

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

As we enter our new Kiwanis year – I am excited to share with you my thoughts and goals for our upcoming year! I want to begin by sharing some thoughts of my year as Governor-Elect. I have truly enjoyed my time and work with our Lt. Governor teams. We had Fireside Chats each month which were very well attended. We were able to hear from some of our District Administrators to help keep us informed throughout the year. We also had good discussions amongst the teams regarding their good work with their clubs.

The Gov. Elect training was all done in zoom meetings this year. I feel we were given valuable resources and information to help us prepare for our year as Governor. I enjoyed meeting my Gov. Elect class at the International Convention in Denver.

As we begin the 2024-2025 year – I am happy to share that I have chosen the theme of “Celebrating our Successes” for this year. I am asking our clubs and members to focus on the valuable service we are providing to the children in our communities. We also need to be proud of the work we do in our fundraising efforts as we are able to carry out our mission.

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
October 2024

We had a wonderful and successful convention in Watertown! Thanks to the committee and to the Watertown Club for all your great work. At the convention – we accepted a challenge from Kiwanis Intl. Trustee Scott Sims to work on opening a new club in each Division. I have asked each of the Division Lt. Governors to carefully consider 3 possible sites in their divisions for new clubs. This is crucial for our organization as we look forward.

I am happy to let you know that Immediate Past Governor Brad Knudson has agreed to serve as our District Club membership and engagement coordinator. He has been working on Club openings this past year and will continue to work hard on new club openings this year as well. Thanks, Brad, for all of your hard work and dedication!

I look forward to working with the District Administrators. We have good strong and committed leaders that will be a big part of how we can “Celebrate our Successes” this year. We have a strong and committed District Leadership Team. I want to thank Steve Handegaard as he has completed his 3-year commitment on our team. Steve and Laura’s dedication to Kiwanis is unmatched and truly appreciated. I look forward to keeping in touch with them.

I also want to thank Immediate Past Governor Brad Knudson and our District Secretary Treasurer Cindy Braseth for their support and friendship. The team this year truly guided and supported me as I prepared for my year as Governor. Congratulations to Gov. Elect John Rheinberger – welcome to our Team!! One of my first roles as Governor will be attending the Division Conferences. I am truly excited and happy to be able to attend your conferences and look forward to visiting with you and talking to all of you regarding my theme and goals for this year. Let’s Celebrate our Successes!! Thanks to all of you for All You Do for Kiwanis!



A Message from Your Governor Elect

John Rheinberger

Thank you for electing me as your new Governor-elect! I am so humble to you for allowing me this opportunity to serve in this capacity within one of the premier organizations of the world!

I first got strongly interested in Kiwanis in the 1990s when my brother announced that he had joined a Florida club. When talked through the years, we would quickly gravitate to the topic of Kiwanis. I found his Kiwanis decision to be a major decision of life. Clearly something that I had never done. He later became president of his club and thus the discussion became longer and more frequent. I knew for sure that I wanted to be a member.

Almost twenty years passed before I acted. Since my Stillwater (Minnesota) area community did not have a club at that time, I would periodically Google for various nearby new club locations. Finally, I made a New Year's resolution in 2010 to join a club somewhere.

Through an unexpected newspaper article and a telephone call, I was able to join a new club at ground level that formed in Hudson, Wisconsin. I thus

became a charter member and its first president. It was such an open and freeing experience to be part of a new club. We were not shackled to any past heritage. We set up our own course of events and that tradition continues today.

I later became a deputy lieutenant governor for division 9 (Wisconsin- Upper Michigan). Then a lieutenant governor. I enjoyed all the mid-year division conferences and annual conventions.

Events in life never play out perfectly. When my Hudson Club changed its meeting day to one where I had an ongoing conflict, I joined the Stillwater Club. I later became a lieutenant governor within MNDK and now your Governor-elect.

I have found Kiwanis extremely fun. You often have to seek Kiwanis activities as they do not necessarily come to you. However, Kiwanis is a "Life Changing Experience."

Enjoy your experiences while you can and make the most of them! Most importantly, always remember that we serve to better the lives of children, and in the process we better our world!

Thank you for all your contributions to Kiwanis!



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Yes, it's the new Kiwanis year and it brings with it lots of excitement and activity.

Secretaries and Board Members: Here are some items that your club needs to have done this first couple of weeks:

1. Update your membership roster. You have until October 10 to delete non-returning members for which you do not wish to be charged 2024-25 dues.
2. If your dues structure or amount has changed, you need to review and update your bylaws to reflect that change. You may find other changes you wish to make at the same time.
3. Update your election report in the Secretary's dashboard. If communications from International or me at the district go to the wrong people, they will be ignored, and you will miss out.
4. Develop your plan to increase membership. Don't wait, do it now.
5. Governor Carol has set the theme for this year as "Celebrating Our Successes!" How is your club going to do this? Be creative and have fun!

6. Did you know the Youth Protection week is October 7-11? Have you scheduled the mandatory Youth Protection training for your members? All of the resources you will need are located here, <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/ypw-resources/>

Getting these tasks completed will take a little time, sure, but you will be laying the groundwork for a successful year. I think that's worth a few hours.

Remember, Dues Have Increased

Annual dues are increasing as of October 1, 2024 both for International and the district. It amounts to a total increase of \$45 (\$25 for International and \$20 for the district) per year for us as members. It breaks out like this:

2024-25 Membership Dues:

Kiwanis International= \$107

MNDAK District= \$50

TOTAL= \$157

Paid by your club to Kiwanis International

The \$107 that goes to KI is:

Dues: \$77

Liability Insurance: \$22

Publications such as training manuals etc: \$8

The dues will also be prorated for new members as they join. That chart is available here: <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/resources/> under club operations.

This might be the time for club leaders and members to think creatively about how dues should be handled in the future. Instead of billing annually, give members the option to do 2, 3 or 4 payments. The club can also "pick up" the insurance costs which will decrease the bill for members by \$22. Some clubs have decided to make that change.

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Start 2024-25 Strong

Fall is Here – are you ready?

October brings a lot of closure to our Kiwanis year but Learning keeps going.

BYLAWS: IT IS IMPORTANT to update your bylaws with any new changes including the changes in your new dues structure. Please submit updated by-laws on the secretary dashboard. By submitting online, it automatically goes to Kiwanis International. This is helpful for our District Secretary so she will have access to them online as she does not have any paper files in her office.

AMPLIFY: Deadline was September 30, 2024. AMPLIFY came to an end for 2024 on September 30th. The courses must be completed by then as all access to the content will be removed today. September 30th is a hard deadline and there will be no exceptions made for any reason so you should have completed these excellent courses. Registration for the KIWANIS AMPLIFY Program in 2025 will open in January.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL - led CLUB LEADERSHIP EDUCATION has been completed. You should have completed the attendance survey so that you received credit for attending September 30th, 2024.

I would like to introduce Connie Schroeder to you - we will be co-chairing the Leadership Development Coordinator position for this year, call it succession planning.

Connie Schroeder is the owner of Dr. Connie Consulting, and we were very fortunate to have her present several sessions on Leadership at the District Convention in Watertown, SD.

Thank you all for a great year. If I can be of service to you for any educational needs, please contact me at 605-347-7718.

Submitted by Sherry Scudder
Leadership Development Coordinator



Aktion Club:

By Amanda Thrift

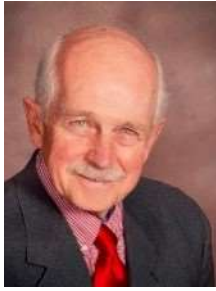
To Aktion Club
Advisors,

October means election time, finalizing club rosters, and getting dues turned in to international.

You should have also received the information below in an email from our Kiwanis Service Leadership Program manager. These sessions are an opportunity to learn and network with other Aktion club advisors!

- October 1, 2024, 7 p.m. ET. Aktion Club Advisor
Chat: <https://tinyurl.com/v3236eyz>
- March 3-7, 2025. Celebrate
<https://www.aktionclub.org/aktion-club-week/>
- May 20, 2025, 7 p.m. ET.
<https://tinyurl.com/yc6fkns>

Youth Protection Update



By Charles Huntley,
Youth Protection
Manager

The New Kiwanis year is starting and that means all Kiwanis Clubs are required to have Youth Protection Training. I

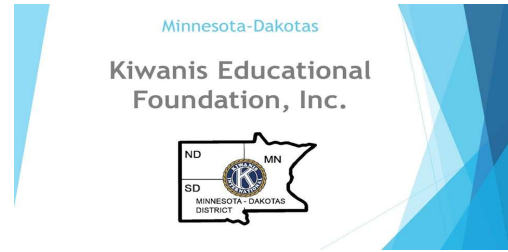
suggest a club program in October to meet this requirement or it can even be a special meeting to fit it into your club schedule if you only meet once or twice a month.

Youth Protection is an important part of our Kiwanis Clubs activities each year. In the last report I received from KI our Division 7 is greatly lacking in either the training or the reporting of the training to District and KI and it is too important a topic to let it go undone. So, the Good news is that the heavy lifting of the training is already done as KI has excellent resources available.

All each Club has to do is to appoint someone to do the training and then go online in the KI site and put in "Youth Protection Training" and it is all right there for a Club to use.

An important point to remember is that this training is for the protection of both the Youth and the Kiwanians.

Call me if you have Questions: Charles Huntley District Youth Protection Manager
715-386-9063



Minnesota Dakotas

Educational Foundation

Submitted by Carol Nitschke, Governor

As we approach our new Kiwanis year -the Foundation Board will be working on their mission of awarding scholarships to High School seniors who will be attending post-secondary schools in our District following their graduation. This past year – 54 scholarships were given to students to assist with their college tuition costs.

There will be information coming to the clubs in November to get the application process sent to the High Schools in your communities. This information will include the application form as well as dates and deadlines for submission.

We want to thank our Kiwanis clubs and members who have generously contributed to the Foundation each year. We ask that you carefully consider your donation to the Foundation again this year. Your contributions will assure that we are continuing to provide scholarships to students in our communities.

A big thank you also goes out to the Foundation Board led by Dan Leikvold, President and Lowell Disrud, Secretary Treasurer for their dedication to this service that is provided to youth in our District.

Contributions can be sent to: Kiwanis Educational Foundation, 1106 14th Street North Fargo, North Dakota 58102 **Attn:** Lowell Disrud. Thank you everyone for all you do for Kiwanis!



Kiwanis International Children's Fund BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathy Welle, District Children's Fund Chair

Welcome to our Kiwanis New Fiscal Year 24-25 and the end of 2023-24. And what a year we had. Visited by our Kiwanis President, Katrina Baranko, last November for our Division 7, Governor's Event in Red Wing. A great District Convention in Watertown, SD in August 2024.

The Children's Fund President's challenge for 23-24 was to increase the club participation by 10% and total contributions increase by 10%. Unfortunately, the reports showing totals is not available at this time. The most recent District giving report is as of August 31, 2024. The total contributions showing is \$38,726, (this does not include the K Dollars collected during the District Convention, and the Raffle ticket sales, which was over \$8100.00) The district Giving Report does not include the total number of clubs that have submitted contributions.

The 22-23 Total Giving was \$56,457. I'm guessing we did not achieve the challenge this year. ***But we still had lots of fun!!*** Our new challenge for the Children's Fund, officially announced at the Kiwanis Int'l Convention is the **Possibility Project**.

This is for the Children's Fund only. No other organization is connected.

The goal for the Possibility Project over the next 5 years is to raise \$25,000,000.00. The Children's Fund has a goal to help 10 million children. That is \$2.25 per child.

The good news is that \$5,214,045.16 has already been raised toward the project. The K13 Minnesota-Dakotas, Total gifts and pledges is currently \$99,250.05. Again, that is before the District Convention. There was a quiet phase that started October 1, 2023. So, we have a good start!

All the Possibility Project information will be shared throughout the year.

You can find a link to the Children's Fund website along with some information about the Possibilities Project on the MNDAK website:

<https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/foundation/>

Good info to share with club members, friends and family.

Yours in Service

Mitchell Officer Induction

By Linda McEntee

The Mitchell, SD club welcomed Lt Governor Jeff Mammenga at their annual club dinner and officer induction on September 18th. Delicious dinner, a nice presentation from Jeff and then a fun trivia game made the event special.



MADISON MN KIWANIS CLUB GIFTS FOR KIDS PROJECT

The Madison MN Kiwanis Club has sponsored Kiwanis Gifts for Kids for many years. Funds are raised throughout the year to provide gifts for children in need at Christmas time.

In October, application forms are available through the schools in Lac qui Parle County, the churches in the county, Family Services, KLQP Radio, and Safe Avenues. Either families themselves or others on their behalf submit the completed applications giving the age and gender of the child, the child's clothing and shoe sizes and the child's Christmas list.

Our club then arranges for shoppers to receive a family's list (the family is given a number so the family's identity is always confidential). Shoppers are given a budget for the amount the club will reimburse for each child. The shoppers then bring the gifts they have purchased to the drop off site and put those gifts in the box corresponding to that family number.

We also have boxes in numerous locations throughout the county so that the public can purchase items to be donated to the families.

The first part of December, a number of Confirmation students from various area churches help sort those community gifts into the appropriate age group and then match those gifts to the wishes of the families.

The club also provides wrapping paper and tape for each box as well as a quilt donated to each family by the area churches. The families then pick up their gift boxes on a specific date.



This program is well known throughout the county. It makes our club proud that we are able to provide this service to families in need and do it in a professional, confidential, and well-run manner. We are proud of the number of people in the county who are willing to take their time to shop for the kids and for our community that adds so many additional gifts for the families.

We are proud of the willingness of the churches to make quilts for the families and for the joy with which the Confirmation students help with those community gifts.



District Convention Pics

Do you have some Picture from the District Convention? You can upload them here.

<https://weduploader.com/upload/3cmitqySbwcm4KtF>



Warning About Shirts Sold at Convention

The shirts sold by the Mitchell club at convention have iron-on decals, **so please don't iron over these as they could melt.**

We have many shirts left, if you'd like to purchase - email us at mitchellkiwanis@yahoo.com and we can send you pictures.

International Convention Update

Submitted by Courtney Fallway
Budgeting is a big part of convention planning. Will it cost more to drive or fly to

the host city? What's the price of public transportation? Is the convenience of the Minn-Dak designated hotel worth the sometimes-steep nightly fee? After all that, how much will you have left to spend on the fun stuff?

Let's take a detour there. If you really want to experience Pittsburgh next summer, add a line in your budget to step out of the convention bubble to attend one of these tours.

- Black & Ghost Tour and Pittsburgh Ghosts Steel City Haunted Tour are two history tours with a spooky or downright eerie twist.

- As you might expect, Wigle Whiskey Rebellion Distillery Tour and Pittsburgh Signature Guided Brewery Tour include samples and exclude anyone under 21. Other tours focused on adult beverages are Beers in the Burgh: Pittsburgh Brewery Walk and Bikes & Brews Tour: Pittsburgh Brewery Tour.

- If you've always wanted to try an escape room but can't escape the confines of your daily routine, plan to check out the Outdoor Escape Room in Pittsburgh-East Allegheny. It's one part scavenger hunt, one part escape room, and one-part urban crawl.
- For those who are reluctant to give up the usual hours of streaming, consider Lights, Camera, Pittsburgh - Movie Tour for your film fix.

Those are just a sample of the many walking, biking, drinking, and eating tours available. As soon as you finish that convention budget, start working on your packing list: film, camera batteries, good walking shoes...

**All tours were found randomly online. Minn-Dak does not receive a kickback if you go on one of them, and you'll only get a weird look if you try to ask for a Kiwanis discount. The one exception to this will be the Frank Lloyd Wright tour offered on Wednesday by KI.*

What Makes Your Club Stand Out in Your Community?

Does your club have a project that everyone in your community can point to and say, "Kiwanis does that?" If so, we want to hear about it.

What makes it special? What makes you proud when people talk about it?

To submit it here, simply attach a word document and some pictures to an email or it can even be in the body of an email. Email it to kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com