

Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

June 2024



A Message from the Governor

We are just a month out from the International Convention in Denver and you still have time to get your Delegate designation in and attend the convention. There are several reasons to attend but the number one is to provide the votes needed to elect Dan Liekvold, as Vice President of Kiwanis International 2024-2025. Dan has served as a Kiwanis International Trustee and past President of the Minnesota Dakotas District.

Also on the agenda, at the KI Convention and the district's in August, we have an urgent matter to vote on — how to address a growing budget deficit. Kiwanis International and our own District has been operating with a budget deficit since 2015 and declining memberships for over many years. Historically, dues increases have not led to a decrease in membership. Member's satisfaction with their club experience, positive networking opportunities and community service have always been reported as the top factors in whether people decide to join or leave a club.

If your club is sending delegates to Denver let them know how you feel on the proposed amendments and proposals. You can find them at this link. [PROPOSED AMENDMENTS & RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF DELEGATES* JULY 6, 2024](#)

June and July are busy months for your club's Service projects, but don't forget to ask somebody outside the club to help. Everyone wants to volunteer for projects that affect the children and youth of your community and I have found that inviting them to a service project is a great way to show them the importance of the work your club does within a community.

I have a great example to share with you. As Lt Governor, I would invite my daughter, Miranda to come along with me to club meetings in Minot. Miranda is 45, I just assumed she would join, but going to meetings is something she does all the time. After the first meeting I asked her how she felt and she said it was interesting, then I took her to a 2nd meeting and she felt the same, but there was the 3rd time and almost a year later.

At that meeting the Minot Kiwanis club held a service project in conjunction with the dinner meeting and she was so excited, afterwards she was asked if she wanted to join by the President and instead of saying "I'll think about it" she filled out the membership application and paid her dues

and now attends the meetings and accepted a club Board position.

So this summer ask your friends and family to help by volunteering at your club's next service project and see how they react to your club's "Hands on Service Projects". Enjoy the Summer and we will see you at the International Convention in July or the District convention in August in Watertown SD.



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Can you believe that we are three quarters of the way through this Kiwanis year? So much to do and so little time! Club election results are due today, so if you haven't entered them yet, now is the time.

District convention is just over 2 months away so you and your club should be making plans to attend. Each club is entitled to 3 delegates. Who will they be? How much financial support will you give them? These are things your board should be discussing now. As far as financial support, those dollars can come from either Administrative or Service funds. You will want your delegates there. The Board is bringing a Resolution to the House of Delegates for a dues increase to be effective in October, 2024.

Other things to think about are:

- An item for the Educational Foundation Silent Auction
- An item for the Kiwanis Children's Fund Raffle
- Used books for the book sale
- School supplies for the District Service project donation to the local Salvation Army.

Fully participating is the best way to get the most out of Convention.

2024 District Convention

There are two pages devoted to the convention on the website. Information and updates about the convention can be found [HERE](#). Online registration is on a separate page [HERE](#).



Gov. Elect Report

Carol Nitschke, Gov. Elect

Lots going on in our District – I have a few highlights and updates!!

I continue to enjoy working with the Lt. Gov. teams as we meet monthly for our Fireside Chats. We are also getting the Lt. Gov. teams secured for the 2024-2025 year. We have strong Lt. Gov. teams and I know we can look forward to great leadership again this next year. Our Leadership Education Coordinator Sherry Scudder is working and preparing for the Lt. Gov. virtual training sessions.

We are also working hard on getting everything lined up for our District Convention Aug. 9-11 in Watertown. I am working with the convention team to line up the breakout sessions for the convention. Our convention Chair Rachael Disrud as well as the Watertown Club are working hard to assure a wonderful time and for everyone who attends.

I will be working with our District Leadership Chairs in the next few months to get our Chairs secured for the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. If there is an area you are interested in – please let me know.
Thanks for all you do for Kiwanis,

Dan Leikvold for VP

Submitted by Carol Nitschke, Campaign Chair

Dan continues to work hard as a candidate for Kiwanis Intl. Vice President. He has been reaching out to members and leaders across the Country. He has also participated in candidate forums as well as attended the Rocky Mountain District conference in Wyoming.

At this time, we are busy preparing for the Intl. Convention July 3-6 in Denver. We are getting our convention presence set up including some fun campaign items we will be distributing and getting volunteers lined up to help at our booth.



Dan is going to be making a swing across the District in the next couple of weeks. He will be making a few stops for purposes of visiting clubs and talking about his candidacy and the convention.

The Intl Convention registration is still open. We need as many as possible from our District to attend as a delegate to support Dan. You can register at:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-convention/>

If you are planning to attend and would like to help at our booth – please contact Tracy Leikvold at tracyleikvold@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support and the help we have received from so many across the District.



Let's Spread Kiwanis Around

The past several years have been challenging for Kiwanis clubs and it looks like clubs in our district are no exception. Societal changes and the recent Covid pandemic have increased our decline in membership and clubs. It seems that every year 3 or 4 clubs decide that they can't provide the service they did in the past to kids in their communities.

I know this is not always an easy decision for a club, and sometimes clubs just lose enthusiasm, have trouble finding officers, and responsibilities have fallen on a handful of people in a club who get overwhelmed. Often, small clubs are successful until they lose one or two key people who have kept the club going in the past.

For the communities that have lost a club, is there an opportunity to go back and try to open a new one? From what I can tell, some of these smaller towns have no other service club doing the things Kiwanis was providing. And maybe there were some members who didn't want to quit. We would only need 15 people in a community to make the commitment to join a club to get it chartered.

Even in communities that have a successful Kiwanis club, is there an opportunity to have a second one there? It could be different

from the club that is there now. We are seeing clubs chartered now that are non-traditional. How about a Young-Professional's club? A diversity club? A 3-2-1 club?

Please give it some thought and let us know what you think. We have people willing to travel and work together if we find a good site. We have a team of Club Coaches and New Club Openers who are trained and waiting to help. We can get assistance from International staff. We can get a list of all the recent past members of a failed club to canvas their thoughts. Kids need Kiwanis! Every community needs Kiwanis!

Bruce Klair

Membership and Engagement Coordinator

(651) 380-0644

Spread the Joy, Why keep it to Yourself?



District Convention Service Project



With the District Convention just a little over two months away, It is a good time to start thinking about how our clubs can support the Service project that we have chosen for our Convention in Watertown, South Dakota this year. The greatest need for support in the area was determined to be School Supplies, and that can range from Pencils to Backpacks.

So we are asking clubs and members to start acquiring those supplies, so that we can again display our Kiwanis commitment to change the world one child and one community at a time. Thank you for your generosity and support to that end.

Regards,
Dave Harms

District Service Chair



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.

In Loving Memory

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 PowerPoint program with a slide for each recognition including a picture and short obituary.

We ask the Club Secretary, Club Officer, or Club member to send a list with the name and a link to the funeral home who 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 PowerPoint slide. Please email your Club list and information soon to Dave and Paulette Odette at odette@wiktel.com.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD FROM THE PAST DISTRICT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



Time is short for you to nominate someone or a number of persons for the Citizenship Award. Each year, the Past District Officers Association (PDOA) selects a person or person(s)

from within the Minnesota-Dakotas District to receive the "Citizenship Award".

The nomination needs to be received by the 15th of June each year. Nominating Clubs should be informed shortly after the 1st of July on who is the winner. This will give the Club time to make all the arrangements. [See the District web site](#) for full details.

Send your nomination to:
James M Bock, President PDOA
112 East Interlaken Road
Fairmont MN 56031-3509

Show Division Pride at Convention

On the Friday evening of DCON, we will be going to a museum and in the spirit of the theme "TEAM" (Together Each Achieves More), Karen Davis and I (with approval from Rachel D. and Gov. Brad), thought it would be fun for each division to wear a different themed shirt to this activity. This will help us identify who is in our division and help us get to know them and others from other divisions. My ask is that you would pass along this message to your division members who will be attending DCON so that they can come prepared to wear a shirt of that particular theme that your division is assigned.

Here is the list of the themes along with each division assignment:

Red, White, and Blue - Div 1
Polka Dot - Div 2
Sports Jersey/apparel - Div 3 (any sport is fine, doesn't have to be professional)
Tie-Dye - Div 4
Hawaiian - Div 5
Plaid - Div 6
Disney - Div 7

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or Karen Davis (mrcislp@hotmail.com). Can't wait to see all the different themed shirts at the Museum!

Take Care,

Katie Landwehr
Lt. Gov Elect, Div 7



Kiwanis International Children's Fund BUILT FOR SERVICE

Kiwanis members' activities support the
Kiwanis causes:

- Health and nutrition.
- Education and literacy.
- Youth leadership development.
- Together, these causes form a continuum of impact — helping young people develop throughout childhood and into adulthood.

Each cause also supports the others, ultimately creating a generation of leaders who also contribute to that continuum. Thanks to those causes, members make an impact that lasts — from infancy to early adulthood.

The District Giving report was updated as of April 30, 2024, and the total by clubs and individuals is now \$32,838. (The Giving Reports do not include names of clubs at this time)

Special THANKS to all the clubs and individuals making contributions so far for our fiscal 23-24 year. You are true Kiwanis Community Leaders and supporters of the

Kiwanis Children's Fund. Let's encourage others to join and follow your lead, by supporting the Children's Fund.

We are at 53% of the 22-23 total District Giving of \$56,457. We have 4 or 5 full months to achieve and exceed the 22-23 total. The 2023-24 President's goal is 10% more than \$56,457. To qualify for the 23-24 District Rebate, there needs to be \$23,620 more in contributions before 9/30/24.

Can we as a District reach the goal in the next 4 months? Taking bets, anyone?

Note: We are having many zoom training meetings with the Children's Fund Staff, for the next Possibility Project that will be announced at the convention in Denver, CO. I am proud to represent the District as Children's Fund Chair.

Plus, bragging rights about having fun by challenging each other with the K Dollars. Thank You again!!

Yours in service,
Kathy Welle,
District Children's Fund Chair

[#KidsNeedKiwanis](#)





A Message from the Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation

Carol Nitschke, Governor Elect

The MNDK Education Foundation continues to reach out to our Clubs and members to support their efforts. The Foundation is able to award High School seniors scholarships to those who are furthering their education. Seniors from all across our District receive these awards. This year the Foundation has given a total of 54 scholarships to date. The financial gifts the Foundation gives these seniors greatly assists in the total costs of their education.

It continues to be important for clubs to take advantage of these opportunities for seniors in your communities. The process for this year is complete, but here's a recap of how it works. The Foundation sends out scholarship information to each club after the first of the calendar year. Make sure your club takes a look at the information as well as contacting your High Schools with the necessary information. As we all know – there are students each year who have worked hard academically and as leaders who could qualify for these awards.

We also need to carefully consider our financial support for this cause. Clubs can be part of the Century Club by giving \$100 each year to the Foundation. We can also be supportive as individual Kiwanians to the Foundation.

I have served as a judge for the scholarships our local club gives to seniors from Mandan. The caliber of students who apply is always impressive – making the selection process difficult. This is also true for the applicants received by the Foundation.

Let's get behind the Foundation and help them assist as many Seniors as possible each year.

Thanks in advance to the clubs and individuals who are already supporting the Foundation!



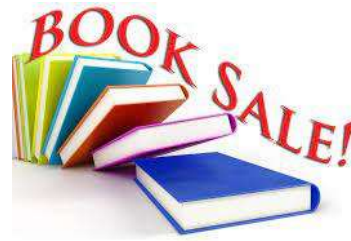


Aktion Club Advisors, as you enter into the busy project season, now is a great time to keep the Aktion Club contests in the back of your mind. This will help ensure you are noting all the successes your club is having and taking all those pictures that may be needed for the various contests such as the club scrapbook.

If you are not familiar with the various contests or haven't checked them out for the 23/24 year additional information can be found using the link below.

If you have any questions please reach out to Amanda Thrift, amanda.thrift@hotmail.com or 701-320-6812.

<https://www.aktionclub.org/awards-and-recognition/>



2024 Convention Used Book Sale

It is time to collect your **USED BOOKS** for the Big Sale! All types of books. Children's books, hardcover books, paper backs. Fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, romance, historical fiction. Just to get you started thinking and gathering up your books.

Laura Tjomsland
Book Sale Coordinator

Delegates to District Convention

Each club is entitled to have 3 delegates represent them at the convention House of Delegates. Delegates must be certified by the club secretary using the [Club Delegate Certification Form](#).

If you are a past Governor or Lt Governor, you can act as a delegate at large. But, if your club does not have certified delegates, it's better to be a delegate for that club. Reason being, we need a majority plus one of the total number of clubs in the district to conduct business in the House of Delegates.



Signature Project Submission:

Watertown Club Splash Pad

The Kiwanis Splash pad serves the children of Watertown with a fun, safe new dynamic for the youth in our community. The splash pad is in the city's new downtown park and has playground equipment to compliment the splash pad. The Watertown club and the city of Watertown worked together to complete this project.

The open house for the new splash pad was communicated through emails, radio and our Kiwanis Website as well as the Chamber of Commerce for Watertown's website. Our Kiwanis club had tee shirts for the youth made with the splash pad and Kiwanis Club of Watertown on them. Five hundred tee shirts were given to the youth in the community

Our club strives to serve the youth of the community. With the addition of the splash pad in the new uptown park, we are happy to provide the young people a fun safe place to enjoy the summer months.

Have a Great Service Project to Share?

You can feature it here in the Minnekotan. Just email Cindy Braseth, District Secretary Treasurer with an article and a photo or two, and watch for it in an upcoming issue.

A short concise word document or even text in the body of an email will work.

Email: kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com



Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Serves Community Banquet

The Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Club served the Community Banquet on May 23. About 250 meals were served. Among those assisting were, from left, John Wellhouse, Brock Greenfield and Vennie Heibel. Special thanks to Kiwanian and Perkins Restaurant owner Diane London for providing the pulled pork sandwiches and fixings!