

Sept/Oct 2004

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# MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

## Play Safe Service And Family Emphasis

Well, here it is, my last article as Governor. First and foremost, I wish, no, need, to thank each and every Kiwanian in the District for the awesome opportunity you afforded me, filling the position of Governor this year. The people I met were, without a doubt, the friendliest and most supportive group of new and renewed friends for which one could hope. Thanks also to my Lieutenant Governors and their teams for making my job easier and for their donated gift to Kiwanis Outreach in my name.

Thanks also to the rest of the Executive Board and our District Directors for their time and work. Thanks to both\*. Stewart Ross and Bruce Klair for risking their nerves as they ran for Governor Elect. I offer a special thanks to Jack and Judy Zierdt for accepting the much appreciated role of mentors as well as friends.



The highlights of the year must include the Regional Conferences, the Key Club and Circle K Conventions and the Key Club Fall Rally, and our own very well planned and enjoyed District Convention. We had more attendees (479) this year than in the previous two years. Another highlight, which contributed to the attendance, was the availability of two candidates for Governor! I understand that the election results were very close. Hosting an open house for the District attendees at the International Convention was a great opportunity. Remaining in St. Louis for both the Circle K and Key Club International Conventions was a real treat. The youth in our K Family always recharge our batteries with their enthusiasm. The District is approaching the \$4,000 level for contributions to Kiwanis Outreach. Anyone want to push for \$5,000? I am sure I am forgetting to mention other highlights, but I suppose I do need to leave SOME room in this paper for other articles.

There were some challenges, as well. Under my watch, we lost nine clubs and 211 members at last count. The Full Participation Award fell short of the response for which I had hoped. Before writing this article, I reviewed all the other articles and was struck by the fact that details about the FPA apparently went unread. Yet, the number that actually received awards, both clubs and individuals, were appreciated. A serious shortfall in club participation in the International Foundation's Annual Giving Campaign means that, once again, we get but one scholarship each for our Key Club and Circle K districts. At this moment, we have achieved less than 56% of our clubs participating, even though the total amount contributed was more than last year. There was a change two years ago regarding qualification for a club to be counted that increased the level to \$100.00/club or, for clubs with less than twenty members, \$5.00/member. There is still time until September 30th to get to the 75% level. Congratulations to Region 7 for participating at the 81% level!

Well, I have to close this note before there is no room left. I wish success to Wait Roetter and his team in the coming year. Finally, if I have offended anyone this past year, please accept my sincere apology. May every one of you be blest with growth and wisdom. Farewell!

## District Secretary / Treasurer to retire on April 15, 2005

Third longest serving secretary/treasurer in the Minnesota Dakotas District will call it quits after 14 years and 15 days: April 1, 1991 – April 15, 2005.

Eight secretaries served the District from 1918-2005.

NAME	SERVICE	YEARS
Joseph L. Marshall	1918-1922	4
Carl Spiller	1923-1926	3
R. Armistead Grady	1927-1944	17



Rosser J. Willis	1945-1946	1
Theodore H. Fenske	1946-1950	4
W. Craigen Thom	1951-1977	26
Floyd K. Christianson	1977-1991	13 ½
Tom P. Horan	1991-2005	14 & 15 days

## Yankton Kiwanis Club



Yankton Kiwanis Big Friend - Little Friend Bowling party Feb 7, 2004



Yankton Kiwanis answering phones at SD-Public TV WinterFest 2004. March 6, 2004 at Vermillion SD

## De Smet Kiwanis Club 50th Anniversary

Kiwanian Otto Sckerl receives a 50-year membership pin from his wife Hazelle at the De Smet Kiwanis Club 50th anniversary celebration in November 2003. Sckerl also received the Kiwanis Legion of Honor award. He is a charter member of the De Smet club, and he is the only living charter member who is still an active member. "I appreciate being recognized," Sckerl said, but it was no chore to be a member for 50 years because it was fun." Forty-one men formed the De Smet club in 1953. There are eight living charter members—Floyd Abrahamson, Boyd Haufle, Robert Jensen, Lloyd "Tex" Myers, Alan Purintun, Otto Sckerl, Don Torgerson and Maurice Wika.



## Northern Dakota County Kiwanis Club of Inver Grove Heights

Northern Dakota County Kiwanis Club of Inver Grove Heights, donates school supplies for students in the "Fill the Backpack Campaign". Shown accepting the supplies is Principal John Laliberte of Kaoposia Education Center in S. St. Paul. Kiwanis members are President Tom Schellinger and Mel Fisher. This is the third year we have collected school supplies for students.



## Fergus Falls District Convention House of Delegates Elect District Officers



Walt Roetter  
Governor  
Rapid City, SD



Stewart Ross  
Governor-Elect  
Mankato, MN

## Is Your Region Wired Yet?

By Bob Swanson ([reswanson@yahoo.com](mailto:reswanson@yahoo.com))

Improved public relations through increased use of technology, particularly email and web sites, is one of the goals of the Minnesota-Dakotas District for 2004-2005.

A new Minnesota-Dakotas District web site is being developed this fall and is expected to be introduced in October. Each of the seven regions will have an opportunity to utilize this District site to share news, recent activities and creative ideas. The District Public Relations Committee is eager to work with the officers in each region to determine whether the region will enter information directly on the District site, link to regional web sites, or utilize some combination of these options.

We need to continue to use education and motivation to spread the word about who we are as Kiwanians if we want to help each other increase our membership. Since regular face-to-face meetings in a district as large as ours are financially prohibitive, we need to utilize electronic means of communication as effectively as possible.

Our district needs the experience and ideas of every single member if Kiwanis is to continue to be a viable organization in this area. Please volunteer your ideas based on your experience. You can contact Bob Swanson or any of the other members of the District Public Relations committee whose names and email addresses are listed elsewhere in this publication. Thank you in advance for your help!

## Secretary's Column

### Tom's Thoughts

#### THANK YOU TIME:

**Fergus Falls Noon & Fergus Falls Otter Risers:** Thank you goes out to all members. You all worked so hard to make our 2004 District Convention a success.

**Co-Chairs:** Thank you goes out to Margie Gettel and Larry Mitberg. You met your goals for your clubs and the Minnesota-Dakotas District. How proud I am of you both and your entire team. Merald, thank you for all of your assistance and dedication for this Convention.

**Lt. Governors 2003/2004:** Thank you goes out to all seven (7) of you. It was so nice to watch all seven of you working as a team. Our Lt. Governors Elect and Immediate Past Lt. Governors were a big help to the 2003/2004 year. We will miss you but will watch you in another leadership role for the 2004-2005 year and beyond.

**Minnekotan:** Thank you goes out to the Fergus Falls Daily Journal for publishing the Minnekotan since 1989. As the Minnekotan Editors Marcia and I thank the entire Daily Journal team and especially Deb Erickson who worked with us on all issues in the past years. We will miss your dedicated work and friendship. In October start checking the electronic Minnekotan, and more frequent District news at [www.mndak-kiwanis.org](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org),



**Minnesota-Dakotas Membership:** Thank you goes out to all of you for sending in articles to be published in the Minnekotan. I am sorry if we did not get all your news printed. Some months we could print three papers. The articles we could not print one month would go into the next month's Minnekotan, and if the article was outdated we would not be able to use it.

**It Soon Will Be Over:** Thank you goes out to all of you for your support, encouragement, and friendship for fourteen (14) years and fifteen (15) days. Yes, on October 1, 2004 I notified Governor Walt Roetter that on April 15, 2005 will be my last day as District Secretary/Treasurer.

Walt's first half year will be over on March 31, and then I will take the fifteen days in April to get the financial records up to date, office equipment, files, and everything moved out to the new District Secretary/Treasurer headquarters.

Marcia and I had the privilege to meet Kiwanians all over the District. Many are now gone but will always be remembered. We also consider the wonderful people at Kiwanis International and around the world among our good friends. It was always important to me to run our office with attention to details, and to follow the District Bylaws, Policies & Procedures, and Job Descriptions.

I always felt my history as a Past Officer (President, Lt. Governor, Governor, District Key Club Administrator, Committee Chair on many District and International levels) was important to the District Office so I could act as a liaison to many for advice, and if I did not have the answers immediately I found them. The experience has been one I shall not ever forget. It has been a busy office and the weekly hours have been long ones. Fond memories will linger with us forever.

## **Minnekotan Moving to Electronic Future!!**

By Bill Zortman ([billtell.pre@midconetwork.com](mailto:billtell.pre@midconetwork.com)) & Vickie Apel ([vickie.apel@msnu.edu](mailto:vickie.apel@msnu.edu)) The end is quickly approaching for a newspaper print version of the Minnekotan. Changing communications trends, a changing population and the need to trim expenses is bringing the change with the start of a new Kiwanis year in October. The Minnekotan has been printed and distributed by The Fergus Falls Daily Journal for a number of years. Tom Horan, District Secretary-Treasurer, and other district officers have had nothing but praise for the work that The Daily Journal has given Kiwanis.

The September issue will be converted to an electronic version and viewed by the Public Relations Committee and the Executive Board. Lori Larson, the former general manager of the Fergus Falls newspaper, is providing the leadership and electronic savvy to make the change. It's expected that an electronic version of the Minnekotan will be available on-line along with a new District website very soon.

Governor Elect Walt Roetter and the new Governor Elect Stewart Ross have endorsed the project along with District Secretary Tom Horan. It has been the job of our Public Relations Committee to divide the tasks of improving the Kiwanis Public Relations for not only the District but seven Regions, Clubs, and other branches of the Kiwanis Family.

At the Fergus Falls Convention, a list of volunteers to make the transition was solicited in three Public Relations Sessions. The names of those volunteers and how you can be part of the transition is carried in another section of the Minnekotan.

Bill Zortman is serving as the Public Relations Committee Chairman. Lori Larson is overseeing the changes on the District Level. Bob Swanson, named Co-Chair of the Committee, will lead the way for the seven Regions to develop web sites and links. Stephen Jennebach is leading the way for Club site development. Vickie Apel will be the key player in media releases.

Among the issues being addressed by the Public Relations Committee and the Executive Board is a way to make printed versions of the Minnekotan material available to those members who don't have access to computers. A survey at the District Convention in Fergus Falls found that those having computers far outweighed those that didn't. What also was discovered was the willingness of Clubs and members to make sure that those without access to an electronic version of Kiwanis news would be accommodated.

With the loss of 300 members and 9 clubs in the three state district last year, the need to attract new and electronically energized members is needed. It is hoped that this will be the first step to assure the good work being done by Kiwanis Clubs and their members continue and can be used to spread new roots across our territory.

## **The Key Leader Program**

A new opportunity for high school and college students is well on its way to become Kiwanis International's "next success story." The goal of the Key Leader program is to empower 250,000 youth leaders around the globe by 2020 by inspiring

young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership.

The leadership development program is based on five "Keys" to excellence Personal Integrity; Personal Growth; Respect; Building Community; and Pursuit of Excellence. Methods to teach and develop these Keys to Excellence are currently being field tested in Key Club's KC Weekends and Circle K's Leaderscape opportunities.

How does this new leadership development program differ from those currently being offered to high school students?

First, Key Leader events will be open to students completing the 8th grade as well as to those students currently enrolled in high school. Also, multiple students from a given high school may attend as well as those students being home schooled. Key Leader seeks to identify and nurture "developing" leaders, not only those hand selected by school district staff or those elected to positional leadership roles. Key Leader participants may already be in a Kiwanis Sponsored Youth Program, may not yet be a member, or be a student at a school not currently served by Kiwanis. This element provides a tremendous outreach potential for Kiwanis Clubs to impact many students. Finally, the Key Leader program provides a great transition from Builders Club to high school, often an insurmountable barrier for students matriculating from a smaller junior high/middle school into a large high school.

## Key Leader Volunteer Positions

### KEY LEADER DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON

Responsible to coordinate Key Leader activities in a Kiwanis District. (Appointed by the District Governor or Governor Elect). Recruit Site Coordinators for each program in the district and aid in the selection of the Site Committee. Serve as a resource for KI staff in the identification of potential district sites. Attend training events and receive communications on the Key Leader program. Serve as the primary contact for information on the Key Leader program in the district, and coordinate the marketing efforts in conjunction with other District leaders. Work with Kiwanis International staff to ensure the execution of each event in accordance with the operational plan. Support the work of each Site Coordinator and Committee, and if possible, attend each Key Leader in the district. Participate in evaluation and development of the program. Prior experience in sponsored youth activities and/or leadership training events is desirable. (If the District hosts a single event, the District Chairperson may serve as the Site Coordinator.)

### KEY LEADER SITE COORDINATOR

Responsible to coordinate and oversee the preparation and execution of a Key Leader event. (Appointed by the Key Leader District Chairperson). Recruit a committee of 3-5 members to facilitate the marketing for the event, the preparations with the site, and the quality execution of the event. Work to ensure a smooth operation and support the work of the Lead Facilitator during the event. With Site Committee, coordinate logistical details of the event with the site staff and KI staff. Direct the Committee and other responsible adults at the event in their responsibilities for appropriate supervision of the participants. Submit an evaluation report on behalf of the Committee after the conclusion of the event to the District Chairperson.

### KEY LEADER SITE COMMITTEE

Selected by the Site Coordinator to assist in the preparation and execution of the event. Specific responsibilities will be assigned by the Site Coordinator.

### KEY LEADER CO FACILITATOR

Youth development professionals selected by KI Staff to receive training in Key Leader curriculum. Assist the Lead Facilitator in delivery of a positive event. Assist in activities as determined by the Lead Facilitator. Submit an evaluation report after the event.

### KEY LEADER STUDENT FACILITATOR (Volunteer)

High school or college youth with previous leadership training experience and/or K Family leadership experience. Selected by KI Staff in consultation with District leaders. Attend orientation/training session immediately prior to the start of the event. Actively participate in all activities. Work under the direction of the Lead Facilitator as a small group leader of participants. Observe Code of Conduct during the event. Submit an evaluation report at the conclusion of the event.

## IDD Hixson Match Program Extremely Successful

The Kiwanis International ' Foundation article in the July/August 2004 Minnekotan described the new Hixson Matching Gift Program. This program allows an individual or club to give \$500 to the Iodine Deficiency Disorders Worldwide Service Project and have it matched by Foundation. The individual will receive a \$1,000 membership in the Hixson Fellowship. The program runs through September 30, 2005.



Kiwanians have made the Hixson Matching Gift Program an extremely successful event. Initially it was

seeded by a \$300,000 gift from a Texas Kiwanian and his wife. The Foundation Cabinet raised the matching fund level to \$450,000 with other gifts to the IDD Campaign. As of August 20, the matching gifts flowing in totaled \$500,000. The Cabinet has set a goal to have \$1 million of matching funds available. The Matching Fund Gift Program is still in effect. The IDD WSP is over \$15 million of the way to the \$3.0 net contribution level, What a remarkable response to a worthy cause. Kiwanians should be proud!

Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis Clubs with IDD funds may send them in to the Kiwanis International Foundation, the sooner the better. I am aware of one Kiwanis Club which intended to obtain a \$1,000 Hixson Fellowship to honor one of its members. With the Hixson Matching Gift Program the Club requested two Hixsons and honored two deserving members.

Update Note: In the May 2004 Minnekotan I encouraged Kiwanis Clubs to honor Club Presidents and other deserving individuals by recognizing them with a Kiwanis Fellow Award. The Kiwanis International Foundation has changed this program to the Kiwanis Leadership Society. A \$100 gift in the honor of a deserving individual ensures the Kiwanis International Foundation can assist in serving the children of the world. The person honored will be a Kiwanis Leader.



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