



MICHIGAN *Builder*

Serving the children of the world | Michigan District | **FEB/MAR 2024**

Dear Esteemed Members of Kiwanis...



 *I hope this message finds you well.*

As we continue our commitment to serving our communities and making a positive impact, I am writing to share that in this Builder is information introducing a proposed dues increase that will enable us to amplify our reach and enhance our projects. Our organization's dedication to service remains unwavering, but as we navigate through changing times and evolving needs, it becomes essential to ensure our financial stability for sustained impact.

The proposed dues increase is a strategic step to secure the resources needed for expanding

our community outreach, supporting local initiatives, and fostering meaningful connections. By investing in our Kiwanis family through this adjustment, we can fortify our foundation, enabling us to carry out impactful projects and contribute even more effectively to the well-being of the communities and the children we serve.

Your support in this matter is pivotal, and I believe that, together, we can continue to be a force for positive change. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to our shared mission.

Governor Renea Callery



Do you still Believe?

My mother told me when I was quite young that I could achieve anything I set my mind to do and I believed her, I still believe. This in spite of many subsequent failures. It teaches you perseverance.

Everyone who joins Kiwanis wants to be part of something bigger than themselves in order to make a difference. In the end, we want to feel that our life was worth something. That we are going to leave this world better than the way we found it.

But over the years, Jesus's words hold true 'you will always have the poor.' Despite all our best efforts, a new generation of the poor, the weak and the sick is born and takes up residence in our world. If you're approaching retirement and have been a member for many years you have seen this play out multiple times. At a macro level you can feel like giving up, because you can't save them all. Members begin

to focus on other things, like the machinations of Club operations. It's a defense mechanism.

There is an awful lot of focus lately on the proposed dues increase.

Let's see what I can buy for \$25 in a year. Four cups of coffee at Starbucks, or six pair of men's socks, or how about two meals at either Wendy's, McDonald's or Taco Bell, maybe eight gallons of gasoline or about one week of commuting.

But \$25 can also support Kiwanis, an organization that can save a life.



I have been on a number of church sponsored mission trips, many have been to Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. There was a legend of a young girl picking up starfish from a beach littered with them roasting in the sun and putting them back in the water. A passerby pointed out how futile her efforts were, "you can't save them all, it's not going to make any difference!" to which she replied, "well it made a difference to that one," as she put another back into the water.

So after experiencing the futility of trying to save all the 'Children of the World', members question 'why should I volunteer here and have to pay to do it?'

My answer is, that like the child on the beach, it's true we can't save them all, but we can save some and make a difference in many more.

Tell me, do you give to Tunnels to Towers, Wounded Warrior Project, the Humane Society of the United States, or the American Red Cross? How much? \$10, \$20, or \$25? Monthly? There is a belief that your donation will



make a difference. You believe, despite knowing that these same organizations have been around for decades. Why? Because the need is still there. So it goes with Kiwanis...children still need our help?

As a member of Kiwanis you should know that your dues, as well as your donations of money and time all go to help children in your own backyard first and then throughout the World.

Kiwanis saves children's lives directly and makes a difference in many more, who eventually will change the World for the better. That is our legacy.

As I have mentioned in other prior articles this should be our WHY! The reason to raise money, the reason to donate your time, the reason to invite your friend to join and the reason to support Kiwanis financially.

As Kiwanians, we pay to volunteer, and isn't it glorious we can. Know you are making a difference, then share your belief with others.

Frank Palazzolo, Governor-Elect

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

2024 DUES INCREASE KEY MESSAGES

- More than 60% of our delegates voted in favor of the proposed dues increase in 2023, but per our bylaws, a two-thirds vote was necessary for the amendment to pass.
- The board has taken a holistic look at the organization's finances and has explored potential solutions with districts worldwide. During the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, we are bringing a proposed dues increase of US\$25 for clubs in Tier A nations. Smaller increases will occur outside of Tier A.
- A review of all expenditures resulted in a US\$2.1 million reduction in the budget for fiscal year 2023-24 compared to 2022-23. Even with these reductions, the 2023-24 budget plans for a deficit of approximately US\$2 million.
- Dues have increased once in two decades and have not increased since 2015 despite soaring inflation rates.
- The board will also propose reducing the number of trustees on the Kiwanis International Board. Eliminating three board positions allows us to ensure representation for members worldwide while meeting our fiduciary responsibilities.
- The organization must continue to evolve, and operating the same way we have for decades is no longer an option.



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KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

2024 DUES INCREASE FAQs

Why is a dues increase needed?

Kiwanis International has been operating with a budget deficit since 2015, relying upon investment returns to cover operating costs. Kiwanis' strategy has been to use investment returns to cover operating expenses/deficit spending. For many years, a strong market and a thriving economy allowed Kiwanis to rely on investment returns to cover operating expenses. However, due to global financial conditions, the reserves have decreased by more than 42% since 2021.

How much is the proposed increase?

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees is proposing an increase of US\$25 for Tier A, \$16 for Tier B and \$11 for Tier C.

When were Kiwanis International dues last increased?

In 2015. That year, the House of Delegates voted to implement:

Tier A: US\$10 increase to US\$52.

Tier B: US\$7 increase to US\$34.

Tier C: US\$5 increase to US\$23.

Prior to 2015, the most recent increase occurred in 2003.

How do Kiwanis International dues compare to other service organizations?

Kiwanis dues are among the lowest in the world. Every major service organization has implemented a dues increase since our last increase in 2015 — and some of them have done so more than once. Six peer organizations have proposed increases this year, with at least two more coming in 2025.

Here are the current annual dues for peer organizations:

- Lions Club International: Increasing to US\$50 in 2025.
- Rotary International: Increasing to US\$82 in 2025.
- Sertoma: US\$130.
- Optimist International: US\$84.
- Civitan International: US\$90.
- Cosmopolitan International: US\$100.

Why didn't the board propose an increase sooner?

The board is always looking for ways to add value and control costs. The board considered increases prior to the pandemic, but priorities shifted with the challenges brought on by COVID.

What are dues used for?

Dues are used to support clubs, divisions and districts with leadership education, training events, printed and digital resources, translation and interpretation in seven core languages, technology and digital products, global marketing, public relations and legal services.

If the dues increase passes, how will the funds be used?

A dues increase will allow Kiwanis International to continue to invest in club openings and provide resources and education to members, clubs and districts.

What happens if the dues increase does not pass?

Severe program cuts would be necessary. Training



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and leadership development programs would be negatively affected. Kiwanis International conventions will be significantly diminished. Clubs would be charged for materials and education. Major operational and programmatic changes would be necessary.

At this point, there is no “excess fat to trim.” Without a dues increase, the Kiwanis International Board will have to consider all options so that Kiwanis can remain strong for future generations.

Who will decide whether dues will be adjusted?

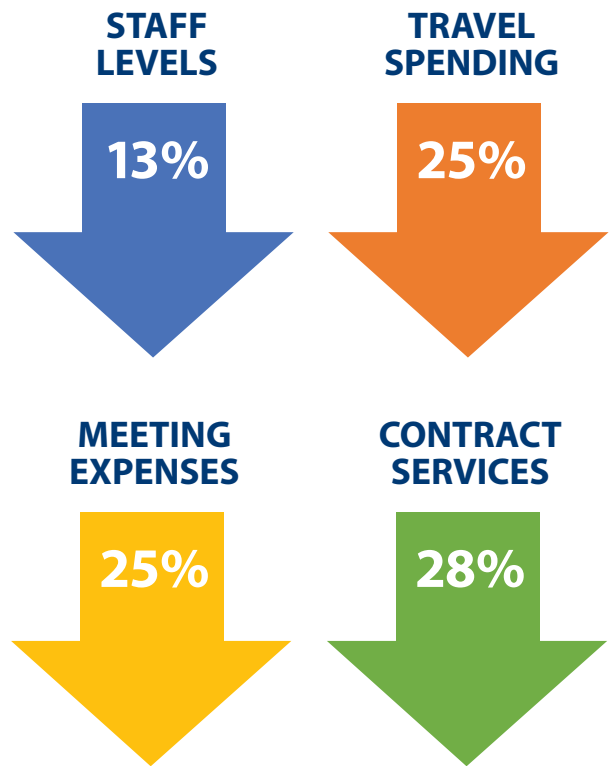
The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees will propose an amendment to the Kiwanis International Bylaws. That proposed amendment will be voted upon at the 2024 Annual Meeting, which takes place during the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, Colorado, U.S. The bylaws stipulate that only in-person delegates may vote.

Has Kiwanis taken steps to reduce expenses?

Yes. The Kiwanis International staff was asked to control spending and reduce costs in every area. Some results:

- The organization renegotiated contracts and delayed some capital expenditures.
- Several staff departures have gone unfilled. (Staffing levels are 13% lower than a decade ago).
- Travel spending has been reduced by more than 25% — even as the price of travel continues to skyrocket.
- Meeting expenses (25%) and contract services (28%) — as well as the staff support that accompanies these areas — were also reduced.
- Kiwanis magazine was delivered in a different format to achieve cost savings. The organization saved more than \$310K on postage, paper and printing in 2023.

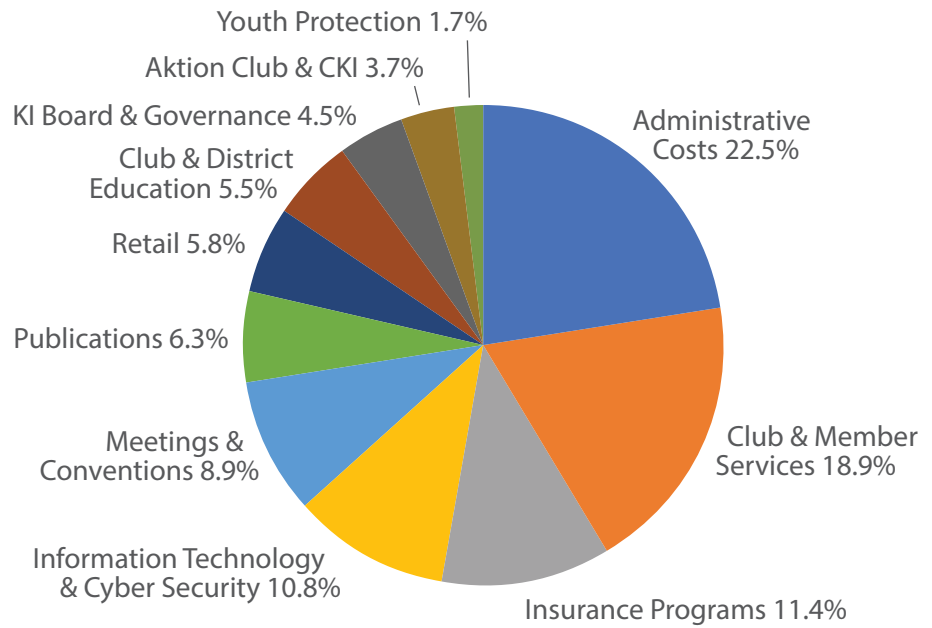
Cuts in these high-ticket areas were made to save money in the short term — and they made an immediate impact on the bottom line. During this process, opportunities were identified where savings can also be realized over the long term. But some cuts significantly affect the organization. Training for governors-elect is just one example.



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What are the spending areas and allocations in the current budget?

At approximately \$18.5 million, the 2023-24 Kiwanis International budget is more than \$2 million lower than the previous year's budget. The allocation breakdown is as follows:



Will this change my local club dues?

Each club sets its dues according to its budgetary needs, as does each district. Some clubs, for example, may have higher dues to account for meals or to cover meeting rental space. Other clubs may set lower dues and leave meals up to the individual member.

Won't a dues increase mean a membership decrease?

Historically, there have not been abnormal membership decreases after an increase in dues. Of course, we understand that history cannot predict the future, and we hope you value your membership in Kiwanis more than it costs to be a member.

Why can't Kiwanis International find sponsors and sell advertising?

Kiwanis International partners with businesses and organizations to raise non-dues revenue.

Why doesn't Kiwanis International reduce the number of employees and their compensation?

Compensation and benefits must be competitive so that Kiwanis International can attract the knowledgeable and competent talent needed to run the organization. Staff reductions have taken place at Kiwanis, and the amount spent on salaries and benefits continues to decrease.



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KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL 2024 DUES INCREASE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Since 2015 — the last time delegates voted to increase dues — Kiwanis International has cut costs, reduced staff and used strong investment returns to defray a dues increase.

Rising costs and declining membership have now made it difficult to cover the costs of operations and programs. Global financial conditions have further compounded the problem. This is why your board of trustees is proposing the following dues increase:

TIER A → US\$25 TIER B → US\$16 TIER C → US\$11

WHY DO WE NEED A DUES INCREASE?



Dues have not increased in nearly a decade and only once in the past 20 years. We face a new reality. As a member-based non-profit that serves children, costs have increased dramatically: Legal fees are up 400%, and IT costs have risen 76%, mainly due to cyber security measures.



Our dues revenue continues to decrease, and membership has not recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are not alone. Rotary, Optimist and Lions have all recently voted to increase dues. Even with a dues increase, Kiwanis would remain one of the least expensive service organizations to belong to.



Cutting expenses is not enough. Kiwanis spends less money now than we did in 2006 and has consistently done so for 15 years. In some years, as much as \$4 million less. We've done this by offering fewer services, reducing staff, renegotiating contracts and cutting travel.

OUR PEER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Sertoma: US\$130
- Cosmopolitan International: US\$100
- Civitan International: US\$90
- Zonta International: US\$88
- Optimist International: US\$84
- Rotary International: US\$82 (by 2025)
- Soroptimist International: US\$74
- **Kiwanis International Tier A: US\$52**
- Lions Club: US\$50 (by 2025)
- **Kiwanis International Tier B: US\$34**
- **Kiwanis International Tier C: US\$23**

PROPOSED DUES INCREASE

KIWANIS TIER A: US\$77

KIWANIS TIER B: US\$50

KIWANIS TIER C: US\$34



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MYTH VS. REALITY

2024 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL DUES INCREASE

MYTH

Kiwanis International has millions of dollars in reserves. We can delay a dues increase by using these reserves.

REALITY

Kiwanis' strategy has always been to use investment returns to cover operating expenses/deficit spending. The organization has been able to do that due to strong investment returns and a thriving economy. Due to global financial conditions, the reserves have decreased by more than 42% since 2021.

MYTH

Other service organizations are less expensive than Kiwanis.

REALITY

Kiwanis dues are among the lowest in the world. Every major service organization has implemented a dues increase since our last increase in 2015 — and some of them have done so more than once. Six peer organizations have proposed increases this year, with at least two more coming in 2025.

MYTH

Kiwanis International profits from the Kiwanis International convention.

REALITY

The Kiwanis International convention is an investment in our clubs and the education of current and future leaders. Each year, the convention operates at a deficit. Kiwanis intentionally prices the Kiwanis International convention to maximize attendance while keeping economic losses at a minimum.

MYTH

Kiwanis International has more employees than necessary.

REALITY

Kiwanis International has steadily reduced staff over the past 10 years. Although several departments (e.g., IT and legal services) have grown due to the changing landscape of our industry, there are now 12% fewer employees overall than there were five years ago. While funding reductions have occurred, no substantial program cuts were made during this time.



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February

- 12 District Convention Planning Meeting
- 15 Deadline for ALL CLUBS filing IRS 990
- 16-18 Key Club- District Convention- Lansing
- 17-18 Circle K District Convention & Snowpia
- 24 KiwanisONE Divisions 5 & 6

March

- 1 Deadline for ALL CLUBS annual report of club elections
- 2 KiwanisONE Divisions 1 & 2
- 4-8 Aktion Club Week
- 9 KiwanisONE Divisions 13 & 14
- 11-13 Club Opening - Wayne/Westland
- 11-14 Charity Poker - Shelby Twp
- 16 KiwanisONE Divisions 16 & 18
- 18-22 Builder's Club Week
- 23 KiwanisONE Divisions 3 & 7
- 29 GOOD FRIDAY- District office closed
- 31 Submit Fiscal Yr Financials & Examination to KI Finance dept.



Michigan Builder

Michigan District of Kiwanis International
(USPS344-660)

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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.



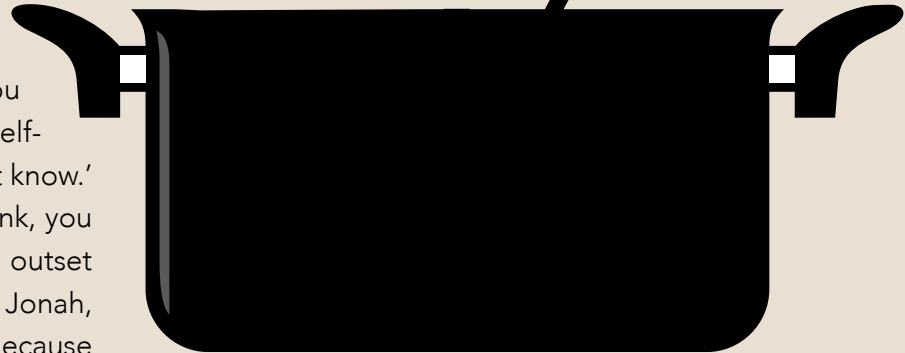
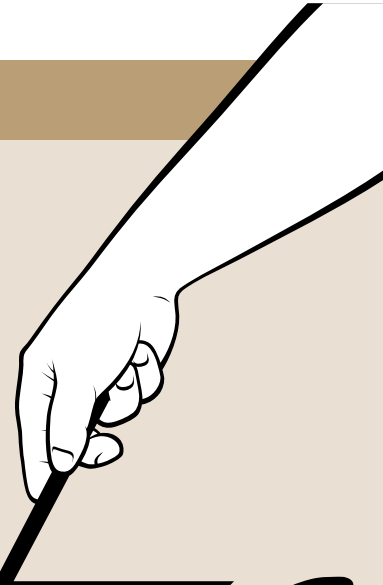
Frank Palazzolo

2023-24 Governor-Elect

Michigan District

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stirring the pot



So along time ago at a church retreat they posed the question what do you believe you are called to do?' After hearing from many self-assured congregants, I said, 'I honestly don't know.' To which a friend stated, 'Oh that's easy Frank, you are here to stir the pot!' Let me say at the outset that he could be right and how I wish I, like Jonah, had been asked to do something else because stirring the pot never wins you friends.

Today in Kiwanis it is my observation that there is a lot of whistling by the graveyard. We know the truth but we want to believe it won't happen to us. If you are one of the few growing large Kiwanis Clubs my hat's off to you. Share your expertise with the rest. Lend your talents to the District as a whole. For every mega Club there are 10 struggling Clubs.

There is a saying, 'you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.' After my article entitled 'Help Wanted' in which I asked for volunteers and nominations of enthusiastic members for a myriad of positions I would like to report that my phone was ringing off the hook, my voicemail was full and my email was packed. I would like to report that. The actual count was zero. I could have chosen to report a more nuanced recollection of the experience and I thought about telling that whopper but putting one's 'head in the sand' doesn't solve the problem.

So after a time, I began a phone campaign that Jerry Lewis might be proud of. It was not without some success. I started out with the leadership that has carried us from the beginning of this century.

They are pretty much spent. They have poured their hearts and souls into this organization and there is nothing left. I cannot blame them; all I can say is 'thank you.'

If you have served on a committee at the Club or District level you have probably experienced the 'committee of one' syndrome. If the saying 'many hands make the burden light' is true, then so is the opposite equally true. The Committee of One can be suffocating. It is more of a surprise that people in leadership have worked so tirelessly for so long than it is that they are now burned out.

I think I know from my experience what has to be done but I am not a King and I can't compel any of you to do anything. All I really have is the ability to hold up a mirror, use this bully pulpit and stir the pot.

When I joined, the only way you got into Kiwanis is if you were asked. It was a closed fraternity. I was proud of the fact that a business associate thought I was worthy of that invitation and nomination. No you did not get in by a simple invitation. There was a monthly membership meeting where you got to

meet the other members and once a month they would vote on the nominations. Some were refused membership. Once you were in the Club you could pick what committee you wished to work on, but you had to work on a committee. In those days at Detroit No.1 there were 110 members and they were made up of corporate managers, successful small business owners, doctors, lawyers, (no Indian Chiefs but a couple native Americans), dentists, government officials and a pastor or two. This was the membership profile from 1915 to probably 1990. You can understand why this worked. We had the time to volunteer and wanted to give back. We had the income to support ourselves and to give to charities. The bell ringing and peanut sales were mostly for fun and a little friendly competition, with the losers buying lunch. It was this way with a lot of Clubs of that era.

At that time if you were asked to serve on a District Committee let alone to serve as a Chair it was an honor not a burden. Some of you may have noticed that if you had a Lieutenant Governor or other high ranking Kiwanis Official in your Club, it is awarded a banner to display and that was a big deal.

Today the membership profile has changed significantly. With an average age of 63 most Clubs are populated by retirees. Anyone who wants to join and is still breathing can.

When you first retire you are often looking for a way to transition from your job life to your home life and volunteering is a great way of doing it. But then there is the pressure to travel while you are still healthy and moving closer to the kids and before you know it the window closes. This is natural but imagine a business where all the workers age out and production produces less and less and your competitors fill the void. We are at the beginning of this process. We must reverse the trend, or we will be buried by it. So now what?

First let's start with Why? Why are you still a Kiwanian? The Kiwanis mission is to 'serve the children of the world.' It's a catchy slogan but what does that mean in this country and in this state, today.. There is a growing family niche known as the 'working poor' This group has an income too large for government assistance but barely makes ends meet. These children are vulnerable. They need healthcare, a decent education and a safe environment to reach their full potential. Kiwanis has delivered on its promise by supporting Children's Hospitals, providing books and literacy programs for schools, and by teaching leadership and self-esteem through Key Clubs and CircleK. It has addressed the need for a safe environment by supporting the training of future police officers. Finally, it supports the Salvation Army who provide food and shelter to homeless families. That's the Why.

When I was President of Detroit No.1 with a then membership of around 40, I looked in our leaky warehouse at artifacts dating back to 1915. I was worried that someday there would be no one left to take care of these artifacts, so I was able to give them to the Detroit Historical Museum for safekeeping, research and display. Today the membership is 29. That is not a criticism as we have lost 49% of the total membership worldwide since I joined 36 years ago.

So now what? Well, unless you want me to start the process of closing down our operations and leaving vulnerable children to a Darwinian future, I challenge every Past Club President or past Lieutenant Governor from a Club at full strength to step forward. There are numerous LTG, & District Committees to serve on. If you are yourself burned out, I thank you, but I ask you to find and nominate a member of your Club to serve in your place. If not us who?

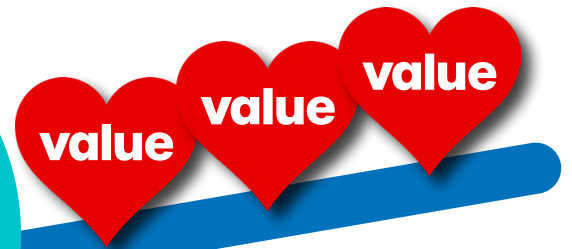
Phone or email me, or expect a call. I 'will not go gently into that good-night'!



Greg Smith
Executive Director
Michigan District
executivedirector@mikiwanis.org



It's not the
money...it's
the value



This coming July at the Kiwanis International Convention there will be an amendment presented to vote for an increase of International dues. We don't know what the final amount of increase will be, but it will probably be around \$25 per year.

There are some people who will say that we will lose members because of the increase. The same thing was said this past year when a similar amendment was presented. That amendment did not pass and Guess What? We still lost Kiwanis members overall Internationally and by about 5% in the Michigan District.

Why are we losing members if we haven't changed our dues at the International or District level since 2016? Can money be the only reason or even the primary reason. I say no!

Look around at your friends, family or even yourself. All of us spend money on things that bring us purpose or pleasure. Here are some examples: Starbucks coffee, smoking, alcohol, bowling, crafts, attending sports events, movies, books, pets and hobbies such as coin collecting, sports memorabilia, artwork. I'm sure you can name many more.

Even though most of these involve costs and our time, we still do them even when prices increase because of the value they bring to our lives. We all determine what's the best use of our time and money (value).

So what value does Kiwanis bring to your life that keeps you a member? Did others leave because the Kiwanis value of their time and money wasn't strong enough to keep them as a member?

How can you share the value you see in Kiwanis with others? How can your club and member's experiences increase in value so member retention is strong?

Brainstorm with your club's members about these ideas and how you can start now to increase your club's value to your members so there is increased member retention because of the difference Kiwanis is making in their lives and those in the community.

Next issue I will give some ideas and ways to help add value.

U.S./Canada Kiwanis Goodwill Dinner

April 26, 2024
6:00-9:00 pm

Registration is **\$40 USD**
includes two entrees, salad,
sides & dessert.



Special Guest Speaker

Wendell L. Brown, Sr.

Join us to hear his story about going from a professional football player to wrongly imprisoned in China for 3 years to an author, coach, entrepreneur, mentor, motivational speaker, and community servant. Wendell is also the founder of multiple non-profits helping and saving countless people.

Alexander's

1200 Gratiot Blvd. || Marysville, MI

Registration deadline is April 19th.

[**click here registration for this event**](#)



If you are paying by check please make it payable to Michigan District Kiwanis and mailed to:

Michigan District of Kiwanis
P.O. Box 231
Mason, MI 48854

It is my pleasure to announce the Leadership Development Chair for 2025

Marc is a dynamic and visionary leader, with a proven track record as a successful serial entrepreneur in corporate America. He has spent over a decade developing his business acumen and leadership skills to achieve remarkable success for multiple multi-million-dollar companies. A former School Board Trustee and GenNext Nominee for Fortune 100 companies, Marc has made a positive impact as a community leader as well as an entrepreneur. Beyond his successful career, he is also an accomplished author, social entrepreneur, and motivational speaker. His personal mission statement to help others achieve success and happiness is not just words, it is a deeply held belief that permeates all aspects of his life. Marc has a passion for using technology to drive global change through innovation and impact, constantly pushing boundaries to develop transformative solutions that shape the future. His unwavering commitment to happiness and joy fuels his entrepreneurial journey and inspires him to lead by example in both his personal and professional endeavors. He has a remarkable ability to engage and connect with people from all walks of life, and his drive and determination will help create the innovative and exciting organization our District needs to become in order to meet the challenges faced by children in this new century.

Marc Alexander



**Council of Past Governors
Distinguished District Leadership Recognition Award**



CRITERIA AND NOMINATION FORM

The Council of Past Governors for the Michigan District of Kiwanis will annually recognize a past (or present) District leader who has positively impacted, through leadership and personal commitment, the enhancement of the principals of our District and the people whom it serves. The winner will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation at the Michigan District Convention, and the Council of Past Governors will donate a maximum of \$250 to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation in the name of the recipient.

Candidates for this award shall be limited to past (or present) District Governors, District Committee Chairs, or Lieutenant Governors. Persons submitting candidate nominations shall also be limited to the same above leadership positions. An attached letter should accompany this nomination form stating the rational of why their candidate should be presented with this award.

From the nominations submitted, a three-member selection committee shall determine who will receive the award. The selection committee shall be elected by the membership of the Council of Past Governors, where they will serve no more than a year term. The committee will select their own chairperson.

Nominations can be emailed to districtoffice@mikiwanis.org and are due **July 1, 2024**.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP APPRECIATION CANDIDATE:

Name: _____

District Position(s) Held: _____ Service Years: _____

_____ Service Years: _____

_____ Service Years: _____

PERSON (OR PERSONS) NOMINATING CANDIDATE:

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Most Senior Position Held: _____ Service Years: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Most Senior Position Held: _____ Service Years: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Most Senior Position Held: _____ Service Years: _____

[Click here to download this form](#)

Please use the following area stating the rationale for nominating the above candidate.

[Click here to download this form](#)

Polar Bear PLUNGE



[CLICK TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



Port Huron turns out to brave the wind and the waves of Lake Huron in support of the Kiwanis Club of the Blue Water Area/Port Huron, Polar Bear Plunge. One - hundred ninety six brave individuals took the plunge on December 2, 2023 at Lakeside Beach in Port Huron to support youth programs in the Blue Water Area. Plunge teams from Youth groups, Athletic teams, and Key Club members gathered pledges to see them take the plunge. Participants received up to 60% of their pledged total back for their organization as well as a long sleeve T-Shirt to commemorate the event. The next Polar Bear Plunge is scheduled for December 7, 2024 at lakeside Beach in Port Huron. We hope to see you there.





Nominee *for* Governor **Elect**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kiwanis: Cindy joined Clinton Valley Kiwanis in 2017. After just one meeting, she knew Kiwanis is where she wanted to be. She served as secretary for four years, then began a two-year term as President in October 2022. Cindy's Signature Project is Suicide Prevention & Mental Health, working in the schools through assemblies and written materials to save lives. She has also served on projects to re-home children, improve literacy, provide college scholarships, address food insecurity, and provide Christmas assistance.

As Lt. Governor, Cindy is extremely active for her Division's 11 clubs, participating in training, visiting the clubs, celebrating successes, and addressing concerns. Cindy is an avid communicator, rolling out District and International communications, sharing best practices, encouraging collaboration, and recommending active participation in conferences and conventions.

Other: Cindy founded a nonprofit to send impoverished and orphaned children to school in Tanzania from 2013-2017, and has served over the years with her children and grandchildren at St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, MCREST, and her church's Food Pantry. Twice serving as President of Executive Women International of Detroit-Windsor, she also served as Membership Director and Vice President. For the past five years, Cindy served on the Board of Directors, including two years as President, for Gianna House, which provides safe residence and education for homeless pregnant young mothers-to-be and mothers with newborns.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Cindy led an employee engagement improvement project in a leading health insurance company, planning events, authoring communications, coaching leaders, and providing opportunities for safe employee feedback. She also spearheaded peer professional development at a top-tier accounting firm.

In these and other roles, Cindy's focus has always been on quality and demonstration of value-added. She was instrumental in a number of executive and ownership transitions, serving as point person for problem resolution and acting as staff liaison to ensure the culture was either maintained or upgraded for least employee disruption.

LEADERSHIP

In every role, Cindy has striven to uplift others through coaching, mentoring, advising, training, and providing personal and professional opportunities such as business presence, governance, public speaking, team building, respectful conversations, leadership development, and building effective relationships. Cindy has been recognized by both her peers and executives as a leader, an accomplished team builder, a change management agent, and successful project lead. Strong interpersonal skills opened opportunities to work with and lead teams, improve corporate communications, and to represent her organizations out in the community. She is considered a steady, positive influencer.

Cindy has been a champion of diversity and inclusion and has brought that into decision-making when filling leadership roles and determining training needs, which she believes has appreciably impacted the organizations she has served and continues to serve.

RECOGNITION

Cindy received a Top 10 Michigan Business Women Award from NAWBO in 2014 for her work in Africa, and was a 2022 nominee for the ATHENA Award for local community service and leadership.

Cindy Greening

Nominee, Governor-Elect,
Kiwanis Michigan District
cynthiagreening1@yahoo.com,
586-549-5879

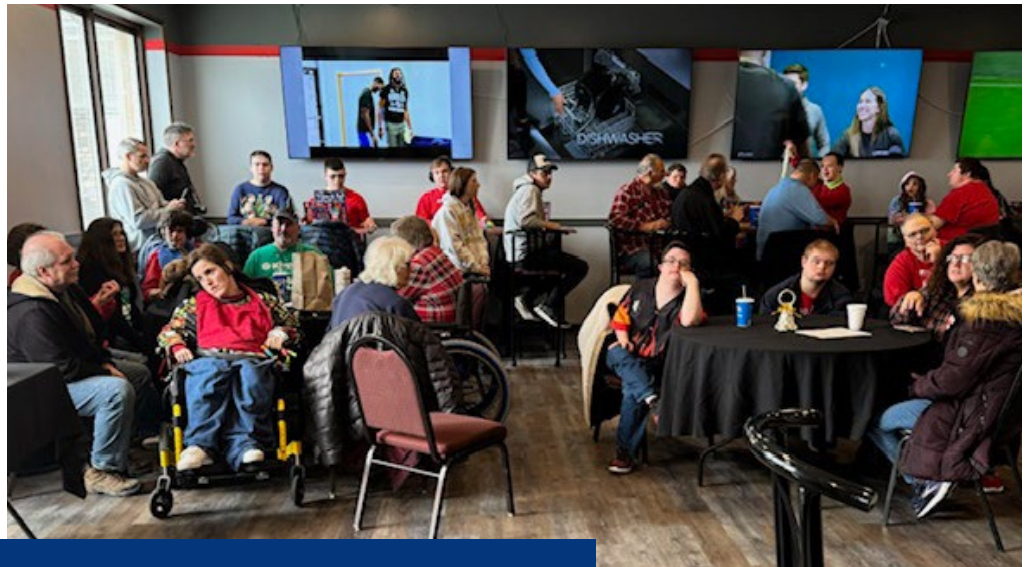


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDS-ON PROJECTS



Have you looked in your own backyard for hands on projects? It's probably the most missed thing that your club does. My Garden City Kiwanis club has partnered with other service clubs but were lacking in finding opportunities with other non-profit charities. That is until I had a discussion with one of the non-profit venders at our Kiwanis Great Lake Conference. During the discussion about his charity, I asked if our club members could help him with any hands-on project. He exclaimed that in fact we could. He is the CEO of the Blood Cancer Foundation and they were about to arrange an annual Christmas party for "children with cancer", they could use our members to inventory and package toys that were donated to them for the party. So, a number of the Garden City Kiwanis members volunteered and participated. While we were there, we were asked if we could help at the Christmas party and a number of us volunteered to supervise art and craft projects with the children. It was all a very rewarding adventure. Later we were told that they have other events that they could use our help. The Blood Cancer Foundation is not located in Garden City but that doesn't matter because it's about making a better life for those children.

Thomas Jankowski



MERRI BOWLERS OF LIVONIA

The Kiwanis Club of Livonia Early Risers has sponsored a bowling league for special needs bowlers for the last 10 years. The program originated with the Northville Kiwanis Club back in the eighties at Novi Bowl. After that club dissolved, Jerry Kwas, program chairperson, brought the program to the Livonia Club in 2013. The bowling league runs from October through May at Merri Bowl Lanes in Livonia. Jerry said, "I can't express how supportive the establishment has been in supporting bowling activities for special needs bowlers."

The league is called the Kiwanis "Merri Bowlers" and consists of 20 bowlers with special needs which include teens with Down Syndrome and autism as well as older adults with developmental disabilities and group home residents with multiple disabilities. The group ranges in age from teens to adults in their fifties, accompanied by parents and caregivers. Bowlers join the activity on Saturdays, two times per month, and are assisted by student volunteers from the local high school.

Two times a year we hold a special event, a Christmas party where Santa greets the bowlers, brings gifts, and poses for pictures while everyone enjoys pizza, pop and cake. Each May, we hold an awards party where we pass out awards to all the bowlers as well as some special awards to bowlers who have excelled throughout the year.

Jerry adds, "I personally cannot say enough about how much I enjoy chairing this program, having participated in some capacity for the last 32 years. To see our bowlers having fun as well as feeling the gratitude expressed by the bowlers and their caregivers makes the program a more than worthwhile endeavor. I also cannot say enough about the support the Livonia club has given to this program, making it one of our signature projects."



2023-24 OFFICER INFORMATION CHANGES

DELTA TOWNSHIP

K17442 (2006)

Division 16

Frank's Press Box, 7216 W Saginaw Hwy,
Lansing, 48917

Thurs., Noon

BLUE WATER AREA, PORT HURON

K00221 (1920)

Division 3

Big Boy Restaurant, 3961 24th Avenue,
Fort Gratiot,

Thurs., 7:00 AM

New Clubs

BRIDGEPORT-BIRCH RUN AREA

K21147 (2023)

Division 10

Bridgeport Township Office,
6740 Dixie Hwy, Bridgeport 48843 1
st Mon, 8:30 AM and 3rd Mon, 6:00 PM

Pres: Jamie Antku, 18475 Nelson Rd,
Saint Charles 48655

Phone: (989) 798-3897 **Email:** jamieantku@gmail.com

Sec: Andrew Betka, 4035 King Rd,
Saginaw, 48601

Phone: (989) 545-9496 **Email:** betkaa@gobearcats.net

2023-24 Officer Updates

DETROIT NO. 1

K00001 (1915)

Pres: Sejla Kulaglic,
29343 Woodpark Cir., Warren, 48092

Phone: (734) 664-2332 **Email:** Sejla.Kulaglic@gmail.com

METROPOLITAN DETROIT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Pres: Rebecca Stockbridge, 855 S Main St. Apt 502,
Royal Oak MI 48067

Phone: 262-389-1986

Email: rebecca.stockbridge@gmail.com

BLUE WATER AREA, PORT HURON

K00221 (1920)

Pres: Arnold Koontz, 1920 24th St

Port Huron, 48060-4710

Phone: (810) 956-0768 **Email:** aeddk2@gmail.com

DELTA TOWNSHIP

K17442 (2006)

Sec: Zoe Church, 8114 W Saginaw Hwy,
Lansing, 48917-8973

Phone: (989) 859-0227

Email: 744marketing@texasroadhouse.com

LAKEVIEW-URBANDALE, BATTLE CRK.

K03047 (1947)

Sec: Jaqueline Ratliff, 144 Sheffield Rd

Battle Creek, 49015

Phone: (269) 275-4752 **Email:** justjac2@gmail.com

WYANDOTTE 1000

K01000 (1923)

Sec: Heather Hall, 430 Ford Blvd

Lincoln Park, 48146-4329

Phone: (734) 250-0245

Email: heatherhallchurch@gmail.com

KIWANIS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

1. Sejla Kulaglic, 29343 Woodpark Circle,
Warren, MI 48092

Phone: (734) 664-2332

Email: Sejla.Kulaglic@gmail.com

COUNCIL OF PAST GOVERNORS

2017-18: Marian A. O'Higgins,

Club: Detroit No. 1

8307 Clay Ct., Sterling Hts., 48313-4605

Cell: (586) 801-6706 **Email:** maoh1004@gmail.com

LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER ACADEMY

CHAIR: Marian O'Higgins, Club: Detroit #1

8307 Clay Ct, Sterling Heights, 48313

Phone: (586) 801-6706 **Email:** maoh1004@gmail.com

In Memoriam

George R. Alaska
Shorewood, St. Clair Shores

Arlene Wolf
West Branch

Lawrence "Larry" Youse
Lakeview-Urbandale, Battle Creek
Secretary, 2018-2024

Joe B Garofalo
Shorewood, Saint Clair Shores

Richard J. Rinck
Golden K of Grand Rapids

Prentiss M. Brown Jr.
Saint Ignace



as we go to
PRESS

Active Clubs 135
District Beginning Membership **3190**
Reporting Members Jan 2, 2024 **3286**

Net Gain
+96
members

SLP members	PAID MEMBERS	
	CLUBS	
K-Kids	7	-
Builders Club	27	-
Key Club	96	4482
Circle K	6	117
Aktion Club	19	255

2023-24 GOVERNOR'S MEMBERSHIP TROPHY

Ann Arbor	+18
Cosmopolitan Detroit	+11
Charlevoix	+9
Tri Cities, GH-SL	+7
Coldwater	+6
Metro Detroit YP	+5

Net gain is from 10-1-23 thru 9-1-24 and includes clubs only with at least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.