kiwanis International Foundation's total annual club giving exceeded \$840,000 and this was another record year. The endowment campaign has exceeded \$10 million and when counting comprehensively, the campaign totals more than \$17.4 million. They launched the new Hixson Ambassador and Rose Float Fellow programs and presented the new KIF video at the International Convention. They were able to launch a new Women of Kiwanis Affinity-giving program with the average gift of \$63.00. A \$1.7 million KIF loan to Kiwanis International was paid in full, and KIF identified more than 750 Top-Level, well qualified prospective donors for the Leadership Programs such as Key Club, Circle K, and Key Leader. The foundation granted just under \$420,000 for grants for Kiwanis Club projects and disaster relief for children around the world: 21 grants for children projects totaling \$293,488 which includes \$100,000 for KI service leadership programs and district matching, seven disaster grants from restricted funds totaling \$68,830; 12 disaster grants from unrestricted funds totaling \$59,280. Region 6 had a club who were recipients of a grant. We need to have more clubs use this program and submit applications for these Grants. Our District also had a Connelly winner this past year, Ryan Jorgensen.

But now is a new year for both KIF and KI. In Jim Collin's book, Good to Great, he states "That to achieve greatness an organization must have the right people on the bus." I believe we have the right people on the bus here in our district and I know that we have the right driver of our bus with Governor Bill Lardy at the wheel. I believe that we can surpass last year's total and move up to get four (4) scholarships for our young people. So please remind your club presidents to send in your club's annual club gift of \$5.00 per member to the Kiwanis International Foundation soon.

Again, I want to thank each member of this great district for the great job that we did last year, but we can do better this year and **"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN"**.

E. "Chuck" Schroder
District Chairman Kiwanis International Foundation

Region 2 Governor's Visit and Growth Summit

Submitted by: Mary Sieling, Lt. Governor Region 2

Thirty members of Region 2 attended our Fall Governor's Visit and Growth Summit at the Eide Bailly Building in Fargo, ND on October 18th. Our facilitator was Mary Sieling, Lt. Governor of Region 2 and Roger Willers, Lt. Gov. Elect, was our host helping with the facility and the food for the day. Speakers included: Gov. Bill Lardy, Steve Handegaard, District Secretary and Vickie Walters, District Tag Team Coordinator.

Governor Bill went over the District Goals and Plans and related them to Kiwanis International plans with a very good power point presentation. Steve Handegaard reviewed our new District Website and other IRS issues.

Vickie Walters, of the Madison, SD club was the facilitator for the Membership part of our day. She covered the KI supplied Club Analysis and the Plan for Success with each of the attendees. She had a Power Point presentation along with hand outs and other very nice "Positive" ways to keep and "excite" your membership. She encouraged all the clubs to do the Club Analysis and to follow up on the issues that were brought out through this medium. She formed small groups so the networking could happen.



Thank you Governor Bill, Steve, Roger and Vickie for being a part of this special day getting educated about Kiwanis and membership. Special thanks to Eide Bailly and the Marcil Group for providing door prizes for the day.


Kiwanis
Convention 2009
Nashville
 June 25-28

REGION 1 CONFERENCE HELD OCTOBER 11, 2008

Governor Bill Lardy was honored guest as 22 Kiwanians from Region 1 met at Fort Abraham Lincoln Commissary on Saturday, October 11. The conference was hosted by Mandan Kiwanis and lead by Mandan Kiwanis member, Lt. Governor Darlene Vander Vorst.

The program began by each of the 5 clubs present sharing last year's successes and plans for the new year. Other highlights were awarding of the Region 1 Star Award to Barb Eagan, former Region 1 Lt. Governor, for her efforts to secure final funds for construction of the Kiwanis Playground at Fr. Mandan Park adjacent to the reconstructed Lewis & Clark Ft. Mandan outside Washburn, ND.

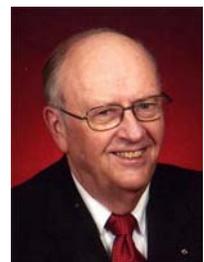


Another highlight was Lt. Governor Elect Susie Kapelovitz presenting a \$500 check to Minnesota Dakotas District Kiwanis Outreach Fund to recognize Governor Bill Lardy's leadership of the District. The funds were donated by members of the Rough Rider Country Kiwanis Club of Dickinson. Bill joined that club in 1980.

Region 3 Mourns Death of Former Lt. Governor

Dick Vangerud was remembered fondly at his funeral at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN - a church which he once served as pastor. Most of us remember him, however, as a kind and diligent Lt. Governor who served our, then division under Governor Jean Collins.

Dick was born October 18, 1926 in Fargo, ND and was married to his wife of 55 years. He served as a chaplain in the US Army and the US Army Reserves and then served many parishes throughout North and South Dakota and Minnesota. He also was a faculty member of Luther Seminary in St. Paul.



Dick enjoyed reading, gardening, camping, volunteering and music. Most recently he had been leading a teenage weekly Bible Study at Bethlehem Lutheran.

One of the pictures that was proudly displayed at his funeral was one of him as Lt. Governor, along with Governor Jean Collins and officers of the Annandale Club.

Lights! Camera! Action! Capture your One Day project on film!

If a picture were worth a thousand words, the value of video would be enormous. And a video of a special project such as Kiwanis One Day would be priceless, especially as it relates to storytelling potential, emphasis on service and focus on the benefit that Kiwanis clubs bring to children and their communities worldwide.

Your One Day project could be the subject of that professionally shot video, or of specialized coverage in KIWANIS magazine, through the Kiwanis One Day Contest. If chosen for the video shoot, your club will receive a copy of the video, which you can use to share your club's service story, to recruit members, or just to share the good work you do, and Kiwanis International will retain a copy for use in its marketing and publicity programming around the world.



To enter, log on to <http://forms.kiwanisone.org/fs-KiwanisOneDayContest.aspx> and enter the pass code that appears on the page to use the electronic form to describe your project, or describe your project in a letter and send it to:

Kiwanis One Day Contest
 Attn: Elizabeth Warren
 3636 Woodview Trace
 Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196

The submission should be as complete and comprehensive as possible, providing specific details about your planned project and its impact upon and benefit to the community, including its primary beneficiary audience(s). If Service Leadership Programs (K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, Aktion Club, Kiwanis Junior) will be involved, explain how, and whether or not your club needs additional financial assistance. If financial assistance is needed, please explain the need and how the funds will be utilized.

Include information on prior Kiwanis One Day projects, including details about the work and the benefit, and provide, by mail, any photographs and/or videos of or for the project. Also include samples of media coverage from the past year and examples of how your project helped raise awareness of Kiwanis and children's needs in your community.

Submissions for the Kiwanis One Day video contest must be received at the Kiwanis International Office no later than December 19, 2008.

The materials will be reviewed by a committee comprising members of the Kiwanis marketing and branded program staff ("committee") to ensure the project accurately and dynamically represents Kiwanis International's vision, mission, and values.

The committee will select finalists and submit the finalists' project materials to the Kiwanis Executive Management Team ("EMT"), who will select a winner and runner up from the finalists. All decisions by the EMT are final, and an announcement of the winner is expected by January 30, 2009. The winning club will have its project professionally videotaped and, a runner-up project will be included in KIWANIS magazine.

Kiwanis reserves the right to discontinue the contest if Kiwanis, in its sole discretion, determines that the projects submitted for consideration do not meet the selection criteria. In the event of such determination, contestants will be notified on or before January 30, 2009.

Joedy Isert
PR Manager, Kiwanis International

Kiwanians Connecting with Kiwanians to Help One Child at a Time

Submitted by: Dawn Fairbrother on behalf of Judie Rosendahl, Lt. Gov. Region 6

Chuck Koenigs, Don Wilcox, and Jill Hedman, all members of the Kiwanis Club of Benson, Minnesota in Region 6 of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District, connected to help students in the second grade at the local elementary school.

It all started with Chuck Koenigs, who has been a Benson Kiwanis Club volunteer at the local elementary school for the past several years. Chuck helps one of the second grade classrooms with reading, spelling and the like. The classroom teacher is a wonderful teacher with superlative teaching skills and a great rapport with the children. But in this particular school, there is only one “Smart Board”* available for use by the entire school faculty and that is isolated in another classroom. Chuck Koenigs made plans to volunteer again this year in the same classroom.



About eight weeks before the 2008-2009 fall school session was to begin, the Benson Kiwanis Club held its normal Tuesday luncheon meeting. The program for that particular day was a presentation by another Benson Kiwanis member, Don Wilcox, talking about a newly established community-based foundation in their small community (population 3,500) of which he was president. Don talked about the purposes of “Supporting Education”. As Chuck left the Kiwanis meeting, he and another Kiwanis member, Jill Hedman, independently but simultaneously thought about connecting with the speaker to inquire about the availability of grant funding to purchase a “Smart Board” for this second grade classroom. Long story short, Don Wilcox acknowledged to both Kiwanis members, Chuck and Jill, that indeed it would be a possibility; further, that a teacher representative from the local school should contact him to have a dialog about pursuing the purchase of a “Smart Board”.

Contact was made with the second grade teacher and, she in turn visited with the Foundation representative/Kiwanis member. A funding request was submitted by the second grade teacher and the rest is history.

When Chuck Koenigs went to school for the first week of the 2008-2009 school year, upon entering the second grade classroom, Chuck noticed a “Smart Board” had been installed on one of the walls. Chuck had no sooner entered when the teacher introduced Chuck Koenigs and said, “Mr. Koenigs, would you be willing to come forward and help this group of students work with the “Smart Board” to learn the ‘hard letter e?’” Indeed, the grant request that this faculty member had made had

materialized and not only one but two fully operational smart board systems (about \$5,000 in value) were purchased with the grant monies made available.

Two Kiwanians hearing another Kiwanian share a story and by helping connecting the dots, an entire elementary classroom has been changed forever! Pretty neat synergy.

*The “Smart Board” is an interactive, three dimensional white board and computer technology that teachers use to teach the students about various subjects. The students can interact and be part of the learning process with the teacher. The cost of one of these units varies depending upon what your needs are and any “extras” you might want included. (For more information on the “Smart Board” you can Google, Smart Boards, and find a ton of information on this topic.)

UPCOMING DISTRICT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

November 1	Region 5 Conference and Governor’s Visit- Brookings, SD
November 1& 2	Key Club District Fall Rally- Fergus Falls, MN
November 8	Region 7 Conference and Governor’s Visit- Redwing, MN
November 15	Region 4 Conference and Governor’s Visit- Sturgis, SD
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

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