



MICHIGAN *Builder*

Serving the children of the world | Michigan District | **OCT/NOV 2024**

Why should you be part of the Michigan membership team?

Joining the Kiwanis membership team allows you to contribute to the organization's growth and impact, while also developing key skills, building relationships, and fostering a sense of purpose through service.

1. **Grow the Organization's Impact**

As part of the membership team, you play a vital role in recruiting new members who share a passion for community service. This directly strengthens Kiwanis' ability to serve children and communities by expanding its volunteer base and resources.

2. **Shape the Future of Kiwanis**

Membership teams are responsible for the growth and sustainability of the organization. By helping to bring in new members, you contribute to shaping the future direction of Kiwanis and ensuring it continues to thrive for generations to come.

3. **Develop Leadership and Communication Skills**

Being on the membership team provides valuable opportunities to refine your leadership, communication, and organizational skills. You'll engage in outreach, speak with potential members, and develop strategies for engaging and retaining volunteers—all useful skills that transfer to both personal and professional contexts.

4. **Build Lasting Connections**

You'll have the chance to meet many new people and forming strong relationships with current members and prospective members. This can broaden your network within Kiwanis and beyond, connecting you with individuals who share your passion for service.

5. **Inspire Others to Make a Difference**

As a membership team member, you can inspire others to join and take action in their communities. You'll help people find a sense of purpose in giving back, making a positive impact on their lives and the communities Kiwanis serves.

6. **Contribute to the Growth of Local Communities**

Growing the membership base allows more people to be involved in community projects, ultimately leading to more resources, initiatives, and programs to benefit children and families in need.

7. **Receive Personal Fulfillment**

Helping others find their place in Kiwanis is deeply fulfilling. You'll see the positive ripple effect of your efforts as new members bring fresh energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to projects that make a lasting difference.



october

- 1 New Year begins
- 1-31 KEY CLUB & CIRCLE K - Trick or Treat for UNICEF
- 5 Kiwanis International Board meeting
- 7-14 Youth Protection Week
- 11-12 Aktion Club Conference
- 14-19 CKI Week
- 18-20 Key Club Fall Board meeting
- 19 Kiwanis MI Foundation Board Meeting - Zoom

november

- 1 CKI Early Bird dues deadline
- 4-8 Key Club Week
- 6-10 Governor-Elect Training Conference - Indianapolis
- 9 Circle K Fall Rally, Lansing Area
- 10-13 District Secretaries Conference - Indianapolis
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 16 Key Club Fall Rally - Eienshouser
- 28-29 THANKSGIVING - District Office Closed
- 29 Prior Year's monthly and annual reports due on dashboard AND Club Dues



Michigan Builder

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GOVERNOR-ELECT

Cindy Greening

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

Renea Callery

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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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. All photo and artwork must be
sent as either jpg or bmp files. Video must be sent as mpeg files.



Renea Callery
2023-24 Past Governor
Michigan District



Reflecting on a Remarkable Year

As I look back on my year serving as Governor of our Michigan Kiwanis District, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for the opportunity to lead such an incredible group of dedicated people. This year has been one of growth, connection, and meaningful change.

MEETING INSPIRING PEOPLE

One of the greatest joys of this role has been the opportunity to meet so many inspiring individuals throughout our District. The KiwanisONE's during February through May were outstanding, with nearly 90% attendance for the hosting Divisions. I also enjoyed spending time at local clubs, Division Councils, and community service initiatives, where I was privileged to connect with Kiwanians who are passionate about making a difference. The stories of service, leadership, and dedication I've encountered remind me of the power we have to create lasting impacts in our communities.

COLLABORATING WITH STRONG LEADERS

During my terms as Governor-Elect, then Governor, I was grateful for the support of my Lt. Governor team – 16 strong, dedicated and collaborative leaders who helped me and the District progress. They received training and direction through weekly Zoom calls long before their terms began and came together for a weekend in May to bond, share concerns and successes, and develop plans of action in service to you. A nonprofit organization requires many skillsets to be successful, and this team brought their time and talents to the clubs in their Divisions, as well as to myself and our Board of Directors. I would not have made it without them.

ATTENDING MEMORABLE EVENTS

Over the past year, I have attended a wide array of Kiwanis events: from fundraisers and service projects to the International Convention, Great Lakes Conference, Key Club Service Leadership Conference, Board of Directors

meetings, and more. Each event has only reinforced the spirit of unity that defines our organization through clubs collaborating, and service positively influencing the lives of children and families. Even as these events strengthened our District, they also deepened my appreciation for our mission. I also learned that having a leased car was probably not the best decision I made considering how much I traveled - but it was truly worth it!

IMPLEMENTING NEEDED CHANGE

Leadership is more than a composite of the rewarding moments, however, and change is inevitable. Recognizing areas that required process improvements and modernization led to a series of updates that will benefit our District for years to come. From streamlining communications to enhancing leadership development, creative enhancements were made to ensure we continue to thrive and evolve as an organization. Change is not always easy, but necessary. And this team made it happen.

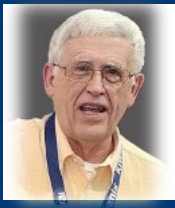
LOOKING AHEAD

As I conclude my term as Governor, I'm filled with optimism for the future of our District, confident that the groundwork we've laid will aid our members and clubs as they continue to flourish. Together, we've built a dynamic momentum, and I look forward to seeing the wonderful things the coming year holds.

Thank you to every one of you who made this year unforgettable. Your dedication, compassion, and enthusiasm for service have been the driving force behind our success. It has been an honor to serve alongside my fellow Michigan District Kiwanians. I'm excited to be a part of this incredible community.

In Service and Fellowship,

Renea Callery
2023-2024 Governor || Michigan Kiwanis District



Stan Nelson
2023-24 Governor
Michigan District

Reflections by the Governor

I would like to extend a warm and thankful congratulations to Immediate Past Governor Renea and her team for a productive year. If you should see her, please thank her for investing a significant amount of time and personal resources in her quest to improve the Michigan District of Kiwanis.

It's true if you think that I may look familiar. I had the privilege of being your District Governor during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. I was recently elected at this year's Great Lakes Conference to fill a recent vacancy.

I will try to use my previous experience to lead this great district as we transition from Past Governor Renea's term to mine, then on to Governor-Elect Cindy's turn with the gavel.

My motto back in 2013 still seems appropriate. We will be using it again this year.

We STILL Have Work To Do!

Ten years ago, we talked about needing to have a strong foundation of building blocks that are needed to work together as a means of supporting a strong organization. Some examples of those foundation building blocks were:

- ☑ Active membership
- ☑ Good officers
- ☑ Financial stability
- ☑ Meaningful by-laws
- ☑ A passion to serve
- ☑ A positive attitude
- ☑ A supportive Kiwanis family (I.E. Key Club, Circle K, Aktion, etc.)

The cornerstone of our foundation is the first item – Active Membership. Without members everything else falls apart.

Every club meeting should include some discussion relative to membership. What are you doing to encourage existing members to have fun and be more active. Are you listening to and considering new ideas for club activities.

We do good things – no we go GREAT things. Share the knowledge of what we do. Invite others to assist us.

We'll discuss more in the next article. We STILL Have Work To Do!





Cindy Greening
2024-25 Governor-Elect
Michigan District



Extravagant WELCOME

The new Kiwanis year is here and filled with hope and excitement for good things to come. I was deeply honored to have been elected by the Michigan District Delegation as Governor-Elect for 2024-25, and look forward to serving with Governor Stan Nelson and his leadership team. For those who don't know me, please let me assure you that I'm well-prepared to step into this role. I was asked to run for Governor-elect at the end of last year's Delegate Session and throughout this year have had a remarkable team of leaders providing education, training, mentoring and coaching.

I would like to talk about **Forest Gump, Collaboration, and Extravagant Welcome** – and, yes – we will connect them!

Serving this past year as Lt. Governor, I've learned so much about the challenges we are all facing. It was suggested last fall that I visit clubs across the state – a novel concept that has led me on a lot of road trips. This amazing journey will continue and what you share will be integral to our future goals.

What I've heard more than anything else from you is concern at our dwindling numbers --- but instead of talking about recruitment, let's flip the conversation and talk about all Kiwanis has to **offer** potential members. Instead of being

hesitant about asking people to become *members* of our clubs, what if we change the paradigm and start realizing we are **offering** them the amazing opportunity to **help** – **to make a difference** - to feel good as **volunteers**. People may think of *membership* as another commitment; however, **when asked**, plenty of people want to *help*. Our job – simply put – is to **ask**. People want an outlet to give back.

In today's society, people are also increasingly isolated and in need of the **camaraderie** that Kiwanis provides. Inviting people to **walk with us** on our Kiwanis journey is a **gift**. Thought of in this way, recruiting is not a hard thing. So, let's emulate Forest Gump's cross-country trek and the numbers of people he drew in along his way. Consider that *everywhere* we go and *everyone* we meet can be inspired by us to become Kiwanis member volunteers!

Next, let's touch on the power of collaboration ... joining forces to streamline cost and manpower. We really are better together, but on my journeys, I've learned that some clubs feel isolated - disconnected from other clubs, our Michigan District, or Kiwanis International. And, honestly, some folks are not necessarily interested in what's going on outside their club. There are a lot of reasons people can come to feel *disconnected*, which is when we run the risk of losing them.

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Alternatively, when members are encouraged to attend interclubs and conferences, share communications, and accept roles in leadership, they see the **big picture** and become **highly-engaged members** ... and highly-engaged members stay. No man is an island, and **no club is an island**. Whatever the challenge, we don't *have* to do it alone. We **need** each other's fresh **ideas**, shared **successes**, and creative ways of overcoming challenges. And we get **all** of that when we **connect and collaborate** with other Kiwanians and other service organizations. Getting outside our clubs and meeting people from different walks of life expands our horizons. The next time you get an invitation from your Lt. Governor to attend a Division Council Meeting, just say yes. When you get the date for your spring KiwanisONE, just say yes. When communications come out on conventions and conferences, just say yes. Commit to getting out and about this year, and watch how you and your club prosper.

Last, but certainly not less important: we must be people of **Extravagant Welcome**. We've all known people who had that gift of making you feel like you're the most important person in the room. That's *Extravagant Welcome*. Let's be sure that all who enter our meeting spaces are acknowledged, warmly welcomed, and connected with others. Let's embrace diversity and inclusion, Kiwanis values that are absolutely essential to the future of our organization. Let's ensure our clubs are embracing people from all walks of life.

So as we kick off this new Kiwanis year, let's make commitments:

- to draw crowds like Forest,
- to get outside of our clubs and collaborate,
- and to embrace newcomers with Extravagant Welcome.

Let's work together to **BUILD** new clubs, **NURTURE** current clubs, **RETAIN** our existing members, and make this a banner year for Michigan!



Ben Probert

Interim Executive Director
Michigan District
executivedirector@mikiwanis.org

Welcome to the Kiwanis NEW Year!!

163 Kiwanians and Guests representing 59 clubs attended the 2024 Great Lakes Conference in Mundy Township. We were also pleased that 12 members of our SLP attended plus several Exhibitors. My special appreciation to those individuals who attended, led workshops, worked registration, the hotel staff and exhibitors, all of whom gave their time and efforts to make our Conference happen. We were also honored to have our International President Katrina Baranko attending as our 2024 – 2025 Counselor. Katrina and Emily Saalfrank (Area 1 Global Membership Engagement Director) brought many new and exciting ideas to our membership.

135 Delegates representing 51 Clubs elected Stan Nelson to be our 2024 – 2025 Governor. They elected Cindy Greening to be our 2024 – 2025 Governor-Elect. Renea Callery will serve as the Immediate Past Governor.

Overall, the comments have been very positive. A survey will be sent (if it hasn't already) to the attendees to get your input on how the event went. Each year, the Conference Committee listens to and implements many of the ideas based upon the constructive feedback that we receive. We understand that some of our members had concerns or other thoughts on the Conference. I encourage you to reach out to me directly and share those with me.

On the downside, 163 Kiwanians represent just over 5% of our District Membership and only 44% of our Clubs were in attendance. I believe that we can do better! The Conference is a gathering time for Kiwanians (new and tenured) from throughout the district, to focus on our achievements, learn new things, see existing friends and to make new friends. In 2025, Kalamazoo will be hosting the Conference August 13 – 17. Make plans to attend!

Our 2024 – 2025 Board held their first meeting in Mason on September 21, 2024. Thank you, Divisions! You elected an awesome Team of dedicated Kiwanians to represent you. Their purpose is to support the individual clubs and membership within their divisions. 2024 – 2025 is all about nurturing and revitalizing our membership, and they are available to help! They will be supported by our Membership Chair, Larry Memmer. Larry, his Team and Kiwanis International have tons of resources committed to helping clubs and members expand their service to Children within our communities.

Several Kiwanians have asked about the Search Committee for a new Executive Director. Instead, the Executive Committee put together a "Future Michigan District Initiative" Committee to take an in-depth look at how the district should be structured. Governor Stan has asked me to chair this committee. We will present a plan to the Board for their consideration at the February 8, 2025, Board meeting.

This issue of the Builder encompasses the months of October and November. From the start of the Kiwanis Year and the "spooky" end of October, to a time of "gratefulness" at the end of November.

Thank you for being a Kiwanian. Thank you for the Service that you do. Thank you for your Leadership and the time that you dedicate. Thank you for the lives that you touch. Take time to share your gratitude through our Foundations – The Children's Fund, Michigan Foundation and / or the MDK Foundation. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.



“if you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, give something to someone who can offer nothing in return.”

Toni Serenson

Please purchase your Holiday Greeting as part of your Kiwanis Holiday Tradition.

Make a Holiday Contribution to your Foundation, and your Holiday Greetings will appear in the December Builder!

It is a great way to support your **KIWANIS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION**

You can purchase your Holiday Greeting on line at www.kiwanisgiving.org



See your Division’s Michigan Foundation Trustee for more information.

Our deadline is Wednesday, November 13th.

- Cash Contribution, Amount \$ _____ (Please do not mail cash.)
- Check made payable to “Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation”, Amount \$ _____
- Charge my contribution of \$ _____.00 to my:
- VISA MASTER CARD



Account Number Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on your credit card _____ Zip Code Back of Charge Card

Signature _____

Please complete this information for your Holiday Greeting to appear in the Builder. Your name and title as you would like it to appear in the Michigan Builder (Please Print)

Name _____ Kiwanis Title (If desired) _____

Your Kiwanis Club _____ Your Division _____

Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation, P. O. Box 231, Mason, Michigan 48854-0231

The Holiday Greetings program was originally called the Thomas Oliver Holiday Greetings Program after Michigan District Governor Thomas Oliver (1973-74) from the Hillsdale Kiwanis Club. It was his Governor’s Project. Governor Oliver encouraged all Michigan District Kiwanians to make a holiday contribution to our own **KIWANIS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION** and have their Christmas Greetings printed in the Builders, rather than sending individual holiday cards.



Feed the Mind

Fill the Plate

Hello Fellow Kiwanians and Key Club Sponsors:

Hope you have all enjoyed a great summer, attended your Kiwanis meetings, and had a chance to join us at the Great Lakes Conference. Our future leaders – our Key Club students also joined us there and what an excellent group of leaders we have for our future.

I had the opportunity to spend this Labor Day weekend with 32 Key Clubbers from all over MI and what an exciting time it was. I was truly blown away. Let me share with you some of the leadership skills these kidos have:

- They all came to the Howell Nature Center on time on Friday, to get started on the pact filled weekend.
- They were all assigned rooms and curfews. Of course, there was a lot of giggling going on in some of the girls' rooms – but everyone was up and ready to go by 8 am the next morning.
- One area that blew my mind was the assignment of duties: cooking, setting table, & clean up. These students stepped up and made breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and then there was a group each day who did dishes and had fun doing them. 32 Kido's we had to feed. Talk about the amount of food.
- The Governor – Jenna led the group in assignments, having all of them share what their division was doing, and what they needed to do within their divisions. They ALL had to give a presentation, PowerPoint and discussion followed.
- AMAZING. As I sat there I thought, WOW, our grownup team could learn from these board members.
- They were given assignments to make Instagram shots to get the word out as to what the MI District Key Club was doing.
- We went through the directory to align them up with who the Adult club was, and how they could reach out to their SPONSORING CLUB to get new Key Clubs, or re-charter ones we lost. They did this with great excitement.
- Sitting there for three days with them, watching them help each other, work with others on their teams, asking the adults for advice, and just doing what they needed to do while they were there.

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I did spend a bit more time in the kitchen with the kids, while they prepared the meals and the clean up and thought to myself, this is a lot of kids to feed and a lot of money coming out of their "leadership budget." I thought, we need to help them. The money the DA – Jordan gets from dues – should go to the kids that have an opportunity to continue going to their SLC & Fall rally events. That money should not be spent on food and lodging.

But I sat back and thought of the clubs and some are small, some medium and large. Some of the students didn't even know who their sponsoring club was.

This upset me a bit... We are always talking about our future – our kids... yet how are we supporting them? Do you have an active Key Club? Do you have an ACTIVE Kiwanis Advisor?



**The Key Club
needs YOUR
help –
our Sponsoring
Club's help.**

Number one concern for me and Jordan, is the Sponsoring Advisor. Are they active? Do they attend the kids' meetings? Are they involved with getting to know them? Are they aware of what the kids are doing within their school and division?

That is the most important concern we have.

The second is – they need HELP financially. Financially to help get them a location for their board meetings – four times a year, just like the adult team. Financially they need help to feed the kids while at a location for a weekend.

This help might be above what you may have budgeted for them to attend SLC, Fall Rally & ICON.

I know that a lot of our clubs are financially struggling, and I truly get that. My Dearborn club is supporting 7 Key Clubs. Kids are excited about

opening a Key Club in schools – they see the terrific opportunity for leadership development and getting to know more people.

But they can't do it without all of US!

So how can you help? Do you have a few extra dollars in your budget? In your personal budget? Is this something perhaps you and your club can budget for perhaps next year? I'm only looking for help to cover whatever costs we can for four (4) board meetings.

My ask is – whatever you can send to help support 32 students four (4) times a year at their board meetings. This money will go towards the food we purchase and cook on location, teaching students the difference between ham & turkey. LOL It will go towards food if we have to take them out for fast food, if we have to have our meetings at a hotel.

Watching these students flourish from one year to another just makes my heart smile. I have seen many come to a meeting and just sit and watch – and then before their year is over, they are beautiful butterflies. I found out that there are like six (6) students from the different schools who all want to be the Governor, on the Board or an International Trustee... WOW – only if we, the adults had that desire and passion. But anyway, let's help them make their dreams come true.

Can you help us?

Send any amount of appreciated donation to: MI District Key Club – Box 231 – Mason MI 48854

Thank you for any additional support!

2023-2024 Governor Renea

Kiwanis Wants All Children to Be Able to Swing



Kylie Sturgeon, daughter of Wade & Kaitlyn Sturgeon, enjoys her first swing with her friends at Gladwin Elementary School

Gladwin Kiwanis Club members recently saw questions from local moms on Facebook's: "Gladwin County in the Know", asking if there were any swings in Gladwin County for children with special needs. Club members did some checking and discovered that there probably weren't any, or they were hard to find.

Because Kiwanis focus is on meeting needs of children and youth in our community, we agreed something needed to be done about this immediately. We began by checking with Gladwin Elementary School Principal, Josh Pahl. He agreed something needed to be done about this. Gladwin Community Schools' Superintendent, Chuck Frisbee, supported the idea. A swing for children in wheelchairs was ordered and Kiwanis agreed to pay for it.

The ground was leveled and prepared, and the new swing was installed before Labor Day. What a joy to see the photo of Kylie having such fun. This is just the beginning of this project. Kiwanis is now checking with Beaverton Schools and the Gladwin City and Beaverton parks to find out the feasibility of installing similar wheelchair swings. We also hope to install "bucket" swings for children with special needs that do not use wheelchairs.

These swings are not cheap!

If you would like to contribute to help fund these wheelchair swings and those for other special needs children, you can mail a check to: Kiwanis at P.O. Box 77 Gladwin 48624. Fund raisers such as the upcoming Sweetest Day Rose Sale in October and the Gourmet Nut Sale beginning in November help to support this and many other projects we do in the community.

You are invited to attend a Kiwanis meeting at the Gladwin County Chamber of Commerce at noon on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Check us out and consider being a part of making a difference in our community and the world.



2024 Southgate Police Sergeant **Chris Cassette** Memorial Golf Outing

8:00 am Saturday, August 3rd, 170 golfers teed off to begin the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven 2024 Southgate Police Sergeant Chris Cassette Memorial Golf outing. Years ago, when the Kiwanis Golf Outing was struggling, Chris Cassette stepped up and created a very successful annual golf outing providing a valuable stream of funding for the wide variety of projects funded by Woodhaven Kiwanians. When Chris passed away, his brother Kevin Cassette, took over the leadership of the Golf Outing. At that time the name was changed to remember Chris Cassette and his dedication to the Kiwanis Golf Outing. This year, 170 golfers enjoyed a round of golf at Riverview Highlands with a post event banquet at Crystal Gardens.

In addition to golf there were raffles, door prizes, a basket raffle, and special events. Our goals were met. Golfers had a good time and the Woodhaven Kiwanians had raised just over \$10,000⁰⁰ to better serve our community. The Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven serves Northern Brownstown, Trenton, and Woodhaven, as well as, the Trenton and Woodhaven-Brownstown School Districts. The money will be used for our annual Kids Against Hunger food packing and our shower to support the Child and Family Life Department at C. S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. President Robert McCoy said, Kiwanis is very involved in both School Districts. We provide dictionaries for third graders, a persuasive essay contest for fourth graders, our Youth Citizenship Awards and college scholarships. President McCoy, also reminded everyone, our Golf Outing will be August 2nd next year with an 8:00 am shot gun start at Riverview Highland.



In Memoriam

Jerry M. Wolf
Tecumseh

Gary A. DeCarlo
Warren
President 2009-10

James Philo
Jackson
President 2020-21

Clarence E. Dukes
Ann Arbor

Margaret M Wyman
Little Traverse Bay,
Petoskey

Donald Bloomfield
Delta Township

Charlotte L Payne
Ypsilanti



as we go to
PRESS

Active Clubs..... 132
District Beginning Membership..... 3190
Reporting Members Sept. 1, 2024..... 3390

Net Gain
+200
members

SLP members

	CLUBS	PAID MEMBERS
K-Kids	6	-
Builders Club	23	-
Key Club	97	5335
Circle K	6	153
Aktion Club	19	254



2023-24 GOVERNOR'S MEMBERSHIP TROPHY

Cosmopolitan Detroit	+33
Ann Arbor	+31
Charlevoix	+13
Delta Twp	+12
Coldwater	+10
Jackson	+8
Tri Cities, GH-SL	+8
Metro Detroit YP	+6
St. Johns 707.....	+6
Metro North-Troy.....	+5
Midland.....	+5
East Lansing.....	+5
Traverse City	+5
Colonial Plymouth	+5
Brighton	+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.