

The Capital

February/March 2025

KIWANIAN

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**STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

**DISTRICT FOUNDATION
LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN
FOR KIDS**

**KIWANIS FAMILY MEMBERS
HELP KIDS IN NEED**



Kiwaniis

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COVER: Colonial Capital Kiwanian Hal Metcalfe, with Key Clubbers, poses with care bags put together for children placed into foster care in the Williamsburg area.





Kiwanis Club of Danville's winning entry in the 2024 Community Holiday Light Show Best in Show Contest - "Home Alone".



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Governor's Message

JOSH HISCOCK, 2024-25 GOVERNOR



'Happiness... the richest thing we'll ever own'

Greetings, Kiwanians –

At the end of February, Kiwanians and guests will gather in historic Cambridge at the stunning Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort & Spa for our annual Mid-Year Conference. Your District Board of Trustees hopes you are ready to *Elevate Our Impact*. I have a love for all things Disney, so you will see that theme woven throughout the conference. *Be Prepared* for a weekend filled with inspiring speakers, enriching educational sessions, thrilling entertainment, and memorable fellowship. *For The First Time in Forever*, the things you learn may lead to *A Whole New World* of ideas for elevated service within your club for years to come.

The weekend is not just about business. There is time to relax, too! *Hakuna Matata!* Spend time exploring this world-class resort. Enjoy Disney Music BINGO on Friday night and a showing of *Disney Pixar's Up* in the hotel's pool on Saturday evening – our very own *Under the Sea* dive-in theater. Many thanks to Michelle Yuth and the conference team for attending to *The Bare Necessities* and other important details. They have done a *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* job! Early bird registration ended Feb. 7, and late registration ended Feb. 21. I hope you will be joining us.

If you cannot attend, there is still a way for you to participate in our conference service project with our partner, Baltimore Read Aloud. We are aiming to donate 1,000 books to their campaign to ensure that every child has a library of at least 100 books in their home. Want to help us reach our goal? Visit this site and purchase a book today. We have over 3,900 Kiwanians within the Capital District. Imagine if everyone purchased just one book. We would exceed our goal by leaps and bounds and show children from all over that *You've Got a Friend in Me!*



The weekend is a celebration of Kiwanis – our clubs, officers, members, and our exemplary service to the children in our communities. Immediate Past Governor Eric Lamb will award many clubs and members with distinctions of merit for their work during the 2023-2024 Kiwanis year. They taught us how to *Go This Distance* in making a difference. I am so glad we can cheer them on for elevating their impact in their clubs and communities.

We will also cheer on our service leadership program clubs over the next few weeks. In February, the Capital District CKI Convention takes place in Fairfax, Virginia. The event will bring our college-age servant leaders together for fun, fellowship, laughter, and learning. In March, the Capital District of Key Club takes over Crystal City, Virginia, for its annual convention. Hundreds of students will gather for this annual event where they attend workshops, share ideas, celebrate their year of service, and elect their 2025-2026 leaders. They always show us *How Far I'll Go*. Key Club International turns 100 this year, and this convention will be one of the many ways we celebrate this milestone. Congratulations to CKI Governor Abigail and Key Club Governor Kayla on an exemplary year of service. I look forward to celebrating with you!

There is a lot to be proud of in Kiwanis, both in our clubs and our communities. Some days are challenging, and we face some incredible obstacles as we try to grow our membership and provide service to children. Despite the setbacks we may face, let's continue to push forward and give the world the best we have. In the words of the song *Try Everything* from Zootopia:

*"I won't give up, no, I won't give in
Til I reach the end
And then I'll start again...
I want to try everything
I want to try even though I could fail"*

Yours in Kiwanis Spirit,



IMPACT CLUB

NEW

The Possibility Project is our campaign to build a brighter future for 10 million children by raising US\$25 million for the Kiwanis Children's Fund by the end of the 2027-28 Kiwanis year. **It's the first fundraising campaign created solely to support the Kiwanis family and the children we serve.** With a commitment to give a per-member average of US\$500 or more over five years, your club becomes an Impact Club. It's recognition for an extraordinary commitment and for the inspiration it provides to fellow clubs and Kiwanians.



NEW CLUBS COMING!

We are looking for volunteers to help in remote and in-person positions!

Please contact Jen Wolff for more information:
jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org

Moundsville, WV	April 7-10
Cambridge, MD	April 7-10
East End, VA (Richmond)	May 12-15
Bel Air, MD	June 16-19
VA - TBD	Summer



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

WE'RE NEARING THE HALFWAY POINT...

DISTRICT STRUCTURAL CHANGES

At its Jan. 2025 special meeting, the Capital District Board of Trustees voted to eliminate the Blue Ridge region and reduce the number of trustees on our board from 7 to 6. Division 4 will become part of the DelMarVA Region joining Divisions 5 & 6. Division 8 will become part of the Heart of Virginia Region, joining Divisions 9 & 10. These changes go into effect Oct. 1, 2025.

LTG ELECTION SEASON

Shortly after the Midyear Conference, Spring will officially be upon us. In the Kiwanis world, this is the time where our clubs and divisions are electing new leadership.

Each of your clubs should be planning now for its Annual Meeting. Per your club bylaws, this is a meeting held between Jan. 1 and May 15 with at least 30 days' notice to all members. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect your 2025-2026 club board of directors and to amend your club's mandatory policies if necessary.

Our divisions will also be holding Divisional Council Meetings (DCMs) to elect the new lieutenant governors and lieutenant governor-elects who will lead the respective divisions in 2025-26 and 2026-27. The position of lieutenant governor is vitally important to keeping Kiwanis clubs strong and healthy so they can do more service in their communities.

Divisions create a sense of belonging and fellowship between Kiwanis clubs and they can enhance everyone's projects and programs. Once you have served as president of your club, Kiwanis really looks to you to step up and serve as a lieutenant governor.

Lieutenant governors are asked to visit their clubs and the Capital District reimburses its lieutenant governors for mileage to travel to club meetings. The District also provides stipends to District and International conferences for our lieutenant governors, so you get additional Kiwanis education and fellowship opportunities as part of the position. If you are eligible, I strongly encourage you to consider the position of lieutenant governor, if not for the upcoming year starting Oct. 1, 2025, then for the following year.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN PITTSBURGH

Registration for Kiwanis ICON is already open and the Capital District is hoping to bring a delegation of 75 people to the City of Bridges. The event will take place June 25-28, 2025 and our delegation will be staying at The Westin Pittsburgh. Henry Winkler, TV's Fonz from *Happy Days* will be the Keynote Speaker at this amazing event. For more information about registration and hotel accommodations, please visit: <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-pittsburgh/>.

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

From the Governor-Elect

BY TIM GILLETTE

MY FAVORITE TIME TO BE A KIWANIAN!

Greetings Capital Kiwanians! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and was able to spend time with friends and family.

This time of the year is my favorite time to be a Kiwanian. The February and March months are filled with great events, and time spent with our youth leaders. From Feb. 21-23, our Circle K students gathered in Fairfax, Virginia for their district convention. One month later, we have our Key Clubbers meeting in Arlington, Virginia for their district convention. Both events will bring young people from all over the district together to celebrate, elect officers, participate in workshops, and engage in fellowship. As Governor-Elect, I have the distinct honor to install the new officers of CKI and Key Club on the Sunday mornings of those respective conventions.

From Feb. 28-March 2, as noted throughout this issue, Kiwanis will host its annual mid-year conference in Cambridge, Maryland. Our location this year is the beautiful Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina. The beautiful views of the property on the banks of the Choptank River are enough reason to attend, but the committee has so much more in store for Kiwanians and guests.

Friday night we get started with a recognition dinner of all the members, clubs, and divisions who earned distinguished status for the 2023-2024 year. Immediate Past Governor Eric Lamb will present awards to those honored. After dinner, we then have Disney Music Bingo, which I'm sure will lead into some sing-along moments from the attendees. Saturday morning we get rolling with our opening breakfast, then we start with our educational sessions. We have our lunch, then we go right back into our educational sessions. After the educational sessions, divisions and regions will have time for their elections (if needed), then we wrap up with our Governor's reception & dinner (Disney attired encouraged), and our dive-in movie (bring your swimsuit). Sunday, we finish the exciting weekend with a breakfast and service project.

(Tim Gillette, from Tysons, is the Capital District Governor-Elect for 2024-2025.)

As Governor-Elect, it's my responsibility to prepare the educational sessions for this event. The offerings this year are designed with a little something for everyone. We have sessions involving membership, SLPs, the district foundation, service, artificial intelligence, and so much more. We have a lineup of experienced Kiwanians to lead these sessions including District Leaders, Committee Chairs, Past Governors, and Kiwanis International staff. It's important to attend these educational events. The clubs who send members to educational events tend to be the clubs who are adding members and doing meaningful service. I'd love to see all clubs have at least one member in attendance!



As we start thinking about the 2025-2026 Kiwanis year, it's important that we ensure we have our leadership structure in place. Division and Regional elections should be happening in the next month or so, and club elections will happen soon after that. The 2025-2026 Lt. Governor class will meet in Virginia Beach, Virginia from May 2-4 for their training. I'd like to have all division Lt. Governors elected before then so they can attend this important training.

In closing, I'd like to share a few words of wisdom from Walt Disney:

*"We keep moving forward, opening new doors,
and doing new things,
because we're curious
and curiosity
keeps leading us down new paths."*

I look forward to seeing everyone over the next few weeks at one of the district-wide events and encourage you to keep up the great work you're doing!

From the Vice Governor

BY DAVID LURIE

ARE WE THERE YET? *YES, YOU ARE!*

I know there are a lot of people who are thinking about Spring. With the cold and – at times – dreary weather of recent weeks, it seems that it cannot get here fast enough.

Well, Spring will be here before we know it, and this is a great time for you to plan what your club can accomplish. January and February are not normally times clubs do a lot of outdoor service projects or fundraisers (except for my own club, of course, who just had our 2nd Annual Polar Dip), but this is a really good time to make those plans for how we are going to meet our goals for this year. This is the time to work on planning that project or fundraiser your club wants to do when the weather warms up.

You know what this is also a good time to do? Invite new members into Kiwanis! As you have probably figured out, I believe that *anytime* is a good time to bring in new members. Imagine how much more you could accomplish if you had one, two or even 10 more members. So set aside some time to work on your club's recruitment and orientation plans to help your club grow and for those new members to be able to contribute right away.

Also, right now is also the time of year what I like to call conference season. Both CKI and Key Club are preparing for their respective district conventions with CKI meeting in Fairfax, Virginia Feb. 21-23 and Key Club in Arlington, Virginia exactly one month later in March. The Midyear Conference committee is planning a magical time for Kiwanians and their guests to join us in Cambridge, Maryland Feb. 28-March 2. I am looking forward to you joining us for a fun weekend of fellowship and education.

I am also happy to report that the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation has now collected more than \$20,000 to date for Hurricane Helene relief. The Disaster Assistance Committee, a joint Capital District and Foundation committee, is currently soliciting projects to support specifically in Southwest Virginia. As



Foundation Treasurer, I really would like to give that money away and make an impact in that area. In addition, the Foundation is also accepting club grants applications through March 15. We have over \$20,000 available for clubs to request. For the clubs in West Virginia, the Foundation also has funds to assist you with Key Clubs in your area, especially if you are looking for help to get those students to District Convention.

Finally, be thinking about your future leadership in your club. We are working on getting our 2025-26 District Team under Governor-elect Tim pulled together and I know we still have a few spots to fill. Clubs should also be looking at who is going to lead their clubs in the future. April and May are annual club meeting time and clubs should be thinking about who will lead their club come Oct. 1. We will be there before you know it and Capital District is already planning for training of club officers.

Thanks again for all you do for your clubs and your communities. We are there every day for them and hope we will be there for many years to come.

(David Lurie is on schedule to serve as Capital District Governor in 2026-27. He is an active Kiwanian in Tysons.)

Education News



PLAY TO YOUR MEMBERS' STRENGTHS

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

Leaders understand their own strengths and the strengths of others. Strong leaders understand how to use the strengths of others for the success of their businesses and organizations. Businesses and organizations succeed when the leadership team is made up of a diverse group of people with varying skill sets that are needed for the organization to thrive. The same is true when it comes to our Kiwanis clubs.

There are many ways to determine your strengths as a leader and the strengths of your members. Numerous personality tests and articles are available to study your own strengths and skills. Personally, I like the CliftonStrengths assessment; there are others available, however. *(Fun note: if you participate in Kiwanis Amplify, you have the opportunity to complete and discuss the CliftonStrengths assessment and learn more about your own strengths!)*

Even if you do not want to take a formal assessment, take a moment to write down some strengths you feel that you may have that can help benefit your club. Are you a good listener? Do you excel at speaking in front of groups? Do you enjoy bringing people together for a task or to work towards a common goal?

Once you have reflected on your own strengths and skills, take some time to learn the strengths of others and what interests them. Do you have a member who posts regularly on social media? Maybe they can help your club's social media pages. Do you have a member who enjoys photography? Ask them to take photos at your club events. Maybe you have someone who really likes networking with others. Ask them to help at your member recruitment events or ask them to represent the club at Chamber of Commerce functions.

As a club leader, it is important to not only recognize the strengths that others bring to the club but to utilize others to build your team for the success of the club. The Club President should not be taking on all of the tasks of the club. Delegation is an important part of leadership, and the President should be willing to share the load of the work of the club. Often the President feels that they need to take



on all of the work, when in reality, the President is leading the club to reach its goals; they are not responsible for completing them on their own. In fact, it is very difficult to do the work of Kiwanis as one person. That is why you have a Board and a leadership team to help. Utilize this team. When you try to take on the tasks all on your own, you may get burned out or even push others away.

It is important that duties are shared with multiple members of the club. You never know when one of your more active members may win the lottery and move to Hawaii, or have a job change and are no longer able to be as present in the club. If you have one or two members doing the bulk of the work, take some time to think about what tasks can be divided up and given to other members. Everyone always says, "Many hands make light work." That not only is true for our service projects, but for the internal work of the club as well. Ask others to participate in organizing events, utilize interests and strengths of members to benefit the club. Do not be afraid to ask people to help; sometimes a simple ask is all the push that someone needs to get more involved in club activities.

Remember, it takes all members to be successful. Understand your own strengths, and utilize the strengths of your members to build a stronger club. A stronger Kiwanis club means more of an impact in your community, which means more kids can be served by Kiwanis.

(Samantha Bosserman, from the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro, continues as the 2024-25 Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District.)



Service Showcase

BY CARRIE WAGNER

As I write this article, I can't help but think about all the incredible clubs preparing their entries for the Signature Service Project Contest. I'm so excited to read your submissions and see the creative ways you're making an impact! Approximately one-third into our Kiwanis year, it's the perfect time to reflect on how we're showcasing service in our clubs and elevating our community impact.

Have you reached out to make new connections in your community? Are your projects staying true to our shared Kiwanis mission of helping children thrive? Maybe you're feeling a little "stuck" and searching for fresh inspiration to energize your service work.

I've been so proud to see inspiring posts on Facebook – many clubs are shining examples of service in action. You're stepping up in remarkable ways to meet the needs of your

communities. But as we celebrate these achievements, I can't help but wonder: How can we, as a district, take our service to the next level? What new ideas can we bring to life to make an even bigger impact for the children who need us most?

Let's discuss ways we can strengthen community connections, create exciting new volunteer opportunities, and keep serving kids in ways that reflect what Kiwanis is all about. Together, we can make this year one of our most impactful yet.

Collaborating for Greater Impact: Strengthening Kiwanis Through Community Partnerships

For over a century, Kiwanis has been making a difference in communities, working to improve the lives of children and families. One of the

best ways to expand our reach is by teaming up with local organizations, schools, businesses, and city officials. These collaborations help us amplify our efforts, share resources, and create even more meaningful opportunities to serve.

Identifying Community Needs

The first step in making a real impact is figuring out where help is needed the most. By working with schools, libraries, city leaders, school officials and local nonprofits, Kiwanis clubs can find the areas where they can make the biggest difference. Whether it's tackling food insecurity, promoting literacy, or building safe play spaces, aligning with community needs makes our service more effective and long-lasting.

For example, literacy programs thrive when Kiwanis clubs partner with schools and libraries to provide

books and reading mentorships. Working with local food banks and city officials can make a huge difference in ensuring children have access to nutritious meals both in and out of school.

Strengthening Community Partnerships

Building relationships with local leaders, businesses, and city officials and city departments is key to getting things done. When Kiwanis works together with these groups, we can engage the community in bigger ways and get even more support for projects that help kids and families.

Here are some fun and practical ways Kiwanis clubs can strengthen community partnerships:

- Team up with city officials: Meet with local government leaders to talk about shared goals and find ways to work together on things like improving parks and supporting youth programs.
- Get businesses involved: Ask local businesses to sponsor events, provide volunteers, or donate supplies to boost Kiwanis service projects.
- Work with schools: Talk to educators to see what students need most – volunteer for field days, help at parent nights, or start a tutoring or mentoring program, or help refresh the landscaping.
- Engage Key Clubs and community groups: Encourage youth and other local organizations to get involved in service projects, creating a culture of teamwork and giving back.
- Host networking events: Bring together community leaders to share ideas and brainstorm new ways to make a difference. Check if there are 5K runs or Kids Mud Runs that Kiwanis can support through volunteering.

By making these connections, Kiwanis clubs can take their service efforts even further and make a lasting impact in their communities.

Elevating Our Service: Fresh Ideas to Engage the Community

Most Kiwanis clubs host a pancake breakfast fundraiser in April – but what if we made it even better? Invite Key Club members to join in and volunteer alongside Kiwanis members. Add interactive elements like face painting or fun carnival games to turn it into a full-on family event. You could even pick a creative theme to make it stand out.

March is Read Across America Month, which makes it a perfect time to promote literacy in your community. Could your club host a reading event at the YMCA or Boys & Girls Club? Maybe reaching out to elementary schools for read-aloud sessions or book donation drives would be a great way to get involved.

If your club has Little Free Libraries, now is the time to re-energize them. Encourage kids and parents to share photos of themselves using the libraries or organize a book-themed event to restock them and celebrate the love of reading.

The Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering isn't just about giving back – it's also about growing as individuals and creating meaningful connections. Studies show that people who volunteer are generally happier, feel more connected to their communities, and build lasting friendships. When we give our time to help others, we not only improve the lives of those in need but also experience a sense of fulfillment and purpose.

For children and young adults, volunteering teaches the value of service, empathy, and leadership. By seeing adults engage in service, kids are inspired to give back, fostering a lifelong commitment to community

involvement. Whether it's through Key Clubs, family-friendly service projects, or intergenerational volunteering, we have the power to create a ripple effect of kindness and generosity.

Creating Joint Volunteer Opportunities

The more hands on deck, the bigger the impact. By working with other Kiwanis clubs, Key Clubs, and city organizations, we can expand our reach and create even more meaningful service opportunities. Events like book drives, mentoring programs, and family activity days become even more successful when different organizations team up to make them happen.

Check your city's website or reach out to Parks and Recreation to see what volunteer opportunities are available. With spring coming, maybe your club can help spruce up landscaping at schools, the YMCA, or local parks. Or perhaps you can volunteer at a snack bar for youth sports in your area. There are so many ways to get involved—just reach out and see where you're needed!

Conclusion: Leading the Way in Service

Kiwanis clubs have an amazing opportunity to lead the charge in creating service projects that truly make a difference. By strengthening partnerships, engaging our communities, and focusing on kids, we can take our impact to new heights.

Let's put an extra focus on elevating service over the next few months. Be sure to post lots of photos and share details about your events – I'd love to highlight your work and support you in any way I can. My email is carriemwagner@gmail.com.

(Carrie Wagner is President of the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro in addition to serving as district service chair.)

Self Care

HOW TO HANDLE NOT BEING HAPPY IN YOUR CLUB... WHILE STILL WANTING TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

BY JENN HISCOCK

It's a feeling many of us experience at some point: dissatisfaction with the group or organization we've been a part of for a while. Sometimes the initial excitement and sense of belonging fade. You might feel frustrated, disconnected, or unhappy with the direction your club is heading. However, even in those moments of discontent, the desire to continue serving your community can remain strong.

So how do you navigate this challenge?

Feeling unhappy or dissatisfied with your club while still wanting to make a positive impact can be a tricky balance. But rest assured, it is entirely possible to regain a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Here are some strategies to help you handle these feelings, while continuing to serve your community effectively:

The first step is to take a step back and reflect on why you're feeling unhappy. Is it the dynamics within the group? Are you frustrated with the club's leadership, or perhaps the goals no longer align with your personal values? Are the projects less impactful or meaningful than they once seemed? Understanding the root cause of your dissatisfaction will allow you to take action, either by addressing the issue directly with the group or finding ways to mitigate its effects on your experience.

It's easy to fall into a negative mindset when things aren't going the way you hoped. But shifting your focus from what's not working to why you joined the club in the first place can reignite your passion. Remember, the ultimate goal is community service and making a

positive difference. If your club's internal issues are weighing on you, try to redirect your energy towards the cause you care about. Focus on the positive impact you can have through your actions, regardless of any internal struggles.

Communities are built on the backs of people who care enough to give their time and energy. Your involvement, no matter how small, contributes to a larger movement of positive change. The need for service in our communities never goes away, and your role—however challenging it may feel at times – remains essential. Stay connected to your core mission and the reasons you first decided to give back. It's this commitment that will keep you going, even when the going gets tough.

Being unhappy or dissatisfied with your club doesn't mean you have to give up on your desire to serve your community. With the right mindset, communication, and action, you can continue to make a difference while also taking care of your own well-being. Your community needs you, and together, we can create positive change, no matter the obstacles we face along the way.

Keep serving, keep growing, and most importantly, keep making an impact!

(Jenn Hiscock is the Capital District Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee Chair for 2024-25.)

Mental Health Hotlines and Wellbeing Resources

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Call/Text 988

Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-4673

Substance Abuse Hotline

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Grief and Loss Support Group Locator

www.griefshare.org

Homeless Shelter Directory

www.homelessshelterdirectory.org





Kiwaniis Youth & Volunteer Mental Health & Wellbeing Taskforce

How to Handle Not Being Happy in Your Club While Still Wanting to Serve

MENTAL FILTER

FEELING UNHAPPY OR DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR CLUB WHILE STILL WANTING TO SERVE CAN BE CHALLENGING. HOWEVER, WITH THE RIGHT MINDSET AND ACTIONS, YOU CAN FIND FULFILLMENT AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT. HERE ARE SOME STEPS TO HELP NAVIGATE THIS SITUATION.



3. SET BOUNDARIES

AVOID TAKING ON TASKS THAT DRAIN YOUR ENERGY OR ADD TO YOUR FRUSTRATION. CHOOSE ROLES OR PROJECTS THAT ALIGN WITH YOUR VALUES AND PASSIONS.



6. SEEK SUPPORT

CONNECT WITH LIKE-MINDED MEMBERS WHO SHARE YOUR VISION AND CAN SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS. ENGAGE IN NETWORKING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WITH MEMBERS OF OTHER CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS TO GAIN FRESH PERSPECTIVES.

1. REFLECT ON THE SOURCE OF UNHAPPINESS

IS YOUR DISSATISFACTION ROOTED IN CLUB CULTURE, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, OR LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES? CONSIDER IF YOUR EXPECTATIONS ALIGN WITH THE CLUB'S GOALS AND ACTIVITIES.

4. FOCUS ON PERSONAL GROWTH

USE YOUR TIME IN THE CLUB TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, OR OTHER SKILLS THAT CAN BENEFIT YOU PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO REMIND YOURSELF OF THE VALUE YOU BRING.



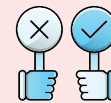
7. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

DEMONSTRATE THE BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE CLUB. FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT OF TEAMWORK AND INCLUSIVITY TO CREATE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE.



2. COMMUNICATE OPENLY

SHARE YOUR CONCERNS WITH CLUB LEADERSHIP OR TRUSTED MEMBERS. USE "I" STATEMENTS TO EXPRESS HOW YOU FEEL WITHOUT ASSIGNING BLAME. INSTEAD OF ONLY POINTING OUT PROBLEMS, SUGGEST ACTIONABLE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.



5. FOCUS ON YOUR "WHY"

REFLECT ON WHY YOU JOINED THE CLUB AND THE PERSONAL SATISFACTION YOU GET FROM SERVING. FOCUS ON THE IMPACT YOU'RE MAKING RATHER THAN THE CLUB'S SHORTCOMINGS.

8. CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE EVEN MINOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CLUB'S FUNCTIONING OR CULTURE. THANK FELLOW MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT.

BY TAKING THESE STEPS, YOU CAN NAVIGATE YOUR DISSATISFACTION WHILE MAINTAINING YOUR COMMITMENT TO SERVING. YOUR DEDICATION AND PROACTIVE APPROACH CAN INSPIRE POSITIVE CHANGES!

Around the CD

What follows is a compendium of news briefs regarding recent or upcoming 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

Colonial Capital launches new projects

In concert with the Kiwanis goal of helping the children of the world one child at a time, the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Capital (Williamsburg area) recently launched two programs:

CARE CLOSETS

In late 2022, Kiwanian Bob Holmberg learned of a program run by the Kiwanis club in Findlay, Ohio, that assisted schools in providing "Care Closets" which helped nurses and teachers respond to emergencies, such as hunger or clothing mishaps incurred during the school day.

Without outside help, there were no resources available to assist the staff in comforting the affected children and allowing them to resume their daily activities.

Bob contacted the Director of Health Services in James City County, VA, to learn if such a program would be welcome in this area. After receiving a resounding "yes," Bob explored alternatives, presented a plan to the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Capital, and the club agreed to the plan. For an initial modest investment of \$300, Bob secured storage containers and clothing items suggested by the school nurses, and the program was up and running.

Since its inception, this program has now spread to almost all schools within the district (from one to 14). Calls for assistance continue to come in, and the project continues to be supported by the club. Pictured is Bob delivering supplies to a local school.



'BAG FOR YOU'

In 2024, Colonial Capital Kiwanian Hal Metcalfe, a Key Club advisor, was contacted by the James City County Social Services organization responsible for placing children into foster care in the Williamsburg area.

On placement day, Hal was advised, the children typically have very few personal possessions and many times arrive at their placement home with nothing. Together with Social Services, Hal developed a plan to provide each affected child with a bag containing toiletries, a quilt, a pillowcase, a keychain with an inspirational message and a stuffed animal.

With help from two other non-profit organizations who donated all but the toiletries, and approval from the Kiwanis board, Hal was able to procure, fill and deliver 35 bags to the foster agency. Each bag has a value of more than \$500 but cost the club only \$23. This program will continue as the need arises. Shown preparing the bags with Hal are Key Club members from Williamsburg Christian Academy.

(See cover photo.)

--Submitted by Peter Webster

C-burg Kiwanians and Santa provide Christmas for 59 children

On Dec. 19, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg held its annual children's Christmas party for 59 children and their parents or guardians. They gathered at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Christiansburg where all were fed pizza and the children received gifts from Santa Claus.

The process began with the local teachers providing the Kiwanis Club with names of children in need. They also provided a list of the clothing needed along with sizes, and the toys desired. Once the names were received, each Kiwanian took a name and bought clothing for the child they selected. The items purchased included coats, socks, shoes, boots, pants, shirts, underwear, and other items requested.



Before the event, the Kiwanis members went on a Club-funded 7 a.m. shopping spree at Walmart and purchased toys for the children. Afterwards, the toys were stored until taken to Christiansburg High School where the Early Childcare Education Class wrapped them. Then the toys were delivered to St. Paul Methodist Church, where Santa presented them to the children along with the clothing gifts from the members.

After the children enjoyed pizza and drinks, they joined the Kiwanis members in singing Christmas Carols while waiting for Santa's surprise entrance. Santa and his helpers called the children forward and he presented each child with a bag of toys and a bag of clothes.

Kiwanis members provided transportation to the children. The members and the club spent more than \$14,000 for clothing and toys this year. Club funds came from fundraisers held during the year.

A big thank-you goes to Walmart and its employees, CHS Early Childhood Education Class, Pizza Inn, Joco Mart, St. Paul Methodist Church, B & B Storage, Santa, and all the Kiwanis members who helped make this event a success.

Special thanks to Dennis Hunter who chaired the event for the Kiwanis Club, and the Kiwanis members who did all of the work.

--Submitted by Ernie Wade

Danville Kiwanis wins best in show

Danville Parks and Recreation has announced the winners of the 2024 Community Holiday Light Show Best in Show Contest. This year's event was a tremendous success, drawing 11,220 attendees in 3,122 cars and 28 buses, and raising \$18,000 for the community through prize money and gate worker donations.

(See photo on page 2.)

The Kiwanis Club of Danville has again won first place by public vote. This marks their second victory, having previously won two years ago with the theme "The Grinch that Stole Christmas." This year's winning theme was "Home Alone."

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Danville for their outstanding contribution and creativity. We look forward to seeing more inspiring displays in the future.

--Submitted by Melinda Dalton

Support for Hurricane Helene victims

Thanks to the generosity of clubs and individuals across the Capital District, the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation has collected more than \$20,000 in funds available for use by Kiwanis clubs that would like to assist areas impacted by Hurricane Helene last fall.

Areas of Southwest Virginia are still recovering from this storm and the Foundation has funds to support projects much like we did in the Hurley community a few years ago.

Our policies for applying for these grants are as follows:

- Assistance shall be consistent with the Six Objects of Kiwanis.
- Assistance is limited to one time per project or per Kiwanis family per disaster.
- Multiple requests from a Kiwanis club in any 30-day period will be considered; however, consideration will first be given to Kiwanis clubs applying for the first time in the initial 30 days.
- If the club already spent money on a project, include copies of your receipts as part of the application's project budget.
- Assistance is limited to the amount available in the Disaster Assistance Fund.

If assistance is approved for a Kiwanis club project:

- The Kiwanis club shall furnish the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation with an assistance and funds expenditure report within 30 days of the completion of the project. This report shall include photos and videoclips. If available, copies of all promotional materials (newsletter articles, website posts, etc.) and other data related to the assistance received are requested. Failure to report will result in disqualifying your club for future assistance.

Acknowledge assistance from Capital Kiwanis and the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation in all public relations notices. More information is available on the website. We encourage clubs to apply for funding.

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

TAKING A LOOK THROUGH OUR WAYBACK MACHINE – THE CONTINUING CASE FOR SUPPORT FOR THE KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND

BY PG JOHN TYNER

Every five seconds, a child under the age of 15 dies. Not from a natural disaster or conflict, but from mostly preventable causes such as not having access to safe water, good nutrition, routine health care and immunizations. Across the globe, children who don't receive the building blocks of education are being robbed of their potential, affecting not only their own futures, but the future of society as a whole.

No matter where you live, there are children who have no voice in their fate, and communities that do not have the resources to serve them in meaningful or sustainable ways. That's why kids have always needed Kiwanis.

For more than 100 years, Kiwanis International has been a global force for good, actively working to address the health needs of children through our worldwide network of volunteers and clubs. At the local and global levels, our members identify those who need us the most, then connect and coordinate the right partners, agencies and volunteers to address each cause.

Because of the incredible work of our volunteers, Kiwanis attracts leading humanitarian and civic organizations, allowing us to broaden our reach and impact. Together, we tackle immediate health issues in communities while finding sustainable solutions that will serve them well into the future.

We don't stop at what our volunteers can accomplish today. We are building future generations of healthy children ready to learn, lead and make a difference for generations to come. Kiwanis provides mentorship and

volunteer experiences to youth so they can serve their communities while developing the skills and compassion needed to address and solve health challenges we can't yet imagine.

Kiwanians believe that every child deserves to be happy, healthy and loved. We know that when we bring the right people together, with one heart and one purpose, we not only bring hope and health to our children, but we are also changing the course of history.

And THAT is what we are doing here in Capital. FYI, KI has raised/pledged \$6.6 million as of Dec. 31, 2024. Of that amount, our five-district Northeast Region stands at \$1.4 million and Capital stands at just under \$500,000, thanks to our Champions who are talking with you individually and to your clubs and division council meetings when invited. In addition, five clubs have made their commitment to becoming Impact Clubs (they will be announced in Cambridge), four others are considering it, and four individuals have made a three-year commitment to become members of the Cornerstone Society.

KCF Development Officer Jennifer Coffey graciously put together a listing for us of our Kiwanis Children's Fund Club Grant Recipients in Capital: 2022-present. Over \$55,000 has come back to Capital impacting more than 25,000 children over the last two Kiwanis years. Check these out:

KIWANIS CLUB OF MITCHELLVILLE

*Type of Grant: Microgrant
Number of Kids Impacted: 30*

*Cause Area: Education/Literacy
School Supplies & Holiday Angel
Tree Gifts*

The club works year-round with a local school that has high immigrant population. During the holidays, the school identifies students in need and provides the club with a list of students' sizes and preferences. The club uses this information to shop for coats, shoes, and uniforms for students. A KCF microgrant allowed the club to provide necessary clothing items for more children in their community.

KIWANIS CLUB OF ELLICOTT CITY

*Type of Grant: Microgrant
Number of Kids Impacted: 300*

*Cause Area: Health/Nutrition
Backpacks for Breaks*

The club works with the local public school system to assemble backpacks for students during winter and spring breaks when free or reduced school

meals are not available. Each backpack contains 30 meals (three meals a day for 10 days) as well as snacks and fresh fruit. A KCF microgrant helped the club provide an additional 150 backpacks.

KIWANIS CLUB OF LEISURE WORLD

*Type of Grant: Microgrant
Number of Kids Impacted: 300*

Cause Area: Health/Nutrition Kiwanis Club Garden

The club has rented a garden plot in the Leisure World Community Garden to grow vegetables and then donate them to children. Members will maintain the garden by weeding and watering throughout the season. Harvested food will be given to a local elementary school. A KCF Microgrant will be used to purchase planters, soil, tomato cages, and plants.

KIWANIS CLUB OF CHURCHLAND

*Type of Grant: Microgrant
Number of Kids Impacted: 75*

Cause Area: Health/Nutrition Edmarc Holiday Baskets

The club collaborated with a local children's hospice to provide holiday meal baskets for families of terminally ill patients. This initiative was designed to alleviate some of the emotional and financial strain parents experience while caring for a seriously ill child and other children in the family during the holiday season. The hospice will provide the club with tailored wish lists, detailing specific items based on the needs and size of each family. Club members used these lists to ensure each family receives all the necessary items for a complete holiday meal. The meal baskets were assembled during a club meeting and hand-delivered directly to families. A KCF microgrant helped the club provide holiday baskets to an additional 50 families of children who are in hospice care.

KIWANIS CLUB OF RICHMOND

*Type of Grant: Club Grant
Number of Kids Impacted: 357*

Cause Area: Education/Literacy Book Bridge Initiative

The club partners with a local elementary school to promote literacy and foster a love for reading. This initiative has two key elements: hosting two free book fairs accessible to all students and enriching 28 classroom libraries with culturally diverse books. During the book fairs, students will get to select books that captivate their interest, nurturing a sense of ownership and pride in their reading materials. The club will allocate funds to purchase books from teacher wish lists, with a limit of \$250 per teacher. These books will be carefully chosen to expand classroom libraries with diverse and age-appropriate choices. Teachers can submit wish lists specifying the books they desire, emphasizing materials that showcase cultural diversity and are suitable for their students' ages. Additionally, the club aims to establish a book club for students in grades 3-5. The book club will offer a platform for students to engage in book discussions, sharpen critical thinking skills, and foster a sense of community. A KCF grant will support these projects and ensure children in their community have access to reading materials at home and in school.

KIWANIS CLUB OF PETERSBURG

*Type of Grant: Club Grant
Number of Kids Impacted: 200*

Cause Area: Health/Nutrition Petersburg VA - Kiwanis Holiday Toy & Coat Drive

The club collaborates with local schools, the sheriff's office, and Key Club members to host a toy and coat drive, providing essential items for children in need each year. Many students in the community lack proper winter clothing and toys, with some even facing homelessness or

living in homes without adequate heating. For these children, a warm coat is crucial for their well-being and survival beyond school hours. Over 21 percent of the community's population lives below the poverty line, compared to the national average of 12.6 percent. As a result, many students experience homelessness or lack of heating where they reside. Recognizing these issues, the Kiwanis Club of Petersburg has identified a critical need to support local youth during the holiday season. Each fall, the club contacts schools to identify students in need by age and gender. Using this information, the club purchases coats and toys, which are then distributed to parents and guardians before winter break. A KCF grant will support the purchase of 200 coats.

KIWANIS CLUB OF HAGERSTOWN

*Type of Grant: Club Grant
Number of Kids Impacted: 1,450*

Cause Area: Health/Nutrition Kiwanis Cares

The club collaborates with local schools to customize boxes containing essential items tailored to each school's specific needs. These boxes may include backpacks, soap, deodorant, head lice shampoo and kits, socks, laundry detergent pods, sneakers, and other clothing items. Club members discovered that some schools, despite not having a high percentage of need, lack substantial community support. This is particularly true for rural schools. This project equips nurses, family liaison workers, community counselors, teachers, and other school staff to address these children's needs, enabling them to build lasting relationships and focus on education. Additionally, several club members work at local nonprofit organizations that support the project. These organizations not only provide supplies for the boxes but also help connect children to other necessary services. Last year, the club served 29 schools and aims to expand the

project to include five new schools while also increasing the number of items in each box. A KCF grant will be used to purchase urgent and necessary hygiene and clothing items for boxes tailored to each school's needs.

KIWANIS CLUB OF BETHESDA

*Type of Grant: Club Grant
Number of Kids Impacted: 80*

Cause Area: Health/Nutrition Miracle League of Montgomery County Training and Recruitment Project

The Miracle League of Montgomery County, led by the Kiwanis Club of Bethesda, ensures that all children, regardless of ability or financial status, can play baseball. For over 10 years, the league has provided inclusive baseball games with the support of "buddies" who assist players during the game. The Miracle League aims to address the shortage of recreational opportunities for special needs children, particularly in adaptive baseball. To meet the increased demand, the league plans to expand its game schedule by introducing Saturday games in addition to the existing Sunday games. This expansion necessitates more volunteer help, so the league plans to hire a dedicated coordinator to manage recruitment, training, and coordination of volunteers. To aid in recruitment, the club intends to create two videos: a recruitment video targeted at young adults, specifically high schoolers, and a training video. To ensure these videos are high-quality, visually appealing, and informative, the club seeks to use professional writers and videographers. A KCF grant will help fund the production of the training and recruiting videos, as well as incidental marketing expenses.

CAPITAL DISTRICT

*Type of Grant: District Grant
Number of Kids Impacted: 2,500*

Cause Area: Health/Nutrition Generosity Feeds - Meal Packing Project

The Capital District teamed up with The Replenish Foundation at the District Convention in Portsmouth, VA August 23-25, 2024, with the Generosity Feeds and Generosity Packs Program packing meals for those experiencing food-insecurity. The Replenish Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that is creating a wave of Generosity that inspires and shapes the health of communities across America by feeding and supporting under-resourced children and families. In food-insecure households, the need for food competes with other basic human necessities such as housing, utilities, transportation and medical care. We believe no family should have to choose between putting food on the table and paying bills. Since 2011, volunteers participating in this project have created 3,841,527 Fiesta Black Bean & Rice Meal Pouches in 650 communities and served 168,000 children.

This project brought together approximately 300 convention participants to produce Fiesta Black Bean and Rice Meal pouches. The goal was 5,000 pouches. This was made possible because of a KCF grant to the Capital District.

KIWANIS CLUB OF BASSETT

*Type of Grant: Microgrant
Number of Kids Impacted: 147*

Cause Area: Education/Literacy Impacting Children's Literacy, Education, and Families

The club supports three local elementary schools by providing books and school field trips. As a Reading Literacy Partner with Scholastic, the club purchases two books for each student in kindergarten and first grade. Club members visit classrooms to read a book and distribute books to the children. Additionally, the club collaborates with school principals to select and fund a field trip for one grade. This support ensures that all students, regardless of their family's

financial situation, can participate. Club members help with pre-trip lessons and activities and secure transportation through a partnership with a local transportation company. This year, the club wishes to expand these programs to include one additional school. With a microgrant from KCF, 700 books will be purchased, and they will be able to support one field trip.

One of the most surprising things that has been developing, as we engage in the Possibility Project, is the wide world of what our clubs CAN DO in our own communities by reading about what other clubs in the Kiwanis Family have been doing successfully, things we ourselves hadn't even thought about that COULD be done.

Finally, I ask all of us to remember that while our club and district foundations will have ongoing projects we have supported in the past, please remember that our Kiwanis Children's Fund supports those activities close to our hearts as well – grants to clubs, service leadership programs, disaster relief and global health programs like IDD and MNT, both of which Capital District supported whole-heartedly. We'll keep you informed; thanks for your interest.

SEE YOU IN CAMBRIDGE!

(Past Capital District Governor John Tyner serves as district chair for the Kiwanis Children's Fund. A major assist on compiling information for this article comes from Jenniffer Coffey in the KCF office in Indianapolis.)

Membership Momentum

YOU'VE CREATED YOUR MEMBERSHIP PLAN – NOW WHAT?

BY ALISA DICK

Creating a membership plan is one thing, but implementing it is another, right? Don't worry about starting perfectly – the key is ensuring every club member is on board and ready to collaborate. Your goal is simple but powerful: provide an experience that keeps current members engaged and inspires new members to join. Remember, we need new members!

Kiwanis International offers excellent resources to help you take the next step. Have you tried any of the tools I mentioned in my last article? Here's a quick refresher:

- **Two for Two**
- **Club Boost**
- **Open House**
- **Guest Days**
- **ReMember Campaign**

(Alisa Dick, from the Kiwanis Club of Midlothian-Chesterfield, is currently the membership coordinator for the Capital District.)



These tools are all fantastic, and you don't have to pick just one – try several to see what works best for your club. Everything you need to get started is available in the **Kiwanis International Club Toolbox**.

Want to boost your confidence in talking to prospective members? Join one of the teams working to open new clubs! Jennifer Wolff leads this effort, and she'd love more volunteers. Plus, training is included, so you'll be set up for success.

If your club is interested in a **Club Boost**, please reach out to Eric Lamb.

The Membership Team is here to support you every step of the way. Rather than list every resource in this article, I encourage you to explore the tools available at your fingertips. They're ready when you are – just pull them up and get started!

On behalf of the Membership Team, we thank you for all that you do and wish you continued success as we work together to grow Kiwanis.

Our Firm Foundation

News from the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation

March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma: A Call to Action

BY JENN HISCOCK

In the 1986-1987 Kiwanis administrative year, the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation made its first gift to a Children's Pediatric Center: \$3,500 to the Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Since then, the Foundation has continually added pediatric trauma centers/hospitals to their support list, which now includes 11 in total. Even more impressive, the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation has donated a cumulative total of \$903,530 as they now regularly provide \$4,000 to each!

This March, we are asking each Kiwanis member to join the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation in continuing the legacy of supporting the critical needs of pediatric trauma care through a new and hopefully annual fundraising campaign: **March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma**.

Running from March 4, 2025, through April 4, 2025, this campaign invites everyone to help make a tangible difference by donating \$34 to support 11 area medical facilities that provide life-saving care to children across the Capital District.

The Goal:
\$44,000 for Pediatric Trauma

With a fundraising target of \$44,000, the **March 4-ward campaign** will directly benefit 11 pediatric hospitals

and centers that are at the forefront of caring for children in emergency situations. These institutions rely on support from the community to maintain their services, invest in medical equipment, and enhance care for young patients facing trauma.

How Can You Help?

It's simple: Donate \$34 in honor of the pediatric trauma patients treated at these facilities each year. While a suggested donation is \$34, every contribution, big or small, will directly impact the lives of children in need of urgent, specialized care. Whether you donate as an individual or fundraise and make a donation via your Kiwanis Club, together we can help these hospitals continue to provide exceptional care when it matters most.

Where Your Donation Goes

The funds raised will be distributed directly to the following institutions, each of which plays a vital role in pediatric trauma care:

Children's National Medical Center – Washington, DC

Johns Hopkins Children's Center – Baltimore, MD

University of Virginia Health Center – Charlottesville, VA

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters – Norfolk, VA

Children's Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University – Richmond, VA

Carilion Clinic Children's Hospital – Roanoke, VA

Nemours Children's Hospital – Wilmington, DE

Bristol Regional Medical Center – Bristol, TN (serving Southwest Virginia)

Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health – Bethesda, MD

Hoops Family Children's Hospital – Huntington, WV

West Virginia University Children's Hospital – Morgantown, WV

These hospitals provide critical, life-saving trauma care to children who experience everything from accidents and injuries to complex medical conditions that require specialized pediatric treatment. Your donation will help ensure that these centers have the resources they need to provide top-tier care and healing to their young patients.

A Lasting Impact

Pediatric trauma care is an area of great need, and the facilities we support are leaders in this vital field. By contributing to this campaign, you're helping to save lives, offer hope, and provide comfort to children and families navigating some of the most difficult moments in life.

Mark your calendar for March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma, and be part of this critical effort to improve the lives of children facing traumatic injuries. Together, we can make an incredible impact.

For more information about the campaign and to donate, visit www.capitalkiwanisfoundation.org. Let's March 4-ward and ensure that kids have the care they need, when they need it most!

(Note; This fundraising campaign will replace the Caring Corner basket raffle that formally was part of District Convention. The Foundation was looking for a more inclusive fundraising initiative that all members of the Capital District could participate in that was not limited by attendance at the Kiwanis District Convention. It is the hope that the March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma and the Ducky Derby will become the two annual signature fundraisers of the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation.)



MARCH 4-WARD FOR OUR KIDS AND PEDIATRIC TRAUMA



We are asking each Kiwanis member to join the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation in continuing the legacy of supporting the critical needs of pediatric trauma care through a new and hopefully annual fundraising campaign: March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma. Running from March 4 through April 4, 2025, this campaign invites everyone to help make a tangible difference by donating \$34 to support 11 area medical facilities that provide life-saving care to children across the Capital District.

Help us meet our goal of raising \$44,000!

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.

10 Reasons to Attend ICON in Pittsburgh

From education and fellowship to inspiration and celebration, it's the year's biggest Kiwanis event.

BY JULIE SAETRE

Get ready: The 2025 Kiwanis International Convention is on the horizon! We'll gather in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., June 25-28. [Register now](#) to join your fellow Kiwanians for the biggest event of the year — and to help forge the future.

Here's why you'll want to be there:

1. **Dynamic educational workshops and classes.** Explore the ways Kiwanians are building new clubs and gain insight into expanding and nurturing your club's membership. Learn how to make your club attractive, meaningful and enjoyable for all generations. Dive into master classes that go deeper into leadership training and community service, with subject-matter experts as your guides. Our workshops will get you ready to tackle a to-do list designed to take your club – and Kiwanis – to the next level.
2. **The Convention Kickoff.** Start your experience with a celebration of Kiwanis. The opening session features beloved actor, producer and author Henry Winkler. You'll be inspired by Winkler's story and his commitment to helping children reach their full potential.
3. **Membership Fair and Welcome Reception.** Looking for recruiting inspiration? Pick up tips from clubs that have been recognized for their growth efforts after using Two For Two, club boosts, open houses, guest days or their own membership drives. During the Welcome Reception, visit vendors, meet candidates and enjoy entertainment and refreshments. New this year: a DJ and door prizes!
4. **Fellowship with Kiwanians from around the world.** Take time to relax with longtime Kiwanis friends and new connections. Join fellow Kiwanians for the Sunset Social, a special party on the rooftop of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center with finger food, a cash bar and entertainment. On Saturday night, mingle at the Gatsby-inspired bar or hit the dance floor during our Roaring '20s Gala.
5. **CKI members.** Circle K International – the Kiwanis service program for university students – is holding its convention alongside ours at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Stop by the CKI booth in the Kiwanis Marketplace to meet some of its members – and learn about the amazing work they do on their campuses, in their communities and around the world.
6. **Kiwanis Launchpads.** There will be two Kiwanis Launchpads this year. Designed to be short and high impact, these presentations will send you home with ideas and inspiration. The first Launchpad will celebrate Key Club's 100th anniversary by featuring alumni who credit much of their success to the values and skills they learned in Key Club. At the second Launchpad, you'll hear from the director of the Fred Rogers Institute, as well as an engaging speaker who will teach you how to find joy in conflict through curiosity.
7. **Kiwanis Marketplace.** This is your go-to hub at the heart of the convention. Shop, snap photos, snag swag and more. Here, you'll find exhibitors and Kiwanis partners who can inspire fresh ideas on impactful service projects and effective fundraisers. You can also browse Kiwanis-branded merchandise, including special-issue 2025 convention items. Meet the candidates running for international officers and trustees. Learn about your host city. Get details about our ongoing Build. Nurture. Retain. membership initiative. Explore the new Kiwanis Engage membership platform. And more.
8. **2025 Kiwanis Annual Meeting.** Get informed about the business of Kiwanis International and add your voice to our future. Delegates from clubs around the world will elect the organization's next leaders and vote on amendments.
9. **Celebrations.** From the Welcome Reception and the Convention Kickoff to the Kiwanis Roaring '20s Gala, you'll celebrate Kiwanis and the amazing work our clubs and members accomplish every day. Have breakfast with our Signature Project Contest finalists (and see who wins the big prizes). Enjoy lunch on Thursday while learning about The Possibility Project's Generosity Challenge and on Friday while marking Key Club's milestone centennial birthday. And get ready for a night of glitz and glamor at Saturday night's Roaring '20s Gala.

10. **Our host city.** Pittsburgh is a versatile destination brimming with discoveries. From the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, you'll have easy access to the Cultural District, the historic Strip District and the Allegheny River. You'll also be located near shops, restaurants, galleries and theaters. From sightseeing to the sports scene, breweries to bistros, and amusement rides to museums, Pittsburgh has something for everyone.

How does your club welcome a new member?

"Upon installation at a club meeting, our new members are given a Kiwanis-branded reusable tote bag, filled with a Kiwanis T-shirt, club handbook and some additional items like a pin, bookmark, window cling and key ring. Makes a new member feel like part of the Kiwanis family right from the start!"

--Sandy Pietrzak Nagler, Kiwanis Club of Chester, New York, U.S.

reMember

Approximately 27,000 members are removed from Kiwanis club rosters each year. Here's what we know: They generally don't leave because they dislike Kiwanis. Most leave simply because life gets in the way. With reMember recruitment, your club can reconnect with them – and with current members you haven't seen in a while. The process consists of five steps:

1. Start a list of people to contact;

You club secretary can pull a list of former members who are still living in your community;

Get copies of past club rosters and make a list of as many living former members as you can.

Add current members whom you haven't seen in a while.

If possible, the secretary can even provide a list of past recruits who didn't join.

2. Research how to contact anyone whose information may be outdated.

3. Determine how you are going to re-engage them. Will it be a part of your current membership efforts? A special occasion or event? Or perhaps a year-long initiative just for them?

4. Start creating and executing that plan.

5. Celebrate your club's success at reMembering!

GETTING STARTED

Sometimes it can feel daunting to move past the first step or two. For example, what should you do with your list once you've created it? While reviewing your list of former and current "missing" members, try to answer a few questions about each one:

- Were they working at the time and are now retired – or on a different career path from 5 or 10 years ago?
- Did they leave or drift away from the club to care for a family member – and is that situation different now?
- How could your club have adapted to keep them?
- How could you approach each former member with a plan for a renewed engagement in your club and the community?

Host an event that's specifically designed to connect and reconnect with people: a reunion for former members, an open house or a guest day. You could even target former members in your Two For Two efforts.

TIPS AND IDEAS

A reMember initiative works best for Kiwanis clubs that keep former and missing members in mind on an ongoing basis. Here are some tips and ideas for keeping them within reach:

- If you know that an upcoming speaker or topic would interest a former member, invite them to attend.
- Remind current club members of their Kiwanis anniversary dates and sponsors. If the member who sponsored them is no longer in the club, ask that member to send their sponsor a thank-you note.
- If your club publishes an electronic newsletter, set up a list of former members and send it to them. (They can always choose to unsubscribe.)
- Keep inviting former members to attend your club's annual fundraising and special scholarship presentation events – and invite them to participate in your signature service project.
- Each November, send a letter to former members. Thank them for their previous involvement and tell them that they're always welcome back. And welcome their referrals for potential members.

OTHER KIWANIS OPPORTUNITIES

Some people will be unable to rejoin your club – but remain open to other Kiwanis opportunities. Here are a few tips for keeping people connected to the Kiwanis family:

- If a member has moved out of your community, connect them to a Kiwanis club in their new community. (But remember: If you have meeting capabilities that allow remote attendance, you don't have to limit yourself to former members who still live in the community.)
- Was your club "not quite right" for a former member who would otherwise fit a neighboring club? Connect them with another Kiwanis opportunity.
- Promote satellite membership for those whom the current club model does not fit. How can they do service and make an impact in your community?
- Districts or divisions are encouraged to create a former member virtual club. Begin with former members as a charter group.
- Ask for a donation. Among members who leave, many still believe in the Kiwanis mission and would likely donate to your club if asked.

SLPs celebrate birthdays

K-Kids Week was Feb. 10-14. Builders Club week is on the horizon, Feb. 24-28, and Aktion Club Week is March 3-7. Not only that, but Key Club International turns 100 on March 23. Ask your sponsored clubs how your Kiwanis Club can help!

Kiwanis Amplify

Just by being part of your Kiwanis club, you're a leader in your community. Make the most of your status: [Enroll in Kiwanis Amplify](#) and become the kind of leader people want to follow.

[Kiwanis Amplify](#) is an online course in which you complete the leadership development assignments on your schedule and at your convenience. The course concludes with an optional in-person event at the [2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.](#)

Kiwanis Amplify participants learn how to improve more than their Kiwanis clubs. They gain skills to improve their careers, communities, schools and the lives of adults and children everywhere. In Kiwanis Amplify, you'll:

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

If you have questions about Kiwanis Amplify, visit the program's [webpage](#) and review [frequently asked questions](#).

The participation fee is \$50 for members of Kiwanis International and \$600 for non-members. [Enrollment is available through March 24](#). Modules will be available beginning in April.

Since 2021, more than 1,800 Kiwanians from 44 districts in 30 countries have participated in Kiwanis Amplify. Live your leadership out loud and be the kind of leader people want to follow.

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

February

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

March

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

INDIANAPOLIS INSIDE SKINNY

BY DENNIS BAUGH

Let me tell you a bit about the Kiwanis Committee system. For those unaware, before their year begins, the International President-Elect appoints Kiwanians throughout the world to general membership support committees. These committees, their chairs and the chairs' respective districts are:

- Build. Nurture. Retain.: Lee Kuan Yong, Malaysia
- New Club Building: Jim Rochford, Illinois-Eastern Iowa
- Youth Protection Appeals: Jeff Wittenbrink, LaMissTenn
- Past International Presidents: Peter Mancuso, New York
- Resolutions and Bylaws: Sue Petrisin, Michigan (*Jen Wolff is a member*)
- Governance: Nettles Brown, LaMissTenn
- District Secretaries: Leah Moretz, Carolinas
- 2026 International Convention in Manila: Michael Mulhaul, New Jersey

These committees meet throughout the year to help guide staff and the board move forward with our mission.

I have been blessed by having the support of the Capital District as an International Trustee. I am now almost half-way through my three-year term. It has been rewarding but has also presented challenges. Each year we get assigned to two Board Committees. This year I am on Membership; and I also am on Leadership Development and Education. Both are at the forefront of what Kiwanis is about.

We meet as a board four times a year for three days. The first day consists of committee meetings, the second consists of the Committee of the Whole, and the final day is the full Board Meeting. During the first two days, we hear presentations and consider items that will go before the full board for discussion and a vote. We just finished a Board Meeting a few weeks ago: Jan. 16, and I would like to give you some of the highlights. Board minutes are published after they are approved at our next meeting in April.

- Several recommendations were forwarded to the board by the Kiwanis Children's Fund Board. They are:
 - A while back, the titles of the officers of KCF were changed to Chair, etc. from President, etc. The board approved returning the titles of KCF Officers to President, President-Elect, Vice President and Immediate Past President.

- We restored the above KCF Officers to the Joint Board Committee with the same officers from Kiwanis International. This committee forms the nominating committee for KCF.
- We approved extending the term for KCF Trustee from 2 years to 3 years.
- We agreed to allow KCF to not be required to hold a Board Meeting at ICON.
- We approved a request from the Audit and Finance Committee for the Investment and Reorganization of Asia-Pacific Region in the amount of \$180,000 from the undesignated reserves. This is contingent on meeting specific criteria that were spelled out.
- We approved a request from the Audit and Finance Committee to have an In-Person April 2025 Board Meeting in Indianapolis and put in the budget \$60,000 from the undesignated reserves for this event.
 - A special request was made by President Lee Kuan Yong Club for Club Opening Funding to fund three upcoming New Club Opening events: Florida District, January 2025; Texas-Oklahoma District, March 2025; and New Jersey District, September 2025. An award was made for \$125,000 from the undesignated reserves.
 - A special request was made by President Lee Kuan Yong to fund an Educational Conference in March 2025 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan for Governor-Elects, District Secretaries, District Membership Coordinators, District Leadership Development Coordinators, District SLP Coordinators, the ASPAC (Asian-Pacific) Team, and KI Staff and Invitees. They were awarded \$58,100 from the undesignated reserves.

There were several other items that we discussed and voted on, but the ones I have highlighted were ones I thought you would be interested in. If you have any questions you feel the board should consider, do not hesitate to reach out to me at dennis.cdypm@gmail.com. Additionally, Cathy Tutty is your assigned District Counselor, and she can be reached at tuttykiwanis@gmail.com.

See you in Cambridge, MD at Capital District Midyear!

(Kiwanis International Trustee Dennis Baugh also currently serves as Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville treasurer. He is a former Capital District governor.)

the POSSIBILITY PROJECT



Every day, around the world, children are going hungry. Students are struggling to read. Potential leaders are lacking mentors. And even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow.

The good news: Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, just US\$2.25 is enough to address the needs of one child. It's time to put our sense of what's possible into action — and help make the future better for 10 million children around the world.

INTRODUCING THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT.

The \$25 million we raise together will support the mission of the Kiwanis Children's Fund, serving the kids, projects and programs of greatest need.

 10 MILLION KIDS	 us\$25 MILLION	 5 YEARS October 2022-September 2028
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You're part of a global network — nearly 180,000 Kiwanis club members in 85 nations. Imagine the possibilities if we all come together to make a difference. That's what The Possibility Project is about. **It's the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis clubs and the children we serve.** Kids need our help — every day, all around the world. Let's answer the call.

HEALTH & NUTRITION 	EDUCATION & LITERACY 	YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT 
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Stay up to date online. And encourage members to do the same.
kiwanischildrensfund.org



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CHILDREN'S FUND