

The Capital

February/March 2026

KIWANIAN

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



**MARCH 4-WARD FOR KIDS
AND PEDIATRIC TRAUMA**

**LEAD WITH PURPOSE AT
DISTRICT MIDYEAR**



Kiwanis®

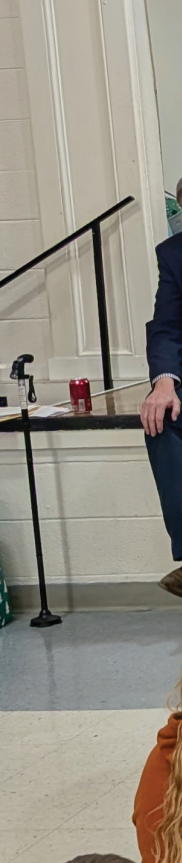
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COVER: Kiwanis Club of the Greenbrier Valley partnered with Chico's Mexican Restaurant in Ronceverte by providing a new book box for the community to encourage kids to read.





On Dec. 18, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg held its annual children's Christmas party for 60 children and their parents or guardians.



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

Mary Kay Olashuk
Weirton, WV

MAGAZINE EDITOR

John Montgomery
editor@capitalkiwanis.org

MAGAZINE DESIGNER

Jennifer Wolff

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Governor's Message

TIM GILLETTE, 2025-26 GOVERNOR



HERE TO HELP YOU LOOK GOOD

Happy New Year, Capital District! I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy some time for rest and relaxation during the holiday season.

In early January, I had the pleasure of attending the Americas Governors Conference at Kiwanis International's Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. Governors from across North America met to discuss how the first three months went, how to plan for the rest of the year, and to enjoy time with each other.

While all the governors had great things to share, there was one thing said that sparked my attention. My friend Blair, Governor of the Utah-Idaho District, summed up his job as this: "It's my job to make you (the clubs) look good... if you look good, we all look good." This simple line sums up everything that we do as District Leadership. From new club building to education, conventions to contests, and webinars to visits – the message is clear... we're here to help you look good!

When something looks good, it drives others to want to be a part of it. That's why it's important to share our stories... let the community know that we're here and we're doing great things. My friend Barry, Governor of the Georgia District, has an acronym for his District this year – K.I.D.S. Kiwanis Is Doing Something. We are doing something; we're doing a lot. Every time a club submits an entry into the Signature Project contest, I am sent a copy of the application. I'm amazed at all the great things we're doing to support the children in our communities.



Sometimes, however, we get drawn into the things that could go wrong. My friend John, Governor of the Texas-Oklahoma District, led the group in a reverse brainstorming activity. We were each given a scenario, and instead of working through ways to make the situation better, we tried to come up with ways to make the situation worse. You should have seen the things we came up with. We do this sometimes subconsciously when we're thinking through new ideas. We're afraid of the "bad" things that may happen, so we're afraid to step out of our comfort zone.

During the meeting, we were asked to describe the first three months of our terms. When it was my turn, without hesitation I yelled, "Chaos!" The room chuckled, but I quickly explained that chaos isn't necessarily bad. Sure, chaos causes uncertainty, anxiety, and aggravation at times; but without chaos, we would never have change, innovation, and progress. Einstein once said, "Order is needed by the ignorant, but it takes a genius to master chaos." With all due respect to Einstein, I don't think it takes a genius, it takes a dedicated team and the willingness to move forward. I encourage you all to cause chaos!

I encourage you all to register for our Midyear Conference in Cambridge, MD. The conference committee, chaired by Liz Moore from Mount Airy, has planned an exciting weekend. Friday we'll have recognition and s'mores. Saturday it's education, fellowship, and speakers. Sunday we'll be inspired to serve.

On Saturday, we're providing a break in the action so event attendees can enjoy the beautiful resort. Did I mention the Hospitality Suites? Conference attendees will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with Kiwanians from all over the District in the suites. You'll be able to enjoy a snack and a drink, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones.

I'm particularly excited to hear from our Keynote Speaker, Erica Kane. Erica has years of experience as a media professional ranging from TV, radio, podcasts, voiceovers, etc. She's an on-air personality at WPGC 95.5 FM in Washington, DC. In addition to her media career, she's done a lot of work with non-profits in the DMV, the acronym commonly used to describe the Washington metro. She's on the board of directors of an organization called Lalia's Gift, an organization that recognizes and celebrates children with special needs and disabilities. Erica and I went to high school together at McNair Academic High School in Jersey City, NJ, and are both proud graduates of the Class of 1999. I'm excited for everyone to hear her story.

I hope as the calendar now reads 2026, we all have a renewed energy to spread the Kiwanis mission to our communities. I look forward to seeing you in Cambridge!

Always remember... "Progress Isn't Quiet!"

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Hittke". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a cursive "Hittke".

Governor Tim



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

PUT THESE IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Believe it or not, March represents the middle of our Kiwanis year and also the beginning of Spring, which I'm sure we are all looking forward to as we exit the cold weather.

Midyear Conference. You'll probably see several articles (within this publication and elsewhere) and emails mentioning our Kiwanis Midyear Conference happening **Feb. 27-March 1** at the **Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort and Spa**. If you are still on the fence about attending, I strongly encourage it.

Not only is this one of the nicest properties we have ever used for a Kiwanis event, but we have an excellent lineup of workshops and speakers for you. Best of all, there will be great fellowship including S'mores over firepits and networking opportunities that you won't want to miss. [Visit the website](#) for all of the information and to register.

Kiwanis Election Season. Shortly after the Midyear Conference is the time where our clubs and divisions are electing new leadership. Each of your clubs should be planning now for its Annual Meeting. Per your club bylaws, this is a meeting held between **Jan. 1 and May 15** with at least 30 days' notice to all members. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect your 2026-27 club board of directors and to amend your club's mandatory policies, if necessary.

Each of our divisions will also be holding a Divisional Council Meeting (DCM) to elect the new lieutenant governors and lieutenant governors-elect who will lead their respective divisions in 2026-27 and 2027-28. The position of lieutenant governor is vitally important to keeping Kiwanis clubs strong and healthy so they can do more service in their communities. Divisions create a sense of belonging and fellowship between Kiwanis clubs; they can enhance everyone's projects and programs.

Once you have served as president of your club, Kiwanis really looks to you to step up and serve as a lieutenant governor. Lieutenant governors are asked to visit their clubs and the Capital District reimburses its lieutenant governors for mileage to travel to club meetings. The District also provides stipends to District and International conferences for our lieutenant governors, so you get additional Kiwanis education and fellowship opportunities as part of the position. If you are eligible, I strongly encourage you to consider the position of lieutenant governor, if not for the upcoming year starting Oct. 1, 2026, then for the following year.

NOTE: On Oct. 1, 2026, Division 3 clubs will merge into Division 1 and Division 6 clubs will merge into Division 4, so lieutenant governor elections for Divisions 1 and 4 will look a little different this Spring.

Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines. If you are looking for a truly unique Kiwanis experience this year, I encourage you to consider our International Convention (ICON) in Manila this summer. Registration for Kiwanis ICON is already open and the rate of \$409 will increase by \$100 after Feb. 2, but registration is only open through April 13, so decide soon.

The Capital District will have a smaller delegation than at most ICONs, but we'll be there. The convention takes place **June 24-27, 2026** in conjunction with the Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Conference. The entire event is happening within the headquarters property, Marriott Hotel Manila. For more information about registration and hotel accommodations, please [visit the website](#).

As always, if you need any information from me or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at jeffrey.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org

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

From the Governor-Elect

BY DAVID LURIE

DREAMS OF THE FUTURE: MAKE PLANS NOW

I know a lot of people really do not like this time of year a lot – after all, it is cold and dreary and we're in the midst of a massive storm. The holidays are over; the decorations are put away; we all are wondering how high our heating bill will be this month.

However, there is always the future to look toward, like when gardeners get that seed catalogue in the mail. They start looking through it and then they begin to make plans. What beautiful flowers and vegetables will they grow this year? Where in the yard will they plant them? They start ordering supplies in anticipation of the day they can go outside and start turning over earth. It cannot get here fast enough.

Spring will be here before we know it, and this is a great time to plan what your club can accomplish when the warm weather returns. While there are some clubs who still get outdoors in January and February for service projects or fundraisers (like my own club, holding its 3rd Annual Polar Dip Feb. 7), this is a good time to assess what your club has done so far and make plans for how you are going to meet this year's goals. What service projects are you planning? When is the club summer barbeque going to be held? The list goes on and on.

You know what else this is a good time to do? Invite new members into Kiwanis! Now is a good time to bring in new members (well, anytime is, actually). Imagine how much more you could accomplish if you had one, two or 10 more members. Continue to work on your club's recruitment and orientation plans to help your club grow. Enable those new members to be able to contribute right away! And if you are looking for some good ideas, plan on joining us at the Midyear Conference Feb. 27-March 1 in Cambridge, MD. We are returning to the same place we were last year; there is still time to register and join us for a fun weekend of fellowship and education.

This is also a good time to be thinking about future leadership in your club. We are filling out our 2026-27 district leadership team; there are still four divisions (12, 16, 17, and 19) who need Lt. Governors. We need those individuals soon as we are already ramping up training and have our in-person planning conference planned in late April in Ocean City. We also will

be voting on new trustees for the National Capital and Delmarva regions the afternoon of Feb. 28 at the Midyear Conference.

Clubs should also be looking at who is going to lead their clubs in the future. April and May are annual club meeting times and clubs should be thinking about who will lead their club come Oct. 1 for the 2026-27 year. Club Leadership Education workshops will start in May so that officers have time to prepare and coordinate with the outgoing officers for a smooth transition. I also encourage leaders to enroll in the Kiwanis International Amplify program beginning Feb 1.

Kiwanis International has an updated and upgraded Amplify experience this year – built on a new platform with expanded ways to learn and engage with brand new content as well as some returning fan favorites. The cost is only \$50 a person and is useful for any leadership position you might hold. Clubs may want to cover the cost for their club members who are going to lead their club in 2026-27.

Thanks again for all your do for your clubs and your communities. District leaders are "there" every day for our clubs and I sincerely hope we will be "there" for many years to come.



(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.)

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



(Photo provided by Kiwanis Club of Ashland)

ASHLAND SHARES 'EMPTY BOWLS'

The Kiwanis Club of Ashland (VA) was set to hold its annual fundraiser Feb. 1 just as this issue of the Capital Kiwanian went to press. Each year, the club hosts the "dining" event on a late Sunday afternoon at Oakdale, a unique barn venue with a modern, upscale feel. At the event, patrons pay \$50 for an empty bowl.

Those who support the event are invited to choose a handmade bowl to fill with soup and then, after the meal, take the bowl home as a keepsake reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world.

Proceeds this year will support W.H.E.A.T. (Western Hanover Emergency Action Team) and Kiwanis Club of Ashland community projects. Only 100 tickets are sold.



(Photo by Chris Rouse)

ROANOKE COLLEGE CKI CLUB ENTERS EXPLORATORY PHASE

Several interested parties gathered at Roanoke College in late 2025 to discuss the possibility of chartering a new Capital District CKI club. Kiwanians from the Salem Club and the Roanoke Club, including Division 15 LTG Clark Goodman (Salem), were joined by Capital District CKI Administrator Stacy Whitehouse and seven Roanoke College students. All agreed the conversation was promising. Stay tuned.

HOLIDAY ALBUM HELPS KIDS, TOO

Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg members Ken Ashby and Maris Segal teamed up with three other local musicians to create "PEACE," a brand-new holiday album celebrating the rhythms of the Christmas season and to benefit Kiwanis kids.

"PEACE" features 10 original songs of all styles written by this creative team for family, work and friends gathering.

Each album sold for \$9.99 and after purchase, all 10 songs were downloaded to the purchaser's email. Those who preferred a CD had that option as well. A generous donor matched \$1 from each purchase up to a maximum of \$500.

CHRISTIANSBURG SANTA PROVIDES GIFTS FOR 60 KIDS

On Dec. 18, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg held its annual children's Christmas party for 60 children and their parents or guardians. They gathered at St. Paul's Methodist Church where all were fed pizza and the children received gifts from Santa Claus.



The process began with the local teachers providing the Kiwanis Club with names of children in need. They also provided a list of the clothing needed along with sizes, and the toys desired for each child. Once the names were received, each Kiwanian took a name and bought clothing for the child they selected.

The items purchased included coats, socks, shoes, boots, pants, shirts, underwear, and other items requested. Before the event, the Kiwanis members went on a Club-funded 7 a.m. shopping spree at Walmart and purchased toys for the children. Afterwards, the toys were stored until taken to Christiansburg High School where the Early Childcare Education Class wrapped them. Then the wrapped toys were delivered to the church, where Santa presented them to the children along with the clothing gifts from the members.

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

Kiwanis members provided transportation to the children who needed a ride to and from the event.

The members and the club spent more than \$17,000 on clothing and toys this year. Club funds came from fundraisers held during the year.

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

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

—Submitted by Ernie Wade



ROANOKE KIWANIS ENJOYS AN EVENING OF HOCKEY

Twenty-two Roanoke Kiwanians enjoyed an evening social with the Rail Yard Dawgs hockey team in the Berglund Center on Jan. 8. Although the home team fell to the Birmingham Bulls 5-2, the Kiwanis group had rink-side seats right behind the penalty box and saw plenty of feisty action.

Chris Bohannon, husband of Kiwanian Betsy Bohannon, even snared an errant puck that found its way into the stands.

Roanoke Kiwanis conducts a weekly lunch meeting with a formal speaker and conducts multiple service projects regularly, but the club also schedules at least one "FUN" event every month. Next up is a Valentine's event in mid-February.

WINCHESTER KIWANIAN CELEBRATES 101

The Kiwanis Club of Winchester (VA) reports that longtime club member Doug Butler celebrated his 101st birthday on Dec. 19 with a lunch with family and friends at Mission BBQ in Winchester. Doug, who has been a Kiwanian for an eye-popping 77 years, was profiled in numerous publications, including the Kiwanis International magazine, when he turned 100. This year, Doug celebrated at the restaurant with fellow centenarians and veterans Marshall DeHaven and Jack Einstein.

GIFTWRAPPED CLUB PRESIDENT JOINS HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Kiwanis Club of Norfolk's Chris Bryant displayed the holiday spirit at the club's late December meeting. Leading the singing, Chris came to the meeting giftwrapped.





SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

We've had an incredible first quarter, and now the second quarter is here with even more chances to shine. Along with the new year we begin another chapter in our community service journey – a time for students to take on new challenges, explore new ways to serve, and deepen their impact.

With meaningful projects ahead, our clubs are ready to make their mark in ways that uplift our schools, neighborhoods, and beyond. This is the time when creativity, teamwork, and leadership come alive. Let's keep the energy going and make this quarter our strongest yet.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Stonehouse Elementary and D.J. Montague Elementary K-Kids clubs participated in this year's Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign, raising funds to support Brick x Brick Côte d'Ivoire – an initiative that turns plastic waste into safe, sustainable classrooms for children in West Africa. What an incredible way for students to make a global impact!

Highland School Builders Club launched the school year with impressive service. Students collected 1,500 pounds of food for the local food bank, organized a Halloween Candy Donation to Weekend Power Packs through Fauquier FISH benefiting 300-plus youth, and held a coat drive supporting a local homeless shelter. A huge round of applause for these young leaders!

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We're thrilled to welcome our newest K-Kids club: **Ocean City Elementary School K-Kids** chartered Dec. 1, 2025, sponsored by the **Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines**. We look forward to seeing the amazing service these student leaders will accomplish.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We proudly celebrate the dedication, service, and impact of each of our club sites. Thank you for the difference you make in the lives of young people every single day.

Middlesex Elementary School 2/1 (26 years)

Kiln Creek Elementary 2/2 (1 year)

Shady Grove Middle School 2/4 (1 year)

Westside Eagles 2/9 (10 years)

Walter J. Mitchell Elementary 2/9 (10 years)

Matula Elementary 2/9 (10 years)

Emerson Elementary School 2/12 (23 years)

John Kerr Elementary School 2/17 (15 years)

Keyser Middle School 3/3 (33 years)

Robious Middle School 3/11 (10 years)

Seaford Middle School 3/14 (8 years)

Brookville Middle School 3/17 (8 years)

Westminster School 3/18 (34 years)

Wildwood Middle School 3/22 (13 years)

Toano Middle School 3/23 (10 years)

Boys & Girls Club of Charles Town 3/27 (2 years)

Page Jackson Elementary 3/28 (2 years)

Weir Junior High School 3/30 (41 years)

Thank you for your service! Your continued dedication strengthens communities, empowers youth, and builds brighter futures every day. Here's to many more years of impact and inspiration.

AWARDS & CONTESTS -- APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Annual Achievement Report Tell your club's story and earn a recognition banner patch as a Distinguished Club or Honor Club by submitting the Annual Achievement Report. It's a meaningful way to celebrate the leadership, service, and teamwork of your members and officers.

K-Kids Scrapbook Contest Scrapbooking – digital or traditional – is a fun way to showcase your year of service. You don't need to be an expert to enter. Create a scrapbook that highlights your club's projects, teamwork, and impact for a chance to shine.

2025–26 Distinguished Officer Award Club officers help keep meetings organized, support members, and lead service efforts. Celebrate those who go above and beyond by nominating them for the K-Kids Distinguished Officer Award. More than one officer can be nominated from a club, but a nominator can submit only one nomination for the Distinguished Officer Award.

UPCOMING DATES

February 7 Give Kids a Smile Day
February 14-20 Random Acts of Kindness Week
February 20 National Student Volunteer Day
March 2 Read Across America Day
March 20 International Day of Happiness
March 22 World Water Day
April 2 Kiwanis One Day

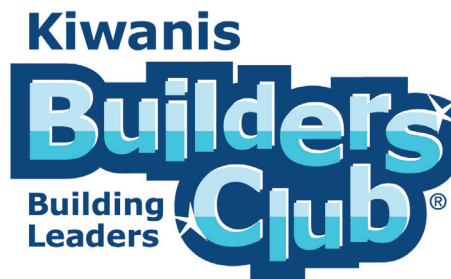
CELEBRATE K-KIDS & BUILDERS CLUBS IN FEBRUARY

February is full of opportunities to highlight and promote the spirit of service in our K-Kids and Builders Club programs. Each observance offers a moment to shine a light on club activities at home, in schools, and throughout the community.



K-Kids Week Feb. 9-13

<https://www.kiwaniskids.org/resources/k-kids-club-week-media-toolkit/>



Builders Club Week Feb. 23-27

<https://www.buildersclub.org/resources/builders-club-week-media-guide-2/>

GLOBAL SERVICE PROJECT: MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL

Looking for meaningful, youth-friendly service opportunities for our annual service goal this spring? [The Great American Cleanup](#) offers dozens of ways for clubs, families, and communities across DC, DE, MD, VA, and WV to get involved. Great American Cleanup events include:

- **Litter and debris removal** from roadsides, highways, shorelines and waterways;
- **Clean and restore** nature trails, recreation areas, and playgrounds;
- **Educate** communities about waste reduction and recycling;
- **Plant** trees, flowers, and gardens;
- **Rebuild** public spaces in communities impacted by natural disasters.

For America’s 250th anniversary, register for the Greatest American Cleanup. Make a big impact – pick up 250 pieces of litter and help create cleaner, greener communities. Every piece you collect brings us closer to our goal of removing 25 billion pieces of litter by America’s 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. [Sign up today!](#)

Below are some Capital District resources to help your clubs participate. Some of these are also perfect for World Water Day.

WASHINGTON, DC

Join monthly neighborhood cleanups across DC’s parks and streets. Volunteers can sign up and become part of the **#CleanupCrew**. Learn more: [districtcleanups.com](#)

DELAWARE

Great American Cleanup – Keep Delaware Beautiful
Running March–June, this effort includes park cleanups, litter removal, and tree-planting projects across the state. Sign up: [keepdelawarebeautiful.com](#)

MARYLAND • VIRGINIA • WEST VIRGINIA

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup
Hosted by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, this regional effort spans MD, VA, DC, and WV. It’s one of the largest watershed cleanups in the area. Find events: [fergusonfoundation.org](#)

Keep Virginia Beautiful
Statewide beautification and litter-removal events are open to volunteers of all ages. Browse events: [keepvirginiabeautiful.org](#)

Our Capital District Service Leadership Programs help promote our Kiwanis Family. Your club can sponsor and it’s easier than ever. New online Petition For Charter form is available. [Start a Club.](#)

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

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

February

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

March

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

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.

Culpeper, VA (Div 9)

April 28-30

Pt. Pleasant, WV (Div 20)

July 13-15

Cumberland, MD (Div 8)

September 14-16

Service Showcase



THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF SERVICE

BY CARRIE WAGNER

I am excited as we approach the Midyear Convention and the opportunity to come together as a district to celebrate the incredible service happening across our communities for children.

There is something special about being in the same space with fellow Kiwanians – sharing stories, learning from one another, and being reminded why we do what we do. The Signature Project Contest is now closed, and I was truly inspired by the number of meaningful, thoughtful projects submitted. Over the next few months, I look forward to highlighting some of this amazing work and the impact it is making throughout the Capital District Kiwanis.

While awards and recognition are important, some of the most powerful results of service go far beyond applications, numbers, or reports. Service creates a ripple effect that touches children, families, and entire communities in ways we don't always immediately see.

A volunteer reading to a child can spark a lifelong love of learning. A backpack filled with supplies can give a student confidence walking into the classroom. A safe place to play, learn, or belong can shape a child's future in lasting and meaningful ways.

These moments matter. They build trust within communities and remind families that someone truly cares. Through service, we are also creating lasting friendships among our members and forming strong, meaningful partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and community organizations. These relationships often grow into long-term collaborations that expand our reach, strengthen our clubs, and deepen our collective impact.

Service also enriches our volunteers – building leadership, purpose, connection, and a sense of belonging. These ripples continue long after a project ends, quietly shaping lives and strengthening both our communities and our Kiwanis family.

The Midyear Convention is a time to reflect on those ripples, to celebrate both the visible and unseen impact of service, and to be inspired by one another as we continue this important work. As we look ahead, I encourage every club to keep sharing your service stories and to recognize that every project – big or small – makes a difference. I hope to see you at my class at Midyear, where I will be speaking on service and walking through how to put together a meaningful service plan for your community.

I also invite you to join us for our Midyear service project as we assemble **"Happy Bags"** – activity-filled gift bags designed to bring smiles and comfort to children going through cancer treatment. These bags will include fun items like coloring books, word puzzles, crayons, and cozy fuzzy socks – small surprises meant to offer joy, distraction, and encouragement during a difficult time. My committee has been working hard to bring this project together, and we are so excited to share it with you and volunteer alongside you. Come be part of something meaningful, hands-on, and full of heart. We would love to serve with you.

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

Our Firm Foundation



**Capital District
Kiwanis Foundation**

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

BY JENNIFER HISCOCK

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

Since then, the Foundation has continually added pediatric trauma centers/hospitals to their support list, which now includes 11 in total. Even more impressive, the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation has donated a cumulative total of \$947,530 as they now provide an annual \$4,000 award to each!

This March, we are asking each Kiwanis member to join the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation in continuing the legacy of supporting the critical needs of pediatric trauma care through a new and hopefully annual fundraising campaign: **March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma**. Running from March 4, 2026, through April 4, 2026, this campaign invites everyone to help make a tangible difference by donating \$34 to support 11 area medical facilities that provide life-saving care to children across the Capital District.

The Goal: \$44,000 for Pediatric Trauma

With a fundraising target of \$44,000, the **March 4-ward** campaign will directly benefit 11 pediatric hospitals and centers that are at the forefront of caring for children in emergency situations. These institutions rely on support from the community to maintain their services, invest in medical equipment, and enhance care for young patients facing trauma.

How Can You Help?

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

Where Your Donation Goes

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

Children’s National Medical Center
– Washington, DC

Johns Hopkins Children’s Center –
Baltimore, MD

University of Virginia Health Center
– Charlottesville, VA

**Children’s Hospital of the King’s
Daughters** – Norfolk, VA

**Children’s Medical Center, Virginia
Commonwealth University** –
Richmond, VA

Carilion Clinic Children’s Hospital –
Roanoke, VA

Nemours Children’s Hospital –
Wilmington, DE

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

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

Hoops Family Children's Hospital – Huntington, WV

West Virginia University Children's Hospital – Morgantown, WV

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

A Lasting Impact

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

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

Let's **March 4-ward** and ensure that kids have the care they need, when they need it most!

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



MARCH 4-WARD FOR OUR KIDS AND PEDIATRIC TRAUMA



We are asking each Kiwanis member to join the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation in continuing the legacy of supporting the critical needs of pediatric trauma care through a new and hopefully annual fundraising campaign: March 4-ward for Our Kids and Pediatric Trauma. Running from March 4 through April 4, 2026 this campaign invites everyone to help make a tangible difference by donating \$34 to support 11 area medical facilities that provide life-saving care to children across the Capital District.

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

From the Kiwanis Children’s Fund



WANNA KNOW HOW WE’RE DOING?

BY JOHN TYNER

The Kiwanis Children’s Fund (KCF) is the fundraising arm of Kiwanis International. For members, a gift to the Children’s Fund is a way to amplify the impact they make in kids’ lives. That’s because we turn gifts into grants that support Kiwanis projects around the world. We also partner with other organizations – and with Kiwanis clubs of all sizes, helping them apply for grants and funding projects that serve kids.

KCF staff and member volunteers have been charging ahead with being able to make significant grants, thanks to support from members world-wide....and the Capital District is doing its share by providing donations and by providing well-written grant applications that have been approved each awards cycle.

My article in the last (Dec.-Jan.) issue of this publication told you exactly how to write an application and how to submit it. My Aug.-Sept. 2025 article told you what kinds of grants are available for your projects.

FYI, some of our Capital clubs donated a total of \$5,200 in the last month. I’ve included with this article my TPP Leaderboard results as of Dec. 31, 2025. Our Leaderboard results were very effective during our MNT (“Eliminate”) world service project in encouraging individuals to be part of our results – please remember that Capital was one of only four districts that completed their goal! I have run the totals for all our clubs and divisions and will update the Leaderboard for the top 10 clubs and divisions at appropriate times in 2026.

KCF has now exceeded \$10 million in cash and pledges, and Capital has raised \$580,000 as of Jan. 8. We trail only New York of the seven districts in our KI Northeast Region. Please note that each of your clubs’ efforts in the “cash and pledges” column of the monthly Giving Report is what each has in the “kitty” towards their goal if they have made an Impact Club pledge. And so far we have nine signed up and five more considering that status.

I want you to have a copy of my latest campaign-progress report of “who-what-why-how much” that Capital’s clubs and members have done toward contributing to The Possibility Project as we proceed during our 5-year campaign. While I have tracked all our clubs, take a peek at this chart which shows our Dec. 31, 2025 cumulative effort by our Top Ten clubs and divisions, plus the regional summary of district efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS!

CLUBS

#1 -- Rockville [03]	\$81,154
#2 -- Westminster [04]	\$24,020
#3 -- Tysons [02]	\$21,613
#4 -- Richmond [10]	\$18,679
#5 -- Arlington [02]	\$15,637
#6 -- SW Waterfront [01]	\$15,500
#7 -- Crofton [04]	\$10,990
#8 -- Shepherd Park [01]	\$9,090
#9 -- Wheaton-SS [03]	\$8,376
#10 -- Colonial Capital [12]	\$8,256

Impact Clubs
Impact Clubs Who Completed Pledge



Stay up to date online. And
encourage members to do the same.
kiwanischildrensfund.org



Kiwanis
CHILDREN'S FUND

DIVISIONS

#1 – Division 03	\$94,745
#2 – Division 04	\$46,591
#3 – Division 02	\$46,525
#4 – Division 10	\$37,229
#5 – Division 01	\$26,819
#6 – Division 12	\$23,008
#7 – Division 13	\$19,114
#8 – Division 09	\$18,350
#9 – Division 08	\$15,675
#10 – Division 14	\$14,435

REGIONS

National Capital [1-2-3]	\$168,089
Heart of Virginia [8-9-10]	\$71,254
DelMarVa [4-5-6]	\$58,027
Southeast Virginia [12-13-14]	\$56,557
Southwest Virginia [15-16-17]	\$26,039
West Virginia [18-19-20]	\$15,013

To refresh ourselves, continued success in our Possibility Project depends on donations from Kiwanians, clubs, foundations and other individuals. The Kiwanis Children's Fund is grateful for the extraordinary support it receives. Each donor, whether a club or a member, is a valued partner in our efforts to improve the lives of children around the world. Here are the KCF recognition programs that have been taken advantage of by many of our friends, through the years, for that purpose:

- George F. Hixson Fellowship Recognizes a club, individual or other donor for an unrestricted gift of US\$1,000 or more. [Diamonds? Learn more](#)
- Dr. Wil Blechman Fellowship Recognizes an individual for an unrestricted gift of US\$2,500 or more. [Learn more](#)
- Cornerstone Society Recognizes individuals and couples who make a three-year commitment to the Kiwanis Children's Fund totaling at least US\$15,000. [Learn more](#)
- Founders Circle Honors individuals and couples whose ongoing gifts to the Kiwanis Children's Fund meet or exceed US\$25,000. [Learn more](#)
- Heritage Society Honors Kiwanis members who have made a documented estate-gift commitment of US\$10,000 to US\$49,999 to the Children's Fund. [Learn more](#)

I wish to remind all of our Kiwanis club presidents that basic support for KCF comes from each club through the requested KCF Annual Club Donation through a per member donation of \$6.00 or a minimum per club donation of \$100.00. So far in this administrative year, 23 of our 155 clubs have given. Each year we strive to get as close to 100 percent participation as possible.

As a closing remark that leads to our Midyear discussions, bear in mind that not all grants have to be large to have a big impact. A December 2025 KCF Microgrant of US\$180 went to the KC of Barbados-In Action to support book nooks in primary school classrooms. The grant was used to buy book displays, floor cushions, and posters impacting 250 kids.

See you in Cambridge shortly!

(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 Mulhau...

"Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, I'm reminded of this quote from the American anthropologist Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.'"



"To me, this quote embodies the spirit of Kiwanis. Our collective purpose and compassion unite us — and that unity is what truly sets us apart. In this new year, we can continue to build relationships with those around us to enhance service to our communities. Let's embrace this moment to grow, serve and strengthen the bonds that make Kiwanis extraordinary."

Yours in Kiwanis service and friendship,
Michael Mulhau
2025-26 Kiwanis International President

A Look Ahead

It's always a good time to celebrate the youngest members of our Kiwanis family, but every February makes it official. Again this year, [K-Kids Week](#) (Feb. 9-13) and [Builders Club Week](#) (Feb. 23-27) will shine a spotlight on the hard work and impact of these dedicated students in our Service Leadership Programs. Encourage your Kiwanis club leaders to help their sponsored K-Kids and Builders Clubs celebrate their special weeks and recognize their servant leadership.

Discover a refreshed Kiwanis Amplify.

Have questions about the new and improved Kiwanis Amplify program launching in 2026? We have answers! Join us for one of two informational webinars in February, when we will share details about program updates and what to expect from this year's reimagined agenda. You will also get information on registration and program launch dates. Webinars will be held Monday, Feb. 16, and Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. ET. [Register to attend.](#)

Mark a new milestone.

The Kiwanis Possibility Project has surpassed the \$10 million mark in cash and pledges — a notable achievement as we continue this historic campaign to help fund local Kiwanis club service projects that directly impact children around the world. Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$25 million to help 10 million children.

Don't Miss Our Convention Keynote Speaker

Get ready to scale new heights at the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines, June 24-26! We're thrilled to announce our keynote speaker, Lei Wang, the first Asian woman to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam: climbing the highest peak on each continent and skiing to both the North and South Poles.

Wang is an executive coach who guides high-achieving leaders and their teams to breakthrough insights and tangible, transformative growth. She will challenge us to rethink what we're capable of and to make an impact that strengthens the children and communities we serve.

Join us at the Kiwanis International convention to hear her incredible story. Register by Feb. 2 to save \$100 on the registration fee.



Legacy Of Play Contest Launches Feb. 1

The 2026 Legacy of Play Contest, presented by Kiwanis International in partnership with Landscape Structures, will launch on Feb. 1. Open to Kiwanis clubs in the U.S. and Canada (except for those in Quebec), the contest will award one club \$25,000 in playground equipment to be used toward a Landscape Structures playground project. Additionally, any club that enters the contest and continues its project plans with Landscape Structures will receive a complimentary Omni Spin® Spinner, an interactive playground feature designed with inclusion in mind.

Encourage club leaders to read the official contest rules and enter between Feb. 1-28, 2026. And encourage them to visit our Hall of Fame winners for inspiration.

Kiwanis Mourns 2004-05 President Case Van Kleef

Case Van Kleef, the 2004-05 Kiwanis International president, passed away Nov. 30. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Northside Naples, FL. Past club memberships included Wheeling Township (Chicago), Stevens Point (WI), Plover, a club he built (WI), Bonita Springs (FL), and Rose Float of Pasadena (CA).

Van Kleef joined Kiwanis in 1965 and held various leadership positions, including club president, lieutenant governor and international vice president/treasurer. He received many Kiwanis honors, including a George F. Hixson Fellowship, Diamond-level 11; Charter Walter Zeller Fellowship, Diamond-level 3; Heritage Society membership; Tablet of Honor; Kiwanis Leadership Society membership; Carthage-Pullman Society membership; and G. Harold Martin Society membership.

"Case Van Kleef was an example of courageous leadership," said 2009-10 Kiwanis International President and Kiwanis Executive Director Paul Palazzolo. "He never hesitated when he needed to make difficult decisions that were necessary for the organization's success. Most importantly, he believed in his commitment to be an active Kiwanis club member."

"He never stopped looking for a better, more creative way to strengthen his local club," said 2005-06 Kiwanis International President Steve Siemens. "He made things fun and he never lost who he really was — a servant of the member and a cheerleader for the organization."

Van Kleef's wife, Susan, has been a member of the Northside Naples Club since 2016. Their daughters, Stacy and Stefani, were involved at a young age. Both were members of Builders Club and Key Club, and Stacy was also a member of CKI.

Give And Gather

Kiwanians, we invite you to join us virtually Feb. 25! That is a fitting date, since just \$2.25 is enough to reach one child through the Kiwanis Children's Fund. This year, our goal is more ambitious than ever: to raise \$125,000. That's enough to reach more than 55,000 kids in one day!

The fourth annual [Kiwanis Day of Giving](#) is an event for Kiwanians to gather and give online with fellow members. Once again, it will be an opportunity to share stories, get inspiration and spread the word to friends and family.

Most of all, it's a day of possibilities — our chance to show what can happen when Kiwanians come together. Help us make a significant impact in the world, perhaps by making a gift that's personally significant to you. An important birthdate. A number that means something special. Or simply an amount that represents commitment. Find out how you can participate — and even get started now. Save the date and go to [kiwanis.org/dayofgiving](#).

Gifts on Kiwanis Day of Giving support the Kiwanis Children's Fund, which helps kids around the world through scholarships and grants supporting Kiwanis club projects.

Gifts for leaders who serve others

What better way to celebrate achievement than by showing your appreciation to club members with Kiwanis-branded gifts that spread cheer and gratitude?

Creative ways to make gifts meaningful:

- Notebook and pen combo: Slip a card with your club's goals for the 2025–26 Kiwanis year inside a Kiwanis notebook sleeve, along with a branded pen. Add a heartfelt message thanking each member for their role in your club's service.
- Cheers to the New Year: Hand out Kiwanis tumblers at a meeting and serve festive drinks — hot cocoa or coffee for chilly days, iced tea for warmer climates. Start the meeting with a toast to 2026!
- Sweet treat surprise: Fill a Kiwanis ceramic mug with holiday candy or cocoa mix. Pair it with the newest Kiwanis-branded sweatshirt and scarf or hat for a warm, cheerful delivery.
- Need affordable gifts for all members? Kiwanis buttons starting at just \$2 are a budget-friendly way to share Kiwanis pride and recognize everyone's contribution.

Looking for gifts for those special members or leaders who go above and beyond? Kiwanis-branded jewelry, scarves, ties or bow ties are elegant options that make standout members feel truly appreciated. Celebrate the Key Club Centennial: Gift "A Century of Service" Key Club book to Key Club members, alumni or advisors. Centennial pins, hats, buttons, stickers and notebooks are also available.

Start 2026 with gratitude! Visit the [Kiwanis Family Store](#) to explore these gifts today.

Pop culture references to KI over the years

Almost two years ago, International posted a list of popular movies and TV shows that referenced the Kiwanis family – and about one year ago, KI posted the sequel, with more Kiwanis mentions in media from the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

Here's what was written in the first version:

Kiwanis International has been serving the children of the world for over a century – and in that time, it has permeated popular culture as well. In movies, TV and written fiction, the presence of a Kiwanis club succinctly tells the audience that the setting is a community that helps out its less fortunate members. Characters might say they are Kiwanians to indicate a dedication to service or a thriving social life. Or they might mention an affiliation with Key Club to indicate that they are high achievers involved in their schools and communities.

Below are five examples of movies and TV shows from the past 40 years that have referenced the Kiwanis family. What is your favorite mention of Kiwanis, Key Club or another Service Leadership Program in popular media?

Back to the Future (1985) and "Back to the Future Part II" (1989)

When Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) travels back to 1955 in the classic film *"Back to the Future,"* he wanders past a sign welcoming visitors to the fictional town of Hill Valley, California, -- "a nice place to live." Part of what makes it nice, no doubt, is the plethora of service organizations advertised on the sign, including Rotary International, Lions International, Optimist International and, yes, Kiwanis International. While the Kiwanis logo is absent from the town sign in 1985, it is back when Marty travels forward to 2015 in *"Back to the Future Part II."* In a timeline with flying cars, Kiwanis is still serving the children of the world.

"Frasier" (1993-2004)

In season six, episode 19, Niles Crane (David Hyde Pierce) mentions that he was a member of Key Club at his fictional alma mater, Bryce Academy. Niles admits that he initially joined Key Club – along with chess club and drama club – out of a sense of competitiveness with his older brother, Frasier (Kelsey Grammer). However, its principles may have benefited him in the long run – he went on to help others in his profession as a psychiatrist.

"The King of Queens" (1998-2007)

In the first episode, Doug Herrman's (Kevin James) father-in-law, Arthur Spooner (Jerry Stiller), moves in with him. When Doug finds out Arthur is planning to invite his Kiwanis club over after numerous hijinks have already disrupted the day, he lays down a series of house rules – including "no parties" and "no Kiwanis." But Doug shouldn't worry about Kiwanians in his home: The sitcom's setting is Queens, New York, so Arthur is probably a member of the perfectly reputable Kiwanis Club of Lefferts-Liberty, Queens County.

"Gilmore Girls" (2000-2007)

In season three, episode 21, we learn that high school senior Rory Gilmore (Alexis Bledel) has received a \$250 scholarship from a Kiwanis club – possibly the Kiwanis Club of Hartford, CT, which is the location of Rory's fictional school, Chilton Academy. It's no surprise that Rory receives the club's recognition: She is valedictorian of her graduating class, bound for Yale University and, in her mother's words, "the most deserving kid ever."

It's also possible that Rory's fictional hometown, Stars Hollow, has its own Kiwanis club – town selectman Jackson Belleville (Jackson Douglas) is on his way to a Kiwanis luncheon in season five, episode five. Considering the town's packed schedule of themed festivals, the Kiwanis Club of Stars Hollow would undoubtedly be busy with quirky community activities and fundraisers all year long.

"The Flash" (2014-2023)

Key Club prides itself on helping students develop into tomorrow's leaders. In the universe of *"The Flash"* TV series, it may have even helped one of them develop into a superhero. When Barry Allen (Grant Gustin) – a.k.a. The Flash – temporarily loses his memory in season three, episode 21, his fiancée, Iris West (Candice Patton), reminds him that he was a member of his high school's Key Club, along with the science club, astronomy club, anime club and yearbook staff. A true hero, Barry was helping others even before he acquired his super speed.

We asked whether our readers could remember any more Kiwanis appearances in pop culture and you delivered! In future issues of *The Capital Kiwanian*, we will cover suggestions of other movies and shows from the 1960s, '70s and '80s that reference Kiwanis.

VIEW FROM THE TOP: POLICY DECISIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

BY DENNIS BAUGH, PG AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

As an International Trustee, one of my requirements is to attend the Board of Trustees meetings. They are held in October, January, April and June at ICON. The meetings are designed to discuss pertinent issues and confirm or make changes to policy. We also discuss proposed amendments to the bylaws that have been submitted and will go before the House at ICON, this year in Manila.

We prepare for the meetings by attending committee meetings. I am on the Leadership and Education Committee and the Service and Partnership Committee. The day before the board meeting, we meet as a committee of the whole, where each committee makes a presentation, and we designate items as Consent Agenda or Action Items.

On Jan. 22, 2026 (very recently), we held our Board of Trustees meeting via zoom. Highlighted actions are as follows:

- Two amendments were discussed with one being submitted by a club and the other by the Capital District. (**NOTE:** each of the below will be listed and explained in the ICON materials.)
 - An individual club submitted an amendment to modify one of the Objects of Kiwanis. These have been in place since 1924 and have never been changed. The Board voted not to support the amendment.

- The Capital District is again submitting an amendment for remote voting. After discussion, the Board voted not to support this amendment as well.
- Because of the reduction in the size of the Board by three members, the Board approved a change in the bylaws to reduce the size of the Executive Committee from nine members to seven effective Aug. 1, 2026.
- The bylaws state that "No district may have more than one (1) member on the International Board." However, several districts' interpretation was they could run a candidate for Vice President and Trustee at the same time, but if both were elected, one would need to step down. The Board voted to clarify this by adding language in the Policy that "Districts may not endorse more than one candidate for any office in the same election year."

Other issues were discussed. However, I felt the above would be of greatest interest to you, Capital District members. After the full meeting minutes are approved at the next Board meeting, they are posted on the Kiwanis International website. Please take the time occasionally to look at them. You will also find our Bylaws and Policy Statement there.

As always, if there are any questions that I can answer, please feel free to reach out to me at dennis.cdkypm@gmail.com. See you at Midyear in a few weeks.

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



Learn to Lead with Purpose at Midyear 2026

Nothing says Kiwanis like leadership, learning, fellowship, and fun – and you'll experience all of this and more at the 2026 Capital District Midyear Conference. At Camp Kiwanis, s'mores aren't the only thing we've got fired up, as the conference promises to equip our campers with a suite of ideas and tools to bring back to their clubs to take your club to the next level, including:

- A recognition dinner hosted by Immediate Past Governor Josh Hiscock celebrating our outstanding clubs and member achievements
- A Saturday morning panel with your fellow Kiwanians talking about membership initiatives and social media
- Educational Workshops on Saturday covering the most timely and relevant topics in the world of Kiwanis to equip you as a leader in your community
- An energizing keynote address from Erica Kane, renowned radio host, voice artist, and producer
- A dive-in Saturday night movie feature – The Parent Trap
- The Happy Bags service project, filling 250 bags with coloring books, crafts, games, and more to give the gift of smiles to children at Nemours Children's Hospital, a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center in Wilmington, Delaware

Only a few weeks remain to lock in your registration (February 20) and book a room (February 12) at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, Maryland.

Click or scan to [Register Today!](#)



Save the Date: February 27 – March 1, 2026

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