

WI KIWANEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026



Charter members of the newly-formed Fox Valley Aktion Club celebrated the club's charter on January 14th, joined by District Governor Paul Shrode, far left, and District Aktion Club Administrator Charles Zarnoth, second from right.

FOX VALLEY AKTION CLUB HOLDS CHARTER PARTY ON JANUARY 14TH

Submitted by Mike Hipple, Fox Valley Aktion Club Co-advisor

It took about ten years of persistence, but past lieutenant governor Mike Hipple helped kick off the new Fox Valley Aktion Club on January 14th. Hipple made it his goal years ago as incoming Division 10 lieutenant governor to launch the area Aktion Club. It finally happened.

Here are Mike's words of inspiration that he shared with the new members: "Hello and thank you for coming to this important event. My name is Mike Hipple, and I am one of the Kiwanis advisors to the Aktion club. Today's event is one of the most important days in a Kiwanis club's life. We are welcoming a new club to our family. I have been able to attend four or five charter parties in the past; they are like a child's first birthday party. You don't know what the future will bring, but you hope the child is going to achieve amazing things."

"The child will be supported throughout their life through good times and hard times. You will be surprised by what the child can do. And you will listen to their thoughts and

ideas. To me, and my brothers and sisters in Kiwanis, we feel the same way today," he said.

"To the amazing members of the Fox Valley Aktion Club, we will support you and your ideas to serve your communities. I can't wait to see what you guys will do in the future. Congratulations on being charter members!"



Chartering the Fox Valley Aktion Club has been a dream of past lieutenant governor Mike Hipple, left, since first serving in that position.

DURING THE KIWANIS YEAR OF THE FAMILY, FAMILY MATTERS!

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

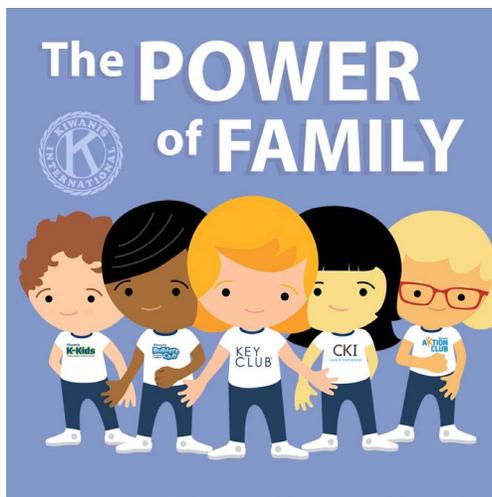


Paul Shrode

Our Kiwanis Year of the Family is in full swing. It seems like time is flying by as daylight savings begins and the promise of warmer weather, greening lawns, trees budding out and the first flowers of spring are sure to follow. I want to take a few moments to talk about family

since before you know it, the school year will be done and our administrative year will be waning.

Family matters! Our Kiwanis family deserves our attention and I am hopeful that every club will consider ways to connect with and support our service leadership programs before the school year ends. Our fantastic Key Clubs just concluded their administrative year and elected new officers, board members and committee chairs at their district convention. They have such energy, creativity and dedication to service. If your club is not connecting with them regularly, please reach out. They are eager to help with your projects and invite you to join in their good work.



While many of our clubs actively engage their Key Clubs locally, all too many rely upon a single member to serve as liaison, and still others have little or no contact at all. Our Key Club branch of the family wants to work with us and needs to know and appreciate the work we do, the support we can provide, and the pride we have in them. This is also true for K-Kids, Builder's Clubs, Aktion Clubs, and especially our Circle K groups. If your club sponsors one or more of these groups, step up and engage with them, let them know you care, and invite them to share in your work in the community. I know you will find it rewarding. If you don't currently sponsor a service leadership program, please reach out to your schools and let them know what they are missing!

Okay, I intended a double *entendre* with "Family Matters," I'll confess. While we need to remind our family of Kiwanis clubs that they matter and we support them, we also need to attend to several matters. I hope your club has developed or reinforced a service initiative designed to support the families and their children in your community. I'll be asking each club to report on your efforts as we fulfill this year's Governor's Project.

Your club should also be preparing to send delegates to one or both of our midyear conferences. These meetings provide vital club leader education, opportunities to learn about new initiatives in Kiwanis, and best of all, build friendships with other Kiwanians and get new ideas from their clubs. You should also be preparing for

the election of new officers and directors later this spring. Now is the time to begin sounding out members, encouraging them to think about serving in a leadership position, and preparing them for those roles that interest them.

Another request I have of you is to consider setting aside some funds to support Key Leader. This outstanding workshop, scheduled June 5th-7th, provides leadership

training to students ages 14 to 20 in a fun-filled outdoor setting. The cost is only \$250 per student and covers the program, food and lodging. We need your help to notify, recruit and support the participation of deserving students from your community. While Key Club members are the target audience, any student is welcome.

Every family goes through ups and downs. Within our family, there may be clubs struggling to grow, to maintain members, or to develop new service initiatives that attract and engage both current and potential new members. If your club needs some help and extra support, I encourage you to reach out to district leaders.

...Continued on page three

WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT MIDYEAR CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 **Registration and Credentials**
Registration, display tables, basket drop off

9:00-9:30 **Opening Session**
District Governor welcome

9:30-11:10 **Club Leadership Education**
For presidents, presidents-elect and anyone interested in leadership positions.

9:30-10:15 **Breakout Session #1**

- Club Strengthening: Building relationships
- Marketing: Creating visibility for your club

10:25-11:10 **Breakout Session #2**

- Membership and Engagement: Club orientation
- Leadership Training: Club secretaries

11:20-12:05 **General Session**
This interactive session is designed to share the exciting news about Key Leader in the WI-UM district, review youth protection policies and practices, and explore new developments in Kiwanis. Come with your questions and meet district leaders.

12:15-1:30 **Awards Luncheon**
Meet your Kiwanis Family and celebrate our club and individual achievements. Lunch is included with the midyear conference registration fee.

1:30-2:15 **Breakout Session #3**

- Service that attracts members
- Creating and utilizing effective teams
- Leadership Training: Club treasurers and club finances

2:15-2:45 **District Foundation Basket Raffle**
Support the KDF by bringing a gift basket for the raffle and money to purchase tickets.



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WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN DISTRICT

2:45-3:30 **Division Council Meetings**
Elect lieutenant governors and lieutenant governors-elect for the 2026-2028 term. Find out what is happening in your division. Meet Kiwanis members from other clubs in your division.

Led by Lieutenant Governors
 Division 2 Bill Martens
 Division 5 Shirley Eells
 Division 6 Randall Durner
 Division 7 Glenda Lee
 Division 8 Fitz Fitzpatrick
 Division 14 Steve Halsey
 Other divisions if needed

During the Kiwanis Year of the family, Family Matters!...continued from page two

Your lieutenant governor – and all of us in district leadership positions – are ready to support you, aid you in your efforts to recruit, and link you to both district and international resources. We want to add new clubs and need the help of sponsoring clubs. Sponsoring a new club can invigorate your own club and may engage members in new ways.

Speaking of lieutenant governors, I hope you are developing a good working relationship with yours. Communication is indeed a two-way street, and you need to do your share of reaching out, sharing information, and fostering a good working relationship. A good starting point is completing your monthly reports. This helps your lieutenant governor know how you are doing and what you are proud of. Sharing your projects, fundraisers, and activities with your lieutenant governor and the other clubs in your division can stimulate better

family communication, and you might even be able to get some help and support for your efforts.

We have a wonderful family in the WI-UM Kiwanis District. I learn something new from every club I visit. I want you to know that the work you do in your community makes a significant difference in the families and lives that you touch. Community doesn't simply happen because a bunch of people live near one another. It takes work to bring people together, to help those in need with the help of others, and especially to support and affirm the youth in our midst. We provide mentoring, role models, and a shining example of what family means and how you lead and nurture a community. Thank you for all you do and remember that Family Matters!

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

WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS
FAMILY REUNION

MIDYEAR CONFERENCES

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI: MARCH 28, 2026
ESCANABA, MI: APRIL 25, 2026



EDUCATION

FELLOWSHIP

FUNDRAISING

AWARDS

ELECTIONS



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ATTENDING A MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

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

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 25th in Wisconsin Dells and April 25th in Escanaba. The registration fee includes lunch.

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of the 2024-2025 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!

Remember to bring a gift basket for the Kiwanis District

Foundation 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.

You must register online! Catering is due 10 days before, so the deadline for Wisconsin Dells is March 18th and the deadline for Escanaba is April 15th. We can't wait to see you at either or both midyear conferences.

BUILD. NURTURE. RETAIN. REPEAT. BUILD. NURTURE. RETAIN. REPEAT.

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



Becky Mattson

Have you heard the exciting news? Fox Crossing has officially chartered our district's first new Kiwanis club for the 2025-2026 year, adding more than 20 new members to Division 10. A huge thank you goes out to Club Coach Jean Long Manteufel and her team for their hard work.

Governor Paul Shrode has set a goal of opening three new clubs this year, which means we're still looking to establish two more. Community members in River Falls are collaborating with coaches Becky Mattson, Michele Wood, and LaVone Sneen to launch the second new club this spring. If your club knows of any nearby communities that could benefit from a Kiwanis club, please reach out to Governor Paul. It's "all hands on deck" as we work together to achieve our goals. Let's come together and contribute to our district's success!

Building new clubs is essential, as each new club means one more community where Kiwanis can serve children. We must not overlook the importance of nurturing our existing clubs. Nurturing clubs makes up 30% of the governor and governor-elect's duties, while 70% of the lieutenant governor's duties focus on supporting current clubs. Kiwanis International offers tools to help clubs conduct effective meetings and plan projects that serve children. To nurture your club and support other clubs, log into ENGAGE and explore the resources available to you. If you haven't accessed ENGAGE, follow these steps:
1. Go to [the Kiwanis Engage login page](#).

2. Enter the email associated with your Kiwanis account; if you can't remember it, your club secretary can help you find it. If prompted for your password and you don't remember it, click "Forgot Password?" to create a new one. This will grant you access to ENGAGE and all its resources.
3. Click on the Members tab.
4. Find the section labeled "Build. Nurture. Retain."
5. Open the Club Toolbox, which contains tools for nurturing and strengthening your club, including:
 - a. Membership planning,
 - b. Strengthening resources,
 - c. Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) tools,
 - d. Club coaching,
 - e. Recruitment resources,
 - f. Membership collateral,
 - g. Marketing and public relations, and
 - h. Inclusion resources.

Note: if you aren't able to login to ENGAGE successfully, an informative Build, Nurture, Retain flyer [is available here](#).

While new clubs are assigned club coaches, existing clubs can also request assistance from the district to enhance their operations. A club may appear healthy based solely on membership numbers, but challenges such as low meeting attendance or a lack of members under the age of 60 could indicate future issues. You know more about your club than anyone else. Please reach out to your lieutenant governor or district if your club could benefit from our assistance.

2025-2026 District Governor-elect Rebecca Mattson can be reached at 218-461-0220 or rmattson711@gmail.com.

UPCOMING KIWANIS EVENTS

- March 28th, 2026 WI-UM Midyear Conference, Wisconsin Dells High School, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
- April 25th, 2026 WI-UM Midyear Conference, Bay College, Escanaba, Michigan
- May 9th, 2026, 9 am to 2 pm Kiwanis Work Day at Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
- June 5th-7th, 2026 Key Leader, Camp Nawakwa, Cornell, Wisconsin
- June 24th-27th, 2026 Kiwanis International Convention, Manila, Philippines
- August 14th-16th, 2026 WI-UM District Convention, Brookfield, Wisconsin

A PRACTICAL, MEASURABLE, ACTION-FOCUSED GROWTH STRATEGY

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

Here's a straightforward, business-oriented growth strategy for a Kiwanis club – practical, measurable, and focused on execution. Not every idea will work with every club, but something will work for every club.

1) Define the Product You're Selling

- a. You're not selling meetings.
- b. You're selling
 - Local impact
 - Leadership opportunities
 - Business visibility (**how does the club shows support to businesses**)
 - Real relationships within the club & with the community
 - A structured way to give back

If your value proposition isn't clear in a single sentence, growth will stagnate.

Example positioning:

"The premier service-leadership network in [your town] for professionals who want to improve children's lives and expand their influence locally." A simple example: "Serving your community and its children through volunteer work."

2) Set Hard Growth Targets

- a. Vague goals lead to no growth.
- b. Track:
 - Net membership gain per quarter
 - Retention rate (since retention is our biggest membership challenge)
 - Average age of members
 - Visitors per month
 - Visitor to member conversion rate (**recruitment is a numbers game**)
- c. Healthy benchmark:
 - 15% to 25% membership growth over 12 months (**2 to 3 new members is good this year for a small Kiwanis club**)
 - 85% to 90% retention

3) Fix the Member Experience First

- a. Recruitment without retention is a treadmill.

b. Audit your current meetings:

- Start and end on time
- Energy level
- Clear purpose
- Real networking time (**get to know new members especially**)
- Visible impact stories

- c. If a guest attends tomorrow, would they think, "This is worth my time every month"? If not, fix that before marketing.



4) Build a Simple, Repeatable Recruitment Strategy

- a. Growth is not an event; it's a pipeline.
- b. Monthly structure (**the first step is to develop a list of prospects**)
 - Invite 5 qualified prospects. (**at least 1 or 2?**)
 - 3 guests attend.
 - 1 new member joins.
- c. Sources of prospects: Not random; targeted.
 - Young professionals (**and people nearing retirement, especially for older membership clubs**)
 - Small business owners
 - School administrators (**Service Leadership advisors**)
 - Nonprofit leaders (**especially child-oriented**)
 - Local government staff (**librarian, fire, police, recreation department**)

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REQUEST FOR 2026-2027 DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT CANDIDATES

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



Justin Hahn

The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District of Kiwanis International is seeking qualified candidates for governor-elect for the 2026-2027 term. The definition of "qualified candidate" is as follows:

Bylaws, Article 3, Section 2:

"Each district officer shall be an

active member in a club of the district. Each lieutenant governor shall be a member of a club in the division from which elected. However, if there is no member from a club in a particular division qualified and willing to serve as lieutenant governor, a member of a club in another division may serve. The governor and governor-elect shall have and maintain a clear criminal history background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International."

All qualified candidates for offices to be elected at the annual convention must submit written notice of candidacy to the District Executive Director no later than three weeks prior to the start of the annual district convention per Policy Codes Section 7.1 "Only a club or

division of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District may offer, propose or nominate a candidate for the office of district governor or district governor-elect for the ensuing administrative year. A written statement of intent shall be filed as soon as possible after October 1st but not later than three weeks prior to the opening day of the district convention [at which] the name is to be presented to the assembled delegates of the district convention.

This year's district convention will be held August 14th-16th, 2026; therefore any candidates should submit paperwork no later than July 24, 2026.

We encourage any member who qualifies – and feels capable of fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the positions – to declare his or her candidacy. For more information, review our District Bylaws and Policy Codes which can be found on our website k30.site.kiwanis.org/governing-documents/. Use password #KidsNeedKiwanis

Contact the district office with any questions or concerns.

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

A practical, measurable, action-focused growth strategy...continued from page six

- Parents of Key Club or Builders Club students
 - Your son, daughter, mom, dad, or siblings
- d. Assign every member a job in the process (**assign a buddy to every guest and new member**)

5) Create a Strong Community Presence

- a. If people don't see you, you don't exist.
- b. You need:
- Two high-visibility service projects per year
 - One signature event your town recognizes (can be a fundraiser, too)
 - Consistent social media showing (**Key Club can help**)
 - Faces

- Impact
 - Partnerships
- c. You are competing with:
- Rotary, Lions, etc.
 - Chamber
 - Nonprofits
 - Family time

Visibility wins.

I want to hear your feedback on what works and what doesn't. Look for Part 2 in the April/May Kiwanews issue.

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

NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT CONVENTION AWARDS ARE DUE MAY 15TH

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

Accomplishments of our clubs and members are celebrated with the presentation of awards. To be recognized for awards presented at the WI-UM district convention, clubs must submit applications by May 15th.

The Bill Solberg Distinguished Service Medal and the Outstanding Club Fundraiser Award are presented at the district convention. The Solberg Service Medal honors a Kiwanian who has actively served in Kiwanis for at least

10 years on the district level and in their club as well as in their community outside of Kiwanis. This award is presented by the Past Governors. The Outstanding Club Fundraiser Award recognizes a Kiwanis club's dedication and effort in having produced the most outstanding fundraiser during the year.

Applications for both awards can be found on our district website at wiumkiwanis.org > *for members* > *awards*.

BILL SOLBERG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

- ✓ Recipient must have actively served in Kiwanis for a period of not less than ten years.
- ✓ Recipient must have served in the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District at least as a Lieutenant Governor or District Chairperson.
- ✓ Recipient must have actively participated outside of Kiwanis in other worthy community, lodge or civic endeavors.
- ✓ Recipient must be nominated by a Kiwanis club's Board of Directors, which is currently in good standing with the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District and Kiwanis International.
- ✓ Recipient's club must submit evidential material in support of their recommendation
- ✓ Nominee may be living or deceased.

OUTSTANDING CLUB FUNDRAISER AWARD

A great fundraiser can keep a club financially responsible or provide a meaningful contribution to another organization or cause. The Outstanding Club Fundraiser Award recognizes a Kiwanis club's dedication and effort in having produced the most outstanding fundraiser during the year.

Statistics Requested

- ✓ Fundraising project and date held.
- ✓ Charitable organization benefited.
- ✓ Amount raised/amount raised per member.
- ✓ Hours spent planning/organizing the event.
- ✓ Attendance information.
- ✓ Why the fundraiser was necessary.
- ✓ How the fundraiser was promoted.
- ✓ How the community was impacted.

THIS AND THAT: USEFUL INFORMATION FROM OUR DISTRICT LEADERS

Submitted by WI-UM Kiwanis District leaders

Camp Wawbeek Work Day

Please mark your calendars for May 9th, 2026 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm as we help camp staff get the grounds ready for this season's camp participants.

iPads Pricing

For our current supply of Apple 10th Generation refurbished iPads the cost with a protective case is \$380.

Do You Recall Past Solberg Award Recipients?

The district only has a list of Solberg Service Medal Recipients beginning in 2010, although Past Governor Jean Long Manteufel recalls her club member Russ Luckow received one in 2003 and Paul Shrode received one in 2008. If you can help fill in the blanks, please contact Executive Director Justin Hahn at 414-510-1609 or justinhahn@wiumkiwanis.org.

MARKWELL RECEIVES KI/BSA COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AWARD

Submitted by Patricia Rudden, Escanaba Kiwanis Club

Mike Markwell, Gladstone, Michigan, recently received the joint Kiwanis International and Boy Scouts of America Community Organization Award. Markwell is both part of Troop 411, Escanaba, and the Escanaba Kiwanis Club. He is also pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba.

"The award recognizes the relationship between Kiwanis and Scouting, and honors Markwell for serving both organizations," said Troop 411 member Gavin Laur. Markwell said the award reflects positively on both groups. "I'm just grateful we can bring attention to the great work that Scouting and Kiwanis are doing together for our community," he said.

The award was presented at Immanuel Lutheran Church prior to its annual Scout Sunday service. Immanuel sponsors Troop 411, which is part of the Michigan Crossroads Council 780. Two years ago, the Scouting Hiawathaland District named the church its supporting organization of the year.

Pack 411 Cubmaster Becky Landenberger said Markwell deserved the honor "because he has contributed his time and efforts at an exemplary level for both Scouts and the Kiwanis organizations. He is immensely active in both programs, melding a relationship between the two through volunteering at each other's events."

Gina Laur, Escanaba Kiwanis Board Member, said Markwell "almost immediately, after joining Kiwanis, began creating a strategic partnership between our club and the local scouting troop. He brought Kiwanians to volunteer at Klondike derbies and camporees. He also coordinates scouts who assist with Kiwanis fundraisers."

This year that event – the Home and Garden Show – is being rebranded as the Kiwanis Spring Expo. Laur said the scouts have "camped overnight in the Ruth Butler building on several occasions during the Home and Garden Show, having a booth in the show while volunteering at the club's pancake breakfast. It gives the community a chance to see what scouting has to offer



Left to right, Gavin Laur, Troop 411 scout; Gina Laur, Escanaba Kiwanis Club board member, Pastor Michael Markwell, and Becky Landerberger, Pack 411 Cubmaster.

and eases the workload with smiling faces in uniform." Markwell is a long-term scout, earning his Eagle Award in 2009. He is currently a merit badge counselor for Astronomy, Public Speaking, and Canoeing and is the Religious Emblems Chair for the area. He has led campouts and activities, especially canoeing events. He also learned how to sail a 27-foot sailboat so he can teach the scouts how to sail.

Markwell has served on the Escanaba Kiwanis Board of Directors for three years and is in charge of the Kiwanis Spring Expo, which features vendors and a pancake breakfast. This project has annually raised \$16,000 to \$20,000, which is the bulk of the money used to fund Kiwanis projects and donations. He also spearheaded the club's involvement in last year's inaugural Logjam Festival in Escanaba.

Boy Scouts America partners with 20 community organizations to present its Community Organization Award, including Kiwanis International.

Markwell and his wife, Rachel, live in Gladstone.



Left to right, District Governor Paul Shrode and Division 6 Lieutenant Governor Randall Durner helped induct four of the five new members of the Portage Area Kiwanis Club.

FIVE NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED BY PORTAGE AREA KIWANIS CLUB

Submitted by Mary Winkler, Portage Area Kiwanis Club

The Portage Area Kiwanis Club, located in Division 6, held a new member induction ceremony on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026. Club members were honored to have Governor Paul Shrode and Lieutenant Governor Randall Durner induct the club's new members: Tyler Bovre, sponsored by Jim Burmeister, Amber Denure, sponsored by Fay Burmeister, Jean Anderson, sponsored by Mary Winkler, and Sharon Alden, sponsored by Karren Alden.

Governor Paul and Lieutenant Governor Randall shared suggestions and strategies on which a new member should focus, and how club members might support them. For example, the importance of connecting the new member with a mentor, being involved with the new member, and bringing at least one prospective member to a meeting were all discussed.

It was a special ceremony and having both the governor and lieutenant governor in attendance made the inductees feel appreciated and valued. Good food, laughter and conversation ensured a good time for all.

Due to a scheduling conflict on January 28th club the



Portage High School Key Club Advisor Alex Firari was inducted as a new member of Portage Area Kiwanis Club by president Mary Winkler.

president Mary Winkler attended the February 6th meeting of the Portage High School Key Club and conducted a brief induction ceremony for new member Alex Firari, who was sponsored by Fay Burmeister. The ceremony, held in front of his Key Club advisees, was very special. "It was heartwarming to see the Key Club members cheer and clap for him," said Mary Winkler.

2026 DISTRICT RAFFLE: 30 DAYS. 30 CHANCES. ONE POWERFUL IMPACT.

Submitted by Peter Duesterbeck, Division 9 Lieutenant Governor

We're excited to bring back the district raffle, featuring a lineup of prizes awarded over 30 consecutive days. This fundraiser provides important non-dues revenue to help support district operations and offset expenses – reducing the need for future dues increases. Each ticket is just \$10 and gives you one entry on each of the 30 days from July 17th through August 15th. That's 30 chances to win! Purchase as many tickets as you'd like to increase your odds. Prizes will be available for pick-up at the district convention in Brookfield, August 14th-16th.

We need your help in providing prizes for the daily winners. Some examples of last year's goodies included handbags, gift cards, wine, grocery packages, Lego sets and registration and hotel packages for the 2026 midyear conferences. The district is seeking prizes with a value of around \$100 and the prizes can literally be anything. **To submit a prize, please fill out the online form at this link.** Individuals, clubs, and businesses will be

WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS

2026 DISTRICT RAFFLE

30 DAYS. 30 CHANCES. ONE POWERFUL IMPACT.

We're excited to bring back our District Raffle - your chance to win big while supporting District operations! Each ticket is just \$10 and gives you one entry every day for a chance to win a special daily prize. The more tickets you purchase, the more chances you have to win! Winners will be drawn daily throughout the raffle period. Prizes may be picked up at the District Convention, August 14-16 in Brookfield. Any prizes not claimed at the convention will be delivered or shipped to the winners.

JULY 17 - AUG 15, 2026 DAILY WINNERS

ANYONE, ANYWHERE CAN WIN

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DAILY WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF LAST YEAR'S PRIZES:

- DCON 2026 MEAL PACKAGE
- WOLLERSHEIM WINERY
- DCON 2026 HOTEL COMP
- amazon
- MIDYEAR 2026 REGISTRATION COMP X2
- Kwik Trip

recognized for their donations during the raffle period. [Raffle tickets may be purchased online at this link.](#)

GREATER PORT WASHINGTON DEDICATES 'CHILI BOWL' TO SIGWART

Submitted by Karen Oleski, Greater Port Washington Kiwanis Club

10th Annual PORT Chili BOWL

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026 1:00-4:00PM

Chili Locations

- THE BEACON
- BEANIES MEXICAN RESTAURANT
- INVENTORS BREWPUB
- STEERAGE / BIG BABY SUBS
- TELLOS GRILL & CAFE
- JOHN'S PIZZARIA
- MOONLIGHT TAVERN
- LUCKY DEVILS BAR & GRILL
- BOOTS BBQ @ THE AMERICAN LEGION

9 businesses will be competing to be deemed the best chili in downtown Port Washington. Purchase a \$20 ticket. Use the QR code on your ticket to vote for your favorite. Tickets may be purchased from the Kiwanis Club or any participating location. Money raised by the Kiwanis Club will be used to sponsor children's activities throughout greater Port Washington.

Sponsored by: **Kiwanis OF GREATER PORT WASHINGTON**

John Sigwart Tribute @ 4:30 @ Inventors Brewpub

AIRWAY & ASSOCIATES Insurance & Benefit Solutions

CHRYSLER FINANCIAL SERVICES

PWSB

On February 1st the Greater Port Washington Kiwanis Club held its 10th Annual Port Chili Bowl with nine establishments participating. Lucky Devils Bar and Grill took first place honors, \ Moonlight Tavern came in second, and Boots BBQ placed third.

The engraved, traveling trophy will be on display at Lucky Devil's until the 11th annual event in 2027.

Proceeds from the Port Chili Bowl fundraiser support Kiwanis activities including the Hippy Hop Easter Egg Hunt, scholarships for high school seniors, Badger Boys and Badger Girls State and Scouting projects.

The event was the brain child of John Sigwart, a member since 1988 who served as club president three times; he was dedicated to serving the Kiwanis mission and passed away on August 5th, 2025 . This year's Port Chili Bowl was dedicated to him.



Thank you for assisting us in getting Anthony an iPad. While Anthony is still adjusting to the additional method of communication, it has already given us new insights into his personality. The first thing he said with his iPad was "stop" every time his father started talking one evening so he is much sassier than we knew. Thank you for being a resource and a community.

Thank you
Zoe & Anthony

MANITOWOC KIWANIANS AWARD IPAD TO CHILD ON THE SPECTRUM

Submitted by Steve Kanter, Kiwanis Club of Manitowoc

The Kiwanis Club of Manitowoc recently received a card from the parents of a child on the autism spectrum who were overjoyed with the immediate results the iPad provided to their child to help him communicate better with his family.

"The additional method of communication has already given us new insights into his personality. The first thing he said with his iPad was "stop" every time his father started talking...he is sassier than we knew."

The iPads for Autism district signature project has been ongoing since Lynn Messer's 2012-2013 term as district governor. The iPads, along with a protective case and iTunes gift cards to purchase professionally-chosen child-specific apps, are awarded by clubs to children on the autism spectrum to help with daily communication and learning needs. To date, clubs in the district have awarded more than 1,875 iPads to children from families in need. Contact Lynn Messer at 920-946-0652 or lmmsr001@gmail.com to learn more.





one weekend.
lasting impact.



WISCONSIN UPPER-MICHIGAN DISTRICT

KEY LEADER

Hosted by Kiwanis

discover the leader inside you

June 5-7



**Camp Nawakwa
25336 County Hwy E,
Cornell, WI 54732**



Registration

\$250

Includes meals, lodging, activities, and materials

funding and scholarships available

leadership starts here



wiumkiwanis.org/key-leader/

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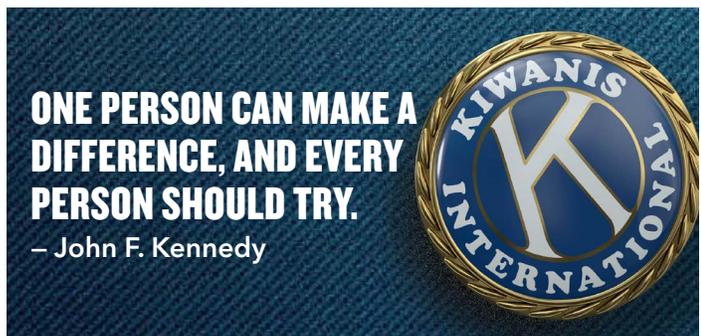
Open

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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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KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL HOSTS CONVENTION IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Reprinted from the Kiwanis International website

In 2026, we're gathering in Manila, Philippines, June 24th-27th, for an unforgettable cultural experience as we discover new ways to serve kids, grow membership, evolve as leaders and more

Late member registration through April 13th	\$509
Non-member guest	\$199/\$299
Under 18 years of age	\$109

The registration fee covers attendance at both the Kiwanis International convention and the Asia-Pacific Region convention. Lunches on Thursday and Friday are also included in the registration price.

Lei Wang, the first Asian woman to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam – climbing the highest peak on each continent and skiing to the North and South Poles is the **keynote speaker**. Wang is an executive coach who guides high-achieving leaders and

their teams to breakthrough insights and tangible, transformative growth.

Manila is filled with history, culture and memories ready to be made. [These three articles](#) will help you plan your travel, see the city during the convention and find further adventures if you extend your stay.

To attend the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention, you must register by April 13th. To register, [login to your Kiwanis Engage account at this link](#).

The Marriott Hotel Manila will be the venue for all meetings, events and education. However, a range of hotel options are available within walkable distance. All designated hotels are conveniently located close to the [Ninoy Aquino International Airport](#). **Reserve hotel rooms as early as you can**. Some of the hotels are expected to sell out before the April 13th registration deadline.