



KIWANEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023



Left to right, WI-UM Kiwanis District iPads for Autism Chair Lynn Messer, Stephanie Rortvedt, her three-year-old son and iPad recipient Bryce Baumann, and the school district's special needs education supervisor Amy Delis.

KIWANIS AUTISM PROJECT GETS BOOST AS MORE KIDS BENEFIT

Submitted by Lee Gumm, Kiwanis Club of Sheboygan Falls

The Kiwanis Clubs of Sheboygan Falls and Greater Sheboygan conducted their annual walk/run to benefit the iPads for Autism project on April 29, 2023. The event netted \$7,000. On July 15, 2023, the Third Annual Autism Awareness Fundraiser was held at Laack's Ballroom in Johnsonville. The event was independently organized by Haley Butler and included a brat fry, arm wrestling, a dart tournament and live music and \$5,000 was raised. Those proceeds were donated to the Sheboygan Falls and

Greater Sheboygan Kiwanis Clubs to be used for iPads for children on the autism spectrum.

Recent iPad donations were made to two Plymouth families. Five-year-old Quinn Tarrant, son of Sara and Brandon Tarrant, received his iPad with educational software included. His software was recommended by his autism consultant/special education teacher, Tamara Kurtz. His one-on-one aide is Megan Sheldon.

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LUBINSKY EXPLAINS GOVERNOR'S PIN AND ANNOUNCES PROJECT

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



Tim Lubinsky

Governor's Pin is Explained

Kiwanis members have asked, "What is the significance of receiving a Governor's pin? Annually, the Kiwanis District Governor designs his or her own governor's pin. I, along with my wife Pat, designed my pin using the Kiwanis colors of blue, white

and silver, and the phrase "Serving the Children." This phrase captures the mission of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District. When I present my Governor's pin to a Kiwanis member, it is meant to give immediate recognition to the service that the Kiwanis member has performed in supporting the Kiwanis mission.

A Brief History of Camp Wawbeek

What follows is a little history about Camp Wawbeek: In 1897, Milwaukee attorney Horace Upham and his wife Mary purchased property for a summer home near Kilbourn City, now called Wisconsin Dells. They called the property "Wawbeek," borrowed from Henry Longfellow's epic poem "The Song of Hiawatha." In the poem, a big black stone was named Wawbeek. The Uphams built a huge mansion with a stone turret at the north end. Because of the turret, it was called "The Castle."

The Northwestern train ran between Milwaukee and Wisconsin Dells, bringing Horace and Mary's friends to the castle to stay, party and relax. Horace and Mary had two daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline, who would inherit Wawbeek and eventually donate the property. On April 9, 1938, Elizabeth and Caroline donated Wawbeek to the Wisconsin Association of the Disabled (now called Easter Seals of Wisconsin)

When the Wisconsin Association for the Disabled was established, its mission was to build camps for families with disabled children. The camps were designed so that disabled children would come together and give some respite time to the families. The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District would become the camp



Governor Lubinsky's goal is to raise \$10,000 to remodel the women's bathroom, including removing the bathtub, sinks and toilet and replacing them with a shower, new sinks, and a new toilet.

sponsor. Camp Wawbeek is the longest running Easter Seals Camp in the country.

Governor's Project Will Support Camp Wawbeek

The top floor of the castle is where female counselors and staff stay. They share one bathroom that has not been remodeled since the 1930s. My 2023-2024 governor's project is to remodel the women's bathroom. I want to remove the outdated bathtub, sinks, and toilet and replace them with a shower, new sinks, and a new toilet. We need to raise \$10,000 to accomplish the goal.

If you, or your Kiwanis club would like to donate to my project, please remit a check, payable to the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation, to Mark Finger, KDF Secretary/Treasury, 571 Center Street, Berlin, WI 54923.

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

WI-UM DISTRICT GOVERNOR LUBINSKY ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 GOALS

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

Now that the 2023-2024 Kiwanis year is underway, I wanted to fill you in on the goals set by the lieutenant governor's at a training session last June. They are:

- 1) The district will build seven new clubs.
- 2) The district will establish seven new service leadership programs (SLPs).
- 3) The district will contribute \$7,000 to the Kiwanis Children's Fund.



These goals are attainable. Clubs have support available from the district, including a seasoned Membership and Engagement (M&E) team. The team includes club coaches that will come and help you do a club survey to identify club strengths and areas which may need

improvement. The M&E Team hosts training sessions at midyear conferences and the district convention. And the district also hosts club leadership education.

We have Service Leadership Program administrators who will guide your Kiwanis club and SLP club in establishing a good working relationship.

Lieutenant Governor Fitz Fitzpatrick is also our Kiwanis Children's Fund representative. KFC now offers micro grants. Invite Fitz to a club meeting to find out how a micro grant can work for you. Read the front cover story of the August/September 2023 issue of the *Kiwanews* to learn how one club obtained and used a micro grant.

Remember to keep a positive attitude and do not become discouraged. Think about all the good our service organization does for children and communities.

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

KIWANIS STRIVES TO OFFER DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Submitted by Mike Hipple, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion District Chair

As a member of Kiwanis, we want to make sure that children in our community are being served and that we are helping them serve others to be a helpful part of their community. That is why we sponsor Service Leadership Programs like Key Club.

But what about adults who don't look like us in the community? Do they know that they can join the Kiwanis family? I hope so, but if not, it is our job to let them know that they are able to join Kiwanis. Clubs need to reflect the community that they are in so the public knows that we care about all people in the community.

If you are in a community with some people who are Latino, for example, you might want to try to find a Latino person and invite them to a service project. They might be nervous about coming to something when they

don't know anyone and no one looks like them. This is understandable. With anyone new to your club, it is your responsibility to welcome them and ask them questions to learn more about them.

People who like serving the community – like we do – come from all walks of life. They might look different or have an accent, but we all have a heart of gold and we want to serve the community. Please contact me with any questions about diversity, equity and inclusion or any issues that your club or your SLP club has.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair Mike Hipple can be reached at mikehipple4@gmail.com.

#KIDSNEEDKIWANIS

GOVERNOR-ELECT SAYS 'SERVICE TO OTHERS IS THE HIGHEST CALLING'

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



Kathy Durner

In Kiwanis, our philosophy is "serving the world, one child and one community at a time." It is a simple but deep philosophy. There are many ways to serve others. In Kiwanis, one way we carry out this task is through Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). Our SLPs meet the

needs of a wide range of age and abilities. From early elementary grades to seasoned Kiwanians, we can find a niche for almost everyone who is interested in community service.

In elementary schools, you will find K-Kids. Students who are members of a K-Kids program are usually in grades 3-5. They have endless energy, innocent confidence, and have a desire to make the world a better place.

These students will leave you awestruck by their enthusiasm, organization, and desire to

make their schools a welcoming facility. They take pride in cleaning up the school grounds, making posters on friendship, kindness, holidays, etc. These young people can write and present a speech on why they are running for a specific office. You will sit back in astonishment at what these elementary students are capable of.

You will find Builder's Club members in grades 6-8.

These students run in overdrive most of the time. They like dances and food drives so they can get into the dance free. Since they still enjoy Halloween, they will trick-or-treat for food for the homeless or the needy instead of candy (although they will not turn down candy). This group is beginning to test their limits. They love having competitions between their grades, like penny wars. This group gets into competitive bell ringing.

In high school, you will find Key Club members. Their independence is shooting out like fireworks. The students are ready to take on the world. At this point,

the members are ready to organize and plan events, engage in parliamentary procedure, attend conventions, and assert their independence in choosing projects. This is the point when the students begin understanding the bigger picture and how they fit into the Kiwanis family. They interact with the local Kiwanis community through luncheons, combined projects like highway clean-up, river clean-up, variety shows, etc. Key Clubbers now appreciate and understand that they are a part of something bigger than themselves. They see how they can positively affect people in other parts of their community and the world.

Circle K is Kiwanis in the college environment. It is an exciting bridge into Kiwanis. The Circle K students are experiencing the real world, with the joys and challenges that go with adult life. Their enthusiasm energizes

many of the Kiwanis clubs as Circle K students see the world through a diverse set of glasses. They see the big picture with enthusiasm

and a drive to make the world a better place. They are not afraid of challenges or failure in a project. Circle K students haven't been jaded by excessive negative experiences. They challenge the Kiwanis clubs to grow through their service and energy.

Members of the aKtion Club always leave me with a full heart and a twinkle in my eyes. Anyone who has special needs (for example, autism spectrum, academically or physically challenged) is eligible to be a member in an aKtion Club. This member almost always sees the good in a situation. They are also the most persistent people. They are not afraid to remind you that they want you at their aKtion club meeting on Wednesday. They love taking part in community projects, community productions, Relay for Life, and cultural events. They make me smile.

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

Kiwanis®

Service Leadership Programs

FRED DIETZE APPOINTED TO SERVE AS BUILDERS CLUB DISTRICT CHAIR

Submitted by Fred Dietze, 2023-2024 District Builders Club Chair

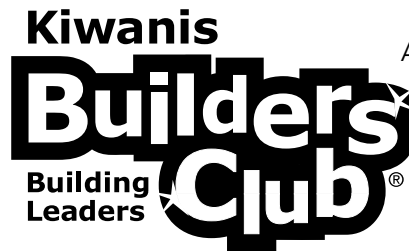
Did you know that there are more than 30 Builders Clubs within our Wisconsin Upper Michigan Kiwanis District? That is an awesome number. That means we are affecting the lives of more than 450 middle school students and developing servant leaders who positively affect their schools or community-based organizations.

The Kiwanis advisor to a Builders Club has a tremendous responsibility for ensuring the success of the kids involved in this service leadership program.

Shortly after our district convention, Governor Tim Lubinsky appointed me to be the District Administrator for Builders Club. This position is directed by Kiwanis International. Why did I get picked? After a 20-year Army career, I should be smart enough not to volunteer for anything, however, in this case, the position involves three key elements that I could not step away from: Kiwanis, the WI-UM District, and kids.

I am the Kiwanis Advisor to the Hudson Area Library Builders Club. I have very little experience in Builders Club, but a lot of experience with Kiwanis service

leadership programs. I have been a K-Kids advisor, an adult advisor to the WI-UM Key Club District Board, and the Kiwanis International Board Advisor to Key Club International. I do believe that these kids can do amazing things, with very little hands-on control, and with strong encouragement and respect.



As the district Builders Club administrator, I am not going to tell you how to do your job, but rather, I want to be a conduit for information for all of our Kiwanis Advisors regarding Builders Club. I want to know what you and your

clubs are doing, and to pass that information around the district. If you see an email from fred@freddietze.com, please don't throw it into the trash until after you have read it. If it is in your junk mail or spam folder, please dig it out and read it.

I am a facilitator, not a director. I can help answer your questions, so please feel free to contact me!

Builders Club District Chair Fred Dietze can be reached at 715-381-0038 or fred@freddietze.com.

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER HUDSON CHARTERS NEW BUILDERS CLUB

Submitted by Fred Dietze, 2023-2024 District Builders Club Chair

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson recently sponsored a service leadership program for middle school students. The Hudson Area Library Builders Club is a student-led service organization that is part of the Kiwanis family. Builders Club provides opportunities to build character, contribute through service and develop leadership skills. It empowers youth as they navigate this in-between stage of life. Members develop self-awareness as they discover their passion to serve, their desire to lead, and their ability to engage and collaborate with others so that service to the community will become a way of life.

Even before they were officially chartered, the club held a fundraiser during which they distributed homemade

dog treats at the local dog park. They generated \$125 in donations for Coco's Heart, a local dog rescue.



Builders Club members present the proceeds from their first fundraiser/service project to Coco's Heart, a local dog rescue group.

IPADS FOR AUTISM DISTRICT CHAIR IS GRATEFUL FOR CLUB SUPPORT

Submitted by Lynn Messer, iPads for Autism District Signature Project Chair

Isn't it amazing that the iPads for Autism District Signature Project is still moving along at a fast pace! The original goal in 2012 was to grant 1,000 iPads. Today, we are on the cusp of granting 1,600! As each new shipment is received, it's nearly time to place another order.

New applications are received roughly every other day. What a blessing that Kiwanis members can assist children who need help communicating. We have not only helped 1,600 children, we have positively impacted their siblings, parents, caregivers, teachers and school support staff. All told, this project has had a powerful impact on thousands of people within our Kiwanis district.

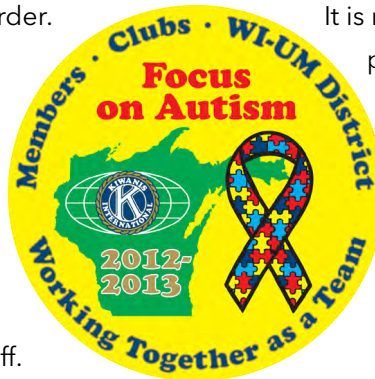
One area that needs improvement involves the changeover in club leadership. Often, there is a loss of continuity when the process is not explained to the new

leaders. I find myself summarizing the program again, which consumes much of my time. The clubs which remain active with this project continue to amaze me.

It is rewarding to hear the compliments given by parents and therapists extolling the virtues of the iPads for Autism District Signature Project. At a recent iPad presentation, during a discussion with the child's therapist regarding the benefits of the project, we were both overcome with emotions and struggled to hold back tears.

I intend to continue this project as long as I can and I thank the clubs which continue to support it.

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



Kiwanis Autism Project Gets Boost as More Kids Benefit...continued from page one

The second recipient was Bryce Baumann, three-year-old son of Stephanie Rortvedt. His autism spectrum consultant/special education teacher, Nicole Stotzheim, recommended communication software for his iPad.

The final fundraiser of the year for the iPads for Autism project was the Sheboygan Falls club's 23rd Annual

Packer Pig Roast, held on November 12, 2023. Nearly 170 attendees came for the meal and stayed to watch the Packers game. Raffles and a large silent auction contributed to the overall success of the fundraiser.

The three fundraisers will allow the Kiwanis clubs to grant many more iPads to children on the autism spectrum.



Accepting a fundraising check for the iPads for Autism district signature project is Lynn Messer, third from left. Presenting the check is Courtney Theobald, second from right. Others in the photo are Kiwanis members Rich Miesfeld, Sheila Kloepping and Lee Gumm.



Five-year-old Quinn Tarrant, left, son of Sara and Brandon Tarrant, middle, received an iPad with educational software included. His one-on-one aide, Megan Sheldon, second from left, was on hand as Lynn Messer, right, presented the iPad.

KIWANIS 'N COPS 'N KIDS PROGRAM MAKES KIDS SMILE IN FOND DU LAC

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

The Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac and the Fond du Lac Police Department have both expressed appreciation to the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club for recently facilitating a Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids reading event.

The Boys and Girls Club posted on Facebook a "Big thank you to Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis members Joan Pinch and Kathy Strong Langolf, along with Officer Smith of the Fond du Lac Police Department, for taking time to read with our elementary club members as part of the Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids Reading Together program!"

Special thanks to the National Wheelman for donating 75 sets of three books for the kids to take home and add to their own library. We're so thankful for this partnership!"

And the Fond du Lac Police Department posted that "Officer Smith had a great time reading with elementary Boys and Girls Club members last week as part of the Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids Reading Together program!"

Perhaps the most grateful were the kiddos who were able to listen to the stories and take a book home with them!



KDF OFFICERS & DIVISION REPS

President

Jim Burmeister 608-429-2905
burmji@gmail.com Portage

Vice President

Roger Krogstad 715-207-2720
krog4kiwanis@gmail.com Marshfield

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Finger 920-229-2571
markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org Berlin

Immediate Past President

Jan Williams 920-279-2736
jan@jwains.com Berlin

Division 1/Term: 2021-2024

Melissa Loebach 224-730-1558
mbondy1024@gmail.com Kenosha

Division 2/Term: 2021-2024

Jim Buskel 262-796-0633
buskel@wi.rr.com Elm Grove Golden K

Division 3/Term: 2021-2024

Larry Koziol 262-338-1996
larrykoziol@gmail.com West Bend, Early Risers

Division 4/Term: 2024-2026

Bob Cullen 920-849-2059
No email Chilton

Division 5/Term: 2024-2026

Todd Liebergen 920-393-0300
tmlieben@gmail.com Appleton

Division 6/Term: 2022-2025

Dennis Andreasen 608-768-7543
denniscandre@rucls.net Reedsburg

Division 7/Term: 2021-2024

Glenda Lee 608-615-0066
glendalee01@centurytel.net La Crosse

Division 8/Term: 2021-2024

Ken Irwin 920-827-2109
irwins@tcei.com New Holstein

Division 9/Term: 2022-2025

Louise Gudex 920-923-6870
lgudex@fdlpha.org Fond du Lac

Division 10/Term: 2024-2026

Mary Ann Wepfer 920-725-6004
dwepfer@new.rr.com Appleton-Fox Cities

Division 11/Term: 2022-2025

Lori Bents 715-389-1570
lbentsdc@tznet.com Marshfield

Division 12/Term: 2022-2025

LaVone Sneen 715-797-3556
sneenl@uwec.edu Eau Claire-Clear Water

Division 13/Term: 2022-2025

..... Vacant

Division 14/Term: 2024-2026

Cathy Weisinger 906-202-1297
cathyweisinger@yahoo.com Alger County

Past Foundation President Representative

Paul Shrode 715-942-1726
shrode@fvtc.edu Appleton-Fox Cities

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor

Tim Lubinsky 920-450-3951
tlubinsky19@hotmail.com Ripon

Governor-elect

Kathy Durner 814-331-2240
kathydurner1949@gmail.com Wisconsin Dells

Executive Director & Past Governor Trustee

Justin Hahn 414-510-1609
justinhahn@wiumkiwanis.org Waterford Area

Immediate Past Governor

Bill Abbott 608-935-9526
wladodge@gmail.com Dodgeville

Past Governor Trustee

Jim Buskel 262-796-0633
buskel@wi.rr.com Elm Grove Golden K

Past Lt. Governor Representative

Paul Shrode 715-942-1726
shrode@fvtc.edu Appleton-Fox Cities

Lt. Governor Division 1/Term: 2021-2023

Paul Holley 262-637-9093
paulh_wi@yahoo.com West Racine

Lt. Governor Division 2/Term: 2022-2024

William Martens 414-254-5480
wemartw@gmail.com Elm Grove Golden K

Lt. Governor Division 3/Term: 2021-2023

Wally Smith 414-943-0892
wally.smith@scouting.org Milwaukee

Lt. Governor Division 4/Term: 2021-2023

..... Vacant

Lt. Governor Division 5/Term: 2022-2024

Ken Saville 608-225-3377
kensaville.1951@gmail.com Madison West

Lt. Governor Division 6/Term: 2022-2024

Lori Bents 715-389-1570
lbentsdc@tznet.com Marshfield

Lt. Governor Division 7/Term: 2022-2024

Mike Bernath 608-366-1988
mikeandamyarenow@hotmail.com Sparta

Lt. Governor Division 8/Term: 2022-2024

Michael "Fitz" Fitzpatrick 262-777-0038
fitzforkiwanis@gmail.com New Holstein

Lt. Governor Division 9/Term: 2021-2023

Kathy Strong Langolf 920-948-5056
strongdesigns@charter.net Fond du Lac Noon

Lt. Governor Division 10/Term: 2021-2023

Peter Carman 920-460-6748
peter@petercarman.lawyer Grand Chute

Lt. Governor Division 11/Term: 2021-2023

Miki Bix 715-748-3237
mikibix@hotmail.com Medford

Lt. Governor Division 12/Term: 2021-2023

Becky Mattson 218-461-0220
rmattson711@gmail.com Eau Claire

Lt. Governor Division 13/Term: 2021-2023

Dale Vannes 715-851-1038
drvannes@yahoo.com Ashwaubenon

Lt. Governor Division 14/Term: 2022-2024

Steve Halsey 906-362-0298
trh_sph1987@yahoo.com Marquette

2023-2024 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Aktion Club Administrator

Charles Zarnoth 920-849-2658
 czarnothapc@gmail.com Chilton

Builders Club Administrator

M.A. "Fred" Dietze 715-781-7167
 fred@freddietze.com Greater Hudson

Circle K Administrator

Lena Scheibengraber 414-418-9779
 administrator@wumcki.org Metropolitan Milwaukee Nights

District Convention

La Vone Sneen 715-797-3556
 sneen@uwec.edu Eau Claire-Clear Water

District Foundation President

Jim Burmeister 608-429-2905
 burmji@gmail.com Portage

District Foundation Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Finger 920-229-2571
 markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org Berlin

K-Kids Administrator

Becky Mattson 218-461-0220
 rmattson711@gmail.com Eau Claire

Key Club Co-administrators

Erin Idler 262-909-5560
 erinidler@gmail.com Metropolitan Milwaukee Nights

Sara Nolan 262-909-9683
 nolans24@gmail.com Westosha, Salem

Key Leader Coordinator

Anna Bruhn 608-393-6811
 info@wiumkeyleader.org Sauk Prairie, Prairie du Sac

Kiwanews Editor

Tonya Alling 920-229-5531
 tonyaalling@wiumkiwanis.org Ripon Early Birds

Kiwanis Children's Fund

Michael "Fitz" Fitzpatrick 262-777-0038
 fitzforkiwanis@gmail.com New Holstein

Kiwanis Partnership Coordinator Vacant

Master Club Coach

Alan Arbuckle 719-502-7853
 ajarbuckle@yahoo.com Whitewater Breakfast

Master Instructor

Jean Long Manteufel 920-585-7769
 jean@longmoving.com Appleton-Fox Cities

Parliamentarian

Paul Shrode 715-942-1726
 shrode@fvtc.edu Appleton-Fox Cities

Public Relations Coordinator

Ron Horner 847-337-2777
 rhorner@hornerconsulting.com Western Kenosha

Risk Management & Youth Protection

John Collins 262-914-2721
 coljrcollins@gmail.com Western Kenosha

2023-2024 DISTRICT CHAIRS

Bylaws and Policies

Jim Burmeister 608-429-2905
 burmji@gmail.com Portage

District Signature Project – iPads for Autism

Lynn Messer 920-946-0652
 lmmsr001@gmail.com Sheboygan Falls

District Signature Project – Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids

Jean Long Manteufel 920-585-7769
 jean@longmoving.com Appleton-Fox Cities

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Mike Hipple 920-730-9502
 mikehipple4@gmail.com Appleton

Finance

Bruce Hoehne 608-358-1344
 b.hoehne@yahoo.com Madison West

Human and Spiritual Values

Jim Kieso 262-442-1749
 mrkieso@gmail.com Elm Grove Golden K

Leadership Development Coordinator

Ron Schuler 608-821-0987
 rschuler@wisc.edu Madison West

Membership and Engagement Co-chairs

Anna Bruhn 608-393-6811
 membership@wiumkiwanis.org Sauk Prairie, Prairie du Sac

Dale Vannes 715-851-1038
 drvannes@yahoo.com Ashwaubenon

Service

Ann Pilot 262-939-1614
 annmarie.pilot@gmail.com Metro Milwaukee Nights

KIWANEWS SCHEDULE

October/November November 1 Deadline

December/January January 1 Deadline

February/March March 1 Deadline

April/May May 1 Deadline

June/July July 1 Deadline

August/September September 1 Deadline



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Division 12 Lt. Governor Rebecca Mattson, right, installs incoming Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson President Shelley Tougas.

KIWANIS CLUB OF GREATER HUDSON INSTALLS 2023-2024 OFFICERS

Submitted by Fred Dietze, Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson recently installed its new officers for the 2023-2024 Kiwanis year at a dinner and ceremony held at Pier 500 in Hudson. Division 12 Lt. Governor Rebecca Mattson installed the officers.

The new officers are Stan Sias, Immediate Past President; Shelley Tougas, President; David Grambow, President-elect; Nancy Dietze, Secretary; Fred Dietze, Treasurer; Mike Moseman, continuing Board Member; and Anna Timmerman, new Board Member.

During the ceremony club members were acknowledged for the service that they perform within the Hudson community, and also for sponsoring two service leadership programs, K-Kids at the elementary school level and Builders Club at the middle school level.

Mattson challenged the club to maintain its current level of service, and to increase its membership, thereby gaining new ideas for service and more willing hands.



IMPORTANT KIWANIS DATES

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