

*The Capital*

June/July 2025

# KIWANIAN

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

**REGISTER FOR  
DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**OCTOBER LEADERSHIP  
TRANSITION PLANNING**

**SIGNATURE PROJECT  
CONTEST WINNERS**



**Kiwanis**

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*COVER:* Regional Trustee Marie Bowe-Quick and Lt. Governor Seth Steele enjoy a photo opp at the joint anniversary celebrations of Bethesda (80 years) and Rockville (75 years) Kiwanis Clubs.



Kiwanis Club of Washington D.C.'s 2025 "DC Student Leader Awards" winners



## 2024-25 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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Tysons, VA

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Westminster, MD

### TRUSTEE - DELMARVA

Charles Marks  
Bridgeville, DE

### TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

Jamie Moore  
Petersburg, VA

### TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

Marie Bowe-Quick  
Mitchellville, MD

### TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

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

# Governor's Message

JOSH HISCOCK, 2024-25 GOVERNOR



## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE KIWANIS FAMILY?

Greetings, Capital Kiwanians —

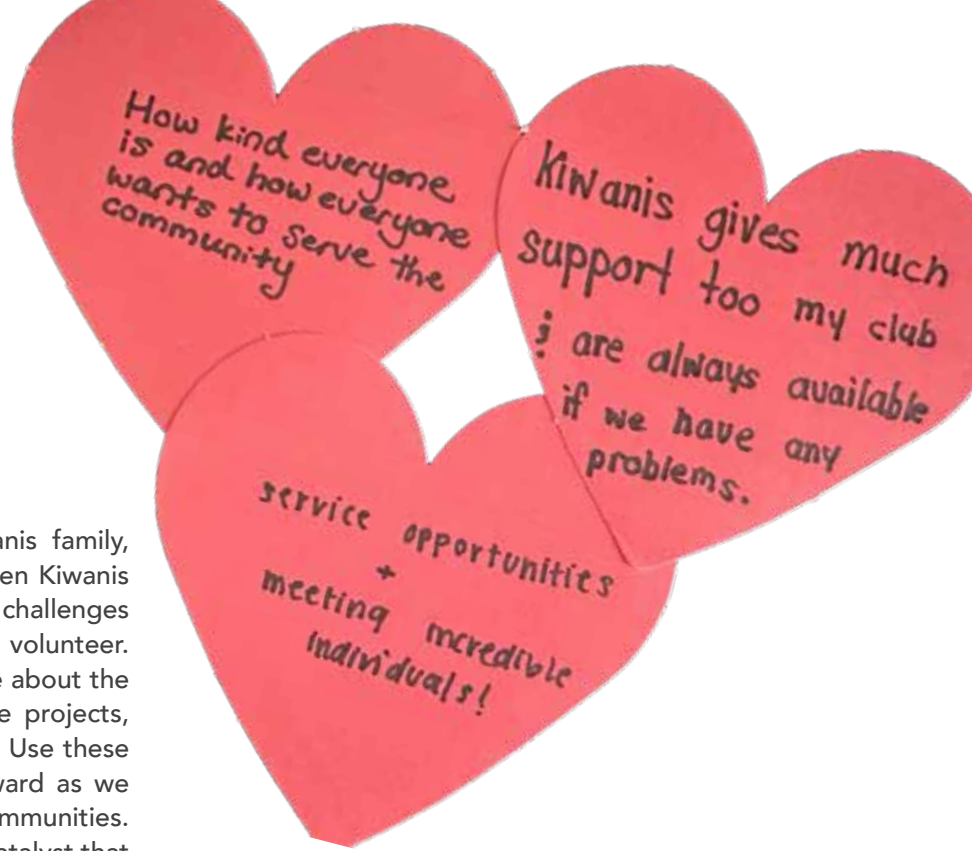
In March, I attended the Capital District Key Club Convention. During the outstanding weekend-long event, Governor-Elect Tim and I had the opportunity to participate in the Service Fair. This event allowed Key Clubs to showcase their best service projects, providing fellow student leaders with new ideas to bring to their home clubs. Tim and I staffed the Kiwanis table, connecting with Key Clubbers about our organization, its history, and the myriad ways Kiwanis can support Key Club in its pursuit of making the world a better place.

I asked students who came to chat with us to take a small paper cutout of a heart and write something on it. The prompt I gave them: What is something you love about the Kiwanis family? When posed with this question, every student's eyes lit up as they immediately started to write. Students used words like love, friendship, care, community, compassion, inclusion, passion, and networking. The answers poured from their hearts onto the small paper heart on the table. It became abundantly clear that the work we do as Kiwanians, though sometimes challenging and occasionally frustrating, makes a difference in the lives of our service leadership program (SLP) student leaders.

### What do you love about the Kiwanis family?

Is it attending an SLP club meeting as a Kiwanis Advisor? Is it sharing a meal with fellow Kiwanians during a club meeting? Is it reading to a child at a local library as part of a club service project? Is it joining with your local K-Kids or Builders Club to perform a park cleanup? Or attending a CKI meeting to assist our collegians in sharpening their professional networking skills?





Whatever it is that you love about the Kiwanis family, remember to DO IT MORE. There are days when Kiwanis tasks can feel like a chore, when obstacles or challenges make it very unmotivating to push forward as a volunteer. In these moments, return to the things you love about the Kiwanis family — the interactions, the favorite projects, the children we serve, the rewarding moments. Use these things as the motivation to keep moving forward as we Elevate Our Impact in our local and global communities. Doing MORE of the things we love can be the catalyst that sparks new energy, new ideas, and a recommitment and passion for the Kiwanis family.

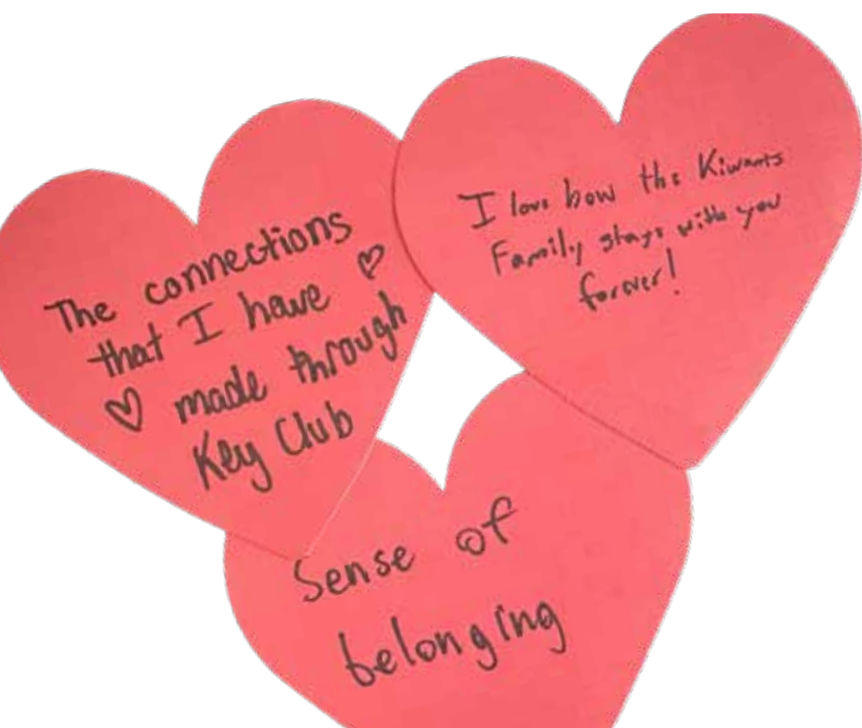
Registration is now open for our 2025 Capital District Kiwanis Convention in Crystal City, Virginia at the end of August. You are receiving several emails now alerting you that registration time has arrived. Please consider joining us for a weekend of fellowship, fun, education, excitement, celebration, and preparation for the start of the Kiwanis year ahead. Our conference theme, "You Belong Here," is a reminder that Kiwanis is an organization created for EVERYONE to have the opportunity to serve, lead, and make a difference in their local community. It is also a reminder that EVERYONE should attend our conventions to

experience the engaging interactions, energizing speakers, exemplary entertainment, and essential business, including the election of our new district leaders.

District Convention Chairperson Ronesha Prioleau and her team are hard at work planning a weekend we will never forget. Please plan to attend!

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

*Joshua V. Hoock*





# Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

## NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN FOR OCTOBER TRANSITION

**As I write these words, Summer is on the immediate horizon! 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 Tim and the 2025-26 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 in Pittsburgh (and I look forward to seeing many of you there). I also wrote about attending your **Club Leadership Education** session (especially if you are an incoming president, secretary, treasurer 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. <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/club-leadership-education/>

**Kiwanis Engage:** The biggest thing changing this year is our Kiwanis online reporting system. Everyone should take the opportunity to get familiar with Kiwanis Engage — a powerful, intuitive new platform that brings Kiwanis clubs and members closer together. For members of our Kiwanis family clubs, as well as club and district leaders, Kiwanis Engage makes it easier than ever to connect, collaborate and share ideas.

This new solution will replace Kiwanis Connect, so I encourage you to visit <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/>

[kiwanis-engage/kiwanis-learning-resources/](https://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis-engage/kiwanis-learning-resources/) and start watching the training videos. There is also a “sandbox” where you can play with Kiwanis Engage on a copy of your membership data. This copy will not be retained, so feel free to make changes and test out how easy it is to make changes to your own member record, or if you are a club officer, your club's information. The sandbox is accessible at <https://training-engage.kiwanis.org/>. Just simply do a “Forgot Password” at the login screen and set a new password. This system is not connected to Kiwanis Connect, so your login will be different. In my August/September column, I'll write exclusively about how your club can use Kiwanis Engage this year.

What hasn't changed, but is vital to improving our clubs are the Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) tools. Clubs should be using them now to assess the areas they might like to improve their club this upcoming year:

**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. [https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MEMBER\\_SURVEY.pdf](https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MEMBER_SURVEY.pdf)

**Community Analysis Survey:** Clubs should routinely interview community leaders who can provide the information on the needs that the Kiwanis club can focus on. [https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COMMUNITY\\_SURVEY.pdf](https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/COMMUNITY_SURVEY.pdf)

**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 should be sending club dues invoices out in August to ensure that you know if anyone is planning to drop from your club. 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. [https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CLUB\\_VISION.pdf](https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CLUB_VISION.pdf). Your club should be developing a Membership Plan <https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Membership-Planning-Worksheet.pdf> spearheaded by the Membership Committee Chairperson.

**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's 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 members.

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.)*

## Capital District Webinars

### HOW TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED: OPTIONAL CLUB CRIME AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

**Presenter: April Gassler, District Risk Manager**  
**August 5, 2025, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Join us to learn more about the optional Kiwanis Club Accident Insurance and Kiwanis Club Crime Insurance. While this seminar will be beneficial to all Kiwanians, Club board members for the 2025-26 Kiwanis Year are especially encouraged to attend. Clubs must enroll in these optional insurance coverages by October 31, 2025. This seminar will provide information about the costs and benefits of these optional insurance programs so that Clubs can make informed decisions about whether to enroll in any of these optional insurance programs, make appropriate provisions in their club budgets for the associated costs, and submit timely enrollment forms for any desired additional insurance coverage.



 **Live Webinar**

**CLICK TO JOIN WEBINAR**

# From the Governor-Elect



BY TIM GILLETTE

## ‘IF YOU FAIL TO PREPARE, THEN PREPARE TO FAIL’

**When I was a freshman in high school, my Algebra teacher put on every handout, test, syllabus, etc. the phrase “if you fail to prepare, then prepare to fail.” Those were harsh words, but she was right; if one didn’t take heed they would surely perform poorly on the exams (admittedly, I learned this the hard way a few times).**

This story is relevant because here we are, the month of June, and we’re in the middle of preparation for the 2025-2026 Kiwanis year! It’s hard to believe that in a few short months the leadership transition will happen in clubs, divisions, and the Capital District. To prepare for a smooth transition, it’s important that we take time to educate ourselves.

The first weekend in May, the 2025-2026 Lt. Governors and newly elected Regional Trustees held their training in Virginia Beach. The group learned about their positions, leadership skills, and other Kiwanis information from Kiwanis International Area Director Rhonda Vrell, Executive Director Jeffrey Wolff, and me.

We were fortunate to have a beautiful Saturday afternoon to enjoy Virginia Beach for a few hours. The team had a wonderful dinner Saturday night as we cheered on our favorite horses in the Kentucky Derby (Division 14 LTG-Designate Paul Miller was the lucky winner with Sovereignty). The class elected Division 20 LTG-Designate, Royce Tanner, as their class president. We’re all looking forward to a great year serving the clubs in the Capital District.

We’re also in the middle of Club Leadership Education (CLE) season. There are roughly a dozen events scheduled across the Capital District to train incoming officers for the 2025-2026 Kiwanis year. Incoming Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Membership Chairs are encouraged to attend this session. As a part of Kiwanis’ Distinguished Criteria, a club can get 10 percent of the way to being distinguished just by having these officers attend. The Kiwanis International and Capital District Education teams have prepared an informative session to get club leaders ready to hit the ground running.

Kiwanis International Convention (ICON) is coming up in a few days in Pittsburgh. We’ll hear from our new keynote speaker, Martin Sheen (making my Fonz skit at mid-year all for naught). There are many educational sessions to choose from, some facilitated by Capital District members (including me — presenting the Kiwanis Polar Dip at the small club fundraising workshop Friday afternoon).



For those attending ICON, please familiarize yourself with the details on the Capital District Remote Voting Amendment. The District Board has submitted this amendment to the House of Delegates to allow all clubs, regardless of their ability to attend convention, to be able to vote during the House of Delegates.

A final opportunity for education and preparation for next year is at the Capital District Convention (DCON) at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City (Arlington). We’re planning some great educational sessions around membership, self-care, information technology, and other topics. On Friday, Jeffrey Wolff is going to host a session on the new Kiwanis Engage platform, which is scheduled to be rolled out in July. We will be joined in Crystal City by our 2025-2026 Board Counselor, Jo Schwartz, from the Kansas District. Jo will be assisting us with workshop facilitation and will address the District at the House of Delegates Saturday afternoon.

As you can see, we have a very busy summer on deck here in the Capital District. I encourage everyone to take advantage of as many educational sessions that we have to offer. This will help you all as you prepare for the next Kiwanis year. I know I sure will, as I can hear the words of Ms. Zarekjo in my head... if you fail to prepare, then prepare to fail.

I’m looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh, Crystal City, or out and about in the District.

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



# From the Vice Governor

BY DAVID LURIE

## SUMMER IS UPON US — TIME TO MAKE PLANS!

**Well, the calendar reads June and, wow -- how this year seems to be flying by! We are into that time of year of vacations, picnics, and reunions, but also this is a good time to make plans for the future.**

June and July are important times for clubs — not only is International Convention coming up in Pittsburgh at the end of this month, but this is also the time of year for training our club officers and membership chairs for the 2025-26 administrative year.

Our Club Leadership Education (CLE) sessions are getting underway across the Capital District. I hope many of you are planning to attend and learn so you can go back to your home club and start planning for the year ahead. I hope your club will take some time and get together one evening or on a Saturday and plan what great things you all want to accomplish in the coming year and beyond.

As has been mentioned throughout this issue, we also have our District Convention coming in August in Crystal City. I know the host committee is working very hard right now to prepare for a wonderful event, so I hope you will make plans to attend as well. Registration is open and this is a great opportunity to add a day or two and come enjoy the sights and sounds of our Nation's Capital as we are conveniently located across the river.

Our Capital District Key Club and CKI are also preparing for their respective international conventions in the

weeks ahead (actually the CKI convention will be held concurrently with the Kiwanis convention in Pittsburgh) and they are looking forward to coming back excited and ready for the fall.

Our Capital District Foundation has been busy as well and you can read about their activities throughout this issue, too. At their May meeting, the Foundation awarded several club grants and are preparing to distribute funds for all the Key Club and CKI scholarship award winners. They have also tweaked their Web Site to make giving by clubs and individuals even easier now. Please remember to buy your Ducky Derby tickets and send in your club's annual gift if you have not already done so.

Finally, I want to thank the Kiwanis Clubs of Woodbridge, Manassas, Tri-Rivers, Rockville, and Bethesda for hosting me at recent events. It is exciting to see not only the chartering of a new club but also to celebrate with clubs that were marking their anniversaries (in some cases, up to 75 and 80 years!). I am looking forward to getting out across the district to more events this summer so let me know and I will see if I can join you all.

Thanks again for all you do for your clubs and your communities.



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

# Service Showcase

BY CARRIE WAGNER

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE: ANNOUNCING OUR 2024-2025 SIGNATURE PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS

### It's time to celebrate the outstanding service happening across the Capital District!

Each year, the Capital District Signature Project Contest shines a spotlight on the creativity, dedication, and community impact of our Kiwanis clubs — and I'm thrilled to announce the 2024-2025 winners. The contest concluded in February, and after careful review and judging by our committee, we're proud to recognize two clubs whose projects exemplify the spirit of Kiwanis service.

We received inspiring submissions from clubs all over the district. Your projects reflect the heart of what we do: changing children's lives and making meaningful connections in the communities we serve.

Now, let's make some noise for our winning clubs:

### Tier I Winner (Clubs with 27 or fewer members):

#### ***Kiwanis Club of Virginia Beach — Neptune Festival Beverage Service***

For more than 51 years, the Kiwanis Club of Virginia Beach has partnered with the city's beloved Neptune Festival, serving beverages with purpose, pride, and heart. This enduring Signature Project is more than just a fundraiser — it's a powerful tradition that connects the club with its community and showcases the joy of service in action.

In 2025, this event reached more than 2,000 children, raised \$6,000, and achieved 100 percent participation from club members — a remarkable show of unity and commitment. The proceeds supported 15 children's charities, providing essential items such as back-to-school supplies, clothing, and basic necessities to ensure local youth are equipped to thrive.

What truly stands out about this project is its energy and visibility. Set against the backdrop of a major community celebration, the beverage booth gives Kiwanis a public presence, allowing members to talk about their mission, recruit new volunteers, and embody the heart of Kiwanis — serving the children of the world. The Neptune Festival has become a defining part of the club's identity, and their unwavering dedication over five decades is a shining example of what it means to serve with consistency, joy, and purpose.

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Virginia Beach for your incredible legacy of service — and for proving that a small but mighty club can make a massive impact.

## Tier 2 Winner (Clubs with 28 or more members):

### ***Kiwanis Club of Richmond — Literacy Commitment to the Carver Community***

For the past 10 years, the Richmond Kiwanis Club has made literacy its mission — and it shows. Through a deep, year-round partnership with Carver Elementary School, their Signature Project impacted more than 500 students in 2025 alone, opening doors to educational success and long-term opportunity.

The project includes:

- Tutoring and reading with students;
- Installing Little Free Libraries at five community sites;
- Launching the new Book Bridge Initiative;
- Funding a full-time reading specialist for kindergarten through third grade;
- Growing their club by recruiting 15 new members through visible, hands-on service.

This project reflects the belief that literacy is the pathway to student success, and Richmond’s consistent investment in children is helping to reshape outcomes for an entire school community. What’s more, the club’s leadership in this effort has inspired others to join the cause — demonstrating how Signature Projects don’t just serve, they grow clubs, create partnerships, and build momentum for lasting change.

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Richmond for leading with heart, lifting up literacy, and showing us all what it means to commit to a cause and stay the course.

While our district’s projects were not selected to advance to the international level this year, we remain immensely proud of the work our clubs are doing. Service is the heart of Kiwanis. It’s what drives us, defines us, and connects us to the children and families who need us most. Through Signature Projects, clubs in the Capital District are not only meeting critical needs — they’re building relationships, creating visibility, and leaving a lasting legacy in their communities.

This year’s contest brought in many strong and inspiring submissions, making it a challenge to choose just one winner in each tier. The creativity, impact, and passion reflected in these projects made one thing clear: our clubs are deeply committed to changing lives and growing the reach of Kiwanis.

I invite everyone to join me in congratulating the Kiwanis Clubs of Virginia Beach and Richmond. We’ll be celebrating their achievements further during our District Convention

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



later summer, and I look forward to recognizing their success in person with the full Capital District family.

Thank you to every club who entered. Your dedication to purpose-driven service is what makes Kiwanis special. Let’s keep elevating our impact — one child, one project, and one club at a time.

# Family Ties

## CKI DYLAN LUONG, GOVERNOR

Greetings Capital District  
Kiwanians:

My name is Dylan Luong, and I'm thrilled to be serving as your 2025-2026 Capital District Circle K International (CKI) Governor. I'm currently a student at Johns Hopkins University, majoring in chemistry. Originally from Texas, my Kiwanis Family journey began there as a Key Clubber, and it's been an incredible ride ever since.



I've lived in several states and even overseas, which has given me a deep appreciation for community, and a knack for exploring the best local food spots wherever I go! When I'm not planning service projects, you might find me experimenting with new recipes or binge-watching documentaries.

CKI has truly been a cornerstone of my college experience. It's a place where service meets leadership and lifelong friendships are built. My dream? To see a CKI club at every college and university in the Capital District.

Kiwanis sponsorship is a huge part of what makes that dream possible. Whether it's training officers, teaming up for service projects, or simply offering guidance, our Kiwanis partners are essential.

This year, I'll be focusing on:

- Strengthening CKI club connections at the division and district level;
- Building stronger Kiwanis Family ties, especially with Key Club and Kiwanis;
- Updating resources for recruitment, retention, and club success;

If you're interested in starting or revitalizing a club, joining our Kiwanis Support Committee, or inviting a CKI board member to speak, I'd love to connect. Reach out anytime at [governor@cdcki.org](mailto:governor@cdcki.org).

Warmly,

Dylan Luong

## Key Club SNEHA SHAH, GOVERNOR

Hello Kiwanians,



As the new service year begins, the Capital District Key Club Board has already been hard at work preparing for a year full of growth, service, and collaboration. On May 17—18, we held our first in-person board meeting at Hyatt Place, where we focused on team bonding, diving deeper into our roles, and holding focused committee meetings that laid the groundwork for the months ahead. During this meeting, our committees made exciting progress:

- The Community Service Committee designed monthly service challenges and a new awards system centered around this year's Governor's Project, *G.R.O.W With Nature* — an initiative focused on protecting the planet, uplifting communities, and prioritizing wellness.
- The Mental Health Committee is developing monthly wellness calendars filled with simple daily activities to support the mental health of our members.
- Our Kiwanis Family Relations Committee is planning a workshop for the upcoming Kiwanis District Convention focused on improving communication between Kiwanians and Key Clubbers.
- The District Events Committee is already planning our Fall Rally at to be held at Kings Dominion Oct. 18 and looks forward to welcoming Kiwanians to join us.
- The Membership Committee is building updated recruitment resources for clubs next year, and our Languages and Translations Committee is translating important district materials into multiple languages while promoting cultural appreciation and representation through social media posts and inclusivity.

On April 27 we held our first virtual board training session to prepare officers for the responsibilities ahead. Topics included the servant leadership model, board and chair roles, monthly expectations, time management, professional communication, newsletter creation, and divisional branding. This training helped ensure that every board member has the tools they need to best support their divisions and serve the greater Key Club community.

We are so thankful for the continued support of our Kiwanis family. Your encouragement and guidance make our work possible, and we are eager to continue strengthening our partnership throughout the year. We hope to see many of you at upcoming events!

Yours in friendship and service,

Sneha Shah

# ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

STACY WHITEHOUSE, CKI ADMINISTRATOR

Hello Fellow Kiwanians,

I am honored to serve as the new Capital District CKI District Administrator as of April 1. My service as a former Key Club individual officer, CKI district board member, Key Club zone administrator, and 13-year Kiwanian and past club president has all been in the Capital District, and I'm excited to continue supporting youth leaders and an organization that has given me so much.

I currently am a member of Tysons Kiwanis, live in Loudoun County, and work in communications for Advance CTE, a non-profit focused on Career Technical Education policy.

Whether or not your club sponsors a CKI club, you can be a part of our success! Just in the past year alone, we have achieved over 30 percent attendance improvement at our District Convention, 20 percent improvement at our in-person Spring Officer Training Conference, chartered a new CKI club at Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria, and reconnected multiple clubs to the Capital District.

Some areas of focus this year for me are to expand our Kiwanis Support Committee (the Kiwanians who support our CKI district leaders); recharter CKI clubs at our major universities such as VCU, UVA, WVU, and JMU; provide more ongoing professional development for club officers; and elect a full district board in 2026.

**There's a couple of ways every club can help:**

**#1 Promote CKI to Key Club:**

We have created a promotional toolkit with materials to recruit graduating seniors and connect them to a CKI club. Share the resources and QR code at your end of year celebration and with your Key Clubs. If you have a CKI alumnus in your club, they would be a great ambassador for these presentations.



**PROMOTIONAL TOOLKIT**

**#2 Join the Kiwanis Support Committee:** My work is not possible without a successful team bringing their strengths to the table to mentor our board and help with district events and initiatives! Applications are open for new Committee members - please contact me for more information.

I look forward to connecting with all our Kiwanis clubs during my service, and please don't hesitate to reach out at [administrator@cdcki.org](mailto:administrator@cdcki.org) or 804-514-2402. Thank you!

## BEYOND THE CALL

### In Memoriam: Past Governor Charlie Adams



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Kiwanis Capital District Past Governor and longtime foundation leader Charles P. (Charlie) Adams on Feb. 23 at the age of 77. Charlie served as district governor in 1997 and chaired many district committees.

Charlie joined the Kiwanis Club of Chesterfield in 1989 and served as club president a year later. (Chesterfield Kiwanis merged with Midlothian in 2014.) Quickly immersing himself in district activities, Charlie rose to the position of governor in eight years. Perhaps he left his most lasting impact on Kiwanis through the Capital District Foundation, which he served as executive secretary from 2001-19.

Charlie was a lifetime teacher, administrator and coach (primarily baseball), earning a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Richmond and a master's in education from Virginia Tech. He was a middle school science teacher at several schools and also served as assistant headmaster.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 42 years; Vickie, two children; a granddaughter and extended family. The family has asked that the Capital District Foundation be among the community and service organizations considered for donations in his memory.



# Around the CD

What follows is a compendium of news briefs regarding recent happenings throughout the Capital District. Should you have an item you would like to share in a future issue of *The Capital Kiwanian*, please email it to: [editor@capitalkiwanis.org](mailto:editor@capitalkiwanis.org)

## INVESTING IN THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF D.C. YOUTH

For more than 25 years, the Kiwanis Club of Washington D.C., has hosted the DC Student Leader Awards, a prestigious program that celebrates the exceptional achievements and leadership of high school seniors in the District of Columbia.

This program recognizes graduating seniors who have demonstrated a profound commitment to their schools and their communities.

Each year, the scholarship program culminates in a special ceremony at the historic Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, featuring keynote speeches from notable figures, live local entertainment, and a showcase of the awardees' accomplishments. On April 23, the Kiwanis Club of Washington D.C. held its annual awards reception and awarded 14 local high school seniors a total of \$76,000 in college scholarships.

The first-place recipient received a \$20,000 scholarship followed by a \$15,000 award and a \$10,000 award. The club also provided a \$5,000 scholarship to three finalists and awards in the amount of \$2,000 were given to six semi-finalists. Finally, the Kiwanis Club President selected two students to receive a President's Award in the amount of \$2,000. Each awardee also received a laptop and backpack to support their college journey.

The DC Student Leader Awards Program not only honors student academic achievement but also encourages the continued growth and development of young leaders in Washington, D.C., supporting them in whichever educational pathway they choose.



"We are fortunate to host the DC Student Leader Awards year after year, as we are committed to supporting D.C. youth, the next generation of leaders, by investing in their educational future," said Jamee Telford, President-Elect of the Kiwanis Club of Washington, D.C. and chair of the award committee. "Our 2025 student leaders are courageous advocates committed to inspiring others, giving back to their communities, and creating positive change for our world."

Now in its 28th year, this application-based scholarship program recognizes students who not only excel academically but also demonstrate an ongoing commitment to service and improving their communities. Application considerations include:

- an essay that asks students to reflect on their leadership experiences;
- a list of student activities, leadership roles, and awards;
- two letters of reference;
- a demonstrated financial need;
- and each student's grades.

The DC Student Leader Award program is funded by the Kiwanis Foundation of the District of Columbia, a 501(c)(3) benefiting the service initiatives of the Kiwanis Club of Washington, D.C. This year, the Kiwanis Club of Washington, D.C. received nearly 200 applications from students attending 30 different schools within the District of Columbia.

If interested in learning more about the DC Student Leader Awards or how you can support our efforts, contact club President-Elect Jamee Telford, at [jameetelford@gmail.com](mailto:jameetelford@gmail.com).

— Submitted by Jamee Telford



## A LITTLE RAIN CAN'T DETER DUCK DERBY

A brief downpour did not deter the success of the Wellsburg, W. Va. Kiwanis Club's 4th Annual Duck Derby June 8.

One thousand rubber ducks were launched into the Ohio River. The first five ducks to reach the designated finish line were declared the winners, allowing the ticket holders with the corresponding numbers to claim the following prizes:

- \$1,000 for first place;
- yearlong pizza for second;
- \$400 for third;
- McDonald's for a year for fourth;
- and \$100 for fifth place.

A 5K race with 75 participants, car cruise, children's games, and food vendors added to the festivities.

An enormous 20-foot duck was the backdrop for celebratory photos, as Lt Governor Mary Kay Olashuk demonstrates in a nearby photo.

Eric Fithyan, club president, deemed the Derby a "huge success," the club netting \$25,000, which will be used toward installing a splash pad at a local park. A playground was installed two years ago from prior duck derby funds.

— Submitted by Mary Kay Olashuk, Lt. Gov. Division 18, WV Region



## REMEMBERING VETERANS

The Memorial Day has just been celebrated, but the Worcester Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines (Maryland) commemorates veterans every day. Pictured nearby (L-R) are guest speakers from the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore, VP Susie Pantone and Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell.

At a recent program, the Ocean Pines Kiwanis Club learned how remembering and honoring veterans is showcased for students.

Each year, the Veterans Memorial Foundation invites every fifth-grade class within Worcester County to experience a field trip to the Memorial. Students participate in a comprehensive tour and three-part informational program. Its purpose

is to create and foster an awareness and appreciation for the tremendous sacrifices veterans have made to protect and preserve the freedoms Americans enjoy.

Prior to the field trip, students view the video "Heroes All" and receive a 34-page booklet they are encouraged to share with their families. Throughout each rotation, students are encouraged to share their stories of friends and family who have served in the military.

After a short welcome and introduction, the students are divided into three rotating groups that enjoy The Memorial and Veterans Stories; Flag Folding and Etiquette; and the Patriots Pathway.

-Submitted by David Landis

## TRAINING DAY

We're in the midst of prime Certified Leadership and Training (CLE) season, as mentioned elsewhere in this issue; Kiwanis International Trustee (and past Capital District Governor) Dennis Baugh conducted training for Division 15 at The Acorn Hill Lodge in Lynchburg on June 14. Officers from Lynchburg, Salem, Waynesboro, Forest, Next Generation e-Club and Roanoke were in attendance.



# From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

## SO WHY ARE WE RAISING MONEY FOR KIWANIS THIS TIME?

BY PG JOHN TYNER

Your KCF Champions have been working successfully with our members and clubs for almost a year now and have done well with receiving donations for our Kiwanis Children's Fund Possibility Project. These donations currently exceed \$500,000 and feature six committed Impact Clubs: Arlington, Bethesda, Poquoson, Rockville, Westminster and Wheaton-Silver Spring.



At our Mid-Year Conference, and as I visit clubs throughout the district, the one question I generally get is: "We've always raised big funds for diseases like IDD or Neo-natal tetanus and we are used to giving for a particular health or disaster cause; why not this time?" Let me explain my answer for you...

Some of you know that I served as a KCF board trustee for six years (and some of you know that Jeff Wolff has just been elected to that board). The KCF Board, and its Grants Committee as well, have always wrestled with not having sufficient funds to make awards to (let alone fully fund) the numerous grant requests from around our Kiwanis World to help match the clubs' community projects.

Grant requests prepared by the clubs (and when asked, staff are available to advise) and presented for matching funds are becoming more and more worthy of funding. However, the bottom line always has been how much funding is available for that grant cycle.

This time around, we are donating to KCF to provide funds for the **Grant Award Process** which encourages our Kiwanians to continue to request matching funds to enable them to do their projects that benefit their own communities. Such funds directly donated to our Possibility Project enter the Kiwanis grant funding stream to be awarded, not to refresh some foundation reserve account. It then becomes your turn to request a grant to fund a precious project of your own.

**To give you an idea of what impact you and/or your club's donation can have through a funded grant:**

- US\$60 can offer a healthy future to 15 children in Honduras by providing critical antiparasitic medicine and vitamins.
- US\$150 can establish a home library for up to 20 children.
- US\$400 can secure non-perishable food, school clothes and school supplies for five children.
- US\$600 can provide tetanus vaccinations and prenatal care to 200 mothers.

- US\$1,000 can provide six months of academic tutoring to children with learning challenges.
- US\$1,500 can feed a hungry child breakfast and lunch for a year.
- US\$2,500 can supply Chrome laptops to 10 students for schoolwork throughout the year.

With a gift of an Impact Club commitment that represents an average of at least US\$500 per member over five years, your club will have a major role in the Kiwanis family's effort to make a difference in the lives of children around the world. Please understand — that means each member kicks in \$100 each year for five years.

The most effective result will come from a combination of fundraising methods. These can include: (1) gifts generated from community fundraising events and activities; (2) gifts from individual club members; (3) gifts from your club treasury; (4) a gift from your club foundation; (5) matching gifts from your club or district foundation; and (6) gifts from local businesses in your community who wish to support your club in some fashion.

Whatever combination of methods you use, remember: the more money your club raises, the more children you help.

**Here are more examples of Kiwanis Children's Fund grants — this time for pediatric medicine — which will help four clubs help more kids.**

As reported by KI staff member Erin Chandler, this year the Kiwanis Children's Fund awarded pediatric medicine support grants to four Kiwanis clubs for projects that will help medical centers expand their services for children. These grants are especially important where access to medical services is limited by families' financial or geographic constraints. The support they provide allows Kiwanis clubs and medical centers to unite in making sure all kids get the best possible care — whether through a specialized wheelchair, equipment that makes therapy fun, better milk storage or simply a pack of diapers to take home.



## **Wheels of Hope: Empowering Kids of Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center**

*Kiwanis Club of Sayville, New York*

The Kiwanis Club of Sayville and the entire Suffolk East Division of Kiwanis' New York District are working together to provide specialized wheelchairs to Stony Brook University Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center. Trauma recovery has been shown to be faster — and hospital stays shorter — when patients can move around early in the process, socialize and experience changes of scenery.

With help from a pediatric medicine support grant from the Children's Fund, the division will purchase 12 Convaid Cruiser wheelchairs, which will be sized specifically for pediatric patients. Most importantly, the chairs will be built with the necessary safety measures, including harnesses, to move children with ventilators and other equipment to the playroom, to visit with family members and more. Hospital workers and Kiwanians hope these wheelchairs will help hundreds of children in their recovery from illness or injury.

## **University of North Carolina Health Southeastern Pediatric Supply Drive**

*Kiwanis Club of Robeson-Lumberton Young Professionals, North Carolina*

A pediatric medicine support grant will help the Kiwanis Club of Robeson-Lumberton Young Professionals donate pediatric supplies to the University of North Carolina (UNC) Health Southeastern Regional Medical Center. UNC Southeastern is the only hospital in Robeson County, where over a quarter of the population struggles with poverty.

Club members will work with hospital staff to determine the greatest supply needs for families on the pediatric floor, such as formula, clothing and, most of all, diapers. They will then purchase and drop off the supplies personally. The club hopes the pediatric supply drive will become an annual event, so that thousands of families get the supplies they need to give their children a healthy start in life.

## **Children's & Women's Hospital Milk Room Expansion**

*Kiwanis Club of Mobile, Alabama*

In March 2024, staff from USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital approached the Kiwanis Club of Mobile for help in providing a bigger and better milk room — the area where breast milk and formula are prepared and stored — for its growing number of patients. The hospital is highly regarded for its pediatric care and delivers more babies annually than any other hospital on the upper Gulf Coast — and its Pediatric Emergency Department recently doubled in size.

A pediatric medicine support grant will help the Kiwanis Club of Mobile and other clubs in its division purchase refrigerators, a freezer, a stainless-steel workstation and a milk warmer for the expanded milk room. The new equipment will allow for

more storage and better organization while reducing the risk of infection, contamination and mislabeling. The additional refrigerators and improved milk warmer will also prevent the nutritional value of the milk from degrading. When the milk room opens next year, it will be ready to provide the best care for patients in the hospital's Newborn, Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care units.

## **Unity Medical Center Pediatric Sensory Gym**

*Kiwanis Club of Grafton, North Dakota*

Unity Medical Center is one of the few places where families in the rural area of Grafton can access occupational and speech therapy for children. Since August 2023, the number of kids in the Center's therapy programs has more than doubled, and the Kiwanis Club of Grafton is stepping up — helping enlarge the pediatric gym and add a sensory gym to meet the growing demand. A pediatric medicine support grant will help to purchase gym equipment, including wall padding, a balance beam, tunnels, activity mirrors, and monkey bars. Kids in the program will use the new equipment to develop skills such as motor planning, coordination, body awareness and sensory integration.

Kiwanis club members will assist in delivering and setting up the equipment. They will also help with annual screenings to identify area children who would benefit from the therapy program's services. The club hopes that the new and improved gym will be ready for patients in September.

## **How do I apply for a pediatric medicine support grant?**

The Pediatric Medicine Support Grant Program offers onetime grants for clubs to fund projects that specifically support local children's medical centers. Grant money can be used to purchase products or supplies for patients' hospital stays or to support a capital improvement project.

You can learn more and apply for a Pediatric Medicine Support Grant on the Kiwanis website. For more information about the Kiwanis Children's Fund, visit [kiwanis.org/childrensfund](https://kiwanis.org/childrensfund).

For your own division contact list, please add the appropriate member of my Champion Band: Elana Gardner (Div. 1 & 3), Jen Wolff (Div. 2), Renee Mackay (Div. 4 & 8), Robin Marks (Div. 5 & 6), Joe Stankus (Div. 9 & 10), Ron McCallum (Div. 12 & 13), Melinda Dalton (Div. 15), and Nathaniel Kyle (Div. 20).

If you'd like to help us with your own division, please let me know very soon so we can get going in time for our District Convention in late August in Crystal City.



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

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

**“Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have rather talked.”**

**DOUG LARSON**

**“Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.”**

**STEPHEN COVEY**

**“Most of the successful people I’ve known are the ones who do more listening than talking.”**

**BERNARD BARUCH**

As a Kiwanis leader and a leader in general, listening is an important skill to have in your toolbox. Listening can help build trust, strengthen relationships, and encourage members to share their thoughts and feelings with you. Listening allows you to hear the opinions of others and to show that you care about what they have to say. Listening to someone does not automatically mean you agree with the person, it shows that you respect them and are willing to give them the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions with you.

Does your club have any structures put into place to hear from members of the club or the community? You may find that newer members are hesitant to share their thoughts on club matters — but perhaps they have never been asked. Club leaders should set up a safe space so that all members can feel heard. This can be done through a survey or even a one-on-one conversation with a member of the board.

Check in on your new members, and do not forget about the members whom you have not seen for a while. Maybe there is a reason why they stopped coming to meetings that would be helpful for you to hear and make appropriate adjustments. As you make those connections, ensure that you are prepared to listen to their thoughts and concerns and that you have created a comfortable setting for their opinion to be shared.

Often you may find yourself listening so that you are ready to respond to someone’s concerns or thoughts. You may want to jump into the conversation and provide advice or educate the member on a process or to offer your opinion on the situation. However, it is important to first listen to understand. Listening to understand takes practice and is not a skill that may come naturally. Check yourself next time you are listening to someone tell a story, explain an idea for a service project, or even if they are just sharing something about themselves. Are you listening to listen or listening to respond?

You can practice active listening by showing you are listening through head nods and words of affirmation; just be careful not to automatically offer your opinion as soon as they are done speaking. If you are in a debate or a discussion with someone, repeat what you thought you heard to the speaker. This will help clarify an understanding and to ensure that their message was clearly communicated to you.

Listening takes practice and intention. Avoid distractions when having a conversation with your fellow members, especially if they are bringing a concern to you. When participating in a discussion at club or board meeting, truly listen to what is being said rather than simply waiting for the speaker to end to formulate a question or add a comment.

A true listener often checks their own ego at the door and is open and willing to hear what is being said — even if it is tough to hear or something you may not agree with. The strength of our Kiwanis clubs lies in the strength of our members and the teams that we create. Naturally, people will disagree with you as a leader or as a fellow member, but it is important to show respect and listen to what others have to say in order to grow and mend relationships. Who knows, there may be some great ideas out there if you just take the time to listen! Do not be afraid to truly listen to others; you never know what you may learn and how your club may benefit from the thoughts and opinions of many.

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

# Membership Momentum



## LET'S MAKE SUMMER COUNT FOR KIWANIS MEMBERSHIP

BY ALISA DICK



**With only a bit more than three months left in this Kiwanis year, now is the time to reflect:**

***What have I done to help our membership grow?***

***Have I supported my club's growth goals?***

***Have I answered the call to assist in opening a new club?***

I know many of us might feel stretched thin, thinking, "I don't have time to help another club open when my own club needs members!" But let me point out this: stepping up to help another club is one of the best ways to learn how to promote Kiwanis membership.

Not only will you gain invaluable experience, you'll also bring that knowledge back to strengthen your own club. It's an opportunity to grow as a leader, broaden your perspective, and contribute to the greater Kiwanis mission of serving children and communities.

And think about this:

The moment you sign up your first new member — seeing their excitement to join and knowing the impact they'll make — is an incredibly rewarding experience.

***Want to help open a new club?***

Reach out to Jennifer Wolff for opportunities to support new club openings. Your involvement can make a significant difference!

Together, we can build, nurture, and retain. Let's rise to the challenge, support one another, and make these last few months count!

***Who will you invite to join Kiwanis today?***

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

# Our Firm Foundation



News from the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation

## HELPING VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HELENE IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

BY DON WITT

In late September of last year, Southwest Virginia was struck by a devastating hurricane, resulting in heartbreaking flooding to homes and businesses and an estimated \$14 million in damages. We are deeply grateful that the Capital District Kiwanis and its generous clubs and individuals immediately stepped up to support the Foundation's disaster relief fund.

Thanks to many remarkable contributions, more than \$31,000 was received. However, just as disaster assistance was being organized, the same localities were hit by Winter Storm JETT, causing an additional \$11 million in damages. While disaster relief funds were becoming scarce, the need for help grew even more urgent. Fortunately, the Capital District Foundation Disaster Relief funds, made possible by your kindness, were able to help fill this critical gap.

To ensure these vital funds reached those who needed them most efficiently, CDKF partnered with the United Way of Southwest Virginia, Executive Director Megan Parks, and their dedicated Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Dan Rice, who serves 14 disaster-impacted counties. United Way dedicated the Kiwanis

contributions for help with Hurricane Helene damage.

Because of your compassionate giving, CDKF's \$31,000 will directly support essential needs such as home repair, appliance replacement, supplemental food, and other immediate necessities. Dan shared a powerful story of a family whose home was flooded and desperately needed assistance.

Thanks to the prompt availability of donated funds, they immediately received a Food City Gift Card, ensuring their family could eat. Furthermore, your contributions enabled Dan to work directly with a rental homeowner, providing a month's rent while the family began to rebuild their lives. Having lost all of their home furnishings, the generosity of our donors also provided new bed sets, complete with pillows, sheets, and blankets, for their children.

Dan Rice also shared this story:

"A citizen who will remain anonymous for this story lives on Main Street in Damascus. His home is split with an art studio business he runs in the front, and his living home in the back. As the flood waters rose during Hurricane Helene, he realized he needed to evacuate his property. He exited the back door to see a wave of water approaching, and the force of it pinned him against the wall. Luckily his neighbor was out at the same time and came over to assist him. He was able to get in his truck and drive to higher ground.

"When the waters receded and he got back into his home several days later, he was devastated by the damage, both to his art and his home. It took him four months, with the help from



volunteers and neighbors, to shovel out all the sand and debris. He was able to receive some assistance from FEMA for repairs to the home, and a little extra assistance from a county grant that provided some relief of lost business expenses, but there was still a gap in his personal possessions that were lost. After visiting him on site to view his property, we decided that the CRP would qualify him for some home furnishing replacement. We worked directly with him and a local furniture store to secure the purchase and delivery of a new mattress, as he had spent the previous five months sleeping on a camp cot.

"This citizen said he has become inspired to help spread joy in his community who are suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. One thing he has done is invite kids from the neighborhood to help decorate his fence. He cuts wooden shapes from his art studio, the children paint them, and then assemble them along the fence. He hopes that when people pass the fence, they remember the joy of kids creating art.

"This citizen said, 'I'm so grateful for United Way's assistance (and implicitly, Kiwanis help as well). I'm sleeping better than I have in a long time and it feels good to know that there are people out there who care.'"



## FOUNDATION PRESENTS CHECK TO NEMOURS



On March 31, the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation presented its annual donation to the Nemours Children Hospital — one of 11 pediatric trauma hospitals in the district's four-state/D.C. area that it supports annually. The location of the presentation was again at the Nemours' facility in Milford, Delaware.

In 2025, the Foundation was able to increase its contribution by 33 percent to each of the hospitals so that facilities now receive \$4,000 each. The money received by Nemours will go to support their Department of Child Life, Creative Arts Therapy and School Programs which aims to help patients and their families cope with medical situations.

Program staff promote the use of play, preparation, education and self-expression activities as a way to normalize their hospital stay. The Nemours team of certified Child Life specialists is skilled at supporting children and their families during any stressful medical events that may occur. Their aim is to empower children and families, while partnering with them to meet their individual needs.

The Capital District Kiwanis Foundation's contribution to the 11 area Children's Hospitals is funded in large part from money raised by generous donations from district clubs and members, Foundation investments and by its annual Ducky Derby raffle drawing held at the District Convention (DCON). To contribute to this endeavor and enter for a chance to win one of a number of cash or merchant prizes, please visit: <https://go.rallyup.com/d6b141> Your support of these programs will be greatly appreciated.

*Shown in photo are (L-R): Charles Marks, Kiwanis DelMarVa Regional Trustee; Nicole Sizer, Nemours Medical Assistant III; Rebekah Proudfoot, Nemours Advanced Practice Provider; Scott Phillips, Kiwanis Foundation DelMarVa Regional Director; Darlene Phillips, Kiwanis Division 5 Lt. Governor; Paige Rumford, Nemours Associate Director of Philanthropy; and Crissy Maddox, Nemours Licensed Practical Nurse.*

*-Submitted by Scott Phillips*

*(Don Witt is the President-Elect of the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation. Don is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and a former two-time Lt. Governor of Division 15.)*

## BETHESDA, ROCKVILLE JOIN FORCES TO CELEBRATE SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

Spirits were high as Kiwanians from near and far met at the Mosaic Cuisine restaurant on Saturday, May 31 to celebrate the 80th and 75th charter anniversaries for the Kiwanis Clubs of Bethesda and Rockville, respectively.

Master of ceremonies Division 3 Lieutenant Governor Seth Steele led the more than 50 attendees at the bought-out restaurant through a packed agenda that focused on honoring the past, looking toward a bright future and acknowledging the long-tenured service of many members of both clubs.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance representing a myriad of clubs included: Capital District Governor Josh Hiscock (Ellicott City, and Next Generation e-Club); Governor-Elect Tim Gillette (Tysons); Vice Governor David Lurie (Tysons); Trustee Marie Bowe-Quick (Mitchellville); Trustee Charles Marks (Bridgeville); Lt. Governor-Designate Linda Peters (Mitchellville); Past Governor Linwood Watson (Shepherd Park, and Southwest Waterfront) and many other current and past LTGs including Robin Marks, Michelle Yuth, Stan Miller, Bernice Oden, and Steve Cohen.

Also on hand were representatives of builders clubs, elected government officials and significant representatives of other communities throughout the area.

Opening remarks were provided by current club presidents Tracy Miller (Bethesda) and Elana Gardner (Rockville), also a past district governor. Following other important agenda items, musical selections were performed by Rockville's community partner InterPlay Orchestra.

Capital District Governor Josh Hiscock then offered personal remarks and delivered recognitions from Kiwanis International dignitaries. Proclamations and citations area municipalities were shared.

Legion of Honor recognitions were presented to many Kiwanians ranging from 25-50 years in both clubs. Past Capital District Governor John Tyner (Rockville) presented a George F. Hixson Fellowship to Robin Handleman (from Rockville) and a Dr. Will Blechman Fellowship to Bill Hermann (also of Rockville).

Many Kiwanians from both clubs were saluted for considerable background work and preparation to present such a well thought-out and dignified day of celebration.

*-Excerpted from a Bethesda newsletter article by Seth Steele, Div. 3 LTG*

# 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.



## FIVE TIPS FOR YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

If posting feels like screaming into a void, try these ways of reaching a wider audience:

BY ERIN CHANDLER

Social media is an excellent tool to spread the word about the ways Kiwanis serves communities. A strong social media presence can boost awareness, membership and event attendance for your club. Below are five tips for using your club's social media accounts effectively — and getting your message out to the widest possible audience.

Create a post — with pictures — to celebrate every successful club project. What better way to advertise Kiwanis to your community than by showing your club in action? Whether you're collecting and distributing donations, making school supply kits, cleaning up a park or a housing complex, conducting a pancake breakfast, celebrating your service in a social media post demonstrates that your club is active, fun and making a legitimate impact. If the local media covers your project, you can also share the link to the news story. The more you post, the more people are likely to see your club's service examples in action.

Include key information about the project in the text of your post. If a potential new member or community partner stumbles across your post without prior knowledge of your club, what would you want them to know? In the text of your social media post, be sure to include your club's

name, a description of the project and the key message you want readers to know about it. You can also tag or link to partners you worked with.

Use engaging photos. Instead of a picture of all your club members standing in a row, or of one person handing a check (even a giant check) to another, take photos that show your club and community members in action — smiling, interacting and taking part in the project. Give potential new members an idea of what being a Kiwanian is actually like. And make sure any Kiwanis logos on display are up to date. For more photos tips, see our PR tips and tools on the website.

Encourage club and community members to engage with your posts. The more people like, comment on and especially share your posts, the more people will see them. Lots of comments from members show the camaraderie in your club. Tag club members, your club's official page and community partners in your post and/or photos, and encourage them to share the post on their own pages.

Share your posts with the official Kiwanis Facebook group. You probably know about the official Kiwanis Facebook page. But do you know that we also have a group page where members can share their club's news with Kiwanians around the world? Once you're a member of the group, you can hit the share button at the bottom of a post on your personal or club page, then select "Group" and "Kiwanis International." Sometimes we choose posts from the group page to share on official Kiwanis social media. (But remember: it's a private group, so we can't share posts directly from the group page — only posts you share from your club's public page.)

Bonus tip: Make sure the contact information on your social media page is up-to-date and check your messages often. Once your posts start drawing attention, potential new members and partners will contact you via the information on your page.

For more resources and tips on how to publicize your club in all kinds of media, check out the Branding and Marketing page on our website. We have social media graphics you can use, a guide to PR tips and tools and more.



## SEE YOU IN PITTSBURGH!

Several scores of Capital District Kiwanians are registered for the International Convention in Pittsburgh this week. As attendees are fine-tuning details related to their visit, here are a few tips worth remembering:

Kiwanis-preferred hotels are within easy walking distance of the David L. Larence Convention Center where the convention will take place — with convenient access to restaurants, shopping and attractions.

Pittsburgh is a versatile destination brimming with discoveries. In fact, it's featured in "Lonely Planet's 2025 Global Best in Travel" — the only U.S. city to be included.

Hop onto one of the famous incline cars to the top of Mount Washington for breathtaking skyline and river views. Take a walking tour of the diverse downtown architecture or board a boat for a relaxing river trip. Stroll or bike along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail or visit Point State Park, where Pittsburgh's three rivers meet. Whatever your interests — history, art, science, sports and more — Pittsburgh has museums you won't want to miss. Bringing the family? Pittsburgh proudly calls itself Kidsburgh. Visit theme and water parks, an impressive zoo and aquarium, an expansive aviary, a children's museum and more.

When you need to refuel, enjoy inspired menus in a range of restaurants — from casual family spots to chef-owned creations and dining rooms with a view. For a quick bite, don't miss a chance to savor a famous Primanti sandwich or a classic pierogi. Pittsburgh also is home to more than 60 craft breweries serving award-winning brews.

Events held in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center are fully accessible, in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act. The convention center has complimentary nonmotorized wheelchairs available for guests to use while on site. Wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are located at the East Lobby security desk, West Lobby security desk, and the Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom security desk. These wheelchairs are not permitted to leave the property.

To secure a rental scooter, nonmotorized or electric wheelchair for use throughout Pittsburgh, call 1-412-426-9144 or email [pittsburgh@mobilityplus.com](mailto:pittsburgh@mobilityplus.com).

## GETTING DOWN TO THE BUSINESS OF MEMBERSHIP

When Kiwanis International was founded in 1915, it was an organization designed to help businessmen make a positive impact in their communities. According to Jarrod Goldsmith, president of the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, "growing their business and networking" is still one of the top reasons people join Kiwanis.

With that in mind, Goldsmith proposed a new recruitment program for his club in 2023: Kiwanis Socials. From 5-8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month, the Ottawa club hosts a social networking event at different locations around the city. The events are open to non-Kiwanians as well as members of Kiwanis clubs throughout the area.

"These are not Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Socials," he says. "These are Kiwanis socials."

The only stipulation? The locations must be fun and engaging: a bar, a restaurant, an activity center, etc. Goldsmith encourages clubs to eschew the traditional church basements and find alternative places willing to host an event free of charge.

The goal of Kiwanis Socials is to attract younger members who will keep Kiwanis serving communities well into the future.

"Adapt the organization to where you think the prospective members would be," Goldsmith advises.

### How does it work?

Goldsmith, who has professional experience organizing and hosting events, designed Kiwanis Socials to showcase the fun, vibrant side of Kiwanis — a complement to its ability to form connections and help communities thrive.

The events are free of charge and open to anyone who would like to attend. The typical social draws 30-50 attendees, about half of whom are non-Kiwanis members. There is always food, either provided by the venue or donated by a third-party sponsor.

Goldsmith takes no more than the first 10 minutes to thank the venue and sponsor — giving them a chance to advertise their services — and to talk about the mandate and values of Kiwanis.

"I don't believe in sales pitches," he says. "Kiwanis is such an easy sell."

Goldsmith makes sure to recognize all clubs in attendance. Each club gets a turn at the mic to let everyone know about upcoming events and to ask for extra help if needed. This lets nonmembers see the real work Kiwanis does. Recently, Goldsmith has even spoken to local Rotary clubs about taking part. Other clubs and service organizations aren't the competition, he says.

"We should be working together to promote the community."

The rest of the event is for having fun and allowing attendees to network, although there is always the opportunity to bring the conversations back to why Kiwanis matters and the impact it has.

"Networking is what I do," Goldsmith says. "I like connecting the ecosystem, the community, together."

### Tips for success

For clubs looking to host their own Kiwanis Socials, Goldsmith has some additional advice:

- To organize and lead your socials, look for an active club member who already attends networking events and might have existing relationships in the business community. They can draw on these connections for sponsorships and attendance.
- Plan your events six months in advance and be consistent with dates and times.
- Encourage attendees to engage on social media — take pictures, tag the people and clubs who are there, and use a designated hashtag. This will help increase your club's social media presence.
- Give door prizes donated by community organizations. Everyone loves prizes — and if you give out tickets for door prizes at the beginning of the night, but award the prizes at the end, it provides an incentive to stay.
- Set up an online RSVP system so that you know approximately how many attendees you will have. If someone shows up without an RSVP, no big deal — just provide forms for them to fill out their contact information.

### Think outside the box

When Goldsmith first pitched the idea of Kiwanis Socials, he says some members were skeptical of trying something new, especially an idea from a younger person. But he persisted.

"'We've always done it this way' is the kiss of death [for a club]," he says. "This is thinking differently. And it's working."

The Kiwanis Club of Ottawa has gained approximately 25 new members since it began hosting Kiwanis Socials.

"The city of Ottawa is once again taking about Kiwanis, and these Kiwanis Socials are a big reason why our membership is growing," Goldsmith says. "People are joining our membership because of these events. Because they see the value of intergenerational synergies."

Above all, Goldsmith encourages Kiwanis to be open to new ideas and perspectives from younger members.

"Let them run with it," he says. "What have you got to lose? It's their time on the line. Probably won't cost anything at all. It doesn't cost us anything for these Socials. So why not? The worst that can happen is you'll have a new project."

# 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

### 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





## 2025 Capital District Convention

Join us for the 2025 Capital District Kiwanis Convention (DCON), happening August 22–24 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City! This year’s theme, “You Belong Here,” is a celebration of the connection, inclusion, and service that define the Kiwanis experience.

Whether you’re looking to strengthen your leadership skills, get inspired by dynamic speakers, or connect with fellow members across the district, DCON offers something for everyone. From workshops and training to networking and fellowship, this is your opportunity to grow and give back.

Register early and save! Take advantage of the early bird rate of \$200 through July 25th. After that, the registration cost increases—so don’t wait!



## Special Highlights:

### Friday Night – Kiwanis Jam Night featuring a Live Band

Kick off the weekend with live music, dancing, and fun! Come ready to relax, connect, and enjoy a great night with fellow Kiwanians.

### Saturday – Drop-In Service Project

Lend a hand and make a difference! Join us as we stuff backpacks with school supplies for local students. Drop by during designated hours to help out—every pair of hands counts!

Don’t miss this unforgettable weekend of service, learning, and connection. Register today and show the Capital District that *You Belong Here!*

**REGISTER TODAY!**

# 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

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**



Stay up to date online. And encourage members to do the same.  
[kiwanischildrensfund.org](http://kiwanischildrensfund.org)



**Kiwanis**  
CHILDREN'S FUND