

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

Greetings MNDAK Kiwanians!

We truly have a success to celebrate this month as we opened a new club in our District. After lots of good work from the club opening team – we are happy to welcome the Kiwanis Club of Williston Basin to our District. This truly was an effort from our District team as well as the great resources we received from Kiwanis International. A special thank you again goes to Jay Hubbard, KI Club Opening Specialist, who was in Williston with us the week of the club opening. We want to welcome the club members from Williston and look forward to supporting you as you begin your efforts to serve the youth of your community.

The Lt. Governor teams participated in 3 sessions of education training this past month. We continue to appreciate your great work with the clubs in your divisions and wish you well as you prepare for your new year next Fall. Thanks to Leadership Development Coordinator Sherry Scudder for planning and presenting the sessions.

We are looking forward to the Intl. Convention in Pittsburgh June 25-28.

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis International
May 2025

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

Please carefully consider attending this grand event for Kiwanis. Check out the schedule of events on the KI website - including the Keynote Speaker – Henry Winkler!! Just a reminder – the early bird registration deadline is May 23rd. You can access the online registration form at <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/icon/>. Hope to see you in Pittsburgh!!

Also – we continue to work and plan for our District Convention in Willmar – Aug. 8-10. The registration page is available on the MNDAK website. Thanks in advance to the Willmar Club and community for hosting our 2025 Convention.

Have a wonderful month of Kiwanis as we continue to Celebrate our Successes!





A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

May is here and life gets busy for many of us this month. Mother's Day, Opening Fishing in MN, Graduations and lots of Kiwanis events planned. Your club should be well into your plans for getting out into the community with fun and visible projects. It's a great time to wear your Kiwanis Gear and let the community know that you are there and working to improve things. And for recruiting new members to join you.

April was a busy month in the district. We started planning our district convention in earnest, looking for fun and innovative ways to celebrate our success! We also worked hard to open a new club in division 1 in the Williston Basin. Plans are underway for more expansion in divisions 6 and 4. You'll hear more about that later in the year.

I only received one article from clubs this month. I hope it's because you're all busy doing projects and making new memories. Submitting an article is a great way to brag about what you are doing and maybe give some others' ideas for something new. You're all doing great work, celebrate it! We all look forward to hearing about what's happening out there!

Now to some business for Club Secretaries:

- May is Membership Month. Do you have an event planned? 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.
- International Convention is approaching quickly. Is your club planning on sending a delegate? Have they registered? The price goes up after May 23rd.
- May is also the time when most clubs have their annual meeting and elect officers for next year. Election reports are due June 1st. Enter your new officers in your secretary dashboard.
- Monthly reports continue to be an issue. If you have questions about the report and how to complete it, please contact me. My email is kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com or call me at 218-230-9924.



Welcome Kiwanis Club of Williston Basin!



Pictured: Members of the Kiwanis Club of Williston Basin

Because of the efforts of the District and International members, we have successfully opened a new Kiwanis Club in Williston ND. They are sponsored by the MNDK Online Eclub and are the newest addition to Division 1. Members of the club opening team pictured are: Bradley Knudson, district Membership Chair, Governor. Carol Nitschke and Jay Hubbard from KI Membership Services. Not pictured are Karen Davis, div 4 past Lt Gov and Cindy Braseth, district Secretary Treasurer.

Please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WillistonBasinKiwanis/> and leave a welcome message.

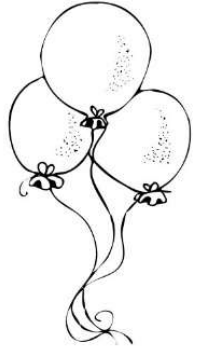
It's Party Time!



CHARTER CELEBRATION

Let's celebrate the end of the semester and the successful first season of the BFMS Builders Club! Students, parents, and Kiwanians are welcome. Please RSVP to FargoRoughRiders@gmail.com.

Date: Monday, May 19, 2025
Time: 3:50-5:00
Location: Ben Franklin Middle School Room 110
Please check in at the Main Office.



New Builders Club Chartered

The Ben Franklin Middle School Builders Club is excited to invite you to their Charter Celebration! This event will take place after school on Monday, May 19. Please see the above invitation for additional details. We'd love to see you there!

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Spring Forward to Achieve

AMPLIFY

Unfortunately, due to an unexpected technical glitch, access to the program has been temporarily delayed. Kiwanis International apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused. As soon as the issue is resolved, all those who have registered for Amplify will be notified.

LT GOVERNOR TRAINING

Lt Governor Teams, please plan to attend the District Convention in Willmar, MN one day early, August 7, 2025 to complete the Lt Governor training. I am inviting several Kiwanis International and District Leadership Members to assist with training. Stay informed to keep your division growing and informed. These trainings also help with succession planning in finding new leaders to serve. Because of our 3 team system, members of the team are well informed and ready to take the position when it is time for their term.

DEVELOPMENT THOUGHTS:

What do you need to do to get from A to B?

1. Break down the task. 2) Break down the Action and 3). Manage steps 1&2 to become achievable.

MAY you have a wonderful MONTH of Learning. Please keep me informed of any training your divisions may be holding. I am here to help.

Respectfully

Sherry Scudder

Happy Birthday 100th Key Club International



The Columbia Heights-Fridley Kiwanis Club hosted a 100th birthday party for Key Club with members of our two Key Clubs, Fridley and Columbia Heights. The party consisted of food, service projects, games, and fellowship between the three clubs. Everyone was encouraged to come dressed in pajamas. Happy 100th birthday Key Club!



Submitted by Dan Leikvold, Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation President

As with the return of the geese, the thawing of the lakes, and the blooming of the flowers, spring in the Minnesota Dakotas District is accompanied by thousands of students graduating from the many high schools located in communities throughout our three states. It is a very exciting time for seniors, their families, and our schools. It is a time for pride as we celebrate the numerous achievements and accomplishments of our young people. It is a time to recall the impressive and sometimes embarrassing memories associated with growing up. And it is a time to prepare for one of life's greatest transitions—moving on from high school.

As with most transitions, this one comes with excitement and a good dose of trepidation. The excitement comes from the opportunity to move to a new city, the prospect of meeting new friends, and the chance to stare out over new horizons.

Likewise, anxiety can be present as a result of leaving family and friends behind, going to an unfamiliar setting, and the uncertainty that comes with the costs associated with post-secondary education. Not all the uncertainty of the transition can be easily put aside, but with the assistance of the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District

Educational Foundation, some of the uncertainty of the cost of school can be curbed by the many scholarships provided to high school seniors within the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District. Due to you and your club's giving, the Foundation is able to annually award scholarships in excess of \$50,000.

To all of you who have donated to the Educational Foundation, I want to say thank you so much for your generosity and your support for our young people. In addition, I would like to encourage those of you who haven't yet given, to do so. Your investment in the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation is an investment in our students and in our communities. We need you to build our endowment, so our children can build their futures.



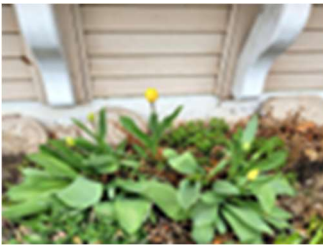


Kiwanis Club of Minot, April 2023.
Impact 1500: Kids. Cause: Health/Nutrition
Type of Grant: Pediatrics Play Therapy Equipment

This is a partial list of grants awarded to our District Clubs. Every year our District Education Foundation receives a grant based on 5% of the total giving each year by clubs and individuals. The funds are used for scholarships to High Schools students for continuing education.

BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathleen Welle, District Children's Fund Chair



A Welcome to Spring!! We are ready to see more colorful flowers.

Possibility Project update: Funds raised so far \$7,550,000.00

Our MNDAK District total club and individual giving as of March, 2025 is \$34,128.00. We have 4 or 5 months to achieve the total of \$54,488 given for this year. We can get that done.

Note: Kiwanis Children's Fund awards granted to Clubs in MNDAK District:

Club and District Grants issued the past 3 years = \$24,899.00. Micro grants = \$6,741 to Key Club, Circle K Scholarships.

Kiwanis Club of Litchfield was awarded a Club Grant in March, 2025 this year.

Impact: 190 youth. Cause: Youth Leadership Development.

Kiwanis Club of Willmar received a Microgrant, February 2024.

Impact: 200 Kids. Cause: Health/Nutrition

the
**POSSIBILITY
PROJECT**



WHAT IS KIWANIS WAREHOUSE?

By Denis Cornell, District
Partnership Coordinator

When your Kiwanis club is planning a service project, Kiwanis Warehouse is an important resource for discounts and buying power. Operated by our partner, DollarDays, this premier online wholesale distributor is a secret weapon for Kiwanis clubs looking for the kind of insider access typically available only to large enterprises.

Kiwanis Warehouse offers more than 200,000 high-quality goods at wholesale and bulk prices, sold in small cases. The minimum order is only a case, giving even the smallest clubs the opportunity to purchase products well below retail.

Kiwanis Warehouse's inexpensive selection of quality wholesale merchandise is impressive. Your club can find the exact products you need, including backpacks, school supplies, socks, flip flops, toothpaste, fleece blankets, and health and beauty products to support your community service projects and outreach programs.

WHY CHOOSE KIWANIS WAREHOUSE?

- Free shipping* on all orders regardless of size or volume
- No minimum purchase requirement
- Selection of more than 200,000 products at wholesale pricing
- Dedicated sales and support team for product selection, site navigation, checkout process and more, just a phone call away
- Through the 5% Give Back Program, 5% of your order can be donated to any nonprofit organization, compliments of DollarDays

TAKE YOUR SIGNATURE PROJECT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

Many Kiwanis clubs make a mark in their communities with a signature project. Some provide items and goods that families otherwise can't afford. For other clubs, a signature project requires tools and equipment. Either way, Kiwanis Warehouse makes a signature project easier—and less expensive—by providing what your club needs at low prices.

Back-to-school. All of the school supplies a child could need, from pencils and paper to backpacks and glue. You can even purchase pre-filled backpacks and school kits.

Baby care. Clothing, baby wash and lotion, baby bottles, socks and bibs—all of this and more to benefit the babies in your community.

Food pantry. A wide variety of wholesale candy, snacks, discount coffee, inexpensive seasonings and spices, groceries and much more.

Arts and crafts day. From yarn to pipe cleaners to beads, all the supplies you need for any project—in one place.

Games and toys. A wide variety, from baby games, novelty toys and outdoor games to fun items for science and math education.



Plan Smart, Serve Safely



By Craig D. Evenson, District Risk Manager

We continue to serve our communities with energy and purpose. As we do, we should take a moment to think about the risks associated with our club's activities, both large and small. A little forethought goes a long way to protect our members, volunteers, and the children we serve.

Each club should take time during the planning phase of any event to ask:

- Are there any safety or liability concerns?
- Do we need waivers or special permissions?
- Are we properly supervising youth and following Youth Protection Guidelines?
- Do we have adequate support and resources in case something goes wrong?

Kiwanis International provides insurance coverage and risk management guidance to help clubs navigate these questions. The general liability insurance program protects clubs against many potential liabilities. It does not replace careful planning and proactive decision-making.

Risk management resources, including event checklists, safety tips, and insurance FAQs, are available on the Kiwanis International website at:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/risk-management/>. I encourage club officers to review them regularly and share them with members (especially chairs of events). If your club is planning a large-scale event, fundraiser, or activity involving youth or third-party vendors, it's important to double-check that you operate within the guidelines.

Let's continue to do good work! Let's do it wisely and safely. If you have questions about insurance coverage or risk management best practices, I am always here to assist.

Congratulations Kiwanis Club of North Suburban St Paul

The Kiwanis Malt Shop at the Minnesota State Fair is the signature project of the North Suburban St Paul Kiwanis Club. This year the district submitted this project as one of two submitted to Kiwanis International Signature Project Contest.

The project was selected in the top 10 Signature Project submitted this year and will be recognized at the Signature Project Breakfast at the International Convention.

If you are going to the convention, consider purchasing ticket to the Signature Project Breakfast to celebrate this achievement.



International Convention Update



Less than one month before registration fees for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in 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!**

If you are sending delegates from your club, that delegate paperwork should already be done, but if not, get that completed As soon as possible.

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!

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

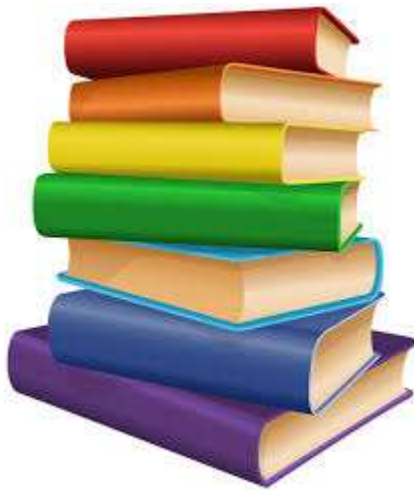
Join Us at the 2025 District Convention



Call to Convention

Watch your emails for the annual Call to Convention this month. I know it seems really early but it's not. The registration for district convention is live on the MNDAK website at:

<https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/district-convention-registration/>



Used Book Sale is Back

Once again, we are asking members planning to come to convention to clean out their bookshelves and donate to the used book sale. It's a great way to get rid of books that are taking up space and checking out some new authors to refill that space. Laura Tjomsland is also looking for some volunteers to help her man the sale table during convention.



Annual Memorial Service

District Convention Memorial Service
We will again be holding our Sunday Morning Kiwanian Memorial Service at the upcoming 2025 District Convention in Willmar, MN. This service is a time for us to remember all the Kiwanians who have passed away since last year's convention.

To make this a memorable service, we ask for your help by sending the names of those in your Club who have passed away. For the service we will be creating a Power Point program slide with a picture and short obituary as recognition.

We ask the Club Secretary or another Club Officer to send a list with the name of the members and a link to the funeral home that provided the burial service. In most cases we can pull the information from the Funeral home obituary for the personal Power point slide.

If a funeral home online obituary is not available, please send what you have available for the Power Point slide. Email your Club list and information to Dave and Paulette Odette at odette@wiktel.com