

THE Georgia Kiwanian

MAY / JUNE 2025 | georgiakiwanis.com



KIWANIS MOMENTS

Mike Terry
Kiwanis Club of Jonquil City
Kiwanis

Most cities have wonderful community service organizations; Optimists, Rotary, Lion’s Club, Moose, and numerous church and neighborhood groups. But in my home town, the one I am most familiar with is **Kiwanis**. I have been an active member of the Jonquil City Kiwanis Club for more than 24 years and I have held many positions in the club, including president, fund raising chair, and chair of the board of directors, and more. I could write at length about all the local worthwhile projects that my club has been involved in and the hundreds of people we have helped, but that’s not what is on my mind at the moment.

As the coronavirus has held us captive for so many months, I have busied myself working alone in my garden and completing lots of projects, and I often found myself resting on one of my garden benches and remembering...just remembering. As I look out over the tender new plant growth that has been encouraged by the warm spring sunshine, I recall several special *Kiwanis moments* that were meaningful to me, and I thought I’d record them here.

Kiwanis works almost exclusively with children. As you might imagine, that means we interface with lots of disadvantaged children. You know the ones; single parent kids, poor kids, needy kids, hungry kids, beautiful kids. Most of the work we do is



through the local schools. Our reputation is above reproach, our success rate is high, and our club is in great demand. We have learned that second, third, and fourth graders are the easiest to impact in a positive way. So, in every story here, the children I describe are elementary school age.

MY FRIEND
One of the most rewarding things our Kiwanis Club does is teach reading. A school will select children that are reading well below grade level and assign individual children to one of our members. Once or twice per week, the child is sent to the media center (library) where the child reads to the Kiwanian, not the other way around. Gentle correction is applied. Praise is given for the smallest accomplishments, and in time, the child invariably improves their reading skills. But something else happens here as well. The Kiwanian and child develop a bond, a real friendship. For many of the children, this becomes the best part

of each school week, and they really look forward to it. One year the child assigned to me was a very shy diminutive black boy. His teacher told me he struggled to read at all, and she could not understand how he even made it to the third grade. “Just

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David Simmons 2024-25 Governor of the Georgia District

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Club: Cordele

Welcome to May. In the Kiwanis world, May is membership month. In reality, every month is membership month. The key to membership growth within our clubs is to invite prospective members. Each of us has to be intentional regarding inviting prospective members to be a part of Kiwanis. We can invite those people to our club meetings, to our service projects, or both. Either way, the most important aspect is to INVITE. If you need any assistance with membership, I encourage you to reach out to our membership team. They are a dedicated group of Kiwanians who are more than willing to assist you and your clubs. I don't mention membership to just try and get more numbers, the important aspect to remember is that the more members we have the more service we can provide in our communities. Speaking of service, is your club aware of our District Foundation's matching grant program? We are blessed to have a District Foundation that is ready and willing to assist clubs with their projects. The matching grant program allows clubs to submit a request for matching funds up to \$5,000. I believe that every club would love to increase their project funds, so the first step is to submit a request. Details about the matching grant program can be found on our district website. Two big events are rapidly ap-

proaching. The Kiwanis International Convention will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from June 25 until June 28. Plans for the International Convention have Henry Winkler "The Fonz" speaking at our opening session. As for our District Dinner, we will be going as a group to the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game on Friday, June 27. Tickets for the game are available now. We only reserved 40 tickets and they are on a first come first serve basis. I hope that you will make plans to attend. The second big event is our own District Convention. This year, we will be in Dalton, Georgia from August 8 until August 10. We have scheduled the following entertainment for the convention. Randall Franks from the television show, "In the Heat of the Night" will entertain us Friday night and at the Saturday luncheon. Christian music artist, Austin French, will be our Saturday night entertainment. I encourage you to come and be a part of our District Convention.

In the near future, next year's leadership will begin making plans for the 2025-2026 Kiwanis year. Furthermore, the Georgia District will be offering Club Leadership Education during the months of June, July, and August. Every club member is welcome to attend this training, which normally last from 9-12 on a Saturday. I ask that all incoming

officers and board members attend the training. This training is an opportunity to learn new ideas to assist the local Kiwanis club. I know that Governor-Elect Barry Gardner is feverishly working to put together the leadership team for next year. If you are interested in being a part of the leadership team for the Georgia District, please reach out to Barry, Ed Searcy, or myself. We'd be happy to include you.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as your Governor for the Georgia District of Kiwanis. I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling around our great state visiting with Kiwanis Clubs. I am in awe of all of the dedicated members that I have met and the amount of service being provided. All of the clubs have been an inspiration to me. If I haven't had the pleasure to visit your club, I plan to visit before this Kiwanis year concludes. As you have already heard, the motto for this year is "Kiwanis, Where Dreams Come True." I want each of you to know that you are making dreams come true in your communities. Sometimes we forget the impact that Kiwanis Clubs have in their respective areas. Don't sell yourself short. Always remember that whether your club is making a difference in the lives of many or in the lives of one, you are making a positive difference in the life of someone and helping that person's dream come true. Thanks again for all that you have done and will continue to do to make our world a better place.

God Bless,

David



UPDATES FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alexia Lieber

Executive Director of Georgia
District of Kiwanis

I am looking forward to seeing those who have registered to attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If you want to join us at the Pirates Game on Friday night, June 27th please purchase your tickets now. Go to our District Website click on Events then International Convention.

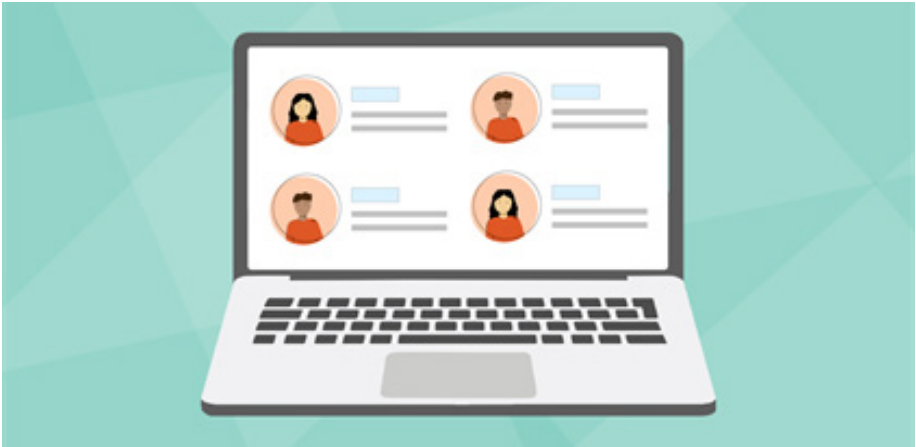
Club Election Reports are due June 1st. Please submit your forms electronically as soon as possible. Both the District Office and the International Office need this information for their Directories. Please check all information to make sure it is correct before submitting.

This year our Georgia District Convention will be held in Dalton, Georgia, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Registration is now open on the District Website - www.GeorgiaKiwanis.com. Click on Events then Convention and it will take you to the registration.

Are you checking off your points to become a Distinguished Club for 2024-25 year? Club Presidents and Secretaries make sure you are checking off items you have completed. This year it is a point system. Forms are due by October 15, 2025.



2024-25 DISTRICT DIRECTORY



You can download a copy of the 2024-25 District Directory online our website!

Georgia District Directory includes contact information for the Georgia District Officers, Lt. Governors, and Committee Chairs. Also includes information for each Georgia Kiwanis Club with meeting times and location and officer contact information.

Download here:
www.georgiakiwanis.com/ga-district-directory

DUES BREAKDOWN PER MONTH

2024-25 Kiwanis Year

MONTH	KI DUES	DISTRICT DUES	TOTAL
October	\$107.00	\$30.00	\$137.00
November	\$98.08	\$27.50	\$125.58
December	\$89.17	\$25.00	\$114.17
January	\$80.25	\$22.50	\$102.75
February	\$71.33	\$20.00	\$ 91.33
March	\$62.42	\$17.50	\$ 79.92
April	\$53.50	\$15.00	\$ 68.50
May	\$44.58	\$12.50	\$ 57.08
June	\$35.67	\$10.00	\$ 45.67
July	\$26.75	\$ 7.50	\$ 34.25
August	\$17.83	\$ 5.00	\$ 22.83
September	\$ 8.92	\$ 2.50	\$ 11.42

DIVISION LEADERS TRAINED FOR THE NEW YEAR

Governor Elect Barry Gardner conducted Training for the 2025-2026 Lt Governors at Epworth by the Sea at St Simons GA. Membership, Growth, and Retention team members Katrina Baranko, Dewey Smith, Byron Mullican and Exective Director Alexia Lieber also conducted training sessions. Their knowledge and expertise made the day.

Governor Elect Barry thanked the attendees for their willingness to serve the District. "Your involvement, energy, and commitment is evident. The team has been formed. I am looking forward to a great Kiwanis Year as we work together for the Children."



MEET DEBBIE MCCRACKEN, ED.D, 2025 CANDIDATE FOR VICE GOVERNOR

What an honor and privilege it will be to serve with you and for you in the 2025-2026 Kiwanis year as your Vice Governor. I owe a debt of gratitude to all those district and club level leaders who consistently encouraged me to pursue this path. You know who you are! I am beyond excited to embark upon this level of leadership in our well-respected Georgia District. I can't wait to see what we will achieve together to amplify our impact of service in our District, creating expanded possibilities for children and families in our communities and throughout the world.

Who is Debbie?

Debra "Debbie" McCracken was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She is product of Catholic Schools having attended parochial school K-8 and an all-girls high school grades 9-12 which was completed in 3 years. She received a Bachelor of Science Education Degree from Texas State University majoring in Elementary and Special Education, Master of Arts Degree in Bilingual-Bicultural Education from University of Texas at San Antonio, an Educational Specialist Degree from University of West Georgia, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy Atlanta University.

Debbie retired as the Marietta City Schools Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. Her 36 years of service in education and administration included teaching all elementary grades K-5 in San Antonio, Texas, Darmstadt, Germany, and the Marietta City School System for 19 years before entering the administrative path for the next 17 years of her career. She joyfully served as the Park Street Elementary School Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and as an Assistant Superintendent who willingly



and gracefully accepted all duties and responsibilities as assigned and then some! Upon Debbie's promotion to school principal, her superintendent strongly encouraged that she becomes a member of a local civic club either Rotary or Kiwanis. **She chose wisely and joined Kiwanis!** Little did she know at the time that this would be a life-changing experience that she would more fully embrace upon her retirement from district level administration.

Debbie has served either in a leadership role or as a committee member on about every committee in the Marietta Kiwanis Club. Debbie is currently a K-Kids advisor and Builders Club advisor and has served in these roles since 2017.

- 2001 Kiwanis of Marietta Member
- 2005-2007, 2015-2017 Board of Directors
- 2017-2018 Kiwanian of the Year
- 2017-2018 Club Secretary
- 2018-2019 President-elect
- 2019 to Present- Chair of the Laundromat Library/Little

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- Free Libraries Committee
- Major Emphasis Project
- 2019-2020 President of the Kiwanis Club of Marietta
- 2021-2022 Lt. Governor-elect Division 15
- 2022-2023 Lt. Governor Division 15
- 2023-2024 Lt. Governor Division 15
- 2023 to Present New Club Coaching
- 2023-2024 District Chair of Alliances, Sponsorships, and Partnerships
- 2024-2025 District Finance Committee Member
- 2024-2025 District Convention Chair
- 2024-2025 District Membership Committee

KIWANIS AWARDS

- Outstanding Kiwanian Award 8 years
- Perfect Attendance Award 12 years
- Distinguished Service Award 2002-2003
- Governor's Leadership Award 2021
- Walter Zeller Fellowship Award 2020
- George Hixon Award 2024
- Distinguished Lt. Governor Award 2023
- Distinguished Lt. Governor Award 2024

PAST AND CURRENT COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARDS

- Cobb Children's Youth Museum Board
- Cobb Collaborative
- Communities in Schools Board
- Marietta City Schools

- Hispanic Advisory Council
- Georgia Symphony Orchestra Board 2021 to present.
- United Way Board

Debbie sang in chorus groups throughout high school and university years. She had the privilege of singing for St. Joseph's Chancel Choir which sang for Pope John Paul II in the Vatican, the Marietta Master Chorale which performed in Spoleto Music Festival in Charleston, SC and in Bach and Mozart's church in Germany and Austria. She presently sings with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the St. Joseph's Church Choir. When she's not doing Kiwanis volunteer work, she's traveling, singing, reading, cooking, or you can find her making heirloom Christmas stockings for her children and grandchildren.

Debbie is the wife of retired Army Colonel Tutt McCracken, Jr. and is the proud mother and grandmother of four grown children- three sons and one daughter and seven grandchildren. Tutt and Debbie enjoy being grandparents to four boys and three girls who range in age from 22 years to 6 months.

Debbie and Tutt enjoy travel in the United States and throughout the world. They look forward to traveling to meet new Kiwanis family members throughout the beautiful state of Georgia as Debbie seeks to serve in future Georgia District leadership roles.

UPDATES?

If you have a committee update, club event, or service project photos, etc. to share, please send an article or caption with a picture to Georgia Kiwanian Editor:

Samantha Downton
sdownton@avcheers.org

OFFICIAL CALL



Official call and notice are herewith given that the 106th Annual Convention of the Georgia District of Kiwanis International will be held on August 8-10, 2025. The convention will take place at the Dalton Convention Center in Dalton, Georgia. Any Proposed Amendments to the District Bylaws must be submitted to the District Secretary and received by him/her no later than 60 days prior to the District Convention. Therefore, to be considered, all Bylaw Amendments must be in the hands of the District Secretary, P. O. Box 6618, Macon, Georgia 31208, by June 9, 2025. Any club desiring to present a Resolution at the District Convention must submit it to the District Resolutions Committee chaired by Leah Reiser at leah.reiser@gakeyclub.org, not less than 60 days prior to the convention.



HELP KIDS THRIVE



IN MEMORIAM

Edward L. Bagwell, Jr.

Douglas

Charlie Banks

Jonesboro

Conrad Barnes

Monroe

Donna Hunt

Columbus

J. C. Johnson

Cairo

Charles L. Lewis

Perry

Allyson McGraw

Blairsville

Jeryl Pinnell

Americus

Rufe L. Robertson

Lost Mountain

Judge Richard

Allen Slaby

Augusta

Charles C. Tarleton

Griffin

Stephen E. Weeks, Jr.

Savannah

ALWAYS *Loved,*
FOREVER *Missed,*
NEVER *Forgotten*

CLUBS WITH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

AS OF APRIL 30, 2025

DIV.	CLUB	GROWTH
1	Galleria-Northwest	
	Atlanta	+1
2	Columbus	+1
2	Greater Columbus	+1
2	Harris County	+1
2	LaGrange	+1
2	Pike County	+1
2	Thomaston	+4
3	Coweta County	+1
3	Fayette County	+11
3	Grantville	+2
3	Newnan	+9
4	Pooler-West	
	Chatham	+2
4	Saint Marys	+3
5	Americus	+2
5	Mitchell-Baker	+2
6	Augusta	+1
7	Athens	+4
7	Classic City, Athens	+1
7	Granite City	+16
7	Hartwell	+3
7	Jefferson	+2
8	Historic Roswell	+1
8	Lawrenceville	+3
9	Crawford County	+2
9	Forsyth-Monroe	
	County	+1
9	Hawkinsville-Pulaski	
	County	+18
9	Jones County	+1
9	Macon	+2
9	Macon County	+1
9	North Macon	+2

DIV.	CLUB	GROWTH
9	Taylor County	+6
10	Dawson County	+2
10	Gilmer County	+2
10	Rabun County	+1
11	Calhoun-Gordon	
	County	+1
11	Rome	+1
12	Carrollton	+3
12	Douglas County,	
	Douglasville	+2
12	Fairfield-Villa Rica	+1
12	Villa Rica-Temple	+3
13	Dooly County	+1
15	Greater Cherokee	+3
15	Jonquil City, Smyrna	+1
15	Lost Mountain	+2
15	Marietta	+3
15	Metro Marietta	+2
15	North Cherokee	+1
17	Brooklet	+8
17	Douglas	+1
17	Effingham	+4
17	Metter	+9
17	Statesboro	+2
17	Vidalia	+1
18	Conyers	+2
18	Covington	+3
18	Eatonton	+1
18	Greene County	+20
18	Henry County	+2
18	Madison	+4
18	Social Circle	+1

HONORING EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

Virginia Klaer

Kiwanis Club of Duluth-Norcross

The Kiwanis Club of Duluth-Norcross is fortunate to have two leaders who each recently received the Medallion award at the Division 8 Governor's Rally. Shenee Holloway, a past president and board member for many years, is an elected commissioner of Duluth. This year, she started our first signature project in which five schools and local libraries collected business attire for high school seniors to wear for job and career interviews.

Domonique Cooper, also a leader with many talents, is currently the secretary and treasurer of our club. In addition, she started a Terrific Kids program and is also an advisor to a K-Kids and Key Club SLP! She does all this because she is ready and willing to step up whenever there is a need.

We are delighted Governor Simmons recognized these two worthy Kiwanis women as examples of exemplary leadership on February 21, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP

CR Phillips

Club Growth/Retention Co-Chair
Kiwanis Club of Newnan

"For several months now I've been rambling on about how this is 'The Most Important Thing' and how that is 'The Most Important Thing' so how about I boil it down into a list of Eleven Most Important Things?

Understanding that your club may have other issues and that this list is not necessarily in the order that your club needs to address.

1.) **FUN:** If you want folks to show up, they **MUST** expect to have fun and there's any number of ways to generate a few laughs.

2.) **CLUB SURVEY:** What do the members of your Club really think about what's going on? You really need to poll them on at least an annual basis! Things like meeting date, location, meals, projects, programs, and fundraisers. There may be hidden issues here that are unknown to you that are affecting club participation simply because no one has ever asked what the membership thought!

3.) **MEALS:** As my Baptist friend always tell me, if you want folks to show up to meetings you have to feed them or at least give them a way to get a meal.

4.) **CONSISTENT LOCATION:** Once a convenient location is found **KEEP IT!** Don't be moving around. Your Club Survey will tell you what you need to know about the popularity of your present location.

5.) **CONSISTENT DATE & TIME:** Don't be moving your club's meeting date or time around either. With a consistent date and time members will have the ability to work your club meeting

date and time into their schedules. Again, your Club Survey will tell you what's most convenient for your members.

6.) **NEWSLETTER:** Without a Newsletter members will not know from one week to the next what's going on; it's that simple. And it doesn't have to be a three-page color newspaper either. A simple, consistent e-mail with important facts will do very nicely. Also include information about members, birthdays, Kiwanis Join Date Anniversaries - all available on your clubs Secretary's Dashboard - in other words show your members that you **CARE** about them.

7.) **PARTICIPATION:** Form committees that are responsible for these and other activities. Populate those committees with a few members who have an interest in specific activities. **ASK** members directly - tell them that you need help and wouldn't they please lend a hand. Keep the tasks small so no one is overwhelmed.

8.) **PROJECTS:** Projects should help solve community problems or address community issues. If you're stumped on what's really needed in your community go ask the pastors in your churches, speak with the school principals or counselors, with the local police, and you'll find all sorts of issues that need to be addressed. Then poll your membership to see what your members are most interested in addressing.

9.) **PARTNERSHIPS:** Once your club has decided on a particular issue, or issues, look for other charities you can partner with. You'll most likely find that they have the tools to directly deal with the issues at hand and that IF you'll help them your combined efforts will make for

the most effective **PROJECTS**.

10.) **FUNDRAISERS:** Now we get down to where the rubber hits the road because this is where your Club is going to earn its credibility. This is what all these Nine other issues are leading up to. Your Club may have a traditional fundraiser you've been using, effectively for years, like a pancake breakfast, or participation in a community celebration where you sell bean soup and corn bread, or participating in a county fair... The list goes on and on. The point here is that you're using that Kiwanis Banner to put your Club's Name on Caring for Your Community!

11.) **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:** You really didn't think I was going to **NOT** include Membership Growth, did you? These projects are where you recruit new members. It works like this: Two, Four, or Six, members get together and come up with a list of folks they think would make good members. They make an appointment with these recruits, and go visit in groups of two, at such a time that's right in front of some sort of community project which these new recruits are invited to participate in. This way these new recruits can see for themselves what your Kiwanis club is all about. They can get involved from the start. Well, that all for now... I just want you to ask yourself, what are you doing to make your Club Stronger and More Effective in Your Community?"

CELEBRATED OVER 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Charlie Banks was a unique member of the Jonesboro Kiwanis Club. Charlie is seen being presented a plaque for 60 years service to the Jonesboro Club. But Charlie is also unique in that he was a charter member of the Campbell of Fairburn high school Key Club, he was also a charter member of the Reinhardt college Circle K club and a charter member of the Jonesboro Kiwanis Club!



CREATE A FREE EASY-TO-USE KIWANIS CLUB WEBSITE

Exclusively for Kiwanis clubs, Kiwanis International offers a free, easy-to-use service to set up a website. Now your club can create a professional online presence without the cost or hassle of traditional website development. And that allows you to focus more on what truly matters: service that changes children's lives.

KEY FEATURES

There are several reasons to choose this optional service. For example, it's:

- **Free of charge.** Provided by Kiwanis International, the service is available at no cost to your club.
- **User-friendly.** It's designed by members for members, ensuring a streamlined user experience.
- **Fully managed.** Kiwanis International hosts the websites and takes care of WordPress software upgrades and security.
- **Designed for versatility.** Your website will look great on all devices. Or as the tech professionals say: The platform has a mobile-responsive design.
- **Stocked with integrated tools.** Features include a Facebook feed, Google calendar feed, payment process and form builder.

GETTING STARTED

It's easy to begin! Just follow these three steps:

1. **Complete a Kiwanis Club Sites Interest Form** (tinyurl.com/rtz3etb5). The club webmaster should fill out and submit the form to express interest.
2. **Look for email confirmation.** Once your site is cre-

ated, the webmaster will receive an email to confirm access.

3. **Complete the training modules** (<https://wiki.site.kiwanis.org>). The modules are hands-on, and you can complete them at your own pace.

And you'll get technical support! Once you've begun the process – and gotten your club's website up and running – you'll have access to collaboration and support from a team of club-site experts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Is the club website platform mandatory?

No. Your free club website is optional – but we do recommend it for cost savings and consistent Kiwanis branding.

Q. Can our club use its own domain name?

Yes, you can use your own domain name. In fact, one of the training modules will show you how.

Q. Can our club website be customized?

Yes. Once you receive your website with the initial design, you may modify it so that it meets your club's requirements while still benefiting from Kiwanis branding standards.

Q. What technical support is available?

Each Kiwanis district should have a district club sites trainer to assist you. Kiwanis International's information technology department is also available. If you have questions or need any other details, go to the Kiwanis club website support page. (<https://wiki.site.kiwanis.org/club-sites-support/>)

DIVISION	LT. GOVERNOR	CLUB	BEGINNING MEMBERS	CURRENT MEMBERS	DONATIONS TO DISTRICT PROJECTS
1	Peter Graybill	Atlanta	188	186	5 of 5
		Doraville-Tucker	8	8	5 of 5
		Druid Hills	10	10	5 of 5
		Galleria-Northwest Atlanta	15	16	5 of 5
		Northside Atlanta	31	31	5 of 5
DIVISION TOTALS:			252	251	
2	Lisa Scully	Barnesville	24	24	
		Columbus	40	41	4 of 5
		Greater Columbus	21	22	
		Griffin	96	95	5 of 5
		Harris County	14	15	5 of 5
		LaGrange	39	40	5 of 5
		Manchester	10	10	
		North Columbus	10	10	
		Pike County	16	17	
Thomaston	42	46			
DIVISION TOTALS:			312	320	
3	Karen Goodell-Webb	Coweta County	76	77	5 of 5
		Fayette County	23	34	
		Fayetteville/Greater Atlanta	9	9	
		Grantville	11	13	
		Newnan	103	112	
		Peachtree City	17	17	
		White Oak Golden K	61	59	
DIVISION TOTALS:			300	321	
4	Shelena Bentley	Brunswick	54	52	
		Jesup	32	32	
		Liberty County	30	30	
		Pooler-West Chatham	16	18	
		Richmond Hill	13	11	
		Saint Marys	63	66	5 of 5
		Savannah	16	14	
		Skidaway	149	147	
		Waycross	5	0	
DIVISION TOTALS:			378	370	
5	Sylvia Roland	Albany/Dougherty County	68	66	5 of 5
		Americus	75	77	5 of 5
		Bainbridge-Decatur County	20	20	
		Cairo	49	43	
		Cairo-Morningstar	18	18	
		Mitchell-Baker	14	16	5 of 5
		Thomasville	62	55	
DIVISION TOTALS:			306	295	
6	Jeffrey Foweler	Augusta	123	124	
		Louisville	13	13	
		Thomson	19	17	
		Uptown Augusta	14	13	
		Warrenton	19	19	
		Washington	11	9	5 of 5
DIVISION TOTALS:			199	195	
7	Herschel Mize	Athens	24	28	
		Classic City	17	18	5 of 5
		Commerce	24	23	
		Granite City		16	
		Hartwell	34	37	5 of 5
		Jefferson	10	12	5 of 5
		West Jackson	3	3	5 of 5
		Winder	16	15	5 of 5
DIVISION TOTALS:			128	152	
8	John Pace	Cumming	17	17	
		Duluth-Norcross	11	11	
		Gainesville	112	111	
		Historic Roswell	25	26	
		Lawrenceville	11	14	
		North Gwinnett	28	28	5 of 5
		South Hall County-Oakwood	10	0	
		Suwanee	16	15	5 of 5
DIVISION TOTALS:			230	222	
9	Jacque Hatcher	Crawford County	18	20	5 of 5
		Forsyth - Monroe County	54	55	5 of 5
		Fort Valley	25	25	4 of 5
		Hawkinsville-Pulaski County		18	
		Jones County	31	32	5 of 5
		Macon	29	31	5 of 5
		Macon County	30	31	
		Milledgeville	25	25	5 of 5
		North Macon	16	18	5 of 5
		Perry	41	40	
		Taylor County	13	19	
		Warner Robins	10	10	
DIVISION TOTALS:			292	324	

DIVISION	LT. GOVERNOR	CLUB	BEGINNING MEMBERS	CURRENT MEMBERS	DONATIONS TO DISTRICT PROJECTS
10	Juanita Edwards	Blairsville	9	8	
		Blue Ridge	55	51	
		Cleveland	28	28	5 of 5
		Dawson County	11	13	5 of 5
		Gilmer County	17	19	5 of 5
		Habersham County	33	32	
		Rabun County	14	15	
		Toccoa	8	8	
DIVISION TOTALS:			175	174	
11	Julie Jones	Calhoun-Gordon County	9	10	
		Cartersville	11	10	
		Dalton	47	45	4 of 5
		Murray County	7	7	
		Ringgold	16	14	
		Rome	21	22	
DIVISION TOTALS:			111	108	
12	Mitch Clifton	Bowdon	24	24	5 of 5
		Carrollton	86	89	5 of 5
		Carrollton Golden K	26	26	
		Cedartown	38	35	
		Douglas County	12	14	5 of 5
		Fairfield - Villa Rica	22	23	5 of 5
		Paulding	5	2	
		Rockmart	15	15	
		Villa Rica - Temple	15	18	
DIVISION TOTALS:			243	246	
13	Tom Shoup	Adel	6	6	
		Cordele	40	40	5 of 5
		Dooly County	22	23	
		Fitzgerald	22	21	
		Moultrie	102	90	5 of 5
		Sylvester	38	38	
		Tifton	19	19	5 of 5
		Turner County	22	21	
		Valdosta	21	19	
DIVISION TOTALS:			292	277	
15	Virginia Braswell	Georgia Online	20	20	5 of 5
		Greater Cherokee	18	21	5 of 5
		Greater South Cobb	23	22	
		Jonquil City	29	30	5 of 5
		Lost Mountain	57	59	5 of 5
		Marietta	169	172	5 of 5
		Marietta Golden K	66	64	5 of 5
		Metro Marietta	20	22	
			20	21	5 of 5
DIVISION TOTALS:			422	431	
16	Tony Barrs	Jonesboro	17	16	5 of 5
		Lithonia-Stonecrest	6	6	
		Metro Atlanta	42	42	5 of 5
DIVISION TOTALS:			65	64	
17	Chris Wiggins	Baxley	34	34	
		Brooklet	59	67	
		Douglas	19	17	
		Effingham	14	18	
		Metter	16	25	
		Statesboro	144	146	5 of 5
		Swainsboro	23	17	1 of 5
		Tattnall County	17	17	
		Vidalia	104	105	
DIVISION TOTALS:			430	446	
18	Jocelyn Wykoff	Conyers	23	25	5 of 5
		Covington	42	45	5 of 5
		Eatonton	15	16	
		Greene County		20	
		Henry County	47	49	5 of 5
		Madison	41	45	
		Monroe	18	15	
		Social Circle	21	22	
DIVISION TOTALS:			207	237	
GEORGIA DISTRICT GRAND TOTALS:			4342	4433	

DISTRICT TOTALS:	
Total Reported Members on 10/01/24	4,342
Total Reported Members on 4/30/25	4,433
Total Clubs as of 10/01/24	130
Total Clubs as of 2/28/25	131

LEGEND:	
NC	New Club
PR	Pending Revoke
CS	Club Suspended

IDEAS FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Is your club looking for partners? Various groups and individuals can support your club in ways both big and small. Here's how different types of partners can team up with SLP clubs to contribute to the community:

- **Businesses can donate supplies for club activities.** They're good resources for art supplies for posters or toiletries to put in hygiene bags for homeless shelters. They also can provide a location where customers purchase and donate items – such as food from a grocery store, for a food drive. Restaurants can partner with your club on a fundraiser. During a "dine and donate night," a percentage of revenue could go to your club for its activities, or to an organization such as a children's hospital or animal shelter.
- **Government agencies can offer cost-free locations for service or events.** For example, members can mulch hiking trails or pick up litter in public parks. Or the club can schedule time to help patrons at libraries and historical sites. A benefit concert could be held at a park pavilion or a walk-a-thon on city streets. Work with agency staff or public officials to get approval for your club's activities. Elected or appointed officials also can be great speakers at your school – and good advocates for your club with community leaders.
- **Nonprofit organizations often need donations of money or useful items.** They also offer sites for hands-on service, such as caring for animals at a local shelter or bell ringing for donations during holiday seasons.
- **Individuals are often the first to support clubs!** Among your family, friends, neighbors and other com-

munity members, you'll find many people willing to help at events, share their expertise and donate resources (such as money and items). Just ask!

Of course, these organizations and individuals benefit from

the opportunities that your club gives them. Whether it's part of their mission or a way to be seen giving back to the community, they're getting a chance to support kids and do their part in improving their community. So don't be shy. Pursue partnerships that benefit everyone!

LOCAL STUDENTS HONORED WITH MEL HAYDEN LEADERSHIP

THE NEWNAN TIMES-HERALD
By: Clay Neely



Nineteen students from the 3rd Division of the Georgia District of Kiwanis were awarded Mel Hayden Leadership Medallions during a ceremony at the Nixon Centre for Performing and Visual Arts on March 9.

The recipients are members of Kiwanis-sponsored Student Leadership Programs at their schools. These include K-Kids for elementary students, Builders Club for middle schoolers, and Key Club for high school students.

Each student was nominated by their club advisor for exemplifying the service leadership principles the award represents. The medallion, established in 2016 in memory of the late Dr. Mel Hayden, a White Oak

Golden Kiwanis Club member, recognizes students who display outstanding leadership in three key areas:

Heart to Serve – demonstrating compassion and recognizing needs in their school and community

Call to Lead – actively volunteering, taking leadership roles, and helping solve problems

Courage to Engage – building interpersonal relationships and communicating effectively

Georgia Kiwanis District Governor David Simmons, Lt. Governor Karen Goodell-Webb, and Coweta Kiwanian Lucy Hayden presented the awards.



KIDS NEED KIWANIS TO LEARN COMPASSION

KEY CLUB DISTRICT BOARD TRAINING

Last month, the new 2025-2026 Georgia District Board of Trustees for the Georgia District of Key Club International came together for a weekend full of training, team bonding, and s'mores! Congratulations to the new leadership!



COSPONSOR A BUILDERS CLUB



When a Kiwanis club cosponsors a Builders Club, it joins forces with another Kiwanis family club – usually Key Club or Circle K International – to provide meaningful support and guidance. Together, these clubs collaborate to meet the sponsorship requirements outlined in the Builders Club Petition for Charter, ensuring a strong foundation for young leaders to grow and thrive. Here's what cosponsoring clubs do and how they can work together:

- Assign volunteers. The Kiwanis club appoints a member to serve as the Builders Club Kiwanis advisor. The cosponsoring Key Club or CKI club also appoints a contact person. The Kiwanis advisor (and other volunteers 18 years or older) must complete Youth Protection Training before working with the Builders Club.
- Fund the Builders Club. After paying the initial chartering fee, the Kiwanis club allocates money in its budget to support the Builders Club, including paying its annual renewal fee. Some cosponsoring Key Clubs and CKI clubs pay a portion of the charter and annual fees. Throughout the year, cosponsoring clubs can help with activity and service project expenses, as well as snacks for meetings.
- Create a plan and calendar. It's time to get to work and have fun! The Kiwanis advisor and Key Club/CKI represen-

tative should meet with the Builders Club faculty advisor at the beginning of the year. Discuss how and when they will assist with service, training, ceremonies or other projects, such as this year's Global Service Project, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, Builders Club Week, and Builders Club Contests & Awards. Use the Builders Club Advisor Toolkit to learn how to offer support.

- Invite Builders Club members and parents to service events. Include the Builders Club members in a cosponsoring club's service projects, when age-appropriate, or start a new one with a Kiwanis International partner. For example, build a Little Free Library or grow a community garden with help from Kids-Gardening.

Kiwanis cosponsors collaborate to offer the best possible experiences for the Builders Clubs they sponsor. And because more Kiwanis volunteers are involved, Builders Club meetings and service activities receive additional support.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Join us in congratulating these clubs that are celebrating birthdays! We are honored to have them as a part of our Georgia Kiwanis family. Each club has been active in the community and is truly making a difference. Thank you for all you do!

MAY:

Bainbridge-Decatur County (5/1/2024)
Lawrenceville (5/4/1923)
Suwanee (5/9/1996)
Turner County (5/11/1993)
Druid Hills, Atlanta (5/14/1957)
Griffin (5/20/1940)
Atlanta (5/27/1918)
Northside Atlanta (5/28/1948)

JUNE:

Milledgeville (6/1/1920)
Carrollton Golden K (6/1/1994)
Hartwell (6/6/1949)
Fitzgerald (6/7/1955)
Cartersville (6/11/1953)
Moultrie (6/13/1922)
Baxley (6/18/1981)
Richmond Hill (6/18/2019)
Metter (6/19/1923)
Classic City, Athens (6/20/1980)
Jonesboro (6/21/1965)
Louisville (6/21/1923)
North Columbus (6/21/2007)
Douglas County, Douglasville (6/27/1972)

KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND

John Holley

Georgia District Kiwanis
Children's Fund Chair
Kiwanis Club of Metro Atlanta



The Kiwanis Children's Fund, your fundraising organization for Kiwanis International, continues to reach out to you and your clubs to raise \$25,000,000.00 by the end of the 2027-2028 Kiwanis year. This is the goal of the Possibility Project. With these funds, the Children's Fund can serve 10 million children around the world.

What a joy it would be to no longer see children going hungry, students struggling to read, and potential leaders lacking mentors. I am pleased to report that Kiwanis clubs are addressing urgent needs like these. With your contributions, the Kiwanis Children's Fund is addressing these issues with grants that make service projects possible. We have an opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of the 10 million kids I mentioned. Also, it takes just \$2.25 to impact the life of a child.

Let's not forget the impact we had on the world with our previous two global projects (IDD and the Eliminate Project). The world knows who we are, and I am sure you want to be on "Team Kiwanis" that continues to be that "shining light on the hill." **Again, I am asking that your club considers becoming an Impact Club** and give a gift that represents an average of at least \$500.00 per member over five years. By reaching your goal, your club will have a major role

in the Kiwanis family's effort to make a difference in the lives of children around the world.

As you embark upon this mission, it is suggested that you use a combination of fundraising methods: These may include:

- Gifts generated from community fundraising event and activities.
- Gifts from individual club members.
- Gift from the club treasury.
- Gift from the club foundation.
- Matching gifts from your club or other organizations.
- Gifts from local businesses or organizations in your community.

Just remember, your club can count the contributions made on behalf of your club to the Kiwanis Children's Fund, since October 2022.

Since my last article, here is the fundraising update. The Possibility Project total gifts and pledges are at **\$7,546,439.94.** The **Georgia District's total gifts and pledges are at \$253,558.51. Thanks for your support!**

As always, as your District Chair, I am your resource for all matters relating to the Kiwanis Children's Fund. **USE ME!** My contact information is jholley40@comcast.net or by phone at (678) 481-7572.

Darryl Gumz
2022-23 Governor of GA District
Kiwanis Club of Winder,
Jefferson, West Jackson,
Georgia Online

Something that is not widely publicized is our valuable youth protection training provided by Praesidium Academy at no charge to our clubs and members. This training is required for many of us (Service Leadership Program Advisors, chaperones) and is completed online. This is not a substitute for the Youth Protection Guidelines training required for all clubs every year. There are seven separate courses that are self-paced to take. SLP Advisors must take six courses and chaperones must complete three. Like the Kiwanis Background Check, These courses must be renewed every two years. To know which courses you need, see the chart included below in this article.

Praesidium abuse prevention courses
Kiwanis International partners with global abuse prevention educator Praesidium Inc. to conduct youth protection and child abuse prevention courses. Praesidium Inc. is a multi-disciplinary organization that has spent more than 25 years researching child sexual abuse and developing prevention training, programs, and services.

SLP advisors, district administrators, risk managers and youth protection managers can access training through the Praesidium Academy learning management system. The courses cover topics ranging from sexual abuse prevention to a volunteer’s duty to report abuse. These volunteer positions require you to complete six to seven courses, depending on the role. Courses will be pre-loaded into a user learning path for immediate access.

Chaperones for SLP events are required to complete three courses. If a chaperone is not a Kiwanis member, they will need to have a profile created to complete the training. Email youthprotection@kiwanis.org to have the profile created. Courses will be pre-loaded into a user learning path for immediate access.

Once courses are completed, the member can print his or her certificate by clicking on the “certificate tab” on the learner dashboard. It does not need to be submitted to Kiwanis International. We automatically receive results. Training must be completed every two years.

How do I receive my login information from Praesidium Academy? Depending on your role as SLP District Administrator, advisor, member or non-member chaperone, download

instructions here.

If you already have a learner account, follow these steps to reset your password and gain access to your account:

1. Go to praesidiumacademy.com/learn .
2. Click on Forgot your password? (to create a new or reset password)
3. Enter the email address Kiwanis International has on file.
4. Click the blue Reset Password button.
5. Check your email.
6. Click the link inside of your email to set a new password for your Academy account.
7. There will be a three-question survey to fill out.
8. Access courses in the learning path.

Email youthprotection@kiwanis.org with questions or technical problems.

I appreciate everyone who needs the Kiwanis Background Check staying current. As you know, the \$35 Kiwanis Background Check is good for two years. Only 8 background checks need to be renewed in May and June. If you look at your page on the Kiwanis Connect site, you can see when your approved background check is set to expire.

Darryl Gumz
Youth Protection Manager
gumzes@gmail.com

Please find your Kiwanis role in the table below to determine which courses you will take.

Course	SLP Youth Protection & Risk Manager	SLP DA & Advisor (CKI, Builders and Key Clubs)	SLP DA & Advisor (K-Kids and Aktion Clubs)	Chaperone (Non-advisor Kiwanis Member, Faculty, Parent, Spouse, etc.)
Abuse Risk Management for Volunteers	X	X	X	X
Social Media Safety	X	X	X	X
Preventing Sexual Activity Between Adolescents	X	X		X
Duty to Report	X	X	X	
Meet Sam	X	X	X	
It Happened to Me	X	X	X	
Safety Equation: Monitoring & Supervision	X		X	

GEORGIA DISTRICT ART & MUSIC SHOWCASE

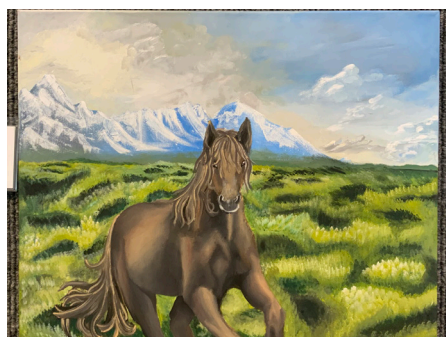
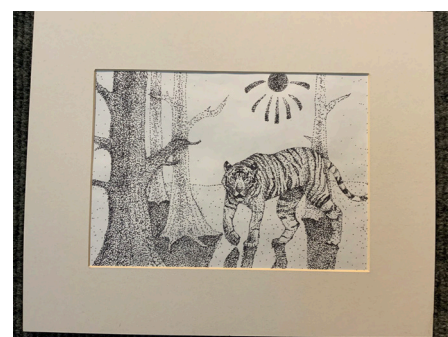
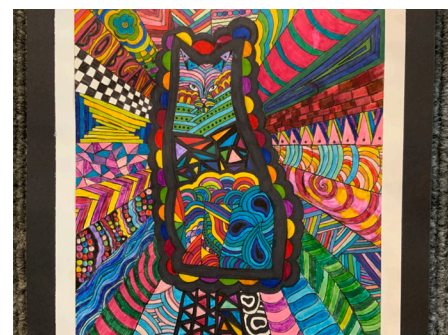
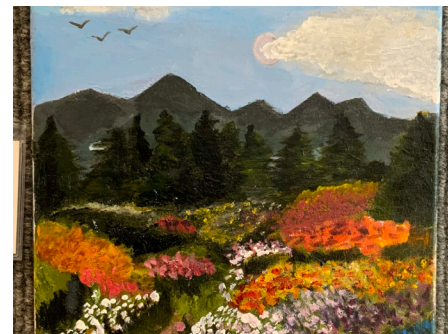
John Davis

District Art & Music Showcase
Chair
Kiwanis Club of Macon

On Saturday 4/26/2025 , we held the 43rd Georgia District Art & Music Showcase at the beautiful and historic Douglass Theatre in downtown Macon. On display were 95 pieces of impressive artwork from our students all over the state including submissions from grades 6th through 12th. Kudos to the 14 clubs that sent participants to Macon last week. Best in show went to Bijou Proctor 1st Place, Coweta Co, Stella Yas 2nd place, Marietta, David Ramos 3rd place, Macon, Katelin Anderson 4th place, Marietta.

On the Music side we had 14 contestants of outstanding talent, with piano players, a trio, a duet with twin sisters, opera singers and even a trumpet solo. It was an excellent and entertaining line up. 1st place went to Skyler Wong, Macon, 2nd place to Edie Sanders, Marietta, 3rd to William Kelly, Conyers and 4th place to the trio of Madison Ladd, Payton Whitaker, and Sydney Green from the Gainesville club.

Congratulation to all our winners. See you next year at the Douglass on April 25, 2026.



MORE PHOTOS ONLINE AT GEORGIAKIWANIS.COM

COMMITTEE UPDATES

DISTRICT DIFFERENCE MAKERS SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST

Carrie Binns

District PR & Social Media Chair
Kiwanis Club of Statesboro

The Georgia District of Kiwanis is excited to launch a brand new annual social media contest—**District Difference Makers**—to celebrate and showcase the incredible impact our clubs make in their communities! This is your club's opportunity to highlight its service projects, engage with the community, and promote membership growth in a creative and compelling way.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

Each Kiwanis Club in Georgia is invited to submit their entry for the social media platform of their choice. Criteria based on:

- **Social Media Presence:** Well-crafted posts on any platform (Facebook, Insta-

gram, Twitter, etc.) highlighting a club project, event, or initiative.

- **Picture Impact:** High-quality, engaging images that capture the spirit and impact of your club's efforts.
- **Community Influence:** Showcasing how your club's initiatives make a difference in the community.
- **Membership Growth:** Demonstrating how your club uses social media to attract and engage new members.

SUBMISSION & JUDGING

- **Submission Deadline:** All entries must be submitted by **July 1st** by each individual Kiwanis Club.
- **Where to Submit:** Send your entries to the **GA District PR Chair Carrie Binns**. Email Address, cbinns@bulloch.solutions

- **Judging Panel:** Our Circle K District partners will lend their expertise in evaluating submissions based on creativity, effectiveness, and impact.
- **Winner Announcement:** The winning club will be recognized at our **Georgia District Convention** with a special award and recognition.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to celebrate your club's achievements and inspire others! Start planning your submission today, and let's show the world the power of Kiwanis in action! For questions or more information, contact The Georgia District PR Chair Carrie Binns (email cbinns@bulloch.solutions. We can't wait to see how your club makes a difference!

EMERGING LEADERS - 2025

Sharon Barksdale

Emerging Leaders Chair
Kiwanis Club of Conyers & Social Circle

I know that we are fast approaching the end of another school year. I hope that most of you are familiar with the Emerging Leaders Program and the upcoming Retreat in September at the FFA Camp in Covington.

Now is the time to begin looking at students who you believe would benefit from the Retreat. We will have a dynamic speaker, Dave Kelly, again this year. His program and presentation are incredible. He can reach the students and engage them in the presentation and the activities. The feedback from last year's Retreat was very positive. The students become creative and share their thoughts and ideas with the other students.

The information about the Emerging Leaders Program and the Retreat are on the Georgia Kiwanis website: **georgiakiwanis.com**. When



you get to the website, you click on Events and scroll down to Emerging Leaders. This page has all the information you will need about the program, registration, cost and contact information. You can also download the event flyer to use when approaching anyone about the program and Retreat.

I encourage each of you to talk to your clubs, friends, family, teachers, coaches, counselors and others who have eligible students who could benefit from attending this Retreat. September is just around the corner.

Another consideration in hosting this Retreat will be adult volunteers. It will be necessary for us to have one (1) adult for every ten (10) students. The

gender breakdown will depend on the number of male and female students who register. Please consider becoming an adult volunteer - you won't regret it.

In advance, I sincerely thank every one of you for your consideration, assistance and participation in this endeavor. My contact information is on the webpage. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at the email address provided. Thank you all for your help and all that you do for Kiwanis and the children in your communities. Always remember, **KIDS NEED KIWANIS.**

LET'S CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ONE CHILD AND ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

The Georgia District of Kiwanis International Emerging Leaders Retreat



Saturday, September 20, 2025

Sunday, September 21, 2025

The **Emerging Leaders Retreat**, sponsored by the Georgia District of Kiwanis International, is a program that will be held **September 20-21, 2025** and is available to all **high school students in the state of Georgia who are in 9th - 12th grades** (current 8th graders who are moving up to 9th grade in the fall of 2025 are eligible). Teachers, school administrators, community leaders, and Kiwanians are asked to identify any student who they believe could emerge as a leader after being trained in several areas related to serving leadership.

This fun and interactive experience will be led by America's Student Leadership Trainersm, Dave Kelly. Dave is an award-winning student leadership speaker in both the U.S. and Canada. He is an expert in engaging students in community service and is a 9-time Distinguished District Administrator, the most in the history of Circle K International.

The registration fee is \$125 per student, which includes 3 meals (lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday), snacks and refreshments, lodging for Saturday night, all materials, and more!

The Emerging Leaders Retreat will be held at the **Georgia FFA/FCCLA Campground in Covington, GA**. Check-in begins at 11 am on Saturday, September 20, followed by lunch, and then the program begins. Pick-up will be at noon on Sunday, September 21.

For more information, contact

Sharon Barksdale, Georgia Kiwanis Emerging Leaders Chair

P. O. Box 1215, Covington, GA 30015

Phone: (770) 842-7649 email: slbarkatty@gmail.com

**Make a difference for the students in your community
by sending them to the Emerging Leaders Retreat!**

JOIN US IN PITTSBURGH - JUNE 2025

Trish Tootle

International Convention Chair
Kiwanis Club of Statesboro



Kiwanis®
CONVENTION 2025
PITTSBURGH
June 25-28

Join us at the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention scheduled for June 25 - 28 in Pittsburgh, PA. This is an awesome opportunity for us to celebrate 110 years of Kiwanis service reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

The Convention will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, as we experience the pageantry and success of Kiwanis International. This will be a time for us to get informed about the business of Kiwanis International as delegates from clubs around the world will elect the organization's next leaders and vote on amendments.

The opening session features beloved actor, producer, and author Henry Winkler. You will be inspired by Winkler's story and his commitment to helping children reach their full potential. On Friday night we will have an opportunity to attend the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game and tickets are currently available at a district level.

During the Convention we will "Forge the Future" as we discover new ways to grow

our clubs, while nurturing and building membership. As we conduct business you will also learn how to magnify your club's influence on your community and how to transform service projects in ways you never thought possible.

REGISTER NOW

Registration includes keynote speakers, Kiwanis Launchpads, education sessions, the Kiwanis Annual Meeting, the Membership Fair at the Opening Reception and the Kiwanis Sunset Social. Lunch on Thursday and Friday is included with your registration. www.georgiakiwanis.com/international-convention.html

HOTEL

The 2025 Kiwanis International Convention will be held in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, which is within easy walking distance of Kiwanis' preferred hotels. You'll also have easy access to restaurants, shopping and attractions.

The Georgia District will be staying at the **Drury Plaza Hotel** Pittsburgh Downtown is a historic

renovation of the Federal Reserve Bank building. The hotel offers free breakfast, hot food and beverages in the early evening and an on-site restaurant. US\$189 plus tax per night

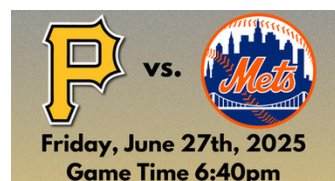
The deadline to book a room at the discounted rate is June 1, 2025, or until the hotel is sold out – whichever happens first.

PIRATES BASEBALL GAME / GA DISTRICT DINNER OUTING

Join us for a fun night out as we cheer on the Pittsburgh Pirates! The Georgia District Dinner will be a Pirates Game on Friday June 27, 2025 in conjunction with the Kiwanis International Convention.

Tickets: \$53 each (includes a \$10 meal voucher at the stadium)

This registration will close once the 40 tickets limit is reached or June 1, 2025 whichever occurs first.



REGISTER ONLINE: georgiakiwanis.com/international-convention

JOIN US AT THE GEORGIA DISTRICT OF KIWANIS CONVENTION!

Debbie McCracken, Ed.D

District Convention Chair
Kiwanis Club of Marietta

An Inspiring Weekend in Dalton, GA

Are you ready to be inspired, learn new ideas, and get the latest updates about Kiwanis International? Mark your calendars from August 8-10 and join us at the Georgia District of Kiwanis Convention in Dalton, GA. This event promises to be an extraordinary gathering, full of opportunities to meet new Kiwanis family members from across the state and reconnect with old friends.

Opportunities and Inspiration

This convention is more than just a meeting—it's a chance to be part of something bigger. You'll have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the latest changes and updates within Kiwanis International.
- Attend sessions that will provide new ideas and strategies to help your local club grow and thrive.
- Be inspired by exceptional entertainers planned for the weekend, guaranteed to lift your spirits.

Explore and Enjoy

Your journey to Dalton offers more than just the convention. Make the most of your drive up I-75 by visiting some incredible museums along the way. Don't miss:

- The Tellus Museum
- The Savoy Car Museum
- The Booth Western Museum

And, of course, no trip is complete without a stop at Buc-ee's for all your travel needs. If you're a Civil War history buff, the Tunnel Hill Heritage Center is a must-visit on your itinerary. For those looking to extend their trip, Chattanooga, TN is just 30 minutes away, offering a variety of places to visit and dine.

Important Dates and Registration
Don't miss these crucial deadlines to ensure your participation:

- The registration window for contracted hotels closes on July 17.
- Event and meal registration closes on August 1, 2025. Please note that late on-site registration will not guarantee meal availability. Visit the events tab on gakiwanis.com for more information.
- If your business is interested in sponsoring the event and being listed in the Convention program, ad forms and payments are due by July 7, 2025.

Join us in Dalton, GA, for a weekend of inspiration, learning, and camaraderie. We can't wait to see you there!

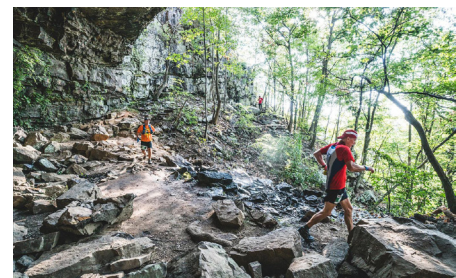
Questions: Contact Debbie McCracken, Ed.D at ddmccracken@outlook.com

ENTERTAINMENT:



AUSTIN FRENCH

Austin is a Christian music artist, currently based out of Nashville, TN, but he's originally from Cordele, GA.



RANDALL FRANKS

Actor, Entertainer, Author, and Columnist. Randall is best known as "Officer Randy Goode" from TV's "In the Heat of the Night," a role he performed on NBC and CBS from 1988-1993.



Georgia District of Kiwanis International Convention Program 2025

August 8-10 ♦ Dalton, GA

Thank you for being a Sponsor of the 2025 Georgia District Kiwanis District Convention!

The following levels of sponsorship and/or advertising are available. (See back for approximate ad sizes)

Note: To have your Gold, Silver, or Bronze ad printed in color, be sure to check the Color Ad upcharge block below.

- | | | |
|---|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Sponsor
(1 sponsorship available) | \$500 | Full ad on the back outside cover of program in color |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Sponsor
(2 sponsorships available) | \$250 | Full ad on either front or back inside cover of program in color - <i>first choice to first form received</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold | \$125 | Full page ad in program. (For Color ad select Color ad upcharge) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver | \$75 | ½ page ad (For Color ad select Color ad upcharge) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze | \$50 | ¼ page ad (For Color ad select Color ad upcharge) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$10 | Listing on patron page in program. (Black Ink Only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color Ad upcharge | \$25 | |
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- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card | <input type="checkbox"/> American Express | <input type="checkbox"/> Discover | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card Debit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paying by Check | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Debit | |

Please Print:

Name: _____

Credit Card #: _____ CV Code: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Kiwanis Club (if applicable): _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Billing Phone: _____

Kiwanis Member who sold this ad: (if applicable) _____

Payment Enclosed: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

SELECT ONE: ☐ Desired layout attached to Ad Form ☐ Please design layout for me

Ad forms and payment due by July 7, 2025

Please make checks payable to: **Georgia District of Kiwanis**

Mail to: Georgia Kiwanis, 4875 Riverside Drive Suite 204, Macon, GA 31210

Questions Please call Alexia Lieber at 478-474-6169 or email at alexia@kiwanis.mgacoxmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

106th Annual Convention of the Georgia District of Kiwanis International, Inc.

Dalton, Georgia

August 8-10, 2025

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the following members of the KIWANIS CLUB OF _____

_____ in Division _____ are duly elected delegates and alternates of this club to the 106th Annual Convention.

DELEGATE

ALTERNATE

1. _____ 1. _____

2. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 3. _____

Dated _____ 2025 Signed _____

Secretary

President

Other Representatives (not members of your club)

(Use this section only if your club is unable to send a member to the District Convention and wants to be represented. The club may ask a Current Lt. Governor or a Past Lt. Governor in their Division not representing their own club. Club Secretary and President must sign off above for this representative.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Approved by the District Secretary/Executive Director

NOTE: Each chartered club in good standing shall be entitled to three (3) delegates, two (2) of whom should be the Club President and President-Elect. Alternates should be chosen for each delegate, including the President and President-Elect. Each delegate shall be entitled to cast one vote and in his/her absence his/her alternate may cast one vote. THERE SHALL BE NO VOTING BY PROXY.

NOTE: This form does not constitute a convention registration. Use official registration and reservation form for this purpose. Please mail, or email this form to: Georgia District Office of Kiwanis, P. O. Box 6618, Macon, GA 31208 (email: alexia@kiwanis.mgacoxmail.com)

RETURN BY JULY 9, 2025

Georgia District of Kiwanis

YEAR IN REVIEW

Showcase

Show your **Kiwanis pride** by spotlighting the impact your club has made this year

YOUR TRI-FOLD DISPLAY SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

PHOTOS: Include photos of various service projects, meetings, fundraisers, and events you'd like to highlight.

IMPACT: List projects you have done or supported this past year. Tell us how you are making an impact!

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION: You never know who may want to come by for a visit or follow you online! Include information on your club's meeting time/location, your club's website, and social media channels.



Sample Display Board to Use:
<https://tinyurl.com/fe5rka56>



SHOWCASE DATES:
August 8-10, 2025

Georgia District Convention
Dalton, GA

Drop-Off Friday by 5 PM



Vote for the BEST IN SHOW!

Convention attendees can vote for the "Best In Show" tri-fold display that exhibits the following:

- Leaves a memorable impression
- Inspires you to attend and participate
- Makes you feel proud to be a Kiwanian
- Uses the Kiwanis International's Brand



Kiwanis
GEORGIA DISTRICT

GeorgiaKiwanis.com/club-showcase

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY WEEK: SEPTEMBER 14-20



GA DISTRICT OF KIWANIS SERVICE CAMPING TRIP

FELLOWSHIP ★ POTLUCK ★ SERVICE

WEEKEND:

September 5-6, 2025

DAY OF SERVICE:

September 6, 2025

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch will be Provided

CAMPGROUND:

Georgia Veterans Park
2459 US-280 W
Cordele, GA 31015

EVENT CHAIR:

Alicia Horkan, Event Chair
amhorkan@windstream.net

The 2025 District Service Project/Camping Trip is scheduled for Friday, September 5th to September 6th at Georgia Veterans Park in Cordele, GA.

The weekend will include Friday night campsite fellowship, Saturday service project, and Saturday evening Pot Luck Dinner.

Come for the day or make it a weekend!

Reconnect with nature on the serene banks of Lake Blackshear for a weekend family getaway or camping trip with friends. Georgia Veterans State Park offers an array of campsites with all the necessary facilities. Camp in tents, in a trailer or in an RV surrounded by pristine natural beauty.

Georgia Veterans State Park has 82 campsites designed to accommodate tents, trailers or RVs. The park is also home to two primitive Pioneer Campsites that are typically used by non-profit groups such as scouts, schools and church groups. Camping in Georgia Veterans State Park is a great way to enjoy the many amenities and activities within the park including boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, golf, birding, bicycling and much more!

Space is limited so make your campground reservations now!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUED: "Kiwanis Moments"

do your best", she told me. So we began. I found out this child likes animals, so we selected 'beginner' books containing animal characters, and the teacher was right, he literally could not pronounce simple words. But we kept at it, and when I showed him how to divide a word into parts (diagram), we had a small break-through. It often took us 30 minutes to read two or three pages, but he did it...HE did it. His smile said it all. I think he knew improvement was coming, though slowly. By the end of the school year, he could read at a second grade level pretty easily, and sometimes even a third grade book was not beyond his ability.

As is the custom, every school will host an awards ceremony at the end of the school year. Students are recognized for a myriad of accomplishments, teachers are praised, sometimes entire classes are recognized, and on and on it goes. I don't care for these events. There are so many kids that are left out, and I wonder how such an event impacts them. But I always attend and smile and applaud and shake a few hands. Oh Well. As I feared, my reader was not recognized and I was disappointed for him. But as I left the building and pushed my way through the crowd of parents and students, I heard his voice literally screaming my name..."Mr. Mike, Mr. Mike, wait." I turned and saw him pulling a woman toward me through the crowd, a big smile on his face. "Mr. Mike, this is my mama. Mama, this is my friend Mr. Mike. He taught me to read." She stopped right in front of me and slowly said, "So you're Mr. Mike. I've heard about you. Thank you for helping my son. I can't tell you how much it means to us both." We hugged and she cried...think I did too...and then it dawned on me. Here it was... the reward and the acknowledgement that this child had earned. Mama beamed. The young man smiled. I was proud. And the student...he could READ.

I guess it's true, people may forget what you said, they may forget what you did, but they won't forget how you made them feel.

THE FOOD DRIVE

One year, our Kiwanis Club decided to establish a K-Kids Club in one of the local elementary schools. K-Kids Clubs are designed to run exactly like our club for adults. Officers must be elected and trained, dues are collected, by-laws are established, meetings are run by the students and overseen by their president. Community projects are selected, voted on, and completed. I volunteered to oversee K-Kids, and found this to be a real challenge, but very rewarding. With help from other members and a school volunteer, I jumped in. Finding students to be officers, or project coordinators was very hard, but I was determined to find a job for every child, and I did, except for this one little girl. She was painfully shy and withdrawn, did not like to participate in the meetings, so one day I asked her why she joined K-Kids. "Mama made me", she replied. OK then.

Our first community project was a canned food drive for MUST Ministries. The kids printed flyers and we sent them home with every student in the school. The teachers got behind the project as well, and soon food began to trickle in. I arranged to get several large collection barrels from MUST and we filled a couple of them with the canned goods. But the needs of MUST are great and we needed more. I asked the K-Kids if they would like to visit MUST and see exactly how the food was being used, and of course they loved any field trip. We spent several hours at MUST and they marveled at how many needy people came in asking for food, and that was all it took to ignite the kids. Even my shy little girl seemed to take notice of the good work done by MUST. The enthusiasm among the K-Kids was obvious as they began to understand the meaning of 'community service'. The next week, as we began our regular meeting, my shy girl pulled at

my sleeve. "What's up?" I said. "You need to come with me", she said. "I can't right now, we need to get the meeting started." I answered. "Mama said you need to come outside...right now." There was urgency in her voice, so I went. And there at the front entrance of the school sat an old station wagon, loaded from top to bottom and front to back, with canned goods and dry goods... boxes of rice, cereal, toiletries, and more canned goods than I could count. Mama was behind the wheel and she was smiling broadly. Apparently, my shy little girl had told her family about all the poor people that needed help. "We need to do something", she told her mama. And she and her mama printed fliers and placed one in every mailbox in every neighborhood on their side of town. They told their neighbors that they would be back on Saturday to pick up whatever donations of food the neighbors could spare. And boy did they come through. This child, with help from her mama, and encouragement from our K-Kids Club collected hundreds of food items, and that's when I knew she and the other students knew what it means to help people less fortunate. The rest of the school year, these students thought of more community projects than we could possibly complete. They raised money for cancer research, worked to collect recyclables, cleaned up the school grounds, painted park benches, visited nursing homes, and on and on it went. And who do you think volunteered to head up any project we adopted? Her mama was so proud.

SHAPES

"Ready for a challenge?", the teacher asked. "I have a new Hispanic student, and he speaks NO English. His family is very poor and they are depending on us to educate him. We enrolled him in a class with other Hispanics, but he is really struggling and I think he needs some special attention...you know, one-on-one. Up for it?" "But I don't speak Spanish" I said. "Exactly what we're looking for", she replied, with a smile.

The school provided lesson plans and supplies, and every Thursday for 60-90 minutes, I met this 9 year old boy in the library and we went to work. We both knew what the goal was, but this was a lot harder than either of us anticipated, and pronouncing a word and understanding the meaning are two different things. One especially difficult lesson was ...SHAPES. Circle, Square, Rectangle, Triangle, and even Moon, Stars and the like. I'd say the word (Square) he'd say the word (Square), I'd show him a square, then ask him to find the square shape on a piece of paper containing lots of different shapes. He simply did not grasp it. We'd start over. This went on for weeks with minimal progress, and his frustration was apparent. Finally, I asked our chaperone, the librarian if I could take him out into the hall; She knew me well and said "Absolutely". We walked the empty halls in silence for a while. I know he wondered what I was doing. Then I stopped and pointed to the floor tiles... "SQUARE" I said loudly. He just looked puzzled. I pointed to a light switch cover, "RECTANGLE", I said. We kept moving as I outlined each shape with my finger. I found a large framed painting on the wall and said again, "RECTANGLE", as I outlined the shape again. I found a round light fixture and said "CIRCLE", moving my finger in a circle around the fixture. And suddenly it happened. His eyes opened wide. He smiled broadly. A switch went on inside his head, and he began running up and down the hall pointing at various shapes and shouting the name of each one; CIRCLE, SQUARE, RECTANGLE. This went on for several minutes. Hearing the commotion, the Media Center Specialist (librarian) stepped into the hall and with a big smile, proclaimed loudly, "I think he has it." I was thrilled. The child was thrilled. We hurried back to the classroom to report to the teacher. She was sitting at her desk working on the computer. "Any progress today?" "We've had a breakthrough", I said turning to the beaming child. "OK, what's the shape of this computer screen?" The boy smiled

broadly. His chest was out, as he spoke. "Mr. Mike, that's a circle". My heart sank. The teacher sat there speechless, as the boy instantly saw the disappointment on my face and he corrected himself, "...No. No...a square, a square, Mr. Mike, a square." The teacher laughed out loud, as she admonished me. "That will teach you not to be prideful." She hugged the boy and praised him over and over, and so did I. He went on to learn many new words, and by the end of the school year he was reading at grade level and participating in every class event. And me; I learned about ego and pride. All-in-all, it was a good day.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

She was a beautiful nine year old child; blond hair, blue eyes. Cute as could be. But she had the blank stare of a child with autism; withdrawn, and shy, rarely spoke, did not participate in the classroom activities, always looking down, and of course, had no friends. The teacher shared the anticipated story. She was from a very poor family and they could not afford the special care and instruction this child needed. The law says the county must take her and do the best it could to educate her. There are special education classes for kids like her, but she needed additional help NOW, to prepare her for the tough road ahead. Once again, I was asked to work with a special child, but this time, we would stay in the class room, and she would transition to special education classes, perhaps next year. So it began.

I came twice each week, sat next to her, encouraged her in every classroom activity, sat with her at lunch, talked and talked. Eventually she answered back. Short answers at first, and rarely any eye contact. Sometimes she would just say the word NO, loudly..."let me do it". And I did. After a while, she would meet me at the classroom door, take my hand and lead me to her place. "Sit" she would say. And we would color or draw, or cut our shapes and patterns, as the teacher directed, and I would talk and ask questions..."Can I

use your red crayon?" sometimes YES, sometimes NO. She and I had an unusual bond and I liked her a lot. I knew she looked forward to our visits, but she was often distant and difficult. The teacher assured me that she was making progress, so I kept at it.

One week, I had to skip my usual visits to the school. I think I had a doctor appointment followed by a trip out of town. When I returned, the teacher met me at the door. "Thank goodness you're back. She hasn't spoken a word since you left....not one word. She won't participate in any classroom activities and most days she just picks at her lunch." I spotted her sitting alone at a table. Other kids were busy working on assignments. She was doing nothing. I walked over to her table, pulled up a chair next to her and sat down. Before I could say a word, she lifted her head and loudly asked, "Where Have You Been?" I tried to explain. I told her I knew the teacher had told her I would be out for a while, but I'm back now...OK?? And eventually it was. We worked on a couple of projects together and as the day ended, she asked, "You coming back?"

I surmised this child probably never knew friendship, and she worried that I was rejecting her as so many others had. Her family did not know what to do with her, and they did not know what to do FOR her. I'm sure it was a lonely existence for them all. Later on, I found out that the school would be providing parental skills instruction for the parents as well, and that's a good thing. At the end of the school year, we said out farewells. I told her how happy I was that we got to spend so much time together. "Maybe next year you'll be back in this school, and we can see each other again. Would you like that?" No response...she just gave me a long hug around my legs, and ran off. I guess that was my answer, and I was left to wonder if I had made a difference in her life.

Maybe she will remember that she once made a friend in third grade, at Green Acres School, in

Smyrna, Georgia.

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME GO

As I answered the phone, I recognized the familiar voice of the principal at one of the elementary schools where Kiwanis volunteered. "Mike, I know you're scheduled to come here tomorrow, but I wondered if you could come now? I have a problem with a student that you know well, and I think you could help. And bring another Kiwanis member. We may need the help." I called my Kiwanis friend, Robbie Robinson, a senior member of the club, father, grandfather and my mentor. I knew Robbie would know how to handle any situation. I'd seen him work magic before.

It was the dead of winter and the weather was bitter; cold, wet, and windy. As we entered the principal's office. I spotted a young black child sitting in a chair in the corner, eyes down. I recognized him as one of our reading students. "What's up?" "Well, this young man has refused to get on the school bus. Says he wants to spend the night in the school." the principal began. He then gave me that look that silently said...YOU talk to him. "We can leave you two alone". Robbie and the principal left the room.

"OK, tell me about it." I said, and he slowly began. "It's cold inside our apartment, and there's no food and the lights don't work, and you can't make me go back there. No Way! and Mama lost her job, and I don't even know where she is." "Don't you have an older brother?" I asked. "Yeah, he goes to a different school, and he don't want to be there either. He'll probably be home soon." "OK, here's the deal. You CAN'T sleep here. But we'll go with you to your home. We'll find your brother, and then decide what to do. OK??" We WILL work it out." He paused a long time, but finally agreed.

I went into the hall way and found my friends leaning up against the wall. I told them, my wife works for DFACS (Dept. of Family and Children's Services)

and if we can't figure this out... and quickly, we had to contact them. The principal knew I was right. We can take him home, assess the situation, find his brother, and hopefully his mother, and then make a decision. Off we went.

The run-down apartment complex was depressing. Abandoned cars sat on blocks and trash was strewn about amid some worn out and rusted playground equipment. The evidence of poverty was everywhere. The boy provided a door key on a string from beneath his shirt, and handed it to me. The principal wisely said, "I'll go inside alone. I don't think you guys should be in there without the mom's permission." We agreed. As we waited, Robbie told me that he thought he knew how to get the electricity turned back on. "I've done this before. I have an emergency phone number, and we can buy some groceries. I know the manager at a local store and he'll probably help out." Now we have a plan.

The principal emerged from the apartment, and confirmed the boy's story; no heat, no electricity, no food, it's just dark and cold inside. About that time, the brother arrived. He's 3-4 years older than his little brother. He says that he expects his mom home soon, and NO, he does not know what they will do. So, Robbie and I asked the principal to stay here with the boys, while we get to work. Robbie headed home to make his phone call about the electricity. I head to the grocery store and Robbie will join me there as soon as he can. Everything works like clockwork. Georgia Power will send someone to reconnect the power... and they did. The store manager donated many food items, and Robbie and I bought even more. I think we had about three carts full. The sun was setting as we arrived back at the apartment, and Mom just arrived in a taxi. Yes, she had lost her job. And she had spent her last paycheck on groceries and that taxi ride. And NO she did not know what tomorrow would bring. But one thing was completely clear. She was not happy to see us, did not

want our charity, did not like that we had been in her apartment, and wanted us OUT immediately. She was embarrassed and she was proud. And she shouted she had never asked for help, and wasn't doing so now. "Just GO", she kept saying, "GO NOW". I told her...the power's back on, these groceries are yours, no strings attached. We can come back later. NO...NO she said. Robbie and I sat the groceries next to the front door. I noticed the lights were on and the heat was running. But she was absolutely livid and I saw that we were embarrassing her even more by staying. We left.

A day or two later I called the school. The child had not come to school, and in fact never came back. Robbie and I went by the apartment about a week later, and a neighbor told us that the woman and her two kids had moved out, and no one seemed to know where. "I think they were from somewhere up north. Maybe they went back there." The lady said.

How sad and how eye-opening was this experience. Our town is prosperous, has food banks, MUST Ministries, churches, and community organizations that are all willing to help people in need. But pride would not allow this lady to ask for help. I learned that there are people in need hidden everywhere, and I grieved over the outcome of this story. But, we did what we could do, as did this honorable principal. He told me he sees people like this every day and he always tries to help. Bless his heart.

Maybe one day this single mom will think back on this event and realize that our intentions were good. And yes, *I think I'd do it again.*

ST MARYS COMMUNITY BAND

Kiwanis Club of St Marys held a 5th Monday celebration in March with entertainment from st Marys community band. At end of performance Kiwanis Club presented the Community Band with a \$750.00 check.



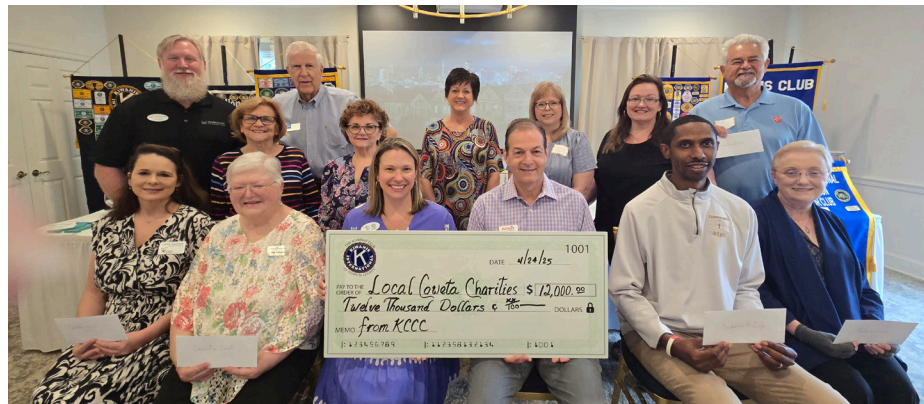
SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

The Douglas Kiwanis Club works with the Department of Family and Children Services as one of their Community Service Projects. The club donated hygiene products for grades one through twelve to meet some of the departments needs. This is one of the club's out-reach projects for the up coming year.



12 NON-PROFITS IN COWETA COUNTY

Kiwanis Club of Coweta County presented checks totaling \$12,000 to twelve non-profit organizations of Coweta County. These funds were made possible from money raised at the KCCC food booth at the fall Coweta County Fair.



KENTUCKY COLONEL

Josh Chancey, left, a local financial advisor with the Edward Jones company, was named a "Kentucky Colonel" by U.S. Army Colonel Tom Damron (ret.) recently. Damron cited Chancey's philanthropic work in Gilmer County, and noted the Kentucky Colonel status is recognized in all 50 states and 75 countries. The ambassador program has assisted the Samaritan's Purse relief organization after hurricanes and their aftermath in western North Carolina and the Gulf Coast of Florida, and regionally will sponsor an upcoming service day at Young Harris at a food bank. Chancey said he was "honored and humbled" by the unexpected designation. (Photo by Katherine Hyatt/Kiwanis Club)



One
act of kindness
can change
the world.





facebook.com/**GeorgiaKiwanis**

Like this page to stay up-to-date with Georgia District and Kiwanis International activities and announcements.



facebook.com/groups/**GAKiwanisStateConventions**

Join this group for GA Kiwanis State Convention announcements, reminders, activities, and photos. We encourage you to engage with other fellow convention attendees on this group and share your convention photos! Even if you are not attending, this is a great chance to see how much your fellow Kiwanians are enjoying the convention!



facebook.com/groups/**GAKiwanisInternationalConventions**

Join this group for Kiwanis International Convention announcements, reminders, activities, and photos regarding the Georgia District. We encourage you to engage with other fellow convention attendees on this group and share your convention photos! Even if you aren't attending, this is a great chance to see how much your fellow Kiwanians are enjoying the convention!



facebook.com/groups/**GAKiwanisProjectsAndEvents**

Join this group to post about service projects and events that your club is participating in. If you need volunteers or supplies, post it here! This is a great chance to share what your club is doing and to invite fellow Kiwanians to join along. Great chance to get interclub credits! This is also a place you can share service project ideas and get inspired.

TAG US!

#KidsNeedKiwanis
#GeorgiaKiwanis
#GaKFam



GEORGIA DISTRICT DIRECTORY

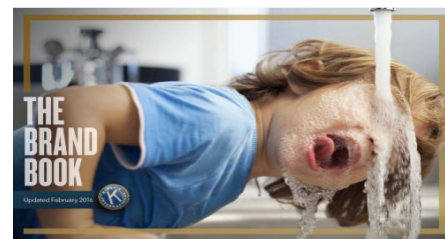


The Georgia District Directory can be downloaded from our website at www.GeorgiaKiwanis.com.

It includes updated contact information for the Georgia District Officers, Lt. Governors, and Committee Chairs. Also includes information for each Georgia Kiwanis Club with meeting times and location and officer contact information.

SHOW YOUR KIWANIS BRAND

"Kids Need Kiwanis" is Kiwanis International's brand campaign. The goal of the campaign is to make it clear that Kiwanis serves children and that we have fun together. On the Kiwanis International website, there are lots of templates and materials you can use to help with your club's marking and branding. www.kiwanis.org/brand



Kiwanis
GEORGIA DISTRICT

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