

Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

September 2024



A Message from the Governor

As I reflect back to the past 12 months since the Convention in St Cloud, Mn in 2023, I am so honored to have met all of you and represent Kiwanis MNDAK district as the Governor. Time went so fast that I wish it was not over! Nevertheless, Carol Nitschke will be an outstanding leader for our District in 2024-2025 and I am so excited to work with her on the executive team as past Governor and as incoming District Membership and Engagement Coordinator.

Membership growth is a must if our organization will continue to serve the children of the world and keep our dues as low as possible, but we need our members and past district officers to get involved with club building and new club openings.

Over the past year we have started a MNDAK club building team

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1252732232790116> to build current club membership and open new clubs. Carol has asked the Division Lt Governor teams to come up with 3 communities, in each division prior to October 1st, that have the potential to support a Kiwanis club, and they need your ideas. Report this to your Division Lt Governor team, Carol or myself so we can create a site survey and request social media support from International or our MNDAK club building team.

How can you help? 5 steps to success:

**Talk to your local club board and encourage them to sponsor a new Kiwanis club in a nearby community.

**Help us build a contact list by using your home computer to find businesses and potential members to include. We will share a Google Spreadsheet everyone can work with and edit from your personal computers or phones. Training sessions will be available.

**Volunteer to be on the calling team to introduce Kiwanis and its mission and send them information. Kiwanis International does provide training sessions for callers on how to communicate the message.

**Once a community has been determined to be a potential to charter a club, help us by making calls to set up appointments for the ground team to come into the community and sign-up 15+ new charter members.

**Get involved with the new club by being a club coach or a member.

We can use this same procedure to help clubs find new members to strengthen clubs. Any club below the recommended 15 members is eligible as long as the members are willing to help. Kiwanis International has several membership opportunities to bring to your club such as Two for Two and more. Here are 5 ways your club can get new members:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/5-ways-your-club-can-find-new-members/>

In closing, I am so honored to have been selected to lead our great District for the past year and look forward to building Kiwanis clubs and membership in the coming few years in my new role as District Membership and Engagement Coordinator. We need your help, and I look forward to hearing from you on how you can help build Kiwanis clubs to serve the children of the world. Thank you!



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

WHEW! The district convention is over and now we begin to plan for next year. Visit <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/dcon/> for highlights and pictures that were taken during the convention. There you will find the awards that were given out at the Awards Luncheon for distinguished clubs and Division Stars. Also posted there is the program for the Sunday Memorial Service honoring those Kiwanians that we lost this last year.

Attendance this year was higher than in the last few years. We had a total of 51 clubs represented out of our 105 total clubs. Total registration was 161, including 13 Key Club and Circle K members. That could be because of a central location, or because we had a dues increase on the agenda for the House of Delegates. Either way, it was fun to see so many of our members there. We also had 100 voting delegates at the House of Delegates, which is also higher than has been normal these last few years. I love the fact that so many were involved this year.

Our Keynote Speaker on Friday, Ty Eschenbaum hit a real cord with many of us when he talked about his life experiences with life threatening illnesses and losing

people close to him. The Ty Eschenbaum Foundation helps child survivors of cancer with college scholarships, so his mission is a real fit for Kiwanis. The Mitchell club's shirt sale proceeds are being donated to his foundation along with additional funds from the district. You can learn more about the great work they do at

<https://www.tyefoundation.org/>

We also built in a ton of fun at this convention. The photo booth was a hit with members and guests. There was mead tasting on Friday night, trivia and other games on Saturday and we auctioned off some lighthouses in honor of International President Katrina Baranko.

We also raised a lot of money for the Children's Fund, the Service Leadership Outreach that supports Key Club and Circle K and the Eschenbaum Foundation as noted above. We are generous by nature, and it shows in that we raised:

- Over \$2300 for the Outreach Fund from the Silent Auction and the Heads and Tails game on Saturday night.
- Mitchell's shirt sales raised \$334 dollars for the Eschenbaum Foundation.
- The Children's Fund raised over \$8,000 from K Dollars, the book sale and their raffle.

Thanks to all who attended and made this convention a success. It's never too early to start thinking about 2025 in Willmar, MN!

Board and House of Delegates Business

Two board meetings were held during the convention. We first met as the 2023-24 Board under current Governor Bradley Knudson. The business of this meeting is to hear reports from Key Club, Circle K and all the committee chairs and district administrators on accomplishments and issues over this last year. Bradley Knudson and Cindy Braseth also gave their reports on the state of the district.

The incoming 2024-25 Board then met under Governor Designate Carol Nitschke. The board approved all the appointments to committee and administrative positions. They approved the appointment of Cindy Braseth as District Secretary Treasurer for another year. They also reviewed and approved a proposed budget for 2024-25 year.

The 2024 House of Delegates met on August 10, 2024, and conducted the following business:

- Elected John Rheinberger Governor Elect for 2024-25
- Elected Carol Nitschke Governor for 2024-25
- Retired 2023-24 Lt Governors and thanked for their service
- Installed 2024-25 Lt Governors
- Passed a Resolution to increase district dues from \$30 per year to \$50 per year.

The full minutes of the House of Delegates and Board meetings are available at <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/resources/> under District Governance.

What Does the Dues Increase Mean for You?

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: \$18

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance: \$4
Magazine: \$8

The dues will also be prorated for new members as they join. That chart will be available on October 1, 2024.

This will most likely cause some discussions at your club board meetings regarding how your club will address these increases. For many, it will mean an increase in what the club will charge members for dues. If your club is changing their dues, remember to make those changes to your club bylaws. The process to make for that is laid out in your club's Secretary dashboard.

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. If some members need help, perhaps define a process for members to apply. Kiwanians are creative so put those thinking caps on!



2024 MNDAK Convention is a Wrap!

Dear Kiwanis friends,

Thank you to all who attended the convention in Watertown this year. Your presence was a delight to the Watertown club, community and to Kiwanians in Minnesota Dakotas plus Kiwanis International through the presence of our trustee, Scott Sims. We had an excellent and appropriate keynote speaker through Ty Eschenbaum, outstanding forums, fellowship, great weather, volunteers whose hospitality was exceptional, a great venue where we could visit our silent auction, Children's Fund raffle and used book sales with comfort and camaraderie.

We voted for an increase in dues. The theater allowed business to be conducted in a professional atmosphere. We had an opportunity to visit the downtown area with music and view the splash pad the Watertown Kiwanis helped provide for the community.

The bookstore and other donations exceeded expectations. Thank you, Kiwanians for your generosity. Our Silent Auction raised \$2,184.00 to support our

Service Leadership Outreach programs for youth. Thank you!

We had a few snafues for which I deeply apologize. We learn from them. We have the evaluations that you filled out and are reviewing them right now. You need to know that we take your comments seriously and consider them when planning our next event.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed this opportunity to serve as your convention chair in Jamestown 2022, St Cloud in 2023 and now in Watertown in 2024. Governor Steve Forseth asked in 2021 if I would like to take this volunteer job, and I said "yes". Who could say 'no' to Steve Forseth!

Most positions in MNDAK result in a possibility for 3 years if reappointed. Mine did last 3 years and I learned a lot. Thank you to my family, encouragers, friends and critics. I learn from you and am happy you are part of my life.

I wish "God's speed" and success to all who continue to lead in this important area of Kiwanis called 'convention'! I will see you at future conventions and will enjoy being a participant! For me, the sad part of my year as Governor during COVID was that we could not have a regular convention or any other gathering such as Division conferences. Now we can!

Your friend, Rachael Disrud



This will be my last report as your District Membership and Engagement Coordinator, as we are beginning a new Kiwanis year next month. It has been my pleasure to serve the MNDK District in a number of positions over the years, many of them focusing on membership and growth. Now I plan to concentrate my remaining efforts in strengthening my local clubs and serving my community.

In the past 35 years I have gleaned a bit of information about this organization, and how it has changed:

Kiwanis today is not the same organization it was when I joined, and for better or worse, we are never going to recapture those days. Membership, attendance and participation has declined in Kiwanis as it has in all other service clubs, social clubs, youth groups, veteran's organizations, churches, or any other group that encourages members to come together and meet in a scheduled time and place on a regular basis.

However, the need for vibrant Kiwanis clubs in our communities has not changed. The need to help kids has not changed. The need for "improving the world one child and one community at a time" has not changed. The validity of the Six Objects of Kiwanis that was adopted 100 years ago has not changed. So now Kiwanis must change to continue to meet those needs!

Here are some of my observations of what Kiwanis must do as we continue in the 21st century:

Kiwanis clubs almost always have a core group of members who regularly attend meetings, plan service projects and fundraisers, enjoy regular speakers and programs, and are willing to hold club offices. The problem is that this core group is getting smaller, and we don't have enough other club members to support these things and help with the work.

This is where we must look at alternatives. Let's reach out to other groups in our communities for their help and to support their projects. Think of youth groups like Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs, sport teams, and our own Sponsored Leadership Programs. And their parents!

Don't stop there, reach out to other (competing?) service groups in our communities and offer to help with their projects if they help with ours. Talk to friends and neighbors and ask what service projects they would like to see our Kiwanis club do. Then ask them to help. They don't have to commit to join, but to help with a specific project occasionally.

Ask a neighbor to join Kiwanis, and you may get turned down. Ask that neighbor to help clean up a neighborhood park some Saturday morning, and I bet they will be there. Perhaps we could create a new category of membership in our clubs called "Friends of Kiwanis" at a lower dues structure. They may not get all the benefits of membership, but they would be there to help when they are available. And who knows?

They may eventually join.



Minn-Dak Key Club needs your help with chartering new clubs!

Hello Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanians! My name is Malik Bah, and I'm the Division 6 Lieutenant Governor and the Membership Development Committee Chair. As some of you may or may not be aware of, our District Governor Nathan Gonzalez has made it one of our district objectives to grow our membership, and with this goal, it means that we are trying to get new and old Key Clubs up and running.

Each Lieutenant Governor has a specific "target" club to charter, and along with that club, they have a designated Kiwanis Club to contact to ask for help sponsoring the new (or returning!) Key Club.

If you are from the following clubs that are listed in the next paragraph, please take the time out of your day to check your email for any sent by a Key Club Lieutenant Governor to get back to them about helping sponsor a Key Club. If you know someone from a Kiwanis Club whom we need assistance from, please inform them to check their email, as there may be a Lieutenant Governor asking for help to sponsor a Key Club. Thank you!

Clubs that we need assistance from with sponsoring clubs!

- Division 1 - Mandan Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Century High School
- Division 2 - Crookston Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Crookston High School
- Division 2 - Alexandria Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Sauk Centre High School
- Division 3 - Chisholm Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Rock Ridge High School
- Division 3 - St. Cloud Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Sartell High School
- Division 4 - Rapid City Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at St. Thomas More in
- Division 5 - Sioux Falls Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Dakota Valley High School
- Division 6 - Pipestone Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Pipestone Area High School
- Division 6 - Mankato Kiwanis to help reactivate a Key Club at Mankato East High School
- Division 7 - North Suburban St. Paul Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Irondale High School
- Division 7 - St. Louis Park Kiwanis to help charter a Key Club at Shakopee High School
- Division 7 - We are looking for **any** Rochester Kiwanis Club to help charter a Key Club at Rochester Lourdes High School

If your club was listed above, and a Lt. Governor has not yet contacted you it may be because they could not find your contact information. Please feel free to contact the Lt. Governor's email you see by your club below if you're willing to help sponsor, so they can start the process of chartering a new Key Club with your club. Please also CC our Governor in the email you contact us with: gov@minndakkeyclub.org

- Mandan - division1@minndakkeyclub.org
- Crookston - division2a@minndakkeyclub.org
- Alexandria - division2b@minndakkeyclub.org
- Chisholm - division3a@minndakkeyclub.org
- St. Cloud - division3b@minndakkeyclub.org
- Rapid City - division4@minndakkeyclub.org
- Sioux Falls - gov@minndakkeyclub.org
(Contact Governor for anything Division 5 related as LTG position is vacant)
- Pipestone & Mankato - division6@minndakkeyclub.org
- North Sub. St. Paul - division7a@minndakkeyclub.org
- St. Louis Park - division7b@minndakkeyclub.org
- Any** Rochester Club - division7c@minndakkeyclub.org



Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation

Submitted by Lowell Disrud,
Secretary/Treasurer

It's back to school time and many young adults in our tristate area are off to new adventures as they leave home and go on to college. This year we have honored and assisted 54 of those outstanding students with scholarships from the MinnDak Foundation. These scholarships are possible because of the generosity of you, our members, through Century Club, Vantine Fellowships, Memorials, and other donations. Thank you.

As we finish out the Kiwanis year September 30 and launch into a new year, your club board of directors will be planning and voting on next year's budget. I encourage you to ensure that a Century Club donation of \$100 is included in your budget. Many clubs honor their outgoing president with a Vantine Life Fellowship of \$100. We also encourage you to remember the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the District Outreach Fund. These are ways that your club can contribute to needs beyond what you do in your community and into the District and the world.

An attendee at Convention visited with me and said she always contributes as an individual to the Foundation. So much of what Kiwanis does is for young kids and that is good. Let us not forget the teenagers. They are all our future leaders.

Finally, a big thank you to Jack Zierdt, former Secretary/Treasurer. He managed the scholarships this year and advised me on learning the finances of our Foundation. I couldn't have done this first year without him greatly appreciating his help. I expect I will need his advice and guidance to continue this coming year. Thank you, Jack.

Lowell Disrud
701-238-5249

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





Kiwanis International Children's Fund BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathy Welle, District Children's Fund
Chair

Watertown SD – August 9-10, 2024.

Another great District Convention.

Congratulations - Kiwanians, family and friends, including Trustee, Scott Sims, participating in events, forums, book sales, silent auction and raffle ticket sales, Banquet and Memorial.

Included at the banquet, announcements and recognitions for clubs who presented their **K DOLLARS** collected during the 23-24 fiscal year. Some brought checks and some clubs brought cash. The total K Dollar checks = \$3901.00. Cash K Dollars = \$2173.00. Raffle tickets= \$1000.00.

Book Sales for Children's Fund were \$699. and there was a live auction for Light House items in honor of President, Katrina Baranka, for \$370.00 that was contributed to the Children's Fund as well.

Total for Children's Fund during District Convention = \$8143.00

Note: Cash for \$178.00 K Dollars was turned in, without a name. I want to give you credit, contact me if you know which club or individual it came from.

Kiwanis updated the District giving report as of July 31, 2024. Total for clubs and individuals is \$36,108. plus convention funds raised, \$8143.00 = \$44,251.00. If any contributions were sent in during August, that information is not included. For Mn-Dak District clubs to match the 2022-2023 the total giving of \$56,457, another \$12,206 would do it.

Thanks again everyone for all you do and having another year of fun with the K Dollar challenge.

We have lots to celebrate and to be proud of our District Clubs, leaders, members, family and friends.

Together our impact is amplified!



One item on the Raffle Table

2025 International Convention



Submitted by Courtney Fallway
International Convention Chair

June 2025 may seem far in the future, but we'll be packing our bags for the next International Convention before you know it! Pittsburgh is a big city (roughly 58 square miles), so there's a lot to see. Here are a few ideas to jumpstart your trip planning.

- The Andy Warhol Museum
- The Car & Carriage Museum
- Heinz History Center, which includes an extensive sports section as well as an exhibit dedicated to Mr. Rogers
- Tours such as 'Burgh Bits & Bites, Molly's Trolleys Pittsburgh, and the Three Rivers Sightseeing Cruise
- Frank Lloyd Wright's homes, which you can visit on Wednesday that week through a special Kiwanis tour

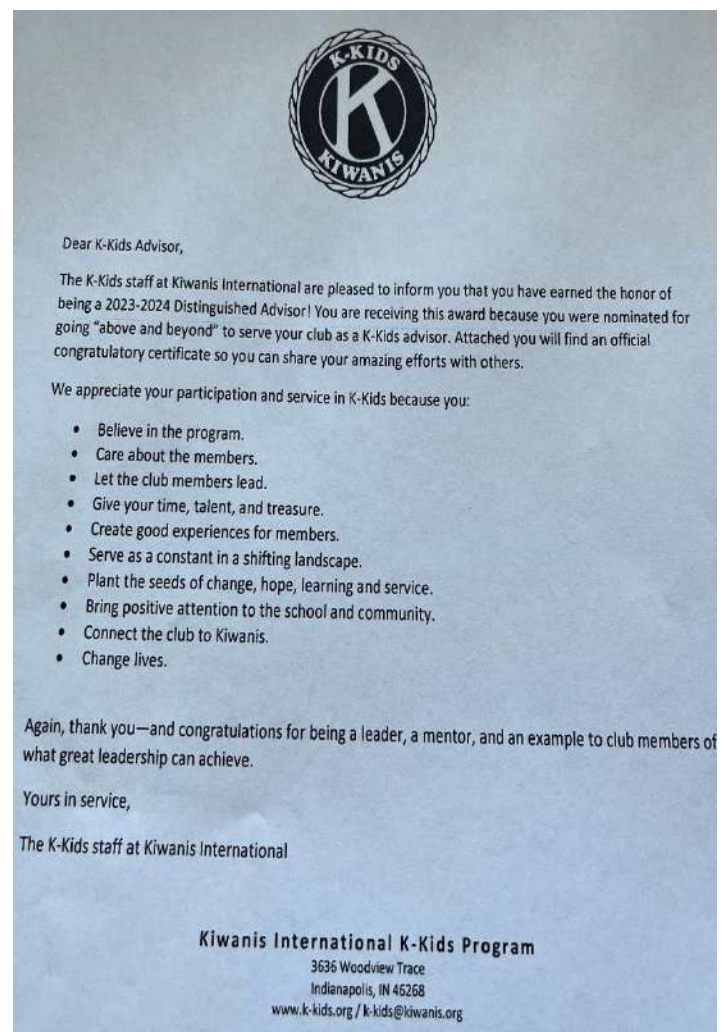
Check out:

<https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/plan-your-trip/newsletter-signup/>
to enroll in a monthly newsletter so you'll know everything there is to see by the time we're rolling into town. This website also has more information about the opportunities listed above and countless other suggestions.

Day Makers Kiwanis Club of Rochester Announcement

Submitted by Helen Kolb

The Day Makers Kiwanis Club is very proud to announce that one of our K Kids advisors was named a Distinguished Advisor for 2023-2024 by Kiwanis International. She is Jody Peterson, a teacher at Riverside Elementary in Rochester Minnesota. Included is a copy of the congratulatory letter she received.



Also included are a few pictures of Jody and the K Kids on the next page.

