

KIWANIS NEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026



Kiwanis®
WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN DISTRICT

*Set Goals.
Take Action.
Create Change.*

STRONGER MEMBERSHIP

MEANINGFUL SERVICE

GREATER VISIBILITY

LASTING IMPACT

PEOPLE OF PURPOSE

SERVICE IN ACTION

STRONGER TOGETHER

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

A BRIGHTER TOMORROW FOR KIDS

RESULTS
ACTION
FOCUS
PLAN

*"A goal without a plan is just a wish."
— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

PEOPLE | PROJECTS | PARTNERSHIPS | POSSIBILITIES

GIVE YOUR CLUB A DIRECTION: THE IMPORTANCE OF ANNUAL GOALS

Submitted by Pete Duesterbeck, Division 9 Lieutenant Governor

As a new Kiwanis year begins, local club officers have an important opportunity to ask a simple question:

"What do we want our club to accomplish this year?"

Establishing annual goals may not be the most exciting part of taking office, but it can be one of the most

important. A club without goals can easily find itself simply repeating what it did last year. A club with clearly defined goals has a destination – and a better chance of making a meaningful difference in its community.

...Continued on page two

Give Your Club a Direction: The Importance of Annual Goals...continued from page one

Goals Give Everyone a Common Direction

A Kiwanis club is made up of individuals with different interests, ideas and expectations. Annual goals help bring those individuals together around a common purpose. Whether the goal is to increase membership, complete more community service projects, raise additional funds for youth programs, improve club communication or simply get more members involved, everyone knows what the club is working toward.

Goals Turn Good Ideas into Action

Most Kiwanis clubs have no shortage of good ideas. The challenge is turning those ideas into action. A goal creates accountability. Instead of saying, "We should do more service projects," a club might establish a goal of completing four new service projects during the year. Instead of saying, "We need more members," the club might set a goal of recruiting 10 new members. The difference is significant. **A general idea can be forgotten. A specific goal can be acted upon.**

Goals Help Officers Lead

For club presidents and other officers, annual goals provide a roadmap for the year. They help determine which activities deserve attention, where resources should be directed and what should be discussed at club meetings. Goals also make it easier for officers to evaluate progress. At the halfway point of the year, they can ask: *Where are we? What have we accomplished? What still needs attention?*

Goals Create Momentum

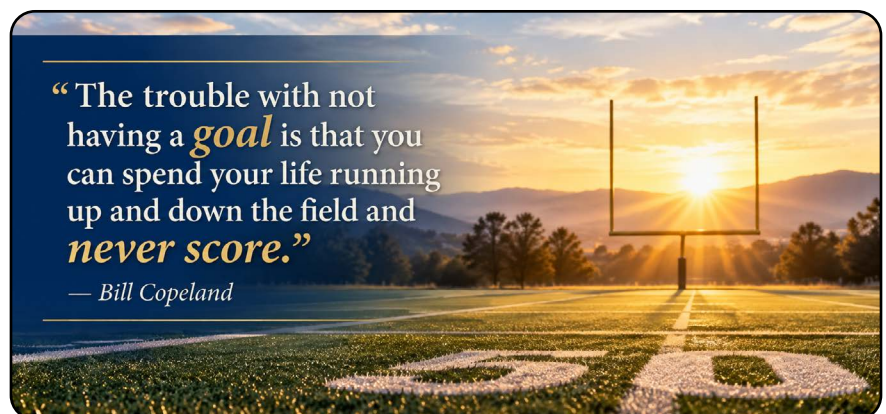
Success tends to build on success. When members see that their club is accomplishing the goals it established, enthusiasm and participation can grow. Celebrating those accomplishments is important, too. Recognize the members who helped make them happen and share the results with the community. **"We set a goal, and we achieved it!"** is a powerful message for both current members and prospective members.

Keep It Simple

Annual goals don't have to be complicated. In fact, a club may be better served by establishing **three to five meaningful goals** rather than creating a long list that becomes overwhelming.

Consider goals in areas such as:

- **Membership:** Recruit and retain new members.
- **Service:** Complete meaningful projects that address community needs.
- **Youth:** Strengthen relationships with schools, Key Clubs or other youth programs.
- **Fundraising:** Establish a realistic financial goal to support community programs.
- **Club Growth:** Improve attendance, participation, communication or member engagement.



The Bottom Line

Annual goals are more than numbers on a piece of paper. They provide **direction, accountability and motivation**. They help officers lead with purpose and give members something meaningful to work toward together. As you begin a new Kiwanis year, don't simply ask, **"What are we going to do?"**

Ask a more important question: **"What do we want to accomplish – and how will we know when we've succeeded?"** Set the goals. Share them with your members. Work together to achieve them. And when the year comes to an end, take a moment to look back and celebrate the difference your club made. A club with a plan can make a difference. A club with shared goals can make an even greater one.

A TIME OF TRANSITIONS: HONORING SERVICE, WELCOMING BEGINNINGS

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



Paul Shrode

Summer is waning and fall is right around the corner. It is a season of transition for Kiwanis. As one administrative year ends and another begins, let's celebrate what we have accomplished and look ahead. We can thank those who served and welcome new leaders.



Our Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District has much to celebrate. At the district convention, we elected and installed Governor-designate Becky Mattson, along with officers, lieutenant governors, committee chairs and administrators. I thank our 2025-2026 leadership team for their dedication and selfless service. Their care and hard work have strengthened our district and benefited all of us. At the convention, I recognized our immediate past governor, governor-elect and tireless executive director, as well as my wife, Stacy, and my home club for their support and guidance. Many leaders will continue alongside new team members, helping ensure a smooth transition in the new Kiwanis year.

Our clubs will also install new leaders. Let's celebrate those completing their terms and thank both those stepping up and those continuing to share their experience.

As we welcome these leaders, some members of our Kiwanis family are charting a new course and stepping away. A few clubs have made the difficult, carefully-considered decision to disband. We will miss them, but we should celebrate their contributions to their clubs and communities. Their efforts have made a meaningful difference, and I am grateful for their service. Let's wish them well and leave the door open for them to return as members, volunteers or to otherwise support our work.

Perhaps it is the "great circle of life" at work: We have welcomed new members this year and chartered two new clubs. Work to form other clubs continues into the

year ahead. For new members, our traditions affirm that the Kiwanis spirit remains meaningful more than a century later. Let's engage and retain our members, honor our traditions and welcome the ideas, programs and service opportunities new members bring. As our communities change, we must adapt to meet their needs.

Serving as your governor has shown me that Kiwanis is alive and well in clubs large and small, in urban and rural communities. Every Kiwanian I have met has been welcoming, caring and committed to building a more supportive community, especially for youth and families. Our Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District contributes significantly to our global organization and is respected beyond our borders. Meeting Kiwanians from other districts, in the United States and abroad, has given me a sense of kinship and pride in our work. We accomplish much and have reason to be proud.

This has been a wonderful and enriching year for Stacy and me, one we shall treasure for the rest of our lives. We have appreciated visiting clubs, seeing your service firsthand and getting to know the people behind it. I encourage you to lend your expertise to your club, division and district by taking on leadership roles and helping to shape our future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing to visit clubs and meet as many of you as possible.

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

GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE ANNOUNCES 2026-2027 SMART GOALS

Submitted by Rebecca Mattson, 2026-2027 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-designate



Becky Mattson

Before beginning my year as district governor, I was asked to set **SMART goals** aligned with those of Kiwanis International. Achieving them will take all of us working together. Please consider how you can help strengthen the WI-UM District and serve children in our communities.

attend club leadership education at the midyear district conferences or a division training event. Every member should feel valued and confident about the opportunity to lead.

4 Leadership and Education (Service Leadership Programs). *Develop competent, confident, and caring leaders across the Kiwanis family.* We will continue supporting K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K and Aktion Club. This year, we aim to strengthen existing Circle K clubs, open two new clubs – one at UW-River Falls and another at a location to be determined; fill the district Circle K Board and revive its district convention, possibly alongside our midyear conference.

1 Membership and Engagement (Club Opening).

Build, retain, and support a growing Kiwanis Membership network. We will open four Kiwanis clubs in 2026-2027, each with 15-30 charter members.

Club opening teams will survey potential locations, connect with local people and organizations, and hold recruitment meetings. Expanding our reach means more opportunities to serve.

Team resources: Membership and Engagement Coordinator, Joanne Horner; District Club Opening Coordinator, Paul Shrode; Kiwanis International Club Opening Specialist, Angie Duduit

2 Membership and Engagement (Club Strengthening). *Build, retain, and support a growing Kiwanis Membership network.* Clubs will set annual growth targets and track progress monthly. Secretaries should keep prospective member lists current in ENGAGE; club boards should review them monthly and follow up with potential members.

Team Resources: Kiwanis International Area Director, Global Membership Engagement, Emily Saalfrank; District Club Strengthening Coordinator, Steve Halsey; WI-UM Master Kiwanis Club Coach, Alan Arbuckle

3 Leadership and Education: Develop Leaders. *Develop competent, confident, and caring leaders across the Kiwanis family.* We will identify and train lieutenant governors and other emerging leaders. Clubs should identify local leaders and encourage officers to

SMART GOALS



Clubs can support these programs with donations, volunteers and Kiwanis advisors who work with faculty advisors. I encourage clubs without a Service Leadership Program to sponsor one. Lieutenant. Governors will help their division open at least one new program this year.

5 Community Impact: Serve Children. *Perform meaningful service, with service to children as our priority.* Signature projects raise awareness, bring members together and deliver meaningful service. Our two five-year district projects are Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids, coordinated by Jean Long Manteufel, and iPads for Autism, coordinated by Lynn Messer.

My one-year district project will help provide beds and bedding to children who have none. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has chapters in Wisconsin and Michigan, though currently none in the Upper Peninsula. UP clubs can work

...Continued on page five

GOVERNOR'S PROJECT PARTNERSHIP WITH 'SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE'

Submitted by Rebecca Mattson, 2026-2027 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-designate

Clubs, divisions, and families are encouraged to find their closest Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) chapter and get involved in building and delivering beds to children who have none in their area. Some clubs may have the funds to sponsor a bed build, which requires building a minimum of 20 beds, while others may focus on donating volunteer hours or collecting pillows, quilts, blankets, sheets and other bedding.

The Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire has sponsored two bed builds and participated in a bed delivery day. Division 12 has had several clubs participate in the St. Croix Valley and Chippewa Falls SHP chapters. Governor Becky will help your club find its closest chapter. She is encouraging clubs to work together on this project in the year ahead.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) fully believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and



mental support that a child needs. When we learned that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. Our mission is to ensure that no kid sleeps on the floor in our town. As you can imagine, this is a huge task, and we can't do it alone. We need your help to make a difference. Learn more at shpbeds.org/sponsor-build/.

Governor-designate Announces 2026-2027 SMART Goals...continued from page four

with local organizations providing similar help, including North Airon Church Furniture Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul and community action agencies serving Alger-Marquette; Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw; Gogebic-Ontonagon; and Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties.

I ask every division to participate through bed builds, deliveries, financial gifts or donations of blankets, sheets, pillowcases and pillows. Clubs with an existing signature project should tell their lieutenant governor. This is an opportunity for clubs within a division to work together.

6 Financial viability: Practice Responsible Stewardship. **Ensure financial viability and responsible**

stewardship. The district will follow five principles of financial management: 1) Clear financial strategy (example: dues income); 2) A plan to generate revenue (example: open new clubs); 3) A financial management system (example: accounting software); 4) Suitable internal controls (examples: policies, procedures, IRS Form 990); and 5) Ensure review and compliance with

all laws (example: review tax returns annually). I will work with the Board of Trustees to help clubs learn about the Kiwanis Children's Fund, the Kiwanis District Foundation and The Possibility Project, while recognizing the generosity of our donors.

7 Branding and image: Update club logos. **Enhance the Kiwanis image and brand worldwide.**

Clubs with outdated personalized logos should update them and begin replacing materials that carry old logos. Lieutenant governors will help check their clubs' branding. Updated personalized Kiwanis logos are available at no cost, making this an easy step toward a consistent public image.

I look forward to working with every division to grow and strengthen our district. Together, we can make these goals a reality.

Contact 2026-2027 Governor-designate Becky Mattson at 218-461-0220 or beckymattson@wiwmkiwanis.org.

KIWANIS ENCOURAGES SUPPORT OF DISTRICT SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Submitted by Rebecca Mattson, 2026-2027 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-designate

Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids is one of two district-wide service projects which clubs are encouraged to support. Conceived in 2020 by WI-UM District Governor Jean Long Manteufel, it grew from a suggestion by her friend, Pro Football Hall of Fame member LeRoy Butler, and guidance from Racine's Cops 'n Kids program.

The project puts free books into children's hands while building literacy and trust between families and law enforcement. Its low cost makes it accessible to clubs of any size, and the simple act of reading together creates a welcoming way for children to meet local officers.

Invite an officer to read at a school, library, Boys & Girls Club or YMCA. Clubs with an existing reading program can include an officer, while others can add a reading to a pancake breakfast or another family event.

Bring law enforcement, schools, libraries and community groups together to find an approach that works for your club. When sharing your event on Facebook, tag @KiwanisNCopsNKids so others can see what your community is doing.

Learn more at kiwanisncopsnkids.org.



During his 2012-2013 term, WI-UM District Governor Lynn Messer launched **iPads for Autism**, inspired by his granddaughter, who is on the autism spectrum and does not speak. The project provides iPads, protective cases and apps to children whose families have financial need. It has helped more than 1,800 children, as well as their families, caregivers and teachers.

Every club can bring this resource to local children. Appoint a member to serve as the project liaison and coordinate communication when grant applications arrive. Contact local special education professionals and ask them to recommend children who would benefit from the technology, have family support to use it at home and meet the financial need requirement.

Clubs are asked to provide \$400 per application and send contributions to the Kiwanis District Foundation. Past District Governor Messer can provide grant applications to share with local educators and families.

By helping children access tools for learning and communication, clubs can offer new opportunities and support that reaches beyond the classroom. To learn more, visit wiumkiwanis.orgipads-for-autism.

HONORS AND AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT 2026 DISTRICT CONVENTION

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

2026 Hilmar 'Bill' Solberg Distinguished Service Award

- James Burmeister – Portage Kiwanis

2024-2025 Outstanding Fundraiser Award

- Clubs ≥ 25 Members:
Fabulous Fond du Lac –
Walleye Weekend
- Clubs < 25 Members:
None submitted

2025-2026 Governor's Plaque:

Paul Shrode

Signature Service Project Award

- Slinger – Winter Gala

Kiwanis Support Awards

- Key Club: Eau Claire



Year to Date Membership Growth:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Westosha Salem – 10 | • Beaver Dam – 4 |
| • Fond du Lac Lakeside – 8 | • Alger County – 3 |
| • Mukwonago – 6 | • Burlington – 3 |
| • Darboy – 6 | • Chippewa Falls – 3 |
| • Madison West – 5 | • Madison East – 3 |
| • Medford – 5 | • Janesville/Blackhawk
Golden K – 3 |
| • Marquette – 4 | • Ripon Early Birds – 3 |
| • Appleton-Fox Cities – 4 | • Slinger – 3 |
| • Portage – 4 | |

DIVISION 5 RECEIVES 2024–2025 GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENT AWARD

The Governor's Excellent Division Award recognizes a division whose clubs and lieutenant governor demonstrate outstanding performance during the Kiwanis year. The district governor evaluates eligible divisions using criteria that may include membership growth, meeting attendance, sponsorship of new Kiwanis and Service Leadership Program clubs, and participation in division, district and international

events. International Distinguished criteria may also be considered.

For the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year, congratulations to Lieutenant Governor Shirley Eells and the presidents and secretaries of the Division 5 clubs. Thank you to everyone in Division 5 whose service and commitment contributed to this recognition.



Club

Belleville
Columbus
Downtown Madison
Madison East
Madison West
Middleton
Monroe
Sauk Prairie, Prairie du Sac

President

Mary Gehin
Amy Meyers
Gerald Schwoch
Bonnie Nissly
Kenneth Saville
Joanna Richard
Luke Smetters
Gary Quam

Secretary

Madeline Bartels
Christine Behl
Michael Doran
Lue Sturdevant
Ron Schuler
Marilyn Halstead
Claire "Beth" Kindschi
Anna Bruhn

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

Photos submitted by Justin Hahn, Rebecca Mattson, Paul Shrode, and Paul Holley



Executive Director Justin Hahn, left, and Kiwanis International Trustee Valarie "Doc Val" Brown-Klingelhoef, right, form a heart around Governor-designate Rebecca Mattson.



Gloria Hammer, Becky Mattson, Anna Bruhn, Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef, Dr. Lori Bents, Justin Hahn and Shirley Eells started Saturday together at the District Convention awards breakfast.



Kiwanis International Trustee "Doc Val" Brown-Klingelhoef and Justin Hahn enjoyed the afternoon on Kiwanis Family Fun Day at the zoo.



Randall and Kathy Durner rode the aerial tramway at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Friday afternoon preceding the district convention.



Executive Director Justin Hahn (back row) photo-bombed convention co-chairs Joan Pinch (left) and Kathy Strong Langolf (right) as they posed with Governor-designate Becky Mattson (center).



Kiwanians assembled welcome bags for shelter residents during a Friday evening service project at the district convention.



Executive Director Justin Hahn poses with motivational speaker Ramona Hallmon, who illustrated to participants that "Shift Happens" during her 'Kiwanis Talks' workshop presentation.



Governor Paul Shrode (left) watches as Kiwanis International Trustee Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer presents the governor's gavel to Governor-designate Becky Mattson.



Teams of three Kiwanis members and guests tested their knowledge in a "Trivia Time" game show at Saturday's Family Game Night Banquet during the district convention.



DISTRICT RAFFLE RAISES NEARLY \$4,000 FOR KIWANIS OPERATIONS

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

The WI-UM Kiwanis District Raffle awarded prizes valued at nearly \$4,375 between July 15th and August 17th.

Each \$10 ticket gave its holder a chance to win a prize each day. District directors and clubs donated every prize, allowing ticket proceeds to help cover operating

expenses without relying on dues.

The raffle raised nearly \$4,000. Thank you to everyone who donated a prize or purchased a ticket, and congratulations to the winners!

Day	Raffle Prize	Value	Donated by	Winner	Kiwanis Club
1	Kwik Trip Gift Card	\$100	Paul Shrode	Lori Bents	Marshfield
2	Margarita Basket	\$100	New Richmond	Joanne Horner	Western Kenosha
3	Mole Lake One Night Stay	\$125	Iron Mountain-Kingsford	Kristy Martin	Ripon Noon
4	Kwik Trip Gift Card	\$100	Portage	Larry Koziol	West Bend Early Risers
5	Puzzle Board and Puzzles	\$110	Becky Mattson	Bob McDowell	Appleton-Fox Cities
6	Amazon Gift Card	\$100	Appleton	Becky Mattson	Eau Claire
7	Custom Framing	\$175	Dodgeville/Bill Abbott	Larry Koziol	West Bend Early Risers
8	Kwik Trip	\$100	Berlin	Shirley Eells	Monroe
9	Immersion Cooker and Gift Card	\$125	Lori Bents	Mary Barney	Milwaukee
10	O&H Danish Bakery Gift Card	\$100	West Racine	CK Liu	Full Circle
11	Snap on Crown Tool Kit	\$225	Western Kenosha	Lori Bents	Marshfield
12	Kwik Trip Gift Card	\$100	Fabulous Fond du Lac	Kathy Durner	Wisconsin Dells
13	Radisson Hotel Gift Card	\$150	Fond du Lac	Lori Bents	Marshfield
14	Manila Gift Basket	\$100	ICON Attendees	Justin Hahn	Full Circle
15	Two Midyear Conference Fees	\$80	W-I-UM District	Lori Bents	Marshfield
15	Kwik Trip Gift Card	\$100	Governor Paul Shrode	Cathy Weisinger	Alger County
16	Amazon Gift Card	\$100	Alger County	Pete Duesterbeck	Wild Rose
17	Apps Eye Candy Daylily	\$100	Wild Rose	Arlene Swanberg	Alger County
18	One4All Gift Card	\$100	Becky Mattson	Becky Mattson	Eau Claire
19	Crane Foundation pass/merch	\$150	Wisconsin Dells	Lori Bents	Marshfield
20	Kwik Trip Gift Card	\$100	Eau Claire	Larry Koziol	West Bend Early Risers
21	Portland Leather "Doctor's Bag" Purse	\$120	Lori Bents	Joanne Horner	Western Kenosha
21	Crane Foundation pass/merch (redraw)	\$150	Wisconsin Dells	Eileen Rottscholl	Fabulous Fond du Lac
22	Kiwanis Store Gift Card	\$100	Tim Lubinsky	Becky Mattson	Eau Claire
22	Two Tickets to Slinger Winter Gala	\$120	Slinger	Kathy Strong Langolf	Fond du Lac
23	Day's Inn and Annie's Gift Cards	\$210	Iron Mountain-Kingsford	Lori Bents	Marshfield
24	Kwik Trip Gift Card	\$100	Escanaba	Arlene Swanberg	Alger County
25	Lego Basket	\$100	Justin Hahn	Ron Horner	Western Kenosha
26	Amazon Gift Card	\$100	Appleton-Fox Cities	Trisha Peterson	Iron Mountain Kingsford
27	Portland Leather Purse	\$160	D11 LTG Lori Bents	Kathy Durner	Wisconsin Dells
27	Radisson Hotel Gift Card (redraw)	\$150	Fond du Lac	Bill Abbott	Dodgeville
28	Wine Basket - 6 bottles of wine	\$115	Marshfield	Joanne Horner	Western Kenosha
29	2027 DCON Meals Package	\$150	WI-UM District	Mary Barney	Milwaukee
29	Brewers and Bees Bonanza: \$100	\$115	Pete Duesterbeck	Tim Lubinsky	Ripon Noon
30	2027 DCON Hotel Stay (2 nights)	\$300	District	Gale Rodgers	Alger County
30	Top Dog Basket with specialty beers	\$120	Oshkosh Mid-Morning	Linda Gebhardt	Monroe
30	Bourbon Old Fashioned Basket	\$125	Marshfield	Ken Saville	Madison West

KIWANIS CLUB OF ST. CROIX VALLEY IS OFF TO A GREAT START

Submitted by Rebecca Mattson, 2026-2027 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-designate

The Kiwanis Club of St. Croix Valley will celebrate its charter on Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 6 to 7 pm at the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center. Anyone interested in joining or attending can contact the club or visit its [facebook page](#) for details.

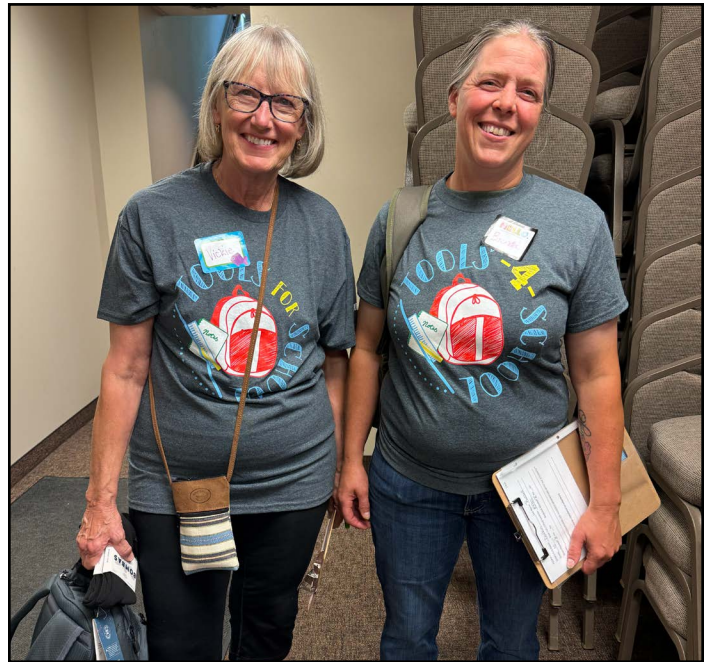
The club has 17 charter members, including three couples and a father-and-daughter pair. From my vantage point, it already feels like family. Members share the work instead of leaving it to one person, bring a positive attitude and eagerly volunteer to make a difference for children in their community and neighboring towns. They are excited about new projects while taking their plans one day at a time.

Christie Berg connected us with Tools for School, a River Falls program providing school supplies, shoes and other assistance to students and families. Club members volunteered at its August back-to-school event, helping families prepare for the school year and making an immediate connection with children in River Falls.

We have also joined the St. Croix Valley chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace for bed builds and deliveries. The chapter provides new beds, mattresses and bedding to children ages 3 to 17 in St. Croix and Pierce counties who lack a bed of their own. Mike Reardon chairs our service committee and keeps members informed about ways to help, from building beds to delivering them to families.

Club President Brenda Franklin connected us with Operation Help and the Hudson Community Food Pantry, where members have begun training and volunteering. Brenda formerly managed the pantry, and we are glad to continue her tradition of serving local families alongside her. Fresh Harvest Pantry also provides free groceries to St. Croix County residents and families in the River Falls School District, serving more than 1,500 people each month without income requirements or proof of need.

Next, we hope to partner with the River Falls Police Department on Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids, distributing free



Charter members of the Kiwanis Club of St. Croix Valley have already participated in a service project assembling back-to-school supplies.

books while building connections between children and law enforcement. Hudson public school librarians have donated thousands of gently used books for us to label and share with local children.

We plan to charter at least one K-Kids club. A former Key Club member is also interested in helping launch a Circle K club at UW-River Falls during the second semester. We have ideas and enthusiasm; a few more helping hands will help bring these projects to life. These youth programs would give children and students more opportunities to lead and serve their communities.

Thank you to our co-sponsoring clubs – Eau Claire Kiwanis, Eau Claire–Clear Water Kiwanis and New Richmond – for supporting our growth.

Donations of any amount can help fund upcoming projects and our first fundraiser. If you know a community that could benefit from a new Kiwanis club, contact your lieutenant governor, Paul Shrode or me at beckymattson@wiumkiwanis.org. I would be happy to discuss how to get started. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

BEHIND THE SCENES, AT THE HEART OF KIWANIS: THANK YOU, TONYA

Submitted by 2024-2025 District Governor Kathy Durner

Not all Kiwanis heroes wear a Super K on their shirt. Some work behind the scenes, juggling schedules, sharing Kiwanis news and producing newsletters. Tonya Alling is one of those heroes. Though she has worked quietly in the background, the impact of her work is clear.

The *Kiwanews* district newsletter keeps Kiwanians across Wisconsin and Upper Michigan connected. It highlights the remarkable projects taking place throughout our district and keeps members informed about upcoming district and international conventions.

Putting each issue together takes patience and skill. Submissions arrive at different times – some early, some close to the deadline and some on or after it. For more than 14 years, Tonya has assembled those articles into a newsletter that is clear, appealing and enjoyable to read. Her steady work has helped members across the district stay informed and connected.

Tonya, on behalf of the WI-UM Kiwanis community, thank you for the time, energy, expertise and care you have given to *Kiwanews*. You have celebrated our strengths and successes while introducing us to new

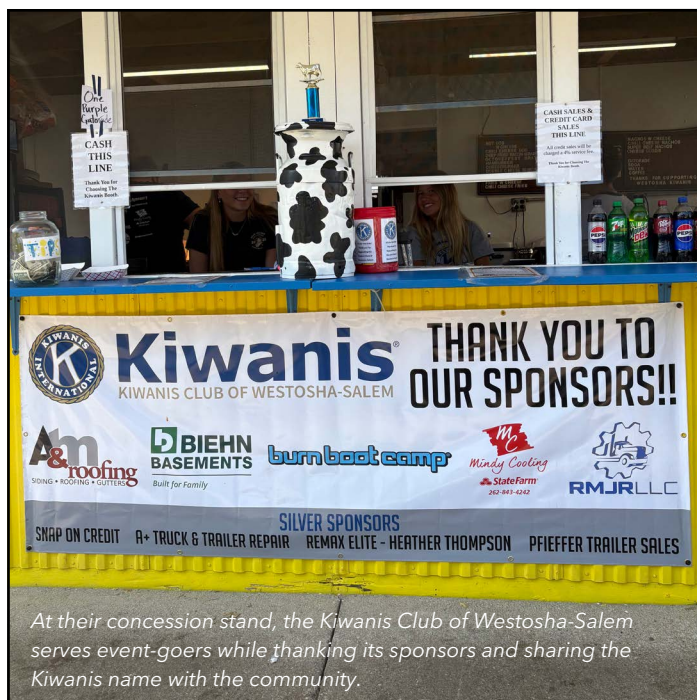


Executive Director Justin Hahn and Kiwanews editor Tonya Alling share a warm moment during the district convention.

ideas. Your work has made a difference for our clubs and communities. We appreciate all you have done.

Note: Editing the Kiwanews for 14 and a half years has been a pleasure and a privilege. I am grateful for the opportunity, for the recognition at the district convention and for the lovely article Past Governor Kathy submitted. I know Jay Stephany will bring a fresh perspective and expert editorial skills to the role. Thank you for allowing me to share your news and celebrate your service.

– Tonya Alling



At their concession stand, the Kiwanis Club of Westosha-Salem serves event-goers while thanking its sponsors and sharing the Kiwanis name with the community.



A YEAR OF SERVICE: MONTHLY IDEAS FOR K-KIDS AND BUILDERS CLUBS

Submitted by K-Kids Administrator Mike Hipple and Builders Club Administrator Susan Hipple

Faculty and Kiwanis club advisors can use these monthly ideas to plan meetings, develop student leaders and keep service at the heart of their clubs.

August: Get ready. Explore the Kiwanis International K-Kids and Builders Club websites for resources. Faculty advisors should share expected membership numbers with club advisors so workbooks arrive before the first meeting. Ask the principal about school needs that could inspire a service project.

September: Build connections. Consider teaching students about the 25th anniversary of September 11 and how communities came together afterward. Club advisors should budget for student clubs and thank faculty advisors for their work. Watch for an invitation to an advisor chat.

October: Launch the year. Set a meeting schedule and share it with your Kiwanis club advisor. At the first meeting, introduce officer roles and elections, and brainstorm service projects. Consider Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. Club advisors should attend meetings when possible. Watch for the global kickoff video.

November: Develop leaders. Elect officers and explain their responsibilities. Review spring award criteria and set goals. Students might thank veterans, make gratitude lists or organize a food drive. During National Key Club Week, invite a Key Club member to speak to Builders Club students if your Kiwanis club sponsors both programs.

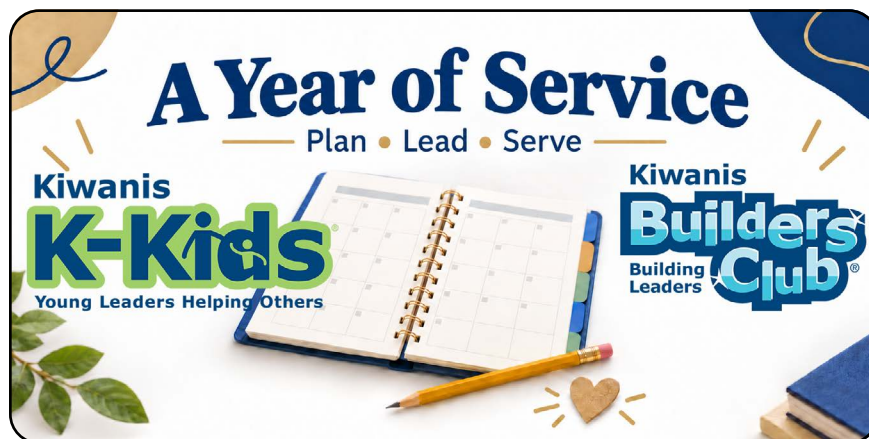
December: Include others. Discuss what belonging means during National Inclusion Month. Make cards or gifts for people in need, help younger students at recess or join a local holiday giving campaign. Advisors can

introduce students to the organizations serving their community.

January: Refresh your plans. Revisit service ideas for the months ahead. Organize a gently used toy or book drive, make dog toys or write thank-you notes to police officers, firefighters and paramedics.

February: Celebrate your club. Watch email and social media for ideas to mark K-Kids and Builders Club weeks. Deliver handmade dog toys to a humane society or make Valentine's Day cards for nursing home and assisted living residents.

March: Share your impact. Watch for award and contest announcements, and keep records of projects throughout the year. Consider a Cereal Box Challenge, a sock drive or tie blankets for a shelter. Students



might make library bookmarks or hold a bake sale during teacher conferences. Invite parents to a meeting to see members lead.

April: Reflect and plan. Complete end-of-year surveys with members to help shape next year. Students could hold a penny war for a cause they choose, pick up litter for Earth Day or help someone in need. They might also learn about autism, plan next year's projects and make appreciation posters for school staff.

May: Celebrate and say thanks. Recognize members' accomplishments at the final meeting. Club and faculty advisors can provide a treat and thank the staff, volunteers and supporters who helped. Ask students which projects mattered most to them and what they hope to do next year.

KDF OFFICERS & DIVISION REPS

President

Jim Burmeister 608-429-2905
burmji@gmail.com Portage

Vice President

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

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Finger 920-229-2571
markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org Berlin

Immediate Past President

Jan Williams 920-279-2736
jan@jwains.com Berlin

Division 1/Term: 2024-2027

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

Division 2/Term: 2024-2027

Jim Buskel 262-391-8494
jbuskel38@gmail.com Elm Grove Golden K

Division 3/Term: 2024-2027

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

Division 4/Term: 2026-2029

..... Vacant

Division 5/Term: 2026-2029

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

Division 6/Term: 2025-2028

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

Division 7/Term: 2024-2027

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

Division 8/Term: 2024-2027

Lynn Messer 920-827-2109
lrwins@tcei.com New Holstein

Division 9/Term: 2025-2028

Louise Gudex 920-923-6870
lgudex@fdlpha.org Fond du Lac

Division 10/Term: 2026-2029

..... Vacant

Division 11/Term: 2025-2028

Dr. Lori Bents 715-389-1570
lbentsdc@tznnet.com Marshfield

Division 12/Term: 2025-2028

LaVone Sneen 715-797-3556
sneenl@uwec.edu Eau Claire-Clear Water

Division 13/Term: 2025-2028

..... Vacant

Division 14/Term: 2026-2029

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

Past Foundation President Representative

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

2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor

Rebecca "Becky" Mattson 218-461-0220
beckymattson@wiumkiwanis.org Eau Claire

Governor-elect

Dr. Lori Bents 715-389-1570
lbentsdc@tznnet.com Marshfield

Executive Director

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

Immediate Past Governor

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

Lt. Governor Division 1/Term: 2025-2027

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

Lt. Governor Division 2/Term: 2026-2028

Amber Moore 262-875-7230
asmoore4@yahoo.com Elm Grove Golden K

Lt. Governor Division 3/Term: 2025-2027

James "Jim" Pittelkow 414-550-6100
pittjim@att.net Milwaukee

Lt. Governor Division 4/Term: 2025-2027

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

Lt. Governor Division 5/Term: 2026-2028

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

Lt. Governor Division 6/Term: 2026-2028

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

Lt. Governor Division 7/Term: 2026-2028

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

Lt. Governor Division 8/Term: 2026-2028

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

Lt. Governor Division 9/Term: 2025-2027

Peter Duesterbeck 920-680-8098
peterduesterbeck@wiumkiwanis.org Wild Rose

Lt. Governor Division 10/Term: 2025-2027

Ben Gunderson 920-436-9540
ben.gunderson@greenbayymca.org Green Bay

Lt. Governor Division 11/Term: 2025-2027

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

Lt. Governor Division 12/Term: 2025-2027

LaVone Sneen 715-797-3556
sneenl@uwec.edu Eau Claire-Clear Water

Lt. Governor Division 13/Term: 2026-2028

..... Open

Lt. Governor Division 14/Term: 2026-2028

Gale Rodgers 229-296-5420
rodders77oki@gmail.com Alger County

2026-2027 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Aktion Club Administrator

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

Builders Club Administrator

Sue Hipple 920-841-2539
sue.hipple@att.net Appleton

Circle K Administrator Vacant

District Convention Vacant

District Foundation President

Jim Burmeister 608-429-2905
burmji@gmail.com Portage

District Foundation Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Finger 920-229-2571
markfingerkdf@wiumkiwanis.org Berlin

K-Kids Administrator

Mike Hipple 920-730-9502
mikehipple4@gmail.com Appleton

Key Club Administrator

Amber Schank 262-309-1860
hautar03@gmail.com Full Circle

Key Leader Coordinator Vacant

Kiwanews Editor

Jay Stephany 920-205-9181
kiwanews@wiumkiwanis.org Appleton-Fox Cities

Kiwanis Children's Fund & Parliamentarian

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

Kiwanis Partnership Coordinator

Tashai "TJ" Atkins 715-514-5144
director@thecommunitytable.org Eau Claire - Clear Water

Master Club Coach

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

Public Relations Coordinator/IT Services

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

Risk Management & Youth Protection

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

UPCOMING KIWANIS EVENTS

Board Meeting: November 14, 2026

Midyear Conferences: March and/or April 2027
 Lt. Governor Elections for Div. 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 & 12

Key Leader: Summer 2027

Kiwanis International Convention:
 June 16th-19th, 2027 – Dallas, Texas

2026-2027 DISTRICT CHAIRS

Bylaws and Policies

Jim Burmeister 608-429-2905
burmji@gmail.com Portage

District Signature Project – iPads for Autism

Lynn Messer 920-946-0652
lmmsr001@gmail.com Sheboygan Falls

District Signature Project – Kiwanis 'n Cops 'n Kids

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

Finance

Bruce Hoehne 608-358-1344
b.hoehne@yahoo.com Madison West

Human and Spiritual Values

Jim Kieso 262-442-1749
mrkieso@gmail.com Elm Grove Golden K

Leadership Development/Master Instructor

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

Membership and Engagement

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

Past Governor Trustee

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

Past Lt. Governor Representative

Carl Gordon
cgordon.mqt@gmail.com Marquette

Service

Ann Pilot 262-939-1614
annmarie.pilot@gmail.com Metro Milwaukee Nights

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

Please submit articles to kiwanews@wiumkiwanis.org.



KIWANEWS Volume 102, No. 6

Kiwanews is published six times each year in November, January, March, May, July and September by the WI-UM District of Kiwanis International, 1641 Fox River Parkway, Waukesha, WI 53189.

PASTY TOUR BRINGS KIWANIANS TOGETHER ACROSS UPPER MICHIGAN

Submitted by Kathy Durner, 2024-2025 Kiwanis District Governor

Have you ever traveled with fellow Kiwanians to visit another club? Try nine club visits in five days! That was the pace of our Upper Michigan "Pasty Tour" during the week of July 12-19, 2026.

Past governors Larry Koziel, Bill Abbott and Kathy Durner, along with their spouses, continued the trip Larry and Bill began several years ago. Governor Paul Shrode and First Lady Stacy Shrode joined us for part of the week. Our home base was a rental cottage on Big Shag Lake, west of Gwinn, where we gathered each evening to compare notes, watch old movies and laugh together.

The heart of the trip was meeting Kiwanians across the Upper Peninsula. We visited clubs in Escanaba, Munising, Marquette, Menominee, Iron River, Kingsford, Manistique and Ishpeming, as well as the Marquette Aktion Club. At every stop, members welcomed us warmly and shared what their clubs are accomplishing.

We heard about chicken barbecues, pasty sales, foot races, duck races and pickleball tournaments. Clubs described packing food for children, supporting Bay Cliff Health Camp, cleaning roadsides, selling discount cards and organizing Pictured Rocks tours. The variety of projects showed how each club responds to its community's needs. One especially sweet memory was enjoying ice cream cones at Jilbert's with members of the Marquette Aktion Club.

The weather made the week memorable, too.



During the Past Governors' Upper Michigan tour, Kathy Durner visited the Marquette Aktion Club, then joined members and advisor John Sutton for ice cream at Jilbert's Dairy Bar.



2025-2026 Governor Paul Shrode along with past Governors Larry Koziel and Kathy Durner joined the Manistique Kiwanis Club for a noon meeting to discuss the club's service programs, needs and concerns.

Temperatures ranged from 63 to 103 degrees, so the warm clothes we packed came in handy after the hottest days. Heavy smoke from wildfires in Minnesota and Canada also drifted across the Upper Peninsula. It kept us indoors between visits and canceled our planned lunch at Bay Cliff Health Camp. Kathy Durner and Division 6 Lieutenant Governor Randy Durner still drove to the camp in Big Bay to deliver donated items.

The smoke also grounded our Pictured Rocks boat tour, but we managed a short hike at Miner's Castle near Munising. There we met a family from Tennessee whose children chatted with us along the trail. Before the smoke became severe, Randy even found time for an evening kayak trip on Big Shag Lake.

By Saturday, we had done our laundry and packed for home. We ended the visit with dinner alongside Marquette Kiwanian Carl Gordon and his wife, Sandy, and Division 14 Lieutenant Governor Steve Halsey and his wife, Theresa. It was a fitting close to a week spent renewing friendships and building stronger connections with Upper Michigan clubs.

Despite the heat and smoke, we came home encouraged by the welcome we received and the service we saw. Kiwanis is alive, well and having fun across the Upper Peninsula. Wherever your travels take you, pack your Kiwanis smile, a willingness to laugh and an open mind about the people you might meet.