

# Minnekotan



## Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

May 2024

Had this been just a couple members working towards building a new club it may never have happened, but the teamwork does not end, it just means we need to team up to support our new clubs and our struggling clubs and our District club Building team needs you! [Join the district club building teams Facebook page!](#)

### A Message from the Governor

I am excited to announce a new club in Hastings, Minnesota! Congratulations to President Marty Weber and all the new members of the Kiwanis of the Hastings Area. It's been a long road to get this club organized and we are excited to watch this club as it starts to serve the Hastings community and the youth of the area.

This was a District and Kiwanis International TEAM effort and there were so many people that helped create the contact list and make calls and introduce Kiwanis and schedule appointments from their homes from all over the district. We had several International and District members come to Hastings to visit prospective members from the appointments and share Kiwanis Love with community leaders and the new members.

I also want to thank the new Club coaches Bruce and Phyllis Klair for stepping up and joining the club as member coaches.

My theme for the year and for the District Convention is a simple and very old saying, "Together Everyone Achieves More" or TEAM and a good example is the work that was done in Hastings MN.

TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) "Teamwork is the ability to work together towards a common vision" Without getting too "philosophical," Aristotle first coined this term that dates all the way back to ancient Greece.

Now the District Club building team starts on a new club in Rugby ND, St James Mn, West Fargo ND and Williston ND E club. If you want to be part of the TEAM contact Bruce Klair, District Membership Chair or Brad Knudson, Governor and find out how you can help the Kiwanis district club building team of MinnDak.

## Kiwanis Club of The Hastings Area Holds Organizational Meeting

On April 15, 2024 eight members of The Hastings Area Kiwanis Club met to organize a new Kiwanis club in Hastings Minnesota. Also in attendance were Bruce Klair, District Membership and Engagement Coordinator acting as club coach with his wife Phyllis. Bill Otto, Lt Governor for division 7 was also present. Acting in support via zoom were Governor Bradley Knudson, Jay Hubbard from Kiwanis International and Cindy Braseth, District Secretary Treasurer. They elected officers, decided when and where to meet and completed their bylaws.

Pictured below are members of the newly formed club.



Welcome to the Minnesota Dakotas District!

## 2024 District Convention

Check your emails this week and next for Official Call to Convention Information. In the past clubs have received this mailing via snail mail. This year, email only. If we have your email, you'll get it, if not, you won't!



## A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

First off, apologies are in order for the delay in getting this May issue to you. I thought I had found the right format for the future, and it crashed on me and refused to cooperate. So I'm still looking.

We are entering the 8th month of this Kiwanis year. There's so much going on, my head is spinning! The International Convention is on the horizon and we have a candidate for International Vice President, Dan Leikvold, which is a BIG DEAL! If you aren't registered yet, there's still time before the price goes up June 1.

There's a brand new club in the district! It was a long road but several people hung in there and got the job done.

Planning for the District Convention in August is well underway and I've heard some really exciting and fun stuff that's being planned. You will not want to miss it. Watertown is a fun place to visit. You will want to bring the whole family.

Just a couple of business items:

Club election results are due to International June 1st.

If you haven't visited the new district website, check it out.

[www.mndak-kiwanis.org](http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org)



just printed out the Monthly Membership Comparison for our District, and the numbers are mixed as they always are. Some clubs are up, some down, and some clubs always seem to stay at the same number. As a district, we are up 25 members from where we started on October 1.

Then I started studying it in more detail. In every division, one or two clubs stand out showing real growth. How did they do it? In division 1 Minot Golden K added 3 members, and several clubs added 2. In Division 2 Valley City has added 4 new members, and several others are up 2. In Division 3 Annandale wins the honors for adding 4 new members, and Lead added one in Division 4.

Division 5 should be recognized: Madison has added 8, Mitchell has added 6, Sioux Falls is up 5, and several clubs are up 2 or 3. As a division, they are 23 members ahead of when we started.

In Division 6 Pipestone has added 4 members, and in Division 7 Columbia Heights-Fridley is up 7, North Suburban is up 6, and Northeast Metro Golden K is up 4.

If all these numbers are different than what you have, don't blame me, this is what I am reading in the report!

In the next few weeks I plan to contact some of these clubs and find out their secret.

These increases didn't happen by accident, and they must have made a concerted effort. It proves that membership growth can happen with a plan and a goal. Talk to your club president and your membership chair. Find out what their plan for growth is and how the plan is working.

## District Convention Memorial Service

We will again be holding our Sunday Morning Kiwanian Memorial Service at the upcoming

2024 District Convention in Watertown, SD. This service is a time for us to remember all the Kiwanians who have passed away since last year's convention. To make this memorable service we ask for your help by sending the names of those in your Club who have passed away. For the service we will be creating a Power Point program slide with a picture and short obituary as recognition.

We ask the Club Secretary or other Club Officer to send a list with the name and a link to the funeral home that provided the burial service. In most cases we can pull the information from the Funeral home obituary for the personal Power point slide. If a funeral home online obituary is not available, please send what you have available for the Power Point slide. Please email your Club list and information to Dave and Paulette Odette at [odette@wiktel.com](mailto:odette@wiktel.com)

Sharon Scudder  
District Leadership  
and Development  
Coordinator



Happy Mother's Day to all our Kiwanis Mother Members. May brings a lot of planning and sharing training opportunities.

I hope that you are all engaging in the Kiwanis International Amplify program that is in full swing until September 30, 2024. If you did not register by April 2<sup>nd</sup>, you will have to wait until next year. They exceeded their registrations and doubled it. Which is great especially since they lowered the cost to \$50.

Another opportunity is Leadership training for the Lt. Governor Team. We will have the training via zoom and some paperwork distributed at the District Convention in August at Watertown, SD.

Training will begin May 9<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm MT. There will be a Saturday session on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 noon MT.

I will be sending out an agenda to the Lt Governor teams so make sure you have reported your Lt Governor, Lt. Governor Elect, Lt Governor designee and Immediate Past Lt Governor and their email addresses to Cindy Braseth, District Secretary.

Hope you all have a wonderful May.

## Senior Students Perform for Harvey Kiwanis Club

by Dave Voeller

Kiwanis members in Harvey ND have tapped into some unrecognized talent in their community. To connect with students at the Harvey High School, they invited members of the speech team and their coach to join Kiwanis members on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to perform their speeches in front of a Kiwanis audience.



Sharing a meal and then performing, proved to be a very worthwhile event as the talent from the students has been nothing short of amazing. A "win" "win" has been the opinion of everyone involved. The Harvey Kiwanis Club also takes other opportunities to connect youth of the community, such as spring ditch cleaning which will take place this month with the Boy Scouts.

## Kiwanis Club of Webster SD Turns 100

If you are a member of a club located near Webster SD, you may want to help them celebrate their 100th Anniversary on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Roots Kitchen & Taphouse in Webster. [Click Here for the Invitation Flyer](#)



The Kiwanis Children's Fund (formerly foundation) is 85 years old this month. To celebrate, Kiwanis held the second **Day Of Giving** in February this year. The goal was to raise \$75,000.00. We were informed at our quarterly zoom meeting the total raised is \$130,000.00. The Children's Fund team is very thankful and appreciative of all the support.

An update for the District Giving report for March 31, 2024, is showing a total, of \$31,272.00

This year's challenge is to increase *each club giving amount by 10%*, and increase the number of clubs by 10% too. If possible, the remaining clubs should consider submitting their contribution during the next 2 months. ***By the way, there is a special recognition at the Kiwanis Int'l Convention in July, for the Minnesota Dakotas District during the Children's Fund Luncheon. Because we met the President's Challenge for the fiscal year 22-23.*** That challenge was to increase the total giving by 10%.

Join the other Kiwanis Clubs and Kiwanians in making a difference in Children's lives in your communities and other areas.

**Reminder:** The Children's Fund now has Micro Grants available for clubs looking for extra funds for projects. Check out the details on the [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org) website under Children's Fund.

On behalf of the **Kiwanis Children's Fund** team, I want to thank all the clubs who continue to support now and in the past and to the additional clubs who will contribute, for your support and commitment to help the kids.

### #KidsNeedKiwanis



## MNDAK Online Eclub Hand-on Service Project

It's difficult to do hands-on service as an eclub when your members are spread across the district and there is no "home" community. Well, we have a plan. We have been supporting the Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud in Mission SD for a few years now. Since many of us will be in Watertown in August, we will be heading to Mission immediately after convention. We are inviting any Kiwanis members who are interested to join us. For information or to sign on, contact Cindy Braseth at [cabnurse@live.com](mailto:cabnurse@live.com). The more the merrier!





## A Message from the Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation

Denis Cornell, President

Has your club sent a Century Club donation? The Century Club program of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation can be considered an ongoing youth service project for every club. A Kiwanis Club in the Minnesota-Dakotas District can become a Century Club member with an annual suggested contribution of at least \$100.00 that can be taken from Youth Activities funds, Project Profit Funds or Administrative Funds.

The foundation depends on Century Club contributions of at least \$100.00 from clubs in our district to build foundation assets in order to continue providing scholarships to high school students throughout the district. Last year the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation awarded over fifty \$700.00 scholarships to high school students in the district and this year the scholarships will increase to \$750.00.

The Century Club contribution should be included in the annual budget of each club and sent to the foundation secretary as soon as the club budget is approved. The Century

Club contribution form is available on the [MNDK District Kiwanis web site](#) under the Foundations tab. Mail your Century Club contribution to:

Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational  
Foundation

1106 14<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102

Attention: Lowell Disrud,  
Secretary-Treasurer

Contributions may also be made by clubs or individuals through a "Vantine Life Fellowship" with a contribution of \$100.00 or a "Joseph E Messer Fellowship" through a contribution of \$500.00 payable in two installments of \$250.00. These fellowships are a great way to recognize exemplary service of club members and officers or other individuals. Information describing these fellowships is available in the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation brochure which can be downloaded from the [Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis](#) website under the Foundations tab.

Your donations **will make** a difference.



## Kiwanis Sunrisers of Winona Hand Out Books and Lunch Bags

"A total of 803 Pre-K and Kindergarten children were given free reading books and lunch bags over the past few weeks by the **Kiwanis Sunrisers Club of Winona** in school classrooms in the Winona Area Public School district, public, private and charter. Kiwanis club members went into the classrooms to read a book to the children and then distributed a book and lunch bag to each child to take home for their very own use. This is an annual Sunrisers Children's Service project headed up by Committee Chair Bob Hermann. Photo shows Kiwanis member Charlie Havener in the classroom reading to the children."



We have been doing this for several years. The children really enjoy getting a book of their very own. This year we added lunch bags.

Thank you  
Neil Broadwater  
Secretary, Kiwanis Club of Winona, Sunrisers

## Northeast Metro Golden K Meets at Bridging

On Saturday April 20th, thirteen members of the Northeast Metro Golden K Kiwanis Club met at Bridging to build dressers.



Together with Kiwanians from several other local clubs, the group completed assembly of 34 dressers

which were in kit form. Of the total, MEMGK members donated 12 dressers at a cost of \$1860, and assembled 13 of them.

Bridging is an organization that provides household items for families moving into homes after experiencing homelessness. They provide, at no cost, beds, sheets, pillows, blankets, chairs and tables as well as dishes, utensils cookware and other household items.

Thanks,  
Roger Williams



## 2024 District Convention in Watertown SD August 9-11

Come to the 2024 MNDAK convention in Watertown, SD on August 9-11th. What will you experience? You will enjoy the hospitality from Watertown members. The facility at the Ramkota is spacious and includes a theater atmosphere.

On Friday, we begin with a luncheon at 11:30 am followed by our Keynote presenter, Ty Eschenbaum, who will speak about overcoming adversity. Afternoon workshops will be followed by an inspirational evening at the Terry Redlin Museum where we will enjoy a tour, heavy appetizers and beverages.

Saturday morning your division will have a private space to hold your caucus before workshops which will stimulate ideas. At noon, our awards luncheon will enhance reasons to celebrate your club and those who have invested talent and energy into the Kiwanis mission. In the afternoon, the House of Delegates plus more workshops will occur before you attend the Governor's Dinner and party after!

On Sunday morning, we will honor the memory of Kiwanis members who have died during the year. Following this meaningful event, you will have an opportunity for

brunch and to bid farewell to old and new friends.

### Highlights:

- ★ First Timers Luncheon to make the most of your convention experience.
- ★ Club Leadership Education Friday morning
- ★ Photo Booth, make memories and be creative
- ★ Identifying ribbons for your name tag
- ★ Used book sale, bring books and take some home
- ★ Silent auction to benefit the MNDAK Outreach Fund which supports Key Club and Circle K leaders. All clubs asked to donate at least one item.
- ★ Collection of school supplies for the Salvation Army in Watertown, bring lots to donate
- ★ Traveling trophy is back again
- ★ The world famous Terry Redlin Museum

There will be more details in the coming months so watch your email and upcoming newsletters. Registration will open soon.

Thank you, Kiwanis friends who have encouraged me to serve as your convention chair. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve as your convention chair. It has been fun to research what is needed, learn about communities, build an amazing team of volunteers and to dream of a future where we can expand our vision while we improve the world that needs YOU.

Please contact me with your ideas, opinions or questions. I can hardly wait to see you in Watertown! Come and celebrate!

701-293-1505; [rachaeldisrud@gmail.com](mailto:rachaeldisrud@gmail.com)





## MNDAK Online Eclub Raises Funds for Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud

By Cindy Braseth, Secretary

Doing fundraisers and service projects as an online club can be a challenge. With members spread across all 3 states of the district, we discovered that we needed to be creative. We have asked members to donate money, and they have, but that gets old.

Our club Service Chair, Al Vanderlaan, brought another idea to the board. HundredX is a company that works with non-profit organizations to fund causes that they care about. They have been doing this for over 6 years, worked with 1000 organizations to fund over \$20 million for projects.

The process is easy, they did all the setup and provided all of the material we needed to promote the project to members and to the Boys & Girls Club, who would be receiving funds. When I heard that we would be completing surveys for companies though, I was skeptical. I had been roped into surveys before and received all these promotions etc from companies I had no desire to work with.

So I signed up for one of their projects at the time just to see what would happen. I was surprised! I completed a few surveys and received no email, texts, and nothing from any of the companies that I did surveys for. And, it was easy to do.

So I started promoting to members and we received board approval to move ahead. Long story short, we raised over \$1700 in one month for the Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud with NO money out of members pockets. Just a little time and effort to do the surveys.

I think that this will become an annual project for us since it is so easy to do and costs the club and members nothing out of pocket.

If you would like more information about this method of fundraising, contact me at [cabnurse@live.com](mailto:cabnurse@live.com). I would be happy to put you in touch with the people we worked with and answer any questions you have.