

The Capital

October/November 2025

KIWANIAN

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

**DISTRICT FOUNDATION
MINI GRANTS AVAILABLE**

**MONTHLY WEBINAR
SERIES LAUNCHES**

**BELONGING A FOCUS
AT DISTRICT CONVENTION**



Kiwaniis

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COVER: Members stuff backpacks the District Convention in Arlington, VA.





Members attend an educational session presented by Executive Director Jeffrey Wolff at the Capital District Kiwanis Convention in Arlington, VA.



2025-26 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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Tim Gillette
Tysons, VA

GOVERNOR-ELECT

David Lurie
Tysons, VA

VICE GOVERNOR

Nathaniel Kyle
East Huntington, WV

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Wolff
Tysons, VA

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

Josh Hiscock
Ellicott City, MD

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Bridgeville, DE

TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

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TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

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Governor's Message

TIM GILLETTE, 2025-26 GOVERNOR



PROGRESS ISN'T QUIET!

Greetings Fellow Kiwanians,

Happy Kiwanis New Year! For those whom I haven't met, my name is Tim Gillette and I have the pleasure of serving as the 2025-2026 Governor of the Capital District. My Kiwanis Family journey started in 1993 as a member of the Builders Club at P.S.#20 in Jersey City, NJ. I joined the Kiwanis Club of Tysons (then Tysons Corner-McLean) in 2010 and have served in many club and district leadership roles since then. I'm excited to start the new Kiwanis year and serve the members of the Capital District.

At District Convention in August, I shared the theme for the 2025-2026 year, "Progress Isn't Quiet." What does this mean? Kiwanis clubs are doing great things, but the people in our communities aren't always aware that Kiwanians are the people behind these great things. As an organization, we need to be more vocal, more visible, and let our communities know that Kiwanis makes things happen. In turn, the hope is that when people in our communities see Kiwanis in action, it will motivate them to join our clubs and partner with us in service. The only way we can progress as an organization is to be loud and proud about what we're doing, and to ensure our communities realize that we're behind the magic. This year, I encourage all clubs to enhance their presence in their communities.

This year, I would also encourage all clubs to engage with their Service Leadership Program clubs. Our Service Leadership Programs (CKI, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, and Aktion Club) are highly engaged in service in their communities. These students are energetic, passionate, and hard-working. As Kiwanians, it's our duty to mentor these young folks, and encourage them to be life-long servant leaders. We all hope that one day they will want to join us in Kiwanis. The best way to encourage this is to give them a positive experience working with Kiwanians. Rather than



dictate to these young people, we need to listen. Listen to what they need, how they communicate, and how we can best serve them. Our Service Leadership Programs are the shining star of Kiwanis.

Key Leader is also an amazing program that Kiwanis has for high school students. Key Leader is a weekend educational conference where students learn valuable leadership skills. The students spend the weekend at a campsite, and form "neighborhoods" for the weekend. Within those neighborhoods, they are given specific tasks and must come together as a team to complete them. Past participants of the program have described it as a life changing experience. The Capital District will be hosting a Key Leader event from Nov. 14-16 at the Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center in Wirtz, VA. I would encourage clubs to consider sponsoring a student (cost is \$250 for the weekend – includes meals, lodging, and the educational programming) and identifying a student to attend. Students do not have to be in Key Club, and sometimes this event is a launchpad for the formation of a new Key Club. If you have any questions, or would like to sponsor a student, please reach out to District Chair Karen Roberts at karen.roberts@portsk12.com.

It's a great time to be a Kiwanian! There are tons of opportunities out there for us to provide meaningful service to our communities. While the work will be hard, and there will be tough times, always remember that what we do will help improve the lives of the children we serve. The look on a child's face when they have a safe place to play, a new book to read, a nutritious meal, or a backpack full of school supplies is the ultimate reward. Kids need Kiwanis, and I encourage everyone to be the person that you once needed when times were tough.

Remember, we're all in this together because... Progress Isn't Quiet!

In Service,


Governor Tim

CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES!



Share It Loud & Proud

MONTHLY SERIES

Key Leader

A Kiwanis leadership program that empowers teens to become more caring and confident leaders.





Kiwanis

CAPITAL DISTRICT

October 16, 2025
7:00 P.M. EST

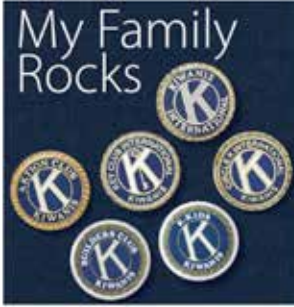


Share It Loud & Proud

MONTHLY SERIES

Kiwanis Family Month

featuring an update from our Kiwanis Governor, CKI Governor, and Key Club Governor, as well as our K-Kids and Builder's Club Committee Chair.





Kiwanis

CAPITAL DISTRICT

November 20, 2025
7:00 P.M. EST

More details about our monthly webinar series can be found on page 8.



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: STARTING THE YEAR STRONG

Happy New Kiwanis Year!

October in Kiwanis is always so inspiring to me. A whole new leadership team takes over at every level of our organization, with new ideas and goals. Hopefully by now, your incoming club board of directors should have conducted its training and done its goal setting for the year. Also, your club has polled its membership and knows which members of your club will remain and pay dues and which you need to drop from the roster. Those drops need to be done by October 10 or your club will be billed for another year of dues for those still on the roster.

A new Kiwanis year is here. Fresh energy. Fresh opportunities. And, if we're being honest, a few fresh challenges too. The most important of those challenges—and the most important opportunity—is membership.

Your club's ability to serve depends on the people in the room (and on the project site). More members mean more hands to help, more voices to brainstorm, and more relationships to strengthen the impact we have in our communities. That's why, if your club hasn't already, the very first step this year should be appointing a 2025–26 Membership Chairperson. Or, even better, a Membership Pair: one member focused on recruitment, the other focused on retention. It takes both sides of that coin to keep a club healthy.

And once you have your leadership in place, it's time for a plan. Growth doesn't happen by accident. Fortunately, Kiwanis International has already built an excellent roadmap for you: the Club Membership Plan Workbook ([kiwanis.org/create-your-clubs-membership-plan](https://www.kiwanis.org/create-your-clubs-membership-plan)). It walks you through how to set goals, track progress, and stay focused on building the kind of club that can thrive in 2025 and beyond.

The Power of Two for Two

One of the simplest and most effective strategies available to us is Two for Two. The concept couldn't be easier: each member invites two prospective members to two Kiwanis experiences each month. It doesn't have to be a formal meeting. It might be a hands-on service project, a fun social event, or a program where your club is doing something unique in the community. The magic of Two for Two is consistency. If you keep inviting, you keep growing. Prospects don't just hear about Kiwanis—they see it, they feel it, and they catch the excitement. Learn more about putting Two for Two into practice at [kiwanis.org/grow-your-club-with-two-for-two](https://www.kiwanis.org/grow-your-club-with-two-for-two).

Membership Is Everyone's Job

Yes, your club should have a membership chair or pair. But let's be clear: **every Kiwanian is on the Membership Committee**. Growth only happens if we all do our part.

Here are a few ways to think bigger—and act smarter—about membership this year:

- **Make joining easy.** Post your application on your club website. Even better, allow prospective members to pay dues electronically through PayPal or EFT. Many younger professionals don't own checkbooks anymore.
- **Keep guests coming.** One of my favorite sayings is: *"A meeting or service project without a guest is a failure."* The more people we invite to sample Kiwanis, the more will join us.
- **Reflect your community.** Take a look at your town's demographics. Does your club mirror it? If not, be

intentional about inviting people who will help your club look like the community it serves.

- **Use LinkedIn.** If you know a guest is visiting, connect with them ahead of time. After the meeting, encourage officers to do the same. It's a small gesture that makes a big difference.
- **ReMember.** Life happens. Former members step away because of family, work, or health. Many would gladly return when circumstances change—if only they were asked. Reach out.

Fresh Approaches

Sometimes, the best way to grow is to shake up the routine. A few ideas to consider:

- **Open houses.** A dedicated membership night where members bring guests is still one of the most reliable ways to grow.
- **Short-term campaigns.** Organize a one- or two-day membership push using the same strategies we use to open new clubs: online research, appointments with community leaders, and outreach to businesses.
- **Young professionals.** Look for entrepreneurial “incubator” spaces in your area. These hubs attract energetic, service-minded people who might just be waiting for an invitation to get involved.
- **Service mixers.** Host an annual gathering for emerging leaders in your community. Let them meet one another and meet Kiwanis at the same time.
- **Speakers and guests.** Every speaker at your club meeting should walk away with Kiwanis membership information. They've already shown up—now give them the next step.
- **New businesses.** Scan the local news for recently

opened businesses or nonprofits. Invite those leaders to a meeting, let them do a short plug, and make sure they leave with information about joining.

- **Satellite groups.** Not everyone can make your meeting time. That doesn't mean they can't be Kiwanians. Offer flexible options, with a liaison to keep everyone connected.

Don't Overlook Hidden Opportunities

Finally, think beyond the obvious. If a nearby club closes its doors, reach out to its members. Many of them will still want a place to serve. If assisted-living facilities or retirement communities are growing in your area, meet with their leaders about forming a satellite group. Residents in those communities often welcome the chance to stay active and connected through service.

And most importantly, never forget to extend the invitation. We won't grow unless we ask.

The Bottom Line

Membership is the lifeblood of Kiwanis. It's what allows us to do more projects, reach more children, and change more lives. This year, let's commit to making growth a top priority. Appoint your chair (or pair). Build your plan. Use the tools Kiwanis International has provided. And remember that membership is not the responsibility of a few—it belongs to all of us.

When every member takes ownership, every club has the chance to thrive. Let's make sure this is the year we all do our part.

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



From the Governor-Elect

BY DAVID LURIE

A FAMILIAR FACE IN A FAMILIAR PLACE

I had this remarkably interesting experience the other day because I thought it was 2018! Seriously folks, stay with me here for a moment... It was October 1st, Donald Trump was President, I was sitting at home on a government-ordered furlough (since Congress did not pass an appropriation for my agency), and I was Governor-Elect of the Capital District! So I thought history was repeating itself, but alas there were no cats in my house, and my oldest daughter is now living at home, so I knew it was 2025.

Anyway, Happy Kiwanis New Year! I am extremely excited to start the year as your Governor-Elect and am extremely humbled to serve the Capital District in this role. I look forward to collaborating with Governor Tim and the rest of the Board of Trustees to support clubs and empower them to have a wonderful year. October is an exciting time for our clubs, as we transition to a new year. We get to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, honor past officers, install and inspire new officers, and set goals for the year ahead.

I am going to use my time as Governor-Elect wisely. During the next year, I will be planning my year as Governor – forming goals, building teams, making appointments. I hope that members consider chairing or joining a District committee. The work we do at the District level helps empower clubs to be successful. It is a worthwhile cause and a rewarding one as well. I know there are still some openings on Governor Tim's team, so if you are interested, I highly encourage you to reach out to him and volunteer. I am also looking for several individuals to serve as Lt. Governor-Elect this year as well so I can start working with

that team to get ready for the 2026-27 year. Check with your current Lt. Governor to see if he or she needs a successor.

I would like to remind clubs and members that the District is here to provide support. If your club is having trouble, reach out to your Lt. Governor and he or she can connect you with someone on the District team. We are here to serve you. While my primary focus this year is to prepare for my ensuing term as Governor, I also have the role of working with many of our District committees – primarily those concerned with membership. Yes, we will talk a lot about membership because it is so critical of what we do in Kiwanis. Kiwanis is what you are all doing in your communities and Capital District is here to support you accomplishing your goals. We can teach, we can support, but the club you belong to is part of your community and you as members know your community better than any of us. Yes, membership recruitment is never easy but when we do have someone say yes, the work is only the beginning. Creating that positive experience for both new and current members is so crucial to the health of a club.

As I have said before, I do believe that we are the premier service organization in our communities. As Governor-Elect, I will work with Tim's team to increase our service and impact in our communities, strengthen our service leadership programs, and prepare our organization for the next generation of leaders to lead us. I am excited to see what the next few years will bring. Most of all, though, I am looking forward to serving you!



(David Lurie, from Tysons, is the Capital District Governor-Elect for 2025-26. He previously served as Governor of the Capital District in 2019-20.)

Education News

“SHARE IT LOUD AND PROUD”: MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES BUILDS STRONGER KIWANIS CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

BY JENNIFER HISCOCK

In the heart of every Kiwanis member is a passion for service, especially for the youth in our communities.

The Capital District of Kiwanis International has launched a powerful way to keep that fire burning: the “Share It Loud and Proud” monthly webinar series. This dynamic online gathering is more than just an online Zoom; it’s a movement to connect, empower, and inspire Kiwanis members throughout the district.

The webinar series will be held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. using the recurring link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDWebinarSeries>



Why Log On Every Month?

1. Stay Connected with Fellow Kiwanians

In a world that often pulls us in many directions, this monthly webinar series is a reminder that we are not doing this work alone. By logging in each month, you’re joining a larger family of passionate, like-minded individuals all working toward a shared mission. It’s an opportunity to build stronger bonds, learn from each other’s experiences, and celebrate our collective successes.

2. Timely, Relevant Topics That Matter

Each session tackles topics that directly impact our ability to serve youth and our communities. These webinars are curated to keep clubs informed, engaged, and energized.

3. Learn from Local Leaders and Experts

The Capital District is filled with experienced leaders and talented members with insights to share. “Share It Loud and Proud” features presenters from within our own district and beyond, offering a range of perspectives and expertise. Whether you’re a club president, a new member, or somewhere in between, there’s something valuable for everyone.

4. It’s Easy to Join; Just Click and Connect – No RSVP Needed

With one simple click on the link, you are in! There are no extra steps, just log in, listen, and learn.

Who Should Attend?

Every Kiwanis member in the Capital District is encouraged to join from club officers to committee chairs, new members to seasoned Kiwanians. These webinars are designed to benefit anyone who wants to grow, serve better, and connect more deeply with the Kiwanis mission.

Don’t Miss Out

The “Share It Loud and Proud” webinar series isn’t just another meeting on your calendar. It’s a chance to **reignite your purpose, refocus your efforts, and reconnect with others** who care deeply about making a difference. By showing up and tuning in, you’re helping to build a stronger, more unified Capital District one webinar at a time.

<https://tinyurl.com/CDWebinarSeries>

Monthly on the Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

(Jennifer Hiscock is the 2025-26 Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District.)

Around the CD

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



Richmond winds up banner year

Under the direction of last year's President John Mahone, the Kiwanis Club of Richmond recently concluded one of its strongest years in some time.

The club finished with 144 members (a gain for the year of plus 18 -- 14.2 percent), leading the Capital District in growth and pushing for No. 1 in total size; received the Signature Project Award for its work toward improving literacy at Caver Elementary School; and is on track to be recognized as a Distinguished Club for the third consecutive year.

Richmond was particularly proud of "Friday Flash," its weekly newsletter produced by Past President and recent Administrator Barbara Dickinson, which enjoys a 70 percent click-through rate.

By all measures, Richmond has long been one of the leading clubs within the Capital District, earning its charter in 1919, the fourth club opened within the jurisdiction. Its membership has consistently ranked among the district's largest (at one time exceeding 250 members) and the club has produced multiple Capital District governors, including, most recently, John Morris in 2018-19.

The current slogan of Richmond Kiwanis is "A Future Worthy of its Past."

Westminster's goin' cruisin'

Past International President and Past Capital District Governor Art Riley recently shared a fall 2026 travel opportunity for Capital Kiwanians to enjoy the rivers of France:

"One of the most remarkable benefits of being a part of Kiwanis is the chance to forge enduring friendships. This year, Westminster (MD) Kiwanis, in partnership with AAA of the Mid-Atlantic and Avalon River Cruises, is excited to present an extraordinary adventure for all Capital District Kiwanians and their companions. "Picture yourself on an enchanting eight-day river cruise, gliding along the serene Garonne and Dordogne rivers, as they wind through the captivating Bordeaux wine region of western France.

"Avalon's cruises are renowned for their exceptional comforts – imagine settling into beautifully appointed accommodations with every detail designed for your relaxation. Each day, indulge in gourmet onboard meals, paired perfectly with complimentary wines, beers, and soft drinks. Avalon's commitment to guest satisfaction shines, particularly in their attentive approach to special dietary needs.

"As you dock in charming ports, delightful excursions await. Choose from a variety of included daily tours that showcase the rich culture and history of the Bordeaux region, with enticing optional tours available for those seeking even more adventure.

"You and your friends can join us for an immersive experience in the heart of France's wine country, where the beauty of river cruising meets the warmth of camaraderie. For a limited time, Avalon is offering an incredible savings of \$3,000 per state room, so don't miss the chance to secure your place on this unforgettable journey. Reserve your tour space now and get ready to create lasting memories."

The cruise cost per person is \$2,830 (excluding air travel and some excursions) and runs from Nov. 3-10, 2026. Interested parties are asked to contact AAA agent Roxanne Ecker at AAAMid-Atlantic, (240) 276-4095 or Art Riley, Kiwanis Club of Westminster, RxArthur@aol.com, (410) 848-9400.



Annual photo time for Ocean Pines

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines/Ocean City (MD) met at the Ocean Pines Library Aug. 13 for its regular weekly meeting and the opportunity to pose for its annual club photo (above). The club meets every Wednesday at 8 a.m. in various locations depending upon the season or circumstances, generally featuring a guest speaker. The club's current membership is hovering around the 45 mark, well ahead of the 25-member average throughout the district.

Putting aside differences, joining forces

On Sept. 24, the Kiwanis Club of Lynchburg broke bread with two other local civic clubs, finding common ground regarding the importance of service to others and helping those in need. Kiwanians joined area Lions and Rotarians to enjoy a Summer BBQ and Picnic at Camp Kum Ba Yah.

Division 3 exemplifies teamwork

On Aug. 28, Kiwanians from across Division 3 gathered at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (MD) Rescue Squad for the latest in D3's efforts to combat food insecurity in our communities – returning again to assist its partner Nourishing Bethesda.

Although it is consistently ranked as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, in 2024 nearly 1 in 3 residents of Montgomery County experienced food insecurity. On top of that, more than 27,000 children went without food at some point during that time. Organizations like Nourishing Bethesda provide nutritious food to any family that lives or works in the greater Bethesda region – no questions asked in a dignified and humane setting.

Nourishing Bethesda rents the second floor of the BCC Rescue Squad as the site of its weekly food distribution, which on Wednesday transforms from a function room into a market choice pantry that is set up like a small grocery store, including fresh vegetable crates, refrigerators with meat and eggs, and a shelf stable area for foods such as beans, pasta, lentils and canned goods – not to mention a baked goods section with bread, pastries and plenty of bagels.

All clubs in Division 3 participated in supporting this project, and the effort also benefited from several food donations from Division 1 friends with the Shepherd Park club. Over the summer, clubs, individuals, and businesses (special thanks to RICA-Rockville) collected shelf staple goods to deliver on-site before a close-knit team from four clubs worked diligently to pack shelves, sort produce and stuff bags.

SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

PROTECT THE YOUTH WHO SERVE ALONGSIDE US

Happy Kiwanis New Year!

Do you know why Zombies make great friends? They're always willing to lend a hand – just like the members of our K-Kids and Builders Clubs.

Youth Protection Week allows us as Kiwanians to protect the youth who serve alongside us. Were you aware that on average, one in five students is bullied in school? During the months of October and November, our younger branches of the K-family have opportunities to focus on making their schools and communities safer from bullying.



The call is out for the Kiwanis Family to unite alongside each other to stop bullying wherever it occurs. It places special focus on bullying in schools and online spaces – environments where many youth face harassment. The goal is clear: to eliminate bullying and create safe, supportive spaces for all.

Our district has a limited supply of Anti-bullying

bookmarks available for K-Kids and Builders Clubs who will be taking part in fostering a safe environment at their schools. Send me (egardner475@gmail.com) the request for your club today.

Mark your calendars with these dates as reminders to encourage, support and join our elementary and middle school members as they do their part:

- **Week of October 6th:** Make friends with someone you don't know at school
October 6th World Day of Bullying Prevention®
#BeKind #BlueUp #BlueShirtDay
- **Week of October 13th:** STAND UP for Others Week
- **Week of October 20th:** Week of Inclusion
October 22nd Unity Day, wear and share orange to send a visible message of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent bullying. Request your [free Unity Day poster today!](#)

- **Week of October 27th:** Start the Week With Conversations Amongst Your Peers

Will your sponsored clubs lead their schools in completing the [Kindness Challenge](#) and becoming a Random Acts of Kindness Distinguished School? Will your Kiwanis Club recognize a student with a Random Acts of Kindness Award? And what about you? It's not only important for our communities to see us do the work of paying kindness forward but that we get them involved so, Tag! You're It! Here are [25 ways to show kindness](#).



- **November 13th** National Kindness Day "Make Kindness the Norm"
- **November 14th** is National Block It Out Day (#BlockItOutDay) - Each of us has the power to choose what we give our attention to online. We can make a choice to block out the online mean spiritedness that makes up the culture of cyberbullying. Block It Out Day is about POSITIVITY! When it comes to cyberbullying, we can inspire bravery in a person so they might find the courage to block out the negative messages and restore a healthy, safe and positive online environment for themselves.

HAPPY CHARTER ANNIVERSARY



K-Kids

October

Pinecrest School & Dr. Higdon Elementary

November

Buckingham Elementary School, Poquoson Elementary School, Wright Denny Intermediate School, Quarles Elementary School, North Jefferson Elementary, Stonehouse Elementary School, Tome School, Shepherdstown Elementary and Westminster School



Builders

October

Vernon Johns Middle School,
Highland School, Stephen Decatur
Middle and Daniel Morgan Middle
School

November

Berlin Intermediate School, Skyline
Middle School, St. Clare Walker
Middle School and Frederick County
Middle School



Global Service Project 2025

Make your community beautiful

This year our K-Kids and Builders Clubs are challenged to "make their community beautiful" by cleaning up a space, improving a space or creating a new space.

The Pinecrest School K-Kids Club from Annandale, VA were featured in the [kick-off video](#) sharing their 2024-2025 Trick or Treat for Unicef experience. Find them at 13:17.

- If you've got it, haunt it! It's time to Trick-or-Treat for Unicef. The iconic orange box is back this Halloween! Plan your club fundraiser or use the UNICEF - Trick or Treat 25pk [iconic orange boxes](#) to collect donations during the month of October. Builders Club, Key Cub and Aktion Club will be raising funds for Start Strong: Zambia while K-Kids and CKI will support the Brick x Brick project to build schools in the African nation of Côte d'Ivoire using recycled materials. Count your boxes and use any leftover from last year. Limit 8 sets per order. Boxes are free but recipients are responsible for the cost of shipping. Boxes will be sent via the least expensive shipping option. Funds raised will need to be submitted by Dec. 31, 2025 and each club that raises \$50 will earn a recognition patch.

(Elana Gardner is a Past Capital District Governor and has extensive experience working with Service Leadership Programs.)



HOW DO YOU BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE, YOU ASK?

BY DENNIS BAUGH, PG AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

Hello Capital Kiwanians,

It has been an honor representing the Capital District on the Kiwanis International Board as a Trustee, having been elected in Minneapolis in June 2023. Since that time, I constantly get asked, ***"How do you become an International Trustee?"***

So, I thought I would tell you!

The best place to start is the Capital District Policies and Procedures. Section 7, paragraph F, which lists only two requirements. You must be a past governor, and you must meet all the requirements specified in the Kiwanis International Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. (I will discuss those later).

A nomination process consists of the following:

Call for Nominees. As soon as the Governor and Executive Director become aware of an opportunity for the Capital District to nominate a candidate for International Trustee, the Executive Director will issue a call for nominees to all Past Governors that are in good standing with Kiwanis International and the Capital District at the time. Potential nominees shall be given a time limit to respond to the call.

Filing. Eligible Past Governors desiring to be a candidate for the office of International Trustee shall provide a written statement or electronic communication of their intent and qualifications to the Executive Director within the established timeframe.

Filing Review. Not more than 10 days after the filing deadline, the Executive Director will review the filings, determine if the potential candidates meet all of the requirements to run for

International Trustee, and forward all eligible nominees to the nominating committee with a copy being sent to the Board.

All Past Governors have one vote to select a nomination of one candidate for international endorsement. A meeting shall be held at least 30 days prior to the last board meeting before District Convention. In the event that one candidate does not obtain a majority of the votes, a runoff will be held.

Board Review. The Past Governors Committee will forward a candidate, via the Governor, to the Board of Trustees for review. After its review, the Board may:

- Endorse the candidate. The endorsed candidate may use that endorsement for the purposes of campaigning; and in consultation with the candidate and the District Finance Committee, establish a recommended amount of District funds to be spent on the campaign for International Trustee, if the candidate is endorsed by the House of Delegates, or;
- Withhold endorsement of the candidate.

House of Delegates Endorsement. At the District Convention prior to the International Convention when the candidate will be supported, the House of Delegates will authorize the endorsement by the Capital District of one candidate for election to the position of International Trustee. Such endorsement must include explicit approval of the amount of funds to be expended on the campaign. Endorsement will be complete after a majority vote of the House of Delegates.

Kiwanis International Trustee Makeup

The term of each Trustee shall be three years, except for those elected to fill vacancies as provided in these Bylaws.

Prior to this year, there were nine Trustees elected from the United States and Pacific Canada Region. However, at the 2024 Convention in Denver, an amendment was passed that reduced that number to eight beginning Oct. 1, 2025, and seven beginning Oct. 1, 2027. Additionally, the At-Large Trustee position will be eliminated effective Oct. 1, 2026. Ultimately the number of Trustees will be reduced from 15 to 12.

Kiwanis International Requirement

No district may have more than one member on the Kiwanis International Board. A district shall not have a person on the Kiwanis International Board for one administrative year after another person from that district has completed service on the Board, except where necessary to fill a guaranteed seat as provided in these Bylaws.

The Next Candidate from Capital District Eligibility

Since my term expires in September 2026, the Capital District is eligible to have a candidate at the 2027 International Convention in Dallas. That person, if elected, would take office on Oct. 1, 2027, and the one-year vacancy requirement above will be met. The process I outlined earlier can begin at the district level in 2026.

I hope this answers some questions. Again, I enjoy representing the Capital District on the International Board -- with one more year to go.

(Dennis Baugh, Capital District Governor in 2020-21, currently serves as a Kiwanis International trustee until September 2026.)

Teenager of the Year



ANNOUNCING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE

BY MARY ANTON

We're giving away \$2,500 and we need ALL Kiwanians to help! It's simple. We each need to find one outstanding teen – or more – and have that individual apply for the 2026 Teenager of the Year (ToY) <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/teenager-of-the-year>.

This year's ToY competition kicks off Nov.1 and will run through Jan. 31, 2026. There's plenty of time for applications to be submitted, but that won't happen without everyone's help.

ToY is open to any students between the ages of 13-19 who currently reside in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia or Virginia. It is not required for an applicant to be a member of Builders Club or Key Club, but, of course, we want to encourage our SLPs to participate. Also, you can spread the word through public and private schools in your area, with your neighbors, churches, home-school groups – anywhere that outstanding teens can be found.

As we review applications, we will be looking for a person who has:

- Demonstrated a consistent and dedicated commitment to community service;
- Demonstrated positive spirit, courage, academic achievement, generosity and high moral purpose;
- Shown initiative, tenacity and unselfishness in pursuit of their community service efforts;
- Accomplished something that inspired others to make a positive difference in their community; and
- Made an impact beyond themselves that improved their community or the volunteer organization they support.



The Teenager of the Year for the Capital District will receive \$2,500, a trip to the Kiwanis Capital District Convention in Annapolis, MD next summer, an article in *The Capital Kiwanian*, and more!

All of us likely know some amazing young people. We're asking that each club in every division find at least one worthy teen for consideration and encourage them to submit their applications by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31. Earlier is better, so those applications could start coming in immediately!

Please don't let this opportunity slip past teens in your area who deserve recognition for the impact they're having in their communities. As Gov. Tim says, "Progress Isn't Quiet," so let's all spread the word!

(Mary Anton continues to chair the Capital District's Teenager of the Year Committee.)



SENSE OF BELONGING UNDERSCORES CONVENTION

BY JOHN A. MONTGOMERY

“You Belong Here” was the theme of the 105th annual Kiwanis Capital District Convention held in Arlington, VA at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Aug. 22-24, and by the end of the weekend, the attendees were proud to be in that number.

The theme also sent a subtle message to clubs who for whatever reason weren’t able to send delegates and actively participate; *you were missed!*

Inclusion was certainly an underlying message of the weekend; opening our arms (and hearts) to the needs of youth and other residents within our respective communities was emphasized.

Governor Josh Hiscock (Ellicott City, MD), who has a lifelong affiliation with our organization (which he skillfully detailed in his farewell address Saturday evening), emphasized the theme in his welcoming address in the convention’s printed program. “Every individual who wants to serve their community should have a place in Kiwanis,” he wrote. “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 that they feel their presence, ideas and physical contributions matter. Every member should feel that they belong, both in their community and Kiwanis.

“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. You will see that woven throughout the weekend.”

The format of the 48-hour (+/-) gathering allowed ample opportunity to saturate one’s senses, whether you came for the training; the business sessions; the entertainment; the socialization and fellowship; the meals; the hospitality suites; the inspiration -- or in the best case, you came for it all. Convention chair Ronesha Prioleau and her vital team of support managed everything from set-up and decorations to arranging meal session presenters, workshops, exhibits, registration, House of Delegates sessions, the printed program and many accompanying details. The weekend service project, putting together almost 500 backpacks for students in need, which

Carrie Wagner details elsewhere in this issue of the *Capital Kiwanian*, was a highlight.

Another weekend highlight was the election of Vice-Governor Nathaniel Kyle, a longtime Kiwanian from East Huntington, WV. Nathaniel is steeped in Kiwanis tradition and experience. He was governor of the WV district in 2017-18. Nathaniel’s father, John, was a two-time governor of that district during the decade prior. Following the merger of Capital with WV five years ago, Nathaniel has become actively entrenched in his new district and recently completed a three-year term as regional trustee.

Nathaniel, unopposed, was elected Sunday morning during the second House of Delegates session. He is the first West Virginia Kiwanian elected





Vice-Governor since the districts merged, yet another measure of the harmony serving as a weekend backdrop. Following traditional protocol, Nathaniel will serve as Governor of Capital in 2027-28, thus earning the rare distinction of serving as a governor of two different districts.

Incoming Governor Tim Gillette and Governor-Elect David Lurie (both from the Tysons club) were also unopposed for their respective positions, continuing their climbs to the top spot. David also served as governor in 2019-20, a year that was affected dramatically by COVID. He made it clear that he welcomes a second opportunity to lead.

In Saturday afternoon's business session, attendees heard remarks from Capital District Executive Director Jeffrey Wolff, who assured us we are on solid financial ground and remain one of the premier districts of Kiwanis worldwide. We also heard from our visiting international trustee, Jo Schwartz, from Kansas.

On Sunday, Jo retired outgoing Capital District officers and installed the new ones, allowing incoming Governor Tim Gillette to eloquently detail his background and introduce



his objectives for the coming year.

At the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation's annual meeting Saturday afternoon, Dave Laraba (Beckley WV) presided. His successor, Don Witt from Roanoke, was introduced. It was announced that the Ducky Derby reached its goal this year of \$16,500. Division 15 led the district's contributions with more than \$2,700 sold in tickets. The drawing for prizes concluded Saturday's business activities.

The meal speakers over the weekend were universally outstanding. Dr. Carol Clyde, associate professor of organization leadership at Cottey College (Missouri) and a former Key Clubber and a member of CKI at Radford University and William & Mary, was the Saturday breakfast presenter. She has belonged to Kiwanis in four districts, and is a lead facilitator for Key Leader.

Lt. Raeford Penny spoke to us following Saturday's lunch. He serves in the United States Coast Guard and is stationed in Washington. He was the 2013-14 Key Club International President and a distinguished Lt. Governor from our district while attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA.

At the Governor's Gala on Saturday evening, Josh Hiscock offered his farewell remarks, explaining how his association with Kiwanis began in high school and has continued for more than a quarter-century since. We also heard from the respective

SLP governors, Sneha Shah (Key Club) and Dylan Luong (Circle K).

Mary Anton presented the Teenager of the Year Recipient for 2025, Veronica Vitko from Charlottesville.

Sunday's Inspirational Breakfast speaker was Leo Wise, federal prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice. He graduated from Johns Hopkins and Harvard Law School. As a member of the Department of Justice, Leo served on the Tobacco Litigation Team, and also, the Enron Task Force where he was part of the team that prosecuted the firm's two embattled CEOs in the early 2000s.

Educational Sessions were conducted in three concurrent timeslots Saturday morning, including roundtable discussions for incoming club officers and tutorials on Kiwanis staples such as the Capital District Foundation and Kiwanis Children's Fund. Recruitment and retention of members was a popular topic, as was individual mental health and wellbeing.



Service Showcase

HAPPY KIWANIS NEW YEAR – LET’S PLAN FOR SERVICE AND IMPACT!

BY CARRIE WAGNER

Happy Kiwanis New Year, Capital District. As we begin a new Kiwanis year with fresh leadership and renewed energy, it’s the perfect time to set your club up for a year of meaningful service and impact. Whether you’re a returning officer or stepping into a new role, intentional calendar planning will make all the difference in how your club serves the children of your community.

Plan Your Service Early

As you build your club calendar, be sure to schedule service projects just like you would schedule meetings and fundraisers. Pick a specific day of the week each month and make it your regular “Service Night” so working members can plan ahead and participate. This is just one example – remember to offer a variety of service opportunities at different times so more members can find ways to get involved. Also, invite prospective members to join, so they get to experience the “why” and the “service” of being in Kiwanis.

Reach out to local organizations to ask how your club can help, or plan a joint service project with a nearby club for an interclub service event.

A few quick ideas: volunteer at a children’s 5K run, help clean up playgrounds or add mulch at schools/libraries, volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club or YMCA, read or tutor students, walk kids to school, or help at back-to-school or parent night events. And don’t forget to promote your service so your community knows who you are and what Kiwanis does.

District Convention Service Project Recap

In August, at the District Convention (DCON), we completed an amazing hands-on service project thanks to a Kiwanis Children’s Fund grant. Together, we served 457 students at Randolph Elementary School, a Title I school in Arlington. Each student received a new backpack, school supplies, and an age-appropriate book and bookmark to start the year.

Your support and energy made this project fun, impactful, and joyful – and I was honored to serve alongside you. As Kiwanians, we change children’s lives, and this project was a powerful example of that.

As we begin the new year, remember Governor Tim Gillette’s theme: “Progress Isn’t Quiet.” Let’s brag a little and show our communities that Kiwanis has a heart for service and is changing children’s lives for the better. My committee and I are here to support your clubs with ideas – don’t hesitate to reach out. Please remember to send us pictures and a few highlights of your event, so I can post it on social media for you.

Signature Project Contest Opens Jan. 6

Kiwanis International has released the new rules for the Signature Project Contest, which opens Jan. 6, 2026. Projects must:

1. Be recurring;
2. Enhance the Kiwanis image;
3. Demonstrate significant impact on the community in terms of money raised and/or children served;
4. Strengthen membership and partnerships;

Now is the perfect time to ensure your club’s signature project is planned, has a committee, and is on your calendar. Strong planning now will make contest time easy – and your community impact even greater.

Happy planning – and Happy Kiwanis New Year!

I can’t wait to hear from you and see all the amazing things you’ll accomplish.

(Carrie Wagner, from Waynesboro, continues as Capital District Service and Signature Project Chair. She may be reached at Carriemwagner@gmail.com)

Our Firm Foundation



Announcement of the New Mini Grant Program

BY NANCY SIMONELLI, FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Capital District Kiwanis Foundation is excited to announce the launch of our new Mini Grant Program, designed to support creative projects and initiatives within our community. This program aims to provide small-scale funding Kiwanis Clubs in the Capital District looking to make a meaningful impact through innovative ideas and local engagement.

About the Mini Grant Program

1. Mini Grants are awarded to Capital District Kiwanis Clubs in good standing in the Capital District that express a need for funds by completing the Mini Grant application in full. On line applications will be accepted Oct. 15, 2025-March 31, 2026.
2. Two members of the Executive Board and one Regional Director selected by the Foundation President will review the applications and deem it acceptable in accordance with the guidelines provided herein.
3. Mini Grant requests must be for \$750 or less. Only one Mini Grant may be issued to any Kiwanis club per year.
4. Mini Grants will be awarded in the order received until funds are depleted. Applications received by the first of each month will receive a decision via email by the 15th of the same month and funds will be dispensed within 15 days thereafter if approved.
5. Preference in awarding Mini Grants is given to clubs that have supported the Foundation through Annual Club Donation, Sustained Giving, or any purchased recognition award such as Life Member, Patron Award, Founders Society from the Foundation.
6. A Mini Grant Completion report must be submitted to the Foundation Executive Secretary within 45 days of the end of the project.

Grant Guidelines

1. Mini Grants may be used to assist a Kiwanis club within the Capital District with a project that supports a Service Leadership Program. Funds CANNOT be used to revitalize or build a Service Leadership Program.
2. Mini Grants may be used for a project that enhances lives of children in their community such as: education and literacy, and health and nutrition projects.
3. Mini grants may not be used for salaries, travel or lodging expenses, training expenses, capital construction projects, or donations to organizations.
4. Mini Grants are intended to supplement funds and other resources secured by the applying club.
5. Mini Grants will not be approved if the request is received after the project is completed.
6. Any unspent funds must be returned to the Foundation Treasurer.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the online application form available on our website starting 10/15/2025. You will need to provide a brief project description, budget, and expected outcomes. Applications will be evaluated based on creativity, community impact, feasibility, and alignment with program goals.

We look forward to seeing your innovative ideas and supporting projects that will make a positive difference in our community!

<https://f03.site.kiwanis.org/>

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

CLUB PRESIDENTS: START PLANNING NOW FOR YOUR KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND SERVICE YEAR!

BY JOHN TYNER

Champion PG Jen Wolff, KCF Associate Director Jennifer Coffey and I thoroughly enjoyed chatting with many of you at our Arlington District Convention in August, following the many articles you have read on this subject in previous *Capital Kiwanians*.

With *this* article, I'm again pumping our excitement about The Possibility Project -- a bold campaign to impact 10 million children through Kiwanis service projects. I will also share how your club can support The Possibility Project as an Impact Club -- this campaign's only club recognition level -- and how you can use a multiyear fundraising plan to reach your Impact Club goals.

"Kids need Kiwanis" has always been our slogan -- it's our reality. Every Kiwanis club sees the challenges kids face within their community: (1) Hunger; (2) Struggles in school; and (3) Lack of accessible play or enrichment opportunities. Imagine what we could do with more resources in more clubs. That's the power of The Possibility Project.

For 85 years, the Kiwanis Children's Fund has helped Kiwanians turn generosity into global impact. From eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus in 49 countries, to improving childhood brain development through iodine access, we've raised and leveraged over **\$250 million** for children worldwide. We asked: "What do clubs need most?"

Kiwanians showed us that community needs and club service projects fall into three main areas: (1) **Health and Nutrition**; (2) **Education and Literacy**; and (3) **Youth Leadership Development**. These areas are the

building blocks for a child's success, creating a lifelong positive impact. These needs are urgent, and we're not waiting to help clubs make a difference. The Children's Fund has provided grants recently for Kiwanis service projects by clubs such as:

- **Libertad, Panama**, which rebuilt and restocked their local school's dining area, providing stable meals for 1,500 students.
- **Cicero, Indiana**, which provided a book for all 950 children to take home,
- **Daphne-Spanish Fort, Alabama**, which hosted a 10-week program teaching 80 middle schoolers respect, conflict resolution, and goal setting.

By supporting the Children's Fund, you expand your impact beyond your local area to other communities wherever a Kiwanis club exists. The Kiwanis Children's Fund proudly supports service projects that meet urgent needs. But the reality is, millions of children still need our help. Consider this: more than 14 million children in the U.S. alone live in households without enough food. Two out of five fourth-graders can't read at a basic level. Two out of five high school students report feeling lonely, sad or hopeless.

Grant requests to the Children's Fund



have increased tenfold in recent years, but as needs continue to grow, we've only been able to fund \$1 for every \$2 requested. The Possibility Project is designed to meet these urgent needs. We aim to raise \$25 million over five years to help more than 10 million children -- and support more grants for more clubs. With a grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund, it costs just \$2.25 to change a child's life. The Possibility Project is designed to meet these urgent needs.

The good news is that we started fundraising for The Possibility Project Oct. 1, 2022 -- which means we are

well on our way to our goal. We have already raised \$9 million world-wide. That means Kiwanians have already come together to support club service projects that could reach more than 3.5 million children.

Nearly 100 clubs have pledged over \$1.9 million as Impact Clubs. Here in Capital we have nine who have pledged and five more are considering a commitment. Our Capital Champions want to thank our clubs who are already leading the way for us. The clubs I mentioned a moment ago imagined their possible impact – and acted by becoming Impact Clubs, making a five-year pledge to support The Possibility Project.

By signing an Impact Club pledge, your club sets a goal to raise \$100 per member each year for five years. That may feel like a big number – but a multiyear fundraising plan helps you break it down by time and source, turning a big goal into manageable steps. By creating a multi-year fundraising plan, you clearly communicate how you intend to achieve your goal – but this is not a document set in stone. This type of plan allows for flexibility and helps you understand where you can best focus your efforts as a club.

My club wants to support The Possibility Project, but it is important to us that we are able to continue our support of the Key Club and the local children's hospital as well. The Impact Club goal is based on a club's membership: \$100 per year, per member for five years. \$500 times 20 members comes out to an overall goal of \$10,000. Since it is a five-year pledge, we'll aim to raise about \$2,000 per year. \$100/member/year = \$8.33/month—just one coffee trip.

But fundraising doesn't need to fall solely on members. Many clubs use multiple funding sources: events, club funds, and member giving. Your real goal? Helping kids.

So, divide your pledge by the \$2.25 it takes to impact a child through the

Kiwanis Children's Fund. Suddenly your goal is no longer in dollars, but in the number of children your club can help. At \$2.25 per child, a Kiwanis club's \$10,000 pledge means helping 4,000+ kids. As a club, ask yourselves: how many kids do you want to help?

Now we have a goal of the dollar amount we hope to raise over five years. But where will that money come from? Each club should think about some variation of: (1) 50 percent from events, (2) 25 percent from member giving and (3) 25 percent from the annual budget.

The first step is deciding what percentage of each funding source will make up the total pledge. We went ahead and put suggested percentages on each funding source. You may end up doing it differently with your club and can adjust based on what fits your club best.

If you remember, the club is going to break it down to \$2,000 annually. The annual fund (or your club's annual budget) is one of the ways that the Impact Club giving level will be met. Even a modest gift from your club budget each year can make a big difference. You can also use club funds as matching gifts – inspiring individual club members to give and doubling your impact.

Fundraising events are a club's bread and butter, and the ideas are almost endless. They're a great way to support an Impact Club pledge. Enhance existing fundraisers or create new ones inspired by your Impact Club pledge. You can even use low-lift efforts like dine-to-donate nights or social media appeals – every bit adds up.

You can use social media to spread the message to seek donations. Also, you can dine for donations, which is popular and easy. Partner with a local restaurant to receive a portion of every sale on a specific night of a month. The club's responsibility is simply to spread the word so people eat at the restaurant on that night.

When clubs combine efforts, individual giving goes further. In our example, members need to collectively raise just \$1,000/year. Some give more; some give less – it's a team effort. Don't forget that all personal donations to the Children's Fund count toward your club's goal if they list your club as their home club.

There are many ways that individual members can choose to give personally and fundraise on their own: (1) Individual fundraising efforts, like reaching out to friends and family; (2) Personal donations of any size, even if that means setting aside spare change at the end of the week; (3) individual pledges, like the Cornerstone pledge, or \$15,000 over 3 years – or small pledges made to your club that you will commit to giving a specific amount to the Children's Fund; (4) Recurring gifts by setting up an automatic donation on the Kiwanis Children's Fund's website; and (5) Honoring a club member or outgoing president with a Blechman or Hixson Fellowship.

By using multiple fundraising sources and breaking down your goal by year, your club can make an extraordinary difference by becoming an Impact Club. Kiwanians have come together before, saving millions of lives from preventable diseases, reshaping the world.

Imagine what we can do when we come together to support each other, to help clubs do more to turn possibilities into realities. Imagine what's possible if we trust our fellow Kiwanians to live our vision: to be a positive influence in communities worldwide, so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them, and provide the support they need to thrive.

You and I are on a two-way boulevard in this.... I'd like to hear your comments, suggestions and needs that I can share with my Champion Band in our campaign. C'mon, drop me a line at tyner@taliesan.com and we'll connect once again!

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

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

(written in late September)

Hello Fellow Kiwanians:

Thank you for an incredible 2024-25 Kiwanis year. It has been a true honor to serve as your president, witnessing firsthand the passion, dedication and collaboration of our members in each district around the world.

This year has been filled with remarkable successes — each one a testament to the commitment and heart of the Kiwanis family.

We celebrated the chartering of new clubs and recruitment of over 20,000 new members, expanding our impact and creating vibrant spaces where purpose, connection and meaningful service brighten the lives of children and families.

Our clubs have expanded their signature projects, with more than 500 shared through entries in the Signature Project Contest. These signature projects — from playgrounds and parks to festivals and fundraisers — showcase the hallmark of Kiwanis: the lasting impact clubs create in their communities.

Together, we have amplified our impact through our support of the Kiwanis Children's Fund, raising more than \$2.2 million. More than 100 clubs have stepped up to become Impact Clubs for The Possibility Project, each pledging to give an average of at least US\$500 per member over five years — a commitment that plays a major role in improving the lives of children around the world.

We have also committed to our Service Leadership Programs through mentorship, chartering clubs and ongoing support. So far this year, as of Sept. 16, we've chartered 66 K-Kids clubs, 87 Builders Clubs, 153 Key Clubs and 25 Circle K International clubs.

Key Club celebrated 100 years of impact, with 17 clubs empowering future generations by committing gifts of \$1,925 or more to the 1925 Club Alumni committed to staying connected through more than 10 events across

districts. These gatherings strengthen lifelong ties to the Kiwanis family, expand professional networks and support the programs that shaped their leadership journey.

Together, we are creating lasting impact. From Impact Clubs and signature projects to new clubs and committed supporters, our efforts are shaping brighter futures for children and communities. Through Service Leadership Programs and alumni connections, we remain committed to mentorship, growth and lifelong ties to the Kiwanis family — leaving a legacy of service that will inspire generations to come. Keep sharing your passion for Kiwanis, and motivate future servant leaders to join us. Thank you for an incredible year of impact!

And as we exclaim in Malaysia: Waah!

Sincerely,

Lee Kuan Yong

2024-25 President

Kiwanis International

...AND FROM OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

(published October 7)

Fellow Kiwanians,

The work we have accomplished together this past year has been truly inspiring. Thanks to your dedication as Kiwanis members, we have touched the lives of children and families in communities across the globe and in our own neighborhoods.

As we begin a new Kiwanis year, let's reflect on your club's achievements, celebrate progress and look ahead with fresh goals and new initiatives. Take this time to honor your members' dedication, make sure they feel valued, connect with other clubs and explore ways to reach even more children and families in need. The magic of Kiwanis is found in its members.

Let's continue working together and building on this momentum by sharing the incredible impact you're making, empowering others to discover the joy of serving through Kiwanis.

I am honored and excited to serve you in the year ahead as we continue building a brighter future for children and communities around the world.

Happy Kiwanis New Year!

Michael Mulhaul

2025-26 President

Kiwanis International

RESULTS FROM A RECENT KI SURVEY...

In July, we asked: What project is your club known for in your community? Here are a few highlights from the survey results, representing clubs from 18 districts across four continents:

- 75 percent of respondents say their club's signature project supports one of Kiwanis' three causes: education and literacy (43 percent), health and nutrition (21 percent) and youth leadership development (11 percent).
- 79 percent of respondents use an official custom club logo from Kiwanis International. (Don't have one yet? Request one – for free! – for your website, flyers and more.)

Project idea:

"Baby-less baby shower! We do a baby shower (with fun games, activities and decorations) to provide needed supplies for young children in military families. Many times the money provided in salary for these young soldiers and their families is insufficient to meet their needs."

Donna Jander, Kiwanis Youth Development and Support Club of San Diego, California-Nevada-Hawaii District

LEGACY OF PLAY CONTEST

In partnership with Landscape Structures, Kiwanis International is sponsoring the Legacy of Play Contest – launching Feb. 1, 2026. The contest will award one Kiwanis Club \$25,000 in playground equipment to be used toward a Landscape Structures playground project.

There's more! Any club that enters the contest and continues its project plans with Landscape Structures will receive a complimentary Omni Spin Spinner, which was designed with inclusion in mind. The official rules for the 2026 Legacy of Play Contest are coming soon.

A partner of Kiwanis International for more than 10 years, Landscape Structures has been helping clubs bring play to communities around the world. Their safe, high-quality commercial playground equipment and planning consultation services reflect the high degree of integrity that Kiwanis clubs expect.

The Kiwanis Children's Fund provides grants for Kiwanis-led service projects that focus on the organization's causes: health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development. Clubs interested in applying for a grant for a playground project should review the program material carefully to learn about the Children's Fund as a potential funding partner. Check out the Club Grant Program for eligibility requirements, important dates and additional resources.

Several other organizations offer grant funds for playground projects. Landscape Structures does not directly provide playground grants, but has curated online grant resources with national, state and regional organizations that offer funding for playground projects.

Contest timeline

Feb. 1-28, 2026: Contest opens

March 3-17, 2026: Voting opens to the public

March 27, 2026: Winner announced

GIVE THE GIFT OF THANKS

As the 2025-26 Kiwanis year begins and the season of giving approaches, it's the perfect time to celebrate and thank your club members with meaningful, Kiwanis-branded gifts.

Share your vision. Kick off the year by writing or printing a card that outlines your club's goals for 2025-26. Pair it with the new [satin stylus pen](#) — a sleek and affordable way to say “thank you” for each member's dedication to service.

Cheers to a new year. Host a celebratory meeting and gift members a [Kiwanis tumbler](#) or [ceramic mug](#) filled with cocoa, holiday candy or treats. Whether it's iced tea in warm climates or hot coffee in cooler ones, these gifts keep spirits high and beverages at the perfect temperature. Start the meeting with a toast to the year ahead!

Dress for the season. Outfit your club in branded gear for November and December projects. The [Kiwanis royal striped rugby](#) or the cozy [women's](#) or [men's waffle 1/4 zip pullover](#) makes a stylish and warm statement. Don't forget to snap a group photo.

Small gifts, big impact. Looking for thoughtful, budget-friendly gifts to recognize your club members? The Kiwanis Family Store has you covered! Consider gifting [Kiwanis visors](#) for sunny service days, elegant [brooches](#) for a touch of class, or the brand-new \$2 buttons — perfect for welcoming new members or celebrating milestones. These small tokens go a long way in showing appreciation and building club pride.

Explore more. Visit the [Kiwanis Family Store](#) to discover even more seasonal items — including the [Kiwanis ornament](#), [Kiwanis snow globe](#), [holiday magnets](#) and [knit hats](#) and [scarves](#) — perfect for gifting or club recognition.

Let's celebrate the members who serve and spread joy as we begin a new Kiwanis year together!

NEW CLUBS COMING!

We are looking for volunteers to help in remote and in-person positions! Please contact Jen Wolff for more information: jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org.

South Boston, VA (Div 15)	February 3-5
Culpeper, VA (Div 9)	April 28-30
Pt. Pleasant, WV (Div 20)	July 13-15
Cumberland, MD (Div 8)	September 14-16

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

October

Manassas, VA.....	1924
Chesapeake, VA	1927
Midlothian-Chesterfield, VA	1950
Northwest Washington, DC.....	1955
Mercury 64, VA.....	1962
Gloucester, VA	2008

November

Roanoke, VA.....	1919
Pocomoke City, MD.....	1953
Waldorf, MD	1979
Annapolis, MD	1980
Central Chesterfield, VA.....	1983
St Paul-Castlewood, VA.....	2017



NEW CLUB ALERT!!

Congratulations to IP Governor Josh and the Kiwanis Club of Fredericksburg, VA on the organization of the new Kiwanis Club of North Stafford! The club organized on September 9th with a full slate of officers.

BEYOND THE CALL

George Woodfield, Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM KIWANIS CLUB OF MOUNT AIRY MEMBERS:
NORM BOGARDE, JENN HISCOCK, ANGIE MOORE, AND TOM WALKER

George Woodfield of Mount Airy, Maryland, passed away July 25 at the age of 92. He joined the Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy on June 1, 1966, and was a proud Kiwanis member for 59 years. He served as president of the club on two occasions, was a former Capital District Lieutenant Governor, Legion of Honor recipient, and a Hixson Fellow.

George was very interested in all aspects of Kiwanis, as well as service to the community and the betterment of children. Past Club President, Norm Bogarde, who has been a member of the club since 1978, wrote the following as he reflected on George's contributions to the club:

"I met George at the very beginnings of my association with Kiwanis which would have been in the late 1970s. I'm fairly sure that he was treasurer at that time, and I quickly noticed that he was fully immersed in all aspects of the club. As Past President and Past Lieutenant Governor, he was well versed in Kiwanis rules, regulations and protocol. Accordingly, George was our go-to guy when operational questions arose.

George was always very pleasant and easy to talk to; no question was a "dumb question" and in the early years I had a lot of questions. George was a mentor to me and other new members; he was that rational "Voice

in the Wilderness." Back then the club seemed to operate on "cruise control" . . . things just happened, not a lot of planning, no budget to speak of, no sign-up sheets, most people had a specialty and just showed up to get the job done. To add some organization and to balance out the workforce, leaders like George just stepped in and made adjustments on the fly . . . pretty amazing.

The list of major Kiwanis projects accomplished during George's many years of service is far too long and varied, but it is certain that he was involved in some way in all of them. Below are examples of a few projects from my vast memory where George played a major role:

- Construction of ballfields at the Mount Airy Fireman's carnival grounds.
- Sponsorship of two Little League baseball teams.
- Benson fruitcake sales.
- Prospect Park and picnic table project.
- Ride-a-Bike for the Disabled.
- Kids Day – One of the Club's inaugural events started in the 1950s and ended in the early 1980s.
- Construction of the Wilson Memorial Trail (George used his phone company influence to get the company assistance for several trail projects).
- Mile of Quarters Fundraiser for Johns Hopkins Pediatric Trauma Center.



- Community Phone Book (George managed to get an extract from the Frederick County phone book for us to create our Mt. Airy White Pages).
- Eldersburg Kiwanis Club (George worked tirelessly to help build a Club in Eldersburg. Sadly, it only lasted a few months.)

I don't remember exactly when George's health started to fail but it started with neuropathy in his feet. Even though his general health was good, his lack of mobility was very frustrating for him. He was always an energetic contributor; fully involved and committed to all aspects of Kiwanis. After his neuropathy onset, even though he had to slow down, George continued to maintain his membership, and as an "elder statesman" his commitment never waned."

George will forever be missed by his Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy family, but his spirit will live on forever, as our club members remember to honor him by standing tall in everything we do!



THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT

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

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

Now the Kiwanis Children's Fund calls upon you to make a gift to amplify your impact through The Possibility Project. After all, 66 million children go to school hungry every day. And 750 million children lack basic literacy skills. When you give, you will join others in the Kiwanis family — supporting clubs that see an urgent need in their communities and helping them serve more children. Will you answer the call?



Kiwanis
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