

# THE NORTH STAR

## OCTOBER 2007

**GRAND RAPIDS NORTH KIWANIS  
MEETS TUESDAYS, 12:05 P.M. AT THE RADISSON  
ANN ST. AND U.S. 131 NW**

**FIND US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.KIWANISGRANDRAPIDS.ORG](http://WWW.KIWANISGRANDRAPIDS.ORG)**

It has been a great pleasure being the president of North Kiwanis. I never would have imagined that what started as going to this thing called "Kiwanis" with my dad years ago as a guest, would bring me the opportunity of leading this fine group of men and women this past year.

History will tell of how during my presidency I brought back dessert to our lunches. Like any great leader, I realize these accolades do not belong to me alone; they belong to each and every North Kiwanian. For if it wasn't for each one of you, I would be eating a single chocolate chip cookie brought out to me on a small plate each week. With you, however, stacks of cookies come forth from the kitchen each week on a silver pedestal. It is all of you that make this possible.

I'd like to take a moment to again thank Wes for all he has done for our club and for his accepting the role as president elect (which unfortunately did not end in him becoming presidency due to his new out-of-town job). A sincere thank you to Linda for stepping into the presidency on short notice. We would have definitely voted her into this role eventually, but now we are fortunate to have her as our president sooner than later. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say that I am looking forward to having Linda in this role.

Sincerely,  
Mike

Pictured next is Division 14 Lt. Governor Dee Hudson with our officers for 2007-08, left to right; President Linda, Secretary John, Board Member Roger, V.P Travis, Treasurer Gordy and Lt. Gov. Dee.



To all The Kiwanis Club of Grand Rapids North members; thank you for your trust honoring me with the duties of your President for the 2007-2008 year. As many of you know I have a long history with the Kiwanis family dating back more than 25 years with my father. He served proudly as Distinguished Club President, Lieutenant Governor and Governor. 2007 marks the 20th

anniversary of women's membership into Kiwanis International. My mother became a member that year and I find it touching that I become the first female president of our club on this anniversary.

I served as Key Club President and Lieutenant Governor in High School. I proudly joined Kiwanis on the Day I graduated college. I have been a member of seven clubs across the country as my work took me from city to city. I've always found that as a stranger to a new town I could count on the Kiwanis Family to open their arms and hearts and instantly make me feel right at home.

I am proud to be a member of this group and the great history this club has dating back more than fifty years. I have seen new members follow me into this club but sadly I also have seen the passing of some members, not getting to know them as well as I would have liked. The loss of these dear friends has only strengthened my resolve to continue their good work and make this club even larger and stronger.

I know the clubs desire to go on doing the good work that has been done for so many years. With your wisdom, guidance and hard work we will grant that wish for you and those who are no longer with us.

Albert Einstein said, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

Sincerely,  
Linda

## **CLUB BUSINESS:**

We are working hard on several fronts. We have our first new member with and old member coming back as we welcome Rex Conley. President Linda, Bill Weitzel and Diana Darling are working diligently on membership. The plan is to establish our identity within a few miles of the Radisson. Linda and Bill attended a Creston Area business meeting last Thursday.

We are also working on new or better fundraising ideas. The foundation is limited to gifts to non-profit groups only. It is very important for us to have at least \$5k of club charity monies in order to not limit our giving. Immediate Past President Mike enlisted Terry Fenech and Terry has enlisted his geezer buddies. Past President Dan is also working on fundraising ideas.

## **BI RTHDAYS**

### **OCTOBER**

4 LON SWARTZENTRUBER  
7 TERRY HURT  
8 ED HERREMANS & MIKE KOELZER  
9 JOHN BIGARI  
13 REID MCCLELLAND & ROGER WILLIAMS  
22 TOM COOPER  
28 JERRY SWETT  
29 TERRY FENECH

### **NOVEMBER**

15 Frank Hobeke  
21 Roger Anderson

## **ANNI VESARI ES**

## OCTOBER

4 MELBA & BRUCE BOER

5 MARGARET & MIKE KOELZER

## NOVEMBER

6 Nancy & Bob Mills

7 Carol & Ken Scott

29 Barb & John Bigari

# Kicks –N– Grins!!

**Old age, I decided, is a gift:** I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body ... the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, and my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging. Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 am, and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love ... I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the bikini set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten and I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray (oops, not me) and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. I can say "no", and mean it. I can say "yes", and mean it.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong. So, to answer your question, I like being old.

It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day.

Today, I wish you a day of ordinary miracles.

Author unknown!