

The Capital

June/July 2024

KIWANIAN

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

**District Convention
Preview**

**Professional
Development for
Members**

**KIWANIS CLUB SPONSORS
COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**



Kiwanis

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COVER: Arlington Kiwanis sponsored a community health fair on April 20. Front: Pat Keough (Club Secretary); Second row: Megan Canote (VHC), Linda Chandler (Club President), Julie Wright, Greg Craddock, Michelle Altman, May Quigley (VHC)



Luke Pelletier (nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg) was announced as Capital District Teenager of the Year. Luke is pictured with ToY program coordinator Ashley Burcroff and Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg President Lynne Williams. Go to page 16 to learn more.



2023-24 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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Josh Hiscock
Ellicott City, MD

VICE GOVERNOR

Tim Gillette
Tysons, VA

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
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TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

Marie Bowe-Quick
Mitchellville, MD

TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

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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



Happy Summer, Kiwanis Friends:

As I am writing this article, a massive rainstorm is coming down. I always enjoy listening to the rain. It reminds me of so many things. Rain can quench the thirst of existing trees, rain can help newly planted seeds to take hold and bring new life, and rain can heal cracks in the earth from long periods of drought. As summer approaches, we'll have many of these rainstorms that come upon us suddenly, and generally they are needed. Needed to help renew, refresh and heal.

We all understand that Kiwanis is in the midst of a time of renewal, a time of refreshing, a time of healing. Many of you know about the proposed amendments at the International Convention and how some are controversial.

First, the dues amendment is necessary. We simply cannot continue to operate at the level we are operating without increased funding. That is always a hard sell to any group. The situation we find ourselves in at Kiwanis International is simply a result of continued programming at a high level while not implementing regular increases to keep up with the cost of doing business.

I am convinced that Kiwanis will continue to exist even if the dues amendment does not pass, but my question is **WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?** Will we lose some Service Leadership Programs (SLPs)? My guess is very likely yes.

I do not want to see any of our SLPs go away; that is why I am supporting the dues amendment as written. A little over two dollars a month per Kiwanian will solve this issue. Let's march forward and renew Kiwanis for the future. Let's make sure that our youth can depend on us to support them not only now but in the future.



We must also refresh our thinking at the Kiwanis International Convention. For as long as Kiwanis has existed, a small portion of the membership has controlled the voting in the House of Delegates. Is this fair? Only those who attend ICON as an official delegate in person are allowed to make decisions for the entire body.

The Capital District has put forth a motion to allow online voting for the House of Delegates. This would allow all members the accessibility to vote on the important matters that help steer our organization. As a member you should have a right to vote. Many of our members find the cost of attending ICON coupled with the time away from family and work responsibilities make it prohibitive for them to go; hence, they cannot vote. An online voting amendment will bring accessibility to the right to have a voice in the direction Kiwanis International is headed. This voice is imperative if our next generation is going to lead us. They are a generation who believe in and rely on technology daily. All members deserve to have the right to vote. I ask you all to support this online voting amendment.

Kiwanis must heal. During COVID, many clubs and members went through great struggles and the tide is finally beginning to turn. The healing has begun. Clubs are beginning to grow; members are re-engaging; and more service is the end result. Let's continue this trend of healing. It is important that we have the hard discussions about healing, the hard discussions about moving forward

and the hard discussions as to what the next generation wants and deserves.

I am a firm believer that we must honor the past and be thankful for so many brave Kiwanians who cleared the road forward. Let's make sure that Kiwanis is here for many, many years to come.

I am reminded by the rain that before a mighty tree can grow a nut must be cracked and water must find its way to instigate growth. That little nut will grow into a mighty organization that will bring renewal of habitat, renewal of life, refreshing of resources, refreshing food for many species and healing of the land through shade and root structures that keep soil in place.

Let's work hard this summer to plant new Kiwanis seeds that will grow into the mighty organization of tomorrow. We must make tomorrow today!

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

SUMMERTIME... AND THE PLANNING IS EASY

Before you know it, summer will be here! In Kiwanis, that's when we do our planning for the upcoming October transitions.

At the Capital District level, we are going to spend the next couple of months drafting our committee directives and operational budget to support the initiatives of Governor-Elect Josh and the 2024-25 District Leadership Team. Our clubs should also be using these next couple of months for planning for their incoming administrative year.

Last issue, I wrote about the Kiwanis International Convention (and there is [still time to register](#) before June 20) and our [Capital District Dinner](#). I also wrote about attending your Club Leadership Education session (especially if you are an incoming president, secretary or membership chairperson for your club) and I want to once again plug that extremely important opportunity for [free leadership education](#). There are a number of things changing this year and it's vital your club is aware and planning accordingly.

Member Satisfaction Survey

The member experience is an important factor in the health and strength of a club. Members want to love every aspect of their club. They want to feel satisfied with the value they get for their time, talent and money. Providing a satisfaction survey to club members and collecting the feedback will help your new board make any necessary changes to the club to improve the member experience. A great resource for this analysis is the [Member Survey](#) available as part of the [Achieving Club Excellence \(ACE\) tools](#).

Community Analysis

Clubs should routinely interview community leaders who can provide the information on the needs that the Kiwanis club can focus on. A great resource for this analysis is the [Community Survey](#) available as part of the Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) tools.

Membership

This is also the ideal time to communicate with each of your members and ensure that they will be continuing with their membership after Oct. 1. You don't want to wait until the

fall to send dues invoices to your members. This way your club secretary will have time to drop a member who is not renewing their membership before the deadline.

And speaking of membership...do you find some of your members are not engaged in your club? What's your club's vision? A vision will help your club deliver the "wow" that makes members enthusiastic about bringing other people into the club. Once again, [Achieving Club Excellence \(ACE\) tools](#) to the rescue with the [Club Vision](#) resource that is a great tool for the incoming board of directors to use in planning for next year.

Incoming Board Planning Retreat

The incoming leadership of your club should be organizing a meeting to discuss their goals and plans for the new Kiwanis year. Conducting this over the summer means that the plan is ready and can be communicated to the rest of the club before the new Kiwanis year starts. This is also a great opportunity for the president and secretary to ensure that the rest of the club board of directors and committee chairpersons are trained to understand what is expected of them. The results of the Community Analysis and Member Satisfaction should be available BEFORE this retreat is planned so that the board can use this information.

Budgeting

Summer is also the time where your club should draft its budget for the new year. A review of the current year's budget along with actual amounts spent is required at a minimum. The budgeting process is also an opportunity for the club to decide to stop supporting projects that are no longer effective or enjoyed by the membership and replace them with new initiatives. Your club's budget should support the goals of the board of directors and club for the new year.

Officer Installation

Even though Oct. 1 represents the date where the incoming club president and board of directors take

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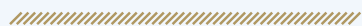
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over, each club typically plans a meeting or event where they conduct a “transfer of power” ceremony. This is to recognize achievements of the current year and retire the outgoing board of directors as well as install the new one. The Lt. Governor-Designate of the division is typically invited to this event to conduct the retirement and

installation. Now is the time to start planning this event for either late September or early October in accordance with the club’s traditions.

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

From the Governor-Elect



BY JOSH HISCOCK

THE ONLY THING MISSING IS YOU

Greetings, Capital Kiwanians –

We are just a few short months from the start of the next Kiwanis administrative year on Oct. 1, when we will unite to **Elevate Our Impact** as an organization.

In May, the 2024-2025 class of Lt. Governors gathered for training in Ocean City, Maryland. During the weekend, attendees learned skills that will assist them in supporting your Kiwanis club in creative and innovative ways. These Kiwanians are ready to jump in and get to work Oct. 1. They will be contacting your club soon to schedule their initial contact visits.

Please invite your Lt. Governor to come and retire your outgoing club officers and install your new Board of Directors. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your Lt. Governor. The more you get to know these individuals and utilize their skills and expertise, the stronger your club may become.

This month, the Kiwanians serving as 2024-2025 Capital District committee chairpersons will gather for a virtual training. These individuals will lead the active and engaged working groups that help to accomplish so much for the district behind the scenes. The only thing missing is you.

Our district committees only work when members, like you, join in! Your expertise is needed, and your support is vital to our success. Committees have directives and tasks to accomplish each year. These directives are designed to create resources to support the local work of your Kiwanis club, provide strategy and direction to important initiatives, and support the growth of new clubs, new ideas, and elevated energy.

The following committees are looking for members from every one of our seven regions.

- Aktion Club
- Builders Club
- K-Kids
- DEIBA
- District Convention
- Human & Spiritual Values
- Youth & Volunteer Mental Health & Wellness Task Force
- Membership – Club Openings
- Membership – Club Strengthening
- Mid-Year Conference
- Service & Signature Project
- Teenager of the Year
- Youth Protection

If you see a committee that could use your input and expertise, [please complete this interest survey](#) and list the committees you are most interested in. Our chairpersons will be in touch soon!

Get ready for a summertime of service and preparation as we prepare for the International Convention in Denver this July and our Capital District Convention in Portsmouth this August. There has never been a better time to be a Kiwanian!

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

From the Vice Governor



BY TIM GILLETTE

‘TOMORROW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE TODAY’

My favorite part of the day is the quick, three-minute ride in the morning to drop off my daughter at school. We find our place amongst the dozens of cars waiting for the school doors to open, and have a few minutes of daddy-daughter time. The other day I asked her if she was excited that the school year was soon ending. “I’m not too excited,” she said, “I really like school and I don’t want the year to end.”

When I was a child, I loved summer because there wasn’t any school. In late June the final bell would ring from P.S. #20, and I would rush home for a couple of months of freedom. I spent my summers like most kids in the city. My friends and I would play wiffle ball or stick ball in the street (yelling “car!” whenever one of us would spot a four-wheeled machine barreling towards us), run through an open fire hydrant, or walk up to the corner store and loiter while enjoying our favorite frozen treats. At the end of the day it didn’t matter what we were doing. We were all together, and better yet, we were all out of school.

I thought about the children we serve in Kiwanis. I’m sure some feel like my daughter, some feel the way I felt years ago, and others... might be frightened.

Schools serve as a safe space for many children. It’s a place for them to escape some of the trials and tribulations going on at home. It’s a place where people care about them and they feel loved. It’s also a place where they know food will always be on the table. Many Kiwanis clubs across our District participate in fundraisers and service projects that are focused on helping to combat food insecurity in our communities. They provide funding and support to organizations that help feed hungry children every day.

Just because school is out, it doesn’t mean that our support from these organizations should pause; it means that these children need us more now than they do at any point during the year.

I also thought about the concept of education. While schools shut down for summer recess, the start of the summer means the beginning of the Kiwanis education season. In early May, I was happy to join Governor-Elect Josh and his team of Lt. Governors for a weekend of training. The team learned about their roles and responsibilities, district operations, Student Leadership Programs, DEIBA initiatives, and so much more. The team left the weekend engaged and ready to “ELEVATE Our Impact.”

The summer also kicks off our Club Leadership Education (CLE) sessions. These sessions are important for club officers, especially presidents and secretaries, to attend every year. It doesn’t matter if you’re a first-time officer, or a longtime officer, there’s plenty of pertinent information for everyone. This education will help you prepare to lead your clubs during the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. I’ll be facilitating CLE sessions this month in Leisure World, MD and Winchester, VA.

This all leads up to our District Convention in August in Portsmouth, where we’ll be “Anchoring our Future.” The DCON Committee is working on a fun-filled event (as detailed elsewhere in this issue) with engaging speakers, informative educational sessions, and as Governor Eric likes to say... FUN! I hope to see many Kiwanians in attendance, and taking advantage of the educational sessions.

Malcolm X once said, “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” I encourage all Kiwanians to participate in as many educational sessions as they can this summer. There are so many children in our communities that need our help. What we do doesn’t happen by accident; it’s only through learning that we can prepare to serve the children of the world.

(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.)

Education News

IS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPORTANT?

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

When applying for a job or considering a job switch, one of the benefits I always look for is the opportunity for education and professional development. It is important to know that there is opportunity for growth and development at all stages within a career. For me, it is vital that a company is willing to invest time and resources into helping its employees become stronger leaders and build skills for assigned positions.

When seeking to join a civic organization or club, shouldn't it also be important that the organization offer these types of benefits for its members?

Kiwanis offers leadership opportunities and trainings to its members at all levels. Members may serve in leadership roles at the local club level, the division level, district level and even international level. Members have the chance to serve on committees and attend various training sessions to learn more about not only their positions, but important topics such as DEIBA, social media, member recruitment and more. Kiwanis also offers an annual self-paced leadership training called Kiwanis Amplify that provides general leadership skills applicable to all aspects of life.

One very important aspect of serving in a leadership role is receiving the proper training and development to prepare you for success. Club Leadership Education (CLE) is an opportunity for professional development for your Kiwanis career. CLE trainings are held each summer in preparation for the upcoming



Kiwanis year beginning in October. CLEs provide training for incoming Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Membership Coordinators.

Typically organized by region or division, CLEs provide a way for small groups of officers to come together to network and learn more about their position. Even if you have served in your position for a number of years, there is always something new that you can learn about Kiwanis and serving as an officer. If you feel as though there is nothing left to learn, look at it as an opportunity to help other attendees feel more comfortable in their position. You may be able to impart some knowledge on the new and upcoming Kiwanis leaders just by sharing your experience and expertise. Remember: we were all new once!

Have you always wanted to help train incoming officers but unsure how? Become a CLE Instructor! CLE instructors are an integral part of the team to ensure new and returning Kiwanis leaders are prepared to hit the ground running on Oct. 1. All materials and training are provided. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a CLE Instructor, please reach out to me at sam.

kiwanis@gmail.com. We are recruiting now for the next round of CLE trainings, and it is never too early to get started.

I hope when answering the question "is professional development important" the response is a resounding "yes!" -- although I understand that everyone is different. If professional development and training is not your thing, no worries -- although if so, you probably would not be reading this article. For those of us who are interested, Kiwanis offers its members many opportunities for leadership and professional development throughout the year. All you have to do is be willing to participate and say "yes."

(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.)

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



Ocean Pines Scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City, Maryland, conducts fundraisers all year in order to award scholarships to deserving Worcester County high school graduating seniors from the three area high schools. At the June 5 meeting, recipients and their parents were presented a total of \$15,500 in scholarships.

Pictured (L-R): Kyauna Beck (Snow Hill High School), Logan Hurney (Snow Hill); (Rear) Kiwanis Club Scholarship Committee Chair James Maratea, Anthony Huslander (Snow Hill), Mandy Chou (Pocomoke High School), Emily Knight (Pocomoke), Jamie Consigli's mother accepting scholarship on Jamie's behalf (Stephen Decatur High School), Ethan Fastice (Stephen Decatur), Matthew Beck (Stephen Decatur), Abbi Weeks (Stephen Decatur), recipient of memorial Scholarship named for deceased Kiwanis Club member Ralph Chinn, and Daniel Karchewski (Stephen Decatur), recipient of memorial scholarship for deceased Kiwanis Club member Roy Foreman.

Maryland state senator Mary Beth Carozza, a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School herself, addressed the meeting attendees and spoke about the need to keep young people on the Eastern Shore living and working there.

Governor visits National Capital

The National Capital Region welcomed Capital District Governor Eric Lamb to the area the first weekend of June. His visit punctuated a focus on service and fellowship through the Kiwanis Family Open House and other social and training activities.



On Saturday, Eric attended a baseball game with the Miracle League of Montgomery County; the event included a grant check presentation to the league from the Kiwanis Club of Bethesda Foundation. A luncheon followed.

On Sunday morning, National Capital Trustee Marie Bowe-Quick led a "Chat and Chew" brunch in Crofton, featuring an exchange of ideas.

Clubs represented at the weekend gathering included Bethesda, Leisure World, Mitchellville, Montgomery Village, Southwest Waterfront, Wheaton-Silver Spring, Greater Landover, Leesburg, Shepherd Park, and Waldorf.

Share your new member stories

Governor Eric has put out an all-call to clubs within the Capital District to share their new member success stories with him. If you have a particularly interesting experience of how you recruited an individual to join our family, please email Eric at cericlamb@hotmail.com

Key Clubbers boost Roanoke's pancake success

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke has been flipping pancakes as its club's primary fundraiser since 1997, with net proceeds trending upward since the project's inception.

A big part of this year's May 4 success was due to volunteer support from its SLP programs. A total of 70 individuals representing four Key Clubs and the Aktion club volunteered their time on Friday and Saturday helping set up, serve and take down. Their contributions were invaluable; more than 2,000 meals were served and the event net proceeds approached \$40,000.

Fishing Day on the horizon

The 23rd annual Southeast Region Fishing Clinic is set for Tuesday, July 16. This event has long been a shining example of multiple clubs working together and producing phenomenal results – with an extensive number of Kiwanians volunteering and a large group of kids enjoying themselves.

The project was an international finalist among KI's best projects a few years ago. This year's set up, preparing the equipment and packing the trailer will be Sunday, July 14 at Smithfield Kiwanian Wes Brown's house (910 Magruder Road, Smithfield), the traditional location. The event will be held two days later at James T. Wilson/Buckroe Fishing Pier. Any questions should be directed to: kiwanisfishingclinic2@gmail.com.



Kiwanians helping Kiwanians, coast to coast

Kimberley Temple (Town Center Kiwanis Club in Virginia Beach) is her club's President-Elect and Division 14 Lieutenant Governor-Elect. Kimberley lost her mother, Caroline Tuttle on May 5.

In lieu of flowers the family requested that friends and family members make donations to the Kristmas Town Kiwanis

Club in Shelton, WA, towards their Day of Champions Event, by writing Caroline Tuttle in the memo.

To date, almost \$1,000 has been donated towards next spring's Day of Champions, a track and field event for Mason County children with disabilities.

Tips from the voice of experience

The Kiwanis Club of Norfolk is one of the oldest clubs in the Capital District, one of the oldest in the world. It has a storied history. Its current membership stands at 50, nearly twice the average Kiwanis club. Yet it is not resting on its laurels.

In a recent newsletter, editor Bob Rose published a thought-provoking article, headlined "How Can I Help the Norfolk Club of Norfolk?" Included were several points all clubs might consider, good reminders that might not naturally be top of mind:

How Can I Help the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk?

1. Be an active member. Attend as many meetings as possible.
2. Participate in our service projects.
3. Recruit new members. Invite prospective members to accompany you to a meeting. We welcome ALL!
4. Support our fundraisers. Help the local charities and kids that benefit from our efforts.
 - A. Volunteer for our FestEvents projects;
 - B. Support our club's peanut sales;
 - C. Help make our Swing Fore Charity Golf Tournament, our main fundraiser, a success by:
 - Volunteering at the event;
 - Securing a sponsor;
 - Donating to or participating in our silent auction and raffle during the event;
 - Participating in a member-group sponsorship like the Bogey Boys or Chicks for Charity;
 - Forming a team to play in the tournament.
5. Consider serving as an officer in the club.

We have been an important part of our community for 105 years. It is up to us all to keep that tradition alive.

Membership Momentum

GROWING OUR CLUBS AND DISTRICT

BY PG JOHN MORRIS

Every one of us wants our club to grow. That is vital for the survival of our club. The same thing goes for the Capital District. Membership growth must occur for both to continue to provide the service to the children of our communities. Growth for our clubs is made up of two parts: retaining our existing members and recruiting new members. Growth for the District is made up of those two parts and a third, opening new clubs.

The first part of growth is retention. That will not occur if we do not keep our club relevant to our members and make sure they are getting a meaningful experience out of their membership. That experience should include both service and social opportunities. Survey your members. Find out if they are happy with the club as it operates today. Pay attention to the results and make whatever changes are needed to address concerns that are raised. If your members are not happy, they will not stay in the club.

When you get new members, work extra hard to integrate them into the club. That starts with a meaningful orientation and a welcoming environment. Get them involved with service projects. Find out what service they would like to do, both within your current service projects and with projects they would like to see the club get involved. Listen to their ideas and act on them. Encourage them to bring their friends into the club.

Recruiting new members is indispensable to the survival of your club. It is inevitable that your club will lose members to life events. Replace them before they are gone. Be strategic about your recruiting. It is great to ask members to bring in their friends, but do not stop there.

Actively discuss the type of people you want as new members. If you want to get younger members, use the “decade” rule. Look for people that are about 10 years younger than you or your club’s average age. They are much more likely to join than someone the age of your children or grandchildren. Then the new members can use the decade rule to recruit even younger members.

(John Morris, a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond, currently serves as Capital District Membership Coordinator.)

Kiwanis has a wonderful concept for recruiting called “Two for Two.” In that concept, two members of your club are assigned each month to actively recruit two prospects. They commit to contacting their two targets and meeting with them, although not necessarily at a club meeting. They spend that month focusing on their two prospects. The next month, two other members do the same thing. You will not get all prospects to join, but if you get just one new member every two months, you will gain six new members in a year if you do it every month. Try it; it has proven successful for many clubs.

Having a “Boost” is also an excellent way to grow. The District has resources to help you with a boost as well as other retention and growth efforts. Please take advantage of those resources.

The District also seeks to grow by opening new clubs. Kiwanis has learned that districts rarely grow as a whole without opening new clubs. Every year the Capital District loses a handful of clubs, mostly those that have not done a good job of retention and recruiting and end up with their membership aging out.

Opening new clubs is necessary to replace the clubs we lose. Do not think of a new club as competing for members you would like to add to your club. Instead, think of a new club opening 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 for the new club, treating it as an interclub. If you or your club is asked to help sponsor or open a new club, please say yes. Not only will it grow the District, it will also teach your members new ways to recruit or help them overcome their reticence at asking strangers to join your club.



Family Ties

CKI CAROLINE DOYLE, GOVERNOR

Key Club KAYLA HOLLOMAN, GOVERNOR

Hello Everyone,

My name is Kayla Holloman and I am the 2024-2025 Key Club Capital District Governor. I am honored to be holding such an esteemed position and cannot wait to see what I get to lead my district toward over the upcoming year.



I am a rising senior at Washington High School in Charles Town, West Virginia. I have been in the Kiwanis Family since third grade, and it is my favorite aspect of my life. It has taught me many valuable lessons that plan to continue using. Community service is so important to me because of the community impact I have been able to make.

Previously, I have held two district board positions over the course of three years. In the last month of eighth grade, I was asked by the Past Governor of the West Virginia District if I would serve as District Project Chair, and I happily accepted. Then, when the Capital and West Virginia districts merged, I became the Lieutenant Governor of Division 8B, my home division. I held that position from the end of my freshman year until April of my junior year. Now, I am governor and am so excited.

During my two years as Lt. Governor, I was able to maintain leadership of my favorite project, something inspired by a Hallmark holiday movie that has made a huge impact on many different community groups. I called this project the "Snow Ball" and it was a charity winter formal that students from the schools in my division (key club member or not) could attend. All money from the ticket sales went to the local Boys & Girls Club.

Over the course of two years, we were able to raise more than \$9,900 for the Boys & Girls Club, which gave the kids who were in that club many opportunities, such as going to horse camp to learn how to ride horses. Knowing that I was able to unite two schools and provide children with new opportunities is what has made this project special to me.

As governor, I plan to focus on the theme of health. This includes the health of humans as well as the health of the environment. My district and I are already working diligently to make an impact on our community's health through committee work and educating ourselves.

This year is going to be a great one; I can't wait to see what the members of the Capital District accomplish.

Hello Capital District of Kiwanis!

My name is Caroline Doyle and I currently serve as Governor of the Capital District of Circle K International. I just wrapped up my freshman year at The George Washington University, where I am pursuing a degree in Political Science. I am excited to get to know you all, and work together to better our community and world through our mutual dedication to service and leadership.



My Kiwanis Family journey has just begun in Capital, but I have a history in the New England and Bermuda District of Key Club, and Kiwanis as a whole. I am from Milford, Connecticut, where I was a proud Key Clubber all four years of high school. My sophomore year, I served as a Lieutenant Governor. My junior year, I was the chair of the Service Projects Committee on the NEBD Key Club District Board, when I also was club president for two years. I was the first female Key Club President at my high school. My senior year, I had the privilege to serve as New England and Bermuda District Governor.

My time in Key Club was unforgettable, and I can attribute my love for service, dedication to leadership, and overall passion for the betterment of my community and world to Key Club and Kiwanis as a whole.

During my term as governor, I forged positive relationships with my local Kiwanis Club, the New England District of CKI, and NEBD Kiwanis. I look back on this time fondly, and could not let my journey end there. That is why I am serving as CKI Governor for the Capital District.

Since the beginning of my term in April, the Capital District of CKI has been hard at work. We hosted two in-person Club Officer Training conferences, as well as our first President's Council meeting. I reinstated this council with the intent of fostering better communication between the district and club presidents, while also offering them a space to communicate and share ideas and troubles with one another. So far, so good.

Beyond this, our District Secretary-Treasurer Kyle Munar and I have been collecting updated contacts and plans from all active clubs in the district. We are hoping to start an E-Club within our district. This will be advertised to clubs that have struggled to reactivate or charter, as well as to graduating Key Club seniors attending these schools.

I am excited to see what else this year has in store for the Capital District, not only in CKI, but our entire Kiwanis Family. You all have welcomed me with open arms, and I cannot thank you enough.

AHOY, MATEYS! DCON REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

BY CAREN SCHUMACHER

Portsmouth, Virginia, situated along the James and Elizabeth rivers, is the perfect setting for this year's Kiwanis Capital District Convention (DCON), **Anchoring Our Future**, scheduled Aug. 23-25 at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

The weekend will be filled with a comprehensive slate of educational sessions, powerful speakers, two service projects, a chance to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances, and let's not forget, FUN! You won't want to miss this once-a-year opportunity that will provide the tools to help your club grow and prosper in the years to come.



DCON swings into action on Friday night with a picnic and baseball game at Harbor Park to watch the Norfolk Tides, a Triple-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, play Boston Red Sox-affiliate Worcester. The Harbor Ferry, located at the North Landing adjacent to the hotel, will be available (for a nominal fee) to give attendees a scenic ride on the Elizabeth River to Harbor Park. How great is that?

You'll have no traffic or parking fees to deal with! We've even got a Kiwanis baseball shirt available for purchase when you sign up. Sponsored by

Cunningham Recreation, it's a home run to kick off DCON with a gathering of Kiwanians having fun at America's favorite pastime.



A full Saturday schedule begins with the Opening Breakfast Session where you'll hear from the mayor of Portsmouth, Shannon Glover (above). Get fired up to participate in an outstanding slate of educational opportunities that will increase your Kiwanis knowledge and effectiveness. Here is a snapshot of the course offerings you will find at DCON. The best of the best will be presenting these creatively named workshops. *(More detailed information is available on the Capital District website.)*

- Setting Sail for Success: Check-In for Current & Incoming Club Secretaries and Treasurers;
- Charting a Course to Equity: Equipping Our Clubs for the Future with DEIBA;
- Anchors Aweigh: Navigating Social Media for Your Club;
- Anchoring Membership: Retention Techniques to Keep Clubs Afloat;
- All Hands on Deck: The Kiwanis Solutions Center;

- The Captain's Table: A Check-In for Club Presidents and Presidents-Designate;
- Unlock the Power of Language: Leveraging AI for Kiwanis Club Promotion;
- Dispatches from the High Seas: Sharing Your Story in the *Capital Kiwanian*;
- Charting a Course to Wellness: The Need to Take Care of Ourselves to Better Serve Others;
- All Aboard for Membership Growth: Attracting New Members In a FUN Way;
- Setting Sail with Our SLPs;
- From the Perfect Pitch to a Home Run: How to Bring Fundraising Dollars Across the Plate;
- The Skipper's Briefing: Joint 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Lt. Governor Meeting;
- Full Steam Ahead: Strategies for Elevating Kiwanis Engagement in Your Community.

New for this year is a Saturday Service Project to assemble 800 Blessing Bags for distribution to: Forkids; HER Shelter; Seton House Youth Shelter; and PiN Ministries. The project will run throughout the morning. You can drop by between educational sessions or spend more time, if your schedule permits. The bags will be presented to representatives from the local organizations during the luncheon session.

Lunch will provide a time of fellowship and will include a featured speaker. The House of Delegates and the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation Annual Meeting will then follow. The Past Lieutenant Governors meeting rounds out the afternoon's activities.

Ahoy, mateys. Saturday evening is all about FUN. The Governor's Reception will follow a **Pirates of the Kiwanians** theme. Everyone is encouraged to dress in their best pirate costume for a memorable evening. The Captain's Dinner follows, and among the highlights of the dinner will be music by an ensemble from Oscar Smith High School, the Teenager of the Year Award and Governor Eric's farewell speech.

Sunday morning's Inspirational Breakfast will include a keynote speaker and the ceremonial changing of leadership. The Capital District's Kiwanis International Counselor,

Cathy Tutty, from Butte, Montana, will handle the installation honors. The tradition of singing Auld Lang Syne will close out the 2024 Kiwanis Capital District Convention. But wait – there's more!

Service is at the heart of all that Kiwanis does, and there is no better way to wrap up a successful conference than with a service project. Plan to stay in Portsmouth a little longer Sunday, because it will be an All Kiwanians on Deck call to work with Generosity Feeds to put together meals to feed children in the Portsmouth area that struggle with hunger.

Anchor your club's future by participating in the 2024 DCON. Register today at <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/2024-capital-district-kiwanis-convention/>

(Caren Schumacher from Williamsburg is serving as 2024 Capital District Convention chair.)





MORAN HONORED BY SOUTH ARLINGTON

For his work supporting social-safety-net efforts during his years in local and federal office, Jim Moran on April 25 was presented with the inaugural “Legendary Service Award” by the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington.

The luncheon event, held at Busboys & Poets in Shirlington, included a free-form discussion with civic leaders on issues ranging from national affairs to the challenges facing youth in modern society.

“We want a community that reaches out [to youth], but a lot of it comes down to the parents,” Moran said.

“There’s only so much a community can do,” he said, while noting that “we have a terrific community – it’s a very progressive community, it’s inclusive. It has great schools. People who move to Arlington know what they’re getting.”

Moran served as mayor of Alexandria before representing the 8th District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 years. During his service, he supported expanded efforts to provide safety and security for youth.

In addition to the awards presentation, it was a chance for prospective Kiwanis members to test-drive the organization, learn about its mission and meet current members. Interclub attendees included members of the Kiwanis Club of Arlington and Lt. Gov. Kim Thompson of the Leesburg club.

The Kiwanis Club of South Arlington, a member of the Inter-Service Club Council of Arlington and of Kiwanis International, began life in 1947 as the Kiwanis Club of Fairlington. Its philanthropic efforts are focused on children at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

June

Winchester, VA	1922
Staunton, VA.....	1922
Charles Town, WV.....	1926
War, WV.....	1929
Arlington, VA	1931
Parsons, WV.....	1950
Commodore Mayo, Mayo, MD	1955
East Huntington, WV.....	1955
Bridgeport, WV.....	1967
Ocean View Beach, Norfolk, VA.....	1974
Colonial Capital, Williamsburg, VA.....	1976
Middlesex, Saluda, VA.....	1978
Great Bridge-Chesapeake, VA	1985
Tysons, VA	1998
Toano, VA	2007
Kiln Creek, VA	2023

July

Norfolk, VA.....	1919
Fairmont, WV.....	1920
Waynesboro, VA.....	1925
Coastal Delaware, DE.....	1928
Bluefield, VA.....	1946
Delmar, DE	1950
Colonial Heights, VA	1963
Accomack, Onancock, VA	1973
Shepherdstown, WV.....	1978
Far East Washington, DC.....	1983
Southwest Waterfront, DC.....	2001
Hopewell, VA.....	2006
Clinchco, VA	2018

ARLINGTON SPONSORS COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Proving that collaboration and teamwork are the keys to success, the Kiwanis Club of Arlington and the Professional Development Council at Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) came together this year to plan and execute a Community Health Fair, aimed at serving Arlington families who have little or no access to health care.

Both groups were doing community service in many small ways but this year they decided they wanted “to do something big.” Kiwanian Michelle Altman brought the two groups together and they developed a plan to provide much-needed health care outreach to Arlington’s uninsured and underinsured residents. Planning began in the fall of 2023 for a one-day health fair, which was held April 20 at Alice Fleet Elementary School.

The Kiwanis Club secured a sponsorship from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation to underwrite most of the expenses, supplemented by the Club’s Community Service funds, which are largely supported by annual blueberry sales. The club also provided people power and organizational support.

The VHC nurses provided free screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and vision. There were children’s activities and demonstrations by the Arlington Police Department’s Canine Unit. More than 30 community partners also participated, including governmental and safety-net agencies sharing information about nutrition and exercise, immunizations, senior health, food assistance, fire safety, infant and car seat safety, accident prevention, free children’s books, and how to access services. Kiwanis assembled and distributed 100 first aid kits to families, and Phoenix Bikes donated three refurbished bikes, which were raffled.

About 150 Arlington residents attended and many expressed appreciation. As a result, the two groups are planning a second Community Health Fair in 2025.

--Submitted by Julie Mangis

TEENAGER OF THE YEAR: LUKE PELLETIER FROM WILLIAMSBURG

Jamestown High School senior Luke Pelletier, recently selected as the Capital District Kiwanis Teenager of the Year, has had a high school career most students can only dream about:

Class president multiple times, Student Body president his senior year. Governor’s school mentorship program at NASA’s Langley Research Center. Captain of the Jamestown High School football team (and second team all-region as a senior). Member of multiple honor societies, state winner of the Heisman High School Scholarship (and national finalist), member of the school’s scholastic bowl team. AP Scholar with Distinction. National Merit Scholarship Commended Student.

As a youth, he won a national championship in Irish Dancing.

But what earned Luke Pelletier the Capital District Teenager of the Year was his impeccable record of public service, helping those in need.

Luke was selected for admission by two service academies (Navy and Air

Force), but has opted to attend MIT. He will serve a stint in the United States Air Force upon college graduation.

One of Luke’s letters of recommendation reads in part: “I have spent 20 years in the field of education and have worked with thousands of students... Luke is the most ambitious and determined student that I have known.

“I expect to see him one day as the President of the United States or thriving in some other profession that positively impacts our world.”

Another letter of recommendation reflects glowing thoughts as well: “Through Luke’s initiatives the community has experienced positive changes.”

Luke will be honored at the Capital District Convention in Portsmouth in August. He is receiving a \$2,500 scholarship from the Capital District Foundation.

“I will always remember the value of serving others and everything that my



life so far has taught me,” Luke told the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg when he was initially honored. “I believe it is in my nature to serve – and I think this is derived from how my parents raised me, coming from a career of service in the military.”

The Capital District Kiwanis Teenager of the Year Committee was chaired by Rocco Cipriano and the selection team included Mary Anton and Wesley Brown.

-- John Montgomery

THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT

For over 100 years, Kiwanians have answered when called upon.

We've addressed some of the world's largest health crises — saving babies from tetanus and fighting iodine deficiency. We've helped kids learn to read. We've helped young people become leaders. And in Kiwanis clubs around the globe, we serve children in our communities.

Now the Kiwanis Children's Fund calls upon you to make a gift to amplify your impact through The Possibility Project. After all, 66 million children go to school hungry every day. And 250 million children lack basic literacy skills. When you give, you will join others in the Kiwanis family — supporting clubs that see an urgent need in their communities and helping them serve more children. Will you answer the call?



Kiwanis
CHILDREN'S FUND

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

YOUR OVERVIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT



BY PG JOHN TYNER

The Possibility Project is a monumental initiative to raise \$25 million in the next five years. This isn't just a number; it represents our commitment to impacting at least 10 million children worldwide through Kiwanis Children's Fund grants and scholarships.

We are raising funds to help kids that need our help RIGHT NOW. Clubs from all over the world are approaching our Children's Fund seeking funds because they see kids in need in their communities. What will the Possibility Project do? It will raise more money in direct support of club service projects helping kids globally.

This campaign is unique. After extensive conversations, the Children's Fund Board sought to focus this fundraising effort on the needs of the kids in the communities where our Kiwanis Clubs are located. We are incredibly proud of our past global campaigns, which changed the lives of millions of children. And now, it's time to focus on fundraising for the kids in communities where Kiwanis clubs are already doing great work.

Volunteers are the backbone of this initiative. Your role in sharing The Possibility Project's mission and encouraging club-focused fundraising activities is crucial. Club giving is the foundation of this campaign. During the Eliminate Project, 55 percent of funds raised came from clubs that made commitments.

QUALITIES WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN A CHAMPION.....

- You consider yourself motivated, accountable, passionate, and inspirational about projects that fascinate you and draw your attention.
- You are known to travel around to clubs in your assigned area when you need to.
- You have a reputation for effectively building and leading club presentations.
- You just love to pound a computer keyboard or tap a smartphone because you are proficient in using Microsoft Office products for updating your reports.

WHY YOU SHOULD VOLUNTEER.....

- Get involved with other Kiwanians in Capital District and around the world.
- Increase your involvement with Kiwanis and benefit by seeking additional leadership roles.
- Support kids both locally and internationally. Be part of something BIGGER.

YOUR CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAMPIONS.....

To carry out our future successes, we have arranged the district into 10 overlay areas to correspond roughly with our divisions and our regions. To work with me in setting out to accomplish our Possibility Project contributions will be a "champion" for each area. These are the following areas. – those in bold have a champion already appointed: **Divs 1 & 3, Div 2, Div 4,** Divs 5 & 6, **Divs 9 & 10,** Divs 12 & 13, **Div 14,** Divs 15 & 16, Div 17, and Divs 18,19 & 20.

SO, I'm looking for **five enthusiastic individuals** who want to support kids globally through the Kiwanis Children's Fund. In your new volunteer role as a Champion, you will work closely with me as District Chair, with Kiwanis Children's Fund staff, and with other volunteers in the USA to help raise awareness and funds towards our newest campaign, The Possibility Project.

WORRIED THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH...

Don't worry! We have several upcoming virtual zoom training sessions available and an in-person training at Denver International Convention that will help you know everything you need to know. You will get to know new Kiwanis members through the process.

The full rollout for Capital will be at our District Convention in Portsmouth, VA on Aug. 23-25. Give all of this a thought and contact me at (301) 468-2146 or at tyner@taliesan.com and I'll give you the complete picture in raging color.



Eye on KI

Here is a summary of recent news and advice from Kiwanis International that can inform your members and help your club run more effectively and efficiently.

MAKE SURE YOUR CLUB IS ACCESSIBLE

The answers to a few questions can help create a positive experience for current and potential members.

For any Kiwanis club, retaining current members and appealing to potential members involve certain key elements. But for each group, one of the most important is accessibility.

In more than 80 countries, the Kiwanis family consists of approximately a half-million members – from elementary school students to adults, and all ages and abilities.

With such a wide reach, Kiwanis serves many communities. And each community has its own needs. That's why Kiwanis prides itself on the diversity of its service and members. But there's a key piece of a club's impact and success: inclusion.

How inclusive is your club?

Beyond inviting members from diverse backgrounds, including them in club operations will show that all opinions and contributions are valued.

After all, low retention of new members often happens because people who were excited to join were not given an opportunity to participate. Engage new members immediately! Ask for their input for improving current projects – or starting a new project that interests them.

Diversity is when everyone is invited to the party. Equity is when everyone gets to contribute to the playlist. Inclusion means that everyone has the opportunity to dance.

How easy is it for people to attend your club's meetings and events, or even to find the information they need? Here are a few questions to consider:

Do you meet in a location that's convenient for everyone – whether physically, geographically or in other ways? If not, make adjustments when possible or consider an alternate venue.

Does your club meet at a convenient time for everyone? If not, consider alternating or changing meeting times. In

addition, alternative meeting options – such as a virtual option or satellite membership – can allow all members to participate.

Can members easily find meeting minutes if they are unable to attend?

Do your meetings and service projects accommodate members' family commitments, career constraints or religious practices?

Does your meeting include a meal? The cost and/or time required may deter a potential new member. Consider making the meal optional.

Can a potential member find current information about the club on a website or social media page?

Are potential members included in club service projects? How is this advertised?

Make all members feel important

Club leaders should understand why each member is there and what activities would fulfill their passion. Yes, it's sometimes easier to do a task yourself – but handing a task to new members can be a great way to include them.

Provide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training

Every club can benefit from an honest discussion about these topics. In a recent survey of Kiwanis club members in the United States, some indicated that inappropriate comments or behaviors happen at club meetings and then go unaddressed. Bring in a speaker or conduct training sessions on the following topics:

- **Using inclusive language.** Learn about the effects our words have on creating a culture of normalized behavior. Gendered language, for instance, is a barrier toward achieving gender equality.
- **Detecting and avoiding unconscious bias and discrimination.** Sometimes people can unintentionally be treated unfairly because of a personal characteristic.
- **Calling out inappropriate behavior as a bystander.**

"The standard you walk past is the standard you accept," says David Morris, retired lieutenant general of the Australian Army and current chair of Diversity Council Australia.

- **Participate in community celebrations of diversity.** In fact, take time ahead of periods of recognition or observance, such as Black History Month or Yom Kippur, to learn about their history and importance.
- **Seek to understand your members from their perspective.** Knowing members' cultural backgrounds, professions, age range, sexual orientation, gender identities and involvement in other civic organizations can help identify ways your club could diversify membership and make it more inclusive.

In a changing world, the need for service remains constant. Your club can deploy many strategies to be inclusive – and for fully meeting that need. We welcome your questions and comments. Share them at diversity@kiwanis.org.

NYAD TO OFFER KEYNOTE AT JULY'S ICON

The keynote session at the Kiwanis International Convention in Denver July 3-6 will feature Diana Nyad. The title of her talk will be "The Power of Perseverance."

In 2013, 25 million people worldwide rooted for Nyad as she reached the Florida shore, at long last achieving her 35-year quest of becoming the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida.

Speaking the words "never ever give up" to the wildly cheering crowd on a Key West beach on Sept. 2, 2013, Nyad demonstrated to the world the power of the human spirit. Nyad's amazing record: 110.86 miles in 52 hours, 54 minutes, 18 seconds.

A prominent sports journalist, filing over 30 years for National Public Radio, *The New York Times* and others, Nyad has earned her place as one of our most compelling storytellers. Her memoir, "Find a Way," has earned worldwide praise. Her groundbreaking piece on her childhood sexual abuse for *The New York Times* drew a passionate response from around the world.

"Nyad" – a feature film starring Annette Bening as Nyad was released in November 2023.

Also a uniquely entertaining and inspiring public speaker, Nyad fulfilled the lifelong dream of bringing her performance of her play "The Swimmer" to the storied off-Broadway Minetta Lane Theatre in 2019.

Nyad and her best friend and Cuba swim expedition leader Bonnie Stoll have further collaborated with their nationwide walking imitative EverWalk, sparking America to become a nation of walkers. In turn, EverWalk has recently launched yet another initiative, OceansCommit, hosting walks along our shorelines and asking individuals and businesses to reduce single-use plastic.

Nyad has been inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame and the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, along with other Halls of Fame and awards of distinction. President Barack Obama invited Nyad to congratulate her in the Oval Office and then asked her to accompany him on his peace visit to Havana in 2014. Oprah Winfrey chose Nyad's interview for her SuperSoul Sunday broadcast as the first to be extended to two hours.

Nyad has written four books and speaks three foreign languages fluently.

WISE ADVICE

If you could go back to your first month as a brand-new Kiwanian, what advice would you give your brand-new Kiwanis self?

"To join two committees right at the very beginning. And start learning from seasoned members. So much knowledge and wisdom to be had!" – **Jarrod Goldsmith**, *Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District*

"Find a buddy to help you understand the organization." – **Violet White**, *Florida District*

"Your feedback matters. Don't shrink back...Give it all you got!" – **Yolanda Kameka-Morris**, *Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District*

"That anything is possible!" – **Benny Cartwright**, *California-Nevada-Hawaii District*

"Sit at a different table each week." – **Renea Gallery**, *Michigan District*

"You don't have to wait until (fill in the blank) to do that leadership role. You don't have to be married, retired, a business owner, a certain ethnicity, a man... to be successful in Kiwanis." – **Amy Zimmerman**, *Ohio District*

"Be the change you want to see and don't wait for someone else to get it done. Serving the children starts with you!" – **Jody Hulsey**, *Kentucky-Tennessee District*

JUST THE FACTS

Motto

Serving the children of the world

Membership

445,167 adult and youth members (178,030 adults and 267,137 youth)

Professional Staff

102

Service

Each year, the Kiwanis family of clubs devotes more than 7.7 million hours to service.

- Kiwanis clubs sponsor adult and youth leadership programs, and conduct more than 1.3 million projects.
- Kiwanis clubs raise \$390 million.
- The average Kiwanian impacts the lives of 106 children.
- Kiwanis is located in 85 nations. It was established in 1915. The website is Kiwanis.org.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Dedicated to serving the children of the world, this global volunteer organization annually raises \$390 million and dedicates more than 7.7 million hours to strengthening communities and helping children. Through service projects and fundraisers, Kiwanis members improve their communities, make lifelong friendships and most importantly, help children reach their full potential.

ADULTS

Kiwanis International offers three clubs for adults: Kiwanis, Aktion Club and Circle K International. Kiwanis clubs serve their communities through more than 152,00 service projects each year. Aktion Club is the only community service club for adults with disabilities. It provides members with opportunities to become integrated into their communities while developing initiative and leadership skills. CKI is a student-led service organization, with clubs on college and university campuses in 19 nations.

YOUTH

Kiwanis offers three clubs for youth: Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids. Key Club is the oldest and largest service organization for teens and teaches leadership through service to others. Builders Club provides students ages 11-14 with opportunities to develop leadership skills, improve self-esteem, increase civic engagement and learn life skills through service. Kids gives students ages 6-12 opportunities to work together on service projects, develop leadership potential and create strong moral character.

PROGRAM

Kiwanis offers programs for students: Terrific Kids, Bring Up Grades, Key Leader and the Global Leadership Certificate. Terrific Kids and Bring Up Grades, both for students ages 6-12, teach children to plan, set goals, work with others and celebrate success. Key Leader is a weekend experiential leadership retreat for teens. Through the Global Leadership Certificate, Key Club and CKI members have access to courses on topics including building meaningful relationships, strategic versus tactical leadership, self-awareness, inclusion, civic engagement and being an agent for change.



BEST IN STATE!

Avanti Yamamoto has been named Virginia’s Teacher of the Year

BY JOHN MONTGOMERY

Congratulations to Avanti Yamamoto, recently named Virginia’s Teacher of the Year. Today, Avanti is a decorated mathematics teacher at Atlee High School in Hanover County, just outside of Richmond. She has taught there eight years.

Avanti also is steeped in Kiwanis. She recognizes the role our organization has played in her development.

She credits Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs for helping her attain the paramount education honor in the Commonwealth.

“I would not be the person I have become without Kiwanis,” she says proudly. “That’s where I developed leadership skills.” She credits Key Club legend Joe Stankus and CKI leader *par excellence* Jeff Wolff, in particular, as role models along the way.

Presenting Avanti’s most recent honor in early May was Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. A committee put together by the Virginia Department of Education tapped Avanti for the honor from a pool of eight regional honorees.

“The eight teachers who are here today represent the best in their profession,” Gov. Youngkin said at the event. “Congratulations to Avanti

Yamamoto, a fantastic teacher who will be a great representative for all of the teachers in the Commonwealth.”

“It was quite a process,” Avanti says. “I was nominated by my school and then competed with perhaps 30 schools in the county. Then I advanced to the region and ultimately competed with seven other regional representatives at the state.”

Avanti will now be Virginia’s candidate for the 2025 National Teacher of the Year, which will be announced in 2025.

Avanti, 34, joined the Broad Run (Va.) High School Key Club in Loudoun County almost 20 years ago. “I remember I was so proud to become district editor,” she says modestly.

After initially enrolling at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Avanti transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University. At VCU, Avanti ran the table in CKI positions – club president, Lt. Governor, then Capital District Governor. She also was a candidate for CKI International President.

Even today, Avanti serves as faculty advisor of the Atlee High School Key Club. “It’s the largest club in the school,” she acknowledges proudly, with about 160 students involved.

Originally Avanti considered pursuing a career in medicine, until one of her math teachers

encouraged to follow that path. Her communication skills were acknowledged as being that good.

Avanti and her husband of eight years, Daisuke, a renown violinist who performed at the Governor’s gala at the Capital District Convention last summer, are the parents of a three-year old daughter, Rina. Avanti credits her husband with exceptional parenting skills.

Avanti has also been a leader in the Kiwanis Club of Richmond; she served as Lt. Governor for Division 11, and was elected class president a few years ago under then-Capital District Governor John Morris. Avanti has temporarily stepped back from the club as she juggles teaching and family demands. At Atlee, she has served as math department lead since 2020.

“Richmond Kiwanis and their sponsorship during my time in CKI was instrumental to my success and development,” Avanti says. “They continue to support my journey by sponsoring the Atlee Key Club. I’m so grateful for all of their mentorship, sponsorship and friendship over the years.”

“Every child is capable,” Avanti says. “We just have to believe in them. And when we believe in them, those beliefs turn to actions.”

Avanti is a classic case in point.

Beyond the Call

KIWANIAN LLOYD ENOCH ‘WALKED THE WALK’

BY JOHN MONTGOMERY

(PLG Lloyd Enoch, a proud Capital District Kiwanian since 1991, passed away from complications related to Parkinson’s disease on June 1. His memorial service was June 6. He was 88 and a longtime close friend. This is the eulogy I contributed at his memorial service.)

Those of you who have had connections with the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke over the past four decades – and quickly scanning this chapel, I would say the portion is significant – have an image of Lloyd Enoch.

The more research I did in preparing these remarks, the more I realized there is a common theme. The images in our minds are not all that different.

I read it in emails and on Facebook posts; I heard it in conversation during visitation this afternoon; I saw and heard it in the multiple brag bucks about Lloyd at yesterday’s Kiwanis meeting.

Past President Mike Loveman always said that he and Lloyd were “twin sons of different mothers...”

“Lloyd was a constant source of positive support for me when I was president,” Mike said, thinking back 13 years.

Jeanne Bollendorf, our next president to be, said, “Lloyd was the one who asked me when I was a new member more than 10 years ago to take on the newsletter and the website; he was so supportive of me.” There’s that reference to “support” once again.

Longtime Roanoke City Schools administrator Dick Clemmer, now

retired, someone Lloyd recruited to join Kiwanis, called him “the consummate Kiwanian and the driving force behind Career and Technical Education in this area...”

My wife, Joyce, a Kiwanian whom I know firsthand to be a good judge, told me a long time ago: “Everybody respects Lloyd.” She didn’t elaborate, but I suspect she meant that “everybody” extends beyond Kiwanis. *It certainly does!*

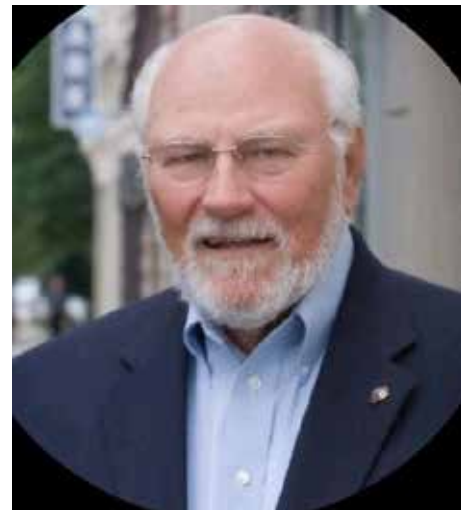
When a picture of Lloyd comes to mind, don’t you think of:

- his commitment,
- his consistency,
- his dependability,
- his quiet but effective leadership, most of the time with a twinkle in his eye,
- the guy you’d want in *your* foxhole?

I am a sports guy, and let me tell you, Lloyd was a *teammate!* You could count on him for being “in,” whatever the task at hand.

As we remember Lloyd today, on the 80th anniversary of D-Day, it’s important to remember that Lloyd was not only a career educator, a teacher *all the way*, but also a veteran, a soldier, a proud American. One who accepted, followed and enforced the rules of life – and had fun doing it.

Lloyd served in the Army, stationed in Japan in the mid-1950s, before he was even 20 years old. In fact, you may have seen the Japanese Kiwanis greeting among Lloyd’s keepsakes on



display; no one is exactly sure how he got that, but Lloyd seemed to have been known in Japan, too!

Speaking of the Army, some of you know that the basketball coach at West Point in the 1960s was the late Bobby Knight. The team captain of one of his teams was Mike Krzyzewski. Between them, as head college basketball coaches, Knight and Krzyzewski won more than 2,100 college games, among the most successful in their trade of all time – and they inspired legions of their respective players to go on to be coaches.

I have always said that if I were in the timeout huddle with Knight and Krzyzewski at West Point in 1969, I for one would be diving for loose balls when the game resumed!

Lloyd had that kind of magnetic inspiration as a leader – without the bluster of Bobby Knight, without the pomposity of Coach K. Over the past 25 years, I personally followed Lloyd in these Kiwanis positions: Kiwanis Club of Roanoke director, vice

president, president-elect, president, past president, Capital District Lt. Governor, club secretary and treasurer. He taught me how to do *all* of those jobs, and I still remember his advice as to how to handle challenging tasks every single day.

(By the way, one of Lloyd's favorite responses when occasionally he got a suggestion that he wasn't crazy about: "We'll take that under advisement." I'm not sure if Lloyd learned that in the military or through teaching, but it's certainly a good piece of advice.)

Lloyd also exuded a *confident modesty*.

For example, he could tell you that he and the former University of Alabama football coach Nick Saban both hailed from Monongah, WV, *without bragging about it...*

He could tell you that he vividly remembered that unforgettable jukebox hit, "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby?" from 1944 (June 1944, as a matter of fact) in a way you'd want to know *more* about that song... not less.

When Lloyd was Kiwanis Club of Roanoke president in 2003-04, and I was president-elect, Lloyd underwent successful open-heart surgery and was scheduled to be away from Kiwanis for an extended period. I, too, had had heart surgery a year earlier, and I knew first-hand it was, shall we say, a *demanding experience*, not easy. I went to the hospital the night before Lloyd's surgery, to visit him, to encourage him, to support him in the way he always had me. I told him not to worry about Kiwanis details, that I would cover – like a good soldier.

As I was leaving his room, I said to him, as light-hearted and as playful as I could be in a serious situation: "Hey, Lloyd, which would you rather do: *have heart surgery* or deal with 'blank?' " (referring to a particularly challenging club member, who for illustrative purposes now, will remain nameless).

Lloyd thought for a second and chuckled: "Have heart surgery!"

I had my orders.

"OK," I said. "I'll take care of (blank)."

I believe Lloyd's parting wish to others would be this: "Whatever you choose to do, whether it be Kiwanis, or any other endeavor – do it the very best that you can – and have a good time doing it."

Lloyd "talked the talk" – but more importantly, he also "walked the walk."

Is there a better legacy?

The triumvirate: Kiwanis Club of Roanoke past presidents Lloyd Enoch, John Montgomery and Rupert Cutler share a laugh reliving club memories from 20+ years ago.



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