

Minnekotan



A Message from the Governor

I hope your summer is going well! Hopefully, your Club is enjoying the benefits that this time of year brings. Summertime is perhaps the best opportunity to recruit new Club members because of your Club's ability to be involved (and visible) in many community events that occur at this time.

Your involvement can also lead to an increase in revenue for your Club. For example, many counties and cities have fairs during the summer. These entities are often looking for help from members of other organizations. Fairs usually need ticket takers, food handlers and booth people. These positions are often paid by the hour and the money earned is one check to the Club without any tax withholding.

This can be an opportunity to partner or merely participate within fundraising efforts. Just furnishing labor at a prefixed amount is perhaps the easiest method to raise funds since the Club takes on no risk regarding the event's success. Fair managers like the process since the money transfers are easy (one check) and a group of labor is assured relieving worry. Further your

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members may be asked to come back in subsequent years resulting in an assured yearly stream of Club revenue.

Many events allow the outside help to wear shirts that designate their organizations. Your Club's involvement therefore gets recognition and within the process an opportunity to obtain new prospective members.

You start by making contact with the local sponsor be it a fair or other community event. They will be happy to hear from people interested in helping them. Good luck!

Finally, we are about five weeks from DCON (District Convention), which will be held in West Fargo, ND on August 7-9. Hope to see you there!

John

Division 4 Conference Held



Submitted by John Rheinberger, Governor

The Division 4 Conference was held on Sunday, June 14th in Spearfish, SD. The group talked about the philosophy of organizations, the successful food bank program in Spearfish and the community centered opportunities for Kiwanis.



A Message from the Secretary Treasurer

Happy 250th Birthday America! I'm sure many of you are planning your July 4th celebrations and expecting to attend gatherings with friends and family.

CKI and Key Club members are at their International Conventions in Dallas this week. Perhaps your Key Club and CKI members are some of them. They will also be joining us at our District Convention in August. The energy they bring is contagious and I'm looking forward to it!

A team of people were in the Forest Lake, MN area working to build a new club in that area. They will need one more meeting to get the club chartered, but they are well on their way. If you are in the area and want to help Tim and Cheryl Taylor and the Stillwater club with this organizing effort, let me know.

District Convention is right around the corner. Registration is open now. Hotel rooms are filling up fast, in fact the Homewood Suites block is full! If you are coming, you need to get registered before July 20th. The room block at the Doublewood closes July 15th.

Check out more information in this newsletter from Bradley Knudson and I on what you should be doing right now to prepare. You will also see a reminder from Dave and Paulette Odette about the

Memorial Service and how to submit names of those who have passed from your club. My personal goal is to see all 100 clubs represented. Come and celebrate all the great things we do in our communities around the Minnesota-Dakotas District. We do great things and we should be proud to show that off a little. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Some business items:

- Delegate registrations for the convention need to be submitted to me by July 25th. A link to the form can be found on the MNDK website,
- You will also find a link to the registration page at the above link.
- Do you have a great service project your club is dying to share? Read Bradley Knudson's article about the showcase and mixer being planned for Friday night August 9th at district convention.
- I will be doing a Q&A session at the convention for those who still have questions or are having issues. If you are one of those people, plan to attend and bring your questions.
- Are you new to Kiwanis or just want to know more about our district and what we do? Carol Nitschke, Past Governor is doing a session on MNDK 101. Attend that one and learn what resources we have available in the district and at Kiwanis International.

As always, I'm here to support clubs and members. Contact me before you get too frustrated. I can help! Call me 701-740-8121.



Get Ready to Shine at District Convention!

This year's Club Showcase and Mixer, by the District Membership Team, on Friday, August 7th, 6-8pm in West Fargo is your opportunity to highlight the amazing work your club has been doing. We're asking each club to bring their best projects, stories, and ideas to share. This is a fantastic chance to inspire others, learn from fellow Kiwanians, and strengthen our community impact together. Let's make this showcase a vibrant celebration of our collective efforts and achievements!

1. Showcase your club in style! We invite you to create an engaging photo display on a medium of your choice—be it a trifold, poster board, or a running PowerPoint presentation. This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the unique aspects of your club, share your achievements, and attract new members. Let your creativity shine and make your club stand out!
2. Showcase what makes your club unique in a captivating 1-minute video to be featured on the big screen at our upcoming event. Highlight a special aspect of your club, whether it's a community project, a unique tradition, or a local landmark. Get creative with your surroundings to tell your club's story

in an engaging way. This is a fantastic opportunity to share the spirit of your club with others and inspire pride in your community. Collaborating on a joint project offers a unique opportunity to combine resources, creativity, and community spirit. By partnering with a club like Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, or Aktion Club, you can leverage the strengths of both groups to make a significant impact.

Upload your finished video to the designated Google folder to share your collaborative success with all parties involved. Several clubs have submitted videos and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Our local clubs in the Fargo-Moorhead area are excited to announce that they will participate in a membership drive! This is a fantastic opportunity for community members to join and engage with like-minded individuals, participate in exclusive events, and contribute to our vibrant local culture.

This event is open to the public. We have planned a variety of activities suitable for all ages, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there!

First Time at Convention?

There will be a special gift in your registration packet to welcome you to your first District Convention.



A Message from Kiwanis International Children's Fund

By Kathy Welle

If your club has 35 members or fewer and is seeking up to US\$1,000 for a service project before the end of the service year, we have good news. **The deadline to apply for a microgrant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund has been extended from July 1 to August 1!**

Eligible projects support activities within at least one Kiwanis cause area: health and nutrition, education and literacy, or youth leadership development. Some examples include (but are not limited to):

- Hunger-relief initiatives
- Community gardens
- Free libraries
- Back-to-school events
- Leadership programs

We invite your club to review the guidelines for these grant opportunities and apply today! Applications must be submitted through our grantmaking system, [Foundant](#).

Note: If your club already has an account, use your existing login credentials. If your club does not have a Foundant account, you will need to create one. This can be done

from the login page by clicking "Create New Account." Once your account is created, you can log in, click on "Apply" and then select the appropriate grant application.



"Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is courage to continue that counts."

By: Winston Churchill

Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis dedicates StoryWalk

Submitted by Jeff Mammenga, Secretary



Officials with the Pierre-Fort Pierre Kiwanis Club, City of Fort Pierre and donor organizations gathered June 12 for the dedication of the Kiwanis StoryWalk at Lilly Park in Fort Pierre. StoryWalks encourage reading and walking by placing pages of a story along a path. The Kiwanis StoryWalk was made possible by a grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund. Special recognition goes to Kiwanian Kristin Gabriel for coordinating the project, which was well-received by the Pierre-Fort Pierre communities!



Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District Educational Foundation Makes a Difference

Submitted by: Carol Nitschke, Trustee

I am happy to have this opportunity to write about our Minnesota Dakotas Education Foundation. As you know – this Foundation continues to accept contributions to support the many Scholarships that are given out to our students each year. Our Foundation team lead by President Dan Leikvold works throughout the year to continually emphasize the importance of this effort in our District.

There are various opportunities to support this effort including Century Club level contributions from our clubs, Vantine Life Fellowship and Joseph Messer Fellowship recognizing our members for their service and contributions from our members. Please also consider Memorials in memory of Kiwanians, Friends or Family members. The information regarding our Kiwanis Education Foundation can be found on the MNDK Website under the Our Foundations tab.

A big thank you goes out to our members and our clubs for the continued efforts and support you are providing to enhance and help to fund this important initiative for scholarships for our students.

All donations can be mailed to:

District Foundation Secretary/Treasurer
Lowell Disrud
1106 14th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Thanks also to Lowell for his continued good work and dedication to the District Education Foundation.

Minot Golden K Awards Scholarship

Cindy Sorensen, Secretary



Brooklynn Roedocker and her parents, Travis and Tara, attended the June 17, 2026, Minot Golden Kiwanis meeting to be awarded with a Certificate of Recognition by the Kiwanis Educational Foundation of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District and the Minot Golden Kiwanis for winning this scholarship.

Brooklynn who is from Our Redeemers was awarded an \$850 scholarship from the Kiwanis Educational Foundation for her application. The Minot Golden K added \$150 to this amount so that she will receive a total of \$1000 that will be sent to the college she chooses to attend in the fall, which she told us is Jamestown.

Congratulations Brooklynn!

Our District Delegates to Manila



It looks like our delegates in Manila had a pretty good time. They rubbed elbows with International President Mike Mulhail and his wife as seen in the picture above. They look pretty cozy!

Pictured below are the 4 delegates we sent to Manila: Governor John Rheinberger, Division 6 Lt Governor Elect Rolland Digre, Patricia Arntz, Kiwanis Club of Hendricks (and Rolland's wife) and Lola Pollard, Kiwanis Club of Webster SD, Assistant Key Club Administrator.



In Loving Memory

District Convention Memorial Service

Submitted by Dave and Paulette Odette

Our Sunday Morning Kiwanian Memorial Service at the upcoming 2026 District Convention in West Fargo, ND is nearing. This service is a time for us to remember all the Kiwanians who have passed away since last year's convention. These may be current members or those who were dedicated members but due to health or other reasons they dropped their membership over the past few years.

To make this memorable service we ask for your help by sending the names of those in your Club who have passed away. For the service we will be creating a Power Point program with a slide with a picture and short obituary as recognition. We ask the Club Secretary or other Club Officer to send a list with the name and a link to the funeral home that provided the burial service. In most cases we can pull the information from the Funeral home obituary for the personal Power Point slide. If a funeral home online obituary is not available, please send what you have available for the PowerPoint slide.

Please email your Club list and information to Dave and Paulette Odette at odette@wiktel.com Please send us your list by July 20th. This will give us the needed time to prepare the service booklet of names given out on Sunday morning and the PowerPoint program.

What You Need to Know About the 2026 District Convention

Submitted by Cindy Braseth

Am I the only one obsessed with preparation for the District Convention in August? Probably, it's my job! Well, anyway, there are some things I want to share that you as members and your club need to be aware of and get ready. So, here's a laundry list:

- The Mitchell club will be there with their T-shirts again and they tell me that they will have some new items. They donate a portion of their proceeds back to the Educational Foundation so come prepared to update your swag.
- The Kiwanis Children's Fund will have their annual raffle. Bring an item to donate either individually or from your club. You will get credit toward the Possibility Project pledge for your club. Also, bring all those K dollars you have been collecting. If you can, bring a check for Kathy, she gets nervous transporting all that cash, but she'll take it.
- The Educational Foundation will have their Annual Silent Auction. Bring one or two items for the auction and be sure to bid on and take something home for yourself.
- We will be building birthday cake kits for local food shelves. Please bring cake mix, frosting, candles, cards, anything that will make a child in need feel special on their birthday.
- Bring information, videos, handouts, picture boards etc. to share at the Friday night showcase. We will have tables for clubs to share the cool things they do in their communities

to serve kids. See Bradley Knudson's article for some more information.

- **We are NOT having a Used Book Sale this year so DON'T BRING YOUR USED BOOKS.**
- **NO DIAPERS EITHER!**
- The list of service projects that we are doing on Friday night is not finalized yet. Some could get messy, so bring a Kiwanis apron if you have one or two.

As always, I'm here to help. Call me at 701-740-8121 if you run into an issue. Don't get frustrated!

Kingsland Key Club Holds Successful Fundraiser

Submitted by Brenda Steir, Spring Valley
Kiwanis



The Kingsland Key Club (sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley) recently organized and held their 2nd annual 5k Run/walk fundraiser. There were 39 participants. This year the proceeds were donated to BACA - Bikers Against Child Abuse. Five Key Club members were able to present BACA members, "Art", "Twilight", "Boom", and "Cheddar" a check in the amount of \$2,448.06 at a recent Kiwanis Club meeting.

Day-Breakers of Albert Lea Celebrate 50 years



The Day-Breakers Kiwanis Club of Albert Lea, MN celebrated our 50th Anniversary

on June 4, 2026 with a party in Albert Lea. About 50 people attended the celebration, including three Charter members (pictured above): Durin Smith, our first President, Stanley Bruss, our second President, and David Paschka who held several offices while an active member.

A short program was held after a picnic-style meal and included remarks from our Club President Anne Greibrok, Albert Lea Mayor Rich Murray (who also presented a Proclamation from the City), and Division 6 Lt. Gov. John Holt. Club Secretary Lois Ahern read a letter from Gov. John Rheinberger who was unable to attend and presented a Certificate of Recognition from the MN-DAK District.



Pictured are the club's first President Durin Smith and current President Anne Greibrok.

The program concluded with Happy Dollars when

attendees were invited to share a memory about the Day-Breakers. The Happy Dollars were dedicated to our signature project for this summer.

Summer Reading in Spring Valley, MN



Melissa Vander Plas was our guest speaker at today's Kiwanis meeting. She shared information about the Spring Valley Public Library Summer Reading Program, and also the upcoming July programs that are planned. This fall there will be exterior work done on the Library, and future plans include a landscaped courtyard on the north end of the building. The Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley is donating a picnic table to be used in this area.

Our Kiwanis Club also donated 30 children's books to the Library today. The guest speakers we have at our meetings choose from a variety of books, and that book is then labeled and donated to the Library in their honor.

Worthington Early Risers Kiwanis to add to Chautauqua Park

BY CHLOE FARNSWORTH - THE GLOBE

WORTHINGTON — The Worthington City Council accepted two donations from the Worthington Early Risers Kiwanis, one for a life-sized checker board and one for a book exchange box — both to be placed at Chautauqua Park — at its Monday meeting. According to Public Works Director Todd Wietzema, the new checkerboard will be made with painted concrete and wooden checker pieces.



“Kiwanis talked to the middle school (wood) shop teachers and they’re the ones that have the

kids cut out the pieces and stuff like that,” Wietzema said.

He shared that at the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting June 3, they learned there was previously a checker board at the park until the late 1900s.

The checker board will be placed on the west side of the park, near the Corn Hole, which was donated by the Early Riser Kiwanis, and the basketball court. “I think that’ll be fun,” Councilwoman Amy Ernst said. The book exchange box will be stocked by the Kiwanis group with both children’s and adult books. Mayor Rick von Holdt said he has many books to

donate. Councilman Mike Kuhle joked that with all the donations from Early Risers Kiwanis, they should have their name on the Chautauqua Park sign.

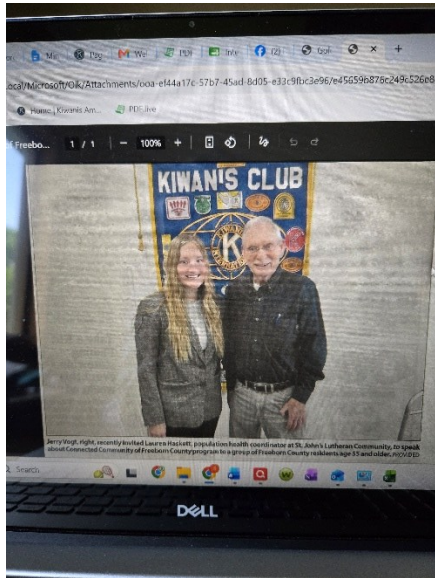
“There’s already a sign that says ‘adopted by Early Risers Kiwanis,’” Wietzema said. “I’ll give them credit, they go clean that playground off every morning. They take turns, they each take a week, and blow their new playground off and pick up trash — they’re a great group to work with.”



Albert Lea Golden K Donates to STARS

Albert Lea Golden K Kiwanis Club donated to STARS Mentoring Program IWAN RNAT TODAY CLUB Sheri Nicol, left, presents a check to STARS Mentoring Program Executive Director Watsana Thiravong when she visited the Golden K Kiwanis Club to speak.

Albert Lea Golden K Learns About Community Services



St. John's representative shares about Connected Community of Freeborn County Connected Community of Freeborn County (CCFC) recently shared information about programs available to individuals 55 and older in Freeborn County. Jerry Vogt invited Lauren Heskett, population health coordinator at St. John's Lutheran Community, to speak about CCFC and St. John's Community Care programs and how they support individuals 55 and older living in Freeborn County.

The CCFC program offers a virtual home care service for individuals age 55 and older living in Freeborn County. The program currently has open spots available, and eligible individuals can receive the service free for one year. The virtual home care program helps older adults remain independent while staying connected to support and resources from their preferred living environment.

Additionally, the Freeborn County Reassurance Program has started for individuals outside of Albert Lea city limits.

The Reassurance Program offers a daily check-in and includes a virtual check-in option or call-in option.

In addition, St. John's Community Care program is offering affordable homemaking services for adults age 55 and older in Freeborn County. Services include errands, laundry, vacuuming, dusting, sweeping and other household tasks that help individuals safely remain in their homes. These services are offered on a private-pay sliding fee scale based on income, making support more affordable for older adults in the community.