

KIWANIS NEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson organized an effort to assist the food-insecure population in three western Wisconsin counties.

GREATER HUDSON KIWANIANS AND US ARMY TEAM UP TO END HUNGER

Submitted by Fred Dietze, Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson

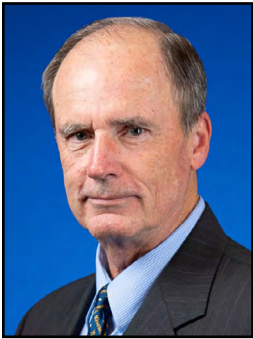
The Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Career Center in Hudson, conducted the fifth annual 'Fill a Humvee' food drive at County Market.

The generous support of the community resulted in more than \$5,700, as well as many pounds of nonperishable food items, donated to the St. Croix Valley Food Bank. The non-profit organization supports 62 food pantries in St. Croix, Pierce and Polk Counties. According to the agency's website, "nearly 10,000 households are projected to be food insecure in western Wisconsin." The amount of distributed food has been increased to meet the growing need in the counties served by the food bank, whose 2022 mission was to provide more than four million pounds of food.



SECOND QUARTER REMINDERS FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR ABBOTT

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



Bill Abbott

First Lady Lynn and I both hope everyone had a wonderful time celebrating with family and friends during the holiday season.

As we start the second quarter of the Kiwanis year, it's a good time to review areas we have been working on in our district.

I have visited many Kiwanis club meetings and special events like club anniversaries and banquets. If you would like to schedule a Governor's visit, please contact me or your Lieutenant Governor. My goal is to visit as many clubs and events as my schedule will allow.

Our Membership and Engagement Team members have been busy opening a new club in West Allis. They have also been working with clubs which request assistance. If your club is at or below charter strength (15 members) and you would like some support, please contact your Lieutenant Governor and our Membership and Engagement Team will contact you. Note that when a club falls below 15 members it does not lose its charter. The only thing the club cannot do is sponsor a new club.

It's time to mark your calendars and make plans to attend our upcoming midyear conferences. Online registration will open soon. I'm looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and meeting many new ones as well.

- February 18, 2023 – West Allis, Wisconsin
- March 25, 2023 – Appleton, Wisconsin
- April 15, 2023 – Medford, Wisconsin

Speaking of marking your calendars, our annual district convention – which is sure to be a *Blast from the Past* – will be held at the Madison Marriott West, Friday, August 25th through Sunday August 27th.

The beginning of the second quarter is a good time to review club goals and make adjustments as needed. Have you met your service, fundraising and membership recruitment goals? Kiwanis International has provided the "Two-for-Two" membership tool. Clubs which have embraced the Two-for-Two process have seen great results. Some clubs have added 10 or more members since the spring of 2022 using the "Two-for-Two" formula.

Remember, we all should be looking for new members to carry on the work that we hold so dear. Remember to assign a mentor and get the new member involved. We all came to Kiwanis to serve children but we stay because of the relationships we build and the fun we have.

I would like to address interclub visits. Our Kiwanis family is made up of people with various backgrounds and experiences. We start within our own clubs and expand into divisions, districts and the entire world. This is a large family that is there for each other. The best way to truly understand others is to connect with them personally. The easiest way to do this is an interclub visit.

During interclub visits we make connections with like-minded individuals and learn more about what other clubs are doing within their communities. This learning helps us as we exchange ideas and unique processes that can then be adapted and utilized within our own club. Interclub visits also help expand world views which leads us to become better members of the human race.

Thanks to all of you for helping the children within your communities, your divisions, your WI-UM District and the children of the world served by Kiwanis International.

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

KIWANIS FAMILY CONVENTIONS

Circle K District Convention. . . February 24-26, 2023
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Key Club District Convention . . . March 17-19, 2023
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Kiwanis International Convention . June 21-24, 2023
Minneapolis, Minnesota

GOVERNOR-ELECT TRAVELED TO INDIANAPOLIS FOR KIWANIS TRAINING

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



Tim Lubinsky

I hope that every Kiwanian had an enjoyable holiday season, renewing old friendships and spending time with family members. It certainly is a special time of the year.

Last October, I traveled to Kiwanis International Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. I was there four days for district Governor-elect training. Kiwanis International has 48 districts and 4 provincial districts. 45 of us from all around the world gathered for this training. We had three interpreters: French, Spanish, and Chinese. We were picked up at the hotel, taken to Kiwanis International headquarters for a full day of training, and then returned to the hotel at night. The training was intense, but still enjoyable. There were lectures, group discussions and acting out scenarios.

In future issues of the *Kiwanews* I would like to discuss what I thought was most important – the Ten Objectives of Club Leadership. They are:

- Have meaningful meetings
- Focus on service projects
- Focus on membership
- Utilize club Board of Directors for guidance
- Foster recognition and fellowship
- Be aware of proper financing for your club
- Foster leadership development
- Include the Kiwanis family
- Utilize public relations (PR)
- Follow up with club evaluation

Learning is important and ongoing. In 2023 our district will host three midyear conferences and a district convention. Learn about the Kiwanis family by attending a midyear conference or district convention this year!

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

WAWBEEK & BAY CLIFF CAMPS ARE FOCUS OF GOVERNOR'S PROJECT

Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek: Raise \$4,000 to install water stations for refilling water bottles.

At Camp Wawbeek, campers of all ages and abilities can challenge themselves, set goals and accomplish them. Camp services are designed to help campers of all ages and abilities live independently, become self-sufficient, and enjoy life more fully.



Bay Cliff Health Camp: Raise \$4,000 for to help cover operating expenses.

Bay Cliff is a year-round, nonprofit therapy and wellness center for children and adults living with disabilities. Bay Cliff's flagship program is a seven-week summer therapy camp session serving children with disabilities. The children work towards goals of increased independence and living a fuller life. Bay Cliff also provides an adult program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, an adaptive paddling workshop and weekend family camps.

If you would like to find out more about either of these camps a tour can be arranged. Contact Governor Bill and he'll connect you with camp personnel. Please remit donation checks to our Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Foundation, 571 Center Street, Berlin, WI 54923 and note "Governor's Project" in the memo.

BOARD RECOMMENDS BUDGET-FRIENDLY DIGITAL *KIWANEWS* FORMAT

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



Justin Hahn

The district is considering moving the *Kiwanews* to a fully digital format. On average, we are spending \$7,000 to print and mail the *Kiwanews* each year. Currently, the newsletter is posted digitally and each club receives 5 or 10 printed copies, based on the size of the club.

Why is this a point of consideration? 1) During COVID, we relied more heavily on technology; many of our current district and club-level operations have adapted to a virtual world. As leadership team members visited clubs over the last year, the *Kiwanews* was a topic of inquiry. Clubs were asked if members were utilizing the paper copies being mailed out. Research indicated that although some clubs are distributing the mailed copies, most club secretaries take them to a meeting where they end up in the garbage after the meeting (or the printed copies never even make it to a club meeting).

2) We have polled other districts to learn how they utilize their official publications to send information to members. Roughly 82% of the clubs in the North American District have already transitioned to a digital version of their publications. And, although it took some

members a short while to adapt to the new format, now that they exclusively publish digitally, there hasn't been any further push back from members on the change.

3) We must look at the financial impact associated with printing and mailing the *Kiwanews*. With the approval of a district dues increase in August, the leadership team promised to investigate additional opportunities to adjust the budget to prevent another dues increase in the near future. At a savings of \$7,000, along with the knowledge that very few copies are being distributed or read, it is evident that reducing the *Kiwanews* budget is an opportunity to reduce district operational costs without adversely impacting the member experience.

With the above in mind, we are piloting this December/January issue as a digital-only format. As always, the *Kiwanews* is available on our website and includes a linked printer-friendly option that clubs and members can use if they prefer to print a copy. The next step will be discussion and consideration by the Board of Officers at the next board meeting on January 24, 2023.

If you have feedback on this digital-only version or on a permanent switch to a digital format, please contact Executive Director Justin Hahn at justinhahn@wiumkiwanis.org or your lieutenant governor.

DEADLINES FOR KDF GRANTS CHANGED TO MARCH 31 & SEPTEMBER 30

Submitted by Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation Secretary/Treasurer

The Kiwanis District Foundation's (KDF) professionally-managed endowment fund exists to fund programs, such as grants and scholarships.

Beginning in 2023, the KDF general grant and matching scholarship grant application deadlines have changed. The general grant applications are due March 31st for consideration at the spring board meeting and September 30th for consideration at the fall board meeting. The matching scholarship grant application deadline is March 31st.

The KDF also matches funds made available by the Kiwanis International Foundation to Key Club and Circle K members within our District.



Information and application forms can be found on the KDF website at www.wiumkdf.info or contact Mark Finger at 920-229-2571 or markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org.

KIWANIS CHILDREN’S FUND MICROGRANTS CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT

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

The Kiwanis Children’s Fund has a history of collaborating with Kiwanis clubs to fill gaps in project funding via club grants. But what about smaller clubs with limited service budgets? The Children’s Fund knows that small projects can have a huge impact on the lives of children, and so we are excited to launch our Microgrants Program!

If your club has 35 members or fewer and is in good standing with Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, you may qualify to apply for a microgrant of \$250 –1,000!

Your service project must enhance the lives of young children and youth in your community; support at least one of the three Kiwanis causes (health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development); and be upcoming or in process (not yet completed) when grant payment is received.

Advantages of the Microgrant Program:

- Shorter application than the club grant program.
- Less funding required from other sources. Matching funds will not be required.
- Shorter decision period. Applications received by the 1st of each month will receive a decision via email by the 15th of the same month.
- Faster distribution of funds. Distribution of the funds will begin in December of each year. After that, grant recipients will receive funds within three weeks of the application’s acceptance.

Grants cannot be used for donations to organizations, salaries, scholarships/fellowships, sponsorships, training expenses, travel, lodging, capital construction projects or purchase of land or buildings. A report must be submitted at the end of the 12-month grant period.

Once issued a grant, a club will be eligible to apply for another grant two years after submitting the final report.

The application period for the Microgrants Program is October 1 – July 1. Grant applications will be considered in the order received until budgeted funds are depleted. Applications are accepted through Foundant, the Kiwanis Children’s Fund grant processing system.

A Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District club has already received a microgrant. The 27-member Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club received a \$1,000 grant in December. A KCF microgrant will support the club’s purchase of one set of Wonderbooks along with a sticker that has the club’s logo.

The club will purchase a set of 28 Wonderbooks for the public library that have been shown to support early reading comprehension. The books have large print and ready-to-play audiobooks built into them so when the child presses play, they can read along with the stories. Children’s Librarian Linda DeCramer is a club member and estimates that in the first year, each book in the series could be checked out at least 10 times. The club estimates that 500 children will be positively impacted.

For more information, contact the Children’s Fund at grants@kiwanis.org or 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 225.

WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT MIDYEAR CONFERENCES

February 18, 2023	Lieutenant Governor election for Divisions 1, 3 & 4	West Allis, Wisconsin
March 25, 2023	Lieutenant Governor election for Divisions 9 & 10	Appleton, Wisconsin Area
April 15, 2023	Lieutenant Governor election for Divisions 11, 12 & 13	Medford, Wisconsin

RESPONDING TO MEMBERSHIP DECLINE: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

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

A lot of people ask, 'Why is Kiwanis always pushing membership? Our club isn't doing bad.' The answer is simple. All organizations lose members every year. The challenge is to add more members than are lost. Kiwanis districts in North America haven't been able to add members or even have a steady membership, consistently. The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District had about 10,000 members in 1992. Today, there are roughly 3,000. If a company lost more than two-thirds of its revenue it would be a cause for alarm. But, Kiwanis isn't a for-profit business. Losing members means fewer children being served. Communities that once had a Kiwanis haven't had one in many years. There are real consequences to having fewer members.

Kiwanis has done its best to cut costs, maintain programs, and support membership efforts. International now has membership specialists on staff to help open new clubs and strengthen existing ones. The district Membership and Engagement (volunteer) team is working to open new viable clubs. We need more clubs willing to sponsor a new club and more members to volunteer to help open a club or be a club coach/mentor.

How many members did your club have 10 or 20 years ago? If you are like most clubs you have lost more than a few. Does your club have an ambitious goal to add members? Does it have any membership goal? What strategies are you planning to use? A goal without a plan is just wishful thinking.

The WI-UM District has been advocating using the Two-for-Two Method. Visit www.kiwanis.org/clubs/membership/two-for-two-membership-strengthening



for more details. Clubs that try using Two-for-Two will be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$200 gift card to the Kiwanis Family Store. The drawing will be held on the 20th of each month.

But if you'd rather have a membership event, ask everyone presenting a program, have a contest among members, or have an incentive program for members bringing in new members. It's all good.

In the 2021-2022 Kiwanis year, WI-UM added 252 members and deleted 440 members for a net loss of 188 members. There are 129 clubs in the district with an average of 23 members. Knowing a couple of clubs might close and others will not add any new members, clubs need to consider adding at least four new members. Clubs with more than 23 members should have an even larger goal. Remember, that is just to break even in membership.

We all dislike dues increases and we hear the Kiwanis International Trustees are planning to ask for a large one at the International Convention in Minneapolis in June. Higher dues make it more challenging to add more members, keep more members and form new clubs. If your club isn't paying for insurance out of the service account and passing the savings back to your members, consider this idea for the 2023-2024 dues.

Adding members is really the way to increase service and prevent big dues increases. We are all in this together.



IPADS FOR AUTISM DISTRICT SIGNATURE PROJECT RECEIVES PRAISE

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

If anyone is wondering what is happening with the District Signature project on autism, it is alive and well. To date, we are approaching 1,470 applications. The demand has been very steady. The news nationwide about special-needs children has been very devastating during the pandemic. Virtual learning for these children has been non-existent and the need for in-person contact and the need for assistive technology such as the iPad is critical.

During this time, the request for iPads has increased. Fortunately the district has been able to supply the demand fairly quickly. The vendor for Big Grips cases is currently unable to supply them, however we have found another product for a lower cost for the time being. I have received many thank you notes from parents and therapists. I will share one received by the Elkhorn Kiwanis Club from Ms. Hope Murra, speech and language pathologist in the Elkhorn Schools:

"We are just beyond ecstatic to have received our last iPad for some of our non-verbal students to use as a

communication device! I can't thank you enough. I don't know if you realize how many hoops it usually is to try and get these kids the voice that they need and deserve. It is the source of a lot of anxiety and frustration for both the child and adults. You guys are part of the team to help these young people expand their world beyond their inner thoughts, connect to other people, express their wants and needs, tell jokes and start to share their stories. You guys are my heroes!"



This is why we are continuing this project as long as we can. The rewards are the children that receive an iPad to positively impact their lives. What a great thing that Kiwanis can help these children in need. Not only have we affected the 1,470 children's lives, but also their siblings, parents, caregivers, teachers. The number of lives positively impacted since this program began numbers in the thousands.

It is great to see clubs continuing and new clubs coming on board with this project. Please continue to support the iPads for Autism district signature project!

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR K-FAMILY HOCKEY NIGHT IS JANUARY 4TH

Submitted by Kallie Snowtala, WUM CKI Kiwanis Family and Outreach Chair

Kiwanis Family Hockey Night is back! Hockey Night will be take place Saturday, January 21st, 2023. It is a 7 pm game vs. Ohio State. Tickets are \$25 which includes a donation to Brick x Brick, the Circle K International service initiative this year in cooperation with UNICEF. We'll be building a sustainable future through education and empowerment for families in the African nation of Côte d'Ivoire. We endeavor to contribute to a cleaner planet, alleviate poverty for families, and provide safe spaces for children to learn and play.

Everyone is invited to attend a pre-game social with light snacks and refreshments from 4 to 6 pm. During this time, guests are allowed to come and go, meet other

members of the Kiwanis family, play some games, and check out the photo booth.

Dinner will not be provided. You will have to get that on your own. During this time it would be best to grab a bite to eat from surrounding vendors. These four restaurants are near the venue:

- Ian's by the Slice (pizza), 319 N. Frances St., Madison
- Raising Cane's (chicken), 579 State St., Madison
- Taco Bell Cantina (tacos), 534 State St., Madison
- Subway (sandwiches), 19 W. Main St., Madison

Please register at forms.gle/vggWtKDFas2qzK2D9 no later than January 4th, 2023.



Kiwanis Club of Alger County members display a hand-pieced quilt, which was one of nearly 200 items available at their 2023 "Raffle Blitz" fundraiser.

ALGER COUNTY KIWANIANS SEE SUCCESS WITH DROP-IN RAFFLE EVENT

Submitted by Gale Rodgers, Kiwanis Club of Alger County, Michigan

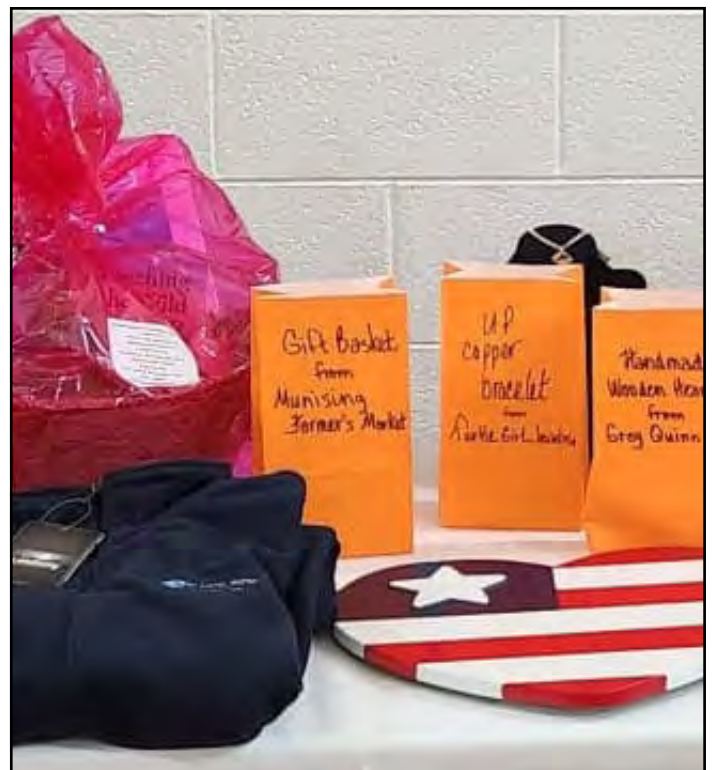
"The Kiwanis Club of Alger County, Michigan, hosted their main fundraiser on September 17th, 2022 at the Alger County Parks and Recreation building.

In pre-pandemic years, club members held an annual dinner featuring a live and silent auction with an average attendance of 120 participants. The very successful event netted more than \$9,000 each year. In response to the pandemic, members opted to change the format to a six-hour "raffle blitz" where visitors could drop in with less people gathering at one time. To the club's delight, 95 people registered and bought raffle tickets.

There were two categories of donated raffle prizes including items valued at less than \$50 or those valued at \$50 or more. A hand-crafted quilt and a stay at a local resort were also among the nearly 200 donated items.

Due to generous donations from businesses and attendees, the club far exceeded its budgeted goal! 100% of the proceeds will support the child-focused community groups the club sponsors and two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating high school students. Club members are already planning the 2023 raffle blitz.

Kiwanians will hold raffle ticket sales for pecan and nuts and a two-night stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan later this year. Although a small club, the Kiwanis Club of Alger County is mighty in its works.



Raffle items were on display for six hours during the raffle blitz event.

NEW RICHMOND KIWANIS AND ROTARY CLUBS COLLABORATE FOR KIDS

Submitted by Lindsey Springer, Kiwanis Club of New Richmond

The Kiwanis Club of New Richmond partnered with the Rotary Club of New Richmond to host the third annual Scary Park Haunted Drive-thru and Hayride.

This event is located at New Richmond's Mary Park. All proceeds, donations from sponsorships and free-will donations were split between the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, with all proceeds used to support youth!

The October 29th event raised more than \$15,000 with the help of more than 100 community volunteers. More than 300 vehicles drove through and 15 hayrides were given. The club estimates that 808 children enjoyed the Halloween-themed festivities.



Photo courtesy of Tom Lindfors, Hudson Star Observer.

The Scary Park Haunted Drive-thru event raised more than \$15,000.

EARLY BIRD KIWANIS CLUB MEMBERS SUPPORT RIPON SANTA CLUB

Submitted by Ellie Langenhorst, Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club

The Ripon Santa Club distributed food, clothing, personal items and toys on Saturday, December 17th. Nearly 80 families applied for assistance, along with some skilled nursing facilities and group homes. The application form requested information about items needed by the family and clothing sizes. Each family was scheduled a time slot between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm to pick up items.



Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club members provided \$2,000 worth of underwear for recipients of Ripon Santa Club holiday gifts.

Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club volunteers, individuals and other civic organizations assisted in the distribution.

The Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club donated \$2,000 towards the purchase of underwear, which was requested by the Santa Club. Additionally, club members budgeted \$500 which was used for items requested by residents of one group home. Kiwanis member Lyn Herriot shopped for the items and wrapped and labeled each one.

Funds donated by individuals, church organizations, school organizations, civic organizations, businesses, and the Webster Foundation provided for various items including personal hygiene items, clothing, food and toys. Webster's Marketplace grocery store provided food items at half price.

Amy Borgardt, coordinator of the Ripon Santa Club, began working in July to organize this holiday giving event which has been in existence since the 1960s in Ripon and was started by school district nurse Marge McCulloch. "Community support made Christmas much brighter for many in our community," Borgardt said.

AUCTION TO BENEFIT CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE FUND HELD IN WILD ROSE

Submitted by Gary Miller, Division 9 Lieutenant Governor

On December 6th, 2022, the Wild Rose Kiwanis Club held its annual holiday administrative fund auction which drew interclub visits from Berlin and Wautoma as well as the Division 9 Lt. Governor. All participants were expected to deliver a holiday-themed, wrapped gift which was then auctioned off by member auctioneer Kent Barnard, who was assisted by Wild Rose Key Club member "elves". More than 30 Kiwanians attended.

After a delicious potluck holiday breakfast, heavy bidding started and continued until all gifts were gone. The Berlin and Wautoma Kiwanis Clubs were active with successful bids on several gifts. The auction netted more than \$1,200 which will go into the club's administrative fund to cover expenses which cannot be taken from the service fund. Contact Wild Rose Kiwanis Club President John Jenks at jjjenks22@outlook.com for more information.



Since all funds raised during the administrative fund auction came from Kiwanis members, proceeds can be used for administrative expenses.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WAS WELL ATTENDED IN WISCONSIN DELLS

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells

The Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells celebrated its centennial anniversary on October 30th, 2022 at Spring Brook Resort in Wisconsin Dells with an open house. President Randall Durner welcomed many guests and conducted a short program. The celebration was well attended and featured Kiwanis District Governor Bill Abbott, Immediate Past Governor Larry Koziol, Lynn, Governor-elect Tim Lubinsky, past District Governors

Anna Bruhn and Jim Burmeister, Division 4 Lt. Governor Lorrie Koppein, Division 5 Lt. Governor Ken Seville, and Division 7 Lt. Governor Mike Bernath. Governor Abbott was called upon to sign a charter for the club to replace the original one which was destroyed in a fire years ago.

A highlight was a large display featuring past club presidents since its charter on October 30, 1922. This large memorial was presented to the club in 1965 by the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club. The club was sponsored by the Portage Kiwanis Club.



Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells members celebrated the club's 100th anniversary at Spring Brook Resort on October 30th, 2022.

As part of the program, highlights and memories of past club achievements were shared by past club presidents Duane Wicox, Jean Brew, Carissa Peterson and Stephen Stuelke. Kiwanis Family members attending included Key Club Faculty Advisors, Key Club members, past club presidents and lieutenant governors. The evening was a joyful celebration of the positive impact the club has made on children throughout its many years.



Photo courtesy of Tom Lindfors, Hudson Star Observer.

Kiwanis Club carolers delighted residents at the Deerfield with their holiday harmonies on Monday, Dec. 5.

KIWANIS MEMBERS SERENADED SENIOR CITIZENS IN NEW RICHMOND

By Tom Lindfors (reprinted with permission of the Hudson Star Observer)

If you had been fortunate enough to be haunting the hallways at the Deerfield retirement community in New Richmond on Monday, December 5th, you would have been privy to the holiday harmonies delivered by the Kiwanis Club of New Richmond carolers as they delighted residents with Christmas classics.

Santa tipped off club President Lindsey Springer that the Deerfield was hoping some carolers might find their way over so she organized a group of 31 volunteers ranging in age from three all the way up to Stan Barr, age 90.

"31 total carolers – which included Kiwanis Club members and our families as well as one Key Club member and her family – Onalie Dennis," Springer said. For all the kids in the group it was their first time caroling so Springer made sure the playlist included a mix of kid-friendly songs as well as some classic Christian carols.

"At Kiwanis our mission is to make an impact on kids. It's really special when we have volunteer opportunities in which we can include our children, raising them to serve and volunteer alongside us. It's never too early to start sharing these opportunities with our children. We had a few of our kids helping do bell ringing this year at Dicks Market for Salvation Army as well," Springer said.

Judging from the volume and energy, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" was definitely one of the young

carolers favorites while "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" got Stan and company moving.

As far as the residents' favorites, based on the old smile-o-meter, they appreciated all the offerings but seemed a bit partial to "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night" and "Deck the Halls."

Kids passed out candy canes and sang Christmas carols with their families and friends. Their spirit was contagious, and it lifted spirits all around the Deerfield that night.

"We had one kiddo that didn't want to leave when we wrapped up. I think it is truly great to bring our children around the older generation. We had to have masks on so you couldn't see our smiles, but it was so heartwarming to see the residents' smile at our kids. I smile just thinking about how great of a night it was," Springer said.



DIVISION 11 KIWANIANS RECEIVED GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Submitted by Miki Bix, Division 11 Lieutenant Governor

WI-UM Kiwanis Division 11 received the 2020-2021 Governor's Excellence Award. Lieutenant Governor Miki Bix served eleven clubs throughout the year: Kiwanis Clubs of Antigo, Greater Merrill, Greater Wausau, Marshfield, Medford, Neillsville, Plover, Stevens Point, Wausau, Wausau Golden K and Wisconsin Rapids.



Division 11 Lieutenant Governor Miki Bix, left, receives the Governor's Excellence Award from Governor Bill Abbott.



Cara Johnson, president of the Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanis Club, and Kellie Garski, secretary, display their Governor's Excellence awards.

FOND DU LAC LAKESIDE KIWANIANS RANG BELLS FOR SALVATION ARMY

Submitted by Dan Weninger, Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club

Salvation Army officials in Fond du Lac had to cancel two days of bell ringing in late December due to frigid weather conditions. The timing was problematic because the cancellations came right before Christmas when people are more likely to donate. "Even when our kettles disappear for the year our services do not. What goes into the kettle goes out to the community all year long," said Connie Millard with Salvation Army of Fond du Lac.

At the beginning of December, the Salvation Army painted its kettles gold to reflect on and thank the community for their support over the years. The 2022 campaign had a goal of \$225,000 to serve needy Fond du Lac area residents.

Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club members make it a priority to support the Salvation Army by ringing bells every holiday season. Club member Bob Poch and his wife, Michelle, shown at right, happily rang bells on December 10th, 2022.



KIWANIS MEMBER BOB BELL TARGETS ILLITERACY IN FORT ATKINSON

Submitted by Robert Bell, Fort Atkinson Kiwanis Club

My wife and I are the first of three generations in our immediate family that could read well before we entered kindergarten. We were married young and had our two sons while we were working our way through college.

Reading was important to both of us, and we read every night to our sons. When they entered kindergarten, each was reading two grade levels above their peers, which led them to be A students all the way through college. We have three granddaughters, all of whom, by the time they entered elementary school, were reading at the second-grade level.

Johns Hopkins University completed a study several years ago that established several "truths". 1) 30% of all graduates of high school in America cannot read above the third grade level. 2) America ranks about 38th in the world in literacy rates, although we spend more money per student than any country in the world. 3) The lowest 40% economically of American families have no books in the home for their children to read.

My Fort Atkinson Kiwanis peers, as I did, found these statistics hard to fathom. When the children of those families and others enter school there is a reading gap. They learn as quickly as their classmates, but in the spring, they go home to a bookless house, while their classmates go home to a personal library and access to reading material. The literacy gap widens each year.

About five years ago, my wife and I donated funds to our local school district to purchase age- and interest-appropriate books for children enrolled in summer classes because of reading deficiencies. While volunteering in the summer program, we asked the children how many books they had at home. Without exception, the answer was zero. We were stunned!

Frederick Douglas, the former slave that endured beatings to learn to read and later became a prominent public speaker and advisor to President Lincoln, said, "Literacy is the key to freedom."



xxx

Jumbling together Frederick Douglas's quote with the Declaration of Independence, "Teach a child to read with understanding, and you give them the freedom to pursue whoever, or whatever, they want to be in life." Isn't that the pursuit of happiness?

I am proud to serve as the president of the Liberty Through Literacy (LTL) Foundation, which was organized more than 20 years ago to provide free books to children in remedial reading classes to help bridge the ability gap. I am proud that the Fort Atkinson Kiwanis Club agrees with the LTL Foundation mission, and recently made the largest charitable donation the club has ever made.

The LTL Foundation partners with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). For \$25 per month per child, DPIL will send a book to a child from birth through age five. Dolly Parton watched her illiterate father struggle, and feel humiliation every time he was asked to read or sign a paper. When she became famous, she began giving books to children in her town. Now, DPIL mails books to 11,000,000 children in ten English-speaking countries around the world every quarter.

More than 300 children in Fort Atkinson are receiving books each month through the LTL Foundation and DPIL partnership. I encourage your Kiwanis Club to form a non-profit foundation to work with DPIL. The impact of the gift of reading on a child's life is priceless.

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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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2022-2023

WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS

MIDYEAR CONFERENCES

FEBRUARY 18: WEST ALLIS, WI

MARCH 25: APPLETON, WI

APRIL 15: MEDFORD, WI



SCHEDULE

PREORDER

DISTRICT SHIRTS

WUUMKIWANIS.ORG/
MIDYEARS

\$25 PER SHIRT AND AVAILABLE
FOR PICK UP AT EACH MIDYEAR



8:30A: CHECK IN & DISPLAYS

9:20A: OPENING SESSION

10:00A: CLUB LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

10:00A: WORKSHOP SESSION 1

11:00A: WORKSHOP SESSION 2

12:00P: LUNCH & AWARDS

1:00P: WORKSHOP SESSION 3

2:00P: WORKSHOP SESSION 4

2:45P: HDF BASKET RAFFLE

3:15P: DIVISION COUNCILS



REGISTRATION (INCLUDES LUNCH)

WUUMKIWANIS.ORG/MIDYEARS

\$25 EARLY BIRD (RECEIVED 8 DAYS PRIOR)

\$15 VIRTUAL REGISTRATION

FREE: FOR NEW MEMBERS AFTER OCT. 1, 2022

\$35 ON-SITE REGISTRATION