

# Spring into Summer with the Kentucky-Tennessee District



March 2024 Edition



# KT NOTES



# Kiwaniis<sup>®</sup>

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE DISTRICT

## TOP NEWS



### MID-YEAR CONVENTION



We had 43 clubs represented at the Mid-Year Convention in Lexington, KY March 1st and 2nd. There were sessions on the new websites provided by Kiwanis International, Risk and Youth Protection, growing membership, Artificial Intelligence, and this newsletter, KT Notes. Read more about awards presented to clubs on Page 6.

The 2023-2024 District Convention is coming up this August in Gatlinburg, TN. Mark your calendars for August 9-11 and make plans to join us as we wrap up a great year. There is more Convention related information on Page 11.



### DISTRICT CONVENTION

# A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR



As we leave Winter and walk into Spring, I applaud every club and every Kiwanian for serving the children in your communities. As Kiwanians, we are here to create hope and develop future leaders. If we are to continue doing this important work, we must continue to improve, do it better than before, and bring in more members. By doing this, we can expand our reach into communities that do not have a Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanians do not dedicate their time and sweat just to check a box, or for applause, but rather, to make the lives of our kids better! To accomplish this goal, we cannot become complacent. We must continue to seize opportunities. The path to achieve our goal is different for each community and will require constant adjustment. We cannot deny the challenges we face, but together we can collaborate to find the best path forward to overcome shared barriers.

To those clubs that are struggling to maintain charter membership; I know at times it seems difficult, and it may seem easier to turn in a club charter than to revitalize a club. Please, remember the children in your community that are counting on you for that winter coat, a new pair of shoes, a toy at Christmas, a playground or a trip to a hospital to get treatment or lifesaving medicine! We must remember that the easiest thing is not usually the right thing. Also, know that the Kentucky-Tennessee District needs you, and I need you! When I come to division council meetings, fundraisers, or signature projects, I draw from the energy that each of you create.

This past October, we started with a membership of 3750 falling under 4000. Since October, we have created 4 clubs and increased membership to 3906. During the 6 months left in this calendar year, my goal...no, my mission, are to get us back above 4000 members by building more clubs and revitalizing clubs under charter strength. If each Kiwanian serves 206 children, then adding just 5 new members to a club helps 1000 kids! By increasing Kiwanis, you are increasing the help we can provide.

Our KT District has a storied and vital history. I am not just proud to be a member of Kiwanis International, but to be a Kentucky Tennessee Kiwanian. I get even more excited thinking about the amazing things we will achieve as we move into the future! I'm asking, no...I'm pleading, with each of you, to not just believe in our ability to grow and to expand our reach, but to HELP us grow, in order that we may continue to serve and improve the lives of our children.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your  
KT district governor.

- Jim



# NEW CLUB ALERT

WELCOME!!

## »»» MENIFEE COUNTY

Welcome the newest club, Kiwanis Club of Menifee County, KY, launching with over 30 members on March 18, 2024! The Club will be sponsored by Governor Jim Gazay's home club, West Liberty.



## EXPERT ADVICE

Contact the District Membership team to get involved and help grow our wonderful organization. Helping open new clubs is a great opportunity to learn messaging to grow your own club.

District Membership Chair:  
Carol Wisdom  
carolkiwanian@outlook.com

## »»» GROWTH

Menifee County marks the fourth new club opened in the Kentucky-Tennessee District this fiscal year. They join new members in West Knoxville, TN (chartered with 17), Butler County, KY (chartered with 49), and Loudon County, TN (chartered with 25). We are establishing in new communities and retaking communities once strong with Kiwanis history.

## »»» KT DISTRICT FACTS:

Overall average age: 59.7

Average male: 61.7

Average female: 46.2

Members added 2023-24: 422

5 year average new members added: 565

Average membership lost last year: -2.82%

Average membership lost last 5 years: -3.22%

Percentage of members who sponsored at least 1 member: 68.3%

Membership under 5 years: 42%

5 year average clubs closed: 4.2

5 year average clubs opened : 2.5

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS AT  
KTNOTESEDITOR@GMAIL.COM**

## KIWANIS OF PADUCAH BUNNY HOP RUN/WALK <<<

April 13, 2024 - 2pm 3rd Annual 5k/10k Walk Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk/Run at Noble Park. Registration starts at 2:00 PM at the Arts & Crafts building near the Skate Park. Tickets start at \$25 for adults.

## >>> INAUGRAL MADISONVILLE NOON KIWANIS CLUB SIP 'N STROLL

April 18, 2024 - 5pm at Tradewater Brewing on Arch Street in Madisonville, KY. STROLL to locally owned downtown locations - The Crowded House, Green's Steakhouse, and Gather at the Mark - to SIP specially crafted drinks and enjoy unique appetizers created just for the event. Tickets are \$80 per person.

## KIWANIS OF HARDIN COUNTY ANNUAL GALA <<<

April 20, 2024 - 6pm at American Legion Post 113 in Elizabethtown, KY. This event will feature dinner, dancing, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are \$75 per person.

## >>> 3RD ANNUAL KIWANIS OF HOPKINSVILLE GOLF SCRAMBLE

April 26, 2024 - 7am at Western Hills Golf Course in Hopkinsville, KY. Get your team of 4 together and play 18 holes. Hole in one could win a one-week stay at Orange Beach. \$300 per team.

## KIWANIS OF RICHMOND JONI'S PLAYGROUND DEDICATION <<<



April 27, 2024 - 1pm at the Armory Park in Richmond, KY. In honor of Joan Kay Johnson Kleine, Madison County teacher and Kiwanis leader. Those who knew Joni know she would love this event and all the support of Kiwanians who are able to attend. If there is heavy rain, it will be moved to room 142 of the Madison County Public Library.

## >>> KIWANIS OF SPRINGFIELD ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

May 4, 2024 - 6:30am at Robertson County Fairgrounds in Springfield, TN. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at the door. One ticket gets you all you can eat pancakes, syrups/toppings, sausage, and drink.

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 3-6, 2024 DENVER, CO <<<

## >>> DISTRICT CONVENTION AUGUST 9-11, 2024 GATLINBURG, TN



# TRENDING TODAY: CLE

By KT District Leadership Development Coordinator Mark Garman

## »»» CLUB LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

If you are totally into your smartphone, tablet, iPhone, iPad, or any digital device then you are usually looking for “what is trending today.” All of us have our favorite source for trending stories, and today we would like to make Club Leadership Training a top trend.

All incoming officers are invited to participate including the President Elect, and Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Chair. These classroom sessions will unveil important content, which I promise will be beneficial if you attend and participate. If you are “trending” towards leadership in Kiwanis please sign up to attend one of the summer divisional sessions, zoom meetings, and /or the August District Convention in Gatlinburg.

Make 2024 a great year for all officers to learn, re-learn, or discover the benefits of Club Leadership Education (CLE). On behalf of Governor Jim Gazay, Governor-Elect Claire Crouch and the entire KY-TN leadership, we are urging all clubs to participate in these training sessions. Look for the upcoming schedule of summer sessions in your division.

If you are interested in applying for one of our Certified Instructor positions please complete the application found under the training tab on the district web site. Call or email me with your questions: Mark Garman 502-262-2321 (cell) or [markgarman620@icloud.com](mailto:markgarman620@icloud.com).

## »»» LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

Incoming Lieutenant Governors will be converging at Cumberland Falls State Park in Corbin, KY, April 26-27 for their annual training before taking over the position this fall. Their job as Lt Govs is to serve as the connection between Club level leadership and District level leadership. If you are looking to increase your service in the district, serving as a Lieutenant Governor is a great way.

If you have previously served as a Lieutenant Governor, be sure to join the Past Lieutenant Governor Association. Membership is just \$10.

# 2022-2023 DISTRICT AWARDS

GIVEN AT MID-YEAR CONVENTION

## ➤➤➤ SUPERIOR CLUB REPORTING

### Division 1 Clubs

Franklin County  
Murfreesboro  
Tullahoma

### Division 2 Clubs

Greater Music City  
Mt. Juliet  
Putnam County

### Division 3 Clubs

Fort Oglethorpe

### Division 4 Clubs

Athens  
Oak Ridge  
Sweetwater  
Telico Village, Loudon

### Division 5 Clubs

Alcoa  
Maryville  
Northside, Knoxville

### Division 6 Clubs

Rockcastle County

### Division 9 Clubs

Irvine-Ravenna  
Mt. Sterling  
Powell County  
Richmond  
Winchester

### Division 10 Clubs

Boone County  
Paris

### Division 12 Clubs

Hardin County  
Louisville

### Division 14 Clubs

Bowling Green  
Clarksville  
Dover  
Hilldale, Clarksville  
Hopkinsville

### Division 16 Clubs

Ashland Breakfast



## Governor Excellence Interclub Award



Maryville, TN  
Tullahoma, TN  
Hilldale, TN  
Sevierville, TN

## Distinguished Lieutenant Governors

- DIVISION 1 - CAROL WISDOM
- DIVISION 9 - LARRY DOBSON
- DIVISION 12 - DARRELL OLSON
- DIVISION 14 - LETHA CATRON
- DIVISION 17 - LEE LOCKE
- DIVISION 19 - JENNIFER MULLINS

# CHILI LUNCH ENJOYED BY ALL

By Wanda Davis



Maryville Kiwanis hosted a chili lunch social event in Maryville on Saturday, February 24. A special thank you to LeConte Realty and Katie Beeler for allowing us to use their space. Several members from Alcoa Kiwanis joined us as well.

Chili cooks were Katie Beeler (Spicy Buffalo White Chicken Chili), Pete and Wanda Davis (Texas Style Chili), Debbie Jones (Tennessee Style Chili), and Patsy Russell (Venison Spicy Breakfast Sausage Chili). Thank you to everyone that brought the extra toppings, goodies, and drinks for all to share. Everyone had a great time.

## TWISTING GOOD TIME

Stephanie Konkel has represented the Kiwanis Club of Richmond making animal balloons for children attending the annual Kids Mall Madness in Richmond for six years. The fun, free, educational, and engaging event boasted emergency vehicles, bouncers, games, crafts, fossils, live animals, and books to take home. This year the event was held March 2, 2024.





# CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS MONTH

By Glen Kleine



Each year children in the Madison County schools are encouraged to draw posters recognizing the value of “Children’s Champions” who support children in a variety of ways.

In 2024, Zaiden Harvey, a third grade student in the Shannon Johnson Elementary School in Berea, was the winner of the Children’s Champions poster competition. His poster will be seen by thousands of Madison countians on digital billboards within the county.

As the winner of the 2024 competition, Zaiden was awarded a \$100 check by the Kiwanis Club of Richmond and his Art Teacher, Courtney Story, was awarded a \$100 check, from the Kiwanis Club of Berea, for the purchase of art supplies for her school.

Phillis Adams, organizer of the “Children’s Champions” and Richmond Kiwanian, arranged the annual competition and the display of the winning poster on digital billboards in Madison County, KY.

Dr. Glen Kleine, representing the Kiwanis Club of Richmond, presented their \$100 check to Zaiden, and David Olinger, representing the Kiwanis Club of Berea, presented their \$100 check to Ms. Story. Both Kleine and Olinger have served as their local club presidents and as Governors of the Kiwanis Kentucky-Tennessee District.

The Madison County Fiscal Court proclaimed the month of March “Children Champions Month. They also designated February 28 as “Zaiden Harvey Day” in Madison County.

By Steve Sturgil



The Kiwanis Club of Boone County helped the Salvation Army of Covington, KY by "Adopting a Family" for this Christmas. Our Club collected over \$600 of gifts plus donated \$150 to the Salvation Army for their costs. Captain Wanessa Moore attended our KCBC Meeting to receive their donations.

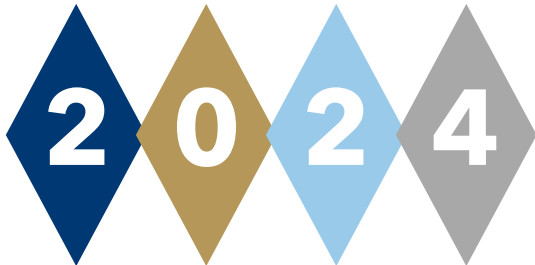
Meanwhile, the Kiwanis Boone County Club joined forces with the Brianza Winery to donate \$500 to Mentoring Plus Chairman Chris Saunders towards the great work they are doing with kids in the Northern Kentucky Area. Mentoring Plus is an organization who helps children by providing persons as mentors to work with kids and gives a location to meet and discuss events in Newport, KY.



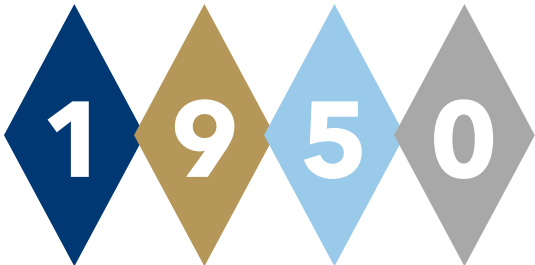
# A KIWANIS CHRISTMAS

By Dwight Watt

The Copperhill Kiwanis held their annual Christmas parade on December 9. Rain delayed it from original date of December 2. The parade has been held since 1950 (picture attached from the first). Immediate past K-T Kiwanis Governor, Dwight Watt rode in the parade with other local celebrities. A large crowd watched the parade thru town. Picture of Dwight Watt with Howard Jabaley, president of Copperhill Kiwanis, and local mayors.



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# HOW TO SUPPORT DISTRICT CONVENTION

## 5 AWESOME TIPS

### »»» ATTEND

The mountains are calling! Gatlinburg is perfectly suited for big adventures in the great outdoors, or indoors if you prefer. The convention is only two days, so come early or stay a few days after and experience your own mountaintop adventure right from downtown. With miles of hiking trails in the mountains and tons of dining options, attractions, shopping, and arts and crafts in town, Gatlinburg is “your basecamp for adventure in every season.”

### »»» RUN FOR OFFICE

This is a Call for Vice-Governor Candidates:

For all K-T Kiwanians who plan to be a candidate for the 2024-2025 Kentucky-Tennessee Vice Governor, a signed agreement must be submitted to the Kiwanis District Office by May 1, 2024. Along with the agreement, a biographical form and a photo must be sent. Please contact the District Office for the appropriate forms.

### »»» ADVERTISE

Purchase ad space in the Convention Program! This will help fund a great event and allow you to celebrate your Lieutenant Governor, Club President, milestone, or even that spectacular Kiwanian. Art must be submitted to the district by July 12, 2024 with payment. Available ad space:

Whole Page (3.75 X 8)	\$125.00
Half Page (3.75 X 3.75)	\$75.00
Business Card (3.75 X 2.25)	\$40.00

### »»» DONATE

Support our District Foundation by donating a gift basket or other great item for the Silent Auction held every year during the Foundation Luncheon! Contact Lynn Fant- Burke at [Fantburke@gmail.com](mailto:Fantburke@gmail.com).

### »»» COMPETE

The District Holds several competitions that are open to all. Every club has the chance to be recognized as a Distinguished Club for 2023-2024 by completing some easy criteria. There is also a chance to be recognized for your efforts getting to know Kiwanians outside your club with the Inter Club Excellence Award. Finally, there are contests to see who has the best brochure and newsletter. So if your club is up to the challenge, submit your material in Print or Digital form by July 15, 2024.



# Catching KY-TN Kiwanians In Service & Fun



Phillis Adams and David Olinger with Berea, KY, Mayor Bruce Fraley presenting a proclamation declaring March Children’s Champions Month.  
- March 5, 2024



## Kiwanis Club of Berea

## Kiwanis Club of Fort Oglethorpe

Ryan Shrum ran his 100th marathon - the Battlefield Marathon, which was also his first marathon. In addition several Fort Oglethorpe Kiwanian helped with cleanup after the marathon that attracted over 1300 runners from across the country.  
- November 2023



Members joined others in the community to work the Bluegrass Middle School reality store.  
- March 20, 2024



## Kiwanis Club of Hardin County



President-Elect “Kirby” Easterling read his book “Chester - The Wiener Dog” at a Read Across America Week event at Jesse Lay Elementary School.  
- March 5, 2024

## Kiwanis Club of Richmond

## Time for clubs to hold annual meetings, elections

The Kiwanis International Bylaws require that clubs hold annual meetings that include the election of 2024-25 officers by May 15. Each officer and director (and nominees for same) must be a member in good standing with the club. Any qualified, consenting member may be nominated either in advance or from the floor, according to club policy. All officers and directors — other than the immediate past president — including the secretary (unless they are appointed) will be elected at the club’s annual meeting by a majority vote, following a process provided in club policy.

The president, immediate past president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary and vice president(s) (if any) will serve one-year or two-year terms as determined in club policy, beginning October 1 of each year. Directors may serve up to three-year terms, as determined in club policy, with each term beginning October 1 after the election. If a club is not meeting in person or would prefer to conduct a remote election, follow these guidelines to conduct elections through an online voting website or app. Club secretaries should report the results of any mid-year changes and the election of the 2024-25 officers through the Secretary Dashboard.

## THINGS TO KNOW

As you may be aware, at last year’s General Session at the International Convention, there was a proposal to increase dues at the international level, which failed. There were several floor amendments proposed that all also failed.

Kiwanis International will again propose a dues increase at the 2024 International Convention in Denver, CO. Please review the information on the following two pages for more about the proposal and the justification. All registered delegates will be allowed to vote in July.



# 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**



# MYTH VS. REALITY

## 2024 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL DUES INCREASE

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### 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.



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>



Kiwanis International offers a free and branded website template for clubs and districts built on the WordPress platform, the most popular and user-friendly website platform in the world. The Kiwanis-branded website template was created in collaboration with the Kiwanis IT department and several Kiwanis members to address the specific needs of most Kiwanis clubs.

Here are some of the key features and benefits of the Kiwanis free club website platform:

- Mobile-friendly design: Your website will look great on any device.
- Free logo design: Request a free custom club logo.
- Google Calendar integration: Easily synchronize your club or district events with Google Calendar.
- Facebook feed integration: Automatically display your club Facebook posts on your website.
- DIY training: Access a comprehensive online training.
- District technical trainers: Get support and assistance from trained district volunteers.
- Premium forms platform: Create and manage online forms for membership applications, contact forms, event registrations, donations, and more.
- Maintenance-free: The Kiwanis IT team handles all the software installations and updates.

So how can you get started? The process is simple and straightforward. Here are the steps:

- If you belong to a district that is already participating in the Kiwanis free club websites platform, you just need to determine a webmaster for your club or district and have them complete a site request form at <https://bit.ly/kiwaniswebsites> Soon after the form is submitted, the designated webmaster will receive a site creation email, and receive contact information for their district trainer. Their district trainer will also get notified that your club has a new site.

That's it! You can have your own Kiwanis free club website up and running in no time. If you have any questions or need more information, please visit <https://site.kiwanis.org> or contact the Kiwanis IT department at <https://wiki.site.kiwanis.org/what-we-do/contact/>.

## KT Notes Editor: An Introduction

Letha Catron grew up in Hopkinsville after her father retired from the Army. She graduated high school in 2003 and college in 2007 with a degree in Journalism.

Her commitment to helping others, ingrained in her as a child, led to joining the Kiwanis of Hopkinsville, running public relations for her club and the KT District, and serving in club and district leadership roles. In her free time, she serves on the Hopkinsville Young Professionals Engage (HYPE) Board of Directors and the Christian County 4-H Advisory Council.

Letha started her career in journalism shortly after graduating and spent 10 years working in local radio before moving into the Non-Profit Sector. After a four year hiatus, she returned to journalism in a freelance capacity in 2020. She works full-time doing Harm Reduction and Health Education for UK HealthCare.



