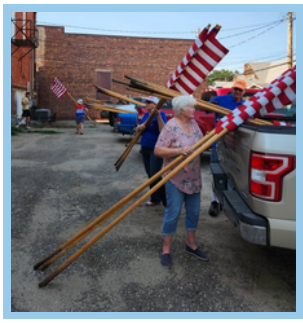
THE KIWANIAN

Kiwanis Kansas District Newsletter

September 2026



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2026 District Convention

See highlights on page 7.



Governor Designate Lindy Lawson energizes the crowd while highlighting the work Kansas Kiwanis clubs do for kids and communities.

From Flags to Playgrounds: Funding Bigger Service

The Kiwanis Club of Great Bend has built recurring fundraising into a reliable source of money for community projects. The club reports raising about **$30,000 each year from its flag project and other fundraisers**, creating opportunities to invest in projects that may be difficult to fund through a one-time fundraiser.

At Veterans Memorial Park, the club helped establish the Kiwanis Walking Track and playground equipment. More recently, it donated **$30,000 for a permanent shade structure** over new mini-pitch soccer courts at Heizer Park, helping create a cooler, more comfortable place for local children to play.

Big projects are not the club's only focus. The Great Bend club also awarded **$900 to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library** through United Way of Central Kansas and **$600 to a Great Bend High School Student Ambassador project** creating an outdoor patio and student gathering space.

Service: By the Numbers

Income

$30,000
Raised **annually** through the flag project and other fundraisers

Service Spending

$30,000
Shade structure over youth soccer courts

$900
Dolly Parton Imagination Library

$600
High school student gathering space

The idea worth borrowing isn't necessarily the flag project or any one service project. It's the model:
Build a fundraiser your community recognizes and can support year after year, then use dependable revenue to take on service projects with a longer-lasting impact.



Suresh Maharjan
Division 10 Lieutenant Governor
division10@kskiwanis.org

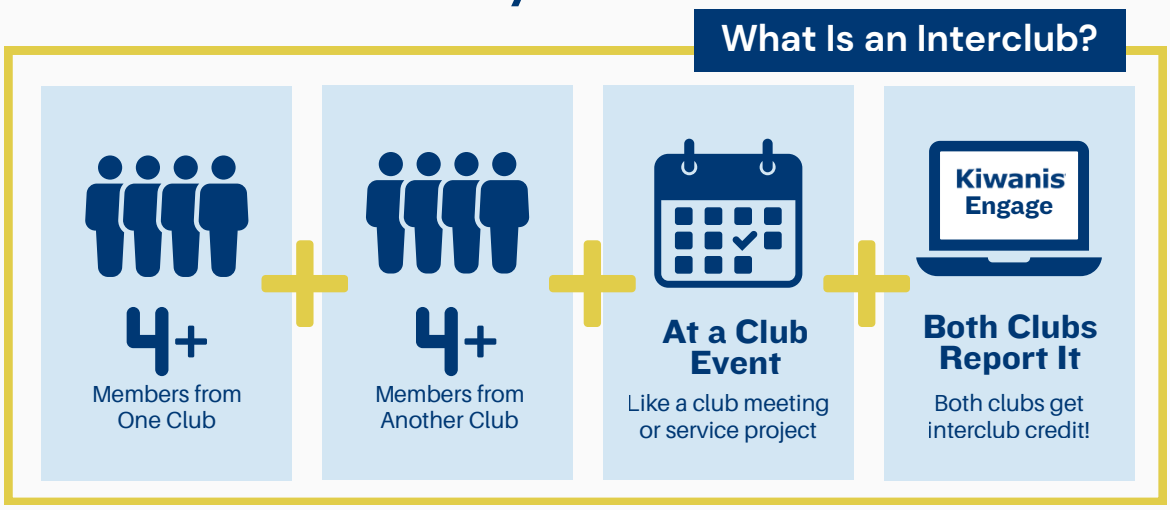


The Kiwanis Club of Great Bend donating $900 to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB TRY?

- What fundraiser could your club repeat and grow every year?
- Could some of that income be set aside for a larger, multi-year goal?
- If you have extra funds at the end of the year, how can you allocate them to best help your community next year?
- What school, city, or community partner already knows where an investment would make the biggest difference?

Make Interclubs Easy



The Pittsburg Sunflower Kiwanis Club and Pittsburg Noon Club get together whenever a month has a fifth Thursday. Attendance has grown over time and we all enjoy the camaraderie.

The last interclub meeting we had was April 30th, when we met at a Mexican restaurant. Club members from each club sat interspersed around the tables, and it was like listening to long lost relatives sharing stories. It is more than just a meeting; it becomes a social event that has gotten better over time. At this event, there were over 20 participants, and we are beginning to feel like it is one of our regular meetings.

In the new fiscal year, I want to promote interclubs. I challenge every club to complete at least four interclubs this year! We will recognize the club in the District with the most interclub meetings at the end of the year. I encourage everyone to participate in an interclub, meet new people, and have fun!



Lindy Lawson
District Governor
Governor@kskiwanis.org

HOST AN INTERCLUB FOR YOUR CLUB

Pick an easy recurring trigger. A fifth Thursday works because it is memorable and doesn't compete with either club's normal meeting schedule.

Keep it social. A restaurant or casual shared activity makes the visit feel different from another formal meeting.

Mix people up. Club members sit mixed in with members of the other club rather than staying in separate groups.

Report it. Both clubs should record the interclub in Engage.

4 Things Club Presidents Can Do Right Now

For a Kiwanis club president, it's never too late in the year to think about membership growth, member satisfaction and more. And it's never too early for next year's president to prepare. Whether you're a current or incoming club president, or a member who's considering a future in club leadership, four simple acts can strengthen your leadership:

1

Listen to Your Members

Conduct a member satisfaction survey, then review the results with club leaders.

Identify current club elements to:

- Keep and strengthen
- Change or drop
- Try next



2

Take Advantage of Resources

Contact your district membership team for advice.

Use Kiwanis International resources such as the Club President Leadership Guide and Club President Club Leadership Education training.

Attend district and KI conventions for workshops, ideas, and advice from other Kiwanians.



3

Value Your Members

Run meaningful meetings with an agenda, stay on schedule, and respect members' time.

Meet monthly with your club board to review progress.

Build fun into the year to strengthen friendships and connections.

Recognize members often and celebrate their contributions.



4

Strengthen Your Club

More members mean more children your club can serve.

Plan at least one focused membership effort each year.

Start with Kiwanis tools like Two For Two and Build. Nurture. Retain. to create a membership plan.

Use recruitment resources to:

- Host an open house
- Plan a club boost
- Reconnect with former members





Cindy Bender
Leadership Development Coordinator
Gbender@gbcomm.net

What Happened When Lawrence Held an Open House?

The Lawrence Kiwanis Club recently held an open house designed to introduce more people to Kiwanis and give prospective members a chance to see what the club is about.

Even when a planned Facebook promotion through Kiwanis International wasn't available, the club kept promoting the event through its own Facebook posts and reels. Members also continued doing one of the simplest forms of recruitment: inviting friends and coworkers personally.

The results show what can happen when clubs give prospective members a low-pressure way to see Kiwanis in action, then follow up afterward.

By the Numbers

~60 attendees

~30 guests

15 wanted to learn more

5 joined after the event

+3 had joined shortly before

8 total new members



Cindy Henry
Division 2 Lieutenant Governor
Division2@kskiwanis.org



Open House attendees completed a service project.



One-on-one conversations helped make connections and encourage people to join.

WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB DO?

Promote locally. Ask members to personally invite people they know.
Most importantly, collect interest and **follow up after the event**. An open house isn't over when the doors close.

23 Finishers Go the Distance for Kansas Kids

Congratulations to everyone who completed this year's district 5K! Donations from the event help support kids throughout our district, making every mile part of something bigger.

Doug Ackley
Cynthia Bender
Kylie Couvelha
Matt Curl
Joyce Ellis
Dawn Gabel
Jim Germann
SeHee Germann
Cynthia Henry
Kurt Huschka
Ronald Jackson
Jessica Kootz
Lynden Lawson
Jim Lourentzos
Kimberly Mancuso
Jan Mason
Robert Maxwell
Annamarie McGuire
Gregory McLaren
Leigh Purdy
Stephen Russell
Dan Soeken
Wanda Weber

Dates to Know

October 5 to 9
Kiwanis Youth Protection Week

November 30
Club Dues Due to Kiwanis International

December 1
Annual report due in Engage

February 15
Deadline to file IRS Tax Returns (Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N)

March 13, 2027
Mid-Year Education Conference
Pittsburg, KS

Ask First, Then Serve

Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Hutchinson connects with the principal at Graber Elementary School and asks what the school needs.

This year, the school's wish list included favorite snacks for each classroom and gift cards that can be used for additional needs throughout the year. Club members purchased the requested items and delivered them at the beginning of the school year.



Club spotlight shared by
Bob Ross
Division 5 Lieutenant Governor
Division5@kskiwanis.org



Downtown Hutchinson Kiwanians deliver requested classroom snacks and gift cards to Graber Elementary.

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?

Contact a principal, counselor, or PTO and ask: "What need do your students have that isn't currently being met?" Then, following the school's lead, look for ways your club can help through one of Kiwanis' cause areas:

Health & Nutrition
Food
Wellness support
Hygiene Items
& more

Education & Literacy
Books
Classroom Supplies
Reading Programs
Learning Resources

Youth Leadership Development
Award Recognition Programs
Mentoring
Service Clubs

2026–2027 Kansas District Executive Board



Lindy Lawson
Governor
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Kimberly Mancuso
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District Secretary
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Cynthia Bender
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Governor Goals

"My goal is to visit at least two clubs per division this year, and for every club to achieve a net gain of at least one member"

Position Changes

Lacretia did not run for the District Treasurer position this year for personal reasons. **As of October 1**, 2026, **Cindy Bender is the District Treasurer** and **Jim German is the District Secretary**. Please ensure that you direct secretary-related questions to the Secretary email, and 990, Kansas Informational forms, and so on to the Treasurer email. Thank you!

Secretary:
kansaskiwanissecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer:
kansaskiwanistreasurer@gmail.com

2026–2027 District Board

Lt. Gov Div 2
Cynthia Henry
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Lt. Gov Div 7
Phil Marrs
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Lt. Gov Div 12
Janette Meis
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The Lt. Gov positions for Div 4, 9, and 10 are vacant. If you want to serve in one of those districts, contact Lindy!

DCON Highlights!



Friday Night Social at the Rolling Hills Zoo Museum.



Vice Governor Kimberly Mancuso, Key Club Administrator Michele Springer, and Immediate Past Governor Dan Soeken.



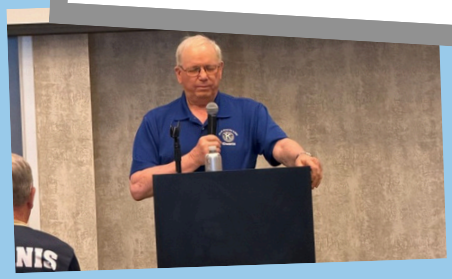
Beth Davis (Kansas City) runs her '10 for 10' raffle to raise funds for Key Leader. Last year, she raised enough to send 10 high school students to Rock Springs Ranch.



Doug Clark (Sabetha) and Greg McLaren (Topeka Southwest) enjoy the Rolling Hills Zoo Museum.



Claudia Christiansen (Fort Scott Pioneers) and Jeanette Mauk (Pittsburg) greeting the DCON sunrise with a little yoga session.



Steve Norsworthy (Mead) leads the Celebration of Life Ceremony.



Opening Session hosted by the Pittsburg Sunflower Club.



Intl Trustee Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges, Division 12 Lt Governor Janette Meis, Governor Designate Lindy Lawson.



Governor Designate Lindy Lawson presenting during President's Training.



Intl Trustee Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges presented 2024-25 Distinguished Awards to Immediate Past Governor Dan Soeken and Secretary Cindy Bender.