

# KIWANIAN

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

**MIDYEAR CONFERENCE  
RECAP**

**SERVICE LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAMS UPDATES**

**SPRING MEANS MOVING  
AHEAD IN KIWANIS**



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Volume 15, Number 4



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*COVER: District Service Chair Carrie Wagner (right), with Susan Lippman at the Midyear Conference Service Project*





Kiwanians and Key Clubbers enjoy s'mores at the Capital District Midyear Conference in Cambridge, MD.



## 2025-26 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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Tysons, VA

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### TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

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Waynesboro, VA

### TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

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### TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

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### TRUSTEE - SOUTHWEST

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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



## LEAD WITH PURPOSE, BUT CAUSE CHAOS!

It's hard to believe that we're already at the midway point of the Kiwanis year.

Ever since I was a kid I have been in love with the cinema. I grew up in a home without a lot of books, but the TV was always there. From time to time I would get lost in a cinematic coma – digesting the meaning of a filmmaker's vision and, for a moment in time, losing myself from the harsh realities that surrounded me. I would listen to the words of these characters and relate them to things I was going through in my life.

When thinking about what to write, my mind drifted to Hollywood, because frankly, Hollywood can say things better than I can.

In Season 6 of "The Sopranos," one of Tony's captains, Paulie "Walnuts" Gualtieri, keeps reminiscing about old times. The stories become long and drawn out, frustrating Tony. Paulie's inability to escape the past is hurting the organization, and at one point Tony scolds Paulie and says, "Remember When.. is the lowest form of communication."

I think about times when I'm at a Kiwanis event, and I see and hear members that are unwilling to change their ways, even when these ways aren't working anymore. Meetings have the same format; the same projects are done repeatedly – and done the same way. Leadership roles are stagnant. Prospective members can be turned off from joining clubs that operate this way. If a club is too focused on its past, there's no way it can plan effectively for its future. While it's proper for clubs to respect the past, they also must understand that traditions aren't requirements. Just because something has always been done a certain way,



**(The remarks below were delivered by the governor on Saturday evening at the Kiwanis Capital District Midyear conference held in Cambridge, Maryland at the end of February.)**

doesn't mean it has to continue that way. It also doesn't mean that we should long for the way things were 20 and 30 years ago. Those days are in the past now, and in the past they must remain. We can't become overrun with nostalgia.

Speaking of nostalgia, in Season 1 of "Mad Men," Don Draper tells us that "in Greek, nostalgia literally means 'the pain from an old wound.' It's a twinge in your heart more powerful than memory alone." It's understandable that our nostalgia sometimes clouds our thinking. It's more than a memory, it's a feeling. It takes us to a place where we ache to go again. It's hard to resist the temptation not to change, because the past makes us feel good and wanted.

So – here we are – how do we move forward given that nostalgia is clouding our judgment and, in some instances, pulling us down like quicksand. This is where our conference theme comes in, "Lead with Purpose."

The first time I heard this term was as an MBA student. We were being trained as business leaders, and everywhere you looked you were told to "Lead with Purpose." I was intrigued by this mantra being drilled into our heads, so I researched it further.

Leading with purpose has four basic tenets, each one laying out a roadmap as how to become a more effective leader. Let's be honest, we're all leaders. One doesn't need a title to lead, in fact, some of the strongest leaders have no title (and yes, it's ironic saying this as someone who has the title of Governor).

The first tenet of leading with purpose is values-driven decision-making. Our decisions are guided by a set of core principles. Kiwanis International's mission, that Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, should always be at the forefront of our decision-making. It can't be about what a club member wants to do, or what's best for the club – it must be about how to improve our communities for the children. Our focus should lie with our vision of being a positive influence in communities worldwide – so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.

The second tenet is connecting our work to meaning.

We need to show not only our members, but also our communities, that the individualistic work we do in Kiwanis connects to a greater purpose. Through collaborative efforts, individuals do great things together. We raise money to fund scholarship programs, we create safe places for kids to play, we fill in gaps in education and literacy where school systems fall short, and we inspire generations through our Service Leadership Programs. We provide opportunity to those who wouldn't have it otherwise. It's important we share these great things with the world, because as I like to say, "Progress Isn't Quiet."

The third tenet is empowerment and development. This involves investing in people, fostering growth, and acting as a servant leader. As District Officers, it's our duty to empower our clubs to do great things. Simply put, it's our job to make you look good. Our lieutenant governors are tasked with helping clubs with the member experience so that new members will join and current members will want to stay. As club leaders, you should empower your members to do great things. Give members the opportunity to lead. Take a step back and encourage someone new to step into a position. Help develop them into a better Kiwanian.

The fourth and final tenet is having a long-term vision. Rather than looking for immediate gains, we should focus on sustainable, positive impact. In the movie, "The Equalizer," Robert McCall, played by Denzel Washington, is helping a young man to become more disciplined. Sitting in the breakroom during lunch, Mr. McCall is trying to help the young man eat healthier so he can get a job as a security guard. At the end of the lecture, he looks at the young man and says, "progress, not perfection." Perfection is a moving target – the definition changes, therefore it can never be attained. Progress, however, focuses on continuous improvement which leads to sustainable, long-term success.

There are times where I'll read a membership plan or look at a budget where expectations are exponentially higher than previous results. If membership has been on a constant decline for years, just focus on having growth for a couple of years in a row. It's unrealistic to think that you'll increase membership by 20 percent when you haven't had growth in years. What you're doing, essentially, is setting up someone for failure. When they don't meet the goal, they become frustrated.

We've now gone through what it means to Lead with Purpose, but how do we move forward and put this into practice. I was a huge fan of the Netflix show "Stranger Things" and I believe they summarized it best. The high school valedictorian, Dustin, gives a speech at graduation that talks about chaos. He explains there's two forms of chaos, bad chaos and good chaos. While bad chaos brings anarchy, destruction, and war; good chaos brings innovation, change, and progress. Without good chaos, we can't change, we can't evolve, we can't progress and be a better organization. We must try new things and step outside our comfort zone. In the Key Leader program, we encourage students to "Take a Risk." Kiwanians and Kiwanis clubs need to take risks. Listen to young people, don't dictate to them – ask them what need they need. Respond in kind and cause that chaos within your clubs to lead change.

Earlier this week, I was taking my daughter to school, and a conversation on leadership came up. I was reminded of the inspirational message from a young woman who goes to Virginia Tech. She said, growing up her father used to tell her to "be a lion, not a sheep."

The words stayed with me, and I shared them with my daughter. The simple message, be a leader, not a follower, is something that we all should follow, especially Kiwanis Clubs. We shouldn't imitate – we should innovate. We

should show the world that we're the service organization to be a part of – show the world that we're not focused on the past, but we're excited and ready to bring on the future. We should be at the front of the line to advocate for change in our world.

Albert Einstein once said, "Order is needed by the ignorant, but it takes a genius to master chaos." With all due respect to Mr. Einstein, I don't think you need to be a genius to master chaos, but you need to have a plan. The leading with purpose roadmap will help you manage chaos and bring meaningful change to our clubs and our organization. So, in the second half of the Kiwanis year, let's go out, leave the past behind and move to the next stage of our Kiwanis journey. We should all strive to lead with purpose, but most of all... cause chaos!

In Service,



Governor Tim





# Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

## SPRING MEANS MOVING AHEAD IN KIWANIS

Spring has arrived, and with it comes one of the most important and exciting times in the Kiwanis year — **club elections and education**. While our district calendar continues to offer outstanding events and opportunities for fellowship, this season is truly about preparing the next generation of leaders to take the reins and continue the incredible work across the Capital District.

Each club should now be turning its attention to its **Annual Meeting and election of officers for the 2026-27 administrative year**. This is more than a procedural requirement – it is an opportunity to shape your club’s future. Thoughtful selection of leaders, based on commitment, enthusiasm, and vision, sets the tone for a successful year ahead. Be sure your elections are conducted in accordance with your club bylaws, and that all positions – including President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors – are filled with individuals ready to serve and ready to *lead*.

Once elections are complete, the focus quickly shifts to **training and preparation**. Our district is once again offering a robust schedule of **Club Leadership Education (CLE)** sessions designed to ensure that every incoming officer is equipped with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to succeed. These sessions are essential – not only for personal development but also for your club’s success. As a reminder, attendance at CLE is a requirement for clubs seeking **Distinguished status**, and the incoming President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairperson must participate, regardless of prior experience.

CLE sessions will be offered in multiple locations and formats across the district, making it easy for every leader to attend. These trainings provide practical guidance on everything from running effective meetings and managing club finances to building membership and delivering impactful service projects. Just as importantly, they offer a chance to connect with fellow leaders, share ideas, and build relationships that will last throughout your Kiwanis

journey. Be on the lookout for registration details on the district website, and make plans to attend early. If you have questions, please reach out to your lieutenant governor or our Leadership Development Coordinator Jenn Hiscock ([hiscockjenn@gmail.com](mailto:hiscockjenn@gmail.com)).

**Kiwanis Amplify** returns in 2026 completely revamped and is recommended for those that want to improve their soft skills in the areas of:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Leading a team
- Inclusive leadership
- Strategic thinking
- Self-care
- Overcoming obstacles

All modules will be available at the time of program launch. Kiwanis Amplify is an asynchronous program, allowing participants to engage with the content at their own pace and at times that best fit their schedules. Participants will retain access to all video content through Sept. 30, when the program concludes. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/for-leaders/kiwanis-amplify-home-page/>

As we prepare our incoming leaders, we also look ahead to the global stage. This June, Kiwanis members from around the world will gather in **Manila, Philippines** for the **2026 Kiwanis International Convention**. We are proud that **18 members from the Capital District** will attend, representing our clubs and engaging in the fellowship, education, and governance that define Kiwanis at the international level. From impactful workshops to the House of Delegates, ICON provides a unique opportunity to bring back ideas and inspiration that strengthen our clubs at home.

Let’s make this a season of strong leadership, smooth transitions, and continued service throughout our communities.

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

# From the Governor-Elect

BY DAVID LURIE

## PLANNING AHEAD – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**I had the opportunity to attend both the Key Club and CKI District conventions in the last couple of months. The energy, enthusiasm and accomplishments of these young people are truly inspiring. When you sit and listen and watch what these students are doing – how can you not be excited to be a part of Kiwanis?**

People ask me why I spend so much time working on Kiwanis and doing the things I do. I tell them it is simple: you cannot help but feel excited and motivated when you realize your investment in time and effort pays off in how these students strive to make our world a better place. Honestly, they inspire me a lot more than I think I inspire them sometimes. Congratulations to both Capital District CKI and Key Club for a job well done!

I have a concern though. I noticed that the number of Kiwanians and the number of service leadership clubs represented at these events is not as large as we have had in previous years. Yes, many of our great supporters are there, and we all enjoy these events despite the long hours. I can tell you it is worth it.

We would love to see even more students be able to attend these events in the future. The return on their attendance is incredible; the students come back excited and motivated and help their clubs grow stronger. That translates into growth in numbers, in personal development, and in more cumulative service. Start making plans now to support these students for the 2027 conferences and include some funding support to help them attend....

In other news, I am now spending most of my time getting ready for my year as Governor. Training is underway at the district level and plans for next year are starting to come together. However, I still need some help. We are still trying to find Lt. Governors for Divisions 12, 16, 17 and 19. If you are a past Club President or Lt. Governor, I would ask you to consider serving.

I am reaching the point where I will have to appoint individuals from outside those divisions to serve. While I am hoping these

divisions will bring forward candidates, it is prudent for me to seek qualified members who would be interested in serving. If you are interested, drop me a note as soon as possible as I want to make those appointments and begin training these individuals.

I am also working to fill out my committee team. While I have several positions filled, I have two critical needs right now – a Communications coordinator (replacing Public Relations), and a chair for the 2027 Midyear conference. I am also seeking committee chairs for Historian, Long Range Planning, and On to International Convention (for Dallas in 2027) along with someone to chair and help me plan for an official visit of the 2026-2027 Kiwanis International President in the spring of next year. Please let me know if you are interested in serving in any of those positions.

Clubs are reminded that April and May are annual club meeting time, and they need to elect the 2026-27 leadership. 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. Please check the District Web Site for dates and locations. It is expected that ALL Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Membership Chairs will attend – no excuses.

While we would like for you to attend the one in your local division or region, if you have a schedule conflict, you can attend another division or region's training session. The important part is that you are there and receive training – this will provide a solid foundation for your club to begin to plan for next year. Please check the District Web Site for dates and locations and I hope to see some of you at the ones I will be attending and serving as an instructor.

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



*(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](mailto:editor@capitalkiwanis.org)

## DALTON SELECTED FOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Longtime Danville (VA) Kiwanian Melinda Dalton was selected as the recipient of the community's 93rd citizenship award at a ceremonial dinner held at the Danville Golf Club in December.



Dalton is a two-time past president of Danville Kiwanis and also has served as Division 15 Lt. Governor on multiple occasions. She recently has accepted the position of club secretary, succeeding retiring secretary Jay Hayes, who has served in the position for more than 30 years. Dalton has long been viewed as one of the principal leaders of her club.

But it was activities beyond the club that set Dalton apart for this year's award. In addition to her heavy Kiwanis work, she has been involved with the American Heart Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the United Way, the City Beautiful Committee, Girl Scouts, the Danville Area Council of Community Services, Harvest Jubilee, Salvation Army, God's Pit Crew, Festival in the Park, March of Dimes, Sow Simply Said Ministries, the Danville Cancer Association and her church.

"I love doing this kind of stuff," Dalton told the *Danville Register & Bee*. "I want to do everything I can."

Previous Danville Kiwanians who have received the citizenship award in the past century include Landon Wyatt, Jr., Vivian Giles and Budge Kent, Jr. All have been strong Kiwanians.

## MARCH PROGRAM OPENS MEMBERS' EYES

More than 100 local students will be receiving scholarships through efforts of the local Dream Project this spring, the organization's leader told South Arlington Kiwanians on March 18.

The students, some U.S. citizens and others immigrants, will attend a variety of in-state institutions of higher education, including George Mason University, Marymount University, Northern Virginia Community College, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia.

Some will use their \$4,500 stipends to support out-of-state educational opportunities, while the organization also provides scholarship funds for students taking coursework focused on career and technical certification.

Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, CEO of the Dream Project, detailed the impact of those scholarship funds to Kiwanis Club members at the meeting. In spite of challenges facing immigrant communities, "you wouldn't believe how resilient they are," Tapia-Hadley said.

Local immigrant youth are "energized and committed and moving ahead."

The Dream Project was founded in 2010 to provide scholarships and mentoring to students across the local area, many of whom were undocumented. In the past 15 years, its services have expanded to provide an increasing variety of services to youth who are either immigrants themselves, or come from immigrant families.



## SPIRN HONORED BY WILLIAM & MARY



About one-third of students in Arlington’s public schools come from immigrant families.

In part because of her work founding and supporting the Dream Project, former Arlington School Board member Emma Violand-Sánchez was presented with the Kiwanis Club’s Harro & Janie Wulf Legendary Service Award in 2025.

In her remarks at the March Kiwanis meeting, Tapia-Hadley said one of her goals as the organization’s relatively new CEO is to bring services to youth earlier in their high-school careers. “We’re still working to make sure all families know about this coaching and mentorship,” she said.

Through the outreach efforts, “we really get to know students on a very personal basis.”

Born in Mexico City, Tapia-Hadley grew up in the Washington area, then returned to Mexico for college before coming back to the area. She chose Arlington because of its good schools.

In 2024, Tapia-Hadley was elected to the Arlington School Board, running in part to address perceived inequities in local educational opportunity. “I saw a lot of gaps,” she said. “Families that need the most support often have the least resources.”

For many years, Tapia-Hadley served on the board of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center, where Kiwanis president Andres Tobar serves as executive director. SEEC, as the organization is known, has long collaborated with the Dream Project on initiatives.

“It’s a beautiful partnership. We work wonderfully together,” Tobar said.

At the meeting, club director John Murphy said Arlington supported efforts to provide mentoring and financial backing to Arlington immigrant youth headed to higher education. “We have a loving, caring community,” he said.

–Submitted by Scott McCaffrey, Kiwanis Club of South Arlington

Williamsburg Kiwanian Stu Spirn was recently honored with a 2026 William & Mary Alumni Medallion, bestowed upon those alumni who demonstrate dedication to and support for William & Mary, exemplary accomplishments in their professional lives and leadership in civic engagement in their communities, states or nations. It is the highest honor the alumni association awards.

Spirn earned undergraduate ('67) and law ('70) degrees from W&M before establishing a highly respected law firm in the Williamsburg community. Among his Kiwanis many achievements, he has headed the club’s foundation. He was prominently featured in the January 2026 issue of the alumni magazine and the March 25 issue of the club newsletter.

“For more than six decades,” the alumni magazine states, “Stu Spirn has been a constant force for good in Williamsburg – a lawyer, mentor, coach and friend whose life has remained intertwined with the alma mater that helped shape it.”

## OCEAN PINES PRESENTS CHECK TO WORCESTER YOUTH

The Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City (MD) Kiwanis Club hosted Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services, Inc. speakers Berkleigh Diaz and Lauren Bodolus April 1 in the Ocean Pines Community Center's Assateague Room. Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services is a private 501(c)3 non-profit that has worked in Worcester County for more than 50 years.

Their basic mission is simple -- help everyone shine! Through mental health services, financial outreach, and youth mentoring and programming, WYFCS helps families of all types reach their potential and create a long-term path to success. Kiwanis donated \$2,500 to support the community work they do.

The Shine on the Shore Luau 2026, scheduled for June 4, is the biggest WYFCS fundraiser of the year.

*—Submitted by Seth Thatcher, Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines-Ocean City*



# SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

As Spring breathes new life into our surroundings, it also inspires us to give back. What better way to give back than through meaningful community service – as the Kiwanis family comes together through acts of community service that help our neighborhoods grow and thrive.

This month I'm highlighting the incredible service, leadership, and enthusiasm of our K-Kids and Builders Club members blooming across the Capital District. From impactful global fundraising to spirited club participation, our students continue to show how small actions can make a lasting difference.

We are also proud to welcome a new club, celebrate anniversaries, recognize outstanding engagement, and thank the dedicated advisors who make this work possible. Together, we are building confident leaders and impacting future generations through service.

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

**Malcolm Elementary K-Kids** sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Waldorf 12/18/2025

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

We proudly celebrate the dedication, service, and impact of each of our outstanding clubs. Thank you for the difference you make every single day.

**Neale Elementary School** 4/2/2003

**DJ Montague Elementary School** 4/24/2023

**Charles Town Middle School** 5/9/2016

## CAPITAL DISTRICT'S K-KIDS AND BUILDERS CLUB MEMBERS SHOWCASE THE IMPACT OF STUDENT PHILANTHROPY!

Through this year's Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign, our clubs raised an impressive combined \$812.91 to support UNICEF's global youth initiatives. Builders Clubs raised \$360.58 for Start Strong Zambia, helping empower young adolescents with education, health support, and opportunities to thrive while our K-Kids brought huge energy to their fundraising, contributing \$452.33 to UNICEF's Brick by Brick program, which helps build safe, child-friendly learning spaces in Cote d'Ivoire.

### Participating Builders Clubs:

- Shady Grove Middle School
- Walton Middle School

### Participating K-Kids Clubs:

- DJ Montague Elementary School
- Stonehouse Elementary School
- T. A. Lowery Elementary School

Together, these clubs made a meaningful difference for children across the globe building a brighter future brick by brick and helping their peers to start strong every single day.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR K-KIDS WEEK WINNER

Throughout K-Kids Week, Feb. 9-13, and Builders Club Week, Feb. 23-27, clubs in our district were encouraged to embrace the daily activity themes – from service and leadership to teamwork and celebration and to share photos, videos, flyers, and stories that truly captured the spirit of their branch of the Kiwanis family: serving others, building confidence, and having fun along the way.

I am excited to announce the winner of this year's K-Kids Week Participation Drawing. After a week filled with enthusiasm, creativity, and service, **Worthington Elementary K-Kids** was selected to receive a \$50 gift card in recognition of their outstanding daily engagement.

I can't wait to see what our clubs do for K-Kids and Builders Club weeks next year. No entries were received for the Builders Club Week drawing.

## ADVISOR APPRECIATION DAY: HONORING OUR DEDICATED K-KIDS & BUILDERS CLUB FACULTY & KIWANIS ADVISORS

On April 21, Advisor Appreciation Day, we will proudly recognize and celebrate the guidance, support, and expertise our advisors provide every single day. Your dedication strengthens our clubs, empowers our student leaders, and helps shape meaningful service experiences across the district.

You are the mentors who help students navigate challenges, spark new opportunities, and develop confidence in their ability to change the world. Your

commitment leaves a lasting impact on every young leader you support.

We extend special recognition to our Faculty and Kiwanis Advisors who have served for more than five years. Your long-term dedication reflects a deep belief in student leadership and service.

### Faculty Advisors (5+ Years of Service):

- Liza Becker
- Suzanne Brevetta
- Evelyn Collins
- Tracey Ferguson
- John Harmon
- Erica Kennedy
- Benora McCain-Wigfall
- Stacey McClintock
- Sharon McIntyre
- Elizabeth Sanders
- Sherry Whitmer

### Kiwanis Advisors (5+ Years of Service):

- Terri Flight
- Candace Foreman
- Virginia Grant
- Carol Haley
- Erica Kennedy
- Ken Kowalski
- Jean Lawrence
- Keith Limbo
- Susan Nancarrow
- David Rothberg
- Karen Scott
- Kimberly Walls

Your continued service is felt in every meeting, project, and moment of student growth. Thank you for being trusted partners, inspiring mentors, and guiding lights for our clubs. We truly appreciate all that you do – today and every day.

## UPCOMING DATES

**April 2** Kiwanis One Day

**April 10-May 10** Youth Service Month

**April 21** Advisor Appreciation Day

**April 22 Earth Day 2026:** Our Power, Our Planet [Reminder this year's GLOBAL SERVICE PROJECT: MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL]

[Earth Day 2026 | Theme, Activities, Events & Resources Toolkits](#)

**April 24-26** Global Youth Service Day

**April 27-May 1** National Culture Week

The focus of National Culture Week is to spark a conversation among youth about the need to change the culture from one of cruelty and exclusion to one of kindness and inclusivity. National Culture Week provides an opportunity for youths to share and learn from each other's diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences ...not judge them because they look different.

**May 2** Fifth Annual VFW Day of Service

The VFW Day of Service will unite veterans across America around a common goal – showing the nation the impact veterans make in their communities through veteran-led community service projects that will take place throughout the month of May.

**May 5** National Teacher Appreciation Day

SHOW A TEACHER GRATITUDE – Refill classroom supplies. Many teachers stock their classrooms with the supplies they need to effectively teach. However, many teachers buy supplies out of their own pockets. Replenishing crayons, pencils, or construction paper is a small token of appreciation for a teacher. If you don't sponsor a K-Kids or Builders Club, you may be able to find a local teacher who needs supplies on [donorschoose.org](https://donorschoose.org).

## AWARDS & CONTESTS

Check back in the next issue for the announcement of our Capital District clubs, officers and members that achieved Kiwanis International recognition this year.

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

## Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

### April

Charlottesville, VA.....	1922
Elkton, MD .....	1932
Ellicott City, MD .....	1940
Wythe County, VA .....	1948
Mount Airy, MD .....	1949
Williamsburg, VA .....	1958
Churchland, VA .....	1974
Greater Landover, MD .....	1979
Montgomery Village, MD.....	2003
Strasburg, VA .....	2010
Forest, VA.....	2018

### May

Washington, DC .....	1917
Alexandria, VA.....	1921
Danville, VA .....	1921
Frederick, MD .....	1922
Harrisonburg, VA .....	1922
Seaford, DE .....	1923
Suffolk, VA .....	1947
Christiansburg, VA .....	1949
Rockville, MD .....	1950
Crofton, MD .....	1976
Old Point Comfort, VA .....	1981
Shenandoah Valley, VA .....	1981
Clinch River, VA .....	1988
Mitchellville, MD .....	1995
Old Town, VA .....	2006
City Center Newport News, VA .....	2009

## 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](mailto: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

## SERVING TOGETHER: HEART OF OUR CAPITAL DISTRICT

BY CARRIE WAGNER

**At our recent service class at the Midyear Conference in Cambridge, we talked about the difference between small service projects and larger Signature Projects – and how each plays an important role in what we do as Kiwanians. Sometimes it’s the small, hands-on projects that remind us most of why we serve. Our district service project was a perfect example of that.**

It also reminded us why we join Kiwanis in the first place.

We join to make a difference.

We join to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

We join to serve children, support our communities, and connect with others who share that same passion.

Together, as a Capital District, we came together to create 200 “Happy Bags” for children at Nemours Children’s Hospital, supporting the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Program. This program plays a vital role in helping children and their families navigate the challenges of serious illness, providing comfort, emotional support, and creative outlets during treatment.

The “Happy Bags” we assembled are more than just items – they are small moments of joy, distraction, and comfort for children going through cancer treatment, and a source of encouragement for their families during difficult times.

The generosity of our members was incredible, and the donations were truly a blessing.

But what made this project so special went far beyond the items we collected.

It was coming together.

*(Carrie Wagner, from Waynesboro, serves as Capital District Service and Signature Project Chair. She may be reached at [carriemwagner@gmail.com](mailto:carriemwagner@gmail.com))*



Kiwanians showed up – not just to give, but to serve side by side. The room was filled with energy, laughter, and a shared sense of purpose. Conversations were happening all around – members sharing ideas, talking about their clubs, and connecting over a shared passion for serving children.

We were also fortunate to have members of Key Club volunteer alongside us. It is always inspiring to work with our high school students, hear their perspectives, and see the next generation of servant leaders in action. Their enthusiasm added even more meaning to the experience.

What stood out most was the spark this project created.

It sparked excitement across the district. It sparked conversations about doing more service. It sparked ideas that members could take back to their clubs and communities.

Not everyone participated in the same way – and that’s the beauty of Kiwanis. Some contributed through donations, others through hands-on service, and many through the connections and conversations that took place throughout the weekend.

There was a true sense of camaraderie – new friendships were formed, connections were strengthened, and members left feeling inspired. So many Kiwanians shared how meaningful it was to serve together, and how energized they felt to bring that same spirit back home.

That is the true power of service.

It’s not just what we do; it’s how we come together. It’s the relationships we build, the ideas we share, and the inspiration we carry forward.

This project was a full-circle moment for me, bringing to life exactly what we discussed in my class. Service – whether small or large – has the power to connect us, energize us, move us into action, and ultimately change the lives of the children we serve.



# FAMILY TIES

## CKI Administrator Corner BY STACY WHITEHOUSE

### APRIL MARKS A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR

Hello Fellow Kiwanians!

It was wonderful to see many of you at Kiwanis Midyear in Maryland, where we celebrated the Kiwanis Family and shared efforts to retain, charter, and raise awareness about all branches of the Kiwanis Family, including CKI.

April 1 marks the start of the new CKI administrative year — following our District Convention, as we are now in the sprint of training new club officers, training district officers, and transitioning to a new district board!

Please note that as of April 1, my email has changed – please use [capitaldistrictcki@gmail.com](mailto:capitaldistrictcki@gmail.com).

#### 2026-2027 District Board of Officers

We have filled four of our six board positions – please reach out to them once the year starts to discuss your current or a potential new CKI sponsorship, or to have me or a board member come speak about CKI/the Kiwanis Family.

Dylan Luong, Governor  
[capitaldistrictckigovernor@gmail.com](mailto:capitaldistrictckigovernor@gmail.com)

Anthony Aviles-Tapia, Sec-Treas.  
[capitaldistrictckisec.treas@gmail.com](mailto:capitaldistrictckisec.treas@gmail.com)

Rabia Qazi, Communications Coord.  
[capitaldistrictckicoms@gmail.com](mailto:capitaldistrictckicoms@gmail.com)

Marissa Incatasciato, South Lt. Gov.  
[capitaldistrictckisouth@gmail.com](mailto:capitaldistrictckisouth@gmail.com)

#### Volunteer for Capital District CKI

Do you or a does a member in your club enjoy mentoring students, working on communications, helping with awards, or supporting events?

If your answer is yes, volunteer to help support Capital District CKI! You can choose to help year-round, or certain events and milestones throughout the year.

[Complete our volunteer form right away \(by April 15, 2026\).](#)

#### Promote Key Club to CKI

Seniors are deciding their post-high school plans, which is a great time to promote CKI as a next step in the Kiwanis Family!

- Share our [CKI 101 Slides](#) with your Key Clubs to present at club meetings.
- Encourage Key Clubbers to complete the CKI Interest Form - a QR code is in the slide deck. Link: <https://bit.ly/keyclubtockl>



*Wishing you all a great spring!*

# Our Firm Foundation

## KIWANIANS WITNESS LIFESAVING IMPACT AT PEDIATRIC TRAUMA UNIT

BY DON WITT

ROANOKE, VA – In an era where specialized pediatric care is more critical than ever, local Kiwanis leaders recently caught a firsthand glimpse of how Kiwanis philanthropy is translating into immediate, lifesaving action for the region’s youngest patients.

Joyce Montgomery, President of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, and I, President of the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation (CDKF), recently toured the pediatric trauma unit at Carilion Children’s Hospital. The visit served as a powerful reminder of the vital role the Foundation plays in supporting one of only 11 specialized hospitals within the five-state Capital District.

### A BEACON OF CARE IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

Carilion stands as a cornerstone of emergency medicine, holding the prestigious Level 1 Trauma designation – one of only three such facilities in Virginia. Its reach is vast, drawing in more than 1,100 patients annually from across the Commonwealth, West Virginia, and Tennessee.

While being housed in a state-of-the-art new wing, the unit has been a quiet force of healing for more than a decade. The facility balances high-tech intervention with a “child-first” philosophy, featuring:

- Capacity: 24 pediatric beds and a pediatric trauma bay, all of which remain near capacity year-round;
- Atmosphere: Child-friendly murals and soothing color palettes designed specifically to de-escalate the stress of traumatic injury;
- Regional Reach: Treating 400-500 patients annually, cases significant enough to be recorded in the National Trauma Database.

### TURNING GRANTS INTO GEAR

The true heart of the visit was seeing the tangible results of a recent \$4,000 grant. When asked how these funds would be utilized, the medical staff’s response was immediate and focused on two critical areas: specialized equipment and family safety.

One of the primary acquisitions is a Hotline fluid warmer. This sophisticated device is essential for trauma care, warming blood and intravenous fluids to body temperature as they are administered. For a small child in shock or suffering from blood loss, this prevents hypothermia and stabilizes the body’s internal systems during the most vulnerable moments of treatment.

Furthermore, the funds bridge a logistical gap that many families face during a crisis. The grant supports the purchase of pediatric car seats. Since car seats must be replaced immediately following an accident, families discharged late in the evening often find themselves unable to safely transport their child home.



**Capital District  
Kiwanis Foundation**



“To send a child home in the late evening makes it difficult for the family to purchase a seat at that exact time,” noted a staff member, highlighting how Kiwanis funding removes a final, stressful hurdle to a child’s recovery.

### A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

As Montgomery and Witt concluded their tour, the sentiment was clear: the partnership between Kiwanis and pediatric trauma centers is more than just a financial transaction; it is a fundamental investment in the community’s future.

By providing the tools to save lives and the resources to get children home safely, Kiwanis continues to ensure that even in their darkest hours, local families are never walking alone.





## How would convention go-ers rate Cambridge? They want *s'more*

BY JOHN A. MONTGOMERY

**Kiwanis Capital District Midyear conference chair Liz Moore (home club, Mount Airy, Maryland), and her committee of 16, take a bow. “Lead With Purpose,” they did indeed.**

For the second consecutive year, Cambridge, Maryland, served as the backdrop for our 2025-26 “halftime” gathering (Feb. 27-March 1) and once again the venue and program didn’t disappoint.

The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort and Spa lived up to its glittering reputation as the weekend of fun, education, training and inspiration (did we say fun?) gave convention go-ers an extra spring in their step when they adjourned mid-Sunday, packed up their booty of new ideas, and buckled up for their travel home. Attendees hailed from various points throughout Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

District Kiwanis gatherings rotate from venue to venue, keeping in mind that

sharing the driving distance from home among attendees is a factor, as are reasonable housing and meal costs, and the venue selected needs to be large enough to host and accommodate our total district representation. Cambridge certainly ranks among the best in terms of venue offerings and natural beauty. The material presented this year was stellar, too.

Cambridge is located approximately one hour past Annapolis, and is famous for its historical significance as the gateway to the Chesapeake Bay. Birthplace of abolitionist and social activist Harriet Tubman, Cambridge is known for its waterfront views, delicious seafood, and cultural amenities. It was a welcome weekend respite for Capital District Kiwanians, many of whom who were still recovering from a brutal winter of enduring the frigid weeks and months immediately prior.

Kiwanians began rolling in to the conference on Friday for committee and board meetings. Friday night’s recognition saw a handful of district clubs recognized for achieving distinguished club status from the 2024-25 year under then-Gov. Josh Hiscock. Those clubs who met the criteria

included Jackson River Area, Norfolk, Poquoson, Richmond, Waynesboro, Williamsburg and Woodbridge. A Firepit and S’mores social capped off the evening.

Saturday’s opening general session included a keynote panel featuring leaders of various-sized clubs who shared their best practices dealing with membership growth. Moderator Brian Bell from Woodbridge introduced the panel – which included Samantha Bosserman (Waynesboro), Robert Dodd (Fredericksburg), John Mahone (Richmond), Steve Cohen (Leisure World) and Debra Payne (Charles Town). Mahone led Richmond to a double-digit gain in membership last year, catapulting the club to No. 1 in size with more than 150 members.

After breakfast, workshops ran in three consecutive timeslots, with attendees given the opportunity to select their preference among four options in each slot. There was training for presidents, secretary-treasurers and membership chairs – along with such sessions as social media, mental health education and purpose and progress with the International Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

The entire group reconvened at lunch time where the keynote speaker was Washington metro media specialist Erica Kane, making a presentation on matching your personal passion with community needs in order to find your true purpose. The speech title was: "What does it Mean to Lead with Purpose?" dovetailing neatly with the convention theme.

"Happy Bags" was the afternoon service project, where Kiwanians completed the assembly of 200 Happy Bags designated for the Nemours Children's Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware (reading books, coloring books, crayons pencils and socks). Under the direction of Capital District Service Chair Carrie Wagner (see her article elsewhere in this issue), the packages were assembled in record time. The bags were delivered to the facility later in March as part of a Capital District Foundation mission.

The group then broke into respective pockets to deal with division and regional elections, and then reconvened for a group social prior to the governor's dinner. We heard from our SLP student leaders, Key Club Governor Sneha Shah from the Governor's School for Science and Technology and Tabb High School in Yorktown, Virginia, and CKI Governor Dylan Luong, a chemistry and biomedical engineering student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Then we were treated to Governor Tim's keynote speech (reprinted at the front of this issue).

An early adjournment opened the doors for a "Dive In" Movie in the indoor pool, showing "The Parent Trap," followed by the opening of regional hospitality suites.

Sunday morning's Inspirational Breakfast was led by Nicole Bontrager, camp director for the Maryland location of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Closing out the Sunday morning gathering were plugs for the upcoming International Convention to be held in the Philippines in June, and the Capital District Convention scheduled for Annapolis in August.

The weekend conference experience concluded with a follow-up field trip to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, organized by DEIBA Committee member Steve Cohen of the Kiwanis Club of Leisure World.

According to Bethesda Kiwanian Seth Steele's thorough report, 10 Kiwanians from across the National Capital Region and Waynesboro learned facts about the Tubman facility, including its construction, unique partnership as a State of Maryland-National Park Service park, and details about the harrowing experiences Tubman faced in plantation-era Dorchester County.



# From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

## OUR MISSION: TOP RUNG ON THE 'LADDER OF SUCCESS'

BY JOHN TYNER

**At the Kiwanis Children's Fund, our mission is to develop resources that transform the goodwill and vision of Kiwanians into programs that serve the children of the world. Through the Kiwanis causes, members' service makes a difference in each phase of a young person's development.**

It's a continuum of impact. That's because the work Kiwanians do for each cause helps provide a head start toward success in the next – ultimately creating leaders who then make the same impact on succeeding generations.

Whether they're getting ready to learn or getting ready to lead, kids need Kiwanis. A gift to the Kiwanis Children's Fund is one of the most effective ways to reach them – and to support the Kiwanis causes:

**Health and nutrition.** The Children's Fund provides grants to clubs, districts and global partners to provide healthy food to children around the world. From the prenatal stage to age 5, a child's brain grows at an astounding rate. But that development depends on access to key nutrients, including iodine.

**Education and literacy.** The Children's Fund provides grants to support club and district literacy and education projects. Worldwide, 250 million children lack basic literacy skills. In the U.S., 88 percent of students who fail to earn a high school diploma were struggling readers in the third grade. When we help someone acquire literacy skills, we empower them with better opportunities.

**Youth leadership development.** The Children's Fund helps young people evolve into community leaders by supporting Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs with grants and scholarships. With access to leadership and volunteer opportunities, youth learn responsibility, self-discipline and respect. These are key factors in overcoming challenges and achieving academic success.

The Kiwanis Children's Fund strives to make sure that your gift helps children in many places and many ways. And we succeed by holding fast to a set of core values:

- **Stewardship.** We are committed to meeting and sustaining donors' confidence that the Children's Fund will invest their contributions wisely and distribute funds consistent with the values inherent in the Kiwanis International mission.
- **Transparency.** We adhere to the [Donor Bill of Rights](#) to treat all constituents fairly and ethically and to be aboveboard in all of our dealings. (The Donor Bill of Rights is also available in Spanish and French.)
- **Responsiveness.** We are relevant and proactive in meeting donors' and grantees' needs.
- **Legacy.** We give donors the opportunity to leave a lasting mark on the world.
- **Integrity.** We deal honestly in our interactions with all stakeholders.
- **Trust.** Through the integrity of our actions, we seek to earn and maintain the trust of our Kiwanis family and constituents.

Along with all these values comes accountability. Your gifts reflect your hope for children's lives – and your trust in us. So, we strive to earn that trust. We share [records and reports](#) that document gifts, grants and the people we serve.

### ***Begin the Beguine - Essential first start in our "Ladder of Success"***

The Kiwanis annual club gift donation supports various initiatives aimed at improving the lives of children and communities worldwide and is a vital part of Kiwanis International's fundraising efforts. It can allow clubs to contribute to KCF, which supports programs and projects that benefit children globally. This donation helps fund initiatives that promote children's health, education and well-being.

### **How to Make a Donation**

1. **Online Donations:** You can make your club gift online through the Kiwanis International website. This method is convenient and secure, allowing you to contribute directly to the causes you care about.



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



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>  
 CHILDREN'S FUND

- Other Giving Options:** Kiwanis also offers various ways to give, including donations via telephone or wire transfer. You can explore these options on the KCF website with more details accessible.
- Downloadable Forms:** If you prefer to donate by mail, you can download a gift or pledge form from the Kiwanis website. This form can be filled out and sent to the organization along with your donation.

### Impact of Your Donation

Your contributions through the annual club gift donation help support the **Possibility Project** and other initiatives aimed at meeting the greatest needs of children around the world. Donations can also provide significant tax benefits for donors, especially when contributing securities or through estate planning.

Here are examples of what giving levels can do:

\$50 – Your gift of US\$50 can impact roughly 20 kids -- about the size of one classroom of students.

\$100 – US\$100 can provide a free eye exam to 85 students in Nepal, including care for those in need.

\$150 – US\$150 could provide 26 kids with a backpack of school supplies to be ready for the academic year.

\$250 – A gift of US\$250 can establish a home library for up to 33 children.

\$500 – US\$500 can help 200 at-risk middle school students participate in a 10-week leadership program.

**Just Remember:** By participating in the annual club gift donation, you join a community dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of children and fostering a spirit of service and generosity. For more information, visit the Kiwanis International website or contact your local Kiwanis club.

Has your Kiwanis Club ever donated to the Kiwanis Children's Fund? HMMM?

In some of our divisions, every club has done so for many years, while others may never have. By Oct. 15 of last year our clubs were to have approved their annual budget; so, did your club have a line item for our KCF? In November, clubs were to pay their invoiced annual dues for which the

first quarter is also a good time to make your annual club donation to KCF.

Contributions to the Annual Club Gift Campaign at any giving level are appreciated and help make a difference. The suggested giving level of \$10 or more per member is recommended (basic minimum of \$100 per club) to help KCF meet the purposes for which it was chartered. A lump sum amount of any size works, too. If every Capital District Kiwanis Club was to contribute on an annual basis, the KCF would be able to not only continue and expand its current service but also ensure a legacy of support to children and youth for years to come.

With Capital reaching for 150 active clubs in the Administrative Year, as of the first of March, we received \$13,036 from 44 clubs. Your division is listed here with the number of its clubs who have already contributed "something." Maybe you'd like to check if your club is one of these?

Div 1-0; Div 2-4; Div 3-2; Div 4 -5; Div 5-4; Div 6-1; Div 8-1; Div 9-2; Div 10-3; Div 12-3; Div-13-4; Div-14-1; Div-15-4; Div-16-4; Div 17-3; Div18-2; Div 19-1; Div 20-0.

Just to keep your spirits UP, here's the latest Capital grant awardee. Congrats to all their members!!!

### Kiwanis Club of Crofton 195 children impacted -- School Vacation Food Box Project

School breaks aren't a vacation for every child. For 195 students across five schools in Crofton, Maryland, there is a stretch of days when the cafeteria isn't there to help. The Kiwanis Club of Crofton built a solution: nutritious food boxes delivered three times a year during vacation periods, plus grocery gift cards so families can cover fresh and perishable items. A Children's Fund grant supports the club as food insecurity grows and costs continue to rise so they can continue to reach the children who need their support the most.

Way to go, folks, down the path to Annapolis District Convention in August. I hope that once again we can continue to be in the top five districts in terms of fundraising. THAT is Important because our district-level KCF grants and scholarships we have been fortunate to receive the last number of years were awarded because of the level of our donations.

*(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 Mulhaul...

Hello, fellow Kiwanians!

After our upcoming convention in Manila, Philippines, Key Club International and Circle K International (CKI) members will gather for their respective conventions in Dallas, Texas.

For these young leaders, international conventions are more than just a trip – they're opportunities to grow, connect and step confidently into their potential. Students take part in leadership workshops, hear from inspiring speakers, elect their international officers and build friendships with peers from around the world.

These experiences shape the future of our organization. They strengthen leadership skills, expand global perspectives and empower students to bring fresh ideas and renewed passion back to their home clubs and communities. To help remove barriers and open doors to life-changing opportunities for our students, consider working with your local Key Clubs and CKI clubs to see how you and your Kiwanis club can help support registration, travel and lodging expenses. When we lift our young leaders, we strengthen the future of Kiwanis and the communities we serve.

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



## Kiwanis Day of Giving broke records

The fourth annual Kiwanis Day of Giving on Feb. 25 was an amazing success thanks to the generosity of Kiwanis clubs and members worldwide. A total of \$156,663 (U.S. dollars) was raised for the Kiwanis Children's Fund, surpassing the goal of \$125,000 by more than 25 percent. These funds will help nearly 70,000 kids around the world through Kiwanis service projects. Thank you for your support.

## Membership month is on the horizon

May is Membership Month, a time to showcase Kiwanis to your community and invite potential members to join your local or online club. Plan a guest list of invitees for a May open house. Use the Roster Analysis Worksheet as a reminder of individuals who likely would enjoy being part of Kiwanis — and whose skills, relationships and experiences could enrich a club's impact.

Clubs should invite guests to attend their May meetings, service projects, fundraisers and social events. Kiwanis International can help with the implementation. If you don't have sufficient time to organize the program or have other scheduling conflicts that make it difficult to host a May membership event, choose an alternative month and begin planning now.

## Proposed amendments to be voted on at ICON

The following is a summary of the bylaw amendments proposals to be considered by the House of Delegates at the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention at the end of June.

### AMENDMENT 1: REMOTE VOTING FOR KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Purpose: To provide for candidate nominations and initial review of proposed amendments and resolutions at the Kiwanis International Convention, with final voting to take place via secure remote voting.

Proposed by the Capital District. Not supported by the Kiwanis International Board.

### AMENDMENT 2: REDUCTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Purpose: To adjust the size of the Executive Committee commensurate with the size of the Kiwanis International Board.

## Register for Kiwanis Amplify

Registration for the new and improved Kiwanis Amplify – the premier online and leadership development program for Kiwanis worldwide – is now open. Take your leadership skills to the next level as you explore seven dynamic modules, gain practical tools and connect with leaders around the globe.

The first 200 incoming lieutenant governors who register for Kiwanis Amplify 2026 can take the program for free with a discount code from their district secretary or governor-elect. Don't miss this opportunity to grow, lead and make an even greater impact. Register for Kiwanis Amplify 2026 by April 30.

Proposed by (and supported by) the Kiwanis International Board.

### **AMENDMENT 3: KIWANIS OBJECT #4 CHANGE OF THE WORD "AGGRESSIVE"**

Purpose: To give an accurate description in today's world of what Object #4 truly means.

Proposed by the Kiwanis Club of Maplewood (Missouri-Arkansas District). Not supported by the Kiwanis International Board.

*For more detailed information of these proposed amendments, please refer to the 2026 Amendments Booklet.*

## **Tell your club's story on social media**

Pretend you know nothing about Kiwanis or your club. Now look at the three most recent posts on your club's social media account. Ask yourself:

- Is it clear that we're a group of volunteers?
- Is it clear that we help kids?
- Is our community impact easy to see?

You can say all these things, of course, but it's important to show it. (Oh, and you have about three seconds – the average time someone looks at a social media post before deciding whether to interact or scroll past.)

So, how can you convey what you do and the impact you make in a few seconds?

### **Include these elements**

You don't need fancy software or a degree in design to make a good social media post. For platforms, all you need is:

- A visual element. Photos and illustrations draw people in. When you talk about a service project, for example, include photos – particularly active shots of the service being performed, not just members lined up for the camera.
- A clear, conversational tone. Give people the feeling that a real person is "talking" to them.
- A call to action. What do you want people to do after seeing your post?

These elements help people focus on the value of your club – to kids in your community and to club members – and the fact that you want others to be a part of it.

If the topic of a post is especially important to a particular member, you might even ask them to write it. Here's an example:

"As a mom of two kids who graduated from the Pleasant Hills School District, I know how dedicated our teachers are, sometimes even paying for extra classroom supplies out of their own pockets. My Kiwanis club and I are ready to help them – and you're welcome to assist.

"Join me at Southview Elementary School next Tuesday,

July 8, as we fill backpacks full of school supplies for students to lessen the burden on our teachers. Let me know if you'd like to sign up."

Remember: People join people. Make sure that anyone who sees your post understands that Kiwanis volunteers are folks like them.

### **Other resources**

From social media to websites and more, Kiwanis International has tools for your club's needs. Go to the Kiwanis branding and marketing webpage for resources such as:

- Kiwanis logos
- Social media images
- Tips and Tools booklet
- Free club websites
- Custom club logos

And when your club is celebrating an anniversary, make it an event that gets the community's attention. On the webpage, you can find, celebration ideas, custom anniversary logos and tips to maximize media coverage.

## **Member Engagement: Reflecting Passions**

People join Kiwanis clubs for the service. They stay because of the impact. Consider this a tool to help you explore, clarify and listen – and ultimately serve relevant needs in the community by updating your projects and seizing new opportunities.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Ask every member to write down their favorite local charity – a nonprofit that they currently support with time, talent and/or treasure.

Ask them to share the cause they would support if they won the lottery and had unlimited funds.

Send an email (or even "snail mail" where necessary) to members who haven't been to a club meeting or service project recently. Do your best to get a response from every club member.

### **How to use the scorecard**

1. Create a list of the organizations your members submitted as favorite local charities.
2. Create a list of all current service projects undertaken by members of your club.
3. During a club board meeting, ask officers to compare the two lists.
4. Use your findings to get club members involved in update service projects. Determine a timeline for onboarding new projects. Don't roll out several new projects at once.
5. Compile the causes that members shared in the unlimited finds scenario – and discuss it with the club.

# the POSSIBILITY PROJECT



Every day, around the world, children are going hungry. Students are struggling to read. Potential leaders are lacking mentors. And even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow.

The good news: Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, just US\$2.25 is enough to address the needs of one child. It's time to put our sense of what's possible into action — and help make the future better for 10 million children around the world.

## INTRODUCING THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT.

The \$25 million we raise together will support the mission of the Kiwanis Children's Fund, serving the kids, projects and programs of greatest need.

 <b>10 MILLION KIDS</b>	 <b>us\$25 MILLION</b>	 <b>5 YEARS</b> October 2022-September 2028
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You're part of a global network — nearly 180,000 Kiwanis club members in 85 nations. Imagine the possibilities if we all come together to make a difference. That's what The Possibility Project is about. **It's the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis clubs and the children we serve.** Kids need our help — every day, all around the world. Let's answer the call.

<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION</b> 	<b>EDUCATION &amp; LITERACY</b> 	<b>YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b> 
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Stay up to date online. And encourage members to do the same.  
[kiwanischildrensfund.org](http://kiwanischildrensfund.org)





**Kiwaniis**  
MANASSAS-BATTLEFIELD

*Manassas Battlefield  
Kiwaniis Club*

***Steak Fry***  
&  
***Capital District  
Division 2 Social***

***Our Service Project:***

***Please Bring Back-to-School  
Supplies for our Kids  
at the Boys & Girls Club***

***Reservations Deadline: May 10th***

*Join Fellow Kiwanians & Guests!*

***Sunday, May 17, 2026***

***3pm - 7pm***

***Registration Required***

***\$55 prepaid***

***\$59 at the door***

**Location:**

*The Inn At Vint Hill*

*4200 Aiken Drive*

*Warrenton, VA 20187*

*www.theinnatvinthill.com*

**Menu:**

- *FREE Open Light Bar (beer & wine)*
- *Cash Bar for Spirits*
- *NY Strip Steak off the Grill OR*
- *Grilled Chicken Breast*
- *Baked Potato with Condiments*
- *House Salad with Dressings*
- *Rolls & Butter*
- *Dessert*

***Door Prizes!  
50/50 Cash Drawing!***

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS (Deadline May 10th)**

**Contact Harry Horning to sign up**

**Cell: 703-220-7999 Email: [harry@HarryHHorning.com](mailto:harry@HarryHHorning.com)**

***TWO WAYS TO PAY! 1) Use your Paypal account. Send to: @BattlefieldKiwaniis  
If using PayPal, email/text Harry Horning with your name, club & meal selection  
OR 2) Send check w/name, club & meal selection to: Manassas Battlefield Kiwanis  
c/o Harry Horning 8721 Plantation Lane #201 Manassas, VA 20110***

LIGHTS, CAMERA,  
**ACTION!**

CAPITAL DISTRICT CONVENTION  
8/21-8/23  
2026



#106



2026 Capital District  
Kiwanis Convention

**SAVE  
THE DATE  
AUGUST 21-23**