

Rock On! District Convention News

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Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians gathered Aug. 7 and 8 for the annual District Convention. **Rock On! Kiwanians** was the theme for this year's big event, held at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs. One hundred sixty members of the K-Family and guests took part in activities.



Top right photo: Governor Brian Wells recaps some of the good work done by district Kiwanians during his message on Saturday.

Top left photo: Bellevue Kiwanians get ready to rock the Friday evening activities.

Bottom left photo: Dolly Parton and Elvis (usually known as Joyce and Brian Wells) pose for a photo before sitting down for Friday dinner.



Above: Karen Buchholz, TJ Johnson and Julie Weaver show some of their rock moves during Friday evening activities.



The traditional passing of the banners took place during officer installation on Saturday afternoon. Newly elected 2026-2027 Vice Governor MJ Rodriguez (right) receives the banner from now Governor Elect Designate Julie Weaver, while Tim McGee, who will be the 2026-2027 governor, gets ready to hand off his governor elect banner to Weaver. Current Governor Brian Wells is handed the immediate past governor banner by outgoing officer John Boltz. On stage is Kiwanis International Trustee Designate Taka Ogata, who helped with the installation.



The service project for the 2026 District Convention focused on Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a volunteer organization that provides beds for children who do not have their own. The hands on project at convention was to build bed head boards. Byron Tabor (left) and Marilyn Scheinost do their part to help under the supervision of SHP Omaha Chapter Vice President Greg Kraemer. Builds were held on both Friday and Saturday, with about 40 headboards constructed.



Grand Total!
\$15,704, plus pillowcases
and blankets.
Thank you Kiwanians!!!





Aktion Club members from North Platte and Ames helped to get Saturday's convention off to a great start. The members carried in special 250 American Flags before the National Anthem and Pledge.

All of the governors took to the stage on Saturday morning. Kiwanis Governor Brian Wells interviews (from left) Aktion Club Governor Autumn Weinman, Key Club Governor Andrea Hu and Circle K International Governor Piper Schrank. Also seen on stage are some of the instruments brought to the convention as a service project. These were then taken home and donated to schools.



International Trustee Designate Taka Ogata from Lafayette, Indiana talks with the president-elects during Club Leadership Education on Friday afternoon. Ogata was elected to a three year term as trustee during the 2026 International Convention in Manila and will serve as the Nebraska-Iowa District counselor this coming Kiwanis year.

**Nebraska-Iowa
District Convention**
Mid America Center, Council Bluffs
ROCK ON!
Kiwanians
Aug. 7 & 8, 2026



Laura England-Biggs tests out her kazoo during one of the "fun breaks" at convention.



Although Past Governor Lenora Hanna is no stranger to the district, she was a special guest at this year's convention. Hanna is serving as the Kiwanis International Children's Fund president this year and offered a few words about the international foundation on Saturday morning.



That three-legged, one-eyed, unpleasant smelling Wonky Donkey didn't have any coffee either. Friday evening's activities included a reading and re-enactment of the children's book, Wonky Donkey.



District Foundation Board Member Gary Lindgren gets ready to sell raffle tickets for the Foundation Basket Fundraiser.

Thank you to those who brought baskets and purchased raffle tickets!

Congratulations!



Everyday Hero Award Winner

Lloyd Lipska,
Nominated by Seward Kiwanis

Other Nominees:

Geri Derner, Ames Kiwanis
Robert Marshall, Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis
Noemi Cruz Orcutt, Mason City-River City Kiwanis
Patty Yoder, Ames Town & Country Kiwanis

Everyday Organization Hero Award Winner

All Play Miracle League,
Nominated by Omaha
Golden K Kiwanis

Other Nominees:

100 Women Who Care, Ames Kiwanis
Clinic With A Heart, Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis
Overflow Thrift Store, Nevada Kiwanis
Salvation Army, Fremont Kiwanis
Lincoln Food Bank, Seward Kiwanis

Mark Holmer Lay Person Service Award - Division Winners

Division 1

Bill Schickel
Mason City-River City Kiwanis

Division 11

Karen Breyfogle
Greater Missouri Valley Kiwanis

Division 14

Paul Svoboda
Lincoln Center Kiwanis

Division 5

Kris Meinhard
Ames Kiwanis

Division 12

Doug Gustafson
Wahoo Area Kiwanis

Division 15

Ken Meyer
Seward Kiwanis

Nebraska-Iowa District Mark Holmer Lay Person Service Award

Paul Svoboda, Lincoln Center Kiwanis

Distinguished Service Leadership Programs

Distinguished K-Kids

First Place: Milford Elementary K-Kids, Milford Kiwanis
Second Place: Rockwell Elementary K-Kids, Southwest Omaha Kiwanis
Nevada Elementary K-Kids, Nevada Kiwanis
Walnut Creek K-Kids, Omaha Golden K Kiwanis

Distinguished Key Clubs

First Place: Spirit Lake High School Key Club,
Spirit Lake Kiwanis
Second Place: Lincoln East High School Key Club,
Lincoln Capital City Kiwanis
Honorable Mention: Mason City Alternative School Key Club,
Mason City-River City Kiwanis
Fremont High School Key Club, Fremont Kiwanis
Mason City High School Key Club, Mason City-River City Kiwanis
Milford High School Key Club, Milford (NE) Kiwanis
Nevada High School Key Club, Nevada Kiwanis
Seward High School Key Club, Seward Kiwanis

Distinguished

Circle K International Club

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
CKI, Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis

Distinguished Aktion Club

Cyclone Country Aktion,
Ames, Ames Golden K &
Ames Town & Country Kiwanis
clubs





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Kiwanis
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Geri Derner, trustee elect

Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club

Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis Club

Past Governors Committee

You Rock!