

The Governor's Message

By Nebraska-Iowa District Governor Dale Doudna

In the upper Midwest, Spring and Summer are special times. We come out of our houses, join with our neighbors, and take a deep breath and celebrate the warm weather. Of course by July and August, we are complaining about the heat. It is often said, if you don't like our weather, wait 5 minutes. Nevertheless, it is a time of celebration. Let's celebrate Kiwanis and all that Kiwanians do.

All over the Nebraska-Iowa District, there are clubs sponsoring celebrations for their communities. On May 18, the Mason City River-City Kiwanis Club will be hosting their annual Fly-In. Come celebrate with them. On June 1, the Marion Metro Club will be hosting the Rendezvous BBQ. The club hosts food trucks and provides live music for this family oriented celebration. This project has been named as one of the top 10 Signature Projects for small clubs by Kiwanis International. The winners will be announced at the International Convention in Denver. You can come and celebrate this project and enjoy the food and your family at this family friendly event.

You can't attend this next event, because it has already occurred, but it was a significant celebration. The Sioux City Kiwanis Club hosted the 66th annual celebration of the top 5% of students in the Siouxland Area. Over 90% of the students being honored showed up for this event, along with their parents and their school administrators, counselors and teachers. Kiwanis was celebrated for providing this recognition opportunity for students.

During May, the Nebraska-Iowa District will be celebrating milestones. I want to highlight two significant events. First, the Algona Morwens Club will be celebrating 100 years as a Kiwanis Club on May 31. This is a small club, but I am sure they would appreciate everyone recognizing their achievements. Second, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Grinnell will be having their Charter Celebration on May 23. We all need to help this young club celebrate and give them a good start. You are welcome to attend this celebration.

As I am writing this, I realize that all of my examples so far are from Iowa. Lincoln Northeast just celebrated 60 years of being a club. I know that other Nebraska clubs are celebrating this summer. I hope to be invited to these events so I can highlight them also.

We can all celebrate Kiwanis International at the annual International Convention in Denver July 3 to 6. I was privileged to attend a meeting of Governors in Denver in January. Denver was cold and snowy. I am looking forward to Denver in the summer. This four day gathering of Kiwanians from all over the world will give each of us a better understanding of the impact of Kiwanis worldwide. If you attend, not only will you get a better perspective of Kiwanis's worldwide impact, but also meet great people from all 50 states and from countries worldwide. I suspect your perspective of Kiwanis will change if you attend. The good news is that you have until May 31 to register at the lowest cost. Please consider joining Kiwanis International for our worldwide celebration.

The following month, on August 2 and 3, we will gather in West Des Moines for the Nebraska-Iowa District Convention. We will be celebrating all the things that are happening in Nebraska and Iowa. Our emphasis will not be the worldwide impact of Kiwanis, but rather the impact that Kiwanis has in the Nebraska-Iowa District. Can we Impact 1,000,000 children this year? You may not meet people from all over the world, but you will meet Kiwanians from all over Nebraska and Iowa. I suspect your perspective of Kiwanis will be changed. Registration material will be available by the end of May. Come celebrate with us.

During May and June, our District will be celebrating growth in clubs. We are in the midst of a membership campaign. We celebrate the new members who will be given the opportunity to join us to impact our world. We celebrate the lives changed by Kiwanis.

All year long, we celebrate our members. The great thing about Kiwanis is that members can choose how involved they want to be. We celebrate those members that do the little things that help us make an impact in our communities and

at the same time we celebrate those members that choose to become more involved and lead our organization.

So, the next few months can certainly be a time of celebration. Please celebrate Kiwanis and your involvement with Kiwanis. Celebrate the impact that Kiwanis has. Celebrate your family and family time. Celebrate Spring and Summer in Nebraska and Iowa.

