



Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club

hastingskiwanis.org

myclub@hastingskiwanis.org

facebook.com/hastingskiwanis

"Fall is the time of year when I can finally justify my excessive scarf collection."

November 2025

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org OR Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org



**On November 11 ~ Veterans' Day
~ And every day ~
A special salute & Thank You to our Veterans!**



Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ November

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

Thur. 6 - Wildlife Rescue Team, Shelly Bruntz

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

Thur. 13 - Dr. Scott Carollo, New Hastings Cardiologist

Thur. 20 - SKIP-A-MEAL ~ Behind the Scenes Tour of the Hastings Museum,
Teresa Kreutzer-Hodson ~ Meet in the Lobby at Noon

Thur. 20 - Decorate the Kiwanis Christmas Tree at the Museum Festival of Trees
Immediately after the meeting (contact AshleyH@hastingskiwanis.org)

Thur. 27 - NO MEETING ~ Happy Thanksgiving

Looking Ahead:

Sat. December 6 ~ Salvation Army Bell Ringing – sign-ups on the website
1-hour shifts from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sat. December 6 ~ Salvation Army / WalMart / Hastings Ford Youth Shopping Spree
sign-ups on the website ~ Meet in WalMart Employee break room at 7:30 a.m.
Kids arrive at 8:00 a.m.

Sat. December 6 ~ Gift Wrapping with the Kids at the Salvation Army

After shopping, about 10:00 a.m.??

**Sat. December 27 ~ Youth Bowling Tournament – sign-ups on the website
Need assistance at Registration, Lane Monitors, Awards, & Cleanup
Youth Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. ~ Lane Monitors at 9:30 a.m.
Bowling 10:00 (2 games) ~ Awards 11:00 ~ Cleanup 11:30**

~~~~~ Opportunities to Give ~~~~~



Christmas Tree for Our Museum Display ~ November 20

Our current tree is very, very, very old. We had a mess last year putting it up ... needles everywhere.

If anyone has an artificial tree they are no longer using, we would appreciate your donation. Also a storage bag if you have one.

6.5 feet would be a good height; we don't want to have to use more than a chair to top it out. If we don't get a donation, we'll need to purchase one ... and we'll still need donations.

Notify Ashley Hajny (ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org) or Marge Ormsby (marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org) if you can assist.



KEY CLUB – DECA Power Trip - November 21

Key Club president, JoJo Gowen, is also an officer of the HHS DECA chapter, which partners with Key Club. DECA focuses on preparing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

Five students will be attending the DECA Power Trip leadership and career development conference on November 21st. The cost per student is \$900, which covers registration, transportation, and lodging.

JoJo has written asking for our financial support in helping these students attend this important opportunity. Donations can be sent to Jim Krebsbach at the Kiwanis PO Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902.



SKATEBOARD COMPETITION ~ November 11-13 ~ Florida

Local Competitors Landon and Masa wish to compete in Florida November 11-13 representing Hastings, NE. They need help to cover travel expenses. Landon has helped with our local design, and both he and Masa participated in our parade entries. They recently came in 1st and 2nd, respectively, at the SkateFest competition in Council Bluffs and were invited to compete at the CuRB (Culture Retailers & Boardsports) Show Southeast Regionals in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

To Donate: Go to [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) > Search fundraisers > “Help Landon and Masa to Skateboard Finals”



SKATEPARK NEWS

Committed to raise \$200,000 total ~ \$50,000 of that from the Club

Total Club Donations to 10-2-25: \$21,242.68 (52.49%)

* Total member donations = \$12,420.75; the rest was raised by members thru outside events

* Member Matching grant pledge \$10,000
(I incorrectly had this in the Public category last issue)

Total General Public Donations to date: \$5,762.27 (3.84%)

* Visitors Bureau commitment, \$50,000

* Matching grant pledge \$25,000

Skatepark Giving Levels

\$10,000 - Big logo on sign
\$7,500 - Small logo on sign
\$5,000 - Name on sign
\$2,500
\$1,000
\$500
\$250
\$125

All donors at \$125 and above:

- Listed in newspaper ad
- Status newsletter at end of project

Kiwanis Skatepark Fellows giving \$1,000 or more -
Name on sign

A NEW "ASTONISHER" NEWSLETTER REPORTER IS NEEDED.

Format as you wish. Scale it back. Make it your own.

Perhaps this could be a 2-person project.

I will provide my template as a starter.

**** Only 2 issues left! ****

***** 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****

Monday packing has resumed ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Friday, November 14 ~ 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Doniphan-Trumbull 8th Graders
30 students + teachers

Saturday, November 15 ~ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

HHS Science Club ~ 30-40 people

Monday, November 17 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Heritage Bank & Insurance ~ 20 people

Monday, November 24 ~ 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 207
40-50 Grades K-5 + 15-20 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. 3rd St.
(east of the Post Office ~ 3rd & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes.
They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.

November 7 – George Howard – Dale Musgrave

November 14 – Russanne Hoff – Neil Grothen

November 21 – *Need 2*

November 28 – 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

ICYMI ~ October 2025



John, Neil, Dave, George

October 2nd - NEW MEMBER Induction

New Member **Dave Schultz** was inducted by George Howard

Sponsors are Neil Grothen and John Boltz

George reviewed the Six Objects of Kiwanis

October 2nd – Award Presentations



Frank Koch, immediate past president, presented awards to members who had not attended the banquet. L-R

Perfect Attendance: Neil Grothen

Pancake Committee Chair: Doug Edwards

Legion of Honor: Murray Wilson, 50 years

Nebraska-Iowa District Membership Chair: Michelle Musgrave

Bowling Tournament Committee: Susan Price

Music Committee: LaVila VanBoening

Perfect Attendance: Dale Musgrave

Immed. Past President: Frank Koch

October 2 – Healthy Families Nebraska Heartland, Tami Marcello

Tami was the prior nursing supervisor at Healthy Beginnings. With her today was Michelle Burnham, also previously at Healthy Beginnings, who is the Nurse Home Visitor for Healthy Families America (and also Linda Stark's daughter). The program manager of South Heartland District Health Dept. is Brooke Wolf, who also came from Healthy Beginnings.

Healthy Beginnings was opened by Mary Lanning many years ago. When it closed a couple years ago they were approached by the state of Nebraska to become part of the Healthy Families program.

Healthy Families America is a nationwide organization that has been around for 30 years; 2 years in Hastings. There are 600 agencies in 38 states. It is funded under the DHHS Maternal Services category.

The Hastings office provides services to families from prenatal to 3-months old living in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls,



Michelle, Brooke, Tami

and Webster counties. They have one bilingual staff member. Currently there are 40 families enrolled. It is voluntary and free.

Referrals come from Mary Lanning, nurses, doctors, schools, the United Way, and interested parents themselves. They also work with Child Protective

Services. At 30 days, a report is provided to the referring agency or individual.

Home visits with the parents start out weekly and then go to every other week, and gradually less often. "Parents" can include foster parents and grandparents. They assess developmental growth of the child and help develop activities the parents can do with their child.

The initial visit involves an assessment and getting to know the family. They observe the interaction with the baby, and check for signs of abuse or neglect. Children need interaction for brain development.

This program is designed to work with parents to encourage interaction with their baby and bonding. They provide guidance to the parents to build their self-esteem, and offer education on health and safety. They help families set goals and connect them with other agencies for specific assistance.

It has been shown that how we parent is impacted by how we were parented as a child.

They provide specialized areas in:

- Mental health - behavioral assessments and depression screenings of the parents
- Infant massage
- Lactation counseling
- Circle of Security Parenting - an 8-week class to help parents form healthy relationships with their child, for example through rocking and cuddling. These promote positive brain development and higher self-esteem.

The Healthy Families office is located at the South Heartland Health Department, 606 North Minnesota Ave. Phone 402-462-6211, ask for Tami.

October 9 – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps, Ron Pughes

The CNMRC is a regional network of volunteers that responds to disasters in a 14-county area (approx. 23 communities). It currently has 60 members including RNs, EMTs, doctors, clergy, psychologists, and non-licensed transport personnel. They also have an ambulance and can offer lighting and emergency power in trauma situations.

Volunteers are organized into community-based units that work to build community preparedness in response to natural disasters, emergencies affecting public health, etc.

Personnel are strictly volunteer, and the CNMRC is the second in the nation to get a 501c3 designation. The nationwide MRC network is comprised of 200,000 volunteers in roughly 800 community-based units throughout the United States and its territories.

They offer triage services, meaning they sort people by type of injury. They also offer assistance at the hospital when they are overwhelmed.

Additional examples of MRC volunteer activities include:

- Emergency preparedness and response trainings and exercises
- Emergency shelter operations and medical care
- Mass dispensing efforts, such as medication, water, and other supplies
- Disease testing and surveillance
- Community vaccination clinics
- Veterinary care
- Support services to disaster call centers, family assistance centers, and evacuation centers
- Disaster cleanup and recovery support

They have created some initiatives. Act Fast are the first available personnel and offer simple treatments. They have trained 130-140 people at North Shore Church. Another initiative is called CARE which offers community responder support. They help in a trauma event, including fire events.

Its drone program offers assistance to the police department in search and rescue.

Their assistance is requested by the Emergency Management Department or the health department. They have 2 hours to deploy and must be prepared to serve for 2 hours to 3 days. Personnel

converge at the Walmart closest to the incident. They are deployed to a lot of fires and other random requests.

They have a vulnerable population trailer with equipment for evacuation of nursing homes and special care homes, such as wheelchairs, clothing, and walkers.

The majority of volunteers come from the medical field but there are lots of things for others to do, so don't hesitate to join its ranks. They offer one training each year and drills each month.

Ron then did a demonstration of CPR with a mannequin. He stressed the importance of knowing this technique to save a life. CPR keeps the blood flowing, which keeps the heart beating until emergency personnel arrive. It can take up to 10 minutes for an ambulance to show up.

It really takes a team:

- Someone has to call 911
- While another person starts CPR
- A third person locates the AED

CPR Review - First ask if they are okay, and check for breathing and a pulse. If you detect a pulse either in the neck or the wrist, you do not need to start CPR. Immediately call 911.

If they are unresponsive and there is no pulse, proceed to CPR. Place the heel of one hand in the center of the chest and the other hand on top, interlacing fingers. Push hard and fast, at least 2 inches. Think of the tempo of the BeeGees "Staying Alive." If you are



pushing hard enough, you will probably hear ribs cracking.

Remember, the heart is encased by the ribs and you're trying to keep the heart going. You will probably run out of energy after a couple of minutes, so someone else will need to take over compressions.

AED - Shocks and resets the heart to a normal rhythm. Use on the individual as soon as it's available.

The AED unit will instruct you on what to do. Then continue CPR.

To learn more about the CNMRC, go to CentralNebraskaMRC.com

Phone: 402-519-8203

Email: CentralNebraskaMRC@gmail.com

October 10 – Adams Central Concessions, Elementary Bingo Night

Ashley Hajny organized this project for the Club. It netted over \$500 for the Skatpark Project. Those assisting were L-R: Carter Hajny, Ashley Hajny, LaVila VanBoening, John Boltz, Val and Al Erickson, Mike Johnson, Marge Ormsby, and Dave Schultz.



October 16 – Award Presentation

Immediate past president Frank Koch presented Perfect Attendance award to Val Erickson.



October 16 – RiteCare Clinic, Sydney Norton and Kris Althouse



The RiteCare Clinic in Hastings was established in 1977 by the University of Nebraska and Scottish Rite Masons. It is part of the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

RiteCare is a nationwide organization offering speech, language, and communication interventions to children from birth to 10 years old. This includes stuttering and feeding/swallowing issues.

Nebraska locations offer services at no cost, no matter your situation, insurance or not. A doctor's prescription is not needed. They get some referrals from schools.

Kris has been with the organization for 10 years, and Sydney for 7 years. Both are speech language pathologists, with specific specializations.

They see lots of toddlers and preschool children, both in person and by teletherapy. Services are specialized toward each child and family. It is usually a one-on-one meeting, but they do see groups in the summertime. In the fall they offer a Tiny Talkers Club held at the Hastings Public Library for 18-month to 3-year-olds. It is play-based learning with their peers.

Their treatment involves play time. Through play, children learn to deal with their emotions and problem solving. If they are having fun, they don't feel like it is work. They see more progress with parent involvement.

They shared a YouTube video they created called "Finding Hannah's Voice." Hannah was a 9-year-old with a neurological condition that prevents her from speaking. She needs therapy to make the brain/speech connection. Hannah's mother drives several hours, two to three times a week, from Western Nebraska to bring her to the clinic. Hannah loves coming to visit Sydney and has made great progress. Her mom says she practices her new skills all the way home.

Kris and Sydney are employed by UNMC. The Scottish Rite Masons help with funding all the clinics across Nebraska.

For more information go to www.ritecarene.org or call them at 402-463-1518.

October 23 – Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska, Alisha Epp

(Thank you! to Kathy Schultz for submitting notes in my absence)

Alisha Epp is a Program & Outdoor Experience Specialist for Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska. Spirit of Nebraska is the name of the Girl Scout council for the entire state. Alisha has been with the Girl Scouts since 2012 and covers central Nebraska, but mainly Grand Island, Kearney and Hastings. Membership in the Nebraska council is currently 14,000 and includes young people Kindergarten through 12th grade.



The Spirit of Nebraska Council maintains several facilities for scouts to use:

Camp Cosmopolitan - Grand Island, along the river

Camp Catron - Nebraska City

Camp Crossed Arrows - Nickerson

Camp Maha - Papillion

Lakeview Cabin - North Platte, on Lake Mahoney
Hidden Oaks - Valentine, in the state park
Hilltop House - Lincoln (a nature center)

These facilities offer a variety of activities for scouts: camping, hiking trails, rope courses, archery, swimming, zip lines, and more. These facilities are also available for the public to rent.

Girl Scouts are mainly known for cookie sales, which help the girls raise money for their activities. But Girl Scouting is meant to develop girls as changemakers. Some of the activities they participate in each year:

- World Cleanup Day in September
- Attend programs that teach everyday skills
- Outdoor skills

- World Thinking Day in February, where girls study other countries and present the information about these countries to other scouts
- Travel the world - Girls have taken trips to Washington, D.C.; Paris, France; Savannah, Georgia; Kansas City and Colorado

The Girl Scout Gold Award is comparable to the Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. These girls, usually juniors and seniors in high school, must do 80 hours of service, develop a sustainable service project, and recruit a team to help complete the project. Alisha showed pictures of three girls who received their Gold Awards this past year and explained about their projects.

October 30 – Check Presentation

Stacie Widhelm presented a check to Chuck Hastings for \$365 for Hearts and Hands Against Hunger.

Stacie is a local realtor who established “Commissions for the Community” in which she pledges a percentage of each sale for community donation.



October 30 – Award Presentation

Immediate past president Frank Koch presented a Skatepark Committee award certificate to Mike Howie.



October 30 – United Way of South Central Nebraska, Molly Johnsen and Jodi Graves



The United Way of South Central Nebraska encompasses a four-county area - Adams, Clay, Webster, and Nuckolls. Its work impacts every age and demographic. Its 2026 pledge form lists 31 organizations or programs that it

supports. Examples include The Zone after school program, MentoringWorks, RYDE Transit, CASA, Senior Action, Adams County Diversion, Maryland Living Center, Bridging Forward, and Hastings Literacy Program.

1300 children have received books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Toys for Tots has benefited 600 children. Its Back to School drive this year provided 361 backpacks with school supplies, personalized to each school and grade level.

They are very proud of the Born Learning Trail at Lake Hastings, southwest end. They identified that there was a shortage of free, family engagement activities in Hastings for young children. They coordinated with other non-profits to create this trail, using 45 gallons of paint and over 250 volunteer hours.

Another special program is the Community Impact Network. The poverty level statistics within its service area is 13%; the state average is 9%. The goal of this program is to reduce poverty by 30% by the year 2030. The Network consists of over 70 non-profits, agencies, educational institutions, programs, and community

groups working together to help people navigate assistance.

A cohort program has been established to provide training and assistance to those in that poverty range. Those signing up pledge to meet every Monday for 18 months at Peace Lutheran Church. The first cohort had 10 participants with 44 children. It is important to break that poverty cycle so that those children do not continue in that situation.

The CIN seeks to identify what keeps people at the poverty level. One factor is that most have less than one person in their personal network of support. After graduation from the program, many have developed more than 10.

After 3 months they are matched with two allies who help them with their goals and everyday problems they encounter. They can connect the participants with other programs that would be helpful. Things such as child care, transportation, finances, budgeting, and job search.

Jodi gave one example of a single mother whose child's bicycle got a flat tire. She was frantic over how

she was going to get a new bicycle for him; she did not know she only needed to replace the tube in the tire, not replace the entire bicycle. Her ally helped resolve that for her.

Helping folks out of poverty also impacts cost to the community, for example lowering the number on SNAP benefits.

Statistics show that following completion of the program average income increases by 154%; a reduction in government assistance of \$12,639 per individual; and a 46% decrease in debt. This translates to an overall community benefit gain of \$62,386 per person.

The United Way office is moving in approx. 2 weeks from today to the Tribune building. The Seaton family generously offered them the space, which is larger than their current space, for less rent. The necessary renovations were made at no cost to the United Way. They will now occupy that entire main floor and the Tribune offices have moved to the building to the West.

Jodi announced there will be an open house at The Zone on Friday, November 17th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

2025-2026 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

Officers

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

Immediate Past President ~ Frank Koch
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

President-Elect ~ Russanne Hoff
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

Vice President ~ Marge Ormsby
marge.ormsby@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)

Heather Bolte (2)
heather.bolte@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (2)
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

Mike Howie (2)
mikeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Greg Schultz (2)
gregs@hastingskiwanis.org

John Boltz (1)
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (1)
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (1)
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (1)
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Judy Barnes
2 Linda Stark
24 Zachary Bosle
26 Doug Edwards



How well do you know English?

Match these terms ... (answers next month)

British English

Footway
Slip road
Rocket
Trolley
Chips
Carriageway
Caravan
Close
Bap
Give way
Crisps
Hob
Boot
Jumper
Snickleway
Motorway

American English

Dark green salad vegetable, arugula
Stove top
On ramp
Chips
Interstate
Sweater
Camper
Fries
Sidewalk
Trunk
Yield
Grocery cart
Roadway, street
Alley, narrow street
Slider
Dead end, cul-de-sac

