

Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
July 2025



A Message from the Governor

Greetings to MNDK Kiwanians!

I continue to enjoy working with our District as our clubs continue to work hard with all of the service work in their communities.

I want to give a big shout out to two of our clubs who have had membership increases for the past 5 years. Valley City, ND and Huron, SD are 2 of 7,369 clubs across the world who have worked hard to earn this recognition. There are a total of 135 clubs worldwide who have this 5 year membership increase. Valley City and Huron will be noted both at the Intl convention and our District Convention. Congratulations – job well done!!

I continue to enjoy meeting with the Lt. Governor teams each month and hearing the great updates in each of the Divisions. We are still looking for Lt. Governor elect positions in a few of our divisions. Make sure you are letting your Lt. Governor know if you may be interested in this great leadership opportunity!

As we prepare to travel to Pittsburgh for the International Convention – we are reminded of the great opportunities Kiwanis offers to our members. I am truly looking forward to this convention. It is always a great time to see Kiwanians from all over the world and enjoy the many and various events throughout the convention.

A very Happy 4th of July to all as we celebrate Independence Day for our great country.

Have a great Kiwanis month as we continue to serve our communities and Celebrate our Successes!

The Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International Needs You!

Does this sound a little like Uncle Sam during World War II? Maybe, but we are in dire straights for leaders to step up. I know you're out there, so now is the time to take that step.

Scared you can't do the job? Do you know what the main qualification is for any leadership position in Kiwanis whether it's club officer or Lt Governor?

**LOVE WORKING WITH KIDS AND BE
PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR MISSION!**

That's it. If that's you, We want to hear from you!



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

OMG, it's July! I don't know about you, but I feel like summer hasn't even started yet. Happy Independence Day!

District convention is a little over a month away and planning is coming together under the leadership of Governor Carol and Jason Stewart, Convention Director. I'm posting new stuff each week about the convention on the webpage at

<https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/dcon/> and the registration form can be found at <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/district-convention-registration/>

If you haven't registered yet, do so before July 25th and if you plan to be a delegate, make sure you send your signed delegate form to me before July 25th as well.

As you plan for the convention, there are some things you need to think about and bring with you:

- Used books for the book sale
- Two silent auction items for the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the District Foundation
- School supplies for our district service project and
- Your ideas and willingness to learn and share successes.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!



We Need Club Coaches!

There are many ways for a Kiwanis club to succeed. Each club has its own strengths, traditions and community presence. Whether it's a newer club that can't quite get off the ground or an established club that once enjoyed growth and excitement. You can help! Ultimately, you're providing a mix of practical and inspirational ideas — and several things in between. Your expertise will be crucial in driving the success of our Kiwanis club building initiatives.

What do club coaches do?

- Help the club develop long-term goals for service and membership.
- Evaluate member satisfaction and member involvement.
- Assist the club in conducting a survey to evaluate community needs.
- Help the club's officers and board develop an annual plan and budget.
- Promote continual sharing and inviting.
- Encourage participation in division, district and Kiwanis International activities.
- Monitor progress and assist with improvements.
- Support selection and transition of new officers and directors.
- Celebrate successes and recognize member achievement.

Kiwanis Club Coaching Guide can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/mukrpucd>

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Happy Independence Day

What a great International Convention we had in Pittsburgh. We learned, we had the opportunity to network with people from all over the world and learn what a great humanitarian and humorous person Terry Bradshaw is in real life.

You won't want to miss the District Convention in Willmar, MN in August so we can elaborate on what resources are available to all Kiwanians to learn and develop yourself and your clubs.

Remember that Lt. Governor's training will begin one day earlier than the convention. We are blessed with two wonderful speakers from Kiwanis International, Brad Boyd and Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges. They will share their experiences and give us some great tips to help our clubs.

We will be sharing more about the versatility in the new computer reporting program, ENGAGE and present many networking opportunities for fun and learning.

We hope each club can be represented. Start planning now to get a group of Kiwanis members together to travel. You will have fun learning and sharing ideas on the way. We hope to see you at the convention in Willmar, MN. You won't regret the time you will invest in learning and developing.

Engage Goes Live July 15th!

Yes, it's really happening, and really soon! The new online reporting and administration site is going live on July 15th. All club secretaries and presidents received an email from me on Monday to let them know that the current system is going to be disconnected on July 4th. There will be no access to club reporting or the information on members from then until July 15th. Training information and videos are available at :

<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-engage/>

All members are invited to go to this site and familiarize themselves with the new system. Please take the time to do so. Don't wait until you need to get into Engage and realize that you need help. The videos are step by step are about 5-8 min in length.

Secretaries, as I mentioned in the email, download any information you may need to access before the 4th, because after, is too late.

Looking for pictures from Pittsburgh



If you have some you are willing to share please send them to me at kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com



Submitted by Sandy Teubner, Trustee

Message From Your MNDK Educational Foundation

July is upon us and in another 6 to 8 weeks, children and young adults will be heading off to school and college. Speaking of college students, our District Educational Foundation recently awarded over fifty \$750 scholarships. This is fantastic. What a wonderful way to assist students in furthering their education.

If your club has a student from your community receiving a scholarship from the foundation, invite your recipient & parents to come to a Kiwanis meeting to share with your members, their college plans and course of study. We have had this practice in my club for several years, as our Harvey Club has three designated annual scholarships through the Foundation. This could be their parents' first exposure to a Kiwanis club and could be your next new member.

In addition, there could be a Circle K club at the college the student attends. Expose them to Kiwanis early, after all, they did receive a Kiwanis Educational Foundation scholarship, and they may be a future member in a club anywhere in the world during or after college. Just one seed of knowledge/exposure may plant roots for a future in Kiwanis.... Even Kiwanis leadership may be in their future.

Also, clubs only have three months left in this fiscal year to become a member of the "Century Club" by contributing \$100 to the Minnesota-Dakota's Foundation. Many clubs make this an annual investment. There is also the Vantine Life Fellowship of \$100 or a Joseph E. Messer Fellowship of \$500 which can be a personal donation or club donation to recognize a member.

A donation is not limited to these Fellowship amounts but can be any amount. The donations go into the endowment fund, of which, the interest earned is used towards the annual scholarships. The contribution form is available on the MN Dak website below:

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

Thank you for your club's past, current and future contributions to the Foundation.

International Convention Update

Want to know what happened in Pittsburgh? Here are some highlights.

Believe it or not, we had ANOTHER change in keynote speakers! Terry Bradshaw stepped in with 4 days' notice and gave a great address to the crowd. We laughed, we cried and I, for one, was totally impressed with his message.

MNDK has a winner! The Kiwanis Club of North Suburban St Paul won the Bronze award in Group 1 of the Signature Project Contest. You can see the video and description here:

<https://tinyurl.com/bddtdwe6>

If you want information on the House of Delegates votes and elections you can find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr42u83d>



BUILT FOR SERVICE

BY: Kathleen Welle, District Children's Fund Chair



The update for our District Giving for April 30, 2025, is showing a total of \$35,253.00

which is \$3K more than in April 2024. *More clubs* are submitting their contributions earlier than past years. That is greatly appreciated by the Kiwanis Children's Fund (KCF) Board.

If possible, all clubs should consider submitting their contributions during the next 2 to 3 months. If the Children's Fund receives funds in September, sometimes it doesn't get counted for this fiscal year, because of processing time.

Reminder: The Children's Fund has Micro Grants available for clubs looking for extra funds for projects. Check out the details on the www.kiwanis.org website under Children's Fund.

Exciting news:

A micro grant was approved for the Litchfield, Mn Kiwanis Club earlier this year. The number of kids impacted: 190. The Club partnered with a local middle school.

Students completed a career assessment and learned about educational opportunities, which high school classes would suit them, and how to prepare for a job interview. The program included writing a resume and a cover letter.

The Kiwanis Club also established an interview closet for those who could not afford the necessary clothing. The program concluded with a celebratory dinner.

Note: This is a condensed overview of the KCF grant that supported the project.

the
POSSIBILITY
PROJECT

the Possibility Project is going strong. Total funds raised so far, is over \$8,000,000.00.

KidsneedKiwanis

Reminder: This would be a good time to complete the Impact Club form and submit it to KCF to become an Impact Club for this project. You can decide what amount your Club plans to contribute while participating with the **Project** during the next 4 years.

"Every day may not be GOOD... But there is something GOOD in Every DAY."

author unknown

Partnership Program

Highlights

By Denis Cornell, Partnership Coordinator

Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine, Spark a Reading Revolution!

The Original Book Vending Machine! Reward Positive Behavior and Promote Literacy!

Offered solely by Global Vending Group, Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine is the first of its kind, allowing students to earn golden tokens as a reward for positive behavior.

Discover why more than 10,000 schools have adopted our book vending machine program to empower students in 4 countries.

Givergy

Leverage our award-winning platform for donations, auctions, raffles, and more with no upfront costs—only a percentage of funds raised. Givergy supports 6,000+ clients worldwide in impactful fundraising.

Access our fundraising platform for free, all year round for as many events or campaigns as you like.

Grouper

Grouper is leading a movement that encourages healthy living through meaningful social connections and shared experiences.

Grouper offers communities around a number of activities. From pickleball and arts & crafts to walking with friends, eligible members have access to group activities that support what they love and provide an

opportunity to join a community of like-minded people.

PerkSpot

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.

Take Me Out to The Ballgame

Submitted by Katie Landwehr, Lt. Governor Division 7



On a beautiful June evening, members of Division 7 met at the Rochester Honkers

baseball game for a night of fun, fellowship, and ball-watching. There were 112 tickets sold to Kiwanians and their friends for the game. Unfortunately, the Honkers lost 13-6 to the Waterloo Bucks however, it was still a great evening. Thank you to the Rochester Sunrisers club for organizing the event and looking forward to doing it again next year!

Registration for District Convention is open. Register today! The link is in my article.

Update from the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Circle K International

Meet Carly Brundies Minnesota – Dakotas District Governor 2025-2026



I'm a current student at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MNSU), perusing a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders with an American Sign

Language Certificate. I am looking to become a pediatric Speech Language Pathologist to help kids find their voice!

Before coming to MNSU in the fall of 2024, I earned my associate degree in psychology and liberal arts and sciences from Century College. Transferring schools as a Junior was difficult because I didn't know anyone, and I was living in a new city. I embraced this change by joining clubs and becoming involved in research projects on campus.

Speaking of clubs, I'm part of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). I am the event coordinator for the American Sign Language Club. I am the president of Access your Abilities, A club open to all through the Accessibility Resource Office on campus. I have the privilege of serving on the neurodiverse student panel for the Accessibility Resources Office, where I share my experiences to help others understand neurodiversity in an educational setting.

This year has been particularly exciting as I've been working on a research project that involves exploring the impact of stuttering on a child's emotional well-being. I even had the chance to write a research article and present it at our undergraduate research symposium!

Coming to MNSU, I hadn't heard of Circle K International (CKI) before. I was looking for a club that combined service, community involvement, and building connections on campus, and CKI has been all that and more! I've already had the chance to volunteer at the Special Olympics bowling tournament, create hygiene kits for a women's center, and make some wonderful new friends along the way. I'm learning so much about leadership, goal setting, and supporting others, and I'm really looking forward to building new relationships within the K-Family!

In service,
The Minnesota-Dakotas District of Circle K International



Join Us at the 2025 District Convention



Used Book Sale is Back Volunteers Needed

Once again, we are asking members 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. If you have some brown paper bags lying around, bring them along too!

Bring School Supplies to District Convention (DCON)



Every year we work with many generous people, businesses, and organizations to collect thousands of donated school supplies to distribute to students in need throughout West Central Minnesota. With the help of many, we are able to bridge the gap and help families who may otherwise struggle to access or afford the expense of new supplies at the beginning of the school year. We feel that it is important for kids to start the school year feeling confident and prepared! These supplies are handed out discreetly by trusted adults, so kids don't feel judged by their peers.

The service project for the 2025 DCON will be School supplies. School supplies that you will be donated to the United Way Stuff the Bus project. Bring anything from backpacks to folders, pencils, crayons, erasers, anything kids need to start the first day of school. Supplies will be picked up on Saturday. Please be generous and let's stuff that bus!



Annual Memorial Service

Our Sunday Morning Kiwanian Memorial Service at the upcoming 2025 District Convention in Willmar is nearing. This service is a time for us to remember all the Kiwanians who have passed away since last year's convention. These may be current members or those who were dedicated members but due to health or other reasons dropped their membership over the past few years. To make this memorable service we ask for your help by sending the names of those who have passed away. Again, this year we are creating a PowerPoint program with a slide, picture and short obituary as recognition. We ask the Club Secretary or other Club Officer to send a list with the name 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 PowerPoint slide.

Email your Club list and information to Dave and Paulette Odette at odette@wiktel.com Please send us your list by July 20th. This will give us the needed time to prepare the service booklet of names given out on Sunday morning and the PowerPoint program.

Minot Golden K Awards Scholarships

Submitted by Cindy Sorenson, Secretary



Madelyn Hogue, Autumn Steckler, and their parents attended the June 18, 2025, Minot Golden Kiwanis meeting to be awarded with a Certificate of Recognition by the Kiwanis Educational Foundation of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District and the Minot Golden Kiwanis for winning this scholarship.

Maddie from South Prairie was awarded a \$1000 scholarship from the Kiwanis Educational Foundation for ranking the highest in the Minn-Dak District for her application. This award will be sent to the college that she chooses to attend in the fall.

Autumn from Bishop Ryan was awarded a \$750 scholarship from the Kiwanis Educational Foundation of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District for her application. The Minot Golden K added \$250 to this amount so that she will receive a total of \$1000 that will be sent to the college she chooses to attend in the fall.

Congratulations!

Kiwanis Club of North Suburban St Paul is a Winner!

One of the highlights of the International convention was the Signature Project Breakfast where we heard about the top 10 projects for Groups 1 and 2. Group 1 is clubs 27 members and under and Group 2 is clubs 28+ members.

Our district submitted the MN State Fair Malt Shop project from the North Suburban St Paul club for Group 1. We know going in that they were in the top 10 so they would be recognized at the breakfast. We heard about so many wonderful projects that



Kiwanis clubs from around the world submitted as signature projects. It was great fun to hear the Malt Shop presented and to receive the award for being a finalist.

The greatest surprise thought was being announced as the winner of the bronze award and check for \$1000!



Congratulations to all club members and vounteers who made bddtdwe6 possible. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddtdwe6> for more information.

Kiwanis Club of North Suburban Celebrate Scholarship Winners

Submitted by Curt Muske, President



Each year, the North Suburban

Kiwanis Club has the joy of recognizing some truly outstanding local students as they prepare to take the next big step into college life. These scholarships aren't just about academics — they're about leadership, service, and the potential to make a difference. And this year's recipients? Total rockstars.

Meet the amazing students awarded the 2025 North Suburban Kiwanis College Scholarships:

Natalie Horsman is heading to Marquette University to study Marketing and Advertising. With a creative spark and a passion for storytelling, Natalie's ready to make her mark in the world of branding and media.

Jenna Levine is off to Colorado State University, where she'll be diving into Exercise Science. Whether she's studying how the body works or helping others stay active and healthy, Jenna's enthusiasm is contagious.

Sophia Dang will be attending the University of Minnesota to pursue a degree in Nursing. Compassionate, dedicated, and ready to serve, Sophia's future in healthcare is definitely one to watch.

Alecia Jendro is taking her talents to the Ivy League — she's off to Cornell University to study Biomedical Engineering. From solving problems to building the future of medicine, Alecia's got big dreams and the skills to match. We're beyond proud of these four students. They represent everything the Kiwanis Club values: service, leadership, and a commitment to making the world a better place. [Congratulations](#) to Natalie, Jenna, Sophia, and Alecia — we'll be cheering you on every step of the way!

North Suburban Kiwanis Club "Improving the world, one child and one community at a time."

Photo: L to R: Curt Muske President, Jena Levine Colorado State, Sophia Dang University of Minnesota, Jerry Bannerman Treasurer, Natlie Horsman Marquette University and Alcia Jendro Cornell University

Don't forget that we need your silent auction items for the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the MNDK Educational Foundation Silent Auctions to be held at the district convention.

We also need all the used books you have that you want to get rid of!!

Bring lots of school supplies too. Start you list today!

You're Invited! Celebrate 50 Years of the Otter Risers Kiwanis Club!

Get ready to mark your calendars! The Kiwanis Club of Otter-Risers, Fergus Falls is throwing a spectacular summer bash to celebrate five decades of community service, friendship, and fun! Join us for our **50th Anniversary celebration** at the picturesque **Spies Riverfront Park and Market Pavilion (117 S Union Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN)** on **Tuesday, July 22, 2026**.

The festivities kick off at **5:00 p.m.** with light refreshments, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening. We'll be celebrating by the beautiful Otter Tail River, complete with **music, laughter, and heartwarming stories** from our amazing members and special guests. Whether you've been with us from the beginning, are just getting to know us, or are a former member, this is the perfect opportunity to relax, reconnect, and reminisce. Don't miss out on this milestone event!

All Kiwanians and guests from MN-DAK and around the world are invited to join us to help us celebrate. Otter Risers Kiwanis was sponsored by the Fergus Falls Noon Kiwanis Club and was chartered on July 23, 1975. As far as we know we were the first morning club, or breakfast club, in the MN-DAK District, and have been meeting from 6:45 to 8:00 AM Wednesday mornings since 1975.

In addition, when Kiwanis International approved women as members, Otter Risers was one of the first clubs in MN-DAK, if not the very first, to induct women in membership. Come help us celebrate 50 years of service to the Fergus Falls area and beyond. Questions about the event? Email us at otterrisers@gmail.com



Otter Risers Celebrate Summerfest

Fergus Falls concluded its Summerfest celebration June 14 with a parade, and once again Otter Risers Kiwanis served the community by lining up the parade. This is something Otter Risers Kiwanis has done for the last 45 years or so, to help the Summerfest Committee and serve the community ... especially the kids!

Crowds of people, including lots of kids, lined the parade route in anticipation of its 6 PM start. About 80 registered entities with over 100 individual units began arriving to the staging area at 4:30 PM, and it was up to Otter Risers to get each unit to its designated spot.

With a color guard, a dozen or so fire trucks, huge wreckers and tow trucks, semi tractor/trailers, four bands, royalty on floats, the Birak Shriners Kar Kore with their flashy go-carts, classic cars, a Jeep club, a juggling unicyclist, children's theater group, entries from local businesses, there was a huge variety of units to view. And ... candy, candy, candy, thrown from parade units eagerly snatched up by kids.

The last unit in the parade was an older fire truck tanker equipped with an overhead sprayer, a real favorite of the kids. Next to last was the Summerfest Committee, and just before them was the Otter Risers Kiwanis entry. Ten Otter Risers (including two charter members, our current President,

President Elect and a Board Director, and 7 Past Presidents) traveled the parade route receiving lots of applause and waves from onlookers, and rewarded the kids with candy.

We were assisted by members of the local Amateur Radio Club, one of whom will be joining Otter Risers. Once again, a great day serving our community, and especially the kids!

Key Club in Action



Submitted by Veronica Johnson, Columbia Heights-Fridley Key Club

We are making shopping bags for the homeless out of old T-shirts. Some were making cat and dog toys for pet shelters.

Below is an article in the local paper outlining the project that won a grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund. I chose to include the whole article.

Eighth-graders get real-world taste of job hunt

MAY 1, 2025

NEWS, NEWSLETTER-EARLY- WEEK



BY BRENT SCHACHERER

bschacherer@cherryroad.com

Eighth-graders, many dressed in ties, sport coats, dresses and polished shoes, filled folding chairs throughout the Litchfield Middle School gymnasium last week — with nerves, resumés and portfolios in hand.

For many, it was the first time they'd sat across from a potential "employer." And for all of them, it was the culmination of months of preparation for a special career-readiness program called Who Gets the Job? — a collaborative project between the school's FACS department and the Litchfield Kiwanis Club.

"It's a simulated exercise to help them understand what it takes to go through the whole job application and interview process," said Leland Fredman, a Kiwanis member who helped bring the project to life. "They've been working on cover letters, resumes, interview practice — even learning how to dress professionally."

The format mirrored a real-life hiring experience: students applied for a job in one of 14 different career areas. After morning group interviews led by local business and community leaders, two finalists from each group were called back for afternoon one-on-one interview. By day's end, one "candidate" was selected for each job – and announced during a closing awards ceremony in front of the entire eighth-grade class.

"They are taking it so seriously," said FACS teacher Laura Hultstrum. "They've been anxious and excited, and I've seen them practice at home, rehearse with high school mentors, even ask me things like, 'Does this outfit look professional?'"

Who Gets the Job is the revival of a program that last took place about a decade ago.

Judy Hultstrum, a longtime Kiwanian and former Litchfield Chamber of Commerce executive director, teamed up with Fredman and Laura Hultstrum, her daughter, to bring it back with a fresh, community-driven approach. The Litchfield Kiwanis Club secured grant funding from the Kiwanis Children's Fund and other sources to help purchase portfolios for each student, which held their polished application materials.

"We wanted to create a real-world experience that these kids will remember and carry with them," Judy Hultstrum said. "We've even heard from parents of high schoolers who say, 'I wish my kid could have done this.'"

The project also tapped into support from the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce, Meeker County Economic Development, and various local employers – many of whom sent representatives to act as interviewers.

Alex Carlson, chairman of Litchfield School Board and general manager of Anderson Chemical's INTEGRA program, was one of the interview leaders. So were Meeker

County EDA Director Lisa Graphenteen and Tom Zens, market president at Center National Bank, and Tim Cook, a Kiwanian and agent at Premier Real Estate Services.

Each was tasked with choosing just one of the eight to 10 students they interviewed.

"It's not easy," Fredman said. "These kids are prepared. They've practiced and they're ready."

Part of the eighth-graders' preparation included mentorship from Litchfield High School seniors, who visited classrooms earlier in the week to conduct mock interviews and share practical advice.

"They were phenomenal role models," Laura Hultstrum said. "They gave great feedback, and some students even started using that language with each other – helping each other improve their answers."

While the competition aspect was real – only 14 students "get the job" – the educational value extends to every participant.

"This is a real-life test," Laura Hultstrum said. "We call this (FACS) class Life 101. They're not just learning interview skills. They're learning how to reflect, how to accept feedback, how to handle disappointment, and how to thank those who help them along the way."

Reflection will be an important component, Hultstrum said. Students will complete assignments after the event, thinking about their preparation, performance, and what they learned. Hultstrum said she also planned to have them handwritten thank-you notes to interviewers and community partners.

The 14 students "who got the job" will be recognized at a May 7 Kiwanis lunch meeting, where they may be offered job shadowing or workplace tours aligned with their chosen careers.

"Some of the kids that went through this years ago got to watch surgeries, be on the

radio, or shadow a sports announcer,” Judy Hultstrum recalled. “It really stuck with them.”

That’s exactly the point, Fredman said.

“Our goal is for these students to walk into their first real job interview — maybe a year or two from now — and say, ‘I’ve done this before. I know what to expect.’”

It was more than just a class project. It was a glimpse into their future — and a step toward it.

“They really rose to the occasion,” Laura Hultstrum said. “And I’m just so proud of what they accomplished.”

