

The Capital

August/September 2026

KIWANIAN

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

**25-26 SIGNATURE
PROJECT WINNERS**

**DUCKY DERBY
GATHERS STEAM**

**CAPITAL'S NEWEST
CLUB PREPARES FOR
BACK TO SCHOOL**



Kiwanis

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COVER: Halifax County Kiwanians have quickly learned from the outset that service and camaraderie go hand-in-hand.



The Kiwanis Club of Halifax County, recently chartered, turned out en masse in late July, assisting Grace Hands Inc. prepare backpacks for area students.



2025-26 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

GOVERNOR

Tim Gillette
Tysons, VA

GOVERNOR-ELECT

David Lurie
Tysons, VA

VICE GOVERNOR

Nathaniel Kyle
East Huntington, WV

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Wolff
Tysons, VA

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

Josh Hiscock
Ellicott City, MD

TRUSTEE - DELMARVA

Charles Marks
Bridgeville, DE

TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

Samantha Bosserman
Waynesboro, VA

TRUSTEE - NATIONAL CAPITAL

Marie Bowe-Quick
Mitchellville, MD

TRUSTEE - SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

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Governor's Message

TIM GILLETTE, 2025-26 GOVERNOR



REFLECTING ON SHARED TIMES

Greetings Capital Kiwanians!

The past few months have flown by! In June, I joined 17 other Kiwanians from Capital and made the journey to Manila, Philippines for Kiwanis International Convention. Our hosts from the Philippine Luzon District treated us to a warm welcome that's synonymous with Philippine culture. Our ASPAC Kiwanians put on a show that highlighted the many cultures of the Asia-Pacific region.

We listened to engaging speakers, attended meaningful workshops, and enjoyed the fellowship of Kiwanians from across the world. We elected three new trustees for North America, including Taka Ogata from Indiana, who will serve as our counseling trustee next year. We also elected Toto Gonzales from the Philippines as our Vice President and welcomed Hope Marks from Jamaica as our new Kiwanis International President.

We also saw the retirement of our very own, Dennis Baugh. I'd like to take a second to send my personal thanks to Dennis, who coincidentally has written a column in this issue. Throughout his three years on the international board, Dennis has been a champion for the advancement of our organization. Every decision he made and every vote he cast was with the best interests of Kiwanis in mind. Dennis also served as a counselor to nine District Governors, sharing his wisdom with them as they led their respective districts. We're very fortunate to have people like Dennis in Kiwanis, and I'm proud to not only call Dennis a fellow Kiwanian, but also a friend. I hope retirement serves you well and you and Darlene have many trips to wineries in the coming years.





It's hard to believe after three years of writing regular articles for the Capital Kiwanian, this is my last one as your District Governor. I'd like to wish my successor, Dave Lurie, the best of luck in the upcoming year. He has a team in place to keep the Capital District moving forward, and I'm here to support them in any way I can.

As I wrap up my last piece, my mind wanders and connects with my late grandfather, Enrico Rossi. He was the son of Italian immigrants who ventured across the Atlantic from southern Italy and entered the United States through Ellis Island, settling in Jersey City, NJ. My grandfather was proud of his Italian heritage, but prouder of one of its greatest singers, Andrea Bocelli. It was common to hear Andrea playing out of my grandparents' apartment, windows open so the whole neighborhood could share in my grandfather's delight.

Andrea Bocelli's most famous song, "Time to Say Goodbye," plays in my head as I write this. It is, in fact, time for me to say goodbye. After a year of ups and downs, it's time for a new leadership team to move our district forward, and time for me to step aside.

I thought about all the great things we've accomplished as a district. We've added Kiwanis clubs to new communities (with a couple more still to go before Sept. 30). Kiwanis clubs have donated to worthy causes, built new playgrounds, helped to combat food insecurity, taught life lessons, mentored students, and helped promote literacy. I was fortunate to attend some of these events or read about them in the many club social media posts and newsletters I've seen throughout the year.

This brings me back to my grandfather and "Time to Say Goodbye." In Italian, the song's title is "Con te Partiro" which translates to "With You I Leave." As I prepare to depart the Governor's office, it isn't a time for me to say goodbye, but a time to reflect in all the great things we've accomplished together. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Governor. I'll always cherish this time and will take the Capital District, its wonderful clubs, and its dedicated Kiwanians, with me in my memories forever.

Con te Partiro (With You I Leave),

Tim Gillette
Governor Tim

(Tim Gillette, from Tysons, has served as governor for the Capital District for the 2025-26 Kiwanis year.)



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!

It's hard to believe, but Back to School month is already here! Things have been very busy in the Kiwanis world, and August and September are important months of transition for our organization.

The Kiwanis International Convention was held at the end of June in Manila, Philippines, with 18 Capital District members in attendance. Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer (Greenfield, CA), Taka Ogata (West Lafayette, IN), and Linda Ramsay (Martin, TN) were elected from the U.S. and Pacific Canada to three-year terms as trustees on the Kiwanis International Board, and Jose Ramon "Ike" Altavas (New Kapis, Philippines) was elected as a trustee for the Asia-Pacific Region.

Taka Ogata has been assigned as Capital District's counselor for 2026-27 and will attend our upcoming district convention. Trinidad P. "Toto" Gonzales (Pampanga, Philippines) was elected as the next Kiwanis International Vice President.

Looking ahead, the 2027 Kiwanis International Convention will take place June 16-19, 2027, in Dallas, Texas, at the Hilton Anatole.

Back at home, final plans are well underway for our District Convention, Aug. 21-23 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Annapolis. A tremendous amount of work has already taken place under the leadership of Chairperson Jennifer Mackowski and the convention committee. From the Hollywood-themed Casino Night to the educational workshops, inspiring speakers, and backpack-stuffing service project, we know our members and guests will truly enjoy this event. On the business side, delegates will also consider the election for Vice Governor and two proposed bylaws amendments. Additional details can be found elsewhere in this issue.

More than 175 Kiwanians and guests are already registered to attend, and we hope that you will join us as well. Online registration closes Aug. 15 and there will be no on-site registration, so please [visit the event page](#) if you still need to register.

Please make sure your club secretary has submitted your 2026-27 Club Officers in Kiwanis Engage; this information was due June 30, and almost half of our clubs have not yet submitted it. If your club is sending delegates to convention, please also make sure they [register those delegates](#).

While the fellowship and education of conventions are important, it is not the only work happening in Kiwanis. Four Kiwanis clubs (Henrico, Greater Laurel, Greater Culpeper, and Halifax County) have chartered in our district so far this year with one build in progress (Point Pleasant, WV) and two more planned for September (Cumberland, MD and a Kiwanis Voices club in Northern Virginia).

As we begin our transition to the 2026-27 Kiwanis year, please make sure your club secretaries delete any members who are not returning as soon as possible; do not wait until October. Also, make sure your club has appointed a Membership Committee chairperson, is developing a detailed membership plan for the new year, and is planning an end-of-year event to retire the current board of directors, install the new board, and recognize hard-working Kiwanians for their efforts this past year.

Lastly, please review the 2025-26 Distinguished Club criteria and identify what still needs to be completed before Sept. 30 for your club to be recognized.

As always, if you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the District Office by emailing jeffrey.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org.

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

From the Governor-Elect



BY PG DAVID LURIE

THE END IS NEAR! (...AND SO IS THE BEGINNING)

You all may be a little puzzled about the headline. Well, August is such a critical time for Kiwanis. For some of you it means you have two months left in your term of office – whether it is Club President, committee chair, or any other activity you are leading during the year. Granted, some of you may be counting down the days that are left.

But it should also be a reminder that we still have time left to achieve our goals for the year, so let's make the most of the remaining 60 days (or thereabouts).

For many of us, we are not only finishing what we want to accomplish this year, but we are likely to have another role (or two) waiting for us Oct. 1 when the 2026-27 year begins. To help you either finish strong or stay fast, we have a great District Convention planned for Annapolis, Maryland this month. Not only do we have our transfer of leadership and the opportunity to hear from district and international leadership, we have some helpful workshops planned, a fun casino night on Friday, an opportunity for service, and of course, that great Kiwanis fellowship!

Do not forget to buy your Ducky Derby tickets and to send your club's annual gift to the District Foundation if you have not already done so.

In your own club, this is a good time to take stock of where your club stands and what plans you have for the future. Most importantly, membership retention is a key activity right now. We lose so many members every year in August and September. Making sure all your members, both old and new, are engaged and excited about what your club is doing

is so important. We have had great membership growth and new club building so far this year.

Now is the time to lock in those gains and retain our members. Let's stop the "September purge" and end the year on a strong, positive note.

Summer has been a busy time for Capital District. Our in-person Club Leadership Education sessions are now behind us (and our online training is scheduled for Aug. 8). I hope many of you will attend online if you missed our in-person training. I am building out the last of my team for the 2026-27 year, and final plans and budgets are being developed.

Let me just say the year ahead will be WILD, we are going to ASK you to do a lot, and you will have the CHALLENGE to serve and make a greater impact in your communities.

Finally, as an outgoing leader, be thinking about taking some time and thanking those who you have led this year. Recognition goes a long way and does not have to be something extravagant. We are all volunteers and work hard to make our communities better. So do not forget to say thanks (and if you need some good recognition items, our District Foundation can help you out).

Thanks again for all you do for your clubs and your communities. I look forward to continuing to serve and helping Kiwanis be a strong and positive force in the world. I hope all of you feel the same.



(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

LET'S PLAY (PAINT) BALL!

Seven members of the Kiwanis Club of Ashland (VA) volunteered a combined 40 hours sanding and painting picnic tables and score stands for the Ashland Little League. The project was completed on Saturday, July 18, with the help of Little League parents and players.

Working together, the club gave community spaces a fresh new look while enjoying a day of teamwork, service, and fun. A great time was had by all; the club is proud to support Ashland Little League!

CONVENTION AMENDMENTS UP FOR VOTE

This year, two amendments have been proposed to the Capital District Kiwanis Bylaws. These will be debated at the 2026 House of Delegates Session at the Capital District Kiwanis Convention in Annapolis.

Each club in good standing in attendance at the District Convention is entitled to seat up to three delegates. If you have not submitted your delegate nominations, please submit them by August 8th here: <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/delegate-registration-form/>

Proposed Bylaws Amendment #1 - Elimination of club president pre-requisite from lieutenant governor requirements.

Proposed by the Kiwanis Club of Weirton

The Capital District Kiwanis Board of Trustees supports this amendment.

Rationale: This amendment would strike the requirement to have been a club president from the district bylaws. NOTE: The Capital District Policy Statements already contain a requirement for any member running for lieutenant governor to have previously served as a Kiwanis

club officer and this requirement is not part of the Standard Form for Kiwanis District Bylaws.

Article III - Officers

Section 2.

a. Each Lieutenant Governor shall be a member** of a club* in the division from which elected; shall have served as a Kiwanis club president; and shall have and maintain a satisfactory criminal history background check as provided in district policy. However, if there is no member** from a club* in a particular division qualified and willing to serve as lieutenant governor, a member** of a club* in another division may serve

Proposed Bylaws Amendment #2 - Elimination of club membership in Capital District pre-requisite from Governor, Governor-elect, and Vice Governor requirements.

Proposed by the Capital District Kiwanis Board of Trustees.

Rationale: This amendment would strike the club membership pre-requisite requirement for the candidacy of Governor, Governor-elect and Vice Governor from the district bylaws. NOTE: the Capital District Policy Statements already contain club membership requirements for any member running for these offices and this requirement is not part of the Standard Form for Kiwanis District Bylaws.

Article III - Officers

Section 2.

c. Each candidate for the office of Governor, Governor-elect and Vice Governor shall have and maintain a satisfactory criminal history background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International; shall have been a member of a Kiwanis club in this district for at least six (6) years; and shall have completed a term as Lieutenant Governor in this district.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Capital District Executive Director Jeffrey Wolff at jeffrey.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org

LOST ART OF QUILTING...

During Spring Break in April, Arlington Kiwanians Julie Wright (back row, center) and Linda Chandler (back row, right) hosted a quilting workshop through Virginia Cooperative Extension to teach interested 4-H youth the art of quilting. Deborah Madden (back, row, left) serves as 4-H Extension Director.



FOUNDING FATHER

Roy Gregory has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk – and maintained perfect attendance – for 56 years. At 91 years young, he recited the Declaration of Independence at the club's July 2 meeting word for word, an incredible performance and wonderful moment for all in attendance to acknowledge our country's founding and the talents of the club's members. Norfolk Club President Chris Bryant, who presided at the meeting, is a candidate for District Vice Governor, the election of which will occur at our upcoming district convention.



PATRICK HENRY DESCENDANT VISITS ROANOKE

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke was pleased to present Patrick Henry Jolly at its June 17 meeting as part of the country's 250th anniversary celebration. Jolly, a direct descendant of the "Give me liberty or give me death" patriot, appeared in authentic period costume and presented a first-person portrayal of Henry, giving context to one of the most famous phrases in American history.

Jolly has been studying the life of his ancestor for nearly 40 years. He has been involved at Patrick Henry's Red Hill National Memorial (located near Brookneal, VA) since 1999, and can often be found on-site, speaking with visitors and giving tours.



ZIMMERMAN RETURNS AS LT. GOV.

A Kiwanian for several decades, Williamsburg's Scott Zimmerman must be drinking from the Fountain of Youth. He has stepped up to serve as Lt. Governor for Division 12 next year, under the direction of incoming Governor David Lurie, who is undergoing somewhat of a resurgence himself.

Scott served as Capital District Governor in 2013-14. He served as Lt. Governor some five years before that. The undisputed fact that he loves Kiwanis "from the bottom of my heart," was a contributing factor to his district leadership climb two decades ago, and is the main reason he's back in the rotation again... although, he's the first to note the role has been augmented somewhat.

Celebrating achievements and motivating clubs to stay focused on their mission are key components of the Lt. Governor's job, areas where Zimmerman shines. "I feel like the Division (12) needs to have some fun and come together again," Scott says.

Scott's wife, Missy, a strong Kiwanian visible throughout the Capital District in recent years in her own right, currently serves as regional trustee for Southeast Virginia.

WELLSBURG HOLDS MAJOR FUNDRAISER

The Wellsburg Kiwanis Club in Division 18 WV Region held its fifth Duck Derby June 14, launching 1400 rubber ducks into the Ohio River, one hour early due to impending storms.

Lucky Duck #249 made it to the finish line first and rewarded its ticket holder with \$1,000. Cash and prizes also went to several runners-up.

The \$50,000 proceeds from this year's derby brought the Club closer to its goal of \$325,000 to install a Splash Pad for the kids in Wellsburg to enjoy, according to the Club President Eric Fithyan.

-Submitted by Mary Kay Olashuk, Trustee WV Region

BIG DOIN'S IN HENRICO

The Kiwanis Club of Henrico reports it recently created a full-featured website. You can find it at <https://k21839.site.kiwanis.org> or by typing [henricokiwanis.org](https://k21839.site.kiwanis.org) in your search bar. Henrico Kiwanis also established a 501(c) 3 Foundation through which it distributes all of its fundraising monies.

BRINGING IN A RINGER

Capital District Kiwanis Governor Tim Gillette and First Daughter Natalie joined members of the East Huntington Kiwanis Club in Charleston, WV for a Charleston Dirty Birds baseball game July 26 as Kiwanis was the "Organization of the Game." The Governor threw out the first pitch and was able to talk about Kiwanis to the fans in attendance.

Pictured with the Gillettes are (starting on the left) Vice Governor Nathaniel Kyle, Past West Virginia District Secretary Sherry Kyle, and Past West Virginia Governor John Kyle. All of the Kyles held district leadership positions in West Virginia prior to the merger into Capital several years ago.



Leadership

START STRONG: PLANNING FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2026-2027 KIWANIS YEAR

BY JENN HISCOCK

Oct. 1 marks the beginning of a new Kiwanis service year, but it is important to set you and your clubs up for success NOW!

As incoming club leaders prepare to assume their responsibilities, now is the time to move beyond elections and begin planning. Clubs that invest time during the summer and early fall in establishing goals, organizing committees, and developing a clear roadmap are better positioned to focus on what matters most: serving children and strengthening their communities.

The [Kiwanis Leadership Guide](#) reminds us that effective leadership is not about reacting to challenges as they arise. It is about preparing in advance, building strong teams, and creating continuity from one administration to the next.

Here are four key areas to help focus your 2026-2027 service year preparations:

1. Begin with a Vision

Every successful year starts with a shared vision. Incoming boards should ask themselves:

What do we want our club to accomplish this year?

How will we measure success?

What traditions should we continue?

What new opportunities should we pursue?

These conversations help establish priorities before the calendar begins filling with meetings, projects, and fundraisers.

2. Set SMART Goals

Rather than relying on broad aspirations, clubs should establish goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Consider developing objectives in several key areas:

- Membership growth and member engagement
- Service projects that address community needs
- Fundraising and financial stewardship
- Support of Service Leadership Programs
- Public relations and community visibility

When goals are written, shared, and reviewed regularly, they become much more than ideas. Instead, they serve as your club's plan for success.

3. Prepare for a Smooth Transition

Leadership transitions should never begin on Oct. 1! Outgoing officers possess valuable knowledge that can help incoming leaders avoid unnecessary challenges. Meeting together before the new year begins provides an opportunity to transfer records, review finances, discuss ongoing projects, and share lessons learned. This continuity strengthens the club and preserves institutional knowledge from year to year.

Kiwanis encourages each club's current board members to invite the new, incoming board members to the August and September board of directors meetings to help prepare for the transition.

4. Keep the Kiwanis Mission at the Center

While planning is important, every discussion should ultimately return to one question:

How will this help us serve children and improve our community?

Budgets, calendars, committee assignments, and goals are simply tools that enable clubs to fulfill the Kiwanis mission more effectively. When the mission remains at the center of every decision, planning becomes purposeful rather than procedural.

Utilizing these four focus areas, Capital District Kiwanis clubs can begin the 2026-2027 service year with confidence, enthusiasm, and a clear sense of purpose. Here's to a successful 2026-2027 Kiwanis year, and to starting Oct. 1 on the right foot!

(Jenn Hiscock currently serves as the Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District.)

SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

REFLECT, RECHARGE, AND RAMP UP:

The vision for our elementary and middle school SLPs

I hope you will be joining me in Annapolis, planning to attend my workshop for inspiration and to pick up some giveaways from my SLP table. (And as a bonus enjoy some Capital District Kiwanis Family fellowship!)

As another Kiwanis administrative year draws to a close Sept. 30, it is the perfect moment to reflect on how far our Service Leadership Programs (SLPs) have come – and exactly where we are heading. Having served as your District Administrator since April 2025, I can tell you firsthand: there is a distinct advantage to stepping into this role with a full year of momentum already under our belts.

They say things are better the second time around, and it's true. With a crystal-clear understanding of our district's unique moving pieces, a baseline established for our "behind-the-scenes stars" like Terrific Kids and BUGs, and a stronger connection to our advisors, we are no longer just maintaining – we are ready to scale.

But we aren't planning a "QUIET," predictable year ahead. We are rolling out an aggressive, asset-leveraged strategy designed to maximize our impact. We are entering next year with a fierce determination to tackle ambitious growth and fundraising targets.

From launching an entirely new tier of localized Capital District Incentives and Awards to reverse low engagement, to deploying hundreds of dollars in physical inventory, we are tightening our operations and widening our footprint. Most importantly, we are rallying your clubs for a massive, historic push to cross the finish line of our Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign supporting life-changing initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia. The foundation has been laid, the strategy is set, and during the 2026-2027 service year, we will be Crabtastic!

NEW CLUB CHARTERING AND GROWTH SHATTERS TARGETS

We are thrilled to announce a massive win for district SLP growth. Thanks to the dedication of Kiwanis clubs in your communities, we have officially chartered 10 new clubs – split evenly with five new K-Kids and five new Builders Clubs. This spectacular achievement blows past our initial target of six new clubs, representing 166 percent of goal achieved. A thank-you to everyone who poured their time, energy, and passion into expanding our Kiwanis family and empowering the next generation of leaders.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We're thrilled to welcome our newest club:

Ellicott Mills Middle School Builders Club sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Ellicott City.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Boys & Girls Club Oak Orchard
Bettie Weaver Elementary
Chesapeake Math & IT Elementary
Stuarts Draft Elementary School
T A Lowery Elementary School
McSwain Elementary
Elk Neck Elementary School
J B Watkins Elementary
Franklin Middle



9/11 25TH ANNIVERSARY. UNITE FOR GOOD. THE NEXT CHAPTER IS YOURS.

On Sept. 11, our nation will mark 25 years since the events of 2001. Join millions of Americans who will Unite for Good for the 25th anniversary of 9/11—transforming the day into the largest single day of doing good in American history. Check out this engagement and recognition opportunity for any K-12 school participating in the 25th anniversary of the National Day of Service. No cost. No grant requirement. No minimum. <https://www.911day.org/k12-programs/schools-of-service/>

INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

Join the global celebration of creativity, self-expression and collaboration inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' book, "The Dot". Since 2009, International Dot Day has been celebrated on or near Sept. 15 by millions of people in hundreds of countries. The inspiring message from "The Dot" book can be enjoyed any day of the year. This celebration not only highlights the importance of creativity in education but also promotes a growth mindset, encouraging students to embrace their abilities and take risks in their learning journeys. Order your [Dot Day Activity Pack](#) \$99.

GLOBAL SERVICE PROJECT 2026-2027

Don't forget to mark Thursday, Oct. 1 on your club calendar. That's when Kiwanis International will release Global Kickoff 2026 on video. Hundreds of K-Kids and Builders Club members around the world can watch during a club meeting or watch party. Get ideas from cool service projects carried out by other K-Kids and Builders Clubs. Hear about the impact fundraising for Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has on kids' lives. Learn about the Global Service Project 2026 theme.

THE GRAND FINALE: TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF INITIATIVES ENTERS FINAL YEAR

This Halloween marks a monumental milestone as Kiwanis' Service Leadership Programs enter the final year of our dedicated multi-year initiative with UNICEF. Our global clubs have poured their hearts into creating lasting, sustainable change. This year, we are rallying for one final push to maximize our impact on two life-changing programs across Africa:

Building Classrooms with K-Kids: Supporting the Brick x Brick project in Côte d'Ivoire, K-Kids are spending this final year funding a groundbreaking, women-led

recycling market. They are turning local plastic waste into durable, interlocking building bricks to construct eco-friendly classrooms for the children of West Africa.

K-Kids: "Brick x Brick" (Côte d'Ivoire)

To-Date District Total: \$2,390.01

The \$3,500 Milestone Goal

Based on current active clubs (41): ~\$27.00 per club
To achieve \$3,500 in cumulative giving, the Capital District's K-Kids clubs collectively need to raise \$1,109.99 this year.*K-Kids Advisors: Just one standard Trick-or-Treat box filled with coins (~\$30) per club will seal a legacy of building sustainable classrooms out of recycled plastic bricks!

Start Strong: Zambia with Builders Club: Focused on early childhood development in Southeast Africa, Builders Club is driving the final stretch of the Start Strong: Zambia initiative. Funds are actively building sustainable, community-based "Insaka" hubs that provide toddlers and families with critical healthcare, proper nutrition, and early learning spaces.

Builders Club: "Start Strong: Zambia"

To-Date District Total: \$457.82

The \$1,500 Milestone Goal

Based on current active clubs (31): ~\$33.75 per club
To achieve \$1,500 in cumulative giving, the Capital District's Builders Clubs collectively need to raise \$1,042.18 this year.

Let's make this year our biggest and most impactful one yet. Order your classic orange boxes from the Kiwanis store, share the digital fundraising links, and help us cross the finish line strong for children in Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia.

"Quiet Stars": Terrific Kids & BUGs

If you are looking to introduce Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs (SLPs) to a new school, community partner, or sponsoring club without a massive initial investment, starting small high-impact when a full SLP club charter isn't in the budget with classroom-level recognition programs is the most affordable entry point. They require minimal paperwork and rely heavily on school faculty partnership.

- **Terrific Kids:** Focuses on character development (Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, Capable). Sponsoring clubs can print or purchase low-cost certificates, buttons, or ribbons to recognize students who meet their personal goals.

- **Bring Up Grades (BUGs):** Designed to motivate academic effort and perseverance. Because it rewards improvement rather than just straight A's, it is a favorite among teachers and costs very little – just basic recognition materials like certificates and pencils to celebrate a student's hard work.

By instilling these core values early, Terrific Kids and BUGs quietly build the very foundation of leadership, preparing a new generation to get loud, step up, stand out, and eventually lead our communities forward.

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES



Terrific Kids Holy Secondary School Nepal
co-sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Rockville

We know our clubs are doing incredible things with Terrific Kids and BUGs, and we want to celebrate "you"! Has your club seen a student make an amazing academic turnaround through Bring Up Grades? Do you have a creative way you recognize your Terrific Kids?

Kiwanis Club of Richmond



Please share your pictures, milestone updates, and success stories with the district. Your dedication is what makes these programs shine, and your ideas can inspire clubs across the entire district to reach even greater heights.

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

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

August

Clarksburg, WV	1920
Mercer County, WV.....	1924
Hinton, WV	1925
Bassett, VA.....	1926
Reisterstown, MD.....	1935
Front Royal, VA	1945
South Arlington, VA	1947
Virginia Beach Town Center, VA.....	1973
Greater Hilton, VA	2010
Dinwiddie, VA.....	2015
Carrollton, VA.....	2018

September

Wheeling, WV	1918
Alleghany Highlands, VA.....	1923
Georgetown, DE	1935
Abingdon, VA.....	1942
Montgomery County-Blacksburg, VA ...	1946
Wise, VA	1946
Keyser, WV	1950
Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, VA.....	1953
West Charleston, WV.....	1959
Denbigh, Newport News, VA	1967
Poquoson, VA.....	1974
Shepherd Park, Washington, DC	1976
Smithfield, VA.....	1976
Tuckahoe, Richmond, VA	1979
Lynnhaven-Virginia Beach, VA.....	1983
Welch, WV	1985
Greater Millsboro, DE.....	1989
Williamstown Area, WV	2013
Greenbrier Valley	2023

NEW CLUBS COMING!

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

Cumberland, MD (Div 8)

September 14-16

Capital District Large Scale Opening with Kiwanis International

November 9-11

Key Leader

SERVICE LEADERSHIP TRAINING IS VITAL FOR TODAY'S YOUTH

BY JEANNETTE OGILVIE

Karen Roberts and I are so excited to be working with the Key Leader program in the Capital District. As a chaperone for the event in 2025, I was able to see first-hand how impactful this program is for our students. This is a wonderful resource that we, as Kiwanians, are able to offer to students in a generation who need leadership and social skills more than ever.

Many of today's adolescents are graduating from high school without the soft skills that they will need in order to navigate their future. Being able to communicate effectively, lead a team, and learn with a growth mindset are essential to success in the workforce, college, and relationships, and these are the guiding principles of Key Leader.

In the post-pandemic world, teenagers are looking for direction and connection. Through service leadership, students have the opportunity to learn who they are, that they have a place in the world, and decide how they want to contribute. The students who attended the program in 2025 have said that the connections they have made with other students have been some of the most valuable friendships in their lives. They feel more confident to lead, and they feel less lonely. Teenagers need the opportunity to connect outside of a screen and outside of social media. We have the opportunity to provide them with the tools to make these connections.



In 2025, Karen Roberts, Key Leader Chair, provided a pivotal experience for students through a fall event at Smith Mountain Lake (VA). We are hoping to increase our impact this year, with two potential events – one in the fall in the Southwest Virginia area and one in the spring in the DelMarVa area.

We are dedicated to making this program a success, but we need your help. We have opportunities for you to serve on the committee, spend time as a chaperone, assist with recruitment, and more. We are also accepting sponsorships and donations through the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation's Youth Outreach: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/capital-district-kiwanis-foundation/cdkf-youth-outreach>. Please commit to sponsoring a student or two in your budget for the coming Kiwanis year.

With a concerted group effort, we can make Key Leader a shining star in the Capital District.

Please reach out to volunteer or ask for more info:
CapitalK.JO@gmail.com
karen.roberts@portsk12.com

(Jeannette Ogilvie, a trained educator, is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Forest and also the Capital Next Generation eClub.)

Service Showcase

CELEBRATING SIGNATURE PROJECTS THAT BUILD LASTING LEGACY

BY CARRIE WAGNER

The Capital District Convention is almost here, and I couldn't be more excited! In just a few weeks, we'll gather in beautiful Annapolis, Maryland, to celebrate another wonderful Kiwanis year. One of the best parts of District Convention is reconnecting with friends from across the district, making new friendships, learning from one another, and returning home inspired to do even more for the children and communities we serve.

One of the highlights of this year's convention will be recognizing our 2026 Capital District Signature Project Contest winners. It is my honor, on behalf of the Service and Signature Project Committee, to celebrate two outstanding clubs whose Signature Projects have made a lasting impact in their communities and serve as an inspiration to us all.

Before we announce this year's winners, I want to thank every club that submitted a Signature Project entry. Our Service and Signature Project Committee had the privilege of reviewing each application, and we were truly inspired by the creativity, dedication, and impact of the projects across our district. Every project reflected the heart of Kiwanis – seeing a need and choosing to do something about it.

Congratulations to Our 2026 Winners!

Tier 1 – Kiwanis Club of Leesburg, Virginia

The 69th Annual Halloween Parade has become a treasured community tradition, bringing together businesses, schools, first responders, seven Kiwanis clubs, Key Clubs, and community organizations while supporting Loudoun Hunger Relief.



Tier 2 – Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville, Delaware

The Kiwanis Chicken BBQ has served the community for 64 years and continues to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships, youth programs, libraries, hospitals, food pantries, disaster relief, and many other community organizations. It is a wonderful example of a Signature Project that has become a lasting community legacy.



What Makes a Signature Project?

A Signature Project is more than a fundraiser or a one-time service project. It is the project for which your community knows your Kiwanis club. It reflects your club's heart, builds lasting partnerships, and becomes part of your club's identity.

Signature Projects:

- Are recurring (or intended to continue if they are new).
- Enhance the Kiwanis image.
- Demonstrate significant community impact.

- Increase and strengthen membership.
- Create and strengthen partnership opportunities.

The next Capital District Signature Project Contest opens in January 2027. Now is the perfect time to begin thinking about your club's next great idea.

I Hope to See You in Annapolis!

I'll have a Service and Signature Project Resource Table in the convention lobby throughout the weekend, and I'd love for you to stop by.

Please introduce yourself. I'd love to learn about your club, hear about your service projects, and talk about ideas for the future. One of the greatest gifts of Kiwanis is learning from one another. Every club has ideas worth sharing, and District Convention is the perfect place to gather new inspiration to take home to your community.

If you're looking for even more service ideas, I'd love to continue the conversation during my workshop, '50 Forward: A Journey of Service – Every Member. Every Month. Every Child.' I hope you'll join us.

If you aren't able to attend the District Convention, please feel free to email me. I'd be happy to share service resources, Signature Project information, and answer your questions.

Again, congratulations to our 2026 Signature Project winners:

- Kiwanis Club of Leesburg, Virginia
- Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville, Delaware

I hope to see you in Annapolis. Please stop by the Resource Table, introduce yourself, and let's continue learning from one another.

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

FAMILY TIES

Celebrating and supporting CKI clubs for success

BY STACY WHITEHOUSE

Capital CKI had a chance to celebrate the 2025-2026 year at the CKI International Convention, held jointly with Key Club, in Dallas recently. William & Mary CKI was awarded second place for the Signature Project Award and first place in the Outstanding Club Achievement, Silver Category. Governor Dylan Luong was also recognized as an Outstanding International Committee Member.

We are now moving full speed toward the fall semester. As a reminder, CKI international dues will increase Oct. 1 to \$44 per member; district dues of \$10 will remain the same.

With this in mind, clubs are looking for ways to stand out from other clubs. No matter the age of youth you are supporting, here are five questions to work through with the Sponsored Leadership Program (SLP) clubs you have sponsored to help them promote their club:

Five Questions to Start Your Club Promotional Campaign

1. What are students looking for in a club at your school/campus?
2. How is your club unique from other organizations at your school/campus? and How is it different from other service organizations?
3. What are three phrases that you can share about your club at a recruitment event?
4. Consider how to complete this phrase: Our club can help you _____.
5. How do people get information at your school/campus? and Does that align with how you currently advertise your club?

Do you have a webpage or a flier where prospective members can easily find information about the club, projects, upcoming events, and how to become a member?

Don't have a CKI club in your area? We are working on charters and reactivations year-round! Email me at capitaldistrictcki@gmail.com to get started.

(Stacy Whitehouse serves as the CKI administrator for the Capital District.)

KEY CLUB CORNER

Hi Kiwanians,

The Capital District Key Club K-Family Committee is excited to introduce the Pen Pal Program, a new initiative designed to strengthen relationships among Key Clubbers, Circle K members, and Kiwanians. This program creates space for meaningful, year-round connection while supporting individualized mentorship across every branch of the K-Family.

Participants will be paired based on shared interests and goals,

allowing for genuine one-on-one conversations, professional development guidance, and opportunities to learn from one another's experiences. Many pairs may even have the chance to meet in person at Key Club District Convention. In alignment with youth-protection policies, a district board advisor will be copied on all correspondence.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the brief application form and feel free to share it with

other members of the K-Family who may want to join.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to building stronger connections within our K-Family.

Warm regards,

Juliana Newsom
K-Family Committee Chair
Capital District Key Club



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR DISTRICT CONVENTION!

There's less than two weeks left to register to be part of the DCON blockbuster Aug. 21-23 in Annapolis, Maryland! Don't miss your ticket to be part of the "Lights, Camera, Action" theme that's all about putting Kiwanis in the spotlight.

Registration closes Aug. 15, 2026.

5 Reasons DCON is this Summer's Hottest Ticket

1. Tour the United States Naval Academy

Attendees have the unique opportunity to tour the historic United States Naval Academy Friday afternoon. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss!

2. Hear from District and International Kiwanis Leaders

Our distinguished keynote speakers include our incoming International Trustee, Taka Ogata from the Indiana District, and veteran and Utah-Idaho District Governor Blair Hope.

3. Give back to local youth

Make back-to-school packs for students at Annapolis Elementary School to help them start the school year off strong!

4. Attend Masterclass Workshops

Attend workshops that help you to put your Kiwanis club and the youth you support in the spotlight, with topics that help you Empower Your Club to tell your Kiwanis Story, Connect and Support our Kiwanis Family, and Strengthen Club Fundamentals.

5. Have Fun!

Connect with friends new and old at the Friday Hollywood Casino Royale Night and hear a musical performance from the Youth Chorus of Annapolis Saturday evening.



Register now at the links below by Aug. 15:

[Register for DCON](#)

[Book Hotel Room](#)

Reminder: Submit Club Delegate Form

Each club in good standing is entitled to seat up to three (3) delegates, two (2) of whom should be the club president and president-designate. All club delegates must be active members of the clubs they represent.

To certify club delegates, the Club President or Secretary must complete this form by August 8. Delegate passes will be distributed at registration, and there will be no on-site credentials certification.

Our Firm Foundation

DUCKY DERBY ONCE AGAIN GATHERS STEAM

BY CHARLES MARKS

It is time again for the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation Ducky Derby! The CDKF Ducky Derby is now all online. Located on the CDKF website is a downloadable QR code in a postcard format. Please sell tickets at your meetings, to friends, neighbors, co-workers, at club functions, and other opportunities.

Alternately, use the information sheet provided on the website that explains how people can purchase tickets online on the foundation web page under the Ducky Derby tab.

The drawing will take place at the conclusion of the House of Delegates on Saturday, Aug. 22 at District Convention in Annapolis. You do not need to be present to win – just complete the online entry.

This is the largest fundraiser for the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation (CDKF) and all proceeds help support 11 pediatric trauma centers supported by the Foundation. The goal this year is to raise \$16,500.

Since 1982, the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation has donated more than \$900,000 to the following pediatric trauma centers and children's hospitals:

- Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC
- Johns Hopkins Children's Center, Baltimore, MD
- University of Virginia Health Center, Charlottesville, VA
- Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk, VA
- Children's Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- Carilion Clinic Children's Hospital, Roanoke, VA



Capital District Kiwanis Foundation

- Nemours Children's Hospital, Wilmington, DE
- Niswonger Children's Hospital, Johnson City, TN
- Children's Inn at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD
- Hoops Family Children's Hospital, Huntington, WV
- West Virginia University Children's Hospital, Morgantown, WV

Prizes: Cash prizes of \$750, \$500, \$250, and various gift cards will be awarded. Last year there were 13 \$50 gift cards to various restaurants and retail stores.

Ticket Turn-In: Please complete online sales by midnight, Friday, Aug. 21. After that, onsite/online tickets may be purchased (check/cash) at DCON by 2 pm., Saturday at the Ducky Derby desk. **All checks for bulk purchase should be made payable to "CDKF" or Capital District Kiwanis Foundation.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Charles.marks4@verizon.net) or any director of the Foundation.

(Charles Marks, trustee from the DelMarVa region, serves as Chairperson of the Ducky Derby.)



<http://go.rallyup.com/8499c7> with your browser.

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

WE'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT BIG DONORS

BY JOHN TYNER

OK, fellow Kiwanians, we Champions are keeping your seats warm for YOU, the next group of big donors for The Possibility Project. When you are recognized for your good deeds towards funding grants for our fellow Kiwanis clubs around the world, we'll ask you to continue to help us while the rest of us work to continually fund our ongoing grants for supporting the children of world.

Our members, our clubs and our district have been working very hard to complete the community service projects that have been selected. I'm glad to report that our Capital District Kiwanians continue to mobilize to support the efforts of the Kiwanis Children's Fund Possibility Project.

We'd like all of you to recognize the following clubs and folks at our District Convention in Annapolis, Maryland, for continuing our great work as Capital District Primary Supporters for THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT since the campaign kicked off Oct. 1, 2022. Congratulations on all your ongoing efforts!

Top Ten Leader Board Results as of July 15:

CLUBS

- #1 -- **Rockville [03] \$94,467**
- #2 -- **Westminster [04] \$23,465**
- #3 -- Richmond [10] \$23,119
- #4 -- Tysons [02] \$22,263
- #5 -- Arlington [02] \$15,687
- #6 -- **SW Waterfront [01] \$15,500**
- #7 -- Crofton [04] \$13,650
- #8 -- Charlottesville [09] \$12,628
- #9 -- **West Charleston [20] \$11,030**
- #10 -- **Shepherd Park [01] \$9,116**

DIVISIONS

- #1 – Division 03 \$108,534
- #2 – Division 02 \$53,500

- #3 – Division 04 \$50,941
- #4 – Division 10 \$41,194
- #5 – Division 01 \$27,341
- #6 – Division 12 \$25,137
- #7 – Division 09 \$24,212
- #8 – Division 08 \$20,176
- #9 – Division 13 \$20,168
- #10 – Division 14 \$15,225

(Clubs in bold italics have completed their pledge.)

Committed Impact Club Pledges:

Arlington, Bethesda, Charlottesville, Front Royal, Poquoson, Rockville, Shepherd Park, Southwest Waterfront, Tysons, West Charleston, Westminster and Wheaton-Silver Spring.

Committed Cornerstone Society members:

Art and Vickie Riley, John Tyner II, Linwood Watson, Jeff and Jen Wolff.

Will Blechman Fellowship:

Ed Daley, Roger Diehl, Bill Herrmann, Edward Kennedy, Nathaniel Kyle and Renee Mackey.

(Please note: the following nine Blechman Fellows joined at ICON 2022 before the official TPP kick-off: Dennis Baugh, Brian Bell, Douglas Holroyd, Angus Lamond, Art Riley, John Tyner II, Linwood Watson, Jen & Jeff Wolff, Scott Zimmerman.)

George F. Hixson Fellowship:

Joyce Allan, Tim Anderson, Jonathan Arnold, Colette Baker, Michael Ball, Walter Bartlett, Stephen Brosius, Clifford Bussard, Bryan Castro, Clark Childers, Corry



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



Kiwanis
 CHILDREN'S FUND

Cole, Gregory Collins, Edward Compton, Wendy Cooper, Lake Critzer, Richard Cutting, Sandra Davoy, Brenda Dodd, Michael Driscoll, Lynette Embree, Anjie Emmett, Dennis Fewell, Nancy Fisk, Alvin Fox, Johnson Francum, Gregory Glassner, LeRoy Griffin, William Ham, Robin Handleman, James Hart, James Harvey, Jennifer Hiscock, Patrick Hope, Crystal Howser, Daryl Kilstrom, Evans King, Cheryl Kirby, Susan Knick, Renee Mackey, John Mahone, J.P. Mangum, Betty Martinelli, Michael McEvoy, Muriel Morrill, Newland Peterson, Michael Pierre, David Rothberg, Joyce Sharon, Ellen Starliper, Carl Stein, Edward Stiles, James Taylor, Sr., Andres Tobar, James Tucker, Terry Walker, John Walker, Helen Williams, Pamellia Wilson and Donald Witt.

(Out of a total of 1,412 awardees, 58 individuals representing 31 clubs have made a Hixson donation since the official TPP kick-off).

Annual Club Gift Support:

As you must know, the underlying linchpin for supporting the Children's Fund programs is our clubs' annual donation (formerly annual birthday gift) which our clubs are asked to send in early in our administrative year. Some clubs also add their \$365 program (dollar-a-day), personal gifts at some level from members, club recognition or honor gifts for members and/or community leaders as well. While we encourage all our clubs to make their donations at the start of the administrative year, this year has been a slow starter. In January 2026, 23 clubs had given \$7,900. However, by June, 59 clubs had given \$21,781. I would request that as many of the rest of our 154 clubs should make this year's contribution by Sept. 30.

Annual KCF Giving Day:

You should also be aware that, wonder-of-wonders, our annual worldwide KCF Giving Day in 2025 raised over \$187,000 with 52 donations coming from Capital. In 2026, Capital's Annual Gift total for our own Northeast Region was \$7,941 which was fifth place worldwide at that time. By the way, sometimes who to credit is not known; not all donations are trackable as to intent because members don't always tell their clubs what they plan to do.

Long story short however, I'm glad to say that almost all of our clubs have contributed some amount to the Possibility Project since we started – only 25 clubs are still thinking about what to do. As of July 15, Capital has raised \$622,000 – and we have several clubs who are considering pledging as Impact Clubs.

Ask Your Club to Consider This:

OK (again) fellow Kiwanians, let's recall why we're doing all this fundraising to benefit our Kiwanis grant awards program... In communities around the world, the Kiwanis Family changes children's lives. Our clubs and their members conduct service projects. They hold fundraisers. They donate to the Children's Fund, specifically for the Possibility Fund, providing much-needed grants in amplifying their impact to reach children wherever there are Kiwanis clubs. We help young people develop mentally, physically and emotionally – throughout childhood and into adulthood.

In other words, kids need Kiwanis. And now we've defined our commitment to them. The three causes that our members' activities support are: (1) health and nutrition, (2) education and literacy and (3) youth leadership development. Of course, each cause is important. But these causes, all together, form a continuum of impact. That's because the work we do in each one helps provide a head start on success in the next.

I am delighted to tell those of you who watch our efforts to raise enough donations to be able to come close to fully funding all the great grant requests we receive each grant cycle. You can join our tremendous effort as we get ready to attend DCON in Annapolis Aug. 21-23. Decide what you and/or your club would like to do and see me or your division Champion for the specific details that will work for your club. E-mail me at tyner@taliesan.com or call me at (301) 468-2146 for more useful information.

I hope you have been reading these articles in each issue of the on-line Capital Kiwanian to see the marvelous success with the grants we have been able to fund. Let's keep cooking with our efforts and make sure that each of our clubs donates something this year to help sweeten the grant award pot. And you should consider submitting your OWN application to support YOUR club program.

Best wishes from all of your Champions as we move toward finishing up the remainder of this administrative year.

(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.

International Signature Project Contest winners

Kiwanis clubs around the world brought their communities together over the past year through creative and impactful service, fundraisers and events. The best of Kiwanis clubs signature projects were recognized during the 2026 Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines, when the winners of this year's Signature Project Contest were announced.

In the name of fun, food competition and companionship – or a little of all four – this year's six winning projects were selected from a record-breaking 590 contest entries from around the world. Through ongoing programs and projects built to last, these clubs promoted the Kiwanis causes – health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development innovative ways.

The Capital District is blessed to have a strong program in our own backyard, chaired by Waynesboro Kiwanian Carrie Wagner, with details promoted elsewhere in this issue.

Group One (clubs with 27 or fewer members)

Gold

Annual Baldwinsville Kiwanis Turkey Day Race

*Kiwanis Club of Baldwinsville, New York
New York District*

Over 57 years, the Kiwanis Club of Baldwinsville's biggest annual fundraiser has become a beloved holiday tradition in the community. The Turkey Day Race, held on American Thanksgiving, includes a kids' run, a 5K and a 10K – with an average of 1,600 runners taking part. Last year's event welcomed 1,800 runners. Even those who are not running get involved, with the Baldwinsville Village, Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, School District and local sponsors all providing assistance. Proceeds from the event help the club give US\$50,000 back to the community in scholarships and grants for everything from preschool to local theater, youth sports and the Ronald McDonald House. During the race, the club also hosts a food drive to support local food banks during the holiday season. And thanks to the event, 19 new members have come running to join the club.

Silver (tie)

Kiwanis Special Athlete Basketball Tournament

*Kiwanis Club of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania District*

For 45 years, the Kiwanis Club of Jenkintown has provided athletes ages 8-70 who have intellectual and developmental disabilities an opportunity to compete in an inclusive basketball tournament with players like them from across the tri-county area. The one-day event is positive, welcoming and free of charge, with meals and snacks, Kiwanis T-shirts, medals and trophies for all athletes provided. Athletes and volunteers then participate in service projects – building bonds among community members of all abilities. Members of Aktion Club, Key Club, Builders Club and Circle K International (all Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs) serve alongside Kiwanians as athlete buddies, coaches, event volunteers and service project partners. Four hundred people attended last year's tournament. Club members say that many participants, both athletes and volunteers, identify the Kiwanis Special Athlete Basketball Tournament as the best tournament experience they've had. Over the years, 80 new members have joined Kiwanis as a result.

Kiwanis-Led Destination Play Space for ALL Ages and ALL Abilities

*Kiwanis Club of Springfield South, Missouri
Missouri-Arkansas District*

The playground equipment at Fellows Lake recreational area was over 50 years old, unsafe and neglected when the Kiwanis Club of Springfield South stepped in. The club recognizes the importance of play in helping kids build social skills and learn about the world, so it was important that the playground be a place where children of all abilities could play and belong. With help from enthusiastic community partners, members transformed the space into the only fully accessible playground in Greene County – The Hatch: A Playground for ALL. Now thousands of families per year come there to picnic, hike, fish, relax and play together. Through PlayCore, it has been designated a National Demonstration Site for quality evidence-based research in outdoor recreation. Next, the club plans to make the playground the site for an annual Kiwanis Day of Play event, where families can enjoy the refreshments and activities – and get information and resources from local organizations like Abilities First.

Group Two (clubs with 28 or more members)

Gold

Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Run/Walk/Wheelchair

Kiwanis Club of Providence-Montego Bay, Jamaica Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District

The Kiwanis Club of Providence-Montego Bay's Breast Cancer Awareness Run/Walk/Wheelchair brings over 2,000 people from Jamaica and beyond together to "support the fighters, admire the survivors and honor the taken." The event raises awareness about breast cancer and includes an education component. Last year, a surgeon gave a presentation on reconstructive surgery for breast cancer survivors. But it also raises over US\$10,000 for screening, scans, surgery and support for people in the community experiencing or recovering from breast cancer. Additional funds go to the Jamaica Cancer Society and the Cornwall Regional Hospital's pediatric oncology ward, for a total of US\$80,000 raised. Sixty-nine Kiwanis club members and 133 Key Club and Aktion Club member participate in and volunteer at the event. The eight area Key Clubs have a competition to see who can get the most participants to register. This year's 5K had special significance: after it was postponed by Hurricane Melissa, the race became a celebration of resilience, raising additional funds and using partnerships to provide care packages for those affected by the devastating storm.

Silver

Kiwanis Club of Fargo Annual Pancake Karnival

Kiwanis Club of Fargo, North Dakota Minnesota-Dakotas District

Everyone in Fargo knows and loves the Kiwanis Club's Pancake Karnival. Held annually for 67 years, it's a tradition for generations of families – both as attendees and volunteers. Many of the Fargo Kiwanians' reasons for joining Kiwanis involve childhood memories of the Pancake Karnival. Some attendees have never missed a single Karnival and are now bringing their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for a day of fun that gives back to the community. The goal of the Pancake Karnival is to raise as much as possible for grants to support children. Last year US\$25,000 helped create a Kiwanis-branded space in a city park centered on children's mental health awareness, with US\$42,750 left for local nonprofits. This year, the club plans to award US\$30,000 to three organizations that address childhood food insecurity. And many of the organizations that have received grants over the years return the favor as Pancake Karnival volunteers – a full-circle Kiwanis moment.

Bronze

Kiwanis Caring Kitchen

Kiwanis Club of Erie, Pennsylvania Pennsylvania District

After an 8-year-old child in the community died from malnutrition, the Kiwanis Club of Erie vowed to make sure such a tragedy would not happen again. In collaboration with Community Shelter Services (CSS), it opened the Kiwanis Caring Kitchen, a small structure in a parking lot that offers three meals a day, seven days a week, for anyone who is hungry – no questions asked. Customers are typically children and families from the neighborhood, but some come from farther away, including those experiencing homelessness. The school bus stops nearby, so every child who boards the bus has something to eat. Local Scout troops have made picnic tables for outdoor seating, and Kiwanians painted the kitchen exterior to make it bright and welcoming. CSS staff oversee the kitchen, and on-site volunteers include Kiwanis, Key Club, Aktion Club and K-Kids members. Local businesses and community members have donated money, food and supplies. The project is a true community effort, and it has paid off. In just two years, the club estimates the Kiwanis Caring Kitchen has served 90,000 people.

Kiwanis friends around the world

Did you know that Kiwanis clubs exist in over 80 nations and territories? You never know where you'll meet a fellow Kiwanian!

"In the Bahamas, while on a cruise, I saw a couple wearing Kiwanis caps — what a pleasant surprise!"

- Luz Marina Jimenez Ruiz, Kiwanis Club of Granada, Colombia

"The craziest, I have to say, was the airport restroom!"

- Nichola Hall, Kiwanis Club of South Eleuthera, Bahamas

A couple of months ago, Kiwanis International asked its membership: How far away is your furthest Kiwanis friend? Answers ranged from "4 miles" to half a world away! Pennsylvania District Kiwanian Eugene Law's response won **longest distance**: "About 9,500 miles away. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is the farthest location I've visited my Kiwanian friends while traveling abroad during vacation."

How Kiwanis clubs benefit from SLPs

For a Kiwanis club, there's no shortage of great reasons to sponsor a Kiwanis Service Leadership Program (SLP). In addition to benefiting SLP members themselves, SLPs also benefit Kiwanis clubs. Over the past two years, Kiwanis clubs that sponsor an SLP club are one-and-a-half times more likely to have increased their membership (32 percent vs. 21 percent) when compared to clubs that don't sponsor an SLP. In that time, SLP-sponsoring clubs also were seven percent less likely to lose members.

According to multiple studies, [students who volunteer also experience a variety of added benefits](#). From elementary/primary school to young adulthood, service matters — and so do mentors. Share the two-way benefits of SLP sponsorship with fellow Kiwanians!

New Key Club strategic plan revealed

Key Club has released its latest multiyear strategic plan to be carried out from 2026 to 2031. The plan outlines strategic priorities to address seven objectives:

Service: Position Key Club as a global leader in meaningful, measurable and member-driven service.

Leadership and life readiness: Prepare students to lead with confidence, continuity and real-world relevance — within Key Club and beyond.

Diversity, equity and inclusion: Ensure every student, regardless of background, language, location or resources, can fully participate and lead in Key Club.

Member connection and experience: Create a connected, inspiring and consistent experience that helps every member feel part of a global movement.

Growth: Grow Key Club sustainably by expanding access, strengthening club health and clearly communicating the value of membership.

Communication: Ensure every member, advisor and club experience clear, consistent and accessible communication across all levels of Key Club.

Commitment to continuity: Key Club International is a student-led organization with annual leadership transitions. To ensure this strategic plan creates lasting impact, we are committed to maintaining continuity, accountability and progress across leadership terms.

Importance of a membership chair

A club membership chair is the main face and voice for all things related to a Kiwanis club's membership. Their role is to make sure every member feels engaged, included and truly valued — by working closely with everyone in the club to create a fun and welcoming experience that also attracts new members. During the year, membership chairs receive access to new resources, webinars and a [dedicated Facebook group](#) for membership leaders throughout Kiwanis.

Encourage clubs to learn about the responsibilities of a [membership chair and committee](#) for the 2026-27 Kiwanis year. Once a membership chair has been elected or appointed, clubs should report the chair's name in [Kiwanis Engage](#).



Kiwanis
CAPITAL - NEXT
GENERATION E-CLUB

PRESENTS **THE GAME OF LIFE**

We are hosting a free virtual webinar focused on college applications and preparation. We are so excited to bring this important information to the youth of our district through amazing speakers and their insightful wisdom.

Please save the date and share with your SLPs!



WHEN:
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26TH
IN THE AFTERNOON

WHERE:
VIA ZOOM

SCAN FOR MORE
DETAILS



VIEW FROM THE TOP: POLICY DECISIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

BY DENNIS BAUGH, PG AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

As I prepare what will probably be my last article as a Kiwanis International Trustee, I want to thank everyone that supported my candidacy and ultimate election to a three-year term at the International Convention in Minneapolis in 2023. My term comes to a close Sept. 30.

We held a board meeting April 18 in Indianapolis and passed several items that I believe will be of interest. We were asked to wait until the minutes were approved at the June board meeting in Manila before we make a report. The April 18 minutes are available on the Kiwanis International Website for your review.

Actions of interest taken in April are as follows:

- **For the past several years, we have been working on the merger of the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the Kiwanis Youth Programs boards.** The merger will have full effect Oct. 1. We have created a new board structure and two categories of board member representation – Fundraising Qualifications and Youth Qualifications. I am pleased to announce that the KI Board approved the new KCF Board with the appointment of Jeffrey Wolff to a 2-year term as a Youth Qualifications Representative.
- **2026-2027 Budget for Kiwanis International:** The Kiwanis International Board approved the 2026-2027 budget for Kiwanis International with an overall deficit of US\$1,264,369.
- **2026-2027 Budget for CKI:** The Kiwanis International Board approved the 2026-2027 budget for CKI with a Kiwanis International subsidy of US\$191,000 for a total surplus of US\$15,609.
- **Combining the General Liability and D&O Funds:** This will not affect coverage for the clubs but simplifies the administration of the risk management program.
- **Lieutenant Governor Membership Summit:** Because of the success of the initial Summit in March 2026, the board approved funding this program in 2026-2027 for US\$60,000.

- **Standard Form Club and Club Foundation Bylaws:** The board approved the modernization of the Standard Form Bylaws for Clubs and Club Foundations. They can be found on the Kiwanis International Website.
- **Conduct Unbecoming:** The Kiwanis International Board approved an update to Policy B, section 11(a) defining conduct unbecoming of a member to include conduct OUTSIDE of a Kiwanis event IF the member is identified as a Kiwanian by wearing branded apparel as an example. Any action will be at the discretion of the club.
- **Taiwan District Governor:** Over the past year, the board has been in continued discussions with the Taiwan District for not paying their clubs dues. Action was taken in April and ratified in June to remove the 2025-2026 Governor of the Taiwan District. That position is currently vacant.

Actions of interest taken at the June 24 meeting are as follows:

- **Charter Revocations:** The June meeting is when clubs are considered for charter revocation. At this meeting, charters were revoked for 466 clubs resulting in the drop of 12,983 members and a loss of \$405,815.17. However, any of these clubs can return to Active Status if they pay their outstanding dues. Three clubs in Capital are in this category: Prince Georges County, Old Point Comfort Hampton, and Clinchco.

I hope you find this information useful. I believe in transparency of information between Indianapolis and the membership, understanding there will always be information that cannot be shared for specific reasons.

Again, thank you for your support for the past three years. It has been my pleasure serving as your International Trustee. See you in Annapolis at District Convention.

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



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.