

KIWANIS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024



Constable Shawn Phillips reads the book "Ponies" to children, at the inaugural Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids reading in Barbados. Past District Governor Jean Long Manteufel, left, was invited by the Eastern Canada and the Caribbean Past District Governor to expand the program to the Caribbean.

KIWANIS 'N COPS 'N KIDS TAKES A GIANT LEAP TO THE CARIBBEAN

Submitted by Jean Long Manteufel, Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids District Signature Project Chair

2020-2021 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Jean Long Manteufel was recently invited to take Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids to the Caribbean. The program – which promotes children's literacy and community trust in law enforcement – was launched in Barbados, a small island country in the southeastern Caribbean. Jean chose Leap Day – February 29th – in honor of Green Bay Packers

safety LeRoy Butler, who invented the Lambeau Leap and helped Jean create the Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids program.

The invitation was extended by 2020-2021 Eastern Canada and the Caribbean Distinguished Kiwanis District Governor, Dr. Delores Lewis, who was part of Jean's governor's class.

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Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids Takes a Giant Leap to the Caribbean...continued from page one

The whirlwind trip began with a guest appearance on the "Mornin' Barbados" television show to introduce the program to the nation. The host, Teshia Hinds, interviewed both Kiwanis governors. Jean shared how the program started as a WI-UM Kiwanis District project. Dr. Lewis talked about what reading means to young children and how it gives them an important foundation.

The first reading was hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Barbados Central. It was held at Worrell Day Nursery, a government-run childcare center in the most impoverished part of Bridgetown, Barbados. Sergeant

Kim Harris and Constable Shawn Phillips of the Barbados Police Service read stories to and interacted with the kids.

Constable Phillips entertained the 30 children with books provided by Jean, including *Down on the Farm* and *Ponies*. Following the reading, Kiwanis president Rosemary Leon led the group in a rousing sing-along of *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*.

The officers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to read to the kids in a relaxed setting, and the kids were very excited to receive a book of their own to take home.



A member of the Kiwanis Club of Barbados Central, far right, greets Past District Governor Dr. Delores Lewis, while Past District Governor Jean Long Manteufel, Constable Shawn Phillips, and the children watch.



Jean introduced the Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids program on the "Mornin' Barbados" television show, during which she and Dr. Delores Lewis were interviewed by host Teshia Hinds.



Constable Shawn Phillips read "Down on the Farm" to the kids, which was followed by an enthusiastic singalong of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," complete with fun animal sounds and clapping along.



Posing for a photo are Eastern Canada and the Caribbean Past District Governor Dr. Delores Lewis, Sergeant Kim Harris, Constable Shawn Phillips, and Past WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Jean Long Manteufel.

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF WI-UM CLUB EDUCATION & CLUB COACHING

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



Tim Lubinsky

Club Education

The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District has midyear conferences planned for March 23rd in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, and April 13th in Escanaba, Michigan. These events offer an opportunity for incoming leaders to learn leadership

skills deal with member diversity, develop a leadership pipeline, motivate and retain members, and run effective board meetings. Please consider registering at least two club members to attend.

WI-UM District leaders will be hosting workshops on a wide range of helpful topics, including:

- Younger Members are a Lifeline
- Retention is Not Just a Conversation
- The First 90 Days: Connecting New Members to Your Club
- Two for Two Recruitment Program
- Key Leader: Developing Leadership in Youth
- Utilizing Your District and International Foundations
- Diversifying Your Kiwanis Club
- Idea Sharing: Open Forum Discussion

Club Leadership Education – targeted for presidents, vice-presidents, presidents-elect, and those considering a leadership role – will be conducted by Master Instructor Jean Long Manteufel. Executive Director Justin Hahn will lead the Club Secretary Education workshop. The WI-UM Kiwanis District now has an updated web site. Club secretaries will learn the basics of using the site.

Take advantage of this opportunity to attend midyear conferences. It's fun to participate and discuss new ideas.

Club Coaching

Our district has fully-trained club openers and coaches. Club openers work with new clubs and existing clubs in need of assistance. The coach ensures that proper guidance is given to a club and serves as its primary mentor.. Club coaches can be referred by the lieutenant governor. Some of the club coaches' responsibilities are:

- Ensuring that clubs below charter strength (15 members) become strong with new member growth;
- Mentoring the leaders of a Kiwanis club;
- Providing unfiltered and objective advice, ensuring implementation of a plan to increase membership and develop a signature club project.
- Using the Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) supporting tools to guide the clubs.

Alan Arbuckle, our district's master club coach, leads four club openers and twelve club coaches. Club openers in are Anna Bruhn, Dale Vannes, Alan Arbuckle and Melissa Loebach and club coaches are James Buskel, John Collins, Dale Vannes, Jean Long Manteufel, Mary Bix, Michael Ratsch, Rebecca Matson, Steve Halsey, William Abbott, Jennifer Bond, and Melissa Loebach.

I would encourage every club in the WI-UM District to invite a club coach to attend a meeting, be it during a weekly meeting or a board meeting.

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



UPCOMING KIWANIS EVENTS

Midyear Conference (Wisconsin Dells)	March 23
Midyear Conference (Escanaba)	April 13
Kiwanis International Convention	July 3-7
Kiwanis District Convention	August 16-18
Key Leader	September 13-15

DIVISION 10 CLUBS CELEBRATE SERVICE; BOOST GOVERNOR'S PROJECT

Submitted by Ron Simonis, Kiwanis Club of Darboy

Kiwanis clubs in WI-UM Division 10, located in north-eastern Wisconsin, celebrated more than 600 years of service in their local communities at their divisional meeting on January 25th. The meeting was a chance to host Governor Tim Lubinsky and support his governor's project at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek. Nearly 50 Kiwanians and guests attended the event at Stadium View Sports Bar, Grill & Banquet Hall in Green Bay.

The Governor's project to refurbish the women's staff bathroom facility at Camp Wawbeek got a boost from Division 10 clubs with pledges of \$1,750. During the dinner meeting, Governor Tim provided a brief history of Camp Wawbeek, described the longstanding connection between the WI-UM Kiwanis District and the camp, and explained the need for the long overdue renovation of the women's staff bathroom, which has not been remodeled since the 1930s.



Kiwanis clubs in WI-UM Division 10 pledged \$1,750 to refurbish the female staff's bathroom facilities at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek.

The governor also addressed the state of Kiwanis in the district and the need to build membership in Kiwanis clubs and the service leadership programs we sponsor. Attendees also heard from Paul Shrode, who reviewed how the district's foundation can support clubs with projects and matching scholarships.

The event was organized by Lt. Governor Peter Carman of the Grand Chute club, along with a planning committee from Division 10 Kiwanis clubs: Appleton 3-2-1, Appleton-Fox Cities, Ashwaubenon, Darboy, De Pere, Grand Chute, Green Bay, Little Chute, Oconto, and Sturgeon Bay. The Ashwaubenon Kiwanis Club – the newest club in the division – served as the host club for the dinner event and meeting. Ben Gunderson of the Green Bay club – the oldest club in Division 10 at 106 years – served as the emcee.



Nearly 50 Kiwanis members and guests attended the Division 10 event.

IN MEMORIAM: DUANE WILCOX

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells

Longtime Kiwanis member Duane Wilcox, of the Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells, passed away on January 23, 2024 at the age of 97. Duane last spoke at the club's centennial celebration on October 30, 2022 about one of his service projects. The project entailed gathering and packaging holiday decorations for families in Grand Forks, North Dakota after the Red River overflowed in 1997. He was a Kiwanis Legion of Honor recipient, past president (twice) and lieutenant governor, as well as a delegate to Kiwanis International Conventions.



Duane Wilcox

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ATTENDING A MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

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



Justin Hahn

Midyear season is upon us, with opportunities to join fellow Kiwanians for a day of fun, education, development, and celebrations. Conferences are planned for March 23rd in Wisconsin Dells and April 13th in Escanaba. The opportunity for virtual attendance includes online access to both. In person registration includes lunch.

Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of the 2022-2023 Kiwanis year, raise money and awareness for the Kiwanis District Foundation, and gather ideas to help support your club, develop leadership skills, and make loads of fun memories. Be sure to send a representative to accept club or individual awards earned by your club!

Divisions 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 14 will elect a new Lieutenant Governor at midyear conferences in 2024.

A workshop on the Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) and the Kiwanis Children's Fund will explore how your club can benefit from both. Remember to bring a gift basket for the KDF basket raffle and money to purchase tickets to win one (or more)! Basket contributions are recorded and count towards club eligibility for matching scholarships and grants from the district foundation.

If you are arriving on Friday, hotel suggestions are Hampton Inn or Hilton Garden Valley for Wisconsin Dells and Comfort Suites for Escanaba. We do not have a block of rooms reserved. Please let the district office know if you would like to attend the district-organized Friday night dinner (at participants' expense).

Register now! We can't wait to see you at either or both midyear conferences.

Executive Secretary Justin Hahn can be reached at 414-510-1609 or justinhahn@wiumkiwanis.org.

DISTRICT FOUNDATION OFFERS CLUB AND SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

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



Every year, the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Foundation gives out club grants and matching scholarship grants. During the 2022-2023 Kiwanis year, the foundation awarded club grants to Platteville, Eau Claire Clear Water, Alger County, New Holstein, Reedsburg, and Ripon Early Birds totaling \$14,000.

The District Foundation also awarded \$9,500 in matching college scholarships.

If you are interested in applying for a club grant or a matching scholarship grant, visit the foundation's website at www.wiumkdf.info for more information. The deadline for applications is March 31.

RAFFLE BASKETS REQUESTED TO BENEFIT THE KDF

The Kiwanis District Foundation appreciates basket donations for raffle fundraisers at midyear conferences. All proceeds help provide scholarships and assistance for local club projects! Thousands of dollars have been raised during midyear conferences and district conventions and the KDF is truly grateful. Our clubs and individual members make this happen.



WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS 2023-24 MIDYEAR CONFERENCES

MARCH 23 - WISC. DELLS, WI
APRIL 13 - ESCANABA, MI
9:20AM-3:30PM

EDUCATION SESSIONS:

MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT, DIVERSIFYING
YOUR KIWANIS CLUB, KEY LEADER, IDEA
SHARING, OFFICER TRAINING AND MORE

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

\$35 PER PERSON (INCLUDES LUNCH)

VIRTUAL: \$15 (INCLUDES BOTH SESSIONS)

FREE IF YOU JOINED KIWANIS AFTER OCT 1, 2023

REGISTER AT LEAST 8 DAYS PRIOR

WORKSHOPS

OFFICER TRAINING

FUNDRAISING

FELLOWSHIP

MARCH 23 - WISC. DELLS, WI

APRIL 13 - ESCANABA, MI



DON'T FORGET TO BRING A BASKET FOR THE KDF BASKET RAFFLE

UTILIZING THE POWER OF MEDIA TO PROMOTE YOUR KIWANIS CLUB

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

What do you find if you Google your Kiwanis club? For a lot of people, Google will be their first introduction to your club. Will the search find a Facebook page and maybe a website? What about some media about a project? Will it find your next fundraiser? Is there an email address, phone number, or a street address or at least a form to contact the club? Is your meeting place, time and day correct? Will any logo be the current logo or an obsolete logo replaced long ago?

How well does a Google search represent what your club is really about? Is your social media and website listed on the [new district website](#)? According to our district website, less than half the clubs have a Facebook page. Even fewer clubs have a website. Less than one quarter have both.

Is your club's last post on Facebook many months ago? When was the website last updated? Some clubs have new websites because PortalBuzz websites have shut down. If your club just went through that, thank you for the effort it took to build a new site.

Publicity and public relations are important to the reputation of a Kiwanis club. Has a journalist from local media contacted you recently? If not, why not call or email them when you have an event coming up. Today, many small, local newspaper reporters only

get paid if they have an article published. Newspapers are increasingly published exclusively in an online format. Pictures are definitely part of the story, but be careful about showing faces without a release. Note: newspapers love to highlight service by young people. Service by Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs (Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, aKtion Club or Circle K) should always mention sponsorship by your club.



Don't forget radio and TV. Small market stations are happy to do interviews and even promote fundraising and projects that include service to kids. Fishing derbies, bike rodeos, ATV safety for kids, and book giveaways (like Kiwanis ' Cops 'n Kids) are great examples.

Did you know that if you "tag" a person or an organization on Facebook your post will get more views? What is tagging? Click on a person's face in a photo post and name that person (assuming they are friends on Facebook). To learn more, [visit this link](#).

I hope you are excited to get more recognition for your club with your own club website or social media page.

Master Club Coach Alan Arbuckle can be reached at 719-502-7853 or ajarbuckle@yahoo.com.

KIWANIS YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING IS AVAILABLE (AND REQUIRED)

Submitted by John Collins, Risk Management and Youth Protection Chair

Every club is expected to provide youth protection training to members at least once a year. We have an obligation to the youth who benefit from our service leadership programs. As a practical matter, improper contact with kids is a major potential liability.

Kiwanis International provides [online training resources](#), including a PowerPoint presentation and other materials.

For club level discussions, I prefer [this simple document](#) that can be printed and distributed at a meeting. I would suggest e-mailing the document to all club members once a year. The information includes an explanation of the requirement for criminal background checks and Kiwanis International policies regarding chaperons. I can be reached at 262-914-2721 or coljrcollins@gmail.com if you have questions.

LEARN HOW KEY LEADER POSITIVELY IMPACTED OUR GOVERNOR-ELECT

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



Kathy Durner

I was an advisor to a Key Club in Bradford, Pennsylvania when I took two vans full of students to a Key Club convention in Eastern Pennsylvania. One of the group sessions was called Key Leader, at which the servant leadership opportunity was introduced. The weekend sounded like a fantastic

opportunity for our Key Club members to engage in more leadership training.

Students eagerly volunteered to attend Key Leader. Participants traveled six hours to arrive at a YMCA camp, a room full of complete strangers, little-to-no cell phone service, and leaders directing us to our assigned cabins with instructions to return to the main lodge at 5:00 pm. After unpacking our bags and making our beds, a few more students arrived. Soon, the cabin was bursting with chatter and excitement as the students quickly made new friends and claimed the remaining bunks.

A brief introduction, the assignment of teams, and the introductory activity broke any lingering hesitations of not knowing others. Enthusiasm for the weekend was growing by the minute. The teams shared their first dinner together and cleaned tables after dinner, which created their first team-building activity.

Students took part in presentations and group activities leading up to leadership opportunities throughout the weekend. The evening progressed with a bonfire, s'mores, singing, stories, and laughter. As the fire subsided, the students skipped or ran through the leaves as they headed back to the cabins.

Once in the cabin, I hoped the students would be tired enough to quiet down by their midnight curfew. The cabin fell silent after several giggles and final trips to the bath house. At 6:00 am, a symphony of groans, giggles, and a race to the showers ensued.

Saturday brought more laughter, and conversations were beginning to flow more easily. Friendships were forming. One young man who lost a brother to drugs was befriended by a bright young man who was on the autism spectrum. The boys' friendship grew over the weekend. They formed a true friendship.

On Saturday afternoon, students took part in a ropes course. All students participated at their level of comfort, with the support and encouragement of staff and their peers. Barriers vanished, friendships strengthened, and trust became a common thread among the group. The students became more interactive, conversations were more animated, and laughter filled the air.

By evening, the bonfire had an excited audience. The enticement was more than marshmallows, chocolate bars and graham crackers. It was the friendships that grew over the weekend. With all the laughter, getting a good night's rest was questionable at this point.

KEY LEADER®

Sunday morning seemed to arrive too quickly. The breakfast tables were more animated than during Friday's dinner. Contact information was exchanged. After cleaning the dining hall (more efficiently than on Friday) participants assembled for a group picture. After the photo, the group returned to the main hall to view a video review of the weekend. The morning included laughter, tears, sharing notes written during the weekend, hugs, and thank you notes to sponsors.

This is just a snippet of my experience and observations as a chaperon at a Key Leader weekend. Consider sponsoring a student to Key Leader. To learn more, visit our Kiwanis District website at www.wiumkiwanis.org. Click on [Key Leader](#) in the drop-down menu under the Calendar & Events heading or the Service heading.

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

IPADS FOR AUTISM PROGRAM STILL POSITIVELY IMPACTING CHILDREN

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

The iPads for Autism District Signature Project is running smoothly, and is as strong as ever. We can barely order the iPads fast enough to keep up with requests, which are being received at a record pace; the January order of 15 iPads was distributed by February 1st.

The district continues this project because kids on the autism spectrum need iPads and Kiwanis clubs are able to fill the need by providing funding for the technology devices. Kiwanis has the opportunity to positively impact the community through the iPads for Autism District Signature Project. I thank all the clubs that support this signature project.

The need for iPads has not diminished since the program was launched in 2012. With that in mind, the iPads for Autism project needs to continue with the support of the district as long as we are able.



District project chair Lynn Messer, right, presents an iPad with a protective case to a student on the autism spectrum in December 2023.

iPads for Autism district chair Lynn Messer can be reached at 920-946-065 or lmmsr001@gmail.com.

\$10,000 DONATION IN RACINE

Submitted by Paul Holley, Kiwanis Club of West Racine

The Kiwanis Club of West Racine donated \$10,000 to the Racine County Ice Center (RCIC). The club's donation went toward a \$10 million campaign to build an indoor ice arena with construction expected to begin in 2025. From left are: Dave Easley, RCIC treasurer; Mike Frontier, RCIC president; Barb Walker, Kiwanis Club of West Racine treasurer, and Gary Guttenberg, Kiwanis Club of West Racine president.



\$5,000 DONATION IN MEDFORD

Submitted by Karen Block, Medford Kiwanis Club

The Medford Kiwanis Club donated \$5,000 to support the Perkinstown Winter Sports Area. The donation will be used for a warming shack, new tubing tow rope, and smaller tubes designed for young children. The sports area provides multiple tubing runs for families to enjoy along with cross country skiing trails. It is located in the beautiful Chequamegon National Forest.



EAU CLAIRE K-KIDS ORGANIZE SERVICE PROJECT TO HELP HOMELESS

Submitted by Becky Mattson, District K-Kids Administrator

When the pandemic closed the doors of Robbins Elementary School to the K-Kids club, their officers didn't throw in the towel. They brainstormed with Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire K-Kids Advisor Becky Mattson.



Sponsored Leadership Program members of all ages – from K-Kids to Circle K – worked together to make fleece pillows and bean bags.

Since 2001, K-Kids members had partnered each year with the Chippewa Valley Museum on a service project focused on the needs of the museum, while holding leadership training and planning workshops there on the same evening. The longstanding partnership led the Chippewa Valley Museum to support the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire in chartering a new K-Kids club in 2020, which included Kiwanis-family events. Educator Karen Jacobson – the new K-Kids advisor at the museum – collaborated with the District's K-Kids advisor to charter the new club. Four years later, three K-Kids advisors are working with Karen and the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire's sponsored leadership programs – Eau Claire K-Kids, Memorial High School Key Club, and UW-Eau Claire Circle K – volunteering for events held there throughout the year.

On Saturday, February 24th, the K-Kids spearheaded a special community service project at the museum, making fleece pillows for Eau Claire Area School District's homeless program and bean bags for kids who attended the festival or the March Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids event at the Boys & Girls Club. Forty-one volunteers from K-Kids, Key Club, Circle K, and two Eau Claire area Kiwanis clubs participated. Clear Water Kiwanis Club president,

Dani Graham, is the school district's homeless program coordinator. Before planning the project, Dani spoke to the K-Kids in January to help them understand the needs of children facing housing insecurity in the district.

The pillows will be stored by the school district until they are distributed to kids in need. The K-Kids donated \$200 to the project with \$200 in matching funds coming from their sponsoring Kiwanis club. A total of 150 volunteer hours were spent between prepping materials, stuffing, and stitching the pillows and bean bags. 250 pillows and 90 bean bags were created. 184 pillows were delivered to the school district for homeless children. 20 pillows were distributed at the Clear Water Kiwanis Club's pop-up food giveaway. Children from the community were able to take home 37 of the pillows, and the final pillows produced were given to each K-Kid volunteer.

Every child at the event and all K-Kids got a bean bag, with the rest to be distributed at the Boys and Girls Club. This was a great opportunity for K-family club members to talk to the community about Kiwanis and its service leadership programs. The young leaders enjoyed engaging other children from the community in making pillows for homeless children and taking a free pillow and bean bag home. The K-Kids made a big difference by engaging the other clubs in the project. This is the third year they've held a community service K-family project at the museum.



Two Eau Claire area Kiwanis Clubs worked with K-Kids, Key Club, and Circle K members to stuff and sew fleece pillows and bean bags.

RIPON KIWANIS CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL WITH MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Brian Reilly, Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club

The Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration with a fun day at Kiwanis Park, home of a sledding hill named after past Kiwanian Bill Mason. Mother Nature happily obliged the Noon Kiwanis' request for snow ahead of the event, though the temperature could have been a little bit warmer. Club members served hot chocolate and cookies and provided warming barrels throughout the day.

As part of its slate of centennial activities, the club celebrated in February with a month-long engagement in partnership with the Ripon Public Library, titled "Cozies and Cookies." A reception was held on February 3rd, during which the club treated the public to hot beverages, snacks and a panel of local guest speakers discussing their favorite "cozy mystery".



Children young and old enjoyed a January afternoon of sledding at Kiwanis Park in Ripon.

A mystery dinner is a less conventional spin on the average dinner fundraiser. The menu is in code, with no clear rhyme or reason, and the guests don't know what they're ordering – including the plates or silverware. Guests might be informed that they've ordered soup, but no bowl, or spaghetti, but no utensils. However, in the spirit of giving, they had the option to pay a dollar for something extra they didn't order, or "sing for their supper," serenading the waiters with a little tune. Through ticket sales, a 50/50 raffle, and a generous matching grant from the Webster Family Foundation, the total donated to the student needs fund was \$1,200.

The club is working on their April event, a community art show planned for April 13th at the high school. A full schedule of the club's centennial activities can be found on the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club [website](https://www.riponkiwanis.org).



Kiwanis members and guest speakers discussed their favorite mystery.

During the rest of the month, the club sponsored cookies and hot beverages every Monday, to encourage people in the community to curl up with a cozy mystery beside the library's fireplace and enjoy some cozy snacks. Additionally, the club gave away several cozy mysteries, along with coffee mugs featuring the Kiwanis logo.

In March, the club partnered with the Key Club, which the club sponsors, to host a Spaghetti Mystery Dinner at the high school, as a benefit for the district's student needs fund. The fund helps aid students who may not be able to afford certain expenses they may encounter during their time with the school district.



Kiwanis member Jeffrey Dodson played along with the theme of the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club's Spaghetti Mystery Dinner.

SLINGER KIWANIS CLUB GALA SUPPORTS FOSTER CLOSET PROGRAM

Submitted by Amanda DeSua, Slinger Kiwanis Club

Slinger Kiwanis Club members hosted the club's third annual Winter Gala on February 10th at the Chandelier Ballroom in Hartford, Wisconsin. The Las Vegas themed event gathered more than 250 community members and local businesses to show their support. The event began with a performance from the Slinger High School Jazz Band and featured a live band after dinner.



Silent auction items lined tables at the Slinger club's Winter Gala.

Profits from the event's silent auction, games, 50/50 raffle, wine pull, and dinner will go towards the Washington County Foster Closet and youth mental health awareness. The Foster Closet's mission is to serve the county's youth and families by offering clothing and resources while providing support to foster families and bringing awareness to the community.

The volunteer-run organization identified needs for a space to house clothing and supplies for families which have emergency placements. More specifically, needs for foster teens are on the rise and helping fund supplies and space for a teen section of the foster closet was important to the Foster Closet and the Slinger Kiwanis Club. With the support of many club volunteers and community supporters, the event was a great success.

KIWANIS CLUB MEMBERS FULFILL HOLIDAY WISHES IN DARBOY

Submitted by Ron Simonis, Kiwanis Club of Darboy

For the past 20 years, the Kiwanis Club of Darboy has helped to ensure that parents can provide a traditional winter holiday for their children even in difficult times. Kiwanis members partner with the Kimberly Key Club to secure gifts for up to 15 families each year. This year, 50 children benefited from the effort. Each family received multiple gifts for every child as well as a collection of gift cards for the parents and the whole family.

When the event began 20 years ago, families were invited to a party that included cookie decorating, games, and a visit from Santa. The pandemic forced a change to a gift pick-up; that format has continued with Kiwanis members providing delivery when necessary. The effort to support families during the holidays has expanded to include paper products and food.

While Darboy Kiwanis members may be the face of the event for parents, it is truly an "all hands on deck" effort. Staff at Kimberly High School play a large part in securing the dozens of gifts needed each year. School counselors help identify and recruit families. Parent-teacher groups



Darboy Kiwanis Club members deliver holiday gifts to families in need.

also contribute gifts. A Key Club connection to one of the Fox Valley's paper companies makes the contribution of paper products possible. A local bakery donates cookies for decorating. This year, a roofing company helped secure gifts for a family that asked for assistance after planning was well underway.

This truly collaborative effort represents the Kiwanis slogan, "Kids Need Kiwanis" and demonstrates that when we work together, we can make our community and the world a better place.

KIWANIS MEMBER ENCOURAGES SUPPORT OF THE KEY CLUB PROGRAM

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells

Does your club sponsor a Key Club? If so, how often do members of your club attend their meetings and work together with members on service projects? Key Club members need to see Kiwanians actively supporting them, financially as well as with service projects.

The Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells supports two Key Clubs – the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club and the Mauston High School Key Club, which club members agreed to sponsor after the Mauston Kiwanis Club closed more than two years ago. The Key Club faculty advisors are both members of the Wisconsin Dells club.



Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells members partner with Key Club members during the Key Club's highway cleanup project.



Mauston High School Key Club members work alongside Kiwanis members at the monthly Sharing Supper held at in Mauston.

Key Club members have assisted the club during the annual WoZhaWa weekend and Kiwanis members have assisted them during their highway cleanups as well as their recent fundraiser at Pizza Pub. Mauston Key Club members assist with the Sharing Dinners held at the high school the last Thursday of each month. It is very important that members of Key Club see Kiwanians attending their meetings, helping with their service projects, supporting them and encouraging their work.

If your Kiwanis Club sponsors a Key Club, perhaps it's time to think about an interclub at their next meeting or service project. Go for it!

SUPPORTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S K-9 PROGRAM IN KENOSHA

Submitted by Ron Horner, Kiwanis Club of Western Kenosha

The Kiwanis Club of Western Kenosha met with the Kenosha Police Department's K-9 Unit to announce that the club's Board of Directors and members and the Western Kiwanis Foundation had created a legacy project for the Kenosha Police Department's K-9 unit.

This opportunity to partner with a charitable organization was accompanied by a generous \$10,000 donation, which will allow the police department to purchase a new dual-purpose dog in late 2024 or early 2025. To show gratitude, the Kiwanis club will be allowed to name the new K-9 officer. "The Kenosha Police Department is grateful for the Kiwanis support," said Lt. Adam Jurgens.



Kiwanis Club of Western Kenosha members made a \$10,000 donation to the Kenosha Police Department's K-9 program.

KDF OFFICERS & DIVISION REPS

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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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KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

Source: Kiwanis International

Embark on an extraordinary journey at the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, Colorado. Discover the pathways to expanding your club's membership and magnifying its influence on your community. Delve into innovative fundraising concepts. Learn how to transform service projects in ways you never thought possible. Receive hands-on guidance in becoming a skilled leader.

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Registration Options

Pick the plan that is right for you, and remember to get your tickets to events such as the closing night gala!

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Membership growth. Retention. Fundraising. Service project ideas. You'll learn how to grow your club – and grow as a leader – through insight-packed sessions.

Speakers and Entertainment

Get inspired by the stories, experiences and performances from an all-star roster of speakers and entertainers who will reignite your desire to make a positive difference in your community.

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Make sure your voice is heard on the issues that could affect Kiwanis International for decades to come. Elect the leaders with a vision and a plan for the future.

Hotels and Travel

Start planning now for your time in Denver – a city that combines a thriving cultural scene with natural beauty.

Your club may pay for a portion of each member's convention expenses from its service account. The convention qualifies as an acceptable club educational expense. Covered expenses may include registration fees, hotel, airfare or mileage, meals, per diem and other expenses as determined by the club. [Register now for the 2024 International Convention!](#)