



Des Moines Kiwanis Newsletter

Nebraska-Iowa District Newsletter
Sweepstakes Winner, 2004-05

Home Club of Past
International President
Stephen Siemens

Wks of Dec 19, 26, '07 & Jan. 2, 08

www.downtowndesmoineskiwanis.org



***Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for
a Safe and Prosperous New Year!
From your 2007-08 Board of Directors***

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UPCOMING MEETINGS
*11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m., in-
Play, 615 Third Street,
Downtown Des Moines*

**Dec 19—MEMBERSHIP
GROWTH, Steve Siemens
facilitating**

Assignments include:

Program Facilitators: Steve Siemens
& Bob Mitchell

Invocation: John Mechem

Greeters: Tim Rabenberg & Mike
Lacey

Reporter: Melinda Berte

Set-up & Take-down: Michelle Wall &
Ron Heggen

Photographer: Jim Underwood

Song Leader: Bill Keck

**Dec 26 —Roundtable Dis-
cussions & Committee
Meetings**

Assignments include:

Podium: Jan Burch

Invocation: Melinda Berte

Song Leader: Carol Burt

Greeters: Keith Petrie & Paul
Strayer

Set up: Ober Anderson

Photographer: Bob Mitchell

Reporter: Melinda Berte

**Jan 2—Roundtable Discus-
sions & Committee Meet-
ings**

Assignments include:

Podium: Jan Burch

Invocation: Paul Strayer

Set-up: Leland Long

Greeters: Sam Gelb & Vicky Fores-
man

Song Leader: Carol Burt

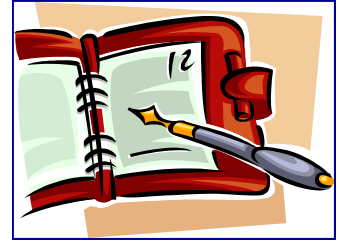
Photographer: Bob Mitchell

Reporter: Dave Turnball



OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Updated December 16, 2007



Join Us at inPlay/Forte Conference Center 615 Third Street, Downtown Des Moines

- Dec. 19 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., inPlay, 615 – 3rd Street--**40 in 90' Membership Growth Meeting.** Program arranged by Steve Siemens. Bring guests/prospective members.
- Volunteer Night at Jolly Holiday Lights, Des Moines Water Works Park. Contact Al Knudsen to volunteer.
- Dec. 25 **Merry Christmas!**
- Dec. 26 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., inPlay, 615 – 3rd Street. No formal speaker--Roundtable discussions about Miracle League progress and various committee meetings.
- Happy Kwanza!**
- Dec. 27 Miracle League Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Iowa State Bank Conference Room, 128th & Hickman Road. Al Knudsen, host.
- Jan. 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- Jan. 2 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., inPlay, 615 – 3rd Street. No formal speaker. Roundtable discussions about Miracle League progress and various committee meetings.
- Jan. 4 **Basketball Jamboree Committee Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., Private Dining Room, Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Sam Gelb, chair, presiding.
- Jan. 9 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., inPlay, 615 – 3rd Street. Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Steve Scott.
- Jan. 11 Iowa Cubs FanFest, 11:30, Hy-Vee Hall. Tickets are \$30@. Contact Ed Linebach for reservations. We will be having our first public communication of the Miracle League with exhibit tables, flyers, video. Plan to volunteer!
- Jan. 16 **Regular Meeting:** ELL Reading to Greenwood Elementary School kindergartners, school library, 316-37th Street, Des Moines, or Roundtable at Downtown Holiday Inn, Sixth Avenue.
- Jan. 18 **Monthly Board Meeting,** 11:45 a.m., Iowa Lutheran Hospital private dining room. Jan Burch, president, presiding. NOTE NEW DATE.
- Jan. 23 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., inPlay, 615 – 3rd Street. Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Steve Scott.
- Feb. 1 **Basketball Jamboree Committee Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., Private Dining Room, Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Sam Gelb, chair, presiding.
- Feb. 8 **Monthly Board Meeting,** 11:45 a.m., Iowa Lutheran Hospital private dining room. Jan Burch, president, presiding.
- Feb. 26 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., inPlay, 615 – 3rd Street. This is our annual Basketball Jamboree Appreciation Luncheon. Speaker TBD.

NOTE: *Want to help fight world hunger? You can volunteer a couple hours of your time any Saturday morning, 10:00 a.m.—noon, Holmes Honda, off Hickman Road, Urbandale. Help pack food for Kids Against Hunger. See www.kidsagainsthungerdm.org for details.*



December Birthdays

- 12/1—Michelle Wall & Craig Wierson
17—Irene Hegedus-Tarczynski
19—Don Wiebold
22—Ed Linebach





DMU EXCELS UNDER GOVERNOR BRANSTAD'S LEADERSHIP

By Ken Hayes, Chief of Reporters

Our President, **Jan Burch**, presided at our November 14th meeting. **Dave Turnball** led the singing and **Ober Anderson** gave the invocation. **Tina Potthoff** reported on the publicity we have received for this year's Basketball Jamboree—several TV interviews, radio talk shows, etc. Jan said that the club has ordered 50 shirts embroidered with the new BB logo and that they will be available for purchase at \$28 per shirt. **Steve Siemens** reported on membership and stressed that getting new members is as simple as “asking them.” The 28th of November and the 19th of December are dates designated for membership. **Carol Stone** reported that contributions to United Way could now be designated for the Miracle League through the Donor Choice Option.

Jim Underwood indicated that our Holiday Party would be a progressive dinner on December 16th. A sign-up sheet for the dinner will be available next week. **Al Knudsen** reported that the date of December 19th is our club's date for working Jolly Holiday Lights. And **Al Bjork** reports that our date for Salvation Army bell ringing at Merle Hay is December 13th. **Ron Heggen** won the drawing.

Darcy Otis introduced our speaker, **Governor Terry Branstad**. In introducing Governor Branstad, Darcy told us of the Governor's long public service and that he was Iowa's longest serving Governor. He is now President of Des Moines University. Governor Branstad told us of the history of the University going back to 1898 when it was opened as Still College. It is the second oldest osteopathic college in the U.S. Its present location on Grand Avenue dates to 1972. He became President of the University in 2003. He described the new buildings and programs at DMU, including the simulator, which will allow instructors to simulate various body functions and ailments. He said he would be glad to lead a tour for our club of the University and to view the simulator. There are 150 medical schools (D.O. and M.D.) in the U.S. and Des Moines University is the 15th largest. They do not have dormitories, a hospital, or athletic teams--which makes his job easier. Because of the high expense to attend a medical college, they have a program to raise money to give assistance to their students. There are eight podiatric schools in the U.S., and Des Moines has the highest passing grade in the U.S. The most recent graduating class totaled 47 students, and they all passed their board examinations. 95 of Iowa's 99 counties have doctors who trained at Des Moines University. They do not have acupuncture. 60% of their alumni are involved in family medicine. Their D.O. graduates are “fully licensed” as a doctor in all 50 states.

Thanks to **Darcy Otis** for arranging this program. Governor Branstad has spoken to us periodically over the years on many topics—and it was good to have an update from him again.



Left, Jan Burch, president, chats with Gov. Branstad and program chair, Darcy Otis.



Right, long time member, Lu Dooley, has a question for the governor.



CLUB HAPPENINGS

- Congratulations on the marriage of one of our newer members, **Zora Ilic**, to Chris Burch. They were married in Chicago on November 17. If the groom's name sounds familiar, Chris is the son and stepson of **Jan Burch and Bob Mitchell**.
- Our heartfelt condolences to **Jan Burch and Bob Mitchell** at the December 13th death of her father, Harold Heick, 82.
- And also special condolences to **Mike and Karon Lacey** at the December 9th death of her father, Kenneth Thompson, 86.
- According to **Mary Lou Garcia and Tina Potthoff**, the April 2008 Key Leader Retreat will be moved from Camp Hantesa, Boone, to Wildwood Hills Ranch, St. Charles. Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 4-6, as we will no doubt be called into service. Due to our missing the November registration date, we will be sponsoring EIGHT Lincoln Key Clubbers at this event.
- Our "secret Santa" will be making the rounds at Blank Children's Hospital, Mercy Pediatric Center, and Ronald McDonald House this holiday season. Our club has generously donated \$1,000 to buy toys for Santa and his elves. Donations are still being accepted. Please contact Ed Linebach.
- Each year, our club makes a donation of \$5 per member to the Kiwanis International Foundation and the Nebraska-Iowa District Foundation. \$290 has been donated to each of the two foundations from our club.
- Member concerns:
 - **Bob Mitchell**, who is recovering nicely from back surgery on December 12th.
 - Division 13 Lt. Governor, Jane Lowe, is Recuperating at home in Creston following Extensive heart surgery.
- **Continue to save your** aluminum can pop tabs (for Ronald McDonald House), Box Tops for Education from Pillsbury products, Kleenex and cereal boxes (for elementary schools), and empty printer cartridges (for the Heart Connection camp). Aluminum pop-tops raised over \$40,000 last year—money that Ronald McDonald Charities used for local community grant requests. Pick up a Ronald McDonald "house" for your home and company break room—makes collection of the pop tabs real easy! You CAN make a difference...
- Many thanks to **Bob Mitchell and Jan Burch's son-in-law, Brian Keairns**, for "volunteering" to design our Basketball Jamboree web site. It's colorful, informative, and helpful to Internet visitors. Go to www.kiwanisbbjamboree.com and explore it for yourself. One could have purchased tickets to the Jamboree, sign up to volunteer at the event, or even make a contribution! And contributions can be made to the Jamboree at any time of the year.
- Our Miracle League will soon have an active web site. It's new address is www.miracleleagueofdmkiwanis.org.
- Watch for details about our newest members, **Amy Cherkas, Scott Pierce, Fred Breen, and Wes Grieve**, in the next issue of this newsletter!
- Your help is truly needed to be involved with our newsletter. **Ed Linebach, Darcy Otis, and Tina Potthoff** have formed a committee to study the future of our club newsletter. Watch for a special survey about our Newsletter!
- Many thanks to our Holiday Progressive Dinner hosts:
 - **Melinda & Dan Berte** for appetizers;
 - **Jan Burch & Bob Mitchell** for the main course;
 - **Tamara & Marty Kenworthy** for the dessert; and
 - Michelle Wall for arranging the "party bus"

We understand that "a good time was had by all".

Kiwanians DO Make a Difference...



MEET NEW MEMBER VICKY FORESMAN

BY KEN HAYES, CHIEF OF REPORTERS



One of our newest members is Vicky Foresman. She is Executive Director of the South Suburban YMCA. She has been employed by the YMCA since 1993. Her hometown is Audubon, Iowa where she graduated from High School. She attended college at the University of Northern Iowa. Her mentors for joining our club are Sam Gelb and Bill Keck. Vicky has interest in Kiwanis because of our youth-service activities, which are extremely important to her. Her hobbies include sports, outdoor activities and the theater. Welcome, Kristin!



*Every child deserves
the chance to play
baseball.*

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27,
7:30 a.m., Iowa State Bank,
129th & Hickman, West Des Moines**

**SITE SELECTION: WE'RE NOW CERTAIN
THAT THE SITE FOR OUR MIRACLE LEAGUE
FIELD WILL BE DOWNTOWN ADJACENT TO
PRINCIPAL PARK.**

**FUND RAISING: COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRO-
VIDED DOWNTOWN MEMBERS WITH A
NUMBER OF WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE FINAN-
CIALLY TO OUR FIELD. IF YOU MISSED THE
MEETING ON THE 21st, A COMMITTEE MEM-
BER WILL BE CONTACTING YOU. THEY ARE
ALSO BUSY CONTACTING ALL AREA KI-
WANIS CLUBS FOR DONATIONS.**

"The Miracle League" is a charitable organization that provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league. There is something about playing the game of baseball that lights up youngsters' eyes, but for children facing mental and physical challenges, that opportunity can often be a difficult first step."



**Home Club of Past International
President Stephen Siemens**

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MY Kiwanis Moments...

Knowing that the 60th Annual Kiwanis Basketball Jamboree was November 17, I am reminded of some of my most memorable moments while I was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club. Those moments were, of course, the challenges of fundraising for the Jamborees. Early in my club membership, I came to realize that the annual Jamborees exemplified the purposes of Kiwanis.

Because the event involves young people and is organized to generate funds for programs benefiting young people, it is unique among projects conducted by civic clubs.

Since moving to Southern California in 1999, I have had the opportunity to become well acquainted with the Oktoberfest conducted by the Rotary Clubs of Carlsbad and the Pancake Breakfast conducted by the Lake San Marcos Kiwanis Club (of which I am a member). Both events are well organized, but neither involves young people to a high degree nor generates the enthusiasm or the funds equal to the Downtown Kiwanis Basketball Jamboree.

You can take great pride in the success of the Jamboree. Good luck in 2007 and in the years to come.

Keep selling tickets and advertisements! And make some Kiwanis Moments of your own!

George Burmeister.

President, 1994-1995

