

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

Greetings to all of you!

I continue to enjoy hearing from you and working with our great Kiwanians in MNDAK!

Our Lt. Governor Fireside chats give all of us a great opportunity to keep in touch. At this time - we are looking for Lt. Governor elects in the Divisions. If this is something that is of interest to you - please reach out to your Division Lt. Governor to learn more about this great leadership opportunity!

We have started the initial work in getting a club started in Williston, ND. Brad Knudson and I spent 3 days in Williston in February doing a site visit to determine the need for Kiwanis in Williston and to inform community leaders of our efforts. We will be making calls in the next few weeks to set up appointments for our next visit on March 31st for 3 days to meet with potential members. We have set April 3rd for the organizational meeting.

We are truly grateful that Jay Hubbard, Club Opening Specialist, from Kiwanis International will be joining us for our next

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International
March 2025

[NOTE: Any links to Kiwanis.org will require you to log into your Kiwanis account.](#)

trip to Williston. We are looking forward to this club opening soon!

I traveled to Fargo Feb. 22nd for the Division 2 Governor's Conference. Division 2 put together a great agenda for our day together highlighted by playing Kiwanis Jeopardy facilitated by Lt. Gov. Paulette and Dave Odette. I think we all learned a few new things about our great organization!!

I continue to appreciate the opportunity to lead our District this year.

Let's keep working together as we "Celebrate our Successes"!!





A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy March! Spring is almost here and in fact has made a brief appearance here in MNDAK in February bringing an end to a BRUTAL cold snap.

There's lots going on in the district as the second quarter of the year comes to a close at the end of this month. Brad Knudson and Governor Carol are working hard to build a new club in Williston ND. John Holt, Rolland Digre and Greg Schmidt have begun initial efforts to bring Kiwanis back to Fairbault, MN this year.

Both of these are part of our efforts to build new clubs in underserved communities, nurture current clubs and retaining members so that all communities in the district have access to the great work we all do in Kiwanis.

To make these efforts a success, WE NEED YOUR HELP! It takes a village and in this case a village of dedicated Kiwanians to carry out our Mission to Serve the Children of the World.

Please consider becoming part of the team. You can do as much or as little as you want, or are able to do. Make a few phone calls, research community websites for prospects

to add to a spreadsheet or travel and meet with prospects face to face.

I have done all three of these roles. They are all important to the goal of strengthening our district. Even one hour of your time is a great help and much appreciated. Brad Knudson has more details on available training and how to get involved in his article this month.

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:

- The club secretary sessions are done and were successful. I received positive feedback from new and experienced club secretaries. I recorded the last session. Let me know if you would like it sent to you.
- Dues reports are out and there are several clubs who have not paid their dues or have outstanding invoices for new members to be paid. Please check your dashboard under the Finance tab and get those invoices paid.
- Nominations for the Division Star Awards are due to your Lt. Governor by April 1st. Is there someone in your club who deserves recognition at this level? The criteria and nomination form can be found on the MNDAK website under Awards. <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/resources/>



Club Growth is Essential!

Club growth and the establishment of new clubs are crucial for the future of Kiwanis. Expanding our network allows us to extend our reach and impact more communities. Each new club and member bring fresh energy, diverse perspectives, and additional resources that strengthen our collective mission to serve the children of the world.

By focusing on growth, we ensure that our legacy of service and leadership continues to flourish for generations to come. Identifying clubs or communities that require District or KI support can significantly enhance their operations and outreach. If you are aware of such clubs, consider how additional resources, guidance, or funding could help them achieve their goals more effectively by expanding their services, reach more people, and create a larger impact in the community.

Build. Nurture. Retain is designed as an ongoing initiative to make membership growth and club opening an integral part of Kiwanis culture. We do this by combining ongoing recruitment efforts with realistic goals and district support. Information on this initiative is found at <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/build-nurture-retain/>

As our district club building progresses, we are seeking dedicated club coaches and openers to join our team. This is a great opportunity for individuals passionate about

guiding and nurturing talent, as well as those skilled in facilitating and managing events.

Your expertise will be crucial in driving the success of our Kiwanis club building initiatives.

We have started the club opening process in Williston, North Dakota with boots on the ground from March 31st - April 3rd. Club openers on site are needed over that 3-4 day period. We also need contact list builders and callers to set appointments from the comfort of your home prior to the onsite dates. KI and district training sessions are available for all who are interested. Sign up now for March and April sessions.

District calling and scheduling appointments training, All welcome

Tuesday, March 4th at 2PM CT - <https://tinyurl.com/2tz5b245> Passcode: 512537

Thursday, March 6th at 7pm CT - <https://tinyurl.com/j57y4cwz> Passcode: 445794

Club Opening – Monday, April 14, 2025 – <https://tinyurl.com/2s3bbamw>
Club Coaching – Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - <https://tinyurl.com/yeruy9v3>

Learning these skills and helping with this effort will serve you throughout your Kiwanis experience. AND IT'S FUN TOO!

Let me know if you are interested or have any questions.

Bradley Knudson, District Membership and Engagement Coordinator
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Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Marching to Education

We are so lucky to have great training tools provided by Kiwanis International and our MNDAK District Leadership.

If your club struggling to fill leadership positions, we encourage you to participate in the Kiwanis Amplify Program. It is designed to build leadership skills and confidence. It is an online and flexible training program that you can accomplish at your own pace. It is a \$50 investment that will last a lifetime in Kiwanis, Business and everyday life. Registration is open until March 31 and it starts April 7th. At this time, we have only six members signed up. Let's see if our district can elevate that number this month.

Lt. Governor training will begin April 11th at 5:30 PM (MT) – 7:30 P.M. and April 12 and April 26th at 10:00 – 12:00PM (MT) via zoom. We will cover many subjects that pertain to Lt., Governors, their roles, responsibilities, and overall functions to lead your division. It is important to attend the zoom call as a preliminary overview for the Lt. Governor training in Wilmar, MN during DCON on August 7th for those participating in person.

The new computer program called “Engage” will replace “Connect” and some training will be discussed in April. This program will be vital for maneuvering your reports and for seeking information for your clubs and District.

Remember to Keep your Minnekotan Newsletter close by as a resource to keep you updated on training and other valuable information. Let's keep marching toward learning and sharing. You will be luckier in the future and well informed if you take advantage of these training opportunities.



Submitted by Cindy Braseth

This year's scholarship applications have been received and will be out soon for review and scoring. If a student in your community is granted a scholarship, you will be notified in about 2 months so watch for that.

These scholarships are funded by contributions from clubs and individuals in the district. Information describing the various ways to contribute is available in the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation brochure which can be downloaded from the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis website under the Foundations tab
<https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/mndak-foundation/>



BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathleen Welle, District Children's Fund Chair

In case you wanted to know!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR DISTRICT GRANTS

District grants support new or ongoing service projects within at least one of the following Children's Fund cause areas: health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.

Grants may be used to provide higher education scholarships or to sponsor attendance at a Kiwanis family leadership experience. Grant funds can also be used to pay a district pledge to the Kiwanis Children's Fund or to make a direct donation to the Children's Fund. District chairs who are interested in this option should contact the Children's Fund staff at grants@kiwanis.org for details.

How grants are funded:

Grant awards equal 5% of a district's total undesignated giving from the previous Kiwanis year. This includes gifts from individuals, clubs and other entities within the district to the Children's Fund. Grant award amounts are calculated at the

beginning of each Kiwanis year after all gifts have been processed.

Payments:

Grant funds are paid to North American districts via ACH transfer or check sent by postal mail to the address provided in the grant application. Grant payments must be spent by October 1.

2023-2024 Total MN-Dak District Giving:

\$54,488.00 - 5% Rebate = \$ 27,244

us \$6,880,000 RAISED TO DATE

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

the
POSSIBILITY
PROJECT

Meeting the Candidate



I am Karen Davis and it is my honor to announce my candidacy for the Governor Elect of the Minnesota Dakotas District for the year 2025-2026. I bring 15 years of experience and commitment to the role.

My Kiwanis career began in the Rocky Mountain District and after relocating to Bismark in 2019 (Division 1), I continued to serve. I have held three terms as Lt. Governor spanning 7 states. I currently serve as Immediate Past Lt Governor in division 4.

Upon moving to Rapid City in 2022 (Division 4), I joined and became active in several clubs including the Kiwanis Club of Lead, The Kiwanis Club of the Greater Rapid City and The Foothills Clubs.

I am deeply respectful of the MNDak District's legacy of exceptional leadership. I am excited about the future prospects for children in our divisions and district.



International Convention Update



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

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

about the convention program and register at <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/icon/> and don't forget to book your hotel at the same time to get the preferred rate. We are in the AC Marriot Hotel.

We have a district get together planned at the Pittsburgh Pirates vs the New York Mets baseball game Friday night. There are 25 tickets so it's first come, first serve. The cost per person is \$55 for the game, all you can eat buffet, access to the Pirate's Den and the drone show following the game. Contact Cindy Braseth at kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com to reserve your spot.



Watertown Club Partners with Police Department

Submitted by Stefan Martinsen

On January 17th the Watertown SD Kiwanis Club met with the Watertown Police Department (WPD) to continue their support of the "To Protect and Serve Ice Cream" program. The program provides free ice cream to kids over the summer at Watertown community events.

Many of these events take place at Watertown's Foundation Plaza where the Watertown club recently built a splash pad park for the city's children. These Watertown Police events allow the department to break down barriers, foster trust, and build positive relationships with the people of Watertown all while sharing a simple, joyful treat.

The members of the Watertown Kiwanis club is deeply committed to making a difference and is dedicated to the well-being of our community.

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.

Join Us at the 2025 District Convention



Turtle Mountain Kiwanis Builds a Wall

Submitted by Bradley Knudson



In 2024, Turtle Mountain Kiwanis in North Central North Dakota embarked on a fundraising initiative to enhance physical education at local elementary schools. Their goal was to install a Traverse Everlast climbing wall in the school gym, providing students with a new and exciting way to engage in physical activity and develop essential motor skills. This project not only aims to promote fitness but also to enrich the children's school experience by offering them fun, challenging, and interactive opportunities to learn and grow.

A Traverse Wall is climbed horizontally, not vertically. The wall is 8' high and comes in sections to allow for any desired length. The fun and challenge of a Traverse Wall® is making it from one side to the other, rather than to the top. Students are never more than a few feet off the floor as they climb horizontally across the wall. No ropes or harnesses are needed. Floor mat folds up to prevent unauthorized use.

If you would like more information about a Traverse Wall, contact me
bknudson57@gmail.com