

# Minnekotan 2025 District Convention Edition

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis  
International  
August 2025



Carol Nitschke  
Governor  
2024-2025

## A Message from the Governor

Greetings to our MNDK Kiwanians!

I want to let you know how excited we are to meet for our Annual District Convention in Willmar, MN in just a few short days! We are still taking registrations at the regular price for you to attend if you have not registered. As always – we are looking forward to a fun and exciting time together in Willmar.

Our convention committee – chaired by Jason Stewart as well as the Willmar, Mn club has worked hard to plan a memorable convention for all of us. You can look forward as always – to educational breakout sessions.

Our 2025-2026 Kiwanis Intl Trustee Dawn Puderbaugh, from South Carolina, will be joining us as well as Brad Boyd, Area Director, from Kiwanis International. Thanks to both for taking their time to be with us! You can also look forward to our Keynote Speakers – Neon Unicorns! You do not want to miss this – they will be very entertaining while providing us with an inspirational message.

Make sure you remember to bring silent auction items for the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the MNDK Educational Foundation. We will also be accepting used books for a book sale.

School supplies to "Stuff the Bus" for the United Way of West Central Minnesota is our District Service Project this year so be generous! If you don't want to load up your vehicle, bring a check made out to the West Central Minnesota United Way. They will accept those as well.



## Think About Coming to District Convention

Sometime during your career within Kiwanis I urge that you find time to attend a District Convention (DCON). My first experience was to tiptoe into one for just a few hours. I attended one near Madison, WI. It was a real eye-opener filled with energy. There was "excitement in the air." I quickly realized that I was missing out on what Kiwanis was all about to a point where I later felt that at least half my Kiwanis experience was beyond my Club.

The Convention had excellent breakout sessions. A former International President served as the luncheon keynote speaker and the breakout sessions about Kiwanis were excellent. I even had the opportunity to meet a future KI president, Dr. John Button (2014-15), who at the time was our KI District representative. I was only there for 5-6 hours and had a long journey back to Minnesota. Even so, I found it truly enjoyable and memorable. This experience later led to my attending other Kiwanis division conferences and conventions, which led to a whole chapter of life memories.

I encourage "never before attendees" to do the same! You might be as surprised as I was about what else Kiwanis has to offer. This year's convention will be in Willmar, MN from August 8 – 10. I hope to see you all there!



## A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

It's time for District Convention. Some reminders and things you need to know:

- If you are not registered yet, get that done before Monday on the MNDK website. The price is still the same now but will be more on site.
- In order to have a quorum for the House of Delegates, we need 34 clubs to submit Delegate Certification Forms, we have 29 right now. Please get those in as well.
- There will be Kiwanis Swag provided by the Mitchell Kiwanis Club
- Bring "stuff":
  - Used books
  - Silent auction donations for the District Foundation and the KI Children's Fund
  - School supplies for the United way "Stuff the Bus"

And don't forget your ideas, open mind and check book for all the great stuff you will be bringing home.

Convention Program Here  
<https://tinyurl.com/nhkdnbck>

I'll see you there! I'll be the one running around and looking frazzled and sleep deprived.



## More Members, More Service

It's true, we need more members like you to serve more communities in our District. This year's convention focuses on our successes and celebrating where we are now and where we want to be.

For that reason, our forums are focused on how to make Kiwanis in general and our local clubs attractive to service minded people of all ages. If your meetings are welcoming and fun, people will want to be a part of what you're doing. Bring home the ideas and tips you will learn and try them out!

I will be on hand at the convention to talk with you and answer questions about becoming a club opener or club coach. We need you to help us grow. If you are thinking about taking on one of these roles, find me and we'll talk.

So good news – Once again, Kiwanis International will offer Club Leadership Education for club membership chairs – this training is intended for membership chairs who did not participate in district-led education (a make-up course) or for the districts that did not offer membership chair training.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11 – 8 p.m. Eastern Time**

**CLE for club membership chairs**

To register <https://tinyurl.com/3rxava62>

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12 – 8 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Club opening training**

To register - <https://tinyurl.com/58c89ym4>

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

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13 – 8 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Club coach training**

To register <https://tinyurl.com/48hh654v>

Feel free to promote all these membership educational opportunities. And remember, come talk with me at convention if you have questions.

## Neon Unicorns, Keynote



Sharon Scudder  
District Leadership  
and Development  
Coordinator



## A Month of Opportunities

The District Convention will be held soon. Hope you register and attend the many sessions offered to grow in Kiwanis and your personal life.

We will be offering Lt. Governor training on July 7th from 9-5. We are requesting the entire Lt. Governor teams to come, learn and network to assist you during your term. We have special speakers and a lot of information to present.

August 8th, there will be Club Leadership Education (CLE) training for new club leaders and those interested in stepping into a leadership role in the future such as club president, secretary, treasurer or board members.

We will hear more on how to navigate the new Engage online reporting and administration program that went live on July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you've started using it, we'll be able to answer your questions.

Education is the key to success so take advantage of the opportunities that will be given at the District Convention and learn more to access training on line

See you soon! **Respectfully**

**Sherry Scudder**

Minnesota-Dakotas

Kiwanis Educational  
Foundation, Inc.



## Support the MNDAK Educational Foundation

Did you know that as a member of the Minnesota-Dakotas District you are a member of the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation? If you are attending the Convention next week in Willmar, you will be asked to vote to elect Trustees for the Foundation. All members at the Convention have a vote.

Every year, the Foundation gives out 50 plus Scholarships to high school students moving on to secondary education in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. That money comes from the interest earned from dollars donated by you, either personally or through you club.

This year, the silent auction will benefit the Educational Foundation. We ask that you bring one or more items from your club to donate for the auction and be generous in your bids. Gift certificates are great and easy to get and transport. Gift baskets are also a great way to donate.

These funds are supporting our future. And besides, bidding wars between friends can be fun!



## Support the Kiwanis Children's Fund

The Possibility Project is in full swing. This is the first initiative in a long time that has all donations going to support grants for clubs to do service in their communities. More clubs have applied for grants to meet the needs of children they serve. The need keeps getting larger, thus the Possibility Project. The goal is to raise \$25 million over 5 years strictly to fund grant to clubs around the world.

Every year, our district convention holds a Silent Auction to raise money for the Kiwanis Children's Fund. We ask each club with members coming to convention to donate 1 or more items to this auction. Your club will be given credit toward their commitment to the Possibility project so it's an easy way to make a dent in that commitment.

Don't just bring items, bid generously. I know we all like a good bargain, but this is for a great cause. Several clubs in our District have benefitted from grants from the Children's Fund in the past. Let's increase those numbers!

**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](http://www.kiwanis.org) website under Children's Fund.

*the*  
**POSSIBILITY  
PROJECT**

*the Possibility Project is going strong. Total funds raised so far, is \$7,555,000.00*

### **#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.

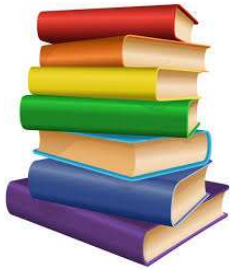
"Every day may not be GOOD... But there is something GOOD in Every DAY."

author unknown

## Join Us at the 2025 District Convention and Test Your Kiwanis Knowledge and Lego Building Skills

Legos you say??





## Used Book Sale is Back

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. This year rather than bringing school supplies, individuals and

clubs can donate to the United way of West Central Minnesota, an agency that administers a Stuff the Bus Program in West Central Minnesota. I know that this does not afford the photo opportunities that past projects have afforded, but it does fulfill a well-administered need in West Central Minnesota, please open your hearts to this much needed Service Project. Watch for more information on how to donate.



## Annual Memorial Service

District Convention Memorial Service Plan on attending the 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. These may be current members or those who were dedicated members but due to health or other reasons they dropped their membership over the past few years. For the Memorial Service we will be creating a PowerPoint program with a slide for each recognition including a picture and short obituary.

We ask the Club Secretary, Club Officer, or Club member to send a list with the name and a link to the funeral home who 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. Please email your Club list and information soon to Dave and Paulette Odette at [odette@wikel.com](mailto:odette@wikel.com).

# Kiwanis Partners Provide Innovative Services for Members and Clubs

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.