

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

Greetings MNDAK Kiwanians!

I am enjoying my year as Governor as we continue to Celebrate our Successes! In November – I traveled to Mankato, MN for the Division 6 Governor’s conference which was held at the Wow Zone. We heard from the Supt. of Public Schools from Mankato who is a Kiwanian. I also traveled to Lake City, MN for the Division 7 conference which was held at the Wild Wings Plaza. We heard from the K Kids advisors from Riverside Elementary.

I truly enjoyed my travels and the great opportunities to meet and visit with our great District Kiwanians. I am looking forward to the Division 2 Conference in February.

As we are moving forward in our year – we continue to look for opportunities to open new clubs in our District as well as increase memberships in the clubs we have. Past Gov. Brad Knudson is working hard on a club in West Fargo. We will be heading to West Fargo in the second week of December to work on that club opening. I want to thank each of the Divisions for

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
December 2024

submitting club opening possibilities and for the work that you are doing to get these started.

There is a wealth of information found on the KI website at <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/> to help with club growth.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you a blessed Christmas season with your family and friends.

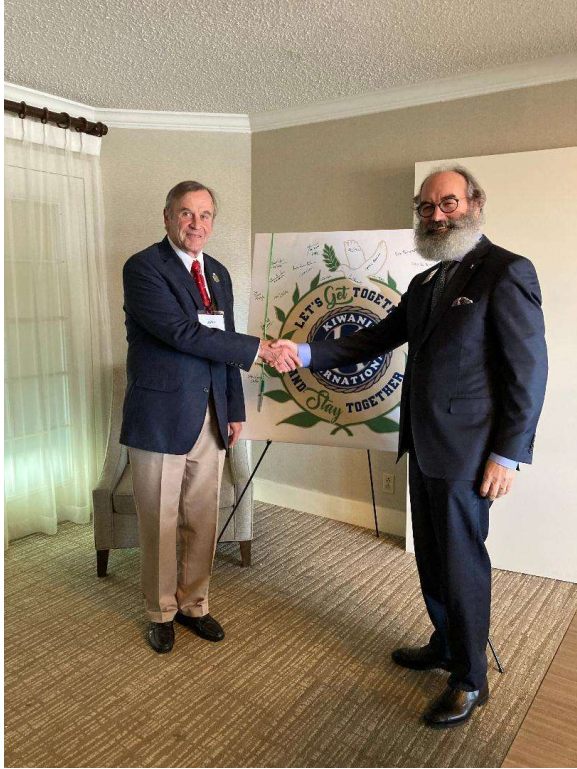
Thanks for all you do for Kiwanis!

Carol Nitschke
2024-2025 District Governor

International Convention Update



Registration is up and running for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention! To explore the schedule, speakers, and cost options, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/23axzz6s>



Dear Members,

I just returned from the Governor Elect Conference (Nov 6-10) at Kiwanis International headquarters in Indianapolis. It was an intense program geared to tell us what to expect from our year with President - elect Michael Mulhaul (2025-2026), as well as to meet with the staff at KI and present our ideas.

KI is talking about adding four new Clubs in that year in our District. I am thinking that perhaps two should be formed within the Twin Cities metro as a starter.

During my stay I suggested that KI should become more involved with Club formations and membership than its current "Ivory Tower" perception. It should become more "hands-on" and some reform is needed. They have great educational and research capabilities.

In my opinion, KI could initially become a "call center" for Clubs and Districts. A Club or District would submit say 50 names and KI would professionally call these prospects and send any leads to a local Club for membership or strongly help in the possibility of new nearby Club.

Most of us do not have the skills and knowledge to adequately sell the program. A professional call center would have both. For example, a prospect might be interested in service only to later find out that he/she had been interested in self-development. In this process we likely lose this individual.

A professional call center could limit these mistakes. It could communicate with 50 prospects within a day with enhanced success. I told President -elect Michael that if he were serious about realizing new Clubs and increased membership, we need a paradigm shift in thinking.

Until KI realizes the benefits of this type of approach, we must continue to use the old ways of increasing membership, i.e., verbally asking people to join. The more members we have the greater service we can do, benefiting more people within the process. Further, having more Kiwanis members within our communities brings an enhanced "shine' to our community service.

Sincerely,
John

(The above article is an opinion piece and does not reflect the official position of MNDK District Leadership)



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy Holidays! I hope that your Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends were filled with good food, blessings of family and friends and fun. I wish the same for the upcoming Holiday season later this month.

This time of year is a great time to think about why we choose to spend our time volunteering and why we choose Kiwanis as that vehicle. I have been a member since 1995 and the experiences I have had and the friends I have made since then are precious to me. The smiles and wonder on kids' faces, the laughter during service projects, the hard work and aching muscles after a job well done are all part of the experience.

Even in this job, the satisfaction I get when I've been able to help a member with a question or to solve a problem. In my mind, that's service too.

That's why I have been a club coach and have volunteered to help build new clubs. It's why I became a Lt. Governor and then a Governor several years ago. I need to share my experiences and pass the word about how great this organization is. It's too good

to keep secret, and I bet you have some experiences, Kiwanis Moments, that you should be sharing with others.

You don't need to be an expert in club building to tell your story. So, tell it every chance you get, it's that simple. You never know who's listening.

Now to some business for Club Secretaries:

- There are still some clubs who have not completed their election report. We need that information to know who the contact people are in your club.
- February 15th is the deadline for all U.S. Kiwanis family clubs and districts to file IRS tax returns (Form 990, form 990- EZ or Form 990-N).
- Only 43 of our 103 clubs have completed the monthly report for October and the November report is now due. Lt Governors are making an effort to visit with your club and they need the information you provide in your monthly reports to make these visits meaningful and productive. **If your club secretary is new or needs some training, let me know.**

MNDAK District Needs You!

We are looking for people to fill the following positions for 2025-26:

1. Club Officers in all clubs
2. Lt Governor Elect in all Divisions.
3. Governor Elect

Contact your club president if you would be interested in a club office. Contact your Lt Governor or District Office (Me) if a District office appeals to you.



Happy Holidays Everyone!

As the holiday season approaches, I hope it brings joy and warmth to you and your loved ones. It's a wonderful time to cherish those special moments with family and friends. May your celebrations be filled with happiness and peace.

At the District Convention, Governor Carol asked the Lt Governor Teams to each provide a list of 3 or more communities that need a Kiwanis club in their division or need a club membership boost. We have collected several suggestions and will be starting some community assessments.

Your involvement in club building will not only help your club thrive but also ensure they benefit from the rich legacy of leadership and success you bring to your club. Is there a community near you that would benefit from a Kiwanis club? Let us know.

Whether you're looking to enhance your club's growth, improve coaching techniques, or explore the possibilities of opening new clubs, these upcoming sessions below will provide valuable insights and practical advice. Take advantage of these two outstanding opportunities by registering early for these free webinars. In the December 10th session you will learn how to

be an effective club coach, whether it's your club or another one.

Club Coaching – Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – <https://tinyurl.com/4zupumwx>

The Webinar on Monday, December 9th is on being a certified Kiwanis club opener. By participating as a club opener, you have the unique opportunity to share the spirit of Kiwanis and guide new and existing clubs towards greater success and engagement. Our veteran members possess invaluable experience and knowledge that are crucial in building new clubs.

Club Opening – Monday, December 9, 2024 – <https://tinyurl.com/4wd8ab2e>

By joining forces, we have the power to create significant positive changes. Let's continue to work together to make a meaningful impact in our communities.

Don't miss out on the chance to strengthen your club and expand your impact within the community.

Bradley Knudson,
District Membership and Engagement
Coordinator

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

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Happy Holidays

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving full of gratitude for all we were able to do and accomplish for our communities and the children of the world. Christmas is coming soon and hopefully your clubs will be filled with tasks and opportunities to serve others.

Please keep me informed of any training scheduled for your clubs. I will be obtaining information on mid-year/mid-winter and District Convention (DCON) education. If your club has a Leadership and Development Chair, please forward their name and contact information to me.

Kiwanis International, Chris Martz will be in contact with the district to ask what education they can provide to assist in training and education. If Club officers are still in need of training, please refer to the Kiwanis International website under member resources for virtual training.

Please note that a new Amplify Program is coming up for 2025. Luckily Kiwanis International has decided to keep the cost at \$50 per person. Also, Kiwanis International is offering this price to young adults. This program and cost are an excellent membership tool also because Amplify cost is over \$600 to non-Kiwanis members. People seeking excellent leadership training can pay club dues and \$50 fee and still save money.

If you have any training needs or questions, please contact me at 605-347-7718.

Submitted by Sherry Scudder
Leadership and Development Coordinator

Minnesota-Dakotas

Kiwanis Educational
Foundation, Inc.



Have you contacted your Schools?

Submitted by Sherry Scudder, Trustee

Happy Holidays. We have a great opportunity to support our children through the Minnesota -Dakotas Kiwanis Education Fund Scholarship Program. Please check with your club secretary for the information and application to take to your local High Schools. Arrange to take the application and instructions to the schools as the Deadline is January 24th. Feel free to copy the application and instructions to take to all high schools in your community.

Our Kiwanis Clubs work very hard to provide funds to help the Foundation secure 55 scholarships to students who want to further their secondary education. Don't let the students down by not sharing this information and resources. Check with your club secretary and contact your schools if you have not done so.

More information can be found on the Minnesota -Dakotas website or contact the Foundation Secretary, Lowell Disrud, Kiwanis Educational Foundation, INC, 1106;14th St. N, Fargo, ND 58102.

Also, it is not too late to get a tax-deduction by contributing to the Minnesota -Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Kiwanis International Children's Fund BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathy Welle, District Children's Fund
Chair

There are nearly 180,000 Kiwanis club members in 85 nations. What if everyone in our global network came together to make an impact? Here's what The Possibility Project has achieved so far.

us \$6,000,000 RAISED TO DATE

The Possibility Project – Pocket Guide WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

1. Kiwanians believe in helping kids—and kids need Kiwanis. By supporting the Possibility Project together, we answer the call.
2. Kiwanis Clubs are saying that more children in their communities need our help. The Possibility Project will result in more money to help clubs serve kids.
3. The campaign brings together the power of Kiwanians' gifts to help children around the world through local club service projects.
4. The engagement of Kiwanis members and clubs is the key to reaching our goal of impacting 10 million children through the Possibility Project.

Ways to give to the Children's Fund

Each donor – whether a club or a member is a valued partner in our efforts to improve the lives of children

- Recognition to club officers or members for appreciation of their dedication and commitment to Kiwanis.
- George F Hixson Fellowship for an unrestricted gift of \$1000.00 or more.
- Dr. Will Blechman Fellowship for an unrestricted gift of \$2500.00 or more.

Learn more <https://tinyurl.com/je7d6t7h>

Reminder: As we near the end of the 2024 calendar year, there is still time to make a direct contribution from your IRA and you can avoid the income taxes.

Read how Kiwanis clubs are meeting it – and how gifts help them change children's lives at <https://tinyurl.com/je7d6t7h>

Yours in service

**the
POSSIBILITY
PROJECT**

Insights from Risk Management



Submitted by
Craig D. Evenson
District Risk Manager

As I progress in my military schooling, I've been reflecting on how discipline has shaped both my military and civilian life, especially in my Kiwanis service. Leadership training continues to impact me, it has taught me much in civilian and service life.

Each year, I mentor high school seniors. Recently, I made a mistake: I forgot about a scheduled class. Thankfully, a teacher reached out, allowing me to join—though late. I felt terrible and admitted my mistake to the students, explaining that I had lost focus and skipped my usual morning routine, which includes checking my calendar. This experience helped me emphasize that discipline is crucial and that adults, too, are always growing. I've learned that mentorship is as rewarding for me as it is for those I guide.

When disciplined, I start each day by reviewing my calendar, setting priorities, and making a checklist. This routine keeps me on track with key tasks and frees up my evenings for family time, maintaining an important balance.

Discipline also strengthens my role in supporting Kiwanis' mission to serve children. When Kiwanians embrace discipline, we empower our organization.

With focused actions, we grow Kiwanis, strengthen our communities, and expand our impact. Because we are global, together, we can leave a lasting Kiwanis legacy worldwide.

Rakeathon



Columbia Heights
Fridley
Key Club

What do about 30
Key

Clubbers, 2 Faculty advisors, and 3 Kiwanians do on a crisp, fall weekend afternoon? They rake leaves for the elderly! On Sunday, Nov 17th, the Columbia Heights Key Club participated in their annual rakeathon. They raked leaves for three elderly homeowners and had a lot of fun doing it.

Pierre-Fort Pierre Club Induct New Members



The Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Club inducted two new members on Nov. 19.

Rachel Williams is CEO of the Oahe YMCA who, being

the mother of two young children, likes what Kiwanis does for children. Alice Wright is a retired former member who decided to rejoin the club after being gone for three years. From left in the photo are Jeff Mammenga, who led the ceremony; Williams and her sponsor, Kristin Gabriel; and Wright and her sponsor, Dave Bonde.

Division 7 Governor's Education Day



Division 7 was honored to have Governor Carol attend our Governor's Education Day on Saturday, November 9th. The day was packed with a presentation from

Carol sharing her theme for this year "Celebrating our Successes" and encouraging us to think about our Kiwanis story.

We also were privileged to hear from Jody and Sharon, K-Kids advisors for Riverside Elementary school in Rochester, MN, who shared about their club and the impact their club has on the K-kids and community. We honored 13 Vantine award winners and raised over \$2000 in our silent auction for the MNDK Educational Foundation to go toward scholarships.

We set aside time to participate in a diaper packing event for Second Stork, an organization that helps give newborn necessities to families in need. In the midst of business and service, we also had some fun with a



funny hat contest.

I had a great time and want to

thank my team consisting of Tim Taylor, Bill Otto, Janet Cederholm, Todd Levig, and others for helping this day be a success!

Submitted by Katie Landwehr, Division 7 Lt. Governor

Pumpkin Carving & Costume Party

By Katie Landwehr



The Columbia Heights-Fridley Kiwanis Club hosted their annual

Key Club pumpkin carving and costume party. This year, about 50 key clubbers from both Columbia Heights and Fridley Key Clubs came together with Kiwanians and carved 50 pumpkins. It was a fun evening of pizza, laughter, pumpkin guts, and costumes. All pumpkins carved were used as decorations for the City of Columbia Heights' annual Truck or Treat event where over 1,500 people attended.

Key Club Holds Fall Rally



On Nov 1-3rd, 2024, Key Clubbers and advisors from 14

clubs in the MinnDak district gathered at Camp Ihduhapi in Loretto, MN for their fall convention. It was a great weekend packed with risk taking, developing friendships, fellowshipping, laughter, team building, and joining hands in service.

A big shoutout and thank you goes to Key Club MinnDak District Governor Nathan Gonzalez, MinnDak Key Club district board, MinnDak District Key Club Administrator Kyle Hakala, and Assistant Administrator Sally Roberts for a job well done on organizing and executing a great Fall Rally this year.

Madison SD Kiwanis Pancake Day

Submitted by Todd Norby

The Madison SD Kiwanis Club served it's 59th Pancake Day on October 15, 2024. The annual event is the club's largest fundraiser. Pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice were served over the noon hour and in the evening.



The mayor and the fire chief were invited to help flip pancakes to add a little fun to the day. The Dakota State University football team, consisting of approximately 50 men, helped with set up and tear down of tables and chairs and helped by hauling the heavy grills. "With the size that our club has become, we wouldn't be able to do all this work without this great group of men, who volunteer their time," says Carol Shaver, Pancake Day chairperson.

The club members do ticket presales to the businesses, as well as sell tickets at the door. Local businesses donate and members make baskets that attendees can purchase tickets for and then they are drawn for at the end of the evening. "It's a great day supported by our awesome community," says Shaver.

Mitchell Kiwanians Serve Thanksgiving Dinner

Submitted by Linda McEntee

The Kiwanis Club of Mitchell, SD were busy helping feed community members the week of Thanksgiving.

They provided a meal for students at DWU who were staying on campus during the Thanksgiving holiday. Many international



students as well as basketball players enjoyed a feast put on by Kiwanians.

The day before Thanksgiving, several members spent their noon hour helping package items for the Mitchell

Community Thanksgiving Dinner. They packaged 450 containers with pie, dinner roll, butter, cranberries and silverware. These packages along with the hot food were delivered by community volunteers on Thanksgiving.

The Breaking Bread Ministries sponsors this meal and along with 450 deliveries, served nearly 1,500 in person meals at a local church.