

# Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis  
International  
November 2024



## A Message from the Governor

Greetings MNDAK Kiwanians!

I hope you are all enjoying our beautiful Fall weather and getting off to a great start in our new Kiwanian year. We continue to hear from our Lt. Governor teams who are visiting clubs and participating in Club Installations. I want to thank our Lt. Governor teams as they are continuing their good work and commitment to Kiwanis.

I am truly enjoying the Division Governor Conferences. Division 1 Conference was held in my home club of Mandan. I want to thank Diane Lillis and the Mandan Club as well as the Lt. Gov teams for hosting the Conference at the Mandan Library. We are very supportive of our local Library as well as our Head Start program.

Division 4 Conference was held in Lead, SD. I want to thank Lt. Gov. Diana Mathisrud and the Division 4 Lt. Gov. team for their good work in hosting this conference. The conference was held at the Sanford Underground Research Facility as we learned a great deal about the Center as this area is built on a gold mine. We also heard about the good service to the communities from D 4 clubs.

I attended the Division 5 Conference in Madison, SD. I want to thank Vicki Walters, and the Lt.

Governor teams for their good work in organizing this event. We were given a tour of the Madison Library Story Book Walk which is sponsored by the Madison Club.

I will be traveling to Division 6 and Division 7 in the first two weekends of November. I am looking forward to these events. I will keep you updated on the Division conferences as we move forward.

As you all know – we have accepted a challenge from our Kiwanis International Counselor Scott Sims to work hard to open a new club in each Division. We will continue to work with each Division as you are identifying possible club openings.

I want to thank Immediate Past Governor Brad Knudson for stepping up as our District Club Membership Chair. At this time, he is working on possible club openings in West Fargo, ND and Williston, ND. Please consider your thoughts and assistance to our District Leadership team as we work together to increase our membership and clubs. Kiwanis International President Lee Kuan Yong has as his goal this year to open 500 new clubs. We truly want to be a part of helping him to reach his goal.

As we continue our year, I want to encourage our clubs to keep working hard on your Service Projects, Fundraising Projects and your Club growth efforts. We have so much to be proud of for all the good work we do for our communities. I look forward to our year as we Celebrate our Successes!

**Thanks for all you do for Kiwanis!!!**

Carol Nitschke, Governor  
2024-2025



## A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

October has been a busy month as we get organized and ready for this new year. Division meetings are being held all over the district. I hope that you were able to attend one in your division. Governor Carol outlines those happenings in her article. It sounds like a lot of fun and fellowship.

Membership is going to be a HUGE focus for us this year. International has developed a whole new and updated toolbox for clubs to strength your membership or help to build a new club. Each club is asked to develop a Membership plan for this year and beyond. I refer you to Bradley Knudson's article for information on how to do that.

We all know that service is what we do as Kiwanians, but we should also consider membership recruitment as what we do as well. Could you do more service with more hands? YES! Whose responsibility is it to get new members or get current members more active? All of us!

I heard recently that we shouldn't be focusing on building more clubs, that we need to just help current clubs get more members. We need to do both. Like people, clubs have their own personalities and traditions. I bet there are people in your area

who would make great Kiwanians but aren't a "fit" for your club. Maybe being in a satellite of your club with new people would be more to their liking. Or maybe the thought of a new club they could help build suits them. Either way, more hands for more service and new ideas become the result. Start working on that membership plan and get creative. You will find lot's of tools, training and information on the KI website and our district website.

### Now to some business:

- 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. *Two clubs have new members because I knew who to email about someone looking for a club to join.*
- Did you know that the district website has a calendar of events in the right column on each page? If you are looking for when and where your division meeting or other event is being held, it's there. And if you click on the event, you will find a flyer or other information about it. That is if I have it to share. CHECK IT OUT!
- If your club has an event you want on the calendar, email me the details and I'll get it on there.
- Club Secretaries let's start the new year by getting your October monthly report done on time. It's a good time to start the habit and keep it up throughout the year. If you need some help, let me know. I can help.



## CREATE YOUR CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP PLAN FOR 2024-2025

The MNDAK membership numbers are in and we lost 194 members in 2023-2024. There are several reasons given for the members stepping away from Kiwanis. Attendance, lack of time, and health reasons are among the top reasons, along with dues increases and an aging membership, continue to be our clubs' major issues.

The strongest Kiwanis clubs don't grow by luck or magic – they make membership growth a continuing part of club culture. Of course, it's great to have members who invite individuals they know or meet, but consistent growth requires actively seeking people as a club. We spend a lot of our club meetings looking into how we can serve the children of our community and it's time to make membership one of those topics at each meeting.

Ask your club members these seven questions:

- What kind of club do we really want?
- Is there enough "Kiwanis" in your club?
- What makes us different from other community organizations in your town?
- Do the people in your community know about your club?

- Does your club have a plan to increase membership?
- Could your club use a boost?
- Does your club have a social Media site?

We are asking each club to create a membership plan with a goal to acquire and retain members. Download the "Create your club's membership plan" worksheet at <https://tinyurl.com/238f2bas> and ask your club officers to dedicate one meeting to discuss your plan.

- Set a new member growth number for the coming year.
- How many members do you anticipate losing this year?
- Has your club asked the membership to complete a Club Excellence (ACE) survey?
- What best describes your club's style for recruiting new members?
- What community involvement opportunities exist to promote membership?
- Have you used Two For Two as a tool to increase club membership?
- Has your club recruited any corporate members in the past year?
- Do you have a membership committee?
- What recruitment tactic is best for your club? Explore the list of tools and strategies and determine what will work best for your club. See Resources Below.

Ask your club's membership to get involved with Kiwanis International training and membership forums. Once you have created a plan, share the accomplishments with us. I am willing to help with promotion and social media ads once your club has a vision of what you want to become.

**Resources:** Visit our District Web site <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/resources/>

Sharon Scudder  
District Leadership  
and Development  
Coordinator



## International Convention Update

Submitted by Courtney Fallway

### Thanksgiving and Gratitude

Happy Thanksgiving to all our Kiwanis family. This is a time when we can reflect on all we can do and all we have done for our children and communities.

We can be thankful for the 24 hours in a day that we have to create something meaningful. The Kiwanis International website has been revamped with many new and educational resources. Scroll through it and find answers to many of your burning questions. The Member section at <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/> is so full of information that you will feel more confident in your role as a Kiwanis member. The joy of learning and giving will be expressed in your great accomplishments.

For those who use Kiwanis Connect, please note that it will be replaced by Kiwanis Engage and will be launched prior to the Kiwanis International convention in Pittsburgh. Stay tuned for training in the months to come. By the way, registration for the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh is open now.

Know that the more you love, appreciate and serve others, they love and show gratitude with their expressions and actions. Be thankful for all the smiles, happiness and joy you bring to those you serve.

Sherry Scudder  
Leadership Development Coordinator



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

### 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](mailto:kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com)



## 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? Kids need Kiwanis

Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, US\$2.25 addresses the needs of one child. Imagine the possibilities if we raised US\$25 million – enough for Kiwanis clubs and members to serve 10 million children around the world. That's the goal of **The Possibility Project**.

Join the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve.

**Here's what The Possibility Project has achieved so far:**

**us \$5,000,000** RAISED TO DATE

### Why we're raising it

- Children going hungry.
- Students struggling to read.
- Potential leaders lacking mentors.

Even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow. Read how Kiwanis clubs are meeting it – and how gifts help them change children's lives at <https://tinyurl.com/je7d6t7h>

### Ways to give:

**Give Online:** Make a gift today using our convenient, secure online donation form. Download a gift/pledge form to give by mail or fax. At the link, you can also learn more about giving by mail, telephone or wire transfer.

**IRA rollover:** You can support the Kiwanis Children's Fund by directly transferring assets from an individual retirement account in the United States. With an IRA rollover, you make an impact and save on taxes. Learn more <https://tinyurl.com/je7d6t7h>

*the*  
**POSSIBILITY  
PROJECT**





## MINNESOTA DAKOTAS KIWANIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Submitted by Bill Lardy, Trustee

Seasons come and go so quickly it seems. Meteorological fall will be over at the end of November, soon to be followed by Christmas.

At the end of the year if you are a graduating high school senior you are starting to get serious about what the future holds after graduation.

Many graduating high school seniors are anticipating some type of post-secondary education, and the costs associated with it. As Kiwanians we are in a position to perhaps alleviate some concerns of costs if students apply for and receive a scholarship from our district's Education Foundation.

Most Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanians know the Foundation each year awards about 55 scholarships to deserving students who attend a post-secondary institution during the following academic year. These scholarships are usually around \$700 per year, with many clubs adding funds to bring the total award to \$1000. While that amount is only a portion of a year's total cost it does help to reduce the impact of the total.

The Foundation awards funds only from the earnings of the corpus meaning that any donated amounts to the corpus are kept in perpetuity to provide help to students far

into the future. I suggest that Kiwanis members consider a donation to the Foundation in a loved one's name as a Christmas gift. A gift of this type is, in a sense, a gift that keeps on giving.

The Foundation has created several recognitions for those gifts reaching qualifying levels. For example, the Vantine Life Fellowship is given for gifts of \$100. The named person receives a plaque indicating being named as a Vantine Fellow and is listed on the Foundation's honor roll.

So maybe think outside the box and make a gift to the Foundation for Christmas. It would be a gift that wouldn't be returned!

## Mitchell Kiwanis Holds Fundraiser



The Mitchell, SD club held their annual Half Marathon, 5K and 10K on October 6, 2024. With 170 runners on a beautiful fall day, the fundraiser was a great success. To add something for

kids to the event, they started a free 1-mile Kids Fun Run. The kids ran from the Corn Palace down Main Street and back. Fifteen kids participated in the inaugural event and the smiles on their faces tell show it was a great day for them!



**Fellowship:** CKI hit home with this tenant as we gathered around the fire and really got to know each other this year. Over games and activities, members got to know each other more than surface level.

**CKI is more than volunteering - we are a family.**

## Circle K International Update

Minnesota-Dakotas Circle K International came together the weekend of October 11-13th for the annual Fall Leadership Training Conference -FLTC held at Kiwanis Camp Patterson in Madison Lake, MN. CKI Clubs from South Dakota School of Mines, Dakota State University, and Minnesota State University, Mankato were in attendance.

This weekend served as an opportunity for clubs across the district to come together and grow in our three tenants: Service, Leadership, & Fellowship:

**Service:** CKI joined our local Mankato Kiwanis Club in their annual project “Kiwanis Holiday Lights” and wound spools of lights and created light displays as needed. On the campgrounds, CKI closes out the campground season by putting all of the boats into the boat house.

**Leadership:** Workshops on setting SMART goals for individuals and clubs were provided alongside opportunities for members to engage in their role as a young leader.



## Club watches *Nyad*

The Columbia Heights-Fridley Kiwanis Club hosted their first movie night, showing *Nyad*. This event was inspired after attending the 2024 KI convention in Denver and hearing the amazing story of guest speaker, Diana Nyad.

Club members enjoyed popcorn and other snacks as they were cozy in their seats being held captive by the theatrical portrayal of Diana's tumultuous journey to become the first swimmer to swim from Cuba to Key West. This event was really fun and it was a great evening of fellowship!



## This Is Why We Exist



### For The Kids and Community

Rich Besel, Public Relations, Worthington  
Early Risers

The Ninth Annual Grocery Dash sponsored by Early Risers Kiwanis in Worthington, Minnesota is "In The Bag" so to speak. Dashers made good use of their tennis shoes on an October night at Fareway Foods, Worthington. Early Risers sold about 430 raffle tickets at \$10 an opportunity and then the club covers all expenses.

The first-place ticket holder delegated his wife to run the two-minute dash in his place. She was still smiling when she cashed out over \$600 of fine food and meats.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place ticket holders competed for gift cards by replacing items back on the shelves in the fastest times. The fastest time was awarded the \$200 Fareway Gift Card. The last dashers earned \$100 and \$50 respectively.

Early Risers thank the manager and Fareway Foods for hosting this event and above all, thank the area residents who bought raffle tickets to help support Early Risers Kiwanis, a club who focuses on improving the world one child and one community at a time.

