



# 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)

*"Nothing but harmony, honesty, industry and frugality are necessary to make us a great and happy people." ~ George Washington*

July 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 ~ July

Thur. 4 - NO MEETING

Wed. 10 - Board Meeting, Hastings Public Library, Room A ~ All members welcome  
(note new location)

Thur. 11 - HPS Emerging Educator of the Year, Christian Yost

Thur. 18 - Sodbusters Baseball, Scott Galusha

Thur. 25 - Skip-A-Meal: Tour St. Cecilia's School, Hauli Sabatka ~ No \$ collected

\*\*Park in the large lot on South side of Gym. Enter thru the new main door on South side (where Colorado Ave. used to be)

**Upcoming Event: 17th Annual 4-Person Golf Scramble  
Saturday, August 3rd ~ Elks Country Club  
9 a.m. shotgun start \*\* \$75/person**

**This is the second largest fundraising activity we host other than Pancake Day.**



Contact Greg Schultz [402.469.6897](tel:402.469.6897), Neil Grothen, Jim Krebsbach or George Howard to offer help with recruiting \$100 hole sponsors, flag prizes, and organizing teams.

Day-of help needed for: check-in, selling raffle tickets, Double Your Money, greeters and set up, photography.

***Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 p.m. – National Night Out – Brickyard Park***

***Contact Ashley Hajny to assist at our table***

***[ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org) or sign up at the Thursday meeting***

**\*\*\* 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\*\***

*Packing season has concluded with over 9,000,000 meals packed to date.*

*Packing will resume in September ... with a clean-up day in August.*

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.

July 5 – Casey Mohler – Marge Ormsby  
July 12 – George Howard – Dale Musgrave  
July 19 – Russanne Hoff – *Need 1*  
July 26 – Dale Musgrave – *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

## WOOHOO!! HHAH reaches 9 million meals

Article submitted by Jim Krebsbach, Photos by Jim Lewis

On June 14th, 60 players and coaches from the Sertoma Eight-Man All Star Football Teams helped reach our 9 millionth meal! They packed more than 20,000 meals to help us surpass 9 million.

Next Goal: 10 million.

From August 28, 2023 through June 17, 2024 HHAH packed 607,480 meals. We hosted 26 different groups,



HHAH workers.

**THANK YOU!** to all who have helped by using your hands to write a check or package meals, and especially for having HHAH in your heart.



## ICYMI ~ June 2024

### June 6 – 3rd Annual Cancer Walk & Butterfly Release, Scott Bokelman



Scott works part-time at Hastings Ford. He's a retired teacher and coach of 37 years, in three states and four schools. He was brainstorming community service ideas with his students in Saratoga, Wyoming and they came up

with a cancer walk. The first year 30 people participated and they raised \$1,200, which they donated to the Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative. The project kept growing and in his final year they raised \$30,000 in a town of 1,600 population.

He was diagnosed with neck and throat cancer. A golf tournament was held and thus started Chipping for Cancer. By the time he retired, they had raised over \$200,000 and helped 70 people. His treatment was in Laramie with radiation Monday thru Friday for two months, and then chemo on Fridays. He started a fund to help with expenses for anyone diagnosed.

He took his students to visit the cancer patients to see what they were going through. They saw a small child their age and realized there are no limits to cancer.

When he came to Hastings he looked for ways to continue his mission. Two years ago he became involved with the inaugural Making Strides for Cancer Walk sponsored by the Mary Lanning Healthcare Foundation. There were 50 walkers the first year 2022. Last year, 2023, they decided to join with the GRACE Cancer Foundation Butterfly Release event and there were over 400 participants, along with 76 cancer patients and survivors. There are over 450 walkers pre-registered for this year, and 115 patients and survivors. Each survivor will be given a purple carnation to present to their caretaker. Both foundations offer financial assistance and emotional support to those dealing with cancer.

Help is needed to promote the event being held **June 20, 5:30 p.m.** outside the Hastings College Lynn Farrell Arena. There will be a 1-mile walk and also a short course; 600 butterflies have been ordered. It is free to participate. There will be five food trucks, Special Scoops, and music. You can register at Morrison Cancer or with the QR code on the flyer. Sponsorships currently amount to \$18,000.

For the future, Scott would like to set up a 5th Quarter Fund to help people after cancer recovery for ongoing assistance.

## June 13 – Honor Guard, Dick LeBeau ~ American Legion Post 11

Members of the American Legion Veterans Corps and DAV make up the Honor Guard. They serve at both indoor and outdoor events, such as flag ceremonies and funerals.

On Saturday, June 15, over 1,500 flags will be retired, plus five banner flags. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will assist. It will take approx. four hours to process all the flags. There are several collection sites for flags that are damaged, including Parkview Cemetery, Legion Post 11, Allen's and others.

There is a manual that outlines the strict procedure for flag retirement. It includes a 15-minute ceremony prior to the burning. Each flag is individually laid on the fire. After all the flags are burned, the ashes are collected and taken to a cemetery and buried. They usually hold a flag retirement a couple of times a year. It requires a fire permit from the Fire Department.

Their funeral ritual includes seven riflemen, regardless of rank, who provide a 21-gun salute comprising three volleys. A bugler plays Taps, and there are two veterans on each end of the casket. For a Navy or Marine veteran, a bosun's whistle is also sounded.

After the service, the flag on the casket is folded and presented to the family. The casket flag is not designed to be flown; it will fray in the wind in about three weeks.

Twenty-one rounds of polished brass are also presented to the family.

A free flag holder at the gravesite is provided for the service member.

The rifles are on permanent loan from Kentucky; they have 18. They are retired M-180's with an 8-round clip in case they have two funeral assignments in quick succession.

Post 11 is an active Legion Club, but they don't compete with the DAV by offering food. They do, however, rent out their building, located at 906 E. South St. (east of Perkins Pavilion). There are currently 94 active members, with the oldest being 97 and the youngest 55. He explained the difference between the three veteran organizations. The VFW is for those who served in a foreign war; the DAV is for disabled veterans; and the American Legion requirement is only that they have served in the military. It can be found on FB at American Legion Post 11, Hastings, Nebr. and email is americanlegionpost11nebraska@gmail.com.



## June 20 – HPS Educators of the Year: Jennifer Karl, Kirk Ortegren, and Greg Mays



**Jennifer Karl, Co-Educator of the Year**, has taught first grade at Alcott for 17 years. She grew up on a farm in Clatonia (near Wilbur) and went through the Elementary Education program at Hastings College. She was planning on teaching upper elementary, but as a senior at H.C. she was offered a position as a first grade teacher at Alcott. She has been there ever

since, in the same room. Even during the temporary relocation to Morton while Alcott was being renovated,

she was still in the same room since both schools have the same floor plan.

She enjoys seeing the students expand their reading skills, while at the same time she continues to expand her own teaching skills. The same is also true for teaching math. She continues to learn how to teach the new math standards, which include expanded shapes, like the rhombus, and identifying their attributes. She has come to realize that first grade is the key year to learn reading skills that will affect the rest of their lives.

It is necessary to continuously evolve teaching methods to keep up with the changes in kids. Keeping their attention is more difficult than it used to be, and each year the student mix is different.



**Kirk Ortegren, Co-Educator of the Year**, has taught math at HHS for 23 years; 27 years total teaching. A few years ago HPS started focusing on teaching results rather than what the teachers were doing in the classroom ... are the students learning what you are trying to teach. They created assessment

tools to measure the learning, not so much on what is done in the classroom. They decided it was best to

determine who is getting the lesson and who is not. Then find a solution to help those who are struggling.

We need to recognize that kids are different and learn differently. Teaching has to adapt and find ways to get the material across to all students. They can see through assessments who is needing more help. They create time during class to assist those students; it is no longer an option for before or after school help. The students appreciate the effort; it lets them know the teacher cares about their success. He is proud to represent HPS and its focus on results.



**Greg Mays, Distinguished Senior Educator Award winner,** teaches Senior English at HHS, which is primarily a writing class and the last class most seniors have to pass to graduate. He has been teaching 37 years, with 32 at Hastings.

He was born in Hastings and was actually good at math, but chose early on to teach what he loved, English. He is an academic at heart and loves to take your mind somewhere where you ask questions and find the answer. He tries to make the class fun.

Roger and Karen Doerr were instrumental in creating this award, and he is proud to be its first recipient. He, too, values the focus now on performance-based education. It is not always true that if you put in the effort, you will learn. They have established ways to measure the outcome of their teaching to see if it has been effective for every student.

He has embarked on writings of his own and has come to better understand the process he has been teaching, and the difficulty of putting thoughts to paper.

In response to a question about A.I., he said that just like other new tools and platforms, it is difficult to work through at first. It is scary stuff and he's not sure we're ready for it. However, he feels it will eventually become valuable in teaching and can be a great asset in education.

## **June 27 – Bridging Forward Program, Brady Rhodes**

The Bridging Forward Program is an offshoot of the Community Impact Network, comprised of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster counties. Overall, 70 entities make up the CIN. The CIN, a collection of different organizations working together, is one of 23 collaborations in the state. Nebraska is unique in the United States in this regard.

The network of organizations includes community and social service agencies, healthcare providers and services, education institutions and providers, and economic development organizations. Each organization does its own work and interacts to do better by working together and coordinating services. It began in 2010 as the South Central Partnership, then became the Community Impact Network during the pandemic. It is partially funded by the United Way.

Its goal is to alleviate poverty. It is striving to reduce poverty in the area by 30 percent by 2030. Income has risen by 18 percent since 1983, but housing costs have risen by 63 percent. The guideline is to be spending 30 percent of income on housing; the low income earners are spending 50 percent. In addition, it is recommended to have three months of living expenses set aside in case income stops. This is difficult to impossible for the lower income folks.

There are 700 households in the 4-county area that can be impacted. If income can be increased, there can be less reliance on public services. The ripple effect would be helping kids for their future. It is not as simple as "just get a job." There are many hindrances to doing that, not the least of which are the need for skills training and child care. We need to learn about the struggles of the poor, and create pathways for them to solve the issues that are holding them back.



The concept of Bridging Forward is to **lift up** issues, **coordinate** solutions, and **share out** resources and opportunities.

There are 2300 open jobs in our 4-county area. Currently those unemployed are younger than 18 and older than 65. For those in between who need to improve income, they need the appropriate skills for what is available. In addition, the typical path to employment can take 4-6 weeks by the time you apply, interview, get hired, and get the first paycheck. If you need to pay rent now, you get a job immediately at somewhere like Casey's. Employers are beginning to modify their process to speed up hiring.

Bridging Forward has developed a Cohort Model for assisting individuals. Participants are required to be relatively stable, earn less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Line (\$4800/month for a family of 4), underemployed, and commit to a 15-month program.

It may be 1:1 coaching with a Central Navigator or other agency, Connect2Work for those who need help connecting to higher wage employment, or internal programs with other agencies. Upon completion, each graduate is matched with an ally who serves as a support person for that individual. There is no training required to be an ally. Volunteers are needed.

The first Cohort began last July with 9 participants (involving 18 children) meeting at Grace Lutheran Church. Graduation was in November. The second Cohort began this past February with 11 participants (involving 5 children) meeting at Peace Lutheran Church. They graduated in May and are currently being matched with allies. A third multi-generational Cohort will

begin in September with 23 people (involving 32 children).

Early participants who completed the program saw a 67 percent increase in income in five months, and 300 percent after six months. They have proven the model

works. They need more organizations to accept people and work the model. When financial wellbeing is improved, so is self esteem. People are able to enjoy things they could not before (like a vacation), and have hope for the future.

## 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



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 Alvin Erickson  
10 Jim Krebsbach  
10 Amy Niemoth  
22 Rich Halloran  
24 LaVila VanBoening

## The Last Laugh ... Trucker Humor

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway and noticed a sign that read: Low Bridge Ahead. Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him and his truck gets wedged under it. Cars are backed up for miles.

Finally a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says: "Got stuck, huh?"  
The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and I ran out of gas."

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A trucker came into a Truck Stop Cafe and placed his order. He said, "I want three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards."

The brand new blonde waitress, not wanting to appear stupid, went to the kitchen and said to the cook, "This guy out there just ordered three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards. What does he think this place is -- an auto parts store?"

"No," the cook said. "Three flat tires means three pancakes. A pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up. And a pair of running boards are two slices of crisp bacon!"

"Oh. OK!" said the blonde. She thought about it for a moment and then spooned up a bowl of beans and gave it to the customer.

The trucker asked, "What are the beans for, Blondie?" She replied, "I thought while you were waiting for the flat tires, headlights and running boards, you might as well gas up!"



*Happy Birthday, America!*

“When Freedom from her mountain height  
Unfurled her standard to the air,  
She tore the azure robe of night  
And set the star of glory there.”

*Joseph Rodman Drake, “The American Flag”*