



The Governor's Message

By Nebraska-Iowa District Governor Dale Doudna

Kiwanis is a great organization with outstanding members. Our stated vision is clear:

KIWANIS WILL BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE—SO THAT ONE DAY, ALL CHILDREN WAKE UP IN COMMUNITIES THAT BELIEVE IN THEM, NURTURE THEM AND PROVIDE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO THRIVE.

As I have traveled for you throughout the year, I have seen Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians working toward that vision. Has our vision been achieved? Of course not! But there are a lot of kids and families that have experienced "Kiwanis Goodness." Their lives are better. Their lives are enriched by coming in contact with Kiwanis members and programs.

THANK YOU for all you do, day in and day out. Please remember how important you are. Please remember how important your club is. My experience is that members and clubs who stay involved in the greater Kiwanis community are able to sense the mission and vision of Kiwanis. Members and clubs who become isolated from the greater Kiwanis community, become discouraged. They forget the value they are bringing to the local community and children of that community. Sometimes, they look back and remember what once was, but they forget to see what is currently going on. As an organization, we need to bring these people back into the community. Those who feel isolated need to reach out or at least be open to receiving the friendship and support of the Kiwanis community.

I accepted the challenge of District leadership over three years ago. In the winter of 2021, Lenora Hanna called and asked if I would run for the office of vice governor. I was active in my club, the Kiwanis Club of Johnston. I, of course, had been a Lt. governor and I intermittently attended International Conventions. I am not sure that I had ever attended a District Convention. In other words, I was not the most active Kiwanian. I was getting older and I was not thinking about taking on additional responsibilities. Add Covid to this mix. But, I did consider the offer and I did accept the offer.

I was confident that I could do the job. I knew that there would be a lot of people who knew more than I did who would be available to mentor me. I knew that the District needed someone who would do their best to lead the organization. I knew I would do my best.

What I didn't know was anything about the budget. I didn't know that we would be faced with an increase in District dues and International dues. I didn't know that there had been declining membership in the District for over 15 years. I didn't know how difficult it would be to find people to fill leadership roles in the District. I didn't know the demands put on the governor by Kiwanis International. I didn't know how many great Kiwanians I had never met.

I was correct that there were a lot of people who would serve as mentors and supporters. Thank you to all of you. I did manage to fill all the leadership positions. Thank you to each of you who accepted the challenge of leadership. I hope each of you found your own feeling of achievement in those positions. Your support and leadership have made my job easier. Please know that if you accept new positions, there will be people to support you. I have met so many great Kiwanians.



I love your stories. I wish I could remember each of your names and faces. Unfortunately, I don't always remember. More likely, I will remember your stories.

My year as governor is coming to an end. I so much appreciate all the invitations and new friends. In the coming years, I hope we can maintain our friendships and that I can continue to visit clubs, division and district events.

I want to thank so many of you. Without your support, I would not have survived the year. My class of Lt. governors have done so much to make Kiwanis successful this year. Without the District chairpersons, the District would not provide the opportunities it does. The District SLP administrators lead our SLPs. Their dedication keeps the programs strong and in turn keep our clubs strong. The district officers have provided counsel and advice as we planned the year. The past governors continue to serve the District and support the current officers. Lisa Brichacek is a special district administrator. Her knowledge, skills, and leadership allow the District to flourish. I truly don't think a governor could succeed without Lisa's friendship and direction.

So, THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Please continue to support your district and our new governor, John Boltz.

Remember "**Kids Need Kiwanis and Kiwanis Needs You**"