

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

May is the month where you will hopefully complete your Annual Meeting with its officer elections and your 2026-27 Club year plans. It is also the time when you should plan your summer activities in detail.

Some Clubs take the "summer off," which may not be advantageous to your Club's purpose or existence. Summer is full of great Club opportunities like fundraising events, new member contacts and overall public exposure. This is the season when people are out and about looking for things to do.

Summer is a good time to partner with other civic organizations like the local Lions Club or American Legion to assist them with their activities. This collaboration offers not only a chance to fund raise but also promotes public exposure without the need for extensive organizing often required by one club. Try to take advantage of the soon to be upcoming summer with the many opportunities that it can offer.

Minnesota Dakotas District of Kiwanis
International
May 2026



2026 District Convention Registration is Open!

Submitted by Cindy Braseth

As we are getting closer to our 2026 District Convention, August 7-9th in West Fargo this summer, my thoughts are turning to, what for me, are the highlights of our convention. Of course, it's a great time to see and catch up with old friends from around the district. I also enjoy meeting new friends. It's easy to be "friends" with Kiwanians because we share the same values and love of service.

This year there are some old favorites as well as some new things being planned. You can register for the convention, book your room and find more information on the [MNDK Convention](#) page. There will be updates as plans are finalized so check back often. Our goal this year is to have all clubs represented so I hope that your club has the district convention as a line item in the budget. I want to meet you all and make some new friends.



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

The ice is off the lake and summer toys are coming out of storage. Fishing opener will be in a couple of weeks, then the summer season really begins.

Your clubs are most likely handing out Scholarships to local students and planning all of your summer projects. May is also Kiwanis membership month. Time to invite some guests to your meetings or even hold an open house. Look at the membership plan you developed a couple of months ago and implement the strategies you decided on. There is support available at the district and international levels. Just ask.

I am very proud of our district so that's why I have to brag a little bit. The 2026 Signature Project Contest results have been announced. For the second year in a row, our district has a project in the top 10, WHOO HOO! The Kiwanis Club of Fargo Pancake Karnival is in the top 10 and will be in the running for one of the top 3 awards!

In April, I started going out to visit some clubs in Division 3 and I had a blast. Immediate Past Governor, Carol Nitschke and I decided to split up the nine clubs in the division and do the visits since we don't have a Lt Governor in the Division this year. I want to thank the 3 clubs I've visited so far, Brainerd, Hibbing and Ely, for their hospitality. It's been a few years, more than I

care to say, since I was a Lt Governor and I had forgotten how much fun these visits are.

If you are a current or past president of your club and would like this same experience in your Kiwanis journey, contact Karen Davis, Governor Elect or me. You won't be sorry.

Some business items:

- Club elections should be held in May, and the results of those elections need to be recorded in Engage by June 1st.
- Do you have a great service project your club is dying to share? Watch for information about the Service showcase that is being planned for Friday night August 9th at district convention.
- Watch for the Call to Convention mailing that will be hitting your email inbox this next week. Lots of information you will need regarding the convention, delegates, registration, hotel accommodation etc. will be in that mailing.
- I am still seeing clubs that don't have monthly reports filed. It seems that the numbers are higher since the transition to Engage. If you are having issues with the new platform, let me know. I can help.

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





Black Hills Rapid City Area Club Welcomes 3 New Members



New Members Make Your Club Stronger

May is Membership Month!

It's the perfect opportunity to showcase Kiwanis to your community and invite potential members to join your club.

Strengthen your club

The more club members you have, the more children you can help. Conduct at least one concentrated membership drive campaign during the year. Kiwanis International also has a club toolbox detailing how to create a membership plan, find a club coach and hold a club boost.

Use our [Roster Analysis Worksheet](#)

This tool can help you identify individuals who may enjoy being part of Kiwanis – and whose skills, relationships and experiences could strengthen your club's impact.

Review Your Clubs Calendar

Look at your club's meetings, service projects, fundraisers and social events. Invite guests to attend! You can also use KI resources on [hosting potential members](#) to guide the experience.

Can't Host in May?

If scheduling conflicts arise, select an alternative date now and begin planning early by ordering a [Club Boost kit](#). Or [Host an Open House](#)



New members are pictured with Roy Erickson, President

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 701-740-8121

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/>



**Katie Landwehr
District Public
Relations
Coordinator**

Greetings Everyone,

We are actively preparing for our

District Convention this year, which is August 7th-9th, 2026 in Fargo, ND. As part of the District Convention, we will be hosting an outreach fair at the hotel for the Fargo community to come and check out what Kiwanis is all about. As part of this, we are asking each club to prepare to have a table where they can talk about their club. We would like to ask clubs to put together a photo display on a medium of their choice (trifold, poster board, running PowerPoint, etc) to have on their table to demonstrate what their club does.

Additionally, I would like to put together a video highlighting each club. I know that technology can scare people but what I am asking doesn't have to be scary.

I am requesting each club put together a short 1 minute video highlighting something special about their club. Be creative - some ideas would be filming something in your city that your club supports (ex. a park that your club sponsors), an ongoing project that your club works on regularly (ex. volunteering at a food shelf, serving meals for the homeless), a joint project with your club and a sponsored circle K/key club/builders club/k-kids/or aktion club, or just a member(s) explaining briefly some key highlights about your club.

This video does not need to be done on a fancy camera - a cellphone camera will do. If

you have questions regarding this, please let me know at katesland2@aol.com.

You can upload your video to the google folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/111k1FGEEEWB-CaKSYaH_eGKaxcLzIEnf?usp=sharing

Please have your video uploaded by June 15th.

Thank you!

Winona SunRisers Annual Reading Program Successful



Submitted by Neal Broadwater, Secretary

Over the past several weeks Kiwanis Sunrisers members went into 26 classrooms and read to 845 4 and 5 year old children. Following the classroom reading, each child was given a free children's reading book, courtesy of the Sunrisers club, to take home and keep as their own.

The readings were held in the Winona Area Public School district, public, private and charter. This is an annual Sunrisers Children's Service project headed up by Committee Chair Bob Hermann. Photo show Kiwanis member Charlie Havener, Sunrisers club Past-President in the classroom reading to the children.



A Message from Kiwanis International Children's Fund

By Kathy Welle

Hoping everyone had an enjoyable Easter weekend in April. Now maybe, the warmer spring temps will stay for everyone to enjoy. Planning for fishing opener weekend and swinging those golf clubs.

The March '26 Mn-Dak District giving report shows a total of \$53,153. The Club total is \$15,315 and Individual total is \$37,313, plus Other \$525. **Thank you** to the clubs and individuals for submitting your contributions during the first half of our fiscal year. This helps the Children's Fund Trustees for planning and approving more grant requests during the year, instead of waiting until the next fiscal year.

The Possibility Project continues, also known as TPP and shows a total of \$10,556,833 collected world-wide to meet the goal of \$25,000,000. MN-Dakotas District total gifts and pledges as of March shows \$237,163.81.

What is still missing is the **Impact Form** from clubs. By submitting the Impact Form, your club can set goals and plan for a way to achieve the goals. There are a number of ways to consider meeting the goal.

One idea is to take small steps such as: \$8.40 a month per member. Group challenges and/or remember the K Dollars.

NOTE: This is scholarship time. Remember, by supporting the Children's Fund together, the district qualifies for the annual grant that goes to the District Educational Foundation and more scholarships are awarded.



Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation Eases Transition to Post-Secondary Education

Submitted by Dan Leikvold, President, Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation

The return of robins, the leaving of ice from the lakes, the blooming of beautiful flowers, and the mailing of graduation announcements all signal the onset of spring in the Minnesota Dakotas District. It is a time full of rebirth, hope, and celebration. For students graduating from high school, it is a very exciting time for them, their families, and our schools.

It is a time for pride as we celebrate the numerous achievements and accomplishments of our young people. It is a time to recall the impressive and sometimes embarrassing memories associated with growing up. And it is a time to prepare for

one of life's greatest transitions—moving on from high school.

As with most transitions, this one comes with excitement and a good dose of trepidation. The excitement comes from the opportunity to move to a new city, the prospect of meeting new friends, and the chance to stare out over new horizons. Likewise, anxiety can result due to leaving family and friends behind, going to an unfamiliar setting, and the uncertainty that comes with the costs associated with post-secondary education.

Not all of the uncertainty of the transition can be easily put aside, but with the assistance of the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation, some of the uncertainty of the cost of school can be curbed by the many scholarships provided to high school seniors within the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District.

Due to you and your club's giving, the Foundation is able to annually awards scholarships in excess of \$50,000. 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 of young people.

In addition, I would like to encourage those of you who haven't yet given, to do so. 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.



Stillwater Area Kiwanis Partners with Second Stork

Submitted by Judi Isenberg



For the past four years the Stillwater Area Kiwanis Club has partnered with Second Stork, a totally volunteer organization providing basic baby items to new parents in need. Twice a year our club repackages diapers for them at our general meeting. On April 20th we packed 2400 diapers. It's always fun and some of the guests we've invited to help us have become members.

For the month of April we also sponsored a virtual baby shower to collect newborn and premie footed sleepers, premie diapers and money to meet some of Second Stork's current needs. First State Bank and Trust, one of our corporate members, set up collection sites at three local branches and designed posters and flyers. Also helping with marketing and tech was a cohort from the Leadership in the Valley program. They designed QR codes for the posters which allowed people to access Amazon and Target wish lists to have their donations shipped directly to Second Stork. The code also linked to Zeffy for monetary donations. SAK members distributed flyers, posted on social media and contacted friends about the project. We hope to make this an annual event