

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

November is the time for thanksgiving reflection. This is a good time to recall and appreciate all the good things that your Kiwanis experience has brought and to be extremely thankful for the opportunity.

Reflection (or thanksgiving) is important since it stimulates "good" and a desire to continue. Kiwanis is a wonderful vehicle to bring "good". November allows us to pause and give "thanks" for the good that we do for the world.

Happy Thanksgiving!
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>

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
November 2025

Kiwanis Club of Minot Steps Up for Girl Power

By Carla Dolan, Secretary/Treasurer

The Kiwanis Club of Minot stepped up to provide girl power packs to students in a nearby community. Members packaged up all the necessities including ChapStick, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotion along with tampons and pads. The group put together 40 small bags that will be provided to students in need.



Deadlines for Signature Project Contest are Approaching

Does your club have a Signature Project that the whole community looks forward to every year? You need to start thinking about submitting your project for consideration.

Think you can't win? The North Suburban St Paul club won third place last year for their "Malt Shop" and took home \$1000! The contest opens January 6th and closes January 29th. The application is easy to complete. Visit

<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/service-projects/signature-contest/> for details.



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy Thanksgiving! As I'm entering my 4th year in this position as your Secretary Treasurer, I just must tell you all how much I have enjoyed working with all of you. It's my pleasure to assist you all as you do your work for the Children of the Minnesota-Dakotas District. There have been a lot of changes over the last year with reporting and resources that are available so don't hesitate to contact me.

Case in point, the new Engage reporting system went live last July with some new wrinkles that have caused some questions and frustrations. Here are some we are running into:

1. If you are a club secretary and have not been able to access the reporting dashboard, it's most likely because you are not being recognized as the secretary and therefore do not have access. Contact me, and I will add you so that you can get in and do your reports.
2. All club officers now have access to Engage so will need to create their account and profile in Engage to access the club information. That's new, in the past only the secretary could do reports or make changes.
3. If you are a club officer, you must have your phone number and email in your profile or you cannot be added as an officer for the club.

4. Some people got a shock when they signed in after Oct 1 and all of last year's reports, that were supposed to have been brought over, weren't there. They are there, the system defaults to the current year so you need to change it to show 2024-25. They were worried because annual reports are due this month.

I do deal with more than Engage, but it seems these are the calls I'm getting right now. Talk to you next month!



Youth Protection Update

Submitted by Peter Larson, District Youth Protection Manager

This is a timely reminder that each club needs to plan for their annual Youth Protection Policy training. It is an annual requirement and should be done early in the year.

This is where you can print off the current Youth Protection Guidelines that should be given to each member.

[YOUTH-PROTECTION-POLICIES-PROCEDURES.pdf](#)

Kiwanis International provides a PowerPoint presentation PDF and a Training facilitator guide at:

[Youth protection training | Kiwanis International](#)

If you have any problems accessing these websites or other questions about Youth Protection, please contact me.

Peter Larson
District Youth Protection Manager
C : 701-261-7012
Email : phlarson@midco.net

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Gratitude in Giving

Gratitude in giving is what Thanksgiving means to me. I have so much gratitude for the opportunities given to me through learning. Kiwanis International provides so many opportunities to learn, grow and share through their training videos. We can learn how to do projects and view the great work accomplished by other clubs that are serving children and their communities.

Our last Leadership and Development Coordinator meeting brought to light some new initiatives to share: New resources for training on Club officers are now available and the new Fishbowl program is launching in December – it is a program that shares best practices among leaders.

I am asking for two items this newsletter and hope you can respond to ShareKiwanis@gmail.com by November 10Th.

1. If you are an experienced Club President and want to be involved in the Fishbowl Initiative, please e-mail me, at the address above, your name, positions held, and email address so I can share with KI.
2. If you attended CLE training in Wilmar or on line for the Kiwanis year 2024-2026, please email me your name, member #, if you have it, and email address so I can enter them into computer to get you certified.

We grow by knowledge so we can share. I feel selfish when I volunteer but the more I give, the more satisfaction I get, sooooo you see, GRATITUDE is in the giving of yourself to those who need you the most – the children and the communities of the world.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Sherry



Bradley Knudson
Membership &
Engagement
Coordinator

Congratulations to Kiwanis Club of Piedmont Valley SD

The newest club in the Minnesota-Dakotas District was officially certified on October 30, 2025. That club, the Kiwanis Club of Piedmont Valley, SD opened with 17 members. They have set their first meeting and are already thinking about some service projects. Assisting me in this effort were: Jay Hubbard, Kiwanis International; Karen Davis, Governor- Elect and club coach; Carol Nitschke, Immediate Past Governor; Roy Erickson, club coach; Kathleen Moylan, Kiwanis International; members from the sponsoring club Lead SD; and Cindy Braseth.

It is a team effort and everyone worked together to complete this opening. 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>



the POSSIBILITY PROJECT

There are nearly 180,000 Kiwanis club members in 85 nations. What if everyone in our global network came together to make an impact?

Kids need Kiwanis

Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, US\$2.25 addresses the needs of one child. Imagine the possibilities if we raised US\$25 million — enough for Kiwanis clubs and members to serve 10 million children around the world.

That's the goal of The Possibility Project. Join the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve.

Here's what The Possibility Project has achieved so far.

US \$8,970,000 RAISED TO DATE

Why we're raising it

Children going hungry. Students struggling to read. Potential leaders lacking mentors. Even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow. Read how Kiwanis clubs

are meeting it — and how gifts help them change children's lives.

Ways to give:

Give online: Make a gift today using our convenient, secure online donation form.

Download a gift/pledge form to give by mail or fax. At the link, you can also learn more about giving by mail, telephone or wire transfer.

IRA rollover: You can support the Kiwanis Children's Fund by directly transferring assets from an individual retirement account in the United States.

With an IRA rollover, you make an impact and save on taxes.

Learn more – go to Kiwanis website – [Children's Fund link.](#)

"The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it." Sr. Mother Teresa

Kiwanis Commemorated



By Clayton Guffey, Minot Golden K

I received two pictures from a friend who was visiting Alaska and the Yukon

territory.

The pictures were taken on the international border between Alaska and the Yukon.



I was told that the tour bus stopped at the rest area for people to get out, stretch their legs and see all the signs on the border.

the plaques were dedicated by the Alaska northwest district Kiwanis International and the Anchorage and Fairbanks clubs in 1982.



Happy Kiwanis New Year!

Submitted by Bill Lardy, Trustee

Okay, so I know I am a month late in saying that, but each new year brings new opportunities and goals to achieve.

Your Minnesota Dakotas District Education Foundation provides scholarship opportunities for students within the Minnesota-Dakotas District. Generally, high school seniors who are fortunate to live in a town with a Kiwanis club will have an opportunity to apply for scholarships.

As we begin this new Kiwanis year, we look forward to your continued help to reach The Foundation's goal to provide substantial financial support that can make a real difference to scholarship recipients. With your continued donations to the Foundation's corpus, we will accomplish that during this year.

Hopefully your club has in its 2025-26 budget its payment to the Foundation's Century Club Membership. Keep in mind that every dollar contributed to the Foundation stays within the corpus with only the income the funds generate that year being paid to those who receive the scholarships. So, every dollar contributed is kept in perpetuity!

Our goal is to make sure that qualified applicants for our more than 50 scholarships each receive substantial support for

furthering their education goals. It takes all of us working together to make that happen. Clubs' payments to the Century Club Membership really help but the Foundation also depends on individual member contributions to build our resources.

The past few years, some of our scholarships have not been applied for which means that some deserving students don't receive money that could help them. So, we need individual club members to help spread the word to students to apply. We want all clubs and members to actively promote these scholarship opportunities within their communities and schools. By spreading the word, we can ensure that deserving students are aware of the support available to them and inspire more young leaders to pursue their academic dreams.

Again, Happy new year. It will be a great year with all of us working together to ensure the success of the Foundation and Minnesota Dakotas District goals!

2026 Kiwanis Convention, June 24- 27 Manila, Philippines

Make plans to join us in Manila for the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention! Located on Manila Bay in the Philippines, the city is known for its mix of the modern and the historic — from culture to cuisine and more.

That makes the Philippines' capitol city a great place for Kiwanians to gather for fun, fellowship and education. Save the date now and look for more information as the event approaches!

Halloween in Spring Valley



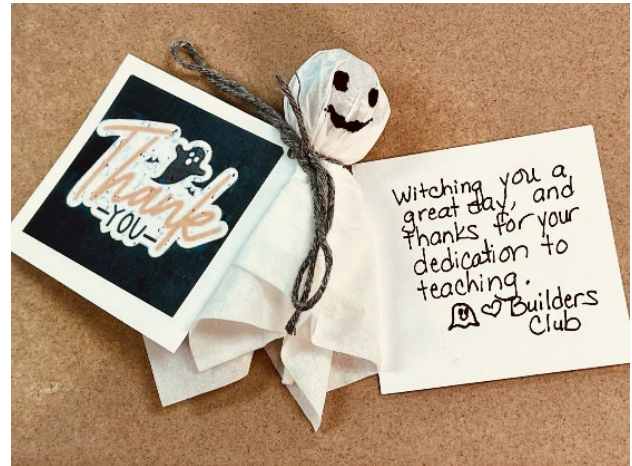
The Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley hosted their annual Halloween Open House this year. This annual event has been taking place for approximately 30 years, and we have over 230 trick-or-treaters come through the door.

Kids play a variety of games, choose prizes off tables, and receive a bag of treats before they leave. We also have our Kingsland Key Club and the Kingsland Drama Club put on a Haunted House.

The local VFW Auxiliary members place reflective stickers on the kids' costumes, and the Fins and Films car show members set up and do "Trunk or Treat" outside the Community Center.

Brenda Stier
Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley

Builders Club Hard at Work in Fargo



Submitted by Courtney Fallway, Fargo Rough Riders Kiwanis Club

The Ben Franklin Middle School Builders Club resumed business the fourth week in September, and they've been busy ever since. They wrote letters to veterans who participated in the September Honor Flight. They dedicated half of their day off for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day to fill grocery carts with food and supplies at the Emergency Food Pantry. They created ghost pops to treat teachers and offered babysitting for younger siblings during Parent Teacher Conferences.

By the time this issue of the Minnekotan is published, they'll have volunteered at Boo at the Zoo with their sponsoring club, the Fargo Rough Riders, and they'll have participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF too. This club has a membership of around a dozen students, and they're still less than a year old, but what an impact they're making in the community!

Past Lt Governor for Division 6 Passes Away

Submitted by Lois Ahern, Secretary, Day-Breakers Kiwanis Club of Albert Lea

Darryl Meyer, Past Division 6 Lt. Gov., passed away on 03Sept2025 following a short illness. Darryl joined the Day-Breakers Kiwanis Club of Albert Lea, MN on 02March2007. He was Club President in 2009-2010 and most recently was a member of the Day-Breaker's Project, Service and Fellowship Committee.

Darryl was instrumental in the development of a reading and book distribution program for Preschool-K students in Albert Lea. This program is a joint service project of the Albert Lea Noon, Albert Lea Golden K and Albert Lea Day-Breakers Clubs. He worked quietly behind the scenes for many youth organizations locally, state-wide and internationally (e.g., Albert Lea Youth for Christ, MN Adult and Teen Challenge, Camphill Village of MN and the Aktion Club of Albert Lea). Darryl was generous with his time, talent and treasure and he never wanted public recognition. Link to his obituary:

www.bayviewfuneral.com/obituaries/darryl-meyer