

Ames Golden K Kiwanis Early History 1985 to 1988

The day was September 5th, 1985 that the Town and Country Club's New Club Program Committee made up of George Engstrom, Paul Larson, Paul Brackelsberg, Don Beitz and Arl Hays called a meeting in the public library to organize the Ames Golden K Kiwanis Club.

Prospective members had been called to determine the possibility of the formation of a club. In attendance were eight prospective members. Of this number, there were four that indicated an interest in a club. The four were, Marvin Gould, Raymond Stoaks, Doyle Kelso and Alvie Sarchett.

The second meeting, which was held in the Bethesda Lutheran Church had the four previously interested individuals plus three others in attendance. At the September 19th meeting only two individuals showed up. However, Paul and George did not give up. In fact they worked all the harder and called everyone that had been in attendance plus others. The calls paid off because the original four plus Vern Millard, Woody Buck and several others.

October 3rd two new members came along with the six that had already indicated an interest. Eight members paid their dues with the understanding that if the club did not materialize, the money would be refunded. The two additional members were George Summers and Ben Bergeson.

October 10th the club had to move again to the community room at the Midland Savings Bank at which time Harold paid his dues making a total of nine members.

October 17th the club moved again to the north room of Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church with all nine members present. October 24th Walt Miller and Al Martin joined. October 17th, 24th, 31st, Nov 7th and Nov 14th, seven members were present. Members got busy and on the 21st all eleven members were present plus one visitor. Two new members were Roy Lebo and Ray Taylor. From that point onward everything was go.

When January 30th rolled around, 15 members were present with dues paid. The four new members were Bernie Sills, Charles Callahan, Fred Maxwell and Stan Bruce. Only ten more members and the club could have a CHARTER.

Early in March, the membership had grown to twenty. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that by May the membership would be at least twenty five. A committee composed of members from the sponsoring club and the new club met at the Memorial Union to plan for the Charter Program in May.

During this time of growth from September 5th to the presentation, the sponsoring club furnished the programs and conducted the meetings.

Thanks to the many members of the Town and Country club and others for their service in giving members good programs that helped to recruit additional members to meet the 25

members necessary to have a charter. Note: See the roster of charter names for the individuals that joined after January 30th to May 8th 1986.

May 8th, 1986
Charter Presentation

It was a great night with 120 persons attending at a banquet held at the Starlite. Twenty five of our twenty eight members were able to attend with twenty four "Kweens". Members from the Town and Country club were 16, Ames Kiwanis 19, Marshalltown 10, Nevada 2, Spencer 5, Spirit Lake 2, Ankeny Golden K 17. Governor Louie Hansen presented the Charter, Lt Governor Allen Ropp served as toastmaster, acceptance of the Charter Certificate, Ray Callahan and George Engstrom.

Officers for the balance of the year for the Ames Golden K Kiwanis were as follows: President – Marvin Gould, President Elect – Alvie Sarchett, Vice President – Vern Millard, Secretary – Donald McKeown, Treasurer – Bernie Sills, Board of Directors – Raymond Stoaks, George Summers, Ronald Moses, Don Erickson, Milton Larkin, Howard Webb Alternate.

Other dignitaries that took part in the program were Carl Hayes - Past governor, Bernard Smith – District Secretary, Roger Lawrence – Governor Elect for the Nebraska- Iowa District, and Paul Larson – Immediate Past Lt Governor.

The Town and Country Club continued to provide the programs for the Golden K Club until after the new year, October 1, 1986. It also should be noted that the sponsoring club paid the initial \$121.90 Charter fee. Thank You!

At the close of the year October 1, 1986, the club elected to have all present officers and directors be appointed to serve a full year from October 1, 1986 to October 1 1987.

Being a new club, activity in the form of service to youth, church and community was limited due to a lack of funds and the community not cognizant that the new Golden K Club was functioning. Early in the spring of 1987, activity was taking place. During this time, however, the programs and fellowship among members was wonderful.

The clubs first major service took place in April of 1987 when Daffodil Days took place to aid cancer research. Willard Grabau served as chairman for the drive and did a superb job in the organization and carrying out of the details. The club members spent 135 hours selling and distributing daffodil. A total of \$1,013.55 was turned over to the Cancer society for research.

The Town and Country Club asked the club if we wished to participate in the plant sale. Many man hours were spent that helped us to receive a check of \$171.75 for our efforts.

One of the aims of Kiwanis is service to youth, adults, church and the community. The first contribution on record of \$300 was given to the Roosevelt playground project for construction purposes.

Many man hours of labor in the spring and summer were devoted to various community project. One of which was stuffing envelops for the money drive by the Roosevelt Playground Committee. Additional hours were spent by members helping to build the playground facility. Other services included Walk-a-thon crossing guards, First Methodist Church storage building, Iowa Games and painting and improving the buildings at the athletic field at Ames High.

The installation of officers was held at the Bonanza restaurant on September 26, 1987 at 11:30 with President Marvin Gould presiding. A total of 60 including "Kweens" were in attendance.

Late in 87, the club gave \$300 to the Boy's Club of Ames. Another \$300 was contributed to the Youth Orchestra. Another youth organization received \$300 but did not specify the name.

In November of 87 a check of \$47.20 was received from the Ames Kiwanis for our participation in Pancake Days. The clubs financial report on November 5th listed \$334.57 for project funds and \$702.87 for the administrative account.

The club's first Christmas Dinner was held at 11:30 December 22 with "Kweens" in attendance at the Bonanza Restaurant.

No doubt, some important historical events took place that are not recorded between September 5th 1985 and January 1, 1988. Much information was received from George Engstrom, Paul Larson, Herb Taylor, our present secretary and John Moody or present treasurer.

April 22, 1994
Alvie M. Sarchett

SYNOPSIS OF GOLDEN K KIWANIS CLUB
1988 -1993
Don McKeown

1988-89	President - Vern Millard
1989-90	President - Merle Core
1990-91	President - Donald McKeown
1991-92	President - Ron Moses
1992-93	President - Gerald Sielert
1993-94	President - Burr McFarland

From 1988 thru 1994 the membership has climbed from 40 to 50 members even though at least 6 members passed away.

One of the club's main efforts has been "Children #1" a National Kiwanis effort. The club has donated money for books to be used in schools. The club contributed to the welfare programs of various sorts and encouraged youth by sponsoring summer camp for a few students each year.

The efforts of all the club members in sharing their valuable expertise with the community is a wonderful gesture. Our only limitations seem to be the natural infirmities attendant to older age.

COMMUNITY COLUMN

Kiwanis club turns 20 years old

By **DENNIS KEENEY**
Contributing Writer

I have a favorite cartoon of a little girl asking her dad if Kiwanis means "pancakes"! To many in Ames, the annual Kiwanis Pancake Day is their defining moment of Kiwanis, the ambiance of the downtown First Methodist Church, the happy jesting of the Kiwanians, and the anticipation of those in line for good old pancakes and sausage. The pancake feed provides a significant part of the funds we return to the community, although each club also has its special fundraisers.

Ames has three Kiwanis clubs, and I have belonged to all three at one time or another. In fact, I have been a Kiwanian since first joining in Middleton, Wis., in 1969. It has been a part of my life. The oldest of the three is the Noon Kiwanis. The Town and Country Kiwanis meets Saturday for breakfast and the Golden K (for active retirees) meets Thursday mid-morning. I have graduated to the Golden K. Kiwanis also supports active student chapters at Ames High School and Iowa State University.

This month the Golden K turns 20. Not quite of age, but a significant time to exist and flourish. The club will celebrate its anniversary May 18, at their meeting place, the First Methodist Church.

Kiwanis began in 1914 in Detroit as a private organization that provided fellowship and insurance features. It was to be a fraternal organization for young businessmen. First called Benevolent Order of Brothers the members quickly changed their name to NunKeewan-is, an Indian phrase loosely translated as "We have a good time - we make noise." By 1915, the club went public, expanded their membership and sponsored a club in Cleveland. But more importantly, they changed their mission to "We Build" and began a service to youth that continues to this day.

Now Kiwanis International, has more than 8,400 clubs in 96 nations. Their slogan is "Serving the Children of the World." A major worldwide goal is to wipe out iodine deficiency disorders in the developing countries. Each club has projects aimed at local needs.

The Town and Country Club organized the Golden K

Kiwanis and by May 8, 1986, there were more than 25 members, which allowed the club to have a charter. The Town and Country Kiwanis Club acted as the sponsor until the club was functioning. During April 1987, the Golden K had its first service activity, selling daffodils and raising more than \$1,000 for the Cancer Society. They first participated in the pancake days in 1987. It has grown to about 90 members and more are added each year.

The Golden K is a very active group. Its weekly meetings include good old-fashioned fellowship and educational programs. Gene Pollmann provided me with a summary of our most important service projects. They include: Stash the Trash Day at Brookside Park, Adopt a Road trash removal, City Park Playground inspections and repairs, the Native American Overlook at Ada Hayden Park (organized by the Noon Kiwanians, especially Barbara Gurganus), volunteering at the Arrow Boy Scout Jamboree (2004) and the Iowa Special Olympics (2005 and upcoming 2006), the 2006 Odyssey of the Minds Conference and of course the Special Olympics

National Games. Add to this the Pancake Days, also coordinated by the Noon Kiwanis, activities at the Heartland Senior Center and individual unsung hero activities and it is easy to see that being a Kiwanian isn't something we take lightly.

Treasurer Levrene Seversike reports that we return \$5,000 to \$6,000 to the community each year helping to support the programs of groups such as Youth and Shelter Services, Ames and Bethesda Food Pantries, MICA, Access, Good Neighbor Assistance Program, Faces and Wilson-Beardshear.

President Fred Walker comments proudly that our Golden K'ers are the most dedicated group of people he knows. Merl Core, one of the charter members said, "The Golden K has, over the years, given me purpose, outstanding continuing education, fellowship and valued new friends."

The community is richer by far by the activities of all of the service clubs. I am biased, of course, but I think Kiwanis is the most enriching of all.