



Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club

hastingskiwanis.org

myclub@hastingskiwanis.org

facebook.com/hastingskiwanis

"Children are gifts too ~ handle them with care."

June 2026

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to
george.howard@hastingskiwanis.org OR 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 ~ June



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

Thur. 4 - HPS Emerging Educator of 2026 - Former Member Ryan Martin

Wed. 10 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room - All Members Welcome

Thur. 11 -

Thur. 18 -

Thur. 25 -

JUNE:



SKATEPARK NEWS

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

Total Club Donations to Date: \$58,164.77 (116.3%)

* Member Matching grant pledge \$10,000 (received)

Total General Public Pledges/Donations to date: \$147,666.46 (98.4%)

* Visitors Bureau commitment, \$50,000 Coming

* Lions Club pledge \$ 5,000 Coming

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

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

\$50,000 to put your name on the Pump Track

***** 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 for setting up****

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

Thursday, June 4th 9-11 am

Hildreth Lutheran Bible School

Friday, June 19th 9–10:30 am

Sertoma 8 man football

Wednesday, September 30, 8:30–10:30

St Cecilia High School

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.

June	5 – George Howard, Need 1
June	12 – Dale Musgrave, Need 1
June	19 – Need 2
June	26 – Need 2

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

ICYMI ~ May 2026:

May 7 Chorus of the Plains by Richard Johnson



Ray Crowl gave a history of how Barbershop Quartets started in the 1880s and it actually was in bigger barber shops because those shops had 4 chairs and the 4 barbers could sing together while cutting hair. They sang 4 parts. In 1938, at the Aladdin Hotel in Kansas City the Barbershop Harmony Society was started.

In 1961, the Hastings Chorus began singing, then, in 1966 the group was officially named The Chorus of The Plains. Ray Crowl was an original member and still directs and sings.

The Chorus sang several songs including one with the club. Some of the 12 members of the Chorus besides Ray Crowl present were Richard Johnson, Jim Carson, Dr Ray Conant, Will Locke, Lonnie Miner and Dr Neil Currie.

October 24th of this year they are presenting their 60th anniversary show at the Hastings College Chapel.

May 14th, Dr Kelsi Anderson, President of Bryan College of Health Sciences



The Bryan College of Health Sciences is 100 years old and is based in Lincoln, but has a branch medical in Hastings partnering with Hastings College. Their mission is to provide educational pathways for medical health sciences. Including Hastings, there are 4 locations, 21 programs and 836 students.

707 students are seeking degrees and they are proud of 100% of their graduates are employed within 6 months of their graduation.

Bryan has a 0% default rate on Federal student loans which is impressive as their annual cost for a student is \$18,000.

Bryan has operated an AI admission process successfully which saves 6 ½ weeks of work for a full time employee.

The Hastings College partnership was formed in 2020 with Mary Lanning for a nursing program. Bryan and Hastings College started with 3 students and in the Fall of 2025, this program had grown to 53 students.

This is the only medical program in Hastings and it is for nursing. The students apply to Hastings College and are students there for 2 years. The final 2 years they are studying nursing at the Bryan program in Hastings which is affiliated with Hastings College while doing training at Mary Lanning.

Nursing students receive 1,200 hours of training.

In Hastings, the Hastings Public Schools has a Health Occupation Student Association who works with Bryan to have students consider a career in nursing.

If a high school student wants to be a nurse they can:

- 1) volunteer at a hospital until age 16
- 2) at 16, apply and obtain a CNA license and work at a care facility or hospital
- 3) shadow health workers to confirm their interest
- 4) determine high school subjects which help with future college subjects in the field

May 14, Kiwanians Volunteered at the Elementary Track Meet at Hastings High and Sold Concessions during the track meet for 4 hours



Kathy Schultz and Margie Ormsby sold concessions to raise funds for our club while several other Kiwanians volunteered to assist with the track and field events.

May 21, Todd Cerny, Manager of Thermo King



The top picture is Todd Cerny, while the bottom picture shows the 3 other Thermo King workers who also each worked 8 hours at our Pancake Day. They enjoyed the day so much they may try to arrange a packing event at HHAH in the next year for many Thermo King employees.

Hastings and Thermo King are fortunate to have Todd here as he is a 1999 UNL engineering graduate who has been promoted to plant manager recently.

Thermo King has 436 employees at this location, 51 of which are salaried. Their plant has 241,000 sq ft containing 7 product assembly lines. Thermo King is the 3rd largest employer in Hastings.

The plant makes transportation HVAC for semi-trucks, cooling and heating units for buses, and power units for truck cabs and trailers. In 2020, when Covid began, they started making air purification systems for buses.

They are known for supporting the local schools and parades.

Thermo King is a subsidiary of the Trane Technologies Corporation. There are Trane and Thermo King Brands on products. Trane also produces HVAC for data centers, commercial buildings and homes. They have 38 plants in 15 states and were founded in 1938.

Thermo King sells their products through dealers like the Regional TK Christensen and they sell directly to bus manufacturers. Thermo King has 11 plants of their own in the world.

May 28th, Peter and Carla Hedstrom on their recent trip to Albania



Peter and Carla had a lengthy trip to Albania because their granddaughter was a rotary scholar and visited there, while their daughter wanted to spend a year partly because a neighbor's daughter was employed teaching English in Albania.

Albania is about 1/8th the size of Nebraska but has 2 3/4million people. Their religion is mainly Islam as 50% of the people state that choice. 90% of the people of Islamic faith are of the sunni Sect.

The language spoken is Illyrian, which is not related to any other European language, due to centuries of isolation.

After being under a communist tyrant since World War 2, in 1990, a revolution took place and since then free elections are conducted to establish leaders.

3 UNESCO heritage sites are well preserved and a 10 minute video was shown that shows a modern society in their capitol of Triana with a population of over 400,000.

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
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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)
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Kathy Hohensee (2)
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Mike Howie (2)
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Greg Schultz (2)
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John Boltz (1)
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Brandon McDermott (1)
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Casey Mohler (1)
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Dale Musgrave (1)
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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4 TOM MUSGRAVE
15 FRANK KOCH
27 JIM LEWIS
30 DR MIKE E JOHNSON

