

The Capital

February/March 2024

KIWANIAN

The Official Publication of Capital District Kiwanis | www.capitaldistrictkiwanis.org

ICON in Denver

How can you become distinguished?



**KIWANIS MAKES A
SPLASH THIS WINTER**



Kiwanis

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COVER: The Kiwanis Club of Tysons hosted their first annual Kiwanis Polar Dip in Reston, VA on February 10. Details on page 17.





Kiwanis International Trustee Dennis Baugh presented University of Virginia Children's Hospital with a \$3,000 check from the Capital District Foundation. Erin Chandler, from the hospital, and Cheryl Kirby, president of the Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville, also pictured.



2023-24 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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The Capital Kiwanian is published bi-monthly by the Capital District of Kiwanis International.

All correspondence relating to editorial content, distribution, or advertising should be sent via e-mail to Editor John Montgomery at editor@capitalkiwanis.org.

The information in this magazine is for illustrative and discussion purposes only. It is intended to provide general information about the subject matter covered.

Governor's Message

C. ERIC LAMB, 2023-24 GOVERNOR



ADAPTING IS ESSENTIAL TO FORWARD GROWTH

Happy February Amazing Kiwanians,

It always amazes me how, in my neck of the woods, it is cold one day and shorts-weather the next. For those of you who don't know, I work with "differently-abled" children in the pool, teaching them to swim and be safe in the water. So I basically live in flip-flops.

These cold days always remind me that no matter how much I want to wear my flip-flops, I must adapt to the weather and not get frostbite. Adapting can be hard. And honestly, I am not the biggest fan of the concept. But adapting is a necessary part of forward growth. We must be ready to adapt and change plans for the betterment of our community, Kiwanis and, most importantly, ourselves.

I am reminded of how each spring the flowers come forth from the ground, some experiencing new challenges that had not been there before. I was working in one garden bed recently and found a large rock that had found itself right in the middle of a patch of small evergreens. I went to move the rock and found that a branch had curled itself around the rock and continued its journey. The evergreen took the challenge, adapted and continued to grow. Let's remember that lesson. Adapt to our challenges and make forward growth for the children of our communities.

What things might be important for us to focus on during this time of the year and how might we accomplish them? The thought in the forefront of my mind is Membership (always). How might we attract new members and how might ensure that they belong? Belonging is a hard thing. The rock certainly belonged in my garden, but did it belong amongst the evergreens?



I can see the answer to that question in two different ways: 1) No, it needed to be moved so the evergreens could grow and flourish; and 2) Yes, it caused new growth to occur in a different and productive way. No matter how growth occurs, it is important that we are constantly growing and moving forward.

It can be hard sometimes for me to see the new path, because new paths and new growth patterns are no fun. When things are unclear, shouldn't the question always be: "What is best for Kiwanis and the kids?"

I always work to be the one who can see a new path forward. Nothing is impossible if we are able to see things from a new perspective. It's all about perspective. I decided not to move the rock in my evergreen patch, but rather to let it be a decoration and monument to change. Kiwanis doesn't get better by chance; it gets better by change.

The second thing that comes to mind is how we see and treat others. As Kiwanis grows and the next generation begins to participate and take leadership roles, it can be hard to see things being done differently. I often say that I am a big fan of change as long as it doesn't affect me. That is true to a degree. It is always important to me that we are honoring our past leadership, honoring the hours of hard work, dedication and sacrifice.

So many have given so much to the Capital District to bring us where we are today. I am grateful to them. Kiwanis exists to prepare the next generation to serve those who are less fortunate, those who are "differently-abled" and those who will be the champions of tomorrow. If this is why we exist, shouldn't it be our goal? We can prove our mission by allowing the change to happen. Allowing it to make our path forward a path of Adaptation and a path of Growth.



As I have been traveling the District this year, I am encouraged! I am encouraged by the dedication to leadership, the dedication to success and, most importantly, the dedication to our children. The members of the Capital District never cease to impress me. I am thankful for each of you. I am humbled to be amongst so many truly amazing Kiwanis friends.

As Spring breaks through, let's make a conscious choice to Adapt, Grow and Move Forward!

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "C. Eric Lamb".

C. Eric Lamb



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

MARCH MIDYEAR WILL BE ‘ALMOST HEAVEN’

The Capital District has kicked planning for our 2024 Midyear Conference into high gear as we take on the Wild and Wonderful state of West Virginia as our host for this year’s event. Happening in Daniels, WV at The Resort at Glade Springs from March 8-10, this is a “cannot be missed” Kiwanis event with great speakers, educational workshops and true fellowship opportunities. If you haven’t done so already, please visit <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/2024-capital-district-kiwanis-midyear-conference/> to register now!

I will be facilitating a round-table discussion with club secretaries and treasurers at the Midyear Conference, so come armed with any questions or suggestions you may have for your peer group of club officers.

Shortly after the Midyear Conference, Spring will officially be upon us. In the Kiwanis world, this is the time where our clubs and divisions are electing new leadership. Each of your clubs should be planning now for its Annual Meeting. Per your club bylaws, this is a meeting held between Jan. 1 and May 15 with at least 30 days’ notice to all members. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect your 2024-2025 club board of directors and to amend your club’s mandatory policies if necessary.

Our divisions will also be holding Divisional Council Meetings (DCMs) to elect the new lieutenant governors and lieutenant governor-elects who will lead the respective divisions in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The position of lieutenant governor is vitally important to keeping Kiwanis clubs strong and healthy so they can do more service in their communities.

Capital District intentionally separated the governance role (participating in district board meetings) so that our lieutenant governors could focus solely on communicating with and assisting clubs. Divisions create a sense of belonging and fellowship between Kiwanis clubs and can enhance everyone’s projects and programs. Once you have served as president of your club, Kiwanis really looks to you to step up and serve as a lieutenant governor.

Personally, I can tell you it’s probably the most fun you can have in a Kiwanis leadership role. Lieutenant governors are asked to visit their clubs, which can be done in-person or virtually (where permitted by the clubs), and the Capital District reimburses its lieutenant governors for mileage to travel to club meetings.

As leaders of the division (a grouping of Kiwanis clubs), they are also asked to chair divisional council meetings where the clubs can come together throughout the year and share successes, educate each other and enjoy fellowship. The District also provides stipends to District and International conferences for our lieutenant governors, so you get additional Kiwanis education and fellowship opportunities as part of the position. If you are eligible, I strongly encourage you to consider the position of lieutenant governor, if not for the upcoming year starting Oct. 1, 2024, then for the following year.

I also want to mention that registration for the Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, CO is open! This event, happening from July 3-6, will bring together Kiwanians from all over the world to be educated, make important decisions on behalf of all clubs and reconnect with friends made in the past. We will be hosting a District Dinner in Denver on Friday, July 5. More details will be provided as soon as they are finalized.

Capital District has submitted (again) our proposed amendment to allow remote voting at the House of Delegates (Business Session) and for the first time, the KI Board is supporting our amendment. We encourage all clubs to send delegates to Denver this year, to help get this important amendment passed. You can find more information and register for ICON 2024 here: <https://schedule.kiwanisone.org/KI2024>

(Past Governor Jeffrey Wolff, from Tysons, is the Capital District Executive Director.)

From the Governor-Elect

BY JOSH HISCOCK

SPRING INTO ACTION & LEAD

The winter months are nearing an end and Spring is in sight. Colder temperatures will soon give way to warmer days filled with more hours of sunlight. Flowers will begin to bloom, and we will see growth and rebirth all around us as the seasons change. There will be a lot of action to observe.

As we mark the halfway point in the Kiwanis year on April 1, the time has come for all of us, as Kiwanians, to spring into action and step into leadership roles in our clubs, divisions, regions, and within the Capital District.

We all want to see positive change occur within our organization and within our community. We all want to see our projects serve more children and create a greater impact on the lives of others. We want to see our fundraising flourish and our service leadership program clubs excel. The only way this happens is when passionate, dedicated members – like YOU – step forward to lead.

There will always be a place for leaders to remain in roles that they enjoy; continuity and consistency helps to provide historical knowledge within our clubs, preserving traditions and legacies that are important. However, the time for change is here. If you have never served on your club's board of directors, consider placing your name in nomination this year.

A club's board is where so many important decisions are made. It is critical that we have many voices, representing the diversity of Kiwanis, our students, and our community members, present at the table. If you have never served as a club president or secretary, this may be the perfect year to push yourself forward, and to step outside of your comfort zone, to lead.

New voices are critical in making our clubs more inclusive and in increasing a sense of belonging, and new voices bring new ideas. One of these new ideas might just be the thing that changes your club and community for the better.

In the words of activist, historian, and author Howard Zinn, "You can't be neutral on a moving train." The world around us is changing. There are important topics that we must tackle in Kiwanis, but none of that is possible without you – our members. The time for action is now as we prepare to Elevate Our Impact in 2024-2025.

We are still actively searching for members to step forward for district-level leadership roles. Please take a moment to [complete this interest survey](#) if you have not already done so. Many openings still exist, and we need energetic Kiwanians to serve. Your voice and participation matter. I look forward to changing the world with you in the months and years ahead.



(Josh Hiscock, from Ellicott City, MD, is the Capital District Governor-Elect for 2023-24.)

From the Vice Governor



BY TIM GILLETTE

SERVING THE CHILDREN WITH OPEN ARMS

Greetings Capital Kiwanians!

February and March are upon us, and with that, folks across the District will gather in service and fellowship. Leading us off, the CKI District Convention will take place in Fairfax, VA Feb 23-25.

Two weeks later, the Capital District will hold its first major event in the state of West Virginia at the "Wild and Wonderful Midyear Conference" in Daniels, WV March 8-10. The Midyear committee has been busy planning a great conference.

My goal is to try to break 100 during the bowling activity Friday night. Wrapping up the convention calendar, our Key Clubbers will hold their District Convention in Crystal City, VA April 12-14. The committees are working hard to present meaningful events, so please try to attend a conference.



A personal highlight: on Feb. 10 I was able to participate in the First Annual Kiwanis Polar Dip, hosted by the Tysons Kiwanis club. Dozens lined up on the dock at Lake Anne in Reston, VA to jump into the cold water to raise money for three charities in addition to the Tysons Club. Camp Sunshine (host for many years) and the Toth Family were very helpful and supportive of Tysons Kiwanis taking over the event. I hope to see more Kiwanians jumping with me at the 2025 dip!

In late January, I made my semi-annual trek to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, to visit my Alma Mater, the University of Illinois. These weekends are geared toward sporting events, catching up with old friends, and maybe grabbing some new swag at the bookstore. I do like to spend at least an hour or two just walking around campus. During every trip, I gravitate to the Alma Mater statue near the iconic Illini Union building.

The statue depicts a woman in the center, arms wide open. To the left and the right of her are "Learning" and "Labor" representing the motto of the University of Illinois. The inscription at the base of the statue reads:

"To thy happy children of the future, those of the past send greetings"

I've stood in front of this statue many times in the past, but this time my mind gravitated to Kiwanis. In a way, Alma (as Illini call her) is something like Kiwanis. Kiwanians serve the children of the world with open arms. We pass along our knowledge to the youth we serve through service and fellowship. The men and women who volunteer to work with our student leaders in our Service Leadership Programs serve as mentors, and make connections that last a lifetime. We provide service to these happy children of the future, and send greetings in the shape of our generosity.

It's important that we continue to do these actions, and continue to encourage others to join us in these endeavors. Growth in membership means more greetings we can send to these happy children.

I'm looking forward to all the Capital District has in store over the next few months, and I hope to see many of you at Glade Springs at our Wild and Wonderful Midyear Conference.

In Service,

TRG

(Tim Gillette is on schedule to serve as Capital District Governor in 2025-26. He is an active Kiwanian in two clubs, Leesburg and Tysons.)

Around the CD

//////////
A compendium of news briefs regarding recent happenings throughout the Capital District. Should you have an item you would like to share in a future issue of The Capital Kiwanian, please email it to: editor@capitalkiwanis.org



Holiday spirit in Arlington

The Kiwanis Club of Arlington hosted many of its grant recipients at Washington Golf & Country Club Dec. 13 as part of its annual holiday luncheon.

“Our club has focused on helping the lives of children and youth in this county since 1931,” said Kiwanis President Linda Chandler. “We share this critically important mission with many non-profits.” The Kiwanis Club of Arlington gives more than \$60,000 in annual grants.

-Submitted by Brian Bell; excerpted from the Arlington Gazette Leader

Foundation grant helps UVA

Kiwanis International Trustee Dennis Baugh, a former Capital District governor, presented University of Virginia Children’s Hospital with a \$3,000 check from the Capital District Foundation recently. UVA is one of 11 hospitals within the district that benefit from the Foundation’s annual efforts.

Pictured on page 2 with Baugh is Erin Chandler from the hospital and Cheryl Kirby, president of the Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville.

K-Kids care is a click away

Need some assistance with your K-Kids program? Help is a click away. Christy Bosch, the K-Kids District Chair who hails from Woodbridge, reminds us she is available to help support elementary school Kiwanis programs in our area. “There are many resources that Kiwanis offers elementary kids,” she says.

“I can zoom link and chat with your club, or call or attend a meeting. Just let me know how I can help.” Christy’s email contact info is christylovesreading@gmail.com.

Williamsburg ‘natural playground’ gains traction

The natural playground co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg and the James City County Library is gaining substantial traction in the Williamsburg community. A recent Facebook post generated more than 32,000 impressions, approximately 4,700 engagements, 1,800 reactions, 241 comments and 110 shares.

It also made the front page of the Virginia Gazette in January. The playground will feature outdoor musical instruments, “hobbit hole” caves and a fairy garden.

Winchester pancake day posts big numbers

Winchester Kiwanis hosts two pancake days annually – in the spring and in the fall – and the most recent one generated some eye-popping statistics. The club, whose membership hovers near the 100 mark, sold 61 placemat ads and more than 5,000 tickets.

Twelve members sold more than 100 tickets individually and the sales leader was George Johnson who personally sold 1,095 tickets. The club reported 2,613 individuals dined in, while there were 2,119 takeout orders. The club generated a profit of more than \$38,000 and Olive Branch Food Pantry was selected as the major beneficiary and took home 20 percent of the net.

Olive Branch participated in weekly meetings, provided more than 180 manhours of volunteer labor at the event and sold more than 750 tickets. The club’s next pancake day is scheduled April 20.

Education News

LEADERSHIP STYLES VARY BY INDIVIDUAL

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

Leadership. What exactly does that word mean? I have found that leadership means many different things to people. There is not necessarily a right or wrong answer to the question; there just are different styles that work for some and not for others.

You may be a transformational leader, a servant leader, or an authoritative leader—while you personally may respond more to a transactional leader or a charismatic leader. Just remember: just because someone's leadership style is different than yours, does not mean that it is wrong. All types of leaders have their place in a Kiwanis Club, and in the world.

Some feel that leadership is awarded – or earned – because of a role you have, maybe as Kiwanis Club President or chair of a board or committee. I would argue that yes, a certain position garners a level of respect, but being in a position does not make you a leader automatically.

A “position” sets the foundation for you to become a leader and to grow your skills, but it does not necessarily anoint you as a leader overnight. Leadership should be earned by actions and practiced through developing your skills. I have also seen many strong leaders excel behind the scenes, with or without an official title. So just because you might not be in a leadership position, it does not mean you are not a leader in your club.

Practice Leadership

Just like any skill, leadership requires practice. Kiwanis Clubs are a great place to practice the art of leadership. This can pay dividends especially if you may not yet be in a leadership position in your place of work. Kiwanis can help you learn your own style of leadership and practice appropriate skills. Kiwanis can help you improve your public speaking skills, communication skills, and writing ability. Kiwanis can provide you the opportunity to work with people who may be different than you. You can also practice different styles of leadership and see which style or combination thereof works best for you.

Leadership Transition

Transition of leadership is a challenge – at any level. Maybe the past Club President was more communicative and the current Club President leads from afar. Perhaps you have a new committee chair who is task-focused when the former chair was more transformational. The transition from one leader to the next is important.

The Club structure is set up so the leaders in those positions have the opportunity to learn from one another: President-Elect to President to Past President. Each of these three positions is just as important as the next. And it is important that all three communicate with one another to ensure a smooth transition. This does not mean that they have to have the same type of leadership style or process as to how to get things done, but information and resources should be shared so the next team does not spend time “reinventing the wheel” (that is already rolling).

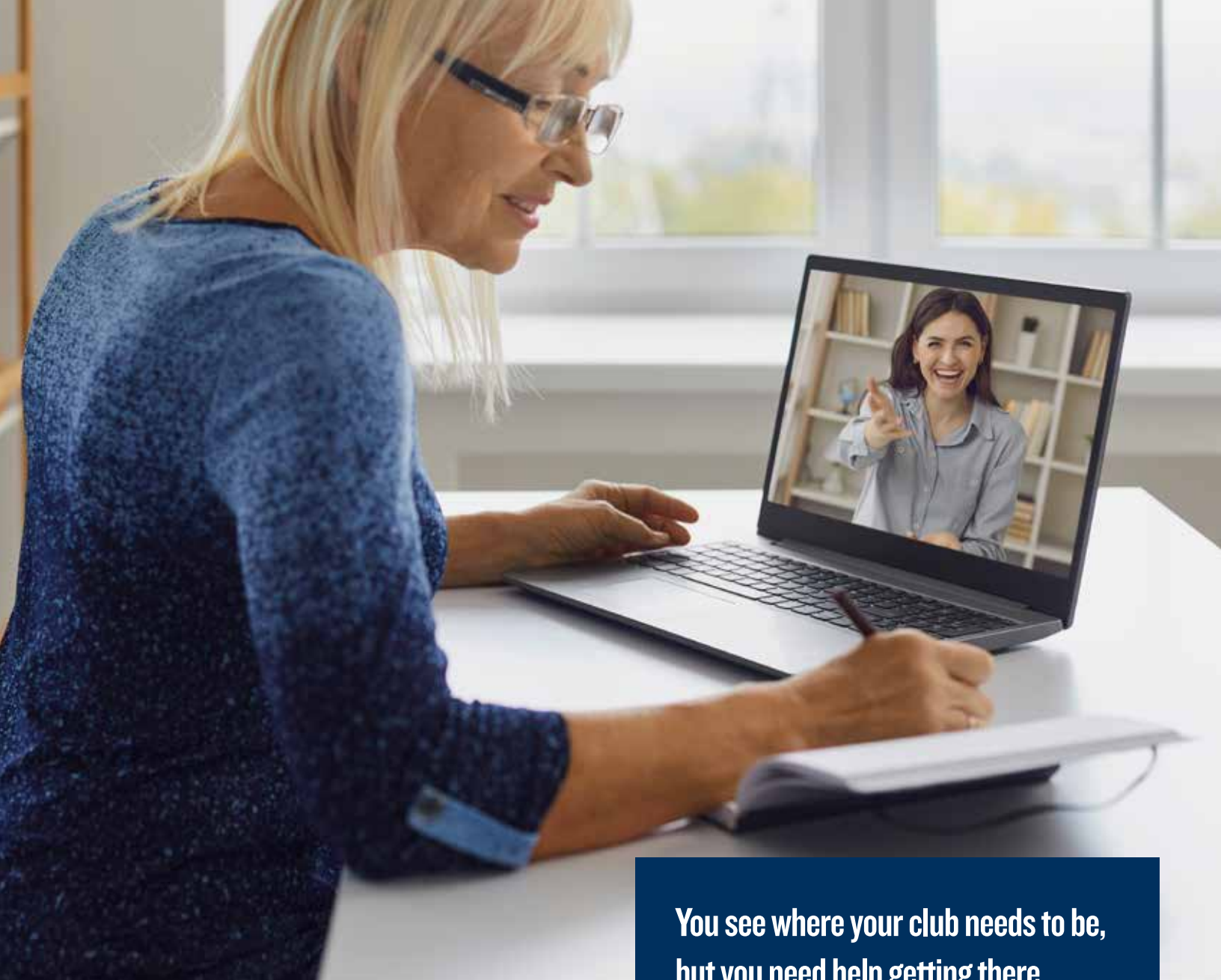
Leadership Support

Harry Truman said it best when he said, “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” This certainly holds true for club leaders and any member of a Kiwanis Club (or any organization!). The club, along with its leaders, should be working together to do what is best for the club to be able to impact more kids.

When leaders are competing with one another for credit and egos get in the way, this causes a strain on the team and creates a distraction from the work to be accomplished. If one member of the team looks good, then the team as a whole looks good. And if a Kiwanis Club looks good, that means more great work can be done for the kids in our communities.



(Samantha Bosserman, from the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro, is the 2023-24 Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District. Do you have a question or a situation where you could use some guidance or advice related to leadership, communication, training, etc.? Send in your questions to editor@capitalkiwanis.org and you may see the question – and Sam's best answer – featured in a future article.)



**You see where your club needs to be,
but you need help getting there.**

We have certified coaches ready to help your club reach its full potential.

REQUEST A FREE CLUB COACH

**Complete the form at www.capitalkiwanis.org/coaching
or contact [Assistant Membership Coordinator Dennis Baugh](#).**



Kiwanis
CAPITAL DISTRICT

Membership Momentum

DON'T OVERLOOK VALUE OF CLUB BOOSTS

BY PG JOHN MORRIS

In the last Capital Kiwanian, my membership column gave advice on methods you can use to grow your club. I omitted one of the most effective methods: doing a club boost. The basic idea of a club boost is to strategically invite prospects to a club event. The boost should include a week or two of in-person recruiting followed by an event designed to encourage prospects to join. The club needs to determine whether the event will be at a service project, an informational meeting, an open house, a fundraiser or a club meeting.

Before you start, make sure your club's officers and members have the desire and dedication to make the boost happen. This is a project the members of the club must support not only conceptually but with active participation. Your club should go through several ACE (Achieving Club Excellence) tools to understand the needs of its members and of the community.

The club should focus on the Member Survey, the Community Survey and Rediscover Your Purpose. Once your club has agreed to do a boost, notify your Lieutenant Governor or Trustee. The District will provide you with a club coach who has been trained to help clubs grow. Kiwanis International has boost kits to help clubs doing boosts. Order a boost kit from Kiwanis by emailing Gloria Bidgood at gbidgood@kiwanis.org at any time, but at least four weeks before the event.

Well before the boost, set the date for the boost event. By then, the club should have already enlisted 6-8 members of its club to be part of the boost team. Roles should be assigned to each member. For example, someone must manage a spreadsheet of prospects, someone must organize the event, several members need to make phone calls to set appointments, and several members need to go to the appointments to recruit. Finally, the club should prepare a budget to cover the boost expenses.

Also well before the boost, the club needs to create a large list of prospects to be approached by the team. All members of the club should assist in compiling names of prospects. The names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of the prospects should be listed on a spreadsheet used to track appointments and leads. The District can assist in training members of the boost team about how to create and populate the spreadsheet, how to make calls to those prospects to make appointments, how to go on appointments and how to effectively recruit.

At the same time, the club should evaluate its current Facebook page. Kiwanis International and the District will help you create a Facebook page for your club if you don't have one. If you already have a Facebook presence, Kiwanis will help you update it with special information about your boost. Make sure your club is using proper Kiwanis branding.

All information on Facebook must be up to date. It is critical to promptly follow up on all leads developed by your social media efforts. Your club should also create a club brochure that will be given to all potential members as part of the recruiting process. Three weeks before the event, the boost team should start calling all people or companies on the prospect spreadsheet. The purpose of these calls is to make appointments for club members to meet with prospects before the event. The boost team should meet regularly to update progress.

In the week or two before the boost, two-person teams should meet prospects at the various appointments that have been set up. Your club should have (or obtain) a mobile app for membership applications and dues collection from your new members that the two-person teams can take with them to the appointments.

HAVE FUN AT THE EVENT!! You want your prospects who attend to see and learn about the wonderful work you do in the community and the value of becoming a member of your club. Immediately after the event, follow up with all potential members, social media leads and anyone who showed interest in your club. Invite them to events and keep them up to date on club events and activities by text, email and Facebook posts. Also, encourage your new members to identify additional prospects in their network.

Remember to thank your boost team and all new members. Make sure you celebrate their addition to your club. If your club follows these steps, it should have great success in growing and strengthening your club.

In certain circumstances, Kiwanis International and the District may be able to provide manpower for your boost. That could happen if the boost involves multiple clubs in your area or a club opening nearby. Talk to your Lieutenant Governor, Divisional or Regional Membership Coordinator or me about the opportunity to get Kiwanis involved in your boost.

(John Morris currently serves as Capital District Membership Coordinator.)

KIWANIS IN THE NEWS

PG Jen and PG Jeffrey Wolff's family was featured in the February issue of *Chantilly Living Magazine*. Here is an excerpt of the article, written by Eric Johnson:

"Volunteer service with Kiwanis has helped shape their strong relationship. Each has served in an official capacity as a governor of the Capital District Kiwanis, an umbrella group for the approximately 160 Kiwanis Clubs in Virginia, DC, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia. Jeffrey was the district's governor from 2011-12 and currently serves as Executive Director, while Jen served as governor from 2022-23, providing leadership for 4,000 club members across the region.

Community events range from a frigid "polar dip" swim every February in Reston's Lake Anne to raise money for Northern Virginia charities. The Kiwanis club also revived overgrown gardens to help Brookfield Elementary School students regain use of their Outdoor Learning Lab after COVID."



Photos by Barry Harley



ANCHORING OUR FUTURE

104th Annual Capital District
Kiwanis Convention 2024

SEE YOU IN PORTSMOUTH!

SAVE THE DATE:

August 23-25, 2024

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel



NEW SIGN FOR OCEAN PINES

The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City (MD) installed a new sign at the north gate entrance to the community in January – with the club’s website clearly visible. While technology has advanced greatly since the advent of Kiwanis and automobiles more than 100 years ago, sometimes tried-and-true forms of advertising remain effective.

– Photo submitted by David Landis

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

February

Petersburg VA.....	1922
Ashland VA.....	1923
Fredericksburg VA.....	1923
Front Royal VA.....	1945
Grundy VA.....	1947
Haysi VA.....	1949
Wheaton-Silver Spring MD.....	1951
McClure River VA.....	1981
Council VA.....	2006
Greater Ocean Pines.....	1980

March

Woodbridge VA.....	1947
Richmond VA.....	1919
Hagerstown MD.....	1921
Martinsville VA.....	1921
Salem VA.....	1921
Coeburn VA.....	1923
Prince Georges County MD.....	1934
Fairfax VA.....	1956
Leesburg VA.....	1957
Leisure World MD.....	1967
Chester VA.....	1972
Botetourt County VA.....	1976

HOW CAN YOU BECOME DISTINGUISHED?

Your club can be distinguished meeting certain identified criteria considered as priorities for our Kiwanis Clubs throughout the Capital District. Governor Eric Lamb explained how YOUR club can be eligible for this distinguished status by providing a DEIBA activity for your club members. Here is a link to his webinar showing you the way: <https://youtu.be/8dgB7UCoC3k?si=Ufcdjspb9LsiXVE>

WHAT IS DEIBA? It is a “perspective,” according to Governor Eric. It is a set of values that reach right into the core of who we are as Kiwanians.

DIVERSITY: a wide and rich range of races, ages, genders, gender expressions, religions, abilities, cultures – in short, our community and all who comprise it.

EQUITY: living up to our belief that we are all created equal in value.

INCLUSION: opening the door to all.

BELONGING: welcoming all so they feel that they belong without risk of insults, intended or unintended.

ACCESSIBILITY: removing the barriers that might block access so that persons of all abilities can participate.

Promoting DEIBA values deserves distinction indeed. What might your club do this year to achieve this status? Check out our DEIBA page on the Capital District website; great ideas are provided that will give your club tools to give

greater depth to one’s leadership skills. Here is the link to that library of resources. Peruse. It is like taking your mind to the gym; exercise those skills it takes to explore new horizons; strengthen your ability to think in new ways.

Thanks to our DEIBA Committee members for compiling these opportunities, Michelle Yuth and Josh Hiscock in particular. Here is the link to our page: [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, & Accessibility – Capital District Kiwanis](#)

Would you like to learn more? Stay tuned; additional webinars will be uploaded; workshops will be offered at Midyear in March (hope you registered!) and at DCON in August. Reach out to us if you’d like to join our committee. Next meeting is April 7; these are open meetings. Send us an email and we will loop you in.

– Cheri and David Hartman, Capital District DEIBA Committee Co-chairs, Kiwanis Club of Roanoke (kiwanis.cheri.hartman@gmail.com)



YOUTH PROTECTION STARTS WITH YOU.

Keep Your Club Compliant.

Kiwanians serve children around the world. It is our job to ensure the safety of the youth we interact with in our local communities. Be sure that your club and its members understand the Kiwanis Youth Protection Policies & Procedures.

To learn more, please visit: www.kiwanis.org/youthprotection

Family Ties

Key Club ERINA HAQUE, GOVERNOR

Hello Capital Kiwanians:

The Capital District Key Club has been especially busy planning our annual convention. We held our final in-person board meeting Jan. 27-28, 2024 in Chantilly, VA. Board members graded awards, planned a variety of workshops, and worked within their respective committees to plan different convention aspects.



DCON will take place April 12-14 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA. This always is the largest event of the Key Club year, featuring workshops, activities, an awards ceremony, and the election of next term's district executives. Our theme is "Service Rocks," a music-centered reference.

Attendees will dress in their favorite music genre, artist, or instrument. Keynote speaker Prince Botchway is a professional DEIBA facilitator. To learn more about the convention, you can view our District Convention promotional video on YouTube.

In partnership with Operation Smile, our district service programs committee is planning a Friday night DCON service project, as well as an Empathy workshop simulating a situation of individuals who are unable to afford medical care, specifically those with cleft lip and cleft palate. The overarching goal is to promote empathetic understanding of inequity related to financial means.

Our Language services committee has been creating summary sheets of the district convention registration forms in Mandarin and Spanish. The purpose of these summary sheets is to break down language barriers for students with non-English speaking parents. Summary sheets will soon be sent to lieutenant governors to distribute throughout their divisions. The sheets also will be available on the website.

The Member Services committee has been completing

the new district chartering/reactivation guide, as well as assisting our district secretary/treasurer in club dues collection.

Lastly, our Kiwanis Family committee held a very successful Kiwanis Family webinar Jan. 7, with more than 30 people attending. They had the opportunity to hear leaders of different Kiwanis Family branches, as well as compete in a Kahoot to win a gift card.

Our first-ever district strategic plan survey closed Jan. 26. We received over 90 responses providing us with feedback on DEIBA, membership retention, Fall Rally, training, communication, and district convention. We will be using the survey information to develop a long-term strategic plan.

Finally, we have raised \$700+ for One Tree Planted. We need your support in helping us tackle environmental issues like deforestation. If you would like to donate to the District Project, visit <https://businesspartners.raisely.com/t/capitalkeyclub>.

Thank you for your support throughout this term. I would not be where I am today without the time and effort of supporting Kiwanians. Remember, you can make a difference in the lives of children through your service. We truly are one big family.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you all at Kiwanis Midyear!

Yours in Friendship and Service,
Erina Haque

CKI NAZIRA DJOR, GOVERNOR

Dear Kiwanis Family,

As I reflect on my tenure as the Capital District CKI Governor, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for the extraordinary journey we've shared. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve alongside each and every one of you. I extend my deepest thanks for the unwavering support, not only from individual clubs, but also at the District level.



As we look forward, I am convinced that the sustained strength and growth of our organization lies in the seamless connection between Key Club, CKI, and Kiwanis. This interwoven fabric fosters stronger bonds within our K-Family and nurtures the personal growth of our youth members as they navigate different phases of their lives. Let us pledge to act with intention, dedicating ourselves to the betterment and growth of each individual within our cherished organization.

The anticipation is building as the CKI District Board prepares for an unforgettable DCON. We eagerly look forward to uniting and celebrating our achievements,

setting the stage to inspire the next generation of CKI leaders. The symbolic passing of the baton to the next Board of Officers will take place during our DCON Feb. 23-25 in Fairfax, VA.

In our collective efforts, we've secured a proud third place in "Brick x Brick" fundraising, currently standing at a commendable \$1,251.14 raised. Together, let's set our sights higher and strive for \$2,000! The impact we can make through our combined contributions is truly awe-inspiring.

Let's maintain the spirit of fun in the name of service, leadership, and fellowship. To our Kiwanis supporters, your unwavering support has been the cornerstone that fueled CDCKI's growth and development. With confidence, I pass the baton to my successor, trusting that our strong bonds will flourish in the 2024-2025 term. Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey. Here's to the bright and promising future of CDCKI!

Yours in Service,
Nazira Djor



Service Showcase

TUCKAHOE PRESENTS HENRICO CASA \$10,000

The Kiwanis Club of Tuckahoe held its 18th Fall Golf Classic in October, the club's major fundraising effort each year. The net this year was \$13,000.

In December the club held its annual Christmas party, and presented Henrico CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) a check for \$10,000 to go toward its work. Kiwanis President Bland Weaver says, "This is a wonderful organization that helps provide court-appointed services for at-risk children. Over the years our club has formed a very special working relationship with CASA.

"Our club has pledged money to other worthy groups in the area due to the success of our tournament. We look forward to continuing our commitment of service to our community in the New Year."

Pictured (L to R): Bland Weaver (Tuckahoe Kiwanis president), Jeannine Panzera (Henrico CASA director), Kristen Blalock (CASA), Doug Tinder (Tuckahoe Kiwanis director)



KIWANIS CLUB ENCOURAGES FOLKS TO TAKE A “DIP” FOR WORTHY CAUSES

On February 10, the Kiwanis Club of Tysons hosted a polar dip to raise money for Reston-area organizations. Nearly 100 individuals jumped into the freezing waters of Lake Anne in Reston, VA to raise funds for worthy causes. "Serving Northern Virginia for over 25 years, the Kiwanis Club of Tysons is very excited and proud to bring back this popular Reston community event! With such wonderful beneficiaries, participants can feel warm on the inside – regardless of how cold the water is!" said Corey Jerome, Kiwanis Club of Tysons President.

The event, formerly the Virginia Polar Dip, had raised over \$1 million over the past 15 years. This year, the Kiwanis Polar Dip raised nearly \$25,000 for Food for Neighbors, Friends of Reston,

and a variety of Kiwanis Youth Programs in the Fairfax County area. A portion is also benefiting Camp Sunshine, a retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

"It has been a great experience partnering with these charities," said Kiwanis Polar Dip Chairperson Jeffrey Wolff. "Kiwanis is about serving children and improving communities, and our beneficiaries have similar missions. It's great to make that bigger impact working together."

Jumpers, supporters, and other spectators also enjoyed the Winter Market, graciously organized by the Lake Anne Washington Plaza Merchants Association. Area businesses also participated by forming teams and

holding events with a portion going to the Kiwanis Polar Dip.

Thank you to the Kiwanians from other clubs and Key Club members that jumped or donated to this special event. Sponsors of the Kiwanis Polar Dip included Northwest Federal Credit Union, Reston Community Center, Fairfax County Cold Water Dive Team, Goldfish Swim School - Reston, Kalypso's Sports Tavern, Quickspin Quick Planning, Photography by Scott Ripley, LuckyPenny Productions, Gold's Gym - Reston, and Reston Shirt & Graphic Co.

The next Kiwanis Polar Dip is set for February 8, 2025. Mark your calendars!



RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A DUES INCREASE

Hello Capital Kiwanians,

I have always been proud of the work done by Kiwanians in my home district. As a Kiwanis International trustee, I am learning more and more about the impact Kiwanis has on a global scale. Our members give hundreds of millions of service hours to communities around the world, enriching the lives of Kiwanians and their neighbors.

Kids need Kiwanis. That's why we must pass a dues increase this summer at the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver. This year's board of trustees has put forth an amendment to raise dues by US\$25. This would be the first increase since 2015 and the second increase in the last two decades. Can you name anything else that has kept the same price since 2015? Probably not.

While our dues have not increased, our expenses have gone up. As a member-driven, non-profit organization committed to serving children, our costs have surged significantly. Legal fees have skyrocketed by 400 percent over the past two decades, and IT expenditures have risen by 76 percent, primarily due to essential cybersecurity measures.

Due to global financial conditions, our financial reserves have fallen by more than 42 percent since 2021. Our revenue from dues continues to fall, and membership has not recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are at the point where growing our membership cannot make up for our financial shortfall. We are not alone. Rotary, Optimist and Lions have all recently voted to increase dues. Even with a dues increase, Kiwanis would remain one of the least expensive service organizations.

You might wonder why we simply don't cut costs. The board has worked with staff to control spending and reduce costs in every area possible, including travel and employee costs. Kiwanis spends less money now than it did in 2006 and has consistently done so for 15 years. In some years, as much as \$4 million less.

Staffing levels are down 12 percent — but because we haven't cut any services to clubs and members, staff workload is the same or higher. The staff and the organization have continued to do more with less, but we can't cut our way out of the current situation.

(Dennis Baugh, Capital District Governor in 2020-21, currently serves as a Kiwanis International trustee.)

If we don't pass a dues increase, Kiwanis International won't be able to offer as many services. That means fewer kids in few communities will have their lives changed for the better.

Kiwanis has been an agent for good for 109 years. Our own district has been changing lives since 1918. Think of all the fundraisers and service projects — the pancake breakfasts and BBQ stands. The fishing events and the projects that address food insecurity. The Kiwanis Day Care Center and Teenager of the Year recipients. The back-to-school supply drives and holiday outings. The more than 10,000 Key Club members here in the Capital District. Most of you have been involved in these types of projects — you can picture children's smiles and the gratitude on parents' and teachers' faces.

I hope each of you recognizes the importance of passing a dues increase. We need to build on our legacy and ensure that future generations of children can count on Kiwanis.

– Dennis Baugh

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

MAKING KCF GRANT FUND MORE EFFECTIVE

BY PG JOHN TYNER

At the Kiwanis Children's Fund, our mission is to develop resources that transform the goodwill and vision of Kiwanians into programs that serve the children of the world. Through the Kiwanis causes, members' service makes a difference in each phase of a young person's development. It's a continuum of impact. That's because the work Kiwanians do in each cause helps provide a head start on success in the next cause – ultimately creating leaders who then make the same impact on succeeding generations.

Whether they're getting ready to learn or getting ready to lead, kids need Kiwanis. A gift to the Kiwanis Children's Fund is one of the most effective ways to reach them – and to support these Kiwanis causes:

Health and nutrition. The Children's Fund provides grants to clubs, districts and global partners to provide healthy food to children around the world. From the prenatal stage to age 5, a child's brain grows at an astounding rate. But that development depends on access to key nutrients, including iodine.

Education and literacy. The Children's Fund provides grants to support club and district literacy and education projects. Worldwide, 250 million children lack basic literacy skills. In the U.S., 88 percent of students who fail to earn a high school diploma were struggling readers in third grade. When we help someone acquire literacy skills, we empower them with better opportunities.

Youth leadership development. The Children's Fund helps young people evolve into community leaders by supporting Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs (SLPs) with grants and scholarships. With access to leadership and volunteer opportunities, youth learn responsibility, self-discipline and respect.

Please remember that the Kiwanis Children's Fund strives to make sure that your gift as a Kiwanian and from clubs and foundations help children in many places and many ways. And we succeed by being committed to meeting and sustaining donors' confidence that the Children's

Fund will invest their contributions wisely and distribute funds through our Kiwanis Family grant programs. We strive to remain relevant and proactive in meeting donors' and grantees' needs, giving them the opportunity to leave a lasting mark on the world. Through the integrity of our actions, we seek to earn and maintain the trust of our Kiwanis family and constituents.

Kiwanis clubs and members change children's lives in their own communities and through international initiatives – helping young people develop mentally, physically and emotionally. Every year, Kiwanis members stage more than 241,000 service projects and raise nearly US\$340 million for children, families and communities around the world. Kiwanis club projects are based on the community's needs – we build playgrounds, purchase medical equipment, stuff backpacks with school supplies, restock libraries and much more. The average Kiwanian makes an impact on the lives of 206 children.

Today, the Kiwanis Children's Fund turns your generosity into projects that reach children all over the world. Kiwanis members, clubs, and districts have entrusted us with millions of dollars' worth of assets. These assets provide the financial support needed for Kiwanians to serve children, from the United States to Ghana to Taiwan, and many places in between. Our main vehicle for impact is through Kiwanis club grants and scholarships. In fact, our new microgrant program has reached children on every continent where there is a Kiwanis club, including countries like Romania and the Philippines.

There are more than 6,700 Kiwanis clubs around the world, but not every club has the resources they need to effectively reach the kids in their community. And there are so many types of needs in every community. That is where the Kiwanis Children's Fund steps in.

When Kiwanians like you give to the Kiwanis Children's Fund, your donations are pulled together with thousands of others. These funds are then strategically invested in Kiwanis service projects where money is needed most, where kids need us most. Imagine being able to support projects in your backyard AND across the world. Think of the Children's Fund as a way to support the global Kiwanis network, which ultimately helps kids not just in one community but around the world.

As I mentioned in our December magazine, following my regular intention, here are a couple more examples of matching grants made to our Kiwanis Clubs for their successful projects:

After the conclusion of the Eliminate project in 2020, Kiwanis board members and staff worked together to realign our vision for our Kiwanis family. What does that mean? For the first time, our focus has turned inward to help our Kiwanis family serve more kids in more corners of the world. We know that it takes \$2.25 to positively impact the life of one child. We accomplish this by providing grants to service projects that align with the key cause areas along the continuum of impact.

You or your club can do this today by making a donation to the Children’s Fund. Just \$2.25 can positively impact the life of one child. I encourage you and your club to consider a gift of \$225 to impact the lives of 100 kids today. You and your club can make a financial commitment to the Children’s Fund through an annual pledge, by honoring a member through a fellowship, or by participating in our annual Kiwanis Day of Giving.

But it’s not ONLY about fundraising. Share the continuum of impact! Our stories are impactful and remind Kiwanians about the global reach of our Kiwanis family. Be sure to Share the Word about the great successes we make through our Kiwanis Family efforts.

Hey, you can also get involved by joining me as a volunteer! We are always looking for Kiwanis leaders who are excited about sharing the work of Kiwanis and the Possibility Project soon-to-be- unveiled at the Denver International Convention. Know that, together, as we raise both awareness and funds for the Kiwanis mission, we can reach more kids in more corners of the world. We thank you for being advocates for kids and champions for the community.

Remind others that Kiwanis has a global reach, and we can support other Kiwanis clubs in our district and around the world. Thank you for reading these articles in each issue. If you have any questions, you can contact me at tyner@taliesan.com. I am happy to help! Hope to see you at Midyear in WV.

(Past Capital District Governor John Tyner currently serves as district chair for the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.)



Club Kiwanis Corabia (Romania) – “AdventureCAMP”

This past August, the club partnered with two other clubs to host a five-day mountain camp for Key Club members. During the camp, students participated in activities that encouraged strategic thinking, courage, responsibility, overcoming fears, and reaching their true potential. A KCF microgrant was used to purchase workshop materials, office supplies, and food for the campers.



Kiwanis Bachten de kupe La Joconde (Belgium-Luxembourg) – “Foodsaver”

The club works with other local agencies to prepare food parcels with donated food from farms and other industries. They are currently able to serve 1,000 children a year, but the need is increasing. To meet the demand, the club wishes to purchase a larger refrigerator which would allow them to serve an additional 1,000 children. The club has secured 85 percent of the funding needed to purchase the refrigerator and needs help securing the remaining funding. A KCF microgrant supported the purchase of a refrigerator that will help serve food to 2,000 children a year.

Eye on KI

Recent news distributed by Kiwanis International

DON'T MISS NEXT SESSION OF AMPLIFY

The next session of [Kiwanis Amplify](#) is right around the corner. Graduates who were previously in your position said the course was invaluable in their preparation to take on that next step in Kiwanis leadership.

Kiwanis Amplify is conducted online — on your schedule. In the program, you will:

- **Explore** the value of servant leadership.
- **Discover** personal strengths in order to lead confidently and successfully.
- **Strengthen** the ability to lead in a strategic manner.
- **Build** and manage a successful strategic plan.
- **Learn** from experts and peers from across the globe.
- **Earn** a certification of completion.

Experts in their fields will do a deep dive into eight leadership topics:

1. The qualities of a good leader.
2. Methods of communication.
3. Planning engaging events.
4. Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion throughout a team.
5. Working with others.
6. Sharing a message.
7. Strategic planning.
8. Self-care.

The program will launch in April. The course concludes with an optional capstone experience at the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, Colorado. Kiwanis Amplify registration is open from now until April 1. The participation fee has been reduced to just US\$50 for members of Kiwanis International. The fee is \$600 for non-members.

If you still have questions, please let us know. We would love to have you be a part of the next Kiwanis Amplify class so you can begin living your leadership out loud.

-Lynsy Karrick, Director of Leadership Development



ICON REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Come to Denver, Colorado, U.S., for the [2024 Kiwanis International Convention](#). Embark on an extraordinary journey where you will discover ways to expand your club's membership and magnify its influence on your community. Delve into innovative fundraising concepts and learn how to transform service projects in ways you never thought possible — all while enjoying time with fellow Kiwanians and CKI members. Join us July 3-6 for the most exciting and educational Kiwanis event of the year!

Register early for the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention to get the best price! Early Registration could also result in access to our special event: The first 1,000 people to register for the full convention package will receive a free ticket to the July 4 Colorado Rockies Major League Baseball game at Coors Field. (One ticket per registration. Note: Transportation to or from the game will not be provided.)

PACKAGE OPTIONS

All prices are in U.S. dollars

Full Convention Package

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, July 4-6

Registration includes keynote speakers, Kiwanis Launchpad, education sessions and the Kiwanis Annual Meeting. You are also welcome to attend the welcome reception on Wednesday, July 3, for no extra charge. (The Inaugural Membership Fair also will take place during the welcome reception.) Lunch on Thursday and Friday is included with your registration.

Regular registration: January-May 31 — US\$399

Late registration: June 1-20 — US\$499

On-site registration: After June 20 — US\$599

Nonmember guests: US\$199/\$299/\$399

Under 18 years of age: US\$109

Annual meeting only

Saturday, July 6

Attend the 2024 Kiwanis Annual Meeting. This Saturday-only ticket gives you access to the proceedings of the Kiwanis House of Delegates and the business meeting.

Regular registration: January-May 31 — US\$199

Late registration: June 1-20 — US\$299

On-site registration: After June 20 — US\$399

SPECIAL EVENTS

Inaugural Membership Fair

Wednesday, July 3

Looking for innovative recruiting inspiration? Pick up tips from clubs that have been recognized for their growth efforts by using Two For Two, club boosts, open houses, guest days or their own specialized membership drives. Each club will share a “how to” with others who visit with them during the opening reception. Included with 3-day registration.

Tour a Landscape Structures Playground

Wednesday, July 3

Bring your play clothes and take a field trip with Landscape Structures to an amazing playground near Denver. Sign up through your confirmation email for one of 50 spots. Transportation and lunch are provided.

Build a Little Free Library

Thursday, July 4

Sign up for one of 25 spots to help build Little Free Libraries as gifts for communities in the host Rocky Mountain District. Sign-up is available in your confirmation email. No tools or experience necessary. (Also available Friday)

Colorado Rockies baseball game

Thursday, July 4

The first 1,000 people to register for the full convention package will receive a free ticket to the July 4 Colorado Rockies Major League Baseball game at Coors Field. (One ticket per registration. Note: Transportation to or from the game will not be provided.)

TICKETED ADD-ONS

Signature Project Breakfast

Thursday, July 4

Celebrate the best of the best Kiwanis club signature projects. The top 10 finalists in each group will be recognized — and then the bronze, silver and gold awards for each will be announced. **US\$40**

Kiwanis SLP Showcase of Service Luncheon

Friday, July 5

Join us for a dose of inspiration as we celebrate our Service Leadership Programs: K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club International, Circle K International and Aktion Club. Find out how you and your club can support these dedicated Kiwanis family members who are serving their communities and making a global impact. **US\$35**

Discover What is Possible: A Celebration of Kiwanis Children's Fund

Saturday, July 6

The Kiwanis Children's Fund breakfast will serve as the launch of our first-ever fundraiser solely supporting the Kiwanis family and the children we serve. Hear from a distinguished speaker, honor special Kiwanians for their support and dedication, and discover how we can impact 10 million children globally. **US\$50**

Kiwanis Dancing Through the Decades Gala

Saturday, July 6

Make sure to pack an outfit that reflects your favorite decade! Whether its go-go boots or platform heels, you'll want to wear your dancing shoes to the closing-night gala featuring Your Generation in Concert. This eight-piece band performs songs from five generations of pop, rock, dance and R&B hits. The ticket includes dinner. **US\$80.**

CONVENTION ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Cancellation and refund policy

Registration cancellations must be emailed to convention@kiwanis.org and must be received no later than 3 p.m. ET on June 24, 2024. Cancellations will be refunded the amount paid, less a US\$50 processing fee. Refunds will be issued within 2 weeks of receiving notification. No refunds will be issued for requests made after June 24.

This cancellation notice applies to attendee registration only and does not apply to any hotel or tour reservations. Hotel and tour reservations must be canceled separately. Requests to transfer registration to another Kiwanian must be sent in writing by both parties to convention@kiwanis.org before June 24, 2024.

Anyone who has purchased a registration or event ticket and does not attend will NOT receive a refund.

Partnerships Build *play*

Working in partnership with Kiwanis to mobilize philanthropic dollars for play and fitness spaces.

