

The Capital

June/July 2026

KIWANIANIAN

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AMAZING THINGS!**



Kiwaniis

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COVER: South Arlington (VA) Kiwanian Ken Grundborg, 88, recently "walked" at Georgia Tech's graduation ceremonies and was recognized for degrees he earned at the school in 1960 and 1966, respectively. Defense Department duties twice prevented his attendance earlier. (Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech)



The Kiwanis Club of Crofton (MD) celebrated its 50th anniversary in May with several dignitaries in attendance. Club President Renee Mackey and Capital District Governor Tim Gillette (above) hold a ceremonial check from the Kiwanis Children's Fund in support of the club's school vacation food box project.



2025-26 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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Governor's Message

TIM GILLETTE, 2025-26 GOVERNOR



WE'RE NEARING THE HOMESTRETCH

Hello Capital Kiwanians! It's hard to believe that we're nearing the homestretch for the 2025-2026 Kiwanis Year. For this month's article, I've chosen to include a few administrative updates.

Kiwanis clubs should have elected their new club officers for the 2026-2027 year. Club secretaries should also be filing these reports in Kiwanis Engage. This is an important step as your new club officers are making plans to attend Club Leadership Education (CLE). The Capital District Education Team, in connection with the Kiwanis International Education Team, has prepared a worthwhile training to ensure new club officers hit the ground running in October. Please visit the Capital District website for information on dates and registration.

Speaking of registration, registration is now open for the 2026 Capital District Convention to be held in Annapolis, MD from Aug. 21-Aug. 23. Our theme is "Lights. Camera. Action." and Kiwanis will take center stage. Join members from across the District for a weekend full of fun, fellowship, and education. Some highlights include a Friday trip to the US Naval Academy, a Friday night Casino Night, an education-filled Saturday, the Governor's Banquet Saturday night, and the transfer of leadership on Sunday. It's an event you won't want to miss.

Since our last publication, our District has grown! We are now the home of two new Kiwanis clubs. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Culpeper chartered in April with 22 members, and the Kiwanis Club of Halifax County chartered in May with 17 members. Both clubs have already hit the ground running and are making a positive impact in their communities. So far, the Capital District has welcomed four new clubs, and



we have plans to open three more this Kiwanis year. As of this writing, the Capital District has seen a net increase of 233 members, meaning we have a great chance to finish the year with a net gain in membership for the first time in a long time.

When I think of summer, my mind takes me to Nick Carraway and *The Great Gatsby*. *“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on trees, just as things grow fast in movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”* For children, not only does summer represent time off from school, but it represents the culmination of an era, a new grade, a sense of renewal, a period of optimism. When they go back to school, in many cases, they have a clean slate. Some children will want to build upon the successes of the previous school year, while others will want to reinvent themselves and embrace change.

That’s why now our commitment to serving the children of our communities is more important than ever. With schools out for summer recess, children are missing out of some of the benefits provided by school districts. It’s important that Kiwanis clubs help to fill those needs. Children who are on free and reduced lunch may not receive the meals that they get during the school year. It’s important for Kiwanis clubs to partner with organizations in their community that help combat food insecurity.

Children may not have the learning support that they receive during the school year, so a Kiwanis club may want to connect with its local libraries to see if there’s a way to help promote literacy programs. Children may need a safe place to play during the summer. Kiwanis clubs can reach out to recreation departments in their communities to see if there’s a need to help maintain playgrounds, clear fields of invasive plants, or donate to help fund a new playground or learning center. We want to nurture our children so that when they start the next school year, they’re confident and ready to keep moving forward.

I want to thank everyone for what they do in their communities in the name of Kiwanis. We’re a great organization, and it’s only because of the great people who make up our membership. I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to seeing you around the District.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim", written in a cursive style.

Governor Tim



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

YOUR CLUB'S CRITICAL PLANNING PHASE LIES AHEAD

June marks the start of summer, but for Kiwanis, it also signals the beginning of convention season and the critical planning phase for the year ahead.

At the Capital District level, we will spend the next two months drafting committee directives and the operational budget to support Governor-Elect David and the 2026-27 District Leadership Team. I encourage your clubs to treat these next few months with the same intentionality as you prepare for your incoming administrative year.

If I could offer two essential pieces of advice for your club's upcoming year, they would be:

1. **Appoint a Membership Committee.** Don't settle for just a chairperson. Ensure your committee chair is dedicated to two specific goals: keeping current members engaged and overseeing continuous recruitment. Their work should be guided by a fully supported [Membership Plan](#) and owned by your Board of Directors.
2. **Attend your division's Club Leadership Education (CLE) session.** Please send your president, secretary, treasurer, and membership committee chair to receive proper training and connect with other leaders in your division. This training is invaluable, free of charge (refreshments included!), and essential for any club striving to be distinguished and successful. You can find the list of [sessions and registration form here](#).

Incoming Board Planning Retreat

Following the CLE, organize a retreat for your incoming leadership to align on goals and strategy. This is the perfect moment for the president and secretary to ensure that board members and committee chairs understand their expectations. To get the most out of this retreat, I highly recommend conducting both a [Community Survey](#) and a [Member Survey](#) beforehand, so you have actionable data to guide your discussions.

Membership & Vision

Now is the ideal time to connect with every member to confirm their membership status for the coming year. Speaking of membership – have you noticed some members losing engagement? Your club needs a clear, compelling vision to deliver the “wow” factor that inspires members to recruit others. The Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) [Club Vision](#) resource is an excellent tool for your incoming board to use during your planning process.

Budgeting

Summer is also the time to draft your budget for the new year. At a minimum, review the current year's budget alongside your actual expenditures. Use this process to make the tough decisions: decide which projects to sunset because they are no longer effective or enjoyed, and replace them with fresh, impactful initiatives. Your budget should be a direct reflection of your club's vision for the year ahead.

Officer Installation

While Oct. 1 marks the official start for the incoming president and board, most clubs celebrate this transition with a “transfer of power” ceremony. This is an important tradition to recognize the achievements of the outgoing year and officially install your new leadership. It is standard practice to invite your division's Lt. Governor-Designate to conduct this ceremony. Start planning this event now – whether for late September or early October – to ensure it aligns with your club's traditions.

Oct. 1 will be here before you know it. Let's make sure your club is ready!

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

From the Governor-Elect



BY DAVID LURIE

ENJOY THE SUMMER, BUT THINK ABOUT NEXT YEAR, TOO

It is almost summer — time to make plans!

As I notice the calendar now reads June 1, I am thinking: wow. how this year is flying! We are heading into that time of year of vacations, picnics, and reunions — but this is also a suitable time to make plans.

June and July are important times for clubs — not only is the International Convention coming up in Manila at the end of the month, but this is also the time of year for training our club officers and membership chairs for the 2026-27 administrative year. Our Club Leadership Education (CLE) sessions are being held across the District. I hope many of you are planning to attend and learn so you can go back and start planning for the year ahead.

It's my hope that your clubs will take some time and get together one evening or on a Saturday and plan what remarkable things you all want to accomplish in 26-27.

We also have our District Convention coming in August in Annapolis. I know the host committee is working very hard right now to prepare for a wonderful event; I hope you make plans to be part of it as well. Registration is open and this is a fantastic opportunity to add a day or two and enjoy the sights and sounds of Maryland's capital city. It is a location we have not been to in a long time. It will be exciting to visit.

I have been busy preparing for my year as Governor-Elect. We had an outstanding training session for Lt. Governor-Elects in Ocean City the last weekend of April to help prepare for the coming year. You will start to see them in the field in July as they start making their formal introductions to the clubs over the summer months.

I am also recruiting the last few leadership positions I still need for the year ahead. Some opportunities remain and I will direct you to our advertisement that appears on page 21 in this issue, if you are so interested.

I also had the opportunity to support a new club built in Halifax County, Virginia, in May; I was excited to see another new club added to our ranks. That was the third new club,

along with Greater Laurel and Greater Culpeper, which have been chartered just since the Mid-Year Conference (and they make four this year in total). New club building is just one part of continuing to grow our organization and combined with the new member recruitment in our existing clubs, I am hoping we will have a positive outcome this year -- and of course, continue that momentum next fiscal year.



Our Capital District Key Club and CKI are preparing for their international conventions in the first week of July (both will be held concurrently in Dallas) and they are looking forward to coming back ready for the fall. I had the opportunity to attend the Key Club district board training and meeting in May and was impressed with their energy and desire to have a momentous year. These student leaders want to be effective, and I am proud to be able to work alongside such resolute individuals.

Our District Foundation has been busy. At the May meeting, we awarded several club grants and are preparing to distribute funds for all the Key Club and CKI scholarship award winners in July. Please remember to buy your Ducky Derby tickets and send in your club's annual gift if you have not already done so.

Finally, I want to thank the Kiwanis Clubs of Woodbridge and Manassas for hosting me at their events recently. I am looking forward to getting out across the district to more events this summer; let me know and I will see if I can join you all.

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



COLLEGE GRADUATE RELIVES THE '60S

Not once, but twice, Ken Grundborg was unable to attend his college commencement exercise owing to what might be termed a family obligation.

When you're in the Army, "you don't argue with Uncle Sam," Grundborg chuckled at the May 21 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington (VA).

At the meeting, the club member and Arlington resident detailed a journey of more than 60 years to finally participate in commencement exercises at the Georgia Institute of Technology, better known as George Tech.

In 1960, Grundborg completed his undergraduate studies in civil engineering at the institution. But the Defense Department dispatched him to a posting in Korea, leaving him unable to receive his diploma in person.

Six years later, it happened again. Having completed graduate work at Georgia Tech, Grundborg found himself unable to attend commencement ceremonies because he had been posted to South Vietnam.

It was all part of a 28-year career with the U.S. military that saw Grundborg at different times involved with the Army Corps of Engineers, 82nd Airborne Division, Rangers and Pathfinders. He retired as a colonel, having earned the Legion of Merit, Ranger Tab and Bronze Star Medal – but without possession of his diploma.

Fast forward six decades. Grundborg's bride, Mila Lynne Floro, felt something should be done to rectify the situation.

She wrote to Georgia Tech, explaining the circumstances.

What followed was a case of the red carpet being rolled out – the university welcomed its 88-year-old alumnus back with open arms, spotlighting him at the spring 2026 undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies and highlighting his military service.

The institution's president, Angel Cabrera, couldn't resist a playful admonishment as the Arlington resident walked across the stage to receive his diplomas to an ovation.

"You sir, are 60 years late to your graduation ceremony!" Cabrera said.

For Grundborg, the experience proved "the most memorable day of my life."

"I almost cried," he told fellow Kiwanians. "It was amazing. They went all out."

Grundborg said that he may not have had the chance to participate in commencement ceremonies in the 1960s, but he always has valued his time spent at Georgia Tech.

"I really appreciate that school," he said. "It prepared me for my military career."

Knowing a good story when they saw it, a number of Georgia and event national news outlets provided coverage.

Grundborg told ABC News that he never held against the Army that he wasn't able to participate in commencement events.

"I understood that when they had an opening or a need, that took precedence," he said.

Grundborg and Mila Lynne, also a Kiwanis Club of South Arlington member, married last year after having been together as a couple for a decade.

– Submitted by Scott McCaffrey



CROFTON CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

On May 11, 1976 the Kiwanis Club of Crofton (MD) was chartered with 26 members. In memory of that historical occasion, its 50th anniversary was held at Crofton Country Club on May 11, 2016 attended by 62 members and guests.

Guests included Past International President Art Riley (Westminster) and his wife Vickie. Also on hand were International Trustee Dennis Baugh (Charlottesville) with his wife Darlene, current Capital District Governor Tim Gillette and Division 4 Lt. Governor Katie Pajewski with her guest and DelMarVa Capital District Trustee Charles Marks and his wife Robin.

Laughter and smiles were in abundance as the group reminisced about its history and highlighted its many Service Leadership Programs. Crofton currently serves several active Key Clubs. K-Kids, Builders and Aktion Clubs also share Crofton's history. Each member received a commemorative blue and gold coin with the Kiwanis logo on one side and on the flip side words engraved recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Crofton 1976-2026 – 50 years.

An official citation from the Maryland General Assembly was presented to the club by Delegate Stuart M. Schmidt of Anne Arundel County-Legislative District 33 B. It read in part, "Be it hereby known to all that sincerest congratulations are offered to Crofton Kiwanis Club in recognition of your 50th anniversary celebration."

At the event, Crofton recognized six recent new members who have been welcomed into the club, two of whom were in attendance for the celebration. The induction ceremony was performed by Dennis Baugh along with Crofton club leaders.

The night focused on the receiving of a grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund to augment and expand Crofton's School Vacation Food Box Project that presently serves four elementary schools in the Anne Arundel County during spring, Thanksgiving and winter break. The plan is to insert a gift card from a local grocery into each box and expand efforts to help children who experience food insecurity in Crofton Middle School.

The Board of Directors decided that a gift celebrating 50 years of service would be one way to thank all our sponsors and leaders who have supported the club's community involvement. The next effort will be to raise funds to purchase a picnic table, with the Kiwanis logo attached, placed behind the Crofton Town Hall where many children meet before and after school and where Kiwanis activities occur throughout the year.

In the words of Albert Einstein, "Bear in mind that the wonderful things you learn in your schools (in Kiwanis) are the work of many generations. All this is put in your hands as your inheritance in order that you may receive it, honor it, add to it, and one day faithfully hand it on to your children."

– Submitted by Renee Mackey, Kiwanis Club of Crofton

ROANOKER HONORED FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Past President Rupert Cutler was honored May 17 with a lifetime achievement award presented by the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy at its 30th anniversary celebration.

The keynote speaker at the BRLC event was former Tennessee senator and United States Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, MD. Frist, current Global Board Chair of the Nature Conservancy, was joined in the celebratory speech by his wife, Tracy Frist. The Frists co-own a 1,000-acre farm in Craig County, just outside the Roanoke metro.

Cutler, who founded the BRLC and led the organization during its formative years in the 1990s, remains an active Kiwanian, leading the club in Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day ticket sales again this year at the age of 92.

Cutler (below right, with fellow Kiwanian David Perry) served as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture during the Jimmy Carter administration in the 1970s.





CENTENARIAN CELEBRATES WITH KIWANIS

Here's proof that it's never too late to join Kiwanis and make a major impact:

Middlesex (VA) Kiwanian Russ Russell joined his club 41 years ago, a few years following retirement. In May, he celebrated his 100th birthday and the club members threw their current member a party.

Russell moved to Urbanna in 1981 following retirement as a captain in the United States Naval Reserves as well as a long career with the Federal Aviation Administration. Four years later, Russell joined Kiwanis. He became club president in 1987-88.

During his lengthy tenure in Kiwanis (remember this is post-retirement), Russell has been a primary organizer of the Northern Neck Kiwanis Club, the Middlesex High School Key Club, the St. Clare Walker Builders Club and the Middlesex Elementary K-Kids Club. He also was in charge of the

Middlesex County Kiwanis Club oyster booth at the festival for 20 years.

The club threw the party for Russell at its May 4 meeting held at the Virginia Street Café in Urbanna.

– Submitted by James Shackelford

K-KIDS CLUB CHARTERS IN OCEAN CITY

Ocean City Elementary School chartered a new K-Kids Club in May, working with the Ocean Pines/Ocean City (MD) Kiwanis Club. The K-Kids Club meets regularly to develop leadership skills and assist in community service projects.

Their very first venture was to help provide daily hygiene necessities for Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services. Shown in the accompanying photo are student members along with (L to R) Assistant Principal Jane Chisholm, School Advisor Jen Fohner and Kiwanis Liaison Janet Wolfing, receiving \$500 from the Kiwanis Club.

– Submitted by Seth Thatcher



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BEST CONNECTIONS 2026

CAPITAL DISTRICT KIWANIS 2026 CONVENTION ANNAPOLIS, MD

COMING AUGUST 21-23, 2026

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNT ENDS JULY 25

REGISTER NOW

SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

ADMINISTRATOR MESSAGE

As we bring this school year to a close, we pause to recognize the extraordinary commitment, compassion, and leadership shown by our sponsoring clubs, K-Kids and Builders Club members, and advisors. Together, our community has transformed service into action — strengthening local connections, uplifting those in need, and demonstrating the true spirit of service leadership.

While we reflect on a year of achievement, we also look forward with excitement. Behind the scenes, Kiwanis is evolving to better support your work. Updates to our administrative and reporting system Engage will enhance how clubs track impact, streamline processes, and showcase the incredible service being done across our community. At this time, monthly reports have been turned off to build out that component this summer. The annual report will still be in place for now.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We're thrilled to welcome our newest clubs:

New Vistas School Builders Club sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Forest

Liberty Middle School Builders Club sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Ashland

Alvey Elementary K-Kids sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Manassas

Fountaindale Elementary K-Kids and **Northern Middle School Builders Club** sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Hagerstown. Both of these clubs are reactivations. The number of K-Kids start-ups this year exceeds the goal! Congratulations!

GLOBAL SERVICE PROJECT: MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL

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!](#)

Challenge K-Kids and Builders Club members to continue their service while school is out. A Summer Service Challenge invites members to carry this momentum into the months ahead, continuing to make a difference in their communities in creative and meaningful ways.

Below are some ideas:

- Complete an extra chore without being asked
- Help make dinner and clean up the dishes
- Write a nice note to a family member or neighbor to brighten their day
- Pick up trash in the local park
- Pull weeds for a neighbor
- Plan a garage sale or lemonade stand and donate the profits to a local charity
- Read stories or take time to play with younger children
- Sort through old toys and books and donate them to a local charity
- Write and deliver a thank-you letter to the mailman or garbage collector
- Make treats with cards and deliver them to a local police or fire station

Encourage them to come up with their own idea for summer service and keep track of the projects they complete. Acknowledge their success in the fall and have them share how that inspires the projects they will take on with other members of their club.

Thank you for your dedication which fuels our mission – and together, we are building a stronger, more service-driven future.

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

June

Winchester, VA	1922
Staunton, VA.....	1922
Charles Town, WV.....	1926
War, WV.....	1929
Arlington, VA	1931
Parsons, WV.....	1950
Commodore Mayo, Mayo, MD	1955
East Huntington, WV.....	1955
Bridgeport, WV.....	1967
Ocean View Beach, Norfolk, VA.....	1974
Colonial Capital, Williamsburg, VA....	1976
Middlesex, Saluda, VA.....	1978
Great Bridge-Chesapeake, VA	1985
Tysons, VA	1998
Toano, VA	2007

July

Norfolk, VA.....	1919
Fairmont, WV.....	1920
Waynesboro, VA.....	1925
Coastal Delaware, DE.....	1928
Bluefield, VA.....	1946
Delmar, DE	1950
Colonial Heights, VA	1963
Accomack, Onancock, VA	1973
Shepherdstown, WV.....	1978
Far East Washington, DC.....	1983
Southwest Waterfront, DC.....	2001
Hopewell, VA.....	2006
Clinchco, VA	2018



Elise Culp

Stonehouse Elementary School

Capital District

2025-26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AMAZING CLUBS

Kate Collins Middle School 6/9/2025

Congratulations to **Elise Culp** on being recognized as a 2025-26 K-Kids Distinguished Advisor for her work with **Stonehouse Elementary K-Kids** sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Toano.

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



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.

Pt. Pleasant, WV (Div 20)

July 13-15

Cumberland, MD (Div 8)

September 14-16

Service Showcase



NEW SEASON, NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARISE

BY CARRIE WAGNER

Summer is upon us, bringing beautiful weather, longer days of sunlight, and new opportunities to get out into our communities and serve. With kids on summer vacation and schools on break, this is a wonderful time for Kiwanis clubs to think creatively about meaningful and fun ways to support children and families.

Many of our clubs have incredible traditions and long-standing projects that have made a lasting impact over the years. Those projects matter, and they are part of the heart of Kiwanis. Traditions build community connections, visibility, and memories that families often look forward to each year.

At the same time, it is important that we continue to evaluate our projects and ask ourselves an important question: Are we truly listening to what our communities need today?

Community needs are always changing. School needs change. Students' needs change. Families face new challenges every year. Because of that, our service should continue to grow and evolve, too.

Some of the best service projects do not begin with a great idea. They begin with listening.

Are we having conversations with our local school principals, teachers, counselors, parks and recreation departments, libraries, camps, hospitals, and nonprofit leaders? Are we asking what children and families need right now? Or are we continuing projects simply because "that's the way we've always done it"?

Summer is a perfect opportunity for clubs to get out into the community, promote Kiwanis, and volunteer in meaningful ways. Organizations often need extra help and support during the summer months.

There are also wonderful opportunities to tie service into national monthly themes and community events.

May was National Bike Month, which created opportunities for clubs to:

- Donate bikes or helmets to children
- Host bike safety rodeos with local police departments
- Volunteer at community bike events
- Donate reflective gear or bike locks
- Organize family bike rides and promote healthy activity

June is a wonderful opportunity to focus on fun, connection, healthy activities, and safety for kids and families. National Smile Month and National Play Outside Day both remind us how important it is for children to laugh, play, stay active, and enjoy time outdoors.

Maybe your club could:

- Host a kids field day or outdoor game day
- Organize a family picnic or ice cream social
- Volunteer at outdoor camp events or playground programs
- Help with youth fun runs, sports events, or recreation activities
- Create sidewalk chalk days, bubbles, or outdoor craft stations for children
- Donate outdoor games, balls, jump ropes, or sports equipment
- Sponsor a "Play Outside" event at a local park
- Partner with Parks & Recreation for family activities and summer fun

June is also a great time to include simple safety reminders while children are enjoying summer activities. Clubs could:

- Hand out sunscreen, water bottles, and bike helmets
- Promote playground, bike, and water safety
- Partner with local police or fire departments for community safety events
- Provide simple summer safety kits for children and families

July is National Park and Recreation Month and

also National Ice Cream Month — both perfect opportunities for family-focused community service and fun fellowship.

Maybe your club could:

- Volunteer at Parks & Recreation summer camps
- Read books to children at local libraries or daycare programs
- Help with a kids fun run or youth sports event
- Volunteer at a morning movie field trip for camp kids
- Organize a playground or park cleanup
- Sponsor a movie night or game night in the park
- Host an ice cream social for children and families
- Donate sports equipment or outdoor toys
- Partner with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, or local camps
- Help local food banks pack food boxes for families during summer break
- Donate books, backpacks, or summer activity kits
- Support food programs that help children during summer break
- Organize simple hands-on service projects families can participate in together

Sometimes service does not have to be large or expensive. Sometimes simply showing up, volunteering, building relationships, and creating fun memories for children can make a lasting impact.

Do you have a club member dedicated to helping find new service opportunities for your club? Sometimes all it takes is one passionate member helping build relationships and connections in the community to spark new ideas and meaningful partnerships.

Summer is also a great opportunity to develop future leaders within your club. Have you thought about inviting a newer member to help organize or chair a service project? Mentoring members and giving them opportunities to lead can help build confidence, create excitement, and develop future committee chairs and club leaders.

Have you thought about partnering with another Kiwanis club for an interclub service project? Working together can create a bigger impact, build friendships across divisions, and bring new energy and ideas to service. Some of the best projects happen when clubs collaborate, share volunteers, and support one another.

This is also the perfect time to begin thinking ahead and planning your Signature Projects for next year. What projects made the biggest impact this year? What projects energized your members? Is there a new need in your community that your club could help fill? Sometimes the best Signature Projects begin with one small idea, one conversation, or one simple act of service.

Service should not only impact the community – it should also inspire the people serving.

One of the beautiful things about Kiwanis is that service brings people together. It creates friendships, teamwork, purpose, and memories. When members feel connected to projects and see the direct impact they are making, excitement grows. New ideas form. Partnerships develop. Clubs become energized.

At the heart of every service project, big or small, is the opportunity to change a child's life, create a positive memory, and make our communities better for kids and families.

As leaders in service, we should always strive to keep a pulse on our communities and remain open to fresh ideas, collaboration, and opportunities to make a difference.

This summer, I encourage every club to reach out to a local principal, librarian, camp director, nonprofit, or community leader and simply ask:

“How can Kiwanis help children this summer?”

The answer may inspire your club's next meaningful project – and possibly change lives in ways you never imagined.



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



FAMILY TIES

KAITLIN KRAMBACH, KEY CLUB GOVERNOR

Hi Capital Kiwanians!

My name is Kaitlin Krumbach and I cannot express how excited I am to begin my term as Capital Key Club Governor!



First, my background: I'm a rising senior at Waynesboro High School and Shenandoah Valley Governor's School and, outside of Key Club, I involve myself in National Beta Club, National Honor Society, Ronald McDonald House Charities, James Madison University Valley Scholars, and ECMC Scholars.

Also, I'm a barista at a local coffee shop, so I'm always looking to talk about coffee and improve my latte art skills. Most importantly, I'm beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Kiwanis and our fellow branches of the K-Family.

I joined Key Club my freshman year while searching for an opportunity to become more involved in my local school community. From seeing the meaningful impact our members were having on the world around us to community building activities at our biweekly meetings, I could feel my love for Key Club grow with every step I took deeper into the K-Family. At the end of my freshman year, I came up with an impromptu speech for the position of Club Secretary (when it was announced nobody was running) and was subsequently elected. You just never know...

My knowledge of the Key Club impact beyond Waynesboro began to grow within this position, and

only mushroomed after attending my first DCON and being appointed Community Services Chair last service year. This position allowed me to reach out and really understand the international impact this organization has.

Toward the end of March, our district held our 2026 District Convention, themed "Growing with Service" after our Immediate Past Governor Sneha Shah's Governor's Project. Key Clubbers across Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia were able to connect with each other, develop a sense of community, and celebrate a year of successful, meaningful, impactful service and leadership. Personally, I was able to talk directly with a number of excited Key Clubbers about their plans for the upcoming year, their hope in electing new district leadership, and their thoughts on the convention itself.

Our district is celebrating in electing several new executives, with Damien Teed as Secretary-Treasurer, Hannah Lee as Editor, and Amani Nzuna as Webmaster. At a recent board meeting, executives were able to share goals and updates as we've settled into our terms, with common themes of highlighting the membership experience, transparency throughout the district, and an increase in communication designed to increase and retain membership.

I want to sincerely thank you all for allowing me the opportunity and entrusting me as the next Key Club Capital District Governor. I'm pleased with the progress we've made in our first months of serving the district, and we're ambitiously heading into the remaining ones.

(Key Club Capital District Governor Kaitlin Krumbach can be reached at kaitlink.keyclub@gmail.com)

TIME TO PLAN FOR DCON

The spotlight is almost on Annapolis, and now is the perfect time to reserve your seat for the 2026 Capital Kiwanis Convention! Join fellow members from across the district Aug. 21-23, 2026 for an unforgettable weekend of fellowship, leadership, entertainment and celebration.

Here are the Top 3 Reasons to Register Now:

1. Secure your spot for exclusive experiences.
2. Space is limited for our Friday guided tour of the United States Naval Academy. The tour is filling quickly, so early registration is the best way to guarantee your place.
3. Make it a family getaway.

Turn your convention weekend into a memorable family trip in beautiful Annapolis. Guests are welcome to join attendees throughout the weekend and Saturday workshops are completely free for spouses and guests to attend. Members can also purchase meals for guests a la carte, making it easy to customize the experience while enjoying the charm, dining, shopping, and waterfront atmosphere of Maryland's capital city together.

Take Advantage of Early Bird Pricing

Register now to lock in discounted early bird rates before registration prices increase in July. Be sure to reserve your hotel room early as well while the convention group rate is still available at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Annapolis. Book your accommodations before Aug. 6.

Early Bird package registration is just \$250 and includes:

- All conference materials
- Access to all conference sessions
- Admission to Friday Night's Kiwanis Casino Night with Hors d'oeuvres
- Four ticketed meals: Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Fellowship Luncheon, Saturday Night Governor's Gala Dinner, Sunday Inspirational Breakfast

A la carte registration is also available for \$60 (early bird price) which includes conference materials and access to workshops and the House of Delegates. Tickets to meal sessions can be purchased individually using this registration option.

Convention highlights include:

- VIP Friday Tours of the United States Naval Academy
- Casino Night & Reception
- Interactive Workshops & Leadership Training
- District Elections & House of Delegates
- Governor's Gala & Youth Chorus Performance

This convention is your opportunity to get involved at the district level, have fun with fellow Kiwanians, build lasting friendships, and return to your club with fresh ideas, new inspiration, and practical strategies for success.

[Register today and be part of the show!](#) We can't wait to welcome you to Annapolis in August.



From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

IMPACT CLUBS: BEST RESULT FOR QUICKLY HELPING OUR CHILDREN

BY JOHN TYNER

My best wishes to all of you for reading this important update article... I'm excited to share the progress about our District's work with the Possibility Project, an on-going campaign to impact 10 million children worldwide through our Kiwanis service projects.

As Kiwanians, you already know the needs of children in your community. You see the student struggling without support, the child going hungry, the child who can't join others on the playground. Imagine if every club had the resources to do even more. That's what this campaign makes possible.

As I have said, The Possibility Project aims to impact more than 10 million children by raising \$25 million over five years. With a grant through this campaign, it takes just \$2.25 for a Kiwanian to change a child's life. We've already raised more than \$10.5 million worldwide, and more than 152 clubs have pledged over \$3 million. Here in Capital District, we have raised over \$600,000 and 10 clubs have pledged to become Impact Clubs. The momentum is real and it's because of clubs like yours.

More than 400 grants have been awarded to Kiwanis clubs around the world. More than 10,000 Kiwanians have been mobilized through those projects. And that's just the club grants. When you include scholarships and every other grant the Children's Fund has awarded, we're talking about 904 grants since the campaign launched. And think about the ripple effect of this: one club grant reaches one club. That club reaches one community. And that community's children carry it forward for the rest of their lives. One grant, countless children. That's what you make possible.

Let me share some highlights with you. To reiterate, 904 grants have been awarded since the campaign launched. More than \$3.8 million has been distributed to clubs. And 1.75 million children have been impacted across our three-cause areas: Health and Nutrition, Education and Literacy, and Youth Leadership Development.

Think about a child who has spent more time in waiting rooms than on a playground. For families battling pediatric cancer, ordinary childhood moments can be out of reach. The Kiwanis Club of Batavia-Geneva Area, in Illinois-Eastern Iowa, gave those families one afternoon when the

hospital wasn't the center of the story. A fall festival at the local farm. Pumpkins, animals, fresh air, and children being children. A Children's Fund grant funded the pumpkins, the lunches, the signage. But what it really funded was a memory. That's what a grant makes possible.

Think about what happens at 3 o'clock for a child whose parents work hours away. School ends, and there is no one coming. In some communities, that means going home to an empty apartment and figuring it out alone. In Taiwan, a Kiwanis club decided that was not acceptable. They showed up after school with tutors and hot dinners and craft supplies. And when it was time to go home, they drove the children there themselves. A Children's Fund grant helped keep that van running and those dinner tables full. Because of a club that refused to let children fall through the cracks. Those children had somewhere to go, someone to help them, and a warm meal waiting. That is the kind of gap we seek to close – and do.

We talk a lot about the challenges children face. The hunger, the struggles in school, the loneliness. And those things are real. But there is another thing that is also real: young people doing remarkable things every single day and nobody noticing.

A Kiwanis club in La Junta, Colorado, decided to change that. They went to their community and asked: who are the children showing up for others? Who is leading quietly, giving freely, making things better just because they can? Then they found them, nominated them, put them in front of their community, and said: this child matters. Ten students were honored. Ten children who maybe never heard that before, not in that way, not publicly. A Children's Fund grant made the ceremony possible. But the real gift was something no grant can buy: being seen.

Before this campaign, we averaged 17 grant letters of intent per cycle. Now we've been averaging 55-plus. Clubs want to do more for children and more are asking for help every year. But for every \$2 requested we still can only fund \$1. Clubs with real projects serving real children are being turned away, not because their work isn't good, but because the resources aren't there yet. That's the gap your giving closes.



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



Kiwaniis[®]
 CHILDREN'S FUND

Many clubs have already stepped up by becoming Impact Clubs, and you can too. An Impact Club makes a five-year pledge to support The Possibility Project, committing to raising \$100 per member per year. Capital clubs that have already joined include (in division order): Shepherd Park, Southwest Waterfront, Arlington, Tysons, Bethesda, Rockville, Wheaton-Silver Spring, Westminster, Front Royal, Charlottesville, and West Charleston. Many others are considering their commitment. Thank you to each of them. We can't reach 10 million children without more clubs. Your club could be next.

Clubs of all sizes are becoming Impact Clubs, and no two plans look the same. \$100 per member per year breaks down to just \$8.40 per month, roughly one trip to a place like Starbucks. But you don't have to rely on members alone.

Look to fundraising events, your club treasury, and your foundation if you have one.

Here's the reframe that will make it work for you: divide your pledge by \$2.25. Your goal isn't \$10,000 but becomes 4,444 children. That's how many children a 20-member club can impact. As a club, ask yourselves how many children do you want to help?

Kiwanians do incredible things every day. And we know that when clubs formalize a goal, they reach it. The last time we asked clubs for a five-year pledge, 99.9 percent of them followed through. 1,400 of them, almost all of them, year after year. Here in Capital, we were one of only four districts that completed our \$3 million pledge for the Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus Program.

The Possibility Project is the next chapter in that history.

One child, one Kiwanis club service project at a time, to show 10 million children what's possible. By becoming an Impact Club, you're saying: we believe in the power of Kiwanis to change a child's life, and we're going to make it happen. Please join us. Help your fellow Kiwanians turn possibilities into realities for 10 million children.

Enjoy Manila, and the International Convention, if you are able to go.....and we'll see you at Annapolis DCON in August. E-mail me at tyner@taliesan.com if you have any comments or questions. My Champions and I thank you so much for everything your club does for children. We hope you will join us as an Impact Club.

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

✦ Make a Difference With Your Communication Skills!

Join the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation Communications Team

The Capital District Kiwanis Foundation is looking for creative, service-minded Kiwanians who want to help **share our story**, **grow engagement**, and **strengthen our impact** across the district.

We're seeking a volunteer to lead our **Communications and Public Relations Committee** — a role perfect for anyone who enjoys connecting people through meaningful, inspiring communication.

What You'll Help Us Do

- **Create or Coordinate Articles** for the *Capital Kiwanian* magazine
- **Boost Social Media Engagement** to highlight fundraisers, service, and the spirit of giving
- **Produce Website-Ready Media** that showcases our programs and successes
- **Collaborate With Our Webmaster** to keep online content fresh and informative
- **Support Additional Outreach** that helps Kiwanians stay informed and inspired

🌐 We're Also Seeking a Webmaster!

A one-year volunteer role supporting the Foundation by updating and maintaining our website with input from various committees. If you enjoy organizing information, keeping content current, or working behind the scenes to help others shine, this role is for you.

Ready to Get Involved?

We'd love to hear from you. Contact Executive Secretary **Nancy Simonelli** at nancy34@cox.net or **757-647-7522** for details.

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 Kiwanis members,

During the upcoming months, many members of our Service Leadership Programs will be getting ready for the transition to a new part of the Kiwanis family.

No matter where they're currently going in their journey – from K-Kids to Builders Club, Builders Club to Key Club, Key Club to Circle K International (CKI) or Kiwanis, or CKI to Kiwanis – we must meet them where they are and welcome them with open arms.

In fact, now is the time empower our young leaders from Key Club and CKI – encourage them to look into joining a Kiwanis club of a new type of club called Kiwanis Voices, which is designed for young adults 18-26.

Key Club and CKI members are future leaders, of course, but they're also current changemakers. They have come together through the love of fellowship and service to their community. It is important for the continued success of our organization that keep them engaged.

Thank you for your continued dedication to serving the children of the world!

Yours in Kiwanis service and friendship,

Michael Mulhaul

2025-26 Kiwanis International President



- Application to join a Kiwanis Voices club
- Kiwanis Voices club standard bylaws
- Recruitment flyer
- Club graphics
- Social media resources

Strengthen your club with ACE tools

For every Kiwanis club, multiple factors determine success – from the people on the roster to the club's connection with the community. With so many challenges and possibilities to consider, even the strongest clubs have at least one issue to address.

That's what Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) tools are for. Designed to help create opportunities in fundraising service and fellowship, ACE tools help club members and leaders work together on topics that range from specific club concerns to the big picture.

Your club can address a single issue by using one ACE tool or a combination. Or you can work through them all successively. On our ACE tools webpage, you'll find the information you need – including a list of common club concerns and the tools we recommend for addressing each one! Go to [Kiwanis.org/acetools](https://www.kiwanis.org/acetools).

Let's take a look at each ACE tool and what it can do for your Kiwanis club.

CLUB VISION

It's important for a club to define its purpose and values – what it is and what it does. This tool helps create a clear vision that guides the club's decision, ultimately boosting members' enthusiasm for service, activities and recruiting.

CLUB EXCELLENCE PLAN

The most successful clubs set goals and milestones for each year – and have a plan to reach those goals. This tool can help determine what your club wants to accomplish and ensure that those goals are both achievable and aligned with your club's vision.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

This step-by-step tool helps clubs gather data about community needs from people in the know, improving the club's service impact, partnership opportunities and possibilities for expansion.

Resources for starting a Kiwanis Voices Club

Kiwanis Voices clubs are different. Created with 18- to 26-year-olds in mind, these clubs encourage members to create their own identity. They're an investment in our future as we help build a bridge to lifelong service through Kiwanis. Kiwanis International is ready to help. You can use and share these resources from KI to sponsor and start a Kiwanis Voices club, or to promote an existing one:

- Kiwanis Voices fact sheet
- Five-step guide to organizing a Kiwanis Voices club
- Detailed information on sponsoring a Kiwanis Voices club
- Application to start a Kiwanis Voices club

MEMBER SURVEY

It's the first step to ensuring your club provides a valuable experience. The information can help improve your club's operations and member experience – which can increase your club's membership service impact and visibility.

EVAUATE YOUR IMPACT

With this tool, your club can look objectively at service projects and fundraising activities – both current and potential – to determine the best ways to use your resources.

DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS

For club leaders, this tool is a great resource for finding relationships with like-minded people and organizations that increase the club's impact, mitigate costs and create a more cohesive community.

CLUB SCORECARD

How can members agree when it's time to make changes? This tool helps you track key indicators, focus on desired results and ultimately determine where you may need to adjust plan.

HOST POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Inviting people to your club meetings is essential. But so is the impression you make when they get there. This tool helps you start from the beginning – offering five steps to determine your readiness for recruiting and welcoming potential new members.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Whether you're recognizing individuals or the whole club, all celebrations are important. After all, what gets recognized gets repeated. This tool will help you plan how and where you celebrate success – and the large and small ways you can do it.

The ACE Tools Workbook is available for download on our website. The workbook organizes the tools into categories, so it's especially helpful if your club wants to work through them in order. However, you use the ACE Tools Workbook, we encourage you to download and discuss it with your fellow members. Find the link at Kiwanis.org/acetools.

Six Tips for Retaining Members

New members bring new ideas – and the kinds of energy that revitalize established members. But how can you help that initial enthusiasm take root? And how do you maintain established members' commitment?

Here are six quick tips for creating a club culture that makes everyone feel inspired and appreciated:

- Make new members feel important. A member's induction into your club will set the tone for how highly they value their membership. Make it feel like the significant event that it is – for them and for the club.

Help new members understand the club's traditions and the commitment it requires.

- Encourage a sense of connection. New members are more likely to keep coming back when established members make them feel welcome. Take time to introduce new members to people individually – and encourage those connections early.
- Give new members a mentor. Whether they're new or established members, Kiwanians are happiest when they get involved. Have someone mentor new members for the first year as they experience what your club has to offer.
- Empower all members to become leaders. Give people the opportunity to lead your club and the support they'll need to do it. It's a way of creating a pipeline that makes leadership a steady presence in the club through the years.
- Invest in member education. Invite interesting speakers. And send members to division, district and international events, using the club's service account to financially support their attendance. Encourage them to share what they learn when they return.
- Celebrate! Honor members' achievements – both inside and outside your club – so they feel valued.

There are more tips and tools where these come from! On our member retention webpage, you'll find resources that can help everyone in your Kiwanis club be an advocate for growth and membership. Go to Kiwanis.org/retain.

ReMember past members

You can even show people who have left the club – and current members you haven't seen in a while – that you value them enough to miss them. We call it reMembering. It's a great way to reconnect with people. Check it out and share it with fellow club members!

The process consists of five steps:

1. Start a list of people to contact.
 - Get copies of past club rosters and make a list of as many living former members as you can.
 - Add current members whom you haven't seen in a while.
 - The club secretary may be able to provide a list of guests who didn't join.
2. Research how to contact anyone whose information may be outdated.
3. Determine how you are going to re-engage them. Will it be a part of your current membership efforts? A special occasion or event? Or perhaps a yearlong initiative just for them?
4. Start creating and executing that plan.
5. Celebrate your club's success at reMembering!

There's a lot more information about remembering on our website – from tips and ideas to a guide for getting started. Go to Kiwanis.org/remember.

Do all members feel valued?

Try these tips to let people know they're welcome:

1. Every Kiwanis member wants to feel they belong. Potential members need to know they're joining a group eager to work with newcomers – and existing members want to feel valued. A few simple acts can go a long way toward making everyone feel respected:
2. Consider your meeting location. Is it convenient for all of your members? Is it easy for guests to find? If not, seek alternatives. You also might consider rotating meeting spots for adding a virtual option.
3. Ask members about their meeting time preference. Some people's schedules don't allow for daytime gatherings, while other people's may make evening meetings difficult. Member availability also depends on whether weekends or weekdays are busier. Again flexibility is key. Perhaps varying meeting times or days will allow for more member participation.
4. Respect people's time. During your meetings, set an agenda and stick to it. If you say you will meet for an hour, don't go past an hour. And make the most of the time you have – don't get bogged down in matters that can be covered in a meeting with others.
5. Ask for input. Some people are outgoing and offer ideas and suggestions freely. Others might hesitate to speak up. Ask less-vocal members and guests to share their thoughts – and let them know how to provide feedback outside of meetings. Some might prefer one-on-one conversations or email/text.
 - Make meeting minutes easily available. Every member will need to miss a meeting now and then, so don't make them feel left out at the next one. Be sure they can catch up by ensuring minutes are written and distributed in a timely manner. It's also a good idea to have minutes posted on your club's website/and or linked on its social media accounts for the convenience of current members – and for those considering membership.
 - Invite potential members to service events. What better way to be welcoming than to invite nonmembers to join you as you service your community? When that invitation is accepted make sure your guests feel valued and included. Ask members to introduce themselves and work alongside your guests during the project.
 - Say thank you. Members and guests alike have options about how to spend their time. Let them know much you appreciate them for their attendance, ideas, service and support.

Make it fun to be with your club.... by considering a few ideas beyond the usual Kiwanis activities.

BY TONY KNODERER

The strongest Kiwanis clubs grow because people want to join – and want to come back. That requires a very important element: fun.

Sometimes it's good to do things besides your regular club meetings and service projects. Here are a few ideas for going beyond the typical format to build camaraderie:

- Rent space at a local sports venue for pregame snacks, drink and appetizers. Then share a seating block to cheer on the home team.
- Try a team-building activity such as a ropes course or an escape room.
- Schedule activities around the seasons: a hayride or bonfire in the fall, hot cocoa and cookies in the winter, a nature walk in the spring, an ice cream social or outdoor concert in the summer.
- Host an annual thank-you event in a casual setting. Whether it's brunch at a local restaurant or an outdoor picnic or barbecue, members will appreciate a time and place to relax and converse.

However you build fellowship in your club, make sure potential members are welcome too – so they can see that Kiwanis is about fun as well as service. Want an idea? Watch our recent podcast episode in which a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, discusses its monthly "Kiwanis Socials."

District Committee Chairs Needed!

Capital District is currently seeking individuals for the following 2026-27 district committee chairs:

- **2027 Mid-Year Conference**
- **Social Media and Public Relations**
- **On to 2027 International Convention**

If you are interested, please contact Governor-Elect David Lurie at dpalurie@verizon.net or 703.402.5959

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!

Join Gov. Tim Gillette in WV! Join Gov. Tim and your fellow WV Capital Kiwanians at a Charleston Dirty Birds Baseball Community Organization Game Sunday, July 26, 2026 at 12:30pm as they play the Gastonia (NC) Ghost Peppers!! Gov. Gillette will be throwing out the first pitch and they will be promoting Kiwanis as well!

Cost- \$7.00 per ticket (please reach out to Sherry Kyle easthuntingkiwanis@gmail.com or Nathaniel Kyle kyle16@comcast.net and please put Dirty Birds tickets in the Subject line by July 1st)

Hotel info- Embassy Suites Charleston WV, Charleston Marriott Town Center





I'm writing to you from 2028.

I know that sounds strange. But I want you to know what happened after you gave to The Kiwanis Possibility Project.

Your donation helped fund a grant. That grant went to a Kiwanis club. That club was probably in a place you've never been to and it helped serve children you'll never meet.

I'm one of them. And there are 10 million of us all over the world. The math sounds big. But The Kiwanis Possibility Project made it real. And it started with people like you. Individuals who believe that every child deserves possibilities.

To have enough to eat. To learn to read. To find out what goals are and how to reach them.

All because you decided that the future was worth funding. And now I'm writing from the future to say: thank you.

Sincerely,
A Kid Who Needs Kiwanis



*Stories like
this are
possible.*

MAKE YOUR IMPACT REAL!



the Kiwanis® **POSSIBILITY PROJECT**

The Kiwanis Children's Fund is raising US\$25 million to fund grants that help Kiwanis clubs reach 10 million children. That's just US\$2.25 per child. Whatever the size of your gift, you'll help turn inspiring possibilities into reality.

GIVE AT [KIWANIS.ORG/HELPKIDS](https://www.kiwanis.org/helpkids) OR RETURN THE ENCLOSED FORM.

