

Minnekotan

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
January 2026



A Message from the Governor

Happy New Year to MNDAK Kiwanians!

This is the time for reflection! We plan for the new year by incorporating the lessons we have learned from the past year and from previous years.

It is satisfying to look back and recall the wonderful things that your Club accomplished and to feel the great satisfaction you personally experienced from being part of it. This is the "why" we belong to Kiwanis!

Now is the time to contemplate what "great joys" 2026 may bring. It starts by pushing your collective imagination. You are ahead of most people because you have a strong and stable organization backing up your creative, forward-thinking momentum. Kiwanis is in many ways a gateway.

I encourage you to think (dream) and make your Club the vehicle to even greater satisfaction for the community you serve.

Happy New Year!
John

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.

We are also recruiting for Lt Governor Elect positions for 2026-27 in Divisions 1, 2, and 3. If you are interested, contact your Lt Governor or Cindy Braseth. The Leadership Directory with contact information can be found here:

<https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/leadership/>

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.



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had a wonderful Holiday. It's so busy but, I hope that you all took time for yourselves to rest and recharge. We all need that every now and then.

Now it's time to make sure that your plans for your club are in place and ready to go. Membership is always a priority since we need those new ideas and hands for service. I sent an email to club presidents and secretaries to make sure that their membership plan has been submitted to Kiwanis International for this year. The deadline has been extended to January 15th so if your club has not done it yet, it's not too late. Here's some help if you need it:

Direct link to membership planning submission form

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/KiwanisInternationalFoundation/20252026KiwanisClubMembershipPlan>

Direct link for "Create Your Club's Membership Plan"

<https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Membership-Planning-Worksheet.pdf>

Congratulations to:

Hibbing, Minot Golden K, Rochester Golden K, MNDK Online Eclub, Saint Anthony, Spring Valley and The Turtle Mountains for

submitting their plans. You now have your blueprint for a successful year.

Couple of other 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 now and deadlines are earlier than normal this year. There are also some international travel requirements to be aware of. Here's the link to all of the information and preliminary schedule of events: <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-manila/>
- **Invitation to Manila video** [2026 KI convention invitation to Manila on Vimeo](#)
- And, it's never too early to start planning for our 2026 District Convention in West Fargo, ND August 7-9, 2026. I would love to see every club represented this year.

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



Membership is What We Do This is How We Do It

1. Set your clubs new member goal at #___ Need *a starting point*? The worksheet "[Create Your Club's Membership Plan](#)" will help you:
2. [Download a club boost checklist.](#)
3. [Choose your Clubs Recruitment Resources](#) with *resources that make recruiting easier and more effective.*

Club boost, *Make it a Club service project!*

A boost can be done with district or division help, or with assistance from Kiwanis International via a Facebook marketing campaign. [Order a club boost box.](#)

Upcoming KI Webinar:

Social Media Creation and Campaign Setup for Club boosting. [Jan 13, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time](#); Learn how to create effective ads to attract new members to your Kiwanis club. This practical webinar will guide volunteers through setting up budget-friendly campaigns, targeting the right audience, and growing membership—no marketing experience required.

In this session, you will learn:

- How to create a Facebook page if you don't already have one (required to run ad campaigns)
- How to create a Facebook ad
- Where to find helpful resources for both
- Best practices for successful campaigns

You're Invited to our District Club Building Discussion

We meet every Tuesday at 1pm. Central to discuss district and division priorities around clubs that may need help and support. We also discuss communities we are targeting that need a Kiwanis club.

Your ideas and enthusiasm are welcome and can truly make a difference. Let's brainstorm and set the stage for an unforgettable year ahead. Don't miss out on shaping the future of our district clubs.

Your input is important!

Join us in making a significant impact together.

Join Zoom Meeting: Weekly Tuesday at 1pm CT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83521811066?pwd=2DhMDmToKabk2CLar6y4VR4ljYaQkm.1>

Meeting ID: 835 2181 1066

Passcode: 575289

Service is the main goal for all of us, but we need the hands to do it!

Sharon Scudder
District Leadership
and Development
Coordinator



A New Year to Grow

Last year has passed and a bright NEW YEAR is here giving us a chance to grow, succeed and venture out to try new things. To work on opportunities that present themselves, to challenge us and keep us progressing as individuals.

I hope to see all the Lt. Governor Team members attend Lt Governor Training that will be presented virtually on April 11 and 25th at 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon MT. Plan to attend these two sessions with your team. Other MNDK members are invited to attend, especially if you are considering a position as Lt Governor. We will also have an in-person training day at the District Convention, more on location and dates in upcoming Minnekotan.

Please let me know if you have plans to offer CLE (Club Leadership Education) for your division. We really need to present training locally so we can train Club Officers and help them perform their duties with confidence and know the expectations that the office carries.

Please take advantage of all training opportunities on the Kiwanis International Website and, Engage. We all need to learn, perform and help others who may want to climb the leadership ladder and help clubs survive and thrive.

Happy New Year and success in all you reach to achieve.

Albert Lea Golden K Featured in the Albert Lea Tribune



Submitted by
David Wolter

Erin Haag, Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Freeborn County was our guest speaker today at

Golden K Kiwanis. Pictured with Erin is Kiwanian Vern Teras. A great program for our club and a great service to our community!

Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Elves

by Jeff Mammenga,
Secretary



Members of the
Pierre-Fort

Pierre Kiwanis Club collected about 30 food and household items for Christmas gift bags for recipients on their Meals on Wheels route. Kiwanis "Elves" Larry Johnson, left, and Dave Bonde delivered a bag of items to this happy couple.

Thanks -- and Merry Christmas!



A Message from Kiwanis International Children's Fund

By Kathy Welle

Last month, we wondered if there would be snow on the ground for Christmas. Now, we have enough for the whole winter season. Ready for some warmer temps already too.

Kiwanis continues to accept contributions to the Children's Fund. Every dollar goes toward the

the Possibility Project.

Whether it's a club recognition award for a club member, or the annual contribution, or an individual contribution (could be a direct transfer that saves taxes)

us \$9,550,000 RAISED TO DATE

as posted on Kiwanis website

The 2025-2026 fiscal year is off to a good start for our Minnesota-Dakotas District. The October and November Giving Report shows a total of \$33,055, clubs and individual contributions.

Kiwanis Children's Fund will have a **Day of Giving** again in February, 2026. The goal is to raise \$75,000.00 on February 25, 2026. If your club would like to participate, watch for the on-line link and contribute on line. Your budgeted annual contribution or part of the amount can be made on that special day.

If you are interested in seeing a video for your club about the Possibility Project, visit the MNDAK District website at: <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/foundation/>

The Children's Fund Board is very proud of our MNDAK District club and individual ongoing support. Together we make the Impact to raise \$2.25 per child to serve 10 million children.

Thank you again for your continued support. I am proud to represent all of you at our monthly meetings with Ally Bright. (new Fundraising Development Officer with Kiwanis Int'l)

#KidsNeedKiwanis





Donate to the Kiwanis Educational Foundation

Submitted by Daniel Leikvold, President

For almost 60 years, the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation has been granting scholarships to outstanding young people throughout our three-state district. This past year, the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation awarded 54 total scholarships for a total of almost \$50,000.

The success of this great program is only possible through the support of Kiwanis Clubs and individuals in our District. To all of you who have donated to the Educational Foundation, I want to say thank you so much for your generosity and your support for our young people.

I would like to encourage Kiwanians to continue to donate in support of this scholarship program. There are a variety of ways to donate, including the Century Club Membership for Kiwanis Clubs; Vantine Life Fellowship Membership for individuals; Joseph E. Messer Fellowship Membership; and a memorial for a loved one or fellow Kiwanis member. To learn more about your Foundation and how to donate, please go to <https://k13.site.kiwanis.org/mndak-foundation/>

Your investment in the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation is an investment in our students and in our communities. We need you to build our endowment, so our children can build their futures.

Kiwanians Volunteer at the Watertown Banquet

Submitted by Stefan Martinsen



On December 8, Kiwanis members volunteered at the Watertown Banquet, hosting dinner for community members at Grace Lutheran Church.

The Watertown Banquet is a free community meal program taking place each Monday at the Grace Lutheran Church fellowship hall. It offers a hot meal open to everyone. While it is not directly affiliated with the church, the Banquet does partner with the Watertown United Way and other community groups like Kiwanis.

The Monday night meal helps provide regular, reliable nutrition and fellowship for people throughout the Watertown area. It's part of a broader set of meal and food resources in town that aims to support residents of all backgrounds

Watertown Kiwanis club volunteers set-up, provide, and clean up the meal serving 117 people. We were grateful for the opportunity to support this welcoming community program.



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

