

MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS

Serving the Children of the World



MICHIGAN WELCOMES
CATHY SZYMANSKI
FROM THE
PENNSYLVANIA
DISTRICT AS OUR
2025-26 VICE
PRESIDENT AND
BOARD COUNSELOR



Cathy joined Kiwanis in 1994. She has served as distinguished president, distinguished secretary, lieutenant governor, and distinguished governor of the Pennsylvania District. She has also served as a Circle K counselor, an International Trustee and is a small business owner. The Michigan District is excited to work with 25-26 Kiwanis Internal Vice President and Board Counselor to Michigan.

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CALENDAR

October

- 1 Kiwanis New Year Begins
- 1-31 Key Club & Circle K Trick of Treat for UNICEF
- 3-4 Aktion Club Conference
- 3-5 Key Club Fall Board Meeting
- 6-10 Youth Protection Week
- 10 Final Roster Due to be included for 2025-26 Dues
- 11 District Chair Meeting Mason
- 13-18 CKI Week
- 18 Kiwanis MI Foundation Board Meeting
 Zoom
- 25 Key Club Fall Rally Comstock HS

November

- Kiwanis Children's Fund Scholarship Applications for CKI & Key Club open
- 3-7 Key Club Week
- **5-8** Governor-Elect Training Conference
- 7-11 District Secretaries Conference District Office Closed
- 8 Circle K Fall Rally Western Michigan University
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 22 Leadership Summit Lansing

27-28 THANKSGIVING - District Office Closed

30 Prior Year's monthly & annual reports& Club dues due on Engage

MICHIGAN BUILDER

MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS
INTERNATIONAL

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GOVERNOR
CINDY GREENING
GOVERNOR-ELECT
ERIC STEZOWSKI
IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR
STAN NELSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BEN PROBERT

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY
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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.



Reflections by the Governor

STAN NELSON, IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR 2025-26

Fellow Kiwanians,

As we close out this year together, I want to pause and reflect with gratitude on all that has been accomplished. A little over a year ago, our District faced a difficult season with the loss of two key leadership positions. Many of you were understandably concerned about the future and the stability of our organization. In that moment, I felt called to step forward and offer my experience, not for myself, but for all of you—for the clubs, the leaders, and the communities who depend on Kiwanis. You placed your confidence in me when you elected me Governor at the 2024 Great Lakes Conference, and together we have walked this abbreviated but impactful journey.

We set out not to do everything, but to do the *right* things—those that would stabilize our District, renew confidence, and prepare us for the next chapter. I am proud to say that we have achieved milestones that will carry us forward:

- We established a thoughtful, deliberate Executive Director search team and found a capable leader in Past Governor Ben Probert, who now serves in this new, subcontracted role.
- We reimagined our KiwanisONEs by listening to you. Interactive education—like grant writing workshops—was added to empower clubs to strengthen their impact locally.
- We regrouped our Membership Committee, slowing down to build the right foundation. With new Zones, we've given ourselves the flexibility to better respond to the unique needs of clubs across the state.
- We created a District committee chair dedicated to coordinating with the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation raffle efforts, ensuring vital non-dues income to strengthen our shared mission.
- And, perhaps most importantly, we gave Lieutenant Governors the freedom and responsibility to truly lead—listening, guiding, and lifting up their clubs in meaningful ways.

Each of these steps reflects our shared motto for the year: "Listening with Purpose, Serving with Heart." Together, we have not only listened but acted with integrity, patience, and courage.

But now, our eyes turn to the future. Kiwanis has always been about more than maintaining what we have—it is about imagining what can be. You have engaged your communities, you have supported one another, and you have completed ventures that made a difference in real lives. And yet, the greatest work is still ahead of us. New projects are waiting to be born. Fresh opportunities are waiting to be embraced. And new leaders — perhaps sitting quietly in our clubs today—are waiting for the moment they are called to serve.

So I encourage you: carry this spirit forward. Continue to **listen with purpose**—not only to one another, but to the children and communities who need us most. Continue to **serve with heart**, knowing that every act of kindness, every hour of service, and every new idea carries ripple effects far beyond what we can measure.

Thank you for walking alongside me in this season of transition. You have proven, once again, that Kiwanis is not just an organization—it is a family, a movement, and a force for good. May the next year bring even greater opportunities to serve, to grow, and to inspire.

Together, let us continue to Listen with Purpose, and Serve with Heart.

MICHIGAN BUILDER



"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year."

Vern McLellan, Author

CINDY GREENING, GOVERNOR 2025-26

It's exciting to start a new year with new hopes and, of course, resolutions! October 1 marks the start of our 2025-26 Kiwanis year. What Kiwanis resolutions have you made? If you haven't thought about it, now's a good time.

October - December

- ✓ Review the Calendar of Events from the District Office and get the dates in your calendars and in front of your club members. Challenge your members to have your club better represented at Fall Leadership Training, Lt. Governor Division Councils, the mid-year KiwanisONEs, and the August Great Lakes Conference.
- ✓ **Develop your Membership Plan** for the year [Membership-Planning-Worksheet.pdf]. Who will lead recruiting? What is your goal for adding new members? Please share your plan with Larry Memmer and me. Let us know how we can support you.
- √ What's your Member Engagement Plan for the year? What new ideas and approaches did you bring back from GLC 2025 that you can put into action to inspire your members? Have they been surveyed lately to get their feedback on how the club can advance?

January - March

- ✓ Do you live near Marshall, Greenville, or Three Rivers? We'll be opening new clubs in these three areas in January, March and May. Would you like to help open a club near you? It's fun and you bring so much knowledge back to your home club to help nurture their development.
- $\sqrt{\ }$ **Plan some fun!** Things are generally a bit quieter for all of us on the home front after the holidays. What a perfect time to plan something purely social shake things up try something new.
- ✓ Be on the lookout for new leaders. Keep your eyes open for people to lead next year: club officers and district leaders. Encourage someone. Sometimes people just need to be asked and to know they will have support.

April - June

- ✓ Take stock of what's working and what's not: Take a look at your current service projects and consider which ones are still relevant and which ones may not be. Do some brainstorming with your club and get some fresh ideas especially from newer members. Perhaps it's time to conduct a community survey to see if you are still aligned with what is needed.
- √ What's happening in your SLPs? Before the schools close for summer, touch base with your Service Leadership Program chair and see how the year went and what suggestions they have for September so the club can get them in place.

July - September

- ✓ **Goals vs Actual:** Review where you are in meeting the goals you established in October. What do you need to do in this last quarter to meet them? Nail down who will do what and by when to ensure success. Have you met the District's Distinguished Club Goals? Brag about it! Let us know!
- ✓ Prepare your incoming officers: Sign up Club Leadership Education (CLE) and support their attendance at the Great Lakes Conference.

Month by month and step by step, let's build the future of the Michigan District.

Happy New Year!

Cindy Greening

oct/nov25 4



Heartfelt Gratitude

ERIC STEZOWSKI, GOVERNOR-ELECT 2025-26

Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

First, let me express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for electing me. I truly appreciate the trust you've placed in me to help protect and grow the Michigan District of Kiwanis while honoring the traditions that make our organization so special.

A little about me: I am a proud father of two incredible young adults—a soon-to-be 23-year-old daughter and a 21-year-old son—both of whom are beginning their professional journeys. I graduated from Western Michigan University's Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology program, and I currently serve as a trauma counselor in the Kalamazoo area. Before that, I dedicated 22 years as a first responder—working as a firefighter, paramedic, and police officer.

My Kiwanis journey began in high school, where I served as both President and Lt. Governor of my Key Club at South Haven High. After moving to Kalamazoo, I joined the Westside Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club, where I've proudly served as Lt. Governor and Class Chair for the past two years.

This year, I am especially excited to work alongside Governor Cindy. She is a remarkable leader whose passion and energy are contagious, and together we will ensure that serving the children of our district is both meaningful and fun. Many of you are already hearing from your Lt. Governors—please stay engaged with them. They are eager to support your clubs in countless ways.

As many of you know, I am a strong advocate for our Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). They are the heartbeat of Kiwanis's future, and I encourage each of you to do everything you can to support and strengthen them. If you know of opportunities to start a new SLP, please share them—we are always looking for ways to grow our Kiwanis family. One fun idea is a "Swap the Gavel" meeting, where the SLP runs a Kiwanis meeting and the Kiwanis club runs theirs. It's a fantastic way to build connections, share laughs, and inspire future leaders. After all, they are the ones who will ensure Kiwanis thrives for the next 110 years!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or ways I can help you serve your community more effectively. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue making a difference together.

With gratitude and excitement,

Eric Stezowski Governor-Elect, 2025–2026



Excerpts from the Great Lakes Conference Executive Director's Report



BEN PROBERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I stepped into the role of Interim Executive Director last July, the District was at a **crossroads**. Most of us are aware that our membership has declined over the past 3 decades. With this membership decline our income has decreased dramatically, yet we maintained budgets demonstrating increasing potential deficits. Despite sound budget control (performing better than projected), the District pulled approximately \$40,000 from our reserves. Fortunately, positive market performance masked our withdrawals and mitigated the impact.

Remember, Kiwanis International and the Michigan District are **not** alone! Rotary, Lions, Exchange Club, Civitan, other organizations and Kiwanis Districts are facing similar challenges.

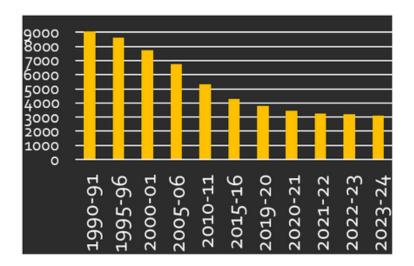
We formed a committee to study the paths available to us. We simplified them to just four.

- **Ask for a dues increase.** By far, the simplest path! Just, ask for more money. On the heels of the Kiwanis International dues increase, we decided to remove it as an option. We felt there were other paths that we could explore first.
- Reduce expenditures and restructure. We took a hard look at our expenses and where we could reduce our costs. Discussions included selling the District Office which met with a lot of push back from the hundreds of Kiwanians who have donated funds over the years. We looked at other ways. We brought the Builder in house saving \$9600 per year. Next, we looked at restructuring the office staff. The Michigan District collects \$44 in annual dues.\$4.00 is dedicated to our SLP Administrators. \$28.00, slightly over 70% of our District Dues was spent on salaries. The Kiwanis International North American Districts Average for Staff salaries is 38% to 46%. We decided to modify job descriptions: first by taking the Executive Director to a Contract role paid by a small stipend, and second by taking the Administrative Secretary from a part-time to a full-time position, which I did in May. This reduced our Salary percentage of Dues from 70% to 43% or from \$28 to \$17 per member. These moves freed up almost \$11.00 per member to support the district operations while increasing our office hours and member services.
- **District wide Fund Raising.** We looked at District fund raising opportunities especially ones that support the District and our Clubs too. The KMF / District Wide Raffle is one example. We will continue exploring additional revenue stream ideas. Governor Cindy is looking for a District Fund Raising Chair are you that individual???
 - **Membership** where are we, and where are we going? Last year we were number 4 in North America Membership with a net loss of 62 members. Only Florida was positive, and I believe that most of their gain came from people moving there from Michigan. Beginning at last year's ending, we went back in time.In 1991 we ended the year with just over 9000 members. **But the slide began!**



Excerpts from the Great Lakes Conference Executive Director's Report, *cont*.

	ENDING	
YEAR	MEMBERSHIP	LOSS
1990-91	9048	
1995-96	8602	-446
2000-01	7746	-856
2005-06	6757	-989
2010-11	5325	-1432
2015-16	4300	-1025
2019-20	3773	-527
2020-21	3451	-322
2021-22	3279	-172
2022-23	3190	-89
2023-24	3128	-62



Fellow Kiwanians, The Michigan District has been a world leader in Kiwanis International for the past 110 years. It all began with Detroit # 1! I believe that it is once again time to lead North America in Membership growth. We have a dedicated Membership Team that includes, your Lt. Governor and District members throughout our District, who will support and assist you to nurture your club back to health. But you MUST Ask and your club MUST put in the work!

Start by calling 1-800-Larry Memmer (District Membership Team). Through August 31st, 63 clubs have gained membership – they are doing something right and you can too. Accept Governor Cindy's challenge to **add 10%** to your Roster this Administrative year. Let's join together and return more funds and **SERVICE** to our communities.

STOP THE SLIDE & START THE CLIMB!









DISTRICT FUNDRAISING CHAIR

The Fundraising Chair plays a crucial role in helping our District raise non-dues funding needed to optimally function, by planning activities to raise and solicit funds.

- · Develop a fundraising action plan
- Organize various fundraising events and campaigns
- Work with volunteers for fundraising purposes
- Ensure compliance with legal regulations and ethical practices

DISTRICT HISTORIAN

In our increasingly disconnected world, the significance of historians has never been more vital in preserving and honoring our past.

- · Conduct research to uncover historical data
- Preserve historical data and associated photos
- Share historical stories in District communications

ON TO CONVENTION CHAIR

- Chair committee to promote International Convention and Great Lakes Conference
- Attend KiwanisONE's
- Plan pre/post ICON Tours

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE

@ DISTRICTOFFICE@MIKIWANIS.ORG

O C T / N O V 2 5



Back To Campus, Back To CKI!

- Here's How You Can Support Your Club This Year

As the new school year begins, Michigan Circle K is seeing renewed energy, leadership, and a growing commitment to service across college campuses. With rising membership and interest in forming new clubs, it's clear that students are eager to make a difference and Circle K is giving them the tools to lead.

From large universities to smaller colleges, campuses across Michigan are embracing the CKI mission of service, leadership, and fellowship. This growth is more than just numbers, it's a sign that young people are ready to step up and serve their communities in meaningful ways.

Kiwanis support is key to this momentum. Whether you're an advisor or a Kiwanian who believes in youth leadership, your involvement matters more than ever. Here are a few simple ways to support your local Circle K club this year:

Be Present: Attend a meeting or service project to show support and build connections.

Mentor Club Leaders: Share your guidance and experience to help students navigate leadership challenges.

Listen: It empowers students to lead with confidence and ensures their voices shape meaningful conversation. Listening can go beyond your Kiwanis family connection, it builds trust, deepens connection, and shows you truly care.

Encourage New Members: Know a college student? Recommend CKI, they might not know it exists!

Offer Resources: Snacks, supplies, or transportation help can make a big difference to studentled clubs.

Celebrate Successes: Highlight CKI achievements in your own club newsletters or meetings.

Michigan Circle K is on the rise, and your support helps fuel that growth. By investing your time and encouragement, you're helping develop the next generation of service-driven leaders and strengthening the entire Kiwanis family in the process.

If you have questions about CKI or are interested in starting a club on a campus near you, contact District Administrator Haley Thomsen- administrator@midcki.org





O C T / N O V 2 5

THE BUILDER'S BRIEF



Dear Mighty Michigan Kiwanis,

My name is Juhi Bhatt, and I am honored to serve as the 2025-2026 Michigan Key Club District Secretary! I'd like to wish you all a massive thank you for hosting our District Board at your annual Great Lakes Conference! Meeting with Kiwanians, engaging in new workshops, and witnessing the new Kiwanis District Board was a wonderful experience, and I'm ready to see us connect even more in the future. Over the past couple of months, our district has made wonderful progress toward our goals, and I'm excited to share it with you.

On June 28th, 2025, Governor Sophia Liu announced her Governor's Project: Key Club Serves Seniors. This project aims to combat the loneliness epidemic affecting senior citizens by fostering vital intergenerational connections through letter writing, volunteering at senior citizen homes, and fundraising for non-profits dedicated to helping seniors. Since its inception, the Michigan District has written 742 cards to senior citizens!

Additionally, District Treasurer Joseph Berry has announced that our district fundraiser will be focused on UNICEF. This marks the second of a two-year fundraiser dedicated to helping provide children in underserved countries with primary health care, basic education, safe water, and sanitation. So far, we have raised \$4,398, and our goal at the end of these two years is to raise \$10,000.

One of my personal favorite highlights of this service year has been seeing our amazing Lieutenant Governors and Committee Chairs reactivate and charter clubs across the Michigan District. Since the start of the service year, we have added six new clubs to our directory across Divisions 1, 11, 12, 13, and 15! Additionally, I'm excited to announce that we will be chartering a new club in Division 6 and rechartering a club in Division 9! Every day, my inbox is filled with emails from our District Board inquiring about reactivating, chartering, and connecting Key Clubs, and it's amazing to see.

Looking forward to the next couple of months, our district is busy preparing for our annual district event, Fall Rally, which will bring together somewhere between 300-500 Key Clubbers across the Michigan District. This will be a one-day event filled with service, workshops, and new friendships. This year's theme is Candyland: The Key to Sweet Service, and it will be hosted at Comstock High School in Kalamazoo. A huge thank-you to Kalamazoo-Sunrise Kiwanis for their help! Additionally, our board is busy preparing for our Fall Board meeting during the first week of October. This board meeting will be in conjunction with Aktion Club's District Convention, and we are excited to meet new Aktion Club members, synthesize updated goals, and, of course, prepare for Fall Rally at the end of October.

The Michigan District of Key Club is forever grateful for your support, encouragement, and mentorship. Your commitment to youth leadership has paved the way for thousands of young people across Michigan, and we can only grow more from here!

If your Kiwanis Club would like to further connect with your sponsored Key Club, or is interested in helping to charter one, please feel free to contact our Governor, Sophia Liu, at governor@mikeyclub.org or reach her at (517) 730-7902. Additionally, if you ever need help with your local Key Club's records, contact me at secretary@mikeyclub.org!

Yours in caring service, Juhi Bhatt Michigan Key Club Secretary October 2025























MICHIGAN BUILDER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-2026

OALLINDAN OF LVLINTO 2020 2020			
OCTOBER 2025			
1 New Year begins			
1-31 KEY CLUB & CIRCLE K - Trick or Treat for UNICEF			
3-4 Aktion Club Conference			
3-5 Key Club Fall Board meeting			
6-10 Youth Protection Week			
10 Final Roster Due to be included for 2025-26 Club Dues			
11 District Chair Meeting - Mason			
13-18 CKI Week			
18 Kiwanis MI Foundation Board Meeting - Zoom			
25 Key Club Fall Rally - Comstock HS			
NOVEMBER 2025			
CKI Early Bird dues deadline			
1 Kiwanis Children's Fund Scholarship Applications for SKI & Key C	lub open		
3-7 Key Club Week			
5-8 Governor-Elect Training Conference - Indianapolis			
8 Circle K Fall Rally - Western Michigan University			
7-11 District Secretaries Conference - Indianapolis District Office Clos	sed		
11 Veteran's Day			
22 Leadership Summit - Lansing			
27-28 THANKSGIVING - District Office Closed			
30 Prior Year's monthly and annual reports due on dashboard AND C	Club Dues		
DECEMBER 2025			
Kiwanis Club Annual Reports Due			
1 CKI dues deadline			
22-26 CHRISTMAS - District Office Closed			
31 Tax Deductible Year-End Gifts to KCF/KMF/MDK District Office			
JANUARY 2026			
1-2 NEW YEARS - District Office Closed			
2-7			
FEBRUARY 2026			
1 KiwanisChildren'sFundScholarshipApplicationsforCKI&KeyClub	aue		
7 Second District Board Meeting, 9:30am Mason			
7-8 Circle K District Convention - Eastern Michigan			
9-13 K-Kids Week			
15 Deadline for ALL CLUBS filing IRS 990			
21 KiwanisONE Divisions 1 & 2			
23-27 Builder's Club Week			
May Club District Convention (CI A) Viscolanti			
27- 3/1 Key Club - District Convention (SLC)- Ypsilanti			
MARCH 2026			
MARCH 2026 2-6 Aktion Club Week			
MARCH 2026 2-6 Aktion Club Week 7 KiwanisONE Divisions 11 &1 2			
2-6 Aktion Club Week 7 KiwanisONE Divisions 11 &1 2 14 KiwanisONE Divisions 13 & 14			
2-6 Aktion Club Week 7 KiwanisONE Divisions 11 &1 2			

MICHIGAN BUILDER

	T
	APRIL 2026
3	GOOD FRIDAY - District Office Closed
6	Easter Monday
9-11	Circle K GATC
11	KiwanisONE Divisions 5 & 6
TBD	U.S. Canada Goodwill Dinner - Clinton Township, MI
18	KiwanisONE Divisions 3 & 7
23	Key Club GATC
25	KiwanisONE Divisions 16 & 18
30	Club Delegate forms for Kiwanis International Convention Due
	MAY 2026
1	Deadline for ALL CLUBS annual report of club elections
2	KiwanisONE Divisions 19, 20, & 21
4	Lt. Governor-Elects for 2025-26 due
5	Club Boards should elect delegates to GLC - Lansing
9	Third District Board Meeting - 9:30am, Mason
15-17	Lt. Governor Training
16	KMF Board Meeting - Mason
21	KMF Earl O'Brien Fishing Tournament
22-25	MEMORIAL DAY - District Office Closed
	June 2026
1	Club Elections Due on Engage Dashboard
7-12	MI State Police Law Enforcement Career Academy, Lansing
20	Deadline for Club Proposed Amendments & Resolutions to District Office
24-27	111th Kiwanis International Convention - Manilla, Phillipines
30	2026-27 Club Presidents have Committee Chairs Selected
30	Governor-Elect Candidate forms due to Kiwanis International
	July 2026
1-3	Circle K International Convention - Dallas, TX
1-5	Key Club International Convention - Dallas, TX
3-4	INDEPENDENCE DAY - District Office Closed
6	Club Committee chairs to set budgets for 2025-26
18	District Chair Meeting - Mason
1.0	August 2026
15	990 & 990 Ez Extensions Deadline
15	Fourth District Board Meeting @ GLC
27	Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Board Meeting @ GLC
27	Great Lakes Conference - Lansing
27-30	
<u>-</u>	September 2026
7	LABOR DAY - District Office Closed
	Expense Vouchers for 2025-26 are due, not payable after this date
18	Club Budgets completed for 2026-27
	Annual Report of Non-Profit Corp. to be filed by each club
TBD	Aktion Club Conference
25	Circle K's 79th birthday
26	First District Board Meeting of 2026-27, 9:30am Mason
29	New Members for inclusion in 2025-26 year end due

Help Support the Michigan District of Kiwanis



Help Support the Michigan District of Kiwanis by purchasing an ad in the Bi-Monthly Builder or promoting your club event.

Ad's and Club Event Promos will help support District Operations and Events.

Price for Ad's

\$100 per Ad or 5 Ad's for \$400

Sample Size





K-FAMILY SHOUT - OUTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Key Club International names Key of Honor recipients

Christine Greene and Lauri Berry receive Key Club's highest honor.

By Destiny Cherry

Two Key Club International volunteers were recently recognized with the organization's highest service award: The Key of Honor, which acknowledges a volunteer's lifelong positive impact upon youth in general and Key Club specifically.

The Key Club International Board presented Lauri Berri (below) of St. Joseph, Michigan, U.S., and Christine Greene of Saco, Maine, U.S., with the 2025 awards during the Key Club International Convention in Orlando, Florida, U.S., in July.

Lauri Berry

Berry currently teaches at St. Joseph High School. She became the founding faculty advisor for the St. Joseph High School Key Club in 2005, a role she has held for 20 years.

Before founding her school's Key Club, Berry offered guidance and mentorship to students as the culinary arts teacher, baking club advisor, blood drive coordinator and musical costume designer. Afterward, she added three new roles: Kiwanis International convention chaperone, district board parent volunteer and chaperone, and district convention awards coordinator and judge.

Last year, Berry was awarded the 2024 Michigan District of Key Club Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award. She is also an active member of the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Kiwanis Club. Renea Callery, a Michigan District past governor and Service Leadership Programs chair, recalls Berry being "equally committed to the ideals of Kiwanis, fostering strong partnerships between the Key Club and our local Kiwanis chapter." In her letter of summation for Berry's nomination, 2024-25 Michigan District Secretary Layla Garcia wrote: "Mrs. Berry excels at inspiring students to become compassionate, responsible and engaged citizens, as shown by the international vice president, four district governors and countless other district board members who have come from her Key Club."







K-FAMILY SHOUT - OUTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

West Branch Aktion Club donates School Supplies

By Denny Shumway

The West Branch Aktion Club recently donated school supplies to Rose City Elementary School, Surline Elementary School, St. Joseph School and Calvary Christian Academy. Club members wish all the students a great school year.



Key Club and Circle K at Great Lakes Conference in Kalamazoo











MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS AT GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

























MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS AT GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

Welcome 2025-26 District Officers









Brick by Book - Building a School of Readers

Our Brick by Book project at the GLC was a tremendous success! Thanks once again to our wonderful Kiwanians that always support the needs of children and the community for their generosity of donating over 400 books that children in the Kalamazoo will enjoy reading. These books will help fill classroom shelves, inspire young minds, and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to this effort. Each book donated represents not only a story shared, but also a brick laid in building a stronger foundation for students and their education. Together, we are helping create a true "School of Readers."

Thank you for making a difference through your kindness and support!

Past Governor Renea



MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS AT GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE



2025 CASH RAFFLE KIWANIS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION & MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

\$5,000 Cash \$500 Cash \$100 Cash \$100 Cash \$100 Cash

\$100 Cash \$100 Cash

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	Ticket #	Winner	Sold By
	3553	Gerald Kwas	Gerald Kwas
	28236	Jesse Korte	R. Bajorek
	28650	Christine Blackwell	Beverly Wiggins
)	21645	John Kidle	John Kidle
		Ron Dial	Renea Callery
	16633	Gary Giguere	Gary Giguere
	29706	Sarah Hayden	Sarah Hayden

Sold By Gerald Kwas	Club Livonia	Divisio
R. Bajorek	Rochester	7
Beverly Wiggins	Detroit #1	1
John Kidle	Ann Arbor	6
Renea Callery	Dearborn	2
Gary Giguere	Downtown Kalamazoo	13
Sarah Hayden	Macomb	3



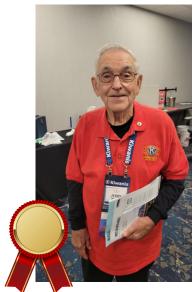
PAST LT. GOVERNOR'S AWARD WINNER

DR. ROBERT KOWALSKI SWARTZ CREEK KIWANIS CLUB



PAST GOVERNOR'S AWARD WINNER

NANCY MEMMER
GRASS LAKE KIWANIS CLUB



JERRY HARMON
BATTLE CREEK KIWANIS CLUB
63 YEARS IN KIWANIS

19



Kiwanis Engage

Have you logged into the NEW Kiwanis Engage yet?

The new Kiwanis Engage platform is an expanded resource for clubs. With the new platform, all club officers - Presidents, President-Elects, Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, AND Treasurers will have access to the club reporting information.

In addition to club officers, all club members will also have access to the platform. Club members will be able to see their club roster and club meeting details. Members will also be able to update their own contact information, add their skills, and even a picture if they prefer. Additional features will continue to be added throughout the Kiwanis year. Stay tuned for more updates.

Training Sessions Available

Additional Engage Training is available with District Admin Secretary, Stacey Nill. Virtual training will take place on October 15, 2025 at Noon and 6:30pm. Additional sessions will be available as needed.





On Kiwanis Engage you can add, track, and invite prospective members for your club in the Member Management section. You can also quickly convert that person to member if they decide to join your club.

Kiwanis International will also add Prospective Members to this section that have submitted the Club Contact form through Kiwanis.org identified by Locator under the Source heading.

mber management					
Active members					
Prospective members					
			New pr	ospec	tive member
Show members					
All not archived and not co 🗸					
All not archived and not convert	ed	Se	earch		
All		5.	earch		
New					
Contacted	ail	Prospect status	Source		
Invited					
Converted		New	Locator		20 1
Archived		New	Club		20 0 1

Reminder: Clubs will only have access to club information and reporting on Engage if officers are posted. Please contact Stacey Nill at districtoffice@mikiwanis.org if you need additional assistance in reporting your elections or other questions about the NEW Engage platform.

OCT/NOV25 2C

U. S. Postage 78¢



Rather than purchasing U. S. Stamps Kiwanians sent their Holiday Wishes using the Kiwanian of Michigan Oliver Holiday Greetings Program





Please remember Hospitalize Children at Christmas
Through your Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation

Make a Christmas Contribution to your Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation

Have your name appear in the December/January Michigan Builder See your Division's Michigan Foundation Trustee for more information.

Our deadline is Wednesday, November 12th.

Г		
I	[] Cash Contribution, Amount \$ (Plants) [] Check made payable to "Kiwanis of Michigan Fo	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	[] Pay Online at www.kiwanisgiving.org	
I	Please complete this information for your Holiday G and title as you would like it to appear in the	•
l	NameI	Kiwanis Title (If desired)
I	Your Kiwanis Club	Your Division
.4	Mail your donation to Kiwanie of Michigan Foundation	on P. O. Boy 231 Mason, MI 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.



KIWANIS YOUTH PROTECTION Jackie Wickham

Greetings from your Youth Protection Manager, Jackie Wickham

I am eager to continue serving the club members and youth in our district, providing support for Kiwanis Clubs as they complete their annual training requirements.

Congratulations to those clubs who completed the annual training in 2024-2025.

I urge all clubs to complete training early in the year 2025-2026, so every member is prepared for youth activities, supports youth programs, or stays informed as Kiwanians.

Kiwanis members must know how to protect the youth with whom we interact. When we share this commitment, we also protect ourselves and the organization we value.

That is why Kiwanis International dedicates a week each year to youth protection. In 2025, **Youth Protection Week** is October 6-10. During this time, Kiwanis clubs should take the opportunity to conduct important youth protection training and evaluate the club's compliance. KI will offer additional resources online that week.

Many of the clubs in our district plan their training throughout the year, fitting their schedule and activities. Thank you for planning the time for training.

After your club completes training for the 2025-26 Kiwanis year, your club secretary should update the reporting on the Engage dashboard.

Kiwanis.org/Youth Protection offers resources to our members

Resources

YP PowerPoint now includes a facilitators guide.
Youth protection policy training for chaperones
Policies and procedures
Youth Protection Week – October 6-10, 2025
Background check
Lt. Governors are a good resource.

Jackie Wickham, District Youth Protection Manager, jlynnwickham@gmail.com.

I offer club meeting training in person or by zoom. If your club has a member interested in training, I am available to help with planning and utilizing the KI resources. Numerous clubs have commenced their own training initiatives by utilizing the Policies & Procedures in conjunction with discussion sessions or the YP PowerPoint presentation. I applaud you for taking the lead training your club.

I am looking forward to a Youth Protection Training year with "all" clubs participating.

Jackie Wickham, Youth Protection Manager



Celebrating of Service and Friendship with MDYPK

This year marks a special milestone for Metro Detroit Young Professional Kiwanis (MDYPK)—our 10th anniversary! Over the past decade, our club has grown into a community of young leaders, ranging in age from 25 to 40, who are passionate about making a difference while building lasting friendships.

Reaching 10 years is especially significant for a young professional club. With all of our members balancing full-time careers, it can be difficult to find extra time for club organization and service. In addition, we experience a high turnover rate as members move for new career opportunities or step into the exciting stage of starting families. Despite these challenges, MDYPK has not only endured thanks to the commitment and passion of its members.

We meet once a month at Whiskey Taco Foxtrot, a fun and welcoming spot that sets the perfect tone for young professionals to connect. Unlike traditional clubs, MDYPK puts a strong emphasis on service and socials rather than meetings, ensuring that members can maximize their impact and enjoy meaningful experiences together.

During the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year, we proudly partnered with 13 local organizations, including Oakland Family Services, the Redford Brightmoor Initiative Free Store, and Mittens for Detroit. Our goal is always to balance giving back and building connections, with an aim to complete two service projects and one social event each month.

Our socials are just as dynamic as our service projects—ranging from a trip to the Detroit Zoo, to a laid-back happy hour, to a summer adventure aboard a tiki boat on the Detroit River. These moments outside of service strengthen the bonds that make our club so special.

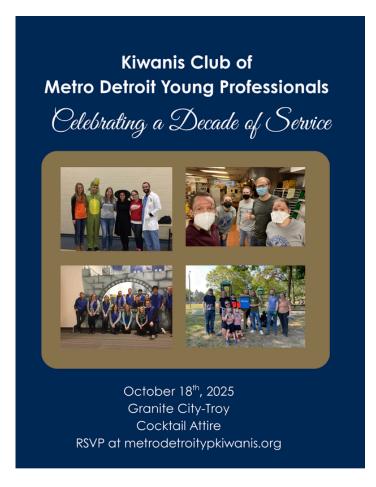
We also take pride in our ongoing initiatives. MDYPK has four Little Free Libraries, including one at our adopted Grant Park in Royal Oak, ensuring that books are accessible to the community yearround. In addition, we support the next generation of leaders by sponsoring a Builders Club at Richmond Middle School, encouraging middle school students to start their own journey of service and leadership.

As we celebrate 10 years, we are proud of all we've accomplished—and even more excited for what's ahead. MDYPK continues to prove that when young professionals come together with a passion for service, they can create lasting change while having a lot of fun along the way. We hope you'll join us in celebrating our 10th Anniversary on Friday, October 18!









Join MDYP for an evening of celebration as we mark 10 years of service, connection, and community impact! The night will feature the installation of our new officers, a warm welcome to our newest members, and a chance to reflect on the projects, partnerships, and friendships that have shaped our first decade.

Tickets are \$55 at the door, and cocktail attire is encouraged for this special occasion.

Let's honor our past, celebrate our present, and look ahead to an exciting future together! Sign up no later than October 11.

If you have any additional questions about this special event, please email president Brynn Schaadt at metrodetroitypkiwanis@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 18, 2025 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM GRANITE CITY FOOD & BREWERY, 699 W BIG BEAVER RD, TROY, MI



Fall Leadership Summit

November 22, 2025
Eagle Eye Country Club
15500 Chandler Rd, Bath Township, MI 48808

Price \$65 per person

THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS **WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE KIWANIS FAMILY:**

Alpena

Andy Marceau Robert Richards Jane Mortimer

Belleville

Jessica Koweck

Charlevoix

Debra Godfrey Joseph Legenza Sarah McCafferty Lisa Copass

Chelsea

Rachel English Thomas Gavorek Coldwater

Jay Miller

Wendy Gensch

Colonial Plymouth

Pam Kosteva

Delta Township

Sydney Shafer Jamie Hollen **Howard Miller**

Dolly Deaton (Honorary Member)

Detroit #1

Darlyn Robinson

Gaylord

Russell Kotila

Jackson

Marc Daly

Lapeer

Melina Cook

Metro North Troy

Arvin Dioniso

Maria Corazon Marcaida-Gorospe

Rogelio Dionisio Aurora Santo Ramos

Mount Clemens

Barbara Koster Charles D'Luge Erika Bradbury

Pontiac

Caroll Turpin

Utica-Shelby Township

Patricia Horton



NEW KIWANIS CLUBS

Kiwanis Club of Canton Cherry Hill Meets at Habitat for Humanity in Canton, 50430 School House Rd, Canton, MI 48187 2nd & 4th Weds at 6:00pm

NEW SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CLUBS

Citywide K-Kids Club of Pontiac Boyne City Middle School Builders Club Bridgeport High School Key Club

2024-2025 Governor's Membership Trophy



AS WE GO TO PRESS

Active Clubs: 130

Beginning Membership: 3128

Reporting Members: 3224

Net Gain: +96

Net gain is from 10-1-24 to 9-30-25 and includes clubs only with a least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.

SLP members

CITIO	Clubs	Paid Members
K Kids	7	
Builders Club	21	
Key Club	102	6120
Circle K	8	139
Aktion Club	18	234

In Memoriam

Howard Patch Jackson

Russell Tompkins

Morenci

Glen Love

Owosso

Carla Barber

Owosso

Thomas Mann

Warren

Charles Miller

Westside Kalamazoo

Theresa Saunders Ypsilanti

