

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

Greetings MNDAK Kiwanians,

We are at the halfway mark of our Kiwanis year. Our year is going well as we continue our mission of Improving our World One Child and One Community at a time.

I continue to enjoy my role as your Governor and all the opportunities I have had. Truly a highlight this year was participating in the Key Club District Convention held March 21-23 in Moorhead. They celebrated the 100th Birthday of Key Club and had lots of fun and great fellowship throughout the weekend. I was honored to speak on behalf of our District at their Governor's banquet as well as inducting their new Board members.

I want to remind everyone of our upcoming International Convention to be held June 25-28 in Pittsburgh. The early bird registration fee ends May 23rd. You can register at <https://tinyurl.com/wdzmht9s> We hope to have a great turnout from our District!

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International

April 2025

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

Our District Convention is scheduled for Aug. 8-19 in Willmar, MN. Convention chair Jason Stewart is working with the Willmar club to plan a fun and memorable weekend for our District. Please start making plans to attend!

We continue to work on possible club openings in MNDAK. Thanks to Brad Knudson and his team, we will be in Williston, ND building a new club as you read this. There will be more updates on club openings as we continue throughout the year.

Have a great month as we continue to Celebrate our Successes!





even larger and hopefully more active than "the mother" Club!

This is an adventure! Once the Club is formed and has its own autonomy, you can feel proud that you have been instrumental in leaving a legacy! Think about it!

Why Should Existing Club Members Help Build a New Club?

Once a Club is up and running for some period of time, too often its existence becomes status quo unless it becomes a community-outreach entity *actively* seeking out new opportunities. A Club can gain even greater impact if its members seek to start a new Club.

Worldwide, an estimated 500 new Clubs have been formed over the past 12 months. You can be part of this momentum of broadening the Kiwanis presence and identity.

I have estimated that it takes about 200 hours to form a new Club from scratch to charter night. The tough part is finding the first three or four members, which means showing your belief within Kiwanis. Once you get about seven to eight members, you usually have a sufficient "critical mass" to put it in motion.

Within the process of helping start a new Club, your commitment to your own Club becomes reinforced. Additionally, there is a fulfillment in sharing with others the experienced lived.

Finally, you become a mentor and an ongoing resource for knowledge. What a joy it becomes when the new Club grows

Division 7 Holds Kiwanis One Day Service Project



Our annual Kiwanis One Day Service Project for Division 7 was held Saturday, March 15, 2025. This annual service project, building dressers has been held each spring for the past 13 years.

Ten or more clubs sponsored dresser kits and many Kiwanians, key club members, family and friends met together to build dressers. 48 dressers were sponsored this year and 55 people signed up to help from 9 to noon.





A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

We are halfway through this Kiwanis year! Spring is in the air with snow and rain in the forecast for this week. We live here for a reason, right?

As we enter the second half of the year, your club should be moving forward with your plans for new members and summer projects. Invite friends and family members to join in these projects. Let them see the fun you and your fellow Kiwanians have while serving your communities. Your club hasn't developed its membership plan yet? No problem. It's never too late to share Kiwanis and there are lots of tools available. Visit <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/> for all the resources you will need.

Please read the other articles in this issue that talk about membership and new clubs. We have lots to celebrate!

Signature Projects Selected

The district Executive Team of Carol Nitschke, Governor; John Rheinburger, Governor Elect; Bradley Knudson, Immediate Past Governor and myself selected two Signature Projects to be submitted to Kiwanis International.

In Group I, 27 members or fewer, we selected the North Suburban, St Paul Kiwanis Club Malt Shop at the MN State Fair. In Group II, 28 members or above, the Kiwanis Club of Lead, Prospector Bowl was selected. Congratulations to both of these clubs for the excellent service provided in their communities.

You're not alone out there. I am here to help. 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:

- Thank you for getting your dues paid! I appreciate you and your club treasurers for making that happen.
- International Convention is approaching quickly. Is your club planning on sending a delegate? Have they registered? The price goes up after May 23rd.
- Nominations for the Division Star Awards are due to your Lt. Governor by April 1st. The criteria and nomination form can be found on the MNDAK website under Awards. <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/resources/>
- Monthly reports continue to be an issue. If you have questions about the report and how to complete it, please contact me. My contact information is earlier in this article.



Club Growth is Essential!

Club growth and the establishment of new clubs are significant undertakings that require the efforts of many, yet they can be seen as service events because they provide substantial community benefits. Establishing a new club in a community opens opportunities for youth programs and various service projects, enriching the community and fostering a spirit of collaboration and support.

This expansion not only increases the reach of the Kiwanis mission but also amplifies its impact by involving more people in meaningful activities that promote development and well-being. By focusing on growth, we ensure that our legacy of service and leadership continues to flourish for generations to come.

We are excited to announce an organizational meeting in Williston, ND, scheduled for April 3rd at 5:30pm CDT. This is a fantastic opportunity for current Kiwanians to come together, show support, and welcome new club members. Your presence will make a significant difference as we continue to grow and strengthen our District. We look forward to seeing you there! Contact Cindy Braseth for the zoom link if you are interested in attending this meeting. It's a great opportunity to see how these meetings are conducted.

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.

Kiwanis International and District training sessions will be available in April. Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your skills and contribute to our Kiwanis community.

Sign up now for the April sessions.
Kiwanis International Training
Club Opening – Monday, April 14, 2025 –
<https://tinyurl.com/2s3bbamw>

Club Coaching – Tuesday, April 15, 2025 –
<https://tinyurl.com/yeruy9v3>

Bradley Knudson, District Membership and Engagement Coordinator
bknudson57@gmail.com
701-871-8921



New Builders Club Chartered

Congratulations to the Fargo Rough Riders Kiwanis Club on chartering a new Builders Club at Ben Franklin Middle School. Your hard work and dedication to Kiwanis is appreciated.

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



MNDAK Aktion Clubs receive awards at International Level

By Amanda Thrift, Aktion Club
Administrator

Spring Into Action

We are approaching an exciting month of training opportunities. I hope you are able to participate in one of these Kiwanis International Programs to assist you in your club membership.

The Amplify Series will begin on April 7. The deadline to register is April 1, 2025. Hope you had the opportunity to register for the Amplify Program and plan for some great learning to increase your leadership development skills working through the modules at your own pace and all for the price of \$50.00 for **Kiwanis Members**.

Lt. Governor Training will begin on April 11, 2025 at 5:30 PM (MT) and April 12th and April 26 at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (MT) via zoom. Follow up training will resume at the District Convention in Willmar, MN in August. Stay connected for more information about the sessions.

The Leadership Development Coordinators will be trained on the **Engage Program** on April 10th, hopefully giving you more highlights before the program launches at the International Convention in Pittsburgh.

So, act this month by taking advantage of some form of training offered to help you serve your clubs, children and communities better. Enjoy your Spring and I look forward to seeing you either at the International Convention, District Convention or Both.

Our Aktion Clubs are making a difference every day in our communities but recently 2 of our clubs went above and beyond and received awards at the International level. Freeborn County Aktion Club, sponsored by the Albert Lea Kiwanis Club, was recognized as an Aktion Club Honor Club and the Jamestown Aktion Club placed 2nd in the national video contest. You can watch their video using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/mwv62ree>

We also had one Aktion Club member receive an individual award, David Anderson from the Freeborn County Aktion Club placed 2nd in the national poster competition. You can view his poster here:

<https://tinyurl.com/u5dhbv3b>

If your club is interested in sponsoring an Aktion Club in your community, please reach out to me with any questions regarding the process as I would love to assist.



Submitted by David Odette, Trustee

As Kiwanians we take great pride in supporting our youth. This support comes in many forms through our volunteerism with our Club projects within our communities. Beyond our local Club we join forces as part of our Division, District and Kiwanis International.

Our Minnesota-Dakotas District is fortunate to have had Kiwanis leaders in 1934 who saw the need to financially support the education of our youth. Their vision of joining forces to create an ongoing educational foundation lives today in our Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation.

Our Educational Foundation awards yearly scholarships to deserving high school seniors who are continuing in post high school educational programs. This spring over fifty scholarships were awarded in our seven Divisions. One or more of your local high school seniors may have received a Kiwanis District scholarship.

These yearly scholarships are funded by only the annual investment interest of the Educational Foundation's Endowment Funds with all ongoing donation monies placed in the fund. There are several ways to support this wonderful three state district scholarship program. The Vantine Life

Fellowship is a \$100 investment or a Joseph E. Messer Fellowship of \$500 which can be a personal donation or a Club donation to recognize a member. A donation isn't limited to these Fellowship amounts but can of any amount.

Another way is Century Club Membership of a \$100 investment by your Club. Most Clubs make this an annual investment. Will you or your Club consider investing in our Educational Foundation?

For further information or an application form please go to our Minnesota-Dakotas District website:

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

Mitchell Kiwanis honors National Read to a Child Day



Submitted by Linda McEntee

In honor of "National Read to a child day" on February 14, several Mitchell Kiwanis members visited local daycares and read books to the children, sharing their love of reading.



BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathleen Welle, District Children's Fund Chair

Kiwanis Day of Giving Huge Success



"When good people get together and do good things, good things happen"

Fran Heitzman- *Kiwanis Children's Fund contributions are results of good people doing good things.*

Kiwanis Day of Giving, February 25, 2025 set a goal for \$100,000.00. The Day of Giving was extended for an extra day, and the total funds raised were **\$186,000.00**.

the POSSIBILITY PROJECT

The last Report for global contributions is 7million toward the 5 year goal of 25 million which equates to supporting 10 million children at \$2.25 per child.

Club Giving Report

The Kiwanis MNDK District Giving total went from \$18,877 for January to \$32,989 for February!

A huge "Thank You" to all who have contributed so far this year. To continue this strong support, we are in need of a Possibility Project "Champion" for all Divisions.

I am **Reaching** out to Past Lt. Governors for each Division to utilize your leadership skills and become a CHAMPION for the Possibility Project. Give me a call at 612-910-1988 or email at kwelle@yahoo.com

Children's Fund District Rebate:

Kiwanis International provides a 5% rebate of total club and individual contributions each year, if the district goal is met. The 2023-2024 rebate payment of \$2,744.00 for was sent to the Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation to be used for District scholarships.

SD Governor Flips Pancakes



South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden was a special guest of the Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Club at the

club's 49th annual Pancake Feed on March 18. Gov. Rhoden flipped some pancakes, then helped serve customers. More than 200 people were fed and the event raised just under \$2,000!

International Convention Update



Submitted by Courtney Fallway, International Convention Chair

One more month before registration fees for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in

night. There are only 10 tickets left 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.

Join Us at the 2025 District Convention

Pittsburgh are scheduled to increase! Until May 24, registration for the 3-day convention package is \$399 per Kiwanian and \$199 per guest. To get preferred rates at the AC Marriot Hotel, please reserve your room through Kiwanis Convention registration. **DO NOT CALL THEM DIRECTLY!**

Tickets are still available for a variety of special events, including the Signature Project Breakfast (\$40), the Kiwanis Children's Fund Luncheon (\$40), and the Kiwanis Roaring 20s Gala (\$80).

Don't miss this chance to experience the full scale of our great organization, to mingle with fellow members from around the globe, and to collect new ideas to increase your club's community impact. See you June 25-28 as we Forge the Future! We are in the AC Marriot Hotel.

And don't miss out on our district get together planned at the Pittsburgh Pirates vs the New York Mets baseball game Friday





South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Circle K Chapter Recognized

Submitted by Karen Davis,
Speech Language Pathologist
Minnesota Dakotas District
Immediate Past- Lt. Governor Division Four

Lauren "Parker" Smith, President of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Circle K International (CKI) chapter was recognized with the Outstanding Cub President award for her exceptional leadership. This club also earned second place for the distance traveled from Rapid City, SD to Madison SD at their annual CKI conference.

These dedicated CKI members are actively engaged in community service, supporting three annual blood drives, organizing a Trick or Treat for canned goods drive, volunteering at an animal shelter, assisting injured birds at a bird retreat, collaborating with Feeding South Dakota and participating in a shoe project with their sponsoring club The Kiwanis Club of Black Hills Greater Rapid City Area.

Additionally, the club's advisor Roy Erickson, received the prestigious Caire E. Faust Outstanding Kiwanian Award signed by CKI District Governor, Anna Simmons.

Do You Know Someone in Williston, ND?

If you do, let them know about Kiwanis coming to town.

**Kiwanis is coming to
Williston ND**

**Join Us to Make a
Difference Today!**



Your Help is Vital

Together, we can build a brighter future for our
community and the children.

Visit www.kiwanis.org
or call or text Brad Knudson,
District Membership Chairman
701-871-8921