



Kiwaniis
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

SERVICE AFTER STORMS
GOV. FRITZ

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT
THE KEY CLUB DLC



Kiwanigram

Missouri-Arkansas District

MARCH 2025

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

Key Club DLC was in Springfield, Missouri this March, with more than 100 Key Club members participating in the districtwide leadership conference.

KIWANIGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

DAVID NIEBUR

Kiwanis Club of Joplin

LISA MARIN

Crestwood-Sunset Hills Kiwanis Club

LINDA SCHNEIDER

Union Kiwanis Club

LEIGH KOTTWITZ

Columbia Kiwanis Club

RON GRENNAN

West Plains Kiwanis Club

CARLA OBRIEN

Kiwanis Club of Central Bates County



Kiwanis

MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

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FROM THE GOVERNOR

Hello Mighty Missouri Arkansas Kiwanis,

Spring is finally here—a season of fresh starts and new beginnings! It's a time of renewal, growth, and hope. Just like nature comes back to life, we too can use this season to reflect, set new goals, and embrace change. I encouraged MOARK Kiwanis to take this time to step forward with fresh ideas, transformation, and endless possibilities for growth.

March kicked off with an incredible Region 3 meeting in Hannibal, Missouri. What an amazing group of Kiwanians and Key Clubbers! A huge shoutout to Leigh Kottwitz (Region 2 Trustee), Gordon Ipson (LTG Division 1), and Kevin Brown (LTG Division 5) for putting together such a fantastic program. The event was well attended, and I had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful members. There's so much great work happening in this region, and it was truly inspiring to see!

Another highlight was attending the MOARK Key Club District Leadership Conference (DLC) 2025. Key Club holds a special place in my heart. Every time I spend time with our youth, I leave feeling inspired and motivated. They teach me so much, and I truly believe I'm a better person because of my involvement with Key Club. Huge thanks to Cheryl Anderson and her dedicated team for continuously pushing Key Club toward excellence. Just when I think it can't get any better, I'm amazed at how our young leaders continue to grow. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside them and learn together.

At our Key Club Convention, we launched the "Tell Your Story" campaign—a simple but powerful way for Kiwanis Family members to share their experiences. Whether you're a Kiwanian, a Key Clubber, part of K-Kids, Builders Club, CKI, or Aktion Club—or even someone we've served—your story matters! Just record a short (60 seconds or less) video answering, "What's your Kiwanis story?" This is a fantastic way to highlight the impact we're making and showcase how far our service reaches. Unfortunately, not all news this month has been bright. Severe weather recently hit parts of our community hard, especially West Plains, which was struck by a devastating tornado.

I want to share a heartfelt message from Ron Grennen, Vice President of West Plains Kiwanis: *"I wanted to take a moment to update you on the impact of the recent tornado and the ways our community has come together in response. Thankfully, our club members only suffered minor damage, but many have been without power for days. The tornado caused its worst destruction in Bakersfield, Missouri, where we tragically lost lives. Storm chaser Reed Timmer, who was broadcasting live, later classified it as an EF4 tornado—one of the most intense he's ever witnessed. Our Kiwanis Club immediately sprang into action. Our Kiwanis Club immediately sprang into action. At 7 a.m. this morning, we delivered breakfast pizzas—courtesy of one of our members' businesses, The Pizza Shack—to our local first responders as a small token of appreciation.*

We also coordinated with the Electric Cooperative to provide a pancake breakfast for the 200+ linemen working tirelessly to restore power after two substations took direct hits. Their hard work has been incredible, and we're grateful for the opportunity to give back in this way. Thank you all for your continued support and concern for our community."

Let's keep the people of West Plains in our thoughts and prayers. I also checked in with Arnold, Missouri, and they seem to be doing well. However, Poplar Bluff has suffered significant damage, with many homes lost. We're waiting on a needs assessment to determine how we can assist. If anyone else has been affected by the storms, please let us know how we can help.

I'm incredibly grateful for each and every one of you. Your dedication and service are what make MOARK thrive. Let's keep pushing forward together.

DON'T STOP BELIEVING,



MO-ARK GOVERNOR



I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of DLC this month in Springfield. Here, I'm pictured with Ron Hill and International Trustee Mo Al-Sabeh.

FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

Snapshots of service

Photos shared in the Mo-Ark Facebook group. [Share your own by joining the group.](#)



Kiwaniis
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

Mo-Ark Events

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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

Region III Meeting

April 5, 2025

Springfield, Mo.

Region IX Meeting

April 12, 2025

Conway, Ar.

Congratulations to Kiwanis Club of Springfield South, celebrating 70 years on May 10!



SAVE THE DATE: DCON

Mo-Ark District Conference

Aug. 8-10, 2025

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Details to come

For sponsorship information or program requests, email moarkiwanis@outlook.com.



Honoring a spirit of service

Bob Vienhage passed away February 15, 2025 at the age of 94. He was a proud member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Springfield Missouri for 59 years and had perfect attendance for 50 of those.

He was one of the founders of our annual Christmas Party for children with disabilities at Delaware Elementary School over 50 years ago, which he played Santa. He loved Kiwanis and loved children. He supported our club in many ways. He will definitely be missed.

What is Interclubbing?



INTERCLUBBING "ROUND ROBIN" STYLE. THE CAMDENTON, OZARK COAST AND THE SEDALIA MET FOR A COMBINED MEETING ON MARCH 25, 2025. WITH ALL OF THE DIVISION 11 CLUBS PRESENT THIS QUALIFIED THEM FOR THE ROUND ROBIN ON THE INTERCLUB SCORE.

BY LES MACE

Interclubbing is an exciting activity for Kiwanis clubs to be involved outside of its own club.

Benefits:

- New Friendships
- Club challenges
- Program ideas

How many clubs here have an Interclub so far this year? Past Governor Roy Ockert and current Governor Paul have started a "Travelling Trophy" awards program.

The winner of the 2022-2023 Inter Club Travelling Trophy, was the Gravois, St. Louis County Kiwanis Club, with a total of 1285 points.

Which club will receive the Trophy for the 2023-2024 year?

It is time to get the results of your club's Interclubbing to the secretary so they can get the information to Angie and she will forward it to Les Mace for grading. The form is available on the district website. Thank you for participating, Les Mace Interclubbing Chair. The 2023-2024 Winning club will be presented the Travelling Trophy during the District Convention in Jonesboro next August.

Kiwanis Clubs in Action

SERVICE AFTER THE STORM 07

West Plains Kiwanis Club
West Plains, Mo.

LEGION OF HONOR AWARDS 08

Kiwanis Club of Joplin
Joplin, Mo.

BUILDING BIRDHOUSES 09

Union Kiwanis Club
Union, Mo.

K-KIDS CLOTHING SWAP 10-11

Union Kiwanis Club
Union, Mo.

HOSPITALITY AT THE HOUSE 12

Crestwood-Sunset Hills Kiwanis
St. Louis, Mo.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST 13

Columbia area Kiwanis Clubs
Columbia, Mo.

CHARTER CELEBRATION 14

Kiwanis Club of Central Bates County
Butler, Mo.



A K-KIDS CLOTHING SWAP

The Union Kiwanis Club sponsors the Beaufort Elementary K-Kids.



WEST PLAINS KIWANIS CLUB

HELPING THE HELPERS AFTER A DEVASTATING TORNADO.



WITHIN HOURS OF A TORNADO, THE WEST PLAINS KIWANIS CLUB RESPONDED AND SERVED THEIR COMMUNITY.

BY RON GRENNAN

The West Plains Kiwanis did 2 events the week of March 17. First, we purchased breakfast pizzas for the West Plains Police Dept, West Plains Fire Dept, Howell County Sheriff's Dept, South Howell County Ambulance District EMTs, and Howell Co 911 Dispatch.

We also started a pancake breakfast at 4 a.m. on Friday to help the local Electric Cooperative in feeding the 200 linemen that came into the area to assist with rebuilding the grid in the affected area.



Sometimes, a meal makes all the difference. Thank you to the first-responders in MoArk who have helped impacted communities recover.



KIWANIS CLUB OF JOPLIN

CELEBRATING SERVICE MILESTONES IN JOPLIN.



CELEBRATING SIX OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE KIWANIS CLUB IN JOPLIN.

BY DAVID NIEBUR

Legion of Honor awards were presented to six club members. Members recognized for 25 or more years of service to the Kiwanis Club of Joplin, Certificates were presented by District 12 Lt. Gov. David Niebur to John Good, Don Ward and Chuck Brown. Others earning the honor were Bruce Anderson, Cookie Estrada and Jeff Johnson.



UNION KIWANIS CLUB

UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDERS CLUB
BUILDS BIRDHOUSES WITH KIWANIS.



UMS BUILDERS CLUB MEMBERS AND ADULTS (IN BACK ROW) FROM LEFT TO RIGHT FRANK FREISE, BRUCE TEMPLER, AND BILL WALKER (FAR RIGHT).

BY LINDA SCHNEIDER

Union Kiwanis Club member Bruce Templer and his crew worked with Union Middle School (UMS) Builders Club members to help them assemble birdhouses from kits put together by Bruce. This is a fun annual project that Bruce and his friends enjoy doing with the Builders Club.



UNION KIWANIS CLUB

K-KIDS CLOTHING SWAP: BEAUFORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



PICTURED ARE BEAUFORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOYS “SHOPPING” FOR CLOTHES, K-KIDS MEMBERS GETTING CLOTHES BAGGED AND K-KIDS CARRYING BAGS TO LOAD THE TRUCK.

BY LINDA SCHNEIDER

The Beaufort Elementary School K-Kids sponsored a community clothing swap in March. Families of students in the school and community members, including Union Kiwanians, donated clothes. K-Kids sorted the clothes by sizes and organized them on tables for display. School classes were first to “shop” and later community members had the opportunity to select clothes. K-Kids bagged the remaining clothing and carried the bags to a truck to load.



The K-Kids bagged the remaining clothing and carried the bags to a truck to load, donating them to a Back to School event. The Union Kiwanis Club sponsors the Beaufort Elementary K-Kids.



UNION KIWANIS CLUB

CELEBRATING TERRIFIC KIDS: RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



UNION KIWANIS CLUB MEMBERS PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: LYNNE ELLIOTT AND KERRI CUMMINS

BY LINDA SCHNEIDER

The students at Central Elementary School in Union were treated to popsicles recently. It was not only a fun Pajama Day, but Union Kiwanis Club members also brought them Popsicles as part of the Kiwanis Terrific Kids student recognition program. Kiwanis members who distributed popsicles are: Bruce Templer, Kerri Cummins, Lynne Elliott, and Gina Peters.



"Terrific" is an acronym for the character traits Kiwanis recognizes and encourages in students: Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, and Capable.



CRESTWOOD-SUNSET HILLS CLUB

**A SPIRIT OF HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE
IN ST. LOUIS.**



SERVING UP SERVICE IN ST. LOUIS AND BEYOND.

BY LISA MARIN

The Crestwood-Sunset Hills Kiwanis Club participates in some of our projects on a regular basis--like planning and preparing and serving meals at the Ronald McDonald House for the families of hospitalized children who come from out of town for treatment. Members participate in this great cause every month! Shown below in photos from recent months are members of our club: Diane Slattery (project chairperson) and Teri Jacob (both pictures), along with Bernie and Sammye LaRose, and Nancy Benson with club president Julie Bostick.



The Crestwood-Sunset Hills Kiwanis Club has supported the Ronald McDonald House for many years.



COLUMBIA, COLUMBIA-BOONSLICK AND WESTSIDE THREE COLUMBIA KIWANIS CLUBS COME TOGETHER FOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST



PANCAKE DAY IS A VITAL FUNDRAISER FOR ALL THREE CLUBS. IT ALSO SERVES AS A PLATFORM TO BUILD CAMARADERIE AMONG KIWANIS MEMBERS AND GOOD WILL IN THE COMMUNITY.

BY LEIGH KOTTWITZ

The three Kiwanis Clubs in Columbia, Missouri: Columbia, Columbia-Boonslick and Westside, worked together on the 73rd Kiwanis Pancake Day on Saturday, March 22. The event was held in Dulany Hall on the Columbia College campus.

K-Kids from three local elementary schools helped work in the dining room. The event was promoted on local radio during the week leading up to the event and featured local celebrity servers from those sponsoring stations.



One highlight were lots of young volunteers from the Ridgeway Elementary K-Kids which was created this school year.



KIWANIS CLUB OF CENTRAL BATES COUNTY

A CHARTER CELEBRATION OF A NEW
KIWANIS CLUB IN BUTLER.



CELEBRATING A NEW CHAPTER FOR KIWANIS IN BUTLER, MISSOURI WITH A CHARTER NIGHT.

BY CARLA OBRIEN

A BIG Kiwanis official welcome to Kiwanis Club of Central Bates County celebrating their Charter Night March 1, officiated by Trustee Jef Maxwell and past Lt Gov Cheryl Anderson



Charter awarded by Cheryl Anderson (L) and Jeff Maxwell (R).

In Memoriam

DIVISION 16

Billy Sweet
Forrest City

DIVISION 17

Steve Lewis
Cave City

DIVISION 5

Leroy Sharp
Columbia

DIVISION 1

Charley Cooper
Kirksville
Larry Wright
Hannibal

DIVISION 19

Charles Merchant
Huntsville

DIVISION 3

Evelyn Leiby
Smithville



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KIWANIGRAM SUBMISSIONS

Information to be considered for the Kiwanigram should be submitted by email to 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. Your submission may be featured in the Kiwanigram, District website and/or MO-ARK Kiwanis Facebook group.

TELL



STORY

MO-ARK
2024-2025



"Empower Youth,
Inspire Dreams"



HERE ARE THE DETAILS

- Record a 60-second or less video that answers the question: "What is your Kiwanis story?"
- Videos can feature individuals, clubs, and new friends
- Send a link of the video to renbishop@gmail.com as a .mp4 or .mov
- Anyone who submits a video agrees to be published on Mo-Ark's social media/website