



# MICHIGAN *Builder*

*Serving the children of the world* | Michigan District | **AUG/SEPT 2023**

## Clinton Valley Kiwaniis comes to the aid of homeless children in Macomb County



Macomb County is a wonderful place to call home, that is, if you have a home. Shortly, hundreds of our youth will be heading back to school in new school clothes, and with the anticipation of meeting their teacher and reconnecting with their friends. Unfortunately, there are also hundreds that are not as fortunate. They are homeless. They go to school from a shelter, a cheap motel, the family car or from the crowded home of a relative. These children often find themselves moving frequently resulting in a change of schools and falling behind academically. They lack the basic needs, such as appropriate clothing, food, school supplies and transportation. And of equal importance are those pre-school children who are growing up in this extremely stressful environment, not knowing the security of a place to call their own.

To help alleviate the difficult situation in which these children find themselves, the Kiwanis Club of Clinton Valley will host their sixteenth annual "A Tuscan Evening" benefit on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 6-9PM at Zuccaro's Banquet Center in Chesterfield, Michigan. This event benefits the Macomb Intermediate School District's Homeless Education Project (MISD) and the Macomb Charitable Foundation (MCF) to buy clothes, food, school supplies, transportation

and provide a summer camp for these children. Through the 2022/2023 school year, MISD helped 1,326 homeless students which was a 17% increase over the previous school year. And the MCF assisted nearly 600 children of all ages and their families last year. Unfortunately, the need just keeps growing. To put this in perspective, when the Clinton Valley Kiwanis Club started this effort back in 2007, the number of homeless students on record was only 385.

A ticket to the "Tuscan Evening" fundraiser entitles the holder to a delicious full buffet dinner of salads, pasta, chicken, vegetables, rolls, dessert, coffee and soda and an extensive wine tasting from two major wine distributors. In addition, there will be a "Wine Barrel" auction, a card game raffle, cork pull bags, door prizes and 50/50 raffles. Tickets sell for \$55 each or a reserved table of ten for \$500, a \$50 savings. And as always, 100% of the profit is donated directly to the MISD and the MCF benefiting our homeless children! "A Tuscan Evening" is sure to be a fun event and one in keeping with our Kiwanis mission of "... changing the world one child and one community at a time". **Please contact Clinton Valley Kiwanis members, Anna Gloria at 586-360-8043 or Lillian Thompson at 703-282-2596 to purchase tickets or donate to this very worthwhile mission.**

Kiwanis of Michigan  
**GREAT LAKES**  
*Conference*

**AUGUST 17-20, 2023**  
Check out pages 8-9 for workshop schedules

[>>>click<<<](#)



# Michigan Builder

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## THE MICHIGAN BUILDER

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Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
Feb/Mar	Jan. 5	Aug/Sept.	July 5
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Attention: Club Presidents, Secretaries & Bulletin Editors;  
Lt. Governors and District Chairpersons. Submit all articles, photos and  
video to [districtoffice@mikiwanis.org](mailto:districtoffice@mikiwanis.org). All photo and artwork must be  
sent as either jpg or bmp files. Video must be sent as mpeg files.



# August

- 17-20 Michigan Great Lakes Conference - Frankenmuth
- 18 Foundation Board Meeting at Conference
- 18 Fourth District Board Meeting, at Conference

# September

- 4 LABOR DAY - District Office Closed
- 15 Expense Vouchers for 2022-23 are due,  
not payable after this date
- Club Budgets completed for 2023-24
- Annual Report of Non-Profit Corp. to be  
filed by each club
- 29-30 Aktion Club Conference
- 16 First District Board Meeting of 2023-24, 9:30 am Mason
- 30 New Members for inclusion in 2022-23 year end due



**Vicki Okuniewski**  
2022-23 Governor  
Michigan District  
Governor@mikiwanis.org

# The Retention of a Kiwanis Club Member

**Now that you have sponsored one new member who joined your club or have sponsored a new club with fifteen new members, what's next?**



You take the time to engage those new members so they will enjoy their time with the club and find benefits in the club to make their life more interesting and fulfilling! Isn't that why most people join Kiwanis? They want to serve their community and give service for children and find new like-minded friends!

How do you retain these new members? How do you retain your regular members?

You make them feel they have a place in and an attachment to the club. You offer them friendship and comradery first and foremost. You give them a reason to be there. You give them the understanding of the benefits of being a Kiwanis member!

I am not the real expert, but we have an outstanding Michigan District membership team, and have been working with them for over this past year. I understand retaining members and new members is the key to keeping the club active and motivated!

Recognition of Members helps to maintain your membership!

Does your club hold a full-fledged Kiwanis induction ceremony and present the Kiwanis pin and a Certificate? Does your club offer an orientation session for your new members? It could be one session, or it could be a series of sessions! Remember Kiwanis is more than just coming to your meetings and working on one service project! The more we know about Kiwanis, the more we will become engaged in what Kiwanis stands for on a local and a national and an international level!

If you offer a mentor to each of your new members, you will provide a guide and a new friendship to your new member! Because of his age, my Dad did not sponsor me, nor provide mentorship when I joined the Kalamazoo Club, but one of my clubmates gave me all the guidance, inspiration and orientation that I had imagined and more! I was so fortunate to have John Steele as my mentor. He encouraged me to get

**click to learn more about kiwanis**

involved with the club at the very beginning, and kept encouraging me to be a member of our club's board of directors. He inspired me with the idea of going to the District and International Convention! John kept me engaged and he keeps other new members engaged, even now!

Has your club honored your fellow Kiwanis members who invite five or more new members during their Kiwanis career with a Ruby K Award? The Ruby K pins recognize members for inviting new members - from five to 100 people. (Additional awards are given for multiples of 25 over the first 100.)

And has your club held a special meeting to honor all the Legion of Honor members for their 25 years or more of service in Kiwanis? We give our Legion of Honor recipients a special meeting and an opportunity to speak about their Kiwanis experiences and what it has meant to serve the community.

Our Michigan District and Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation also provide different levels of appreciation with specially named awards and recognition!

Do you hold a special program or annual installation celebration for your outgoing club officers and incoming club officers? Some clubs hold a dinner and special ceremony and invite honored community guests to speak to the members. Our club holds a roast of our past president before installing the new officers. And does your club invite the Governor, Governor-elect and your Lt. Governor? All of these ideas make the installation ceremony special, not only to the new officers but the club members as well!

What about the rest of your members? Do you recognize them by offering them an opportunity to present a topic or talk about their work or business at some time during the year? Our members need that opportunity to be noticed for their talents and skills. Does your club hold fun activities for members and their families, in addition to the fun service projects that you work on together?? A Summer theatre event, a hockey game, a dinner at a member's home, a movie night, a baseball game, a bar night, a trivia night? Our Kiwanis friendships become stronger as we get to know each other in fun and enjoyable activities!

Do your members see value in remaining a club member? Is your club still engaged in your community and offering service? Your club can easily reimagine and promote enough service or community activities to help keep the club engaged and keep the new members interested in remaining in the club. A club analysis or a community analysis with the A.C.E. tools might help your club if you feel your club could use some assistance in seeing what your club could work on. Our club strength is also about giving and serving our communities.

Members want to feel engaged and excited when they attend club meetings, hold office, do committee work and serve on the community projects and fundraising projects!

Service, Generosity, Engagement, Excitement, Recognition, Fulfillment, Motivation and Friendship. This is how we encourage participation and retain our Kiwanis Members!

*Yours in Kiwanis service,*

*Vicki Okuniewski*



**Renea Callery**

2022-23 Governor-Elect  
Michigan District  
Governor-Elect@mikiwanis.org

# RE-CONNECT the KIWANIS



Sports Fan, Not a Sports Fan. It doesn't really matter as we all have a way to prepare for our "Big Game Plan", whether you are an office manager, a CEO, a parent, or a sports hero, as there is most likely that "quarterback" to help you with your event.

Teamwork – Re-Connect, how do they help you prepare to work with others? When volunteering in Kiwanis there needs to be that "team chemistry" to apply to all that we do. The best results will come from a well-balanced team with the same goal in mind. Sometimes that may not be easy, as there could be personality conflicts, office politics, values, and attitudes. Also, a lack of communication often stands in the way of a team's successful completion of a task.

We have all been told over the years, that Leadership starts at the top. Teams need a leader to provide a direction. The leader needs to create an environment in which each member feels comfortable and can contribute their best to the organization.

As I enter my year October 1, 2023, I want to let you all know that I plan to have a clear goal. I have already selected and accepted the right members for the job. But I am always open and welcome to have others who want to join our team. I'm looking to learn their strengths and weaknesses, which will help us all earn each other's trust.

Earning Your Trust is also important to the success of our organization. My plan of action will be to keep everyone in the loop and asking for feedback will give me a solid starting point. Friendly communication. I know I can't change the world, but I can start by working with all of our Lt. Governors, District Chairs, the Foundations, past leaders, and the executive office, along with YOU, the members.

I want to help move us forward, all of us learning new concepts and ideas through our Education Director, Sue Petrisin. By offering you free education through our KiwanisOne, CLE's, Great Lakes Conference sessions, will add to your own abilities, and hopefully motivate you to continue your service, passion, and leadership in many areas of Kiwanis.

My door is always open for you to share ideas on growing, strengthening, and continuing to be present to Re-Connect with our community, our clubs, our membership, and our Service Leadership Programs.

Hope to meet you at the Great Lakes Conference in Frankenmuth, starting August 17 – 20, 2023. Look for me – I'm the "Short Hair Redhead" from Dearborn.

Thanks for all you do in Service for Kiwanis,.

*Renea Callery* 2022-2023 Governor-Elect



**'Turn and Face the Strange.  
Changes...just gonna have  
to be a different man.  
Time may change me but  
I can't trace time' Time.**

**~David Bowie**

## **TIME IS, AS THEY SAY, OF THE ESSENCE!**

2020 seems like a lifetime ago doesn't it. That was the last time I ran for this office. David Bowies' song reminds us that is the one thing that is always in limited supply. So how we spend it is important.

For those that don't remember me or are new to Kiwanis I am a Past Lt. Governor of Division 1, a past President of Detroit No.1 and a past District Fundraising Chair. After retiring for a second time, I transferred to the Shorewood Kiwanis Club. I spent 20 years at the Henry Ford Health System in various administrative positions finishing up in IT. I was forced to retire after an extremely bad automotive accident which took me 7 years to recover from. It was not easy but it was easier because my wife of 42 years, Lois, was by my side.

Afterwards I worked in Real Estate and finally put my Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Michigan to use as the Winemaker for Red Hat Winery. Amongst all this I managed to get elected and served as Mayor of Harper Woods. So you can see I-don't slow down much unless God forces me too.

All of us have chosen to help the children in our communities. How we do it may be different but the bottom line is the same. This is a costly endeavor, especially in time spent, but one that we gladly perform. We have been doing it for over 100 years and the need is still there.

If I may borrow from JFK, 'ask not what Kiwanis can do for you, but what you can do for Kiwanis!' Because together we change lives.

I have lots of ideas but I don't have a lock on the good ones and I am open to hearing all of yours. We all know the problems we face as an organization but what is the solution to sustain this organization through another 100 years. We must work together to accomplish this.

To borrow again from JFK, 'if not us, who? If not now, when?'

Having been the Mayor of Harper Woods in another lifetime I do remember the importance of being the figurehead and representing all the hard working people in the offices or the first responders putting their lives on the line daily. I will be your advocate. If I can do an interview for your local paper, radio station or podcast to promote your local fundraiser, let me know. If you need me at a golf tournament I can do that. If

you need me hands on at service project I can do that too. Time is valuable so I want it to have a multiplier effect, where I can multiply your efforts.

I am here to help and inspire you achieve your goals and to place our organization on a sustainable path for the next generation. I will ask a lot of you, but no more than what I will ask of myself.



**Frank Palazzolo**

## **Frank Palazzolo**



**Greg Smith**  
Executive Director  
Michigan District  
executivedirector@mikiwanis.org

# Vane, Vain & Vein

## Keeping your club relevant

Well, it's been a three-word homonym year. This is the last one so you can either cheer or say, "It's over already?"

So, let's talk about how your Kiwanis club is viewed in your community. If it's not our own club, we all probably know of a club that used to be strong, impactful and the one to belong to. Many of those clubs have not maintained that status. How can they revive themselves and start to return to where they want to be in their community?

Let's use homonyms as a way to start this process. A weatherVANE helps you determine which way the wind is blowing. Does your club know what is needed today:

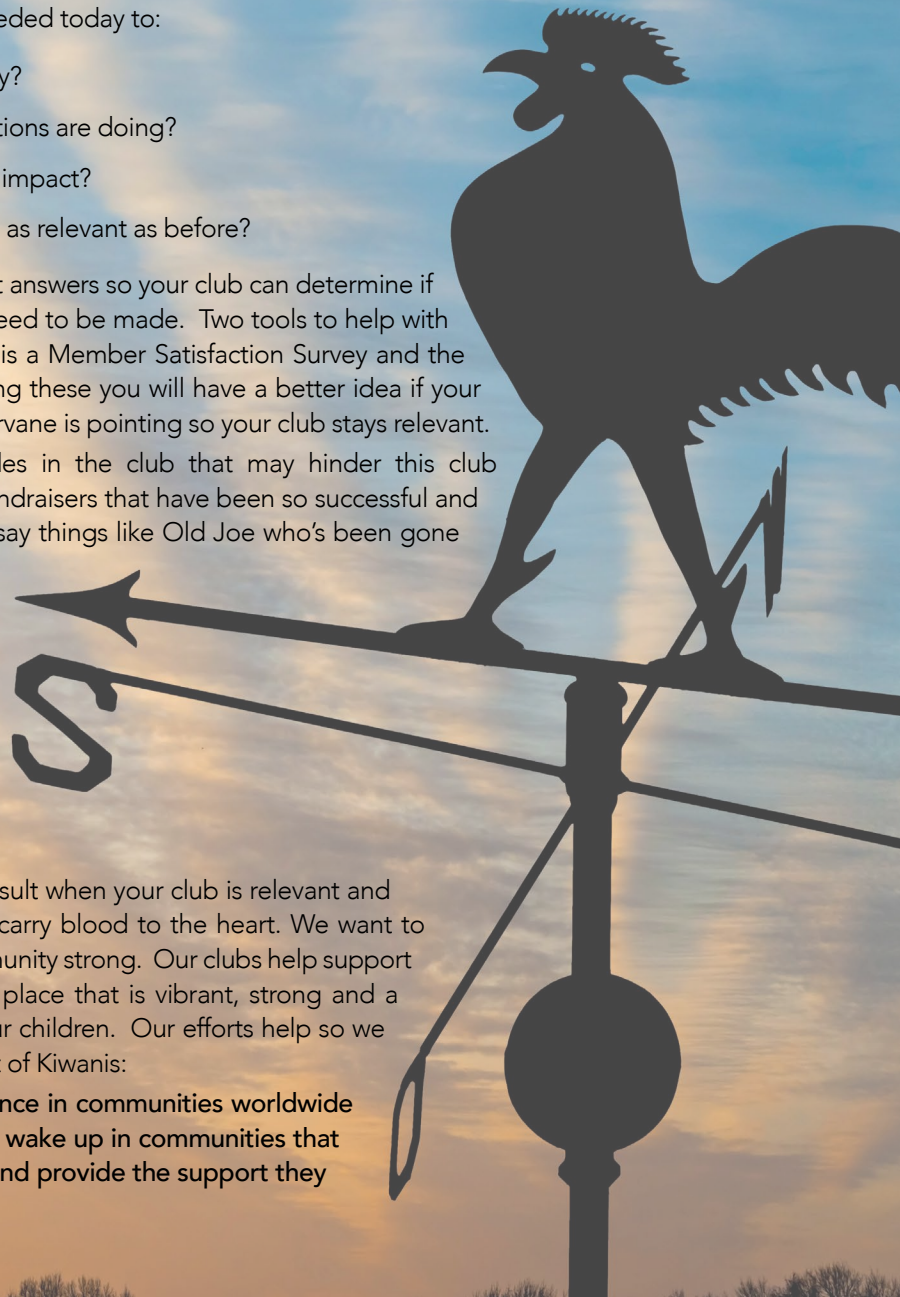
- A. Help youth with issues facing them today?
- B. Not duplicate efforts that other organizations are doing?
- C. Find partners to help you make a bigger impact?
- D. Retire fundraisers or projects that are not as relevant as before?

By taking a survey of your community you can get answers so your club can determine if you are on the right path or some adjustments need to be made. Two tools to help with this are provided by Kiwanis International. One is a Member Satisfaction Survey and the other is a Community Assessment. By completing these you will have a better idea if your club is going in the same direction as the weathervane is pointing so your club stays relevant. The second homonym VAIN addresses attitudes in the club that may hinder this club assessment. It's tough to give up projects and fundraisers that have been so successful and meaningful in the past. I've even heard people say things like Old Joe who's been gone for 20 years would be upset if stopped doing this. There is some pride and ownership in creating something successful. You want to keep it going, but there are times it needs to be evaluated and vanity has to be set aside. To remain relevant, you must keep current with your changing community. I said this in a previous issue, but I think it's worth repeating:

**Never  
let your  
memories  
exceed your  
dreams.**

The third homonym VEIN is a result when your club is relevant and impactful. Veins in our bodies carry blood to the heart. We want to help keep the heart of our community strong. Our clubs help support our communities so they are a place that is vibrant, strong and a place where we want to raise our children. Our efforts help so we all can fulfill the vision statement of Kiwanis:

**Kiwanis will be a positive influence in communities worldwide so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.**



Conference Workshop Schedule

# Friday, August 18, 2023

	<b>Altmuehl</b>	<b>Rhine</b>	<b>Danube</b>	<b>Mosel</b>	<b>Lorelei</b>
<b>2:00-2:45 pm</b>	<b>Is Your Kiwanis Club the Best Kept Secret in Town?</b>	<b>Our Kiwanis Children's Fund</b>	<b>K-Kids</b>	<b>Membership. The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Session 1</b>	<b>Michigan District of Key Club Retreat</b>
	Learn to promote your club in your community through the use of press releases, branding your club and community partnerships.	Thanks to the generosity of clubs and members, the Children's Fund provides grants to help Kiwanians change kids' lives in clubs' communities and a world away. Join us to hear more!	Interested in opening a K-Kids in your town? Join us to learn about the Kiwanis K-Kids program and what you need to do to start a club in your school.	Planning for Success, The Good - Understanding your club's strengths; The Bad - Understanding your club's weaknesses; The Ugly - Change is hard.	
<b>3:00-3:45 pm</b>	<b>Kiwanis Youth Protection</b>	<b>Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Board Meeting</b>	<b>Where are the Kids? The State of Childcare in Michigan</b>	<b>Membership. The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Session 2</b>	<b>The Michigan District of Key Club</b>
	Be in the Know. Learn what you & your club need to do for the annual training, resources, background checks and beyond.	The Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation will hold their annual meeting. All Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Board Members should attend.	Child Care in Michigan is a complicated issue. Come and hear more about the current state of child care in Michigan and how Kiwanis members can support children and families in their communities.	Creating a Growth Plan. The Good - Club boost or 2 For 2 training your team for success; The Bad - I'm nervous about recruiting; The Ugly - Don't be discouraged.	Key Club members around the world are learning to lead and stand for what's right through service and volunteerism. Learn how your club can make a difference for the young adults in your community.
<b>4:00-4:45 pm</b>	<b>Charitable Gaming</b>	<b>Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Childrens Hospitals</b>	<b>The Magic Fundraiser</b>	<b>Membership. The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Session 3</b>	
	The Michigan Charitable Gaming Association (MICGA) is a statewide association that educates on charitable gaming and advocates for the charities that use it to raise funds for their communities.  Join Kate Hude, MICGA Executive Director and Kiwanis Club of East Lansing member, for an introduction to charitable gaming in the state of Michigan.	Our Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation supports children's hospitals in the State of Michigan. Join us to hear from hospital staff about how our fundraising and service provide opportunities for the staff to make a child's stay a little more comfortable.	Celebrity magician Chandler Maglish wants to bring communities together for a great cause. Learn how this family friendly magic show puts the FUN in fundraising for your club!	Retaining Your Members - The Good - club coaching and mentoring; The Bad - We don't need a coach; The Ugly - Our new members don't feel welcome.	

# AUGUST 17-20, 2023

Kiwanis of Michigan





Conference Workshop Schedule

# Saturday, August 19, 2023

	Altmuehl	Rhine	Danube	Mosel	Lorelei
<b>9:00-9:45 am</b>	<b>Charitable Gaming</b>	<b>Harnessing the Power of the Free Kiwanis Website</b>	<b>Kiwanis Youth Protection</b>	<b>Membership. The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Session 1</b>	<b>Michigan District of Key Club Retreat</b>
	<p>The Michigan Charitable Gaming Association (MiCGA) is a statewide association that educates on charitable gaming and advocates for the charities that use it to raise funds for their communities.</p> <p>Join Kate Hude, MiCGA Executive Director and Kiwanis Club of East Lansing member, for an introduction to charitable gaming in the state of Michigan.</p>	<p>Did you know that Kiwanis International offers all clubs a Free Kiwanis Website? Learn about the platform in this session and how you can use this site for your club.</p>	<p>Be in the Know. Learn what you &amp; your club need to do for the annual training, resources, background checks and beyond.</p>	<p>Planning for Success, The Good - Understanding your club's strengths; The Bad - Understanding your club's weaknesses; The Ugly - Change is hard.</p>	
<b>10:00-10:45 am</b>	<b>Is Your Kiwanis Club the Best Kept Secret in Town?</b>	<b>The AI Revolution</b>	<b>Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Childrens Hospitals</b>	<b>Membership. The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Session 2</b>	<b>Michigan District of Key Club Retreat</b>
	<p>Learn to promote your club in your community through the use of press releases, branding your club and community partnerships.</p>	<p>You've heard about ChatGPT. Companies have been working on AI projects for years but what does it all mean? What is AI? ChatGPT? Bing Chat? How do you use it? Should we use it? Attend this workshop for an introduction to AI.AI</p>	<p>Our Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation supports childrens hospitals in the State of Michigan. Join us to hear from hospital staff about how our fundraising and service provides opportunities for the staff to make a child's stay a little more comfortable.</p>	<p>Creating a Growth Plan. The Good - Club boost or 2 For 2 training your team for success; The Bad - I'm nervous about recruiting; The Ugly - Don't be discouraged.</p>	
<b>11:00-11:45 am</b>	<b>Our Children and Mental Health</b>	<b>K-Kids</b>	<b>How to Eat A Cupcake</b>	<b>Membership. The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. Session 3</b>	<b>The Michigan District of Key Club</b>
	<p>Learn how to work with your school system to open conversations with local students on mental health and suicide prevention. Self-harm is preventable.</p>	<p>Interested in opening a K-Kids in your town? Join us to learn about the Kiwanis K-Kids program and what you need to do to start a club in your school.</p>	<p>Did you know there is a so-called proper way to eat a cupcake? Do you eat the frosting first or save it for last? Just as there are many ways to eat a cupcake, there are many ways to recognize your members. Learn ways to make recognition a part of your club's culture.</p>	<p>Retaining Your Members - The Good - club coaching and mentoring; The Bad - We don't need a coach; The Ugly - Our new members don't feel welcome.</p>	<p>Key Club members around the world are learning to lead and stand for what's right through service and volunteerism. Learn how your club can make a difference for the young adults in your community.</p>

# AUGUST 17-20, 2023

Kiwanis of Michigan



# In my view...



**Peter Mancuso**  
Trustee-Counselor  
for the Michigan District

It has been a great pleasure counseling your district in this, my last year on the Kiwanis International Board. I have very much enjoyed my monthly telephone calls acting as trustee-counselor to Governor Vicki, who is an outstanding Kiwanis leader. She has given of herself completely to the very demanding task of serving as a district governor, and the results of her leadership show in your district's many accomplishments this year. Among the most prominent of these is that your district has opened five new clubs as of this date and is currently working on a sixth. Good leaders like Vicki inspire others to undertake tasks that are too big for one person alone, and have a vision that carries them forward.

I am now concluding my last few months as our immediate past international president, having been a trustee of the International Board and the Kiwanis Children's Fund Board for 13 of the past 15 years, and I have made more trips to our headquarters in Indianapolis than I can remember. I have seen many changes in Kiwanis over the years, and I know that more will be forthcoming shortly. I have also been honored to serve with many wonderful volunteer leaders and dedicated staff members.

Some of these have been from your own district, including Executive Director Greg Smith, who has been helpful to me at every turn; Past International President Sue Petrisin, who has had one of the most successful Kiwanis post-presidencies ever and who was a vital contributor in preparing for our public discussions of KI's finances before and during our recent international convention; International Trustee Linda Lawther; an extremely dedicated and thorough board member; and Larry Memmer, who worked tirelessly during my presidency as our International Membership Recruitment Chair.

The opportunity to counsel your district has been a great gift to me, and I would like to thank you with a small gift in return, should you find it useful. With all of the new clubs that your district is opening, you are surely having many charter nights. Last year I prepared a video for charter nights as international president, which I have updated for your use.



*Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your counselor and to contribute these articles for your district newsletter. I wish you all well in the coming year.*

[click button to play video](#)

# Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven raises \$12,000 for C. S. Mott Child and Family Life Department

**K**iwanis around the State of Michigan have a long history of supporting hospitalized children and their families. Spring of 2007, Woodhaven Kiwanian, Louisa Elsey, took on the responsibly of hosting a shower to raise money to support the many important services provided to children through the Child and Family Life Department not reimbursed by health insurance. Among these many services are Pet Therapy, Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Holiday Parties, Birthday Parties, School Support. While modern medicine does wonders, children still need the opportunity to be children for medicine to work.

A visit to the hospital can be a stressful experience for children and their family. Fortunately, there are many things C. S. Mott "Child and Family Life Department" can do to reduce anxiety and help families and children feel more comfortable during their healthcare journey.

The Child and Family Life team at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital is made up of trained professionals with expertise in helping reduce the stress and anxiety associated with hospitalization and illness.

Since 2007, the Kiwanis Club has held their annual shower to support the many services of the Child and Family Life Department. Woodhaven-Brownstown student Maddie Pawelczyk (1999-2013) actively supported Kiwanian activities and was a patient at C. S. Mott. Since her passing, the Kiwanis Shower has been held in her memory.

This year, 174 guests attended our shower. Before dinner, guests purchase basket raffle tickets and choose baskets to distribute their tickets. Next an outstanding dinner from Secret Recipes in Taylor. Woodhaven's Vreeland Market donated the beverages.

After dinner, representatives of the Child and Family Life Department spoke about the importance of the wide variety of services their program provides to hospitalized children and their families. Both representatives had worked with Maddie Paddie Pawelczyk while she was at Mott. We played bingo and the evening concluded with our basket raffle.

As well as thanking our guest, Chairman Louisa Elsey, thanked the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District for providing the High School Cafeteria and the WHS Hockey for their invaluable help during the evening.

Woodhaven Kiwanians raised just over \$12,000<sup>00</sup> from the basket raffle, gift cards and monetary donations. Thank you to all who attended and made this year's shower a success for the children at C. S. Mott Hospital!



Kiwanians Mary Evans and Louisa Elsey (top) and Kiwanian Carol Horn (bottom) Selling Basket Raffle Tickets



Woodhaven Hockey Player Reid Philabum helps the Shower



# Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K helps seniors and veterans with music

**Macomb Daily**

**SERVICE CIRCUIT:**

**By LINDA MAY**

**PUBLISHED: July 10, 2023**

The program aims to improve the quality of life of elderly people and veterans by using personalized digital music technology.

"I've been researching music therapy for about 30 years and it's an amazing thing," D'Anna, 71, said.

He owns and teaches at the Music Stadium Center for Fine Arts & Creative Studies in Macomb Township. There, he programs music into MP4 Players purchased by the Golden K Kiwanis Club. An MP4 Player is an electronic device for playing digital audio files. The music is tailored to each person's needs.

He often works with people at Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility in Mount Clemens, or in senior residences that specialize in memory care.

"I meet with the family personally," he said. "I find out all of their passions and loves, what kind of music they grew up with, who the artists were. I've accumulated thousands and thousands of songs of different artists so that I can program these MP4 Players. You just push the button and — I'll tell you what — you just watch the smiles and the reaction from these people. It starts you crying almost."

The discovery is therapeutic for some, he added.

"What we found was that by programming these players with music from the era that the person grew up in — it could be the '40s, '50s, '60s — and we put the earphone on the dementia patients, all of a sudden they started



John D'Anna of the Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K programs free MP4 Players with music for people who have dementia. (JOHN D'ANNA — SUBMITTED PHOTO)

coming alive. They were off of their medication. They started responding and they knew all the words and songs that were from their era.

"What I realized was that music is in the memory. It's in the connections, the synapses that connect to it. Music reconnects their current brain, which is in dementia, to the old songs. They kind of come back a little bit. It's not a cure, but it's an amazing result," D'Anna said.

"My mom was my first person that I tried it with. She was 93. She had seven children and she didn't even know our names, but she remembered every word of the songs we were playing for her, and shortly after we played the music, she could kind of remember little things. So it's like a little trigger but it's a dramatic thing for people with dementia.

"And it's all free," D'Anna said. "We have a budget in our Kiwanis Golden K and they've given me an open budget to purchase whatever I need. It costs about \$25, so it's not like it's a lot of money. I'm doing it free. This is something we do as volunteers. The best work of mankind is service to other people."

D'Anna used to volunteer with the Jaycees.

"They work with young people and now I'm with the old folks. I see the needs of seniors and veterans and there's a tremendous need for this. I'm so grateful to be able to do this for people. Anybody can call with a family member who has dementia and I will meet with them and I will get them a unit," he said.

D'Anna can be reached at 586-924-5741.

The American Music Therapy Association says that music therapy for veterans goes back to 1945 when the "War Department" issued a bulletin about a program using music to help convalescing GIs in Army hospitals. Music was incorporated into recreation, education, occupational therapy and physical reconditioning.

Music therapy is used today to help veterans with post-traumatic stress and delayed onset of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, major depression, especially those with complications like substance abuse, family conflict, and suicide risk.

AMTA cited a study that says that about 15 percent of the 1.7 million service members who deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom have PTS and that there are still many of those with the condition who served in the Korea and in the Vietnam War.

One snag in the Kiwanis system is the lack of time that caregivers have in facilities to help the residents use the players. D'Anna is trying to get more family

members involved in working with their loved one and the system.

"I'd rather put the music on than give them so much medication and knock them out," he said. "It has surpassed my wildest expectations on how powerful music is for dementia patients. I need to work out a way that we can keep it going with the people, or get the units back and reprogram them for someone else."

D'Anna provides music performances for senior residences and gives free piano lessons to veterans.

"I'm giving the piano lessons because music is powerful," he said. "A lot of these veterans are needing some help and I've offered them music and music classes to get through some of their PTSD. I'll be doing that at the music studio and help veterans in any way we can be of assistance to them. I asked God to help me figure it all out. It's growing faster than I imagined. I have invited them down to discuss how I can be of help to them. The plan will come together."

The Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K offers free mobility devices and home help equipment to anyone who needs it, but especially to seniors and veterans. A club volunteer is at a 2,000 square-foot storage facility at 51660 Van Dyke Ave. (a former court site) 9-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays to help pick out manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs and scooters, transport and lift chairs, Rollators, knee scooters, medical beds, shower seats, transfer shower chairs, commodes, toilet risers, Hoyer lift hoists, toilet seat safety frames, walkers, canes, crutches, diapers, bed tables, ramps, pedal exercisers, and reaching grips. For medical equipment information, call Rich Morian at 248-821-1496.

The Golden K Club meets at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Mondays in rooms 2 and 3 at the Shelby Township Senior Center, at 14975 21 Mile Road.

"We probably have the biggest medical closet in the tri-state area," D'Anna said. "It's a wonderful thing when people come in and they tell you their stories about their mother, their father, their aunt and you get the full effect of the goodness we've done here."

The club's next fundraiser is the Bill Hoehn-Ray Pini Memorial golf outing on Aug. 28 at Greystone Golf and Banquet Center, 67500 Mound Road, Washington Township. The event needs sponsors from \$125 to \$1,500. The cost to golfers is \$150 and it begins with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and ends with dinner at 4 p.m. For more information, call Mike Tow at 586-531-1034



# Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K helps seniors and veterans

Macomb Daily  
SERVICE CIRCUIT:

By LINDA MAY

PUBLISHED: March 31, 2023

The Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K's Mike Tow, Louie Trotto, and Rich Morian volunteer to provide mobility devices and aids to anyone, especially to seniors and veterans. (LINDA MAY FOR THE MACOMB DAILY)

**T**he Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K offers free mobility devices and home help equipment to anyone who needs it, but especially seniors and veterans. That's a unique facet of this Kiwanis club, as Kiwanis usually focuses on children.

A club volunteer is at a 2,000 square-foot storage facility at 51660 Van Dyke Ave. (a former court site) 9-11 a.m. on

Tuesdays and Fridays to help folks pick out equipment.

The service is a godsend to people who don't have medical insurance. Recently, a young mother, suddenly paralyzed, got a hospital bed and a variety of assistive devices at no charge, thanks to the Golden K Club. Last Friday, a home health aide came in to pick out a shower chair for her



Photo by Linda May – The Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K's Mike Tow shows hospital beds that are available free to anyone who needs one.

power wheelchair with a seat elevator feature, which, even with insurance, can cost \$5,000 or more, over and above the cost of the wheelchair.

"That's a big chunk of money for anybody to pay," Rich Morian, equipment committee member, said. "People have strokes and are discharged from the hospital and are told you need this, this and this. We feel blessed from the standpoint that we have a lot of various equipment and can give eight or ten things to a person. We have another wheelchair that will raise; it's just a matter of finding a person for a match."

Most of the equipment is donated by individuals, although the American Legion post in Utica recently donated power wheelchairs because it had limited storage room.

"With the electric wheelchairs, we check them out in terms of batteries and make sure they work. Many times if they don't run, it's just the batteries that are dead," Morian said. "We have a gentleman who is a veteran and he's been waiting two or three years for a wheelchair and someone just put him in touch with us."

Mike Tow and Louie Trotto are active committee members. Kiwanians are able to pick up and deliver some items if people don't have the means to do that.

The Golden K Club has about 25 members, most of them retired people, who meet at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Mondays in rooms 2 and 3 at the Shelby Township

Senior Center, at 14975 21 Mile Road. New members are welcome to join.

The club's seventh annual Bill Hoehn-Ray Pini Memorial golf outing is its primary fundraiser. It is Aug. 28 at Greystone Golf and Banquet Center, 67500 Mound Road, Washington Township. The event needs sponsors at levels from \$125 to \$1,500. The cost to golfers is \$150 and it begins with a continental breakfast 8 a.m. and ends with dinner at 4 p.m. For more information, call Mike Tow at 586-531-1034.

The golf event is the club's biggest fundraiser. Not all the medical items are donated. The club pays for new things like adult diapers, and spends a fair amount of money on gas for pickups and deliveries.

"Kiwanis has donated to a lot of programs like playgrounds, but we got the idea for this with the goal of helping seniors with medical equipment because we were hearing from people that they were having a hard time locating it," Tow said. "They might have Medicare and Medicaid but it didn't cover a lot of stuff that they were in need of. So it started with a few of us and we got pretty busy and we've helped about 3,000 people in the past five years or so.

"It started with seniors and then we added veterans and now we help anybody in need. Some of our electric wheelchairs have a value of \$30,000 or more. About 90 percent of what we have is donated. We try to get things back from people. It should not sit in garages and not be used. If they need to keep it though, fine and dandy. What we have is in pretty good condition and we have stuff for people of all sizes and shapes," he said.



The Kiwanis Club of Shelby Township Golden K has free wheelchairs to loan to anyone who needs one. (RICH MORIAN- SUBMITTED PHOTO)

**For information, or to volunteer to help,  
call Morian at 248-821-1496.**



How many of us encounter the lack of timely and meaningful information? I run into this all the time. I don't know the specific reason, but some interesting situations have started to give me clues.

We all have seen the migration away from print media to digital content at a relentlessly quick pace. The large daily newspapers are a shadow of what they once were, and the local press has seemed to disappear, and the contraction of many others to printing information (like local sports), but not "newsworthy" events. These events have already been digitally disseminated to our smart phones or wrist watches.

So, we are forced to get our information from various sources to receive the latest "news", that is relevant and accurate. This process takes us to groups or organizations that "pique" our interest or meet a need for news of local or national content. What appears to be happening is what I will call the "silo effect". You are kept up to date on your interests with your community partners, but any group outside that "silo" that has information you might find meaningful, does not filter to you. It is not on your radar.

The school systems are the best example of that network. As it should be, their focus is on the students and thereby their parents and families. As a result, they have robust contact lists, comprehensive calendars, and timely communication to their "silo". The method can be print, digital, or voice

**Reach Out to Find Out!!**  
**OR**  
**You don't know, what you don't know!**

since they know the families. Now, if you want to be a partner with a school, it will require you to be in that information loop. Your efforts to work with them will be improved if you plan this carefully.

While this is a clear-cut example, it can apply to city government, county government, the courts, non-profits, or even clergy. Individually they have found a way to connect and work together for their needs. However, if a Kiwanis Club wants to assess a community need, how does it do that?

Above all, your club must sponsor relevant service projects and its membership should be representative of the local community. It will require a planned effort to reach out and invite these groups to inform you through club programs. Then, you ask them to partner with you as a member. Look at Kiwanis as a big tent where people with different points of view gather to serve our communities, our kids. We can remove the "silos" and share information that make our clubs more impactful.

Think about it. Ask yourself: "Are we hearing everything important about the needs of our community?"

**reach out! find out!**  
Mark Ott of Kiwanis Club of Coldwater



# Values and Belonging: The Inseparable Bond

True belonging  
doesn't require us  
to change who we are;  
it requires us to be  
who we are.

- BRENE BROWN -



This past year, both as a district and internationally, we have placed a primary focus on membership. As we think about membership, it is not only important to recruit and add to our membership numbers, but to keep members involved. Without intentional focus on making sure members develop and maintain a sense of belonging and purpose, recruitment efforts are being wasted.

Human beings are social creatures, hardwired to form connections and seek belonging. These connections are deeply rooted in our values, the fundamental principles that guide our thoughts, behaviors, and decisions. Values and belonging are inseparable, as our sense of belonging is shaped by shared values with others. Values in the context of belonging reinforce our sense of community and identity.

Values act as a moral compass, influencing our judgments and attitudes towards the world and people around us. When we encounter individuals who share similar values, we experience a sense of resonance and connection. This connection forms the foundation of belonging, where we find comfort, understanding, and support among like-minded individuals. For example, religious communities often unite through shared beliefs, fostering a strong sense of belonging that transcends geographical boundaries.

Communities that uphold shared values experience a strong sense of unity and purpose. They collaborate towards common goals and support each other during challenges. Such communities serve as a source of motivation and encouragement, reinforcing the belief that together they can create positive change.

While shared values play a crucial role in fostering belonging, it is essential to also recognize the power of inclusivity. A truly inclusive community embraces diversity and accepts individuals with varying values and beliefs. It is through this acceptance that we can create a positive and effective environment where different perspectives coexist and thrive. Respect for diversity ensures that individuals can still belong and find common ground despite differences in values. In the broader context of society, conflicting values can sometimes lead to tension and division. It is crucial to foster open dialogue and respectful communication when differences arise. Communities that can address conflicting values with empathy and understanding are more likely to find resolutions and preserve a sense of belonging despite the challenges.

To all of this, I continue to reflect upon the idea of the "Kiwani Heart". This notion is our shared values. Again, shared values provide a sense of cohesion and mutual understanding, forming the basis of strong, supportive organizations and communities. Moreover, values play a significant role in shaping our identities and perceptions of self, further strengthening the sense of belonging within specific groups. While we all share the "Kiwani Heart", it is critical to remember that true belonging requires inclusivity and the acceptance of diverse perspectives. By respecting conflicting values and engaging in respectful dialogue, we can create communities that embrace diversity while maintaining a strong sense of togetherness. By seeking to understand and show respect for our differing values, we can also support belonging and improving rates of member involvement and retention. Ultimately, understanding the relationship between values and belonging enables us to foster healthier, more inclusive communities that celebrate the richness of human diversity.

If you are interested in being a part of this committee I would love to hear from you!

I would still like, as part of my article series, to answer questions that you have regarding human and spiritual values or diversity, equity, and inclusion. Open dialogue is a powerful tool toward growth and excellence!

Contact me any time with questions about how to better understand and/or work with both HSV and DEI. I hope to see you at DCon and look forward to the opportunities to engage in conversations on these topics there.

*Krista Swinatt* [kdamery36@gmail.com](mailto:kdamery36@gmail.com)



## Kiwanis Club of Greater Gibraltar celebrates the 4th of July

The city of Gibraltar has a long history of celebrating the 4th of July with a parade, a city-wide carnival and fireworks. Since its inception in 2017, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Gibraltar has held a bike decorating clinic allowing kids who want to ride their bikes in the parade to ride behind the club's van while members toss candy to the spectators. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Gibraltar has partnered with the city's Recreation Committee to assist with many of their special events. During their Movie in the Park Day, the club has a craft table and hands out books to the children. During their Easter events- a pancake breakfast, marshmallow drop and bike raffle, the Kiwanis Club sells the raffle tickets for the city. During the Christmas tree lighting, the Kiwanis Club is there handing out ornament craft kits to the children. They also help Santa answer letters dropped in the city's Santa mailbox. Because of this service, the City of Gibraltar awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2023 to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Gibraltar.

# 2022-23 OFFICER INFORMATION CHANGES



## MIDLAND

**K00548 (1921)**

**Division 10**

**Sec:** Bradley Bahr, c/o Kiwanis Club of Midland,  
P.O. Box 2251, Midland, 48641-2251

**Phone:** (989) 631-8418

**Email:** chucko@chartermi.net

## DOWNRIVER WEST

**K18513 (2013)**

**Division 5**

**Sec:** Sarah Kew,  
18126 Marsha St., Riverview, 48193-7450

**Phone:** (586) 531-5505

**Email:** SarahKew602@Gmail.com

## NEW CLUB

### BIG RAPIDS AREA (THE)

**K21005 (2023)**

**Division 10**

United Church of Big Rapids,  
120 S. State St., Big Rapids  
1st & 3rd Wed., 6:30 PM

**Pres:** Jennifer Faris,  
1005 Perry Ave., Big Rapids, 49307

**Phone:** (231) 460-3581

**Email:** jennifer.faris.kiwanis@gmail.com

**Sec:** Michelle Gregory,  
17190 Polk Rd., Stanwood, 49346

**Phone:** (231) 349-3310

**Email:** mgregory.kiwanis@gmail.com

# In Memoriam

**John M. Matthews**  
*Dearborn*

**Fred Herschelman**  
*Lapeer Sunrise*

**Carl B. Babcock**  
*Tawas*

**Donald W. Johnston**  
*Saginaw-Thomas Township*

**Lawrence A. Franks**  
*Sturgis*

**Annette Rockman**  
*Garden City*



as we go to  
**PRESS**

Active Clubs ..... 140  
District Beginning Membership ..... 3279  
Reporting Members July 3, 2023..... 3550

**Net Gain**  
**+271**  
**members**

SLP members	PAID MEMBERS	
	CLUBS	MEMBERS
K-Kids	8	-
Builders Club	26	-
Key Club	87	4547
Circle K	6	152
Aktion Club	18	238



## 2022-23 GOVERNOR'S MEMBERSHIP TROPHY

Shorewood, St. Clair Shores.....	+11
Boyne City .....	+10
Utica-Shelby Twp .....	+10
Traverse City.....	+10
Ann Arbor.....	+9
Metro Detroit YP.....	+8
Monroe.....	+7
South Oakland County.....	+7
Coldwater .....	+7
Garden City.....	+6
Tecumseh.....	+6
Kalamazoo Sunrise.....	+6
Lac Ste. Claire .....	+5
Metro North - Troy .....	+5
Mount Pleasant .....	+5
Brooklyn.....	+5
Lapeer.....	+5
Dearborn .....	+5

Net gain is from 10-1-2022 - 5-1-2023 and includes clubs only with at least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.