

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

Greetings to all of you – I hope your New Year has been going well!

We are off to a great start for this year as we had our Mid-Winter annual board meeting on Jan. 21st. We heard from the Lt. Governor teams who continue to do great work with their clubs. Our clubs continue to offer great service to their communities in addition to all of the good fundraisers that are a pleasure to hear about. We also heard from our District Administrators who also are doing wonderful work in each of their areas.

I was honored to attend a Governor's Conference in Indianapolis in January. It was great to hear from many of the amazing Kiwanis Intl. staff who offered presentations to our group. It was also fun to see and visit with all of the Governors from across the country.

I am looking forward to traveling to Divisions 2 and 3 for Governors conferences in the next few weeks.

As we continue to move forward this year – I want to stress Kiwanis International's

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International
February 2025

NOTE: Any links to Kiwanis.org will require you to log into your Kiwanis account.

BUILD NURTURE RETAIN initiative. This is a new program focusing on Building New clubs, Nurturing Clubs and Retaining club members. <https://tinyurl.com/3n6z9zz8> Many of you have been introduced to this program. Please take time to review the trainings and tools that are offered. This is a team effort with our District Leadership, Lt. Governor teams and Club Leaders all working together to add new clubs and keep our clubs vibrant and healthy.

We continue to work with each of the Divisions in our efforts to open new clubs in our District. I want to thank Past Governor Brad Knudson and others in our District who are working to get a club opened in Williston, ND.

Let's have a great Kiwanis month as we continue to Build, Nurture and Retain our clubs and most importantly Celebrate Our Successes!

Thanks for all you do for Kiwanis!





A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy February! Winter is half over and hopefully the bitter cold of January is behind us.

It's the start of the second quarter and even though many of us would like to hibernate, there are lots of club and community fundraisers happening during February because it's LOVE month. February is the month for the Kiwanis Children's Fund Day of Giving. See Kathleen Welle's article for more information on that. It's also a good time for social events in your clubs and to invite prospective new members.

Sherry Scudder mentions all the resources and help available from Kiwanis International to help clubs grow. If you haven't already joined the Kiwanis International Membership Facebook Group, I encourage you to check it out. All the Build, Nurture and Retain training videos can be found there as well as some ideas that have worked for other clubs. Just search for that name on Facebook.com and join the group. I also have links to all of them on our MNDAK website at <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/resources/> (you need to have joined the above group to watch the videos however).

My goals for this year are to support you and your club to reach your goals. I'm here to answer questions and point out resources that are available. You're not alone out there. You can reach me through the website contact form, email me or call. My email is kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com or call me at 218-230-9924,

Now to some business for Club Secretaries:

- I have scheduled short training sessions for club secretaries that will give you some practical information beyond the formal training from KI. The times I have set aside are:
 - Thursday Feb 6th @ 7 pm
 - Saturday Feb 8th @ 10 am
 - Thursday Feb 13th @ 7 pmI am also doing a session at the Division 6 meeting February 12th and the Division 2 Governor's Conference on February 22nd. Watch your email for more information.
- 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). You must file to keep your tax-exempt status as a 501 C-4. You will lose this status if you fail to file 3 years in a row.
- Your club's annual Youth Protection Education should already be done and reported. If not, schedule it now and get it done. Make sure the advisors for your SLP's know and follow the guidelines that are established.



Why should we pay annual dues to volunteer?

Some members have asked what appears to be a very tough question to our organization, and that is: "Why should I have to pay to volunteer?"

By paying and affiliating with a world class organization as Kiwanis is, your actions become enhanced. Your actions and membership act as "force multiplier" for your good deeds.

How can this be?

If I go across the street and start raking my neighbor's leaves, no one thinks anything except possibly and skeptically that I am raking the wrong yard. But, in the best and most likely case scenario, they view me as a caring neighbor.

If two of us start raking our neighbor's yard, the image is that we might have a neighborhood of caring neighbors. If both of us are Kiwanis members and we wear our Kiwanis emblem shirts, external perceptions further change. Our organization is viewed as a benevolent group. Therefore, our contributions take on a greater value even though we rake the same 40,000 leaves. This change is what the military calls a force multiplier.

Our simple choice of putting on a Kiwanis shirt (or staking in a Kiwanis flag) greatly

changes the perception of our activities. Add more members wearing their Kiwanis shirts and this *volunteer event* is now viewed as an initiative to better our community. Kiwanis membership makes this happen.

Since Kiwanis has a very strong service mark and KI continually enhances this attribute through various means, everyone benefits. However, this public image - made possible at a community level by a group of individuals volunteering together - costs money. The Kiwanis message has to be continually communicated, always refined and protected.

We are not really paying to volunteer. Instead, by paying our dues we greatly enhance our community service!

MNDAK District Needs You!

Are you a past Lt Governor looking for other ways to serve in another leadership role? Have you considered moving up to Governor Elect? If you are, we are currently looking for candidates for 2025-26.

You can contact me, Cindy Braseth, kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com with your intent to run or if you have any questions. Governor Carol or Past Governor Bradley are also available to talk with you about this opportunity and answer questions. I can put you in touch with either or both of them.

I would love to hear from any interested candidates and introduce you to the membership in the next February issue of the Minnekotan. As a past Governor myself, I can say that it was the best experience of my Kiwanis journey. There is lot's of support from those of us who have been there.

THINK ABOUT IT! You won't regret it!

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



I LOVE KIWANIS AND THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Love is in the air. Yes, February is the month we mostly recognize the love of our friends, family and neighbors. Our Kiwanis Family is so fortunate to be loved by Kiwanis International by providing us with the resources to make us better in serving our children and our communities.

Some of the resources that are available are:

- Amplify, an 8 Module Leadership Development Training that is Virtual to work at your own pace from April 7 – September 30, 2025 at the rate of \$50 for Kiwanis Members and over \$600 for the public. The Program can also help us to grow our membership by allowing new members to join and pay membership dues plus \$50 and still save money to gain Leadership Development.
- They will assist with training for Lt. Governor training and Certified Leadership Education. There is also online training for President, Secretaries, Treasurers and Membership Chairman. All this is on the Kiwanis Website at <https://tinyurl.com/2s37ydnm>

- Kiwanis International is giving clubs an opportunity to share their successes about their clubs. They are requesting stories to be sent to me at sharekiwanis@gmail.com no later than the middle of April on subjects such as,
 - How your club appeals to Younger Generations,
 - how does your club bring Kiwanis clubs together with Service Leadership members and partners,
 - Successes your club has had with membership growth, service projects, fund raising, and revitalization within a club.

These subjects are sought out to possibly be presented at the International Convention in Pittsburg. **Please consider submitting for your club. We want to see MDAK highlighted in Pittsburgh!**

We will be looking at some training at the District Convention in Wilmar, so watch for this news so you can get training to better serve your communities.

Sending my love,

Sherry



Submitted by Denis Cornell, Trustee

Has Your Club sent the “Century Club” contribution? The “Century Club” program is a program of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation and should be an ongoing youth service project for every club. Your Kiwanis Club in the Minnesota-Dakotas District can become a Century Club member with an annual suggested contribution of at least \$100.00 that can be taken from Youth Activities funds, Project Profit Funds or Administrative Funds.

The foundation depends on Century Club contributions of at least \$100.00 from clubs in our district to build foundation assets to continue providing scholarships to high school students throughout the district. The Century Club contribution should be included in the annual budget of each club and sent to the foundation secretary/treasurer as soon as the club budget is approved.

The Century Club contribution form is available on the MNDK District Kiwanis web site under the Foundations tab. Mail your Century Club contribution to:
Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation
1106 14th St. N.
Fargo, ND 58102
Attention: Lowell Disrud,
Secretary/Treasurer

Contributions may also be made by clubs or individuals through a "Vantine Life Fellowship" with a contribution of \$100.00 or a "Joseph E Messer Fellowship" through a contribution of \$500.00 payable in two installments of \$250.00. These fellowships are a great way to recognize exemplary service of club members and officers or other individuals.

Information describing these fellowships is available in the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation brochure which can be downloaded from the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis website under the Foundations tab.

International Convention Update



Book your registration for the **2025 Kiwanis International Convention NOW.**

Meet new friends, get new ideas and have a great time.

Watch for news about a MNDK

District gathering Friday night. Get started now at <https://tinyurl.com/23axzz6s> and don't forget to book your hotel at the same time to get the preferred rate.



BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathleen Welle, District Children's Fund Chair

We have already survived one month of winter in 2025. Hope everyone is staying warm and safe during this challenging season. Winter has been worse in past years.

Forward we go - all about the Possibility Project. Kiwanis Clubs in our District are making contributions ongoing. The latest report as of December shows over \$7600 has been sent to the Children's Fund, just in December. The total District Clubs and Individuals, now is \$17,120.

More good news.

Several clubs have started with using the Kiwanis Impact Club – Commitment Form. Why is it important to use the commitment form? The Children's Fund Board will have an idea of what to expect and what to plan for grants year over year.



You and your club can decide what amount your club would like to list on the form. (Remember, this is not a contract) The overall goal for all Kiwanis Clubs is to raise 25 million in 5 years, to help 10 million kids. Just \$2.25 per child will meet the needs.

There is a challenge between regions. The Central Region – Minnesota-Dakotas down to Texas is in second place with total contributions as of December 2024.

In January's Newsletter there is a link to bring the Possibility Project video to you and your club. Here it is again:

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

Thanks to all you Kiwanians and friends in our Minnesota-Dakotas District for your service and support for all the projects you have and your continued support to our youth.

Yours in Service,
Kathy



Help Reach 45,000 Kids!

The third Kiwanis Day of Giving will be on February 25. Think of it as 2/25 — a fitting date, since US\$2.25 is enough to make a difference in one child's life through the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

This year, the goal is more ambitious than ever: to raise US\$100,000 — enough to reach 45,000 kids in one day!

Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/5fc6jz3b>

Partnership Highlights



by Denis Cornell

PerkSpot provides exclusive deals on your favorite brands that are waiting inside your discount portal. Sign in to start saving! From travel to electronics savings,

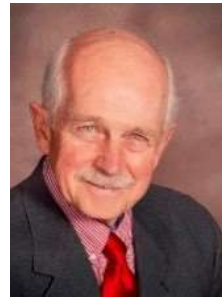
your discount portal has the best deals available anywhere.

Check out your Kiwanis Discount Portal and save big on these offers. Sign up or log in to take advantage of these exclusive discounts. PerkSpot is available to all members and is chock full of discounts on hundreds of your favorite brands. New curated offers are constantly being added. PerkSpot is updated daily.

The ODP Business Solutions Program (formerly known as Office Depot) provides competitive pricing to Kiwanis Clubs. Office supplies discounts of up to 55% off are available. With a store purchasing card you can shop the savings at Office Depot and OfficeMax retail locations. With an Online Purchasing Account, you can enjoy discounted online ordering at ODP Business Solutions. With a Business Account a dedicated representative sets up invoice billing, special pricing, and more.

Check out all the partner programs available at: kiwanis.org/partners

Youth Protection Update



Charles Huntley MNDK
Youth Protection
Coordinator

Thanks to all the Clubs who have Conducted the Required Youth Protection in their Clubs and have reported it to

Cindy at MNDK District and to Kiwanis International. I should be receiving a report next month from KI and I hope all Clubs will be on it.

Youth Protection makes a great Program for a Club Meeting and with the resources of Kiwanis International the presentation is easy to give. The Protection is both for youth and for the members of your Club, so it is extremely important that all clubs have this training.

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/meej26fd>, scroll down and click on "Youth Protection Training" and the in the second paragraph the link "PowerPoint presentation PDF."

Title: "Kiwanis International Youth Protection Policy Training for Clubs 2024" Note this is the most Comprehensive choice because it is a Power point of many slides rather than a Summary like the other one.

Both cover the material necessary and I suggest you rotate between the two each year. Hopefully this will make it easy for you if you have not done it yet.

Attention Division 2 Kiwanis Clubs!

The Division 2 Governor's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Street South in Moorhead, MN. All Kiwanis members and officers are invited to attend this annual event.

MNDAC Governor Carol Nitschke will be hosting forums as well as several others. Registration is \$25.00 per person to cover food and facilities costs. Register by February 18th.

View the program at <https://tinyurl.com/mrxh27sy>

Please pass along this invitation and agenda to all your Club members! It will be a wonderful day! Bring a carload!

To register email Colleen Hyde at hyde@cord.edu or call 701 367-6192

Mitchell SD Club Holds Benefit



Port & Comp. 3/4 Sleeve 5.5oz, 50/50 cotton/poly

The Mitchell, SD club is doing a t-shirt fundraiser for Paula Deckert to help in her fight against non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Paula is a very active Kiwanian at the club and district level. For Kiwanians that order, the O in DO will be replaced with the KI logo. This is a 3/4 sleeve length baseball

style shirt. \$20 for S-XL and \$23 for larger sizes. Order at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yneucxmt>

We can mail your shirt but will charge mailing costs. We will call you with the total cost. Put your address and phone number in the comment section for shipping.

Otter Risers Kiwanis of Fergus Fall, MN

Submitted by Jeff Drake

The Otter Risers Kiwanis of Fergus Falls celebrated their annual check giveaway on



December 4th. Our program was held at the beautiful PioneerCare facility. We presented checks totaling over \$8000 to eighteen organizations who serve the needs of children in our community and surrounding area.

We are very appreciative of PioneerCare for hosting the event and grateful to the eighteen organizations we recognized for the difference they are making to improve the lives of children. We are also thankful to our local community for their support of our annual fundraiser. Finally, thank you to my fellow Otter Risers Kiwanians for their dedicated service to our community's children!