

*The Capital*

April/May 2024

# KIWANIAN

The Official Publication of Capital District Kiwanis | [www.capitaldistrictkiwanis.org](http://www.capitaldistrictkiwanis.org)

**Club Succession  
Planning**

**2022-23  
Recognition**

**MEMBERS MEET IN WV  
FOR F.U.N. AT MIDYEAR '24**



**Kiwanis**

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*COVER:* District Trustee Nathaniel Kyle has a good laugh with Past Governors Brian Bell and Linwood Watson







Attendees at the Midyear Conference enjoyed a service project on Sunday, packing goody bags for kids at F.O.L.K.



## 2023-24 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

### GOVERNOR

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Charlottesville, VA

### GOVERNOR-ELECT

Josh Hiscock  
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### VICE GOVERNOR

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Wolff  
Tysons, VA

### IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

Jennifer Wolff  
Tysons, VA

### TRUSTEE - BLUE RIDGE

Roger Diehl  
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### TRUSTEE - DELMARVA

Charles Marks  
Bridgeville, DE

### TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

Jamie Moore  
Chester, VA

### TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

Marie Bowe-Quick  
Mitchellville, MD

### TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

Richard Pippin  
Chesapeake, VA

### TRUSTEE - SOUTHWEST

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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



## USING YOUR SUPER POWER NEVER FEELS LIKE WORK

Happy Spring Capital Kiwanians,

It is hard to believe that our Kiwanis year is more than half way done. I am so encouraged by the way the clubs in Capital are meeting the Challenge of having F.U.N. this year. We are Focusing on our mission. We are working to Understand one another. And we are Nurturing Growth. These simple goals are allowing us to move forward and do amazing things and make a more effective difference for the kids of our communities. We are doing the work and it is so exciting.

I firmly believe that we must choose to make our world better. Change does not happen by chance. Members must be inspired and understand why the change is needed. I believe change is an always-needed thing.

We must honor and stand on the hard work of others, but understand that younger members desire a slightly different Kiwanis, in a different package. Having been a teacher, organization leader and now the Governor of the Capital District, I have learned the best way to inspire F.U.N is to inspire others and show them their strengths/gifts (aka, Super Powers).

What is your Super Power? The back of my Kiwanis business card says, Kiwanis is my Super Power. For me, I believe my Super Power is relationship-building. People don't join Kiwanis, People Join People. For me, Kiwanis is a powerful tool to make new friendships, do great service and make an impact on children's lives. Relationships are what makes the world go around. People caring about others, people partnering with others, people using their super powers to change the world.



If you could have any Super Power, what would it be? Invisibility? Super Strength? Ultimate Bravery? Unlimited Problem-Solving Skills? All of us have a gift. We have a resource that can help others. Do you regularly use your natural talents to benefit your Kiwanis club? Not everyone is the social butterfly who is comfortable recruiting tons of new members, but everyone can recruit at least one new member a year.

Some members have a gift in understanding technology; they can maintain your club's website, or design flyers for events. Some are builders, bakers, cooks, crafters and can make things for others. There are so many gifts that are needed to make Kiwanis work.

Every member needs to use their Super Power for Good! Do you currently have a role that you are serving in your club that is making the best of your Super Power? If the answer is no and you are not currently using your gift, MAKE IT HAPPEN! Go to your club leadership and ask to serve in the role you desire.

For most people using their gifts comes easily. I love to do puzzles and finding how two people can connect or finding a way to solve a problem comes naturally to me. I think that is why folks often come to me to help connect the dots, so to speak. Once you are using your gifts/Super Powers, it never feels like work, it feels FUN.

I encourage each of you to find your Super Power, Put it to use and have lots of F.U.N. doing it.

As always, all of you collectively inspire me daily for your love of changing the world for the kids.

Yours In Kiwanis Service,



C. Eric Lamb



# 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





# Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

## 'EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES' AT DENVER ICON

**Spring is here and we are in full bloom with District Events! March saw our first Midyear Conference in West Virginia and the annual Key Club District Convention was held in April so now we turn our attention to our 2024-25 Leadership Team Educational Conference in May and the Kiwanis International Convention in July.**

From July 3-6, we will be in Denver to Explore the Possibilities at the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention. This is the 100th anniversary of the Objects of the Kiwanis and we will be celebrating in style.

Registration is open now; through May 31 the Full Convention Package cost is \$399. Registration includes Wednesday Welcome Reception, keynote speakers, Kiwanis Launchpad, education sessions, Lunch on Thursday and Friday and the Kiwanis Annual Meeting. That rate goes up to \$499 if you register June 1-20 and \$599 if you register on-site. The first 1,000 registrations get a free ticket to the July 4 Colorado Rockies vs Milwaukee Brewers game on Thursday evening with fireworks.

This year, the Capital District delegation will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center, so your accommodations are attached to the event location. Rooms are available at a negotiated rate of \$174/night by visiting [hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DENCC/G-07KI](https://hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DENCC/G-07KI). Our goal this year is to bring 85 attendees, so register today at [schedule.kiwanisone.org/KI2024](https://schedule.kiwanisone.org/KI2024)

Our District Dinner will take place Friday, July 5 from 6-9 p.m. in conjunction with the Florida, Missouri-Arkansas and New England Bermuda Districts. The event will be a private buyout of the Fortissimo Dueling Piano Bar (a five-minute walk from the Hyatt Regency Denver) with piano entertainment and a Denver-style Street Taco Buffet dinner. The cost is \$73 per person and this will sell out as we only have 150 spots for all 4 districts. Visit

[capitalkiwanis.org/2024-icon-district-dinner](https://capitalkiwanis.org/2024-icon-district-dinner) to purchase your tickets today before they are gone.

We will once again be selling our District Polo shirt (red with the American flag on the shoulder) for all our ICON attendees to wear this year at the Business Session. If you don't already own one, visit [capitalkiwanis.org/district-shirt](https://capitalkiwanis.org/district-shirt) and place your order by June 5 for pickup at ICON. If you want one of the shirts and are not attending ICON, you can still order them and they will be brought to the District Convention in August.

There are a number of amendments this year including several on the dues increase, changes to the tier structure and our district's submission of remote voting. Make sure that your club elects its delegates to the International Convention and that the club secretary inputs that information in the Secretary's Dashboard.

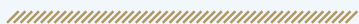
Springtime also means club elections. Your club should be holding its Annual Meeting and electing its 2024-25 Board of Directors who will take office Oct. 1. We are in the process of putting together the Club Leadership Education (CLE) sessions that will be available across the district to train incoming club presidents, secretaries, treasurers and membership chairpersons. The information will be made available on the district website on the page entitled [capitalkiwanis.org/club-leadership-education](https://capitalkiwanis.org/club-leadership-education).

If you are an incoming officer, make sure you register to attend the CLE in your area, so that you are ready for your role and your club can earn distinguished status next year, as it's a requirement that the president and secretary (even if you have served in those roles before) take the CLE.

If you have any questions about the International Convention, please let me know. For more information about the CLE, you can contact Leadership Development and Education Chairperson Samantha Bosserman.

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

# From the Governor-Elect



BY JOSH HISCOCK

## INSPIRATION SURROUNDS US

### If you need a little inspiration to reinvigorate your love for Kiwanis, all you need to do is look around.

In April, members of the Capital District of Key Club gathered for their annual District Convention in Crystal City, Virginia. Hundreds of student leaders came together to attend educational workshops, network, share service project ideas, celebrate the conclusion of another service year, recognize achievements, and elect their new district executive officers. Most importantly, they came together as a community to have fun.

I had the pleasure of attending this event, as I have done for the past 14 years. I always leave inspired by the courage and tenacity our students exhibit. When students see a need in their school or community, they address it head-on with energy and passion. When they face challenges in planning service projects, they overcome the obstacles through creative collaboration. When they succeed and achieve important milestones, they celebrate and recognize their accomplishments – big or small. Our Key Club student leaders, like all our service leadership program (SLP) club leaders, are an inspiration and a reminder of why we do the work we do for the children in our community and our world.

When we need a little inspiration to refuel our motivation and desire to serve, we must turn to examples like this. May these examples encourage us to rise to the occasion to be an inspiration for others.

In the months ahead, we will also have the opportunity as Kiwanians to come together as a community to learn, engage, and lead. Please consider attending the Kiwanis International Convention in Denver July 3-6. We will elect our new international leaders there and consider many important amendments that will make an impact upon the future of Kiwanis. Registration is open now, so do not delay in signing up.

From Aug. 23-25, we will gather in Portsmouth, Virginia for our Capital District Kiwanis Convention. This event will be a highlight of the summer and promises to be memorable. There is a strong lineup of speakers and educational sessions planned, as well as numerous opportunities to gather for fun, service, and networking. Registration will open in early June, so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Come together to serve, celebrate, learn, and engage in the months ahead. Use these opportunities to rediscover your love for Kiwanis and serving children in your community!

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



# From the Vice Governor



BY TIM GILLETTE

## EMBRACING CHANGE CAN RESULT IN GREAT THINGS

What a busy past couple of months we've had in the Capital District! In February, I had the pleasure of attending the CKI District Convention hosted by George Mason University. I was honored to be the keynote speaker, where I shared my Kiwanis story and encouraged the students to do the same.

In March, the District hosted its first event in the state of West Virginia at the Wild and Wonderful Midyear Conference. Kiwanians from across the district engaged in fellowship and education, had the opportunity to listen to inspirational speakers, and enjoyed a beautiful resort nestled in the mountains of West Virginia. Congratulations to Committee Chair Dave Laraba, the Beckley Club, and the Midyear Planning committee for a successful event.

Now, we move forward to April, and to quote the great New Jersey poet Jon Bon Jovi, "Whoa, we're half way there." April 1 marked the midpoint of our Kiwanis year. It's been said that the first half of the Kiwanis year feels like an eternity, and the second half of the year feels like an instant. Over the next six months, we still have plenty to do.

At this point in the year, Kiwanis clubs should be holding their annual meetings and electing their officers for the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. This is important, because we want all incoming presidents and secretaries to attend Club Leadership Education conferences (CLEs) in the coming months. At these conferences, the new leaders will learn more about their roles from Certified Instructors provided by the District. If you are an incoming president or secretary, I highly encourage you to make the time to attend this event. The schedule is on page 10.

Divisions should also be holding elections to elect their Lt. Governor and Lt. Governor-Elect for the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. The Lt. Governors elected have, in some instances, been serving as Lt. Governor-Elect during this Kiwanis year. Members that are elected Lt. Governor-Elect now will serve as Lt. Governor during the 2025-2026 Kiwanis year, my term as Governor. If anyone has any questions about the position, please feel free to contact me at [tgillette1981@yahoo.com](mailto:tgillette1981@yahoo.com) and I am happy

to answer any questions. This month, the 2024-2025 District Officers who will serve under Josh Hiscock, will participate in District Leadership Training in Ocean City, MD. I'm looking forward to spending the weekend with our new District Leadership Team!

I'd like to close with a story. Recently, my seven-year-old daughter, Natalie, decided to make a change. She has had long hair for as long as she's been able to grow it, and she decided she wanted to cut it short. When asked what she would do if she didn't like her new hairstyle, she said, "It's just hair and if I don't like it, it'll grow back."

The point I'm making is this: over the next six months, try to embrace change. We live in an evolving world that's moving fast. If we don't try new things, we won't attract members in a changing world. Without these extra hands for service, we can't serve as many kids, and as we all know... Kids Need Kiwanis!

Shakira's song *Try Everything* teaches us...

"Birds don't just fly, they fall down and get up. Nobody learns without getting it wrong..... I want to try everything, I want to try even though I could fail."

Let's fly, fall down, get up, and try. When we embrace challenges, we can do great things, and we can do it together!

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](mailto:editor@capitalkiwanis.org)

## Williamsburg's French honored

Congratulations to longtime Williamsburg Kiwanian Tom French who was honored at the CKI District Convention held in Fairfax, VA at the end of February as Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor. Tom has worked with the William & Mary CKI club for the past 20 years. William & Mary won a total of five awards at the convention.

## Ocean Pines supports CCSS

Cedar Chapel Special School, located in Snow Hill, MD, is a public separate day school serving students from the ages of 3-21 with the most significant intellectual disabilities combined with medically fragile conditions who live in Worcester County.

On April 10, CCSS Principal Belinda Gulyas and Sarah Michniak visited the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City to present an overview of Augmentative and Assistive Communications that allow students with significant impairments bridge the classroom gaps. Pictured (L-R) are Michniak, Kiwanis Club President-Elect Candy Foreman and Gulyas for the presentation of a \$1,500 Kiwanis donation to CCSS.



## Honeymoon provides dividends half-century later

When Winchester Kiwanian Doug Butler and his then-new bride, Linda, spent their honeymoon in Honolulu 47 years ago, little did they know their experience would be helping Kiwanis a half-century later. But that's the way it worked out.

The Butlers attended a meeting of Honolulu Kiwanis and observed "the yellow marble game," a raffle of sorts, where members bought tickets, the guest speaker conducted the drawing, and when a yellow marble was selected from the bag mostly loaded with blue marbles, the member got a portion of the pot.

Following his return, Doug sold his own club on the idea of trying it in Winchester. The game continues to be an effective fundraiser all these years later – particularly for the club's administrative budget, where most of the money goes.

Details, including the game's rules, can be found in the April issue of Winchester newsletter, available on the club's website, [winvakiw.org](http://winvakiw.org).

## Bethesda Kiwanis supports Miracle League opening

A blustery and cold Saturday morning didn't keep players and volunteers away from a successful kick-off to the Miracle League's Spring Season, followed by a mild and sunny Sunday game, also well-attended. The League had significant "Buddy" assistance both days—the Poolesville Softball Team on Saturday, and the Walter Johnson Junior Varsity Baseball Team on Sunday. They were enthusiastic and quick learners in assisting our players. The Nationals' Team-Up uniforms were a big hit also for all four playing teams.

In total 28 players joined over the weekend (10 Sat, 18 Sun), with 34 buddies and 18 volunteers. Approximately one-third of the players and volunteers each day are new to Miracle League. Jason Beckwith from the Washington Nationals joined us for most of the Saturday game and brought along some free tickets for Sunday's Nats game. Representatives of the Jack Langerman Community Foundation, a Miracle League supporter, also joined us on Saturday. We are pleased that one of the Buddies, Seth Bernstein, is doing his Bar Mitzvah community service with Miracle League for the Spring season. While we occasionally experienced mildly chaotic conditions inherent to Opening Day, the players (and their parents), as well as our volunteers, seemed very pleased with their day's experiences and will be back.

## Thatcher publishes sci-fi novel

Seth Thatcher, from the Kiwanis Club of Old Town, recently published his debut novel, "Zendra of the Periphery." Weighing in at 363 pages, the work is available on Kindle from Amazon. Seth ultimately intends to publish paper copies.

A lifelong science fiction fan whose favorite authors include Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke, Seth is directing his work toward young adults. He clearly has taken the Kiwanis mission of "Serving the Children of the World" seriously.

The novel has been described as a trans-galactic soap opera geared for ages 14-18 that incorporates hard science into an adventurous plot.



## WHO'S NEXT? SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR YOUR CLUB

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

**It is that time of year when clubs are activating their nominating committees and voting on new leaders. Sometimes it can be a struggle to tap members to step into leadership positions for the first time or recruit a past officer who is willing to serve again. Much of the sustainability of a club relies on its ability to properly plan for the succession of its leaders.**

Succession planning is a process that involves identifying and developing club members who may be interested in a leadership role in the future. The transition of leadership may not be top-of-mind for current leaders, especially when you are working through fundraising, service projects, and other day-to-day work of the club. However, it is an integral part of ensuring the club's success.

A primary benefit of succession planning for Kiwanis Clubs is continuity. As with any organization, leadership changes will happen. Whether due to retirement, relocation or other reasons, leaders within the club will eventually step down from their positions. Without an intentional succession plan in place, the transition to new leadership can be a challenge.

One way to be intentional in your succession planning is to develop a mentorship program. Often, we think of mentor programs strictly for new members. However, clubs can benefit from a mentor program within its leadership as well.

Be sure to assign any new board members a mentor. The mentor could be someone who has served on the board for many years, or even a past president. This step will also provide a new board member the opportunity to ask procedural questions or to bounce ideas off of someone if they don't yet feel comfortable doing that in front of the full board.

Clubs can also create an internal leadership training session. Think of this as Part II of your new member orientation. The program can go into greater detail of the work of the board, the leadership opportunities and committee chair opportunities within the club, and even allow discussion regarding division and district leadership opportunities.

A great way to help supplement a local training program is by registering prospective leaders in the Kiwanis

Amplify Program. (Registration for 2024 Kiwanis Amplify has closed, but be on the lookout for more information in early 2025.) Allowing prospective club leaders to learn more about what is entailed in a club leadership position may provide them with a greater understanding of the position and spark curiosity to serve.

It is also important to share with future leaders that leadership in Kiwanis is helpful in their real lives, too! Kiwanis looks great on a resume and can help build confidence and skills that can transfer toward career development.

As current club leaders begin to look for successors, it is important to identify attributes and qualities needed in leadership positions. Determine which positions may be vacant soon and begin discussing these opportunities with potential leaders.



It is important to cross-train current leaders in certain positions. For example, there should always be at least two people in the club who know how to submit secretary reports, deposit club checks, send an email to the membership, etc. An excellent step to train and encourage new leaders is to utilize the assistant secretary and assistant treasurer positions. This will also ensure that your club does not get into a situation where the only person who knows how to complete a certain task is no longer in the club for whatever reason.

Be intentional about succession planning. Talk about who will replace you in your position, whether it be club president, club secretary or even the person who puts out the flags and banners at your meeting. Every position is important and structures should be in place to ensure that the club continues its successes as its leaders shift and move on.

It is also the time of year when we talk about [Club Leadership Education trainings](#). These local trainings held across the Capital District are the ideal opportunity to bring new and prospective leaders in to learn more about officer positions. (See additional information about the 2024 CLE Trainings in the accompanying grid.)

The [Kiwaniis Leadership Guide](#) has a lot of great information included for not only President, Secretary and Treasurer, but for the Membership Chair as well. If you find that someone is interested in learning more about Kiwanis leadership, encourage them to join you at an upcoming CLE or attend the District Convention in August in Portsmouth. Training should be an integral part of your succession planning process.

Succession planning is essential for the long-term stability of a Kiwanis Club. If you do not have a succession plan in place, take some time to create one

at an upcoming meeting. Brainstorm ideas at your board meetings and explore training opportunities for new and prospective leaders. The children are counting on you to continue the amazing work and create a legacy of Kiwanis in your community.

*(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](mailto:editor@capitalkiwanis.org) and you may see the question – and Sam’s best answer – featured in a future article.)*

Divisions	Date	Time	Location
1 & 3	Saturday, June 8, 2024	12:00-4pm	Leisure World
2	Saturday, June 1, 2024	9am-1pm	Chantilly Library
4 & 6	Saturday, June 8, 2024	9am-12pm	Howard Community College
8	Saturday, June 15, 2024	10:00am-2:00pm	Bowman Library, Stephens City
9 & 10	Saturday, May 18, 2024	10:15am – 3:30pm	Glen Allen Library
12, 13, & 14	Saturday, July 20, 2024	TBD	Main Street Library, Newport News
15, 16, & 17	Monday, June 10, 2024	5:00-8:00pm	Dickenson Center, Clintwood
18 & 19	Saturday, July 20, 2024	9:30am – 1pm	Marion County Library, Fairmont
20	Saturday, June 8, 2024	9:30am – 1pm	Wehrle Scout Council, East Charleston



# Membership Momentum

## WHY OPEN A NEW CLUB?

BY PG JOHN MORRIS

**My club is a large club and we do great work in our community. We are proud of the difference we make. We do outstanding work in several inner-city elementary schools in our city. We sponsor several key clubs. We pack backpacks for children who have no food over weekends. We support our local children's hospital several ways. We install little free libraries in areas where most children have no access to books.**

But are there other needs in our community that we are not meeting? Of course there are. There are other inner-city schools that we do not reach. That means there are many similarly situated students that are not getting the benefit of Kiwanis. We can say the same thing about our other service projects.

Undoubtedly, you can say the same thing about the wonderful service you and your respective clubs are providing to the children in your area. You do great work, but you cannot possibly be meeting all needs in your community, much less in surrounding communities. Whether it is serving more schools, feeding more children, or providing more playground equipment, there are always needs that our clubs cannot meet.

Is there something wrong with our failure to meet all the needs of all the children? Of course not. No one organization can meet all needs. Not even the government can meet all of the needs of all of the people.

Strengthening our clubs by recruiting more members certainly helps give our clubs more hands for service and to help more children. However, that does not necessarily result in starting new worthwhile projects or reaching children in other areas.

There is something we can do to come closer to meeting the needs of children in our area: we can open new clubs in or near our community as well as in communities elsewhere in the Capital District. Opening a new club gets the services Kiwanis clubs provide into more communities or into more parts of the communities where we currently have clubs.

New clubs start their own projects. They reflect the interests of their new members and tend to start projects not being done by existing clubs in their area. And of course, many new clubs are opened in different areas and serve children and communities not currently served at all by Kiwanis.

Think of opening a new club as a service project. What could be more valuable than bringing more services to your community, to a nearby community or to a community that your club could not possibly reach? By helping open a new club, your members are participating in a very special service project: expanding the reach of Kiwanis and helping children and communities that are not presently getting the benefits of Kiwanis.

Your club can help open a new club several ways. If asked to be a sponsoring club for a new club, say yes. It is exciting to help a fledgling club learn how to serve the children of their community. Help them learn how to organize their own service projects and fundraising efforts. Show them the resources available from Kiwanis International and the Capital District. Help their leaders learn how to lead effectively.

If a club is being organized nearby, encourage your members to become involved in the recruiting process. Not only will that help expand the reach of Kiwanis to more children and their communities, it will help train your members on effective ways to recruit and to overcome any anxiety about asking strangers to join your own club. By helping the opening of a new club, you can revitalize your own club and its members.

Rather than thinking of a new club as robbing your club of potential new members, think of it as a service project that enables your members to bring the benefit of Kiwanis to a new part of your community or to a new community. Take part in the recruiting process, treating it as an interclub. It is a great way to expand your outreach. It is a wonderful feeling to help bring Kiwanis to an area or community that is not now being served by Kiwanis.

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





**Kiwaniis**  
MANASSAS-BATTLEFIELD

Join Fellow Kiwanians & Guests!

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**3pm -7pm**

**Registration Required**

***\$50 prepaid***

***\$55 at the door***

**WE'RE 100 YRS OLD!**

*Manassas Battlefield  
Kiwaniis*

***Steak Fry***

**&**

***Capital District  
Division 2 Social***

**Location:**

*The Inn At Vint Hill*

*420 Aiken Drive*

*Warrenton, VA 20187*

*www.theinnatvinthill.com*

**Menu:**

- *FREE Open Light Bar (beer & wine)*
- *Cash Bar for Spirits*
- *NY Strip Steak off the Grill OR*
- *Grilled Chicken Breast*
- *Baked Potato with Condiments*
- *House Salad with Dressings*
- *Rolls & Butter*
- *Dessert*

**Our Service Project:**

***Please Bring Back-to-School  
Supplies for Kids in Need!***

***Door Prizes!  
50/50 Cash Drawing!***

***Reservations Deadline: May 14th***

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS (Deadline May 14th)**

Contact Terri Flight to sign up

Cell: 703-393-1345 Email: [terriflight@outlook.com](mailto:terriflight@outlook.com)

**TWO WAYS TO PAY!** 1) Use your Paypal account. Send to: @BattlefieldKiwaniis

*If using PayPal, email/text Terri Flight with your name, club & meal selection.*

**OR** 2) Send check w/name, club & meal selection to: Manassas Battlefield Kiwanis  
c/o Harry Horning 8721 Plantation Lane #201 Manassas, VA 20110



# WILD, WONDERFUL WEEKEND WEARS WELL

BY JOHN A. MONTGOMERY

By the end of the weekend, most people in the audience knew where this rhythmic lilt was headed when the clipped cadence started:

*"It's the Northern most of the Southern states, the Southern most of the Northern states, the Western most of the Eastern states, the Eastern most of the Western states...."*

Kiwanis Capital District Midyear Conference Chairperson and proud Beckley Kiwanian Dave Laraba was of course describing his "Wild, Wonderful" West Virginia. At the conclusion of the three-day Midyear Conference held at The Resort at Glade Springs May 8-10, there were few places the approximately 150 attendees would rather be.

As part of the host committee, Dave wanted to show off his home, and the tour received rave reviews.

Could the organizers have asked for anything more?

*Mission accomplished!*

In the three years since the West Virginia District of Kiwanis International merged with Capital, there have been many steps taken to ensure as seamless of a transition as possible. But this particular

experience may have been the most effective measure to date.

A weekend of education and entertainment nestled in a classy but bucolic setting, surrounded by nature and solitude, provided an ideal backdrop for an inspirational experience. It didn't hurt one bit that the cool, damp weather enhanced the attraction of inside activities, either.

The coordinates of our location may have read Daniels, WV, but if you hadn't been there before, you probably needed GPS or some sort of detailed map to find it.

Many who were there can't wait to return, however.

"We could certainly lace up our hiking boots and set out on the wild and wonderful trails that surround us here at Glade Springs," Dave wrote as part of his Page 5 greetings inside the event's program. "But we could also just roll up our sleeves and do what we do best – serve kids. I hope you will join us on that adventure."

As attendees rolled into the resort on Friday, some destined for board and/or committee meetings, others to learn the lay of the land, Kiwanians and their guests readied for the Friday night social: bowling and a

dinner buffet. The resort's eight-lane alley with a spectator deck provided an accommodating setting to meet and mingle.

For those conference-goers not staying in the main facility, locating accommodations throughout the property required a little first-time assistance. But the spacious rooms and comfortable amenities more than made up for that challenge.

Saturday's meals include programs featuring formal speakers -- at breakfast we heard from Mary Beckley, director of the Beckley United Methodist Temple F.O.L.K. program, an acronym standing for Feed Our Local Kids.

At lunch, Immediate Past Governor Jen Wolff presented achievement awards to last year's outstanding club and individual leaders. Jen herself was recently recognized as a 2022-2023 Kiwanis International Distinguished Governor, a particularly select level of achievement.

Concurrent educational workshops were offered in four different time slots on Saturday, providing Kiwanians the opportunity to tailor a track that best suited their particular interests. In line with the WV theme, each session was headlined "Wild About..." with



the respective topics ranging from “Alternative Club Models” to “New Ways to Serve” to “Leadership” to “Creating Visibility for Your Club.”

All of the 16 sessions drew good crowds, with participation generally ranging from 20-50 Kiwanians.

Following a performance of the New River Youth Symphony, which drew a standing ovation, Saturday night’s banquet allowed for remarks from Key Club District Governor Erina Haque and CKI District Governor Nazira Djor, both concluding their respective terms this spring.

The evening’s entertainment featured an extended soliloquy from actress Karen Vuranch as “Mary Draper Ingles.”

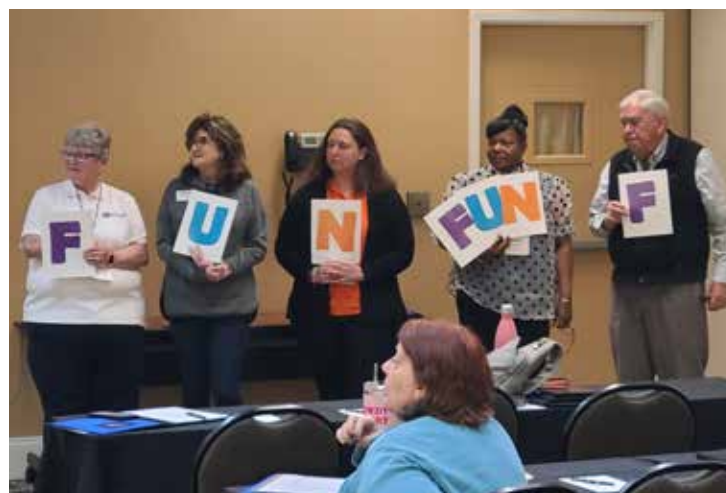
Ingles was captured by Shawnee Indians in 1755 near her home close to Radford, VA, and taken to a Shawnee settlement near what is now Portsmouth, OH. After living in captivity for several months, Mary escaped and walked nearly 800 miles to freedom. In full costume, Karen/ Mary discussed her travails with the captivated audience.

Sunday’s breakfast was led by keynote speaker Sara Schlitz-Britt, Director of Foundations at Marshall Health Network Foundations, based in Huntington.

The weekend was capped by a service project where conference-goers packed meals for F.O.L.K., providing weekend food for children who might not otherwise have much to eat before returning to school on Monday. In addition to the meals, Kiwanians contributed \$777.77 during various freewill offerings over the weekend, according to Past Governor David Lurie, who now serves as treasurer of the Capital District Foundation.

By all measures, the weekend was indeed Wild and Wonderful and showed West Virginia in all its grandeur.

*(John A. Montgomery is editor of the Capital Kiwanian.)*



# 2022-23 MEMBERS, CLUBS, AND DIVISIONS RECOGNIZED AT MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

BY JEN WOLFF, IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

As Immediate Past Governor of the Capital District, it was my honor and privilege to award special recognition to members, divisions, and clubs on behalf of the 2022-23 leadership team at this past Midyear Conference.

## Growth Enhances Membership Award

In 2000, Capital District CKI began awarding clubs for significant membership growth with the Growth Enhances Membership or "GEM" Award for short. As most of us know – we can learn a thing or two from our service leadership program students.

2022-23 welcomed over 700 new members and 7 new clubs to our District. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and it is important that we too recognize those clubs who go above and beyond to bring in new members and retain their current ones, increasing our service impact across the district and the world.

The 2022-23 recipients of the Capital District Kiwanis GEM Award – this year given in honor of Past International Trustee Jerry Peuler, who was Mr. Kiwanis to many, are:

### Bronze Division (less than 20 members):

- With an increase in membership of 29%, 3rd place goes to Kiwanis Club of Toano
- With an increase of 35%, 2nd place goes to Kiwanis Club of Tysons



Immediate Past Governor Jen with the 2022-23 Distinguished Lt. Governors that were present at the Midyear Conference.

- And, with an increase of 37%, 1st place goes to Kiwanis Club of Blue Ridge, Winchester

### Silver Division (20 to 39 members):

- With an increase in membership of 15%, we have a tie for 3rd place – Kiwanis Club of Colonial Heights AND Kiwanis Club of Petersburg
- With an increase of 23%, 2nd place goes to Kiwanis Club of Grafton
- And, with an increase of 65%, 1st place goes to Kiwanis Club of Elkins

### Gold Division (40 or more members):

- With an increase in membership of 12%, 3rd place goes to Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville
- With an increase of 18%, 2nd place goes to Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro
- And, with an increase in membership of 22%, 1st place goes to Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg

## Distinguished Lt. Governor/Division

Our next set of awards are the Distinguished Lt. Governor, Member, and Club awards. They are based on criteria set forth by the 2022-23 District Governor and 2022-23 International President Bert West.

The Distinguished Lt. Governor award is given to Lt. Governors in the Capital District who have demonstrated continued excellence in the leadership of their respective divisions.

### The 2022-23 Distinguished Lt. Governors are:

- Division 2, Kaitlyn Blume
- Division 4, Michelle Yuth
- Division 5, Jack Hassman
- Division 9, Samantha Bosserman
- Division 11, Alisa Dick
- Division 12, Missy Zimmerman
- Division 15, April Farmer
- Division 16, Steve Simmons
- Division 17, Jon Rife



## Distinguished Member

Next is the Distinguished Member award. This award is given to Kiwanians in the Capital District who go above and beyond typical Kiwanis membership – demonstrating special dedication to service, membership strength and Kiwanis education.

### These Distinguished Members for 2022-23 are:

From Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville:  
John Milton Hassman Jr., Robin Marks, and Charles Marks

From Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville:  
Dennis Baugh

From Kiwanis Club of Fredericksburg:  
Amanda Proch

From Kiwanis Club of Greater Millsboro: Scott Phillips

From Kiwanis Club of Mt. Airy: Angie Moore

From Kiwanis Club of Toano:  
David Rothberg and Lynda Kleiwerda

From Kiwanis Club of Tysons:  
Kristina Dlugozima, Corey Jerome, David Lurie, Jeffrey Wolff, and Jennifer Wolff

From Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro:  
Samantha Bosserman, Vicky Ferreira, and Marcia Geiger

From Kiwanis Club of Westminster:  
Roger Diehl

From Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg:  
Greg Davy, Deborah Giese, Douglas Holroyd, Michael Lewis, Tony Pauroso, G. Gary Ripple, Lynne Williams, Missy Zimmerman, and P. Scott Zimmerman

## Distinguished Club

The Distinguished Club award is given to Kiwanis Clubs in the Capital District who have demonstrated continued excellence in the combined areas of club administration, membership and leadership development, Kiwanis family involvement, and service.

### The 2022-23 Capital District Distinguished Clubs are the Kiwanis Clubs of:

Ashland, VA  
Bridgeville, DE  
Greater Millsboro, DE  
Richmond, VA  
Toano, VA  
Tuckahoe, Richmond

Tysons, VA  
Washington, DC  
Waynesboro, VA and  
Williamsburg, VA

## Distinguished District

The 2022-23 Kiwanis International President Bert West announced that the Capital District is one of ten districts in North America recognized as Distinguished Districts for 2022-23!

Congratulations to all and thank you for all that you do and continue to do for our communities and children.

**For the 2023-24 Distinguished Recognition criteria, visit [capitalkiwanis.org/recognition](http://capitalkiwanis.org/recognition)**



Jen with the 2022-23 Distinguished Members that were present at the Midyear Conference.





## UPCOMING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, BELONGING, & ACCESSIBILITY WEBINAR

The DEIBA committee has a bimonthly educational series to keep Capital District Kiwanis Family members from Kiwanis, CKI, Key Club, and Aktion Club up-to-date on the subject of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The series is held via Zoom. We welcome your participation!

### Developing the Leader Within: Applying DEIBA Values

**Date:** May 22, 2024 from 7-8:30pm  
**Presenter:** Dr. Melinda Hill  
[Register Here](#)

Dr. Melinda Hill will lead the Capital District’s DEIBA quarterly webinar on May 22. It will be an interactive virtual leadership development opportunity led by a highly acclaimed trainer: the 90-minute workshop will fly by! Join us from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, May 22. Learn how you can be more effective in your impact—and be a more satisfied leader, too!



Melinda Hill, PhD is identified as a Maxwell trained leadership educator, experienced executive coach, with stellar DEIBA credentials, certified through a Cornell University DEIBA training course. Her topic is “Developing the Leader Within: Applying DEIBA Values.” Tune in – free – open to all interested parties. Please share this information with your clubs – attending could count toward achieving distinguished club status!

## Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

### April

Charlottesville, VA.....	1922
Elkton, MD .....	1932
Ellicott City, MD .....	1940
Wythe County, VA.....	1948
Mount Airy, MD.....	1949
Williamsburg, VA.....	1958
Churchland, VA .....	1974
Greater Landover, MD .....	1979
Montgomery Village, MD.....	2003
Strasburg, VA .....	2010
Forest, VA.....	2018
Short Pump, VA.....	2023

### May

Washington, DC.....	1917
Alexandria, VA.....	1921
Danville, VA.....	1921
Frederick, MD .....	1922
Harrisonburg, VA .....	1922
Seaford, DE.....	1923
Suffolk, VA.....	1947
Christiansburg, VA .....	1949
Rockville, MD .....	1950
Crofton, MD .....	1976
Old Point Comfort, VA.....	1981
Shenandoah Valley, VA.....	1981
Bull Run, VA.....	1985
Clinch River, VA .....	1988
Mitchellville, MD .....	1995
Old Town, VA .....	2006
City Center Newport News, VA .....	2009

# PORTSMOUTH DCON DETAILS BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE

BY CAREN SCHUMACHER

You won't want to miss this year's Kiwanis Capital District Convention, scheduled Aug. 23-25 in Portsmouth, VA. The event kicks off with a Friday night picnic and Norfolk Tides baseball game at Harbor Park.

Saturday morning will include the Opening Breakfast session, followed by a well-planned cross-section of educational opportunities, including the chance for attendees to participate in a Blessing Bags service project. The Fellowship Luncheon with a prominent speaker and Delegate Session round out the afternoon's activities.

Saturday evening highlights include the Governor's Reception with a **Pirates of the Kiwanians** theme! "Arrr"... get your pirate attire ready to wear for the costumed evening. The reception will be followed by the **Captain's Dinner** at the Governor's Banquet.

Sunday is always special with an Inspirational Breakfast featuring a guest speaker and the Kiwanis ceremonial



changing of leadership. Following breakfast, attendees will be able to participate in the Generosity Feeds Service Project to prepare 1,000 meals that will help feed those in need.

Registration opens June 1. Make plans now to spend a **FUN** weekend in Portsmouth in August!

*(Longtime Williamsburg Kiwanian Caren Schumacher is serving as this year's convention chair.)*

## 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](http://www.kiwanis.org/youthprotection)



# From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

## YOU CAN HELP CLUB GRANTS SPAN CONTINENTS

BY PG JOHN TYNER

### Kiwanis Children's Fund grants help clubs start projects that support kids' health and education.

KCF's Erin Chandler lets us know that "this March, the Kiwanis Children's Fund awarded club grants to 12 outstanding Kiwanis club projects that are making a difference across four continents. The following projects highlight the truly international spirit of Kiwanis and show how Kiwanians have addressed the specific health and education needs of kids in Italy, Panama, Austria, Nepal and the United States."

These examples are similar to those I have been highlighting in the last few KCF articles:

#### Children's gardens for kindergartens

##### Kiwanis Club of Mühlviertel, Schwertberg, Austria

The word "kindergarten" means "children garden" — and the Kiwanis Club of Mühlviertel is taking it literally, installing raised-bed gardens at 19 kindergartens in the Perg district of Austria. A Kiwanis Children's Fund grant will help cover the cost of the aluminum beds. Once the gardens are installed, the "little researchers" will learn how vegetables grow and thrive, how insects pollinate flowers and how fruits and blossoms form — and they will develop a sense of responsibility from caring for the garden.

#### A soft room in a safe house

##### Kiwanis Club of Gallarte, Varese, Italy

A Kiwanis Children's Fund club grant will help the Kiwanis Club of Gallarte build a Montessori room for children ages six and under living in "protected houses" after leaving dangerous home environments. These children often arrive experiencing severe physical and emotional complications. The room will be painted in "soft colors" to promote tranquility and filled with child-size furnishings, sensory panels, carpets, games, "work" surfaces and more. The club hopes this room will help develop the children's creativity, intelligence and sensory awareness, setting them on a path for healthy growth.



#### A new dining room for a healthy start

##### Kiwanis Club of Libertad, Coclé, Panama

The Kiwanis Club of Libertad will use a Kiwanis Children's Fund grant to purchase tables, chairs, eating and kitchen utensils, a refrigerator, an industrial sink, paint and food for the remodeled dining room at Boca de Chiguirí Primary School. Children in the area suffer from food insecurity and often come to school without receiving meals at home. The club is partnering with various government ministries, local companies and others to create a self-sustaining nutrition program that will include vegetable gardens and poultry farming at the school. Once the dining room is structurally safe and furnished, students, parents and teachers will collaborate to bring the program to life.

#### Reading in the rain

##### Kiwanis Club of Malden, Massachusetts, U.S.

Since 2016, the Kiwanis Club of Malden has provided free books to hundreds of local children at its Bubbles and Books event. (It also features a bubble magician for extra fun.) A puppeteer storyteller even takes part to enhance a love of literacy for all kids in this very diverse community, where more than 50 languages are spoken in the public schools. Recently, however, the club has had to cancel or reschedule Bubbles and Books due to rain or extreme heat. A Kiwanis Children's Fund grant will help the club purchase tents for shade and shelter, so kids can choose new books to take home in rain or shine.



## Bright futures start with a diagnosis

### Kiwanis Club of Lalbandi, Kathmandu, Nepal

According to a survey conducted by the Kiwanis Club of Lalbandi, four to five cases of autism spectrum disorder are being diagnosed each day in one Kathmandu health clinic alone. Some children stop attending school as a result. Seeing the clear need in its community, the club is partnering with local autism centers to support kids dealing with this often-misunderstood condition.

Club members will receive training to help screen for autism spectrum disorder and assist at therapy centers that provide speech-language, play-based, physical, occupational and nutritional therapies. A grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund will help purchase medications and food supplements for those who can't afford them, as well as software to track patients' progress.

## More books, playgrounds and essential supplies

Other projects that received club grants in March include:

- Book giveaways from the Kiwanis clubs of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, U.S.; Cicero, Indiana, U.S.; and Literacy in Salinas, California, U.S.
- A book vending machine from the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln, California, U.S.
- Inclusive playgrounds from the Kiwanis clubs of Portsmouth, Ohio, U.S. and Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.
- A supply closet for students in need from the Kiwanis Club of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, U.S.

## Ways you can help with KCF club grant programs for your club and others:

### Be sure to make your annual donation to KCF

Each year we ask our members and their clubs to make annual donations toward the works of KCF. Capital has generally done a good job by a majority of our clubs making a donation of their choosing to support the activities done by KCF on a continuing basis.

As most of you must know, Capital receives a grant award rebate in those years where we have provided a high degree of support. In 2022-23, our total giving was \$103,488 (third highest) which netted us a district grant of \$10,124. So far this year. 2023-24, we have donated \$62,021, placing us first. I'd like to see our clubs achieve

a 100 percent participation rate for the first time. We also received a Top Five District Scholarship award of \$6,000, which went to our Key Club scholarship winners.

## Then apply for a club grant or microgrant

Be careful of the deadlines for applying for a Kiwanis Children's Fund club grant and be sure to file before that date. Learn how your club can apply for a grant to help kids in your community. If you have any questions, contact the KCF website or email Tracee Lane-Gess, Community Impact Officer, at grants@kiwanis.org

## How you personally can help

The Kiwanis Children's Fund makes grants that improve the lives of children around the world by identifying projects that create a continuum of impact in a child's life — one that spans their entire childhood and sets them up for a bright future. By funding projects that target the Kiwanis causes — health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development — whether through a Kiwanis club's local service project or a club's partner, the Children's Fund ensures that its grantmaking has the greatest possible impact.

If you are interested in extending your and your club's impact beyond your community, [make a gift to the Children's Fund](#). If you would care to help me and our other volunteers with a new program being announced in Denver ICON to raise funds to go directly to funding grants to Kiwanis clubs, please contact me as soon as possible so you can understand the entire program.

Hope to see some of you in Denver, July 3-6, and everyone else at DCON in Portsmouth, VA, Aug. 23-25. Please send me your comments and questions at tyner@taliesan.com.

THANKS for reading!

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

# Service Showcase

## WHO IS LARRY THE ROANOKE LOGPERCH?

BY DON WITT

The current signature project of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke is a nature park adjacent to its Kiwanis Centennial Playground, located in an underserved community in Roanoke. The proposed park is in a densely populated area where few natural elements exist; access to a meandering stream, a pollinator garden and natural vegetation will be a welcome asset to this community

One element of the Kiwanis Nature Park is educational in purpose. There is a desire to teach children of the natural wonders of Mother Earth. To assist in this process, the club commissioned a children's book that emphasizes the need to maintain good water quality in the nature park's stream – and in the immediate proximity where stormwater feeds into the Roanoke River, home of a previously endangered species, the Roanoke logperch.

Thus the story of a friendly logperch named "Larry" evolved. With the concept of improving water quality in the Roanoke River (and thereby improving Larry's habitat), the club engaged writer Melissa Rooney and illustrator Jane Gabrielle to collaborate with the Kiwanis's Environment Committee. Together they have developed a third-grade-level book to be distributed to local libraries and city school children.

Five hundred copies of the book have already been printed (with a re-order forthcoming). The book distribution launch is set for June 1 at a community Fun Day.

Larry is already becoming a local celebrity, a recent subject of a story by a prominent newspaper columnist.



The science director for the city schools will be using the book as part of Virginia SOLs (standards of learning). The Stormwater Division (with Kiwanis input) has developed a "Larry" template to be applied to street stormwater inlets. Students learned about Larry and created pictures of him that were included in the book. A 7-foot-long paper-mache

Larry "marched" in the spring Daisy Art Parade April 13.

Everybody is talking about Larry! Who knows, Larry may become the city mascot!

*(Don Witt is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and co-chair of the club's Nature Park Committee.)*

# Eye on KI

A summary of important information recently shared from Kiwanis International.

## ANNUAL CLUB ELECTIONS REMINDER

The Kiwanis International Bylaws require that clubs hold annual meetings that include the election of 2024-25 officers by May 15. Each officer and director (and each nominee for the same) must be a member in good standing with the club. Any qualified, consenting member may be nominated either in advance or from the floor, according to club policy.

Other than the immediate past president, all officers and directors — including the secretary, unless appointed — will be elected at the club's annual meeting by a majority vote, following a process provided in club policy. The president, immediate past president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary and vice president(s), (if any) will serve one-year or two-year terms as provided in club policy, beginning October 1 of each year. Directors may serve up to three-year terms, as provided in club policy, with each term beginning on October 1 after election. Online elections are permitted.

Club secretaries should report the results of any midyear changes and the election of 2024-25 officers through the Secretary Dashboard.



## WHY ATTENDING DENVER ICON MAKES GOOD SENSE

As mentioned several places elsewhere in this issue, the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention will be held July 3-6 in Denver. Register now to join your fellow Kiwanians for the most dynamic event on the Kiwanis calendar.

Here's why you don't want to sit this one out:

- 1. Insights and education.** No matter what you and your club need to thrive, we've got the expert advice and inside information to help you reach — and surpass — your goals. Choose from a diverse lineup of workshops in key categories:
  - **Growing club membership and expanding club reach.** Help members take ownership of club growth. Reduce conflict, eliminate apathy and reenergize your club.
  - **Financial stability and fundraising.** Ramp up grant-writing techniques to secure key funding for more impactful service projects. Take a fresh approach to fundraising as clubs share how they reimagined stagnant fundraisers or created successful new ones.
  - **Succeed in cyberspace.** Maximize your impact on social media. Combat cyberthreats and safeguard club information. Level up your Kiwanis experience through our new membership platform, Kiwanis Engage.
  - **Amplify your service.** Learn club secrets for creating more meaningful, effective and sustainable service projects.
- 2. Leadership your way.** Wherever you are on your Kiwanis leadership journey, you'll find motivation and mentorship for your current role — and preparation for the next levels. For leaders at the club, division, district and international levels, our targeted workshops will send participants home feeling inspired, prepared and empowered.



- 3. Kiwanis family fellowship.** Reconnect with Kiwanis friends and make new connections from around the world. The Kiwanis International convention provides plenty of opportunities to relax and socialize — from the Welcome Reception to the Convention Kickoff to the grand finale, Kiwanis Dancing Through the Decades. And be sure to stop by the Circle K International booth in Kiwanis Marketplace. Our university/college members are holding their convention alongside Kiwanis, and it's a great opportunity to learn about their amazing service work.
- 4. Kiwanis Launchpad: Embracing Change.** Explore what's possible when you and your club embrace change. Four internationally known speakers share secrets on nurturing lifelong club members and incorporating new ideas. Kiwanis Launchpads are short, high-impact and sure to leave you full of ideas.
- 5. Kiwanis Marketplace.** Find inspiration, fellowship, products and more at this convention hotspot. Here, you can register for the convention, browse booths from vendors and partners, shop for Kiwanis merchandise (including convention-branded items), ask questions, participate in service projects, pose for fun photos and visit Kiwanis candidates' campaign booths. New to the Marketplace this year is the Membership Fair. Pick up tips from clubs that have added members!
- 6. Inspiration.** From the triumph of love over hate to the power of perseverance, our captivating conference speakers will motivate and move you. The opening session features Chris Singleton, a former professional baseball player who was 18 when his mother died in a racially motivated mass killing. He has dedicated his life to sharing his message of resilience, forgiveness and unity. In 2015, Diana Nyad achieved her 35-year quest of becoming the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida. She will inspire you to navigate your own challenges and opportunities during the convention.
- 7. Annual meeting.** Make your voice heard. You'll be informed about the business of Kiwanis International, and delegates from clubs around the world will elect our next leaders and vote on amendments. Be in the room where it happens!
- 8. Celebrations.** From the Welcome Reception and the Convention Kickoff to the Dancing through the Decades last-night gala, you'll have plenty of time to celebrate Kiwanis and the amazing work our clubs and members accomplish every day. You can personalize your experience by having breakfast

with our Signature Project Contest finalists (and seeing who wins the big prize), enjoying lunch while celebrating the accomplishments of our Service Leadership Program participants and discovering what's possible through the Kiwanis Children's Fund. Then hit the dance floor with your fellow Kiwanians — in clothing that reflects your favorite decade. The eight-piece band Your Generation in Concert will perform songs from five decades of hits.

- 9. Extras for early birds.** The first 1,000 registrants for the full convention package will each receive a free ticket to see the Colorado Rockies take on the Milwaukee Brewers July 4 at Coors Field. After the game, stay for a special fireworks display. (Note: Transportation to or from the game will not be provided.) On Wednesday, July 3, a lucky group will go on a field trip with Landscape Structures to an amazing playground near Denver. Act fast — only 50 spots are available! (Transportation and lunch are included. Book the tour through your conference registration confirmation email.)
- 10. Destination Denver.** In the Mile High City, you can dine at award-winning restaurants, sip craft beer in one of many breweries, tour historical sites, join an ATV tour, take the family to Denver's world-class zoo or its downtown aquarium — design your own adventure! Or use Denver as a starting point for exploring the Rocky Mountains, only two hours away from the city.

## WHY KIWANIS IS PROPOSING A DUES INCREASE IN 2024

Since 2015 – the last time delegates voted to increase dues – Kiwanis International has cut costs, reduced staff and used strong investment returns to defray a dues increase.

Rising costs and declining membership have now made it difficult to cover the costs of operations and programs. Global financial conditions have further compounded the problem.

Dues have not increased in nearly a decade and only once in the past 20 years. We face a new reality. As a member-based non-profit that serves children, costs have increased dramatically: Legal fees are up 440%, and IT costs have risen 79%, mainly due to cybersecurity measures.

Our dues revenue continues to decrease, and membership has not recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 to belong to.

Kiwanis International has been operating with a budget deficit since 2015, relying upon investments returns to cover operating costs. Kiwanis' strategy has been to use investment returns to cover operating expenses/deficit spending. For many years, a strong market and a thriving economy allowed Kiwanis to rely on investment returns to cover operating expense. However, due to global financial conditions, the reserves have decreased by more than 42% since 2021.

## WHAT ARE MEMBER DUES USED FOR?

Dues are used to support clubs, divisions and districts with leadership education, training events, printed and digital resources, translation and interpretation in seven core languages, technology and digital products, global market, public relations and legal services.

## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO REDUCE COSTS?

- The Kiwanis International staff was asked to control spending and reduce costs in every area. Some results:
- The organization renegotiated contracts and delayed some capital expenditures.
- Numerous staff departures have gone unfilled. Staffing levels are 13% lower than a decade ago.
- Travel spending has been reduced by more than 43% -- even as the price of travel continues to skyrocket.
- Meeting expenses (27%) and contract services (30%) -- as well as the staff support that accompanies these areas -- were also reduced.
- Kiwanis magazine was delivered in a different format to achieve cost savings. The organization saved more than \$364,809 on postage, paper and printing in 2023.

Cuts in these high-ticket areas were made to save money in the short term -- and they made an immediate impact on the bottom line. During this process, opportunities were identified where savings can also be realized over the long term. But some cuts significantly affect the organization. Training for governors-elect is just one example.

## WON'T A DUES INCREASE MEAN A MEMBERSHIP DECREASE?

Historically, there have not been unusual membership decreases after increases in dues. Of course, we understand that history cannot predict the future, and we hope you value your membership in Kiwanis.

## HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY, KEY CLUB INTERNATIONAL!

Wow! Ninety-nine years of service, leadership and making a difference in our communities. As we approach our incredible centennial milestone, our birthday wish is that the entire Kiwanis family will be part of this historic countdown.


In honor of our 99th birthday we have challenged each Key Club to raise \$99 for the Youth Opportunities Fund. As dedicated Kiwanians, we invite you to acknowledge the members' hard work and amplify their impact by matching the club's contributions. With your support we can ensure a stronger future for Key Club and pave the way for the next century of impact!

To donate, visit [Kiwanis.org/yofgiving](https://www.kiwanis.org/yofgiving).

Capital District Kiwanis Committee  
on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,  
Belonging, & Accessibility presents:

Developing the Leader Within:  
Applying DEIBA Values

Presenter: Dr. Melinda Hill  
Executive Coach

 **Kiwanis**  
CAPITAL DISTRICT

May 22<sup>ND</sup>, 7:00pm EST



# Partnerships Build *play*

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

