

MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

December 2009

Time to Reach Out

by: Bruce Klair, District Kiwanis Governor



Two months of our Kiwanis year are already past, and what a great two months it was for Phyllis and me. We have already visited five of the seven Regions of MNDK, and we have been inspired by the work that all the clubs are doing to make their communities a better place. We are humbled to serve with such a great organization and with such a dedicated group of people. Everyone should be proud by the way our District is truly changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

As we approach this holiday season, we are reminded more and more that there are many families struggling out there during these hard economic times. Now is the time we must demonstrate what it means to be a Kiwanian. Now is the time to reach out to those less blessed than we are and bring them into our hearts. Many of you have heard my favorite expression, "Kiwanians don't give until it hurts, they give until it feels good." And nothing feels better than to see the gratitude in the eyes of a young mother as we bring her food for a Christmas dinner and presents for her children that she was unable to provide this year.

Most clubs are ringing bells for the Salvation Army again this year. I always marvel at how pleasant the weather is when we sign up for our bell-ringing shifts, and how bitterly cold it can be the day we do the ringing. Yet Kiwanians always appear for their shifts, because that is what we do. This year, try something extra as you are out there in the cold. Give a smile to everyone who passes. You will be surprised how it warms both you and them.

Thanks to a Key Club International Board member, I have discovered a web site to help clubs find a new service project. Just type "All For Good" into your browser, and type in your zip code when the page appears. Suddenly you are presented with hundreds of service opportunities in your own community.

Already in less than two months, we have welcomed three new clubs into our MNDK family. On October 16, the Aktion Club of Lake City, Minnesota was chartered, sponsored by the Lake City Kiwanis Club; on November 2 the Builders Torch Club of Yankton, South Dakota was chartered, sponsored by the Yankton Kiwanis Club; and on November 23 the Key Club of the Chanhassen Minnesota High School was chartered, sponsored by the Chaska Kiwanis Club. Congratulations to all three clubs, as well as the sponsors. In addition, the Golden K Kiwanis Club of Red Wing has sponsored a club satellite at the Correctional Facility in Red Wing. At this time they have eight enthusiastic new members, with a potential of many more. Incidentally, this correctional facility is for young boys ages 13 - 20, and already there are plans to form a Key Club among the inmates there. How's that for thinking outside the box!

This is a time of year to recount all our blessings, and one of the great blessings Phyllis and I have are all the friends we have made in Kiwanis. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each and every one of you, and may you have a new year filled with joy and wonder.

Bruce and Phyllis

Kiwanis Education for Club Leaders

by: Larry Rittgarn, District Education Director

The new Kiwanis year has opened many doors to new ways of obtaining much Kiwanis education.

The **webinars** that you can sign up for have been providing some wonderful educational information for various leaders in your clubs.

If you have not signed on to attend these sessions right in your home or office, I would suggest you get signed up right away.



SUGGESTION: Sign up for some of these sessions, and have other members of your club join you at a site, where you can go on line and enjoy the 1 hour to 1 to 1-1/2 hour sessions. This will give you an opportunity to view and attend the session and also to share ideas with other members that are viewing it with you.

In May and June of 2010 you will once again be invited to attend a one day learning experience for club leaders called **CLE or Club Leader Education session.**

CLE offers new club leaders an opportunity to attend a 4-5 hour session and share ideas with other incoming officers of other clubs.

The take home experience of learning from each other is well worth your time.

Most of these sessions are held in the evenings so you can have your evening meal and the meeting without giving up a day for this educational program.

KIWANIS EDUCATION AT ITS BEST IS AS CLOSE AS YOUR COMPUTER.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention

by: Pat & Larry Rittgarn, District Convention Director

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the the 93rd District Kiwanis Convention.

The Doublewood Hotel, in Fargo, ND will host this year's convention on August 13-14-15, 2010.

Many fun things are being planned, as well as good food, good accomodations, and a host of wonderful events to make this next convention one that you will want to attend.



Mark your calendars now, and be sure your club has budgeted some funds to help your delegates attend this convention.

Watch your mail for early mailings in May of 2010.

We look forward to seeing you at the **93rd Annual District Kiwanis Convention.**

Update from the District Secretary/Treasurer- December 2009

by: Steve Handegaard

Greetings! The holiday season is upon us and it is a great time to get involved in Kiwanis service and help others in your community! We wish all of you and your families a very happy holiday season.



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.

Club Donations to Outreach: Special thanks to all of the clubs that contributed to the Outreach Program during 08-09. We look forward to seeing your contribution again in 09-10. 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.

Download International Convention Materials: Need help promoting the Kiwanis International Convention in your club bulletins and newsletters? Check out the convention Web site at www.kiwanisone.org/convention, where you'll find information about the convention as well as helpful downloads such as logos and ads.

Online Monthly Club Reporting: Since our online reporting is so very important, I would like to once again review the process for the 09-10 year. Your club should be submitting your monthly club report online by the 10th of the following month. Your Lt. Governors, District Officers, District Office and Kiwanis International are able to view your reports without you having to send any additional emails or hard copies. Among other things the online monthly reports will again be the official basis for selecting the Distinguished Club Awards for 09-10. If you have any questions, please give me a call or send me an email.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards will meet in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16, 2010. Check out some of our other District event dates on the District Website ----- http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/public_district/ViewEventListing.aspx

Thanks again for all your great work in Kiwanis!

NOW IS THE TIME

by: Chuck Schroder, District Chair - KI Foundation

With all of the problems around the world today, we as Kiwanians need to be there more than ever to help those who are in need. How can I help you say? You and your club can help by contributing to the annual gift campaign. Five dollars (\$5.00) per member is what has been suggested and is the goal of the Kiwanis International Foundation.



As you know, our district shined last Kiwanis year with contributions over \$25,000 and at the present time we are a little ahead of this time last year. The needs have grown, children of the world are starving, families have lost their homes to fires in California, our grant demands have increased because of the need for help.

The other night I had the opportunity to help fill over 2400 bags of food for children that would not be able to eat over the weekend if it weren't for the back pack program. The Key Club at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls along with Kiwanis clubs in Sioux Falls and many other young people will, for the 4th year, be tying fleece blankets for over 1000 homeless children in the Sioux Falls school district. This program was thought up by one of our own Kiwanis members daughters and it has continued.

Please help us by contributing to the Kiwanis International Foundations annual gift campaign.

REGION 5 GOVENORS VISIT

by: Bill Zortman, Region 5 Correspondent

Minnesota-Dakotas District Governor Bruce Klair made his maiden voyage into South Dakota as chief executive with a stop at the Region 5 Governor's Conference in Brookings on Halloween Day.

While there was no trick or treating during the morning-afternoon session – members agreed it was a treat to welcome the Minnesota Kiwanis kingpin and his wife to the Mount Rushmore State. For the Governor it was a chance to begin his weeklong stay in South Dakota with additional meetings in Tea to hopefully percolate a new club. From Tea it was on to Rapid City for the Region 4 Conference.



Klair, who spent the last few years heading up service projects in the three states, called on Kiwanis members to take advantage of the times. "With the state of economy our world is in we need Kiwanis in these vital times." Klair continued, "Children in Region 5 are going to bed hungry every night and teenagers need somebody to talk to. It's time to make a difference and when you do it will make you feel good."

Three dozen Kiwanians from East River, South Dakota attended the Governors Conference in Brookings. Clubs shared their ideas to create new memberships and keep old ones. One club, DeSmet, explained that they were the only service club left in town. Meanwhile in Sioux Falls 6 clubs talked about working together for new members and finding projects to cooperate on.

Several hundred dollars were raised for the Kiwanis Foundation with a silent auction.

Region 7 Education Day and Governor's Visit

by: Denis Cornell, Lt. Governor, Region 7

On Saturday, November 14, Region 7 Annual Education Day, Governor's Visit and Silent Auction was held at the Mississippi National Golf Club in Red Wing. The theme for the day was "Spotlight on Service". There were 81 participants present representing 22 Kiwanis Clubs, Key Clubs and Aktion Clubs.

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director, of Kids Against Hunger presented a wonderful program outlining the history and goals of his organization founded by Richard Proudfit in 1999. Kids Against Hunger now has 73 satellite packaging locations across the US working to eliminate starvation and reduce hunger worldwide. Four of the 73 US locations are managed by Kiwanis Clubs. The packaged food has been distributed to over 40 countries as well as food shelves in the US. So far in 2009 over 70 million meals have been packaged. Kids Against Hunger is one of the projects submitted to Kiwanis International for consideration for the next International Service Project to be announced at the International Convention in June 2010. A demonstration packaging table was set up and 1000 meals were packaged by attendees during the morning registration and break time.



Our second presentation came from Jenny Friedman, PhD, Executive Director of Doing Good Together and author of "The Busy Families Guide to Volunteering". Doing Good Together is a Minneapolis based non profit organization founded by Jenny in 2004 whose mission is, "To inspire and help families volunteer." The vision of Doing Good Together is "To build a culture of family service, so that every child grows up knowing that the world is a better place when we help out one another." Doing Good Together collaborates with a variety of nonprofit and social service organizations to help them deepen their family service efforts. Families receive an enhanced volunteer experience and added tools for raising thoughtful, generous children. More information can be found online at: doinggoodtogether.org

Following the morning program a buffet luncheon was held with the keynote address by Minnesota-Dakotas district Governor, Bruce Klair. Bruce presented seven Vantine Life Fellowships from the Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation recognizing exceptional service to the region. These seven Vantine Life Fellowships were made possible as a result of 50% (over \$700.00) of the proceeds from the 2008 silent auction being donated to the Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation. The Vantine Life Fellowship recipients were: Larry McFadden, Kathy Welle, James Bentley, Evelyn Fisher, Steve Stremski, William Tape and Keith Gordan.

Bruce challenged our clubs to grow by 5% in 2009-2010 so that we can continue to grow our service.

The day concluded with the 2009 silent auction winners being announced. This year \$1107.00 was raised to be evenly split between the Minnesota-Dakotas Education Foundation and Outreach.

Special thanks to Mary and John Dierbeck for coordinating the silent auction, Mary Bowen and the Fridley Key Club for the table favors, Colleen Michels for coordinating registration, Immediate Past Lt. Governor, Marge Frost and Lt. Governor Elect Barbara Winfield for taking care of details.

Lake City AKtion Club Chartered and Officers Installed

by: Larry Sonnek, District AKtion Club Administrator

A new club entered the Kiwanis family in Lake City, MN. The Lake City Kiwanis Club sponsored the formation of an AKtion Club on the evening of Nov. 19 at the Lake City High School Auditorium. Lake City, the home of water skiing, sits on the Mississippi River at picturesque Lake Pepin. The chartering of the club and the installation of officers was coordinated by Jim Albright who along with Jenni Doyle will be the advisors for this new club. This community of 5,000 people provided tremendous support for the new club as was evident by the crowd of over 100 people who attended the event.

The following individuals were elected to the board:

Jeff Miller - president
Tracy Murphy – vice president
Deanna Oelkers - secretary
Josh Hielscher - treasurer
Patti Roberts - director
Jason Schroeder - director
Darcy Soine - director

Dignitaries in attendance included:

District Governor Bruce Klair,
Region Seven Lieutenant Governor Denis Cornell,
Past AKtion Club District Administrators - Dwain and Carole Petersen,
Members of the Kiwanis Club of Lake City,
AKtion Club District Administrator Larry Sonnek,
Members of the Key Club of Lake City,
Lake City Mayor Jerry Dunbar,
Representatives of Kiwanis and AKtion clubs in Rochester and Mankato,
Members of the Red Wing AKtion Club,
AKtion Club Theater of Mankato Coordinator – Wilber Neushwander-Frink,
Past AKtion Club District Administrator - Al Nelson (Al coordinated the formation of the Red Wing AKtion Club.)

Pictured: Jeff Miller - Lake City AKtion Club President and Bruce Klair - District Kiwanis Governor



Diversity Celebrates 3rd Anniversary with Month Long Campaign

by: Bill Zortman, Region 5 Correspondent

Sioux Falls Diversity Kiwanis Club celebrated its 3rd Anniversary with a month long campaign that took members out of the twice a month meeting setting to hands on support of 5 community projects.

The month will be completed on December 12th with Project Warm-up. It started November 11th with Lutheran Social Services -- providing warm clothing to 50 needy immigrant families from 10 countries. On November 12th the club provided tuna and tuna helper to the Mobile Food Pantry. 100 plus families were served and after they picked up food they were given dental supplies donated by area dentists for 260 people. On November 18th the Diversity Kiwanis Club shared a booth with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters at the Diversity Conference at the Multi-Cultural Center. 375 attended and the club may pick up 2-4 new members. On November 23rd they joined members of the other Sioux Falls Kiwanis Clubs filling backpacks at the Food Bank. 2450 packs were filled by Kiwanis members for the Thanksgiving weekend.



The Project Warm-up coming on December 12th was actually started by Kaitlin Vik -- a member of the Lincoln High School Key Club. Her mother Tracy loved the idea and shared it with the then month old Diversity Club who decided they would do all they could to make the project a success.

The new club is providing new energy for the Kiwanis family. However Diversity Kiwanis has drawn some criticism for not knowing in 2006 that Lincoln High School Key Club was a part of East Kiwanis Club. That Club has provided monetary support to the Warm Up Project each year but has not been identified as the sponsor. They have not been included in publicity or even the video this year at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7EEUms6U18>. That has now changed.

The Vik's are typical of the new Diversity Club membership. Hardworking -- positive and full of life. Even though she didn't say it -- they follow the Minnesota Vikings Quarterback Brett Favre's philosophy- "Play together and good things happen."

1300 blankets were tied in the first 3 years of the blanket tie program. This year the goal is 1000. Mrs. Vik reports that 500 have already been promised by December 1st. This year it will be a Sioux Falls Kiwanis-wide Project. Diversity is still providing the You Tube video created by the Sioux Falls Schools and organization with the other five Sioux Falls Clubs. Daybreak has already tied blankets with a pre-tie party, money has come from East and Downtown for fleece, while South and West are expected to contribute again.

Support from the Sioux Falls Schools continues along with help from Baltic, Tea, Watertown, and the University of Sioux Falls.

The new Diversity Club is a new very much needed part of the Kiwanis family. Clubs are struggling with older membership and recruiting new younger members has been a challenge. For Diversity most of the members are 30 years from retirement age. They come not to write checks but to be involved in projects. They have already raised thousands from a circus, working the Jazz Fest, selling squares for the Super Bowl and NCAA Basketball championship, plus donations from professionals and blue collar alike in the community.

Diversity ended 2008-2009 with 24 members. 16 renewed. Now by December 1st the paid membership including some new 1 year scholarships is up to 35. They continue to get membership inquiries from their website at <http://diversitykiwanis.org/>.

Diversity Kiwanis is just the new little brother (and sister) on the block that appreciates where Kiwanis has been and wants to see them succeed with a new roster of members. They work first to serve the children in their Diverse neighborhoods. Members include Asian, Black Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, one in a wheel chair, and others that look white but understand that with 110 different cultures in Sioux Falls -- what they learn and give will be good for all tomorrow.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

by: Duane TeWinkel, Sioux Falls Correspondent

We do not believe in letting grass grow under our feet and in that spirit we prepared childrens dental packs during the meeting. The dental packs were to be given out at the Mobile Food Pantry held at the Center of Hope on November 12, 2009. The Mobile Food Pantry provides food stuff to families that need a hand up to get them through hard times. We gave out 260 dental packs and helped serve 102 families. We had twenty volunteers including one whole family unit. This is a great project and we all enjoyed the evening. We will certainly do this again when the opportunity arises.

Work is what you do to earn a paycheck. Fun is doing projects like this.



HELPING REFUGEES STAY WARM

by: Duane TeWinkel, Sioux Falls Correspondent

We had a very busy and enjoyable month starting with our November 10, 2009 Meeting at the Original Pancake House. The first project of the month was on November 11 in partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Sioux Falls. For the third year, the Diversity Kiwanis Club has collected winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens and other winter-wear for refugee families who are new to the United States. Many of them are experiencing their very first winter and are not prepared for the cold and snow a South Dakota blizzard can bring. Twelve Diversity Club members helped distribute coats, shoes, mittens and other warm gear. Fifty families from ten counties were assisted.



PROJECT BACK PACK

by: Duane TeWinkel, Sioux Falls Correspondent

November 22rd saw 5 Diversity members join with the all Kiwanis work crew at the Sioux Falls Food Bank. Joining us were members from Sioux Falls Down Town, South, East and Daybreak. In a very fast paced 2 1/2 hours we filled 2500 packs. These packs were given out on November 23rd so that the students could have them for the long weekend. For many of these students the only hot meal they get during the week is at school.

At home, over the weekend, these packs help fill gaps in the family pantry.

There were 60 Kiwanians present and this is our second year with this project.



Work is what you do to earn a paycheck. Having fun is doing projects like this.

More Kiwanis News.....

Promote Kiwanis One Day

What's your club doing for Kiwanis One Day on April 10? Whatever you're doing, make sure everyone knows about it!

Check out the new Kiwanis One Day promotional video (link to <http://www.kiwanisone.org/Pages/Resources/default.aspx?PageID=209>) now available on most Kiwanis-family Web sites. Show the video at your next meeting. Post a link to your Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and your club Web sites. Get the word out about Kiwanis One Day and the excitement will spread. Great service projects attract new members.

And don't forget to enter the **contest** (www.kiwanisone.org/Pages/Resources/default.aspx?PageID=209) to win a video or magazine story feature about your club's project. Contest entry is a quick link on the right of the page. Entries are due January 15.

Get the worm- International Convention Registration

It's time to imagine the unimaginable. Dream big. Refresh your world view and learn a few new tricks. Laugh it up. Work hard and play hard.

It's time for the 95th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas. **Register online today** (insert link to <https://www.kiwanisone.org/memberresources/convention/convreg2010.aspx>). A **mail-in registration form** (insert link to <http://sites.kiwanis.org/VegasICON2010/Downloads.aspx>) is also available.

Early birds get the worm. Register by Jan. 31 and save US\$55!

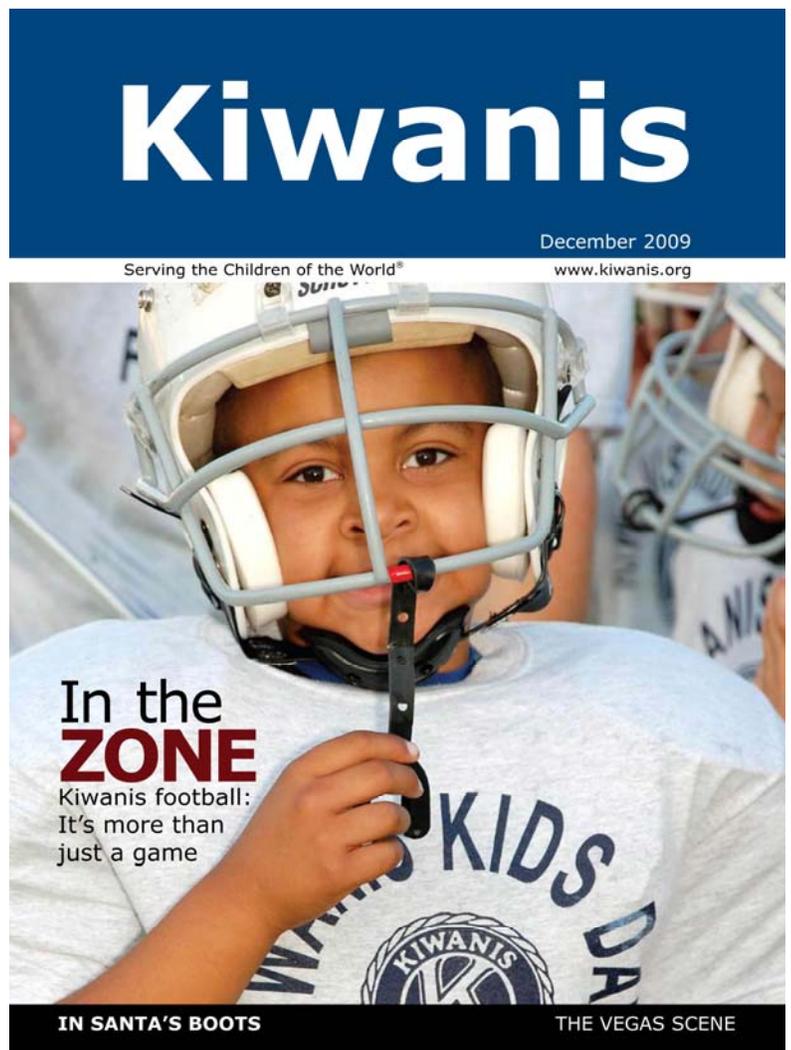
In the zone: KIWANIS magazine

Like peak-performing athletes, Kiwanis clubs know what it's like to be "in the zone." The Springdale, Arkansas, Kiwanis Club, for example, is in the zone when it teaches teamwork, sportsmanship and character development through its youth football program. La Hormiga, Colombia, Kiwanian Mary Rocha and other members worldwide are in the zone when they don red velvet suits and white beards to portray Santa Claus for local children. You can read about these and other zoned-in Kiwanians in the December 2009 KIWANIS magazine.

You'll find these stories too:

- **Get ready to party.** Kiwanis will celebrate its 95th anniversary on January 21, 2010.
- **Try something different.** A new style of club is being tested in four North American districts.
- **Let's go chartering.** Opening a Key Club, K-Kids club or other Service Leadership Program just got a lot easier.
- **Get connected.** Thousands of Kiwanians are hooking up to social media, such as Facebook and Kiwanis Community.
- **Dig the scene.** Las Vegas Strip Kiwanis Club member Maggie Howe invites you to her hometown for the 95th Annual International Convention.

Look for bonus content and quick links to resources at www.kiwanismagazine.org.



To view more news and current and past MINNEKOTAN newsletters go to 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:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581

Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org