

Kiwanis

Nebraska-Iowa District

Vol. 54, No. 1

Kiwanian District Bulletin

November-December 2008

Murphy Named District Secretary

From an article by Roxanne Dass,
Williamsburg, Iowa, Journal Tribune

Frank Murphy of Williamsburg, Iowa, is a man of many hats. Murphy served as a city council member, now serves as mayor, is a member of the Williamsburg economic development committee and is an active member of Kiwanis.



Murphy can now add another hat to the mix. Murphy was recently appointed as District Secretary for the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District. Murphy assumed responsibility as district secretary on October 1. "I am the primary interface to all the Lt. Governors," he said. "I also serve the clubs; the secretaries and presidents of each of the clubs in the district."

As secretary, Murphy is responsible for four main areas: finances, newsletters, conventions and communication.

From all money that comes into the district, Murphy must help create and maintain a budget. "I make sure we keep all the financials in order," he said.

The district secretary must put out six newsletters a year. He must decide the overall theme of the newsletter and ensure there is enough content.

One of Murphy's bigger tasks is coordinating two conventions during the year, a Midyear Conference and a District Convention. "I'm responsible for all the logistics and planning," he said. "I have a team of people who help, but if something goes wrong I'm responsible for it."

His final task is to communicate to the district's 24 Lt. Governors and all the members of Kiwanis clubs. Murphy has to ensure Kiwanis news gets to the officers of nearly 200 clubs.

(Continued on Page 2 – District Secretary)

Cooper Domgard is Key Club International Trustee

Cooper Domgard, 17, and a Senior from Southeast High School in Lincoln, was elected in June as a Trustee on the 2008-2009 Key Club International Board of Directors. Cooper is the Immediate Past Governor of the Nebraska-Iowa Key Club District.

As International Trustee of Key Club, Cooper will oversee and advise three districts. His responsibilities will include two official visits to each district as well as ongoing communication with their Board members as well as with the International Board.



2008-2009 Key Club International Board of Directors

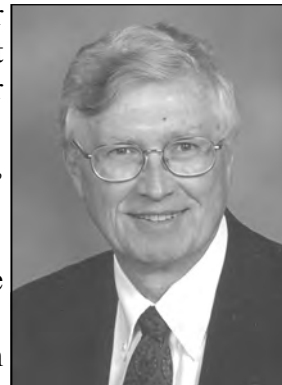


Cooper with proud mother, Tracey, and with Mary and Glenn Tjaden



Past Governor Mark's Thoughts

When I was the Lt. Governor of Division 2 four years ago, I challenged the clubs to recruit at least one new member who did not fit the profile of their club.



- One club, whose average age was around 50, recruited a person in his early 30s.
- A nearly all-male club recruited two women.
- Another club added a person who was from the Philippines.
- And a fourth club added to its roster a person who was challenged.

I strongly believe in diversity. Kiwanis International is slowly moving in that direction. Rita Baker wrote an excellent article in the last issue of this paper highlighting diversities' importance. Kiwanis is a global organization. We are found in nearly 100 nations and have members of all religions, all ages and all ethnic groups. As Rob Parker has said, "It's not your granddad's service club."

It was just over 20 years ago that Kiwanis opened its doors to women. Women now constitute 25% of our membership. Since women make up 51% of the world's population, we have done well, but there is much more ground to cover. That is why I asked my team of 2007-08 Lt. Governors to spread an idea I called "100 women in 100 days." By looking at the list of women who have joined Kiwanis since April 1, you can see we have been successful:

Debra Aldrich	Eyleen Anderson
Gloria Brinks	Rachelle Brissey
Linda Brown	Diane Brownell
Becky Christy	Angela Cole
Katherine Currie	Sandy Darling
Jeanette DeWalt	Jan Dugdale
Jenny Eklund	Linda Gilbert
Lori Goldsmith	Donna Gould
Christy Hatter	Laurie Hebl
Caryn Hohnholt	Pearl Holbrook
Julaine Holtz	Christine Hunt
Darlene Isaackson	Kellie Jimerson
Brenda Junker	Elizabeth Kohout
Alice Kusek	Sarah Langgaard
Brandie Ledford	Rebecca Lesnick
Julie Masters	Pam Miller
Rose Molacek	Jean Mujica
Ambica Nayak	Cindy Nederhoff
Kathryne Oates	Cheryl O'Neill
Lakshmi Padakandla	Tarakeshwari Paga
Melinda Pitt	Amy Rademaker
Virginia Rohrgach	Justina Roth
Diane Samuelson	Jessica Santillan
Diana Schultz	Penny Shedek
Mary Talbott	Michele Tatsumi
Laurie Wahlert	Kerry Walter-Ashby
Marsha West	Sally Whitney
Sarah Winfrey	

It is good to establish a personal, club, division and district goal to seek out those whose membership will expand our ability to serve others and enhance our diversity. We welcome these women. I'd love to have a similar list printed in a future *Kiwanian* that would tell of our success in enrolling other peoples into this great Kiwanis family – people of a faith other than Christian, or non-Caucasian, or women and men under the age of 35. That is my hope for the Kiwanis family.

Yours for a Diverse Kiwanis,
Mark E. Holmer, 2007-2008 Governor

James Gaul Educator's Award

Jeanne Virtue

Jim Bugge of Tama, Iowa, was honored with the F. James Gaul Educator's Award at the District Convention in August.

Jim is the elementary principal in the Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom Community School System, and was nominated for the honor by his Brooklyn Kiwanis Club. His concern and advocacy for his students led him to establish, with the help of his Kiwanis Club, a "Character Counts" program that honors two sixth graders each month. Character Counts stresses students getting along with one another and eliminating bullying and harassment.

Jim and his Kiwanis club have continued the program into the community with fundraising for a new U.S. Flag for the community flag display and CHARACTER COUNTS signs for the highways leading into town. They are partnering with local businesses to be sure the Character Counts program will continue.

Jim is active in his church, participates in the school's basketball programs and stays current in school affairs. Prior to coming to the Tama area, he was teaching in North Dakota, and involved in the city government of Hillsboro, North Dakota.

The James Gaul Educator's Award is given by the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District in remembrance of past Governor F. James Gaul of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, who passed away soon after completing his 1997-98 term as District Governor. The award was established in 2002 by District Governor Jane Erickson.



Jim Bugge, Elementary Principal, Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom Community Schools

District Secretary *(Continued from Page 1)*

Murphy, who was the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club president before he took on the role of district secretary, found out about the secretary opening in April. Secretary Ron Randall had decided to retire from his position.

Murphy said he went through an extensive application and interview process. Murphy's work with computers and his background in planning conferences gave him the edge he needed for the position.

When Murphy discovered he was appointed as secretary, he said he was a bit apprehensive. "I was nervous and a bit overwhelmed, because I knew there was quite a bit I had to do," he said.

Since he began, Murphy said the hardest adjustment was to identify and prioritize the tasks at hand. "The learning curve is very steep," he said. "You never know what questions you're going to be asked, what you're going to do next. Then you have the bills you have to pay and you have to be able to make monthly financial reports."

On top of his daily duties, Murphy is currently planning the Midyear Conference, which will be held in Bellevue, Nebraska, and he has to prepare the December newsletter.

Murphy was not completely on his own when he started: In the months before his appointment, he traveled to Harlan to train with former secretary Ron Randall. "Ron has been extremely helpful this whole time," he said. "I was very lucky because Ron was a good secretary and he taught me the skills I needed to take on this job."

Murphy won't be on his own now either. His wife, Janet, provides part-time assistance, just as Ron's wife, Verla, did during Ron's tenure.

One of his favorite things about his new job is the exposure to all members of Kiwanis. "One of (Kiwanis') missions is to serve young children," he said. "It's been very interesting to meet these people who are extremely dedicated to youth."

Murphy said his life has not changed too much since he began as secretary. "The job fits in nicely with my other duties," he said. "I'm one of the few district secretaries who works from home, and that makes things much more convenient."

District secretaries are appointed on an annual basis as long as the nominee agrees to take on the role. "I will continue doing this as long as they want me," he said.

Frank can be reached at secretary@nikiwanis.org or 319-331-9926. The fax number is 888-251-4191. The new District Office is located at 501 Raider Dr., Williamsburg IA 52361.

Aktion Club News

Floyd Hutzell, District Aktion Club Administrator

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees made Aktion Club members a part of Kiwanis Classic at their April 2008 board meeting. This brought over 8,000 new members into the Kiwanis Family. If you have been watching Aktion Club member activity you realize that this is a very just and reasonable action.

Over 400 of these new Kiwanians are from the Nebraska-Iowa District. These members are finding that membership in Kiwanis allows them the opportunity to "give back" to their communities and the world. We now have 20 Aktion clubs in the district, with new clubs formed in Grand Island, Iowa City, and Ottumwa this past Kiwanis year. Several additional clubs are under development.

We are also very proud of Grand Island Aktion Club member Lynn Redding for receiving third place in the International Aktion Club Speech Contest. Lynn has been honored with a certificate and medallion for this achievement. She is the first Aktion Club member from our district to enter any of the annual contests.

T. J. Brandt, President of the Iowa City Kiwanis Club and sponsor of the Aktion Club that presented the flags at our recent District Convention, is quoted as saying that he felt starting an Aktion Club was a legacy he is proud to leave as an activity achieved during his year as president. The Iowa City club name, "Reaching For The Stars" Aktion Club, says it all.

Please contact District Aktion Club Administrator Floyd Hutzell to get your club "in on the Aktion." Floyd can be reached at 515-295-2188 or fjhutz@netamumail.com.

Lincoln Food Bank "Back Pack Project"

Doug Curry, Lenora Hanna and Julie Goodwin

It started in October 2005, when then Lt. Governor Ron Petsch of Division 22 asked that each club president undertake a community assessment to see where the needs in our community needed to be met by our Kiwanis clubs. There were eight clubs in Divisions 21 and 22 in Lincoln. Why not combine efforts to do a city assessment? Why not do a project that would bring all the clubs together and promote Kiwanis as one rather than several individual clubs? A committee with representatives from all eight clubs in Lincoln, as well as Milford and Seward, started the project that proved to be successful and one of the most rewarding.

In the course of our assessment, we learned about the Lincoln Food Bank Back Pack Project. Right away we knew this was the one. It brought to light a problem in our city that many of us were not aware of: poverty. Many of us were surprised to learn that children in our city went hungry over the weekends.

The Lincoln Food Bank in 2005 was sending a backpack of food home on Fridays to 50 kids in two schools; kids who were eligible for the free lunch program. In the fall 2006, the Food Bank expanded the program to 350 students in six schools. It made plans to increase to 500 students in eight schools at the beginning of the second semester.

In 2006, the Kiwanis club in Milford, Nebraska, started their backpack project by supporting 20 students in their elementary school. Then the eight Lincoln clubs got involved as well. This turned on the flow of business contributions to support the program. Kiwanis involvement added credibility to the project. Between the eight Lincoln clubs, Milford, Seward, and individual Kiwanians sponsoring a student, Kiwanians raised over \$24,000 for the Lincoln Food Bank Back Pack Project.

For the 2007-08 school year, the Food Bank distributed 29,346 backpacks filled with food. At a conservatively estimated 5 meals per backpack, they distributed 146,730 meals, 58,692 pieces of fresh fruit, and 7,117 vouchers for gallons of milk.

In Nebraska, we are serving the children of the world, one child and one community at a time. With 5,000 eligible children for free lunches in Lincoln, and endless area communities not yet participating, we have a lot of work left to do.



2007-2008 Dictionaries for 3rd Graders

Paul Brenner, District Dictionary Project

Governor Mark challenged the entire Nebraska-Iowa District to provide dictionaries to every 3rd Grader. I don't know that any of us imagined the project would be so successful.

First, a little background on the origins of The Dictionary Project. Back in 1995, a lady named Mary French in Charleston, South Carolina set a goal to provide a dictionary to every 3rd grader in her state. It wasn't easy, it didn't happen right away, but she persevered and small successes broadened her horizons. Coverage in the Wall Street Journal and selection as an international project by Rotary International followed. The idea had gone nationwide. In states like Nebraska and Iowa, there was some participation, but no apparent emphasis. Individual sponsors like Larry Hutchinson of Council Bluffs, and service organizations like Rotary, Elks, Grange and Kiwanis assisted a number of school districts in both states.

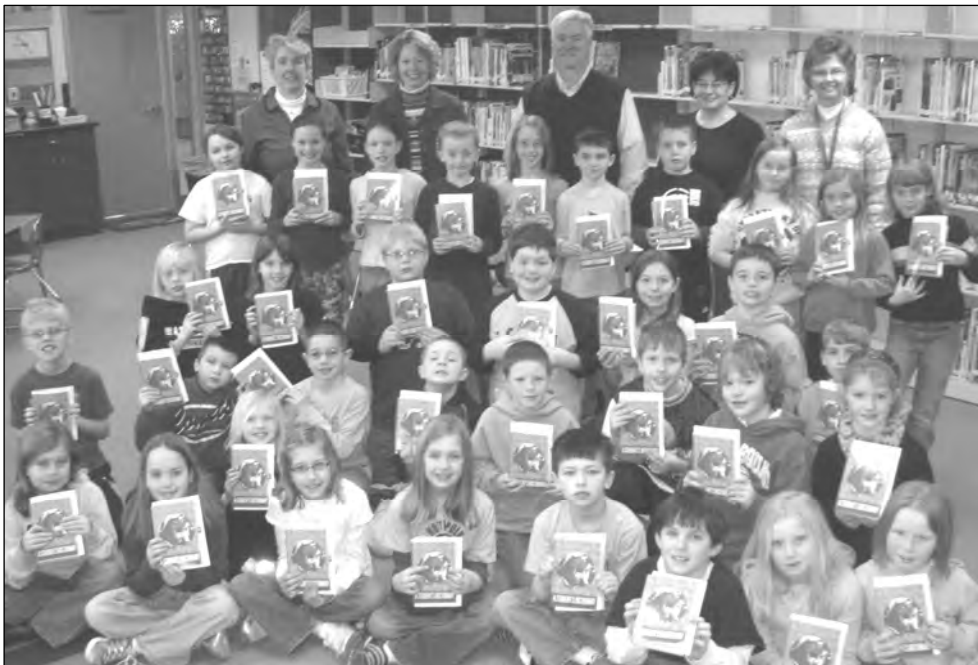
But then District Governor Mark Holmer told all of us Kiwanians how we could do a really good thing for children. Children of that age are reading and learning every day, so a personal dictionary at that age helps them avoid developing bad habits, while strengthening spelling skills and vocabulary.

Every Kiwanian who has helped distribute these dictionaries to kids in their town will long remember having a great time. Our clubs work long and hard to raise money to benefit kids. There are thousands of sponsors around the country whose donations subsidize our dictionaries for prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$2.00, which includes shipping. If you go to one of the major booksellers in larger cities or online, similar publications retail for much higher prices.

Just before the Nebraska-Iowa Midyear Conference in Council Bluffs in early March, The Dictionary Project determined that Iowa had suddenly reached the 80th percentile of full coverage. Clearly, Governor Mark's project was the catalyst, because so many Kiwanis Clubs chose to participate. The Dictionary Project shipped 5,000 completely free dictionaries to Iowa to "complete" the state. At the Midyear, two very significant things happened:

- Almost 2,500 of those free dictionaries were provided to Iowa clubs.
- The District Board of Trustees didn't want Nebraska to be overlooked, so they teamed up with private donor Larry Hutchinson of Council Bluffs to provide a total of \$2,760 in matching funds. Any Nebraska club could obtain dictionaries for the current year's batch of 3rd graders, and the district would give them a 50-percent rebate. What an amazing deal.
- In September, there was a new set of 3rd graders. The Kiwanis clubs of Nebraska and Iowa are encouraged to continue giving dictionaries on an annual basis. The cost is minimal, the distribution is great fun, and the potential for these young kids is limitless.

Thank you, Governor Mark Holmer, for recognizing that a cheap dictionary could have such value. One child and one community at a time...



The Success of Key Leader Grows

Ron Petsch, Governor-elect

Key Leader, a new Kiwanis program in 2005, offers leadership training for youth and is sponsored by Kiwanis International. Over the past three years, thousands of students were served by the Key Leader Program at 42 different events throughout the United States, as well as Brazil and Malaysia.



Many events for 2008 have already been completed, including the Iowa event at Camp Wildwood Hills last April and the Nebraska event at the 4-H Camp in Gretna, Nebraska, earlier this month. Key Leader is designed for students in age from 8th-grade graduates through 12th grade. All students are welcome, not just members of Kiwanis youth groups. The Nebraska-Iowa Key Leader camps need 60 participants each next year, so clubs need to get busy and renew associations and relationships with their local schools to fulfill this goal.

Kiwanis clubs should contact local High Schools to get names of students who would benefit by the Key Leader experience. If clubs desire to sponsor these students, then the club should send a letter of selection to the student. The letter and other Key Leader information can be found on the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis Web site located at www.nikiwanis.org. Click the Key Leader tab and you will find the student letter, fact sheet and steps for successful participation in Key Leader

The cost to sponsor a student is \$175, or \$150 if they are a Key Club member. The student must register online at www.key-leader.org. Registration needs to be completed 21 days prior to the event to avoid a higher cost (\$200). As your student registers on-line, they will print out an invoice for the sponsoring Kiwanis club to mail in with a check.

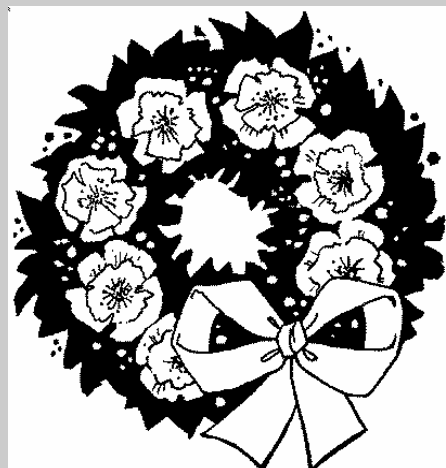
The cornerstone of Key Leader is "service leadership," which includes leading by example and empowering others to achieve their full potential. The most effective leaders encourage a spirit of teamwork and help others develop their own talents. Key Leader focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership development experience for participants. A Key Leader will learn the most important lesson of leadership – leadership comes from helping others succeed.

Each Key Leader event is conducted by adult and student facilitators and includes interactive learning experiences, audio-visual presentations, and large and small group exercises. Meals and recreation periods allow participants to meet other students from around the area.

Kiwanis clubs can support Key Leader by sponsoring attendees and providing volunteers to help host the events. For complete information and registration, see the Key Leader Web site at www.key-leader.org

Do not hesitate to contact any of the following individuals if you have additional questions or concerns regarding this fantastic program after visiting a Key Leader Web site. These people make up the district team of Key Leader coordinators who have experienced the benefit that students receive from Key Leader. We are fortunate to have a group of adult volunteers dedicated to making Key Leader successful in the district:

Sarah Klein-Mooney 402-499-8029 sarahkleinmooney@yahoo.com	Joe and Jody Melcher 515-382-5811 peptuck@midiaowa.net	Ron Petsch 402-641-3046 rrpetsch@alltel.net
Paul Lytle 402-580-4810 pd133@aol.com	Tina Potthoff 515-975-9211 tinapotthoff@yahoo.com	



May the Spirit of the season bring you Peace and Happiness now and throughout the New Year.

From the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

—Anne Frank

NE-IA Foundation Announces Grant Applications Approval

The Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District Foundation (NIF) has announced approval of more than \$44,000 in grants to five clubs in the district, according to Immediate Past President Mary Langdon.

“These are the first grants we have been able to approve in quite some time,” she explained. “Nearly all of NIF’s expendable funds went into the Pediatric Trauma Kit program for a number of years. Therefore, we were not able to respond to club and division requests for financial assistance with their projects.”

NIF funding for PTKs came to an end in March 2008, and while the Foundation continues to support the program administratively, funds now can be directed to new projects, she noted.

Projects tapped for grant funding are: Miracle League Baseball Park (Des Moines), \$5,000; Playground (Altoona), \$5,000; Children’s Zoo (Lincoln), \$12,500; School House Relocation (Norfolk), \$15,000; and Care Corps (Fremont), \$5,675.

Des Moines’ Miracle League Park will provide a user-friendly baseball venue for children with physical and mental disabilities. The Kiwanis Club of Altoona grant funds will go toward purchase equipment for the city’s Little Rams Preschool Playground designed to meet the needs of children ages two through six, including those with physical and psychological needs. Kiwanis Club of Lincoln’s request cited a long-standing relationship with Lincoln’s Children’s Zoo, and proposed matching funding with the club’s foundation to construct and staff an interactive play/learning area adjacent to a long-standing science discovery area. The foundation provided partial funding to the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk to relocate, renovate and furnish a historic school building for use in teaching modern students elements of their scholastic heritage. And the Kiwanis Club of Fremont received funds to support projects of Care Corps, Inc., Homeless Services, providing shelter, case management, healthcare assistance, professional counseling and other service to homeless clients.

Funding for the Lincoln, Norfolk and Fremont projects came from a special Holland bequest to the foundation which stipulated that proceeds are to be used only by Nebraska clubs. The remainder on current grant funding was provided by expendable Foundation money.

“NIF recognizes that there continue to be needs in every community, and that Kiwanians are called upon to meet them,” Langdon said. “So we welcome any opportunity to review grant requests. We recognize that we won’t be able to fund every need, but also know that we have an obligation to help clubs remain vital and vibrant resources within their communities.”

Clubs requesting NIF funding should complete and submit applications available at the Foundation page of the Nebraska-Iowa District Kiwanis Web site. Instructions must be followed explicitly, and applications must be submitted via e-mail.

In Memoriam – Past Governor Carl Hays

Carl Hays, 1972-1973 Nebraska-Iowa District Governor, died on June 4 at a nursing home in Marshalltown, Iowa. Carl was 96 and a member of the Marshalltown Kiwanis Club.

Carl will be remembered for his dedicated years of Kiwanis service, his love of Pancake Day and his golf game.

Carl proudly served as club president, Lt. Governor, Governor and Kiwanis International Accredited Representative. He will be greatly missed, but his works and Kiwanis heart will continue to be an inspiration.

It Doesn’t Take a Kiwanian

Warren Spencer, President, NE-IA District Foundation

On March 26, 2008, my wife, Fern, became a Kiwanian. Well, sort of...but not quite. You see, that’s the date she received her Life and Star Life memberships in the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District Foundation. But the whole thing started a bit earlier.

Sometime in January, Past Governor Bob Dunaway (who keeps track of such things) telephoned to ask whether I was interested in achieving a Diamond-Level Bartlett in the Foundation. Seems my account showed a balance above the amount necessary for a Bartlett, and was growing toward a second \$1,000 for Diamond level. But that’s not why I give to the Foundation. I do so because I believe in its philanthropic mission, and the awards levels are nothing more than scorecards.

At any rate, I told him I had no such ambitions, and he suggested that I designate \$200 to give Fern her Life (\$100) and Star Life (additional \$100) memberships. Sounded like a good idea to me, so he made the arrangements.

So, on March 26, Foundation Trustee Jerry Jordan (Division 21) presented the appropriate plaque and pins. It was a low-key but significant event. And I figured we were through. Not so.

A couple of weeks later, a long, long-time member of my club approached me. He said, “It was really good to see Fern. We don’t get to have her here too often.”

He’s right. She works to support me. And then he said, “But what was she doing here?”

I think he missed the gist of the event, so I explained that she’s received Foundation memberships. And he asked if she was a Kiwanian? Nope, I said.

“Well, I sure didn’t know you could do that,” was his reply.

And that started me thinking. How many Kiwanians know that they can present Life, Star Life and even Bartlett memberships to honor non-Kiwanians. I knew that; but I have a unique perspective. Try as we may, there are those among us who regard Foundation membership as a great mystery. It’s not. The District Foundation does great things: PTK, Child Lures Prevention and the Backpacks for Kids in Crisis projects to name just three. And anyone can partake.

Life memberships make great honors for club officers who have made significant contributions in time and talent. Ordinary, but essential, members or nonmembers can receive Foundation membership as a way of saying “Thanks,” or recognizing their service to Kiwanis projects. It’s something to think about any time, but especially as we enter the waning months of the year. Remember, there’s a tax deduction involved, and it’s a gift that keeps on giving.

So now there are almost two Kiwanians in our family. Some will tell you it’s a tossup as to which one does more to enhance the organization. I’m not about to argue that point.

KI Hires Joedy Isert as PR Manager

Kiwanis International has hired Joedy Isert as Public Relations Manager of the global not-for-profit service organization. In this position, Isert will be responsible for overseeing, developing and coordinating Kiwanis’ public relations initiatives and supporting its global marketing, branding and communications programs.

Isert brings years of experience to the job, most recently as a senior communications associate for Eli Lilly and Company. Isert will help promote and publicize the great work that Kiwanis does all around the world.

Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis
501 Raider Drive
Williamsburg, IA 52361



Kiwanian

Vol. 54, No. 1 Nov.-Dec. 2008
USPS 376-560

The *Kiwanian* is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November.

POSTMASTER: *Address Changes To:* NE-IA Kiwanis, 501 Raider Drive, Williamsburg, IA 52361. Periodicals postage paid at Williamsburg, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

MANAGING EDITOR: Frank Murphy, 501 Raider Dr., Williamsburg, IA 52361, phone: 319-331-9926, fax: 888-251-4191, e-mail: secretary@nikiwanis.org.

Periodicals Postage