

KT NOTES

Kentucky-Tennessee District of Kiwanis

GOVERNOR CLAIRE CROUCH

Dear Fellow Kiwanians:



What a great day to be a Kiwanian! Kentucky-Tennessee has the best team of Kiwanians in the world! Let's look at some incredible results:

We have four new Kiwanis Clubs and four more in planning.

We have a positive growth in membership that we are sustaining.

We have new Key Clubs.

We have new Builder's Clubs.

We have a new Circle K Club.

And, we have more and more service hours.

Seriously, take a moment to acknowledge the fantastic work each of you has done. We are making a real difference and that's something of which we should be truly proud.

But, here's the real exciting part: we are just scratching the surface of what we can achieve. Imagine the impact we could have if we amplified our efforts even further. Think about the ripple effect - more hands mean more projects tackled, more voices heard, and, ultimately, a greater positive change in our communities.

That's where membership counts. Each new member brings fresh perspectives, unique skills, and added energy to our mission. By growing our membership, we not only increase our capacity but we also enrich our collective knowledge and broaden each other.

So, as you go about your day, I encourage you to share your passion for what we do. Tell your "why." Talk to your friends, your colleagues, your neighbors and future friends. Let them know about the tangible results we are achieving. Tell them about the exciting vision we work towards. Invite them to be a part of something impactful. One plus one!

Let's keep this momentum going. Let's welcome new members into our group. Let's see just how much positive change we can create together. I am truly excited about what the future holds. Thank you for all you do for Kiwanis. Thank you for your dedication and your heart for Kids to make a real difference.

Most of all, thank you for being Kiwanian,

B. Claire Crouch

Have you chosen your club leaders?

Please file your report by June 1st

Call for Resolutions and Amendments

District By-laws state that proposed amendments shall be received by the District Secretary at least 60 days prior to the district convention. Please submit any amendments or resolutions to the District Office by June 14, 2025

Call to Annual District Convention

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the District Bylaws, this is a call to each chartered club to the annual district convention to be held August 14-17, 2025 in Pikeville, KY.

Frances L. Marion,
District Secretary/Treasurer

THE *KT* NOTES, PUBLISHED SIX TIMES A YEAR

January 15

Article Submission

Deadline = January 5

March 15

Article Submission

Deadline = March 5

May 15

Article Submission

Deadline = May 5

July 15

Article Submission

Deadline = July 5

September 15

Article Submission

Deadline = September 5

November 15

Article Submission

Deadline = November 5

Articles, pictures, and club bulletins can be emailed to news@kytnkiwanis.org

THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING PICTURES cannot be overstated.

PICTURES WITH KIWANIS LOGOS AND EMBLEMS ARE THE BEST.

Please send all your exciting club news to

news@kytnkiwanis.org

Editor: Lynn Hutchinson

Maryville Kiwanis



On April 11, James Roy Fox was honored at New Providence Presbyterian Church where he has long been an active member. He has also served over 29 years as a member of Maryville Kiwanis.

A bench made of recycled plastic bottle caps collected by Maryville Kiwanis was dedicated at the front entrance of the church during a special ceremony attended by Fox's family and many of his friends from both New Providence Presbyterian Church and Maryville Kiwanis.

Maryville Kiwanis partners with Tellico Village Kiwanis to collect and clean the bottle caps on this project to help our environment. Plastic bottle caps and lids are recycled into new park benches purchased and distributed by Maryville Kiwanis. It takes 200 lbs. of caps to make each bench.

Division 7 Council Meeting with Governor B. Claire Crouch

Awesome Division 7 Council meeting with Governor Claire Crouch, and sponsor club of Elizabethton, clubs from Kingsport and Erwin.

Additionally, the Key club folks from Erwin and Crocket High schools, Division 7 Key club leadership and the leadership from a new Circle K club at Milligan College were in attendance. Super people doing tremendous projects and programs!
Bruce Damrow Division 7 LTG



Kiwanis Club of Rutherford County Celebrates One Year of Service

Chartered March 21, 2024

Asenath E. Johnson, President





The Kiwanis Club of Rutherford County is proud to celebrate its one-year anniversary! On March 21, 2024, our club was officially chartered, launching a journey dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families across our community.

Over the past year, our members have worked diligently to bring the Kiwanis mission to life through impactful service projects and strong community partnerships. Whether hosting events, volunteering time and resources, or supporting local initiatives, our club has embraced the call to serve: one child, one community, and one act of kindness at a time.

This milestone represents not only a year of accomplishments but also the foundation for an even greater future. As we step into our second year, we remain committed to leading with compassion, inspiring others to join us, and expanding our reach to meet even more needs within our community.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated members, generous supporters, and valued community partners who have been an essential part of this incredible journey. Your passion, commitment, and collaboration have made all the difference.

The Kiwanis Club of Rutherford County looks forward to building on this strong beginning by continuing to serve, to grow, and to make a lasting impact for years to come. Here's to a bright and impactful future ahead!  



#Kiwanis#OneYearStrong
#ServingTheChildrenOfTheWorld #KiwanisRutherfordCounty

2025-2026 Lieutenant Governor Training Governor-Elect Larry Dobson

We experienced a strong turnout for our Lt. Governor training at Cumberland Falls on April 11th and 12th. Our trainers—Mark Garman, Lynn Hutchinson, Fran Marion, and our candidate for International Vice President, the renowned Chuck Fletcher—were present. Additionally, our vice governor, Montee Sneed, attended and will play a crucial role in our service year, a privilege that I was not granted.



In attendance were the following Lieutenant Governors for our 2025-2026 service year: Gary Winton for Division 1, David Coulter for Division 4, Mike Morrell for Division 5, Regan H. Williams for Division 8, Stephen Burchett for Division 9, Jeanette Perkins for Division 11, Shellie Garman for Division 12, Joyce Boggs for Division 16, and Jody Hulseley for Division 17.

Rick Breedlove from Division 3, Chris Lanier from Division 14, Elaine Stevens from Division 15, and Tom Bunch from Division 19 are unable to attend due to prior commitments.

At this time, I am still in search of Lieutenant Governors for Divisions 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, and 13. If you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to reach out to your current Lieutenant Governor or contact me directly at ldobson.kiwanis@gmail.com.

We had a fantastic time learning together; we formed a cohesive group united by a vision for continued growth in our clubs, member retention, and support for children in our communities. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. One participant expressed, “When I first sat down here, I was extremely apprehensive about my involvement, but by the end of the two days, I felt truly connected to this group and excited about what we can achieve both as individuals and as a team.” Another shared their pride in working alongside such dedicated and wonderful individuals; while yet another noted that, having attended similar trainings in the past, this was by far the best experience.

As you engage with our Lieutenant Governors in the future, take the opportunity to uncover intriguing details about them that you may not yet know. For instance, you could inquire about which Lieutenant Governor is part of a band that plays 70s and 80s tunes, who was a cheerleader in high school and college and proudly serves as our team’s cheerleader, or who has walked across Scotland from west to east? This concludes the current discussion; further insights will be provided in subsequent notes.

Top Five Clubs in Membership

	Beginning	Current
Kingsport	83	86
Columbia	97	96
Athens	101	112
Bowling Green	122	126
Clarksville	114	132

IT'S TIME TO HELP THE DISTRICT OFFICE

By: P R Cook

"It's Time" was my theme for the year I served as Governor of the District. I have brought it back to life for this article. If you are reading this article, you have probably been responsible for getting a group together for a service project, for a dinner outing, for an outing for your church or for work. I want you to think back to that time and consider the difficulty in getting others to commit, send in the appropriate paperwork and show up for the event.

The District office has already spent several hours obtaining a site, visiting the site, going over details of the event for each day and preparing the convention issue to inform us of activities at our District Convention. We have the opportunity to be of assistance by getting our hotel reservations, completing our registrations, completing our Delegate certification on time and then showing up for the Convention.

The dates of this Convention were made available to our membership last year at our convention. Yet few of us entered that date on our phones so we could make sure we made our club members aware of the dates to help ensure that our Club would be represented. I understand emergencies do happen which must be handled and may affect our ability to attend our Convention, but recording the dates on our calendar early will help us avoid making other arrangements during convention time. Then, when the registration information is sent out, we can complete it and send it back to the District office. The early registration helps the office to make sure that minimums in the contract with the hotel are being covered.

There is a limited number of rooms the hotels will hold for us and there is a cutoff date involved. If you wait till after that date, you may not be able to stay at the Convention Hotel. Staying at the Convention Hotel makes it convenient to attend the activities lined up for the event. I realize members may belong to a Hotel chain program other than the Convention Hotel and you can get points or use points by staying with them and I understand that. But, staying at the Convention Hotel makes it easier to work with the hotel and to meet minimum requirements under the contract.

By completing your delegate certification prior to the convention, the District office is able to prepare the delegate book prior to the convention and make it easier to check delegates in as they register.

Please check out the May edition of Q and A. Information in that publication is provided to place an ad in the Convention program. This is a great opportunity to recognize a Club member for their contribution to your Club, to recognize a deceased member, etc. Advertising in the program helps offset printing costs and helps the overall Convention budget.

The May Q and A also reminds us to get our election reports completed on the dashboard. Doing so will be a great help to the District office. It's Time to help and Show Up!

Kiwanis Clubs of Pikeville and Coal Run Unite for Easter Joy



On April 17, 2025, the Kiwanis Clubs of Pikeville and Coal Run teamed up for a joyful inter-club service project that brought smiles to children across two communities. In the spirit of Easter, both clubs collaborated to stuff an impressive 4,500 Easter eggs, which were distributed during six egg hunts held at two local daycares—one in Pikeville and one in Coal Run.

The event catered to six different age groups, ensuring that every child had a fun and age-appropriate experience. From toddlers to middle schoolers, the excitement was tangible as little ones raced to collect colorful eggs scattered across playgrounds and grassy fields. Adding to the festive atmosphere was a visit from the Easter Bunny, who posed for photos and spread cheer among the children and volunteers alike.

This egg hunt is one of many community service projects organized by the Kiwanis Clubs of Pikeville and Coal Run. Their shared mission of serving the children of the world is evident in events like these, where planning, teamwork, and community engagement come together to create lasting memories.

Volunteers from both clubs worked tirelessly not only to prepare the eggs but also to coordinate with the daycares and manage each hunt. Their dedication reflects the heart of Kiwanis—improving the lives of children one project at a time.

As both clubs continue to serve their communities through hands-on projects, the Easter egg hunt stands out as a shining example of what can be achieved through collaboration and compassion. With more events on the horizon, the Kiwanis Clubs of Pikeville and Coal Run remain committed to making a difference in the lives of local children.



1987...

Ashland woman is a Kiwanis pioneer

ASHLAND, Ky. — For about a year, Cynthia Champer has been attending meetings of the Ashland Kiwanis Breakfast as a guest. From now on, she will attend them as Kentucky's first female Kiwanis member.

Champer, who works in sales for a Huntington, W. Va. school supply company, was inducted into the formerly all-male club on Tuesday.

Last Thursday, attorney Suzanne Weddle was installed as a Glasgow Rotary Club member. She is believed to be the first female Rotarian in Kentucky.

Delegates to the Kiwanis' international convention last week voted to end the 72-year men-only tradition of the organization. Rotary International will take up the issue next year.

Champer said decisions by service clubs to allow women members would help women "feel more accepted for all business and professional organizations."

Trending today: CLE

Written by your KT District Leadership Development Coordinator

Mark Garman

If you are totally into some of the social media platforms, 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, 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 Pikeville

Make 2025-26 a great year for all officers to learn, re-learn, or discover the benefits of Club Leadership Education (CLE). On behalf of Governor Claire Crouch, Governor-Elect Larry Dobson 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.**

Call or email me with your questions: Mark Garman 502-262-2321 (cell) or markgarman620@icloud.com.

ARE YOU READY FOR CHANGE?



IT'S VERY SIMPLE, VOTE FOR CHUCK!

My passion for Kiwanis and its future shines brightly! I am inspired by the possibilities as I consider harnessing the talents and gifts of members to strengthen community connections and keeping an unwavering belief in the mission. Kiwanis can continue to thrive for generations to come. We must earnestly foster that vision as Kiwanians.

It's exciting to think about how Kiwanis clubs around the world can work to attract new members and expand their influence, ensuring that each child and community touched by Kiwanis feels the lasting effects of service and leadership. I am Chuck Fletcher, Candidate for Kiwanis International Vice President, and I am calling you to **action!** Let's **stop** talking about growing and start doing what it takes to grow. This is exactly the mindset that drives meaningful change.

I have a **plan to implement** that will be simple for every club, division, and district that will help us all GROW in service to children. We will strengthen our leadership and grow to increase community impact; communication will flourish and every club will be recognized. With your help, I will lead in a way that every Kiwanian will see why he or she is part of our Kiwanis Family!

With your help, the possibilities are endless!



This article is a reprint from the KT Notes 2018 by now deceased LTG Myra Finney. Some modifications have been done to update to current information.

TEACH, TALK, QUIZ

Past LTG Myra Finney

Chair Youth Protection, District Administrator 2018

This article may contain sensitive material that causes a tug at your heartstrings. It's about child abuse; emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. "Oh my goodness, not in Kiwanis!" No, but we must make sure it doesn't happen to any of the 300,000 children we serve.

How many times have you heard, "He/ she was a perfectly good neighbor, never caused any trouble or acted weird?" "Or he/ she was so kind to the children, always helping and giving them rides to events." These are typical statements we don't like to talk about or even think about.

But fellow Kiwanians, it can happen.



All it takes is one terrible episode to ruin a child's life and the effectiveness of Kiwanis. To help prevent any negative events or even negative thoughts Kiwanis International is providing training to keep children and Kiwanis safe.

The presentation on child protection should be given to each Kiwanian. Included in these points are education, chaperones, criminal history background checks, overnight stays, transportation, medication, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and marijuana, reporting, personal performance, youth and social media, behavior or social issues, and when rules conflict.

The one thing each Kiwanian can do, even before attending the training, is to have the background check. Many of us have had a background check in the past and feel it is unnecessary for another. Most checks are only for the state in which we live. Well, the Kiwanis background check is on the international level. If a Kiwanian has been connected with any abusive event anywhere in the world, it will show up. The report will indicate clear or not clear and will only be seen by the secretary.

Everyone should want to get the background check; however, it is only expected of the Kiwanians directly working in any SLP program and Aktion club. The cost is 35.00 which can be paid by the club if they so desire or by the individuals. The background check will be valid for two years.

At this time there are no club penalties for not getting all background checks. It is however, probable insurance premiums could rise significantly if background checks are not done.

Kiwanis Club of Hardin County 2025 Key Club Scholarship

Mike Gartin

Past President Kiwanis Club of Hardin County

At our May 1st meeting, the Kiwanis Club of Hardin County presented a \$2,500 scholarship to graduating senior Patrick Routt. Patrick is an active member of John Hardin High School's newly formed Key Club.

Patrick exemplifies many qualities of an admirable Key Club member, having invested many hours in community service and volunteering. Among other activities, he has helped Feeding America prepare and distribute food packages to low income families, ensuring that their children receive needed nourishment.

Also attending our meeting was his teacher and Key Club advisor, Ms. Christine Birch, who shared the following:

“Patrick Routt is a Key Club senior who will be attending Western Kentucky University in the fall. His goal as an elementary education major aligns with his passion to help those in the community. Patrick not only attends Key Club meetings and service projects, but works hard to ensure each one is a success. While Key Clubbers are sad to see him go, we are thrilled that he has earned a scholarship for his hard work that will allow him to continue giving back to his community.”

This is our Kiwanis Club's fourth year in providing scholarships for graduating seniors in Hardin County schools, yet the first year we have the privilege of providing one to a Key Club recipient!



Pictured on the right with Patrick Routt is Ms. Christine Birch; Pictured below with Patrick are Kiwanis members Sharon Post and Mike Gartin.

