



# 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)

*"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."  
~ Franklin P. Jones, American journalist, PR executive, and humorist*

February 2025

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)

**Inclement weather policy** ~ If HPS is closed on a given Thursday, there is no Kiwanis meeting that day. It will also be displayed on the Channel 10-11 scrolling closing information.



### Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ February

YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meal

Catering by Emma Baker (*meals subject to change*)

Thur. 6 - History of Civil Rights, Dr. Michael Butler (visiting professor at Hastings College)

*Meal: Pizza*

Wed. 12 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room ~ All members welcome

Thur. 13 - *Watch your email*

Thur. 20 - *Watch your email*

Thur. 27 - Climbing Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, Jeff Karloff



### **THIS IS OUR MAIN FUNDRAISER**

to fund all our projects and grant requests for the year.

\*\*\* Please sign up on the website or at the meetings \*\*\*

**Tuesday, March 11 ~ 7 to 7 ~ All Hands on Deck**

2-hour shifts beginning 6:45 a.m.

Grill Cooks / Serving Line

Ticket Takers

Table Workers

Clean up at 7:00 p.m.

**Set up Monday, March 10 ~ Noon 'til done**

Set up grills ~ wipe down tables and chairs ~

organize and cover serving tables ~ set out syrup

~ and whatever else Jim & Kathy need done!

QUERY ~ What do a bowl, pyramid hip, bank to slappy curb, and a grind ledge have in common? 😊

All are elements in the newly designed skate park we have signed on to make happen. The board has committed to raise \$200,000 over 2 years. Yes, it's a lot. But given the success of the musical playground fundraising a few years ago, the board feels it's totally doable.

The current skate park is 20 years old and in much need of a facelift and new challenges for the youth of Hastings. The kickoff will be on Pancake Day, March 11th. The fundraising committee - Russanne Hoff, Kathy Schultz, and Mike Howie - are searching for ways to make this happen.

**Stay tuned for how you can become part of our next big adventure!**

**OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED 2025-2026!**

This is second call for a Vice President (four year commitment as you advance from Vice President to President-Elect, then President, and Immediate Past President)

Four 2-year term Board Members.

These positions must be filled by early May in order to meet announcement requirements prior to our Annual Meeting at the end of May.

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

If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can do so on 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 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ~~~**

***Wednesday, February 19 ~ 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.***  
***Sandy Creek High School FBLA/ FCA/ NHS***  
***40 high school students***

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



*Wednesday, February 19 ~ 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.*  
*St. Ann's, Doniphan*  
*20, 4th-12th graders + 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.**

**February 7 – George Howard – Dale Musgrave**  
**February 14 – Russanne Hoff – Casey Mohler**  
**February 21 – Dale Musgrave – *Need 1***  
**February 28 – *Need 2***

**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 ~ January 2025**

### **January 9 – Heartbeat Creative District, Lily Teeple and Ember Batelaan**

Ember (right) is the City Planner for the city of Hastings, and Lily is the new director for the Heartbeat Creative District; she started on January 1. The Heartbeat Creative District is a certified Creative District supported by the Nebraska Arts Council through funding from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

There is a statewide network of Creative Districts that serves to promote the arts as an economic driver. There are 33 other such districts in the state. The Hastings Creative District goes from Burlington to Eastside Boulevard, and from the railroad tracks to 7th Street. It was based on existing creative murals, creative businesses, etc.

The city applied for a certification grant and was awarded \$10,000. Information can be gotten from its website [Engage.CityofHastings.org](http://Engage.CityofHastings.org).



They have

established Six-Month Goals:

1. Develop rules and regulations for creative projects
2. Develop a marketing plan and funding sources

One-to-Three Year Goals include:

1. Develop a plan for public art/creative placemaking
2. Implement community-driven public art projects on a regular basis
3. Develop an annual creative/cultural programming plan

4. Implement community-driven creative/cultural programming

Three-to-Five Year Goals are:

1. Develop and implement a wayfinding/signage plan
2. Develop and implement an outdoor beautification plan

Examples of creative projects include: sculptural bike racks, interactive art projects, cultural/ethnic concerts, ethnic parade, family-friendly events.

Next steps in the process are to develop creative projects and cultural programming and apply for a Creative District Development Grant, which would be a \$100,000 grant.

**January 16 – Aktion Club Information, Linda Stark**



Linda Stark gave a brief overview of this Service Leadership Program (SLP) designed for adults with disabilities. The club was initially launched in 2005

and it met until the pandemic in 2020. Agencies that participated were Goodwill, Mid-Nebraska Individual Services, and Mosaic.

It met two times a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday at noon. Participants brought their lunch and then often worked on service projects, like stuffing envelopes or making boxes.

It operated just like our main club with the election of officers, and sometimes a speaker and singing.

**John Boltz, as District Governor, would like to see this reinstated.** There have been some inquiries and interest from the community in seeing it start up again. We need a new location, however, that must be handicap accessible with kitchen access.

**Primarily we need leadership for this.** There has been some preliminary discussion that the schedule could be changed to just once a month, and some guidelines need to be established with the agencies. It is not a one-person job.

If you would be interested in being an advisor for this group, please contact Dave Kempf. Hopefully a committee of two or three would plan the agenda for each meeting, plan things to do, help facilitate its operation, and any setup or cleanup.

**January 16 – Cybersecurity, Blake Skolaut and Bret Oltman**

Blake (right) is business sales leader at Allo in Hastings, and Bret is communication sales engineer. Allo provided box lunches from Jimmy John's for this meeting. They were delicious and much appreciated.

Allo is a traditional fiber optic telecommunications company with phone, TV, and internet services. They also assist with cybersecurity. It is important to remember that:

- Cyber criminals target individuals as well as companies
- A firewall does not guarantee complete protection
- Antivirus software does not provide complete protection
- Strong passwords are not enough on their own

Cyber criminals are organized criminals with sophisticated techniques and tools, whose primary focus is financial gain. They are persistent and relentless, and strive to exploit vulnerabilities. Cybercrime is a global issue and can originate from virtually anywhere.

A top cyber threat is **phishing**. They often use emails or websites to impersonate legitimate entities or individuals. They exploit human psychology to manipulate recipients into divulging sensitive information, such as login credentials, personal ID information, and financial data.



Phishing can be a text, email or phone call where they try to get you to give information that allows them to get money from you.

- If you don't know the name or number that you get a call from, just hang up. If you get a telephone scam call, you can block it or report it.
- Check the sender of the email. If it does not make sense with the subject line, it's coming from a third party. Look for poor spelling and grammar.
- Don't click on a link that you get in an email. You can hover over the link to see if it is consistent with the sender and the subject. If you want to pursue it, go directly to the company's actual website.

**Ransomware.** Be wary of email attachments. These could open malware that could lock your files and systems on your computer or network and make them inaccessible. This could give them access to your financial data.

**Data breach** is stolen credentials.

- When purchasing online, debit cards are very vulnerable. They are an immediate withdrawal from your bank account, and there is no way to get that back. Credit card charges, however, can be challenged and reversed if you did not authorize it.
- When Googling for information, never click on the first link. That is Google gathering information.
- Ignore the ads and surveys on Facebook. The information you provide, such as your favorite color, could provide them insight into your passwords.
- Also be cautious about responding to a text inquiry or request for a survey. It is better to call the company directly.
- The biggest thing you can do is to share stories about suspicious calls or links that you have

encountered. Share them with your family, friends and spouse.

The following responses were given to questions asked by Kiwanis members:

- Unsubscribing from emails is okay.
- You can Google a phone number to see who it belongs to.
- Don't say "yes" to answer the phone or to answer any of their questions if you are uncertain of the caller. They can use that recorded response for any purpose.

There is legislation in the works to try to stop spam calls from appearing to come from a legitimate business or government entity on your caller ID.

AI voice cloning is becoming a problem. Spammers especially target older adults. TIP: If they claim to be your grandchild and are in trouble and need money...call their parents first to see if they actually are in Timbuktu.

### **January 23 – Hope 4 Liberia Ministry, Kelly Wagner, daughters Ashley and Allie**



Kelly and her husband live in the Riverton area with their seven children, five of whom are adopted, and two with special needs.

She spoke to our group two years ago and they have now obtained 501c3 status. Hope 4 Liberia is an orphan aid ministry. Its

motto is **“Healing Hearts and Shaping Lives.”**

Liberia is the oldest Republic in Africa and is one of the poorest and least developed in the world. Its land mass is about the size of Tennessee, with a population of 5.28 million (2022).

It was settled by freed U.S. slaves in the 1820's, who modeled its government and society on that of the United States. The minimum wage is \$5.50 per day USD, with an average monthly income of \$150-200 USD. There is 90% unemployment.

Kelly first became aware of the despair and poverty of the people in Liberia when she was on a mission trip there with other women in 2019 to assist at an orphanage.

There are over 100,000 orphaned children in Liberia. The two main factors contributing to this are a 14-year civil war followed by a two-year Ebola epidemic. Fifty percent of the children die by 5 years old, and the average age of a Liberian is 18. Sixty-three percent of its citizens are under age 24.

An entire generation has been wiped out, meaning there are no elders to train the young people with job skills. They have not experienced a healthy, nurturing family.

The compound they were building up when she was last here is now complete and open. There are two homes, one for girls and one for boys, with the capacity

for 50 children. There is also a medical clinic, school, and a 100-acre farm with 15 acres of produce.

They provide services for youth 4 to 13 years old. There are so many in need that they had to narrow down who they could accommodate. The children must be double orphaned, meaning both parents must have died, in order to reside in its orphanage.

The children receive food, education, medical care, spiritual guidance, a family, and love. For many this is the first education they have received.

Each residence currently houses 14 youth plus staff members. Staff members come from such remote areas that they need to stay in the youth housing for now. They are planning on separate housing for staff so that more youth can be accommodated.

They are looking for trained counselors or child psychologists to come along on the next mission trip. It is hard to find local quality staff to assist with the emotional healing for these children. They have experienced lots of trauma in their short lives.

They would also like to start up a vocational education program to help train the youth to rebuild their communities. They want to teach marketable skills and tools for their own successful future families.

An immediate need is for a farm truck to bring supplies to the farm for the animals and care of the children. It would also be used to transport excess produce they have grown to the nearby military base, which has offered to buy from them.

Hope 4 Liberia relies on word of mouth for its support, which mostly comes from South Central Nebraska. You can learn more or donate at [www.hope4liberia.org](http://www.hope4liberia.org). A monthly partnership would help sustain all of its facilities.

If you know of anyone able to assist on their next mission trip, you can contact Kelly by email at [Kelly@hope4liberia.org](mailto:Kelly@hope4liberia.org). That is also the address for a

## January 30 – Doerr Center for Civic Engagement, Dr. Wayne Riggs

Dr. Riggs is Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Hastings College. He came to Hastings College from Flagler College, a liberal arts college in St. Augustine, Florida, and just completed his first semester. He grew up in a small farming community in Pennsylvania.

He is attracted to liberal arts colleges, which are unique to the United States. The concept of liberal arts is to provide education for a free citizenry. It is foundational learning to provide the basic needs to be successful and for critical thinking, as well as civic engagement.

The Hastings College student base is mostly from small town Nebraska, but it has expanded over time to include other states and countries. Its goal is to give the students future-proof skills to be successful at jobs that don't yet exist.

These basic skills include:

- **Critical thinking**
- **Writing**
- **Creativity**
- **Team participation**
- **Engaging with the community**

These will set students up for long-term success.

Young people are not inclined to get involved in the community and work with a group due to the high use of electronic devices. Electronic



devices are a more isolated form of communication. A virtual community is not the same as an in-person community. Students need to learn to have a dialogue with others of different opinions. On a device they tend to just not talk with anyone who disagrees with them.

Roger and Karen Doerr have offered funds to pursue a Civic Engagement program at Hastings College to encourage students to become part of the community where they reside. This would include service clubs such as Kiwanis and Rotary, churches, and other community groups.

A college education is not just book learning; it should also include learning to engage with people with whom you disagree. How to pursue a conversation and not just "unfriend" someone. Education exists to educate youth on integrity, character, and to prepare them for life.



## Officers

**President** ~ Frank Koch  
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

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

**President-Elect** ~ Mike E. Johnson (Dr. Mike)  
michaelj@hastingskiwanis.org

**Vice President** ~ Russanne Hoff  
russanneh@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)

John Boltz (2)  
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (2)  
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (2)  
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (2)  
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (1)  
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

George Howard (1)  
georgeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Taylor Musgrave (1)  
taylor.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

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

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

5 Michelle Musgrave  
6 George Howard  
12 Elizabeth Musgrave  
12 Roger Selley  
14 Mary Plock  
15 Anne Castek  
16 Adam Primm  
18 Dale Musgrave  
26 Amber Price

