

The Capital

October/November 2026

KIWANIAN

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

**BEYOND THE
FIRST 90 DAYS**

**LET'S BE WILD
ABOUT KIWANIS!**

**DISTRICT CONVENTION:
SERVICE, TRAINING, FUN**



Kiwaniis

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COVER: James Bond encounters a Caribbean Pirate?!? Longtime Capital District Kiwanians Linwood Watson (left) and Steve Cohen embraced the movie-themed DCON social event Friday night in Annapolis at the end of August.





Intermixing Business and Pleasure: An important element of all district conventions is conducting efficient and productive board meetings. Outgoing Capital District Governor Tim Gillette (above, center) led the final board meeting of 2025-26 early Friday morning, August 21.



2026-27 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

GOVERNOR

David Lurie
Tysons, VA

GOVERNOR-ELECT

Nathaniel Kyle
East Huntington, WV

VICE GOVERNOR

Chris Bryant
Norfolk, VA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Wolff
Tysons, VA

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

Tim Gillette
Tysons, VA

TRUSTEE - REGION A

Seth Steele
Bethesda, MD

TRUSTEE - REGION B

Patty Justice
Elkton, MD

TRUSTEE - REGION C

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Governor's Message

DAVID LURIE, 2026-27 GOVERNOR



LET'S BE WILD ABOUT KIWANIS!

Happy Kiwanis New Year! For those whom I haven't met, my name is David Lurie, and I have the pleasure of serving as the 2026-2027 Governor of the Capital District. My Kiwanis Family journey started in 1979 as a member of the Key Club of Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School in Hialeah, FL, and continued as a member of Circle K Club of Florida State University. I joined the Kiwanis Club of Lake Jackson, FL in April 1985 and have served in many club and district leadership roles since then, including now as your District Governor.

I'm excited to start the new Kiwanis year and serve the Capital District. At District Convention in August, I shared the theme for the 2026-27 year, "Wild about Kiwanis." What does this mean? Kiwanis clubs are doing great things, but the people in our communities aren't always aware that Kiwanis is behind these great things.

As an organization, we need to be more visible and show the world how excited we are to be members. In turn, the hope is that when people see how exciting it is to be in Kiwanis, it will motivate them to join our clubs and serve. This year, I encourage all clubs to enhance their presence in their communities and make membership recruitment and retention a major focus.

We had a great year in 2025-26 with many clubs having positive membership gains, but we must continue to pursue that in every Kiwanis club. All our members should be actively engaged in bringing in more people to our clubs so we can provide more service for our communities. Never miss an opportunity to ASK (Always Sell Kiwanis) and invite someone to join.



I also want clubs to provide a positive experience for our existing club members as well and there are several initiatives underway. The most important is to do more service. This year, we will be having a Service Hour challenge for Capital District Kiwanis to conduct 200,000 hours of service – which translates to 50 hours per member. You are probably thinking this is a lot but many of us already do that much in a year and even more.

Club Secretaries are going to be tasked to improve their reporting and let Capital District know about all the great things your club is doing. Our Service Committee will have a monthly newsletter to give you service ideas and information to help your club do more. We will also be initiating or restarting several recognition programs this year to highlight clubs in areas of membership growth, leadership, interclubs and service. This will be in addition to the programs offered for distinguished clubs and signature projects. We will also be updating our Club Leadership Education program for 2027 to offer more online offerings so more clubs can be prepared for the following year.

This year, I would also encourage all clubs to continue to engage with their Service Leadership Program clubs (CKI, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, and Aktion Club). These clubs are passionate, hardworking and highly engaged in service. As Kiwanians, it's our duty to mentor these young adults, and encourage them to be life-long servant leaders. We all hope that one day they will join us in Kiwanis.

The best way to encourage this is to give them positive experiences working with Kiwanians. One of those great experiences is the Key Leader program for high school students. Key Leader is an amazing program -- a weekend educational conference at a campsite where students learn valuable leadership skills. Past participants of the program have described it as a life-changing experience (and if you don't believe me, ask our current Key Club District Governor as she attended last year).

The Capital District is hosting a Key Leader event Nov. 13-15 at the Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center in Wirtz, VA. I encourage clubs to consider sponsoring a student (cost is \$250 for the weekend – includes meals, lodging, and the educational programming) and identifying a student (or more) to attend. Students do not have to be in Key Club, and sometimes this is a launchpad for Kiwanis to introduce themselves to a school or another part of their community where they may not have a strong presence (and it might even lead to the formation of a new Key Club!). If you have any questions, or would like to sponsor a student, please reach out to District Chair Jeanette Ogilvie at: capitalk.jo@gmail.com. Within this issue, there is additional material regarding this program.

Finally, be on the lookout for our new twice monthly video broadcast – Two Minutes in Capital. We will be posting on Facebook, our District Web Site and other social media channels to get you the latest news and information on what is happening in our district.

It's a great time to be a Kiwanian! There are tons of opportunities to provide meaningful service to our communities. Whether it is building a playground, packing food for a nutritious meal, or flipping pancakes on a Saturday morning, we do it because Kids need Kiwanis. I encourage everyone to be the person that makes a difference. 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 and I hope you all feel the same.

Yours in Kiwanis Service and Fellowship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave", with a large, stylized initial "D" and a flourish at the end.

Governor Dave



Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

NOW THE REAL WORK BEGINS

October in Kiwanis has always been one of my favorite times of the year. There is something inspiring about seeing a new group of leaders take over. New club presidents are excited about the year ahead. Boards have new ideas. Committees have new plans. Across the District, Kiwanians are looking at their communities and asking, "What can we do?"

After being involved in Kiwanis most of my life, I've seen this happen many times. And I've also learned something important: The excitement of a new year is easy. Turning that excitement into meaningful action is the hard part.

By the time you read this, the new Kiwanis year is underway. The officers have been installed. The planning retreats are over. The goals have been established. Now the real work begins.

Service is the Reason

It is easy to get caught up in membership numbers, meeting attendance, budgets, reports and Distinguished Club requirements. All of those things have their place, but they are not the reason we belong to Kiwanis. We are here because Kids need Kiwanis. Across the Capital District, our clubs are fighting food insecurity, supporting schools, improving playgrounds, promoting literacy, mentoring young people and responding to needs in their communities. That is the work that matters.

And here's something I've come to believe very strongly: Meaningful service and membership growth go hand-in-hand. People don't generally join Kiwanis because they want another meeting on their calendar. They join because they want to make a difference. They want to meet people who care about their community. They want to be part of something bigger than themselves. So if your club wants to grow, start by asking a simple question: What are we doing that people want to be part of? Then invite them to join you.

Don't just invite someone to a meeting. Invite them to pack food. Help at a school. Build a playground. Support a Key Club project. Attend a community event. Let them experience Kiwanis before you ask them to become a Kiwanian.

Don't just sponsor an SLP – Know them

One of the greatest assets we have in Kiwanis is our Service Leadership Program family. K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, CKI and Aktion Club are not simply organizations that our clubs sponsor. They are young people who are already doing exactly what we hope our Kiwanis members will do: serving their communities and developing as leaders. Our job is not simply to provide a check or ensure an advisor is appointed. Our job is to show up. Go to their meetings. Attend their service projects. Ask them what they need. Find out what they care about.

Celebrate what they accomplish. Most importantly, get to know them. When we do that well, something remarkable happens. A K-Kid or Builders Club member can become a Key Clubber. A Key Clubber can become a CKI member. A CKI member can become a Kiwanian. And somewhere along that journey, a young person who learned to serve can discover that leadership and service can become a lifelong commitment.

That is a pretty powerful pipeline. And it starts with a Kiwanian showing up.

Who is your next leader?

The same principle applies to leadership within our own clubs. One of the things I've learned during my years in Kiwanis is that leadership rarely happens because someone suddenly decides, "I think I'll become a leader."

More often, someone sees potential in us before we see it in ourselves. Someone asks us to chair a committee. Someone invites us to serve on the board. Someone says,

"I think you'd make a good club president." Someone takes the time to mentor us. Who are you doing that for?

If you are a club president, don't wait until next summer to think about who comes next. If you're a committee chair, start identifying someone who could eventually take over your role. If you've been around Kiwanis for a while, find someone newer and help them learn the ropes. Our responsibility isn't simply to accomplish what we can during our year in office. Our responsibility is to leave our clubs stronger than we found them.

Recruit. Connect. Inspire. Mentor. Lead. Recruit...

In my State of the District report at the 2026 House of Delegates, I talked about the cycle of Recruit → Connect → Inspire → Mentor → Lead → Recruit. As we begin this new Kiwanis year, I think it is worth remembering that these aren't six separate activities. They're connected. We recruit someone because we believe they have something to contribute. We connect them to our club and our community. We inspire them by giving them opportunities to make a difference. We mentor them so they develop

confidence and skills. We give them opportunities to lead. And eventually, they recruit someone else. That's how organizations become stronger. That's how clubs become sustainable. And that's how Kiwanis continues beyond any one of us.

So, what will you do?

As you look at your club's calendar for the next few months, I challenge you to look beyond the meetings. Who will you invite? What meaningful service will you undertake? Which young people will you mentor? Who is the next leader you will encourage? And perhaps most importantly: What will your community remember your club for?

The answers to those questions are much more important than how many meetings we hold or how many items we check off a list. We have another year. Another opportunity. Another group of children who need adults who care. Let's make it count.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spotsylvania venue to host March conference

Make your plans now to attend the Kiwanis Capital District Midyear Conference coming March 5-7, 2027. The gathering will be among the first-ever conferences hosted at the magnificent new Kalahari Resort in Spotsylvania, VA, near Fredericksburg, a significant draw for participants and their families.

The Kalahari is designed to entice the conference attendees to stay on site throughout the event, with restaurants and attractions to suit every age and activity level. A feature attraction is its indoor waterpark, the largest of its type in Virginia.

And why would you want to leave? There will be educational sessions to

make your Kiwanis experience better, award ceremonies to celebrate extraordinary service to Kiwanis, a community service project to involve all attendees and families, and a chance to catch up with all your Kiwanis friends — old and new.

Please check out the conference website: <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/2027-capital-district-kiwanis-midyear-conference/>

Hotel registration is already open, and it's not too early to plan your program ads to celebrate your club, your leaders or your service projects.

Kids need Kiwanis, and Kiwanis Needs YOU at Midyear!



From the Governor-Elect



BY NATHANIEL KYLE

JOIN ME IN OUR MEMBERSHIP EFFORTS IN THIS YEAR

Greetings, Capital District Kiwanians! I'm Nathaniel Kyle, and I'm honored to serve as your 2026-27 Governor-Elect. I'm a member of the East Huntington and Huntington Kiwanis Clubs in West Virginia. In my new role, I'll support the membership team as we strengthen existing clubs and build five new ones in Sykesville/Eldersburg and Olney, MD; Tidewater Voices; Mechanicsville, VA; and Cumberland/Frostburg, MD.

I hope you'll join us as we bring "Pure Kiwanis Goodness" to new communities and serve the children who live there. I'm looking forward to meeting members from all over the Capital District through the club building process. If you would like to assist in this exciting endeavor, you can help in a variety of ways. Perhaps your strength is sourcing a prospect list... or making calls to schedule appointments... or making in-person appointments where you already have a connection.

A bit about me: I'm a past Capital District Trustee, past WV District Governor, former club officer in both of my clubs, and former Circle K District Administrator. My father was a two-time governor of the West Virginia District as well.

Professionally, I've worked for Kroger for more than 18 years and currently serve the company as an Assistant Department Leader in Proctorville, Ohio – just across the Ohio River from the Capital District.

Now you may ask: Why do I want to be Governor again? For me it's a whole new experience. New places and new service projects/fundraisers, but the most important thing: meeting you, the members of the Capital District. We are a part of the Kiwanis Family and I want to meet those I have not had the pleasure to yet meet. I'm always available when I am needed. So please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kyle16@comcast.net or (304) 634-6297.



Our Firm Foundation



Roanoke Kiwanis tops Ducky Derby ticket sales in 2026 ... or does it?

BY DON WITT

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke secured the top spot in total 2026 Ducky Derby ticket sales within the district, raising \$1,800 this year thanks to the efforts of master promoter, Reif Kessler. Roanoke outpaced the second-highest club, Danville by \$730. Danville was led by star ticket-seller Melinda Dalton.

Drawings for door prizes were conducted at the Capital District Convention in Annapolis at the end of August. However, club sales didn't tell the whole story. At 147 members, Roanoke had a distinct size advantage over many clubs within the district, a larger pool of sales prospects from which to draw. When evaluating performance on a per-capita basis, the leaderboard shifts dramatically. Here are the top 10 clubs using that scale:

Ranking	Kiwanis Club	No. of Members	\$ per Member
1	Mercer County	6	\$56.67
2	Beckley	12	\$41.67
3	Greater Millsboro	17	\$29.41
4	Hampton Midtown	12	\$25.00
5	Leesburg	11	\$23.64
6	Lynnhaven	11	\$22.73
7	Carrolton	12	\$20.83
8	Rockville	14	\$20.00
9	Fairmont	14	\$17.46
10	Capital Next Gen	15	\$16.67

Under the per-member metric, Danville (\$15.07 per member) drops to 12th place, while Roanoke (\$12.24 per member) falls to 15th.

Regardless of ranking, all participating clubs deserve congratulations for supporting the Kiwanis Capital District Foundation and its work with the district's 11 pediatric trauma hospitals.

(Don Witt served as president of the Capital District Foundation in 2025-26. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and served as a two-time Lt. Governor of Division 15.)

Leadership



BEYOND THE FIRST 90 DAYS: HOW CAPITAL DISTRICT LEADERS CAN MAINTAIN MOMENTUM ALL YEAR LONG

BY JENNIFER HISCOCK

Every October, a fresh surge of energy sweeps across the Capital District. Newly installed club presidents, secretaries, treasurers and membership chairs step up to the plate with ambitious goals, bold visions and high enthusiasm.

During the first quarter, our energy is naturally high, but as winter transitions into spring, a familiar challenge often emerges: fatigue sets in, initial excitement wanes, and leadership momentum stalls.

Starting the year strong sets the tone for our new service year; however, we need to view leadership as a marathon, not a sprint. To deliver on our promise to serve the children of the world, officers must transition from a short-term sprint mentality to long-term operational sustainability.

Drawing from the principles outlined in the [Kiwaniis International Leadership Guide](#) and district leadership frameworks, here is how club and division officers can build a structure that prevents burnout and maintains strong momentum straight through September of 2027.

1. Shift from “Doing It All” to Strategic Delegation

The single biggest catalyst for officer burnout after the first quarter is micromanagement. Many dedicated leaders believe that taking on extra tasks guarantees quality, but leading everything alone quickly leads to exhaustion. The *Leadership Guide* reminds us that officer roles are meant to be support systems, coaches, and strategic planners as opposed to sole operators. The best way to strategically delegate is to:

- **Empower your committees:** Don’t wait until mid-year to activate your committees. Delegating event logistics, project coordination, and meeting setup early distributes the operational load evenly across your membership.
- **Utilize the membership chair and team:** Membership is not a one-person effort. A structured membership committee that shares responsibility for recruitment, onboarding, and retention prevents any single leader from carrying the entire weight of club growth.

2. Leverage the Tools Built to Simplify Your Work

Burnout often happens when leaders spend too much time reinventing the wheel. Kiwanis International provides specific framework designed specifically to streamline administrative responsibilities. The best way to streamline your work through available tools is to:

- **Follow the annual roadmap:** Utilize the month-by-month leadership and committee checklists available on [kiwanis.org](#). These toolkits break responsibilities down into manageable monthly checkpoints, ensuring critical tasks (like roster updates, financial reports, and officer transitions) don’t pile up unexpectedly.
- **Put ACE Tools into action:** Use [Achieving Club Excellence \(ACE\) tools](#) to assess club health, evaluate community impact, and adjust goals mid-year. Regularly measuring progress against a clear roadmap keeps the club focused on achievable milestones rather than vague ideas.



3. Lean on Your District Support System

Leading a club does not mean leading in isolation. One of the greatest strengths of the Capital District is its interconnected network of leaders ready to assist when challenges arise. The Capital District has the following supports available:

- **Connect with your Lieutenant Governor:** Your Lt. Governor serves as a coach, mentor, and advocate for your division. Regular attendance at Divisional Council Meetings provides an outlet to troubleshoot challenges, gather fresh ideas from neighboring clubs, and re-energize your strategy. A complete listing of district officers, Lt. Governors, and committee chairs is available via the [Capital District Kiwanis website](#) under the "About Us" tab.
- **Tap Into Leadership Development Resources:** Reach out to district membership coordinators, certified instructors, and club coaches when you hit a plateau. Leaning on experienced district partners lightens your emotional load and helps you navigate operational roadblocks with clarity. If you need any leadership development resources or assistance, please email me, district leadership development chair, at hiscockjenn@gmail.com

4. Recognize, Celebrate, and Keep the Purpose Front and Center

When routine administrative tasks take over, it is easy to lose sight of why we lead. Reconnecting with the mission is the ultimate cure for officer fatigue. The best way to ensure our purpose is front and center is to:

- **Celebrate Small Wins:** Take time during Division Council Meetings and club meetings to publicly thank board members, committee chairs, and volunteers. Recognizing impact keeps morale high and reminds everyone that their efforts matter. Try something small like "Kiwanian of the Month," where you can print and award a paper certificate.
- **Keep Service at the Heart:** Spend time directly engaging with the children and communities your service projects support. Seeing the direct impact of your leadership will recharge your purpose far better than any administrative checklist.

A successful Kiwanis year isn't measured solely by how much we hit the ground running in October; it is defined by continuous, steady service through September a year from now. By delegating responsibilities, utilizing established Kiwanis planning tools, and leaning on district support, officers across the Capital District can protect their well-being while leading vibrant, thriving clubs all year long.

(Jennifer Hiscock is the 2026-27 Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District.)

Around the CD

What follows is a compendium of news briefs regarding recent or upcoming happenings throughout the Capital District. Should you have an item you would like to share in a future issue of *The Capital Kiwanian*, please email it to: editor@capitalkiwanis.org



Key Clubbers join other Arlington students moving into new home

The Key Club at Arlington Community High School entered the 2026-27 school year in a new home and with a full year of community-service projects on the horizon.

The Key Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington, was rechartered in the spring by Kiwanis International after having been dormant since COVID caused Arlington schools to move to an online-learning format for months in 2020.

The rechartered club has a new sponsor in social-studies teacher Dr. Tiffany Mitchell Patterson and before the end of the 2025-26 school year elected new officers. Members of the Class of 2026 in the Key Club received special recognition at graduation ceremonies held in June.

Arlington Community High School is a nontraditional program open to those 16 into adulthood. It offers the chance for students, many of them immigrants, to combine education with other commitments, such as work and family responsibilities, with the flexibility to start and stop as needed.

The school opened the new year Aug. 31 in a new location, moving into purpose-built space adjacent to Amazon's campus in Arlington's Pentagon City neighborhood. Planning for the move has been in the works for the past year.

Amazon is providing the space for 30 years without charge to Arlington Public Schools as part of a community-benefits agreement signed when the company selected the county as home to its "HQ2" facility.

About 8,500 Amazon employees work in the Pentagon City/ National Landing area. Many were on hand Aug. 28 when a celebration marked the dedication of the new school.

"Students, we have built this for you," said Andrea Fava, Amazon's vice president for U.S. public policy. "We have been looking forward to this day – we have so much to celebrate."

Also on hand were a number of South Arlington Kiwanis members, including Mila Lynne Floro (who is the Kiwanis adviser to the club), Ken Grundborg and Scott McCaffrey.

Principal Dr. Jeannette Allen, herself a Key Club member in high school, said the new facility is a place where "we are planting our future."

"Our students have a home that reflects the future we want for them," Allen said. "Arlington Community High School is a promise there is more than one pathway to a high-school diploma."

During the Aug. 28 event, Amazon announced a \$50,000 contribution to help support a new Friends of Arlington Community High School, which will have a role similar to a parent-teacher organization.

--Submitted by Scott McCaffrey

Club opening blitz coming in Maryland

With the support of Kiwanis International, the Capital District membership team will be opening two new Kiwanis clubs simultaneously in Olney and Sykesville, Maryland in a few weeks.

KI is sponsoring the effort and they will be bringing in two staff members, along with governor-elects, seasoned leaders from other districts who will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience before they take office.

Details for Opening Week...

Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia, MD

Arrival: Sunday evening, Nov. 8, for the kickoff meeting and catered dinner

Recruitment: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Club Organizational Meetings: Wednesday evening, Nov. 11

For out-of-town volunteers, the hotel is covered. Kiwanis International will also provide breakfast and lunch each day, catered dinners in the evenings, and gas reimbursement for drivers. Training will be provided.

We also need callers to set appointments Oct. 26-Nov. 6

If you've done this before, we would love to have you back. If you haven't, we will provide a video for you to learn how it's done. Quick and easy phone calls as you have the time throughout your day within a two-week window. We like to give our volunteers about 20 people to call. You are simply setting an appointment, not selling Kiwanis or the club. We will need close to 20 people to cover calling for both sites -- so we appreciate anyone's help that is willing.

Interested Kiwanians are asked to contact Jen Wolff at jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org.



Ocean Pines presents check to Diakonia

The Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines/Ocean City (MD) welcomed Ken Argot, Executive Director of Diakonia, as guest speaker at its Aug. 26 meeting. Argot shared information about Diakonia's ongoing efforts to provide essential services to individuals and families in need throughout Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.

Diakonia, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has served the community since 1972, when a group of young Mennonites opened a house in West Ocean City. The organization's name comes from the Greek word diakonia, meaning "service to others."

Today, Diakonia is the only comprehensive provider of emergency shelter, food assistance, homeless outreach and Veterans services serving Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties. Its programs include an emergency shelter, food pantry, thrift store, mobile outreach team, homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing, and Supportive Services for Veteran Families.

Diakonia is currently raising funds to establish a new Supportive Living Campus, which will expand its ability to provide stable housing and supportive services to people working toward independence.

Kiwanis members regularly deliver food, clothing and household items to Diakonia for distribution to individuals and families who need assistance.

As part of that continuing partnership, the Kiwanis Club presented Argot with a \$2,500 donation to help Diakonia continue its important work throughout the community.

"Diakonia provides vital services to our neighbors who are facing difficult circumstances," said Kiwanis Club president Sarah Walker. "We are proud to support their work and grateful for the opportunity to partner with an organization that does so much to help people in our community."

--Submitted by Patrick Foley



Culpeper celebrates chartering

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Culpeper (VA) celebrated its charter ceremony Sept. 26 at Mountain Run Lake. It formally chartered May 1 with 23 members.

Governor Tim Gillette presided over the September ceremony, joined by Governor-Designate David Lurie, Past Governor Eric Lamb, Club Coach and District Service Chair Carrie Wagner and members of the sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville along with representation from the Fredericksburg Kiwanis Club and Culpeper County Sheriff Timothy Chilton.

The club presented a Little Free Library to the city as part of the event.

--Submitted by Carrie Wagner

Key Leader 2026-27



HELP DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR BEST

BY JEANNETTE OGILVIE

I am “wild” about chairing the Key Leader committee in the Capital District this year. This weekend on the shores of beautiful Smith Mountain Lake will be an amazing opportunity for high school students in our district to achieve their personal best through service leadership.

After chaperoning the event in 2025, I have seen the graduates of this program stepping into leadership roles in Key Club at the district level, including Governor, Secretary-Treasurer, and Committee Chairs. These students have demonstrated the communication and connection skills that Key Leader fosters. 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.

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.



The biggest way your club can help is by making sure students in your area know about this event and help them get there. Registration is now open: <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/fall-2026-key-leader/>

November 13-15, 2026 at Skelton 4H Center, Wirtz VA

Please reach out to join the committee, serve as a chaperone or with questions: CapitalK.JO@gmail.com Follow us on social media - Instagram @capitaldistrictkeyleader and Facebook.

(Jeannette Ogilvie is a member of the Kiwanis Clubs of Forest and the Capital Next Generation eClub.)

ONE WEEKEND. LEADERSHIP FOR A LIFETIME.

KEY LEADER[®]

How can Kiwanis clubs help with Key Leader?



Key Leader is an exciting leadership experience designed for high school students who want to make a difference. Discover how your voice, ideas and actions can positively impact your school, community and the world.

Without the efforts of Kiwanians like you, this event will not be available to students in our district. We need your help!

- Join the committee to help with marketing, event organizing, and donations
- Make a donation from your club, individually, or from a business through the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation's Youth Outreach: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/capital-district-kiwanis-foundation/cdkf-youth-outreach>
- Recruit student attendees from your area, especially from your SLPs
- Offer sponsorships and transportation for the event
- Register to be a chaperone for the weekend

Ready to help? Contact Jeannette Ogilvie CapitalK.JO@gmail.com

Next event:
November 13-15, 2026 at
Skelton 4H Center in Wirtz, VA
on Smith Mountain Lake
Register here:
<https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/fall-2026-key-leader/>



Kiwanis[®]
CAPITAL DISTRICT



SLP NEWS FROM ELANA GARDNER

Dear Capital District Kiwanis Family,

Happy Fall! As we enter October and November, our Kiwanis Kids (K-Kids) and Builders Clubs are launching into a season filled with impactful service, celebration, and leadership development. Below are key updates, milestone anniversaries, and important dates to keep on your radar for the coming months.

Piecing Together Unity: Clubs claim 30+ banner kits to showcase upcoming district projects

Our Service Leadership Programs are turning creative inspiration into community action. Thanks to an incredible response across the district, DIY Banner Kits were claimed by 31 of the district's 73 clubs at the August convention in Annapolis.

These district funded kits give K-Kids and Builders Club members all the foundational supplies needed to bring collaborative service visual projects – like community cooperation quilts, club banners, and local awareness displays – to life. And this is a great opportunity for Kiwanis sponsoring clubs to join in.

Welcome to the Capital District Family

Rock View Elementary K-Kids sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Leisure World; Theodore G. Davis Middle School Builders Club sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Waldorf.

Club Anniversaries

October:

Daniel Morgan Middle School, Vernon Johns Middle School, Ella Fitzgerald Middle School, Pinecrest School, Dr. Higdon Elementary School, Neabsco Elementary School

November:

Frederick County Middle School, St. Clare Walker Middle School, Berlin Intermediate School, Buckingham Elementary School, Poquoson Elementary School, Wright Denny, Quarles Elementary School, North Jefferson Elementary, Stonehouse Elementary School, Tome School, Shepherdstown Elementary, Westminster School

GLOBAL SERVICE PROJECT 2026-27 ANNOUNCEMENT

Oct. 1 marked the Kiwanis International release of Global Kickoff 2026 on video. Kiwanians – and hundreds of K-Kids and Builders Club members around the world – can watch during a club meeting or watch party. The Global Kickoff can help your members start the new service year.

- Become inspired to “Feed your community,” this year’s Global Service Project challenge.
- Get tips for recruiting new members.
- Hear members talk about their favorite service projects.



Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Finale

Make This Halloween Unforgettable. While most people are thinking about costume parties and candy, K-Kids and Builders Club members have the opportunity to do something even more meaningful this Halloween through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. By participating, these clubs can support two amazing Kiwanis family signature projects in partnership with UNICEF:

K-Kids supporting Brick x Brick (Côte d'Ivoire)

Help build classrooms constructed from recycled plastic bricks, blending innovation and education to give children a brighter future. Since 2022, more than 145,000 has been raised – funding three classrooms. Just \$24 provides five plastic bricks for construction.

Builders Club supporting Start Strong (Zambia)

Help build “insakas” – sustainable community hubs featuring classrooms, public halls, community kitchens, vegetable gardens, sanitation facilities, and playgrounds for early childhood development. Since 2022, more than \$250,000 has been raised – funding seven insakas. Just \$20 provides early-learning toys and supplies for four children.

How your club can join the fun (and the impact)

1. **Get Your Resources:** Access flyers, social media graphics, activity ideas, and educational tools to help you get started.
2. **Learn and Educate:** Explore videos and resources on the “Brick x Brick” and “Start Strong: Zambia” webpages so members understand the direct impact of their work.
3. **Plan a Fun Fundraiser:** Host a costume parade, pumpkin-decorating contest, bake sale, or movie night.
4. **Make It a Kiwanis Family Affair:** Invite your local Key Club, CKI, Aktion Club, or sponsoring Kiwanis club to participate, build connections, and multiply your impact.
5. **Order Trick-or-Treat Boxes:** Reuse iconic orange boxes from last year or order new ones from the Kiwanis Family Store for members to collect donations while trick-or-treating.
6. **Spread the Word:** Promote your efforts at school, in the community, and on social media using #TOT4UNICEF, #KKids, and #BuildersClub.
7. **Submit Your Donations:** Compile your funds and submit them online or via the downloadable form to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

Recognition and Celebration

Earn a Banner Patch: Clubs that raise at least \$250 by Dec. 31 will receive a special banner patch from Kiwanis International to recognize their leadership and impact.

Celebrate Every Dollar: Whether you raise \$20 or \$200, every contribution creates real change. Be sure to celebrate your members’ hard work and generosity.

Let’s make this Halloween unforgettable – not just for the candy, but for the global change we create together. Start planning your Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF event today.



Share your Story

Malcolm Elementary K-Kids Club collected pull tabs all last school year for Children’s Hospital and raised \$50. KUDOS to the Malcolm Elementary K-Kids for raising funds to help Children’s Hospital. Wow! That’s an amazing number of tabs. Check out their Kiwanis Bear Malcolm posing proudly with the tabs collected for this service project. The Dr. Higdon K-Kids Kiwanis Bear approves. Both clubs are sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Waldorf.

October/November dates of importance

World Teachers’ Day	10/5
Antibullying Month/Safe Schools Week	10/16
National Students Against Violence Day	10/21
Make a Difference Day	10/24
World Kindness Day	11/13
America Recycles Month	November
Remembrance Day/Veterans Day	11/15

Kiwanis Club Responsibilities and Benefits to the School

Kiwanis Club Responsibility	Benefit to the School
Provide a Kiwanis advisor to support and oversee the Club	Ensures consistent adult supervision and a well-managed, safe student organization
Mentor student officers in leadership, teamwork, and service planning	Develops student leadership skills that support academic and personal growth
Assist in planning meaningful service projects	Brings positive service initiatives that improve the school and surrounding community
Provide guidance on meetings, bylaws, and officer transition	Promotes organizational stability and continuity from year to year
Support fundraising efforts and financial oversight	Helps fund service activities without placing burden on school resources
Ensure compliance with Kiwanis International standards and policies	Protects the school by maintaining appropriate governance and risk management
Collaborate with faculty advisors and school administration	Aligns SLP activities with school policies, calendars, and priorities
Encourage civic responsibility and ethical leadership	Enhances school culture by fostering responsible, community-minded students

District Administrators' Responsibilities and Benefits to the Sponsoring Club

District Administrators' Responsibilities	Benefit to Sponsoring Kiwanis Club
Provide district-level oversight for Club operations	Ensures the sponsoring club operates within established program and Kiwanis governance standards
Offer guidance on policies, procedures, and compliance requirements	Reduces administrative burden and risk for the sponsoring club
Support leadership training and educational resources	Strengthens club-sponsored leadership outcomes
Serve as a liaison between International, district, and sponsoring clubs	Improves communication and consistency across organizations
Monitor reporting, club health, and organizational structure	Helps the sponsoring club maintain a strong, sustainable program
Provide conflict resolution and procedural support when needed	Protects sponsoring club from operational or organizational challenges
Facilitate continuity during leadership transitions	Ensures stability and long-term success of the sponsored program
Promote best practices and service initiatives district-wide	Enhances the sponsoring club's reputation and service impact

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



2026 DCON HIGHLIGHTS: SERVICE, TRAINING, FUN!!

BY JOHN A. MONTGOMERY

The leadership of the Kiwanis Capital District – more than 200 strong – gathered at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Annapolis for our organization’s 106th annual convention at the end of August – and what a setting it was to recognize the value of team.

What a venue it was to share ideas, trade experiences, to draw inspiration..... to listen to others, to brainstorm, and to network. And to have a good time while doing it!

As Governor Tim Gillette wrote in the introductory remarks of the printed program, Annapolis is not only home to the United States Naval Academy, the city served as the capital of the United States after the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. It was Annapolis where George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

George Washington knew a thing or two about leadership.

The base of operation for this year’s Capital District convention served as an inspiring backdrop for Kiwanians to celebrate recent accomplishments,

to recognize past and future leaders, and reinvigorate ourselves for the year ahead.

“Lights, Camera, Action!” was the theme this year, and a blockbuster event it was. Convention chair Jennifer Mackowski, from Fredericksburg, and her team put together a memorable weekend, intermixing education, business, and plain-out fun. By adjournment Sunday morning, the group was ready to embark on another productive year.

Jennifer and her committee’s intent was to “shine a light” on the Kiwanis mission of improving the world one child and one community at a time, and the weekend’s service project of stuffing backpacks for the children of Annapolis Elementary School certainly set the stage for that. Carrie Wagner, district service chair, guided another effective team effort.

The “camera” portion of the weekend “focused” on developing applicable skills through training; and “networking” with like-minded individuals from throughout the 80,000 square-mile, five-state area inside the Capital District’s boundaries.

This is a district that runs from Weirton, WV to Virginia Beach; and from Wise,

VA to Wilmington, DE. Twice a year, district leaders convene to discuss what’s working and what’s not. We gather to study and implement best practices, seeking to produce results within our own clubs.

“Action” of course, is what Kiwanis is all about – taking ideas honed during the conference back to our respective home clubs and putting them to work in practical and measurable ways.

A tour of the Naval Academy was available Friday afternoon for those who weren’t tied up with other obligations – such as board and committee meetings; exhibit setup; registration and other conference preparation details.



The two business sessions of the convention included the election of our district's future leadership and modifying the structure qualifying others to lead the troops down the road. David Lurie from Tysons was formally elected governor for 2026-27. Nathaniel Keyle from East Huntington, WV, is now governor-elect, and Chris Bryant from Norfolk is the new vice governor. All three were elected without opposition.

David previously served as governor of Capital during 2019-20 and steadied our ship during COVID. But in recognizing the obvious conclusion that the global epidemic impacted Kiwanis in many ways, he sought another term to implement plans that had been curtailed by unavoidable circumstances. He sought another opportunity to complete a full year

without interruption.

David's remarks throughout the convention weekend demonstrate that he has retained his energy while sharpening his implementation skills – and will lead the district in 2026-27 in an enthusiastic and innovative style. His column at the front of this issue details some of those plans.

The weekend's conference meals featured outside speakers with inspirational messages. The training sessions allowed attendees to choose among a smorgasbord of topics designed to cater to individual tastes and specific home club responsibilities.

Subjects addressed included such topics as: How to run a club; Service opportunities within the community;





How to Attract and Retain Members; How to Effectively use Social Media; How to use Artificial Intelligence to your Advantage; and How to Develop Service Leadership Programs.

The Capital District Foundation's annual Ducky Derby campaign raised more than \$12,000 this year, funds which ultimately are awarded to 11 neo-natal hospitals throughout the District. Three large cash awards and a dozen gift cards were presented to Kiwanians who had purchased tickets and whose names were drawn, the culmination of the recent fundraising campaign.

Tim Gillette's address on Saturday evening was a weekend highlight; he lifted up many accomplishments during the past year – including overall membership growth and the start-up of several new clubs. His remarks effectively interwove humor along with an inspiring message imploring

attendees to "keep the course" and continue our recent trend.

At the Governor's Gala Saturday night we also heard thoughtful remarks from the Teenager of the Year, Ella Ridgeway; the Key Club Governor, Kaitlin Krumbach; and the Circle K Governor, Dylan Luong.

Sunday's closing session included

the retiring of last year's leadership team and the installation of trustees and Lt. Governors to lead the district in 2026-27. Home club banners were ceremonially transferred.

There also was a plug to attend next year's international convention to be held in Dallas in June, 2027 – and next year's DCON in Roanoke in August.



"Lights, Camera Action!" was the theme of the 2026 Kiwanis Capital District convention held Aug. 21-23 in Annapolis. More than 200 gathered for the weekend to enjoy service opportunities, training and plain-out fun. District Service and Signature Project Carrie Wagner (previous page, top) was recognized for her outstanding leadership; Blair Hope, past governor of the Utah-Idaho District, offered an inspiring message as the keynote speaker at Saturday's luncheon; and outgoing Governor Tim Gillette discharged the 2025 district trustees and Lt. Governors Sunday morning (bottom panel).

From the Kiwanis Children's Fund

BACK IN THE SADDLE, AGAIN!

BY PG DENNIS BAUGH

For the past three years, PG John Tyner has ably led the Capital District charge as District Chair for the Kiwanis Children's Fund. As of Oct. 1, 2026, I am privileged to succeed John in this role, one I previously held before I was elected International Trustee. Note that I am careful in my words: "succeeding," NOT "replacing" John.

As many of you well know, John Tyner is one of a kind and his enthusiasm for KCF – and the kids – is through the roof! No overstatement there.

Program review

Let's take a few minutes and review where the Kiwanis Children's Fund is with **the Possibility Project** and remind everyone how you can help serve the children of your community. As of Aug. 30, the Capital District has raised \$639,670 since the program began a few years ago.

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

Creating possibilities for the future

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 \$12.2 million, and more than 174 clubs have pledged over \$3 million. The momentum is real, and it's because of clubs like yours.

Campaign highlights

Nine hundred and four (904) grants have been awarded worldwide since the campaign launched. More than \$3.8 million has been distributed to clubs. And 1.75 million kids

have been impacted across our three cause areas: Health and Nutrition, Education and Literacy, and Youth Leadership Development. This is what your giving makes possible.

The need is growing

Before this campaign, we averaged 17 grant letters of intent per cycle. Now we average 55-plus. Clubs want to do more for kids, and more are asking for help every year. But for every \$2 requested, we can only fund \$1. Clubs with real projects serving real kids 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.

What is an Impact Club?

Clubs of all sizes are becoming Impact Clubs, and no two plans look the same. One hundred dollars (\$100) per member per year breaks down to just \$8.40 a month, roughly one trip to 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 makes it click: divide your pledge by \$2.25.





reimagining the future



Your goal isn't \$10,000. It's 4,444 kids. That's how many children a 20-member club can impact. As a club, ask yourselves: how many kids do you want to help?

Turn what's possible into action

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. One thousand four hundred (1,400) clubs, almost all of them, year after year.

Why are we doing a campaign right now?

Kids need Kiwanis, and Kiwanians answer when called. Clubs say more children in their communities need our help, and a fundraising campaign grants more money to clubs to serve those kids.

Why are we doing a campaign focused on us instead of another worldwide campaign?

After conducting member focus groups and speaking with Kiwanis leaders and Kiwanis Children's Fund donors, our Children's Fund Board chose to embark on a new fundraising effort that focuses on the needs of the kids in those communities where our Kiwanis Clubs and our members live. We should be proud of our past worldwide campaigns because they changed the lives of millions of children.

You may have heard that the Possibility Project recruited Kiwanians in your own division to be our champions. When one calls on you or your club, please give them a few minutes to learn more.

To repeat the familiar phrase: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS! And KIDS NEED KIWANIS! BUT, to make this work, Kiwanis needs YOU!

Please reach out to me with questions or just more information about what you and your club can do. I will hook you up with your local champion. My email is dennis.cdypm@gmail.com and my cell number is (540) 820-8498.

(Past Capital District Governor and Past International Trustee Dennis Baugh, returns this year as district chair for the Kiwanis Children's Fund.)



Kiwanis
CAPITAL DISTRICT

Kids
Need
Kiwanis®



Let's Make Difference -

**WILD ABOUT
SERVICE!**



SERVICE
LEADERSHIP
FRIENDSHIP
FUN



Join Our
Committee!



SERVE



CONNECT



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

What We Do

Join the Capital District Service & Signature Project Committee
and be part of something bigger!



SIGNATURE PROJECT CONTEST

Run, promote &
help judge the
District contest



MID-YEAR & DCON SERVICE

Plan projects &
serve alongside
fellow members



SERVICE IDEAS & RESOURCES

Create materials &
share fresh ideas
to support clubs



PROMOTE & ELEVATE SERVICE

Highlight clubs &
celebrate service
across the District



NEWSLETTER & FB CAMPAIGNS

Help share stories,
resources & ideas
that inspire service



SCAN TO JOIN

NEW OR LONGTIME MEMBER?
THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU!



Every Member. Every Month. Every Child.

Different Clubs. One Purpose.
Brighter Futures.

Carrie Wagner

Capital District Service & Signature Project Chair
carriemwagner@gmail.com

SERVE • CONNECT • MAKE A DIFFERENCE

50 FORWARD • EVERY MEMBER. EVERY MONTH. EVERY CHILD.
The Capital Kiwanian

Service Showcase



Let's get WILD About Service!

BY CARRIE WAGNER

Happy Kiwanis New Year!

October 1 marks a new beginning for Kiwanis — new officers, new goals, new ideas and new opportunities to serve. Congratulations to all of our incoming and returning club officers and leaders. Thank you for stepping up to lead and serve your clubs as we begin another Kiwanis year.

And whether you hold an office or simply show up with a heart for service, every Kiwanian has an important part to play in the year ahead.

It is going to be a wonderful year as we celebrate and focus on being WILD About Kiwanis! (Note we are playing on the Governor's theme.) And as part of your Capital District Service and Signature Project Committee, I speak for committee members when I say we hope we can inspire you to be WILD About Service!

Our committee is here to inspire, educate, provide resources and share ideas that will help your club create meaningful service opportunities. Whether you are looking for a new project, trying to strengthen an existing one, searching for a community partner or just need a little inspiration, we are here to help.

50 Forward: Every Member. Every Month. Every Child.

At District Convention, I introduced 50 Forward — encouraging every member to serve every month in their community as we work toward our District service goals. One of our goals is to encourage each Kiwanian to reach 50 hours of service during the year.

But 50 Forward isn't really about counting hours.

It's about what happens during those hours.

Service comes in many shapes and sizes. Many of our clubs have wonderful, larger projects that take months of planning — pancake breakfasts, community festivals, races, food drives and other longstanding projects. These projects raise funds, create visibility, build traditions and often become part of a club's identity.

But not every service project needs months of planning, a committee or a big budget.

This year, I want to challenge every club to find a service opportunity every month. That doesn't mean your club needs to plan a brand-new project 12 times a year. Instead, look for opportunities that already exist in your community and simply ask:

"How can we help?"

One month, volunteer at a food bank. The next month, read to children at a school or library. Help at a community garden, sort donations, assist with an after-school program, pack weekend food for students, collect books or school supplies, or volunteer at another nonprofit's event.

You don't always have to create the service opportunity — sometimes you just need to show up.

These smaller, hands-on opportunities allow our members to serve more often without placing the responsibility of planning another major event on the club. They also introduce us to other organizations, help us discover needs in our communities and build partnerships that may grow into something much bigger.

For our smaller clubs, e-clubs or members who cannot always participate in person, service can happen from anywhere. Look for online and at-home opportunities — write cards for children or families, help a nonprofit with social media or administrative needs, mentor virtually, organize a collection, or use your professional skills to help an organization.

The important question isn't: "How big was our project?" It's: "Who did we help?"

Imagine the impact if every Capital District club found a way to serve every single month — and every member had an opportunity to participate.

That's 50 Forward. Every Member. Every Month. Every Child.

Don't Forget Those Service Hours

As you serve throughout the year, please remember to keep track of your service hours and make sure your club reports them each month.

Don't make it complicated. Keep a small note with your hours, put them in your phone, or add them to your calendar after you volunteer. Find whatever method works for you so those hours don't get forgotten at the end of the month.

And when you're out serving, wear your Kiwanis shirt!

Let people see Kiwanis in action. Every time someone sees a Kiwanian serving in the community, we are telling our story. That visibility can start a conversation, introduce someone to Kiwanis and perhaps even lead to a future member or community partner.

Let Us Put a Little SPARK in Your Service

This year, our committee is introducing our monthly service newsletter, SPARK.

SPARK will give you practical service ideas, helpful resources, important dates and examples of the great work happening throughout the Capital District.

But I need you to help us tell those stories!

Send me a picture and a short description of your favorite service project – or tell me about something new your club is trying. Big or small, we want to hear about it.

Let my committee and me promote you, celebrate you and share your ideas. Your project may be exactly the SPARK another Kiwanis club needs to try something new.

Signature Project Contest Is Coming

The 2026–2027 Signature Project Contest is coming in January 2027. We will let you know when the contest officially opens, but now is a great time to start looking at the projects your club is already doing.

From November through January, our committee will share information to help educate, inspire and encourage clubs to participate.

The contest has two tiers:

Tier I: Clubs with 27 or fewer members

Tier II: Clubs with 28 or more members

A Signature Project:

1. Is recurring.
2. Enhances the Kiwanis image.
3. Demonstrates significant impact on the community through funds raised or children served.
4. Strengthens membership and partnership opportunities.

Your club may already have a wonderful Signature Project and not even realize it. Over the next few months, we will help you understand the contest, recognize the qualities of a strong Signature Project and prepare to tell the story of your service.

Thank You for an Amazing District Service Project

Before we begin our new Kiwanis year, I want to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our District Convention Service Project supporting the students and families of Annapolis Elementary, a Title I school.

It was truly a joy to serve alongside so many Kiwanians. Watching members from across our District work together for one purpose was a wonderful reminder of the heart of Kiwanis.

A very special thank you goes to the Kiwanis Children's Fund, whose generous grant fully funded our District Service Project. Because of their support, we were able to provide books, backpacks, school supplies and weekend food for the students. Their generosity gave us the opportunity to put Kiwanis service into action and make a meaningful impact on children and families.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, packed, organized and helped make the project such a success. Seeing the appreciation of the children, families and school community made it even more special.

Let's Get WILD About Service

As we begin October, I have one challenge for every club:

Let October be the first of 12 months of service.

Reach out to a school, children's organization or community nonprofit and ask:

"What do you need, and how can Kiwanis help?"

It doesn't have to become a huge project. Find an opportunity, invite your members and show up and serve.

And please know that I am here for you. As your Service and Signature Project Chair, I want to help your club and your members in any way I can. If you need ideas, resources, help finding a partner or simply want to share something wonderful your club is doing, please email me.

Send me your pictures. Send me your stories. Tell me about your favorite project or the brand-new one you just tried. Let my committee and me celebrate you and your service!

Please also follow Capital District Kiwanis on Facebook throughout the year so we can celebrate our clubs, our members and the incredible service happening across our District.

Let's make 2026–2027 a year when our communities see Kiwanis serving.

Happy Kiwanis New Year!

Let's get WILD About Kiwanis — and WILD About Service.

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

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

(written in late September)

Hello, fellow Kiwanis members:

Thank you for an incredible year. It was a true honor to serve as your president, witnessing firsthand the dedication, collaboration and passion of Kiwanians.

The past year has been filled with remarkable successes – each one a testament to the commitment and heart of the Kiwanis family.

As of late September, we celebrated the growth of 263 new clubs, expanding our impact and creating vibrant spaces where purpose, connection and meaningful service brighten the lives of children and families.

We piloted an initiative called Kiwanis Voices, a new type of Kiwanis club that offers young adults (ages 18-26) hands-on opportunities to serve, build lasting friendships and create a bridge toward lifelong membership in Kiwanis. At press time, 40 Kiwanis Voices clubs have been built with over 770 members from around the world.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. Let's continue to embrace the magic of Kiwanis. Let's get together and stay together to create a lasting impact.

Keep sharing your passion for Kiwanis and inspiring future servant leaders to join us.

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

Resources for incoming club officers

The 2026-27 Kiwanis year is now underway. For members entering into new club leadership roles, it's a time of euphoria and some trepidation. Kiwanis International offers numerous online resources to ensure newly elected officers

feel comfortable and confident in their roles.

For those new to Kiwanis -- or who simply want a refresher -- Kiwanis 101 is a great place to start.

The club Leadership Guide provides an overview of all club officer positions, as well as a guide to additional resources, from awards and recognition to insurance to youth protection. In addition, the president, treasurer and secretary can get a more in-depth look at their specific roles.

Don't forget: Each Kiwanis district offers Club Leadership Education annually. It is recommended that all incoming club officers participate in their district-led training, which is typically offered between May and August. (Some districts offer training throughout the year.) Any club officer who missed in-person training can watch CLE training videos online.

Encourage incoming club officers to take advantage of all training and educational resources – it's a great way to start the Kiwanis year strong and make the most of the opportunity to lead.

Something for everyone!

With a new Kiwanis year off to a fast start, this is the perfect time to explore the latest products available in the Kiwanis Family Store. You'll find new apparel, accessories and items designed with our members in mind. Some of the newest featured items include:

- Kiwanis men's spirit jacket
- Kiwanis women's spirit jacket
- Kiwanis women's classic cardigan
- Kiwanis unisex seal T-shirt (also available in all club lines)
- Kiwanis "Life is Short" T-shirt
- Kiwanis foldable cargo tote
- Kiwanis travel tote
- Kiwanis bamboo-handle umbrella
- Kiwanis "Kids Need Kiwanis" sticker roll

Whether you're attending a club meeting, volunteering at a service project or looking for the perfect recognition gift, the Kiwanis Family Store offers something for every member – from apparel and pins to plaques and keepsakes.

Thank you for all you do to help make a difference in the lives of children and families in our communities.

Five steps to more members & service

STEP 1: Decide to increase your club's impact in the community.

Membership growth is not a one-time campaign or event. It's a continuous club operation. Now is a perfect time to get started on that commitment – or renewing it – to help more kids in the community.

STEP 2: Download or request a Two for Two guide.

Just go to [Kiwanis.org/twofortwo](https://kiwanis.org/twofortwo). The Two For Two guide is filled with pages of information and ideas: who to approach, how to approach them, ways to identify prospects and more. There are cards to help you follow through on contacts and even some suggested prospects each month.

Use the back cover to track your club's progress.

STEP 3: Spend a club meeting working the plan.

Identify two members to reach out to two prospects for each of the next several months. This way, members will work in pairs. After all, teams are more successful. They support each other and reach more people more rapidly. Refer to the Two for Two guide for help identifying people and personalities your club may be missing.

STEP 4: Reach out to the prospects.

People are busy, and time is precious. You will be more successful recruiting new Kiwanis members if you make an appointment to talk to them – rather than "cold calling" or simply showing up at their location. Ask for a date and time to discuss the club and its impact on the community.

STEP 5: Meet with a prospect.

Make sure the prospect understands what Kiwanis is about. Focus on impact. Potential members need to know what you do, how you do it, why the community needs them and where they can immediately fit. Invite them to join your club. The key message: Kiwanis is a global organization of members, clubs and partners who are dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Find more resources and tools for club strengthening at [Kiwanis.org/two for two](https://kiwanis.org/two-for-two)

Projects that receive funding from KI:

- Are tied to at least one Kiwanis cause area: health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.
- Include programming that recurs at least once each year.
- Are led by Kiwanis, meaning members of the Kiwanis family do at least 50 percent of the hands-on work.
- Directly and measurably improves kids' lives.

Projects that typically DO NOT receive funding:

- One-time events
- Scholarships or sponsorships
- Capital projects or building purchases
- Operating costs or salaries
- Research or medical studies
- Anything better funded by local government

A competitive application:

- Tells reviewers who and how many are served by your project, how members are involved with the project, which cause area the project addresses, and that the project recurs. Example: "Club members will personally assemble and deliver weekend food bags to 40 elementary school students facing food insecurity, supporting their health and nutrition. This project will recur weekly all school year."
- Describes the need your project addresses and how your club assessed that need in your community.
- Shares your plans to maintain or grow the project over time.

For more information and resources, visit our grants and scholarships page.

Questions? Contact Kiwanis Children's Fund staff before or during the application process:

grants@kiwanis.org | 1-800-KIWANIS (U.S./Canada) | +1-317-217-6225 (worldwide)

Join us at the 2027 Rose Bowl Parade Tour

Registration is now open for the 2027 Rose Bowl Parade Tour, a unique opportunity for Kiwanians to take part in the excitement and tradition of the Tournament of Roses Parade. Through A la Carte Tours, the five-day experience includes behind-the-scenes access to float decorating, reserved seating for the Rose Parade, a guided tour of Los Angeles and special events that connect participants with fellow Kiwanians. Attendees can also attend an exclusive luncheon with 2026-27 Kiwanis International President Hope Markes. Join us!

Access valuable information from convention

Did you miss an education session at the Kiwanis International convention in June? You can still access the valuable materials and resources shared during the event. Presentation decks, handouts and other session-related resources are available online. Be sure to explore these resources to enhance your leadership education and bring new ideas to your club and community.

And don't forget to start planning now for the 2027 Kiwanis International Convention in Dallas, Texas, U.S., July 16-19. We'll gather for learning, networking and Kiwanis pride in a city famous for its Texas-style (and Texas-sized) culture, cuisine and more. What better place to celebrate Kiwanis members' big hearts and bold service? Bookmark this page and return often for updates.

Could you be a presenter next summer in Dallas?

Do you have a program, strategy or club success story that other Kiwanians could learn from? Kiwanis International is looking for dynamic presenters for the 2027 Kiwanis International Convention in Dallas, Texas, U.S. We're seeking individuals and clubs willing to share best practices, innovative ideas and practical tools that can help fellow clubs grow, engage members, strengthen service projects and achieve greater success. Consider stepping into the spotlight and inspiring Kiwanians from around the world. Review the presenter application and see if your story could be featured.

Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

October

Manassas, VA.....	1924
Chesapeake, VA	1927
Midlothian-Chesterfield, VA	1950
Northwest Washington, DC.....	1955
Mercury 64, VA.....	1962
Gloucester, VA	2008

November

Roanoke, VA	1919
Pocomoke City, MD.....	1953
Waldorf, MD	1979
Annapolis, MD	1980
Central Chesterfield, VA.....	1983

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.

Olney, MD

Sykesville/Eldersburg, MD

November 9-11, 2026

Mechanicsville, VA

April 6-8, 2027

Cumberland, MD

June 8-10, 2027

HONOR THOSE WHO HELP KIDS.

Your support of our Kiwanis Children's Fund helps improve children's lives around the world. We support Kiwanis service projects that create a greater impact supporting kids in local communities. **With nearly double the number of requests for support, we need your help.** Through these fellowship opportunities, we can honor your generosity — or you can honor someone's service. An outgoing club president. A retiring club member. Any Kiwanian or community member who deserves to be celebrated!



GEORGE F. HIXSON FELLOWSHIP



Named for the first president of Kiwanis International, the Hixson Fellowship honors

Kiwanis clubs or members that give US\$1,000 to the Children's Fund during the Kiwanis year. With a Hixson Fellowship, your club or the recipient of your choice receives a lapel pin and optional certificate to recognize your support.

DR. WIL BLECHMAN FELLOWSHIP



With a gift of **US\$2,500**, you or your club can honor an individual for their distinguished service. Dr. Wil's

legacy continues with his service as a past International president and dedication to programs that laid the foundation for past Kiwanis international campaigns.

IMPACT CLUB

NEW

The Possibility Project is our campaign to build a brighter future for 10 million children by raising US\$25 million for the Kiwanis Children's Fund by the end of the 2027-28 Kiwanis year. **It's the first fundraising campaign created solely to support the Kiwanis family and the children we serve.** With a commitment to give a per-member average of US\$500 or more over five years, your club becomes an Impact Club. It's recognition for an extraordinary commitment and for the inspiration it provides to fellow clubs and Kiwanians.



THANK YOU!

The Kiwanis Children's Fund is grateful for the extraordinary support it receives. Each donor — whether a club or a member — is a valued partner in our efforts to improve the lives of children around the world. Learn more about how we can recognize your legacy.



kiwanis.org/give



Kiwanis
CHILDREN'S FUND