

notes



Larry Dobson, Governor

Hello fellow Kiwanians

It is hard to believe that we now have seven months of this service year behind us. We have been busy working on building new clubs, and with the leadership of Carol Wisdom, our membership chair, along with the dedicated club opening team, we are making great progress.

As we look ahead to the final five months of the year, our focus will be on growing membership and strengthening retention within our existing clubs. By welcoming new members while continuing to engage and support those already serving, we can ensure our clubs remain strong and continue making a positive impact in the communities we serve.

We had a very successful Midyear Conference for the Kentucky-Tennessee District Kiwanis that brought together members from across the district for leadership development, fellowship, and service-focused discussions. Attendees participated in educational workshops, committee meetings, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen local clubs and expand community impact. District leaders shared updates on membership growth, upcoming service projects, and goals for the remainder of the year, while also recognizing the achievements of clubs and members whose dedication continues to make a positive difference throughout Kentucky and Tennessee.

For the first time, clubs from Corbin and Copperhill, joined us at the conference, adding new energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to the event. Their participation reflected the continued growth and outreach of the district and strengthened the spirit of collaboration and service that defines Kiwanis across the region.

We were especially excited to highlight the progress being made in these communities. Copperhill was in the running for a grant to help fund a new playground project for local children and families. Tellico Plains has been re-energized with renewed community involvement and enthusiasm for service. Meanwhile, our up-and-coming club in Corbin has experienced tremendous growth, adding 27 new members so far this year. These accomplishments demonstrate the momentum and positive impact our clubs continue to build throughout the district.

As we move into the remaining months of the year, our continued push will focus on membership growth and retention. Strong clubs are built through engaged and passionate members who are committed to serving their communities. We encourage every club to think about new ways to invite others into Kiwanis and create meaningful experiences that keep members involved and inspired. What are your club's plans to grow membership and strengthen retention in the months ahead?

Thank you for all you do for Kids and Kiwanis.

Larry Dobson
Governor

As a footnote, as I was writing this I went back to the dashboard to check membership and Corbin has now added another member for a total of 28.



CLUB GRANTS

Due Dates:

Application: June 1

www.kiwanis.org

Check the District web site for updates:

<https://k10.site.kiwanis.org/events/>

DISTRIC CONVENTION

August 13-16, 2026

Alcoa, Tennessee

Microgrant Program

Clubs with fewer than 35 members

Application dates:

October 1 through July 1

Grants processed on the 1st of
each month

FUN FACT

Every year, Kiwanis members stage more than 1.3 million service projects and raise nearly \$390 million for children, families, and communities around the world. The average Kiwanian makes an impact on the lives of 106 children.

Lt. Governor Training

WOW! What a weekend. Great Food, Awesome Fellowship, and Amazing Networking!! And a great group of trainers and an awesome group of Lt. Governor's.



FRESH FROM DISTRICT

FUNDRAISING | SERVICE | NEW OFFICERS | NEW CLUBS

Hopkinsville, KY—

The Kiwanis Club of Hopkinsville was proud to sponsor and attend the Young Masters Youth Art Exhibit as a celebration of Youth Art Month. Hosted in partnership with the Pennyroyal Arts Council, at the Historic Alhambra Theater. This program is held annually in March to recognize and showcase the creativity and artistic achievements of students in our community as well as highlight the importance of Art Education.



Kiwanians featured (L to R) Terry Rudd, Marty Terhune, Nikki Chambers, Martha Steil



Berea, KY—held their 89th Easter Egg hunt. There were approximately 250 to 300 children present.



Irvine-Ravenna—Kiwansians Francine and Tom Bonny were the grand marshals at the 34th annual Mountain Mushroom Festival parade in Estill County. Francine, the secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Irvine-Ravenna, has served until the present time as the chairperson of the Mountain Festival Committee since 2001. Her husband, Tom, a former Superintendent of the Estill County Schools, has served as the President of the Kiwanis Club of Irvine-Ravenna and as the Division 9 Lt. Governor of the Kentucky-Tennessee District of Kiwanis International. They were both featured in the lead story in the Estill County Tribune for their long-time service to Estill County. The Estill County reporter wrote, “Without Francie’s leadership there would not be a festival today.”



Francine and Tom Bonny were selected as parade marshals at this year's Mountain Mushroom Festival. Francine has been chairman of the Festival for 25 years.



Lexington Bluegrass—Join the Kiwanis Club of Lexington Blue Grass Saturday, June 27, at noon, for the 6th annual Lexington Duck Derby. The ducks drop at noon in th pond at Lexington Green, just off Nicholasville Road at the New Circle interchange. For more information visit www.lexingtonduckderby.com.

Maryville Kiwanis Bottle Cap Bench Dedication

On May 13 Maryville Kiwanians gathered to honor Tom Coulter for his service and contributions to Maryville Kiwanis and the Blount County community. Tom has been a member of Maryville Kiwanis since 2003 and served as club president 2022-23 and has also served on many committees over the years.

The club presented its 13th bench made from 200 lbs. of recycled bottle caps and lids to First Baptist Church of Maryville where he has been a member since 2004. Tom helped bring *Family Promise* to our area and served as coordinator at the church.





Lynn Fant-Burke

I would like to announce my intention to put my name in for Vice Governor 2026-2027, for Governor Elect, and to be Governor 2028-2029.

My name is Lynn Fant-Burke, however I go by Lynn Fant.

I have been in the Kiwanis family my complete life. My dad, Leonard, was an active Kiwanian at the local, District, and International level. My Kiwanis memories include us spending our family vacations at District and International Kiwanis Conventions.

In High School, before females could be members, I was the Key Club Sweetheart.

I was the second female to join my Club, and I have been an active member of the Ft. Oglethorpe Ga. Club since 1994. I served as President twice and was distinguished. I served as Lt. Governor in 1997 and was a distinguished Lt Governor for Division 3.

I have served on the Foundation Board twice and I am currently on the District Foundation Board as secretary.

My focus, if elected, would be membership and Service Leadership. My Club currently supports Ridgeland Key Club, Gordon Lee Key Club, Heritage Key Club and Lakeview Ft. Oglethorpe Key Club. The Ft. Oglethorpe Club has plans to build an Action Club as well as a builders Club in 2026-2027 by asking future Kiwanians to help us make it happen.

I look forward to serving as KY/TN Governor 2028-2029.

Lynn Fant-Burke

Every Kid Needs a Bike

Do you remember your first bike. For me, it was still one of my best days. We lived in the country, so it was our way to school and the freedom to fly down the country roads.

I hope every child has a chance to experience the freedom, joy, and health that comes with riding a bike. Biking builds physical strength, balance, and coordination while boosting confidence and mental well-being. It gets kids outside, away from screens, promoting healthier habits and a sense of independence.

Kids with disabilities, however, don't always get those opportunities. Their need is just as great – but a standard bike won't work. That is where Kiwanis and Amtryke's come in.

These adaptive tricycles are specially designed for children with physical, developmental, or cognitive challenges. With customizable features like supportive seating, hand or foot pedals, and stable three-wheel designs, Amtryke's provide the same thrill of riding while offering therapeutic benefits. They help improve muscle strength, range of motion, coordination, and even social skills through play. Kiwanis, in partnership with AMBUCS, has given kids the chance to explore, exercise, and feel capable alongside their peers.

Monte Sneed

Governor Elect



Adults With Disabilities Enjoy Harley-Davidson

Members and their caretakers of the Volunteer State Kiwanis Aktion Club, which is a service leadership program sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Maryville, were welcomed on May 12 to Smoky Mountain Harley-Davidson and The Shed for a special event to show them everything about Harley-Davidson motorcycles during a tour of the facilities. They were each allowed to sit on a stationary Harley just to get the feeling of what it is like to sit on one. Later, they were treated to lunch at The Shed.

Aktion Club members are adults with varied disabilities. Kiwanis welcomes them as members and works to teach them various leadership skills and how to communicate with each other and the public. They are provided with community-based residential and employment support by Community Options, Inc., a national non-profit organization and corporate member of the Kiwanis Club of Maryville.

The event was a success. It was organized by Maryville Kiwanians Marie Roush with Wanda Davis and Debbie Dunlap of Smoky Mountain Harley Davidson, whose entire staff made everyone feel very welcome.



RJ Hunter





☀️ Be a Kiwanis Coach! ☀️

The Kentucky–Tennessee Kiwanis District is building a GREAT TEAM of Coaches — and we want **YOU**.

Coaches help:

- ➔ Coach new clubs
- ➔ Support exciting, growing clubs
- ➔ Strengthen communities
- ➔ Share leadership and encouragement

If you're passionate about Kiwanis and ready to make an impact... **Step Up. Lead. Inspire.**

Your district needs you.

People want to join a team when they feel their strengths matter, their voice is heard, and their efforts create real impact — and that's exactly what becoming a Kiwanis Coach offers. When you join this team, you're not just helping clubs grow; you're stepping into a community of leaders who support one another, celebrate wins together, and work side-by-side to strengthen the future of Kiwanis. Our **goal** is simple: we need **10** or more dedicated coaches, with at least five from each state, to build a strong and balanced Kentucky–Tennessee team. If you love having **FUN** as a Kiwanian and you're looking for new ways to serve, grow, and make a difference, this could be the perfect opportunity. Let's start rockin' for Kiwanis!

Contact: **Chuck Fletcher** at chuckfletcher@gmail.com

ARE YOU HELPING YOUR CLUB?

By Mark Garman
Club Leadership Development Coordinator

The answers to the title question may include: “of course”, “for sure”, “no doubt about it”, and “Kids need Kiwanis.” Now answer this question: “Are you helping your club by preparing to become a club leader?”

As we are approaching the 2026-27 Kiwanis year, now is the time to commit to helping your club by taking a Club Leadership Education class. These modules are found inside the Kiwanis.org web site under education. Start with learning more about **Youth Protection Guidelines**. Everyone should be concerned about bringing in new members. Click on the **membership** chair module to learn more about inviting new members.

The choices you make when reviewing all of the CLE modules will help you with personal leadership development. **Have you been elected to a club leadership or has another member suggested you become a leader in Kiwanis?** Are you a young member, veteran member, new member, or maybe you have made the connection “Kids need Kiwanis.” Now you can train to become a club leader and add to the continuing community success of your Kiwanis Club.

Club Leadership Education training sessions are being planned in your division for the summer. Check with your club Secretary or President when asking about when these training sessions begin. If you will be a club officer for 2026-27, plan on attending a training session.

You can contact me about Club Leadership Development by phone 502-262-2321 or email Markgarman620@icloud.com. Thank you for being in Kiwanis.