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
Kiwanis Leaders Wanted - 2/28/2019
Submitted by: Dave Harms

This has been an exciting month for Kiwanis in the MN/DAK District!! First of all a number of clubs have been picking up a few members. The Kiwanis Blitz Team was in Bloomington the week of the 18th and there is now a new club opened in Bloomington, MN with 17 members. All of this was happening during the snowiest February in recorded Minnesota Weather History. I want to both thank and congratulate the Division 7 Lt Governor team, Sherry Scudder, District Club Builder, and those club members that made this happen. I attended the Circle K DCON in Fergus Falls and saw some energetic and hard working young future Kiwanians at work. Kiwanis future looks bright gauging by those young men and women.

We have some important events coming up. First thing I want to mention is the Lt Governor Training. We are aiming to have our Lieutenant Governor teams full with names not later than March 10 so that our Instructors can order materials for the 2019 - 2020 Lt Governor Teams class which commences at noon on April 26, 2019.

Finally we need to keep in mind that our International Convention in Orlando is getting closer. Registration is open. For those planning to attend the first date to remember is April 5. Prices go up after that date. Check it out online. There are education classes available before the convention kicks off but they need to be signed up for separately. Our own District convention is in August and is going to be held in Fargo, North Dakota. Please consider coming and having a good time. This will be a great late summer get away, close to Lake Country. We’d love to see you there.

Last of all I have a request to the Club Secretaries and leadership. It is important to know if we are on track with our district goals, so even if we still have some time to go in the Kiwanis year, please let us know if there are additions to the membership rolls or deletions. Thank you for your work and for making good things happen for our kids and for Kiwanis. The Key Club DCON will be in Willmar, Minnesota the week-end of March 9.

If you would like to be a Leader in Kiwanis, your community and in a position to help make difference in some young lives, Kiwanis is the place for you.
March Update - 2/27/2019
Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

Lt. Governor Team Candidates: We are still in need of Lt. Governor Team Candidates for 2019-2020 in some divisions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place on April 26-28 in Fergus Falls.

Member contact information: Remember that members can update their own contact information and other information that is on record with the Kiwanis International database. If your email address or regular mailing address changes you can go at any time and make those updates on your record. Just go to the following link. If you do not have a password you will be asked to create one. Give it a try. See if your information is up to date. Here is the link to the login page www.kiwanis.org/login

District Kiwanis Convention: Mark your calendars….the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention will be held August 9-11, 2019 in Fargo, ND. All clubs should be represented at this annual convention.

Club Officer Changes: If for some reason there is a change in your club president or secretary at any time during the year, be sure that your club promptly informs Kiwanis International and the District Office. These changes should entered online by the club secretary. Your club may miss out on important communications if we do not have the correct contact information.

Club Elections: Just another reminder that your club election report for 2019-2020 will be due June 1st. The annual election of club officers should be done at the club annual meeting as specified in the Standard Club Bylaws. Club secretaries submit the report on their club secretary dashboard.

Kiwanis International Convention in Orlando, Florida, June 27-June 29, 2019: Remember the price of registration increases after April 5th, so if you planning to go register now. Be sure to check the convention schedule so that you arrive in time for all of the important events and activities.

Kiwanis Clubs in good standing are allowed to designate two representatives to the House of Delegates. Of course, you do not need to be a delegate to attend, everyone is welcome! Information and online registration forms can be found on the Kiwanis International convention website. https://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2019/plan-your-convention-trip

International Convention Delegate Certification: Besides registering, be sure to report your club’s two International Convention delegates and two alternates to the International Office by April 30. For the first time this year clubs can submit their Delegate Certification form online. Club secretaries,
assistant secretaries and club presidents can now login to www.kiwanis.org/login, access their dashboards and report their voting delegates online.

**Lt. Governor Education:** The Lt. Governor Education Conference for the 2019-2020 Lt. Governor Teams will be held April 26-28 in Fergus Falls.

**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

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**District Governor-Elect Candidate Announcement - 2/27/2019**
<br>Submitted by: David Odette

I am David Odette from the Thief River Falls Kiwanis Club and I would like to be considered as a candidate for the upcoming August Minnesota-Dakotas District Election of the 2019/20 District Governor Elect.

Kiwanis has been a part of my life for the last forty years when asked to attend a meeting for a free breakfast by a couple of business acquaintances. The meetings were friendly and informative with community speaker programs, an opportunity to meet others, plus the value of being involved in the community service the Club accomplished. My membership experiences were nurtured by the Club leadership by working on some community projects and over a few years a Committee Chair, Board member, Secretary-Treasurer and President.

After serving as Club President I focused on supporting our local Club projects for several years. Then while attending a Division Conference I was asked by the then Governor and Governor Elect to
consider being the Lt Governor for Division 2. My decision to take on the Lt Governor position launched me into learning more about the Kiwanis organization and the responsibilities of the Division and District to its Clubs and members as well as meeting other Kiwanian members and learning about their Club activities.

While visiting clubs as a Lt. Governor I experienced the diversity of how clubs maintained the Kiwanis mission of serving but adopted this in so many ways to support their communities. But some clubs were struggling and needed more Division and District support. About this time Kiwanis International announced the Formula Program to address this need. I volunteered to receive the training for Club Strengthening which I have been involved in for the past five years serving the last few years as the District Vice-Chair of the Formula Program with the program sunset last October 1st. I am currently serving as the Vice Chair of the District Membership and Engagement with my focus on supporting our existing clubs. I have served on several District Convention Committees and have conducted a number of Forums at past District Conventions as part of the Formula Program.

Thanks to my wonderful wife Paulette of forty-five years and children Elizabeth and Kevin for their support of my volunteer activities. They share in my love for Kiwanis as both Kevin and Elizabeth were Key Club members and Elizabeth is a member and past President of the Minneapolis Downtown Club.

Over the years as I have been involved with several other organizations serving on the local United Way Board and a term as President, served in multiple positions in the Boy Scout Program from the local unit to the District levels. As a member of Civil Air Patrol on the local level I helped to establish a Composite Squadron in Thief River Falls and served as a Mission Pilot, Minnesota Flight Academy Commander, Minnesota Group One Commander, Minnesota Wing Vice Commander and Minnesota Interim Wing Commander. Currently I am serving as the Minnesota Wing Homeland Security Officer and qualified as a Civil Air Patrol Incident Commander at the National level. My aviation interest has led me to serve on the Thief River Falls Airport Advisory Committee. I am involved in our local Church as a lay minister and currently working as part of the Church building committee.

For the past thirty-one years I have worked for Digi-Key Electronics in Thief River Falls. Digi-Key is the eighth largest global electronics parts distributor serving over 160 countries with over 3800 employees. My responsibilities over the years have covered several areas of the business from development, implementation and management of purchasing systems, development of competitive resale pricing systems, Inventory management control and currently involved with financial inventory asset management.

My vision for the Minnesota-Dakotas District is one of the District and Division leadership being
actively available to mentor each Club to be very successful in their communities with quality programs, bring to its members the highest altruistic satisfaction of Kiwanis accomplishment. For our new Clubs a similar altruistic starting point and development of a vision of future accomplishments.

I ask for your support and vote at the 2019 District Convention to elect me Minnesota-Dakotas District Governor Elect for 2019/20 and thank you for all the support you have given me in my past Kiwanis positions.

K-Kids - The Future of Kiwanis - 2/26/2019
Submitted by: Theresa Looby

Our K-Kids are the future members, leaders and volunteers in our communities. The leadership skills they learn in the lessons and planning of their activities teaches traits that society searches for in their leaders. Volunteering is learned in working on their projects as well as assisting with the sponsoring Clubs projects and other community activities.

The children enjoy their activities. Everyone should visit a K-Kids Club Meeting. It is an experience! The children are having fun as they plan their activities while applying the leadership, organizational and sharing skills learned.

The Advisors of K-Kids Clubs are special teachers, parents and Kiwanians giving of their time to share their expertise with the children. These dedicated adults live the qualities Kiwanis wishes to instill in the K-Kids. We thank them for their willingness to serve as role models and teachers of our children.

We look forward to many K-Kids Clubs being organized and chartered in the near future.

Theresa Looby
District K-Kids Administrator
tnl2438@gmail.com
605 490 8698
Marching in a New Club - 2/26/2019  
Submitted by: Sharon Scudder

The weather has not been very cooperative for our membership contacts. However, we need to applaud the efforts and success of opening a New Club in Division 7. We were fortunate to have Jay Hubbard, Rogena Woods Mitchell, Brad Boyd, Governor Dave Harms, Lt. Governor Todd Levig, Lt. Governor Elect Steven Forseth, Past Lt. Governor Randy Schmidt, working on the ground in Bloomington to make Cold, Cold calls to seek new MEMBERS FOR THE BLOOMINGTON CLUB. They braved the snow and were successful. Theresa Looby and I were stuck in Sturgis and Rapid City due to bad road conditions but helped with phone calls and setting up appointments. We also had a gentlemen by the name of Ralph, who helped by driving to appointments and kudos to Steven Hadt, Kiwanis International, for doing a great with the publicity, brochures, printed invitations, etc. It definitely was a team effort and it paid off by adding a new Club to Division 7. Welcome to the new Bloomington Club with President Stephanie Fetzer and Secretary, Gail Heyda.

CONGRATULATIONS to clubs with new members. They are listed below:

**Division 1**
- Devils Lake. Dawn Merten. Debra Shanks
- Devils Lake Amber Stokke. Sponsor unknown
- Jamestown. Lucas Holsten. Sandy Franke

**Division 3**
- Chisholm. Craig LiaBraaten. Sponsor unknown

**Division 4**
- Rapid City. Brendan Murphy. Michael Beason
- Sturgis Golden K. Veronica Grosek. Bill Atyeo

**Division 5**
- Aberdeen. Rachael Gilbertson. Sponsor unknown

**Division 6**
- Day Breakers Albert Lea Dennis Lowe. Darryl Meyer
- Day Breakers Albert Lea Bruce Buboltz. Catherine Buboltz
- Albert Lea. Melissa Doppelhammer. Leo Osbeck

**Division 7**
Bloomington. 17 new Members

Thanks to Dave and Loreena for sponsoring the membership conference calls this week to help update the membership issues and strengths in each Division. Lt Governors are doing a great job.

KEEP MARCH FORWARD THIS MONTH TO GET NEW MEMBER TO HELP THE KIDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Builders Club Wins National Poster Contest - 2/26/2019
Submitted by: Nancy Cornell District Builders Club Administrator

Congratulations to the Kingsland Jr. High Builders Club for winning first place for the Best Poster for Club Recruitment. The poster was designed by Josh Meskill and Reilly Lawson and used a Lego block theme. The winning club receives a $100 shopping spree for supplies from the Kiwanis warehouse. The club plans to use the money to buy prizes for an all 7th and 8th grade activity night that they are sponsoring with student council this Spring. The Kingsland Jr. High Builders Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley, Minnesota.

There are five more opportunities for Builders Clubs to win awards before the end of the school year. The five are: Annual Achievement Report, Kiwanis Children’s Fund Leadership Award, Distinguished Club Officers, Distinguished Advisors, and Best Scrapbook. All entries are due by May 1, 2019. Go to www.buildersclub.org and click on contests for rules.

If your Kiwanis Club isn’t sponsoring a Builders Club, please consider doing so. There is still plenty of time to start the process. Go to www.kiwanis.org/charter. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at nancyc2@centurytel.net or 507-345-2044.
**Changes to District By-Laws - 2/26/2019**  
*Submitted by: Denis Cornell, District Director of Administration*

Any club, by a majority vote of its active members, may submit a proposed by-law change to be considered at any convention of the district. Any proposed change must be submitted to the District Secretary-Treasurer not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the convention. The 2019 Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention will be held August 8-11, 2019 in Fargo, ND. Any proposed by-law change must be submitted to Steve Handegaard, MN-DAK District, Secretary-Treasurer, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324-0735, no later than June 9, 2019.

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**2019 Division Star Awards - 2/26/2019**  
*Submitted by: Denis Cornell, District Director of Administration*

The annual Division Star Award is an excellent vehicle for clubs to recognize the exemplary service of members for recognition during the district convention. One club nominee is selected from each division as the Division Star. Clubs must submit Division Star Award nominations to their Lt. Governor no later than April 1st and Lt. Governors must submit the Division Star Award selectee to the District Secretary-Treasurer no later than May 1st. It is critical that these deadlines be met to allow for plaques to be acquired and for the Division Star Award program to be printed.

The division recipient should be notified and encouraged to attend the district convention. The recipient’s club is encouraged to pay the expenses of the award recipient to attend the district convention.

The Division Star Award Criteria and the Nomination Form are available on the MN-DAK web site, [http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/), click on Menu and scroll down to Awards.

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**District Convention - Save the Date! - 2/26/2019**
**March Partnership Highlights** - 2/26/2019  
*Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Partnership Coordinator*

**Avis Budget Group**  
Avis Budget Group is one of the world’s best-known car rental brands, operating Avis Car Rental, Budget Car Rental, Budget Truck Rental, Zipcar and Payless Car Rental. Avis and Budget have more than 11,000 locations in 180 countries with 620,000 vehicles. The Avis brand has a long history of innovation in the car rental industry and is one of the world’s top brands for customer loyalty.

Members will receive up to 25 percent off Avis and Budget base rates and other varying coupon offers, including free upgrade, free weekend day and additional discounted weekly rentals. Avis Budget will also have occasional limited time offers and other promotional support. Members will receive a minimum 5 percent discount off the lowest available discountable rate when using the assigned discount number in Canada and a maximum 20 percent discount in Europe and other international locations.

Avis offers a variety of services to increase value, including outside-airport locations, counter by-pass, e-Toll, e-Receipt, long-term rentals, GPS and the industry-leading Avis mobile application, which allows customers to control every detail of their rental.

**Protect America**  
Kiwanis International has partnered with Protect America, a leading provider of wireless home security in North America. Protect America offers home security systems that use wireless technology. Homeowners can download apps to their smartphones, giving them control of and access to the protection system.
Protect America has secured more than 500,000 homes and is rated No. 1 by BestCompany.com and has been rated a Consumers Digest Best Buy for the past five years. The partner benefit will be available to Kiwanis members in the United States and North America.

Minn-Dak Circle K 58th DCON - 2/26/2019
Submitted by: NaTya Arndt

Hello! February 22nd through Feb. 24th, 2019, Minnesota-Dakotas Circle K International held our 58th DCON in Fergus Falls, MN! It was quite the success with a total of 60 members attending with Kiwanians, Advisors, and District Kiwanis guests. Friday began with openers that allowed everyone to get to know one another. Awards were due that evening and were approved to be given the next day during supper.

On Saturday, our 60 attendees were able to help the Fergus Falls YMCA for 2 hours. We helped clean, organize, and perform other general tasks. They were very grateful because of a lack of recent staffing that didn't allow for the deep-cleaning that they truly desired for their facility. We also elected our new District Board for the upcoming 2019-2020 year. District Governor is Jackson Traas, the District Secretary/Treasurer is Noah Siem, District Bulletin Editor Jessie Ernster, Rolling Plains LTG is Trentin Russel, Dakota Stars LTG is Josi Minor, North Star LTG is Hannah Spargur. That evening we had a Keynote speaker from the Concordia Club in the Rolling Plains District, speaking about resilience and the ability to continue in the face of difficulty. We concluded the busy day with a Willy Wonka themed dance.

On Sunday, we concluded DCON and began our journeys across the three states.

Kiwanis Children's Fund - 2/26/2019
Submitted by: Kathy Welle

Is everyone enjoying this record snowy month of February? Spring is three weeks away and Daylight Savings starts on March 10th.
Better days ahead!!
It helps to think SPRING and no snowbanks!! Even though the snow makes very scenic pictures – spring is good!!

Is the "Kids" dollar competition promoted and still ongoing with your club members? It will be fun to see what we will have accomplished by next August for the MN-Dak District Convention in Fargo.

How is your club challenge doing? One of our members brought 13 "K" dollars that she collected over the weekend visiting relatives, to our Kiwanis meeting last week. Each month we have a member who volunteers to match the "K" dollars collected as happy dollars during the month.

Try to set a goal for the match. It's a challenge to check the One Dollar bills to find the "K" and share your challenge goal with family and friends. It's amazing how addicting it can be to keep looking for the dollar bills with a “K.”

(This matching challenge was used with the Eliminate Project from 2000 to 2015 in our club. We made sure that we collected $100.00 each month to be matched by the volunteer of the month. The Club Pledge was achieved and we had a lot of fun too.)

Just a confirmation - The District application has been submitted for the 15% rebate for the 2017-2018 total fund contributed to the CHILDREN’S FUND.. The last report I received, the District Rebate should be $4817.00.

Pass it on #KidsNeedKiwanis

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Service - 2/26/2019
Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan

Kiwanians, At our Midwinter meeting in January the MnDak District leadership discussed ways we as a district could help members and clubs who committed financial help to the Eliminate project but
have not completed their commitments. There may be many reasons these commitments weren’t completed. Financial positions may have changed, or some Kiwanians may have passed away. Do we as a District want to fulfill our total commitment?

At our Midwinter meeting we discussed one way to help meet this commitment would be to do a collection of slightly used shoes. We spoke with Funds2Orgs who works in this area and thought this may be one way to help. As we looked into this program we discovered that doing the project on the District level could be challenging especially if we need to collect shoes and have them picked up in centralized locations throughout the total District.

One way to solve this problem is to start out in one location the first year. Starting out on a smaller scale could be more manageable. Would one Division or a few cities be willing to take on this challenge the first year?

Kiwanians, if you are willing to take on this first year challenge let me know. I will get you in touch with the Funds2Orgs contact Tom Henderson. He will help you along the way and get you all the things you need to succeed. They have great coaches. Thanks for your help to serve the children and their mothers in third world countries.

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**Division Six Spring Conference - 2/26/2019**

*Submitted by: Sharon Taylor*

We are getting closer to the Division Six Spring Conference to be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Mankato City Center Hotel in Mankato. We are planning a great day for you all! So please register now. Make it a Weekend Getaway and get a special $89 hotel rate!

10 **Conference Opportunities** (in no particular order):
1. Have your voice heard as we discuss the proposal to divide Division 6.
2. Our 2018-2019 Governor David Harms will be in attendance.
3. Six outstanding speakers and presenters!
4. Have fun learning how you can make your club and community even better.
5. Raffle and prizes!
6. Meet Kiwanians you might not otherwise get to meet- it’s all about connections.
7. Meet and hear John Harrington, one the young men, who in the 1980 Olympics, played in the hockey game dubbed the Miracle on Ice. Be inspired!
8. Bring a bed pillow! We will collect pillows to give to a local family shelter, Connections Ministries. Imagine not being able to lay your head on a pillow at night. How high can we make our pillow pile?
9. Make it a Weekend Getaway! Mankato has lots to offer.
10. Fellowship. Spread your love to your Kiwanis sisters and brothers.

For information and registration form contact:
Your Division 6 Lt. Governor Leader Team
Sharon Taylor, Lt. Governor - sjtaylor@hickorytech.net
Dee Emmerich, Past Lt. Governor - demmer8@aol.com

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**Marshall Area Kiwanis Donates to New Playground Equipment Project - 2/25/2019**

*Club: Marshall Area - Submitted by: Renee Suby*

Kiwanis Club of Marshall Area donated $3,000 to the City of Marshall to contribute to new playground equipment/installation at Legion Park. The City is expecting to install the new equipment in Spring/Summer 2019. Pictured from left to right: Trista Link (New Horizons Crisis Center), Gabe Pieper (Club Secretary), Preston Stensrud (City of Marshall), Renee Suby (Club President), Jeff Nuese (Bremer Insurance), Jana Reilly (Keller Williams Preferred Realty/Jana Reilly Home Team), Andrew Suby (State Farm Insurance-Andrew Suby, Agent), and Erik Vogel (SMSU Foundation). — with Trista DeJong Link, Gabe Pieper, Preston Stensrud, Renee Suby, Jeff Nuese, Jana Reilly, Andrew Suby, Bremer Bank, Jana Reilly Home Team Keller Williams Preferred Realty, Andrew Suby - State Farm Insurance Agent and Southwest Minnesota State Mustangs.

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**SWMS vistas Mt View Care Center - 2/25/2019**

*Club: Sturgis 321 - Submitted by: Niel Hinek*

On Feb 13 the SWMS Builders Club had decided as a group to take valentines to Mt View Care Center. During their visit they had an opportunity to visit and sing to the residents. The members found
this to be a very good leaning situation to interact and learn from the residents.

Niel Hinek
Advisor

Submitted by: Colleen Eggerichs for Jan Anderson

Kiwanis Family Day at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

What better way to exemplify our Kiwanis motto of “Serving the Children of the World” than for our Kiwanis family to partner with Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in a concerted packing effort. FMSC is a non-profit organization whose volunteer-packed meals are sent to over 70 countries. The meals consist of vitamins, veggies, soy, and rice, and provide much-needed sustenance to many impoverished areas. On February 16, 2019, the Anoka Area Kiwanis Club of Anoka, MN, hosted at least four other clubs from the Division Seven North area, including Columbia Heights-Fridley, Northeast Minneapolis, North Suburban St. Paul, and Stillwater, plus the Kiwanis student-sponsored Key Clubs of Anoka, Andover, Fridley, Roseville, the Builders Club of AMSA, Anoka Middle School for the Arts, one K-Kids club, and one representative from the Circle K Club at the U of M. It truly was inspiring to see the spirited endeavor of so many different age groups. In less than two hours, we managed to pack 217 boxes, approximately 47,000 meals, enough to feed 128 children one meal a day for a year. This particular shipment was ear-marked for Haiti where there has been so much unrest and upheaval.

Also in attendance were Todd Levig, our Lieutenant-Governor, and Dale Bowen, secretary of our Region 7. This was the second collaborative Kiwanis packing event at FMSC in a year, and took place at the Coon Rapids site. Building on the very visible enthusiasm, we will hopefully do it again next year. Mark your calendars for around February 15, and watch for further information. As Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Great programs are what makes good meetings - 2/21/2019  
Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Cheese please.

Great programs make every Kiwanis meeting that much better. We have all said the words, “say cheese,” just as we snap a picture. At this week’s Kiwanis meeting the members of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club were treated to a catering presentation by Megan Lewis. Megan specializes in cheese type catering, and also had a wonderful knowledge of cheese, both in the making of cheese and also serving, storing, and eating the various cheeses that are available.

One trivia question, “how many kinds of cheese are there?” She could not answer that, but pointed out that there are over 2300 cheeses produced in Wisconsin.

More Ukes For More Schools - 2/21/2019  
Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

More ukuleles were donated to another elementary school in Fargo by the members of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club. McKinley Elementary School was the recipient of five student ukes, and one instructor uke.

Five additional ukes were also donated to Bennett, and Jefferson schools. Bennett and Jefferson schools had each received 5 student and one instructor instrument.
As the students indicate in the photo, this program is a hit.
Nine members of the recently formed St. Cloud Kiwanis Aktion Club were officially inducted to membership. The St. Cloud Aktion Club is a chartered Kiwanis club of Kiwanis International. St. Cloud Kiwanis club president, Cathy Wogen (photo top row, second from left), conducted the induction ceremony. Aktion club officers seated at the table are from left, Kevin C., president; Connie O., secretary, Brett R., vice president; and standing far right, Tessa M., treasurer.

The St. Cloud Kiwanis club and WACOSA have collaborated to form the Aktion club. WACOSA is a nonprofit organization in the St. Cloud, MN area that serves over 650 adults with disabilities providing programs for personal life enrichment, employment and career options, and volunteering and community connection opportunities.

The Kiwanis Aktion Club is the only service club for adults with disabilities. The mission of Aktion club is to provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their communities.

St. Cloud Kiwanis Aktion club meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 10 AM preceding the St. Cloud Kiwanis club meeting. WACOSA employees, Stephanie Nelson and Becki Peterson, along with intern Bri Kucera serve as club advisors. Carrie Peterson, Fund Development Manager for WACOSA and a member of the St. Cloud Kiwanis club, serves as a liaison between the St. Cloud Kiwanis club and the Aktion club and was instrumental in forming the Aktion club.

The Kiwanis Aktion Club has kicked-off a February fundraiser to raise money to purchase fabric to make fleece tie blankets for the kittens and cats at the Tri-County Humane Society. To raise funds, the club put together 42 packets of hot cocoa mix to sell during the month of February.

Tessa, the Aktion Club treasurer stated, “I love being part of something to help our community.”
The “2019 LEAF Charitable Giving” award was presented to the St. Cloud Kiwanis Club at the LEAF annual meeting on February 11, 2019. LEAF stands for the Local Education & Activities Foundation for St. Cloud Area School District 742. In the photo, Cathy Wogen, president of the St. Cloud Kiwanis Club, accepts the award from Bruce Hentges, LEAF executive director.

The Kiwanis Club was recognized for significant contributions to education in District 742 through the club’s support of LEAF. Hentges stated, “The Kiwanis Club’s generous donations to LEAF have not only provided great support to the PAKRAT Child Literacy and Parent involvement program but have also supported the purchase of classroom supplies through the LEAF adopt a classroom project.” Hentges also expressed his appreciation to Ralph Searles, Kiwanis Club treasurer, for his long-term support of LEAF.

Cathy Wogen noted in her acceptance of the award the Kiwanis Club’s appreciation to LEAF for including the Summer PAKRAT Roll and Read bus in the Club’s annual Memorial weekend “Bike-Trike-Wagon-Walk & Roll” parade event. Students who attend the parade event are able to tour the bus and learn about the opportunity to check out favorite books from the library on the bus when it comes to their neighborhood. Wogen also recognized the following District 742 educators who are members of the club: Gary Ganje, Executive Director of Operations, and school principals Kate Flynn, Charlie Eisenreich, and Al Johnson.

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**Coon Rapids Kiwanis Signature Project - 2/18/2019**  
*Club: Coon Rapids - Submitted by: Edward Nieman, Club Secretary*

After several years of Coon Rapids Kiwanis members repairing bikes in a garage for a Christmas give-away to Toys for Joy of the Christmas Committee at the Anoka County Armory, it was decided to form a separate organization. Bikes4Kids began with a meeting on April 20, 2011 at the Red Ox Café in Ham Lake convened by Al Sannerud. Present at that first meeting were Lowell Kutches, Al Sannerud, Lewis Peterson, Greg Andre, Leroy Curwick, Byron Dokken, Edward Nieman, Dick Cleveland, and Norm Dahl. These were present or former Kiwanis members, avid bikers, and/or avid supporters of non-profits and people in the community.
170 bikes had been gotten from Micheal’s Bikes of St. Paul and put on Al’s farm. The original mission statement was “Bob Burbach’s Bikes for Kids collects and refurbishes used bicycles to redistribute to needy people.” The official name recorded with the state as a 501 © (3) non-profit organization was Robert and Wilma Burbach Bike Foundation of MN, Inc. Bob had been an avid biker and had collected bikes and sent them overseas to CEBU, Philippines.

The purpose of Bikes4Kids included that each bike is repaired, inspected, and given away with a helmet, lock, and safety instructions. The recipients are selected by county social services and other institutions.

Early on Trailhead Bike Shop became a partner by providing training, tools, and donating bikes. Later Pioneer and Ramsey bike shops also donated bikes. Recycle Centers, police departments, and individuals have become sources of bike donations.

Shop space began in Al’s horse barn and has expanded into his cow barn. There are presently five work stations for repairing and cleaning bikes. Workdays began as Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00-12:00 but have expanded to every day of the week and into afternoon and some evening hours.

The first give-a-way of repaired bikes was in December of 2011 with 116 bikes to the Christmas Committee at the Anoka Armory, 29 bikes to Faith Lutheran Church Giving Tree, 75 bikes to North Anoka County, and 9 bikes to Free-To-Be. In January, 2012 the need began to expand from children’s bikes to adult bikes. 10 adult bikes were needed at the Red Owl building, YMCA, and District 11. The number of bikes repaired increased about 200 per year. We celebrated reaching the 1,000 bike mark with an event in the Shop on December 27th, 2017. In 2018 there were 4,205 bikes donated to us with 1,203 repaired and 1,141 delivered.

The budget has increased from $3,786 income and $2,871 expenses in 2012 to $90,421.07 income and $77,112.27 expenses in 2018. Five Kiwanis members have stayed in the leadership of Bikes4Kids and put in a total of 100 volunteer hours per month. There are 50 volunteers involved in Bikes4Kids.

Thank you notes like the following make the many hours of Kiwanis members and friends all worthwhile:

Bikes4Kids
Thank you for your gift of 2 bikes for our Anoka-Hennepin School district family. These bikes will need.
bring joy & healthy play to two of our students but they are so much more than that. You have given a father the means to provide a gift his children wants. You are showing him our community cares. The pride and dignity your gift gives to this family is not something you can measure. Of course we are so grateful for the beautiful bikes and helmets, but your ability to make a Christmas miracle happen fills us with joy. Thank you! We hope you have a very Happy New Year!

--The Hope office
Kate
Thank you, Jessica

Bikes4Kids continues to be the largest item on our Coon Rapids Kiwanis budget with $1,500 up to $5,000 given in different years.

Feed My Starving Children - 2/18/2019
Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Vanessa Lor

On Saturday February 16th about 90 people from the Kiwanis K-Family came out to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids to participate in packing bags of nutritious food for children and families in need. The Fridley Key Club packed the most boxes, we packed 36 boxes which is equivalent to one full pallet. By the end of the day there were 217 boxes packed, 46,872 meals, and with those meals 128 kids will be fed for a year! The Fridley Key Club had a great time helping out with Feed My Starving Children and are ready to take on future events like this.

Fridley Middle School Builders Club, Student Council participate in Night of Service - 2/14/2019
Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Ethan Andler, 7th Grade, Fridley Middle School

Always willing to lend a helping hand, the Fridley Middle School (FMS) Builders Club and Student Council participated in a Night of Service on January 24, 2019. An annual tradition, a Night of Service involved over 30 students from both clubs who participated in various service projects to benefit the school and the surrounding
To help out their own school, the students worked with their grade-level classmates to clean their teacher’s classrooms. Each grade used a cart full of cleaning supplies and was responsible for cleaning their grades’ classrooms - from wiping down desks, cleaning windows and door handles, to sweeping the floor and dusting.

Students also participated in activities to assist those in the Fridley community. This year, the Builders Club and Student Council partnered with the Simpson Housing Services - Bell House. The organization helps thousands of people who are homeless to find housing, support and shelter.

Students put together sandwiches to donate to the shelter and worked together to create 20 tie-fleece blankets. Students chose to donate these items as an act of kindness, to serve as a reminder that everyone is cared about and supported.

FMS 7th grade student Anna Nordin said she enjoyed contributing her afternoon to a Night of Service. “It was a good learning experience,” said Nordin. “It’s good to help the community and do something productive with my time.”

FMS 7th grade student Ethan Andler said he likes to help out whenever he can. “I like to participate because many people will use these items and benefit from the things that we made. It was a fun experience and made me feel good because I know that these items are needed.” Fellow student 7th grader Sam Meisner echoed Andler’s views. “It’s really fun, and I like helping my community,” he said. FMS Builders Club and Student Council advisors Stephanie Sharpe, Sarah Bennek, Blair Berger, and Mary Bowen arranged the afternoon’s activities. According to Bowen, students learn a great deal from partaking in activities to help others.

“It is a great opportunity for our students to take pride in themselves, as well as their school, community and fellow workers,” said Bowen. “They gain experience working as a team, taking turns with the different jobs. And at the end, when they viewed the clean classrooms, tied-fleece blankets and nicely made sandwiches, it was obvious that they were thrilled at what they accomplished and that it was all towards a good cause. I’m so proud that our Fridley students take such pride in these tasks.”
Embracing the viewpoint that “one should count one’s blessings and make one’s blessings count”, members of the Kiwanis Club of South Sioux Falls focused on putting this attitude into practice again during the 2018 holiday season.

For the past several years, South Sioux Kiwanians have championed the “Adopt a Family…(or Five)..for Christmas” as their signature project. Each December, representatives of Kiwanis kindness brighten the holidays for families in our community who are going through some challenging life circumstances and financial stress – and we are doubly blessed in return. In 2018 we were able to bring hope and joy to five individual family units.

This year’s families hailed from households that were under the radar of traditional helping ministries in our community. The heads of our 2018 families were hard-working, humble parents who were struggling to find the resources to “fund” Christmas while simultaneously trying to meet daily living expenses. South Sioux Kiwanians were blessed to help.

A Kiwanis member or two met each individual parent(s) at Walmart at a time that was mutually convenient. The shopper was informed that (s)he had $500 to spend on whatever would make the holidays happy and less stressful for them and their family. The only restrictions were 1) the funds could NOT be used to purchase alcohol or cigarettes AND 2) each adult must purchase at least one thing for him and/or herself. Kiwanis’ intention was to provide Christmas for each family – not just the children.

Kiwanis members did not shop with the recipient adults. Cell phone numbers were exchanged, and the shopper(s) were instructed to call the hosting Kiwanis member approximately ten-minutes prior to completing their shopping. Typically those calls came about two-hours after the Kiwanian and shoppers first met.

After the phone call, the parties re-met at a designated check stand. The shopping adults were asked to show the Kiwanians what each had selected as gifts for him and/or herself, and then the items were placed on the belt, rung up, and bagged. Kiwanis paid the bill. Almost without exception, the items selected reflect more essentials than luxuries: cold medicine, personal care products, food, socks, underwear, pillows, blankets, anti-freeze, brooms, rugs, towels, and vitamins made regular appearances in the carts.
Inevitably, tears, hugs, and repeated expressions of gratitude and holiday wishes were exchanged. This is Christmas in its purest form. The parents have the joy and dignity of selecting what will bless their holidays; and our judgment and pre-conceived opinions aren’t imposed upon them. It truly IS more blessed to give than receive.

**Christmas tree pickup successful - 2/1/2019**  
*Club: Winona, Sunrisers - Submitted by: Neil Broadwater*

The Winona Sunrisers club had another successful annual Christmas Tree pickup on Saturday, January 12th gathering 550 trees from the street corners in the cities of Winona, Goodview and area. The club had nearly 100 volunteers who helped. Volunteers included members of the WSHS National Honor Society, Sugar Loaf District Boy Scouts Gamehaven Council, Kiwanis club members and those who donated the use of trucks and trailers. Trees that were picked up were taken to the Winona Farm just outside of Winona and to the City of Goodview for disposal. The group gathered at the City of Winona's Lake Park Lodge for orientation, coffee, hot chocolate and donuts before leaving to pick up the trees. The volunteers returned to the lodge for pizza and drinks after making their rounds. The club also received $210 in cash donations which will be used for carrying out our mission of serving the children of the Winona area. Next year’s date is set for Saturday, January 11th. Club member Tom Reeck organized this event as he has for many years.

**Lake Agassiz Kiwanis 2019 Boat Show - 2/1/2019**  
*Club: Lake Agassiz, Fargo - Submitted by: Kristi Engelstad*

The Lake Agassiz Kiwanis had a very successful 2019 Boat Show!

The Boat Show and the Sportsmen's Show are our club’s two main fundraisers; it takes every single club member to make the shows successful! We are proud of the relationship we have with Cenaiko Productions and how much they help us give back to kids in our community!