

MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

September 2009

Leading to Serve...Reaching the Finish Line

Submitted by Bill Lardy, Governor

Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis leaders continue racing to the finish line, the end of the Kiwanis year, September 30. Many goals remain within reach. I encourage club presidents, club membership chairs and other club committee chairs to make one last valiant effort to attain the goals set last year. With many needs unmet we have 4 weeks left to make a difference.

International President Don Canaday rallies all of us to race across the finish line, to not walk across it!

As we complete another year, I need to thank those who have worked hard to make this year memorable.



Club Presidents: The work of Kiwanis work is done in each club in every community and your leadership has changed children's lives because you have led your clubs well. Thank you for making that happen.

To each Region's Lt. Governor Team: Thank you for being part of District Leadership and making a huge difference in your region and the District. You can be proud of what we have done together. Working with you has been an inspiration.

Thank you to the District Executive Board. Working on an almost daily basis with the Board, who are totally committed to Kiwanis and Kiwanis service, has given me great friends for a lifetime and the chance to know and be part of a truly exceptional team.

To all Kiwanians of the Minnesota Dakotas District: Thank you for the greatest privilege of my life, the opportunity to be your Governor. I cannot fully express my gratitude for the chance to meet and know and work with so many people who are absolutely dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Each and every one of you has made a difference in my life and I will be forever grateful! From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

To Bruce Klair: Good luck and best wishes. The District will be better because of your service. Thank you for your leadership.

Key Leader Develops Leaders For Our Future

Submitted by: Bruce Klair, Governor Elect

School is starting, the Minnesota State Fair is in full swing, there is a nip of fall in the air, and our Kiwanis year is nearly over and another is set to begin. There is still a lot of work to do before we complete this Kiwanis year, and not the least of these is getting our teens to attend the Key Leader program.



The Minnesota-Dakotas District is hosting the event on October 2-4, 2009 at Inspiration Point in Clitherall, MN. (That's near Fergus Falls.) We need more participants, and now is the time to recruit. Now that school has begun, contact your school administrators, principals, counselors, and Key Club advisors. All Lt. Governors should have material you can present to them describing the event. Otherwise contact Clover Ellingson, our District Key Leader Chair, at cloverjean@cableone.net, or me at pbklair@redwing.net.

The program is designed for young people who have completed the 8th grade through the 12th grade. All teenagers are eligible, not just Key Club members! This program is a great way to reach students in the middle of the pack, not just those at the top of the academic pyramid. What a great way to point these young people to a lifetime of service leadership.

The fee to attend this event is \$175 and all-inclusive. Members of a Key Club may attend for \$150. Search out various avenues for funding: your Kiwanis Club, the school, a service organization or church group, or fund a student personally. What a great accomplishment to know that you have inspired a teenager to explore the principles of personal integrity, growth, respect, community building and the pursuit of excellence.

Once again, if you need more information about this event, talk to your club president, Lt. Governor, or Key Leader Chair Clover Ellingson.

This is an exciting time to be a Kiwanian, and we are looking forward to great year in the Minnesota-Dakotas District.

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

Official District Convention Minutes: The official minutes of the following meetings held during the District Convention can be viewed on our Minnesota-Dakotas District webpage (find District Leadership on the menu) or click on the following link:
http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public_district/pub_Content.aspx?Page=74



District Board Meeting – July 31, 2009
2008 House of Delegates Session – August 1, 2009
District Board Meeting – August 2, 2009

Club Secretaries: Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online club reports for the 08-09 year. Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2009. With the monthly online reporting system you will not be asked to submit a separate annual report. In addition, all reports must be submitted to qualify for the Distinguished Club Award.

Special Thanks and Congratulations: The 2008-2009 Kiwanis year is not over until the end of September, but I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Governor Bill Lardy and First Lady Dixie for their hard work and dedication to Kiwanis this past year. Also, special thanks to all who served in a Lt. Governor, District Director or District Committee position. They all worked very hard to support Kiwanis on the Club and District level. Congratulations to Governor Designate Bruce Klair and First Lady Phyllis who will lead our district beginning October 1. And last, but not least congratulations to Lowell Disrud and Rachel who will serve as Governor Elect during 2009-2010.

92nd Annual District Convention

Submitted by: Pat & Larry Rittgarn

The 92nd annual convention of the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis is now history, and we want to thank all of the delegates, members and partners that attended this years convention in Watertown, SD.



The location of the convention and the agenda kept everyone involved, and gave us all a chance to be together again, and to also see a little bit of Watertown, SD as well.

The Redlin Art Museum is a wonderful place to spend some time, as well as the other tours that were offered to those who were in attendance.

The educational forums as well as the general sessions and delegate sessions gave us all a chance to gain information for our club as well as each of us.

The election this year of a new Governor Elect has placed Lowell Disrud, of the Fargo Rough Rider Kiwanis club in that position. Lowell and Rachel will be a strong leadership team for the district following this coming year with Bruce and Phyllis Klair at the helm.

A big thank you to Governor Bill Lardy and first lady Dixie for all of their fine leadership and challenges.

To all of you we say THANKS and we look forward to 2010 when we will be meeting for the 93rd annual convention at the DoubleWood Inn, in Fargo, ND.

Trustee from MN-DAK counselor for New York and Central America

Submitted by: Stewart Ross, Kiwanis International Trustee

Stewart Ross, recently elected Kiwanis International Trustee from MN-DAK was assigned three districts, serving as counselor for the 2009-2010 Kiwanis year. The first was MN-DAK, his home district. "I must say that returning to my own, wonderful district was a gift from Kiwanis International. This year they decided that each newly elected trustee would work with their own district the first year on the board. I will not get this opportunity again in my three years as KI Trustee. Liz and I had a great time working with the MN-DAK leadership and members at the convention. At times it was an odd feeling to be serving as a trustee at my own convention but it was fun to know so many (nearly everyone at the convention). We have a terrific district and being assigned to MN-DAK was a once in a lifetime opportunity."



Stewart was also assigned to the Andean/Central America Kiwanis District. The week after the MN-DAK convention, Liz and Stewart flew to Panama City where the convention took place. "Being assigned a district outside of North America was a real surprise and exciting for us. We have many new friends in that area and invitations to return and stay with Kiwanians in Panama. (see photo of Stewart with the current governor of Central America Kiwanis) In fact, a few members from Columbian clubs asked me to come back to give my "Magic " speech to their clubs. (I worked hard to do part of my speech at the convention in Spanish) I doubt we will be able to do that but I was honored just to be asked. Liz and I were treated so well by everyone and had a VIP tour of the Panama Canal....Liz and I were able to sit at the main computer and open and close gates for a ship coming through the canal!! The Kiwanians in Panama and Columbia really know how to party! Saturday night they danced until about 2 a.m. while Liz and I went to bed at midnight so we could catch a taxi at 5 a.m. to fly back to Minneapolis. When we went to the taxi the next morning at 5 a.m. a wedding from the previous night was still going strong. Being assigned such an exotic and interesting district helped Liz and I realize Kiwanis is truly a global organization."

The week after the Panama City convention Liz and I flew to Albany, New York for yet another Kiwanis District Convention. It was easier than Panama since everyone spoke English. The New Yorkers were so welcoming that Liz and I were amazed. It seemed every couple of hours someone came by and asked if we were enjoying the convention. New York has a whole different culture than MN-DAK and does many things differently than we do. It is so interesting to see the varying traditions as you travel from one convention to another. We were invited to attend the Mid-Winter New York Kiwanis District Convention in March and look forward to returning. We have many new friends from New York and great old friends like past trustee Tom DeJulio.

On September 1-2 the CEO of Kiwanis International, Rob Parker, is flying into Minneapolis for one-on-one meetings with me. I look forward to learning more about Kiwanis in those talks. At the end of September I fly to Indianapolis for four full days of board meetings where we will decide the next Kiwanis International Service Project. I will also be officially inducted as a KI Trustee and Liz will join me for the weekend.

I am so grateful to the MN-DAK District and our great campaign committee for giving me this amazing opportunity and promise to represent our district well at all conventions, meetings and board sessions. Thanks MN-DAK, you are the best! "—Stewart Ross, KI Trustee for 2009-2012

KIWANIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OF THE MN-DAK DISTRICT

Submitted by: Dale Carlson

Actions at the District Convention, Watertown, SD July 31-Aug. 1, 2009

At the Friday afternoon convention session Jack Zierdt, Executive Secretary of the Educational Foundation, presented the Foundation report. The endowment fund currently has about \$850,000 in the investment portfolio. This is about \$50,000 less than one year ago and is due to the downturn in the market. We are still striving for the \$1,000,000 level in the endowment fund but it is going to take longer than we anticipated a year ago. Only the interest from the endowment fund is spent each year. During the current year 54 \$850 scholarships, 2 matching \$500 scholarships and one \$1,000 scholarship were awarded. Students receiving these scholarships must be from the MN-DAK District and must attend a college or university within the District. For the next academic year we anticipate awarding the same number of scholarships except there will be an additional 2 matching \$500 scholarships. Due to the investment climate, the scholarships next year will probably be at the \$750 level. If the investment picture improves dramatically this may be able to be increased. Coralyn Dahl from Minnesota was elected to replace Bernadine Martin who declined to run for re-election and Ray Lucan was re-elected from South Dakota to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Educational Foundation..

The Board of Trustees of the Educational Foundation met late on Friday after the convention general session. The following actions were taken:

1. Board minutes of May 16, 2009 were approved.
2. Jack Zierdt presented the Secretary/Treasurer report which was approved.
3. Jim Bekken was elected President for 2009-10. Dale Carlson was elected Vice-President for 2009-10. Jack Zierdt was appointed Secretary/Treasurer for 2009-10.
4. Lionel Muthiah resigned from the Board of Trustees due to a move out of the District. The Board of Trustees appointed Bill Lardy to complete the remainder of his term as a Trustee from North Dakota.
5. The dollar amount for 2010-11 scholarships will be determined in early October and will be based on interest earned in 2008-09.
6. The Board of Trustees heard a presentation given by Marvin Witt, Financial Advisor, from Watertown, SD for Ameriprise Financial on our portfolio with Ameriprise.
7. Chuck Schroder thanked the Educational Foundation for continuing to budget and approve matching scholarships from the Kiwanis International Foundation for Circle K and Key Club members of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District.

During the convention, collections to increase the endowment fund were taken at the Friday afternoon session (\$623.00) and at the interdenominational church service on Sunday (\$574.00). Money was also donated toward Vantine Life Fellowships (\$2800.00) and one new Century Club donation (\$100). As a result of the Convention an addition of \$4097.00 has been placed in the endowment fund.

At the Board of Trustees meeting at Fergus Falls, MN in May the week of Nov. 15-22, 2009 was designated as Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation week. All District clubs are asked to focus on the work of the Educational Foundation that week and all Kiwanis clubs and members are asked to support the Foundation with financial gifts.

Past District Officers Association - Minutes

Submitted by: Dale Carlson

The Minnesota-Dakotas Past District Officers Association (PDOA) held their annual meeting during the District Convention at Watertown, SD on July 31, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Hesch at 8:30am. Sixteen people were in attendance. The following business items were acted on:

1. The minutes of the August 8, 2008 meeting were presented and approved.
2. The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. It showed a beginning balance of \$1,156.94 and an ending balance of \$1914.58.
3. President Joe Hesch reported that there would not be a Citizenship Award given this year because there were no applicants that met the award criteria. It sounds like there will be one or more suitable applicants next year.
4. A motion was made and passed to reimburse the MN-DAK Key Club \$500 for a 2008-09 matching scholarship.
5. A motion was made and passed to pay matching funds of \$500 to the International Foundation for a matching 2009-10 Key Club scholarship. This will be paid out of PDOA profits from the Kiwanis store.
6. A motion was made and passed to move the PDOA annual meeting to Saturday morning at 6:45am at the 2010 District Convention. It is hoped that the change will encourage more PDOA members to attend the annual meeting. An agenda will be mailed or e-mailed in advance of the meeting next year.
7. The following slate of officers for 2009-10 was presented:
President: Dale Carlson
President-Elect: Paul Michaels
Treasurer: Joe Rust
Secretary: Larry Mitberg
A unanimous vote was cast in favor of this slate.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

All past district officers are encouraged to be part of the PDOA. If you read this and are not currently receiving information from PDOA, you are encouraged to contact Treasurer Joe Rust at: 807 Southwest Third Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

rust@paulbunyan.net

Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be sent to Joe Rust at the address above.

KIF Foundation

Submitted by: E.C.Schroder, KIF District Chairman

I want to first thank all of you who help make the raffle at the KIF booth at the district convention the huge success it was. Without your support we would not have been able to raise over \$1,400.00 and this is without the Leadership Society sign ups and the Hixson's sold and the Heritage Society sign ups. If anyone has any suggestions for next year, or wants to donate any items, please let me know. We are now at \$4.05 pr member for our district and the goal is set at \$5.00 pr member. We have come a long way and it is because of you the Kiwanians of this district. We are truly helping the children of the world. As of today, our Key Clubs and Circle K Clubs will receive 4 matching scholarships each and if we could reach the \$5.00 mark, it would be 5 each. If your club has not participated, it is not too late, you have to the end of September to get it in.



The Honors reception was wonderful and my thanks to Jack Zierdt for his help in putting it together and also to Pat and Larry for their support. I also want to congratulate The Rapid City Kiwanis Club for receiving a grant in the of \$4,000.00 for their shoe program and to the Sioux Falls Daybreak Kiwanis Club who received \$3,400.00 for their talking bear program. So you see, when your club contributes, it can receive back from the foundation. If your club is interested in a grant, please contact me and I will get you all the information you need to submit. I also would like to congratulate Ryan Jorgensen, our Robert P. Connelly winner, who was honored at the International Convention in Nashville.

TYPHOON VICTIMS NEED KIWANIS HELP: Thousands of families, some Kiwanis families, have been tragically affected by the typhoon Marakat in early August, 2009. Torrential rain and mudslides have devastated this area, causing many deaths and leaving people homeless.

Officers from Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis International Foundation are asking members world wide to support efforts to provide short-term help to the families, and to announce that proceeds from the Kiwanis International Disaster Fund (PART OF KIF) will be used to aid children left homeless and in need of help by the devastating typhoon.

The foundation will work through the Kiwanis District office in Taiwan to ensure that funds are available and directed to children with the most critical needs.

Please send your support to the Kiwanis International Foundation, mentioning the Disaster Relief Fund for Taiwan. Donations can be sent to:

Kiwanis International Foundation
Disaster Relief Fund for Taiwan
3636 Woodview Trace
Indianapolis. IN 46268

I was very pleased at the attendance at the foundation workshop held at the convention. I think a lot of questions were answered and it helped stimulate interest.

Again thank you for all you do for the foundation and remember: **"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN"**.

Chuck Schroder,
KIF District Chairman

School supplies for Madison School

Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Fargo South Point Kiwanis club members present school supplies to Madison elementary School.

The members of Fargo South Point Kiwanis club delivered their annual supply of school supplies to the Madison Elementary School in Fargo.

This year over \$700 worth of school supplies and back packs were delivered to the school.

These supplies are provided each year to the school to enable the teachers and principal to handle individual needs of children that may not have the finances needed to purchase them.

The club is currently working on providing caps, mittens, scarves, and sweat pants for ones at the school that will need some warmer clothes this winter.



Becky Krause from the Watertown Kiwanis Club was the lay minister for the District Convention worship service on Sunday. She was asked to share the following in the Minnekotan. Here it is:

*DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER aka MY CUP RUNNETH OVER; DRINK FROM THE SAUCER
Jimmy Dean*

*I never made a fortune and it's probably too late now
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow
And as I go along life's journey, I'm reaping better than I sowed
I'm drinking from my saucer, cause my cup has overflowed.*

*I ain't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the goings tough
but I've got kids who love me and that makes me rich enough
I just thank God for his blessings and the mercies he's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, cause my cup has overflowed.*

*I remember times when things went wrong, and my faith got a little thin
but then all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeked through again
so Lord help me not to gripe about the tough rows I hoed
I'm drinking from my saucer, cause my cup has overflowed.*

*And if God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough
I'll not ask for another blessing, I'm already blessed enough
And may I never be too busy to help another bear his load
I'll keep drinking from my saucer, cause my cup has overflowed.*

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