

KIWANIS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND MICROGRANT MAKES A LARGE IMPACT IN RIPON

Find out how on page 10



Linda DeCramer, Ripon Public Library Children's Librarian and Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club member, left, accepts a check from Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club President Gary Scholtens. The funds, secured through a Kiwanis Children's Fund microgrant, were used to purchase large print Wonderbooks.

2022-2023 GOVERNOR IS THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

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



Bill Abbott

I want to start off with a huge thank you to all members of the WI-UM Kiwanis District. My wife, Lynn, and I have traveled throughout the district attending events, visiting clubs and meeting so many great Kiwanians. During our travels I learned many things which I have been able to pass

along to others, hoping to inspire and energize. These differences from various clubs shows us there is more than one way to achieve our Kiwanis goals.

The 2023 district convention was held in Middleton, Wisconsin and everyone in attendance had a great time, learned much during workshops, made new friends and rekindled existing friendships. I am thankful for those who help plan, arrange, and execute this convention; they dedicated many hours before and during the convention to make it a success. A big shout out and thank you to Division 5 Lt. Governor Ken Saville, along with all Division 5 club members who answered his call for assistance. WI-UM Executive Director Justin Hahn began planning the 2023 convention nearly a full year ago. If you connect with Justin, please thank him for all he has done.

Each year the governor picks a special project. My governor's project was raising \$8,000 to be split between Camp Wawbeek in the Wisconsin Dells, which needed water bottle filling stations, and Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, Michigan, which needed assistance with their

general fund. I am very pleased to announce that we reached our goal. Directors from Camp Wawbeek and Bay Cliff were present at our convention and have been informed they will be receiving the funds soon.

My convention theme was "Blast from the Past". I chose this theme because I feel that sometimes we need to get back to basics and remember where we came from. At one time, membership recruitment in our district was a priority. Over time, our members lost the drive to bring in new members. Well, we did look back and said if the old timers could bring in members then so could we. Using the Two for Two plan to bring in new members, we can make our clubs stronger and increase our service to the children in our communities and across the world.

I want to thank the Board of Directors, which includes Lt. Governors and members serving as district chairpersons and in appointed positions. If you had not stepped up and agreed to fill these roles, our great WI-UM Kiwanis District would not have been able to continue the work we all hold so dear: serving children. A huge and heartfelt thank you for all you did this past year in helping me at every turn.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to thank every Kiwanis member for allowing me the fantastic opportunity to be your 2022-2023 district governor.

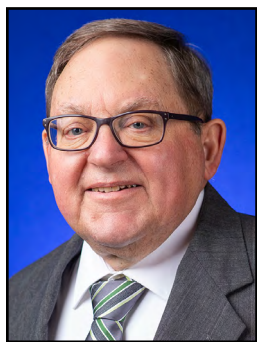
2022-2023 District Governor Bill Abbott can be reached at 608-935-9526 or wladodge@gmail.com.

CHILDHOOD DOESN'T COME WITH A ROAD MAP.

KIDS NEED KIWANIS

LUBINSKY ELECTED 2023-2024 WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Submitted by Gary Scholtens, Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club



Tim Lubinsky

At the 2023 Kiwanis District Convention held in Middleton, Wisconsin, Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club president Gary Scholtens and Division 9 Lt. Governor Gary Miller nominated Timothy Lubinsky for the position of 2023-2024 Kiwanis District Governor. Scholtens presented the following

nomination speech which gives a broad overview of Lubinsky's years of dedication to Kiwanis:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I'm honored to introduce Tim Lubinsky, a dedicated individual whose life has been defined by service, leadership, and a passion for community. Tim most recently served as the Lt. Governor of Kiwanis Division 9, a role he's held since October 1, 2017. But Tim's journey goes beyond titles – it's a story of commitment and connection.

Born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Tim's path was paved by his involvement in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, achieving the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout. After relocating to Oshkosh, he graduated from Oshkosh West High School in 1968, where his heart found a home in the Key Club, fostering friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

In 1972, Tim earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UW-Oshkosh and subsequently embarked on a distinguished military career. Serving in the U.S. Army for three years, including time in South Korea, he continued his service in the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years. He also contributed 22 years to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Kiwanis became a central theme in Tim's life during the 1980s. His dedication to community service led him to join the Oshkosh Mid-morning Kiwanis Club, a commitment he carried to the Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis

Club upon relocating to Ripon. After retiring in 2010, he joined the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club. Tim's journey with Kiwanis has seen him hold various roles, from club treasurer to president-elect and president.

During Tim's time in Kiwanis, he has earned the following honors and distinctions:

- Governor's Excellent Division, president's trophy, 2016-2017
- Distinguished Lt. Governor and Division, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2020-2021
- Case Van Kleeef Fellow, 2019
- George F. Hixson Fellow, 2020
- Kiwanis' Amplify, Certificate of Completion, July 2021

Beyond his professional and Kiwanis achievements, Tim's zest for life is evident in his love for travel, particularly with his wife and daughter. Together, they've explored different corners of the world, creating memories through ocean and river cruises, and even celebrating a destination wedding in Ireland.

Tim's vision for the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District to grow is inspiring. As we emerge from the pandemic, he sees a unique opportunity to attract and market to new members and build stronger clubs, capitalizing on people's desire to reconnect and socialize. His commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) underscores his belief in creating a Kiwanis community that embraces all.

Tim's journey has been one of service, leadership, and boundless enthusiasm for making a difference. His dedication to Kiwanis and his vision for the future exemplify his unwavering commitment to community growth and connection. I invite you all to meet Tim. His wisdom and passion are sure to leave a lasting impact.

2023-2024 District Governor Tim Lubinsky can be reached at 920-450-3951 or tlubinsky19@hotmail.com.

KATHY DURNER IS 2023-2024 WI-UM DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT

Submitted by Kathy Durner, 2023-2024 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-elect



Kathy Durner

My name is Kathleen Kennedy Durner. I am a native of Janesville, Wisconsin. It is notable that I am a member of the first graduating class from George S. Parker High School. At the time, our closest neighbors were a herd of Holstein cattle.

I am married to Randall Durner, current president of the Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club. We have two children; Michael, a veteran and able-bodied paralympic cycling coach, and Erin, a critical care nurse practitioner and hospitalist. When we lived in Bradford, Pennsylvania, Erin convinced me to become the Key Club faculty advisor. As a result, I have been a Kiwanian for more than 25 years.

Being a Key Club faculty advisor created a balance in my teaching career as a learning support teacher. Some of the Key Club students hung out in my classroom before and after school and during lunch. They gained exposure to students with special needs, helped me with computer skills, and had a place to feel safe and accepted.

Kiwanis took me on an adventure which I never expected. When I retired from teaching, the Bradford, Pennsylvania Kiwanis Club had my Kiwanis career mapped out. I took part on the board, served as president-elect, president, Lt. governor, and regional trustee. When it came time to move, Pennsylvania Executive Director, Kevin Thomas, contacted WI-UM Executive Director, Mark Finger, and Randall and I were welcomed by Anna Bruhn and other WI-UM Kiwanians. This brings me to today, where I have served as WI-UM Division 6 Lt. Governor since 2020.

I want to serve as your governor because I have a huge heart for children of all ages and abilities and a desire to serve each Kiwanis club, like I served students in the classroom. I feel that each club has a personality with varying abilities. So, it will be my responsibility to listen, encourage, challenge, and edify the clubs within the district. I also enjoy traveling. Visiting your club will be my adventure with a purpose. I will get to meet amazing Kiwanians, edify your clubs, and help grow Kiwanis.

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

KIWANIS DUES GOT YOU DOWN? EASILY ADD TO YOUR ADMIN ACCOUNT!

Submitted by Master Club Instructor Jean Long Manteufel

Best practices say you should keep administrative funds separate from service funds. Money that is raised internally can be used to boost the administrative budget if the club so chooses. If your club is looking for ways to keep the cost of dues down, here are some ideas to add to your administrative account.

\$22 per member – the amount that each member pays to Kiwanis International for insurance – can be moved as an expense to the service account from the administrative account.

Have internal fundraisers. Liven up meetings with: happy bucks, a 50-50 raffle, a dessert raffle, or selling scrip cards to club members.

Hold a talent auction, selling the services or products of club members (e.g., cookies of the month, a convertible ride to Lambeau Field and tour, two hours of garden weeding, addressing Christmas cards, or preparing a home-cooked dinner for eight guests).

If your members work for an outside organization and get paid for volunteer hours, like Packer events, parking at Farm Days, working the gate at Cheesefest, etc., ask them to donate the value of their paid volunteering.

What ideas does your club have to share?

#KIDSNEEDKIWANIS

THE FUTURE OF KIWANIS HINGES ON SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Submitted by Timothy Lubinsky, 2023-2024 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor

In the last issue of the *Kiwanews*, I discussed the first five of ten responsibilities of clubs which sponsor Kiwanis' Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). I will now discuss the last five responsibilities.



At the district level, each SLP has been assigned a district administrator who has been trained by Kiwanis International. District administrators are the "adult face" of the SLP program in their district. This means they are advocates for the program, represent the program at district events and generally serve as the primary "go-to" person for the program within the district.

Each administrator is responsible for providing quality and efficient leadership to, and administration of the district organization as a vital component of the Kiwanis family. The administrator is appointed to serve a one-year term, from April 1st through March 31st (loosely aligned with the school year). The district administrator aids by facilitating relationships between the SLP and the host Kiwanis club. They help develop effective strategies for membership development and retention for clubs. Please learn who your SLP administrator is, and communicate with them regularly. Administrators are listed on page 15 of this issue of the *Kiwanews*.

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

6) Invite your Kiwanis Family clubs and their faculty advisors to provide an update at the first Kiwanis club meeting in November (Kiwanis Family Month).

7) Work with SLP leaders and faculty advisors to coordinate a Kiwanis club membership drive for SLP parents and caregivers.

8) Plan one or two fun events for SLP members such as a mini-golf tournament, bowling, volleyball or a Kiwanis Family picnic.

9) Schedule an annual club meeting program on Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines. Request help from our District's Youth Protection Chair, John Collins. Reach John at 262-914-2721 or coljrcollins@gmail.com.

10) Budget service account funds to send Key Club and Circle K members and advisors to their district and international conventions. Ideally, expenses are split equally between the Kiwanis club, the student, and the SLP club.

2023-2024 District Governor Tim Lubinsky can be reached at 920-450-3951 or tlubinsky19@hotmail.com.

IMPORTANT KIWANIS DATES

Virtual Board Meeting	October 28, 2023
Midyear Conference #1	March, 2024
Midyear Conference #2	April, 2024
Circle K District Convention	Spring, 2024
Key Club District Convention	March 15-17, 2024
Kiwanis International Convention	July 3-7, 2024
Kiwanis District Convention	August 16-18, 2024

FIVE EASILY ATTAINABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT KIWANIS CLUBS

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

SERVE

Service is the “why” Kiwanis exists. I am referring to hands-on service where members can see the meaningful impact of their volunteering, whether it is the smile on the faces of individuals being served or the tangible results of a project that members physically worked on. Fundraising and check-writing shouldn’t be confused with hands-on volunteering. Check-writing just doesn’t have the same positive emotional impact on members.



ENJOY

Fun is the joy of being a member. Fun is the opposite of not enjoying the meetings, fundraising or the projects that a club does. Fun should be an intentional part of what a club does. If a club doesn’t like to sing at meetings, stop singing. If they hate organizing a certain project or fundraiser, maybe it is time to change it. If members never laugh or smile at a meeting, something is wrong. Yes, the work involved isn’t always an easy thing but it shouldn’t be a drudgery, either.

MARKET

How does the community know what your club does? **Marketing** is what a club does to be known. Be it an article in the local paper or a Facebook post on a page with many followers, getting the word out about your club is important to its success. Some clubs might even have a TV or radio station to spread the Kiwanis message.

LEAD

The quality of the **Leadership** of a Kiwanis club is a strong indicator of its success. The club leadership, especially the president, sets the importance of adding new members, having successful committees, and setting the culture of the club. The president sets the agenda of the meetings and ensures that budgets and planning happen and that all deadlines are met. All the officers should attend training each year and be familiar with the club leadership guides that are available online. A club president has a big responsibility to ensure that the club continues successfully after their term. Leadership succession is part of that, but so is financial responsibility.

CONNECT

Connection to the Kiwanis family is the final element of a great club. There are many ways a club can and should be doing that. Sponsoring a Service Leadership Program (SLP) is one of the best things a club can do for students or for adults with disabilities. Clubs should be fulfilling the responsibilities of sponsorship. Members should be attending SLP meetings and activities. The clubs should financially support the SLP and encourage Key Club and CKI members to attend conventions and leadership training. There is a requirement to meet with the principals of schools with an SLP. Members of a Kiwanis club should be meeting with other clubs in their area by attending division council meetings and interclub meetings. Encourage members to attend midyear conferences, district, and Kiwanis International conventions. Attending educational opportunities in person or virtually are great ways to improve skills and connect with other members.

There you have it. Five simple (and easily attainable) characteristics that can improve your club. I want to thank Past Kiwanis International President and future International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo for this list.

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.

WI-UM GOVERNORS ENJOYED VISIT TO MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

Submitted by Larry Koziol, 2021-2022 Kiwanis District Governor

In mid-July Governor Bill Abbott and Past Governor Larry Koziol – along with their wives – packed up their campers, left their Wisconsin homes, and headed to Upper Michigan for a week of Kiwanis club visits. The second annual U.P. trip is fondly referred to as Bill and Larry's excellent adventure, with a nod to the 1989 sci-fi comedy with a similar title.

The group traveled from Escanaba to Iron Mountain, from Marquette to Houghton and made a few side trips. By the end of the week, Bill and Larry visited nine clubs:

- Alger County
- Copper Country
- Escanaba
- Greater Ishpeming-Pioneer
- Gladstone-Rapid River
- Iron Mountain-Kingsford
- Ishpeming
- Manistique Area
- Marquette

The trip provided many learning opportunities. The group heard about little free libraries, Special Olympians,

Adopt-a-Family Christmas, a playground named after a long-time Kiwanian, accessible ramps, book drives, calculators for kids, poinsettias for seniors, a community Christmas dinner, Reading is Fundamental and other service programs in place in the Upper Peninsula.

The visit culminated with a visit to Bay Cliff Health Camp, at which Camp Director Clare Lutgen gave a red carpet tour. Much was learned about the camp and the great work they do with children.

To make the trip a little more interesting, Bill and Larry were greeted by a deluge at the campground in Ishpeming, although the rain and flooding didn't dampen spirits.

It was a fantastic adventure and there is nothing like Yooper hospitality. Thanks go out to the Upper Michigan Kiwanis clubs for welcoming Bill and Larry to their meetings and social events!



Alger County Kiwanis Members greet Governor Bill (right).



One of the Iron Mountain Kiwanis Club's signature projects is "Calculators for Kids".



Andrew Rickauer, right, presents a check from the Kiwanis Club of Marquette to 2022-2023 District Governor Bill Abbott.



First Lady Lynn Abbott, left, along with Lynn Koziol, Governor Bill and Past-Governor Larry enjoyed a tour of Bay Cliff Health Camp.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

The theme of the 2023 district convention was "Blast from the Past". From the opening session on Friday through the Memorial Service on Sunday, participants really did have a blast.

Although important district business was conducted during board meetings and the delegate session, most of the weekend-long event was just plain fun.

Participants donned era-appropriate clothing from a past decade, a photo booth with loads of fun props was available, and the planning service project added purposeful fun. The governor's banquet featured an Elvis impersonator who really engaged the audience.

Enjoy these photos, submitted by a variety of Kiwanis members who attended!



Outgoing Lt. governors were recognized by Executive Director Justin Han, right, for their service to the district.



2022-2023 Governor Bill Abbott and 2021-2022 Governor Larry Koziol share a smile.



Seven of our Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Lt. governors posed for a photo at the district convention.



2022-2023 Governor Bill Abbott, left, 2023-2024 Governor-elect Kathy Durner, and Executive Director Justin Hahn pose together.



Tim Lubinsky, right, accepts the governor's gavel from Kiwanis International Trustee Vincent Salembier.



The KDF basket raffle was another great success, with baskets donated by many of the clubs represented at the convention.



Joan Pinch and Kathy Strong Langolf, members of the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club, posed with "Blast from the Past" props in the photo booth.



Service project participants created "plarn" from plastic bags, which will be woven into sleeping mats to be distributed to the homeless.



Many of the convention participants took the "Blast from the Past" theme to heart and dressed in decade-appropriate apparel.



Kiwanians enter the gallery of the convention delegate session, during which official district business was conducted.



Governor Tim Lubinsky, right, donated \$1,000 to the KDF in honor of Past Governor Lynn Messer, who was awarded a Case Van Kleeef Fellowship.



An Elvis impersonator poses with outgoing Division 10 Lt. Governor Mike Hipple during the governor's banquet.



The Hilmar L. "Bill" Solberg Award was presented to Stephen Stuelke.



Kiwanians who passed away since the last convention were remembered.

KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND MICROGRANT MAKES A BIG IMPACT IN RIPON

Submitted by Gary Scholtens, Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club

In a world overflowing with technology, it's a joy to witness young minds immersed in the world of literature. Ripon's journey towards fostering a love for reading among its youth has taken a giant leap forward with the introduction of large print chapter books in the innovative Wonderbook format. If you're unfamiliar with Wonderbooks, it's a hard cover picture book or early reader with an audiobook player built into the cover. Press play and it'll read aloud to you while you turn the pages. Spearheaded by Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club President Gary Scholtens, this project is transforming the way children engage with books, amplifying the success achieved by Ripon Public Library's circulation of Wonderbooks since 2020.

A Perfect Match

When children's librarian Linda DeCramer, a Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club member, saw the exceptional response to Wonderbooks at the Ripon Public Library, she envisioned an even more impactful way to encourage reading among young minds. Her idea was to introduce large print

versions of these captivating tales. As a retired teacher, to Gary Scholtens the match seemed serendipitous. Scholtens' understanding of the power of literature, combined with his commitment to education, made he and DeCramer the ideal champions for this cause.

Turning Dreams into Reality

Recognizing the immense potential of this endeavor, Scholtens, with the backing of Ripon Noon Kiwanis, took steps towards making it a reality. The club secured \$1,000 in funding through a Kiwanis Children's Fund Microgrant, which was pivotal in bringing large print Wonderbooks to young readers. This generous contribution, combined with the support of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, propelled the initiative

forward, highlighting the community's collective understanding of the significance of nurturing young minds through literature.

Advancing Literacy with Large Print Books

The decision to invest in large print books for youth was validated by a 2020 study titled "Advancing Literacy with Large Print," conducted by Project Tomorrow and Thorndike Press. Dr. Julie Evans, CEO of Project Tomorrow, emphasized the enthusiasm exhibited by students and teachers for large print materials. The academic findings cited in the study highlighted large print as a robust literacy intervention resource, with a measurable impact on students' confidence, enjoyment, and literacy skills. This study reinforces the belief that

this innovative approach deserves the attention of educators everywhere.

Heartfelt Gratitude

DeCramer expressed deep gratitude for the support that this project has received. She stated, "The Ripon Public Library is thankful for the generosity of the Kiwanis Children's

Fund, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, and Gary Scholtens' and Ripon Noon Kiwanis' understanding of the importance of this project." This collaborative effort underscores the power of community partnerships and the shared vision of empowering young readers with the tools to thrive.

Embracing a Bright Future

The introduction of large print Wonderbooks marks a new chapter in Ripon Noon Kiwanis' long-time commitment to nurturing youth. With the fusion of technology and literature, this initiative showcases the potential to transform young lives one page at a time. Embrace a future where literature ignites the imagination and unlocks the doors of opportunity for our youth.



Kiwanis®
CHILDREN'S FUND

**"EMBRACE A FUTURE WHERE LITERATURE
IGNITES THE IMAGINATION AND UNLOCKS THE
DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUTH."**

- Ripon Noon Kiwanis President Gary Scholtens



Members of the Medford Kiwanis Club received coffee coupons and notes of appreciation for the club's efforts to support children's literacy.

MEDFORD KIWANIS CLUB HONORED FOR PROMOTING YOUTH LITERACY

Submitted by Miki Bix, Medford Kiwanis Club

The Medford Kiwanis Club was honored this summer for its work with the Medford Reads program, which helps children to read at grade level. Two Medford Kiwanis members got the idea by attending a workshop at a Kiwanis International Convention and it has been a project of the Medford Kiwanis Club for over 20 years.

Medford Area Senior High (MASH) special education students delivered coffee coupons and a compassionate note of thankfulness to Medford Kiwanis Club members, and other volunteers who make a difference in the school district's service area.

"We appreciate the opportunity to give back to those people and organizations who support children, adults, and families in our health care, schools, and community," said Joseph Greget, Director of Student Services and Special Education at Medford Area Public School District.

The Coffee Literacy program is a partnership among MASH special education students, the Taylor County Literacy Council, Medford Schools' Our Special Family, and local coffee partners. MASH students have delivered more than 1,500 coffee coupons in the past two years as part of a service learning project.

KEWASKUM TURKEY SHOOT RAISED MORE THAN \$500,000 SINCE 1952

Submitted by Mark Yanke, Kewaskum Kiwanis Club

The Kewaskum Kiwanis Club will host the 72nd Annual Turkey Shoot on October 7th from 10 am until 4 pm at the West Bend Barton Sportsman's Club, located at 3450 Trap Shoot Lane in Kewaskum.

Participants attempt to win a turkey on the firing line, pistol shoot, golf drive, bow and arrow, dart toss or at raffles throughout the day. With a bounce house and face painting, Kiwanians anticipate fun for the whole family. Brats, burgers and soda will be available for purchase.

The Kewaskum Turkey Shoot has raised more than \$500,000 since its inception. The club is also holding a "Mega Raffle" with chances to win 14 great prizes. To request tickets, contact ktownkiwanis@gmail.com.

72nd Kewaskum Kiwanis Turkey Shoot

- * Trap Shoot * Turkey Darts
- * Compound and Cross Bow Shoot (Bring Your Own Bow)
- * Pistol Firing Line * Golf Shoot
- * Rifle Firing Line * Axe Throwing
- * Bow and Arrow
- * Bounce House * Face Painting
- * Fun for the Whole Family



FREE
ADMISSION

Saturday,
October 7, 2023
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Rain or Shine

West Bend Barton
Sportsman's Club
3450 Trap Shoot Lane,
Kewaskum

All Day Turkey
and Gun Raffles

Brats—Burgers—Soda
will be available

WAUWATOSA KIWANIANS BELIEVE IN GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Submitted by Bob Gross, Wauwatosa Kiwanis Club

It's amazing some of the things that go through your head while sitting in the dental chair. Things like high-speed drills, grinders, sharp pointy objects, and old ground-out fillings. Of course, the dentist is curious and asks questions. I had just come from my Wauwatosa Kiwanis meeting and was wearing my Kiwanis shirt. He asked me what Kiwanis was and what we do. After sputtering to build comprehensible words, and then to piece them into sentences, our dental assistant called up the Kiwanis website on her computer and started reading off some of the things that we do for our communities and for our youth.

I wanted to say more because locally, we have a much greater impact than anyone knows. We funded a handicap-accessible fishing pier at the Scout Lake Salvation Army Camp. We bought matching jackets for the Milwaukee area Special Olympics swimming team. We helped purchase a bus and sponsored youth at Camp Wawbeek. We sponsor a BSA Venturing Crew and provide them camp scholarships and we sponsor a Key Club at both of Wauwatosa's high schools.

There are two organizations the Wauwatosa Kiwanis Club supports locally that are awesome, cool, and excellent.

We The People Competition

Wauwatosa West won the State "We The People" competition and will represent Wisconsin on Capitol Hill in April. Students appear in a simulated congressional hearing where they testify before a panel as they answer questions that demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. They then compete with other high schools in Wisconsin for the honor of representing the state at the final competition in Washington D.C. These young adults are truly the best of the best.

Chad Mateske is one of those teachers that will challenge his students to exceed their current level of excellence. I am proud to know him and his students and Wauwatosa Kiwanians are proud to support them.



Students in Wauwatosa take part in the We the People simulated congressional hearing, demonstrating their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

WI-UM Kiwanis Autism Project

2012-2013 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Lynn Messer got us started on the Kiwanis Autism Project. Kiwanians are focused on helping youth, and those on the autism spectrum are often struggling in school. This was a natural fit for Kiwanis. There are software apps developed for assisting those on the autism spectrum which work on the iPad platform. I have delivered many iPads to children on the spectrum. Typically, the iPad is barely even out of the box and the student is using it. Our club currently has four iPads waiting for delivery to the approved youth. Since starting this project, more than 1,400 iPads have been delivered in our WI-UM service area to the youth and their therapists – and we have the need for more as time and fund-raising permits.

What does your Kiwanis club do? How do you give back? At the end of the day, ask the question about how are you giving back to the community. For me, I give back through my membership in Kiwanis and also through a number of other community-based organizations which support the causes that I believe in. Make a positive difference in this world!

Yup, that painkiller eventually wore off. I can speak normally again and I have returned my dentist to my Christmas card list. I will be inviting him, and his assistant, to an upcoming Kiwanis meeting!

OSHKOSH KIWANIS' NEW TOP DOG CONTEST BENEFITS KIDS AND PETS

Submitted by Bruce Butler, Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club



During the month of September, dog lovers and supporters of animal shelters come together to celebrate the extraordinary bond between humans and their four-legged friends while supporting a noble cause that benefits both kids and pets. Proceeds from the contest will benefit the participating shelters and the Oshkosh Mid-morning Kiwanis Club.

How the Contest Works

Dog owners pay \$10 to enter their pup into their favorite shelter's photo contest. After registration, contestants encourage their friends and family to vote for their canine companion at a cost of \$1 each.

Aside from bragging rights, there are a number of reasons folks choose to enter the contest.

The winning dog representing each of the six local shelters will become the face of their very own custom-brewed beer. They'll even get to participate in the naming and brewing process. In each of the six contests, the 2nd through 10th place dogs will also have their photos featured on the beer can or bottle.

The top 10 dogs from each of the contests will win a variety of prize packages.

At the end of the contest, the shelter with the most votes across all dogs representing their shelter will win a \$5,000 cash prize! The second highest will receive \$4,000. The third will receive \$3,000. The fourth will



A 2021 winning entry is featured on the front of a beer can, while the nine runners-up are featured on the back.

receive \$2,000 and the fifth will receive \$1,000. This is in addition to the funds they receive from contest entries and voting.

"We're excited to bring together the love for our furry friends, the artistry of our local brewers, and the dedication to serving children around the world," says Jeff Slusarski of New Top Dog 2023. "These partnerships highlight the essence of unity, community support, and making a positive impact on both our kids and our pets."

New Top Dog 2023 is made possible thanks to the generous support of its major sponsors, Fleet Farm and Fox Communities Credit Union. Their dedication to community betterment and animal welfare aligns perfectly with the values of the event.

Follow the contest online at www.newtopdog.com or on social media at www.facebook.com/newtopdog or at www.instagram.com/new_topdog.



KDF OFFICERS & DIVISION REPS

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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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In an effort to make a tangible difference in the communities served by their club, members of the Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Club granted \$5,000 to three different organizations who positively impact children and families.

APPLETON-FOX CITIES KIWANIS CLUB GRANTS \$5,000 TO NONPROFITS

Submitted by Jay Stephany, Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Club

In order to bring relief and support to a host of local youth-focused initiatives, the Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Club announced the distribution of \$5,000 in grants to three Appleton-area nonprofits. Organizations which received funding include:

- **Center for Grieving Children**

Every year thousands of children grieve the loss of a parent, grandparent, a friend or loved one. The Center for Grieving Children is a safe place for children, teens and their families to find compassionate peer support, engage in commemorative activities, gain information about the grieving process, and express feelings and experiences in an accepting environment. The center builds community among families and offers a celebration in the holiday season when grief can be particularly heavy and difficult.

- **First 5 Fox Valley**

First 5 Fox Valley provides expectant and new parents with information and resources to nurture and support

their roles as caregivers of a new baby, especially families experiencing trauma and stress at birth.

- **Vida Trinity House**

Vida Trinity House provides cribs for a new transitional residential maternity housing program to assist pregnant women, new moms, and children.

In total, 11 agencies submitted applications for consideration and those agencies will not be left behind. As in the past, the club will continue to work with all application submission agencies as a way to develop and/or support new service projects to support youth-focused nonprofits in the community.

The Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis has established the Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Endowment and Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc. to help ensure the preservation of Kiwanis ideals, charitable contributions, and long-term community support.