Decades of Kiwanis Service

Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District History
Decades of Kiwanis Service

by Floyd K. Christianson
Past District Secretary
and
Earl R. Trude
Past District Lt. Governor

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Foreword

To all Kiwanians in the Minnesota-Dakotas District

It is with great pride that I welcome you to "Decades of Kiwanis Service." This is a book filled with history of our District. On behalf of the District I would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-authors of this book. Floyd K. Christianson, Past District Secretary/Treasurer, and Earl R. Trude, Past Lt. Governor, have done an outstanding job in assembling this book. The amount of work and total dedication these two gentlemen put into this book is greatly appreciated.

As you page through and read this book you will find that we are people who want what is good not just for ourselves but for others. Kiwanis has established a history of doing for others, and we have learned from the example displayed from days gone by. The generosity and commitment of those Kiwanians has assured our place in history as well. The desire that others prosper and live fully is what makes us the Kiwanians we are today.

As your current District Secretary/Treasurer I must share with you that the Kiwanians of today are as committed as those Kiwanians were when Kiwanis first began. It is with gratitude and appreciation that I say, "Thanks for the Memories," and let us continue to make more.

Enjoy reading this book. It is truly a gift to us from two very hard working and dedicated Kiwanians.

Respectfully,

Tom P. Horan
District Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District
July 1, 1996
Prologue

The Authors established at the first: to emphasize the altruistic and community service of individual Kiwanis Clubs; to provide practical examples of projects, fund raisers and programs that individual clubs could adopt., to reveal that Kiwanians have fun and fellowship; and to approach the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District story in a chronological manner. In a few places material from one decade was needed to fill blank space in another decade. The "decade" approach allows readers a world view of their own club and an opportunity to appreciate their club as a part of a District and International work.

Graphics such as "the Kiwanis Firsts," "Kiwanians Serve" and "Think Growth" help to give continuity to the copy. The format of starting each Kiwanis Year with the Governor, International President, Conventions and Major Service Projects helps to provide an index for the copy. Tying the copy together with International Service Themes and District Slogans provides unity, coherence, and clarity.

Floyd K. Christianson, Past Secretary Emeritus, did most of the research; selected the articles, pictures, copy and wrote the original copy. Past Governor's Association of the Minnesota-Dakotas District initiated this history and asked Floyd Christianson to compile the book. His 50 years of Kiwanis service gave insights and accuracy to the copy. Earl R. Trude, Past Lt. Governor, arranged the material, planned the "story angles," scanned pictures, designed graphics and edited copy. He also wrote the Decade Introductions and did the historical research. His 30 years as an educator included teaching writing classes, American history, journalism and advising the school newspaper staff. The journalistic style of this history results from Earl's years of experience.


The 1995-1996 Kiwanis District Board voted to accept a bid, to have Secretary-Treasurer Tom Horan advertise the book, and to have Governor Lionel P.A. Muthiah appoint a committee to work with the authors to finalize the copy. Many District Past Governors have read copy and offered suggestions. However the following Past Governors who served on the committee deserve special credit: M. R. "Bob" Cox, Vernon E. Hektner, and W. B. "Bill" Hopkins.

The abundance of Kiwanis Club activities necessitated that the authors select those projects that typified the activities of most clubs. Many worthy projects have been omitted to economize on space. Significant major historical facts received more space. We realize that some knowledgeable readers would probably select other examples. We hope that the examples in this book will inspire a few history days in Kiwanis clubs that will allow senior members to relate examples from local history to fill in the blanks left out in this book. Some clubs may wish to use this book as a means of Kiwanis education for their members. The "trivia" and "Believe it or Not" stories could generate a lot of fun for Kiwanians.
Brief History of Kiwanis International

It was 1914. Henry Ford had a new assembly line for the Model T Ford. A wage of $5.00 for an eight hour day shook the labor market.

The USA had a graduated income tax. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company was toying with a contraption called a radio music box.

Browne starts "We Trade Club"

On a murky December 7, 1914 in Detroit, Michigan a man by the name of Allen Browne called on Joseph Prance at his tailor shop at 1188 Gratiot Avenue. Allen Browne was a promoter and he wanted to start a club of business and professional men without insurance features. There were to be no more than four from each type of business category. Their early motto was "We Trade" with the idea that if you trade with me; then I'll trade with you.

Browne gave Prance an application blank, "The Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers." On December 7, 1914 Prance signed the application and gave Browne $5.00; thereby making Prance the first member of the club that was later to become Kiwanis.

Kiwanis selects new Indian name

One of the early members did not like the name, "The Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers because he said it would be shortened to "BOB," and who wanted to be called a "Bob?" They went to Clarence Burton, historian for the city of Detroit, Michigan, for a suggestion on a name. He suggested the name "NUNCKEE WANIS." It was an Indian expression from the Otippeew language. It had several meanings, one of which was "WE TRADE." It was suggested that "Nunc" be dropped and the name became "KIWANIS." Another dictionary of the Otippeew language gives "We make noise" as the meaning of Kiwanis. Freely translated it means we have fun.

Club adopts motto "We build"

The motto became "We Trade" and although that was changed to "We Build" on January 23, 1920, many of the older Kiwanians still try to do their trading where there is a Kiwanis member.

On January 15, 1915 sixty members had been obtained and a charter was granted by the State of Michigan which made the Kiwanis Club of Detroit the number one Kiwanis Club of Kiwanis International. Don Johnston became the first president of that club.

Club adopts boy, Walter Kiwanis

The Detroit Kiwanis Club heard about a five year old boy named Walter who came from a broken home. The father was an alcoholic, so his mother divorced him. She was financially unable to take care of him. The Kiwanis Club of Detroit decided to help. They found a foster home for the boy with an elderly couple. The Kiwanis Club took care of all the boy's needs. They legally adopted him and gave him the last name of Kiwanis; so he became Walter Kiwanis. Several years later Walter's mother remarried and took her son back again.
Clubs buy magazine and their name

George F. Hixson first Kiwanis International President

Allen Browne insisted that he be given the right to form Kiwanis Clubs anywhere in the United States and Canada. He received $5.00 for each new member. Browne literally owned Kiwanis.

One of the first clubs organized was the Kiwanis Club of Rochester, New York with a great deal of help from a young attorney named George F. Hixson. He was to become the first President of Kiwanis International. Browne went to Cleveland where a new club was organized on October 19, 1915.

New National Kiwanis Organizes

A fellow by the name of Alexander proposed that all the clubs already organized come to Cleveland with the idea of creating a national organization. As a result of this meeting, on May 18, 1916 "The National Kiwanis Club" was organized.

On May 18, 1916 the first constitution was drafted which said:

1. The president was empowered to arrange with a national organizer to form a club in any city in the United States or Canada with a population of 17,000 or more.
2. No charter would be given until the membership reached 50. Members must be active business and professional men of good moral character and older than the age of 21, with not more than 4 members engaged in competing lines of business.
3. The membership fee would be $10.00 plus an additional $5.00 in annual dues and a per capita tax of 25 cents a year to support the parent organization.

Hamilton, Ontario became the first Canadian club organized on September 1, 1916. Kiwanis was then International.

Kiwanis Hornet changes name

At the International in Providence, June 1918, the Kiwanis Magazine Publication was purchased from Allen Browne for $2,500.00. Roe Fulkerson became the first editor of the Kiwanis Magazine which was at first called the "Kiwanis Hornet." It was changed to "Kiwanis Torch" and later to the "Kiwanis Magazine." Editor Fulkerson received $200.00 per month. Sam Cummings was the first International Secretary, and he received a salary of $300.00 per month.

Kiwanis buys their own name

Kiwanians didn't want Allen Browne to own them any longer. At the International Convention in Birmingham on May 20, 1919 Browne was approached with the idea of selling the name. The membership of Kiwanis at that time was about 17,000. Browne said he would sell if they would have $17,500 in cash by noon on May 22. At the morning session of the convention on May 21, 1919 the $17,500 was raised in one-half hour. That evening the Birmingham Rotarians entertained the Kiwanians a barbecue. They had 200 cars for transportation.

Kiwanis Develops milestones

Significant happenings over the next years included the following:

- January 21, 1915, is the birthday of Kiwanis. On this date, The Detroit #1 Club received its charter from the state of Michigan, U.S.A.
- Hamilton, Ontario, Canada formed In November 1916 the first Kiwanis club outside the United States.
- Roe Fulkerson, first editor of Kiwanis magazine, originated the permanent motto "We Build" which was adopted in 1920.
- The Denver Convention in 1924 adopted the six objects of Kiwanis which begin: "to give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life."
Kiwanis makes significant milestones

* The 1943 Kiwanis International Convention was cancelled because of the war and replaced with a council meeting. In 1944 the wartime convention was limited to delegates-at-large and District officers who were selected from their respective clubs.

* In 1945 a summer wartime convention was limited to International Officers and Trustees, Past International Presidents, Governors, and Roe Fulkerson as editor of the Kiwanis Magazine.

* The first permanent headquarters for Kiwanis was at 101 East Erie St. in Chicago, and it was ready for occupancy on March 21, 1959.

* Kiwanis extended beyond the United States and Canada when the Kiwanis Club of Tijuana, Mexico was admitted on May 15, 1962.

* The First European club was formed in February 1963 in Vienna, Austria.

* In July 1964, the first Asia-Pacific club was established in Manila, Philippines.

* In 1980-81 Kiwanis International office was moved to Indianapolis, Indiana.

* On July 7, 1987 Kiwanis adopted an amendment which allowed Kiwanis Clubs worldwide to admit women if they so desired.

**International Headquarters, Kiwanis Club**

514 N. Michigan, Chicago, 1918. Notice the name on the transom: "International Headquarters Kiwanis Club." The fire escape for the Webster Building exited out of the office. Light fixtures were simple.

**Flags of the United States and of Kiwanis**

fly in front of the Erie St.

International office, 1959.
The Distinguished Governor Award was established in 1970 to provide recognition for those governors whose exceptional leadership resulted in outstanding performance by their districts.

A series of rigid criteria must be met by governors so honored. Criteria generally cover the fields of growth, administration and service. They must surpass what is merely satisfactory.
Kiwanians win International honors
Knudson, Enstad International Presidents

International President

1939 -1940 -- Bennet O. Knudson
Albert Lea, MN

International President

1980-1981 -- Merald T. Enstad,
Fergus Falls, MN

Enstad elected Int. Treasurer
1978 -1979 -- Merald T. Enstad -- Fergus Falls, MN

Enstad elected President-elect
1979-80-- Merald T. Enstad -- Fergus Falls, MN

Five make Vice-Presidents
1929 -1930 -- William C. Green -- Fargo, ND
1938 -1939 -- Bennet O. Knudson -- Albert Lea, MN
1945 -1946 -- Alloys F. Branton -- Willmar, MN
1949 -1951 -- Theodore H. Fenske -- Morris, MN
1977 - 1978 -- Merald T. Enstad -- Fergus Falls, MN

Eight elected as Int. Trustees
1921 - 1924 -- Louis A. Muessel -- St. Paul, MN
1925 - 1929 -- William C. Green -- Fargo, ND
1930 - 1932 --Jerry H. Lammers -- Wessington Springs, SD
1934 - 1938 -- Bennet O. Knudson--Albert Lea, MN
1942 - 1945 -- Alloys F. Branton -- Willmar, MN
1969 - 1970 -- Therkel Jorgensen -- Tyler, MN
Every Club has its own District Trustee

When Kiwanis first started, all clubs had what was called a District Trustee. Dr. George Abbott, Kiwanis Club of Grand Forks, explained the early uses of the District Trustee:

"The District Trustee has been the subject of discussion at all District Conferences. There have been lengthy articles written that have appeared in the International Magazine and pamphlets have been circulated among the clubs, and still every now and then we have been asked: 'Just what are the duties of the District Trustee?'

"In his club he is the representative of the district, and in his division and in the district he represents his club, and is the point of contact between the district and the club. It is necessary that he be thoroughly familiar with the constitution, bylaws and regulations of Kiwanis.

"He must concern himself about: attendance, activities, finances, committee functioning and extension work, sponsoring of clubs, and above all he should see to it that his club remains true to the objects of his district and Kiwanis International. He should be present at every meeting of the Board of Directors of his club, and at all times be in close contact with the President. He should never, however, take up matters directly with the committees; for if he did, he would be usurping the position of the President.

He should first take up with the President of the club any matter he may have to present from the district. The President on the other hand has the right to look to him for any information or assistance from the District. He must cooperate with the Lt. Governor and render him every assistance."

The "District" Trustee was eliminated in 1932, because there were too many clubs for an efficient District Board. Lt. Governors were assigned the responsibilities of the former Trustees.

Doctor George Abbott

Early Kiwanis Club banners carried the "Circle Kiwanis International Logo." Clubs that started after 1975 have the "Global International Kiwanis Logo."
Eight secretaries serve the District

1918-22 -- Joseph L. Marshall
Mpls. MN
1923-26 -- Caryl Spiller
St. Paul, MN
1927-44 -- R. Armistead Grady
Duluth, MN
1945 --- Rosser J. Willis
St. Paul, MN
1946-50 - Theodore H. Fenske
Morris, MN
1951-77 - W. Craigen Thom
Worthington, MN
1977-91 - Floyd Christianson
Grand Forks, ND
1991 ------ Tom P. Horan --
Willmar, MN
The Formative Teens
"The Progressive Years"

Study the past to understand the present and plan for the future. As Americans we need to study our culture to find out who we were, in order to know who we are, and to decide what we want to be. As Kiwanians we need to look at what we were and how we arrived at what we are—in order to set goals for the future. Woodrow Wilson said, "Americans no longer remember what we were yesterday; therefore, we do not know who we are today or even what we are trying to do."

One could call the first decade of the twentieth century the progressive era—the era of Teddy Roosevelt and the progressive reformer, Senator "Fighting Bob" LaFollette of Wisconsin.

Progress in transportation introduced the biplane, the hydroplane, the assembly line for Ford cars, the high wheeled bicycle built for two and the submarine. Progress of inventions introduced a radio-wireless across the ocean.

Progress in the arts introduced "The Tramp," Charlie Chaplin; the silent movies, the Dixie Land Jazz Band, Carl Sandburg's "Chicago," Edgar Lee Master's Spoon River Anthology and Walt Whitman's "Pioneers! O Pioneers!"

Social progress could be measured by child labor laws, blue laws, President Wilson's designation of the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The creation of toys included the Raggedy Ann doll, the erector set, and Lincoln Logs.

Out of this era, which included World War I, a group of business men formed Kiwanis. They started dedicated to buy from each other, but decided to build. They started to sell and developed a desire to serve. They started as a local group and grew to an International Service Organization. The history of the times encouraged the altruism and patriotism of Kiwanis leaders. Clubs supported W W I war efforts. Kiwanians gave blood to the Red Cross, and Patriotic members subscribed for war bonds. The 1918 International Convention unfurled a war service flag with 353 names of American and Canadian Kiwanis members who had died in the war. The history of the day helped to determine the future of Kiwanis and to make it a service organization.
Three Kiwanis Clubs exist before District

**1916**

District Governor -- None
International President -- George F. Hixson
District Convention -- None
International Convention -- Cleveland, OH

Kiwanis Club of St. Paul started that year.

**1917**

District Governor -- None
International President -- George F. Hixson
District Convention -- None
International Convention -- Detroit, MI

Duluth and Minneapolis Clubs started in 1917 and are still in existence.

**Kiwanis International Objects**

In 1924 Kiwanis International adopted the six Objects of Kiwanis.

To **give primacy** to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.

To **encourage** the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

To **Promote** the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.

To **develop**, by precept an example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.

To **provide**, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.

To **cooperate** in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism, which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

**1918**

Governor -- None
International President -- George F. Hixson
District Convention -- Minneapolis, MN
International Convention -- Providence, RI

No clubs were started in 1918 that are in existence today.

The Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International was originally formed in the fall of 1918 as the Minnesota District. The three clubs in the District at that time were St. Paul, Duluth and Minneapolis.

Three District Trustees were elected at that time-- one from each club. The Kiwanis Club of Duluth raised $3,000.00 for war relief.

**1919**

District Governor -- Albert P. Kim
International President -- Perry S. Patterson
District Convention -- Duluth, MN
International Convention -- Birmingham, AL

No clubs were started in 1919 that are still in existence.

At the District Convention, the name of the District was changed to the Northwestern District.

The members and wives of the Kiwanis club of Minneapolis all got together that year to hang Christmas decorations at the City Hospital. They had to bring their own tack hammer and shears.

Albert P., Kim of Minneapolis was Governor that year. He served for only a couple of months and then moved. There seems to be no record in Kiwanis as to where he went. The Kiwanis year ran from January 1 through December 31.
The Foundation Twenties "The Prosperity Years"

Kiwanians laid their foundations in the twenties. Roe Fulkerson, first editor of The Kiwanis Hornet, later called the Kiwanis magazine originated the permanent motto: "We Build" which was adopted in 1920. The slogan brought together two Kiwanis groups: those who wanted to be a trade organization and those who wished to be a service association. Roe Fulkerson's "We Build"— "We build better business ethics" and "we build better communities" satisfied both groups.

A strong foundation—The Objects of Kiwanis International grew out of the culture of the day. The Tea Pot Dome oil scandal demonstrated the need for business ethics. Sec. of Interior Albert Fall collected hundreds of thousands of dollars for himself by selling government oil reserves. By March of 1923 Kiwanians had developed a campaign toward greater courtesy to improve relations between the public and business. The "prohibition" and "women suffrage" amendments demonstrated the desires for freedom and self control. The Objects of Kiwanis International, adopted at Denver in 1924, gave direction to the ethics, altruism, service, and spiritual emphasis found today in Kiwanis. By 1928-29 Kiwanians had developed "business standards" which led to the Kiwanis International Code of Ethics.

Prosperity came to people who emigrated or moved: The aftermath of World War I created a great mobility of people: 800,000 immigrants entered the U.S. in 1920. In 1921 Congress set a new limit of 385,000. Forty percent of New York's population was foreign born in 1923. Rochester, Mankato and Duluth supplied thousands of pounds of flour for immigrants.

The farm population looked for prosperity in the cities: Rural population decreased to 30% of the population in the twenty's. By 1929, 51 percent of Americans lived in towns of more than 2,500. Kiwanis Clubs developed farm-city programs. Aberdeen served 1,500 farmers at a "Farmer's Holiday Picnic."

Black soldiers who had a taste of prosperity in the military led an exodus of 500,000 Negroes from the South to the industrial North by 1923. The emigration increased race riots and the number of underprivileged children. Kiwanians saw a need to serve underprivileged children. By 1926 sixty-one of the sixty-six Minnesota-Dakotas District Clubs had a constructive underprivileged child program. District Clubs saw a need for children's camps and gave millions of dollars to build scout camps and family camps.

Prosperity came to schools: High Schools had seven percent of the available population in 1920, but 60 percent by 1930. This population brought a need for Key Clubs which started in 1927-28. Clubs developed Career Days and vocational guidance programs.

Economic prosperity in the twenty's started with a boom and ended in a bust when the stock market crashed in 1929. Kiwanis started with a boom, slacked in growth but never went bust. Kiwanis International added 1,500 clubs in the twenty's. Minnesota-Dakotas District added in this decade 48 new clubs which still exist. In 1922 the District started 17 new clubs—a record that held for 58 years.
1920

District Governor -- Louis A. Muessel, St. Paul, MN
International President -- Henry J. Elliott, Montreal, PQ
District Convention -- St. Paul, MN
International Convention -- Portland, OR

Clubs started in 1920 that are in existence today: Chisholm, Hibbing, Red Wing, Virginia, and Winona in MN; Fargo, Grand Forks in ND; and Sioux Falls and Watertown in SD.

Kiwanians have fun, raise thousands of dollars for large community projects

Kiwanians make music in Duluth

Duluth gave free band concerts in the parks. The concert cost $7,500 which was raised by two dances at the Armory, sponsored by Kiwanis Club.

The third District Convention was held in St. Paul, and the District again changed its name. The District was called "The Minnesota and the Dakotas." All clubs reported work with the underprivileged children.

Police jail Charter Night visitors

When Fargo was chartered, a trainload of Grand Forks Kiwanis Club members went to Fargo to attend the charter night banquet. Officers of the Fargo Police Department met them at the train, loaded them into paddy wagons, and placed them in the Fargo Jail. The newspaper came and took pictures. Later they were released to attend the Charter Banquet.

When it comes to having fun, KIWANIANS are number one

Minneapolis Starts Blind Society

Kiwanis Club of Minneapolis started the Minneapolis Society for the Blind in 1920, and they still support this work today.

The first projects for the members were to read to the blind, to drive the blind to the Silver Lake Summer Camp, to gather clothing and to put together Christmas baskets for the needy blind.

To raise money for the blind they held a benefit concert by the famous Metropolitan Opera Singer, Ernestine Schumann-Heink. The concert raised $10,300 to pay off the mortgage on the small headquarters and broom shop.

The broom shop became one of the chief money raising projects in their sponsorship of the Society for the Blind. By 1950 sales from brooms had risen to $500,000 per year.

Now they wanted to increase their potential to raise money, so they raised $100,000 in 1946 to acquire a new building at the corner of Lyndale and Franklin, which is the Society's present location. In 1950 they again raised $50,000 to help match a Federal Grant.
Kiwanis supports Society for the Blind

A Federal grant of $125,000 established the first Regional Center in Minneapolis for the Visually Handicapped.

The mission of the Society was described as "personal adjustment training." It was done through three principal programs: The Rehabilitation Center, Rehabilitation-Industrial Workshops and Community Rehabilitation Service. The Society has an annual budget of $2.5 million and manufacturing sales of $1.6 million. Their manufacturing sales include such things as mops, brooms, ironing board covers, pillow cases and industrial aprons.

The Kiwanis Club now provides electronic equipment to replace the hours of reading to the blind of years ago. Present activities with the blind include an annual night at a Twins baseball game, boating, hay rides, and winter skiing. They also set up a blind bowling league in 1920, and it is still going today.

International Kiwanis President, Ed Moylan of Miami Florida, and Mpls. Society for the Blind Director Byron Smith in the broom factory

A KIWANIS FIRST
Roe Fulkerson, first editor of the KIWANIS magazine, originated the permanent motto: "We Build," which was adopted in 1920

TRIVIA
Children of the 20's had fun pushing a nail-keg hoop or barrel hoop with a stick while running behind or along side the hoop.
Governor -- Louis A. Muesel, St. Paul, MN
International President-- J. Mercer Barnett, Birmingham, AL
District Convention -- Red Wing, MN
International Convention -- Cleveland, OH

Clubs started in 1921 that are still are in existence: Alexandria, Anoka, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud and Rochester in MN; Devils Lake and Minot in ND; and Huron, Mitchell and Wessington Springs in SD.

Canada starts U. S. Club, Sec. gets $50.

Brandon Manitoba starts North Dakota Club.

The Kiwanis Club of Brandon, Manitoba, Canada organized and started the Kiwanis Club of Devils Lake. Brandon members traveled 169 miles to Devils Lake by train. They still attend most of the functions of the Devils Lake Club, but of course, they travel by car now.

The District Secretary-Treasurer’s salary was set at $50.00 per month at the District Convention in Red Wing. There were 23 clubs at the time with a membership of 2,296.

Huron organizes at midnight A KIWANIS FIRST

The Kiwanis Club of Huron, SD had the distinction of being the first club in the United States or Canada to be organized at a banquet held at midnight. They started with 65 members.

The Mankato Kiwanis Club had an annual Christmas Party for the youngsters in the area which is continued to the present day.

Take Time To Care
by Virgil Christensen, Major Emphasis Chair, 1980

There are none so blind
As they that will not see,
But, Lord, please,
Let not that be said of me.

For I am the man who is proud
of the K that I wear;
For it also says I am a person
Who will Take Time To Care.

KIWANIS which means "to make noise"
can be freely translated: WE HAVE FUN
1922

Governor -- John C. Pollock, Fargo, ND
International President -- Harry E. Karr, Baltimore, MD
District Convention -- Grand Forks, ND
International Convention -- Toronto, ON

Clubs started in 1922 that are still in existence include: Albert Lea, Austin, Blue Earth, Fairmont, Pipestone, Tracy and Worthington in MN; Jamestown, Lisbon, and Valley City in ND; and Brookings, Madison, Pierre, and Redfield in SD.

Car caravan covers 300 miles in two days

Travel to the 1922 convention was different from any before or since. The delegates and guests all started by car from Minneapolis/ St. Paul and other towns in the district, and arrived in Crookston, Minnesota at 4:00 P.M., the day before the convention.

The caravan drove as a group to Grand Forks, a distance of 26 miles. Delegates and guests from the Minneapolis / St. Paul area allowed two days to travel to Grand Forks.

The first night they stayed in Alexandria, Minnesota and had dinner with the Alexandria Club. Two repair cars accompanied the group from the Twin Cities, bringing with them spare parts -- tires, tubes, and so on. The Alexandria Club handled all the sleeping arrangements and the entertainment. It was quite a sight to see all of those cars put-putting into Grand Forks in one long parade.

The roads were very poor in those days (gravel at best). Past Governor Muessel and his wife reportedly went into a ditch near Crookston. Although there was considerable damage to the car, the Muessel were not hurt. It was said that Mr. Muessel later poured a pitcher of water over the heads of some boisterous Kiwanians outside his hotel window at 2:00 in the morning.

Gov. John C. Pollock

The St. Paul Kiwanis Club wrote to the district convention, saying that the St. Paul police had disbanded because all the undesirables had left to attend the district convention.

Tickets for the convention dinner sold for 75 cents. All ladies were guests of the Grand Forks Club. No smoking was allowed at any meeting.

Kiwanians have fun, Charter new clubs, parade with bands

Bands, colored hats, balloons and squawkers accompanied the chartering of The Brookings, SD Club. In spite of rain and bad roads (there were no paved roads in those days), 450 visiting Kiwanians drove from neighboring towns to attend Brookings Charter Night (a record crowd for a charter night up until that time). Wessington Springs, which was said to be the smallest town in the world to have a Kiwanis Club, came with ten members.

All clubs paraded through the streets of Brookings at 5:30 P.M., with three bands, and gay colored hats with Kiwanis insignias on them. They had balloons, banners and squawkers, and car horns that went er-ooga, er-ooga!

Because of bad roads, the Sioux Falls delegation left the party early — at 10 P.M. Fifty five miles and eight hours later they reached home.

More new clubs, 17, were built in 1922 within the Minn.-Daks. District than in any other year of the first 45 years of Kiwanis District History. THINK GROWTH!
Clubs feed hungry, build children's camp

New club organizes in one day

The Kiwanis International Field Representative called one of the businessmen in Worthington, Minnesota, and requested that they have 12 businessmen meet with him on Friday, December 15, so that he could explain Kiwanis to them.

He instructed them to go out the next day and talk to others. At 12:30 P.M., this group had 50 signed up. Since everything had gone so well, it was decided to meet at 11:00 P.M., to organize a club. That evening 43 showed up, and the Club DID ORGANIZE. That was fast!! The Worthington Club later started, and then also financially sponsored the Kiwanis Baseball League. One hundred and eight boys participated.

Kiwanis clubs feed the hungry

❖ The Duluth Club furnished 3,000 quarts of milk to undernourished children, and 10,000 pounds of flour to the needy.

❖ The Rochester and Mankato Clubs each furnished a carload of flour to famine struck Russians.

❖ The St. Paul Club sponsored the Downtown Boys Club, an organization for taking care of newsboys.

❖ The Alexandria Club raised enough money to build a bath house. And Several other Kiwanis clubs built tourist camps.

St. Paul starts Children's Camp

In 1922 the St. Paul Club started Camp Kiwanis. This camp, located on the beautiful St. Croix River about 30 miles from St. Paul, was the first for underprivileged children in the District.

The first campers slept on cots and in tents loaned by sympathetic army officers at Fort Snelling. The first buildings were built by Kiwanis members. Since it was built, many other groups, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, YMCA, and Minnesota Association for Crippled Children, and adults, have used the facilities.

Club builds Million dollar camp

The camp was completely renovated between 1984 and 1987. Approximately $300,000 in cash and $700,000 in kind was spent to do this. Seventy-eight acres of underdeveloped land was purchased across the road from the camp. This land is used for camping, hiking, horseback riding and nature trails.

Six sleeping cabins each hold 14 people, the dormitory holds 36 people, and a staff cabin holds eight people. There is also a bath house, craft lodge, first aid cabin, dining hall that seats about 150 people, Roger Hall, indoor meeting and activities lodge, Olympic size swimming pool, tennis courts, stable for horses, and the director's home. The total value is $1,500,000.

Camp Kiwanis is open all year. In 1991, 3,550 youth and their parents used the camp. If you are ever in the vicinity, they would be very happy to see you.

The Kiwanis Lodge, Camp Kiwanis Dining Hall, on the St. Croix River seats around 150 campers. The tiled kitchen provides sanitary meals for all.

Seventeen new clubs were organized in 1922. A record which remained unbroken for 58 years. It is worth noting that 13 of these still exist.
St. Paul Kiwanis sponsors camp on St. Croix

Kiwanis Lodge at Camp Kiwanis serves as a dining hall for campers. The flag pole area provides room for a call to colors for campers.

Marian Christianson relaxes in the clean, tiled Camp Kiwanis Dining Hall that has beamed ceiling with sturdy chandelier wheels to support lights.

Craft Hall on the left makes creative campers. The winterized dorm on the right sleeps 36 campers.

The log cabin staff office on the right helps keep leaders near the large winterized dormitory—left.

Six sleeping cabins like the one above each hold 14 campers per cabin.

Pool swimming keeps campers from the temptation of the swirling St. Croix River.
Clubs build communities, print new bulletin

**Kiwanis aids civic organization**

In order for the Rochester Civic Organization to stay in operation, the Kiwanis Club of Rochester suspended its meetings for several weeks to help the reorganization of the Civic Organization. This plan of the Kiwanis Club was supported by Kiwanis International, the District and the local Club.

**District train sets record:**

The Minnesota-Dakotas District chartered a special train to take the delegates and guests from ND, SD, and MN to Atlanta, GA. They all connected with a special train at a point outside of Chicago. The Nebraska-Iowa delegation joined the train at Chicago. The train stopped at Look-Out Mountain and Chattanooga to sight-see. **This was the largest special train of Kiwanians pulling into Atlanta.** District Kiwanis Clubs started many special projects in 1923 to help children and youth.

**Wessington Springs** built a Kiwanis Hut for park and playgrounds. **Minneapolis** Kiwanians started acting as Big Brothers to boys returning to Hennepin County from the State Training School.

**Moorhead** helped Boy Scouts buy instruments for their band. **Brookings** held a benefit band concert to raise money to build a Kiwanis skating rink and warming house.

An agriculturist is a person who used to be called a farmer; before he could afford a station wagon.

Clubs started in 1923 that are still in existence today include: Detroit Lakes, Morris, Ortonville and Willmar in MN; Bismarck, Carrington, Harvey and New Rockford in ND; and Aberdeen, Hot Springs and Yankton, SD.
St. Paul wins International Convention bid

Club hires special train
To secure the 1925 International Convention, the Kiwanis Club of St. Paul hired a special train to go to the International Convention in Denver to put in their bid. They cleared $3,000.00 at a dance in the Montgomery Ward Building; and the entire membership of the St. Paul Kiwanis Club went to Denver to help secure the convention.

Flower Girls help win bid
At Denver, they hired 25 little girls to deliver roses to every delegate; each rose had a ribbon bearing an invitation to come to St. Paul in 1925. Some 30,000 feathers bore similar messages.

District adopts new policies and projects

Governor to appoint Secretary
Up until 1924 the District Secretary had been elected by delegates at the District Convention. Delegates voted that the District Secretary be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Lt. Governors. This practice remains today.

Kiwanis faces unusual concerns
Concern was expressed that Rotary was chartering clubs with 15 members needed to start a club.

There was much concern about the future of Kiwanis at this time because of the many bank failures.

The site was cinched when St. Paul Kiwanians "conned" the national program committee to allow them to drape a huge map of the United States for a stage backdrop.

At the proper psychological moment, a lady stepped out of a door in the center of the map and presented St. Paul's invitation in song.

Another special train for the rest of the District went to Denver to help get the convention. This train made stops at St. Paul, Mankato, Madelia, St. James, Worthington, and Sioux City, Iowa. In those days, the railroad companies bid for the group to use their trains and gave some very good deals. All but three of the clubs, in the district at that time, attended the convention.

Another concern had to do with an all male membership. The Kiwanis International Secretary wrote, "We have recently had a most unusual and undesirable interest in the election of women to honorary members. There will be NO WOMEN honorary members."

International also notified all clubs that failure of a club to have representation at two consecutive International conventions would cause a loss of their charter.

However, in spite of all the concerns, Kiwanians continued to have fellowship and fun. Many inter-club picnics were held during the summer.
District Clubs lead the nation
Minot has 10 Boy Scout Troops

Valley City took third place in the International Efficiency Contest. Minot Kiwanis Club built a ladies' Rest room at the fairgrounds. Minot had ten Boy Scout Troops and the Club supplied eight of them with Scoutmasters.

Mandan had a Crow Shoot. More than 1,000 crows, magpies, hawks, owls, and other "pests" were destroyed insuring a greater protection to grouse, prairie chickens, song birds, and tame poultry.

Duluth gives children priority

Duluth served about 280 orphans in the three orphanages of Duluth. On their birthday they received an inexpensive present by mail addressed to that particular child with a personal letter containing birthday greetings and good cheer. Kiwanians also sent an Easter basket to every kiddie in every Duluth hospital and Children's Home on Easter Day.

Mankato Kiwanis builds Camp Patterson

H.A. Patterson purchased 9.7 acres of lake front land on Lake Washington and Camp Patterson came into being. Prior to this, tents were pitched near Sibley Park and campers were taken out by Kiwanians for a one day camping experience.

In 1943 Robbie Patterson gave $54,000 in memory of his father and another 5.72 acres of land was purchased. In 1968 the Kiwanis Club purchased another 3.2 acres of land for a total of 18.1 acres.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts camped first.

Fire burns lodge, Kiwanis rebuilds camp

The Camp hired a full time director and caretaker in 1981; and in 1984 the lodge was completely destroyed by fire. In order to have the lodge ready for 1985, the club went on a finance drive. The entire community cooperated and was provided free architectural services. They needed $125,000 to completed the project, and raised $143,425. The "Travelogue and Adventure Series," illustrated lectures, has been the largest money raising project for the camp since 1961.

Kiwanis adopts name & objects

Kiwanis adopted the name Kiwanis International and the six Objects at the 1924 Convention held in Denver, Colorado, USA.

Mankato Downtown Kiwanians: Dwain F. Petersen, Dr. Claire E. Faust, Dr. Vanda Manahan, Dr. James E. Manahan and Dr. Francis Hatfield admire the new Kiwanis Lodge.
Mankato Kiwanis Club sponsors camp

You can't go wrong if you follow the signs to Kiwanis Camp Patterson near Mankato, MN.

Kiwanis Lodge, built on a hillside, gives two level access for campers. On one side campers enter without stairs. Trees provide beauty and shade.

Mankato Downtown Kiwanians sponsor the 18.1 acre camp along the shore of Lake Washington. Many local groups, including Scouts, use the camp, and Kiwanians pay for underprivileged children each year.

Fire destroyed the Kiwanis Lodge at Camp Patterson in 1984. The Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club with generous contributions from friends restored the Lodge. They dedicated this new Kiwanis Lodge June 3, 1985.

Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club replaced tents with cabins in 1943. They built two cottages a year until ten had been built.

Kiwanians reminisce at Camp Patterson on the shore of Lake Washington.
1925

Governor -- Emil E. Theuer, Wessington Springs, SD
International President - Victor M. Johnson, Rockford, IL
District Convention -- St. Paul, MN
International Convention -- St. Paul, MN

Clubs started in 1925 that are still in existence today include: Lead, SD

Gov. Emil E. Theuer

District hosts Int. Conv., sets new policies

District Convention cut to a day

Because the District acted as host for the International Convention, The Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention was called for one day only as strictly a business meeting of officers and delegates.

Each club in the District organized a quartet for the International Convention. Music was sent to each club for a particular number and all the quartets joined together at the convention to sing. Austin took the Boy Scout Band to the International Convention in St. Paul to play for the Kiwanians.

Valley City shows need to change contest rules in service efficiency

Valley City, ND did so well in the efficiency contest, by taking third place in the Kiwanis International, that International changed the rules to give the clubs in smaller cities equal opportunity with those in larger cities to win an award.

Valley City, ND illustrated the need for Kiwanis to divide contests by club size. They said that if Valley City would have had the opportunities for service that clubs in larger cities had, they would have won first place.

Clubs to start new Kiwanis Clubs

Kiwanians plan boat to Montreal

The District made plans to go as a group by boat to the International Convention in Montreal in 1926. Members drove to Duluth and then sailed to Montreal.

International handled starting new clubs very differently from that of the present day. Cities applied to become a Kiwanis club, and then the International Field Representative would come out and survey the city to see if it would be a logical place for a Kiwanis club. Two or more existing clubs sponsored a given city, but that was changed because they felt that one club would assume more responsibility for the progress of a new club.

Bids for the District Convention had to be in the hands of the District Secretary by the first of May. At the convention the bids were voted on by the delegates, but that was only advisory. The trustees voted and decided where future conventions should go.

TRIVIA

Yale University students introduced a new sport in 1925. Undergraduates enriched their lunch by spinning pie plates across the cafeteria with stunning accuracy. The flying objects normally held pies baked by the Frisbie Baking Company of Bridgeport Connecticut.
Kiwanis beats difficulties, serves children

Bank fails; Kiwanians meet need
The bank of Alexandria closed its doors and because of lack of funds no 4-H leader could be hired. The Kiwanis Club of Alexandria took matters into its own hands and ran the program. Each Kiwanian sponsored at least one boy or girl in the club work for the year. Kiwanians helped 175 boys and girls in 4-H.

Kiwanians serve needy Children
Kiwanis members served five classes of underprivileged children: the physically disabled, boy scouts, social welfare and play ground children, superior gifted children and juvenile delinquents. The biggest project of all was for those with infantile paralysis.

❖ Pipestone built a swimming pool at a cost of $9,500.

❖ Winona raised over $5,000 to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop.

❖ Valley City sponsored a county track meet for boys and girls. They also sponsored a county picnic for over 5,000 people.

What constitutes a Good Club:

1. Abide by the six objects of Kiwanis. Read them, follow them.

2. Must be willing to analyze the needs of the community and then do something to solve these needs.

3. A good club shows sincere concern about its youth groups.

4. Implements and carries out a major emphasis program.

5. The Kiwanis education program, properly educates new members and refreshes old members on what Kiwanis stands for and sets the example.

6. A good public image. The club is a leader in its community and really does something.

7. Has good Kiwanis fellowship - our greatest asset. We tend to be "clickish" in our meetings, break it up! Be a whole club.

8. Good program - 52 good programs are necessary - don't fail to have a good program. Builds membership and attendance.

9. A good club has fun, but be builders in your fun.