

KIWANES

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

JUNE/JULY 2023



The 2023 Kiwanis International Convention – held in Minneapolis, Minnesota – was attended by 62 members of the WI-UM Kiwanis District. The theme was Nurture the Future. Attendees are looking forward to the 2024 convention to be held in Denver, Colorado.

RECORD NUMBER OF WI-UM DISTRICT MEMBERS ATTEND CONVENTION

Submitted by Justin Hahn, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Secretary

Sixty-two members from our Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District attended this year's Kiwanis International Convention in Minneapolis, and what a fantastic experience it was. Fellowship, education and business all played pivotal roles in the convention and our delegates were busy immersing themselves into each.

Aside from making new friends and seeing old ones, WI-UM Kiwanis members also enjoyed the district hospitality suite for the first time in years, a fantastic dinner at Manny's Steakhouse, and many other opportunities for fellowship.

Participants found themselves busy learning and exploring new ideas and growth opportunities to take back to their communities and clubs. Topics of education sessions included everything from eating properly to officer education, club strengthening and beyond.

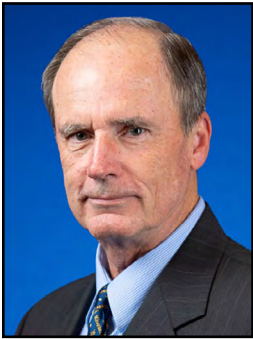
There were also some amazing keynote speakers, including two WI-UM alumni: Dave Kelly, who served as Circle K International President while attending UW-Oshkosh, and Sam Leicht, who served as governor for the WI-UM District of Key Club International.

This year's delegates also found themselves faced with some important decisions, including electing the next slate of officers and considering a dues increase. Michael Mulhaul, from New Jersey, is now the Kiwanis International vice-president designate. The proposed dues increase failed.

At the end of the convention, I knew one thing for sure: everyone had an amazing time and are already excited to attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Denver in 2024. If you didn't attend this year, plan ahead for Denver, Colorado. You'll be glad you did!

GOVERNOR ABBOTT ENCOURAGES CLUBS TO ENGAGE, INVITE & GROW

Submitted by William "Bill" Abbott, 2022-2023 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor



Bill Abbott

Happy summer everyone. We made it through the winter and summer has finally arrived. For Kiwanians that means chicken barbecues along with other fundraisers and service projects.

Kiwanians are committed to helping our communities and

the world, but to do this we need to be informed. I can think of no better place to learn and grow than our district convention. This year the theme is Blast from the Past. I believe we can learn a lot about ourselves and others when we look back to see where we came from and how we got here.

I also believe we can and should have fun at the same time. So plan on attending this year's convention to learn while reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Dig out some of your favorite outfits from your past and plan to party like you're in the past...your past!

Over the past year we have talked about membership recruitment and opening new clubs. Not too many years ago we had nearly 10,000 members. Can you envision how many children we could serve today with a membership that large? That is the reason membership recruitment and retention are so important.

We need to ask ourselves "what can I do to better serve the children of my community as well as the world?" If we look into our past we will see that membership recruitment was always a huge priority but it fell to the wayside as we grew. It's now up to all of us to step forward and INVITE new people to join Kiwanis, ENGAGE those new members to become active in our clubs, which will be how we GROW. Doing so will allow us to provide more service opportunities to more children.

When we think of service we generally focus on the here and now. But that service accomplishes so much more and can affect so many. As I help with these functions, I try to reflect on all those affected by our interactions. Whether it is through fundraising, service or interacting with people, we touch each other's lives in many ways. Those we touch directly then connect with many others.

We should always be aware of what I call the ripple effect. Our actions affect others whose actions affect many more. These continuing ripples all start with you volunteering to make the lives of children better. For that, I thank each and every one of you.

2022-2023 District Governor Bill Abbott can be reached at 608-935-9526 or wladodge@gmail.com.



KDF REQUESTS RAFFLE BASKETS FOR AUGUST DISTRICT CONVENTION

Submitted by Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation

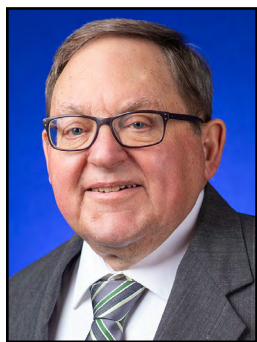


We are asking clubs to put a raffle basket together to bring to the district convention to help raise funds for the Kiwanis District Foundation. Several clubs have donated a gift card in lieu of a basket and that makes a great prize, too. If you can donate a basket but are not able to attend the convention, let me know and I will make arrangements to have it picked up. All proceeds help provide scholarships and grants for local club projects.



THE FUTURE OF KIWANIS HINGES ON SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Submitted by Timothy Lubinsky, 2022-2023 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-elect



Tim Lubinsky

Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs (SLPs) are unique. While other groups offer a service or leadership program for one specific age group, Kiwanis offers programs for all ages. Members learn leadership skills, participate in service projects and develop healthy personal relationships.

Kiwanis programs use social and emotional learning techniques that are proven to help children and adults deal with adversity, focus, work well with others and become effective communicators and problem-solvers.

Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs are sponsored by Kiwanis clubs, giving members access to service-minded adults in their communities. Numerous mentoring studies have demonstrated the positive effects of having caring adults – beyond parents – as role models.

Kiwanis programs are member-led. Adult advisors mentor and guide. Members select their leaders, plan their agendas, choose their service projects, decide when their clubs will meet, and make most of the major decisions for their clubs.

Five of the ten responsibilities for effective partnership with Kiwanis K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Clubs, Circle K Clubs and Aktion Clubs follow.

K-FAMILY SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



- 1) **Schedule a 15-minute “check-in” meeting** with the school principal or college dean in late August.
- 2) **Assign a specific Kiwanis Club advisor** for each Kiwanis Family club that your club sponsors. Encourage Kiwanis Club advisors to attend as many SLP events as possible.
- 3) **Keep faculty advisors fully informed** of Kiwanis activities.
- 4) **Ensure that financial obligations are met** by December 1 (sponsorship fees and/or member dues).
- 5) **Make sure your Kiwanis Family clubs are included** in your club’s service and fundraising projects.

2022-2023 District Governor-elect Tim Lubinsky can be reached at 920-450-3951 or tlubinsky19@hotmail.com.

KIWANIS CLUBS MAKE PROGRESS ON 2022-2023 DISTRICT GOALS

Submitted by Justin Hahn, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Director

14 COUNCIL MEETINGS (1 per division)
1 held **7.14%**

5 NEW CLUBS
No new clubs, 2 in motion **0%**

200 NET GAIN IN MEMBERS
+66 net gain **33%**

\$8,000 FOR GOVERNOR’S PROJECT
\$7,817 remitted to date **97.71%**

14 NEW SLPS (SPONSORED LEADERSHIP)
2 New Key Clubs and 3 New K-Kids **42.86%**

100% CLUBS AT CHARTER STRENGTH
95 of 127 at or above charter strength. **74.80%**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR AUGUST 25-27 WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

Submitted by Justin Hahn, Executive Director

The theme of this year's Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District convention is "Blast from the Past: Creating Memories for the Kiddos." The August 25-27 event will be held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Food selections include a Friday dinner buffet, a Saturday "Sconnie" sampler lunch buffet featuring favorite Wisconsin foods, and your choice of braised short ribs or seared salmon for the Governor's banquet.

Plan to gather for an unforgettable weekend filled with Kiwanis fun, education, celebrations, fundraising and conducting district business. Online registration is live at www.wiumkiwanis.org/district_convention. Links for hotel reservations and District shirts can be found below.

WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS
DCON 2023
BLAST FROM THE PAST
"CREATING MEMORIES FOR THE KIDDOS"

GREAT SPEAKERS
ANNUAL RECOGNITION
WORK SHOPS
FELLOWSHIP

Registration Info:
AUG. 25-27
Madison Marriott West
Middleton, WI

Pre-Order District Shirts

SCAN ME

[Click here or on the image above to register for the District Convention.](#)

2023 DCON
BLAST FROM THE PAST
HOTEL INFORMATION

Newly Renovated Rooms & Spaces
On-site dining and bar
Nearby shopping, golf and sites
\$129 per night

Scan for Reg. & Info

Marriott Madison West
1313 John Q Hammons Drive
Middleton, WI 53562

[Click here or on the image above to reserve your hotel room.](#)

Kiwanis
WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Polo Shirt Embroidered with WI-UM Kiwanis District Logo

MENS

LADIES

Pre-order/Pre-pay.
Pick Up at the District Convention

[Click here or on the image below to order a district polo shirt \(optional\).](#)

KATHY DURNER ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 GOVERNOR-ELECT CANDIDACY

Submitted by Kathy Durner, Division 6 Lt. Governor



Kathy Durner

The governor-elect is a member of the District Board of Trustees and shall be responsible for supporting Kiwanis programs and goals in the district. The Board of Trustees and/or governor may assign other duties.

With pride and humility, I announce my candidacy to run for the position of WI-UM Kiwanis District governor-elect.

I grew up in southern Wisconsin, learning that service to others was a part of my family's values. So, when I was asked to serve as a Key Club advisor at the Bradford Area High School in Pennsylvania, I eagerly agreed. Although I knew little about Key Club, my Key Club officers and local Kiwanis club guided and supported me until I was confident in my new role.

Fast forward more than 25 years. I have learned a great deal about Key Club and Kiwanis, and I have had the privilege of working with all the Service Leadership Programs within the Kiwanis family. My experience has

been enlightening and inspiring.

In addition to Key Club, I served in several positions in the Pennsylvania Kiwanis District including Bradford Kiwanis Club member, director, president-elect, and president. In the Pennsylvania district, I also served as a lieutenant governor and trustee.

In the WI-UM Kiwanis District, I am serving a third year as division 6 lieutenant governor. I also help with the Key Leader program, having chaperoned or helped at more than 10 Key Leader events.

Running for the position of governor-elect of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District is another adventure that I look forward to pursuing with enthusiasm, open-mindedness, and a desire to serve Kiwanians and especially the children of Wisconsin.

Yours in Service, Kathy Durner.

2023-2024 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-elect Candidate Kathy Durner can be reached at 814-331-2240 or kathydurner1949@gmail.com.

FOOD SECURITY IS FOCUS OF KIWANIS AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Submitted by Barbara Struzynski, Wautoma Area Kiwanis Club

During the pandemic, Parkside Middle School students began collecting food donations to be shared with families in need. The project grew, and this year they asked the Wautoma Area Kiwanis Club for help. In response, once a week, Kiwanis members picked up food for Horner Market from a central location and delivered it to the school. More than 400 families were served by the market. Recipients were able to shop once each week during the school year. Club members are proud to partner with the students on this effort to feed those struggling with food insecurity in the Wautoma area!



Kiwanis members delivered food for Horner Market at Parkside Middle School, which was distributed to more than 400 families in need.

LET'S BUILD A CULTURE OF GROWTH FOR THE ORGANIZATION WE LOVE

Submitted by Alan Arbuckle, WI-UM Kiwanis District Master Club Coach

Changing an existing culture is tough. After all, culture is essentially everything an organization does and the way they do it. Yet, we see shifts in culture every time there is a new leader. There is a new emphasis. Each person has their own style, manner of speaking, their own charisma (or lack of).

Time and again, we have seen a club president lead a club and there is a substantial growth in membership. How does it happen? How does a club, rather suddenly, become more engaged and more focused on membership growth? Often, when leadership changes, the club reverts to a slow growth or no growth habit.

What are the stumbling blocks to growth that exist today? The Internet? The 24-7 work culture? So much entertainment on streaming television? The political disconnect? To some extent, all of the above. What are some you see? Some clubs and districts are able to grow their membership, despite these negatives. What are some positive habits that can tip the scale? Does the president attending club leadership education help? I would say yes. Does having members attend district functions encourage engagement? Absolutely! What small, brave steps would your club be willing to take? Remember, changing the culture is a long distance run and not a sprint.

In the last issue of the *Kiwanews*, I wrote that having a strong, engaged membership is so important to HOW we do WHAT we do. Having terrific projects that engage

members is a way to bring in new members. Inviting friends, family, and acquaintances to enjoy the fun side of a truly wonderful service project is a great way to introduce them to Kiwanis. The prospect can bond with the club team in a comfortable, friendly manner. We know that the [Two-for-Two Method](#) works to bring in new members especially from the business community. A lot of clubs are having success with that method. Has your club tried it, yet? Two-for-Two is the same method that we use to recruit members when opening new clubs.

Speaking of new clubs, we really need to get excited about OPENING NEW CLUBS. WI-UM loses a few clubs every year. To be sustainable, the district needs to regularly open new clubs. And why not? There really is a joy with building a new club. It is so satisfying seeing a new club's contributions of service in their community and knowing that it exists because of your team's effort. We need members from all areas of the district to get involved. Do you have an idea of a community that needs a Kiwanis club? Maybe an area that would be open to a new service club? Maybe you know someone in the community? Would you like to try your hand at recruiting some members? We need to hear from you.

Let's build a culture of growth for the organization that we love.

Master Club Coach and 2018-2019 Illinois-Eastern Iowa Kiwanis District Governor Alan Arbuckle can be reached at 719-502-7853 or ajarbuckle@yahoo.com.

DE PERE GOLF OUTING SET FOR AUGUST 7 AT MID VALLEE GOLF COURSE

Submitted by Steve Wilmet, Kiwanis Club of De Pere

The Kiwanis Club of De Pere will hold its 25th Annual Touscany-Scannell Memorial Golf Outing on Monday, August 7, 2023 at Mid Vallee Golf Course. The format will be an 18-hole four-person scramble event. An 11:00 shotgun start will be followed by dinner immediately afterwards. There will also be raffle and golf prizes.

The cost for golf, cart, dinner, prizes and free beer and soda after golf is \$100 per person. Dinner only is \$30. Proceeds will fund outreach efforts of the De Pere Kiwanis Club. For more information contact Steve Wilmet at 920-680-9690 or swilmet@new.rr.com.



RECOGNIZING SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM MEMBERS IN CAMBRIA

Submitted by Debra Torrison, Cambria Kiwanis Club

Cambria Kiwanians hosted a recognition event for their Service Leadership Program (SLP) members in April. Each club shared their school-year activities.

The K-Kids made decorations for a Thanksgiving party, created posters to hang around town during the holiday season, and made and delivered May Day baskets. They completed the "Do Good Wisconsin" cereal box challenge and donated the proceeds to the Cambria food pantry and they completed an Earth Day clean up.

The Builder's Club hosted a food drive which resulted in 942 food items delivered to the pantry. The 8th grade students did a highway clean-up, attended the Milwaukee Bucks' leadership day, and did a coin drive which raised more than \$500 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They also worked hard planning the middle school dance.

Last school year, we had a smaller number of students in Key Club and many of them were seniors and would not return this school year. Advisor Molly VanDaalwyck was a little nervous about what that meant for the club. To her surprise, 24 students became Key Club members – an increase over last year!



Key Club members at Cambria-Friesland High School assisted the Kiwanis Club of Cambria with the club's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Key Club members have been involved in several service projects, including helping with the library book fair, setting up a winter holiday toy drive for children in need, raising funds to make and tie fleece blankets for Project Linus, organizing a bake sale to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities, donating supplies to our "Need It Nook" (a place where students can get hygiene and other supplies for free when needed), and joining with the Cambria Kiwanians to host the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Our SLP students tallied an amazing number of service hours to benefit those in need. We are immensely proud of their hard work and dedication!

AKTION CLUBS BOWL IN SUPPORT OF THE KIWANIS AUTISM PROJECT

Submitted by Charles Zarnoth, WI-UM District Aktion Club Chair



Aktion Club members came together on June 3 at Chilton's Pla-Mor Lanes to raise money to purchase iPads for children on the autism spectrum, in support of the district's iPads for Autism Signature Project.

The We Care Aktion Club – sponsored by the Chilton and New Holstein Kiwanis Clubs – was joined by the Ozaukee County Aktion Club on June 3 to raise funds to purchase iPads for children on the autism spectrum. The We Care Aktion Club has hosted this bowling event since 2017, with the exception of 2020 which was canceled due to the pandemic. This year's event raised \$1,402. A total of \$7,858 has been raised since 2017.

The Aktion Club members are proud of the number of children's lives they have improved. They look forward to hearing the stories of the next children who will receive iPads thanks to their fundraising efforts.

CHILDREN'S FAIR OFFERS FUN, LEARNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Submitted by Rich Scamehorn, Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club

The Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club is thrilled to share highlights from the recently held Ripon Noon Kiwanis Children's Fair, which took place June 17, 2023 at Ripon High School. This highly-anticipated event brought together the community, local organizations, and enthusiastic participants for a day filled with entertainment, education, and excitement.

Entertainment

The fair offered an array of captivating performances, starting with the beloved Mr. Pickles, who delighted children and adults alike with his interactive and entertaining show. The fair showcased the talents of science teacher Nick Gold and his students. Through engaging experiments, explosions and demonstrations, they captivated minds and fostered a love for science.

Activities and Exhibitors

Children were treated to a wide range of activities and experiences throughout the fair. The balloon creations booth left attendees in awe of the intricate and colorful balloon sculptures, while the bounce house provided endless fun and laughter. A photo booth was also available, capturing cherished moments and creating lasting memories for families.

The fair featured 31 exhibitors representing various sectors, including health, daycare, scouts, education, children's activity groups, financial services, religious organizations, and emergency responders. Each booth



Rich Scamehorn, chair of the Children's Fair committee, welcomed attendees to a day of fun, learning, and community engagement.

offered resources and interactive displays to educate attendees and promote community engagement.

Community Engagement and Impact

The Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club successfully created an inclusive and interactive environment that fostered connections between local organizations, families, and children. By bringing together exhibitors from diverse fields, the fair served as a platform for the community to discover the resources and services available to support children's well-being, education, and development.

Additionally, the fair encouraged a sense of unity and collaboration, as attendees had the opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from various sectors. Families discovered new avenues for enrichment and explored activities that catered to their children's interests, helping them make informed decisions about their child's future.



A dental clinic's mascot entertained kids while parents were afforded the opportunity to receive oral hygiene information and resources.

The children's fair exemplified the power of community involvement and collaboration in creating a memorable and impactful event for youth. By combining entertainment, educational activities, and a diverse range of exhibitors, the fair fostered a love for learning, exploration, and community engagement. Club members extend heartfelt appreciation to the organizers, participants, and sponsors who made the fair possible. Together, we can continue to empower and inspire the next generation, paving the way for a brighter and more promising future.

RACINE CLUB HELPS FUND REPAIRS AT COPS 'N' KIDS READING CENTER

Submitted by Melissa Loebach, Division 1 Lt. Governor

The Cops 'n' Kids Reading Center in Racine provides a space for children to read and receive free books. Over the years, the building sustained weather-related damage to its roof. The problem came to a head when a ceiling tile fell on a child. Repair estimates were nearly \$15,000 and the center was worried they would have to close the building due to lack of funds.

As Kiwanis 'n' Cops in Kids founder Julia Witherspoon said, "It must have been God who told me to call Jean Long Manteufel to ask for help." Jean contacted Division 1 Lt. Governor Melissa Loebach, and she approached the Racine Kiwanis Club. After learning of the dilemma, the Kiwanis Club of Racine donated \$15,000 to the Cops 'n' Kids Reading Center.

The first idea was to create a Go Fund Me page to try to raise the money quickly and get the community involved. At that point, the club agreed to match donations up to \$5,000. A month after the page had been created, it had only brought in about \$2,000 and, even with the club's match, it wasn't nearly enough. The club then decided to donate the entire amount of \$15,000. Shortly after receiving the check, the work began and the building remained open.

In appreciation of the Kiwanis club's contribution, Julia Witherspoon and Becky St. Martin from Cops 'n' Kids



Kiwanis Club of Racine President Fred Kaste, left, accepts a plaque from Julia Witherspoon in appreciation of the club's contribution to fund repairs at the Cops 'n' Kids Reading Center.

presented a plaque to the club. The plaque read "In honor of Kiwanis Club of Racine. Thank you for your continued support. You have made a difference in the lives of children. Cops 'n' Kids Reading Center, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin."

As a special treat, a signed Green Bay Packers jersey was donated by Hall of Fame member Leroy Butler, who has helped Cops 'n' Kids, as well as many other children's outreach efforts in the Racine community.

"I was absolutely astounded by this gift. We weren't expecting anything in return," said Fred Kaste, President of the Kiwanis Club of Racine. Our club was just happy that we were able to step in during their time of need."



Members of the Fond du Lac Kiwanis Club pose with Governor-elect Tim Lubinsky, third from left, at the Walleye Weekend fundraising event.

FOND DU LAC EVENT HELPS NPOS REEL IN MORE THAN \$230,000

Submitted by Peter Grimm, Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis

Walleye Weekend, a family-friendly event held annually in Fond du Lac, offers entertainment, music, sporting events and other attractions. It also affords nonprofit organizations the opportunity to raise funds. In 2022, 36 area non-profits raised more than \$230,000 at the event. The three Fond du Lac clubs typically raise approximately \$30,000 each through food booth sales. The noon club was assisted this year by Governor-elect Tim Lubinsky.

KIWANIS-SPONSORED PROGRAM TEACHES GARDENING SKILLS TO KIDS

Submitted by Kathy Strong Langolf, Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis International is pleased to collaborate with Lettuce Grow to offer Kiwanis clubs a self-watering, self-fertilizing hydroponic garden called the "Farmstand". Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club collaborated with the UW-Madison Extension and the Fond du Lac County Junior Master Gardener program at the UW-Oshkosh Fond du Lac Campus. The club received more than \$600 worth of plants, seedlings and pH testing and nutrient kits – everything needed to begin helping kids in the community grow food and learn about nutrition.

This opportunity is a result of a program called Lettuce Give, which was created by Lettuce Grow for nonprofits, schools and community-based organizations who want to help make fresh, healthy food accessible to everyone.

The Farmstand is a hydroponic garden made from ocean-bound plastic milk jugs. It requires no more than 15 minutes of weekly maintenance. In three to four weeks, the produce is ready to harvest for fresh, healthy meals. The hydroponic system uses less than one gallon of water per plant to grow. Traditional gardening uses 20 gallons of water per plant.

The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program consisted of 25 children, ages 8-12. Youth that have an interest in



Kathy Strong Langolf, President of the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club, joined the junior master gardeners for their first harvest of the season along with UW-Extension master gardeners and Kiwanis club advisors.

active outdoor activities, "digging" in the dirt, caring for plants, cooking in the kitchen, eating healthy snacks, and meeting new friends are welcome to join JMG. The JMG program is offered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension. It is a collaboration between the Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners and the FoodWise Program. Participants are from Fond du Lac and the surrounding areas. The Boys and Girls Club also brings youth over to participate in the program.

Since JMG is about gardening, with guidance from the master gardeners, youth are involved in the entire gardening process, from selecting and planting seeds to harvesting. This year the youth will be introduced to hydroponics by using the Farmstand. Then, with the assistance of nutrition educators, they will prepare and cook healthy foods from the garden and the Farmstand.

JMG is about healthy food, so the youth will learn how food makes it from the ground or the Farmstand to the dinner table. JMG is about teamwork and friendship – how to work together as a team in the garden and in the kitchen. JMG is about community service – how to give back to the community through donations of food to area food pantries and flowers to senior centers.

With the Farmstand this year, the youth will enjoy a new experience, and they will be able to donate more food to the community.



Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis is proud to be a partner on this Farmstand educational project. The excitement of the junior master gardeners as they harvested plants for an afternoon snack was evident.

DELLS CLUB SPONSORS A DOZEN STUDENTS AT KEY CLUB CONVENTION

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells

Members of the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club met with their sponsor, the Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells, in late May to share their experiences from the 2023 WI-UM Key Club District Convention held in Waukesha, Wisconsin, March 17-19, 2023.

The Kiwanis Club helped sponsor ten Key Club members as well as their faculty advisor, Kiwanian Emily Behn. The Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club also sponsors the Mauston High School Key Club, which sent two Key Club members and their faculty advisor, Kiwanian Molly Carlson, to the convention.

Division 6 Lt. Governor Kathy Durner (a former Key Club faculty advisor) attended the Key Club District Convention along with Past District Governor Anna Bruhn. Together they staffed a booth promoting the Key Leader program targeting high school students – particularly Key Club members – which is scheduled for September 15-17, 2023.

Both Durner and Bruhn were in attendance at the awards ceremony along with Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club President Randall Durner and WI-UM Kiwanis District



Members of the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club who attended the Key Club District Convention addressed Wisconsin Dells Kiwanians about their experiences during the club's meeting on May 22, 2023.

Governor Bill Abbott. The Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club took first place in the scrapbook competition at the district convention.

Key Club members were impressed with the convention and thanked Kiwanis members for their financial support. They felt they learned much about Key Club, club operations and service opportunities, and observed other clubs' service activities. They made new friends and enjoyed the entertainment, especially the dance. Key Club attendees included the incoming president for 2023-2024 and several other club officers.

FOND DU LAC'S LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM TEACHES WATER SAFETY

Submitted by Peter Grimm, Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis



The Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club takes advantage of the opportunity to promote the mission of Kiwanis during its annual Learn to Swim event.

YMCA Aquatics Director Nikki Schneider recently spoke to the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club about the Kiwanis Learn to Swim Program. Nearly 500 children registered this year for the free four-day water safety program, which offers basic swimming skills that help reduce the risk of drowning while building confidence in and around water. There are three levels – beginner, intermediate, and advanced – and no child is turned away.

Club statistics indicate that 400 to 500 children have attended the program annually since its inception. That totals more than 40,000 children who have benefited from this Kiwanis-sponsored event since 1927.

GREEN BAY KIWANIS CLUB FUNDS ZOO TRIP FOR 3RD-GRADE STUDENTS

Submitted by Patrick Olejniczak, Kiwanis Club of Green Bay

The Green Bay Kiwanis Club continued its long-standing tradition of organizing a field trip for third grade students from Nicolet School. On May 30th, more than 50 excited children gathered for a day filled with fun and adventure at the Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Zoo.

The day kicked off with a delightful picnic, where children and Kiwanis Club members enjoyed a delicious spread of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, watermelon, and cake. The cake was in honor of Becky Taylor, a 3rd-grade teacher at Nicolet School who had devoted 21 years of service to educating young minds. Becky has been an exceptional partner with the Kiwanis Club, extending invitations and providing support for numerous events throughout the years.



Nicolet School students enjoyed a fun-filled day at the NEW Zoo in Green Bay.

Throughout the afternoon, the students enjoyed up-close encounters with the animals, observing their behaviors and unique characteristics. The experience provided valuable educational insights, sparking curiosity and appreciation for the wonders of nature in the student's young minds.

The Green Bay Kiwanis Club expresses gratitude to the NEW Zoo for their warm welcome and hospitality, contributing to the success of the field trip. This memorable adventure would not have been possible without the efforts of Kiwanis Club members, Becky Taylor, and the dedicated staff at Nicolet School, who shape young minds and foster a sense of wonder.

As the day concluded, the children returned to school with many cherished memories and newfound knowledge. The Kiwanis club takes pride in building connections and community spirit through such events, nurturing young minds and inspiring a love for exploration and learning.



The Green Bay Kiwanis Club has sponsored a field trip for third-grade students to the NEW Zoo for many years.

With appetites satisfied and excitement building, the young adventurers set foot into the captivating realm of the NEW Zoo. Every corner held a new surprise, with an array of awe-inspiring animals awaiting their eager gazes. Yet, it was the towering presence of the giraffes that stole the show, enchanting the children with their grace and majestic charm.



NEW TOP DOG A TAIL-WAGGER FOR OSHKOSH MID-MORNING KIWANIS

Submitted by Lisa Voss, Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh

A fundraiser that emerged during the height of the pandemic continues to capture the hearts of dog lovers in Northeast Wisconsin and fuel high-impact service projects for the Mid-Morning Kiwanis of Oshkosh.

Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Top Dog is an online contest to choose the top dogs in Northeast Wisconsin. Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club brings together six animal rescue organizations and six area breweries in this creative collaboration that benefits pets and children.

How does it work? Dog owners pay \$10 to register their pup into their favorite shelter's photo contest. Contestants then encourage family and friends to vote for their canine cuties at \$1 per vote. Winning dogs receive amazing prize packages and have a beer created and named for them. Participating shelters and rescue organizations do their part to promote the contests to raise funds to support the important work they do.



Once winners are selected, the breweries create craft beers named for the winning dogs from each contest. The brews are released for sale to the public the following May, complete with custom labels featuring the prize-winning pups. This year, community members visited their favorite brewery for a taste of Hanks Howling Golden Ale, Blue's Brew, Groot Beer Scotch Ale, Jaeger's Barkin' Brew, Sherlock Bones: Undercover Porter and Viva la Viva Cherry Lemon Wheat Beer.

Signing on major sponsors such as Fleet Farm and Fox Communities Credit Union – as well as creative strategies



One of the 2022 NEW Top Dog contest winners raised \$14,190 for the Misfit Mutts Dog Rescue. Inset: The beer label design for Hank's Golden Ale – the beer crafted in honor of the overall NEW Top Dog – is shown.

such as corporate match days – has helped to maximize the fundraising potential of NEW Top Dog. Since 2020, NEW Top Dog has raised nearly \$420,000!

"Top Dog has allowed us to not only raise significant funds to benefit the kids in our community, it has also raised awareness of our club and the work that we do," says Bruce Butler, Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club President. "Non-profits that need our support to benefit children are connecting with us more than ever and we're attracting the attention of individuals who want to join a service club that's making a difference."

Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis members have continued to refine the contest and hope to keep the momentum going as the club prepares for NEW Top Dog 2023. Voting for this year's contest is set to begin in September. Information on the upcoming event can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/newtopdog.

Projects that NEW Top Dog has helped to support include iPads for Autism, Project Undercover (underwear donated to public schools in Oshkosh), grants to local teachers for innovative classroom projects and healthy snacks for students in local schools.

KIWANIANS CONTRIBUTE TO INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND IN PLATTEVILLE

Submitted by Bev Johansen, Platteville Kiwanis Club

In June, 2023, the grand opening of the Platteville Inclusive Playground was held and hundreds of parents and children took part in the event. Since then, the facility is occupied to near capacity every day.



Platteville's new inclusive playground was supported by a matching grant from the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation and Platteville Kiwanis Club.

The playground, which was designed to include features that are accessible to users with a wide range of abilities and mobilities, was made possible by a few very large public grants and dozens of contributions by individuals and local groups.

The Platteville Kiwanis Club was able to double its contribution through a generous matching grant from the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF). The KDF's matching grant program considers grant proposals twice a year, with deadlines in March and September. Clubs may apply for up to \$3,000 in matching funds. Income for the grant program comes from annual club gifts, fundraising efforts at midyear conferences and district conventions, and interest earned on investments.

The Platteville community is grateful for Kiwanis' help in providing a wonderful facility for children.



Key Leader provides an opportunity for teens to learn about themselves.

**Make a difference in someone's life!
Send a student! Or two!**

Registration is open through Sept. 15.

**Questions? Please contact us!
info@wiumkeyleader.org
www.wiumkeyleader.org**



KEY LEADER IS A LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR TEENAGERS (14-19)

A weekend leadership experience that prepares teens for life. Friday, September 15 through Sunday, September 17, 2023. Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

JANESVILLE KIWANIS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF TRUCK ON ICE EVENT

Submitted by Glenn Disrude, Janesville Blackhawk Golden Kiwanis Club

The Janesville Blackhawk Golden Kiwanis Club is celebrating the 20th year of its main fundraiser, the Truck on Ice. The event raised \$20,000 in 2022 and \$23,000 in 2023. Funds are used to serve the needs of children.

The Truck on Ice (TOI) effort starts each year with the Jolly Jingle holiday parade. The vehicle is pulled from storage, washed and decorated with about 500 lights for the parade. Afterwards, lights are removed and signs are added in anticipation of the TOI campaign.

Sponsorship letters are written and mailed in October to ensure pledges are received by November, enabling sponsor names to be printed on banners.

Permission to use Traxler Park Lagoon is obtained.

Ticket sales by members, table sales and sponsorship monies are collected and recorded. When the ice is thick enough, the truck is put in place. In the rare years that ice doesn't reach the required thickness, a raffle system is used and winners are drawn randomly.



Kiwanians take advantage of the opportunity to encourage new members while simultaneously promoting the Truck on Ice fundraiser.

When the weather warms and the truck sinks, Kiwanis members meet to sort the tickets and determine the winners. The campaign is closed with the vehicle being pulled in the Independence Day parade, advertising the next fundraiser and thanking supporters.



FOND DU LAC CLUB MOURNS LOSS

By Dan Weninger, Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club

A photo from one of the first Walleye Weekends in the late 1970s shows Wayne Wallschlaeger, who passed away on June 11, 2023, operating a fryer. A past president of the Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club and a George F. Hixson Fellow, Wayne's presence will be sorely missed.

KIWANEWS SCHEDULE

October/November Deadline: October 15
 December/January Deadline: December 15
 February/March Deadline: February 15
 April/May Deadline: April 15
 June/July Deadline: June 15
 August/September Deadline: August 15

KIWANEWS

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Postmaster: Send address corrections to WI-UM Kiwanis District, 1641 Fox River Parkway, Waukesha, WI 53189.

WEST BEND EARLY RISERS HOSTED FREE FISHING CLINIC FOR KIDS

Submitted by Larry Koziol, West Bend Early Risers Kiwanis Club

Regner Park in West Bend was the location for a free fishing clinic for kids, hosted by the West Bend Early Risers Kiwanis Club. 569 children attended the clinic – a record number – plus their parents and grandparents.

Participants attended fishing demonstrations and used loaner rods and reels to try their hand at casting and (hopefully) catching a fish. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stocks rainbow trout in the Kiwanis Early Risers fish pond and provides some of the rods and reels. Although not many fish were caught, a lot of smiles were caught on children's faces! Each child also received a free lunch, along with a backpack filled with local coupons, fishing lures, and fish identification pictures.

The Outdoor Heritage Education Center's "touch of the wild" trailer was very popular. 60 new rod and reel combos were raffled off along with fishing clinic t-shirts.



Kids, parents, grandparents, and community members enjoyed the free fishing clinic hosted by the West Bend Early Risers Kiwanis Club.



Chairperson Mike Sarg said "We do this great event to get kids and their families outdoors to enjoy nature together, to kick start new generations of fisher people, to learn a sport they can enjoy their whole lifetime, and to see so many kids' happy faces."

The West Bend Early Risers are grateful for support from the West Bend Parks, Recreation and Forestry committee, the Wisconsin Council of Sport Fishing, the many businesses which made donations and the many volunteers for their participation in this annual event.

RIPON EARLY BIRDS HOST 31ST ANNUAL SCRAMBLE ON SEPTEMBER 13

Submitted by Joan Karsten, Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club

The Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club will host its 31st Annual Golf Scramble on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the Golf Courses of Lawsonia in Green Lake. The 18-hole four-person scramble will begin at 11:00 am with a shotgun start followed by dinner.

The \$100 per person entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a house-smoked brisket & chicken parmesan

buffet, hole event prizes and chances to win other prizes. The cost for the buffet dinner alone is \$30.

A portion of the proceeds will help fund an inclusive playground to be built at Riggs Park in Ripon – a joint project with Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club and Fond du Lac County. To register and pay for a team online, please visit www.riponearlybirdkiwanis.org/golf-scramble.