



MICHIGAN *Builder*

Serving the children of the world | Michigan District | **OCT/NOV 2023**



Back to School. Safely Serving Kids.

YOUTH PROTECTION Week.

Nothing is more important than the safety of the children Kiwanis serves. That's why Kiwanis International (KI) dedicates a week each year to Youth Protection.

In 2023, Youth Protection Week is October 9-13, giving Kiwanis clubs the opportunity to conduct important Youth Protection training and evaluate the club's compliance.

October 9-13

How to train your club?

Contact our District Youth Protection Manager Jackie Wickham at jlynnwickham@gmail.com.

KI requires training for all Kiwanis Clubs annually.

*Let's strive for 100%
of Michigan Clubs
completing training for
the 2023-2024 year.*



Michigan Builder

Michigan District of Kiwanis International
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Builder Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
Feb/Mar	Jan. 5	Aug/Sept.	July 5
Apr/May	Mar. 5	Oct/Nov.	Sept. 5
June/July	May 5	Dec/Jan	Nov. 5

Attention: Club Presidents, Secretaries & Bulletin Editors;
Lt. Governors and District Chairpersons. Submit all articles, photos and
video to districtoffice@mikiwanis.org. All photo and artwork must be
sent as either jpg or bmp files. Video must be sent as mpeg files.



October

- 6-8 Key Club Fall Board meeting
- 7-10 Charity Poker - Saginaw
- 10 Member Deletes due for 2023-24 billing
- 9-13 Youth Protection Week
- 14 Kiwanis MI Foundation Board Meeting
- 16-20 Circle K Week

November

- 4 Key Club Fall Rally -Lakeshore
- 5-8 District Secretaries Conference- Denver
- 6-10 Key Club Week
- 11 Circle K Fall Rally
- 14-16 Club Opening
- 23-24 THANKSGIVING- District Office Closed
- 30 Prior Year's monthly and annual reports due on dashboard
AND Club Dues

Farewell



"It's been one of my best years in service and in life".

As I finish up this Kiwanis year, I am very grateful for all of the experienced and talented Kiwanis members from around the Michigan District who helped our 2022-23 Team to get the work done! Our committee chairs, SLP administrators, our Lt. Governors, our past and present District leadership, our Foundations' leadership and all of our club officers in some way made this year productive and great! And thank you to our partners at Kiwanis International!

This will be one of my best years in service and in life. Full of fun, development, planning, challenges, honors, friendships, service and giving, new members and clubs, events and visits! I am grateful for all of the mentorship that I have been given these last two years! A very rewarding year!

I have focused on my four major goals this year of; communication, education of members, club membership strength, and growing community service. We have also worked to redevelop some of our committees, such as Human and Spiritual Values. I believe our District has done a good job of carrying out these goals, the Kiwanis International goals, and my strategic plan.

We worked to bring our District back from a pause in time, as we built new membership, new clubs, new and renewed Service Leadership Program's, new activities and more service when working with our children and our communities. We changed the way we do business, with the recognition and training in our new KiwanisONE, with the new format for Michigan District of Kiwanis Great Lakes Conference, within our new MDK Foundation and within the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation!

We got back on track and rebuilt with new perspectives, new strategic plan, new directives, and new and better ideas to push us forward! We made a point to communicate more often with our clubs all around the District!

Leadership, Teamwork and Communication. I said, "There is a thread going through all of this, and that is: Communication!!!" We need to better communicate through all levels of Kiwanis!

Our Kiwanis work is never done; and our changes never stop as we keep working to make service through Kiwanis in Michigan stronger and to grow Kiwanis each year. I look forward to working with the new District Board next year as your immediate past Governor! I humbly pass on the gavel to our new Governor on October 1st.

It has been a great honor and my sincere enjoyment to serve as your Governor of the Michigan District of Kiwanis International this 2022-2023 year! Thank you to every one of you for your leadership, service to children, and support this year!!

Yours in Service to Kiwanis,

Victoria "Vicki" Okuniewski,

2022-2023 Michigan District Governor



Renea Callery
2023-24 Governor
Michigan District
reneakiwanis@gmail.com

HOWDY Y'ALL

Hope you enjoyed and made it home safely from our amazing Great Lakes Conference. It was a success in every way because of all of you who were present and engaged, the exceptional exhibitors, and the variety of available workshops. This year's Conference Team brought creativity, fresh ideas, and top-notch educational sessions enjoyed by all.

There were about 300 in attendance, which speaks volumes about the desire of our members to be an integral part of the continuing growth of the Kiwanis Michigan District; and to learn and return home energized with new ideas, connections with other divisions, and information on proven ways to grow their clubs.

My theme this year is **Re-Connect** ... fitting clubs, service projects, fundraising ideas and more together like puzzle pieces to support everyone in achieving more. Re-Connecting our communities, clubs, and Service Leadership Programs for optimal impact.

The goals my team and I have developed to make this theme a reality are challenging, but very achievable because I believe our member base will back our Lt. Governors, District Chairs, and the entire Leadership Team as we work collectively to open new clubs and meet the needs of our existing clubs.

We have often heard that membership is not a one-person job. It takes every single member engaged, extending invitations, approaching corporate prospects, and creating wow club experiences. The current Kiwanis Michigan District membership is over 3,500 members! It is my hope that each and every one will jump in and make magic. If each person brings in one new member this year, we can double our members, our strength, and our impact.

Let me take a moment to share what Kiwanis Michigan leaders have done and continue to do as I keep my commitment to improve communication.

- **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** meets monthly to address issues and to review progress on goals and our strategic plan.
- **THE FINANCE COMMITTEE** meets more often as needed to balance the current budget and prepare for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **THE LT. GOVERNORS-ELECT** started training in February for their terms which start October 1. There were weekly Zoom meetings through August with our Educational Director, in addition to an offsite weekend training to learn more about Kiwanis clubs/divisions/Michigan/ and International finances, club openings, and more. You can see that a lot of time and effort is dedicated to providing our clubs with knowledgeable leaders, growth tools, and communication channels.

TEAM RE-CONNECT continued on page 5





Every member has their own time and talent that we can tap into. Do you excel at data entry, finance, cold calls to help membership, or conference planning? Are you a natural born leader, coach, administrator, or organizer? Reach out to me – we have a place for you, your knowledge, your passion.

Each Division has a Lt. Governor who will be reaching out to see how they can support you. Use this resource! Share with them both your concerns and your brilliant ideas. Share your meeting schedule and special events. If you haven't heard from them yet, tag them or me and let's make it happen. I will visit as many clubs as possible, but the Lt. Governors are my extension so that the Board of Directors and I are accessible to all.

Our new year started October 1, and that means election results should be posted online and dues gathering in progress. A new roster will be published soon and will contain club information so you can connect with clubs in your division and throughout the district.

Did you know that sharing your community projects and event successes in an article in the **BUILDERS** magazine could trigger ideas for countless other clubs? Show off what you're doing for the kids in your area while inspiring others.

Are you reading the bi-weekly Kiwanis-in-a-Minute email with tidbits about what is going on in the communities, clubs having anniversaries, fundraising, and more? Do you have something to share? Email it to Stacey Nill at adminsecretary@mikiwanis.org for the next issue.

There is so much more to share with all of you but I'll stop here and just add that I am here for you. I have an amazing team supporting me, which means you have an amazing team supporting YOU.

As they say, my door is always open.



Frank Palazzolo

2023-24 Governor-Elect
Michigan District
frankjpalazzolo@yahoo.com

Convention Recap

If you were unable to join us at the recent District Convention, I want to encourage you to attend in the future.

The Convention is a great opportunity to make new friends, renew old friendships and to remember those who have joined the Chapter Eternal.

I want to thank and recognize Kiwanis International for their educational support. They provided several well-informed speakers on pertinent subjects such as artificial intelligence and its potential use in club administration.

Overall the program was very well run and I would be remiss not to point out the superb job Hayley Thompson did. She has proven herself capable of much bigger challenges within our organization.

As for entertainment there was music every night on the candle-lit patio. Likewise, there was a golf course nearby and shopping galore.

As we move forward together think of me as a resource you can tap. I am here to help you. If you want my insights from my experience in business, government or Kiwanis, I am here for you. If you would like me to attend an event or project let us work together to maximize its impact.

Obviously, there is only one of me so I may not be able to attend in-person. But be assured that I am not your only resource. Besides your Division's Lt. Governor there are past Lt. Governors and Past Governors with a wealth of knowledge who can be helpful. While you certainly can contact them directly if I can be a helpful conduit let me know.

So, I look forward to working with you to make this upcoming year the most successful one for your Club and for Governor Renea.





Greg Smith

Executive Director
Michigan District
executivedirector@mikiwanis.org

Connect and Re-Connect

Welcome to your new Kiwanis year! It's time to come out of hibernation. It's time to stop isolation.

It's time to make an even bigger impact with youth in your community.

District Governor Renea Callery's theme for 2023-24 is

RE-CONNECT

Here are 13 ways you and your club can connect and/or re-connect with your community and Kiwanis family. I'm sure you will be able to add to this list.

- **INTERCLUBS** - Visit other Kiwanis clubs in your division and throughout the Michigan District. Find out what they are doing that you would want to implement in your club.
- **DIVISION COUNCIL MEETINGS** - Your Lt. Governor will be holding at least four of these meetings throughout the year. Anyone can attend, but especially the officers of your club should attend.
- **CALLING MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB** - Who haven't you seen for a while at your club meetings or events? Are those members still engaged in what the club is doing? Do they see value in remaining members? Contact them and start the conversation.
- **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS** - Chambers have all sorts of events that you can participate in and represent Kiwanis.
- **COMMUNITY ANALYSIS** - What does your community need regarding youth? Is everything your club doing still relevant? This analysis is a great way to find out and also create more awareness of Kiwanis.
- **NETWORKING EVENTS** - After five events, leadership conferences, workshops, anywhere people are gathered for an event can be a great way to build a relationship and promote Kiwanis.
- **DISTRICT AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS** - Find out more about Kiwanis and the impact of the whole organization. Share ideas and best practices that you can take back to your club.
- **SENDING THANK YOU AND RECOGNITION CARDS** - Acknowledge your members for the contributions they have made to the club. This can go a long way in helping retain your members.
- **HANDS-ON SERVICE PROJECTS** - Most people don't join Kiwanis to go to meetings, they want to make a difference in the community. Schedule enough of these events throughout the year to keep everyone engaged and to have something ready for new members to do when they join the club.
- **WEARING KIWANIS GEAR** - Let everyone know you are part of a great organization who is making a difference in the lives of youth. Wearing Kiwanis logo items can start that conversation.
- **VISITING A SERVICE LEADERSHIP MEETING OR EVENT** - The best thing about Kiwanis is our Service Leadership Programs, K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K and Aktion Club. Support them, visit their meetings, partner with them on service projects and fundraisers. Make sure they know that they are sponsored by Kiwanis. Your club got them started, keep them going and staying strong.
- Have your members be the featured speaker at your meetings talking about their life or work - It's surprising what we don't know about someone we have known for years. You may find there are connections you didn't know you had. This also will help with fellowship within the club.
- Have your committee chairs or secretary or treasurer talk about their positions and how it fits into the club - Does everyone know what all the committees and elected positions do for the club and why they exist? Educating members about this can spark an interest in members to help out with that committee or becoming an officer in the club.

Kiwanis of Michigan GREAT LAKES Conference



Great Lakes Conference Registration Numbers

Date: 8/30/23

First Timers: 57

Total Registrations: 303

Total Members: 253

Total Guests: 24

Total Exhibitor/KI/Hosp: 5/4/6

Total SLP: 35

Walk In Registrations: 21

Total Members: 14

Total Guests: 8

Total Registrations: 324

Total Members: 267

Total Guests: 32

Total Exhibitor/KI/Hosp: 5/4/6

Total SLP: 35





Kiwanis of Michigan GREAT LAKES Conference

It was the perfect weekend to welcome Kiwanians from near and far to the Bavarian Inn, in Frankenmuth, for the newly rebranded and revitalized Kiwanis of Michigan Great Lakes Conference! The Inn was the perfect setting to celebrate our district's, club's, and member's successes over the past year, and to educate ourselves on ways we can continue to serve our communities. We had a record-breaking turnout with over 320 people in attendance!

As part of the revitalization, the education workshops were tailored on subjects members have been asking for. This year, over 25 different workshops were offered, including workshops offered by the Michigan District Key Club board! The workshops drew large crowds and had folks excited to share the information with their clubs. Some of the workshop topics included: Membership, Student Leadership Programs, Charitable Gaming, The AI Revolution, and Learning how to make recognition a part of your club's culture.

Our district had a fantastic team of club openers and coaches over the past year and have helped to open six new clubs in our district! We were so excited to see these clubs represented and to welcome nearly 60 first-time

attendees to the conference! New to the conference this year was the addition of stand-up banners, recognizing new clubs along with distinguished and outstanding clubs. It was so much fun to see all the hard work everyone puts in over the year, and recognize all the clubs for meeting their goals!

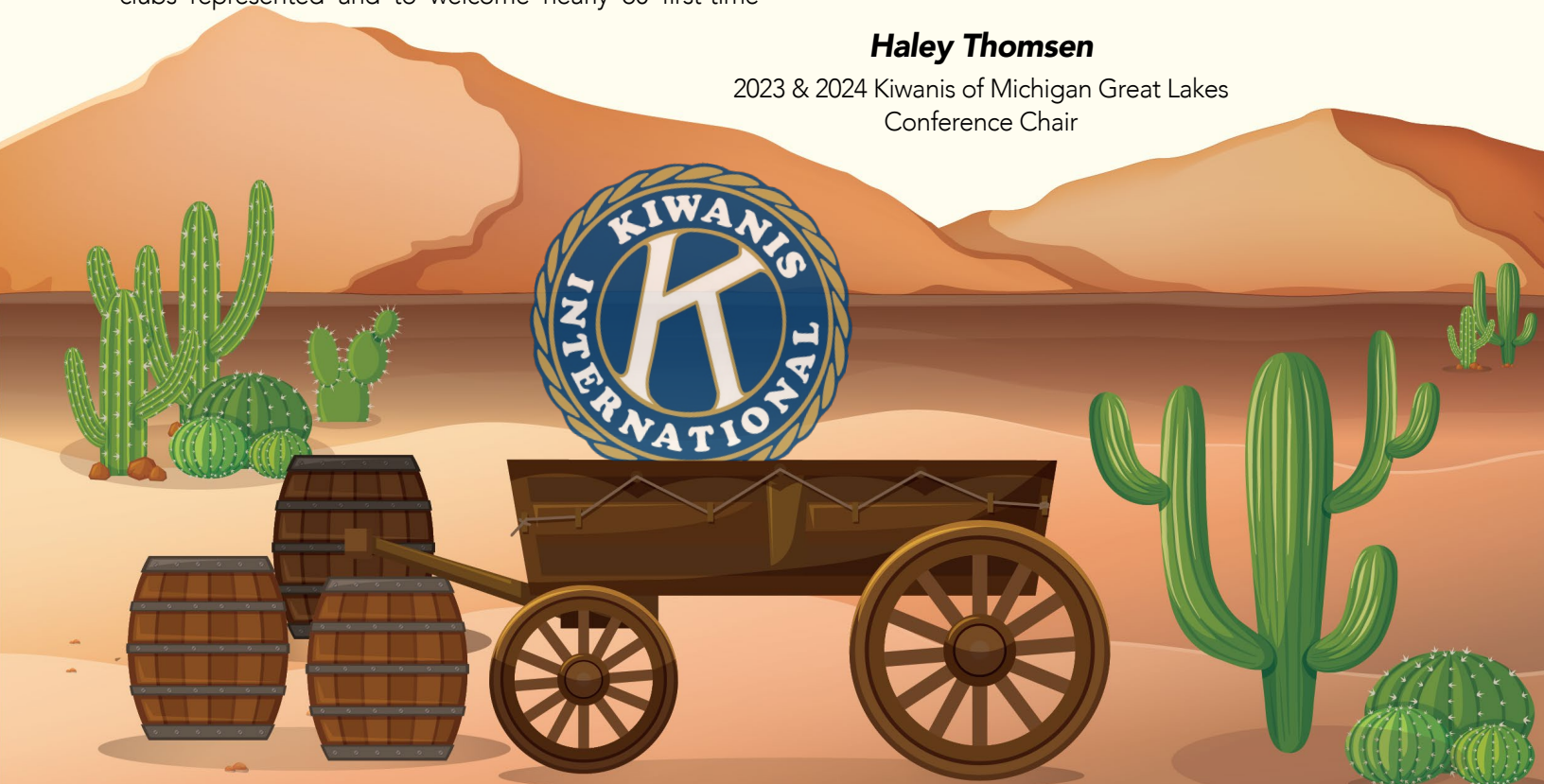
The weekend ended with a wonderfully attended governors banquet honoring Governor Vicki. This year the conference and the governor's banquet had a special theme of "Old Bert and Vicki's Wild West", therefore, we had to have line dancing to end the night! Everyone came dressed to impress in their very best cowboy and western garb. It was a great time to see Kiwanians and Key clubbers out on the dance floor!

I would like to personally thank the amazing conference team for the countless hours they donated to provide such a successful event! Vicki Okuniewski, Renea Callery, Sue Petrisin, Greg Smith, Stacey Nill, Larry Memmer, and Krista Surratt.

We can't wait to see even more wonderful Kiwanians next year in Munday Township, August 23rd-25th!

Haley Thomsen

2023 & 2024 Kiwanis of Michigan Great Lakes
Conference Chair



In my view...



Steve Ingram
Trustee-Counselor
for the Michigan District

Pat and I had a wonderful time visiting with The Michigan Kiwanians during The Great Lakes Conference. I've often said that I believe I came away with so much great information and ideas to implement in my home district and club. We certainly pulled some great ideas for Indiana's District Convention next year. I do know that I need to work on my line dancing if I ever hope to go professional. What a joy it was to involve The Key Clubbers at every level of the conference, they certainly added a spark.

I am certainly looking forward to working with Governor Renea and the leadership team this year. The groundwork the past Governors have set in place and the ambitious 2023-2024 goals will keep Michigan growing in membership and growing with service rendered.

Part of the Trustee's commitments involve serving on Board committees. My assignments this year include leadership development and the finance committee. I believe by the time you receive this issue of the Michigan Builder; the finance committee will be deep in conversation about cutting expenses and coming to Denver with a possible dues increase proposal. As these conversations take place over the next nine months, I believe we must keep the focus of "Serving the children of the world" at the top of our thoughts and goals. I'll keep Governor Renea informed of developments as we move forward.

In service,

Steve Ingram

Trustee-Counselor for the Michigan District



Leadership Team 2023-24 Photo

Back Row

Mark Ott LTG Division 12, Chris Bouck LTG Division 18, Rocky Roland LTG Division 21,
Gary Tong LTG Division 17, Eric Stezowski LTG Division 13, Cindy Greening LTG Division 3

Middle Row

Denise Browning LTG Division 5, Kathie Wilder LTG Division 6, Meida Ollivierra LTG Division 1,
Bonnie Bartlett LTG Division 11, Gary Patterson LTG Division 10, Syrina Dawson LTG Division 20

Front Row

Duane Miller LTG Division 19, Peggie Pedenelli LTG Division 2, Renea Callery District Governor,
Ruth Milbourne LTG Division 16,

Not Pictured Mike Martin LTG Division 14

Re-Connect ... but oh how it soars

Not long ago I was preparing for a visit to one of the clubs in my Division when I began to reflect on Governor Renea Callery's overarching theme for our upcoming Kiwanian year. Her theme is Re-connect. Just a simple phrase, or so I thought. Within minutes I was blown away by its power. Allow me to explain.

FIRST OF ALL, the theme Re-Connect works on so many levels. It is a call to action rooted in the memory of past connections but inspiring us to attempt new and deeper connections in our present moment. Kiwanis became great because individuals, clubs, and communities found common cause with one another for the sake of the children of our world and it will only continue to thrive if those connections persist.

SECOND OF ALL, the theme Re-Connect might just be tapping into our collective memory of a host of words and phrases that encourage us to Re-Connect better with one another than we may have connected recently. Several examples, each with the "RE" beginning follow: Rebirth, Revise, Review, Respect, Remember, Reform, Restart, Reflect, etc. Just think how many Re-Connections in our lives and in Kiwanis would be Re-invigorated by the inclusion of these and other similar incentives deepening our Re-Connections.

THIRD, the theme Re-Connect is a subtle reminder of our number one spokesman for Re-Connection this year, Governor Renea herself. Governor Renea has been a living definition of the theme Re-Connect during her seven years in Kiwanis for many of us, individually and collectively. Those who have had the opportunity to know her can't help but be inspired by her and her words, encouraging us again and again to strive to Re-Connect.

FOURTH, and last of all, I feel compelled to bring a personal experience into my remarks. Not long ago I was talking to someone bemoaning his impending retirement and I startled him when I told him that his retirement might become the greatest period of his life, especially if my life is any harbinger.

During my retirement I have enjoyed becoming a doting grandfather and becoming an occasional traveler to

places like Yellowstone and Cooperstown. During my retirement I have fallen in love once again with my wife and my and family and friends. During my retirement I have fallen in love once again with my hobbies and interests. During my retirement I have fallen into love with my Faith and life itself. And during my retirement I have fallen in love with everything Kiwanis.

Now please bear with me as I attempt to link the word retire to the word Re-Connect.

Last winter we re-tired our car. That is, we replaced all four of its tires and now it once again drives like new.

Now it is my conviction that Kiwanis and each one of us will have a better future starting now if we all "re-tire our present vehicles" and Re-Connect with one another and our world in new and life affirming ways.

A re-awakened world awaits our Re-Connection, especially young children whose very survival may depend upon us.

In conclusion, let me assert that it is time for each one of us to take to heart our Governor's message.

- It is time for each one of us to re-imagine and re-configure what we are all about as individuals and Kiwanians.
- It is time for each one of us to Re-Connect with all that is best in ourselves and in one another.
- It is time for each one of us to join hands in a celebration of life itself.
- It is time for us all to re-populate the world with Kiwanis.

Just a simple phrase ... Re-Connect ... but oh how it soars.

Re-Connecting,
Mike Martin, Lt. Governor, Division 14

Hi Kiwanis,

Governor Renea Callery invited me to be a guest facilitator during one of her 23-24 trainings for the Lieutenant Governors. It was an honor to train this impressive group. They shared their challenges and success and we "Kicked Conflict to the Curb™."

I thought I'd share an important leadership strategy with you that I shared during the training session. Thanks to Governor Renea Callery and Sue Petrisin, Past International President who helped me customize the session.

Imposter Syndrome is one strategy my clients appreciate learning about - especially new leaders.

Imposter Syndrome is something we ALL share at certain times in our life. Yes, even the confident people you know.

INDICATIONS THAT IMPOSTER SYNDROME IS KEEPING YOU STUCK

Asking yourself if you have what it takes to succeed.

- Constantly comparing yourself to others.
- Being hard on yourself when you make mistakes.
- Fear sharing ideas with leaders or peers.

CAUSES OF IMPOSTER SYNDROME

- Growing up in a negative environment.
- No positive role models to learn from when you were young.
- Never receiving positive feedback about your accomplishments.
- Being a perfectionist with no flexibility for mistakes.

HOW TO BREAK THROUGH IMPOSTER SYNDROME

- Let go of your inner perfectionist
- Listen to constructive feedback from people who you respect.
- Read books or articles about Imposter Syndrome.
- Watch and learn from confident leaders.
- Remember one of your accomplishments to remind yourself that you are smarter than you think.
- Ask what stories you are making up about your lack of self-confidence.



I ask coaching clients an important question when they experience self-doubt.

“What is it costing you when you fear taking a risk?”

They remember turning down promotions or not asking for a raise because of their fear and lack of confidence.

It’s another story if you don’t want the promotion. It’s an issue when you constantly compare yourself to others’ success and play the victim. This is the time to look at your achievements and move forward.

The good news is that we can change once we see how imposter syndrome is stopping us.

THE TRAINING ALSO INCLUDED:

- Personalized case scenarios
- Making conversations safe
- The importance of humility as a leader
- Coaching gems to improve listening skills

Who is Joyce Weiss?

Joyce is a communication coach and Queen of conflict resolution. She works with Human Resource Professionals, leaders, growth-minded individuals, and small groups tired of feeling invisible or overlooked and ready to confidently use their voice - without losing their cool. The result is their input and contribution are recognized and respected.

Reach Joyce at 248.681.5831 or Joyce@JoyceWeiss.com, to discover if private or small group coaching is right for you. Discover how you or your direct reports can feel confident using your voice so you can Kick Conflict to the Curb™!

Discover how your communication skills impact your success at work. Have increased self-confidence because you no longer dread difficult conversations.



**GRAB YOUR FREE
Communication Assessment**

**CLICK
HERE**



The Kiwanis Club of Mt. Pleasant had a ribbon cutting to celebrate its 90th anniversary.

The ribbon cutting was provided by the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce. It took place at Cheers Neighborhood Bar and Grill, 1700 W. High Street on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from noon to 1 p.m.

“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.”

Members of the Chamber of Commerce were present to help the Kiwanis Club begin their celebration.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the Kiwanis Club of Mt. Pleasant’s 90th anniversary,” said Liz Conway, President and CEO of the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce. “The Kiwanis Club has a long history of positively impacting our community through their support of children and other community initiatives.”

The Kiwanis Club served over 5,000 youth and worked more than 600 service hours during the 2021-2022 Kiwanis year.

Mercia Foster, president of the club, states that “Kiwanis has allowed me to find new ways to help children in our community along with other caring people.”

The Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis helps improve the education of all 3rd grade students in Isabella County by giving each child a dictionary in the fall of the year.

One of the longest serving members of the Kiwanis Club, Bill Cain says “doing things for the children of our community is the most rewarding feeling anyone can have. Our carnival for Special Olympics summer games is so very rewarding”.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Mt. Pleasant are volunteers dedicated to serving children, family organizations and communities through projects supported by fundraising activities. Club projects and proceeds from fundraising activities have allowed the Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis Club to provide support to several child and youth organizations throughout Isabella County.

In Memoriam

Judith Gniewek
Brooklyn

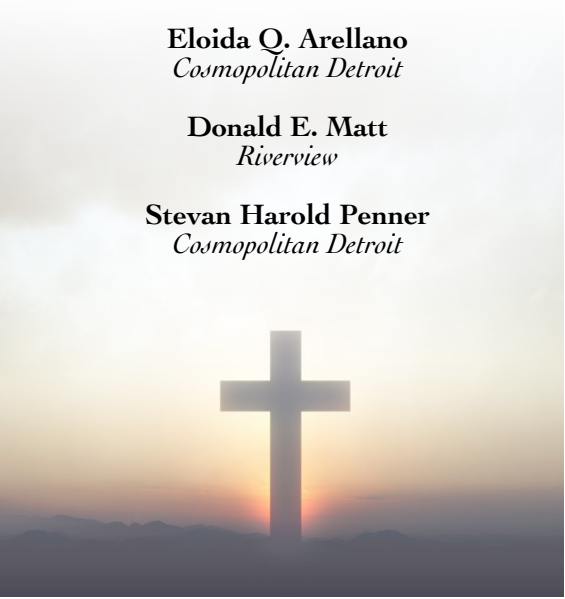
Daniel L. Burroughs
Ann Arbor

Judge Kurt Kertsen
Groose Ile

Eloida Q. Arellano
Cosmopolitan Detroit

Donald E. Matt
Riverview

Stevan Harold Penner
Cosmopolitan Detroit



as we go to
PRESS

Active Clubs 140
District Beginning Membership 3279
Reporting Members Sept 1, 2023..... 3534

Net Gain
+255
members

SLP members	PAID MEMBERS	
	CLUBS	
K-Kids	7	-
Builders Club	25	-
Key Club	89	4560
Circle K	6	152
Aktion Club	18	238



2022-23 GOVERNOR'S MEMBERSHIP TROPHY

Shorewood, St. Clair Shores.....	+15
Ann Arbor	+11
Boyne City	+10
Traverse City.....	+10
Utica-Shelby Twp	+9
Metro Detroit YP	+8
Monroe	+8
South Oakland County	+7
Coldwater	+7
Kalamazoo Sunrise.....	+7
Lapeer	+6
Metro North - Troy	+5
Lac Ste. Claire	+5
Tecumseh	+5
Mount Pleasant	+5
Garden City.....	+5
Dearborn	+5

Net gain is from 10-1-22 thru 9-1-23 and includes clubs only with at least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.