

Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
December 2025



A Message from the Governor

December is traditionally the "Season of Giving" and Kiwanians show this in many ways. Several of us will contribute to our communities by helping with the Salvation kettle drives or assisting with various toy initiatives for children in need.

We sell Christmas trees, deliver meals, and buy and deliver toys, all done with the intent of bringing extra holiday joy. We often do not know how or to whom or to what level our volunteerism will benefit others, but we can be assured and proud that we Kiwanians make a difference in our communities. Thank you for the joy you bring to others!

Happy Holidays!
John

Division 5 Holds Education Conference

By John Rheinberger and Julie Hart Schutte

On Saturday, November 1, Division 5 held its annual conference at the Huron Public Library. The District Governor presented information about importance of social

media, how member clubs can get involved with the temporary use of educational toys for children within their community, and organizational philosophy about clubs.

Thanks go to Lt. Governor Julie Hart Schutte and crew for making it a success! We also need to thank our presenters - Crystal Freund on social media, Cindy Braseth on Engage, Rhonda Kludt and her young assistant, Leo on the Toy Lending Library.

And of course, a thank you to Governor John for his presentation on service clubs and how to avoid pitfalls and embrace successes.



Division 7 Holds Education Conference

On Saturday, November 15, Division 7 held its annual conference in Lake City, MN. About 55 people were in attendance.

Among the topics discussed were the Jeremiah Program for helping families recover from deep addiction problems, a MNDK Governor's presentation, some updates about new KI computer programs and a reading by child author Roxy Humphrey.

The group also elected Gregory Kier the new Lt. Governor elect -elect. He is from the Southwest Metro Club.



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Welcome to winter and the Holiday Season! I hope everyone took time to enjoy Thanksgiving with family and friends before getting back to the business of Kiwanis and all the projects you all do this month.

There's lots happening in the division right now. Our two newest clubs, Williston Basin, ND and Piedmont Valley, SD are moving and shaking. They are both up by 3 members since opening last year. Even though they are still learning what Kiwanis is, they are inviting friends to join their new club. They are setting an example for all of us to be doing the same thing. This time of year is perfect for having an Open House for your club, invite former members to join your Holiday parties or do both.

Couple of business items:

- Feb 15th is the deadline for clubs to file your 990, 990 EZ or 990 N for the 2024-25 year. This is required to keep your tax-exempt status.
- Signature project contest is open for submissions between Jan 6-29, 2026. More information here: <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/service-projects/signature-contest/>
- Your club officers should all be entered into Engage by now. If yours are not, contact me and I will help your secretary get them entered.

- Kiwanis International dues are due. Check the Finance link in Engage for what your current invoice is. If dues are not paid you are in danger of losing your charter.
- Start thinking about the International Convention in Manila. Registration is open and earlier than normal this year. See below.

As always, I'm here to support clubs and members. Contact me before you get frustrated. I can help!

Happy Holidays!



**IT'S OFFICIAL —
THE 2026 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
IS COMING TO
MANILA!
JUNE 24–27, 2026
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY**

REGISTRATION GOES LIVE ON DECEMBER 1, 2025

**EARLY RATE: US\$409 (DEC 1, 2025–FEB 2, 2026)
REGULAR RATE: US\$509 (FEB 2–APR 13, 2026)**

**CONVENTION WEBSITE + HOTEL LINKS:
LIVE THIS NOVEMBER**

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am so full of gratitude for all that we were able to do and accomplish for our communities and the children of the world. Christmas is coming soon and hopefully your clubs will be filled with opportunities to serve and share with others.

Please keep me informed of any training scheduled for your clubs. I will be obtaining information on mid-year/mid-winter and District Convention (DCON) education. If your club has a Leadership and Development Chair, please forward their name and contact information to me.

If your club officers are still in need of training, please refer to the Kiwanis International website under member resources for virtual training.

If you have any other training needs or questions, please contact me at 605-347-7718. See you all next year.

MNDAK District Openings

The Lt Governor position for Division 3 in NE Minnesota is currently vacant. If you are interested in moving into this leadership position, please contact Cindy Braseth at kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com or call 218-230-9924.

Minot Golden K Inducts Officers and New Member



New officers and board members of the Minot Golden Kiwanis for the 2025-2026 term are in order from left to right: Jesse-Board, Neil-President Elect, Penny-Board, Cindy-Secretary, Dick S.-Treasurer, Richard-Assistant Secretary, Duane-Board, and Peggy-President. Dick J. from the board is absent.



New member induction for Lois to the Minot Golden Kiwanis on November 19, 2025, with Penny as her sponsor.

Governor Elect for 2026-27

Have you been thinking about being more involved in district leadership and are a past Lt Governor? We are currently recruiting members for the position of Governor Elect for the 2026-27 year. If this sounds like you, please submit your application to Cindy Braseth at the district office by emailing kiwanisdistrict.mndak@outlook.com by January 15, 2026.

It's the best job you'll ever have and you get to work with amazing Kiwanians.



Clubs Must Grow to be Successful

There are Three Keys to Everlasting Kiwanis Growth - Build. Nurture. Retain

- Build refers to our district building new clubs in communities where Kids Need Kiwanis.
- Nurture refers to providing every existing club with the resources, advice, and networking they need to fulfill their community mission.
- Retain refers to every current Kiwanis member being actively engaged in their club.

Kiwanis International and our MNDK district are here to assist clubs with tools for each of these keys to growth.

First, Set a Club New Year club resolution for 2026. *Increase club members by ____.*

Kiwanis International's online [toolbox](#) has new resources to help you prepare for a club boost or other membership event. The club toolbox page has several resources for clubs with various needs, including tools for digital marketing, club coaching and more.

To increase club membership, focus on attracting new members through engaging events, a user-friendly online presence, and a clear value proposition. At the same time, retaining existing members by fostering a strong community and actively seeking member feedback.

Here are three steps your club can take to get started:

1. [Create Your Club's Membership Plan](#) This tool helps a club analyze its membership and then set goals, actions and benchmarks. Ultimately, it's a tool for creating a recruitment plan and determining a strategy that best suits your club's culture and "personality."
2. [Achieving Club Excellence \(ACE\)](#) tools assist clubs to know where the needs are in the community and make a robust plan to meet those needs.
3. [Share your New Years Plan](#) with members and Kiwanis International.

Become a club Coach or opener and or coach

We need more people in the district to step up and assist in building new clubs and strengthening existing clubs. The December 2025 training schedule is:

Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m.
Central - Register - Club Opening Training https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/j/91mDKESJO0KV_UWijnEQ

Tuesday, December 9 at 7 p.m.
Central - Register - New Club Coaching https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/j/91mDKESJO0KV_UWijnEQ

Happy Holidays all and a blessed New Year!



the
**POSSIBILITY
PROJECT**

Hoping everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Now getting ready for another busy month and enjoy a happy and fun Christmas Holiday! Maybe we will have a White Christmas too. !!

Kiwanis Children's Fund reports updated recently. The Possibility Project total worldwide gifts and pledges is **now over 9 million dollars**. The Children's Fund on-line shows \$9,550,000.00

The Kiwanis clubs in Central USA total gifts are \$2,197,023.47.

And Minnesota-Dakotas District Clubs total gifts is \$191,386.31. Not sure of the number of active clubs in the district now. One monthly report shows 100 clubs. Based on the most recent report, there are twelve clubs in this District who did not participate in contributing to the Children's Funds. Could a few more clubs participate during this 2025-2026 fiscal year?

Another report provided by Kiwanis Children's Fund each month is the total giving by Districts. As of September 30, 2025, the total by MNDK District clubs for 2024-2025 is \$57,967. This number exceeds Total Giving for 2023-24 fiscal year which was \$54,488. These totals represent funds from Clubs, Individuals and others.

Based on total giving each year, our District Education Foundation receives a 5% rebate which is then used to provide more scholarships to students. This year that amount should be around \$2898.00.

Together, this is how each club makes an **Impact** by improving the world one child and one community at a time. #Kids need Kiwanis.

Thank you to clubs and individuals for continuing to support the Kiwanis Children's Fund!

"Everyday may not be good...But there is something good in EVERY DAY" author unknown





Two Important Messages

Submitted by Sherry Scudder, Trustee

Happy Holidays. We have a great opportunity to support our children through the Minnesota -Dakotas Kiwanis Education Fund Scholarship Program. Please check with your club secretary for the information and application to take to your local High Schools. Arrange to take the application and instructions to the schools as the Deadline is January 26th.

Feel free to copy the application and instructions to take to all high schools. Our Kiwanis Clubs work very hard to provide funds to help the Foundation secure 55 scholarships to students who want to further their secondary education. Don't let the students down by not sharing this information and resources.

Check with your club secretary and contact your schools if you have not done so. More information can be found on the [Minnesota -Dakotas website](#) or contact the Foundation Secretary, Lowell Disrud, Kiwanis Educational Foundation, INC, 1106 14thSt. N, Fargo, SD 58102.

Also, it is not too late to get a tax-deduction by contributing to the Minnesota -Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation. With your contributions, it's possible to raise the number of scholarships given.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Greetings to our MNDK Kiwanians!

I continue to serve on the District Leadership team as our Immediate Past Governor. My year as Past Governor allows me to keep in touch and advocate for our Service Leadership Programs. Circle K had a very successful Fall Rally and is looking forward to their District Convention in Madison, SD in February. They continue to work on club openings in our District.

Key Club also had a successful Fall Rally and had the largest attendance in the history of this event. They also continue to focus on club openings. `Key Club District Convention is in Aberdeen, SD in March.

Builders Club focuses on club openings. Their newest club opening was in Fargo last Spring. The district leadership will make every effort to attend charter events when a new club opens.

Aktion Club is happy with their 13 clubs in our District. They are off to a great start with clubs that have turned in their rosters and dues.

A big thank you goes to the District Administrators – Jason Stewart – Circle K, Kyle Hakala – Key Club, Barb Winfield – Builders and Amanda Thrift – Aktion Clubs.

Let's take time to enjoy the Christmas season with our family and friends. A Very Merry Christmas to MNDK Kiwanians!

Ben Franklin Builders Club



by Mathia and Abby:

Hello, we are the Builder's Club of Ben Franklin Middle School. We are a club focused on service and leadership. We currently have

12 members, and with more, we could do more widespread projects.

So far, we have volunteered at the emergency food bank, made Thanksgiving cards for people in senior living homes, made teacher appreciation gifts, cleared tables at Pizza Ranch to raise money for Kiwanis, and did a project named Hall of Heroes to honor the veteran family members of our school.



Our biggest service project was raising money for UNICEF

by Boo at the Zoo and trick-or-treating at our school for change or pocket money. We ended up raising a total of \$313.69. We would like to thank Kerri Lee from Ben Franklin and Courtney from Kiwanis for leading the Builders Club and it is tons of fun! We meet every other Monday at 3:45-4:30 in room 110 at Ben Franklin Middle School. We are always open to new members so we will be able to do more service projects in the future.

Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanians ring Salvation Army Bells

Submitted by
Jeff
Mammenga



Several members of the Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Club rang the Salvation Army Bells on November 22. P-FP bell-

ringing coordinator Becky Spoehr was joined by two of her children, Harper and Abner. P-FP President Don Hoepfer, who later rang bells himself, was happy to make a donation.

Minot Golden K

Submitted by Cindy Sorensen



The Minot Golden Kiwanis held their October 15, 2025, meeting at the Dakota Territory Air Museum in Minot. 17 members were present with 2 guests.



Help Sponsor DCON

Sponsoring a Key Club helps build strong youth leaders in your community and creates a meaningful connection between students and Kiwanis. It allows Kiwanis clubs to expand their impact by supporting service, leadership, and student growth.

What is DCON:

DCON provides valuable leadership training, officer education, and opportunities for students to network with Key Clubbers across the district.

Location :

Aberdeen, South Dakota

Date :

March 13-15 2025

You could help by :

- Helping cover registration costs for your Key Club
- Support travel and lodging when needed
- Make DCON accessible for more students
- Encourage attendance so clubs can grow and learn

Reach out to YOUR Key Club today to start discussing this opportunity!



For any questions please email:

gov@minndakkeyclub.org
& treas@minndakkeyclub.org

www.minndakkeyclub.org

