January 2016

District Kiwanis Website and MINNEKOTAN Newsletter changes:
Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Our new Minnesota-Dakotas District website went live on Dec. 30. It is located at the same URL address http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/ However, if you had the website address bookmarked previously you might need to reset the bookmark.

The content of the website remains primarily the same, but it has a different look and things work a bit differently. Please note that there is drop down menu in the upper right corner of the home page. Our district newsletter was also a function of the old website so there will be some changes there also. If you plan to submit an article for the February newsletter the submission process is nearly the same. You can find news submission on the home page menu, but here is the link http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1013

We have been using our current website platform for about 5 years. That is a long time in the world of technology and computers. The change provides a more mobile ready design. Mobile is very important these days with people accessing the internet and websites from smart phones and other mobile devices. It is estimated that 60% of online traffic now comes from mobile devices. If you have a smart phone you will see that you can access and view things better on the new website. The technology behind the new website will allow more flexibility for other things as well.

Any time we make some changes like this there can be some little bugs here or there, so as always we would appreciate you letting us know if something does not work properly.

Message from the District Governor
Submitted by: Kent Hochgraber, District Governor

By the time you read this article it will probably be January 2016. Where did 2015 go? The older I get the faster the time seems to fly by, and all the things that I had planned to get done are still out there, NOT DONE.

In the MNDak District we have a lot of work to get done by the end of September. We have new clubs to build, under strength clubs to get back to 20 members and education in the Formula and the I-Plan. We need to educate our new Lt. Governors coming in for the next year. As some of you have heard we are going to have Lt. Governor training this year just before the District Convention in Fergus Falls. We need to increase our attendance at the District Convention and by doing both events at the same time hopefully this will happen. Since they have to come to training, they will also attend convention and vice versa. We will also save some meeting expense by doing
both. This is a new idea, so let’s give it a try.

I have received reports from many Lt. Governors who have been out doing club installations and club visits. They have all been very positive, and fun to read. It sounds as you are having a good time with these visits.

I have asked that each of the Lt. Governors take turns submitting an article to the newsletter about the good things that have happened in their division. We will start out with Division 1 and go down the line. I will let you know when it will be your turn. We will talk more about this at the Board meeting in January in Fergus Falls. People like to read about themselves in the newsletter, so feel free to submit some pictures if you would like. I know you all have some good things going on in your divisions.

We will be working more on membership after the first of the year and also keying in on those areas that might be a great location for new clubs. More to come. HOPE YOU HAD A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.

January Update
Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2016!

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Convention: Be sure to mark this on your calendars now and plan to attend. Our district convention will be held August 5-7, 2016 in Fergus Falls. Be sure to view the "invitation video" on our District’s website homepage.

Email Addresses: Club Secretaries- Please check your club member information database and make sure that we have the current email addresses for all members in your club that have one. You can update your club members’ information through your online KiwanisOne Secretary access. The Kiwanis International database is where we access email addresses for the District Minnekotan Newsletter and other important communications. Email addresses change often, so please keep them as current as possible. All members can access and change their own profile information by logging into the following Kiwanis Portalbuzz website https://members.portalbuzz.com/Member/User/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fMember

Reminder: All clubs are required to file the appropriate annual IRS tax form by February 15th. See more information on Kiwanis International website http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms

2015-2016 Club Insurance Resource Guide: Your club secretary should have received the 2015-2016 Insurance Resource Guide in a mailing from Kiwanis International. It contains answers and information to most questions about your liability coverage and risk management practices. If you have very specific liability insurance questions you can call Lisa Hendricks at Kiwanis International (1-800-KIWANIS ext 112) or you can also contact the insurance carrier directly. That contact information is listed in the guide. You can also view all of the material online http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/risk-management
Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2015-2016, 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, 2016 to be included in the March issue of the MINNEKOTAN. Candidates can announce their intention to run at a later date, but may 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 next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer 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.

Download International Convention Materials: Need help promoting the Kiwanis International Convention in your club bulletins and newsletters? Check out the convention Web site at http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/events/

Online Monthly Club Reporting: Since our online reporting is so very important, I would like to once again review the process for the 15-16 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. 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 22 and Saturday, January 23, 2016.

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

Reward Offered
Submitted by: Peter Larson, Governor Elect

Governor Elect Peter Larson is looking for Kiwanis members to work on his team starting Oct. 1, 2016. Team members needed are:

1. Lt. Governor Elect for Division 1
2. Circle K Chair
3. Kiwanis Kids Chair
4. Partnership Coordinator
5. Public Relations Coordinator
6. Kiwanis International Convention Chair
7. Key Leader Chair
8. Human and Spiritual Values Chair
If you are interested in any of these district positions or know of a Kiwanis member who would enjoy working in these positions contact me at phlarson@midco.net

I will provide a position description for your review and we can discuss the opportunity.
Kiwanis International provides education for the Lt. Governor, Circle K chair, Kiwanis Kids Chair, Partnership Coordinator, Public Relations coordinator and the Key Leader Chair.

Things are on the move in the Foundation
Submitted by: E. C. Schroder

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and that the snow came in time for all to have fun, (the kids that is). We at the Schroder household had a very Blessed Christmas and Santa was good. I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Joyous New Year.

This month I would like share some good news. IRA Charitable Rollover Legislation is back---for 2015 and beyond. This information was given to us by Nathan Stelter, Vice President of Business Development with The Stelter Company. If you a donor missed your chance to take advantage of the charitable IRA legislation in the past, you are in luck! On December 18, 2015, the president signed into law the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015. The new law made the IRA charitable rollover retroactive to Jan. 1, 2015, and will remain in in effect for 2016 and beyond.

Donors 70 and 1/2 or older are once again eligible to move up to $100,000 from their IRAs directly to qualified charities without having to pay income tax on the money.

Here is a recap of the IRA charitable rollover rules. A donor can make a direct transfer if:
1. The donor is age 70 1/2 or older on the day of the gift.
2. The donor transfers up to $100,000 directly from the donor’s IRA to one or more qualified charities. THIS OPPORTUNITY APPLIES ONLY TO IRAs AND NOT TO OTHER TYPES OF RETIREMENT PLANS.
3. The donor does not receive any goods or services in return for the rollover gift in order to qualify for tax-free treatment.
4. The gift needs to be made by Dec. 31, 2015 for the gift to qualify this year.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (605) 359-6088 or call the Foundation office at 1(800) 549-2647.

Don’t forget to have your club send their donation of $10.00 pr member to the annual gift program to help save the children. Thank You.
Builders Club News
Submitted by: Nancy Cornell, Administrator

Congratulations to the Stillwater Junior High Builders Club (Stillwater, MN) for chartering in November and congratulations to the Horizon School Builders Club (Moorhead, MN) for becoming active again. Other Builders Clubs that chartered in 2015 are the Lead-Deadwood Middle School Builders Club (SD), the Sturgis Area After School Program Builders Club (SD), Watertown Middle School Builders Club (SD), and the Lakefield JCC Middle School (MN). This makes a total of 25 Builders Clubs in the Minnesota-Dakotas District who are providing service to their schools, communities and beyond. Thank You to the Kiwanis Clubs who have stepped up to sponsor a Builders Club and help students find their heart to serve.

As we begin 2016, consider sponsoring a Builders Club. You’ll be providing a great opportunity for Middle School/Jr. High students to learn about becoming servant leaders and their enthusiasm can spark your club and help your club provide even more service. They also make great Key Club members.

To learn more about chartering a Builders Club visit www.kiwanis.org/charter and also contact me, Nancy Cornell, District Builders Club Administrator at nancyc2centurytel.net or call 507-346-2044. Let’s add five more Builders Club in 2016. Happy New Year! 2016 is going to be a great year.

Happy New Year!
Submitted by: Bruce Klair

Happy New Year! The Holidays are behind us and I hope everyone had a great holiday season with friends, family and fellowship. January is a great time for resolutions and recommitting to those tasks we have been putting off. That includes inviting friends to share our Kiwanis Club. Now is a great time to review who is on our club’s membership committee and ask them again to update us on their membership plans. If the membership chair and committee haven’t been active, now is the time to develop a plan.

Ever since Kiwanis introduced The Formula, there has been a lot of good material to help us in bringing more people into Kiwanis and spreading the Kiwanis message to prospective members and new communities. Check out the website at www.kiwanis.org/theformula.

Most of us are in Kiwanis because someone took the time to invite us. Make sure we are inviting others. If you are your club’s president or membership chair, place a small piece of paper or an index card in front of each member at one of your meetings, and ask them to write down 3 names of people they know who they think would be good Kiwanians. They may not want to invite these people themselves, but now your committee has a list of prospects.

Every time your club has a program and a guest speaker you have a prospective member at your meeting. Don’t forget to thank them and invite them to come back as a guest any time. Then follow up with a short thank-you note in a few days and invite them again. Many of us are in Kiwanis because we were first there to present a program. Let’s make this the best Kiwanis year ever.
Kiwanians serve the Rosebud Indian Reservation

Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan

Kiwanis clubs from North and South Dakota as well as Minnesota put Kiwanis Gift Boxes together in November and early December. They were accumulated by the Watertown, S.D. Kiwanis club and delivered to the Rosebud Reservation in S.D. on December 9th. I believe this was a very successful service program. The children receiving the gifts were very excited about their gifts. Thank you for those clubs participating! Next year I would like to expand this service so that each one of our three states in the MnDak district can provide gift boxes to several reservations, at least one in each state. Please discuss this program with your club members and be prepared for making a commitment next fall if your club embraces this project.

Service Clubs meet with Governor Dayton Rep on Dental Health

Submitted by: Peter Larson, Governor Elect

Governor Elect Peter Larson and representatives from Rotary, Lions and County Commissioners met with Lauren Gilchrist-Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Mark Dayton on the state of oral health in Minnesota. Dr. Amos Dienard presented the Minnesota Oral Health Project report on the lack of a dental home for most children on public assistance and the effects of that on their dental health. These children suffer from such things as pain from abscess, difficulty eating which may delay growth and development, and possible pronunciation problems. As Kiwanis members we should educate ourselves on this significant childhood health risk and work to educate members of our communities. One source to look at is: http://www.health.state.mn.us/oralhealth/pdfs/StatePlan2013.pdf

Talking in Toronto

Submitted by: Courtney Taylor

The countdown for the Toronto convention continues! Many of the agenda items will be similar to years past, but let’s look at a few differences between Canada and the U.S., particularly regarding language.

Although some of the unique pronunciations may not be all that unusual to Minn-Dak residents, a few of the spelling differences may be unexpected. Like England, Canada adds a U to words like colour and neighbour. Maneuver has an
extra O (manoeuvre), and take the z out of analyze in favor of an S (analyse). Be sure to take off an L for fulfil, enrol, and instalment, and make note of the Cs in licence and defence.

Centre and cheque are correct, and you'll need to ask for a washroom in case you need to find a toilet. If you need a place to rest your feet, ask for directions to the nearest chesterfield (that's a couch). When you decide you'll need more cash to vote on SLP artwork, ask for an ABM (automated bank machine).

If you leave the states for a tour during the current season, be sure to ask for a toboggan instead of a sled. You might want to take a toque, touque, or toque with you (a hat). Don't forget to keep up with the latest hockey scores!

For everything else you need to know about Canada - and the convention - visit http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2016.

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**Educational Foundation….HURRY - HURRY - Deadline Approaching**
Submitted by: Sherry Scudder, District Foundation Board Trustee

**HURRY - HURRY - Deadline Approaching January 22, 2016**

All Kiwanis Clubs please contact the high schools in your areas to remind them that the Kiwanis Educational Foundation Scholarships Deadline is January 22, 2016 and all applications must be postmarked by that date.

The Kiwanis Educational Foundation Scholarship is a grant program of the MN-DAK District of Kiwanis International. The Educational Foundation is a registered charitable non-profit corporation and all gifts are tax deductible.

Scholarships may be applied for by a student who is a legal resident of Superior, WI, Minnesota, or the Dakotas. Some requirements are a completed application with all required information, school transcript, a letter explaining any academic awards, extra-curricular school honors, community service performed and goals hoped to be achieved by post-secondary education.

For more information, please review the MN-DAK website [http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/24946](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/24946) or call Jack Zierdt, Sec/Treas at 507-289-7012.
Mandan Kiwanis Christmas Party and Awards Luncheon
Club: Mandan - Submitted by: Wilfred Volesky

The Mandan Kiwanis Club held their annual Christmas Party and Awards Dinner on Monday, December 7. The Christmas Party was held to help members celebrate Christmas and to present awards to deserving members. Three members were presented with the Legion of Honor award and eleven members were recognized for Perfect Attendance at weekly meetings.

The Kiwanian of the Year award, which is given to a member whose efforts were instrumental in helping the President have a successful year, was presented to Barb Bakken.

The H.G. Vander Vorst Community Builder Award was created to honor Charter Member and Past District Governor H. G. “Van” Vander Vorst in 2004. The award is presented to a non-Kiwanian community volunteer who by their actions and words demonstrate the Kiwanis motto “We Build” while teaching and caring for the youth of our community. This year the award was presented to John Warren who was a Director of Bands and Music Coordinator in the Mandan School District for 33 years.

After award presentations the party attendees sang a number of Christmas Carols in honor of the Christmas season.

NE Kiwanis Holiday Party
Club: Columbia Heights/Fridley - Submitted by: Reily Johnson

A record setting fifteen Fridley High School Key Clubbers and Advisor Bowen assisted at the NE Kiwanis Holiday Party in the Minneapolis Armory on Wednesday, December 12. This annual party is held for challenged children in the metro area. Over 175 children plus their caregivers attended.

Key Clubbers participated in face painting, working carnival games, helping serve lunch, dancing with the children, distributing Santa bags and providing cleanup. The Teddy Bear band made their annual appearance and they were a big hit. Children dragged Key Clubbers onto the floor to sing and dance with them, it was a blast! The young attendees look forward to this event as well as the Key Clubbers.

The festive atmosphere with clowns, cookie monster, U of M mascot, and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus make it an enjoyable event for young and old alike. It was fun to see how easy it is to make a new friend and put a smile on a young child’s face.

Reiley Johnson, Secretary
Fridley High School Key Club
Fridley Builders Club  
Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Mary Bowen

The Fridley Builders Club gathered last week and made 250 Santa door signs for two senior nursing homes in their area. Each student added their own personality to Santa.

The Busiest Month of the Year  
Club: Bismarck - Submitted by: Paul Schadewald

December is always the busiest month of the year for the Bismarck Kiwanis Club. It starts with bell ringing for the Salvation Army at two locations. 22 members participated in this service project this year. The scheduling and some of the ringing was handled by our oldest member, Dr. Herb Wilson.

Bids 4 Kids is our major fundraiser and was held on December 4. Members picked up donations from more than 120 businesses. On auction night our club members plus members from our two Key Clubs – Bismarck High and Legacy High held this television auction. This was our 45th annual auction and it netted about $7000 this year. Brett Mealio and Dennis Kelly coordinated this event and, as usual, it went very well. Thanks to all who helped out this year. Special thanks to KXMB-TV for televising our auction again.

December is also book distribution month at Theodore Jamerson Elementary School. A Reading Is Fundamental grant from our club helps to purchase the books. Members help with the book distribution four times per year at two schools. Thank you Dennis Kelly for scheduling the volunteers every year.

We finished off the month with our annual Christmas luncheon/party. 44 members and their families attended this year. It was a fun event that featured the Bismarck High School Northern Lights Jazz Choir. Roger Wetzel and Sonna Anderson-Saude organized this event. Roger, as usual, provided trivia humor, but was upstaged by 2 five year old twin girls who stole the show and also took home the most candy. Our next major fundraiser is our pancake breakfast in April. We are looking forward to another productive year.
Minot Kiwanis Club works hard this fall for children's charities
Club: Minot - Submitted by: Carla Dolan

Some might say singing in public is a bit embarrassing, or giving up a Saturday to flip pancakes and stand most of the morning is a lot to ask, but the Kiwanis Club of Minot is up for the task and raising money for children's charities at the same time. The group held its annual Pancake Day in October, and in December, wrapped Christmas gifts for Mainstream Boutique downtown, sang Christmas Carols around Minot and ushered at the Lorie Line Concert. The extra work paid off, as the group raised nearly $12,000! Who would have thought that by simply flipping a pancake or singing a song, a child could attend a camp they might not otherwise afford or a student would have something to eat on a weekend while out of school. Sure makes it all worth it!

Rough Rider Country Kiwanis Club
Club: Rough Rider Country-Dickinson - Submitted by: Ninetta Wandler, Past President

Happy New Year! Everyone has been busy with the Christmas season. Wilfred Volesky our Lt. Governor came and installed our officers and talked about the benefits of belonging to a wonderful group such as Kiwanis. Thank you Wilfred for taking the time to visit us. See you in the new year!

Ninetta Wandler Past President

Kiwanis Care and Share
Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby

DeWayne Hayes of Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis is shown assigning routes to drivers of the Annual Care and Share Blue Bag Community Food Drive. Over 8000 pounds of food was donated along with various checks.
Dave Halverson of Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club reads to young children at the Elementary Afterschool Program. Sturgis Golden K Club Satellite sponsors parties quarterly for the students which includes a reading area, game area and craft area.