



Kiwanis

MINNEKOTAN

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January 2018

Welcome to the latest news from around our Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District. In addition to articles by some of district leaders you will also find many interesting articles and photos from Kiwanis Clubs in our district.

As always we encourage clubs to submit news articles about their activities, service projects or fundraisers. To submit an article go the District News on our website and find “News-News Story Submission” page <http://mndak.portalbuzz.com/Page/1013>

This document is a PDF summary of the latest news that can also be found on the district website. If you prefer you can also view all of our news articles directly on the district website. You can search by District, Division or Club and view or print each article individually or as a group. In addition the photos appear in a larger format on the website. Here is a link to the website <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1012>

An archive of current and past MINNEKOTANS can be found on our district website <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1014>

Steve Handegaard
District Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis International

Achieving Club Excellence - 12/31/2017

Submitted by: Dan Leikvold

Now that the holidays have passed, the time of the year has come to put our new year's resolutions into action. Whether it's starting a new project or taking better care of one's health or vowing to travel more or committing to work less and spend more time with family, many of us establish goals that we believe will enhance our lives.



I wish you all the best in setting and keeping your personal goals for 2018. I also wish to ask those of you who have not yet done so to strongly consider setting new goals for your Kiwanis Clubs as well.

We know that over the course of the last two decades, our communities and our surroundings have changed quite a bit. Depending on the make-up of your particular community, you have experienced various degrees of change, including shifts in the types of jobs your community supports, the demographics of our neighbors, the role of the information superhighway, an increase in the competition for people's time, and in the overall needs of our fellow citizens.

The world is changing and service clubs need to set goals that take into consideration how we can best serve our communities given those changes. As Kiwanians, I believe we all need to reflect on these changes and take a closer look at our club practices and procedures and priorities. By doing so, we can enhance and improve upon the great work and service we are doing for our communities.

When was the last time you had a conversation about how your club is doing and how you might improve upon that which you do well and address the things that present opportunities for growth? When was the last time you had meaningful, systematic conversations about the following?

- What is your club's purpose in the community?
- Do some of your members seem disinterested or dissatisfied?
- Is your club losing members?
- How does your club become more visible in the community?
- Is your club's signature service project losing member interest?
- Is your club's annual fundraiser netting less than in the past?
- Does your club have ideas, but no real direction or goals?
- Does your club need ideas about how and how often to recognize individual and club accomplishments?
- Does your club want to increase its capacity to serve the community by adding more members?

No matter how great your club may be, there is always room for improvement. Whether you want to get from good to great or get from barely hanging on back to charter strength, the Achieving Club Excellence tools provided by Kiwanis International can help you assess your club. I believe that all Kiwanis Clubs should undertake this organized and systematic look at the current and future of their club on an annual basis. All of the tools needed for Achieving Club Excellence can be found at <http://www2.kiwanis.org/theformula/strengthen-your-club/achieving-club-excellence>

I strongly encourage you to take some time and do an analysis of your club. It will be well worth your time and effort and will help make your club and the Minn-Dak District stronger.

January Update - 12/30/2017
Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2018!

Member 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>

Tax 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>

2017-2018 Club Insurance Resource Guide: Your club secretary should have received the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018, 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, 2018 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, Division 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.

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/convention/2018>

Online Monthly Club Reporting: Since our online reporting is so very important, I would like to once again review the process for the 17-18 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 18 and Saturday, January 19, 2018.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Convention 2018: Be sure to put the dates of the 2018 District Convention on your calendar. The convention will be held August 10-12, 2018 in Willmar, Minnesota. Plan to attend!

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

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New Calendar Year brings Applications for Scholarships - 12/29/2017

Submitted by: Bill Lardy

The dawning of a new year gets me to thinking of what an exciting time it is for graduating high school seniors as they look forward to completing their high school years and the challenges this change means for their future. For many graduates it means choosing a college as well as how to finance their post-secondary education.



As a Kiwanian in the Minnesota Dakotas District I take great pride in the fact that our Education Foundation each year awards more than \$45000 to more than 50 exceptional students from throughout the District. The \$850 average scholarship gives each recipient a significant amount of help to reduce the overall cost of the first year of post-secondary education. The scholarship can be used in any post-secondary institution within the District.

The Foundation board would very much like to give out more scholarships as well as higher amounts. However, Foundation bylaws limit to using only the income the endowment generates each year. So the size of each year's scholarships are dependent upon the funds interest earnings. To generate more income, the endowments needs more money, and this is where each Kiwanian in the Minnesota Dakotas District help.

I ask each of you to consider making contributions to the Foundation during the year. Please consider becoming a Vantine Fellow with a gift of \$100 or becoming a Joseph Messer Fellow with a gift of \$500. Also, please consider the Foundation when remembering deceased family or friends. You can give these gifts knowing that what you give will continue to give far, far into the future, as the gift itself can never be spent.

As the new year continues keep these ideas in mind and know that what you give will provided benefits to young people each new year as they begin this new stage in their lives.

May 2018 be a fulfilling a profitable year for you, your club, our District and our Foundation.

Enjoy service - 12/29/2017

Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan

I know your club as well as mine is working hard for the Christmas holiday season. Many of you may be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. The new year is nearly upon us. Plans are being made by club leadership to help the children in your community and around the world .



I am very encouraged about how each of you serve the children in your communities. Be sure to think about supplying books to the private church schools as well as the public schools in your local communities. Both Scholastic and Books for Kids have complimentary programs that can be used in conjunction together. Ask me if you are interested in either program and I will help you.

Work with your Key Club and Builders Club on joint projects where possible. Show leadership and comradry to them. Let them know you care. If you have problems getting a Key Club or Builders Club started in the public schools look to the private schools for developing these clubs. They may be more receptive.

Keep your eyes open when you are shopping, eating, hunting or anywhere else for victims of trafficking. If you expect this may be happening get involved. Know the signs of trafficking victims. You do not have to engage with them or their traffickers. Let the authorities know. Get involved.

My family and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Al Vanderlaan

ICON: Las Vegas in Entertainment - 12/29/2017

Submitted by: Courtney Taylor, OTIC Chair

If you can't wait to experience Las Vegas this summer here are a few screened and literary options to immediately spark your Sin City mood.

The Hangover (2009) follows a few friends around town as they try to recover from a wild bachelor party. George Clooney, Brad Pitt, and Matt Damon are just a taste of the cast plotting to simultaneously rob three banks in *Ocean's Eleven* (2001). If you still can't get enough of Elvis Presley, pull out your copy of *Viva Las Vegas* (1964) and turn up the volume for "C'Mon Everybody," "Santa Lucia," and "Do the Vega." If two hours of television isn't enough and you need something to binge-watch your way through the winter season, start with *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* (2000-2015), a drama about solving crimes in Sin City, starring Laurence Fishburne, Marg Helgenberger, and George Eads. Another hit television show is *Pawn Stars* (2009-present), a series about daily activities at the World Famous Gold & Silver Pawn Shop.



In case your new year's resolution was to spend less time in front of a screen and more time reading, here are a few other options. Kathy Ivan's *Lovin' Las Vegas* trio (2017) explores three fictitious stories about finding love at last with the one who got away. To brush up on your history, check out Steve Fischer's *When the Mob Ran Vegas: Stories of Money, Mayhem, and Murder* (2005). You might want to read *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream* (1971) by Hunter S. Thompson before you watch the movie (1998) starring Johnny Depp and Benicio del Toro. Another read-it-before-you-see-it option is *Leaving Las Vegas* by John O'Brien, written in 1990 and filmed in 1995 with Nicolas Cage.

Between episodes and chapters, don't forget to keep an eye on the Kiwanis International website for important updates. All Las Vegas convention resources can be found at <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2018>.

Happy New Year Members Keeping the Old and Adding the New - 12/29/2017

Submitted by: Sharon Scudder

My, where has the year gone? The saying is "Out with the Old and In with the New"----- My saying is for all members "We are keeping the

Old and Adding the New” We have had some great Divisional Meetings in the previous month held by Dave Odette and Loreena Luetgers. They, along with the Division Formula Team Members and Lt. Governors, have discussed what is happening in their divisions and David and Lorena provided tips in strengthening the existing clubs and helping with suggestions to obtain new members.



We have had many inquiries from perspective members through the Kiwanis International website "Find a Club" feature and those inquiries are being referred to the Lt. Governors of the Division as well as the Club Presidents and Secretaries. We want to make sure that the inquiries we receive do not get passed over. Thank you and please follow up on these inquires for potential members or interesting programs.

We have had numerous new members reported to us from Kiwanis International. Be sure to welcome all your new members and keep them coming. Secretaries need to make sure they are reporting all new membership on line so the Clubs are credited for the membership and recognition is given to the sponsoring member. Good Job to all those who have brought in new members.

New Club Building is growing and will mature more as the holidays pass. Theresa Looby and I plan to meet with Lt. Governor Rachael Disrud in Division 2 to initiate some interest in Cold Calling in the areas of West Fargo, Casselton, and Bemidj. All interested in helping in those areas please give me a call at 605-347-7718. Weather permitting I will be working on these areas while traveling to Tri-K District Kiwanis board meeting in Fergus Falls January 18-19.

Tri-K is a chance for our district and division leadership to gain more meaningful information for helping your club excel and succeed. I am looking forward to seeing all Lt. Governors, Lt. Governor Elects and Immediate Past Lt. Governors in Fergus Falls to present a report, hear their thoughts on membership, and present some tips on growth and opening new clubs.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL AND GREAT SUCCESS FOR 2018

Curt Mihm receives Kiwanis International Hixson Award - 12/27/2017

Club: Winona, Sunrisers - Submitted by: Neil Broadwater

(*Winona Daily News*) Curt Mihm received the Kiwanis International George F. Hixson Fellowship Award on Dec. 20 from Winona Kiwanis Sunrisers, LaVern Hauschildt.



Mihm served as the club's chair of the Children's Services Committee for many years and provided leadership for the annual Kiwanis pre-kindergarten and kindergarten reading program project in Winona schools. The award is a way of recognizing people who have contributed significantly to Kiwanis' history of generosity. Mihm read to many children in classrooms over the years, scheduled other Kiwanis members to read and lined up reading books to donate to those children.

The Winona Kiwanis Sunrisers Club meets every Wednesday at 7 a.m. at the Winona Family Restaurant. Kiwanis is a global organization of more than 600,000 members in 89 countries that come together in fellowship and service to the community, with projects emphasizing children. New members are always welcomed. Visit the club's website at kiwaniswinona.org for further information.

Mankato Kiwanis Holiday Lights - 12/27/2017

Club: Mankato - Submitted by: Mary A. Hokanson

Downtown Mankato Kiwanis Holiday Lights enjoyed a wonderful sixth season with enthusiastic community input. The display was open from November 24 to December 31. Some highlights were watching the reindeer, skating on the "pond", listening to music in the Giving Barn, watching the dancing lights, and voting for one of 76 trees decorated by organizations, and driving/walking through the displays.



video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET80HUeNXrw&feature=youtu.be>

Christmas Wrappers - 12/26/2017

Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Christmas wrapping is always a great time of the year for the Fargo South Point Kiwanis members, as its a time to give lots of service, and also create funds for future projects for our club. Shown in the photo is Jeff Swanson our immediate past president of our club, and this is a rare sight to see, as the booth is normally swamped with packages and with wrappers.



We wrap 4 days each year and normally there are 4-5 people in the booth, as the mall creates a location which is excellent for all of us, as its located in the middle of the food court. The Optimists club of Fargo owns the booth, and many organizations help them with this project. Jeff has his bow on and he is ready for the holidays.

Kiwanis Club & St. Aloisius Employees Joined together to sing Christmas Carols in Long Term Care - 12/19/2017

Club: Harvey - Submitted by: Sandy Teubner

Members of the Harvey Kiwanis, together with Zane Zuleger on guitar, sang Christmas carols to the residents in long term care and swing bed at St. Aloisius Medical Center on Tuesday, Dec. 12th. There were also St. Aloisius employees who joined in, which was appreciated as many Kiwanis members were unable to make it. It's fun to see the residents sing along to their favorite carols and tap their fingers to the tunes. The Harvey Elementary 1st grade class walked over to the facility to sing a few songs of their own from their recent school concert for the residents. They also followed Zane over to each unit, caroling as they went. Great to see the resident's delight in seeing the children.



Webster Key Club Week - 12/7/2017

Club: Webster - Submitted by: Kendra Johnson

The Webster Key Club is in a small town in South Dakota, where there are 150 HS students in the school. The Key Club has 27 key

club members and counting. Key Club week took place from November 6th through November 10th. We had an escape room that took place longer than the Key Club week, during homeroom (20 minutes) in school, that fundraised \$96 for UNICEF. To get out of the escape room they needed to gather three words to win, at the end of the fundraising the winner is decided by who got out and what was the fastest time to solve the escape room. We also had Kudos that took place the whole Key Club week, Kudos is a piece of paper that you hand out to someone when you think they did a good thing. On Thursday we served lunch to the students of the Webster School and wore Key Club attire. On Tuesday we had a combined meeting with the Builders Club where we made juice box turkeys for the local nursing home residents. Pictured is Mayor Mike Grosek surrounded by members of the Webster Key Club declaring the week of November 6th-10th as Key Club Week.



Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Recognize 50-Year Members - 12/5/2017
Club: Lake Agassiz, Fargo - Submitted by: Kristi Engelstad

The Lake Agassiz Kiwanis recently recognized five members who have been members of the club for over 50 years.

Doug Larsen, John Wall, Neil Larson, Dick Horst and Don Haug were all presented with pins honoring them for more than 50 years of service in a Kiwanis Club. All five men have been members of the Lake Agassiz Club for over 50 years. Larsen, Wall, Larson, Horst and Haug have volunteered hundreds of hours to improving the lives of children in the Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo communities.



The Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Club was formed in 1959 and is comprised of men and women who are committed to improving the lives of area children and their families. To support the financial contributions given to various youth focused organizations, the Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Club sponsors the Red River Valley Sportsmen's Show and the Boat Show which are held each winter at the Fargodome. To date, the Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Club has raised over \$500,000, which has primarily been dedicated to area youth endeavors. For more information on the Lake Agassiz Kiwanis, please visit their Facebook page.

