



# Kiwanigram

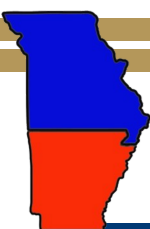
Missouri-Arkansas District

August 2023



Serving the children of the world





## Governor Roy Message

The Kiwanigram is published monthly at the middle of each month.

MO-ARK website:  
[www.moarkkiwanis.org](http://www.moarkkiwanis.org)

Facebook: Missouri-Arkansas District of Kiwanis International



**Roy Ockert**  
Governor

**Paul Sherman**  
Governor - Elect

**Carla O'Brien**  
Immediate Past Governor

**Angie Oshia**  
District Secretary

**Robin Asher**  
District Treasurer

**Mary Vaughan**  
Kiwanigram Editor

**Santosh Manikandan**  
Key Club Governor

### On the cover:

Cathy Szmansky, Carla O'Brien and Tiffany Ermeling sing "We are Family" with great enthusiasm!!

### Dear Fellow Kiwanians:

The 2023 Missouri-Arkansas District Convention is history, and my year as governor is winding down. About 140 Kiwanians and guests participated — not up to pre-pandemic numbers but an improvement.

The nearly 100 delegates in our business session at the Bentonville Doubletree overwhelmingly approved a \$10-a-year per member increase in district dues, bringing the total to \$30. That's only \$2.50 a month, well worth what we get from Kiwanis. The new rate is effective Oct. 1.

Jim Fritz of the Gravois club was elected as governor-elect without opposition. He has a long history of Kiwanis service and leadership. Being governor-elect is training ground for your year as governor, and that has already begun for Jim. Michael Mulhaul of Interlaken, N.J., the newly elected vice president-elect of Kiwanis International, surely met everyone at the convention during his four days with us. He is our district's board counselor and will be a valuable one.

At Saturday night's banquet Michael installed Paul Sherman of the Springfield South club as our governor-designate, as well as other officers for 2023-24, and even took the wearing of a Razorback hat in good humor.

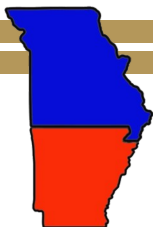
Although I have almost two months left in my term, Kiwanis tradition calls for something like a "changing of the guard" at the District Convention. I had decided to use the occasion to present some Governor's Medallions to Kiwanis leaders who had been especially important to the district during my time as governor-elect and governor.

Following is a quick summary.

- Paul Sherman, who negotiated a \$19,000 room attrition bill that I inherited from the 2022 convention down to \$3,000.
- Barbara Thompson, membership coordinator, and Carla O'Brien, club revitalization coordinator, for their tireless efforts in opening seven new clubs over the past two years and helping save several others.
- The secretaries of two clubs that would have won a district membership contest if we'd had one this year (we couldn't afford it). Brent Stewart's Crestwood-Sunset Hills Club started the year at 28 members and went to 37 by June 30, a 32% increase. Dolores Deuel's Siloam Springs club started at 58 and was at 67 by June 30, a 15.5% increase.
- Teri Jacob of Division 9, Mareta Diestelkamp of Division 10 and Marsha McClanahan of Division 13 for exceptional service, performance and leadership as lieutenant governors.



Continued on Page 16



## 2023 District Convention Wrap up

Thanks to all attended the convention. It was a great event with many workshops and activities to keep everyone active and involved. There are many highlights and recognitions from the weekend.

### Congratulations!!

#### To our new Governor—Designate



**Paul Sherman**, Springfield South

He will serve from October 1, 2023—  
September 30, 2024



#### To our new Governor—Elect Designate



**Jim Fritz**, Gravois Kiwanis Club

He will serve from October 1, 2023—  
September 30, 2024



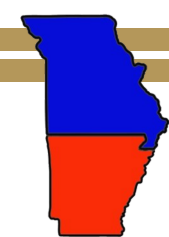
#### To our new Lt. Governors and Trustees



The new LTG's: from L to R: Tiffany Ermeling, Div. 6; Ryan Aubuchon, Div. 13; Dennis Kurczek, Div. 19; Mareta Dieselkamp, Div. 10; David Kelly, Div. 11; Frank Hilbert, Div. 17; Teri Jacobs, Div. 9 and Charlotte Bradley, Div. 23.



The new Trustees: Elbert Bradley, Region ; Jim Major, Region 1 and Garry Warner, Region 5



# 2023 District Convention Wrap up

## Congratulations!!

### To our Governor Award Recipients



Left: Brent Stewart, Crestwood Sunset Hills with a club membership increase of 11 members. Center: Dolores Deuel, Siloam Springs for membership increase of 7 members. Right: Susan Lafond, Convention Chair for her exceptional service to the district.

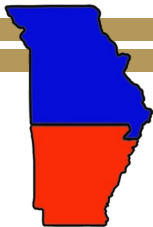


Roy awarded Marettta Deiselkamp, Teri Jacobs and Marsha McClanahan for excellent leadership as Lt. Governors. Right: He awarded his wife, Pat Ockert for a exceptional service project of book collection for children's hospitals.



Roy awarded Past International Trustee, Barbara Thompson and Immediate Past Governor Carla O'Brien for outstanding New Club development.





# 2023 District Convention Wrap up

## Congratulations!!

### Distinguished Clubs of 2021-2022



Batesville  
Christian County  
Crestwood Sunset Hills  
Liberty  
Springdale



These clubs met the criteria to earn distinguished recognition. All clubs had an increase of membership during a very difficult time. Thank you all for your determination for club growth.

## WELCOME

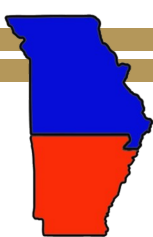
Welcome **Michael Mulhaul, International Vice-President Designate!** Mike is with the Interlaken, New Jersey Club. And the Districts Counselor. What a great visit. The members truly enjoyed having him at the convention. Of course, he couldn't leave without being taught to "Call the Hogs" and get the official hat.



## Visit to Crystal Bridges





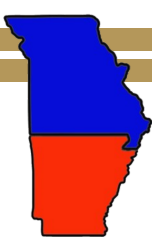


# 2023 District Convention Wrap up

Thank you to everyone that joined us!!







# 2023 MO-ARK Kiwanis District Convention

## Governor-Elect Designate offers Message of Thanks

I would like to thank the membership of the Missouri Arkansas District of Kiwanis International for entrusting me to serve as your upcoming Governor Elect for the Missouri Arkansas District. I am humbled by your support and look forward in working together to enhance the members experience to aid in the growth and retention of our membership. It's a privilege to serve and we must remember that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves or even our clubs. I look forward in working together with the membership of this great organization.

Yours in Service,

Jim Fritz



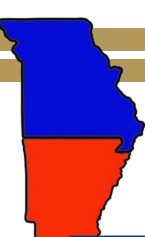
**A Huge THANK YOU to the Bentonville Convention and Visitors Bureau's Advertising and Promotion Commission for the grant that helped make this convention possible. Their support has been greatly appreciated!!**

## Banner Broadcast:

Most clubs attending the convention brought their clubs banner. All banners were hung around the banquet hall all weekend. It was quite a show of solidarity among clubs across the district. Hopefully this will become an annual project.

Thanks to all clubs that participated!!





## Convention Service Projects

### Play it Forward Musical Instruments:

#### MoArk eCentennial Club

The Mo-Ark eCentennial Kiwanis Club collected used musical instruments at the convention to donate to Play it Forward in the Springfield or St. Louis area.



### First Lady Pat Ockert Book Collection for Children's Hospital

Books were collected for the Children's Hospitals area the Missouri-Arkansas area. Pat shared that she has so many books she is taking books to St. Louis to donate to the Children's Hospital there. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. Reading is FUNdamental.



### Earl Collins Foundation Annual Silent Auction



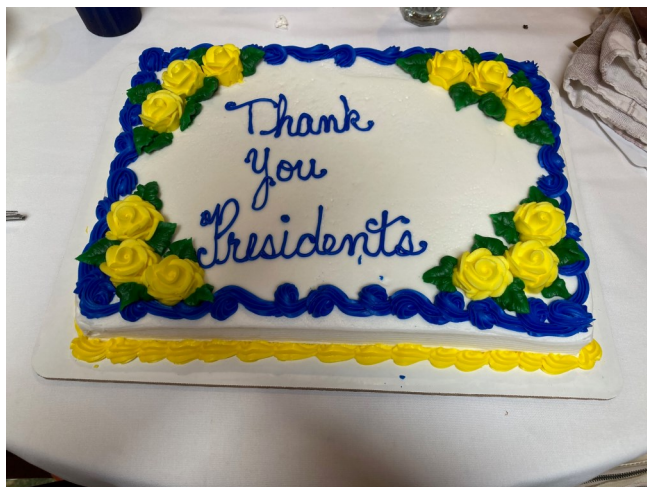




## Kiwanis Clubs in Action

### Kiwanis Club Crestwood-Sunset Hills Honors Past Presidents

The Crestwood-Sunset Hills Kiwanis Club recently celebrated its 60-year history by recognizing some of our past presidents. Our club has been successful for so long in part due to their leadership. We celebrated them by sharing memories and cake!!!



### Kiwanis Club of Gravette Attends the District Convention



Left to R Bob Kelley, Dan Yates, Brenda Yates, Dennis Kurczek, Nancy Jones.

# #KidsNeedKiwanis





## Kiwanis Clubs in Action

### Kiwanis Club of Springdale

#### Inducts New Member



Jerry Martin inducts new member Kathryn Moore Sponsored by members Sandy Montero and Deb Crawford. This is 8 new members since the contest with Conway began.

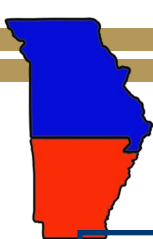


#### Works the Rodeo

Springdale Kiwanis club Also continues their annual volunteer work at the Rodeo of the Ozarks by taking tickets. Shown are Roberta Simon, Don Anglin, and Sharon Wright







## Kiwanis Clubs in Action

### Kiwanis Club of O'Fallon and Cottleville Weldon Spring

On July 28th and 29th, the Kiwanis Club of O'Fallon and Kiwanis Club of Cottleville Weldon Spring participated in the Mental Health Awareness Expo sponsored by Ready Train Go (a CPR, Red Cross Training center) at the Mid Rivers Mall in St Peters, Mo.

During the two-day event, over 20 venders were spaced throughout the mall to help educate the community with resources to bring help, hope, and healing. There were keynote speakers discussing addiction, suicide, loss, mental illness, rejection, trauma, judgement, and grief during the two days.

The Kiwanis Clubs had displays about their Service Leadership Programs and how volunteering in the community is a good form of enhancing positive mental health.



Kiwanis also attracted a lot of attention by offering attendees a chance to play a unique game called Kiwanis-opoly. Ed & Martha Radginski created the game and use it as a way of educating players about Kiwanis in a fun way.

Kiwanis-opoly is a game modeled after the popular monopoly game. Its purpose is to introduce players to Kiwanis service, meetings & events and what Kiwanis is all about.

The game consists of a giant game board, 2 giant 12" dice, two giant game pieces (like a giant 6" squirrel and owl game pieces) and prizes.

The game board has a start box and jail plus all the rest of the squares lists a Kiwanis action in the community plus instructions on how the proceed. Some moves will send the players forward or back or to jail. Others tell you to collect your prize.

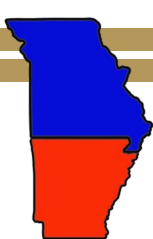
Each player rolls the giant dice and moves around the board until they collect a prize. For the Mental Health Awareness Expo event the prizes were candy bars!



### Kiwanis Club of Mo-Ark eCentennial Sells Coffee

The Mo-Ark eCentennial Club has developed a partnership with Guillermo Coffee in Little Rock. Guillermo sold the club one pound bags on ground and beans for \$10.00 a bag. They generally sell them for \$20.00 a bag. This allowed the club to sell for \$20.00 and thus making \$10.00 per bag. A huge Thank You to James Alley!! James is also a member of the West Little Rock Kiwanis Club.





## Kiwanis Clubs in Action

### Kiwanis Club of Wright City Sponsors a Duck Derby

Wright City Kiwanis AMAZING Rubber Duck Derby took place on Friday, August 4, 2023, at Wright City's First on First event.

The event was held to support the Kiwanis Sports Closet which supplies new and used sporting equipment to youth in the area free of charge.

The event was the dream of past president Rich Lagemann. During the week before the event Rich constructed a man-made water course in downtown Wright City, MO.

During the months of May, June, and July Kiwanis members sold tickets to Adopt a Duck for \$10 each. Prior to the race each ticket holder was emailed their Duck number and heat in which their duck would run.

The Rubber Duck Derby course was constructed in a vacant lot owned by FMB Bank (member of the club) and at the starting line the ducks floated down a winding sloping course that spanned over 200 feet to the finish line.

Each Heat was announced by the bugle sounds of the Kentucky Derby (supplied by Ed Radginski) and the MC Michael Baryo did the play-by-play commentary as the ducks ran the course.

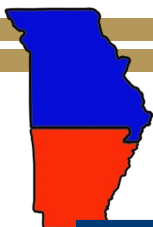
The starter/broom-master Greg Smith started the ducks off at the Starting Line and monitored the ducks as they cruised down the course. Multiple Kiwanis volunteers were at the Finish Line to gather the leading ducks.

Kiwanis President Jenn Olivio was at the Finish Line recording all the winners on a marker board while Michelle Smith and Martha Radginski identified duck numbers from Heat Lists. The club had a vendor tent located on First Street where Mary Groeper, Karen Gironde and Linde Flanders sold an additional 60 ducks for Heats 7 & 8.

The Race had a total of 8 Rubber Duck Derby Heats and then a Final Heat that determined the top four winning ducks for prizes of \$1,000 cash, a \$100 gift card from First State Community Bank and two gift cards of \$50 each to StLouisianaQ Restaurant. An eleven-year-old girl, Emile was the \$1,000 first place winner!







## Governor Message Continued

- Susan Lafond of the eCentennial Club (and two others) for outstanding service as a lieutenant governor and district trustee, in the Key Club District and on the Governor's Council, as well as her amazing work, much of it behind the scenes, in making sure the 2023 convention was a success. She was our convention MVP.

- First Lady Pat Ockert, a non-Kiwanian who nonetheless set a great example of service to children through her project of collecting books for the young patients at children's hospitals in Missouri and Arkansas. We've already presented more than 1,000 books, and we brought almost that many more back to Jonesboro for later distribution. There are others deserving of recognition, too, but I ran out of medals.

In closing, I suggested to those attending the banquet that we need to do two especially important things better.

What we most need — on an individual basis and within our clubs — is to understand the importance of our good works continuing when we can't. For many years Kiwanis clubs didn't really have to recruit. People wanted to join because it was good for business.

But the competition for attention — and members — got to be much greater. And yet we assumed people would keep coming to us. They haven't — at least not in the same numbers — and we must stop the membership decline.

To ensure that our Kiwanis clubs are viable, valuable organizations in their communities, more members must recruit. We must tell people about Kiwanis and ask them to join. It's not that hard, but you can't wait for somebody else to do it.

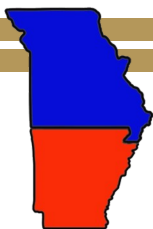
We also must reverse the shortage of leadership — at the club level, for our lieutenant governor and trustee positions, for district offices. You may already be a leader, but maybe you can do a little more, or help somebody else learn to lead. And some of us old-timers can do a better job of developing younger leaders and then letting them lead.

Tell the story of Kiwanis. You are vital to your community. When a community loses its Kiwanis Club, its residents find out just how important you were. Don't let that happen. failed.

*I can be reached by email at [royo@suddenlink.net](mailto:royo@suddenlink.net).*

*Your Humble Governor,  
Roy Ockert*





## IN MEMORIAM

### We Remember the Members lost in 2022—2023:

#### Division 01

Roy Dietle Hannibal, Early Birds  
John Grossnickle Kirksville

#### Division 02

Jeffrey Cordell Burlington Junction

#### Division 03

Ronald Hill Smithville  
Cecil Leiby Smithville  
Anna Barnett Carrollton

#### Division 05

David Snyder Moberly  
Dewayne Brandow Centralia

#### Division 06

Henry Sachs O'Fallon

#### Division 07

Till Fehrenbacher Bridgeton  
Gary Young Creve Coeur

#### Division 09

Mary Henricks Meramec Valley Comm.  
William Leonard South County, St Louis  
Lewis Pfaff Gravois, Saint Louis Co  
Mary Wetteroff Crestwood-Sunset Hills

#### Division 10

Amy Turner St. James

#### Division 12

William Searce Joplin

#### Division 14

Morton Potashnick Sikeston  
Charles Springs Sikeston  
Charles Frey Cape Girardeau

#### Division 15

Jesse Hansen Greater Hot Springs Vill  
James Locke Greater Hot Springs

#### Division 16

Stacey Travis Osceola

#### Division 17

Marie Priest Batesville

#### Division 18

Mitchell Underwood Harrison  
John Phillips Harrison  
Ken Williams Mountain Home

#### Division 19

Tommy Rodgers Rogers  
Hal Kennelly Rogers, Breakfast  
Melanie Golleher Bentonville

#### Division 20

Richard Taylor Fort Smith, Commissary

#### Don Stout

William Murdoch Russellville  
Russellville

#### Division 21

Don Potter Conway  
Kimberly Nugent Searcy

#### Division 23

Barry Barber Prescott

#### Division 24

Beth Wright Springdale

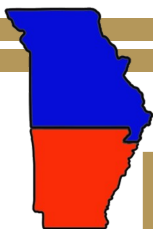
#### Division 26

Amy Turner Lebanon  
Nancy C Smith Lebanon

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10 NIV





## IN MEMORIAM



Governor Roy and First Lady with Governor-Elect Paul and wife Beverly performing the memorial Service at the Convention.

***Deceased members are taken from the secretary's dashboard. Please make sure that the deceased members are deleted from your roster list. Also make sure to list them as deceased in order to be included in the memoriam list.***

## Kiwanigram Submissions

Help!!! Please share your projects with me. Many Kiwanians do not do Facebook and don't get to see the wonderful work everyone is doing. Information to be considered for the Kiwanigram should be submitted by email to [moarkkiwanigram@gmail.com](mailto:moarkkiwanigram@gmail.com). Please include the name and location of your club. The photos should be jpeg format. Please include a brief description of the project along with the names of Kiwanians, or SLP members featured in the photos. If you submit a club newsletter, please use captions for the pictures. I sometimes use articles that are submitted on MO-ARK District Facebook page, please list the people in the photos when you put something on the Facebook page so they can be identified in the Kiwanigram. Thank You

Mary Vaughan is the Kiwanigram Editor.

[moarkkiwanigram@gmail.com](mailto:moarkkiwanigram@gmail.com)

