



**Kiwaniis**  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

THE MIGHTY MO-ARK:  
A NOTE FROM GOV. FRITZ

SHOES FOR KIDS  
OZARK EMPIRE

60 YEARS OF SANTA  
FOR DISABLED KIDS

AN IMPACT AWARD  
FROM THE E-CENTINNEAL



# Kiwanigram

Missouri-Arkansas District

DECEMBER 2024

MO-ARK



# Kiwanigram

GOVERNOR

**JIM FRITZ**

GOVERNOR-ELECT

**RONALD HILL**

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

**PAUL "SHERM" SHERMAN**

DISTRICT SECRETARY

**ANGIE OSHIA**

KIWANIGRAM EDITOR

**REN LUEBBERING**

KEY CLUB GOVERNOR

**ARUSHA SURVI**



## **ON THE COVER**

On Oct. 9, the Ozark Empire Club donated 280 pairs of shoes to Watkins Elementary in Springfield, Mo.

## KIWANIGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

### **SUSAN LAFOND**

E-Centennial Club

### **MARETTA DIESTELKAMP**

Mo-Ark Kiwanis Lt. Gov. District 10

### **BONNIE PAULSMEYER**

Maplewood Kiwanis

### **MONICA HUDDLESTON**

Kiwanis Club of Normandy



**Kiwanis**  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

[K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG](http://K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG)

## FROM THE GOVERNOR

### Hello Fellow Kiwanians,

It's been an amazing journey so far representing the "Mighty MOARK" as your Governor. Along the way, I've found so much inspiration in visiting clubs, meeting our incredible members, and seeing the passion you bring to serving your communities and supporting our youth. I can't say enough about how awesome our membership is and how much your accomplishments deserve recognition.

In my travels, I've had some wonderful experiences I'd love to share. For example, I had the privilege of installing the Kiwanis Club of Siloam Springs, where their service, fundraising, and scholarship programs make such a meaningful impact. A group of us also visited the Plaza Area – Kansas City Kiwanis Club, which has a strong start as a Kiwanis club.

Another memorable trip was to the Kiwanis Club of Farmington. They're deeply involved in Key Club and are passionate about community service. I also visited Springdale, Arkansas, where I had the chance to spend time with the Springdale Club and celebrate the Kiwanis Club of Rogers' 100th anniversary.

The Region VI Annual Conference in Huntsville, themed "Empowerment through Leadership," was another highlight. Huge thanks to Trustee Jerry Martin and Lieutenant Governors Troy Massey and Sharon Horwort for their support in making this visit a success. It's exciting to think about the upcoming Regional Meetings and the momentum we're building.

A particularly special stop for me was the Kiwanis Club of Crestwood Sunset Hills, where I grew up. This club is thriving and actively growing—a true testament to the spirit of Kiwanis.

On another front, I had the chance to refine my skills in Club Opening with Kiwanis International. Together, we opened two new clubs in Kentucky and one in Indiana. What I've learned is that every club is unique, and building one isn't just about numbers—it's about understanding the community's needs and creating a purposeful, sustainable plan to serve them.

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Looking at the stats, we currently have 153 clubs and 3,362 members, with a net gain of +55. However, we know there's always work to be done, especially as we aim to keep growing and building strong, sustainable clubs.

As the year wraps up, I want to wish you and your families a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year. Thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve, and I look forward to connecting with even more of you in the future. If you're interested in getting involved or helping grow Kiwanis, don't hesitate to reach out.

### It's all about the kids.

WARM REGARDS,



**MO-ARK GOVERNOR**



I visited Springdale, Arkansas, where I had the chance to spend time with the Springdale Club and celebrate the Kiwanis Club of Rogers' 100th anniversary.



FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

# Snapshots of service

Photos shared in the Mo-Ark Facebook group. Share your own by joining the group.





## FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

# Mid-Year Events

### Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Mid-Year events are an innovative new way to connect and learn together to better serve our communities, close to home.

#### Region IV

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025

Maryland Heights' Sybergs

Includes lunch

#### Region III

April 5, 2025

Location and time to be announced



Gov. Fritz visited Springdale, Arkansas, where he had the chance to spend time with the Springdale Club and celebrate the Kiwanis Club of Rogers' 100th anniversary.

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# Earl Collins Scholarship Information

Thanks to the Earl Collins Foundation, \$1,500 scholarships are available for high school seniors.

**Scholarship applications must be received by Kiwanis Clubs by Jan. 31.**

[Download the 2025 Earl Collins Scholarship application.](#)



**Kiwanis**  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT



# Kiwaniis Clubs in Action

NEW MEMBERS	06
Batesville Club, Batesville, Ar.	
SANTA AND SERVICE	07
Kiwaniis Club of Downtown Springfield Springfield, Mo.	
AN IMPACT AWARD	08
E-Centennial Kiwanis	
SHOES FOR KIDS	09
Ozark Empire Club Springfield, Mo.	
OFFICER OF THE QUARTER	10
Kiwaniis Club of South County St. Louis, Mo.	
INSTALLATION & RECOGNITION	11
Maplewood Kiwanis Maplewood, Mo.	
SCHOOL CELEBRATION	12
Kiwaniis Club of Normandy 24:1 Normandy, Mo.	



## CHRISTMAS CHEER

Kiwaniis Club of Downtown Springfield has been making spirits bright for disabled children for 60 years.





**BATESVILLE CLUB**  
**NEW MEMBERS ANNOUNCED**  
**IN NORTHERN ARKANSAS**



SLOANE LOTT SPONSORED RANDALL BOX (SLOANE IS TO RANDALL'S RIGHT). BRENDA DOTY SPONSORED BEVERLY BRITT (BRENDA IS TO THE RIGHT OF BEVERLY).

**BY KIWANIGRAM SUBMITTOR**

On Dec. 6, two new members joined the thriving Batesville Kiwanis club. This club's membership continues to grow!

We are excited to have them join our service club.



Anita Lewis, Family Violence Prevention Shelter Manager, spoke to the Batesville Club on Nov. 22. In her presentation, she informed the Batesville members. In her presentation, she shared about the Safe Haven Shelter for Women and Children.





## KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

SANTA AND SERVICE:  
60 YEARS OF A CHRISTMAS CHEER



MEMBERS OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD AND FRIENDS OF DELAWARE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON DEC. 10.

### BY KIWANIGRAM SUBMITTOR

For 60 years, the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Springfield has been spreading holiday cheer to the special needs students in Springfield at Delaware Elementary School.

This year was no exception because the joy on their faces fills us with a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Merry Christmas, Delaware Elementary!



Delaware Elementary is home to elementary students with the greatest physical and disabilities at Springfield Public Schools.



## **E-CENTINNEAL CLUB**

### **AN IMPACT AWARD FOR AN INCREDIBLE EDUCATOR**



ON DECEMBER 13, THE CLUB RECOGNIZED CASTLIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S VICE PRINCIPAL KATIE FAZIO FOR THE IMPACT SHE HAS MADE THROUGH KIWANIS AND KKIDS SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

#### **BY SUSAN LAFOND**

The Mo-Ark eCentennial Kiwanis Club gives out quarterly Impact Awards to individuals and/or organizations that provide programs and services to make an impact in our communities by Improving, Motivating, Partnering, Advocating, Community, and Togetherness.

On Dec. 13, the club recognized Castlio Elementary School's Vice Principal Katie Fazio for the impact she has made through Kiwanis and KKids Service Leadership Program.



Katie worked with the Cottleville Weldon Spring Kiwanis to develop a KKids program that is currently in its second year with 50 members. By choosing the right advisor in Nicole Ashraf, the KKids program is going strong.





## OZARK EMPIRE CLUB

DONATES HUNDREDS OF SHOES TO LOCAL CHILDRE IN NEED AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MORE THAN A DOZEN OZARK EMPIRE KIWANIS CLUB MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO HELP DISTRIBUTE SHOES FOR STUDENTS IN A NORTH SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

### BY REN LUEBBERING, ECENTENNIAL CLUB

Since 1950, Kiwanis Club of Ozark Empire Fair has donated more than 26,000 pairs of shoes to Springfield Public Schools students in Springfield, Mo. The Kiwanis continued their tradition of generosity by donating a new pair of shoes for every student at Watkins Elementary Oct. 9.

"The gift of new shoes to all students brought us together as a community and gave students a sense of pride and confidence," said Joanna Brockwell, Watkins principal. "Who doesn't like new shoes?"





## KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTH COUNTY

HONORING OUR HEROES:  
OFFICER OF THE QUARTER



FROM LEFT: PRESIDENT LINDA HOPPE, OFFICER VITALE, AND LT. MCGUIRE DURING A DEC. 11 MEETING.

### BY KAREN TORETTA

Lt. McGuire introduced Officer Vitale, our Officer of the Quarter. The lieutenant described Officer Vitale as a very hard-working member of the team. He is the sole precinct detective, and his duties include a lot of follow-up work with victims and the community, as well as with the cases brought in by his fellow officers. This might include additional interviews with victims and suspects as well as securing search warrants. Lt. McGuire said because if this work, Officer Vitale is well-versed in the crime trends in the area.



When Officer Vitale came to the podium, he began by saying that officers don't look for awards and recognition, but certainly appreciate it.





## MAPLEWOOD KIWANIS INSTALLATION & RECOGNITION AT MAPLEWOOD



2024-25 OFFICERS AND BOARD: SCOTT MACDONALD, ED RICH, BARRY GREENBERG, KAREN WOOD, BONNIE PAULSMEYER, JEFF JOHNSON.

### BY BONNIE PAULSMEYER

The Maplewood Kiwanis Installation was held on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024. Many members were presented with special awards. Jeff Johnson received the 55 Year Legion of Honor award. Barry Greenberg was recognized with the 20 Year Longevity award. Barry Greenberg received the Dr. Wil Blechman Fellowship. Past Lt. Governor of Division 9 Teri Jacob received a George F. Hixson Fellowship. Ed Rich received a Distinguished Service Award. . Karen Wood presented Scott MacDonald with a Past President's plaque.



Jeff Johnson received the 55Year Legion of Honor award. [View more photos from the special awards ceremony.](#)





# KIWANIS CLUB OF NORMANDY 24:1

## A SCHOOL CELEBRATION FOR PRE-K AND KINDERGARTNERS.



A BACK-TO-SCHOOL KIWANIS CELEBRATION FROM KIWANIS CLUB OF NORMANDY 24:1.

### BY MONICA HUDDLESTON

Back to school we go! Kiwanis Club of Normandy 24:1 welcomed the Normandy Early Learning Center's pre-K and Kindergarten little ones on their first day of school.

This is an annual service project of love for our children.



This is a long-time, annual celebration of children in this Club. This photo was taken in 2021.



# In Memoriam

## **DIVISION 15**

Gene Farnsworth  
Earl Stockdale

## **DIVISION 5**

Linda Askren

## **DIVISION 17**

Harold Willmuth

## **DIVISION 13**

William Davidson

## **DIVISION 22**

Colonel LR Hughes

## **DIVISION 19**

Tommy Free

## **DIVISION 20**

Roy Lloyd

## **DIVISION 9**

Geraldine Abeln  
Vince Weber

## **DIVISION 21**

Bill Johnson  
Fred Hartley

## **DIVISION 3**

Fred Hartley

## **DIVISION 4**

Claire Kirk



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>  
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## **KIWANIGRAM SUBMISSIONS**

Information to be considered for the Kiwanigram should be submitted by email to [kiwanismoark@outlook.com](mailto:kiwanismoark@outlook.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. Your submission may be featured in the Kiwanigram, District website and/or MO-ARK Kiwanis Facebook group.

**KIDS NEED  
PEOPLE TO LOOK  
OUT FOR THEM.**



**Kiwanis**