

# notes



Larry Dobson, Governor

Greetings, my fellow Kiwanis family

Welcome to the first KT Notes of the year; this will be a year of getting together and staying together. As a district, we will be working closely with the Governor-Elect and the Vice Governor to achieve the goals we have outlined for this year, a task that has been lacking in the past.

The motto for this year, Nurture the Future, highlights our commitment to reaching students early in their school years, familiarizing them with Kiwanis, and encouraging service and community values.

Thank you for supporting Kiwanis and our Service Leadership programs—Terrific Kids, BUG, K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, CKI, and Aktion Club. Your continued involvement helps these initiatives succeed. We're seeing growth in BUG, K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, and CKI, and have returned to the University of Tennessee campus with CKI, thanks to Lynn Hutchinson's efforts and leadership.

Thanks to the commitment of our club opening team, we expect to launch six new clubs this year. Collaborating with Carol Wisdom, our District Membership chair, and co-chair Jim Gazay has been a gratifying experience. If they reach out for assistance, please be ready to lend your support.

We are dedicated to increasing Kiwanis International membership this year, and I encourage everyone to support our district's goal of reaching 4,100 members by September. We started with 3,588 members in October, so each club needs to gain four members to meet our target. Last year, even though we gained 96 members through new clubs and welcomed 485 new individuals, we still experienced an overall decrease of 24 members.

Our Lt Governors will work within their divisions and clubs to encourage positive net growth and member retention. When visiting clubs, I'm often asked how to keep members engaged; meaningful service and ensuring everyone feels included and involved are key factors in achieving this goal.

Let's make this a great year by coming together and nurturing our future.



Elaine Stevens



Hello Kiwanians,

I am Elaine Stevens, your new KT Notes editor. I am really looking forward to working on this publication.

I have been a member of Kiwanis since 2022 and I love what this organization stands for and achieves. This being said I became a Lt. Governor in 2024 and doing a repeat in 2025. I love meeting with the clubs in my division and keeping up with all they do.

I volunteered to be the editor for KT Notes at the District Convention in Pikeville. If you missed the convention in Pikeville you missed a really good time. I have been putting together newsletters, programs, and meeting minutes for other organizations for many years. I love the publishing world. I have even worked for a publishing company as a typesetter and proofreader. I am really excited to have this opportunity with Kiwanis.

If you have any questions or would like to submit articles for the KT Notes please continue to send them to KT Notes email address and the office will forward them to me or I have an email of [ktdistrictnotes@gmail.com](mailto:ktdistrictnotes@gmail.com).

I look forward to hearing from all of you soon.

Elaine Stevens



KY-TN Mid-Year  
March 13-14, 2026  
Embassy Suites  
Lexington, Kentucky

Lt. Governor-Elect  
Training  
April 17-18, 2026  
Rough River

International Convention  
June 24-27, 2026  
Manila, Phillipines

DISTRIC CONVENTION  
August 13-16, 2026  
Alcoa, Tennessee

# FRESH FROM DISTRICT

FUNDRAISING | SERVICE | NEW OFFICERS | NEW CLUBS

Jill Petrey, who joined the Kiwanis Club the Richmond, KY last year, and volunteered to serve as the 2024-25 President Elect, participated in nearly every club activity during the past year. Jill learned volunteerism and leadership as a past Governor of the Kentucky-Tennessee Circle K.

She not only has demonstrated these traits in Kiwanis but is also an employee at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) that trains volunteers to advocate for children's safety and well-being.

The Richmond club members selected her as the 2024-2025 Kiwanian of the year. Presenting her the award was Kirby Easterling, the 2024-25 President of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond.

The presentation was made at the joint induction of the officers and board members of the Kiwanis Club of Irvine Ravenna and Richmond, KY on Oct 9 at the Madison County Extension Center.



October was a very busy month for all branches of the Kiwanis Club of Lexington Blue Grass'Family. The Kiwanis Club continued their monthly lunch service at the Hope Center, and reading at the Child Development Center on the UK Campus.

Home UK Football Game parking was again successful for the October games against Texas and Tennessee.

Our Key Clubs were also active with Henry Clay, with assistance from Fredrick Douglass, hosting their annual Safe Halloween on the 30th. Paul Lawrence Dunbar Key Club continued their path toward re-chartering by electing officers, and planning both projects and fundraisers.

Transylvania Circle K had a banner month. Circle K Week was celebrated by providing motivational and encouraging notes that the student body could pick off a display board during midterms. The Halloween season holds many Campus traditions: CKI hosted a game table during Pumpkinmania alongside many other student organizations. The Student Activities Board Refined Week leading into Halloween Week saw our Transy CKI hosting an activity table during the Campus Fall Festival night during the week.



Pictured left to right:  
Hunter Hammer, Mike  
Gartin, Jenny Geist, Sharon  
Post and Steve McMichael.

### *In Elizabethtown, KY, at Bob Evans Restaurant.*

It was a celebration of the Annual Presidents' Breakfast for the Kiwanis Club of Hardin County, which welcomes our new president for the coming Kiwanis year.

Ms. Jenny Geist is our 2025-2026 club president.



Joint Kiwanis Club Installation  
of the Kiwanis Clubs of Irvine  
Ravenna and Richmond, KY on  
Thursday, Oct 9 at the Madison  
County Extension Center.



Shown here (l to r)  
Richard Snowden, 2025-26 President of the Kiwanis Club of Irvine Ravenna;  
Kevin Zachary, Lt. Governor of Division 9 of the Kentucky-Tennessee District of Kiwanis;  
Jill Petrey, 2025-26 President of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond, KY.

## **OFFICER INSTALLATION**



Paducah Club: Elaine Stevens, Lt. Governor; Jeff Canter, Past President; John Oliver, Treasurer;  
Sharon Carvell, Secretary; Jim Dudley, Board Member; Desi Ginn, President



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presentation of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond

Certificate of Appreciation to the Free Market of Madison County

leaders and volunteers evening in Berea. The leaders also coordinate a similar Free Market in Richmond with additional volunteers.

## Kiwanis Club of Jackson: Safe Halloween, Safe Fun

The Kiwanis Club of Jackson knows how to turn community spirit into lasting memories. This October, the club once again participated in helping host a much-loved “Safe Halloween Trick or Treat” at Jackson City Park, opening the gates to kids and families for an evening filled with pumpkins, candy, and plenty of smiles.

The Jackson club is a small, yet mighty group, led by President Sam Marshall, Vice President Danny Campbell, Secretary Debbie White, and Treasurer Dave Munson. They prove what Kiwanis is all about: rolling up their sleeves, investing in their hometown, and making sure every child has the chance to feel included, important, and celebrated.

For the kids who carried home pumpkins and candy, the event was simply fun. For the Kiwanis Club of Jackson, it was another chance to live out their mission — serving the children of the world, one project at a time.

Thanks to the generosity of club members, over \$400 worth of pumpkins and 870+ pieces of candy were donated to make the event free and welcoming for every child who came through. Families carved pumpkins, kids enjoyed the treats, and neighbors gathered together in the safe and familiar setting of their local park.

The park itself is a special place for the Jackson Kiwanis. Over the years, the club has helped build facilities there—including a baseball field and restrooms — and continues to see the park as a central hub for community connection. Events like this one highlight just how much a dedicated group of volunteers can give back, not just in one evening, but through projects that will serve the town for years to come.





## Kiwanis Club of Paducah

Kiwanis Club of Paducah participated in the local BBQ on the River and won multiple awards. This local benefit helps organizations raise money for charity. This event is held in September every year at the beautiful downtown Paducah Riverfront.



## Kiwanis Club of Paducah Christmas Party and Auction

The Kiwanis Club of Paducah hosted their 85th Annual Christmas Party and Auction where donations were made to Paducah Day Nursery, Community Christian Academy and Beyond Uganda. The auction and gala is held annually to celebrate the year of hard work and recognize the organizations that we assist. More than 150 people attended the benefit. A live auction and a silent auction are held to raise more funds to provide for local charities and scholarships.



**Kiwanis Club of Paris, KY**

donated 3 new Amtrykes to three students in the Bourbon County School System.

These are adaptive tricycles built for children and adults with special needs. These trykes are custom built to meet each riders unique needs, offering a safe, stable, and enjoyable way to experience the movement and joy of riding.



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**KIWANIS CLUB OF HOPKINSVILLE**



We had the privilege of honoring Dr. Haile, someone who truly represents the very best of what Kiwanis stands for — service, fellowship, and commitment to community.

For 60 years, Dr. Haile has given his time, his heart, and his steady leadership to our club and to the people of our community. Through decades of change, his dedication has remained constant — quietly setting an example for all of us who follow in his footsteps.

As a small token of appreciation, we presented Dr. Haile with a Kiwanis blanket — a symbol of the warmth and friendship he has shared so generously over the years. May it remind him of the many lives he has touched, the friendships he has built, and the difference one person can make through a lifetime of service.

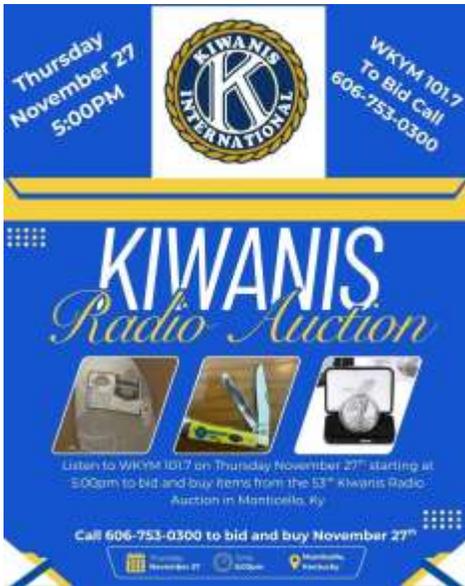
On behalf of Kiwanis, thank you, Dr. Haile, for 60 remarkable years of service. We are truly honored to celebrate you.

**KIWANIS CLUB OF CLARKSVILLE AND HILLDALE, TENNESSEE**



Montgomery County SWCD Board: (c.) Administrator Nancy Holt, USDA-NRCS Field Office Nathan Hicklin and Jeran Lane

Kiwanis Club of Clarksville, TN, and Kiwanis Club of Hilldale, Clarksville always enjoy hosting the 2025 CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET for farmers, students and teachers in Montgomery County!



KIWANIS OF SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE

DIVISION 14



# WELCOME LOGAN COUNTY



The organizational meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Logan County. We will have a chartering meeting/party in 10-12 weeks. Officers were elected tonight as follows:

President: Stephen Stratton; VP/Pres Elect: Robyn Crider; Secretary: Mary Cartlett; Treasurer: Kalei Wilkins; Membership: Stacy Watkins.

Board Members: Timothy Rainwaters, Stephanie Moore, Darrell Crawford

### KIWANIS OF MT STERLING, KENTUCKY

at KROGER - the MCHS Key Club collected food items and cash donations for their 11th Annual Food Drive to help the less fortunate in Montgomery County. All donations will be delivered to the Sterling Food Coalition. This is one of the county's biggest food drives.



### BOURBON CO HIGH SCHOOL

#### KEY CLUB



Officers Dutcher Howard, Webmaster; Carter Massey, V. Pres., Ryder Russell, Pres.; Michael Mollett, Treas.; Joseph Sapp, Sec.

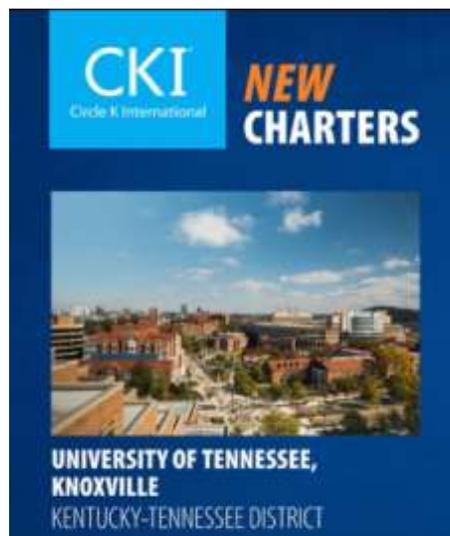
### Laurenceburg Key Club Shoe Drive



The ACHS Key Club, Lawrenceburg, KY, teamed up with JAG to make a difference! They collected new and gently used shoes of all sizes to help those in need.

"Together, we can take steps toward a stronger community."

**Congratulations to the two newest CKI Clubs to join the KY-TN CKI District: Milligan University and University of Tennessee-Knoxville.**



## Milligan charts inaugural Circle K Club with Kiwanis International

MILLIGAN, Tenn. (Nov. 18, 2025) – Milligan University held a ceremony for the chartering of the university’s first Circle K Club last Thursday, Nov. 13, at 5:30 p.m. The ceremony was held in the Gregory Center’s Willis Classroom and was followed by a reception.

Circle K is the largest student-led collegiate service organization in the world and is sponsored by the Kiwanis International family. Milligan’s local sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of Elizabethton, which now sponsors ten service leadership programs in Elizabethton and Carter County in Tennessee.

“Discerning God’s call for our lives and discovering how each student can use their knowledge, strengths and skills is a foundational component of a Milligan education,” said Beth Anderson, Milligan’s director of calling and career development. “The Circle K Club offers Milligan students an opportunity to further explore how their gifts and talents can be developed through service and community engagement.”

The mission of Circle K is to develop students into responsible citizens and leaders, and the club focuses on community service, leadership development and fellowship. Student members participate in a variety of service projects, including fundraising, volunteering, tutoring and clean-ups.

Tessa Arney, a sophomore nursing student, will serve as the president of Milligan’s Circle K Club.

“I am beyond excited to bring a Circle K Club to Milligan and give Milligan students the opportunity to give back to the community and develop leadership skills,” said Arney. “The members will be able to participate in new and exciting community service projects and meet new people through club and district events.”

Arney has a history of leadership with Kiwanis International, holding several leadership positions in her high school Key Club. As a Key Club Lieutenant Governor of Division 7, she worked with many community service organizations in Elizabethton, Tennessee, and Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Milligan’s club currently has 11 members, including seniors Mia Brown and Nicole Shirley; juniors Sunny Beach, Elijah Gouge, Dillion Handshey and Rachel Webber; sophomores Torrie Entner, Lilly Gilbert and Samantha Pfister; and freshman Violet De La Cruz.

###

MILLIGAN UNIVERSITY is a premier Christian liberal arts university in Johnson City, Tennessee, committed to offering excellent academic programs that are rooted in biblical truth and designed to empower young men and women to lead and serve. The university offers more than 100 majors, minors, pre-professional degrees and concentrations in a variety of fields, along with graduate and adult degree completion programs. To learn more, visit [www.milligan.edu](http://www.milligan.edu) or call 423.461.8700

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# START PLANNING YOUR ENTRY NOW

Now more than ever, communities need a reason to feel connected. And many Kiwanis clubs need a service project that brings focus and fellowship to their members while helping kids in the community.

On February 1, 2026, Kiwanis International and Landscape Structures will launch our annual Legacy of Play Contest, in which one deserving Kiwanis club will win US\$25,000 in playground equipment. The Legacy of Play Contest celebrates our shared belief that investing in the community through legacy signature projects is important to the success of a Kiwanis club.

Playgrounds require months — even years — of planning, fundraising and installation. So this is a good time to consult with local officials and partners to determine whether a playground project is right for your community.

All clubs that enter the contest are eligible to receive a free OmniSpin. This inclusive spinner balances physical accessibility, age and developmental appropriateness with sensory-stimulating play for children of all abilities. With an accessible transfer height entrance from a wheelchair or walker, the OmniSpin (valued at US\$8,500) will be a fun, comfy space for interactive and cooperative play among scores of youngsters. The OmniSpin is the perfect freestanding spinning activity to accent any new or existing playground.

Learn more about the Legacy of Play Contest — and mark your calendar for February 1, 2026.

In the meantime, thank you for considering a playground project. If you have questions as you review the process, email Director of Programs and Partnerships Elizabeth Warren.



# LYNN FANT

For Vice Governor, 2028-2029

Serving the Children of the World through Kiwanis

Hello, my name is Lynn Fant and it would be my honor to serve as KY-TN Governor in 2028-2029. I have been a proud member of the Ft. Oglethorpe Kiwanis Club in Division 3 since 1993 where I was the second woman to join the club.

I served two terms as Distinguished President for my club. I also served Division 3 in 1997 as Distinguished Lt. Governor. I am currently serving my second term on the Foundation Board representing Tennessee. I was President of the Foundation 2023 to 2024. I am currently serving a 4-year term as Secretary.

Kiwanis has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember as my role model and father, Leonard Fant, also dedicated his life to community service and Kiwanis. Changing the world one child, one community at a time is an empowering mission. There is much to do and I believe I can lead that continuing charge to grow the local clubs and therefore grow our KY-TN District one person and one club at a time.

I work as a nurse in a level one trauma center. I am active in my community through the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce. I was appointed by my County Commission to the Catoosa County Health Department Board. I am a member of the St. Gerard Catholic Church in Ft. Oglethorpe, GA.

I have had an active life and many diverse jobs, duties, and activities that I believe has prepared me to be able to present myself for this role as Vice Governor and then Governor. I hope you will consider me for this opportunity.