



The Governor's Message

By Nebraska-Iowa District Governor Dale Doudna

August started with the 105th Nebraska-Iowa District Convention. About 170 Kiwanis Family members came together to learn, fellowship, and do the business of the District. The theme of the Convention was IMPACT. Last month, I reviewed the Kiwanis International Convention. This month, I will review some of the highlights of the District Convention, but as I did last month, I have to say, "You should have been there."

The business conducted included approving revised Bylaws which were required by Kiwanis International. The Bylaws were unanimously approved by the delegates. We, then, amended the new Bylaws by approving unanimously two new Standing Committees, the Past Lt. Governors Committee and the Awards and Scholarships Committee. These committees already existed, but the amendment made them permanent committees. Then, it was time to elect our 2024-25 Officers. John Boltz, (Kiwanis Club of Hastings, NE) was elected as Governor, Brian Wells (Kiwanis Club of Bellevue, NE) was elected Governor Elect, and Tim McGee (Kiwanis Club of Chariton, IA) was elected Vice Governor. All were elected unanimously.

Our keynote speaker was Andrew Allen of Youth Shelter Services (YSS) of Ames. Andrew shared his personal story which stretched from client to CEO. No matter how I try, I can't share the emotion of his story. Once again, "You should have been there."

Then we were treated to speeches by the other three governors of the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis Family: Autumn Weinman of the North Platte Action Club; Baylor Winters of the University of Nebraska-Omaha Circle K Club, and Wenjun Liu, of the Ames High Key Club. These three governors demonstrated the reason we have Service Leadership Programs. As a special treat Carissa Andorf, the newly elected Key Club International vice-president, shared her comments. Carissa is a member of the Ames High Key Club. "You should have been there."

In many ways, the District Convention feels like the end of the Kiwanis Year, but the reality is that we still have two months left in the 2023-24. The goal for the year was to IMPACT 1 million kids in the Nebraska-Iowa District. This was an aggressive goal. To have reached it, we would have had to increase membership by 400-500 members. We would have had to build a large numbers of Service Leadership Programs and we would have had to add programs at the club level.

As of today, we have added 49 Kiwanis members. We have new SLP's. Many Clubs have IMPACTED more kids. But the bottom line, we haven't reached the goal and will most likely not reach the goal.

So let me challenge you to a new goal.



Can we end the year with at least one more Kiwanian than we had a year ago? Your membership committee is working to add two new clubs in these final two months. Will you work to add a few new members to your club? We know we will lose members at the end of the year. Will we get enough new members to offset the annual year end loss?

Although we have not reached our Membership Goal, we have had a number of successes.

We have a chance to open three new Kiwanis clubs this year.

- Brian Wells, district membership chair, established a process to boost membership in existing clubs and he recruited members to allow us to open new clubs.
- Norma Beaver and Emily Wageman planned and executed plans to provide quality opportunities for Club Leadership Education.
- We followed through with the Growing Kiwanis in the Community Program. We had 371,361 clicks on our ads. The click through rate was twice as high as most ad programs.
- We registered 53 people for the Kiwanis International Convention, which surpassed our goal.
- The Marion Metro Kiwanis Club finished in the top 10 in the International

Signature Project Contest

- We held our fourth annual leadership event in March. Second one in person!
- Our District continues to provide leadership to the International Key Club organization through the leadership of our District Key Club administrators, Tracey Domgard and Cooper Domgard.
- Our District administrator is respected and provides leadership to other administrators throughout Kiwanis.
- When a weather event affected our District Administrator Lisa, the members and clubs rallied around her to provide significant financial assistance.

Although at the Convention we celebrate successes of the past, the Convention really is preparing us for the future. Two major initiatives are being rolled out by Kiwanis International: 1. "Build, Nurture, Retain;" 2. The Possibility Project.

"Build, Nurture, Retain" is a long term initiative to increase membership. The "Build" portion relates to building new clubs and the responsibility falls to the Governor. The "Nurture" portion relates to helping clubs grow in number and strength. Lt Governors are responsible for this. "Retain" pertains to keeping current members. This responsibility falls on Club Presidents. Kiwanis International has developed the program and the resources. It falls on each of us to use those resources.

The Possibility Project was unveiled by the Children's Fund. The Possibility Project is a 5-year program to raise \$25,000,000. This money will flow out to clubs to increase the impact they have in their communities. Not all clubs or individuals will choose to participate, but please consider the "possibilities" if you do.

Membership drives our Impact, the Possibility Project provides the resources.

So, my challenge to you is to finish the year strong. A strong year end will lead to a dynamic start to Governor John's 2024-25 year. Kids need Kiwanis, Kiwanis needs you.

