



KIWANEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025



Each box donated to Kiwanis by the Cops 'n Kids Reading Center contains 75 free books. Help is needed to transport them to the Midyear Conference.

TONS OF FREE BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR KIWANIS 'N COPS 'N KIDS PROJECT

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

With the closing of the Cops 'n Kids reading center in Racine, they have offered to give our Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids district signature project all the free books and *Highlights* magazines that we can take. Now.

We need to quickly put together a plan to make this happen. Fortunately, we have our midyear conference in Brookfield (one hour away from Racine) on February 22. Jean Long Manteufel, the district chair of Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids, has arranged that a caravan of Kiwanians can pick up boxes of books and *Highlights* on Friday, February 21, then bring them to Brookfield for Kiwanis clubs who are attending to get FREE boxes of books.

This needs some major coordination to make it happen. Can you help with the shuttle?

- **Thing #1:** Pick up books at the Cops 'n Kids Reading Center in Racine. Lt. Governor Paul Holley needs volunteers to pick up books on Friday, February 21 to take to Brookfield on Saturday, February 22. **There will be someone at the warehouse to help load.** Contact Paul at paulh_wi@yahoo.com or 262-637-9093.
- **Thing #2:** Does your club want **FREE** books? You must pick up your books from the Brookfield midyear. Don't

...See Free Books on page 6

GOVERNOR KATHY LEARNS ABOUT KIWANIANIANS BY VISITING CLUBS

Submitted by 2024-2025 Governor Kathy Durner



Kathy Durner

I start this new year with hopes and goals for success and happiness in our personal lives and our Kiwanis lives. One of my goals is to personally visit each club in the WI-UM Kiwanis District. The goal is lofty, but I feel that each club deserves a visit from the Governor or Governor

delegate. I started in July visiting clubs. I may have a few clubs to visit after my term is over, but I will visit every club in the district.

What I have learned so far

- Kiwanians are amazing, caring, fun, resilient people.
- Kiwanians give from their hearts, not their abundance.
- Kiwanians laugh a lot and are great huggers.
- Some Kiwanians have a ghost in their meeting room.
- Kiwanians are great huggers.
- Kiwanians look great in their Wisconsin or Packer gear, Oktoberfest outfits or their Santa's Elf costumes.
- Kiwanians are barely recognizable under their winter hats, parkas and scarves, but you can see their smile.
- Kiwanians do a lot of creative fundraisers.

On to more vital information

- Review your membership roster and update as needed.
- Make sure that your IRS 990 card is returned promptly.
- Are your members happy and engaged in activities?
 - If not, complete a member survey and look for a new way to engage your members (game, small project,



Kiwanis International President, Lee Kuan Yong, right, poses for a photo with Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Governor Kathy Durner.



Governor Kathy plans to visit every Kiwanis Club in the District. Contact her to schedule your visit soon.

movement activity that accomplishes something – making valentine/holiday cards, playing a game, making tie blankets or dog toys.

- Pair an enthusiastic, veteran Kiwanian with a new member for a project/activity.
- Try a new project to squash the winter doldrums.
- Try a craft project with your members; bring the kids.
- Invite another club to engage in a combined activity.
- Have a valentine making contest (fanciest, funniest, cutest, sweetest, etc.)

Sneak preview of upcoming Kiwanis events

- The Circle K Convention and the Kiwanis Midyear Conference in February will overlap on Saturday. Be prepared to get supercharged by the enthusiastic Circle K members.
- The Key Club Convention in March will be held at the Blue Harbor in Sheboygan. This is a great opportunity to support our SLPs and enjoy a beautiful resort.
- Our District Convention in August will offer spouse, children and family activities, so be prepared for fun, Kiwanis education and more fun in Packer country.
- If you haven't been to Northern Wisconsin or Upper Michigan in the summer, it is a MUST DO! Stop and visit a Kiwanis Club (ask me for contact info) and Camp Bay Cliff in Big Bay, Michigan, while visiting the north woods.
- For a full list of upcoming events, please see page x.

2024-2025 Governor Kathy Durner can be reached at 814-331-2240 or kathydurner1949@gmail.com.

DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED AT JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Submitted by Paul Shrode, 2024-2025 Governor-elect



Paul Shrode

The WI-UM Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan for the District with five overarching goals. A number of strategies have been developed for each of our goals. During the course of the year, we shall share some of the strategies through *Kiwanews*.

leadership within each of our divisions as well as any interested club members on new club building, club coaching and mentoring, and the role of sponsoring a new club. It can be rejuvenating and fun to sponsor a club and we shall look to strong clubs, regardless of size, to help in that process. It is possible for several clubs to share the sponsorship of a new club, and we plan to provide support and mentorship to new clubs for their first three years.

• Membership and Engagement

Build, retain and support a growing Kiwanis membership network.

• Leadership and Education

Develop competent, confident and caring leaders across the Kiwanis family.

• Focus on Service to Others

Provide meaningful service in communities locally and around the world by working together and with other organizations to address important needs for children and communities.

• Stewardship of Funds

Provide responsible and proper stewardship of the funds entrusted to our District, setting policies and procedures in place to balance budgets, preserve strategic reserves, provide for new and existing initiatives, and provide transparency to members.

• Impact of Kiwanis in our District

Position Kiwanis within the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District as a powerful and impactful force for building strong communities through service to children, youth and local communities, communicating the work of Kiwanis broadly.

A Deep Dive into Membership and Engagement

Efforts are underway to identify sites for new clubs. In considering sites, we are looking at areas where we once had clubs as well as new communities where Kiwanis has never provided service. We are especially interested in communities with colleges and universities and "orphan" Key Clubs without nearby Kiwanis clubs.

Club retention and strengthening existing clubs is also a part of our goal for membership and engagement. Club strengthening initiatives, assistance with recruiting new members, recognition of those clubs that retain and grow their membership as well as those individuals who help in the process, and encouraging support for our service leadership programs are some of the strategies we plan to undertake. Lt. Governors will be asked to help identify clubs interested in support, but any club member or officer may reach out to our team for assistance.

Member retention, club strengthening and new club building are high priorities for our district. Increased membership positions Kiwanis to provide more service, reach more communities, support more youth, and grow our communities. Many of us have served Kiwanis for many years and have grown older with the organization. It's easy to forget how we brought our families along and managed the work of our clubs while raising children.

The time has come to welcome new generations of Kiwanians to share in our work and, of course, the fun of Kiwanis. We welcome your energy, enthusiasm, engagement, and creativity in that endeavor and look forward to turning around the decline in membership we have experienced through the years, especially since the global pandemic. We shall focus on other goals in future issues. If you have questions regarding our strategic plan and how you can help, please reach out to me.

We are poised to provide training for Lt. Governors and

Governor-elect Paul Shrode can be reached at 920-809-2872 or psshrode@aol.com.



JOIN US FOR A DISTRICT MIDYEAR CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY OR APRIL

Submitted by Executive Director Justin Hahn

Remember to register for our Midyear Conferences taking place in Brookfield on February 22 and in Wausau on April 5. Midyears are a one-day event packed with education, training, recognition and fun! Come take part in learning more about how you can strengthen your club and take part in celebrating the accomplishments of your club in the 2023-2024 Kiwanis year.

The full schedule is on our district website. Catering is due 10 days before, so the first deadline is on February 11. [You must register online!](#) Just a reminder that the Brookfield Midyear is being held alongside the CKI District Convention. If you would like to attend the CKI breakfast before or dinner after Midyear, make sure to [register for those meals at this link.](#)

DOES PARTICIPATION IN KIWANIS ENHANCE YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

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



Alan Arbuckle

Does Kiwanis give your life more meaning or help you find your purpose in life? Throughout history, philosophers and theologians have tried to answer the question for us.

In fact, the meaning of life is one of humanities' oldest and most basic questions. But as they mature, individuals find they must answer that question themselves. For many members, Kiwanis fulfills their need for meaning in their lives through meaningful service to others. If that approach appeals to you, Kiwanis clubs have hands-on projects. The need is great because every community has needs and opportunities to do more.

One way to increase a club's service to young people or people with disabilities is to sponsor our Service Leadership

Programs (SLPs). You know them as K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K and aKtion Club. Kiwanis is the only organization that has these terrific programs. As a member, you can encourage your club to consider sponsorship of one or another one if they already sponsor an SLP.

Philanthropy can be another way that Kiwanis clubs approach service. For some clubs that is the largest part of service they do. Personally, I don't feel that a club just writing a check is as satisfying as seeing the effect it has on people – especially seeing the smile of a child. But combining donations and hands-on service can be truly wonderful. The friendships and camaraderie working alongside other Kiwanians for a common goal or project can be some of the most meaningful experiences members can have. That being said, personal philanthropy is always appreciated at the club, district or International level. Without your gifts, our work wouldn't be possible.



Kiwanis[®]
WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN DISTRICT

We continue to need service-minded individuals to become members in Kiwanis. You may know someone who you haven't asked. Or maybe someone you asked a while ago; their situation may have changed. Some clubs come up with a list of people from various walks of life to invite to a special event. Other clubs like to meet with individuals to discuss the projects their club does.

There is nothing wrong with taking small steps in adding members. What is important is that steps are taken, regularly and ongoing, to add members. Consider this: working to increasing membership is a legitimate method of service to maintain or increase the service of a Kiwanis club. Much like fundraising, it increases the amount of service a club can provide.

Sadly, without new members every club withers over the years. Leadership positions become more difficult to fill. Membership is the life

blood of Kiwanis. It offers the opportunity for members to become better servant leaders and leaders in Kiwanis. Sharing the meaning that Kiwanis offers, truly, is an act of kindness. Kiwanis kindness, if you will.

I welcome your comments and ideas.

Master Club Coach Alan Arbuckle can be reached at 719-502-7853 or leadcoach@wiumkiwanis.org.



MEETING JULIA WITHERSPOON: THE FOUNDER OF COPS 'N' KIDS

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

Julia Witherspoon, a Racine police officer, started the Cops 'n' Kids Reading Center in 1997. Later, she retired from the police department to run the reading center.

In 2020, as the Governor's Project, I worked with NFL Hall of Fame inductee LeRoy Butler (the guy who invented the Lambeau Leap), and Miss Julia to design a version of her program for our Kiwanis district. Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids was born. Because it was during Covid, everything was done by email and Zoom. Now, years later, we still text every month, and I send her all your Kiwanis Club pictures of Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids. She is thrilled with our Kiwanis clubs continuing her legacy.

I had never actually met Miss Julia. In November, Miss Julia announced her retirement, and subsequently, the closing of the Cops 'n Kids Reading Center in Racine. The reading center held its final book giveaway in December. I arranged with LeRoy to surprise Miss Julia by volunteering that day. It was time to meet my heroine.

What an honor. She has asked that we keep her updated on what all the clubs are doing. When you do a reading



Jean Long Manteufel, LeRoy Butler and Julia Witherspoon celebrate the Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids reading initiative.

for Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids, please post on Facebook. Tag us by putting this in your post: @KiwansNCopsNKids and tag Miss Julia by adding @CopsNKids.

I hope you all have a chance to meet your hero someday!

Tons of Free Books Available for Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids Signature Project...continued from page one



leave us hanging! Who at your club will arrange to pick them up?

- **Thing #3:** Let Jean know in advance how many boxes of books your club wants. Each box is about 75 books. Contact Jean at jean@longmoving.com or 920-585-7769.
- **Thing #3:** Clubs can arrange with other attendees to shuttle books north or west for your club. Ask Jean.

If your club can go to Racine to get boxes of books yourself at a different time, ask Jean and she will coordinate it with you.

If we work together, we can do this.

DRIVING GOVERNOR KATHY, OR HOW I BECAME EXECUTIVE CHAUFFEUR

Submitted by Randall Durner, 2024-2025 First Gentleman

Being Governor for the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District of Kiwanis is a demanding role. There are conferences to attend within the District, clubs to visit, meetings, planning sessions, counseling with various mentors and Lt. Governors, discussions with District Executive Justin Hahn and weekly meetings via Zoom.

There are also evenings behind the computer to respond and address a variety of issues as well as preparing remarks for the *Kiwanews*. While the title of District Governor might sound "glamorous", there is a lot of work behind the scenes that is never mentioned. And a team effort is usually involved. I'm part of the team as Kathy's driver, also known as the "executive chauffeur."

One of Governor Kathy's goals is to visit every Kiwanis club in the district. As you can imagine, there is a lot of travel surrounding this goal, which has been in progress since she was governor-elect. Four months into her 2024-2025 term, the miles keep piling up on the odometer. As her husband, I often drive her to visit other clubs, especially if there are multiple club visits on a single trip and overnights, which supposedly provides time together; DEFINITELY NOT!

While riding "shotgun," the governor is frequently on the phone talking with past governors, setting up visits

to various clubs, checking her calendar, making lodging reservations and a host of other non-descript Kiwanis activities. Occasionally, we get a chance to talk about personal things, but usually, she's bouncing questions off of me regarding questions or concerns she is dealing with, searching for a second opinion or other advice. And, after all that activity, she occasionally drifts off in a nap, exhausted from the mental fatigue of serving the width and breadth of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District.

This so-called quiet time for me while I'm driving is often broken with the governor talking in her sleep. While the body rests, the mind is still going full on, and often there is an interesting broken line of fragmented words emanating from her, such as, "do you have honey mustard" or "can you give me a scissors please." Interesting dialogue!

As you can see, being Governor is a demanding position requiring a team effort from past governor mentors. Lt. governors, club officers, and ultimately me, her husband and executive chauffeur. With all her travels, we have embraced singer Willy Nelson's song, *On the Road Again*, as our theme. So if you see us going down the highway, just wave and think of Willy's song and Governor Kathy. Travel on!

GOVERNOR'S PROJECT UPDATE: RAISE \$30,000 IN SUPPORT OF CAMPS WAWBEEK & BAY CLIFF



Donations continue to be gratefully accepted for both projects.

- Camp Bay Cliff: Monies collected will go to help sponsor a camper for seven weeks at Camp Bay Cliff.
- Camp Wawbeek: Eight, heavy-duty art tables are being/ constructed by industrial tech students. They will be ready by May 1.



- The labor part of the bill for the tables goes to scholarships for the students when they graduate.
- We are in the process of contracting for an epoxy floor to be installed in the art room.

For more information or to donate, contact Governor Kathy at 814-331-2240 or kathydurner1949@gmail.com.

IPADS FOR AUTISM SIGNATURE PROJECT FULFILLS KIWANIS MISSION

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

The iPads for Autism District Signature Project is moving forward as strong as ever. We are nearly at 1,780 iPads granted in the district. At the district convention in August, this project may be up for renewal for the next five years. The iPads for Autism project was implemented in 2012 and shows no signs of slowing down.



Twins Jake and Charlie Rondorf were among the first recipients of iPad grants in 2012. The boys are now in their mid-twenties and thrived with the help of the iPads and apps. Standing behind the boys are 2012-2013 Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club President Melanie Oppor, 2012-2013 Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club President Brad Foss, and special education teacher Michelle Beres.

With this project, Kiwanis has changed the lives of almost 1,800 children, and also the lives of their siblings, parents, caregivers, educators, and their parents' employers.

The impact this project has had is immeasurable. It is the largest project that the WI-UM Kiwanis District has ever undertaken. What better way to promote Kiwanis in the communities the club represents.

Since the beginning of the year I have prepared a dozen iPads for clubs to present to needy children. What better way to promote the Kiwanis mission: *Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.*

Many clubs have stated that if the district does not continue the project, they would continue it in their communities independently. I have also found that many autism therapy groups look to the Kiwanis iPads for Autism project as their first choice to apply for an iPads.

The rewards of this project are serving the children.



SUPPORT THE DISTRICT FOUNDATION WITH A CASE VAN KLEEF AWARD

By Tonya Alling, Kiwanews Editor

The Case Van Kleeef Fellowship award is the WI-UM Kiwanis District's highest honor. Named for former District Governor and International Past President Case Van Kleeef, the award is given to an individual in whose name a donation of \$1,000 is given to the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF).

Proceeds from Van Kleeef awards support the KDF endowment fund, which generates funds for future grants and scholarships. Can you think of a club member or friend who is deserving of a Van Kleeef Fellowship? If so, please contact KDF Secretary Mark Finger at 920-361-9954 or markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org.



Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club members Jennifer Beier and Dan Kehlenbrink received Case Van Kleeef Fellowship Awards in September.

SWEET MELODY STRINGS ENTERTAIN WEST RACINE KIWANIS MEMBERS

Submitted by Paul Holley, Kiwanis Club of West Racine

In what has become an annual tradition, Kiwanis Club of West Racine members and guests were entertained at the December 18 meeting by the Sweet Melody Strings. The Strings are a group of Racine-area music enthusiasts who perform on the hammer dulcimer, accompanied by acoustic guitar.

The hammered dulcimer is a stringed instrument that dates back to the Middle Ages and was played throughout England, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain. It's become a folk music instrument in the United States over the past century. The instrument's tuned strings are struck with padded hammers producing a unique sound.

The group is especially busy during the holiday season.



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. 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.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROVE VALUABLE IN EAU CLAIRE

Submitted by *Becky Mattson, Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire*

Through the years, the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire has provided services and financial support to many organizations. We are proud to be the oldest service organization in Eau Claire, in our 106th year of service to the community. All of our Kiwanis Clubs are alike in that we serve the children of the world.

As the community needs change, so has the focus of our club in the hopes of increasing our membership by continuing to make a difference in our community today. One of the ways we have grown in strength is through our partnership with various nonprofit organizations. Let me give one example of a strong partnership with multiple partners.

We proudly support the WI-UM District Signature Project, Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids. It is our fourth year holding events numerous times a year. In 2024, we held events at two YMCA after school programs, the Chippewa Valley Museum, the Boys & Girls Club (Clear Water Kiwanis sponsored), the Children's Museum of Eau Claire, and at our 66th Annual Kiwanis Paul Bunyan Flapjack Feed.

Our Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids event on Saturday, January 11 was a resounding success. It highlighted the strength of our partnership between multiple groups.

- **Children's Museum of Eau Claire** provided the space for the event at no cost to us.



K-Kids and theatre guild volunteers helped act out fairy tales with their audience members ages 3 through 8 at the January reading event.

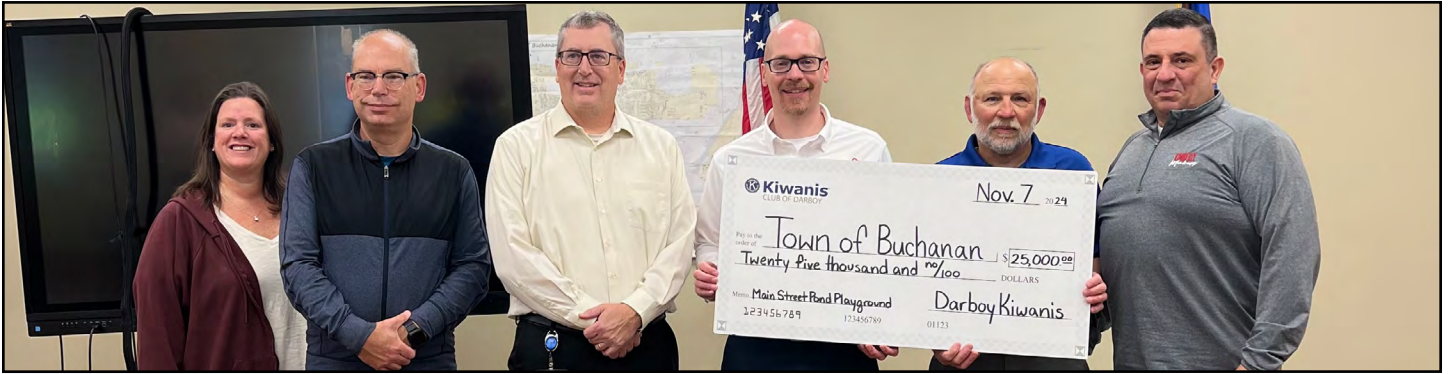


Eau Claire Police Department liaison Officer Jesse Henning read fairy tales to the kids.

- **Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild (CVTG)** provided free use of fairy tale costumes.
- **K-Kids and CVTG volunteers** helped act out fairy tales with their audience members ages 3 through 8 on the Museum's stage with narrations made by our WI-UM K-Kids District Administrator, who also directs children's shows through the Theatre Guild.
- **Eau Claire Police Department** liaison Officer Jesse Henning read fairy tales to the kids.
- **Memorial High School Key Club** helped with bookmark making.
- Our club gave away about 100 books purchased through our partnership with **Scholastic Inc.**
- Kiwanis **Service Leadership Program** advisors helped oversee the one-hour family-friendly event.

Other partnerships our club has been working on include Family Promises of the Chippewa Valley, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, The Community Table, and more.

What partnerships are you working on to strengthen your club's ability to meet kids' needs in your community? Remember that partnering with other Kiwanis clubs or Rotary and Lions clubs is beneficial. Let's all team up to be positive influences together in 2025.



The Kiwanis Club of Darboy celebrated its 25th anniversary by awarding two \$25,000 legacy grants, including one to the Town of Buchanan.

DARBOY, WISCONSIN KIWANIS CLUB CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Ron Simonis, Kiwanis Club of Darboy

The Kiwanis Club of Darboy reached a milestone in 2024 when it celebrated its 25th anniversary. To mark the event, members decided to reinvest in the communities they serve in a significant way, and to highlight its work in the community with a Facebook campaign.

To make a lasting, positive impact in the communities served by the club, members created a Legacy Grant that allowed local communities to apply for up to \$25,000 to support new or in progress projects. The project had to be a permanent structure and be intended to enhance the lives of young people. The other requirement was that the club's contribution to the project would be recognized with a sign or plaque affixed to the project.

The Darboy club was able to finance these grants with funds it had accumulated over several years through successful fundraising – chiefly a multi-day summer festival that the club hosted for more than 10 years. In the end, two \$25,000 grants were awarded to help support ongoing park improvements in the Darboy area.



The Kiwanis Club of Darboy donated \$25,000 to the Village of Harrison to help fund a new shelter at Farmer's Field Park.

The Village of Harrison was awarded \$25,000 to help with the construction of a shelter in a newly developed community park. A second grant went to the Town of Buchanan to assist with the installation of a playground at one of its new parks. The Legacy Grant project was a unique opportunity for the Darboy club to create a tangible, enduring legacy that aligned with the core Kiwanis mission of serving the children of our community. The club looks forward to seeing these projects completed this year.

The Facebook campaign, titled 25 Days of Kindness, ran during the month of September 2024. Each day, the page featured a new post that either highlighted its work in the community or encouraged random acts of kindness. Several posts served to spotlight the Darboy club's ongoing projects such as its Little Free Library in a community park, its series of free Summer Fun in the Park events for families, and its participation in the iPads for Autism project.

Other posts encouraged random acts of kindness such as donating blood, volunteering in the community, or reaching out to a friend or family member. The club also documented its delivery of donuts, treats, or meals to fire, police, and park staffs as a way of saying "thank you" for serving the community and supporting the club's work.

As the Darboy club moves into year 26, its members are committed to continuing to make an impact in the local community. At 19 members, that impact is far greater than just the size of the club might suggest.

WISCONSIN DELLS KIWANIS PROJECT ADDRESSES FOOD INSECURITY

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells

Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells members met just prior to Christmas to assemble fruit baskets for local senior citizens and boxes of food for needy families. Kiwanian Trudy Helley has led this service project for the last several years. Her father, also a Kiwanian and member of the Dells club, started this project years ago. In memory of her father, Trudy became a Kiwanian in part to ensure his legacy would continue through this project.

The Dells club partners with Maurer's Market to assemble colorful bags of apples, oranges, pears and bananas and large boxes of food containing a ham, potatoes, bread, pasta, canned vegetables, gravy, pasta sauce, margarine, jam, cookies, cereal, oatmeal, raisins, coffee and milk. Included is a short holiday message which identifies the Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells role in the project.

Maurer's provides space for the assembly process and stockpiles the food and produce nearby for easy access. Their staff is available to assist as necessary. An assembly line completes filling of the bags and boxes. Boxes of fruit bags are stacked on pallets while food boxes with perishable items are temporarily stored in a walk-in cooler until ready for delivery. Club members prepared 110 individual fruit bags, several large boxes of mixed



Wisconsin Dells Kiwanians assembling bags of fruit for seniors and food boxes just before Christmas.

fruit that goes to nursing homes, and 38 boxes of food for families.

Members are assigned routes for delivery, both in the Lake Delton-Wisconsin Dells community and throughout the immediate rural areas covering portions of several adjacent counties. Depending on the weather, delivery can be completed in one day or can stretch to additional days in snowy conditions. Members know they have touched recipients when they receive thank you cards in appreciation of the fruit or food, a true Kiwanis moment!

60-YEAR LEGION OF HONOR AWARD PRESENTED TO STEPHEN STUELKE

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells



The Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells recently recognized one of its longtime members, Stephen Stuelke, with a Legion of Honor Award for 60 years of faithful service in the Kiwanis family. Stephen was a charter member of the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club, eventually becoming a Kiwanian who served as club president for three terms, served as a Lt. governor and filled numerous other roles in the club during his long tenure. He remains an active member and still provides sage advice and historical moments to Kiwanis members. Presenting the Legion of Honor certificate and pin during a club meeting is President Randall Durner (see photo at left). Congratulations, Stephen, you are a true Kiwanian!



SAVE THE DATE! AUGUST 22-24, 2025!

Mooo-ving

Kiwanis Forward

Wisconsin Upper Michigan District Convention

August 22-24, 2025
Green Bay, WI



IN MEMORIAM: DAVID RUNDE

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells

The Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells notes the passing of former Kiwanian David J. Runde of Wisconsin Dells on November 30, 2024. David served the Dells community with a long and successful career in the insurance industry. He had a strong sense of service, was a US Air Force veteran, an active member of St. Cecilia Parish and the Knights of Columbus. As a Kiwanian, Dave served as club president during the 1984-1985 administrative year and then as an advisor to the Wisconsin Dells High School Key Club, and was an active member for several decades.



David Runde

UPCOMING KIWANIS EVENTS

- February 21-23, 2025 WUM District Circle K Convention, Sheraton, Brookfield, Wisconsin
- February 22, 2025 WI-UM Kiwanis District Midyear Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Brookfield, Wisconsin
- March 14-16 , 2025 WI-UM District Key Club Convention, Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- April 5, 2025 WI-UM Kiwanis District Midyear Conference, Wausau, Wisconsin
- May 10, 2025, 9 am to 2 pm Kiwanis Workday at Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
- June 25-28, 2025 Kiwanis International Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- August 22-24, 2025 WI-UM Kiwanis District Convention, Green Bay, Wisconsin
- September 12-14, 2025 Key Leader, Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

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: 2024-2027

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

Division 2/Term: 2024-2027

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

Division 3/Term: 2024-2027

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

Division 4/Term: 2023-2026 Open

Division 5/Term: 2023-2026

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

Division 6/Term: 2022-2025

Randall Durner 608-356-2915
radforester08@gmail.com Wisconsin Dells

Division 7/Term: 2024-2027

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

Division 8/Term: 2024-2027

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: 2023-2026

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
sneen@uwec.edu Eau Claire-Clear Water

Division 13/Term: 2022-2025 Vacant

Division 14/Term: 2023-2026

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

Past Foundation President Representative Open

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor

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

Governor-elect

Paul Shrode 920-809-2872
psshrode@aol.com Appleton-Fox Cities

Executive Director

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

Immediate Past Governor

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

Lt. Governor Division 1/Term: 2023-2025

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

Lt. Governor Division 2/Term: 2022-2024

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

Lt. Governor Division 3/Term: 2023-2025

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

Lt. Governor Division 4/Term: 2023-2025 Open

Lt. Governor Division 5/Term: 2022-2024

Shirley Eells 608-214-9828
soeells@yahoo.com Monroe Kiwanis

Lt. Governor Division 6/Term: 2022-2024

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

Lt. Governor Division 7/Term: 2022-2024

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

Lt. Governor Division 8/Term: 2022-2024

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

Lt. Governor Division 9/Term: 2023-2025

Kathy Strong Langolf 920-948-5056
kathystronglangolf@wiumkiwanis.org Fond du Lac Noon

Lt. Governor Division 10/Term: 2023-2025

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

Lt. Governor Division 11/Term: 2023-2025

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

Lt. Governor Division 12/Term: 2023-2025

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

Lt. Governor Division 13/Term: 2023-2025 Open

Lt. Governor Division 14/Term: 2022-2024

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

2024-2025 APPOINTED POSITIONS

aKtion Club Co-administrators

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

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

Builders Club Administrator

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

Circle K Administrator

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

District Convention

Ben Gunderson 612-720-2215
ben.gunderson@greenbayymca.org Green Bay

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 Administrator

Sara Gelden 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 Open

Master Club Coach

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

Parliamentarian

Paul Shrode 920-809-2872
psshrode@aol.com Appleton-Fox Cities

Public Relations Coordinator

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

Risk Management & Youth Protection

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



2024-2025 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

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/Master Instructor

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

Membership and Engagement

Joanne Horner 847-337-2778
teahorner@mindspring.com Western Kenosha

Past Governor Trustee

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

Past Lt. Governor Representative


Paul Shrode 920-809-2872
psshrode@aol.com Appleton-Fox Cities

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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PLAN TO ATTEND THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN JUNE

Reprinted from the Kiwanis International Website

Pittsburgh is known for its innovative industries, thriving cultural scene and a landscape distinguished by rivers and bridges. Of course, the city is also known for its place at the heart of American steel manufacturing.

Explore all the ways the Kiwanis International convention can help you forge the future – for your club and for our worldwide organization. Join us in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Discover ways to build and grow clubs while nurturing and building your membership. Learn how to magnify your club’s influence on your community. Find out how to transform service projects in ways you never thought possible. Receive hands-on guidance in becoming a skilled Kiwanis leader. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones! You’ll leave the most exciting and educational Kiwanis event of the year inspired to make a difference.

Schedule and education

Membership growth. Retention. Building new clubs. Leadership development. You’ll learn how to grow your club through insight-packed sessions.

Speakers

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

Elections, amendments and resolutions

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

Hotels

Start planning now for your time in Pittsburgh by reserving a room at one of our preferred hotels.

Accessibility

Kiwanis International strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage fully.

More information can be found [on this webpage](#). [Register now](#). Pick the plan that’s right for you and purchase tickets to special events, such as the eagerly anticipated closing night gala.