Message from the District Governor

Plans have been put into place to have an informational meeting in Hawley, MN the 5th of April. The formula team and Past Governor Cindy Braseth, now the Club Opener, have contacted several individuals in Hawley and they have been well received. Some of us from Fargo-Moorhead will also be going down to help and visit with prospective new club members. So, if you know of anyone in Hawley, Minnesota that would be interested in getting more information and possibly joining the new Hawley Club, please let us know.

April 9th has now been scheduled for a Governor visit to Hot Springs, SD. Vern Hagedorn has put together a place and time for a visit to Hot Springs. I will also be in Lead, S.D. on Monday and Rapid City on Tuesday to visit those clubs. It's been a long time since I have been to Western South Dakota, so I am looking forward to the time I will spend out there.

Calvin Saari, Lt Gov. for Division 3, has scheduled a meeting for Hibbing for April 30th. The time and place have been set and I hope to get over to Duluth on that trip also.

Please keep in mind our International Convention in June in Toronto, Canada and the District convention in August in Fergus Falls. They both will be GREAT events to attend.

REMEMBER TO SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER THIS MONTH.
What is the Kiwanis I-Plan?
Submitted by: Peter Larson

Have you seen the term I-Plan in the Kiwanis magazine and wondered what it was? Come to the District Convention in Fergus Falls on August 5th and 6th and attend the forums where the Kiwanis International Strategic Plan (I-Plan) will be featured.

There are four parts to the I-Plan: Inspiration, Impact, Image and Investment. Each forum at the District Convention will relate to one of these four topics that will help you revitalize your club, making it more meaningful to you, your community and the children of your community.

I hope to see many of you in August to help you see how Kiwanis can grow in your community. Kids need Kiwanis. If we keep losing members and do not find ways of inviting new members to join we may not be there for them.

April Update
Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

District Kiwanis Convention: Mark your calendars….the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention will be held August 5-7, 2016 in Fergus Falls, MN. All clubs should be represented at this annual convention. More information will be coming soon!

Monthly Club Reports: Thanks again to club secretaries that submit their club reports online each month. Your reports provide very valuable information to the district officers and Kiwanis International. (Reminder to club secretaries: Be sure that your club monthly reports are submitted online by the 10th of each following month.)

Club Elections: Just a reminder that your club election results will be due June 1st. Club secretaries should submit the club election reports online through the same KiwanisOne webpage that we use for monthly club reporting.

Kiwanis International Convention- Toronto: Besides registering for the convention, be sure to report your club’s two International Convention delegates and two alternates to the International Office by April 30 on the Delegate Certification Form. Be sure to send copy to the District Office. You can download a copy of the form from the Kiwanis International Convention website.

Lt. Governor Education Conference Planned: Governor Elect Peter Larson, along with the Lt. Governor team for the upcoming 2016-2017 Kiwanis year will be meeting in August in Fergus Falls. They will be learning more about their role on the district level and developing district plans and goals.

District Kiwanis Foundation Board and Past Governors Meeting: Both of these groups will be meeting April 29-30 in Fergus Falls.

As always, think Membership Growth at all times! Only through maintaining and growing our membership can we be the vibrant service organization that is truly “Serving the Children of the World”.

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
Eliminate Project
Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

We have entered the next phase of our Eliminate Project. As you have heard we have met our $110 Million dollar goal in pledges. Clubs are continuing to send their donations to the Kiwanis International Foundation. We need to increase our efforts so that Kiwanis and UNICEF can in fact eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. As of March 23rd, Minn-Dak has gifts and pledges totaling $1,470,467.16. That means we have saved or protected 816,926 lives over the past Five years.

Now is the time that all clubs need to send their donations in to Kiwanis. Remember that the check is made out to Kiwanis International Foundation with a notation on the Memo Line that it is for the Eliminate Project. Let's get this done!

Shifting Prices
Submitted by: Courtney Taylor, On To International Convention Chair

Not only is April 15 the deadline for taxes, it is also the last date before registration prices are expected to go up for the 2016 Kiwanis International convention in Toronto. In addition to paying registration in order to secure your spot at some of the special events, make sure you have your travel documents in order. Check the date on your passport.

Check out the tours being offered in Toronto and around Canada so you don’t miss the chance to learn about our hosts. Once you know how long you'll be staying, decide whether you’ll be traveling by plane, train, or automobile, and make your hotel reservations. Kiwanis International is encouraging Minn-Dak members to stay at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, but you are welcome to utilize any of the other fine hotels in the area. Keep in mind that our district caucus will be on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Sheraton.

To register, review candidates and amendments, and find anything else you need for the convention, visit http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2016.

For email updates about this and future international conventions, go directly to http://www.highroadsolution.com/kiwanis_preference_center/emailsearch.aspx.

Has Your Club Applied?
Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Faribault, MN. for receiving one of the 17 grants from the Kiwanis International Foundation for their Supply Our Children Program. They were selected in February 2016. The foundation gives grants twice a year and our district has been selected just about each time for at least one grant.

If your club has a project that you need help with, fill out an application and submit it. They can be found on the Foundation’s web site. If you get turned down, re-submit it again and rework the the application. The money is limited and can only go so far and that is why we need to have our clubs contribute the $10.00 pr member to the foundation each year so we can make these grants happen.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SEND IN YOUR CLUB'S GIFT AND YOUR PERSONAL GIFT. Thank you all for what you are doing for the children of the world.
Child Protection Symposium

Submitted by: Kathryn Wyatt, President St. Paul Kiwanis

The following symposium may be of interest to Kiwanis members in the Twin Cities area.

The Boy Scouts Council of the Twin Cities is hosting this event on April 12: Best Practices on Child Protection Symposium. This event is geared for staff and volunteers who work with youth in some capacity. And will feature experts from the Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center and the Wetterling Resource Center.

I think this event could be great for Kiwanis Clubs to attend if they work with high school or other youth groups through their clubs-or host a K Club.

Here is a link to the full information and registration. http://www.northernstarbsa.org/2016symposium/

Please let me know if you have questions!

Kathryn Wyatt
612-767-0050

Foundation Makes Difference in Lives
Submitted by: Jean Collins

Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation is solving some problems for almost sixty high school seniors in our District. Students that applied for the Foundation Scholarships shared situations that are making it hard to go to college. Some of the problems are: high cost of college, sickness in the student's family, large families where more than one child is in college, students that have health issues and students with special requirements for entering the college. The Foundation scholarships will help the winners in their first year of college.

The Scholarship Applicants are a very talented group of high school seniors. Some interesting things about these young people are they have high grade point averages, they are highly involved in sports, arts, student government and activities, they mentor younger students and they act as aids to teachers. Outside school they volunteer at their churches by playing piano, teaching Sunday school classes and going on Mission trips. They volunteer in many other ways as well, often for fundraising causes. Many of the students work one or more jobs to start putting money away for their college education or to meet high school expenses.

Scholarship judges are faced with lots of challenges as they evaluate the well prepared applications from these talented young people. Judges comment on what well rounded and highly talented students they are evaluating. Each year applications rotate to a different Division judging team.

The Foundation is pleased to be able to present these Scholarships to the deserving students and just wished there were more scholarships to be presented.
Youth Protection Manager
Submitted by: Peter Larson

The District needs a Youth Protection Manager. The Kiwanis Motto is "Serving the Children of the World" and our district needs a volunteer to make sure that our clubs do everything in their power to protect those children we serve.

Your duties will be:
• To advocate within the district the importance of youth protection to both the youth served by Kiwanis and the Kiwanis members, as well as the necessity of complying with Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines.
• To help clubs understand their responsibilities in youth protection.
• To be a connection between Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis district/youth clubs on issues of youth protection.

This position has a three year term because Kiwanis International will bring you to Indianapolis to meet other Youth Protection Managers and train you in what is expected of you. This training is scheduled for October 2016.

Please give thoughtful consideration to making this commitment and if you are interested, contact Peter Larson at phlarson@midco.net or at 701-261-7012

Lt. Governor Elects needed
Submitted by: Peter Larson

Division 1 (Western North Dakota) and Division 6 (South Western Minnesota) still need Lt. Governor Elects for 2015/2016. Many past club presidents in these divisions have been asked by the current Lt. Governors to fill these positions. They have not received a positive response. If you have considered accepting one of these positions and have not been asked or declined earlier for whatever reason, please contact me and let us discuss whether you can be part of my leadership team starting Oct. 1, 2016.

Our District is also looking for Lt. Governor Elects for the 2016/2017 year to start on Oct. 1, 2016. Training for these positions is before the August District Convention in Fergus Falls.

I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in filling these positions. Contact me at phlarson@midco.net or at 701-261-7012.

Invitation to Key Club District Convention
Submitted by: Mary Beth Townsend, District Key Club Administrator

Hello Minnesota Dakotas District Kiwanians It's amazing how time flies! The Key Club district convention is rapidly approaching. Were you hoping to attend?

Key Club convention will be held in Willmar, MN April 8th-10th at the Willmar Lakes Convention Center. We have a block of rooms at the Best Western Plus and Holiday Inn connected to the convention center. (Continued...)
A brief agenda:
Friday
*Our event begins with registration from 3-5pm on the 8th
*Dinner and an amazing guest speaker at 6pm (Kevin Wanzer)
*Caucusing for district offices after dinner
Saturday
*Workshops including officer and advisor training, one led by Kevin, and service projects
*Talent and other contests and judging
*Talent show and recognition session
*House of Delegates
*Dance
*More awards
Sunday
*Installation of new district board
*Event concludes by 11:00 AM

If you would like to join us for all or even part of the weekend, please complete the registration form and email it to Kyle Hakala, Key Club Administrative Intern at: kyle.hakala@me.com

Rooms are filling up fast, so please don't delay if you think you would like to join us!

Saturday only Registration form
Parent and Guest Registration form

District Citizenship Award
Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

TO ALL KIWANIS CLUBS IN THE MINNESOTA-DAKOTAS DISTRICT:

Each year the Past District Officers Association (PDOA) selects a person or persons from within the Minnesota-Dakotas District to receive the "Citizenship Award." Nominees are submitted by Kiwanis Clubs of the Minnesota-Dakotas District. The award recipient(s) will be recognized at our annual Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention in Fergus Falls, Minnesota on Saturday, August 6, 2016.

There is not a formal application form. If your club wishes to submit a nomination, please:

1. Submit a nomination of a person or persons who have been a part of a heroic deed this past year (between July 2015 and June 2016).
2. Include a short description of the circumstances of the heroic deed, and any news clippings or other supporting information.
3. Include the name of your Kiwanis Club and President, a contact person with the contact information (preferably e-mail address) and the name of your Lieutenant Governor and Division number.

The PDOA will inform the nominating Club if their nominee was chosen for the award. The nominating Kiwanis Club is responsible for the travel and lodging expenses for the recipient to attend the banquet at the District Convention. The PDOA will pay for the recipient's meal at the banquet.

The information must be submitted by June 30th, 2016 to:

Bill Daugherty, PDOA President
2206 S. Phillips Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: 605-332-0780
Blldaugherty@yahoo.com
SERVICE

Submitted by: AL VANDERLAAN

Spring started this week. Are you ready to spring into a new time of service? I hear from clubs that are in the process of putting a READING OASIS together. If you have questions feel free to contact me for advice.

In my home town where we have placed multiple OASIS’S the schools are already seeing benefits. The children are helping the Kiwanians become enthusiastic about what is happening. Children respond well to those who are willing to help them. Kiwanians get as much out of the interaction as the children. Become encouraged and regenerated by providing the benefit of an OASIS in your local school system. Don't forget to ask the private schools. They may be more responsive than the public schools.

The Oasis program can be a door opener for BUILDERS CLUBS AND K-Kids clubs down the road.

We are Kiwanans! We serve!!

Turtle Mountain Kiwanis Promotes Literacy
Club: Turtle Mountains - Submitted by: Clint Reinoehl

The Turtle Mountain Kiwanis hosted a pancake and sausage feed with the proceeds going to the Bottineau County Imagination Library. $772 was raised to help promote early literacy. The Imagination Library provides age appropriate books monthly for children ages newborn to age 5. The program has been very successful in our county and is operated on donations. Having fun and serving the children of the world!

Kiwanis & Marketplace
Club: Turtle Mountains - Submitted by: Clint Reinoehl

Brad Knudson of the Turtle Mountain Kiwanis Club judges student projects at Marketplace for kids on March 14th. Over 400 students from around the Turtle Mountain Region gather at Dakota College at Bottineau for a day of learning and fun. The students are brought together through the statewide program Marketplace for kids learning about career options, business opportunities and igniting the ideas of entrepreneurship. The students also have the opportunity to showcase a project exploring their opportunities for creating a product and/or starting their own business. The students are also encouraged to compete with their projects on the state level at the ND State Fair. There have been several products that have gone into production as a result of this wonderful program serving the children of our state.
Harvey Kiwanis' Raising the Bar
Club: Harvey - Submitted by: Sandy Teubner

Paying for Play - reprinted from North Dakota Living Magazine, Northern Plains

Harvey Kiwanis raising $45,000 in Phase I for playground equipment. Total estimated project cost= $105,000.

Harvey Kiwanis wanted to raise the (monkey) bar. They saw a need for their community.

“This year, we wanted to do something on a larger scale,” said Club President Sandy Teubner. “Kiwanis’ mission statement is that we are a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child at a time.” A playground for the community aligns with our mission”.

For 92 years, Harvey Kiwanis has served this area. They have organized school supply drives on the first day back to school, sponsored the Boy Scout’s Charter and funded college scholarships for area young people, Teubner said. Teubner is also the Chief Financial Officer of St. Aloisius Medical Center.

A playground is more than a place to navigate slides and circle the merry-go-round, club members said. It’s also a place to retain residents, attract visitors and build a community.

Harvey Kiwanis wants all of that and more for its community. "Harvey has several parks for children to play in, but most of the equipment is outdated and doesn’t meet modern safety codes”, said Kiwanis member Jared Hanson. Monkey bars, for example, aren't typically included in playground designs anymore because of the risk of injury. The most modern equipment is the school's playground but that is also over 10 years old, Hanson said, and that's not available for use during the day. See attached picture of one area playground that shows limited equipment.

The new project’s design includes traditional swings and slides as well as designated spaces for children ages 2 - 5 and 5 – 12. The design also includes benches for parents and caregivers, a climbing wall and a 50-foot zip line. Located in Centennial Park, the playground will sit adjacent to walking paths, a Frisbee golf site and gazebo for picnics.

The club hopes to raise $45,000 by this summer to begin Phase 1 of the project. So far, it's raised about $20,000, $4,000 of that coming from it's own member's individual donations. The club has only 13 members, so that is wonderful to see the commitment of this project from the group, said Teubner. Kiwanis also has several grant applications in the works. Phase II will begin at a later date as funds are available. Watch for more updates in future newsletters.

(Photo description: "One example of current playground equipment in a one of Harvey's parks.")
Kiwanis North Suburban Golden K of St. Paul Provides Members with Great Weekly Programs
Club: North Suburban Golden K, St. Paul - Submitted by: Ric Soderstrom, Sr.

Since the formation of the Kiwanis Club of North Suburban Golden K of Saint Paul over thirty years ago one of the features of this club has been its dedication to providing its members with a broad range of weekly programs to educate, enlighten and, yes, even entertain. Each year the club brings in about fifty speakers covering areas of interest ranging from the weather, politics, aging, fraud, genomics, and motivational speakers just for fun. As new members join, they provide some insights into their lives through bios at one of those weekly presentations. They also have had many of the organizations they sponsor give updates on how the club’s funds are used and how their services help them and our community improve the lives of children – one of our main focuses of the club.

Although Kiwanis clubs have a great reputation for funding activities that support children in their communities, a good case can be made for having club activities that promote learning about the community at large – even the world. The idea of a weekly meeting is not a new concept because regular meetings promote keeping the members in touch with one another. The idea of using the weekly meeting format to also stimulate ideas and keep up to date on advancements in medicine, the political landscape, what the various children’s organizations are doing for the community, and other topics of interest to seniors might be a concept worth trying if your club does not do this.

One of the keys to success is to tie the program selection committee with the leadership of the organization. The speaker presentations at the Kiwanis Club of North Suburban Golden K of St. Paul are always chaired by the next president of the club getting the next leader to guide the selection of potential presentations. A five or six person team helps the program committee to research potential speaker candidates and makes recommendations to the group. The addition of a weekly speaker to the meeting is also a way to enhance recruitment for the club – not just a volunteer and fundraising club, but one that tries to improve the knowledge of the members by learning as well as doing. This is just another idea among the many that make every Kiwanis club great!

60 years of service and still going strong!
Club: Minot - Submitted by: Carla Dolan

Sixty years is a long time to be a part of anything, but boy are we happy Ben Tollefson chose Kiwanis! April 1, 1956 Ben was recruited by Orlan Tollefson to be a part of something he considered important to the community and soon, Ben realized that too. Ben was a state lawmaker for 22 years and worked for Northern State’s Power Company, now Xcel Energy. On March 29 of this year, President Elect Alysia Huck of Minot State University presented Ben with his 60 year pin and certificate for his dedicated service. Ben said he has always enjoyed the programs and the friendships of the group. Thank you Ben for making Kiwanis of Minot what it is today!