

KIWANIS NEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025



The Ripon Noon Kiwanis toy lending library is an example of a club working with the public library to support and build families in the community.

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY: 2025-2026 GOVERNOR'S PROJECT REVEALED

Submitted by 2025-2026 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode

Our theme this year is "The Year of the Family," a celebration of family in the communities we serve, bringing together the Kiwanis Family of clubs and Service Leadership Programs, and including members' families in the activities, projects and fellowship of our clubs.

In keeping with the theme, each club should undertake some project of its own choosing to support and help build families within the communities we serve. Each club is free to find something meaningful to them,

but I encourage clubs to work with local libraries to collaborate in serving families. This might include assisting or offering family programming, providing materials that families may check out to take home that promote family time and meaningful engagement, or helping the library staff to serve families and youth with some of the initiatives they have identified.

One example of an easy enhancement to a library collection is a family activity kit such as those created by

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FIVE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE NEW KIWANIS YEAR

Submitted by 2025-2026 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode



Paul Shrode

We are now just six weeks into the new Kiwanis year and there are several things that should be on your "to do" list. A little work now will make for a much better year for you, your club, and ultimately the community you serve. Please reach out to your Lt. Governor, our district office, or me if you have any questions or need assistance.



Club secretaries and presidents should have full access to the new Engage website with Kiwanis International by now.

Use Engage to enter your monthly reports, check on membership records, see any pending invoices for the club, and make certain your officers are correctly listed and background checks are current for those members who require them. It is imperative that all club officers are identified for the current year. Some clubs have not reported officers; if there is no president or secretary of record, your club will miss all communication from the district and Kiwanis International. Lieutenant governors have been trained to help with Engage and can help enter records for officers if your club is missing them. Contact your Lt. governor as soon as possible to clarify club records or for help entering information.



This is the best time of year to update all member records with Kiwanis International. Print out the directory

information from your Kiwanis International club dashboard and circulate it to your members for corrections and additions, then update those records with Kiwanis International.



All clubs should have had some conversation regarding Youth Protection in October. This is required each year and

there are a number of resources available on the Kiwanis website to help. If you have not reviewed this information with your members, please do so as soon as possible.



Our midyear conferences and district convention are being planned. Midyear locations include Escanaba, Michigan and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin and our convention will be held in Brookfield, Wisconsin. As you confirm your budgets for the year, be sure to include participation in one of the midyear conferences and the annual convention. The Kiwanis International convention will be held in Manila, Philippines in June. The distance may be out of reach for many clubs, so attending the district convention can be more within reach.



Set up an interclub for your club: an organized visit to another Kiwanis club, Service Leadership Program club or activity, or division or district meeting. Interclubbing is a powerful way to share ideas, make new contacts in the area, and establish collaborative partnerships.

Your Lt. governor, the district office and all of us who serve at the district level are ready and willing to be of help to you and your club. We can provide training for officers, support with membership recruiting and retention, and help clubs take advantage of the resources provided through Kiwanis International and the district as a benefit of your membership. There are many contacts listed in each issue of the *Kiwanews* and you may feel free to reach out to any of them for help.

2025-2026 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode can be reached at 920-809-2872 or psshrode@aol.com.

#KIDSNEEDKIWANIS

**AN INDIVIDUAL CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
BUT A TEAM CAN
MAKE A MIRACLE.**

– Doug Pederson,
pro football coach



THANKS, THOUGHTS, AND A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNOR

Submitted by 2025-2026 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode

I want to begin the year by thanking all of the members and officers who have worked so hard to meet the needs of the communities they serve. You have all made a difference in the lives of countless children, families and so many others around Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. My wife, Stacy, and I are especially grateful for the hospitality shown to us as we have begun to visit clubs throughout the district. We enjoy attending meetings and special programs, participating in service projects and fundraisers, and serving alongside fellow Kiwanians.

The spirit of Kiwanis is alive and well and the dedication, ingenuity, creativity and energy we have witnessed confirm that our members possess servant hearts. Thank you for what you do and for efforts to share your talents, time and resources with those in need.

I must also thank past governor Kathy Durner and her team of district and division volunteers who have worked tirelessly this past year to build working relationships between and among our members. They have laid the groundwork for the success we shall surely find and share in the months ahead. I am so very thankful for their dedication and commitment.

I also want to thank our executive director Justin Hahn for his hard work. He does so much for us and dedicates his time and talent to our work, often well beyond the requirements of the job or the time for which he is compensated. I must also thank our International Trustee Dennis Baugh for his wise counsel, and the staff from KI who work so closely with us. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated and experienced people supporting us.

As I have stepped into the role of serving as your governor, I have become increasingly aware of the challenges being faced by some of our clubs. Since 2014, we have lost 55 clubs and 3 more have indicated that they will close this year already. In most cases, their membership fell to a level where they could not sustain the good work they wanted to accomplish in their

communities. Our district membership ended the 2024-2025 year with 2,456 members representing a net loss of 178 members. It is natural to lose members due to job changes, family or time constraints, illness and even death. We must therefore make membership recruiting a priority; there are many tools and resources available to us to help. Thirty of our clubs are at or below charter strength of 15 members. Many small clubs do amazing work in and for the communities they serve, but others may struggle.

New members mean new enthusiasm, more help for the work we undertake, new ideas and creativity, and the growth of our Kiwanis family. New member recruiting is not enough, however. We must make sure we appreciate our long-standing members in order to nurture and retain them, and as we recruit new members, we need to orient and prepare them for full engagement in our Kiwanis clubs.



Kiwanis®

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Simple things like reaching out to members you haven't seen in a while, offering education about Kiwanis to members and training officers for the work they do, re-energizing long-time members, celebrating accomplishments and club successes, and being clear about the expectations of membership all make a critical difference in member retention. The bottom line is that we need to create an environment where members feel, experience and help build a sense of belonging.

Sometimes we become complacent, and forget what we have accomplished in Kiwanis. As I have attended club functions and meetings, I find myself wearing Kiwanis apparel and my pin most days. I am amazed at the number of times someone will ask what Kiwanis is. My elevator speech is getting a lot of practice, and as

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The Year of the Family: 2025-2026 Governor's Project Revealed...continued from page one

Milwaukee-based Penworthy Company. I would ask that each club report on its efforts to support families within their communities so we can celebrate the good work you undertake. Reports should be sent to me and copied to your Lt. Governor, in addition to being reported on your monthly reports.

Many of our clubs have supported the good work and helped meet the needs of both Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells and Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, Michigan through the years. I encourage you to continue supporting these camps in their efforts to serve children and families. You may contact them directly to identify their greatest needs as you plan your philanthropy for the year.

Thank you for your efforts to join together and make the lives of children and their families brighter in those communities we serve.

Thanks, Thoughts, and a Special Request from the Governor...continued from page three

people realize what that big K means at the city limits, or recognize that the Kiwanis name attached to a park or community facility or scholarship, or that Key Club is a part of our organization, it begins to sink in.

We are members of a preeminent international service organization and are part of a venerable tradition of service and impact both locally and globally, as relevant today as it ever was. We must share our story, spread the news of what we accomplish in so many cities, towns, schools, and in the lives of people in need. How could anyone who shares our commitment to building a better community and making a real difference, who understands we are and what we do – and that we have great fun doing it – resist joining us?

As we move into the holiday season, a time of hope, promise, giving and sharing, let us join in providing service side by side with friends and neighbors filled with that sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that comes from selfless service, and let us invite others in our



Noon Kiwanis members in Ripon donated funds to the public library to purchase large-print Wonderbooks – a print book with an audiobook inside. Kids press play to read along with their favorite books. Projects like this lend themselves well to the 2025-2026 Governor's Project.

social circles, family members and good friends to join us in our work.

On my holiday wish list is a simple plea: if your club needs some help recruiting new members, wants some support as you undertake positive change, or is struggling with something in Kiwanis, let us know. If you are considering whether you can continue as a club, give us a chance to help you rebound and succeed. And if you are doing some great things and want to celebrate with fellow Kiwanians, let us know that too.

Families support us, share joy and sorrow with us, and stand by our side as we tackle the challenges and celebrate the successes of life. Our Kiwanis family is here with and for us, just waiting to see if we need a little support. I look forward to being a part of your success story and celebrating with you.

2025-2026 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode can be reached at 920-809-2872 or psshrode@aol.com.

REFLECTING ON KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL GOVERNOR-ELECT TRAINING

Submitted by Rebecca Mattson, 2025-2026 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-elect



Becky Mattson

Many of you might wonder what motivates me to consider serving in an office beyond club president. My answer remains the same. I am here to serve the children of the world. Who better to do it with than other Kiwanians who have become my extended family over the past 25 years?

We all start out focusing on our communities. Each time we introduce a new member into our club, our positive impact on our communities becomes stronger. Imagine how a Lt. governor feels working in their division and seeing the vital work their clubs are doing. For me, it has been very inspiring, and participating in the opening of a new club has had an even bigger impact. Thank you for making a difference. Please consider where your journey in Kiwanis is taking you. We need more members to step up as leaders in their clubs, divisions, and district.

I recently attended Kiwanis International training with governors-elect from around the world. There are 52 districts from 84 countries which represent Kiwanis. Meeting this year's class of governors-elect was an experience of a lifetime. Meeting the Kiwanis

International staff in person and learning from them was impactful. Our dues pay for a quality team of people and support our leaders in providing excellent training and resources, as well as personal service to our districts, right down to the club level.

It was an honor to meet our current Kiwanis International President, Michael Mulhaul; President-elect, Hope Markes; Vice President Cathy Szymanski; and many other Kiwanis leaders. District administrators, including Justin Hahn, spent a day with us in a joint training session.



Kiwanis International Vice President Cathy Szymanski, President-elect Hope Markes, and President Michael Mulhaul were introduced to those attending governor-elect and district executive secretary training.

Kiwanis International is asking me to submit a plan for my year as governor by this December 15. 70% of my job will be to build new clubs and 30% percent will focus on strengthening existing clubs, to be the best they can be. My Lt. governors' jobs will be the opposite: 70% of their role will be to strengthen existing clubs, and 30% will be to build new ones. I will want to help the healthy stay healthy and clubs who are struggling to get healthy. Charter strength is 15 members. We want to help new clubs get off to a healthy start. Teamwork is the name of the game. Anything is possible when we work together.

My focus will be to create the capacity for Kiwanis service. I will be looking for team members willing to build a positive working relationship with me and the district. A Lt. governor in each division is a must! Some positions are elected, but many are appointed. If you are in a district



Executive Director Justin Hahn and Governor-elect Rebecca Mattson were both in Indianapolis for training sessions in early November.

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Reflecting on Kiwanis International governor-elect training...continued from page five

position with a term that ends this year, do you have a succession plan, or are you willing to serve an additional term? I will be making phone calls to begin to strengthen my relationship with current leaders in the district. Feel free to reach out to me in the meantime.

What can Kiwanis leaders at every level do to reverse the trends and increase our impact as one of the world's largest service organizations?



Participants at Kiwanis International governor-elect training were treated to a visit to the Dallara Experience Hub, an Italian race car manufacturer.

- Commit to being proud of your Kiwanis membership. Fortify your club's future by sharing your experience with a new member before the end of December.
- Commit to the strategies outlined in **Build. Nurture. Retain.** Our organization's membership initiative highlights the most effective ways to open new clubs, coach those new clubs to success, and encourage existing clubs to be the best they can be.

- Commit to delivering value for the Kiwanis club experience through the concepts of relevant service (clubs need impactful "things to do"); fun (celebrate success); marketing (clubs must proclaim their presence); membership development (value our members, educate); and, fulfilling sponsorship responsibilities for our Service Leadership Programs

We have a lot of work to do. But always keep in mind the fantastic reason we must be successful. As Kiwanians, we are serving the children of the world. That's why. I had a lot of fun in Indianapolis at governor-elect training. After getting four new tires the day after I arrived from my two-day journey, we met our class of 2026-2027 governors, had professional individual photos taken, and a group photo. We dined on Jamaican food the first evening to celebrate our president-elect's home country. We feasted on Filipino cuisine at the end of our time together to motivate us to attend the 2026 International Convention in Manila in June 2026.

Other fun events included a staff scavenger hunt at Kiwanis International, a team competition with Legos (Justin and I were on the winning team), and a 30-minute bus trip to the Dallara Experience Hub, the largest multinational Italian race car manufacturer, and it's incredible event center (more good food).

The biggest take away? I made friends for life from around the world. Now I am ready to get to work for you!



WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO SERVE THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD?

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



Alan Arbuckle

Kiwanians serve the children of the world. Right? But what does that mean? Does it mean Kiwanians only serve children in our own community? After all, the defining statement says 'Kiwanis improves the world one child and one community at a time'. But notice it doesn't say only in our own small community. Fortunately, club number one of Detroit didn't stop at a community in Detroit. Their vision was much larger. They built and inspired others to build clubs in many states and eventually opened clubs in many countries.

In more recent times, many clubs' vision is only on their own community a short distance from where they live or work. If there was a need in another town a few minutes down the road, most clubs don't get involved. We have built silos around where we think our "service area" boundaries are.

It has become a serious problem that clubs won't sponsor a new club in a nearby community. We hear,

'why should we help form a different club when our own Kiwanis has membership issues?' Wouldn't recruiting members for a new club be a great way to practice recruiting new members in your own club?

Building a new club helps children, improves Kiwanis' reputation of service, and strengthens Kiwanis in your division, the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan (WI-UM) district

and Kiwanis International. Why should you care about that? In one word, **dues**. As membership shrinks, dues will increase.

Members should be encouraged to improve the mindset that your community only exists a few miles from where they live. You live in the WI-UM district. You live in the USA or are a global citizen. Kiwanis depends on all of us to help strengthen the organization. You may have a friend or relative who would be a terrific Kiwanian. But have you ever talked to them about how great it is being a member? When a member of your club moves because of a job or just someplace a little warmer, has anybody contacted a club in their new area? Why not? **Kiwanians are all in this together, aren't we?**



Our WI-UM district had a net loss of members last Kiwanis year (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025). We lost 438 members (16.65%), but during the same timespan added about 260 new members (9.9%), resulting in a net loss of 178 members. That is a scary amount. There were also four clubs that closed.

In closing, the district needs your help to turn

this membership challenge around. Please consider sponsoring a new club if a community near you needs Kiwanis or if a school needs a service leadership organization like Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, or Circle K (CKI). Thanks.

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

DARBOY KIWANIS CELEBRATE FIFTIETH 'IPADS FOR AUTISM' AWARD

Submitted by Ron Simonis, Kiwanis Club of Darboy

"For people without disabilities, technology makes life easier; for people with disabilities, technology makes life possible!" This quote, shared by the mother of a student who received an iPad, captures the impact that the iPads for Autism project has for children and families. During the past 10 years, the Kiwanis Club of Darboy has granted iPads to families in the Kimberly, Kaukauna, Neenah, Menasha, Little Chute, and Hilbert school districts. The Darboy club reached a milestone recently when it presented its 50th iPad.

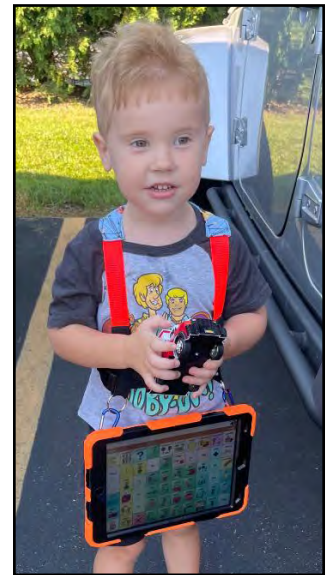
Parents that the club has met tell us how vital the iPads and associated apps are in helping their children communicate and gain access to other educational tools. One parent told us that the iPad gave their child "a voice"

and that they witnessed decreased frustration and increased independence as a result of the communication that was now possible. Another family described the iPad as "a game changer" for their child.

Teachers, therapists, and speech-language pathologists who work with these students have shared with us the success and growth, both academically and socially, that they witness

when children are better able to express their thoughts and ideas. These educators have also told us that they and the parents they assist appreciate the ease of the iPad grant process and relatively quick turnaround from apps to device in the hands of the child.

While the primary purpose of the iPads for Autism program is to help kids and support families, a coincidental benefit has been to raise the profile of our local Kiwanis club and the Kiwanis organization as a whole. We now have parents, teachers, and school administrators who are much more aware of our club, the Kiwanis organization, and the great work we do.



Even young children on the autism spectrum can benefit from an iPad and learning apps.



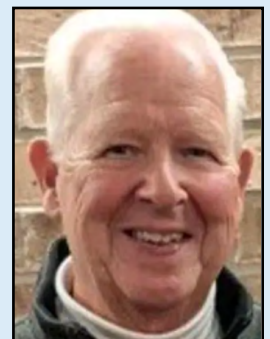
A student who received an iPad from the Kiwanis Club of Darboy utilizes an app on the device to help with schoolwork.

PORT WASHINGTON CLUB HONORS MEMBER BY PLANTING TREES

Submitted by Karen Oleski, Greater Port Washington Kiwanis Club

The Greater Port Washington Club lost a good friend, John Sigwart, August 5, 2025. John joined Kiwanis March 1, 1988. He served three presidential terms and three terms as secretary. But John was more than a club officer. He brought several community projects to life serving on the Possibility Playground planning committee, he organized the Kiwanis fish day booth for 20 years, accumulating significant money for our

annual budget, and he started our annual Chili Bowl contest now going into its 10th year. John is being honored by his family, his community, his Kiwanis club, and his friends by planting three trees near the pavilion and playground.



John Sigwart



Lt. Governor Pete Duesterbeck helped welcome 12 new members to the Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club on November 5th, 2025.

WELCOMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF KIWANIS MEMBERS

Submitted by Pete Duesterbeck, Division 9 Lt. Governor

Like many volunteer organizations, Fond du Lac's Lakeside Kiwanis Club has long been searching for new members. One year ago, its members began thinking about the many young people they knew – individuals they had watched growing into their careers, families, and community roles. That reflection helped member Joe Ziegler see an opportunity to invite them into Kiwanis in a way that aligned with their own goals.

Ziegler's approach was straightforward: show them how their personal success could also strengthen the success of the community. "I emphasized Kiwanis not just as a service organization, but as a network – a place where people support one another personally and professionally while giving back in meaningful ways," he said.

Dues, he explained, were never the barrier. "Most of these young adults are starting families, and time is their biggest challenge. Fortunately, many of them are individuals I've known for nearly a decade through my work and community involvement. In some ways, I've served as a mentor to each of them. That relationship made it easier to talk honestly about the importance of giving back. I reminded them that service doesn't require a tremendous amount of time, but it does create a tremendous impact."

Camaraderie played a major role as well. When Ziegler joined nearly 30 years ago, he looked forward to Wednesday nights with fellow Kiwanians. He wanted

these younger adults to experience that same sense of belonging. Approaching them as a group – not just individually – also helped; several already knew each other, making the idea of joining feel more comfortable and familiar.

On November 5, 2025, the club inducted 12 new members, many of whom Ziegler had recruited over the past year. Division 9 Lt. Governor Pete Duesterbeck refers to them as the "Terrific Twelve," noting that "should they remain together as a group over the next 20-30 years, they have the opportunity to impact the Fond du Lac community in ways they never imagined."

Ziegler's strategy, as well as that of his club, has exceeded expectations, and between now and June 2026, he plans to invite a second wave of potential members – perhaps four to ten more young adults ready to step up and serve. The future of the Lakeside Kiwanis Club looks brighter with each passing month.



'SCHOOL HOUSE THREADS' PROGRAM FILLS A BASIC NEED IN WILD ROSE

Submitted by Pete Duesterbeck, Division 9 Lt. Governor

The Wild Rose Kiwanis Club's "School House Threads" program began with a simple question posed to the elementary school principal: "What can we do to help school-aged children?" The answer revealed a pressing need. Many students lacked adequate clothing, and while school staff had been quietly providing items at their own expense, the need far exceeded what they could supply. What students truly needed was a reliable, year-round selection of clothing.

The program provides clean, season-appropriate clothing so no child might feel embarrassed or distracted because of what they're wearing. The program also ensures schools have quick access to a change of clothes for those days when accidents happen or mornings don't go as planned – situations that can be especially difficult for children already facing challenges.

Once Kiwanians developed the mission, they introduced the program to the Wild Rose community. The response was remarkable. At the start of the 2025-2026 school



Wild Rose Kiwanis Club members delivered 22 large totes of clothing to the elementary school at the start of the school year.

year, 22 large totes of clothing were delivered to the elementary school. Donations included shirts, sweatshirts, pants, shoes, boots, coats, and backpacks. Community support was so strong that Kiwanians were also able to deliver 20 additional totes of clothing to the middle and high schools. The needs of older students proved to mirror those of the younger ones.

The program goal is simple: to ensure School House Threads continues for as long as local students need it.

FABULOUS FOND DU LAC KIWANIAN HONORED FOR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Submitted by Charlene Petit, Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac



Harry Schneider, right, was presented the coveted Walleye Plate Award by a representative of Fond du Lac Festivals.

The Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac has two major fundraisers each year – Walleye Weekend and Pork Fest. Profits allow club members to participate in and give to many community projects including literacy services, Linus blankets, the Boys and Girls Club, local parks, food pantries and much more.

This year, Harry Schneider, team chairman for both fundraisers was honored with the Walleye Plate Award by Fond du Lac Festivals in recognition of superior dedication, spirit and volunteer efforts. Offering his expertise, commitment, and perseverance for success in serving our club, it is a well-deserved award. Although Harry was ill during the year, that did not stop him from working from home. Harry and his fundraising committee are to be applauded for the year-round effort organizing and achieving amazing results.

RECOGNIZING LONG TERM MEMBERS WITH A LEGION OF HONOR AWARD

Submitted by Randall Durner, Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells



2025-2026 Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode, standing, right, presented Legion of Honor awards to Gerry Potter, front row, middle (accompanied by her daughter and grandson) and Gary Picha (front row, right) in honor of 30 years of dedication and service to Kiwanis.

One of the important aspects of good Kiwanis Club leadership is recognizing members for service to local youth and communities. For members who have a long history with their club, a Legion of Honor award is a great way to recognize them.

This award may be bestowed on members who have belonged and served their club for at least 25 years, and every five years thereafter. Your club secretary can review the member administration section of ENGAGE to see if any club members qualify. If they do, visit the Kiwanis store at www.kiwanis.org and order the Legion of Honor certificate and pin for your recipient.

The Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells recently awarded Legion of Honor awards to long-time members with 30 or more years of service. Kiwanis District Governor Paul Shrode addressed club members and presented the award. He did an excellent job of outlining the significance of this award as he made the presentations.

CLUB MEMBERS AWARD IPAD TO A CHILD ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Submitted by Trisha Peterson, Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis Club

Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis is celebrating its 100th anniversary in a big way by helping a family communicate. Trevor Rogers' son, Everson, is non-verbal, which makes it very difficult to communicate with him. The iPad and individually-selected apps will change his world and his entire family. "We are so proud to help them improve their lives," said Trisha Peterson, a member of the Iron-Mountain Kingsford Kiwanis Club.

The Rogers family was presented with the iPad, protective case, and an iTunes gift card to purchase the apps which Everson needs to communicate. The club is grateful to the Northwoods ABA Learning Center for referring this family to club members.

The iPads for Autism program is one of the WI-UM Kiwanis District signature projects. It was launched in 2012 as Past-Governor Lynn Messer's governor's project.



Pictured left to right, dad, Trevor Rogers, iPad recipient Everson Rogers, his sister Auvienna Rogers, and Kiwanis member Trisha Peterson.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE IN IRON MOUNTAIN-KINGSFORD

Submitted by Trisha Peterson, Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis Club

The Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis Club celebrated 100 years of service at an event held October 2nd with all proceeds donated to construction of an all-inclusive park. Phase one was recently completed; the club's contribution will help fund phase two in spring 2026.

"We are so happy to partner with Lake Antoine Park Partners and make a difference," said club member Trisha Peterson. The park is completely accessible from the parking lot to the playground to the beach house where bathrooms are located. Wheelchair users are also able to enter the water using adaptive equipment.



Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis members were pleased to help raise funds for an all-inclusive park, while celebrating the club's centennial.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT AIMS TO ORGANIZE THEATER WORKSHOP

Submitted by Brian Reilly, Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club

Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club president, Brian Reilly, who directs the school musicals performed by Ripon middle school students, identified the need to make some improvements to the organization in the auditorium shop at the high school, which became his president's project.

Brian is also the outgoing president for the Ripon Area Community Theatre, which is a sponsored program of the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club. With the help of maintenance staff, as well as some of the theater students from the high school and middle school, shelving was replaced with movable carts and bins for much of the smaller lumber. The existing peg board was utilized to make tools and equipment easier to find and reduce clutter.



Existing pegboard was utilized to organize workshop tools.



Prior to Brian Reilly's president's project, the auditorium workshop was disorganized and cluttered.



Rolling carts hold sorted lumber to make set construction easier.

MEDFORD CLUB ENDS THE YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE AT 'BUCKTOBERFEST'

Submitted by Karen Block, Medford Kiwanis Club

On September 12th and 13th the Medford Kiwanis Club hosted the fourth annual Bucktoberfest, which is the club's largest fundraiser. The event kicked off with live music and raffles on Friday night. On Saturday morning, more than 50 ATVs, UTVs and a few vehicles started the day by participating in a poker run through the scenic Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Live music was performed throughout the day and into the evening, which was enjoyed by more than 500 people. The club also sold food, held raffles, had yard games, and ended the day with a live auction.

Members Jon Knoll, Molly Knoll and Jake Emmerich put in countless hours of planning. Approximately 20 club members worked at the event on Saturday, which was quite a turnout considering the club has about 30



Event planners Jake Emmerich, Jon Knoll and Molly Knoll make announcements from the Bucktoberfest stage.

members. The net profit was well over \$20,000! The club is excited to be able to invest the funds in the community and continue the Kiwanis mission of changing the world one child and one community at a time.



The head football coaches from five Fond du Lac area high schools each received \$800 from the Fond du Lac Lakeside Evening Kiwanis Club.

LAKESIDE KIWANIS FUND FOOTBALL TEAMS FOR OVER TWO DECADES

Submitted by Kathy Strong Langolf, 2024-2025 Division 9 Lt. Governor

On September 3rd, the Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club, at their annual Pig Skin Preview, presented each Fond du Lac area high school football team a check for \$800 towards their respective programs.

The five recipients of funding were Fond du Lac High School, Saint Mary Springs Academy and Winnebago Lutheran Academy (all located in Fond du Lac), Oakfield

High School, and North Fond du Lac High School. The club has been supporting the football programs annually for more than 20 years.

Also present at the meeting were members from the Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac, the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club, the ARC Aktion Club, and other distinguished guests.

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KIWANEWS SCHEDULE

October/November November 15 Deadline
 December/January January 15 Deadline
 February/March March 15 Deadline
 April/May May 15 Deadline
 June/July July 15 Deadline
 August/September September 15 Deadline

KIWANEWS

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**ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE, AND EVERY
PERSON SHOULD TRY.**

– John F. Kennedy



INJECT SOME FUN INTO THE CLUB EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL EVENTS

Submitted by Randall Durner, Division 6 Lt. Governor

Are your club members tired or bored with regular meetings? Perhaps it's time to inject some fun into your club with periodic social events. For clubs that meet weekly, if there is a fifth meeting of the month, why not make that a social event?

The Baraboo Kiwanis Club, for example, conducts an evening chili cook-off social in November. Members and friends, along with their families, are invited and asked to enter chili recipes in a taste-judging contest or bring snacks to go along with the chili. Attendees mingle and socialize before the judging starts. They are given chili samples and then vote for the top three recipes. The fun continues after the top choices are announced. This is a great opportunity to meet old and new members, make new friends and to invite prospective members to attend and meet club members.



Pictured is host Matt Balfanz tallying scores before announcing the winners of the Baraboo Kiwanis Club chili-tasting contest.

CLUB SUPPORT FOR SPONSORED LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS IS VITAL

Submitted by Randall Durner, Division 6 Lt. Governor

Does your Kiwanis club support a Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, or Aktion Club? If so, do the members know that a Kiwanis club supports them? Does your Kiwanis liaison visit or interact with your sponsored leadership program (SLP) club, or do service projects together? If the answer to any of these questions is no, perhaps a reassessment is in order.

If your club sponsors an SLP, is the faculty advisor a member of your Kiwanis club? If not, there's an

opportunity to increase your club membership, especially if your club covers their membership fee. By attending SLP meetings or working jointly on service projects, you build rapport and support with your SLP students and foster a stronger connection. Your presence and club support can strengthen your SLP club, as well as promote attendance at the club's district and international events.

The Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club supports two Key Clubs, one at Mauston High School and the other at Wisconsin Dells High School. Members visit each Key Club several times a year and participate with their service projects. The Kiwanis club extends some financial support and both Key Clubs consistently send members to the Key Club district convention each year.

If you support a sponsored leadership program, make sure your club is actively supporting it, showing up at meetings, getting involved in their service projects and letting them get to know that your Kiwanis Club is on their side!



It's important that members of your sponsored leadership program feel the connection with the Kiwanis club which sponsors it.