



Kiwanis®
CLUB OF MARYVILLE

Kourier

JANUARY 2026

Meetings at noon each 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Green Meadow Country Club; lunch served at 11:30

Email: maryvillekiwanis.tn@gmail.com; Website: www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org

Dedicated to building a better community by focusing on service to children and youth

Santa and Mrs. Visit Kiwanis



Santa Claus makes his rounds all over the world in his trademark red and white suit. It's not often that he brings Mrs. Claus with him. At our December 16 meeting, both surprised us, putting all attending in the Christmas spirit. The beard was real and he actually knew everyone's name. Some mistook him for our County Mayor, **Ed Mitchell**, but we knew when Mrs. Claus showed up too, this had to be for real.

Merry Christmas to all!

President's Corner

2025 is almost over, and December has certainly been a busy month for Maryville Kiwanis members as they took part in Caroling, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and other charitable outings in our community. I took part in the Maryville Christmas parade this year for the first time as our Simmons Bank team had a float in the parade. I had no idea how big our parade was or what it took to make it happen. It was a fantastic experience seeing all the kids along the parade route. It reminded me that our focus as Kiwanians is kids!



On December 16th Santa and Mrs. Claus came into our Kiwanis Christmas lunch as the members sang "Here Comes Santa Claus." Santa gave out gifts and posed for photos, but mostly spread news of great joy, and happiness for being a Maryville Kiwanian! This was a good time had by all.

We had a bench dedication on December 19th for one of our own, **Wanda Davis**, for all that she has done with Second Harvest Food Bank, as Chair of the Bench Committee, and continues to do for our club and Foundation. Congratulations Wanda and thank you for what you mean to Maryville Kiwanis!

As the cold weather moves in and we start a new year, I am reminded why the rear-view window in our cars is small and the front window is large. There is nothing wrong with remembering the past and especially learning from it but always living in the present.

I wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

Blake Mansfield



December 2 Meeting Notes

Regina Jennings introduced today's speaker and her husband of 34 years, Roger Jennings. Roger began his career as a funeral director in 1998. After 20 years he retired only to find that he wanted to renew his profession in his own business. This led him to found Blount Funeral and Cremation and today he shared with us how becoming more familiar with Pre-Need Planning can save us a lot of anguish at times when these services are needed. By doing this you can make decisions according to what you really want at the time of death.



Chris Mahler and David Buck visited from Alcoa Kiwanis.

For loved ones, such pre-planning offers the opportunity to reduce some of the emotional stress that accompanies last-minute decisions. Items that can be decided beforehand are music, readings, photos, special items, unique touches, whether a religious service or not, personal tributes, and veteran honors to name a few. You can be sure there will be debates, friendly and sometimes not, if

these are not decided early. Paying for the service now offers the assurance of a secure and guaranteed investment, with funds placed with legally regulated insurance/trust providers.



To make things easy so you don't forget something, Regina reviewed and distributed a "Letter of Last Instruction." This is a document that gives you a checklist of items to consider that make it much easier for your loved ones. No one wants to talk about these decisions, until you are put in the position where you have to make

decisions that you wish had been previously made.



Annual Visit from Santa - December 16



Our Christmas meeting celebrates not only the birth of Jesus, but also some time-honored traditions of Maryville Kiwanis. The singing of America followed by the Pledge of Allegiance begins all of our meetings. We all stood to sing Christmas songs together and an inspirational invocation was given by **Robert Russell**. **Kent Willoughby** delivered the Christmas message from the Gospel of Luke and then **Emily Mantooth** finished putting us all in the Christmas Spirit by a heart-felt reading of "Twas' the Night Before Christmas." Just after the Happy Bucks were collected, who at the door did appear, but Santa Claus and his "deer" Mrs. Claus.



The efforts of **Heather Larson** in putting this all together are worthy of special recognition. Arranging a visit from Santa was hard enough, Mrs. Claus attending was a special treat, and being an elf for Santa in getting all his gifts together made for a memorable Christmas meeting.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Greet Maryville Kiwanis



Fun moments were had by all as Santa and his bride made his way around the room. Just as we all as families have treasured traditions at this special time of year, this Kiwanis tradition at Christmastime offers a lasting memory. **There are more Christmas pictures to view and/or download on the Photo Galleries page of our website.**

Santa Passes Out Gifts



Santa Visits the Aktion Club



Santa always seems to manage to take enough time out of his busy schedule to visit our Aktion Club. Obviously, he can put a smile on everyone's face. Thank you, Santa! There are more Aktion Club Christmas pictures to view and/or download on the Photo Galleries page of our website.

Amtryke Construction Crew Readies Another Tryke

In addition to providing a method for funding the Amtryke donations, Maryville Kiwanis starts the process by identifying a youth from our community who would most benefit by this device to assist in their ambulation. The pediatric physical rehabilitation services of Blount Memorial Hospital serve a variety of needs to our community and with their assistance both the Alcoa and Maryville clubs are able to provide custom made Trykes that are age, size, and disability specific to that child's needs. All these specifications are sent to the Amtryke manufacturing facility where the Tryke is designed and custom built.



Many dads have spent a Christmas Eve putting together various toys and gifts for their children. Similarly, it is with a great deal of joy that our Kiwanians put together these custom Trykes. The next Tryke, to be given at our January 20 meeting, was put together by **Bob Ullom, Steve Kiefer, Jerry Heiny, and Kent Willoughby** in Jerry's garage.

From Kiwanis International – What's an SLP?



SLP is short for Service Leadership Programs. Our Maryville Kiwanis Club is for adults who serve kids. As part of that serving, we sponsor several SLP's at local high schools (Key Clubs) and Middle Schools (Builder's Clubs) and the Aktion Club for adults with disabilities. Currently our Circle K is inactive at Maryville College with hopes of reviving this program in the future.

Sponsoring these clubs offers a unique opportunity for our club members to interact with the youth of our community to provide leadership and also to get an inside look into youth eager to make a difference in their school and community. It is inspiring to hear of their activities and interest in making this world a better place. It takes only a small amount of incentive and support to generate an enthusiasm for their many projects. They also support us in activities like Salvation Army Bell Ringing and the Pancake Breakfast. In the process of supporting these young kids, we have the privilege and responsibility to help form the future leaders of our community and country.

At each meeting, there are announcements regarding these SLP activities. Join your fellow members in supporting these organizations.

Interclubs



Linda and **Bob Ullom**, **Pete** and **Wanda Davis** attended the December 4 Alcoa Kiwanis meeting.

High Schoolers Ring the Bells

Ring the bells at Christmas for the Salvation Army is a project in which many organizations in our community participate. It has long been a tradition of our club to support this effort on two weekends at a local store. This year the Maryville High Key Club and ECCA cheerleaders took one of those weekends, doing themselves and us proud. Their willingness and enthusiasm, even singing Christmas carols, made it a great experience for them and shoppers. Not many shoppers passed them by without putting some coins or bills in the buckets. Heritage Middle schoolers also helped.



Kiwanis Bell Ringers



Briefs

- **Elton Jones** continues his recovery at home.
- David Buck, our Alcoa Kiwanis member whom we prefer to call our own, was saddened on Thanksgiving Day by the sudden passing of his wife.
- Keep **Bobbie Jo Barnes**, our Salvation Army of Blount County Administrator, in your prayers.
- Our Key Clubbers from Maryville High provided us with 24 volunteers at the Pancake Breakfast.
- We collected \$450 in appreciation of Kat Morris who takes care of us at lunch along with André and Kenny in the kitchen. Merry Christmas – thanks for what you do!
- Meetings are the first and third Tuesday of each month. There are 5 Tuesdays in December so NO MEETING on December 30. Happy New Year!
- The NEXT MEETING is Tuesday, January 6 and WILL NOT BE AT GREEN MEADOW. There will be an e-mail notification of the location. This is due to a GMCC schedule conflict.
- **Brian Rich** and **Janet Gandy's** granddaughter was only the 4th girl in Blount County to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout – Congratulations!

Wanda Davis Honored with Bench

On Friday, December 19, a bench was placed at Second Harvest Food Bank, where she regularly volunteers, in honor of **Wanda Davis**. Wanda has worked tirelessly in all aspects of Kiwanis from being president, to sharing the leadership of our Leadership Adventure Camp, to being a dedicated board member, to helping with the Imagination Library Tree at the airport, and so much more. If you have something that needs to get done – ask Wanda. There are more pictures to view and/or download on the What We Do page of our website.



January Birthdays

January 12	Katie Beeler
January 13	Cliff Frana
January 14	Hunter Jones
January 23	Bob Ullom
January 27	Tom Coulter



Programs

	Speaker	Title	Topic
January 6	Ted Rutland	Clayton Homes	Social Responsibility
January 20	Attendance Awards	and Youth Protection Presentation	



Division 5 Clubs

Club	Founded	Members	Website
Maryville	December 29, 1919	66	www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org
Meetings every 1st and 3rd Tuesday noon, Green Meadow Country Club			
Morristown	January 23, 1920	50	None
Meetings weekly, Friday noon, Morristown Country Club			
Newport	September 7, 1920	75	None
Meetings weekly, Tuesday noon, West End Baptist Church			
Knoxville	April 5, 1919	47	None
Meetings weekly, Thursday noon, Crowne Plaza Hotel			
Northside, Knoxville	June 14, 1949	17	www.northside.kiwanis.us
Meetings weekly, Wednesday noon, Shoney's on N. Broadway			
Alcoa	July 18, 1951	70	www.k04236.site.kiwanis.org
Meetings weekly, Thursday noon, Airport Hilton			
Jefferson County	March 12, 1959	5	None
Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday noon, Perkins			
Sevierville	September 28, 2000	20	
Meetings weekly, Tuesday noon, Applebee's			
Foothills, Townsend	October 19, 2023	15	www.townsendfoothillskiwanis.org
Meetings 2 nd and 4 th Wednesday noon, The Abbey			

Board of Directors

President

Blake Mansfield
(731)234-3991
blakemansfield@simmonsbank.com

President-Elect

Carl Van Hoozier
(865)250-1160
cvanjr@gmail.com

Vice-President

Tom Antkow
(865)336-0952
Tom.a@drivesafer.info

Past-President

Jerry Heiny
(865)207-7930
jjheiny16@gmail.com

Secretary

Heather Larson
(847)-421-7422
kiwanismaryvilletn@gmail.com

Treasurer

Julie Miller
(865)556-8506
jmiller@cbbcbank.com

Directors

Cliff Frana
Emily Mantooth
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Amanda Nowak
Patsy Russell
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Tony Thompson
Dian Trosclair
Kent Willoughby

Objects of Kiwanis

To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.

To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.

To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.

To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring relationships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.

To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and good will.



Proud Sponsors of



Volunteer State Aktion Club



**Heritage, Maryville, Eagleton Middle School and
Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School**

KEY CLUB®

**Eagleton College & Career Academy,
Maryville High School**

Our Corporate Members

These corporate members have committed to have representative at our meetings and have embraced our commitments to our community and our child-enriching causes, programs, and projects.

Blount County Public Library
Boys & Girls Club of Blount County
Community Options, Inc.
Great Smoky Mountain Council of Scouts
Life Care Center of Blount County
Maryville City Schools
United Way of Blount County

Blount Partnership (Chamber of Commerce)
Second Harvest Food Bank
Smart Bank
The Daily Times
The Salvation Army
Vienna Coffee House
State Farm – Hunter Jones



Maryville Kiwanis Website

www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org

**Scan this QR code to directly
Link to the website.**

Kourier Staff

**Tim Thurston and Pete Davis, Co-editors
Pete Davis and Tim Thurston, Layout
Pete Davis, Photography
Heather Larson, Meeting Minutes**