



# Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

## Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club  
[hastingskiwanis.org](http://hastingskiwanis.org)  
[myclub@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:myclub@hastingskiwanis.org)  
[facebook.com/hastingskiwanis](https://facebook.com/hastingskiwanis)

*"It doesn't make any cents, but volunteering is rewarding."  
~ Facebook – Vince the Sign Guy*

May 2024

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to  
[marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org) OR [Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org)



### Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ May

- Thur. 2 - Skip-A-Meal, **Tour New Justice Center** ~ meet at door on SE corner of bldg  
\$10 donation will go to Hearts & Hands Against Hunger
- Wed. 8 - Board Meeting, Pastime Lanes ~ All members welcome
- Thur. 9 - *Watch your email for information*
- Thur. 16 - *Watch your email for information*

**Thur. May 16 - HPRD Citywide Track Meet - 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. ~ SIGN UP NOW!**  
**Assist Hastings Parks & Rec Dept. with elementary track and field events, and provide concessions.**

Thur. 23 - Annual Meeting - Election of Officers & Board Members for 2024-2025

Proposed Roster:

President - Frank Koch

Immediate Past President - Michelle Musgrave

President-Elect - Elizabeth Musgrave

Vice President - Dr. Mike Johnson

Secretary - David Kempf

Treasurer - Jim Krebsbach

Board, 1-year Term: Russanne Hoff, Kathy Hohensee, George Howard, Taylor Musgrave

Board, 2-year Term: John Boltz, Brandon McDermott, Casey Mohler, Dale Musgrave

Thur. 30 - Skip-A-Meal, **Tour of YMCA** ~ \$10 donation will go to YMCA  
(they will provide seating if you wish to bring your own lunch)

**\*\*\* VOLUNTEER POSITIONS \*\*\***

If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can log into the website.

**Ongoing service projects include:**

- Hearts & Hands Against Hunger – dates and times TBA
- Meals on Wheels – every Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 2 routes, approx. 30-40 min.

**HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER**

PEACE Center, 622 N. Lincoln, South side  
(former Middle School manual arts bldg)

**\*\*Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time\*\***



**\*\*\* REGULAR MONDAY PACKING ~ 2 – 3:30 P.M. \*\*\***

**Wednesday, May 8 ~ HMS 7th Graders ~ 2 sessions**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.      12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**60 students, 4 adults each shift**

**Thursday, May 30 ~ Trinity Lutheran Jr & Sr High, Hildreth**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m. ~ 20-30 students & Adults**

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger, P O Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902-1293 \* 402-460-8627



**MEALS ON WHEELS – This is quick and easy!**  
**We have two (2) routes on Fridays for this service project.**  
**Two volunteers from Kiwanis are needed.**  
**Sign-up sheets are available at Thursday noon meetings**  
**or sign up on the website.**

Meals are picked up at 11:15 at the Senior Action office, 212 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (block east of the Post Office ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes. They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.

**May 3 – Marge Ormsby – Need 1**

**May 10 – Need 2**

**May 17 – Need 2**

**May 24 – Need 2**

**May 31 – George Howard – Need 1**

**Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify me by text or call if you cannot make it or will be late.    402-469-3296**

# ICYMI ~ April 2024

## April 4 – Pancake Day Recap – Jim Krebsbach



President Michelle presents Jim Krebsbach with an Appreciation certificate for making good on his promise to provide good weather.



Jim Heyen received the award for guessing the most correct Pancake Day stats ... what else? A stack of pancakes.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO DOUG EDWARDS FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF CO-CHAIRING THE PANCAKE COMMITTEE.**



Jim reported a smooth event this year. A new addition to the layout was having three handicap designated tables. Some did not realize that they did not have to wait through the line for their food, so signage will be added next year to let them know to shortcut straight to the head of the line.

Member sales as of today's meeting was \$17,488 involving 70 members ... up nearly \$1,600 from 2023. The highest member sales was \$21,250 in 2015 by 100 members. The next highest was in 2018.

There were about \$389 actual donations at the door. Total income so far stands at \$20,320 ... up \$1,465 from 2023. Net profit is close to \$13,400 (similar to last year).

Jim reported that the rent to the Fairgrounds for the past seven years has been \$400. It will go to \$500 for the next three years.

The biggest expense not sponsored is the sausage, \$1,500-2,000. It would be a big boost to the bottom line if we could come up with a full or partial sponsor. Keep this in mind as you go about your business ... before next year's event.

### THE STATS:

Number of patrons served:	1,733 (compared to 1,598 in 2023) ~ most were from 11-3:00
Number of credit card transactions:	5 (none last year)
Number of donors for supplies/ingredients:	7 ... with retail value of \$2,355
First to arrive on Tuesday morning (5-ish):	Doug Edwards and Jim Lewis (& Kasey Mintz with KSNB Local 4)
Number of Kiwanians that worked:	41 of 70 members, 59%
Member who traveled the farthest to work:	Jim Heyen ... was on grandchild duty in Lincoln, drove back to work his shift, then back to Lincoln
Number of non-Kiwanian workers:	10 + one Honorary, Dale Schultz
Number of sponsors:	26
Anniversary of this event in 2025:	73rd year
Amount of donations in the HHAH donation jar:	\$331

Amount of pancake flour used:	375 pounds
Number of gallons of orange and apple juice:	65 gallons
Number of burnt sausages consumed:	an untold number!
Number of gluten-free pancakes served:	16 (8 people) This was a special request prior to the event.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!	2025 – March 10-11
	2026 – March 9-10
	2027 – March 8-9

### **April 11 – History of the Hastings Regional Center 1889-2022, Dick Witt**

Dick has been with the Adams County Historical Society for over 40 years in various capacities. He borrowed today's slide presentation from Walt Miller, local NAD historian, who has also taken his research into the former Hastings Regional Center.

When getting involved with this project, Dick realized he had some family ties in generations past. As an attorney, he also served as guardian ad litem for several former residents, and was guardian for two. [A Guardian ad Litem is an individual appointed by the court to represent the best interests of a minor child, mentally incapacitated, or disabled person *in legal proceedings only*. A Guardian is any individual legally responsible for a minor child or mentally incapacitated adult ("ward"), *including their property and financial assets.*]

Historically, mentally ill people were separated from the general population and housed in asylums. The idea was that they would heal over time if they were away from others. In the 1800's one could be admitted for such things as domestic or financial trouble, disappointment in love, heredity, overwork, excessiveness, religious zeal, sun stroke, and others.

The "Hospital for the Incurably Insane" was opened in 1889 in Hastings with 44 patients transferred from Lincoln. Others soon arrived from Norfolk. The Legislature had provided \$75,000 for the facility if the city would donate 160 acres of land. The land was eventually increased to 630 acres.

The building was designed by Charles Rittenhouse, who also designed McCormick Hall on the Hastings College campus, the old courthouse, and the Farrell Building. North and South wings were added in 1891, and the North Annex in 1902. By this time the Legislature had changed its name to "Asylum for the Chronically Insane." An Amusement Hall was added in 1904, where both Kiwanis and Rotary clubs sponsored entertainment and dances. Over the next several years, a farm cottage and two greenhouses were built.

The name was again changed in 1905 to the "Nebraska State Hospital" and a post office established called Ingleside.

A dairy barn was added in 1914, which is now the location of the Prairie Loft Center. A herd of Holstein cows was milked every day. The farm provided food and meat, with the goal of making the hospital able to feed itself. They farmed with horses prior to 1930. There was

also an orchard. Part of the therapy for the "inmates" was doing the work for these operations.

The 1900 federal census reported 76 resident employees and 679 patients. At the 1910 census, resident employees were at 129 with 1,050 patients.

Another name change occurred in 1915 to "Ingleside Hospital for the Insane." The 1920 census showed 182 resident employees and 1,141 patients. By the 1940's the facility was self-sufficient with over 2,000 patients.

In the early 1920's, electro-shock treatments were introduced for treating of the mentally ill, followed by hydro-therapy and insulin shock therapy, among others. A medical surgical building was erected in 1926, and a psychiatric hospital in 1938 to accommodate shock treatments and lobotomies.

Psychiatric drugs were discovered in the 1950's, including tranquilizers, which would make the patients more controllable. They could then begin rehabilitation services such as occupational therapy, industrial therapy, religious therapy, psycho-therapy, etc. In 1963 the facility was re-organized into two sections – drug and alcohol treatment, and psychiatric treatment.

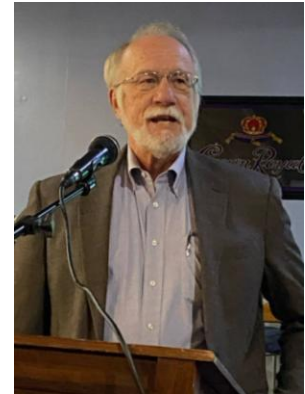
In 1956 an all-faiths chapel was built through donations by area church members.

Another name change was made along the way to "Hastings State Hospital" and finally to the "Hastings Regional Center" in 1971.

The biggest changes occurred with the passage of federal legislation called the Community Mental Health Act of 1963. It provided that state and local governments were to stop putting people in institutions and keep them in the community. Many went to families or group homes, but many just became homeless.

After that, the buildings were used for a youth development program, and a pre-school in 1983. The South end was converted to a minimum security prison in 1987. In 2020, it housed a youth treatment facility for female juvenile offenders. Six buildings were razed in 2020, with more in 2021 and 2022.

The only remaining portion of the original facility is the cemetery. The chapel is still there, but it is boarded



up. Burial records date back to 1909, with the last burial in 1956. Roughly 1,600 are buried there. Dick and others have been pushing to get names on the graves, which are only marked with patient identifying numbers. A lawsuit was filed "ACHS vs. Nancy Kinyoun," who was the last custodian of records. She was actually in favor

of releasing the names, but the state would not allow it. After a lengthy court battle, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that the names should be released to the Adams County Historical Society. They have tried to get the state to open up the cemetery, but there are currently security guards to prevent visitors.

### **April 18 – Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard, Colleen Donovan**



"Caring for Our Own" is the motto of the Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard. Its mission is "to honor and preserve the legacy of Nebraska nurses who have passed" with a personalized tribute. They have since begun to honor those in hospice aged 90

years or older so that they can receive the recognition of their dedicated service while still living.

The Nurse Honor Guard is a nationwide organization begun in Kansas in 2003, but only for nurses in Kansas. As nurses in other states caught wind of the ceremony, it began to spread. The Nebraska chapter was begun in 2019 around a kitchen table in Eastern Nebraska, and currently has 232 volunteer members in seven areas. Colleen is the leader for the Central Region that goes from the Kansas border to South Dakota. It is not affiliated with any hospital or school of nursing, and is a 501c3 organization.

As of August 2023, there were at least 250 chapters across the United States, with more starting as time goes on. Each group operates separately and ceremonies can differ slightly, but all contain similar details. The services in Nebraska are all the same. Colleen is planning to attend a national conference of Honor Guards to begin to formalize the ceremony and make it consistent throughout the country.

The short nursing tribute is offered by volunteers at the funeral or memorial service, free of charge. It is provided for RNs, LPNs, APRNs, and Doctors of Nursing Practice. The service includes recitation of the Florence



Nightingale Pledge, placing a white rose on the casket or urn signifying the nurse's devotion to the nursing profession, ringing of a triangle recognizing the nurse's strength and releasing them of their nurse duties, presentation of a nursing lamp of knowledge to a living representative of the deceased that symbolizes the nursing light that has burned throughout their life, and addition to the Virtual Nurse Honor Wall.

The group participates in community events, parades, Nebraskaland Days, etc. to get the word out about its service. Its website is [nebraskanursehonorguard.org](https://nebraskanursehonorguard.org). To add a nurse to the Virtual Honor Wall, click on the Nurse Honor Wall link. They have notified funeral directors of its existence and many officiants are aware. There is a form on the website to request a tribute.

This is a YouTube video of a ceremony for Susan Kvolts, an organ donor: [https://youtu.be/-7feO8unots?si=ZRsschD5XjmKp\\_NA](https://youtu.be/-7feO8unots?si=ZRsschD5XjmKp_NA) and another showing a tribute demonstration by the Nebraska Honor Guard: <https://youtu.be/TDIEc8aci6o?si=YwGdrxOlc8dAzqJ> (copy these to your browser or go to YouTube and search for Susan Kvolts or Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard.)

### **April 25 – Lions Sight Program, Val Hunt (with assist from Diana Timmons)**



Did you know the Lions Club does more with sight than just collect old glasses? Through its KidSight program, they use a specialty vision screening camera that they take to mostly pre-schools and elementary schools to test children's eyes. Their target is from 2 to 6 years old, but the device is usable for 6 months to adult. The device is 95 percent accurate and can disclose potential conditions. It is not intended to replace a complete eye exam by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. Each camera costs over \$7,000.

"The sooner the better" for screening of children. The eye is almost fully developed by age 6. Vision problems can become permanent by age 7 if not detected early and corrected. This is critical since 80% of learning is visual according to educational experts.

It has been revealed that many children are blind in one eye. Misaligned eyes and "lazy eye" can be detected. Young children often compensate for vision problems so well that parents and teachers are unaware of any issues. Pediatricians may not test eyes. Other medical conditions may also be revealed through eye testing.

Vision issues among children are increasing due to use of electronic devices. The prolonged viewing of

artificial light from the game can be harmful. There is an increased risk of myopia (near-sightedness), blurry vision and migraines.

Testing in the Hastings area year-to-date is 2,000, with 334 occurring during the past month. Eleven percent (35) in April failed the test. A consent form from the parent is required to do the test – 1/3 of parents don't sign. The work is all volunteer, so there is no cost to the school or parent. A printout goes to the school nurse and the camera is then erased. The nurse then passes the information on to the parent. There is assistance available for further eye testing and glasses.

Some schools only allow testing for certain grades. The Lions will test all K-12 if allowed. Other area schools they have been to are Superior, Red Cloud, Franklin, and Blue Hill. Lions clubs across the state and nationwide participate in the KidSight program. They also participate in health fairs and other public events.

Financial assistance for the program is welcome. But additionally, help in getting the word out to parents of this testing availability is crucial. Donations made payable to Nebraska Lions Foundation can be sent to NLF Treasurer, 3536 S 163rd St, Omaha, NE 68130-2117, designated in the memo to "KidSight Nebraska."

## 2023-2024 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

### Officers

**President** ~ Michelle Musgrave  
michelle.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

**Immediate Past President** ~ Tom Musgrave  
tomm@hastingskiwanis.org

**President-Elect** ~ Frank Koch  
frkoch@windstream.net

**Vice President** ~ Elizabeth Musgrave  
elizabeth.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

**Treasurer** ~ Jim Krebsbach  
jimk@hastingskiwanis.org

**Secretary** ~ David Kempf  
davek@hastingskiwanis.org

**Assistant Secretary** ~ Susan Price  
susanp@hastingskiwanis.org

### Board of Directors (# of years)

Ashley Hajny (1)  
ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org

Michael A. Johnson (1)  
michaelaj@hastingskiwanis.org

Marge Ormsby (1)  
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org

Mary Plock (1)  
marypl@hastingskiwanis.org

Russanne Hoff (2)  
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (2)  
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

George Howard (2)  
georgeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Taylor Musgrave (2)  
taylor.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

4 Clyde Sachtleben  
17 Ashley Hajny  
23 Chuck Hastings  
30 Tom Genung

## Pancake Day 2024 in Review



Jim Lewis 5 a.m. interview with Kasey Mintz of KSNB Local 4.



Co-chairs Kathy Schultz & Tom Musgrave with Kasey Mintz.



First in line, 6:50 a.m.









*Supper rush 5-7 p.m.*



*Much appreciated fresh clean-up help at the end of a long day.*

**\*\*\* See You March 10-11, 2025! \*\*\***