



Kiwaniis
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
A NOTE FROM GOV. HILL
CELEBRATING MILESTONES
BIG ANNIVERSARIES,
BIG PARTIES AT MO-ARK



Kiwanigram

Missouri-Arkansas District

DECEMBER 2025

MO-ARK

Kiwanigram

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GOVERNOR-ELECT

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Springdale Kiwanis Club

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Kiwanis of Hot Springs Village

CHERYL ANDERSON

Lee's Summit Kiwanis Club

NANCY HOFF

Boonville Kiwanis Club

NANCY JONES

Gravette Kiwanis Club

KATHY SMITH

Kiwanis Club of Meramec Valley Community

LANA HENRY

Newton County Kiwanis Club

DAVID NIEBUR

Joplin Kiwanis Club

BONNIE PAULSMEYER

Maplewood Kiwanis Club

MARTHA RADGINSKI

O'Fallon Kiwanis Club

DIANE BAKER

Batesville Kiwanis Club

SUSAN LAFOND

eCentinneal Kiwanis Club



ON THE COVER

Springdale High School Key Club is 80 members strong. Learn more about how other Mo-Ark Key Club members are leading in their communities in this special edition of the Kiwanigram.



Kiwanis

MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG

Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

As the holiday season surrounds us with lights, traditions, and time with loved ones, it also offers a meaningful moment to pause and reflect on the impact of service. Across the Missouri-Arkansas District, Kiwanis members have once again demonstrated what it truly means to live out our mission—serving the children in our community with compassion, dedication and heart.

This time of year reminds us that service is not seasonal; it is a constant thread that runs through everything we do. Whether you have supported a local food drive, mentored a young leader, raised funds for scholarships or quietly helped a neighbor, your actions have made a difference. Together, our collective efforts have strengthened communities, lifted families, and provided hope where it was needed most.

The holidays can be a busy and sometimes challenging time, but Kiwanis clubs continue to show up with generosity and resolve. Your willingness to give your time, talents, ring a bell, donate a toy or share a meal reflects the very best of our organization. You remind the world that service is a gift, one that grows more powerful when shared.

As we look ahead to the coming year, may we carry forward this spirit of service with renewed energy and optimism. There is much work still to be done, and I am confident that, together, we will continue to lead with purpose and kindness.

On behalf of the Missouri-Arkansas Kiwanis District, thank you for your commitment, your leadership and your unwavering belief in the power of service. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with hope, health, and continued service.

Merry Christmas!

HUMBLY,



MO-ARK GOVERNOR



I had the honor of serving at a
Maplewood Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.

FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

Snapshots of Service

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



Kiwanis
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

District Calendar

For more information, contact
Kiwanismoark@outlook.com.

JANUARY 24

Region 2 Meeting

Trustee: Leigh Kottwitz

FEBRUARY 7

Region 4 Meeting

Trustee: Carla O'Brien

MARCH 12-14

Key Club DLC in Springfield, MO

MARCH 13-15

Circle K DCON in Springfield, MO



2026 EARL COLLINS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Instructions and the application are now available to encourage students to apply for Earl Collins Scholarships. [Learn more.](#)

Give Your Club a Boost in 2026

In 2026, host a Club Boosting event to promote membership and celebrate your club. [This KI checklist tells you how.](#)



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KEY CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS ARE THRIVING

Meramec Valley Key Club hosted a blood drive this fall.

100 years of service by a Kiwanian



The St. Charles Kiwanis Club proudly recognizes one of its most dedicated members, Thomas "Tom" Stephenson, as he marks his remarkable 100th birthday on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Stephenson's milestone birthday honors a lifetime of exceptional service, leadership, and community activism in the St. Charles region.

Mr. Stephenson joined the St. Charles Kiwanis Club in 1991 and has been an unwavering force in service ever since. His deep commitment to the Kiwanis mission, which focuses on improving the world one child and one community at a time, has been evident through his many leadership roles:

- **Kiwanis Leadership:** He served as Club President and went on to hold the prestigious office of Lieutenant Governor in 2001.
- **Current Service:** He continues to lend his wisdom and experience by currently serving on the Club's Board of Directors.

- **Recent Honors:** In recognition of his decades of dedication, he was recently named the 2025 Kiwanian of the Year.

In addition to his profound impact on Kiwanis, Tom Stephenson's legacy is recognized throughout the community, including his recent induction into the St. Charles High School Hall of Fame. He exemplifies a commitment to civic duty, mentorship, and making a lasting difference in the lives of St. Charles County residents.

"Tom Stephenson is more than just a member; he is the spirit and heart of our club," said Wendy Rackovan, Club President. "Reaching 100 years is an extraordinary personal achievement, but doing so while maintaining this level of commitment and service to others is truly inspiring. We are honored to celebrate this incredible milestone with him."

National Feature: Key Club in Liberty



LIBERTY, MISSOURI'S KEY CLUB WAS RECENTLY FEATURED ON THE KI WEBSITE, [KIWANIS.ORG](https://www.kiwanis.org).

BY TONY KNODERER, KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

There are many good reasons for a Kiwanis club to sponsor a Key Club. Here's one of the best: Many members of Kiwanis International's Service Leadership Program for teens eventually become Kiwanis club members after they graduate.

And then there are members like Kimi Mason (pictured, third from right), a recent Key Club alumna who is 2025-26 president of the Kiwanis Club of Liberty, Missouri, U.S.

Mason's membership – and her Kiwanis club leadership – are not a matter of luck or random chance. The Liberty club works closely with the three area Key Clubs that it sponsors, as well as the faculty members who also serve as Key Club advisors. So it makes sense when those Key Clubbers remain interested in service and leadership after high school.

"My faculty advisor from high school, Wendy Sohm, invited me to a meeting," Mason says. "She just said, 'Hey, if you're still interested in continuing your journey, check us out.' And so I did.

"I still wanted to be involved, so I committed – and here I am."

**[READ THE FULL STORY
ON KIWANIS.ORG](https://www.kiwanis.org)**



KIWANIS CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

RINGING THE BELL AND SERVING THE
COMMUNITY, ONE ELF AT A TIME.



BY HANK JARVIS

It has been a long tradition of Kiwanis club members ringing the bell for Salvation Army at Christmas time. This support for the community started at Kiwanis with the efforts of the late Bill Adams. Bill was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Hot Springs Village and on the Board of the Salvation Army. Everyone that knew Bill, knew if he saw someone in need, he was there to help. For a few years, when Bill couldn't run the program, it was taken over by Blair Oram. Now the Kiwanis Ringers are organized to volunteer every Thursday by the club secretary, Kathleen Kinney.

This year Kiwanis members that participated: Bill Herzog, Bill Foster, Rick Martinek, Hank Jarvis, Walter Free, Ken Poole, Jerry Jensen, Ed Fillpot, Bill Jackson, Jeanette Keim, Larry Keim, Allen Williams, Dottie Williams, Alex Romero, Bob Bartnett, Dave Olson, David Knoernschild, Russ Daniel, Ted Hart and Iris Hart.

You too can become part of a service organization to help the children and the community.



THE NEWTON COUNTY KIWANIS CLUB

SERVING MEALS AND DELIVERING HOPE IN NEWTON COUNTY



JOINING TO HELP AND ACCOMPLISH INTERCLUB MEETINGS, SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE JOPLIN AND CARTHAGE KIWANIS CLUBS ASSISTED IN THE SERVING OF A MEAL TO OVER ONE HUNDRED PERSONS.

BY LANA HENRY

As a new club just getting started, we were thrilled to be able to serve at Hope Kitchen in Neosho, MO on Tuesday evening, Nov. 4.

Neosho (population around 15,000) has a 16% poverty rate. Families with food insecurity are welcomed at Hope Kitchen for a hot meal, served restaurant style. Hope Kitchen serves 3 nights per week, with families treated with dignity as volunteers welcome them, get them seated, take their meal/drink orders, and serve their meals - just as one would expect in a cafe. Everything is free for the families.

All the work (meal prep, serving, clean up) is carried out by volunteers. Hope Kitchen, founded 10 years ago by Canopy Church, is a True Charity model for our community. Our appreciation to Hope Kitchen Director Elizabeth Plappert for being there to help guide our team.

Camaraderie. a wonderful time interacting with the guests, and some of our children helped -- learning servant leadership with hands-on experience. We love investing in our youth! Thanks to board member Laura Burch for helping to lead the event. We served 120 meals: hot hamburgers & cheeseburgers, potato salad, a variety of chips, sides, cookies, hot & cold drinks, and friendly smiles.



MAPLEWOOD KIWANIS CLUB

A HOMERUN SERVICE EVENT WITH A NUMBER OF KIWANIS CLUBS.



TWO CELEBRATIONS AT MAPLEWOOD KIWANIS CLUB.

BY BONNIE PAULSMEYER

Key Club Week was November 3-7, 2025. Maplewood Kiwanis recognized the MRH Key Club by presenting the 36-member club with a \$100 check to be used for a service project of their choice.

The MRH Key Club is a very active club and does many service projects throughout the year for the school and the community. Their sponsor, Mrs. Kristen Belcher, is very enthusiastic and that enthusiasm extends down to the students. Maplewood Kiwanis thanks Mrs. Belcher and the Key Club for all they do!

Thanks to Mr. Ed Rich, Maplewood Kiwanis President-Elect, for presenting the check on behalf of Maplewood Kiwanis.

The Maplewood Kiwanis Club held its annual pancake & sausage breakfast on Nov. 8. Gov. Ron Hill was the honored guest who served sausages all morning alongside Maplewood secretary, Bonnie Paulsmeyer, who served the pancakes. Governor Hill was in the St. Louis area in order to open three new clubs. We thought he was coming to only eat pancakes. But instead, he came to make a difference in our community by helping Maplewood Kiwanis raise money for the MRH Key Club, basketball team, and the Seed to Table programs in all three of the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District's schools. \$2,500 was donated to these programs. Thank you, Governor Ron!



KIWANIS CLUB OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

TERRIFIC KIDS PROGRAM INSPIRES LEADERSHIP AND ACTION IN ARKANSAS.



MOUNTAIN PINE COUNSELOR MS. BLEES, KIWANIAN BILL HERZOG AND KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE TERRIFIC KIDS.

BY HANK JARVIS

Have you seen the bumper stickers? What is Terrific Kids? The Kiwanis Club of Hot Springs Village is active with a Terrific Kids programs at the elementary schools in Fountain Lake, Jessieville and Mountain Pine. As part of the Youth Services Committee, the Terrific Kids program is under the direction of Bill Herzog. Terrific Kids is a student-recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance.

“TERRIFIC” is an acronym for Thought, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive and Capable.

At Mountain Pine, the students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade and 4th through 6th grade are presented with their Terrific Kid awards as a group. At Fountain Lake and Jessieville, students receive their Terrific Kid recognition in individual classrooms.

Look for those bumper stickers proudly displayed on the parent’s cars!



LEE'S SUMMIT KIWANIS CLUB

A CELEBRATION OF VETERANS
IN LEE'S SUMMIT.



BY CHERYL ANDERSON

The Kiwanis Club of Lees Summit participated in the Lees Summit Veterans Parade on Nov. 8, 2025. The club has done this annual event for over ten years. Participating this year was William and Barb Dooley, Gaylon Lewis, President Ron Barker, President Elect Brittan Rhodes, and Secretary/Treasurer Cheryl Anderson.

We were also joined by previous member Tim Hite and his wife Terri.

We are always honored to be invited by our local VFW to participate.



KIWANIS CLUB OF O'FALLON

A NEW MARKER OF KIWANIS JUST OUTSIDE OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.



BY MARTHA RADGINSKI

The O'Fallon Kiwanis Club participated in the City of O'Fallon's Make A Difference Day on November 1st. Volunteers in the community helped clean up flower beds and areas in the parks. Our club monthly picks up trash during the year on an adopted street in O'Fallon so we picked up trash that day for our part in helping make the community better.

Kiwanis members pictured: David Runde, Martha Radginski, Ed Radginski.





KIWANIS CLUB OF MERAMEC VALLEY

CELEBRATIONS OF FUTURE LEADERS FROM KEY CLUBS IN WEST COUNTY.



PICTURED FROM LEFT ARE: BETHANY LIAO, CLUB PRESIDENT; VARSHINI KARTHIKKANNAN, VICE-PRESIDENT; GLORIA PRAJAPATHI, PUBLIC RELATIONS; AND ELIZA LOVELESS, SECRETARY. THIS YEAR, THE KEY CLUB IS CELEBRATING ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY. THE CLUB HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE STUDENTS TO NEARLY 100 MEMBERS.

BY KATHY SMITH

Recently, Parkway West High School Key Club members sponsored a Blood Drive, held in the school's gymnasium. ImpactLife, a non-profit, independent community blood center, serving Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin, provided the blood donor services. Key Club members volunteered by assisting donors with registrations and distributing refreshments.

Key Club leaders were pleased with the turnout. They exceeded this year's goal, with more than 38 donations.



KEY CLUB MEMBERS ANNABELLA WHITELEY (LEFT) AND CHARLOTTE PUTNAM (RIGHT) AND THE KEY CLUB'S FACULTY ADVISOR ANDRIA BENMUVHAR (CENTER).



UNION KIWANIS CLUB

A HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES
IN UNION, MO.



UNION KIWANIS CLUB MEMBERS IN COSTUME FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: DEE HAUCK (JUDGE), DEBBIE PULS (COORDINATOR OF THE KEY CLUB AND BUILDERS CLUB STUDENTS), AARON GROFF (JUDGE) AND LINDA SCHNEIDER (PHOTOGRAPHER). NOT PICTURED: UNION KIWANIS CLUB MEMBER DENNIS NEVILLS (JUDGE)

BY LINDA SCHNEIDER

The Union Kiwanis Club sponsored a Boo Bash Costume Contest at Union City Park on October 24. Children were divided into four separate age categories from newborn to age 10 plus a Family/Group category. Members of the Union High School Key Club and the Union Middle School Builders Club assisted.





BOONVILLE KIWANIS CLUB

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MID-MISSOURI FAMILIES.



BY NANCY HOFF

The Boonville Missouri Kiwanis Club celebrated their 100th Anniversary. We had a fabulous time celebrating 100 years of service to the Boonville area.

Our eldest and longest serving member, Dick Blanck, was able to join us, making the evening extra special. Also joining us was Jeff Maxwell and his wife, Representative Tim Taylor, members of our chartering club, Columbia Kiwanis Club, Leigh Kottwitz, Region II Trustee, Faculty members of State Fair Community College and the Boonville Key Club.





KIWANIS CLUB OF HARRISON

CELEBRATING SEVEN DECADES OF SERVICE TO
NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS.



BY TROY MASSEY

We had the honor of five governors at this event: Past Governor Jim Milum, Past Governor J. Troy Massey, Past Governor Paul Sherman, Governor Elect Designate Jeff Maxwell and Governor Elect Ron Hill.

Massey was the MC and covered all the 70 years of service from 1955 to present and highlighting the Presidents with their year of service.

The Harrison Key Club was attendance with members and guests. The Mayor of Harrison, Jerry Jackson, and Boone County Judge, Robert Hathaway, issued a joint Proclamation declaring the community service performed through the years from their charter date of May 12, 1955.





UNION KIWANIS CLUB HOMECOMING PARADE FUN FOR A SPECIAL BUILDERS CLUB.



UMS BUILDERS CLUB MEMBERS HOLDING THE BUILDERS CLUB BANNER ARE NORA LUBY ON THE LEFT AND WYATT BUCKALEW ON THE RIGHT.

BY LINDA SCHNEIDER

Several members of the Union Middle School (UMS) Builders Club walked in the Union High School Homecoming Parade October 10 to show spirit for the Wildcats and to make people aware of the club. The Homecoming Parade had a "Wizard of Oz" theme that included this statement: "There's no place like Homecoming!" The Union Kiwanis Club sponsors the UMC Builders Club.

UMS Builders Club member Kayden Gordon is holding the poster saying "Show Your Courage - Be a Leader." The cowardly lion is shown after he got his courage.



KIWANIS CLUB OF JOPLIN

A NEW LEADER HAS BEEN NAMED KIWANIAN OF THE YEAR IN JOPLIN, MO.



SHOWN PRESENTING THE AWARD IS JOPLIN KIWANIS PRESIDENT HARVEY HUTCHINSON.

BY DAVID NIEBUR

The Kiwanis Club of Joplin has named David Niebur as the recipient of its Kiwanian of the Year award. Niebur, who also serves as Kiwanis Lt. Governor for the area, received the award for his implementation of several new fundraisers and services, and for his part in reestablishing a Kiwanis Club in Neosho; and for coaching the first ever Kiwanis club in Nevada, Missouri.

UMS Builders Club member Kayden Gordon is holding the poster saying "Show Your Courage - Be a Leader." The cowardly lion is shown after he got his courage.



BATESVILLE KIWANIS CLUB

**A SPECIAL AWARD BANQUET FOR LEADERS IN
BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS.**



MARTHA LEWALLEN, IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.; GARY BAKER, TREASURE; CLAYTON O'NEAL , PRES ; BRYAN NORRIS, PRES.-ELECT; JOHN HIGH, 2ND VP (NOT PICTURED : ALEX ROLFE, 1ST VP AND ANDY WALMSLEY, SEC.

BY DIANE BAKER

Batesville Kiwanis Club held its annual Installation of officers and board of directors and awards banquet , September 23. Out going president, Martha Lewallen celebrated her year by congratulating the club on all of its accomplishments for the year, from growing our club by 6 members, to having successful fund raisers and great service projects. Some of those include our annual pancake day, rib cooks, golf tournament, Kiwanis Christmas Parade , Kiwanis football , Every Child a Swimmer, and the Marie Priest Reading Program.

Martha thanked those who helped Ron Lewallen attend the many inner club meetings and the Key Club faculty advisors were presented with a plaque and thanked for all the work they do to keep those clubs going.

Martha awarded Diane Baker as Kiwanian of the year for all she does for the club and how much she helped her during this year. She awarded Les Mace awards to Clayton O'Neal for all the work he does on the golf tournament and the Family Night events and to Alex McClain for her for work with the Aktion Club. Martha awarded Lyndal Waits the Zimmerman Award for all of his support and involvement in the clubs service projects. The Citizen of the Year award was presented to Glen Edward for all of his contributions to the Batesville Community.



GRAVETTE KIWANIS CLUB

GRAVETTE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT A SPECIAL CELEBRATION.



PICTURED IN PHOTOS: PRESIDENT GAYLA MCKENZIE, TREASURER JAY OLIPHANT, OUTGOING SECRETARY COLTON MOORMAN AND SECRETARY NANCY JONES.

BY NANCY JONES

The Gravette Arkansas Kiwanis Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in September. Former Arkansas State Senator Kim Hendren was presented the Legion of Honor for serving in the Gravette Kiwanis Club for 50 years (he was a member of the Siloam Springs club before the Gravette club was organized). Dan and Brenda Yates were honored with Distinguished Service awards. Dan was a former MOARK District Governor. Bob Kelley was honored with a Distinguished Service Award. He has been our club sheriff for several years and is a wonderful story teller).





MO-ARK ECENTINNEAL CLUB

**CELEBRATING A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE
FROM THE VIRTUAL KIWANIS CLUB.**



BY SUSAN LAFOND

Buffy Dillon is presented with the Mo-Ark
eCentennial Kiwanis Clubs IMPACT award.
IMPACT stands for Improving, Motivating,
Partnering, Advocating, Community
Togetherness.



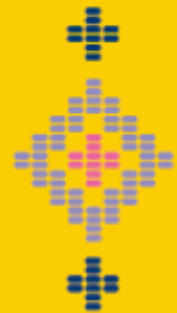
**CONGRATULATIONS ON
90 YEARS, ST. CHARLES
KIWANIS CLUB!**





Kiwanis

REGISTER NOW
for Manila



*June
24-27*

Kiwanis
CONVENTION 2026
MANILA



THE SIGNATURE PROJECT CONTEST IS ALMOST HERE!

BE A DISTINGUISHED KIWANIS CLUB

Get the recognition your Club deserves!
The deadline to submit an application to be a Distinguished Kiwanis Club has been extended. Learn what criteria are in place for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

2024-2025 DISTINGUISHED CLUB CRITERIA

2025-2026 DISTINGUISHED CLUB CRITERIA



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[HTTPS://K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG/](https://k14.site.kiwanis.org/)

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.

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



Kiwanis

**KIDS NEED
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Kiwanis