

The Capital

December/January 2026

KIWANIAN

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



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CHILDREN'S FUND BOARD**



Kiwanis

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COVER: The 2025-26 Kiwanis Children's Fund Board of Trustees



It was all hands on deck for the Kiwanis Club of Tysons in support of Food for Neighbors! The club provided volunteers for both the Falls Church and Centreville sites, helping to collect 28,615 pounds of food, which helps to feed 10,000+ teens at 55 middle and high schools in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Arlington counties!



2025-26 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

GOVERNOR

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

TRUSTEE - DELMARVA

Charles Marks
Bridgeville, DE

TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

Samantha Bosserman
Waynesboro, VA

TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

Marie Bowe-Quick
Mitchellville, MD

TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

Missy Zimmerman
Williamsburg, VA

TRUSTEE - SOUTHWEST

April Farmer
Forest, VA

TRUSTEE - WEST VIRGINIA

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

Governor's Message

TIM GILLETTE, 2025-26 GOVERNOR



MEMBERSHIP IS A KEY FOCUS

Hello Capital District!

I hope everyone has had a great start to the Kiwanis year. Membership is a key focus during 2025-2026, and I'm proud to report that as of mid-November, the District has seen an increase of 61 members so far this year!

To finish the year with a net membership gain, I'm estimating we need to have an increase of 300 members by the end of August 2026, to offset the purge of club rosters in September. With new clubs being opened and clubs focusing on nurturing and retaining members, I'm confident we'll hit that number.

It's important that clubs attend Division Council Meetings (or DCMs). These meetings bring all of the clubs in the division together to talk about what's going on in their clubs. Clubs can share good things, things that are keeping them up at night, upcoming events, things going on with their SLPs, etc. It's a great forum for clubs to brainstorm ideas to help improve their clubs. These meetings are organized by the Lt. Governor, and each division is required to have at least four DCMs a year (some divisions meet even more than that).

Information was sent out to clubs in November from Kiwanis International regarding the Distinguished Club Reporting and Membership Plan submissions. Please take the time to review this email and fill out the forms attached to it.

Membership growth should be a goal for every club, and it's important to have a plan to achieve this goal. We will also have an awards ceremony on Friday night at our Midyear Conference to honor those clubs who were distinguished in the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. Immediate Past Governor Josh Hiscock hopes to hand out many awards, so please submit your information.



Speaking of Midyear, registration for our annual Midyear Conference went live December 1. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Cambridge, MD (same location as last year) Feb. 27 – March 1. The committee, led by Liz Moore, is busy planning a wonderful event for attendees so they can go back to their clubs and “Lead With Purpose.”

More details are available in this issue of the Capital Kiwanian; we’ll have great workshops, engaging speakers, an awards night, and a panel during one of the meal sessions on using social media to help increase membership.

Carrie Wagner and the service committee are planning another hands-on service project to happen in conjunction with the event. This year, we will also add a block of time on Saturday with no programming to allow attendees to enjoy the resort. You can book a spa appointment, take a dip in the pool, or even play a round of golf (weather permitting). I hope to see everyone in Cambridge.

As we enjoy the holiday season, it’s a great time to reflect on the importance of the work we do in Kiwanis. Our efforts mean that children will enjoy holiday meals, receive holiday presents, have safe places to play during the holiday break, and much more. Our work is meaningful and appreciated by so many in our communities.

I hope everyone takes some time away from Kiwanis during the holidays. Our work is important, but it’s even more important to recharge and spend the holidays with loved ones.

Corey, Natalie, and I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season, and a happy start to the new year.

In Service,


Governor Tim

CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES!



Share It Loud & Proud

MONTHLY SERIES



LEAD WITH PURPOSE

FEB. 27 - MAR. 1
CAMBRIDGE, MD
2026 CAPITAL DISTRICT MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

Mid Year Conference

featuring an overview of the the conference schedule, lodging, logistics, workshops, and special activities, as well as the benefits of attending for clubs and individuals.

**Kiwanis**
CAPITAL DISTRICT

December 18, 2025
7:00 P.M. EST



Share It Loud & Proud

MONTHLY SERIES



Kiwanis Signature Project Contest

featuring an overview of the contest timeline, tips for filling out the application, and inspiration from previous winners.

**Kiwanis**
CAPITAL DISTRICT

January 15, 2026
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

‘ONE AND DONE’ ISN’T KIWANIS STYLE...

Leadership in Kiwanis is rarely a one-and-done experience. Anyone who has served as a club president knows this well: once you’ve seen what service, teamwork and vision can accomplish, it becomes difficult to step away. That is exactly why past club presidents are among the most valuable — and most naturally prepared — candidates to serve as Lt. Governor.

Serving as Lt. Governor is not simply “moving up the ladder.” It is stepping into a role that amplifies the good you’ve already done at the club level. As a president, you learned how to guide volunteers, strengthen projects, and adapt to your community’s needs. As Lt. Governor, you take that same skill set and expand its impact across multiple clubs, helping more Kiwanians energize their communities.

One of the most important reasons to consider this step is continuity. Kiwanis districts thrive when experienced leaders remain engaged and help newer members grow. After your presidency, you hold a perspective that cannot be taught in a training session: you understand the real challenges clubs face with membership, service project sustainability, time constraints and community visibility. As Lt. Governor, you become the bridge between district leadership and club reality. Your insight helps shape guidance that works — not just in theory, but in practice.

Another compelling reason is the opportunity to mentor. Many Kiwanians join leadership roles because someone once tapped them on the shoulder and encouraged them forward. By running for Lt. Governor, you become that encourager for others. The position naturally places you in conversations with future club presidents, committee

chairs and emerging leaders. Your example and support can influence the next generation of service in ways that last long after your term ends.

The Lt. Governor role is also a tremendous chance for personal growth. You will find yourself leading meetings with a wider audience, navigating diverse club cultures, and facilitating collaboration across communities. These experiences sharpen communication, deepen diplomacy, and strengthen your ability to inspire volunteers — skills that pay dividends both inside and outside Kiwanis. Many past Lt. Governors report that the role not only enriched their service life but enriched their professional and personal lives as well.

Perhaps the most fulfilling reason to run is simple: impact. As a club president, you saw the power of “small” service done consistently. As Lt. Governor, you help multiply that power. When clubs thrive, more children are supported, more communities are uplifted, and the Kiwanis mission grows stronger. Your leadership becomes a force multiplier for good.

If you’ve already given your time as a club president, you’ve shown that leadership and service matter to you. The Lt. Governor role is the natural next step for those who want to keep making a difference — not for recognition, but for the ripple effect it creates.

Kiwanis needs leaders who understand service from the ground up. Past presidents are uniquely equipped to answer that call. The door is open; the district is waiting. Consider stepping forward. Your experience can strengthen the future of Kiwanis.

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

From the Governor-Elect

BY DAVID LURIE

HOLIDAYS 2025: KIWANIS, SERVICE AND YOU

Well, yes, it is that time again, the holiday season.

I love what this season represents – the lights, the gifts, the parties, the family and friends, the stress, and of course – the food! Did you know there are 29 holidays from November to January that are celebrated all around the world? No matter what holiday you celebrate, this is a time to reflect and to appreciate those you love and all we have to be grateful for. No wonder we are so tired and exhausted after Lunar New Year.

Of course, this is also one of the busiest times of the year for Kiwanis clubs and members. Whether it is putting on a community breakfast, selling Christmas trees, or gathering for some club fellowship, this is a time when we truly shine as an organization. This is also a great time to invite new members into Kiwanis. What better way to introduce Kiwanis then when you are doing some of the activities that you enjoy doing the most. Inviting prospective members to join you helps make your projects even more successful. Just make sure you ask them to join – more members are a great gift for any Kiwanis club.

This has also been a busy time for Capital District. Both CKI and Key Club have been deeply involved in preparing for their district conventions in the spring and getting ready to roll out information to their clubs. The Midyear Conference committee is planning for Kiwanians and their guests to join us in Cambridge, Maryland, Feb. 27-March 1. Our membership committee is planning for new club building and supporting club boosts. And please do not miss a chance for our one of our monthly “Share it Loud and Proud” webinars.

I had the chance to visit Kiwanis International in Indianapolis last month along with our Executive Director for my Governor-Elect training. Meeting with my fellow Governor-Elects from around the world was inspiring and educational as I continue to prepare for my year as Governor. We also were made aware of the challenges and barriers that hold us back as well.

Some of the data I received is sobering about club size and membership and we have a lot of work to do.

Right now, my focus is assembling a team of Lt. Governors, Committee Chairs and specialists for us to be able to support our local clubs. If you are interested in serving, please drop me a note. Many of our divisions are currently electing Lt. Governor-Elects to serve next year and their work and training will be starting soon. I would rather have folks be on board early rather than coming on late and having to catch up. We are also always looking for more people to serve at the district level – not only as chairs, but as committee members as well. There is always need for more people in a variety of areas, whether it is as a club leadership educator, working on a new club build, being part of our social media team and the list goes on and on.

Finally, I do want to wish all of you and your families a most wonderful and joyous holiday season. Enjoy the time and then let's get ready to start 2026 strong and have a great year!



(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.)

INTERNATIONAL EXTENDS CKI ASSISTANCE

BY DENNIS BAUGH, PG AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

Over the summer, there was extensive discussion on the future of Circle K International (also known as CKI) throughout the Kiwanis family. At the October board meeting, the KI board took a very positive step. President Michael Mulhaul, who hails from the New Jersey District, distributed an email outlining the board's commitment to CKI.

This article will summarize the highlights of that email. As he writes, there is still work to be done.

Circle K International is an organization that represents the energy, leadership and service spirit of our collegiate members around the world. The board voted to maintain CKI's current structure while focusing on reducing costs and empowering members, alumni and other stakeholders to guide the organization toward long-term sustainability.

To that end, the board directed several key actions:

- Financial responsibility: CKI leadership and staff will reduce the organization's projected budget deficit by \$92,000 in the 2025–26 program year.
- A path to balance: CKI leadership and staff will work to grow membership while reducing the CKI budget so that there is a net loss of not greater than \$30,000 in 2026–27, with the goal of achieving a balanced budget and eliminating operational deficits.
- Continued investment: Kiwanis International will continue to provide CKI with an annual subsidy of \$191,000 during both the 2025-26 and 2026-27 administrative years.
- Collaborative review: A CKI working group – composed of current members, alumni, district administrators, advisors, the board counselor and staff – will convene to evaluate and recommend structural changes

that ensure CKI remains relevant to today's students and responsive to their needs.

- Encouragement of growth: At my recommendation, the board also approved an update to the 2025–26 Distinguished District criteria to include new CKI club growth, recognizing the importance of expanding opportunities for collegiate service.

President Mulhaul wants to emphasize that Kiwanis International firmly believes in the power of our collegiate members – their drive to lead and their passion to serve. Our decisions reflect our continued commitment to, and investment in, Circle K International.

A rising tide will lift the entire Kiwanis family.

(Charlottesville Kiwanian Dennis Baugh, Capital District Governor in 2020-21, continues to serve as a Kiwanis International trustee through September 2026.)

Education News

“SHARE IT LOUD AND PROUD”: MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES BUILDS STRONGER 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

WOLFF JOINS KCF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Capital District Executive Director Jeffrey Wolff was recently installed as a member of the Kiwanis Children's Fund Board of Trustees for a two-year term starting in October of 2025. Jeff is one of a dozen Kiwanians throughout the world responsible for the administration of KI's fundraising arm.



Included in the board's responsibilities:

Implement the Kiwanis International mission, which is to serve the children of the world;

Develop and implement a strategic plan for the Children's Fund;

Ensure the stability and growth of the Children's Fund's corpus funds by cultivating and soliciting financial gifts, as applicable, from individual Kiwanians and friends, businesses and foundations;

Monitor and distribute funds from fundraising programs for grants worldwide.

The current president of the KCF board of directors is Lenora Hanna (front center in the stairwell picture on this issue's cover) from Ashland, Nebraska. The immediate past president is Robert Maxwell from Topeka, Kansas (far left in the cover picture).

Kiwanis International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo (far right on the cover photo) is an ex-officio member of the board.

Jeff's involvement with Kiwanis dates to the 1980s when he was a Key Clubber. He has an outstanding resume of Kiwanis service starting with his involvement in Service Leadership Programs during his high school and college years.

As a Kiwanian representing the Tysons club, he was a Capital District distinguished governor in 2011-12 and became the District's Executive Director in 2020 after serving several years as assistant secretary/treasurer to the late Tom Varner.



76 trombones for Christiansburg Kiwanis

This year, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg celebrated its 76th anniversary of service to the local community and support to the children. The club currently has 83 members and is the largest club in Division 16. Here are a few of the group's major accomplishments:

- In addition to significant financial support, club members provided 4,521 hours of volunteer service to the local community, supporting a large number of activities.
- The club helped reactivate and support the Key Club at Christiansburg High School.
- Thirty-one Kiwanis members had perfect meeting attendance for the year.
- One club member, Steve Simmons, served as Lt. Governor of Division 16 of the Capital District for the past three years. Fellow member Bill Kennan was elected as the incoming Lt. Governor, succeeding Steve.
- The club selected Jim Vanhoozier as the Kiwanian of the Year.

Most of this year's programs are recurring and are geared to support children in the local community. Some of those provided this year include:

- The Head Start Backpack Program. Each Thursday, just before the club's weekly meeting, Kiwanis members met at the Head Start building in Christiansburg and packed up to 40 backpacks for the program's children. The school's meals program provided food for the children on weekdays, and the Kiwanis Backpack Program provided weekend food. Members procured, inventoried, stored food, and packed the bags to support this program.
- Two Walmart gift cards, worth \$550 (\$500 from the Kiwanis Club and \$50 from Walmart), were provided to the seven schools in Christiansburg. These cards were used to buy needed clothing and school supplies for children who could not afford to buy their own. Once the cards begin to reach a low balance, the club replaces them upon request from the schools. Before this program was introduced, teachers and other staff members would often personally pay for these items needed.
- Three \$1,500 college scholarships were awarded to Christiansburg High School students who needed support for their continuing education.
- A Christmas party for approximately 70 children was again held. The club and its members provide toys and clothing with Santa distributing both at the party. Food and drinks were provided for the children and their chaperones. The names of the children who participated in the party were based on need and were selected by the teachers from Christiansburg's schools. Using input from the children's parents, as to the needs and sizes of the clothing, each club member took a child's name and bought clothing. The club funds purchased toys from a want list supplied by the children's parents. This

past year the total cost for the members and the club exceeded \$16,000.

- For children who could not afford the entry fees to participate in sports at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center, Kiwanis paid the cost.
- This year the club donated \$4,000 to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and budgeted an additional \$5,000 for next year.
- Other cash contributions, not mentioned above, were made to: Agency on Aging \$1,500, Intellectual Disabilities Agency of NRV \$2,000, Christiansburg Fire Department \$2,000, Sleep in Heavenly Peace \$1,000, CHS Cheerleaders \$1,500, MJAM \$1,000, and many other smaller donations.
- The club provided annual support in the form of financing and volunteer assistance to Kiwanis Park where improvement on the five-acre expansion is currently underway.
- As a part of the club's outreach program to provide support to the youth of the local community, a partnership exists with the Montgomery County Social Services to provide supplies needed to support the youth and elders served by the agency.
- The club provided football programs for CHS and financial support to the CHS cheerleading squad.
- The club co-sponsored (supplying labor and purchasing prizes) for the Town of Christiansburg's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- The club provided labor to the Montgomery Museum's Heritage Day event, town events, and others.
- The club provided hundreds of hours working with the volunteer-run Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.
- The club continues to fund the Endowment Fund which will grow and ensure the club's long-term survival.

Kiwanis is the promoter of the Wilderness Trail Festival, which is not only the club's largest fundraising project but the largest downtown event in Christiansburg. This event draws an estimated crowd of 10,000 attendees. This year's event had the largest number of vendors in history and saw the largest attendance of all time.

Other sources of Club income are derived from community fundraisers, donations, and grants. All such income goes into the service account and 100 percent of it is funneled back into the local community, with most going to support youth activities. All administrative costs, including meeting meals, are paid for by the members' dues.

The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided service to the local community since its charter was granted in 1949.

– Submitted by Ernie Wade

Archives show Kiwanis challenges don't change much over time...

A dip into the archives of the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington shows that many of the same issues facing Kiwanis clubs today were the same 30, 40 and 50 years ago. The Charlie Clark Center for Local History at Arlington Central Library holds much of the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington's archives of the period from the 1970s to the early 200s in the Arlington Community Archives. They were donated by longtime club member John Marr.

Ten boxes of materials are stored, although one – containing bulkier items – currently has gone missing within the library system's archival facility. Diving into the material provides a fun trip down memory lane. And the items contained within show challenges that would be familiar to modern-day Kiwanians.

Minutes from a meeting in 1972 noted that a number of members were having difficulty maintaining their attendance. That same set of minutes also reported on the cost of meals for club meetings, the recent international convention, and activities at the Key Club of Wakefield High School.

Minutes of the board of directors meeting of Aug. 8, 1874 (the night before Richard Nixon resigned the presidency) reported a discussion about ways to find new members in the 25-to-35-year-old age group. Does that sound familiar? Minutes from the 1970s show a modest downturn in membership, another subject that continues to be a challenge for service clubs.

For those who remember when the club used to open its meetings tunefully, the archives contain a number of "Songs of Kiwanis" booklets, providing the words for songs that had the stamp of approval from Kiwanis International.

While times change, the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington's commitment to the community and youth never wavered. There are letters in the archives from the club to local and even federal leaders, urging support for youth initiatives. The club at one time sponsored a Builders Club at Drew Model School (now Dr. Charles Drew Elementary), and the archives include photos from the 1981 boys and girls Kiwanis soccer teams.

In the broader community, items in the archives show the club's support for the Arlington Civic Symphony in the 1960s and its ongoing support of the Inter-Service Club Council over the decades.

The South Arlington Club is not the only service club whose archives are preserved for the future by the library system. Others include our sibling club, the Kiwanis Club of Arlington. The earlier donation of South Arlington club materials may not be the last. More recent material collected

by the late Harro Wulf may soon be added, giving future researchers and club members a deeper understanding of the organization's history and the people who took part in its activities.

– Submitted by Scott McCaffrey, Kiwanis Club of South Arlington

Winchester Kiwanian scales Mt. Kilimanjaro

Tim Anderson, a fellow Kiwanian and world traveler, shared his hiking experiences with [the Winchester] club at the Oct. 8 lunch meeting. Many years ago, Tim hiked the Appalachian Trail and fell in love with hiking and climbing. ...After hiking to the highest point in the Rockies, Mount Elbert, he gave himself a new goal – hiking the 50 highest points in the United States.

While hiking with his daughter, Brooke, in North Carolina, she came up with the grand plan of hiking Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. This did not happen for quite a while, because Brooke moved to Michigan to get a doctorate and COVID hit our country. Last year, Brooke asked Tim if they were ever going to make this hike, which started the serious planning for this adventure before Tim turned 80. Part of this planning included a lot of working out to ensure they had healthy lungs and strong legs.

On July 3, 2025, Tim and Brooke flew to Amsterdam then on to Tanzania, the closest airport to Mount Kilimanjaro. Their hike began on July 5 as part of a group of 14 hikers, with a guide, and porters that carried the tents and food. Their starting elevation was 7,500 feet with the goal of reaching the summit at 19,341 feet.

It took six-and-a-half days to hike to the summit while going through five different climatic zones. To stay healthy, they had to take medication for altitude sickness, drink a gallon water a day, and consume 3,000-4,000 calories each day. They were very fortunate to have porters to take care of the heavy lifting, setting up tents, and preparing the food. After reaching the summit, they had the long trek back to the beginning. The trip down was a much shorter route, taking one-and-a-half days, however it was much steeper and muddier.

This was a once in a lifetime experience for Tim and Brooke. Their goal was only accomplished through hard work and persistence. Congratulations on your success! Tim has completed 36 of the 50 highest points in the United States and is now planning a trip to Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains of Peru.

Thank you, Tim, for sharing your incredible experience with our club!

(As reported in the November issue of the Winchester, VA newsletter, the Kiwanis Kourier.)

Become a Capital District certified CLE instructor

GUIDE THE LEADERS WHO WILL GUIDE TOMORROW'S KIWANIS CLUBS

BY JENNIFER HISCOCK

If you're passionate about Kiwanis, committed to developing strong club leaders, and eager to make a meaningful impact across the Capital District, an exciting opportunity awaits you. The Capital District is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as Certified Club Leadership Education Instructors. The application process has been streamlined with a new, easy-to-use Certified Club Leadership Education Instructor application form.

This is your chance to share your leadership experience, enhance the strength of clubs throughout the District, and help shape the future of Kiwanis; one officer team at a time.

Why Become a Certified Instructor?

Every year, Kiwanis districts across the country deliver Club Leadership Education (CLE) to equip incoming club officers for their roles. CLE ensures that club leaders understand their responsibilities, operate effectively, and contribute to a positive, thriving club culture.

As a Certified Club Leadership Education Instructor for the Capital District, you will be the face of Kiwanis leadership development within your division. You will guide incoming presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and other officers by helping them to begin their terms informed, confident, and inspired.

The Role: A Three-Year Commitment to Leadership Excellence

This volunteer role will be appointed in increments of three-year terms, and applicants must be prepared to commit for the full duration. To qualify, you must:

- Have served as a Kiwanis club president
- Bring significant experience facilitating adult learning
- Be comfortable using current technology to support and enhance training delivery

Certified Instructors are entrusted with the responsibility of presenting the CLE curriculum accurately and consistently, mirroring Kiwanis International's standards in every division to promote consistency. Your leadership ensures that every



incoming officer, no matter their club's size or location within the Capital District, receives the same high-quality training experience.

What is the Process to Submit an Application?

For any Kiwanis members interested in applying to serve in this position, the Capital District now offers an online [Certified Club Leadership Education Instructor Application Form](#).

Applications will be reviewed promptly by the Leadership & Education Committee following the submission deadline of Jan. 16, 2026. The committee will select candidates who best meet the qualifications and demonstrate a strong commitment to leadership development. Only applications received by the deadline will be considered, and all selection decisions are final. Don't miss your chance to be part of this vital district-wide initiative.

As a Certified Club Leadership Education Instructor, you won't just be teaching officers; you'll be shaping the future success of Kiwanis clubs throughout the Capital District. Your expertise, enthusiasm, and dedication will help clubs grow stronger, serve their communities more effectively, and carry forward the Kiwanis mission with pride. If you're ready to lead leaders, strengthen clubs, and make a lasting impact, we encourage you to complete the new application form and put your experience to work where it matters most.

Apply today and help guide the next generation of Kiwanis leadership!

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

SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND SEASONS GREETINGS FROM CAPITAL DISTRICT K-KIDS AND BUILDERS CLUBS!

If your clubs participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF and raised a minimum of \$50, don't forget to turn in those funds before Dec. 31 so that they don't miss out on receiving banner patch recognition.

It's hard to believe how swiftly time is moving this Kiwanis service year. The next time you hear from me will be in 2026 and I hope you will plan on joining me in watching the Tournament of Roses parade on New Year's Day.

This year's Kiwanis International Rose float is titled "Happy Together" ... representing the values of teamwork and camaraderie embodied by all of the youth service programs throughout the Kiwanis International family. It's my hope that in the new year that will continue to be the experience for everyone in our Kiwanis family.



Why the holiday season matters for our elementary and middle school members.

- Emotional and Social Development
- Cultural and Community Connection
- Positive Reinforcement and Motivation
- Mental Well-Being
- Teaching Life Lessons



HAPPY CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

K-Kids

DECEMBER

T.C. Martin Elementary School, Showell Elementary, Keyser Primary School

JANUARY

Gordon Elementary, Worthington Elementary

Builders

DECEMBER

James Wood Middle, Greenbriar Middle

JANUARY

Poquoson Middle, Tome School

Welcome to the Family

Oct. 1 Ella Fitzgerald Middle School sponsored by Kiln Creek

Oct. 13 Neabsco Mills Elementary sponsored by Woodbridge

BRING UP GRADES (BUG & TERRIFIC KIDS

With the first grading term having been recorded, now is the perfect time for Kiwanians to help students in their community. Here are two low-cost programs that your club can sponsor. Don't forget to include these on your club monthly report!

Shop Bring Up Grades (BUG)

The [Bring Up Grades \(BUG\) Program](#) is designed to motivate and support students in improving their academic performance while fostering a positive learning environment.

Why This Program Matters:

Encourages Academic Growth: This program rewards students who demonstrate effort and improvement, not just high achievement. This approach promotes persistence and resilience.

Builds Confidence: Recognizing progress helps students feel proud of their hard work, which can lead to greater engagement and a stronger sense of accomplishment. Creates a Supportive Culture: By celebrating improvement, we shift the focus from competition to collaboration, encouraging students to help each other succeed.

How It Works:

1. Students who raise their grades in one or more subjects receive recognition through certificates, small incentives, or public acknowledgment.
2. Teachers track progress and provide guidance to help students set realistic goals.
3. The program can include quarterly celebrations to highlight achievements and keep motivation high.

Benefits Beyond Academics:

- Improves self-esteem and confidence.
- Strengthens relationships between students and teachers.
- Encourages a growth mindset that benefits students throughout life.

Shop Terrific Kids

The [Kiwanis Terrific Kids Program](#) celebrates students who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, and kindness. These are the qualities that build stronger communities and brighter futures. By sponsoring this program, you help us recognize and encourage young people who go above and beyond — not just in academics, but in making their schools and neighborhoods better places.

Why Your Support Matters:

- **Positive Reinforcement:** Students are motivated to develop respect, responsibility, and integrity.
- **Community Engagement:** Your sponsorship shows that local businesses and organizations care about youth development.
- **Recognition and Rewards:** Contributions fund certificates, awards, and events that make these achievements memorable.

What You'll Receive as a Sponsor:

- Public acknowledgment at school ceremonies and in program materials.
- Your logo featured on flyers, banners, and social media posts.
- The satisfaction of knowing you've invested in the next generation of leaders.

SERVICE STORIES – SHARE YOUR IMPACT!

I'd love to spotlight your Kiwanis Kids, Builders Club, BUG, or Terrific Kids program. Sharing their stories matters because it demonstrates the real value of Kiwanis in developing youth leadership and character. These stories prove that our programs work—and why not brag a little about the amazing things being done by young servant leaders with our support?

SHOP MERCHANDISE

[Shop | K-Kids Products](#) [Shop | Builders Club Products](#)

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

Service Showcase

COUNTDOWN BEGINS: SIGNATURE PROJECT STORY STARTS NOW

BY CARRIE WAGNER

Every year, across our Capital District, something extraordinary comes to life.

Clubs take an idea—a spark of service—and turn it into impact. You help children discover the confidence to dream bigger, support youth programs and preschools, champion literacy and leadership, and volunteer countless hours to ensure every child in our communities has the chance to thrive.

You are hosting events, selling items, cooking pancakes at sunrise, grilling BBQ, serving sodas at festivals, and raising funds in every creative way possible—all to change the lives of children right here in our District. You do it with humility, with servant hearts, with teamwork, and with the mission to make children's lives better. You build playgrounds, develop partnerships, create opportunities, and bring smiles to families who count on Kiwanis.

That spark?

That story?

That's your Signature Project.

And beginning Jan. 6, the 2026 Capital District Signature Project Contest officially opens—your moment to showcase the transformational work your club brings to your community each year.

Your Signature Project: A Story Worth Sharing

Before we talk about forms, rules, or deadlines, pause for a moment and think about this:

- The child who gained access to books for the first time;
- The preschool that received vital support;
- The student who earned a scholarship toward a brighter future;

- The volunteers who showed up—again and again—to make it all possible;
- The friendships built and the community strengthened, the new members who joined;
- The playground that now echoes with laughter;

Kiwanis clubs are not just running projects.

You are building lifelines, creating memories, inspiring hope, and sparking confidence in the children you serve.

Why Enter the Contest?

Clubs don't enter to win awards—they enter to celebrate impact.

By submitting your Signature Project, you:

1. Tell your story;
2. Inspire other clubs;
3. Strengthen partnerships and donor relations;
4. Energize your members;
5. Create legacy;
6. You have FUN!

2025-2026 Contest Criteria:

Your project must:

1. Take place annually;
2. Enhance the Kiwanis brand;
3. Demonstrate significant community impact;
4. Create opportunities for membership growth;
5. Include community partnerships;



Tier Levels for 2025-2026:

- Tier 1: Clubs with 27 or fewer members
- Tier 2: Clubs with 28 or more members

How to Prepare a Strong Entry:

- A vibrant and clear project description;
- The community need your project meets;
- Impact results;
- Community partners involved;
- Photos;
- A narrative that captures the heart of the project.

A December Call to Action:

Let's use December to get ready.

Let's gather photos, celebrate volunteers, talk with partners, and reflect on how our projects came to life this year.

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

Let's proudly—yes, proudly—share our impact.

Kiwanis service is humble, but it also is powerful. Our clubs show up with servant hearts, ready hands, and joyful spirits. We volunteer, we fundraise, we build friendships, and we change lives.

Let's enter the contest.

Let's tell our wonderful stories.

Let's celebrate how we serve—and how we create Signature Projects that make an impact on our children, our members, and our communities.

I cannot wait to see your entries—and read every single one alongside my incredible committee. The Capital District is filled with heart, leadership, and service. Your stories deserve to shine.

One Last Tip:

Entering the Signature Project Contest also earns your club 5 points toward becoming a Distinguished Club for 2025–2026.

All you have to do is submit an entry.

Our Firm Foundation



Grants awarded to local clubs

BY DON WITT

The Capital District Kiwanis Foundation actively supports local Kiwanis clubs in their mission to serve the children of their communities by awarding financial grants. The Foundation recently awarded grants to five Kiwanis Clubs throughout the District, enabling them to fund specific, high-impact community programs.

The following clubs received funding. Accompanying details describe how the Foundation's support will be utilized:

- **Leesburg Club (\$1,250):** The funds will supplement the purchase of new and gently used books for local HeadStart/STEP children. The club is also initiating a program to receive donated books.
- **Tri-Rivers Club (\$1,250):** This grant focuses on early childhood development. The funds will be used to provide interactive learning experiences, specifically utilizing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.
- **Churchland Club (\$1,500):** The club will team up with the Salvation Army to fund Santa Stockings and purchase gifts for a number of "Angels" during the holiday season.
- **Haymarket Club (\$1,250):** The grant will allow the club to purchase and install Little Free Library book-sharing boxes to be located in community parks, promoting literacy access.
- **Waynesboro Club (\$5,000):** The Foundation is supporting the purchase of all-inclusive, nature-themed playground equipment for a significant \$90,000+ playground project located adjacent to the local greenway.



**Capital District
Kiwanis Foundation**

In addition to the standard grant program, the foundation has initiated a min-grant program whereby smaller grants can be requested and received within a 30-60 day turn around. Three grants have been approved to date, offering \$500 each, just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas programs.

Seeking Foundation Support?

The Capital District Kiwanis Foundation awards grants twice a year to ensure continuous support for club projects. All clubs are invited to request funding. The next application deadline is March 15. Application Link: <https://f03.site.kiwanis.org/grant-application/>

(Don Witt, from the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, serves as president of the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation.)

Disaster Recovery Funds Support Salvation Army

By OTHA BRITTON

About six months ago, on Father's Day, torrential rains fell upon Marion County and the Wheeling area of West Virginia, causing extensive flooding which destroyed many homes and severely damaged others. Lives were lost in the Wheeling area, but thankfully none were lost in Marion County.

A call for donations went out to Kiwanis members and clubs within the Capital District. Donations for the disaster relief effort poured in, totaling approximately \$12,000. On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Larissa Cason, president-elect of the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation, presented the Salvation Army Family Store in Fairmont with a disaster relief check in the amount of \$6,000 to help reimburse them for assistance provided to victims of the flood. A similar check will be presented to assist with the recovery in the Wheeling area. The local Kiwanis Club of Fairmont presented an additional check for \$500 to assist with food distribution.

During the June 15 flooding, several communities in Marion County were affected. Locust Avenue, where the Salvation Army is located, was one of the hardest hit areas. Dozens of people were displaced, several businesses were affected significantly, and the Fairmont Village Apartments completely collapsed.

The Salvation Army had at least two feet of standing runoff and sewer water throughout its entire building. It needed complete remediation and repair, which took several months to complete. During that time, the Salvation Army managed to set up temporary aid outside the store for the community.

Rachel Boyce, Service Center Manager for the Salvation Army in Fairmont, said, "We talked to many residents whose homes were flooded or irreparably damaged. We spoke to many of the residents from the apartment building collapse, as well as neighbors just behind the Salvation Army who lost their vehicles and anything in the basements of their homes. Many others didn't know what they were going to do moving forward, seeing that they didn't even have a bed to sleep on."

It was estimated that 6,500 residents were affected on June 15. The weeks following the flood the Salvation Army distributed 30 disaster cleaning buckets including



such essentials as gloves, garbage bags, mops, brushes, cleaner, and towels.

They also distributed nearly 50 other cleaning items, including bleach, sponges, paper towels, laundry soap, and dish soap. They handed out nearly 60 food boxes, clothing to over 40 individuals, cases and liters of water, baby items, 25 mattresses, and nearly 50 hygiene kits for those displaced. In addition, a frequent call they received was for pet food. Many of these items were donated by generous community members.

Through the end of October and the beginning of November, the Salvation Army has started to see some of the flood victims return to fulfill full clothing vouchers, which they have finally been able to provide since their reopening.

Boyce further stated, "Looking ahead, we at the Salvation Army wish to always do the most good in our community, and with this generous grant, we know that can be possible. We believe preparedness is the next best step for serving the community. We are profoundly grateful for your partnership and generosity during this critical time. Your support will not only help us rebuild after the flood but also position us to respond swiftly and compassionately when future crises arise.

"Together, we will restore hope and stability to our neighbors in need."

(Otha Britton, a Kiwanian in the Fairmont, WV club, is a former governor of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District.)

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

SO HOW DO YOU EARN A KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL GRANT, ANYHOW?

BY JOHN TYNER

OK, my friends, pay attention if you seek a KCF grant – everything you need to know to apply is here at this 8-page link to download:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/GDKCF-1023-271-Guide-to-Club-Grants.pdf>

If you have been reading these articles over the recent months, you will know why we are raising money for our grant program, basic "how-to-apply" stuff, examples of where money raised has enriched Kiwanis clubs' efforts to provide service and how you can organize your own club to raise funds in your community.

Kids need all of us to help with: (1) Health and Nutrition, (2) Education and Literacy, and (3) Youth Leadership Development. At the Kiwanis Children's Fund, our mission is to transform the goodwill and vision of Kiwanians into programs that serve the children of the world. One of the ways we do this is by providing grants to Kiwanis clubs.

A club grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund can help fill a gap in funding for a service project in your community or elsewhere. The project must address children's needs in one of the Kiwanis causes, or a combination of those causes. Successful club grants support projects that can be sustained by your club to create a lasting impact in a child's life – one that spans their entire childhood and sets them up for a bright future.

In this guide, we help you determine whether your project is eligible for a club grant and show you how to apply. Club grants are just one way the Children's Fund helps Kiwanis

clubs help kids. If your club has 35 members or fewer and a limited service budget, see if our Microgrant Program is the right fit for you.

Download the guide and read:

What makes a good grant project. page 1
How to apply for a grant page 3
Deadlines. page 5
Resources page 6

I don't need to repeat what you can read – it is all in the guide. You can even call or email KCF staff. That may be very important to you as you first write your "Letter of Intent" before you elaborate in detail your grant request.

Don't forget -- your project must:

- **Be Kiwanis-led.** This means at least 50 percent of the work must be performed by Kiwanians or Kiwanis family members. The more time your club invests in development, coordination, fundraising and implementation of your project, the more you will deepen your impact and spread the Kiwanis story in your community.
- **Fill a need within your community.** Determine that need by completing the community needs assessment.
- **Include programming that recurs at least once per year.**
- **Support activities within at least one Kiwanis cause area:** health and nutrition, education and literacy, and/or youth leadership development.
- **Receive at least 25 percent of total funding from your club** (i.e., member donations,

fundraisers, the club's bank account or the club's foundation).

- **Require no more than 40 percent of total funding from the Children's Fund.**
- **Have at least one non-Kiwanis funding partner to provide monetary donations that will increase the project's viability.** Funding partners could include local churches, schools, non-profits or other community organizations.
- **Spend the grant money within 12 months** of when the grant was awarded.

Your project is INELIGIBLE if:

- The grant is intended to establish financial reserves or to fund projects that create a profit.
- It is already completed or is an expense that has been paid, such as a loan or reimbursement.
- The grant is intended to cover operating expenses or salaries of established programs and institutions.
- Funding is more appropriately provided by a local government or institution.
- It is a one-time event, a sponsorship, a scholarship, a fellowship, a donation to another nonprofit organization or individual assistance.
- It is for scientific research or medical study.
- It consists of training expenses, travel or lodging.
- It is a capital construction project or land/building purchase.

- Your Kiwanis club is not in good standing with Kiwanis International.

It is a lot to consider, isn't it? Like anything else you do in your club, writing up a grant will take up a whole lot of planning. Since you are requesting a matching grant, a lot of your effort will be to find partners for what you want to do. This is when consulting with KCF staff can be very helpful to keep you on the right track.

Cheer up! Many clubs have done great jobs with their grant requests and have been funded by KCF. Capital has been just as successful. In my February-March 2025 article, I told you that 10 grants totaling \$55,000 came back to our clubs, impacting more than 25,000 children since the start of our campaign. FYI, here are several grants awarded in the August 2025 cycle that benefited children:

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Heights, VA – Early Childhood Read Aloud Program – The club will work with the local school district to address the literacy needs of kindergarten students. Recent enactment of the Virginia Literacy Act has led to a shortage of aligned instructional materials, making it difficult for teachers to fully implement the new curriculum. To meet this need, the club members will lead monthly read-aloud sessions using pre-selected children's books. These sessions will enhance vocabulary knowledge and comprehensive skills, laying a strong foundation for early reading success. Additionally, the program will enrich classroom libraries by permanently adding the read-aloud books, offering opportunities for re-reading and reinforcement of vocabulary.

Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro, VA – Waynesboro South River Greenway Kiwanis Nature Playground – The club will partner with its Parks and Recreation Department, community foundation and health agency to develop the Kiwanis Nature Playground. This project addresses a critical need for enhanced health resources and support systems in the community by providing a nature-themed playground that promotes

outdoor recreational activities, environmental education, and community engagement for children of all abilities. The playground will feature natural play elements to inspire environmental awareness and stewardship. It will serve as a safe, engaging environment that encourages physical activity, creativity, and social interaction among children. The playground's design includes a Poured-In-Place foundation, which ensures accessibility for children with mobility aids.

Kiwanis Club of Nilgiri, Nepal – Program for Sight-Disabled School-aged Children – The club will partner with local government entities, as well as public and private schools, to expand its existing eye screening program to 103 schools in two additional Nepali districts. The program performs visual acuity screenings and refers children with poor vision to eye-health professionals for treatment. This project addresses the critical gap in ophthalmic health services in these districts, where many children suffer from various eye conditions due to lack of awareness, high temperatures, and undeveloped healthcare infrastructure. The project will be implemented by trained club members who will perform the initial screenings. If a visual impairment or eye abnormality is found, the student will be referred to on-site professionals from the local hospital or eye care facility.

Kiwanis Club of Lebanon, MO – Lebanon Kiwanis Kids Christmas Shopping – The club will partner with five local and rural school districts to identify students from middle to lower-income families in need of weather-appropriate clothing. The students, selected by the partnering schools, will receive a budget of \$125 each to shop for clothing, with each child paired with a volunteer to ensure the budget is maintained. Through this project, club members aim to provide warmth, boost self-esteem, and enhance academic focus by addressing the student's clothing needs.

"That's All" for now, folks! Deciding on submitting a Letter of Intent, then

a grant request, can really galvanize your club members into thinking about what they can do to help your community. You may find a couple of winners among those who are generally inactive back-benchers. Challenge all and they will deliver a worthy request for your club.

Have a great holiday season this year, and see you again in Cambridge for our Midyear Conference Feb. 27-March 1.



(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.

Words from International President Michael Mulhail...

To grow and thrive together as an organization, we as Kiwanis members must work hand in hand – uplifting one another within our local communities while fostering collaboration with districts around the world.



When we encourage one another and work together, we can make a real difference in the lives of children and families everywhere.

One way to enhance our combined efforts is by applying the 80-10-10 Rule to service and funds:

- 80 percent dedicated to your club and community projects
- 10 percent supporting initiatives within your district
- 10 percent contributing to global causes

This balanced approach ensures that our efforts nurture our hometowns while extending compassion beyond our borders — especially in times of crisis. Whether through supporting communities in Jamaica, Taiwan, the Philippines or other parts of the world affected by recent disasters, our global Kiwanis network continues to demonstrate the power of unity and service. Together, we bring hope, healing and meaningful change wherever it's needed most, embodying the true spirit of Kiwanis.

Yours in Kiwanis service and friendship,

Michael Mulhail

2025-26 Kiwanis International President

A new fundraising campaign milestone

The Kiwanis Possibility Project is our campaign to positively and significantly impact 10 million children around the globe by raising US\$25 million. We're proud to share that over US\$9 million in cash and pledges have been raised — impacting 4 million children by funding local club service projects. Thank you, Kiwanians, for your generosity and continued support of our mission to help children. Join the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve. And spread the word! See how you can give and get involved at kiwanis.org/possibilityproject.

Encourage youth members to beautify their communities

During the Global Kickoff 2025 on October 1, K-Kids and Builders Club members learned that this year's Global Service Project is asking their clubs to do a beautification project — one that cleans up, improves or creates a space in their community.

Kiwanis clubs that sponsor K-Kids and Builders Clubs can increase their impact by encouraging them to take part in the challenge! If your club sponsors K-Kids clubs and Builders Clubs, share the Global Service Project 2025 video with them! Ask them to create a project and share their results with your club — and with the Kiwanis family, through our K-Kids Share a Story form or Builders Club Share a Story form.

New gear and holiday cheer

The [Kiwanis Family Store](#) can help you and your fellow members spread some cheer this holiday season:

- Check out our newest arrivals. Add a [new polo color or woven shirt](#) to your Kiwanis wardrobe and stay warm with some [cozy socks](#). Stay sporty with our [new waffle quarter zip or rugby items](#) or top it off with a [scarf and hat](#) set.
- [Kiwanis stockings and holiday hats](#) are perfect for stuffing with treats — and for collecting donations. Outfit volunteers in branded gear so everyone associates Kiwanis with the good work you do.
- [Kiwanis-branded cards](#) will keep you and your club connected. Send an end-of-year wish. Include a photo of your favorite club activity or a memorable moment together.
- Order [holiday sweatshirts](#). They make a great gift for someone in your club or district — or a treat for yourself.
- Stack, wear and share [Kiwanis jewelry](#). A variety of prices make it easy to wish people a happy holiday season with sparkle and shine.

Keep the holiday spirit going for Kiwanis members. Have some fun and make someone smile!

Manila is calling...

Registration began Dec. 1 for the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention – and for our joint event, the Asia Pacific (ASPAC) Region's 2026 convention. We'll all gather in Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. Known for its mix of the modern and the historic, Manila is a great place for fun fellowship and education.



Register by Feb. 2 to get the lowest rates. (Registration closes April 13.) And continue to follow KI messages as the event approaches. We'll update the latest news and details regarding various convention topics – leadership, membership, Service Leadership Programs, Kiwanis Children's Fund, as well as cultural and entertainment opportunities. The convention runs June 24-27.

Convention Kickoff Day is Thursday, June 25. The Opening Session will include pageantry appropriate to this unique joint event – including an address from the keynote speaker, yet to be named.

The Best of Kiwanis Asia Pacific Cultural Showcase will allow districts from the Asia Pacific Region to exhibit their projects, culture and art – with appropriate merchandise available for purchase.

If you are planning to attend the convention in Manila, Capital District Executive Director Jeff Wolff highly recommends that you book your reservation now. The link to the convention hotels is here: <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-manila/hotels/>

There are NO assigned district hotels for Manila, Jeff reports, but all activities of the convention will take place in the Marriott Manila. Therefore, that will probably be the first hotel to sell out. [You can book the Marriott Manila by clicking here.](#) The hotel negotiated rates are available for three days before and three days after the convention.

Reconnect Key Club, CKI Alumni

Did you know the Kiwanis family offers a vibrant alumni community for former members of Key Club and CKI? We've created dedicated platforms for both CKI and Key Club alumni to:

- Reconnect with old friends and fellow alumni around the world.
- Discover events, networking and mentorship opportunities.
- Stay updated on ways to give back and support the next generation of student leaders.

Former members also can self-select as an alum in Kiwanis Engage — it's a quick and easy way to let us know they're part of the alumni community and to stay connected through future updates. Please let your clubs know about this opportunity — and if you're an alum, join today!

Kiwanis Voices welcomes young adults

Our new pilot program, [Kiwanis Voices](#), is underway! It's an opportunity to create **Kiwanis clubs specifically for young adults ages 18-26** — and to help bridge the gap between Kiwanis youth programs and traditional Kiwanis clubs. In fact, clubs like yours are crucial: A sponsoring Kiwanis club is required for the launch of a Kiwanis Voices club. See how you can help bring the energy and passion of young adults into our organization! Find details and resources on the [program's webpage](#) — including links to a fact sheet, applications and a five-step guide to organizing a Kiwanis Voices club.

Show unity and purpose with the Kiwanis brand!

Your club makes an impact in your community — so make sure your community recognizes the Kiwanis name! One way to live your leadership out loud is through Kiwanis-branded gear. And with gift-giving season around the corner, some of our items can help fellow members show their pride in their club.

Planning an event to support your community? [Apparel and accessories](#) that feature the Kiwanis logo can amplify your efforts. In fact, showcasing the Kiwanis brand demonstrates unity and purpose. When a group of volunteers wear the Kiwanis brand, people feel cared for — which is the heart of what Kiwanis members do. [Check out the new "Life is short" T-shirt.](#)

New members also can benefit. With branded apparel, new members feel like part of the team from the start. Supplying them with apparel and accessories fosters a sense of belonging and pride.

Kiwanis leaders project confidence when they wear branded gear. Community leaders instantly recognize your connection to the work you do and the causes you support. That's because looking the part encourages opportunities for new community relationships. Check out the new men's dress shirts, women's tunics, scarves and jewelry.

Visit the [Kiwanis Family Store](#) today and shop the full selection of apparel and accessories.

How to retain resigning members

A CONVERSATION WITH THE RIGHT PERSON COULD CONVINCE SOMEONE TO STAY.

(Reprinted from the October 2025 Kiwanis Magazine)

Thousands of people are removed from Kiwanis club rosters each year. Here's what we know. Most of them don't leave because they dislike Kiwanis or don't believe in our mission. Many leave when life circumstances get in the way, or they've come to feel disconnected from the other members.

So when a Kiwanian decides not to renew their membership, what can you and your club do?



The personal touch is often the best approach. Among club members, who could have a conversation with the resigning member to discuss the value they bring to Kiwanis and the community?

Here are a few possibilities to consider:

Membership chair or committee member. This is a logical answer, since recruitment and retention are the official responsibilities of the membership chair or committee. But is this the person who knows the most about the member? If your membership chair is, in fact, influential in retaining members, ask that person to talk with the member. Questions they could ask: Is there a better option for their membership – for instance, can the member become a satellite member, which allows a member to remain in your club while retaining some flexibility on meeting times and service projects?

Chair of the member's favorite project. This is often the best answer. What is the member's favorite project? Ask the chair of that project to connect with the resigning member. What's the value they bring to the project – and what will the project miss because the member is no longer involved? What ideas does the member have for improving the project?

Board members. Many clubs take a list of members they fear may be leaving the club and divide the names between the clubs board members – who then contact the assigned member to have a conversation. Make sure the board members know as much as possible about each member they will contact, including their membership history, how and why they joined, and why they're planning to leave.

Sponsor. Who brought the member to the club? Why did they feel that person was right for Kiwanis? Ask the sponsor to reach out and remind the member why they were invited to join. Dig deep – is something missing from their club experience? Are your service projects no longer relevant for them? What is the member's passion? Can the club find a way to connect that passion to a current project – or even start a new service project or fundraiser?

Best Kiwanis friend. Every member has that one fellow club member they rely on or feel closest to. Who do they sit next to during meetings? Who do they "buddy up" with on projects? Why would this person miss the resigning member?

No matter which club member is the best person to speak with a resigning member, the key is to have the conversation – rather than accepting that a person is leaving. Sometimes just knowing that someone in the club cares enough to notice is a powerful incentive to stay. And the more a fellow member or set of members know about the resigning member personally, the more likely they are to convince them to stay – by being responsive to what they seek from Kiwanis membership.

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

December

Marion, VA	1922
Towson-Timonium, MD	1928
Westminster, MD.....	1931
Clintwood, VA	1937
Chincoteague, VA	1946
Loch Raven, MD	1950
Hampden-Midtown, Baltimore, MD ...	1952
Virginia Beach, VA.....	1954
Haymarket-Gainesville, VA	2022

January

Huntington, WV	1919
Portsmouth, VA.....	1920
Lynchburg, VA	1920
Norton, VA	1921
Radford, VA.....	1923
Bridgeville, DE	1939
Bethesda, MD	1945
Blue Ridge, Winchester, VA	1990
Grafton, VA	1991
Downtown Hampton, VA	2009
Mathews, VA	2023

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 2-4

Culpeper, VA (Div 9)

April 28-30

Pt. Pleasant, WV (Div 20)

July 13-15

Cumberland, MD (Div 8)

September 14-16

BEYOND THE CALL

Past Governor Joe Hillier, Kiwanis Club of Chester

The Chester community lost an icon on October 20, 2025, with the passing of Dr. Joseph C. Hillier, 87. The Kiwanis Club of Chester lost one of its founders and a champion for Kiwanis.

Dr. Joe grew up in Chester, attended school, college and dentistry school in Virginia, served in the U.S. Navy and practiced dentistry in his hometown for more than 50 years. He survived pancreatic cancer only to have it return two years later.

A visionary community leader, he helped found both the Chester Jaycees and the Kiwanis Club of Chester, served as the 1985-86 Governor of the Capital District for Kiwanis International, and played a key role in local infrastructure improvements, including the expansion of Rt. 10.

Through 53 consecutive years of

perfect attendance with the Kiwanis Club, he exemplified unwavering commitment, leadership, and a deep-rooted passion for service.

Joe's impact on the community was evident in the outpouring of support at his memorial service at St. John's Episcopal Church with the overflow attendance including Kiwanians from many clubs, as well as the District and International levels.

The Kiwanis Club of Chester is in the process of establishing the Dr. Joseph C. Hillier Scholarship to be given annually to a high school senior to attend a four-year college, university or a community college.

Joe's impact on the community will continue. He will be missed.

– Submitted by Pat Dvorak, Kiwanis Club of Chester



The mountains are calling... and so is Midyear 2026!

Author John Muir once said, “The mountains are calling, and I must go.” If you’ve ever spent a night under the stars, with the crackle of a campfire and the scent of pine in the air, you know exactly what he meant.

This February, we’re answering that call — and we want you to join us!

From Feb. 27 – March 1, 2026, we’re gathering at the stunning Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina in Cambridge, Maryland for an unforgettable Midyear Conference. Surrounded by breathtaking views and the warmth of our Kiwanis community, this event promises inspiration, fellowship, and growth.

Whether you’re a seasoned camper or a first-time midyear attendee, this weekend is designed to help you:

- Lead with purpose
- Connect with intent
- Grow with integrity

So, pack your flannel, bring your curiosity, and get ready to trade your screens for (indoor) starry skies. It’s time to learn, laugh, and make lasting memories together. We can’t wait to see you there!

Save the Date: February 27 – March 1, 2026

**Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa,
and Marina | Cambridge, MD**

