

Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
October 2025



A Message from the Governor

Welcome to a new Kiwanis Year! I hope that it begins for you, as New Year's often does for many, as a time for optimism, freshness, and newness for your Kiwanis experience.

This is the time to think about and possibly execute on new ideas that have never been done by your club, or to put a twist on previous successful club endeavors. I encourage you to pursue your ideas and reap the unexpected joys!.

Welcome to a new Kiwanis year of opportunities!

John

Not Sure How to Grow Your Club?

Check out how the Kiwanis Club of Black Hills Hot Springs used Two for Two to double their membership.
<https://tinyurl.com/ynaenn95>

Update on Engage

By Cindy Braseth

It's been a few months since we launched the new Engage platform for club reporting. I just checked and the monthly reports for this year prior to June have still not moved.

If you are worried about your annual report and distinguished criteria, just know that you will not be penalized if you're late due to this transition. We will take the delay in moving the data into account. I was told that the migration will be complete soon so just keep checking.

If you need training in Engage there are videos with step by step instructions at <https://tinyurl.com/yzud67et>

I'm also thinking of doing an online training for club secretaries and presidents. If you are interested in having me do that, email me at kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy New Year Kiwanians! I can't believe that the new year is starting today. You have a few days yet to clean up your membership rosters, so get that done before the 10th. You don't want to be billed for members who are no longer active in your club.

The new year is an opportunity to review your membership plan that you wrote last year and make any changes. Is your plan for new members still realistic? What tools will you be using to bring in new members? Find all of the tools you need at: <https://tinyurl.com/4mp7u8px>



Fall is Upon Us and so is Opportunity

A new Kiwanis year begins with the fall bringing cool temperatures, but we can

warm our brains with some new learning tools that Kiwanis International has developed for our new and potential officers.

I was happy to see many of you at Lt. Governor and Certified Leadership Education training in Willmar, MN. We would like to emphasize that District led training is Kiwanis International's goal as it can be more specific and relevant for seasoned leadership. Kiwanis International led training is a high-level overview of the role and 101 level of depth.

As we progress in our leadership development, take the time to explore the KI website to learn of the various videos that will be helpful to gain confidence with knowing the capabilities available through training.

KI-led Club Leadership Education is now completed and available online. Please, remember to record completion of the training at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/mtnf1mwLCp>

Please e-mail me at ShareKiwanis@gmail.com if I can assist in any training opportunities or provide any resources. Also, if you can notify me of any training that is held in your division, it will be helpful for reporting.

Have a wonderful Kiwanis year and lighten your load with training and feel free to reach out to me or past officers.

Sherry Scudder



It's a New Year

By Lowell Disrud,
Secretary-Treasurer

Happy Kiwanis New Year. October 1 is the start of a new year with new club and district leaders launching into another successful and significant year of service. As we look back on the 2024-2025 year the Foundation Board thanks all clubs that contributed.

Your Century Club, Vantine, memorials and gifts made it possible to offer 54 scholarships of \$750.00 to graduating high school students in our district. In addition, many clubs donated an additional \$250 to make their local scholarships \$1000.00. Thanks also to those individuals who contributed through the silent auction, memorial service offering and "K dollars" at convention.

At the district convention we heard that instead of more "members", we need more hands to serve and more hearts to care. One way that your club can provide more hands and more hearts is to help support and

encourage the future leaders of Kiwanis and communities through scholarships. As your club supports the District and International foundations you become a vital part of the Kiwanis family and participate in "improving the world one child and one community at a time".

As we begin a new Kiwanis year you and your club are encouraged to continue your generous support of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation. Let's have another great year of supporting and encouraging tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your support.

Aktion Club Update

By Amanda Thrift, District Aktion Club
Administrator



Welcome to a new year Mndak Aktion Club Leaders! If you haven't already, this is your reminder to get elections underway for the 2025/2026 Kiwanis year. Once

elections are complete please ensure to update your officers through the online portal, finalize your club roster, and submit your dues to KI as soon as possible.

This is also a great time to think ahead and start planning out a rewarding and impactful year full of projects and education. As always, if you need help, I am a phone call or email away!



Did you Know?

For nearly eight decades, Kiwanis and CKI have worked together to inspire and guide thousands of members. This partnership has built a legacy of leadership, service and fellowship. On September 25, CKI turned 78

Scroll down to the article by Carly Brundies our current Governor for Circle K International on her experiences and why she is so passionate about CKI.



**Kids need adults who care.
That's why people join Kiwanis clubs.**

As we step into the new year, there is a wonderful opportunity to broaden the impact of Kiwanis by establishing new clubs. Each new club means reaching more communities and enhancing the lives of more children. Together, we can continue to expand our mission, serving one community at a time, and making a significant difference in the lives of young people everywhere. Let's unite in this cause and make this year a milestone in our journey of service.

Black Hawk - Summerset - Piedmont SD Club opening update.

The Western Dakotas club opening team spent September 21st - 25th in the communities of Blackhawk, Piedmont, and Summerset SD. We came up short of paid members at the organizational meeting, but we are very optimistic we will reach our goal in just a few days.

A special shoutout to Governor Elect Karen Davis and Roy Erickson who spent the week with me, Governor Carol Nitschke, and Jay Hubbard, a dedicated club opening specialist, along with a growing team from Kiwanis International and Cindy Braseth, district secretary. Their expertise and commitment are instrumental in our ongoing efforts to

expand and strengthen our District impact.

Kiwanis International and the MNDK District remain committed to providing support for club opening and boosting activities. Resources are readily available to ensure the success and expansion of your club at:

<https://tinyurl.com/u328prtn>

Rochester Day Makers Install Little Library



The Little Library that Day Makers 'won' at the International Convention in Minneapolis (a few years

ago) has now found a home. Thanks to Kathy for helping find a place for it.

Thanks to former President Linda for storing in her garage until a home could be found. Thanks to Garry for the unique decal on the outside. Special thanks to my husband, Doug, for digging the hole and helping attach library to post.

The location is on the SE corner of Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester.



Welcome and Enjoy This Colorful Season!

As we close the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and get ready to start our new Kiwanis year, we have the beautiful fall colors to enjoy!



The latest The Possibility Project (TPP) report, shows 8,620,000.00 worldwide has been submitted to the Children's Fund.



The Minnesota-Dakotas District Giving Report as of August 31st, shows **\$56,277** compared to **\$54,488**, for 2024. District funds submitted in August were from **Clubs, \$31,150, individuals, \$24,103** and **others: \$1015.00**. (Dale Bowen requested any donations made at his funeral memorial to be directed to the Children's Fund.) Dale Bowen was the Children's Fund District Chair for many years.

All Kiwanis members and others who have participated and submitted funds through August this year, should be so proud of yourselves for accomplishing the level of giving higher than last year.

Those **K Dollars** brought to the District Convention in Willmar, MN had a huge impact on the total giving.

Reminder: *There still is time to transfer IRA funds directly to the Children's Fund and avoid paying taxes on those funds.*

Yours in Service,
Kathy Welle

Watertown Club Honors President with Donation



Pictured left to right are Dustin Esche (leader), Nathan Esche, Jacob Beisch, Jeff Anderson and Mike Butts.

The Kiwanis Club of Watertown was happy to contribute \$400 to Boy Scout Troop 209 in honor of Mike Butts, our local Kiwanis Club President. One of the club's most successful fund drives are the Krispy Kreme donut sales.

Twice a year Mike makes the trip from Watertown, SD to Omaha, NE to pick up donuts for these semi-annual Krispy Kreme fund raisers. He never wants any reimbursement for travel.

Mike has a strong history with the Boy Scouts, so the club chose to honor him in this manner.

Flying Kites at Camp Chance



Camp Chance is a three-day program for youth in grades 1st thru 4th that attend school in the Watertown community. There is no cost to the families of the children who attend.

Camp Chance provides a valuable program for young people to gain self-confidence, self-esteem, positive peer and adult relationships, and participate in activities. Kiwanis provided kites and members worked with the youngsters to fly the kites.

The 2025 Kite Flying at Camp Chance was held on July 8th with 45 1st and 2nd graders attending. The second event was held on July 15th with 55 3rd and 4th graders attending.

Kiwanis members take a lot of pride in working with the youngsters each year flying kites at Camp Chance.



North Suburban Kiwanis Malt Shop Success!



For 56 years, the North Suburban Kiwanis Club has operated a malt shop at the

Minnesota State Fair, which runs 12 days ending on Labor Day every summer (with notable exceptions, including 2020). This is the club's primary fundraiser and requires a great deal of human power to be successful!

This year the club was successful in recruiting over 90 volunteers to fill 225 shifts throughout the fair. Volunteers served approximately 25,000 chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry malts to State Fair attendees from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Every single club member volunteered for at least one shift, with some members taking on multiple shifts a day. All money raised goes back to the Kiwanis Club and thus back into the community, to support service projects and other causes that make the world and our community a better place.

Visit our website:

<https://www.northsuburbankiwanis.com/>



Circle K International Update



Dear Minnesota -
Dakotas Kiwanis
Leadership,

My name is Carly
Brundies, and I
currently serve as
the **2025-26
Minnesota
Dakotas CKI
District Governor.**

As we celebrate

78 years of outstanding service, leadership, and fellowship through Circle K International, I wanted to reach out with some updates regarding our recent accomplishments on both the district and international level.

First, from an international perspective, I'm proud to report that CKI is **thriving** in terms of recruitment and retention! As we close out the 2024-25 administrative year, our organization has processed **30** charters as of September 24th, with ~10 more pending charters on the way. In total, this will bring us to over **40+** new charters for the service year - the highest we've seen since **2017**. This highlights **life** behind CKI, as our growth and success is *only just beginning*.

As a direct complement to the new charters, we are now up to **6187** dues-paid members and **314** clubs as of September 24th, placing us neck and neck with our numbers from last year. As of right now, we are projecting a final 2024-25 membership number close to ~6,300 upon processing payments from the current pending charters. This would mark an **increase** in overall membership compared to the year prior.

Despite facing several prior years of membership decline and being in the middle of a three-year 83% dues increase, one thing

remains clear - CKI remains **strong**, CKI remains **active**, and CKI is on a trajectory to **success**. Regardless of the challenge, our leaders remain resilient, working hard to help CKI shine bright. The CKI International Board has laid the groundwork for improvement, and together - all our clubs and districts are now focusing (and succeeding) in both membership growth and retention.

Next, in terms of bridging the gap between CKI and Key Club, we have been working closely with the CKI International Board to capture more Key Club alumni. Following outreach by the CKI International Board to over **~650** Key Club alumni that indicated interest in CKI, our District Board has been hard at work following up with each potential member. Whether by connecting these students to already existing CKI clubs on their home campuses or offering guidance and resources for the chartering process, our district is dedicated towards further enhancing our relationship with Key Club.

Amidst all of these successes, I wanted to take a moment to **thank you** for Kiwanis' continued support of CKI. These accomplishments are not CKI's to celebrate alone, but instead serve as a reflection of **our** shared commitment and effort towards inspiring students towards our tenets of service, leadership, and fellowship.

Our CKI young adults are looking forward to continuing years of Kiwanis service in their respective Kiwanis chapters throughout their lives. In the summer of 2024, at the University of Dakota State in South Dakota, they started a summer charter, which is sponsored by the Madison Kiwanis Club!

They have done an extraordinary 360 hours of service in only 15 months!!

For my self-directed Symbol Communication Board Governors' Project, I have been able to build connections with the City of Mankato Parks and Recreation Department, along with spreading awareness for equal access to play and communication at my college campus.

Having this opportunity included on my resume for graduate school applications shows my communication, time management, organization, and community building skills. I can highlight my personal values outside of CKI and show how it all ties back to the support Kiwanis gives students like me.

Looking forward, the 2025-26 CKI International Board has set the goals of achieving 6750 dues-paid members, 325 dues-paid clubs, 33 new club charters, and 15 club reactivations. Together with my District Board and the rest of the International Council, I am **confident** in our ability to not only achieve but *surpass* each of these goals.

As we get ready for the start of the new administrative year, I would like to reiterate - the support and investment that we have received from Kiwanis is **fundamental** to each of the successes we have already seen and will continue to be the foundation for our growth. Don't forget - CKI has the highest service hour/member rate across all of the Kiwanis Family, and we intend on building on this in the new administrative year.

As a District Governor, I am passionate about continuing to connect our organizations together and hope you feel the same. When CKI thrives, Kiwanis shines, and I invite you to **join us** in this journey

towards continued success - one club, one member, and one leader at a time.

Thank you again for your continued support of CKI!

Yours in Service and Leadership,

Carly Brundies