



Kiwaniis
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

DCON: SPECIAL EDITION
A LOOK UNDER THE SEA AT
A WEEKEND OF LEARNING



Kiwanigram

Missouri-Arkansas District

AUGUST 2026

MO-ARK

Kiwanigram

GOVERNOR

RONALD HILL

GOVERNOR-ELECT

JEFF MAXWELL

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

JIM FRITZ

DISTRICT SECRETARY

ANGIE OSHIA

DISTRICT TREASURER

ROBIN ASHER

KIWANIGRAM EDITOR

REN LUEBBERING

KEY CLUB GOVERNOR

DAKOTA MENNING

CKI (CIRCLE K) GOVERNOR

RUSSELL HAYNES

KIWANIGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

ROBIN ASHER

Treasurer

J. TROY MASSEY

Jasper Kiwanis Club

HOLLY HOFFMAN

Kansas City Club

MARSHA MCLANAHAN

Springfield Downtown Club

GARRY WARNER

Sikeston Club

MASON COLLIER

Springfield South Club

JEFF MAXWELL

Governor-Designate

ELBERT BRADLEY JR

Governor-Elect



ON THE COVER

Smiles and service, a group of long-time Kiwanians celebrate a weekend of fun and fellowship at DCON 2026.



Kiwanis

MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG

FROM THE GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE



We had a great District Convention that is behind us and now what is before us is our communities who need what we can offer in service for the coming year.

Here we are embarking on the 2026-2027 Kiwanis year. What a great time to be part of the Missouri Arkansas District of Kiwanis! We are approaching the new year, with six new clubs built in the last 12 months. A healthy plus membership as we prepare for the coming new year. I know when the accounting is done by October 1, Governor Ron wants to end with a plus one in membership.

How do we do that, we work in our clubs encouraging those members who are at the edges to renew their membership and work to make a difference through the service your club does in it's community. The greatest vote each of us have as a Kiwanian, is not who we elect as Governor or club president. The greatest vote we have is when we decide to renew our club membership and continue making a difference.

I have visited almost 70 clubs around our district this year. A challenge to say the least, but I am amazed at what our clubs do in their communities. How they reach out and touch the lives of children, youth and even adults in those communities.

We have clubs in communities of 500, 600 and 700 population, doing outstanding service. Raising thousands of dollars and returning that money to local schools, scholarships, community ballfields, hospitals and many service needs. Our clubs located in larger towns and communities are reaching out in their local areas as well with events and service projects.

Many would say we are a small mid-size district and poor financially. Let me say we are not in anyways poor and unable to make a big difference! We are rich in our heritage of those who have gone before us. We have a tremendous legacy handed down to us by men and women who went before us doing a rich, rewarding, difference service.

It is now our turn at the plate! We don't always have to hit a home run, but doing the small things, the service projects that touch a child is like a base hit and it moves those ones we serve ahead one more base. We keep those small projects going and we move those children, youth and families we serve up one base at a time until they arrive at where they need to be.

Thank you for being a part of that and lets make this new year one where we help lots of people cross the plate!

We love to celebrate and to serve.

THANK YOU,

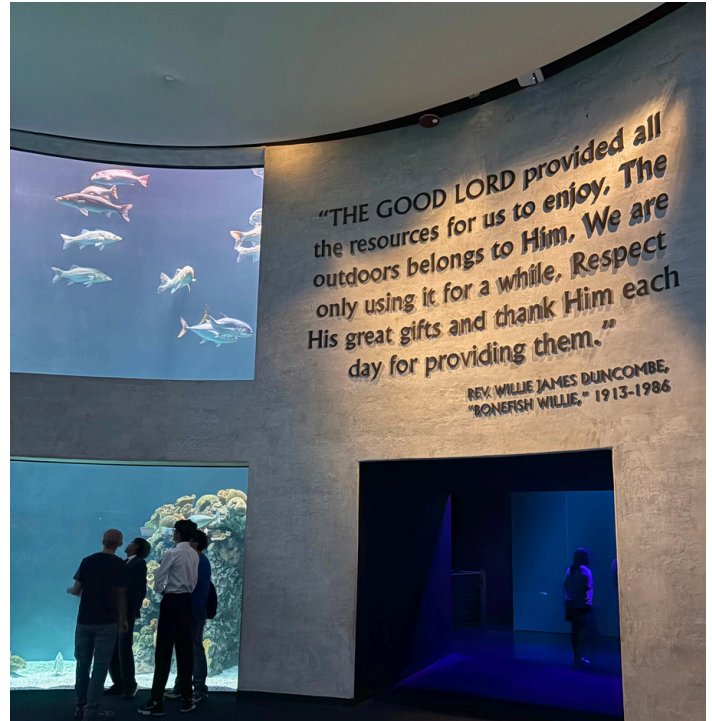
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeff Maxwell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE

FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

Snapshots of DCON

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



DCON SPOTLIGHT: ANGIE'S DONUT DREAM



BY ROBIN ASHER

Angie woke up on the morning before District Convention with one mission: acquire a box of cream-filled Krispy Kreme donuts from the ECentennial fundraiser. The dream she'd had the night before was so vivid she could practically still smell the sugar – a whole box, glowing like treasure, waiting for her.

So when she arrived at the convention center and was told that the fundraiser was cancelled – she froze. It felt like someone had cancelled her destiny.

“Angie, you okay?” “I had a dream,” Angie said solemnly, “and the universe has denied me.” Bev and Robin understood her discouragement.

The next morning, Bev marched in like a pastry-wielding hero, holding a full box of cream-filled Krispy Kremes. Angie gasped so loudly that two people turned around. “You... you bought them?”

“You seemed spiritually distressed,” Bev said. “I took action.”

Angie clutched the box like it was a newborn. “I’m going to eat one donut every hour and take a picture each time. A donut-a-thon.” Bev and Robin just nodded. They’d known Angie long enough not to question these things.

But by the second day of convention, Angie’s plan began to crumble – mostly because every time she opened the box, someone nearby said, “Oh wow, are those cream-filled?” with the exact tone of a person hoping to be offered one. Angie tried to stay strong. She really did. Then she sighed, lifted the lid, and declared, “Fine. I’ll share my bounty.”

Her friends descended like polite but determined seagulls.

DCON SPOTLIGHT: ANGIE'S DONUT DREAM



Angie watched the donuts disappear with a mix of pride and mild mourning. “Well,” she said, “there goes my donut-a-thon.” Bev patted her shoulder. “You still fulfilled the dream. Just... communally.”

Angie nodded. “Yeah. Maybe the universe wanted me to share the joy.” Then she paused. “Or maybe it wanted me to stop eating twelve donuts in twelve hours.”

Bev and Robin each raised eyebrows. “We’re going with the second one.”



DCON REVIEW: CONVENTION MEMORIES



BY GARRY WARNER

I'm a thirty-nine year Kiwanian. This was my 26th district convention. I guess I got hooked after the first one. I learned so much! I made new friends! I saw how Kiwanis was impacting the world way beyond my local club!

This year's convention was no exception. I no longer have a real active role in the programming other than serving on our district board as a trustee. But I attended all of the officer training sessions. I listened to the presenters. I listened to the questions from those club leaders getting ready to serve their clubs. Those clubs are going to benefit greatly from the training their club officers received!

The break-out sessions were all good. The key-note speaker was one of the best I have EVER heard anywhere...in Kiwanis or all the business and church speakers I have heard over the years!

And then, there were the old friends I got to see, and the new ones I met. Friday night and Saturday night night caps were filled with laughter and story telling as memories were made once again!

If you haven't been to a convention, put it on your bucket list, NOW! You will be glad you did! If your club is not sending your leaders to convention, start doing it NOW! If your club is not budgeting for sending your leaders to convention, change that NOW! You will be so glad you did! I can't wait for convention 2027!

DCON REVIEW: AN INSPIRING K-FAMILY WEEKEND



BY HOLLY HOFFMAN

The first weekend in August was a WONDERFUL adventure 'Under the Sea!' Not only was it a FUN MO-ARK District Kiwanis Convention, but it was truly an inspiring K-Family Weekend!

There is something very special watching people come together who share values and a heart for service. There is something even MORE special when those people are friends...old...and NEW!

Two years ago, I attended Convention as a former MO-ARK District Key Club Secretary/Treasurer and International Trustee, and the guest of my dear friend, Traci Perrin, who had also been a Key Club leader with me. Last year I was honored to attend as a keynote speaker. This year, I'm proud to say that I attended as a BRAND NEW Kiwanian representing the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Kansas City!

It was a joy to see friends I had met over the years at District Convention. It was also a delight to make new friends from clubs on the other side of the state!

I was proud to spend time at Convention with our new MO-ARK Key Club District Officers, and excited to learn new things in the various sessions about: accessing information online as a new Kiwanian, hosting inspiring service projects, and rebuilding clubs.

My greatest joy was making new friends and having the time to make personal connections with people who share my values. My second greatest joy was reliving the special K-Family traditions that had made me so proud to be a Key Clubber throughout my high school years.

DCON REVIEW: AN INSPIRING K-FAMILY WEEKEND



My third greatest joy was being inspired by our keynote speaker, and then working alongside him to fill service project boxes for hospitalized children. My fourth greatest joy of the weekend was being inspired to drive to Fayetteville, Arkansas, following the close of our convention Sunday morning to visit a dear friend who had served on the MO-ARK Key Club District Board with me in 1989 – just to share the nostalgia of the convention with her!

So many past MO-AR Key Club District Board Members are now at the chapter in their lives that they would make WONDERFUL Kiwanians! I had to share my excitement with my friend and I HOPE that she will join me for convention NEXT year as a guest or maybe even a BRAND NEW KIWANIAN herself!



DCON REVIEW: AN EXCITING COLLABORATION



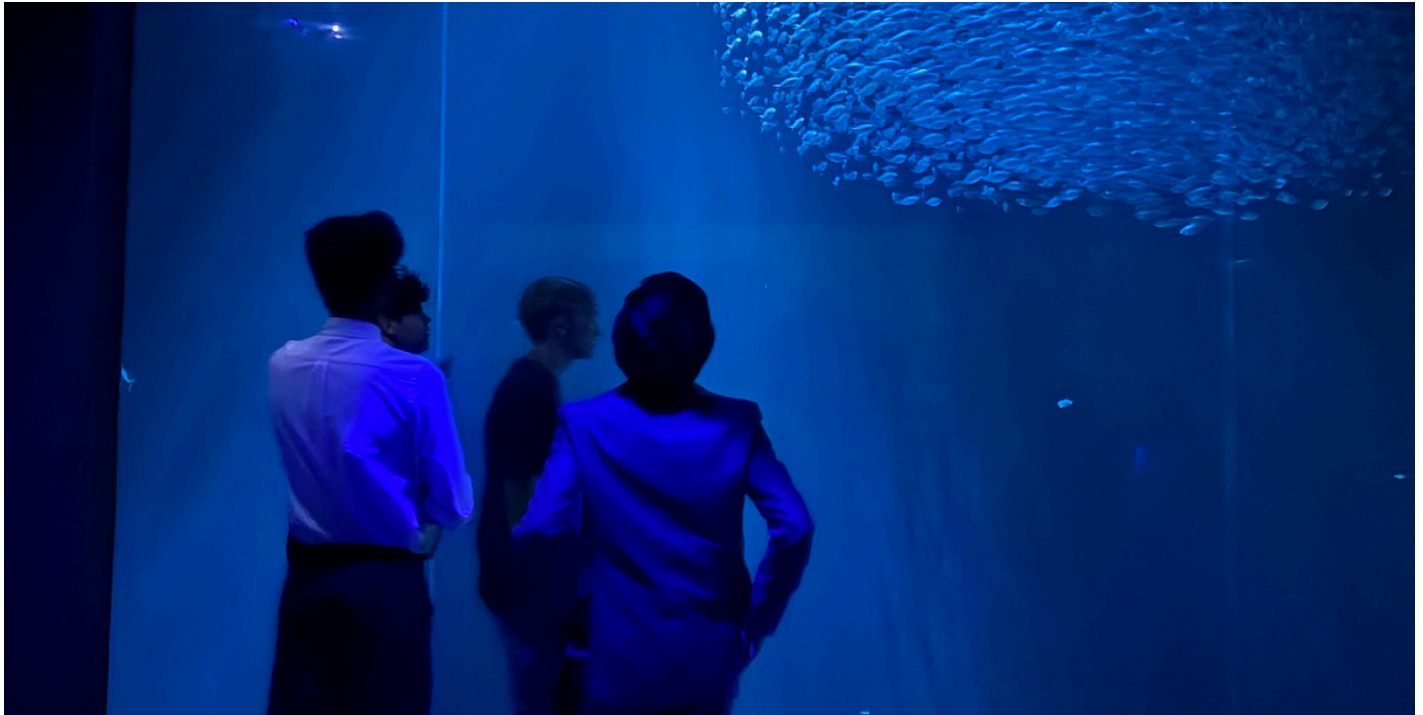
BY MARSHA MCLANAHAN

Serving as Convention Chair gave me a close-up look at the many details that go into creating a successful convention. What made the experience so rewarding was the incredible collaboration and support from Kiwanians—both those I already knew and those I was meeting for the first time.

Their kindness, helpfulness, and positive feedback made all the difference. I'm grateful for the committee, local Kiwanians, and volunteers who helped bring everything together. We listened to your feedback, took plenty of notes, and are already thinking about ways to make next year even better.

One of my favorite parts of the convention was the energy in the rooms—not just from the speakers, but from Kiwanians sharing ideas, favorite service projects, and successful fundraisers. That curiosity and willingness to learn from one another created a truly special atmosphere. It is a wonderful reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together and why DCON is such a valuable tool for Kiwanians.

DCON REVIEW: A FIRST-TIMER'S TAKE



BY MASON COLLIER

Attending MO-ARK DCON 2026 was a very positive and valuable experience, particularly as someone who is only a couple months into my Kiwanis membership and preparing to step into a leadership role. From the moment I arrived, the environment was welcoming and encouraging. Experienced Kiwanians were approachable, friendly, and eager to share their knowledge and ideas, making it easy to connect with others and learn from their experiences.

Every session I attended was intentional, educational, and insightful while balancing meaningful content with humor, which kept the sessions engaging. I also appreciated that Nick remained engaged throughout the second day after delivering his keynote address. Seeing him stay to attend sessions and interact with attendees added a personal touch and demonstrated genuine care for the Kiwanis mission.

One of the most valuable aspects of the convention was seeing the widespread impact Kiwanis has throughout our district. As I continue trying to absorb as much knowledge as possible in a short period of time, the convention provided both a broader perspective on the organization's mission and practical tools and ideas that can help my club innovate, grow, and better serve our community. The experience reinforced my excitement about becoming more involved and contributing to the future success of Kiwanis. I am happy that I took the time to attend DCON and I am already looking forward to the next convention when I can hopefully share my experiences with the new First Timers.

INTRODUCING THE NEXT MO-ARK GOVERNOR

Jeff Maxwell

I am Jeff Maxwell, the new Governor of the Missouri Arkansas District of Kiwanis International. I am a member of the Kiwanis Club of Smithville, Mo, a community just north of the Kansas City metro area. We moved to Smithville seven years ago to be closer to our daughter and her family who live in Kansas City.

I have been a Kiwanian for 31 years. I went to be a vice president at a private college in Hannibal, MO. Not to teach, but to raise money. The president told me a I needed to join a community service club and I chose Kiwanis. Because of the nature of fundraising, I moved several times over the years but always found a Kiwanis Club to be part of. I am now in my sixth club over the years.

I became active in the district about three years ago when I helped open a new club in the Weston and Platte City areas, just 14 miles west of Smithville. Since that time, I have been a part of 10 successful club openings in the MO/ARK District.

I was elected as Governor Elect for the district in 2025 at the convention in Jonesboro, AR. I made it a priority to visit as many clubs in our district as possible while I'm an officer. Since January of this year so far, I have visited just under 70 clubs. It has been a truly enjoyable experience meeting and making new Kiwanis friends.



I have also been amazed at the service our clubs do in the communities, schools and surrounding areas.

**We truly make a difference as MO-ARK
Kiwanis.**

**Sincerely,
Jeff Maxwell
Governor, 2026-2027**

INTRODUCING THE GOVERNOR-ELECT

Elbert Bradley Jr.

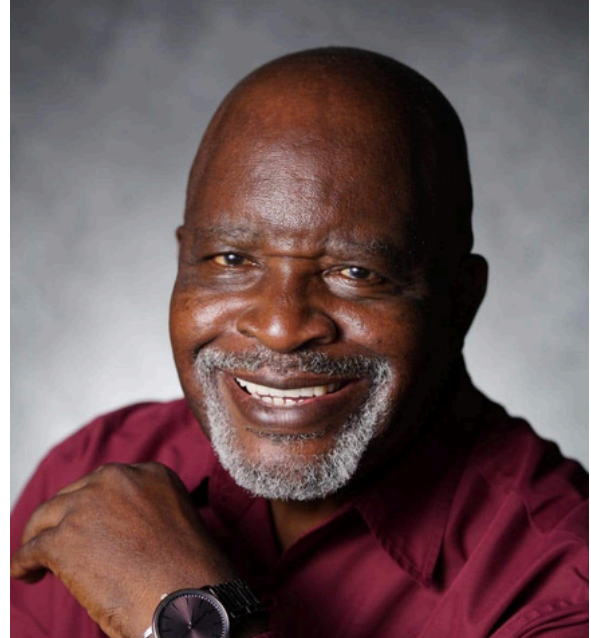
I am honored to serve as your Governor-Elect for the 2026-2027 Kiwanis year. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me to help lead this great organization. I look forward to serving each of you and working together to strengthen our Kiwanis family.

First, let me tell you a little about myself. I was born, raised, and educated in the great city of Foreman, Arkansas. After graduating from high school in May 1967, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in August of that same year. I attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) and reported for active duty in February 1968.

During my military career, I served 13 months in Vietnam as a ground combat Marine. Over the course of 23 years of service, I had the privilege of serving as a Marine Drill Instructor, a Recruiter, and a Rappelling Master. The Marine Corps taught me the values of leadership, commitment, discipline, and service to others.

Since retiring from the military, I have devoted much of my time to community service. I have worked extensively in drug, alcohol, and vaping prevention initiatives and am certified in both Arkansas and Florida as an Associate Preventionist. Helping others and strengthening our communities continue to be my passion.

Now, let me share my vision for our district. My vision is simple: to bring us back together as a family and increase participation and attendance at the district level. Over the next 12 months, I plan to visit as many clubs as possible because I believe every member deserves to be heard and every club plays an important role in our success.



You have a voice, and I want to hear it. Your ideas, concerns, and suggestions matter. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected district that puts service, fellowship, and leadership at the forefront of everything we do.

I also look forward to working closely with our Governor-Designate, learning from his experience, and building upon the foundation that has already been established.

Thank you for your dedication to Kiwanis and for the difference you make in your communities every day. I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to serving alongside each of you.

Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Sincerely,
Elbert Bradley Jr.
Governor-Elect, 2026-2027



**SNAPSHOTS FROM
DCON 2026**





SNAPSHOTS FROM DCON 2026



LES MACE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

With the ending of the Kiwanis Administrative year in September, it is time to honor our Club, Division and District Officers with a Les Mace Fellowship Award. This Honor is open to Kiwanians and non-Kiwanians. It would be a nice gesture from your club to honor your outgoing officers for this award for \$150 each. Clubs might also want to honor their local community leaders or SLP Advisors. Let's honor the memory of Les Mace and help the Earl Collins Foundation with this distinguished award. Each Mace Award goes to the SLP of your choice, if so designated.

Please send your checks made out to ECF/Mace Award to J. Troy Massey, PO Box 536, Harrison, AR 72602. The Les Mace Award form is on the MOARK Website under the Earl Collins Foundation in the Scholarships/Grants tab.

If you have any questions, please call J. TROY MASSEY at 870-365-9273. Thanks!



Kiwanis
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

(636) 575-4070

KIWANISMOARK@OUTLOOK.COM

[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