

# The Governor's Message

**By Nebraska-Iowa District Governor Dale Doudna**

Since this is a December message, I want to begin by wishing each of you a Happy Holiday season. Kiwanis, as a diverse organization, has members celebrating this season in a variety of ways. I hope each of you find time to worship in your own tradition, spend time with your family and friends and look forward to the coming year.

The holiday season is a time when Kiwanis Clubs make huge Impacts on their communities. Clubs provide food, gifts and support to community activities. What does your club do at this time of year? The need is great. Is there additional service your club could be providing? It may be too late to increase your Impact this year, but it may be a great time to look around and begin planning for next year. Now is the time for generating ideas for new service projects. The next 12 months gives your club time to plan, dream and implement those plans.

As we look to the next few months, I want to share some information about our Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). Kiwanis is unique as a service club organization because our focus is on kids. Further, we are the only service organization that has a program for students from elementary schools through colleges.

Some of our clubs have a number of SLPs that they sponsor. Other Clubs have not chosen to sponsor an SLP. Even clubs that sponsor SLP clubs sometimes forget that an SLP is a tremendous service project. We are proud of our SLPs, but we forget to brag about them. My own club was working on a brochure. We were listing the service projects we did. Our SLPs were not on the list. Fortunately, our new brochure will list our SLPs as service projects.

This is information reported by Kiwanis International as of Sept. 20 about our Nebraska-Iowa SLPs that you may not be aware of:

**Aktion Club** has **18** active clubs with a membership of **302** men and women
**Circle K** has **7** active clubs with a total membership of **150** students
**Key Club** has **44** active clubs with a total membership of **1674** students
**Builders Club** has **22** clubs. Membership hasn't been reported yet.
**K Kids** has **26** active Clubs. Membership hasn't been reported yet.

Since Sept. 30 is early in the school year, numbers provided may not reflect the current number of students being served. I know that there are three new Key Clubs that are not on the report. There may be more new clubs in all the programs.

The Nebraska-Iowa District has dedicated administrators for each of these programs. They are willing to share their excitement about their programs and get your club ready to sponsor an SLP. I think you will find that they believe that SLPs not only provide valuable services to the participants in the program, but that the clubs that sponsor SLPs become energized and gain from sponsoring an SLP. Please contact the SLP administrators or encourage your club leaders to contact an administrator.

| SLP | Administrator | Phone Number | Email Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aktion | Lynda Henningsen | 402-981-4321 | lkhenningsen@cox.net |
| Circle K | Travis Grafe-Cline | 402-269-0298 | Travis.grafecline@gmail.com |
| Key Club | Tracy Scissors-Domgard | 402-430-6157 | tsdomgard@gmail.com |
| Builders | Sue Waldren | 402-499-8595 | sue@waldren.net |
| K Kids | Jim Dane | 319-530-3263 | jdane99@gmail.com |

Since we are talking about ways that clubs impact their communities (Special Programs in December and SLPs), this may be a good time to brag about your Signature Projects. Signature Projects are annual service projects or fundraisers that benefit the community and promote the Kiwanis brand. Some clubs may truly have multiple Signature Projects. Other clubs need to consider how to develop a strong Signature Project.

If you have a Signature Project, please share it with all of us. This can be done by submitting your Signature Project into the annual Kiwanis International Signature Project Contest. Applications need to be submitted between Jan. 2 and 25. Information on the contest and how to submit can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please contact District Administrator Lisa Brichacek with questions about the contest. We always recognize a number of these projects in the district and two (one from each tier of the con-

test) get submitted to Kiwanis International to vie against projects all over the world. A Nebraska-Iowa Signature Projects even won the International competition one year, and another placed in the top three.

As I finish my first two months as governor, I continue to learn more and more about the great things that Kiwanis is doing. I encourage you to join me in learning more about what Kiwanis is doing by using our **Nebraska-Iowa District Website,** by using the **Kiwanis International Website**, by **Inter-Clubbing** with nearby clubs, by attending the **District Leadership Development Day March 16 in Johnston, IA**, by attending the **Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, CO July 3-6** and by attending the **District Convention in West Des Moines, IA Aug. 2-3**.

The more you learn, the more you will benefit from your Kiwanis experience. I encourage you to read, search, learn, question and grow. Contact me if I can be of assistance.

Again, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!!