International President Daniel Vigneron and his visit to MNDAK - 3/31/2020
Submitted by: Rachael Disrud

We regret to inform you that today, March 31, Daniel Vigneron informed us he will not be able to visit MNDAK due to restricted travel and personal contact between Europe and USA through April and perhaps longer. The news is disappointing but predictable. We are living under disappointing conditions at this time.

If he can reschedule at a later date, he will and we will be delighted!

Thank you for the preparations you have helped make! Your enthusiasm was a delightful experience and appreciated.
Please take care and communicate with each other through technology and in safe ways that allows emotional connections and friendships.

Thank you.
Rachael Disrud, District Governor

Steve Handegaard, Secretary/Treasurer MNDAK 2005-2020 - 3/31/2020
Submitted by: Rachael Disrud

It is with a sense of gratitude and, at the same time, a sense of sadness that we say “see you soon” to Steve Handegaard. Steve has chosen to retire March 31, 2020. Steve has served as Secretary Treasurer of MNDAK since April 1, 2005.
We are not saying ‘goodbye.’ Steve is an active member and leader of the noon club in Fergus Falls, MN. Steve has served with 15 Governors plus past governors, boards and Leadership teams. Steve and his wife Laura have gone to conventions each year and Steve has attended all trainings that are available to Secretary Treasurers. Laura has volunteered to take minutes at MNDAK board and leadership meetings through the years. We have enjoyed the benefit of ‘two for one’ with Steve and Laura. Steve’s wealth of knowledge is second to none. We rely on him to advise us on where to search for information, remind us of deadlines, finances, prepare for board meetings, conventions, and Lieutenant Governor Education events in addition to conference calls and all other means that enhance communications among Kiwanians. We ask Steve how to communicate at all levels- from Kiwanis International to District, to Divisions, to clubs as well as with individual members. Together, we work on details needed for budgets, audits, awards, starting new clubs; decipher codes, how to organize Division meetings, and whatever surprises occur as the year goes by. If Steve and his experience do not give us the answer, he helps us search for solutions.
Steve is humble, dedicated and always willing to share and/or discuss. If he and I were to be paid for the hours that the two of us have been on the phone this past 6 months, we would both be wealthy! When asking Steve for a bio, he said ‘keep it short.’ He also said “Thanks go to all governors ‘who have been fantastic’. It has been an honor to work with all of them.” Steve refers warmly to the commitment of Kiwanians over the years and what a great experience it has been to work together for the common mission that we all believe in so deeply. Thank you, Steve, for your thoughtful consideration for the future of Kiwanis as you bow out of serving MNDAK. We know you have not finished your work with us! We say ‘See you soon’. Good bye is not an option! We say thank you for being our friend, mentor, staff extraordinaire and fellow Kiwanian.

Welcome, Betty Hoff, to the position of Secretary Treasurer on Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis. We are looking forward to serving with you and the opportunities that will allow us to get to know you.

A Note From Secretary/Treasurer - 3/30/2020  
Submitted by: Bettye Hoff

HELLO! Some of you may not be aware that Steve Handegaard has decided to take a step back and evaluate his next position in the Kiwanian team. He will be missed but we can look forward to seeing what his next adventure will be! So, then it comes to me. My name is Bettye Hoff and I reside in West Fargo. I will be the 10th Secretary/Treasurer for the district in its 102 year existence. I am the first one from this area however. I am very excited to begin this position of Secretary/Treasurer. I have a lot to learn and big shoes to fill, but with some patience on your part and hard work on mine, I think we will make it!

I am so proud to be part of this wonderful organization. I only wish I had taken advantage of the program more in my youth. I could have used the confidence and skills it instills in those participating in the Kiwanis programs but I look forward to taking in the education classes that are offered through KI.

**REMINDER**: Club Elections: These are due June 1. Club Secretaries should submit the club election reports online through the KiwanisOne webpage that we use for the monthly club reporting.

There have been quite a few changes in meetings, trainings, etc. Please regularly check for updates.

Bettye Hoff
Day-Breakers of Albert Lea Hold Meeting Using ZOOM Technology - 3/29/2020
Submitted by: Lois Ahern, Club Secretary

The Day-Breakers Kiwanis Club of Albert Lea, MN broke new ground on Friday, March 27, 2020 by using ZOOM technology for our meeting. The Club suspended regular face-to-face meetings on March 20th in response to social distancing strategies brought about by COVID-19. We also realized that it was important to keep in touch to provide social interaction, to support and help one another as needed and to simply see and hear each other! One of our Club members was the videoconference host and a total of eleven members joined the meeting. We used the time to follow a meeting format and worked on getting familiar with the features of ZOOM and how to navigate through the tools-such as how to turn on your computer’s camera and audio, how to use the mute button and the chat box, etc. All agreed that the videoconference option worked for us and we plan to continue doing this weekly for now. On Friday, April 3rd, we will have a guest speaker present a short program. Our meeting format may be slightly different as we move forward but we will meet one of our objectives of staying connected during these unprecedented times. The attached photo shows John Double, Club member and videoconference host, who was managing the ZOOM screen as well as talking on the phone to help a member solve a connection issue.

Students Need Foundation Scholarships More Than Ever - 3/27/2020
Submitted by: Jean Collins

The MN-DAK Kiwanis Education Foundation has just recently completed judging the application for our 63 scholarships that will be presented this spring. With the crisis we are going through now this money will be more important to each student as they start college next fall.

The Foundation uses only the earnings of the Foundation Funds for the scholarships. These earnings will be down during our crisis so it is important that we add to the Foundation Funds. Excellent ways to add to the Foundation Funds are having your Kiwanis Club be a Century Club, which is making at least $100 donation to the Foundation. Other ways are honoring someone with a $100 Vantine Fellowship or a $500 Messer Fellowship. Also, Memorial Gifts of any size can be made to the Foundation.
If each Kiwanis member and Kiwanis club does their part we will get through this crisis and be the part of helping each child and each community be stronger in the future.

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**Tip Night Leads to Donations** - 3/27/2020
*Submitted by: Nancy Cornell Builders Club Advisor*

In February, the Kingsland Builders Club in Spring Valley, MN, held a "tip night" at the local pizza place to raise money for toothpaste and toothbrushes to be added to the Friday food backpacks. During the "tip night" an employee of one of our local dental offices, contacted her boss. The office offered to donate 50 toothbrushes and floss, which we gratefully accepted. This amount would cover all the kids, with a few brushes left over. When I went to pick up the ordered toothpaste from Sunshine Foods in Spring Valley, they said that there was no charge- another great donation.

As I am writing this, schools are closed indefinitely but we hope to get the toothpaste and brushes to the students before the end of the school year. As for the tip money, we can use it next year.

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**Stricter Guidelines** - 3/27/2020
*Submitted by: Nancy Cornell District Builders Club Administrator*

Thank you Builders Club Kiwanis advisors for mentoring our youth in service leadership. Reach out to them during this time of "no meetings" and let them know that you care about them and want to stay connected.

Kiwanis International has decided to strengthen our youth protection policies and procedures. A clear criminal history background check for any Kiwanis member serving as an advisor to any Service Leadership Program Club(SLP) has been in effect for several years. The background check needs to be renewed every two years through the KI approved provider.

As of April 1, 2020, any Kiwanis SLP advisor who does not have an approved background check on file with KI, will be ineligible to serve in the advisor role and a notice will be sent to the Kiwanis Club secretary and district leadership. The KI and SLP staff will make every effort to work with SLP advisors in completing this critical requirement.
As an advisor, you should be notified by KI when your background check is due and your Kiwanis Club secretary also has this information on the secretary's dashboard.

There are new resources for SLP advisors with new training from Praesidium, Inc., via their Armatus training database. There is also a 24-hour confidential helpline at 1-888-607-SAFE to be used if you think a youth has been harmed or their safety and well being are at risk.

If you need additional information and/or have questions go to youthprotection@kiwanis.org.

Seek out some sunshine and stay safe.

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**Division 2 Education Conf - 3/27/2020**

*Submitted by: John Schmidt*

On March 14, 2020 Division 2 held their annual Education Conference at the Garden Pavilion in Fargo. A couple days before the conference, there was some concern about holding the conference because of the coronavirus. However, it was decided to proceed with 17 members present.

It was an opportunity to learn how to strengthen an existing club by looking at the characteristics of successful clubs and five things that every club needs to do. One of the most important is planning the year in advance, then doing the things planned, and finally adjusting those items that need improvement. There are still six months of the year for the current club officers to evaluate their plan, make appropriate changes, and finish the year strong. For President Elects, this is the time to start thinking about a plan for your next year as President.

Ken Kohler gave an excellent presentation on risk management and briefly covered youth protection. This is something each club needs to be aware of and practice their due diligence with good club management.

David Odette, Governor elect, gave an excellent presentation on membership recruitment and retaining our current members. New members are the life blood of our organization. He also talked about succession planning. This is the time of year clubs have their nominating committees meet to draft officers for the coming year. It is also a great opportunity to look ahead to the following year to select board members that can be trained for future leadership.
Our Governor, Rachael Disrud, gave an exciting and rousing half hour presentation that was both inspirational and motivational. If you are looking for a club meeting program, ask her. She has seven divisions to cover in all of Minnesota and the Dakotas, so her availability is limited, but you never know unless you ask.

With our clubs dealing with sheltering in our homes, it is an opportunity to look at virtual or other conferencing ways for our clubs to meet. This is also the way of the future, younger potential members look for this. Seize the moment and move your club forward to the future as we deal with coronavirus.

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**Children's Fund - 3/25/2020**

*Submitted by: Kathy Welle*

March 25, 2020- Spring is really starting to arrive!!
During this challenging situation we are in, I heard this comment. Keep it short!!

The Kiwanis Mission:

Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children.

Would your club like to show recognition and appreciation for current or past club officers, and/or other members of your club? Kiwanis has a number of awards. Along with others, there is the Kiwanis Hixson Award. A club contribution of $1000.00 to the Children's fund qualifies. Other awards are available on the Kiwanis website as well. Your club can be recognized as a TODAY Club with a $10.00 per member contribution to the Children's Fund. Your consideration would be very much appreciated!!

As the District Chair for the Children's Fund, my obligation is to contact each club to answer any questions or concerns you might have. My number: 763-784-5595. If you see that number, it is a friendly call from me. I may also make contact by email, if phone calls don’t work.

Thank you for what you do for the **Children** and for your **Community** and **Each Other**.

April Partnership Highlight - 3/24/2020  
Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Partnership Coordinator

VALUE-ADDS FOR YOU AND YOUR CLUB
Greetings from Kiwanis International! We know clubs are not meeting at this time but wanted to provide information about our partners that could help you now and as you plan future projects. These partners offer value to your club and your membership. Thank you for all you do for Kiwanis!

Club resources:

**Scholastic**: Are the kids home from school? Kiwanis International partner Scholastic has set up a “Learn at Home” website with four categories: pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, grades 1 and 2, grades 3-5 and grades 6+. Each section is equipped with one week of content for students, with 15 additional days on the way.

**Kiwanis Warehouse, powered by DollarDays**: Cleaning supplies and hygiene kits can be purchased at rock-bottom pricing.

**Office Depot**: Working remotely? Stock your home office with deep discounts from Office Depot.

**Landscape Structures**: This partnership can help your club leave an epic impact on your community. Resources are available to help your club plan for a playground project.

**Reading is Fundamental**: Hurry! The matching grant program to build home libraries closes on March 30. Kiwanis Marketplace

**EHealth**: Turning 65 soon? Make sure you are educated on your Medicare options.

**IdentityForce**: In case you get hacked, be prepared with online security at a discount.

**Kiwanis Visa® Rewards**: Perhaps the very best way to carry Kiwanis with you wherever you go.

Do you have a partner you think would be useful to your club or bring value to your membership? Contact Elizabeth Warren at ewarren@kiwanis.org with your ideas. Thanks for your service to Kiwanis and the children of the world.

APRIL BRINGS POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND SMILES - 3/23/2020  
Submitted by: SHERRY SCUDDER

In this time of concern, it is hard to concentrate on Kiwanis. However, it is even more prevalent that Kiwanis stand firm to help their communities. During these times of self quarantine and social distancing, Kiwanians always lend a helping hand in times of crisis. Social media can play a big role in staying connected, whether it be to bring smiles to friends, neighbors, relatives and other fellow kiwanians or collecting donations of food, diapers, personal hygiene products, we can all play a part.
Since we are home more now and need something to do. It is a good time to make a list of potential members you can call and tell them about Kiwanis and start nurturing a relationship to build MEMBERSHIP or build a new club, so that when we are no longer restricted through social contact, we have done our preliminary work to seek new members.

The members listed below have used their opportunity of time to bring new members to Kiwanis:

**DIVISION 1**

KAYLA WOLFE BY TEUBNER

JAMESTOWN

JACKIE DeCOTEAU BY BENJAMIN GRIEGO

TURTLE MOUNTAIN

CATHY RUNOLFSON BY KEITH KNUDSON

CLAYTON PARRILL BY DARRELL WATERS

**DIVISION 2**

ALEXANDRIA

ALLYSON RADACH BY LAURA HAGSTROM

DEREK HOLT BY LAURA HAGSTROM

**DIVISION 5**

HURON

JOE HILTON BY SCOTT McCASKELL

WADE STOBBS BY UNKNOWN

MITCHELL

NICK BAKHTIARA BY JAN QUENZER

SIoux FALLS

PAULA TERVEEN BY LYLE TERVEEN

THOMAS SHERLEY BY LYLE TERVEEN

**DIVISION 7**

ST LOUIS PARK

FRANK JOHNSON BY PAT WELLS

Looks like Division 5 is really leading the pack. Keep going with everyone working together but still apart you are accomplishing much.

Stay safe, healthy and keep on smiling. We need all the positivity we can share now and in the days to come.

Sending SMILES AND HUGS TO ALL

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Waiting for the New Normal - 3/23/2020

Submitted by: John Loken
As this is written in late March, uncertainty abounds, how long, how bad will it get, will everyone be quarantined? Many more questions than answers. Writing for this newsletter has been hanging over me as a weight that I have been unable to lift off, what wisdom do I have for a new world none of us has lived in before?

So how do I as a member or leader of Kiwanis respond, what should I do now? What can I do now?

When we momentarily lose our balance, we take a moment to assess our situation, make certain we have our balance and then step out, or up or down or forward or back. But first we stop. I think that is where we are this very day, we are on “pause”. The paradigm has changed, we do not know what the new rules or dimensions of life are going to be, so those who serve children and youth, let us pause, give ourselves time to recover our balance before taking new steps.

As we stand in this position of “pause”, let us reconsider the basics of Kiwanis service:

- What are the unmet needs of children and youth in our community?
- What are the highest priority needs, which are most consequential?
- Which needs can our club address?
- What are the rules/ limitations of the new world we will be living in?
- Will we meet face to face or are we limited? Virtual or digital environment?
- What resources does our club have to offer?
- Labor hours
- Particular skills within our club
- Fundraising abilities, opportunities, limitations
- Get our heads “out of the box” into planning and strategizing new tactics that fit the situation.

Kiwanis service foundation is solid and strong, within us are the skills needed for the day just as obstacles of the past were met by those who went before us, may it be so today.

I am reminded of the pastor speaking to his congregation about their ability to afford a building addition: “our congregation has plenty of funds for this project, it’s just that the funds are in your pockets”. So it is with adapting to our new reality, the needed skills, tactics, processes are within our membership today, greet the new day confident in yourself and your club.

Changes to Kiwanis Education - 3/22/2020
Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers

Lieutenant Governor Education weekend has been rescheduled from April 24-25th to May 15-17th at Fergus Falls. District Governor-Elect David Odette is currently filling these positions as there is a need in some
Divisions.

In the past months, we are learning about many changes in Kiwanis education that will affect our members. The busy education season is upon us and many things from Kiwanis International aren’t ready to go.

Club Leadership Education (CLE) online will be taken down shortly and “a new and improved online education will be available beginning late summer 2020”. In the past, many members have completed the online and the classroom sessions by then each year. Classroom sessions will be held throughout the District where instructors are available and where there is a sufficient number of people attending. We at the District level are working on a “Plan B” if this doesn’t happen. We need to have our incoming leaders learn about their club role, as this is crucial for a good functioning club. So, when the sessions are scheduled, we ask that officers and members attend. A CLE session will be held on the Friday morning just before the District Convention begins in August at St. Cloud. These sessions have been well attended for many years. Good job, Kiwanians!

CLE instructors are committed to a three year term and each are required to be trained to lead this year. Kiwanis International will be giving the District Leadership Development Coordinator that information at the International Convention the end of June. To have these CLE instructors trained, lead classroom sessions and everything be completed is difficult in that short amount of time before officers begin the year on October 1st. The training and the CLE sessions should be completed by this June 30th, not in September.

The Leadership Guides are being shipped to one place, and then will be distributed to the clubs by the Lt. Governors this year. Shipments won’t be made to the CLE instructors or directly to the clubs. Each club will receive four guides, one for each: President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chair.

Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) is one of, if not the best, programs that Kiwanis International has given clubs. Now, the materials aren’t available, however, if you need them, you can download them off the website until they are back in print and ready for delivery from the Kiwanis website. I haven’t heard if this will be changed yet. If your club hasn’t used this, I encourage you to. It works! This is a program that I am more than willing to help each club.

I am asking for club’s and member’s patience this year with materials and programs so delayed than what we have had in the past. Also, with the uncertainty of events being held, the information flow will probably be changing. Thank you for your cooperation.
LET’S WRAP IT UP!  -  3/17/2020  
Club: Fargo Rough Riders  -  Submitted by: James Kenward

Wrapping Gifts for Happy Customers

The Christmas season is a busy time for everyone. Members of the Rough Rider Kiwanis Club of Fargo are busy too, but squeeze in time to ring bells for the Salvation Army and Wrap Christmas gifts for shoppers at the West Acres Shopping Mall.

Eddie Johns is the Club’s point-person who coordinates Club participation in the Christmas Wrap project with the Fargo Optimist Club. Other volunteers come from Key Clubs, other Kiwanis clubs and the community.

Shoppers bring their gift to the wrapping booth, select their choice of paper and agree to a $3-$10 price per box. They may wait for their gift to be wrapped or leave it for later pick-up. Volunteer wrappers experience happy shoppers who are proud to have their special gift professionally wrapped. Customers appreciate the service and often leave a $5, $10 or $20 tip.

The wrapping project gives the Rough Rider Kiwanis Club much needed exposure and offers an opportunity for club members to tell the ‘Kiwanis Story” to a new audience that seeks to have their gifts wrapped.

The wrapping project has resulted in a net income of $15,000 over a four year period. This income helps the Rough Riders to support Special Olympics, the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, the Food Pantry, Youth Works and Charism and a local day care center.

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Bottineau’s first responders granted Heroism Awards - 3/11/2020  
Club: Turtle Mountains (The)  -  Submitted by: Bottineau Economic Development Corporation

The members of the Kiwanis Club of the Turtle Mountains held their first Turtle Mountain Heroism Award Ceremony in September 2019 to honor first responders of Bottineau for the difficult and dangerous work they do to save others in their time of need.

Dr. Jerry Migler, club president of the Kiwanis Club of the Turtle Mountains, and Dean of the Dakota College at Bottineau, states: “Our definition of heroism is simply this, putting others first even when it puts you in peril.” Dr. Migler went on to say, “When you think about that in Bottineau, there is our law enforcement, emergency medical services, firefighting, and public safety, there are a lot of heroes out there.”

“If we are doing our jobs as a Kiwanis Club, then it makes sense that we provide avenues to recognize those
that play such an important part in our community,” says Dr. Migler.

Warren Emmer, member of the Kiwanis Club of the Turtle Mountains, Chaplin of St. Andrew’s Health Center, and an individual who worked in law enforcement and firefighting for 35 years, presented the awards to Bottineau’s first responders. These plaque awards went to our brave, hardworking firemen, ambulance crews, and law enforcement officers who sacrifice many hours behind the scenes to do their jobs. “The term hero isn’t used to describe the work they do. What is heroic for a regular citizen to do, is seen as being in the line of duty for these men and women,” noted Emmer.

Dave Vad, Fire Chief of the Bottineau Fire Department, spoke on behalf of the responders. “Awards like this, and the community that we serve, we make work” Vad said. “And we make it so it’s the same place for our community, we make it so people can look up to us and keep this community going.”

The second award went to Deputy Ryan Thompson of the Bottineau County Sheriff’s Department, who placed his life in danger to save a women who was fatally injured in a car accident in June 2018. Seven minutes after the back to back 911 calls, Deputy Thompson was on the scene. Both female occupants were not wearing their seatbelts and were thrown from the demolished vehicle, and as a fire started to erupt, Deputy Thompson located the driver and attempted CPR. Other emergency response teams arrived shortly thereafter to help. The passenger was critically injured and survived, the driver did not.

As Deputy Thompson humbly accepted his award, he said, “I often say a prayer to help guide me in making smart decisions out there.” Or give me the courage to do my job when it is stressful or in threatening conditions.” Thompson also noted, “The same again can be said for all first responders who go out there on a daily basis and put other citizen’s needs before their own.”

As a first time heroism event for the Kiwanis Club of the Turtle Mountains, the members of the organization did an incredible job in bringing true heroes to the forefront from Bottineau for its residents to learn about them, and be thankful for the services that they give to the community.

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**Recruiting New Members** - 3/11/2020

*Club: West Saint Paul - Submitted by: Cassandra Schueller*

The Kiwanis Club of West St. Paul was able to partner with a local older adult activity center to sponsor desserts and beverages for the seniors during an afternoon presentation by a salsa band, in exchange for the opportunity to chat with the seniors afterwards if they were interested in hearing about the Club. There were a few interested people who stayed to listen about Kiwanis
after the salsa band, and we hope this turns into more members for our Club in the future!

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Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Sportsmen's Show - 3/11/2020
Club: Lake Agassiz, Fargo - Submitted by: Kristi Engelstad

The Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Club of Fargo, ND closed out their 2020 fundraising efforts with a very successful Sportmen's Show! Beautiful weather helped bring many visitors to the show. All funds raised at the Sportmen's Show and the Boat Show are donated back to youth in the Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo communities.