



The Kiwanis Club of Des Moines, IA newsletter

Weeks of June 29 & July 6

Des Moines Marathon is back

By Ken Hayes, Reporter

President Ron Heggen presided at our meeting of June 15, 2005. Song leader was Greg Wilson. Invocation was given by Dave Turnbull, and guests were introduced by Shaner Magalhaes. In making the introductions, Shaner told the club that he realized his name might not readily be recognized as he is a relatively new member of two months. (Shaner was previously a member of Old Capitol Kiwanis Club in Iowa City.)

Dave Sherry was present as a representative of the Greater YMCA Camp and to accept a check from our club for camping expenses at YMCA. A scholarship check was also given to Katlin Doyle.

Ron Heggen reported that the meeting of June 29th will be at Blank Children's Hospital. There will be a tour of Dr. Rizwan Shah's Regional Child Protection Center. The pot for the drawing was \$58. with Greg Wilson as the winner getting 50% or \$29.

The speaker was Chris Burch, Executive Director of Des Moines Marathon. Mr. Burch told us that he got involved in the marathon program through his job at Salisbury House. He said they got started by having Salisbury House as a watering station on the route. He indicated this evolved to where he was attending committee meetings and had involvement in raising funds. He said it came as a shock to them when they were told by the director that the marathon was going to be cancelled. He and other committee members then got together to determine how they could keep the marathon going. They obtained IMT Insurance Company as a sponsor, and this allowed them to proceed with the



Chris Burch, new Executive Director of the Des Moines Marathon (and son of Jan Burch) with President Ron after the June 15 meeting.

marathon. While it might be a little surprising, Des Moines is considered as having one of the more scenic routes in marathons. There were 3400 runners at last year's marathon; but, because of the cancellation and later starting of the marathon, it is expected that the participation will be less this year at 2,000. The marathon is scheduled for September 18, 2005; and, as of this date, they have approximately 800 signed up for the event. The 800 represent 35 states and 3 countries. The course will be open for 8 hours which will allow them to have walkers. They handle the marathon entirely with volunteers. They have a budget of \$100,000 which is used to pay the various expenses which go with the operating of a marathon.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 29

OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD AT BLANK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DR. RIZWAN SHAH'S REGIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CENTER

PROGRAM: Today's program will be Dr. Rizwan Shah and a tour of Dr. Shah's Regional Child Protection Center. Program Presenter Steve Scott will introduce our program.

ASSIGNMENTS: Invocation will be given by Ken Hayes. Guest Introductions will be made by Ober Anderson. Our Bulletin Reporter is Ken Hayes.

July 6

OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL FORT DES MOINES

PROGRAM: Today's program will be John Pettit, President of the "Iowa Stars" Hockey Team. Program Presenter Al Knudsen will introduce our speaker.

ASSIGNMENTS: Music will be led by Bill Keck. Invocation will be given by Dave Turnbull. Guest Introductions will be made by Al Bjork. Greeters will be Gene Hiskey and Paul Strayer. Our Bulletin Reporter is Dave Strief.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

July Birthdays

John Kuhn,
July 20;
Greg Wilson,
July 28

- 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 Mtg, Iowa Lutheran Hospital Private Dining Room, 11:45 am
- July 2-6 Kiwanis International Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii
- July 7-12 Ne-Ia District Governor's Add-on Trip to Maui
- 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 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 22 "Christmas in July" bell ringing for Salvation Army at Dahl's on 35th, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., both doors. Volunteers needed in two-hour shifts. Contact Wes Greve for further details.
- July 27 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker is from "The Heart Connection" about their children's cancer programs. Program arranged by Al Knudsen.
- August 3 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speakers are Bob Mitchell and Jan Burch, our delegates presenting on the 2005 Kiwanis International Convention. Program arranged by Irene Hegedus-Tarcynski.
- August 5 Monthly Board Mtg, Iowa Lutheran Hospital Private Dining Room, 11:45 a.m.
- August 10 Regular meeting: Hotel Ft. Des Moines, 11:45 a.m. Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Irene Hegedus-Tarcynski.
- 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
- September 19 Division 16 & 13 Council meeting, West Des Moines Public Library, 7– 8 p.m.

June 22th Meeting

Update on Homes of Oakridge

Dave Strief, Reporter

The Des Moines School Board is hoping to close down several elementary schools including Edmunds School. This is adjacent to Homes of Oakridge. "Can you image the difficulty for our Homes of Oakridge children?" asked Tere Caldwell-Johnson, CEO of Homes of Oakridge. "70% of Edmunds students reside in Homes of Oakridge. All of them will be bused elsewhere."

Tere Caldwell-Johnson was a returning guest speaker to our club. She addressed us many years ago as Polk County Manager, a job from which she retired to become CEO of Homes of Oakridge.

Homes of Oakridge opened in June 1970 to serve low income housing needs. It sits on 17 mortgaged acres north of Iowa Methodist Medical Center. The 35 year old facility requires expensive repair. Someday, Tere told us, the facility may be sold and moved to multiple locations scattered throughout the Des Moines area, a strategy becoming more common and more easily managed in other large cities. Today the site is occupied by 800 people in 300 units, a population larger than 64% of rural Iowa towns. 95% of the residents are below federal poverty level. The site was frequently the scene of crime and violence until recently when Tere began to operate the facility as a business and began providing "services" to residents to help them move



Tere Caldwell-Johnson

from dependence to a self-sustaining livelihood. Tere thinks of the residents as her bosses and encourages them to help establish policy and procedures.

Do you have old furniture, clothing and household items you wish to dispose? Donate them to the Homes of Oakridge. Tere will see to it that your donation is distributed appropriately among the needy residents.

Joergers honored by Catholic Charities

We reported in our last issue that 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 for their many years of providing foster care for Iowa's 100 children! Would you believe they've fostered more than 100 children?

Now they've been recognized by a beautiful article in the June 21st Des Moines REGISTER. So here are a few more details...

Gene and Marilyn have been foster parents to more than 130 babies spanning nearly 30 years for Catholic Charities' adoption program and the Iowa Department of Human Services.

They took in mainly babies and toddlers for only a few weeks at a time. On rare occasion, they would stay as long as a year. One child was with them for three years. After the children left, the Joergers often wondered and worried about how they turned out. Every once in a while, a graduation card would arrive in the mail from a baby of long ago, and they could be satisfied. She worked with dozens of babies and rarely got pats on the back, or even the satisfaction of knowing where and how those children lived. They still would be diapering and feeding little ones, but complications after a December back surgery left Marilyn blind.

Apparently, Marilyn's back had given her trouble for years. She finally decided to fix it with a major surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, last December. The surgery lasted 11 1/2 hours. Her back turned out fine but her optic nerve had been damaged, a rare complication of a long surgery.

So Catholic Charities decided that Gene and Marilyn should be recognized for all the babies they had nurtured over the years. Marilyn thought she was going to the ballpark to pick up a plaque and perhaps eat a hot dog! Little did they know that the plaque would be presented in front of nearly 10,000 spectators near home plate that evening. "What makes them stand out is they put the babies' needs before anything else," said Wendy Solawetz, adoption counselor at Catholic Charities.



Marilyn & Gene Joerger with Bishop Joseph Charron of The Des Moines Diocese at Catholic Charities Night at Principal Park on June 3, 2005. Des Moines Register Photo reprinted with permission

Meet Karen Jackson

By Ken Hayes, Reporter

Even though it has been several years since living there, Karen considers Chicago as her home town. Before moving to Des Moines three years ago, she lived at Galesburg, Illinois. She attended college at the University of Illinois.

Karen is the Community Relations Manager for MO-SAIC which is a social service agency. In her position she is involved in fund raising and in making speeches as she did at our club before joining.

She and her family now live at Polk City. Her husband Rick is employed at Maytag in Newton. Karen is quite active in volunteer work through DOVIA and through her Lutheran church. As to special interests, she enjoys skiing, working in the garden and in exercise programs. She indicates that she was drawn to our club because we seemed to be a group very much involved in volunteer work.



A Snapshot of May 2005

Meeting Dates	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Guests & Hosts	Senior Honors Day featuring 13 top honors students from area high schools and 14-16 beaming parents.	Paul Anger, Des Moines REGISTER, guest of Tom Cooper	Hiatt Middle School Builders Club Members & Principal Toni Daan Campship Rcipients: Campfire Girls & Boys: DD Gass; Camp Hertko: Dr. Hertko; Mid Iowa Boy Scouts: Ted Olsen Moingona Girl Scouts: Wanda Armstrong; Easter Seals: Nancy Bobo	Habitat for Humanity, Lance Henning, guest of Marty Kenworthy Campship Recipients: Target Alliance: Cheryl Bushby; Camp Hantesa: Suz Welch;
Attendance Today	37	33	31	35
Member Concerns	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson	Sue Twit & son Ober Anderson
New Members & Sponsors			Karen Jackson/Jan Burch	
Member Resignations	0			0
Total Active, Privileged & Senior Members	62			63

Board Nominates Al Knudsen

By Ron Heggen, President

Each year, the Nebraska-Iowa District of Kiwanis International recognizes an outstanding community volunteer through its Layperson of the Year Award. Kiwanians worldwide strive to accomplish the first two Objects of Kiwanis by giving a great deal of their time, energy, and income to foster the spiritual side of our society. As a result, their houses of worship and agencies become more vibrant and effective. The purpose of this award is to recognize those who have made significant personal and professional contributions (time and/or money) to their communities, particularly in relation to children. It is also to inform others in the District of significant contributions made by those involved in their communities and increase the awareness of the impact that such people have in the lives of those living in their community. All Kiwanis clubs in the Nebraska-Iowa District were encouraged to select and honor a member of their respective club 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 people served.

Last year, our Downtown Club and our Division 16 were honored that another of our members, John Kuhn, was selected for this most prestigious award.

I am pleased to announce that your Board of Directors has nominated Allan Knudsen for this most prestigious award for 2005.

Al has been a member of the Des Moines (Downtown) club since 1992. In his 13 years, he has served with distinction in many, many roles, culminating as President in 1998-99. He has eight years of perfect attendance. He is extremely self-effacing and, like John, we had to dig to get him to give us this information!

His service to kids and the community through Kiwanis alone would make one tired! He has served on our board of directors for six years including his year as president. He has served as our Kiwanis advisory liaison to our Lincoln High School Key Club for ten years. This Key Club is extremely active, sponsoring the school's annual Valentine's Dance, conducting car washes, shopping trips for needy moms, etc. He is always available to help cook and serve meals at the Churches United Homeless Shelter in downtown Des Moines. He volunteers his time for Red Barrel Food Pantry Awareness Days at our local grocery stores, takes needy moms on our annual Christmas shopping excursion, and rings bells every year (both December and July) for the Salvation Army. He is a regular reader for ESL kindergartners at Greenwood Elementary School and also reads at the Downtown School. He sells program ads for our annual Basketball Jamboree and contributes significantly to the \$20,000 that is typically raised each year in total ad sales income and volunteers the full day, working with referees, locker rooms, or the concession stands (whatever is needed). He helps with various Kiwanis golf fundraisers and is chair of the golf event at this year's Nebraska-Iowa District Convention in West Des Moines. He's a weekly reporter for our Newsletter, a meeting greeter, and is program chair for July.

When Al wasn't prodding us to support one of the Lincoln



Al Knudsen

Key Club projects, he was urging us to help sell peanuts at the summer Nitefall on the River concerts in downtown Des Moines or a Drake Relays Parade.

And that's just his Kiwanis-related work!

Al Knudsen is "Mr. Make-a-Wish" in Des Moines. For over 12 years, he has served as a wish granter for the Des Moines Chapter. He trains new volunteers to ensure that these special kids get the magical experience of their lifetimes. He has chaired the Chapter's golf benefit for 11 years straight. He spearheaded the first drive-through Jolly Holiday Lights show in 1994 at Water Works Park and has served on its steering committee ever since. Through his efforts, the Iowa Chapter has raised over \$2 million to help fund nearly 350 wishes for Iowa children.

Somehow he manages to also have a full-time job, that of Vice President and Trust Officer of Iowa State Bank, Des Moines. As a trust officer at a Des Moines bank that truly believes in and supports community service, Al is the epitome of service. Whether it's the "Shoes That Fit" program for needy elementary school children, neighborhood clean-up days, serving water to Des Moines Marathon runners, or dry walling a house for Habitat for Humanity, Al will be there. He models this behavior daily and thereby encourages other bank employees to get involved, too.

In 2002, he participated in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Man of the Year Fundraising Event, raising over \$10,000 with golf-a-thon and other fundraising events! Would you believe he came in second?

He's a 2001-02 graduate of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute and is active in the Iowa Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, Iowa Trust Association, and the Mid-Iowa Estate and Financial Planners.

The recipient of the Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis Layperson of the Year Award will be presented at the District Convention in West Des Moines on August 20th. Please join me in congratulating OUR Layperson of the Year nominee. We hope that Division 16 and, ultimately, the Nebraska-Iowa District will recognize Al for his undying commitments to our community as well. He is an outstanding nominee!

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Did you know that...

- 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.
- 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.
- Congratulations to **Don & Doris Wiebold** who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 25th!
- Your help is needed! We'll be ringing the Salvation Army Bells for "Christmas in July" on Friday, July 22. Volunteer for a two-hour shift at the Dahl's store on 35th & Ingersoll Avenue. Contact **Wes Greve** before he contacts you!
- President-elect **Chris Williams** is in Africa previewing the eventual setup of a hospital for his employer, Mercy Medical Centers. More details will follow...

Kiwanis Night at the Iowa Cubs ...

Take me out to the ball game...an Iowa Cubs ball game at Principal Park on Sec Taylor Field!

Yes, we're planning our second annual Kiwanis Night at the ballpark on Monday, August 8th.

Game time is 7:05 pm versus Las Vegas. We'll have group seating on the third base line.

Sign up early to guarantee your spot. Guests, families, and grandchildren are welcome. Get your tickets now! Tickets are \$5.50 each. Food and drink will be available at any of the concession stands—so bring money!

See the Kiwanis name up in lights. Hear us mentioned by the announcer. And preliminary plans include our own Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens singing our National Anthem! Who knows? Perhaps past president Dave Turnball will again be throwing out the first pitch? More details to follow...

Contact Jan Burch at 457-7691 or BurchHR@aol.com to reserve your seats. Reservations are due by July 31. We had over 70 attend last year—let's make it 100 this year!



Kiwanis of Des Moines, IA

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