



Threads of Kindness, tied together with service by members of the Wild Rose High School Key Club.

WILD ROSE KEY CLUB MEMBERS PROVIDE COMFORT THROUGH SERVICE

Submitted by Pete Duesterbeck, Division 9 Lieutenant Governor

What began as an idea from a student leader became a meaningful service project that will bring comfort to families facing some of life's most difficult moments.

As a junior, Wild Rose High School Key Club member Lily Luchini began thinking about projects she hoped to accomplish if elected as a senior club officer. Among the ideas on her list was creating handmade tie blankets for those in need. During the spring semester, Lily presented her proposal to the Key Club and organized a committee to bring the project to life.

Club members searched for donated fleece fabric and began planning the project. The Wild Rose Kiwanis Club enthusiastically supported the effort with a \$200 donation to purchase additional supplies, making it possible for the students to move forward.

Over the next two to three weeks, committee members met during the school's planning period, while several students generously volunteered their study hall time to continue working in Mrs. Mielke's classroom. Their

teamwork and dedication resulted in the completion of ten colorful tie blankets.

The students then considered where their blankets could make the greatest impact. They chose to donate them to the American Red Cross, knowing the organization responds to families whose lives have been disrupted by disasters such as home fires and other emergencies.

According to Rebecca Rockhill, Executive Director of the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the American Red Cross, "The blankets will be put to immediate use by Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteers as they respond to families in crisis. Along with providing emergency assistance and recovery support, the volunteers offer comfort during the first difficult hours following a disaster. A blanket provides more than warmth – it also offers compassion, reassurance, and hope."

Rockhill praised the students' generosity, noting that it is inspiring to see young people recognize the

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MAKING SENSE OF BELONGING TO KIWANIS: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

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



Paul Shrode

I have so enjoyed traveling around our district visiting clubs. I have met interesting and dedicated Kiwanians who share a commitment to serve, enrich the lives of children and youth, support families and build stronger communities. Whether large or smaller, every club is

filled with energy, pride in the projects and service they provide, and fellowship with one another.

Every club is deserving of recognition, and I want you to know that you do indeed make a difference. Let's face it; we all live in the communities we serve and playing a role in creating, building and nurturing our communities also enriches our lives with a sense of purpose and meaning. I thank you for your efforts, and I know the communities you serve benefit from your good work.

Another common theme I am hearing as I tour clubs is a desire to grow, find new members who share our commitment to serve, and especially to connect with younger generations to replenish our numbers and sustain our clubs for the future. New members, regardless of age or ability, bring new enthusiasm and new ideas into our clubs, challenge us to consider new points of view, and broaden our circle of friends as we cultivate and develop new relationships. Why do people join Kiwanis? More importantly, why do people want to belong to Kiwanis? I have asked so many of you those questions and I think they are worth your consideration.

Chief among the reasons for belonging is the opportunity for fellowship, camaraderie and friendship. In an often too polarized world with challenges and conflicts all around, Kiwanis provides a safe and welcoming space where people set aside their politics, religious and cultural differences and join together for

service and the fellowship they enjoy with one another. While engaging in service with youth, there is an added benefit from being enlightened by them, one way to remain relevant in a changing world. So, does your club welcome and engage new and prospective members, integrating them into your fellowship? Are you open to new ideas and perspectives? Do you take time during meetings to socialize and do you model the kind of friendship for which everyone yearns?

2 Many of us yearn to find a sense of purpose, to make a difference in our community. Kiwanis offers a way to join with others to address needs locally. The intrinsic rewards that come from service work are powerful and real. It is valuable to complete a project and feel that sense of accomplishment as you look back on the experience. This yearning knows no age limits! As I work with youth, I find that they want to make a meaningful difference just as much as the rest of us do.



3 Another reason to want to belong is to grow personally and professionally. Taking on project planning and execution, leadership responsibilities, networking with others in the community, collaboration and teamwork benefits each member. Think about the skills you have developed through the service work you have undertaken. Developing public speaking skills and becoming comfortable presenting to a group is a powerful skill you can build through Kiwanis. Not only can you share your expertise from your vocational experience, but you can build your skill set to become more valuable to your employer. As you look for new members, don't forget to seek out professions and skills not represented in your current membership!

4 As you work on club projects and undertake fundraising in the community, you are likely to become more aware of opportunities to serve your community in other civic service. Belonging to the larger

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Belonging: Lessons from the Field...continued from page two

community, being appreciated for your contributions, helping to build a stronger community through service on local boards and committees, collaboration with local government and the non-profit community can be a powerful reason for joining and can foster a deep and lasting sense of belonging.

5 Leadership roles within the club provide a safe and supportive environment to cultivate and develop skills. With these skills and experience in motivating, influencing and inspiring others, members can branch out into the larger community, take on new roles at work, and play more significant roles in the organizations and settings they value. Kiwanis also offers the opportunity to serve at the division and district level where we need help and always welcome participation.

6 Don't forget that Kiwanis can and should be fun! It is fun and rewarding to share time with friends, working together on common interests, and making a difference in the lives of others. Kiwanis meetings offer an introduction to the broader community, welcome speakers who challenge and enlighten, and provide opportunities for socialization. Members may enjoy entertainment with one another, attend programs, sporting events and fun-filled fundraising activities. District and Kiwanis International events offer opportunities to travel, meet people from around the country and across the globe. If your club doesn't include members' families, you should consider doing so!

Inviting friends, neighbors, local business leaders and their employees, retirees looking for companionship and purpose, and reaching out to the young people in local Key Clubs, Circle K clubs can all be part of your normal operations as a club. We have all been encouraged to practice our elevator speeches, to describe Kiwanis to someone who asks that inevitable question, "so what is Kiwanis?" It is important to give some thought to belonging. Joining Kiwanis or any organization is a transitional process. Finding a sense of belonging is what transforms a new member into a lasting, contributing and dedicated member. Give some thought to your own sense of belonging, to those aspects of your club that resonate with you. The next time you consider asking someone to check out your club, don't forget to help them understand why belonging and being a part of something larger than yourself is meaningful to you.

Although I cannot visit every club during my term as governor, I look forward to continuing to visit clubs and welcome invitations to meetings, service projects and division council meetings and gatherings. I hope to greet you at our district convention in August. Until we meet in person, please know I wish for you a meaningful and positive experience in belonging to a group of service minded, community committed friends.

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

Wild Rose Key Club Members Provide Comfort Through Service...continued from page 1

importance of helping others during times of hardship. She emphasized that acts of kindness like these remind families they are not alone and can make a profound difference during the recovery process.

On behalf of the Red Cross Disaster Services team and the families they serve across Northeast Wisconsin, Rockhill expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Wild Rose High School Key Club for their thoughtful and meaningful gift.

This project exemplifies the mission of Key Club: building leadership through service while making a positive impact in the community.

Thanks to the vision of a student leader, the dedication of fellow Key Club members, the support of the Wild Rose Kiwanis Club, and the partnership with the American Red Cross, families facing disaster will receive not only a warm hand-tied blanket but also a tangible reminder that others truly care.

WISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS FAMILY BASEBALL GAME

TICKET ONLY \$30 **SUNDAY AUGUST 30**

MILWAUKEE BREWERS VS TEXAS RANGERS

AMERICAN FAMILY FIELD
1 Brewers Way, Milwaukee, WI 53214
GATE OPENS AT 11:10 A.M., FIRST PITCH AT 1:10PM
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT KIWANIS DISTRICT OPERATIONS

TICKET • YOUTH GIVEAWAY • TAILGATE

www.wiumkiwanis.org/baseball game

ATTEND THE K-FAMILY BASEBALL GAME ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH!

Submitted by Justin Hahn, WI-UM Executive Director

Join us for this year's Kiwanis Family Baseball Game on Sunday, August 30th at American Family Field, 1 Brewers Way, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Brewers will take on the Texas Rangers. Gates will open at 11:10am with the first pitch at 1:10pm.

Tickets are \$30 each which includes one ticket and access to a tailgate. This game also includes a free giveaway for all youth. Any proceeds will be used to offset district operations.

Please share the invitation with your club-sponsored service leadership programs including K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K and Aktion Clubs.

[Purchase your tickets on the district website.](http://www.wiumkiwanis.org/baseball game)

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. Thank you to the many individuals, clubs, and businesses who donated raffle prizes. Each will be recognized for their donations during the raffle period. [Raffle tickets may be purchased at this link.](#)

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.

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DAILY WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF LAST YEAR'S PRIZES:

DCON 2026 MEAL PACKAGE, DCON 2026 HOTEL COMP, KWIK TRIP, MIDYEAR 2026 REGISTRATION COMP X2, WOLLERSHEIM WINERY, amazon, DCON 2026 HOTEL COMP

JULY 17 - AUG 15, 2026 DAILY WINNERS

ANYONE, ANYWHERE CAN WIN



2026 WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

- 8:00-10:00 **2025-2026 Board/Trustee Breakfast and Board Meeting**
- 10:00-11:30 **Registration and Credentials**
Registration, display tables, basket drop off
- 12:00-5:00 **Kiwanis Family Fun Day at the Zoo**
(3:30 Tailgate Picnic)
- 5:00-6:30 **Registration and Credentials**
- 6:00-7:00 **Orientation and Dessert Reception**
- 7:00-8:00 **Service Project**
- 5:00-11:00 **Circle K District Board Meets**
Key Club District Board Meets
- 8:30-11:00 **Hospitality Room**

- 9:00-2:00 **Family Program**
Offsite: Bluemound Bowl, The Corners, Prairieville Park
- 9:00-11:00 **Kiwanis Talks**
- 11:15-11:45 **Division Caucuses**
- 12:00-2:00 **Kiwanis Family Luncheon**
- 2:00-4:00 **Club Leadership Education**
- 2:00-3:00 **Workshop Session**
- 3:15-4:00 **Workshop Session**
- 4:00-5:30 **Refreshment Break/KDF Basket Raffle**
House of Delegates
Support the KDF by bringing a gift basket for the raffle and money to purchase tickets.
- 5:30-6:30 **Cocktail Reception**
- 6:30-8:00 **Family Game Night Banquet**
- 8:30-11:00 **Hospitality Room**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026

- 7:00-8:00 **Past Governors Meeting**
Past Lieutenant Governors Meeting
- 7:30-4:00 **Registration and Credentials**
- 8:00-11:00 **Circle K District Board Meets**
Key Club District Board Meets
- 8:00-9:00 **Awards Breakfast**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

- 8:00-9:00 **Breakfast with the Governor**
- 9:00-10:00 **Memorial Service**
- 10:00-12:00 **2026-2027 Board Meeting**

LEADERSHIP TAKES TEAMWORK; TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

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



Becky Mattson

Leadership comes in many inspiring forms, and today I'm excited to dive into the vibrant world of Kiwanis leadership as it relates to our district. If you've been fortunate enough to serve in a leadership capacity – whether at the club, division, or district level – you know firsthand

that the strength of their team truly amplifies a leader's effectiveness. Together, when we share responsibilities, we cultivate a rich sense of pride and purpose that drives our collective mission toward success.

Club presidents play a crucial role, relying on their dedicated officers, directors, and chairpersons to address the diverse needs of club members. The insights and experience of past officers can be an incredible asset for current leaders. However, it's important to recognize that some clubs face challenges in engaging new leaders. This can lead to a situation where a president feels the need to serve beyond the usual three-year term. Our ultimate goal is to create an environment that prevents burnout and fosters healthy transitions in leadership.

At the division level, the lieutenant governor, along with a possible deputy, plays a key role in supporting clubs while also supporting the governor's initiatives to launch new clubs and bolster existing ones. The governor can't be everywhere at once and, thus, relies on the support of lieutenant governors. Importantly, former lieutenant governors and governors are treasure troves of experience, ready to lend a hand to current leaders. Their

involvement promotes collaboration and strengthens our Kiwanis family, ensuring that each leader feels valued and supported.

It's common to hear doubts such as, "Why isn't 'so and so' doing their job?" We must remind ourselves that Kiwanis is a family, united by a common cause. Our children need Kiwanis, and it's through mutual support and teamwork that we enhance our efforts. When we collaborate effectively, we can meet the needs of children all around the world—because every child deserves a champion!

As I prepare to step further into leadership within Kiwanis, I have gained significant insights throughout this journey. Yet, I recognize that many in our district possess even richer experiences and wisdom. True leadership often involves taking bold steps, especially when you're navigating a new role. I genuinely believe that with the collective support of everyone in our district and Kiwanis International, we can accomplish our ambitious district and international goals for 2026-2027.

Recently, you may have noticed Executive Director Justin Hahn's email outlining the open positions available in our district for my coming term as governor. It's important to emphasize that meaningful change cannot be achieved by one person alone; it truly requires a team effort.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who have already answered the call to serve our district in the coming year. If you haven't yet considered it, there's still time to step up. There's rarely a perfect moment to take on a leadership role, so I encourage you to listen to your heart. Children are counting on us to fill vital leadership positions this year, including roles like club president-elect and governor-elect. Together, we can make an impact, but to do that, we need everyone on board. Your involvement can make a significant difference, and I can't wait to see what we can achieve together!

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

**LEADERSHIP IS NOT
DOMINATION, BUT THE
ART OF PERSUADING
PEOPLE TO WORK
TOWARD A COMMON GOAL.**

Daniel Coleman



DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS & MATCHING SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Proceeds from Case Van KleeF Fellowship Awards, along with donations and money raised through basket raffles helped fund the following club grants and matching scholarships, which were approved at the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation's Board of Directors Meeting in April.

Eau Claire: \$1,000 – Welcome to Beacon House

Funds will be used to welcome families into the Beacon House, which provides temporary housing and support services for families with children, helping them move to more permanent housing through case management, job and financial assistance, and community support.

Platteville: \$3,000 – Animal Shelter Surgical Equipment

Funds will be used to purchase a 60-amp electric operating table and LED lights, to provide safe and appropriate surgical equipment for an animal shelter currently under construction in Platteville.

Sheboygan Falls: \$750 – Bike Helmets

Funds will be used to purchase bicycle helmets to be properly fitted and distributed at the Sheboygan Falls Community Safety Day.

Wisconsin Dells: \$1,500 – Fruit and Food Baskets

Funds will be used to provide nutritional assistance for senior citizens and families in need with fruit baskets and food boxes during the holiday season.

Matching Scholarships

Ashwaubenon	Green Bay
Barron	Madison West
Burlington	Manitowoc
Cambria	Marshfield
Darboy	New Holstein
Dodgeville	Oshkosh
Eau Claire	Portage
Elm Grove Golden K	Reedsburg
Escanaba	Ripon Early Bird
Fabulous Fond du Lac	Sheboygan Falls
Fond du Lac	Slinger
Fond du Lac Lakeside	Sparta
Greater Ishpeming-Pioneer	Wild Rose
	Wisconsin Dells



SUPPORT THE DISTRICT FOUNDATION WITH A CASE VAN KLEEF AWARD

By Tonya Alling, Kiwanews Editor



The Case Van KleeF Fellowship award is the WI-UM Kiwanis District's highest honor. Named for former District Governor and International Past President Case Van KleeF, 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 KleeF 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 KleeF Fellowship?

If so, please contact KDF Secretary Mark Finger at 920-361-9954 or markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org.

A TRIBUTE TO 1997-1998 WI-UM DISTRICT GOVERNOR STAN CRAVENS

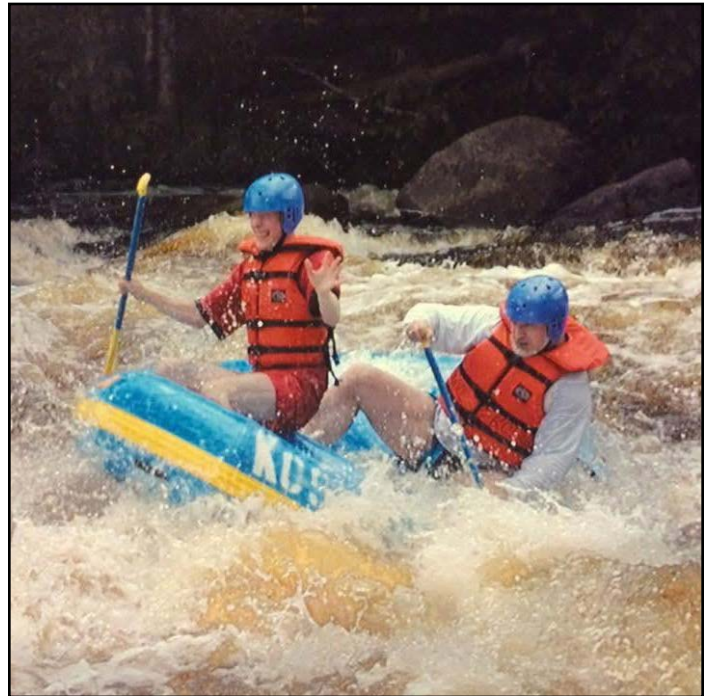
Submitted by Justin Hahn, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Director

Stanley Homer Cravens passed away unexpectedly on March 29, 2026. He was 78. Stan was born in San Francisco, California on January 17, 1948, to Homer and Virginia Cravens.

Stan served in the U.S. Army with the Army Security Agency in Ethiopia and Vietnam (1966-1970). He was with the 101st Airborne and very proud of his service. Stan joined the Army from high school and tested at the top of his group and was given a choice of training schools. He went to language school for a year and was sent to Viet Nam as a Crypt Analyst intercepting communications from enemy groups, translating them and providing the information to the battalion commander. Stan was promoted to a Spec Five and was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement.

Upon his discharge he attended the University of New Hampshire and graduated with a master's degree in history, then came to Madison, Wisconsin in 1976 to attend the University of Wisconsin for advanced studies. Shortly after, he began working for the state of Wisconsin, first as the Wisconsin State Capitol Tour director and then for many years as an information technologist and a software development manager for the state.

Stan was a devoted member of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison for 42 years and was elected President (1990-1991), and lieutenant governor (1992-



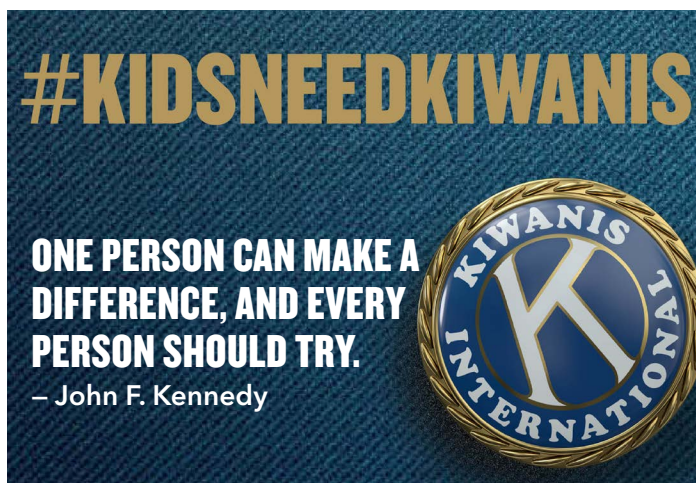
Justin Hahn, left, and Stan Cravens, whitewater rafting in Crivitz, Wisconsin during a CKI Board bonding experience in 2003 when Justin was CKI district governor and Stan was WI-UM CKI district administrator.

1993). He was elected 1997-1998 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor and served as Circle K district administrator beginning in 2000.

His most rewarding role with Kiwanis was the seven years he spent working with college-age Kiwanians in the Circle K program as district administrator. It was in this role that Stan developed many deep and lasting friendships with many of the members.

Speaking at Stan's memorial service, WI-UM Executive Director Justin Hahn shared, "We will honor Stan by carrying forward the things he gave us: the courage to try, the patience to listen, the generosity to support others without condition, and the wisdom to guide with humility. His light lives on in every life he touched, every person he lifted, every moment of clarity he offered. And in that way, he remains with us – still guiding, still supporting, still reminding us of who we can be."

Donations in Stan's honor can be made payable to WUM Circle K and mailed to WI-UM Kiwanis District, 1641 Fox River Parkway, Waukesha, WI 53189.



REMEMBERING 2003-2004 WI-UM DISTRICT GOVERNOR GAIL PACHUCKI

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

Gail Pachucki, 87, of Madison, Wisconsin and formerly of Waterford and Delavan, died June 24, 2026, at The Legacy at Noel Manor in Verona.

Gail Frances DuFour was born on November 19, 1938, the daughter of Frank and Ruby DuFour. She went to school at Milwaukee Washington High School. She also received a degree in English from UW-Milwaukee.

Gail was a long-time librarian in Waterford and in Lake Geneva. She enjoyed reading and turning children on to the wonderful world of books.

Gail spent decades as a dedicated member of Kiwanis International, being one of the first females to join Kiwanis in 1987 as a member of the Lake Geneva Kiwanis Club. She served as District Governor of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District of Kiwanis International in 2003-2004. She established Key Leader, a leadership retreat weekend for high school students in 2006 and coordinated the program for 10 years. Gail chartered the Waterford Area Kiwanis Club in 2007.

Her volunteer activities stretched well beyond her deep involvement in Kiwanis. She worked tirelessly with local schools and students for BUG (Bringing Up Grades) Awards, fundraising, and supporting the efforts at Camp Wawbeek in the Wisconsin Dells.

"Gail was an important role model in my college years



District Executive Director Justin Hahn, left, and 2003-2004 Kiwanis District Governor Gail Pachucki shared many Kiwanis moments.

and beyond," said Executive Director Justin Hahn. "I am thankful for the major impact Gail had on my life and so many other Circle K alumni. Gail was a special human and I'm so lucky to have had her as a friend, mentor, and family," he added.

Gail was a strong supporter and fundraiser for the Kiwanis District Foundation, helping to fund youth scholarships and grants. Memorials may be made payable to the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation and mailed to 571 Center St., Berlin, WI 54923.

KDF REQUESTS RAFFLE BASKETS FOR AUGUST DISTRICT CONVENTION

Submitted by Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation



We are asking clubs to put a raffle basket together to bring to the district convention to help raise funds for the Kiwanis District Foundation. Several clubs have donated a gift card in lieu of a basket and that makes a great prize, too. If you can donate a basket but are not able to attend the convention, let me know and I will make arrangements to have it picked up. All proceeds help provide scholarships and grants for local club projects.





WI-UM attendees at the International Convention experienced a buffet dinner and cultural show at Barbara's Heritage Restaurant in Manila. Cultural show cast members pose here with Governor Paul and Stacy Shrode, Dr. Lori Bents, Tomessa Marley, Justin Hahn, Tim Lubinsky and Carlos Hahn.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OFFERED CULTURALLY-RICH EXPERIENCE

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

The 2026 Kiwanis International Convention, held June 24th-27th in Manila, the Philippines is now history, and it was a wonderful and culturally rich experience. The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan district was represented by six delegates who traveled nearly 8,000 miles to join with Kiwanians from around the world to attend leadership workshops, cultural experiences, and the annual House of Delegates. A special "Best of Asia-Pacific Cultural Showcase" introduced local foods, dress, dance and music, and the unique characteristics of the nations located throughout the region.

A keynote presentation by Lei Wang, a record setting mountaineer and executive coach challenged participants to aspire to and work toward reaching significant goals as each of us strives for our peak potential. She was the first Asian woman to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam, climbing the highest peak on each continent including Mount Everest, and reaching both the North and South Poles.

In the House of Delegates, we elected Hope Markes as International President. She is from the Kiwanis Club of Hopewell in Hanover, Jamaica, and we anticipate a visit from Hope to the WI-UM District in the coming year. Cathy Szymanski from the Kiwanis Club of Erie, Pennsylvania was elected president-elect and Trinidad "Toto" Gonzalez from the Kiwanis Club of Angeles

City, Philippines was elected vice president. All three candidates are experienced and dedicated Kiwanians and will serve our organization well.

Three candidates for Trustee from the United States and Canada were also elected, including Taka Ogata from the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette, Indiana, Linda Ramsey from the Kiwanis Club of Martin, Tennessee, and Valerie E.

"Doc Val" Brown-Klingelhoef from the Kiwanis Club of Marina, California who will be serving as the International Trustee to the WI-UM District in the year ahead.

There were originally three proposed amendments to the Kiwanis bylaws on the agenda. The first, regarding allowing remote voting on candidates and proposed amendments, was withdrawn. The other two, one reducing the number of members of the executive committee and the other with a suggested wording change to the Objects of Kiwanis both failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed for adoption.

Save the date for the 2027 International Convention, scheduled June 16th-19th in Dallas with the theme *Big Hearts, Bold Service*. The 2028 Convention is slated for Las Vegas and in 2029 it is coming to Milwaukee! We are excited to welcome back the International Convention which was held in Milwaukee a century ago.

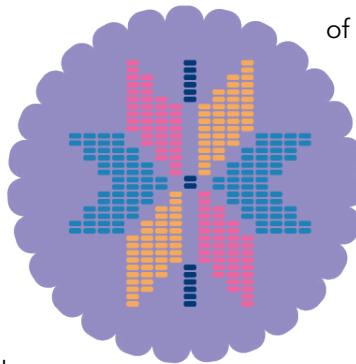


PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Manila, the Philippines, host of the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention, seen from the air.



Motivational speaker Lei Wang challenged attendees to work toward reaching significant goals as each of us strives for our peak potential.



Governor Paul Shrode, right, and First Lady Stacy Shrode, left, posed with Super Kiwanian, the Asia-Pacific Kiwanis District mascot.



Two Super Kiwanians! The Asia-Pacific District mascot and Justin Hahn, our Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District Executive Director.



Tim Lubinsky, Dr. Lori Bents, Tomessa Marley, Governor Paul Shrode, Stacy Shrode, Carlos Hahn and Justin Hahn enjoyed a district dinner.



Kiwanis International honored 2004-2005 KI President Case Van Kleeef.



Members of the Portage Kiwanis Club work alongside other community volunteers to pack lunches for children at risk of food insecurity. The Portage Youth Building allows the volunteers to use the workspace to pack the lunches at no cost to the club.

CARDINAL GLASS DONATES WINDOWS FOR PORTAGE YOUTH BUILDING

Submitted by Mary Winkler, Portage Area Kiwanis Club

Cardinal Glass Industries is a Corporate Sponsor Member of the Portage Area Kiwanis Club. Club members Tammy Blazak, Syrene Cylar, and Curt Alden all work for or are retired from Cardinal Glass Industries. The corporation develops residential glass for windows and doors with 49 locations around the United States and plants in seven Wisconsin cities, including Portage.

The company generously donated new glass for all the windows at the Portage Youth Building, also known as Penny's Place, named for Penny Kiefer, who was a Portage Area Kiwanis Club member for 34 years.

The Portage Youth Building allows Girl Scouts, any youth club and the Kiwanis Club to meet there free of charge at any time. The club uses the building to pack lunches for the weekend and summer lunch program, which delivers free lunches for children to the Portage Library, Goodyear Park, Lincoln Park and Sanborn Park every weekend during the summer.

"We are very grateful to Cardinal Glass for donating to such a worthy cause in the community," said club president Mary Winkler.



Portage Area Kiwanis Club President Mary Winkler, youth helper Craig Bartz, Sheri Chester, Rita Briant and Theresa Schuster from Cardinal Glass.

"I feel like our club is family. It is very heartwarming and makes me smile to see Kiwanians and non-members working so well together, volunteering and having fun while doing community programs like this," she added.

EAU CLAIRE K-KIDS CREATE WELCOME BAGS FOR FAMILIES IN SHELTERS

Submitted by Rebecca Mattson, Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire

The Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire takes tremendous pride in sponsoring several dynamic service leadership programs, with the K-Kids club shining as a beacon of positivity and engagement for the past 25 years. This year was particularly special as the Eau Claire K-Kids had the honor of meeting Semone Thomas, the Executive Director of Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley, who recently joined Kiwanis as a corporate member. The organization has a heartfelt vision: a future where every child has a safe and loving place to call home, alongside the opportunity for a brighter tomorrow. Their mission revolves around advocating for and supporting homeless families in the community by providing them with temporary housing, essential support services, and a pathway to independence.

During their meeting, the K-Kids engaged in discussions about the children and families staying at Beacon House, the local shelter dedicated to families with children. In previous years, the K-Kids have brightened the holiday season by adopting families from Beacon House, but this year, they set their sights on creating "welcome bags" for the children and their parents as they arrived at the shelter, aiming to provide bags for an entire year to see the positive difference it could make for these families.

Ms. Thomas shared that they typically support around 75 children and 36 adults each year. Collaborating closely with her, the K-Kids brainstormed a comprehensive list of items to include in the bags and committed \$500 from their club funds for the initiative. However, as they began to look into costs, they quickly realized they would need some additional support. Members' suggestions were recorded and the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire was asked to match the \$500 contribution. The club matched the funds and included an additional \$500 gift card, generously donated by Fleet Farm in Eau Claire.

At first, this funding appeared sufficient to cover items such as coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, sketch pads, notebooks, fidget toys, toy cars, action figures, hygiene essentials, and more. Additionally, the Kiwanis



Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire members worked alongside members of its K-Kids Sponsored Leadership Program to raise funds for and create Welcome Bags for children and their families staying at the local shelter.

club contributed books for all the children. The K-Kids received overwhelming support from community members and other Kiwanis family members who helped create adorable felt animals to include in the bags. For the older children and adults, the K-Kids were diligent in identifying further specialty items to meet their needs.

When the K-Kids learned that some children and their families arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs, they recognized the need for more funding to purchase underwear, socks, and other clothing essentials. After thoughtful discussion, the Kiwanis Club applied for and received a \$1,000 grant from the WI-UM District Foundation to help address these clothing needs.

The final touch for the K-Kids was crafting heartwarming note cards to include in each bag, a gesture that speaks volumes about kindness. Now, they can eagerly anticipate the impact of their hard work! Family Promise will provide updates on the project at the beginning of the school year and beyond. If the feedback is positive, the K-Kids will explore ways to further support this initiative through community donations.

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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

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

– Doug Pederson,
pro football coach



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Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club members partnered with two other organizations to raise funds to pay for school lunches for families who are unable to afford them. A similar partnership was implemented by the Rotary Club in prior months.

WORKING TOGETHER TO FEED STUDENTS IN NEED IN WISCONSIN DELLS

Submitted by Randall Durner, Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club

Kiwanians from the Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club, staff from the Courtyard Cafe, and Lake City Social venues partnered together on an effort to raise funds to help offset a school lunch program debt that burdens the Wisconsin Dells School District.

The Wisconsin Dells Education Association underwrites school breakfasts for area students. However, some families are unable to pay for school lunches, while

others apparently have not paid. Regardless, qualifying students are all served a quality lunch.

Members of the Kiwanis club helped serve meals and bus tables on Monday March 9, 2026. The restaurants offered a soup dinner fundraiser and the Kiwanis club matched profits up to \$1,000. The combined funds were donated to the school district to help mitigate the lunch program debt.

GREEN BAY KIWANIANS AWARD FOUR \$1,500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Rick Satterlee, Downtown Green Bay Kiwanis Club



The Downtown Green Bay Kiwanis Club recently awarded four \$1,500 scholarships to Brown County high school seniors planning to study business-related subjects during their post-secondary education. Recipients were selected based on their high school record, career goals, volunteer work with community youth and letters of recommendation.

Winners from the 37th annual program are, left to right, Riley Westlund, Luxemburg-Casco High School; Jacob Peruzzi, Preble High School; Romelo Harris, Southwest High School; and Aubrey Beyers, Ashwaubenon High School, shown with Maria Jacques, past club president.