

The Capital

August/September 2025

KIWANIAN

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

**TEENAGER OF
THE YEAR**

**TRANSITION TIME
FOR CLUB LEADERS**

**HOW MENTORS CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Kiwaniis

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COVER: Kiwanis Club of South Arlington members partnered with PathForward to create bagged lunches that would be handed out to those in need. The event took place June 26.



The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City welcomed Zack Tyndall, Mayor of Berlin (Maryland), at its weekly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 8.



2024-25 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

GOVERNOR

Josh Hiscock
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GOVERNOR-ELECT

Tim Gillette
Tysons, VA

VICE GOVERNOR

David Lurie
Tysons, VA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Wolff
Tysons, VA

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

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Charlottesville, VA

TRUSTEE - BLUE RIDGE

Roger Diehl
Westminster, MD

TRUSTEE - DELMARVA

Charles Marks
Bridgeville, DE

TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

Jamie Moore
Petersburg, VA

TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

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TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

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Governor's Message

JOSH HISCOCK, 2024-25 GOVERNOR



YOU BELONG HERE

In a few short days, Kiwanians from around the Capital District will gather in Crystal City, Virginia, for the annual Capital District Kiwanis Convention. Whether it is your first convention or your 25th, you are in for a wonderful time. Under the leadership of Ronesha Prioleau (Kiwanis Club of Mitchellville), the District Convention Committee has designed a weekend highlighting how clubs have found numerous ways to **Elevate Our Impact** over the past year.

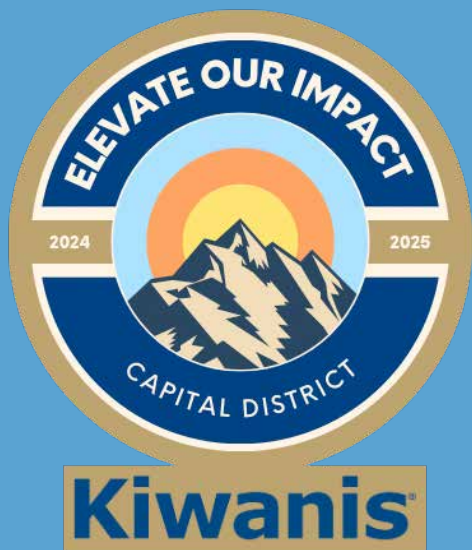
This year's convention theme is *"You Belong Here."* Every individual who wants to serve their community should have a place in Kiwanis. As an organization, we should welcome every person fully, celebrating the many skills, qualities, and social identities they carry, inclusive of all dimensions of identity, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. The culture, norms, and practices of our local clubs should create a sense of belonging for all members, one in which they feel that their presence, ideas, energy, and physical contributions matter.

Every member should feel that they belong, both in their community and in Kiwanis. At convention, we want every attendee to feel that they belong. Our conference theme was chosen to reinforce these principles and to make a public statement that Kiwanis is a place where anyone who wants to make a difference can come to serve. Attendees will see that theme woven throughout the weekend.

As you prepare to make the most of the experience, I encourage you to take advantage of items from my "Top 10 List."

10. Meet new people. District convention is a time to meet new people and make new friends! Do not be afraid to say hello to someone you do not know as you pass them in the hallway or sit with people you do not know when you attend a meal session. Getting to know people makes attending Kiwanis events, such as the convention and mid-year conference, more fun!

9. Reconnect with old acquaintances. For many of us, we only see our Kiwanis friends a few times a year. Take advantage of the time you are together to make new memories with old friends in the hospitality suites, over a morning coffee, or while purchasing tickets for the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation's Ducky Derby.



8. **Share success stories.** One of the best parts of attending a Kiwanis convention is sharing ideas and success stories. We elevate our impact when we try new things that make a difference in the lives of others. Brag a little! Be proud of the service projects and membership growth strategies that work well for your club. Tell people about them! Visit the Showcase of Service to see displays from clubs and divisions.
7. **Ask questions.** No Kiwanis club is perfect. Our district convention provides each of us with an opportunity to ask questions of Capital District leaders, as well as our International Trustee Jo Schwartz, and Kiwanis Area Director Rhonda Vrell, who will both be with us for the weekend. There are many resources available to help you solve the challenges you and your club may be facing. Ask questions to get the answers and the assistance you need!
6. **Participate in educational offerings.** There will be three rounds of workshops offered during the convention. Each block will feature sessions on topics such as starting a signature service project, growing your club membership, using artificial intelligence to advance your club's operations, finding the confidence to lead, and addressing our mental health and wellbeing as volunteer leaders. You will even learn more about *The Possibility Project*, an initiative of the Kiwanis Children's Fund. We have assembled incredible presenters to deliver this engaging content. Be sure to attend a session in each workshop block and encourage members from your club to spread out and take advantage of all the offerings.
5. **Hear inspiring speakers.** Each meal session will feature an engaging speaker who will offer a thought-provoking message. This year, all of our session speakers are alumni of service leadership programs (SLP) as we celebrate the 100th birthday of Key Club International. Their messages will make us reflect on the service we perform, as well as the ways our clubs can do more in the year ahead to make an even greater difference in the lives of children.
4. **Celebrate outstanding service.** Kiwanis is all about service, so our annual convention is a perfect time to celebrate the service we accomplished during the 2024-2025 administrative year. Remember when I told you that it was OK to brag earlier? I mean it! At every meal session and in every workshop, be prepared to tell others about your most successful and impactful projects. Your idea might inspire another club to try something new.

3. **Recognize club growth.** Kiwanis only exists because of clubs and the members who roll up their sleeves and perform hands-on service in their local community. Without members, none of this could happen! The convention is a time for us to honor clubs that have expanded their size since Oct. 1. You will hear a lot about membership at the convention, and you will learn more about the international initiative called *Build. Nurture. Retain.* Come prepared to learn strategies to grow your club's capacity to serve others.
2. **Enjoy outstanding entertainment.** Kiwanians love to have a good time, and this year will be no exception. Expect a weekend filled with incredible entertainment, including the cover band Back-N-Time playing hits from across the decades on Friday evening.
1. **Elect new individuals to lead the Capital District in the years ahead.** In one of the most important tasks to occur at the convention, delegates will elect new individuals to lead the Capital District in the years ahead. Be sure you and your fellow members attend the House of Delegates on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to participate in this critical business. Stay after the House of Delegates on Saturday to participate in the annual business meeting of your Capital District Kiwanis Foundation (CDKF).

Are you ready to travel to Crystal City already? Start your packing list! Aug. 22-24 will be here before you know it.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Capital District Governor during the past year. I am proud of the accomplishments of our clubs, many of which have persevered through incredible challenges. Day in and day out, members got down to business and elevated the impact of Kiwanis by launching new projects, forging new partnerships, and raising money to support children. Kiwanis clubs, their officers, and their members are changing the world through their caring and compassionate actions. Every action makes a difference and plants the seeds for future growth and change in our communities and world. I look forward to seeing all that grows from your hard work in the years to come. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Governor. I will never forget this experience.

Yours in the Spirit of Kiwanis Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joshua V. Hock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "V".



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

TRANSITION TIME BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIVE YEARS

Summer is almost over and the kids are getting ready to go back to school. For Kiwanis clubs, that means we are in the transition period between administrative years. The new Kiwanis year begins Oct. 1, but there are a variety of activities a Kiwanis club should do in the next 60 days to ensure their transition of leadership is smooth and successful.

Attend District Convention – Make sure your club is represented at the [District Convention in Crystal City](#) with delegates to elect our new leaders, learn more about how Kiwanis is changing to serve more children in our communities and make some new friends. Make sure your club [files its delegate form](#) if it hasn't already.

Familiarize Yourself with Kiwanis Engage – Kiwanis Engage launched last month as a replacement for Kiwanis Connect. This new CRM based on Salesforce is designed to make it easier to manage your Kiwanis membership and your club's operations. Visit kiwanis.org/engage to view the training materials and videos walking you through the new system. KI has simplified the data structure (only one email address, one phone number and one mailing address stored for each member) and given each member the ability to update their own information at any time.

New Board Planning Retreat and Goal-Setting – Aside from attending District Convention, the most important thing your club can do is to ensure that the newly elected 2025-26 club board of directors (those set to take over Oct. 1) hold a planning meeting to decide what their goals for the club will be. Make sure these are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound), such as "The Kiwanis Club of Anywhere will perform at least 10 percent more service hours than the previous year" and not something like "We will get more members." The work product of the meetings should be 3-4 goals (any more than that is too much to focus on) in areas that are important to improving the club, such as membership, service, fundraising, community involvement and Service Leadership Programs.

Build Your Membership Plan – Kiwanis International is asking that every club develop a structured membership

plan for how they want to grow their club this year and what steps they will take to get there. [You can find the Membership Plan document located here.](#) While it's not necessary to complete the entire document, having a planned membership approach for the year will greatly aid your club's efforts, but the first step is to ensure that you have a dedicated Membership Chairperson in your club.

Budgeting – Your incoming club treasurer should prepare the 2025-2026 operational budget for your new board to review during your planning meeting. At the first official board meeting of the new Kiwanis year, your club has to approve your depository (the bank you use) and officially adopt the budget.

Club Assessments – A precursor to this planning meeting should be an assessment of where the Kiwanis club is today. The best way to accomplish that is a [membership satisfaction survey](#) asking your current members to candidly answer what they want to see improved about the club. It should also involve a [Community Assessment](#), making sure that the projects of the Kiwanis club still reflect the needs of the community they are serving and not simply the interests of a small number of members.

Elections & Reports – At this point, clubs should have already had their 2025-2026 Club Elections and reported their new officers, but if that hasn't been done, this has to happen immediately. The new board can't plan for the year and set goals if they haven't been elected. And they are not officially elected until that report is filed with KI. Also make sure all of your monthly reports for the 2024-25 year are completed by Oct. 10.

Member Management & Dues Invoicing – You should also send out emails (or make phone calls) to all existing members, to ensure they intend to remain members after Sept. 30. You can also invoice those members once they indicate that they are staying on, so that your dues collection process can be wrapped up before you get your invoice from Kiwanis International.

If you have questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at jeffrey.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org.

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

From the Governor-Elect



BY TIM GILLETTE

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Greetings Capital Kiwanians!

I hope everyone is having a pleasant summer. It was great seeing so many of you in Pittsburgh in June. The Capital District was well-represented at our International Convention. Attendees enjoyed surprise keynote speaker Terry Bradshaw, beneficial educational sessions, a fun night watching the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the New York Mets, and meeting Kiwanians from all over the world.

It's hard to believe that it's already time for Capital District Convention in Crystal City, VA. The DCON Committee has been working hard to ensure all attendees have a worthwhile convention. We'll kick off on Friday night with our Kiwanis Jam Session. Saturday will be a packed day filled with engaging educational sessions, an impactful service project, great speakers, business sessions, and a Governor's Banquet to celebrate the 2024-2025 year. On Sunday, we'll wrap up our business with the second part of our House of Delegates, and at our Inspirational Breakfast we'll have our transition of leadership and install the 2025-2026 officers.

While all the above are great reasons to attend DCON, I didn't mention my favorite reason – fellowship. My favorite part of any Kiwanis conference is the opportunity to chat with folks from all over the District. During my 15 years in Kiwanis, I've met some amazing people and heard some amazing stories.

Our stories are what make us special. Kiwanis clubs all over the District do great things every day. While our communities may be aware of the things we do, they're not always aware that Kiwanis clubs are behind the magic. That's why I chose my theme for the 2025-2026 year to be "Progress Isn't Quiet."

The message behind this is Kiwanians need to share their stories. Kiwanians should be loud and proud about the work that they do. The more people in our communities see the work we do, the more people who associate that work with Kiwanis, the more people will want to join us in service.

Our work as Kiwanians is never finished. Look at your community. There are always more students that could use scholarships so they can afford post-secondary education. There are always more children who could use a safe place to play. There are always more children who could use extra help learning how to read. That's why membership should be at the forefront of every club. The more hands we have for service, the more children we can serve! While we can't reach every child who needs us, we can make a difference in someone's life.



A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!"

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, "Well, I made a difference for that one."

Let's make a difference together!

I look forward to seeing you all in Crystal City.

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

From the Vice Governor



BY DAVID LURIE

FINISH STRONG AND START FAST, KIWANIAN!

You all may be a little puzzled about the headline above my article. It's a saying I learned very early in my Kiwanis journey that becomes particularly relevant when the calendar turns to August.

For some of you, it means you have two months left in your term of office – whether it is Club President, committee chair, or any other activity you are leading during the 2024-25 year. It is an exhortation to all of us to do the best possible job to make sure we accomplish what we set out to do this year. There is still some time (*but not a lot*) left!

For many of us though, this also means not only are we finishing what we want to accomplish this year, but that we are likely to have another role (or two) waiting for us come Oct. 1 when the 2025-26 year begins.

To help you either finish strong or *stay* fast, we have a great District Convention planned for Crystal City in August. We would like more of you to come! The host committee has planned some fun events; we will hold our transfer of leadership and hear from district and international leadership.

I know that Governor-Elect Tim has assembled a set of workshops and presenters on a variety of topics. We have some great speakers at our meal sessions as well, and I am looking forward to hearing from them. Also, do not forget to buy your Ducky Derby tickets and send in your club's annual gift if you have not already done so.

As I mentioned in the last issue of this publication, this is a good time for your club to do some planning for the year ahead. Our in-person Club Leadership Education

sessions are behind us now and the calendar is moving fast. Before you know it, we all be sipping on something with pumpkin spice (although I think Starbucks is already serving that stuff) and ... *what plans we have on tap for Halloween.*



Do not let the hot days and folks complaining about the dog days of August fool you. I know I am building my team for the 2026-27 year, and we have many divisions that still need 2025-26 Lt. Governor-Elects to serve and join the team. Please consider serving if you are eligible. I am really hoping to have a full team before the end of this year so that we can start the journey together.

Finally, as an outgoing leader, be thinking about taking some time and thanking those who you have led this year. Recognition goes a long way and does not have to be something extravagant. We are all volunteers and work hard to make our communities better. So do not forget to say thanks (and if you need some good recognition items, our District Foundation has some great ideas for you).

Thanks again for all you do for your clubs and your communities. I look forward to continuing to serve and helping Kiwanis be a strong and positive force in the world.

Yours in Kiwanis Service and Fellowship,

Dave

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



HOW KIWANIAN CAN SUPPORT THEIR COLLEGIATE COUNTERPARTS

STACY WHITEHOUSE, CKI ADMINISTRATOR

The end of summer is approaching way too quickly, but on the plus side it does mean the service, leadership, and fellowship of our CKI clubs are back in full swing! We held two virtual officer trainings this summer focused on recruitment and officer leadership, and will continue to offer support as the academic year begins.

I am sharing several opportunities for any Kiwanian to get involved and support CKI:

Join the Kiwanis Support Committee: If you are looking for a mostly-virtual opportunity to work with young people and develop their leadership skills, join the CDCKI Kiwanis Support Committee. In addition to working with the District Board, I am also seeking help to plan district events, alumni networks, and more.

[Interest Form](#)

Attend or Share our Alumni Reception Aug. 22: We are helping to kick off Kiwanis District Convention with a joint Key Club and CKI Reception. Please share our

Facebook with former Key Club and CKI members, both in and out of Kiwanis as we look to help them reconnect with the Kiwanis Family.

[Facebook Event](#)

Help us recharter CKI clubs:

If you know former Key Club members or students attending Hampton University, JMU, UVA, VCU, Virginia State University, or West Virginia University, these are our priority campuses for rechartering CKI clubs! Please introduce us via [email](#) or ask them to message our [Instagram account](#).

A final note: as of Sept. 1, our email addresses will be changing. Please email me at capitaldistrictcki@gmail.com, and Governor Dylan at capitaldistrictckigovernor@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do to support the Kiwanis Family!



....AND HOW CKIERS CAN JOIN THEIR KIWANIS MENTORS

DYLAN LUONG, CKI GOVERNOR

With the start of a new academic year for CKIers comes a plethora of opportunities — to make our voices heard, to increase our impact, and to make new connections.

One connection that is a priority for me during my term is those across the Kiwanis Family. I believe the connection is the most valuable benefit that sets us apart from other opportunities on campus, but only if it's fully utilized.

With that in mind, here is a quick list of tips that can start engagement off strong with our CKI clubs (or any sponsored leadership program!) as we return to school:

- Meet or contact campus/school leadership to introduce yourself as the local Kiwanis club and let them know about what CKI does on their campus
- Host a fall semester planning meeting
- Hold an officer training refresher, particularly for teambuilding & leadership skills
- Help the CKI host an event with your Key Clubs on navigating life post-high school

- Provide a list of local community organizations or contacts
- Host a networking or career panel event on campus
- Organize a joint service project
- Organize a fundraising or item collection competition
- Organize a project for Celebrate Community Sept. 14-20

I recognize engagement is a two-way street, so as I'm sharing this with you, we are also encouraging our club officers to reach out to you to attend your meetings and projects. I also plan to announce a District Service Project this fall that will offer new opportunities to strengthen Kiwanis Family relations.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Kiwanis District Convention. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you are interested in sponsoring a CKI club or providing support for our work. Have a great rest of the summer!



HERE'S A HELP-DESK FOR YOUTH PROGRAM QUESTIONS



Greetings, Capital!

I'm thrilled to return in the role of Builders Club Administrator along with serving as the administrator for our district's K-Kids Clubs, which includes Terrific Kids and BUG. I'm here to answer your questions, serve as a liaison, and promote every aspect of service leadership offerings.

As we conclude the 2024-2025 year, let's recap some accomplishments, including greater membership, new club charters and leadership recognition.

For the 2025- 2026 year I'm hoping Capital will continue its pursuit of great things and I look forward to upcoming celebrations highlighting the excellence of our youngest branches of servant leadership.

Never hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need ideas. I am here as a resource and one of our SLPs biggest advocates!

2025-2026 Club Information and Renewal

To better serve our K-Kids and Builders Clubs members, and ensure active clubs receive enough materials, sponsoring Kiwanis club secretaries should complete the [annual renewal](#) process **by Aug. 31**.

Don't forget to identify your Kiwanis Advisor(s) and make sure their background check isn't expired.

The renewal fee increased for 25-26 and is now \$235. Under the Finance section, select the "Renew" button located next to each Club fee listed which will generate the invoice. Membership materials will be sent to all active K-Kids and Builders Clubs beginning **Sept. 1** once the sponsoring club has paid the renewal fee.

If your Builders Club has more than 60 members, you will need to order one or more supplemental kits. Each kit costs \$50 and provides enough materials for an additional 30 members. These can be ordered through Kiwanis Engage – or from the Kiwanis International Member Services team at 1-317-875-8755 (worldwide) or 1-800-549-2647 (U.S. and Canada), or by email at memberservices@kiwanis.org.

Join the District Advisory Committee

Capital needs Kiwanians who would be willing to serve a three-year term on our District Advisory Committee to help brainstorm, advocate and share information to help our elementary and middle school programs excel. Interested in joining, let's catch up at the district convention.



Congrats, K-Kids And Builders 2024-2025 Distinguished Officers !

- President Claire, Poquoson Elementary K-Kids Club
- President Laila, Shady Grove Middle School Builders Club

Annual Report Questions

In order to gauge Kiwanis Club participation sponsoring Kiwanis club secretaries should complete the following annual questions:

- Number of schools in which your club sponsors a BUG (Bring Up Grades) Program.
- Number of schools in which your club sponsors a Terrific Kids Programs.

HAPPY CHARTER ANNIVERSARY K-KIDS CLUBS

- August: Boys & Girls Club Oak Orchard, Bettie Weaver Elementary, Chesapeake Math & IT Elementary
- September: TA Lowery Elementary, Elk Neck Elementary, Thomson Estates Elementary, JB Watkins Elementary

BUILDERS CLUBS

- August: Walton Middle School
- September: Boys Home of Virginia, Dunbar Boys & Girls Club, Franklin Middle School

2024-2025 Chartered & Rechartered Clubs

K-KIDS CLUBS

- Dr. Higdon Elementary School Sponsored by Waldorf
- Greer Elementary Sponsored by Charlottesville
- JB Watkins Elementary Sponsored by Midlothian-Chesterfield
- Kiln Creek Elementary Sponsored by Kiln Creek
- Shepherdstown Elementary Sponsored by Shepherdstown
- South Jefferson Elementary Sponsored by Charles Town
- Westminster School Sponsored by Fairfax
- Worthington Elementary Sponsored by Ellicott City

BUILDERS CLUBS

- Boys Home of Virginia Sponsored by Jackson River
- Dunbar Boys & Girls Club Sponsored by Alexandria
- Kate Collins Middle School Sponsored by Waynesboro
- Shady Grove Middle School Sponsored by Rockville
- Walton Middle School Sponsored by Charlottesville

Annual K-Kids And Builders Club Global Service Project Kick-Off

Save the date for the annual K-Kids and Builders Club Global Kick-off! On Wednesday, Oct. 1, Kiwanis International will release Global Kickoff 2025 on video! Your members can watch the fun and informative event during your club meeting – along with hundreds of K-Kids and Builders Club members around the world.

During the kickoff, members will:

- Get inspired by cool projects from K-Kids and Builders Clubs.
- Hear service tips from K-Kids and Builders Club members.
- See how fundraising for Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF makes kids' lives better.
- Learn about this year's Global Service Project.

Mark Oct. 1 on your calendar and get ready to plan your watch party.

BACK 2 SCHOOL BACK 2 SERVE

National Food Bank Day is observed annually on the first Friday in September, which this year (2025) is Sept. 5. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about food insecurity, recognizing the vital work of food banks and their volunteers in providing meals to those in need and encourages you to commit to contributing to the cause that believes no one should go to bed hungry. #NationalFoodBankDay

[Care Bears™ Share Your Care Challenge](#) Sept. 1- 8. Each day is inspired by a different bear. Care Bears are on a mission to spread caring and sharing around the world, and encourage fans to spread caring, sharing, love, friendship, acceptance, fun and happiness to those you love every day. #ShareYourCare by posting K-Kids and Builders members in action to our Capital K-Kids Builders Facebook page and you could win a \$25 gift card to Noodles & Company to share something special with the Care Bears Share menu. Get a taste of the menu, a special Care Bears Crispy and adorable mini plush Care Bear, while supplies last on Sept. 9.

Inspire Students to Participate in 9/11 Day with the [9/11 School Engagement Toolkit](#)

Inspire Kindness. Promote Unity. Engage Students in Meaningful Service.

In 2025, Celebrate Community Week—a week-long initiative that brings together various service organizations, including Rotary International, Kiwanis International, Lions International, and Optimist International. The event aims to foster collaboration and proactive volunteering, encouraging individuals to serve their communities and make a positive impact. This year it will take place from Sept. 14-20. This week is dedicated to organizing and participating in community service projects that address key issues such as health and wellness, food insecurity, education, and environmental sustainability.



Service Showcase

BY CARRIE WAGNER

REFLECTIONS, INSPIRATION, AND A SPECIAL INVITATION

As I reflect on this incredible year of service, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement. In just a few days, we'll be gathering together at the District Convention (DCON), and I can't wait to see many of you in Crystal City.

I wanted to share a few reflections from the Kiwanis International Convention (ICON) and extend an invitation to be part of something special at DCON. At our upcoming convention, we'll have the opportunity to participate in a meaningful Capital District Service Project – a drop-in event where we'll be packing backpacks with school supplies and books for students at a Title 1 elementary school in Arlington.

This project has been a joyful one to plan, and I'm so excited to work side-by-side with you as we help ensure that these children are ready for the school year ahead – equipped not only with essential learning materials, but also with books to support our Kiwanis focus on literacy and a love of reading. I hope you'll join me on Saturday for this hands-on chance to serve and connect.

In June, I attended ICON with thousands of others in Pittsburgh, and it was nothing short of amazing. From educational seminars and engaging workshops to conversations with fellow Kiwanians and our international leaders, it was a week filled with inspiration, learning, and connection.

One of the most memorable moments was attending the Signature Project Breakfast, where Kiwanis International announced the winners of this year's global Signature Project Contest. I was thrilled to be in the room for this celebration of service excellence. This year, there were 519 entries representing 41 countries, and together these projects served more than 875,000 children. The average age of a Signature Project? 15 years – a true testament to their sustainability and lasting impact.

The projects shared were inspiring, creative, fun, and powerful. Many raised significant funds, attracted new members, grew the Kiwanis brand, and most importantly – changed the lives of children. I left that breakfast energized and excited to bring fresh ideas and renewed passion back to the Capital District. There is no doubt: when clubs invest in long-term, meaningful projects, everyone wins.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: COMMUNITY IMPACT WEEK

As a reminder, Kiwanis International will be celebrating its 4th Annual Community Impact Week Sept. 8-14. This is a fantastic opportunity to join forces with other service organizations including Rotary, Lions, and Optimist International to make a difference in the local communities.

Will your club participate? What creative ideas can you bring to the table? Whether it's a joint service project, a food drive, or a beautification effort – this week is a chance to show the power of collaboration. If you're unsure where to start, come find me at DCON! I'd love to brainstorm with you and help your club plan a project that fits your community's needs and your members' passions.

EASY AND IMPACTFUL SERVICE IDEAS

If you're looking for quick but meaningful ways to serve your community, here are a few ideas inspired by projects shared at ICON and across the Capital District:

- Write letters for Operation Gratitude to support deployed service members;
- Create snack packs for your local Ronald McDonald House or children's hospital;
- Make birthday bags for a nonprofit serving kids in need;
- Volunteer at a children's mud run or 5K;
- Host a clean-up day at a local school or park;
- Plant flowers or refresh landscaping at a public site;
- Make cards for seniors or pediatric patients;

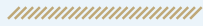
Simple acts, done with love, can make a big difference.

So as we head into the final stretch of summer, I encourage you to stay inspired, stay involved, and most of all – *show up*. Show up for your community. Show up for the kids. Show up at DCON and let's do what Kiwanians do best—*serve together*.

This year, we didn't just serve – we elevated our service. And together, we're building a legacy of impact that will continue to change children's lives for years to come.

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

Teenager of the Year



VITKO NAMED CAPITAL DISTRICT'S TEENAGER OF THE YEAR

BY MARY ANTON

The 2025 Teenager of the Year (TOY) for the Capital District is Veronica Vitko from Charlottesville. A rising senior at Albemarle High School, Veronica embodies the ideal of service to community. She was chosen by a District-wide committee that reviewed many qualified applications.

This past year, Veronica served the Albemarle Key Club as Vice President, helping to increase membership by 25 percent. On the District Level her innovations as District Editor led to development of a "platform that increased readership and engagement by over 300 percent," according to her school counselor. She also served as Lt. Governor in her own division and then served another division as well when that Lt. Governor had to step down.

As a member and more recently as president of the Make A Change Club, Veronica implemented a schoolwide recycling program and launched Crayons for Kids, a program where crayons from local restaurants are repurposed for low-income schools.

In her sophomore year, Veronica became a Summer Junior Volunteer at the University of Virginia Medical Center working with the Cancer Patient Support Advocate where some of her duties were managing in-kind donations and interacting directly with patients.

Building on that experience, she rallied her Key Club to create cards of support for the Sunshine Cart at the Cancer Center and organized fellow Key Clubbers to hand out candy canes in the Center over the holiday season.

The daughter of Ukrainian immigrants, Veronica organized the delivery of more than 200 pounds of medical supplies to Pokrovsk, Ukraine, through UVA Health's Medical Equipment Recovery of Clean Inventory (M.E.R.C.I). She also founded Voices Across Borders to help Ukrainian students learn language skills from English speakers.

These are only a sampling of Veronica's service efforts. In the personal statement accompanying her TOY application, she wrote that "community is not based on proximity but rather on the shared values that unite us – values like compassion, resilience, and the drive to make a difference."

Her commitment to those beliefs is what led to Veronica's selection as the 2025 Capital District Teenager of the Year. She will be recognized for her achievements at the Capital District Convention in Crystal City in the coming days.

(Mary Anton has served as the Capital District's 2025 Teenager of the Year Chair.)



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



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

For a second year, the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington (Virginia) used one of its meetings to help feed those in need.

Club members partnered with PathForward, an Arlington social-safety-net organization, to create bagged lunches that would be handed out to those in need. The event took place June 26.

The initiative is part of a broader effort by Washington Workplace to support PathForward, formerly known as the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network. Washington Workplace's CEO, John Murphy, is a member of the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington and serves as its membership director.

Club members gathered to prepare turkey-and-cheese sandwiches and to bag them along with other food to support those experiencing homelessness across the community. Staff from PathForward then collected them for delivery.

From 2024 to 2025, Arlington saw a 12 percent uptick in homelessness as reported by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' annual point-in-time survey.

The annual count is conducted in January, and includes both those housed in shelters and those living on the streets.

Across the Washington region, the count found there were 9,659 individuals identified as literally homeless. That was a decline of 115, or about 1 percent from a year before.

A decline of those counted as homeless in the District of Columbia was responsible for the overall regional drop. In the Northern Virginia suburbs, increases were posted in Fairfax and Prince William counties, while in suburban Maryland, a large increase was reported in Montgomery County.

For information on regional efforts to combat homelessness, see the Council of Governments' video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0O1Uqecj0lc>.

-Submitted by Scott McCaffrey

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER RECORD

The Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg announced in early August that for the 14th consecutive year it has set a new record in raising funds for the Wilbur Davis KIDS program, surpassing last year's previous mark of \$26,443. Special recognition was given to a group of Williamsburg Kiwanians who agreed to match donations this summer at a 2-for-1 pace. "These are the true givers in Williamsburg," the press release read.

DUCKY DERBY DEADLINE DRAWING NEAR

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the deadline for this year's Ducky Derby Drawing is closing fast. The Derby is the largest annual fundraiser for the Capital District Foundation, which sponsors 11 neonatal hospitals throughout our five-state area.

A drawing will be held for several door prizes on Saturday, Aug. 23 at the district convention in Crystal City. Tickets sell in \$5 increments, with in an increase in the rate of tickets distributed for larger contributions. Details can be found on the CDKF website.

The Derby's goal is \$16,500 this year. At press time, more than half of the goal had been reached. The club leaders were Roanoke; Danville; Seaford; Hampden-Midtown, Baltimore; and Beckley.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN BERLIN?

The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City welcomed Zack Tyndall, Mayor of Berlin (Maryland), at its weekly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 8. Mayor Tyndall discussed the latest developments in Berlin and drew a strong crowd. The Kiwanis Club meets at the Ocean Pines Library.

-Submitted by David Landes

LYNCHBURG SHRIMP FEST



The Kiwanis Club of Lynchburg hosted its 10th annual ShrimpFest on July 26, another resounding success. It is the club’s marquee annual fundraiser, and this year’s event, held at Randolph College, included the awarding of \$35,000 in scholarships. Next year’s event is already set for Aug. 3, 2026, but the club is looking for a new venue, as Randolph College will be undergoing renovations.

OPTIONAL INSURANCE

April Gassler, a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Washington, D.C., former district convention chair and current risk manager for the Capital District, conducted a webinar in early August on the value of optional insurance for Kiwanis clubs. Several Kiwanians throughout the district participated.

The crux of the hour-long presentation was to educate members on the types of insurance that are available to help clubs ensure they are adequately covered in case of potential accidents and crimes.

She laid out a variety of devastating mishaps that clubs often don’t anticipate in the course of business.

April, an attorney by trade and an adjunct insurance specialist with Kiwanis International, presented a thorough PowerPoint. She is willing to share the slides with members who are interested. She can be reached at (202) 258-3730 or agassler@tglawdc.com.

For clubs considering optional insurance for 2025-26, the deadline for application and payment is Oct. 31, 2025.

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

August

Clarksburg, WV.....	1920
Mercer County, WV	1924
Hinton, WV	1925
Bassett, VA	1926
Reisterstown, MD	1935
Front Royal, VA.....	1945
South Arlington, VA.....	1947
Virginia Beach Town Center, VA	1973
Greater Hilton, VA	2010
Dinwiddie, VA.....	2015
Carrollton, VA	2018
Salisbury, MD.....	2023

September

Wheeling, WV.....	1918
Alleghany Highlands, VA.....	1923
Georgetown, DE.....	1935
Abingdon, VA	1942
Montgomery County-Blacksburg, VA	1946
Wise, VA	1946
Keyser, WV.....	1950
Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, VA	1953
West Charleston, WV.....	1959
Denbigh, Newport News, VA	1967
Poquoson, VA.....	1974
Shepherd Park, Washington, DC.....	1976
Smithfield, VA	1976
Tuckahoe, Richmond, VA.....	1979
Lynnhaven-Virginia Beach, VA.....	1983
Welch, WV	1985
Greater Millsboro, DE.....	1989
Williamstown Area, WV	2013
Greenbrier Valley.....	2023

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

HOW TO APPLY FOR A KCF GRANT – STEP BY STEP

BY PG JOHN TYNER

Last issue, we talked about why we are raising money for KCF grant programs.

As of the Kiwanis Pittsburgh International Convention at the end of June, clubs world-wide have raised more than \$8 million toward our goal of \$25 million. You should not be surprised that Capital District is approaching \$575,000 from the generous individuals and clubs who believe in the power of Kiwanis.

Club Grants: The Children's Fund has a long history of collaborating with Kiwanis clubs to fill gaps in their funding for both established programs and new endeavors. The types of projects vary, but they are all Kiwanis-led and meet a need in the club's community.

Microgrants: The Children's Fund knows that small projects can have a huge impact on the lives of children. That's why clubs with 35 or fewer members can apply for a microgrant. The advantages of a microgrant include a shorter application, a quicker decision period and a faster distribution of funds.

Apply for a Microgrant from Oct. 1 through July 1. Grant applications will be considered in the order received until funds are depleted, so start preparing your application now.

Kickstarter Grants (NEW): New Kiwanis clubs have a special opportunity to apply for a Kiwanis Children's Fund. The goal of the Kickstarter program is to encourage new clubs to establish a signature project that shows the impact a Kiwanis club can have on a community.

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 will also change the course of history. We did this with our



world-wide Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) and Maternal Neonatal Tetanus (EliMiNaTe) programs in partnership with UNICEF. Our Kiwanis grant programs, including our highly successful focused micro-grant effort, are becoming more supportive of club efforts as funds are made available through our members' donations.

On the subsequent page, please find the requirements and deadlines to follow -- as you determine which club project you will be requesting matching funds from KCF, enabling you to succeed with meeting your community-assisted goal. Note that KCF has just changed the membership number for new clubs from 40 to 30 in realizing the size of soon-to-be clubs was originally a bit optimistic. Please be complete in your request and especially be sure to pay attention to the due dates.

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

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

All projects must **support at least one of the three Kiwanis causes:** health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.

Club grant projects must:

- **Be Kiwanis-led**, with **at least 50%** of the work performed by Kiwanis family members. Note that grant requests for donations to other non-profit organizations cannot be considered.
- **Fill a need** that is determined by the club's community needs assessment.
- Include programming that **recurs at least once per year**.
- Receive **at least 25%** of their total funding from your club and require **no more than 40%** of funding from the Children's Fund.
- Have at least **one non-Kiwanis funding partner**, such as a local business, church, school, non-profit or other community organization.
- **Spend the grant money within 12 months** of when the funds are granted.

Microgrant projects must:

- **Be upcoming or in progress** (not completed) when grant payment is received.

Kickstarter grant clubs must:

- **Have 40 members** by the time the club charters.
- Apply **within 120 days** following its organization dates.
- **Maintain or grow club membership** after one year to be eligible for the second grant of US\$1,000.

At no point during the first two years is the club eligible to apply for another Children's Fund grant.

Note: Grants cannot be used for donations to organizations, salaries, scholarships/fellowships, sponsorships, training expenses, travel, lodging, capital construction projects or purchase of land/buildings.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A CLUB GRANT

1. Read the Guide to Club Grants at kiwanischildrensfund.org/grants.
2. Conduct a community needs assessment.
3. Submit a Letter of Inquiry through our online grant-making platform.
4. Receive feedback.
5. Apply for the grant!

Your club can submit a Letter of Inquiry at any time. Based on the date of submission, decisions will be made on March 1 and August 1.



For full details visit kiwanis.org/grants.



Self-Care

SET UP FOR SUCCESS; ENSURE WELLBEING IN NEW KIWANIS YEAR

BY JENN HISCOCK

As we prepare for our current Kiwanis year to end, while a new service year eagerly awaits just around the corner, it's easy to get caught in the swirl of overlapping obligations between both: finishing current service projects, preparing for officer transitions, and planning ahead. However, amid the meetings, training, emails, event prep, burnout, and excitement, one critical element often gets overlooked: your own wellbeing.

For many volunteers, the final months of the Kiwanis year can feel like a balancing act on a high wire: wrapping up impactful work while laying the groundwork for another year of service. The drive to serve is admirable, but it must be matched by a commitment to self-care and sustainability.

Finish Strong, Not Burned Out

Closing out the current service year with strength doesn't mean stretching yourself thin. Instead, it means being strategic:

- **Prioritize and Delegate:** Not every task needs your hands on it. Empower your committees and fellow members to take ownership where possible. Trust and delegation are cornerstones of strong leadership, as well as mental wellbeing.
- **Celebrate the Wins:** Take time to reflect and acknowledge what you and your club accomplished this year. An end-of-the-year banquet, a small celebration event, or even a simple group email highlighting milestones can re-energize members and remind everyone why they serve.
- **Complete, Don't Perfect:** Some initiatives might not look exactly as planned. That's OK. Completion and impact matter more than perfection. Don't let the pursuit of "flawless" rob you of rest or satisfaction in the two months we have left.

Looking Ahead Without Losing Sight of the Present

The upcoming Kiwanis year on Oct. 1 always brings fresh opportunities, new enthusiasm, and another start, but it often also sparks anxiety. New goals, new roles, and new challenges are exciting, yet daunting. Here's how to keep the pressure from becoming paralyzing:

- **Start Small with Planning:** Sketch a flexible outline of next year's goals but resist the urge to over-schedule. Leave room for creativity, collaboration, and club input.
- **Build in Breaks:** Factor in personal time during your service year. Mark your calendar now for "off" days where you can rest and recharge. Scheduling time for yourself is just as important as any service project.
- **Ask for Help Early:** Whether it's from your lieutenant governor, a fellow club officer, or the district leadership team, support is only a conversation away. No one expects you to do it all alone. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strong self-awareness.

Mental Health is Mission-Critical for All Volunteers

A strong Kiwanis leader needs to be a healthy one at all times of the year, not just during the finish or start of our service years. When we talk about improving our communities, that includes the wellbeing of ourselves because burnout helps no one; not the members, not the mission, and certainly not the kids we always strive to serve.

This transitional time is your opportunity to reset, not just recharge. Your passion to help others brought you to Kiwanis, but your balance will keep you in and passionate about Kiwanis. Think of your wellbeing as a long-term investment which funds your membership years.

As we close the calendar on this year and open a new one for the next, remember: your wellbeing isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. Set yourself up for success not just by what you plan to do, but by how well you care for yourself while doing it.

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



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!

HOW MENTORS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

It has been an honor serving as the district's leadership development and education chair for the past two years and writing articles for the Capital Kiwanian. During my tenure we have explored topics such as teamwork, leadership styles, succession planning, continuous learning, and listening.

When brainstorming ideas for this issue's article I thought hard about my final message, and what kind of knowledge I could leave behind with anyone who takes the time to read this. A topic that kept coming to mind was mentorship and how Kiwanis mentors have fueled me through my Kiwanis journey.

In 2022 I had the exciting opportunity to present at the Kiwanis International Convention on the topic of mentorship. It really was not until that presentation that I took the time to think about mentorship and what that means in Kiwanis.

Mentorship can look and mean a lot of different things to different people. A formal mentorship program can give new club members the opportunity to connect with a more seasoned member to learn about Kiwanis and life in general.

A formalized program can be organized by the board or membership committee and should be something intentional that each new member is offered when they join the club. The mentor can be the club sponsor but doesn't have to be; in fact it may be a great opportunity for the assigned mentor to be someone that the new member does

not know to provide the opportunity to meet another Kiwanian and feel a connection and belonging.

It is also possible to have an informal mentor program in a club. An informal mentor is someone who is not assigned as a mentor, but will go out of their way to call and check in with the new member, see how they are doing, and be available to answer any questions about the club. This is the type of mentorship I had when I first joined Kiwanis 13 years ago.

Coming from Key Club and CKI I knew about Kiwanis and had an idea what I was getting myself into. But still I have fond memories of club member Kathy Johnson making certain to reach out to me, check in on me, and personally invite me to club service projects, fundraisers. She made sure I always felt welcome.

The more I learned from and about Kathy, the more I realized that I could become involved in the community and even outside of our community in Kiwanis. Our club had not been active at the district level for many years, but still Kathy paved her own way. Kathy was the first-ever female LTG to serve from Waynesboro (and the most recent one when I stepped into the LTG role 12 years later) and encouraged me to attend division and district events to learn more about Kiwanis. We even shared a room at my first district convention!

Kathy always made sure I felt connected to Kiwanis and that the club valued my thoughts and opinions. Kathy was also the first-ever Trustee for the Heart of Virginia

region and the only person from Waynesboro who has served in a role other than LTG at the district level.

As we move into the next Kiwanis year, I am honored to have the opportunity to move into a role that Kathy once served to continue my Kiwanis leadership journey. Kathy showed me that anything was possible in Kiwanis and what it meant to have the heart of a Kiwanian at all levels.

Each person reading this has the opportunity to serve as a mentor for someone in the way that Kathy was for me. It was never anything that we talked about – not something she was asked to do, it was just what she did.

If you have a new member of your club, or someone you think could benefit from a Kiwanis mentor, reach out to them. Check in and see how they are doing. Maybe it is someone who is in a similar profession as you and you could expand your mentorship outside of Kiwanis. The opportunities are endless.

You never know what type of impact you will have on someone, even if you never talk about it or do not reflect on it until years later. Take that first step, reach out for a conversation, let someone know they are valued and respected as a Kiwanian.

You do not have to wait for someone to ask you to serve as a mentor or a friend. Just do it. A simple conversation or relationship could change the trajectory of someone's life and who knows, you may even learn something about yourself along the way.

(Samantha Bosserman, from the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro, has served as the Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District for the past two years.)

Membership Momentum

TOGETHER WE THRIVED: WE BUILT, WE NURTURED, WE RETAINED

BY ALISA DICK

As we come to the close of this Kiwanis year, we pause to reflect on the progress we've made – and the powerful impact of our shared efforts across the Capital District. This year, our membership strategy centered on three simple yet transformative words: **Build. Nurture. Retain.** And together, we *did* just that.

WE BUILT

We extended invitations, welcomed new faces, and expanded our reach. From friends and coworkers to neighbors, we asked – and people said yes. We responded to membership inquiries from Kiwanis International and connected prospective members with the right LTGs. Each new member brought energy, ideas and commitment to serve. Growth didn't happen by accident – it happened because you made it happen.

WE NURTURED

We ensured that new members didn't just join Kiwanis – they *experienced* it. We took the time to make them feel seen and valued. We shared our traditions, involved them in projects, and built community within our clubs. Whether through Open Houses, Guest Days, or simply a kind word at a meeting, we reminded our members that they belong.

WE RETAINED

We checked in. We reconnected. We reminded each other why we joined and what keeps us coming back. In a year filled with busyness and distractions, we didn't let members drift away – we reached out and pulled them back in. We recognized that retention is about relationships, and we leaned into those connections.

Our success this year was also powered by planning. Many of you submitted thoughtful Membership Plans, and even if yours is still in progress, it's never too late to put your goals in writing. As Fitzhugh Dodson said, *"Goals that are not written down are just wishes."* Because of you, those wishes became reality.

YOUR IMPACT

Every club, every member, every small act – contributed to something bigger than any one of us. You led open houses, hosted guest days, tried new strategies from the Club Toolbox, and supported one another along the way. Some of you even joined our district efforts to open new clubs or strengthen existing ones through Club Openings and Boosts.

Special thanks to Jennifer Wolff, who led the charge on new club openings, and to Eric Lamb, who championed Club Boosts across the district. Your leadership made a measurable difference.

This is our final membership article of the Kiwanis year – but our journey doesn't end here. The momentum we've built will carry us into the next year stronger, wiser, and more connected than ever before.

On behalf of the Capital District Membership Team, thank you. Thank you for building. Thank you for nurturing. Thank you for helping us retain the heart of Kiwanis.

Let's continue to grow, together—and make sure that Kiwanis doesn't just survive... it thrives.

Together We Thrived: We Built. We Nurtured. We Retained.

**BUILD.
NURTURE.
RETAIN.**

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

MEET THE CANDIDATE!

2025-2026 CANDIDATE PROFILE

VICE GOVERNOR CANDIDATE

NATHANIEL KYLE

Past West Virginia District Governor

Kiwanis Club of East Huntington, WV

Current Position: WV Regional Trustee

Home Club: East Huntington

Why did you decide to run for office?

When I was WV District Governor, one of my favorite aspects of the position was being able to travel around the state and visit clubs and their members. For me, this would be a whole new experience with new people to meet. I want to bring WV hospitality to the rest of the Capital District and continue to bridge the gap between WV and the rest of the District.

What qualifies you to become a future Governor of the Capital District?

I have had the pleasure of serving many roles at the club, division, and district levels. The short summary of that list includes having served as a member of the Board of Trustees, as Lt. Governor, as Builders Club Administrator and as Circle K Administrator, and even as Governor of the WV District. I know the challenges our clubs face and I am more than willing to help clubs tackle them head on.

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

I firmly believe that more hands equal more service, and that I possess the tools to expand our Kiwanis family. In order to do what we need to do, I would take a four-pronged approach: 1) build new clubs; 2) nurture existing clubs; 3) make clubs inviting for new members; and 4) encourage our Service Leadership Program members to continue in their Kiwanis journey.

Biographic Summary:

I was born in Corbin, Kentucky, and have lived in the great state of WV for 35 years. I was in Key Club at Cabell Midland High School and Circle K at Marshall University. I have worked for Kroger for 17 years and currently serve as an Assistant Department Leader. The Kiwanis Family runs deep in my biological family, with many members having been part of both worlds.



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NATHANIEL KYLE FOR CAPITAL
DISTRICT VICE GOVERNOR



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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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PITTSBURGH

When the Kiwanis International Convention concluded in Pittsburgh June 28, 2024-25 KI International President Lee Kuan Yong from Malaysia shared the following thoughts:

"Another successful Kiwanis International convention has wrapped up after four days of educational and leadership workshops, fellowship, guest speakers and entertainment. During the House of Delegates on June 28, the 2025-26 Kiwanis International leaders were chosen.

"Michael Mulhaus of Interlaken, New Jersey, was elected president and Hope Markes of Hanover, Jamaica, was elected president-elect, while Cathy Szymanski of Erie, Pennsylvania, was elected vice president.

"Timothy Sheppard of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Amy Zimmerman of Beavercreek, Ohio, were elected trustees for the United States and Pacific Canada Region. Also joining the board for three-year terms will be Shinichi Yoshikuni of Tokyo, Japan, who was elected as a trustee for the Asia Pacific Region during the Kiwanis International Asia-Pacific Convention in March; and Jon-Fadri Huder of Samedan, Switzerland, who was elected as a trustee for the Europe Region during the 2025 Kiwanis International Europe Convention in May.

"All of these Kiwanians begin their terms on Oct. 1."

Former Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw substituted as the International Convention keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies on Thursday and wowed the crowd with his alternating shtick between cornpone and serious motivation. Bradshaw filled in when Hollywood film and television celebrities Henry Winkler, and then Martin Sheen, were forced to step back from the commitment due to personal circumstances. Thanks to Bradshaw's charm, the crowd was not disappointed.

VOTES ON AMENDMENTS

The House of Delegates also voted on proposed amendments to the Kiwanis International Bylaws. The following amendments were approved:

- Proposed Amendment 1: Language Cleanup and District Submission of Resolutions. Submitted by the

Kiwanis International Board, this amendment will clarify the current language of the Kiwanis International Bylaws requiring districts to be in good standing to submit resolutions. With the rewording, districts and clubs also can better understand the deadline for submission of resolutions.

- Proposed Amendment 2: Regional Boards to Propose Resolutions and Amendments. Submitted by the Kiwanis International Board, this amendment will allow the boards of Kiwanis regions to propose resolutions and amendments beginning Oct. 1, 2025.
- Proposed Amendment 3 – Remote Voting for Kiwanis International Business – was not approved. Submitted by the Capital District Board, this amendment was submitted to provide for candidate nominations and initial review of proposed amendments and resolutions at the Kiwanis International convention, with final voting via secure remote voting.

It's not too early to make plans for Manila for the 2026 International Convention June 25-27. Located on Manila Bay in the Philippines, the city is known for its mix of the modern and the historic – in culture, cuisine and more. Save the date now and look for more information as the event approaches.

International President Yong also reminded the membership of its goals for this year, some of which have clearly been accomplished and some of which will require a major push in the remaining months:

- Build 425 new Kiwanis clubs around the world.
- Recruit 30,000 new Kiwanis members globally.
- Commit to our Service Leadership Programs.
- Expand signature projects in our clubs.
- Support the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

"I believe that each of us has a role in accomplishing these goals and strengthening our global Kiwanis organization," President Yong wrote. "In this regard, we have sharpened our focus with Build. Nurture. Retain. (as addressed in Alisa Dick's column this issue). This membership initiative is designed to enhance Kiwanis International's community impact through strategic membership growth."

6 WAYS TO CELEBRATE YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

Kiwanis members dedicate countless hours to serving their communities – and the end of the Kiwanis year is the perfect time to recognize their incredible impact. Whether your club meets in person or virtually, here are six creative and heartfelt ways to say thank-you to your fellow Kiwanians:

- Host a recognition ceremony.
- Keep your club's traditions alive with a special recognition event. Have your club president present awards such as plaques, pins or certificates. If you meet virtually, mail the awards ahead of time and invite members to pin themselves or hold up their certificates during the meeting.
- Share a tribute video. Create a short video highlighting outstanding members. Mention their contributions and express your gratitude. Post it on your club's social media to inspire others. Prefer not to record? Use a customizable social media template to spotlight members online.
- Order a custom plaque. Honor exceptional service or remember a beloved member with a beautifully engraved plaque. Be sure to order four to six weeks in advance to allow time for customization.
- Send a handwritten note. A simple, heartfelt note can mean the world. Encourage club members to write a personal message of thanks and encouragement to one another. Check out the Kiwanis Family Store selection of branded greeting cards.
- Mail a postcard or club gift. Send a postcard featuring a club photo or a small gift, such as a signed Kiwanis apron or hat. It's a tangible reminder of the community and service that bind your club together.
- Create a shadow box. Commemorate a special project by crafting a shadow box filled with mementos. It's a meaningful keepsake that celebrates a member's unique contributions.
- The Kiwanis Family Store is well-stocked with plaques, pins, certificates and club gear to enhance your recognition efforts.

HOW DOES YOUR CLUB HELP STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS?

KI asked that question to its members in June and recently published a few highlights from the survey results, representing 11 districts around the world:

- 84 percent of the respondents sponsor at least one SLP (Service Leadership Program). The most popular group is Key Club (75 percent), followed by Builders Club (42 percent), CKI (16 percent) and K-Kids (8 percent).
- 67 percent of the respondents see food security as the biggest need of children in their communities; followed by school supplies for low-income families; accessibility to safe housing; mental health resources; and positive engaging activities.

TOP TIP: Invite youth-focused institutions to join your club as corporate members, like the Kiwanis Club of Escondido, California, whose roster includes the local school district and children's museum.

Pegge Donovan from the Kiwanis Club of Pawley's Island, S.C., shared this idea: "We give pillows and three books to pre-kindergarten kids with their names embroidered on a pocket on the pillow!"

NEW SLP LEADERS ELECTED

Members of Circle K International (college) and Key Club International (high school) elected their 2025-26 boards at their respective conventions over the summer.

Jonathan Huang of the New England District was elected CKI president for 2025-26 in Pittsburgh in June (concurrent with the Kiwanis International convention) and the Key Club leader for 2025-2026 is Isabella Baldisseri of the Pacific Northwest Division. She was elected in Orlando in July.

WORKING TOGETHER

Is your club ready to celebrate community? The annual week of collaboration with Lions Clubs International, Optimist International and Rotary International will be observed Sept. 14-20. This is the opportunity to amplify the power of service with a local club from one or of the other organizations. More information and resources – including a sample press release -- are available on the Kiwanis website.



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What You'll Do:

- Keep our website fresh, functional, and user-friendly
- Troubleshoot technical issues and improve site performance
- Help manage content updates and event postings
- Implement small design tweaks to enhance our outreach

We'd Love Someone Who:

- Has experience with website platform like WordPress
- Knows some HTML/CSS and SEO (bonus if you can flex with graphics too!)
- Wants to support a great cause supporting the children in the Capital District and make meaningful impact through tech

Why Join Us:

- Flexibility to work remotely on your own schedule
- Be part of a warm, mission-driven team
- Use your talents to uplift a cause you care about

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