



The Kiwanis Club of Des Moines, IA newsletter

Weeks of June 15 & June 22

Board nominates Underwood

By Ron Heggen, President

Each year, the Nebraska-Iowa District of Kiwanis International recognizes an outstanding educator through its James Gaul Educator's Award. The purpose of the award is to identify and honor educators who have made significant personal and professional contributions to their communities, particularly in relation to children. It is also to inform others in the District of significant contributions made by teachers/administrators and to increase the awareness of the roles that educators have in the lives of our children. Any person, with a teacher's or administrator's certificate who is employed in education (K-12 or college), who has contributed to his/her community beyond the requirements of his/her employment, and who has maintained a spirit of creativity, professionalism, and high personal standards in his/her association with the children of the community can be nominated. Nominees do not have to be Kiwanis members.

I am pleased to announce that your Board of Directors has nominated one of our own members for this most prestigious award for 2005—Dr. Lois Smith Underwood.

Lois is a graduate of Drake University where she received her BSE, MSE and PhD. She taught in the Des Moines Public Schools for five years and served as an elementary principal for 18 years, including several years at Greenwood Elementary. In 1990 she co-founded Distinctive Concepts, Inc and served as its educational consultant. In 1996, she opened and continues to own and operate The Learning Connection, an organization that provides tutoring and educational guidance to students aged 2-86 in the greater Des Moines area. In addition, she is founder and CEO of The Learning Connection Advantage, a not-for-profit corporation based on the premise that special education students can learn more effectively through the use of intensive one-on-one instruction with research-based individually designed



Dr. Lois Smith Underwood.

curriculum. Lois has been recognized nationally for her work in education, from the federal government and from Kiwanis International. Lois was an honorary member of our Club from 1984 – 89 and a regular member since 1989. She served on our Board of Directors from 2002 through 2004. During our current Kiwanis year, she has been tirelessly working on establishing a Builders Club at Hiatt Middle School and K-Kids Clubs at Capitol View and Pleasant Hill Elementary Schools. We hope to charter these new clubs shortly.

The recipient of the James Gaul Educator's Award will be presented at the District Convention in West Des Moines on August 20th. Please join me in congratulating OUR Educator of the Year nominee. We hope that Division 16 and, ultimately, the Nebraska-Iowa District will recognize Lois for her educational achievements as well. She is an outstanding nominee!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 15

OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL FORT DES MOINES

PROGRAM: Today's program will feature Chris Burch, Executive Director, Des Moines Marathon. Program Presenter Steve Scott will introduce our speaker.

ASSIGNMENTS: Music will be led by Greg Wilson. Invocation will be given by Dave Turnball. Guest Introductions will be made by Shaner Magalhaes. Greeters will be Sam Gelb & Phillip Wells. Our Bulletin Reporter is Ken Hayes.

June 22

OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL FORT DES MOINES

PROGRAM: Today's program will be given by Terece Caldwell-Johnson, President of Homes of Oakridge. Program Presenter Steve Scott will introduce our speaker.

ASSIGNMENTS: Music will be led by Dave Turnball. Invocation will be given by Steve Siemens. Guest Introductions will be made by Pat Stockton. Greeters will be Bob Miethke & Karen Jackson. Our Bulletin Reporter is Ken Hayes.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 15 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker is Chris Burch, Volunteer Executive Director, Des Moines Marathon. Program arranged by Steve Scott.
- June 22 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker is Terec Caldwell-Johnson, President of Homes of Oakridge. Program arranged by Steve Scott.
- June 24 Ne-Ia District Convention Planning Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- June 25 Kids' Fest, Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island Center, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- June 29 Regular meeting: Blank Children's Hospital, 11:45 a.m. Tour of Dr. Rizwan Shah's Regional Child Protection Center. (The Child Protection Center is the recipient of our Basketball Jamboree proceeds this year.) Program arranged by Steve Scott.
- July 1 Monthly Board Meeting, Iowa Lutheran Hospital Private Dining Room, 11:45 a.m.
- July 2-6 Kiwanis International Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii
- July 6 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker is John Pettit, President of the "Iowa Stars" Hockey Team. Program arranged by Al Knudsen.
- July 8 Monthly Basketball Jamboree Committee Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Iowa Lutheran Hospital private dining room
- July 6-11 Governor's Add-on Trip to Maui
- July 13 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker is Tina Rhodes, Wetherell, Ericsson, Leusink Architects. She will speak about the "Architecture at Hand" tours that are conducted in the evenings throughout the summer. These are walking tours of Des Moines' architectural history and facts about our downtown skyline. Program arranged by Al Knudsen.
- July 18 Division 16 & 13 Council meeting, West Des Moines Public Library, 7 – 8 p.m.
- July 20 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speakers are Rita Ullestad, Director of Fund Development, Broadlawns Medical Center, and Dr. Richard Sidwell. They will give us an update on what is going on at Broadlawns Hospital. Program arranged by Al Knudsen.
- July 27 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Al Knudsen.
- August 3 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Irene Hegedus-Tarcsynski.
- August 5 Monthly Board Meeting, Iowa Lutheran Hospital Private Dining Room, 11:45 a.m.
- August 12 Monthly Basketball Jamboree Committee Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Iowa Lutheran Hospital private dining room
- August 8 Kiwanis Night at Principal Park; watch the Iowa Cubs vs. Las Vegas.
- September 9 Jim Jordan Memorial Golf Classic sponsored by Merle Hay Urbandale and Knights of Columbus, Jester Park Golf Course. \$65 (golf, cart, BBQ & Prizes). Proceeds go for Special Olympics Iowa

August 19-21

Downtown Club coordinates annual Ne-Ia District Convention, Sheraton Hotel (formerly University Park Holiday Inn), West Des Moines

• **Friday:**

9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Partners' Program, East Village

• **Friday afternoon:**

Golf at Blank Golf Course

• **Friday evening:**

Dinner/Reception for our own International President

• **Saturday:** all day

Convention including keynoters, educational sessions, partners' activities, silent auction, Kiwanis store

• **Saturday evening:**

installation banquet

• **Sunday morning:**

memorial breakfast

June 8th Meeting

Turner explains the goals of AMOS

Leland Long, Reporter

Greeters for our June 8th meeting were Shaner Magalhaes and Michelle Wall. Dave Turnbull led our singing with Jan Burch at the piano. Craig Wierson introduced our only guest.

Bob Mitchell presented service attendance awards to the following members: Don Weibold (25 years), John Kuehn (22 years), Al Bjork (15 years), Ron Heggen (8 years), Al Knudsen (8 years), Paul Strayer (7 years), Bob Mitchell (5 years), Dave Turnbull (4 years), Jan Burch (2 years) and Michelle Wall (2 years).

Jan Burch reported that we had a good response to Christie Vilsack's 'Book for Every Kindergartener' program. It is not too late for you to participate. Contact Jan for details.

The NE-IA district convention will be held at the WDM Sheraton Inn in Mid-August. Articles are needed for a fund-raiser auction to be held during the affair.

Dave Turnbull requested members' help in supervision of an inner-city baseball program including 80 players on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. until July 11.

Members were reminded that our June 29th will be held at Blank's Children Hospital and lunch will be served. There will NOT be a round table at the Fort Des Moines Hotel.

Program Chair Steve Scott introduced our guest speaker, Paul Turner, Executive Director of AMOS, which is relatively a new service organization in Des Moines. AMOS has a full name of A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy and is not funded by the government. Local support for 2004 came from 22 churches of different denominations and other sources. Their objectives are to provide actions on issues, development of leaders and



Guest Speaker Paul Turner, Executive Director of AMOS with Program Chair Steve Scott.

reclaiming our citizenship and family relationships.

Our speaker pointed out how changes in our society have had an adverse affect in family life and character development. He expressed concern in the summer activities for youth. The Des Moines school district budget for summer activities is 40% lower than 20 years ago. Parents spend more time in front of TV than in activities with their children. Many social issues are not addressed because of selfish attitudes.

AMOS is currently addressing needs for additional summer programs, reasons for school drop-outs, and improving health care. Our club may be able to provide assistance in some of their projects. President Ron closed the meeting.

Donate to the Convention Silent Auction

By Jan Burch, publicity chair

The upcoming Nebraska-Iowa District Convention (August 19-21) will feature a silent auction with proceeds going to the District Foundation to help fund the remaining requests for Pediatric Trauma Kits.

We need your donations, large or small! Got a condo in Sarasota that you'd be willing to auction off a week to some lucky bidder? What about a putter, golf shirt with your company logo, or golf balls? Would you be willing to ask your favorite restaurant for a gift certificate? Or tickets to one of the fall collegiate football games? Are you soon to finish the most beautiful baby quilt that has ever been created? Perhaps a basket filled with specialty food items and your favorite bottle of wine?

When we hosted the Convention in 2002, the auction raised over \$6,000! Your committee would love to exceed \$6,000...but can only do so with your help!

Contact me at 457-7691 or burchhr@aol.com if you've got an item or two that you'd like to donate.

Meet Jerald (J.B.) Brantley

By Ken Hayes, Reporter

Jerald's hometown is Akron, Ohio where he played high school football and was a 4-year letterman. He received a scholarship to Ohio State to play football but, instead, went into the army for 4 years. While in the army he played football in Germany. Also, during his time in the army, he received the highest peacetime medal for bravery. He attended Pierce College in Tacoma, Washington and is currently attending William Penn College where he will graduate in April 2006.

Jerald has three children, Jerald, Jr. who graduated from Coe College; Nikki, who will graduate from Iowa in May; and Jackson who is 4 years old. J.B. has high interest in assisting unemployed and underemployed people, 18 and up in age, in getting entrepreneurial training. In this capacity, he is CEO of Spectrum Resources. He recently attended a course at Dartmouth College with special training to assist people in becoming entrepreneurs.

With Jerald's heavy involvement in assisting people become better employed and to become entrepreneurs, he has little time for hobbies other than an occasional game of golf. His big interest is in helping people in business. Jerald is Senior Partner in Brantley Built Homes. He operates with this company in Polk County and is generally involved in constructing modular homes in the \$100,000



Jerald (J.B.) Brantley

to \$250,000 price range. He is a member of Corinthian Baptist Church. He is a big supporter of economic growth in the inner city. His mentor for Kiwanis is Al Knudsen. Al and Jerald are both graduates of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute.

With his high interest in helping people, Jerald will be a big contributor to the activities of the Downtown Kiwanis Club. We are fortunate that he joined our club.

A Snapshot of April 2005

Meeting Dates	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Guests & Hosts	Karen Jackson (Jan Burch) Eric Chapman (Bob Mitchell)	Kris Winter (Jan Burch & Bob Mitchell)		
Attendance Today	33	32	28	33
Member Concerns	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson Ron Heggen	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson Ron Heggen	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson Ron Heggen	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson Ron Heggen
New Members & Sponsors		Jerald (JB) Brantley / Al Knudsen		
Member Resignations	0			0
Total Active, Privileged & Senior Members	61			62

June 1 Meeting

Members get update on 2005 legislative session

By Leland Long, Reporter

We had a large audience to hear our speaker, State Representative, Scott Raecker. He summarized the accomplishments of the 2005 legislative session. He reported that this session will be remembered as a historic session due to the significant issues addressed by a very diverse political representation.

The new state budget for education has been increased by 4% (\$100 million) and education takes 60% of the total state budget. Schools in southwest Iowa have been having the most financial problems and need state aid desperately to fund their educational budgets.

Major education issues included:

- Reading improvement statewide.

- Availability of high-speed internet for all subjects at all schools.

- Improvement of ACT testing results.

- Provision for all important science and social study courses for all students.

Other legislative issues included improved water quality, reduction of our state's deer population, public safety, sex offender problems and control of methamphetamine. Approaches to reduce business and personal costs were explored to make Iowa more attractive to new companies. A requirement to include mental coverage in our personal health was also addressed.

He revealed the results of a national speed limit study showing the states with 70 MPH speed limits had an average interstate speed of 72.1 MPH compared to Iowa's 71.8 average interstate speed with our current 65 MPH law. The speed limit will increase on July 1, 2005.

The Iowa Value Fund has been successful and will continue as a source of capital for many new small market employers. The state income for the past fiscal



State Representative Scott Raecker addresses club members at the June 1 meeting.

year has exceeded expectations. We hope that the plans for the coming year will be in line with the new budget.

We received the sad news that Nelson De LaVergne will be leaving our club due to a transfer by the Salvation Army to Minnesota. Most of the June birthday members were in attendance and they were honored with the birthday song led by Carol Burt and accompanied by Jan Burch. Ober Anderson provided a meaningful invocation and Dave Turnbull introduced our speaker in the absence of Steve Scott. The meeting was adjourned by President Ron Heggen.

**KIWANIS IS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF
VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO
CHANGING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AND
ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.**

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Two Years

Jan Burch

Lu Dooley

Irene Tarczynski

Charlie Taylor

Did you know that...

- You need to mark your social calendar for Monday, August 8th. That's our annual Kiwanis night at Principal Park—the Iowa Cubs vs. Las Vegas. Watch for further details.
- We were saddened to hear of the death of **Wayne Christians**, a former long-time member.
- **Gene Joerger** and his wife **Marilyn** were honored at the June 3rd Iowa Cubs ball game. It was Catholic Charities Night at the Cubs and they were recognized in front of a crowd of 10,000 for their many years of providing foster care for Iowa's children! Would you believe they've fostered more than 100 children? Wow...and they have six children of their own!
- **Bill Keck** was featured in the June 9th *Des Moines Register* following his receipt of the "Small Business Champion" award by the National Federation of Independent Business in Iowa. The award is given to members who participate in national federation programs that promote issues relevant to small business. Bill is a member and past chair of the national federation/Iowa Leadership Council, has testified at legislative hearings, and has served on citizen advisory panels. His company, Keck Parking, leases or manages 26 parking facilities, offers valet and airport shuttle services, and employs 53 people. Congrats, Bill!
- Member **Dave Turnball** needs our help! The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is sponsoring summer baseball at the Grubb Y and lots of kids are showing up! Help is needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 – 7 pm, through July 14. Give Dave a call or just show up.
- Member **Lois Smith Underwood** reports that the new K-Kids Club in Pleasant Hill has received its official charter from Kiwanis International. Watch for a special charter event shortly after school starts in the fall. Special thanks to Lois for all the organizational effort she has put into getting this new K-Kids Club started. We will need a couple members who will be willing to be their official Downtown Club liaisons. Please contact Lois.
- The Annual Kiwanis KIDS' FEST is Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island. Member **Ed Linebach** has agreed to be that funny guy in the dunk tank again. Volunteers are needed to help with games, man the registration desk, etc. Contact Ed if you can help.



Kiwanis of Des Moines, IA

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