



KIWANIS CONNECTION

Message from the Incoming President

I normally don't have trouble writing; I like to write, English composition was one of my favorite subjects, I have multiple publications in some fairly prestigious professional journals. Not that any of you would be interested in reading any of those, I'm just sharing that to prove I'm capable of writing. But when asked to write this column I find myself with writers' block! I thought about using a simile such as "Kiwaniis is like..." but there are too many options. For me these past few months I would say Kiwanis is like a seesaw. The ups have been many and exciting, super service projects like the return to school event at Langley, Books for Babies, delivering meals to first responders on 9/11 (our Celebrate Community event for 2024), the awards we received at District Convention, planning the calendar, having a balanced budget. These are the things that keep me up. But there are the bumps at the lower end of the seesaw; I missed the Golf Outing this year, members who will not be returning this year, Pitt's Circle K wanting to disband, folks not stepping up to be project chairs. I don't like being on the low end. So for the 24-25 year, I'd like to change the simile – Kiwanis is like ... the moon. It's up in the sky, not down. It reflects the light, sometimes bright and full and sometimes just a sliver. It's always there, even when you can't see it. I searched on Amazon for children's books about the moon, there are over 5,000 titles. Kids like the moon – let's shoot for it this year! - Maureen Reynolds



Our clubs sponsors two Builders Clubs in the area: one at Pittsburgh Classical Academy and one at Langley Pre K-8 Schools. Both clubs are composed of students in the Multiple Disabilities Classrooms at the schools. The clubs

are composed of students from several classrooms; at Langley we work with students in grade 3-8 (about 35) and at PCA students from grades 6-8 (about 20). The students are excited to perform tasks and make projects that benefit others in and around the community. The beneficiaries of their efforts are the senior citizens who receive Meals on Wheels and the residents at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall. These two groups of adults are often the forgotten people in our communities. We coordinate our visits with teachers Mrs. Candice Miller (PCA) and Ms. Ariel Greer (Langley) and will begin our service projects in the month of October. The students will learn the importance of giving to others, without payment or material rewards for themselves and they learn to work together and help each other with tasks that may be a little challenging. It is amazing that they thank us at the end of each session, when we should be thanking them for their work on the various projects to put a smile on someone's face. We look forward to another productive year in the Service Leadership Programs!

Langley Pre K-8 Welcome Back to School Event



On Wednesday August 21st we were invited to participate in the annual Welcome Back event at Langley. On this day, students had the opportunity to meet their teachers, get their schedules and celebrate the start of the new school year. At 2:15pm we diligently set up our Kiwanis tent, unpacked the boxes and bags of school supplies and set up shop! At 3:00pm the celebration started

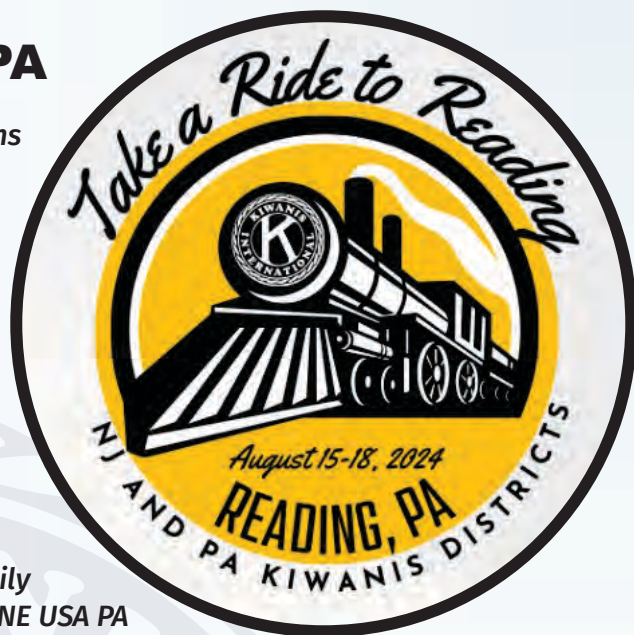
and the various community partners were ready to greet the students. Music, Haircuts, manicures, snacks, were available as were giveaways from other partners (backpacks, Bombas socks) Our club distributed spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, filler paper, folders, pens, pencils, erasers, thin markers, wide markers, pencil cases and pencil bags, boxes of crayons and of course a freshly made candy treat from Hershey PA. After providing about 200 children with supplies we ran out! The weather was so lovely that day, that there were more participants than they expected. Many parents and guardians showed up with their children and expressed their gratitude to our club members for the school supplies and thanked us for all of the events we provided for the children and residents of Sheraden.

PA District Convention --- Reading PA

August 15-18, 2024 found many Pennsylvania and New Jersey Kiwanians meet in Reading for the first ever joint district convention. What an experience to meet volunteers from another District for a weekend of sharing ideas, awards and collaboration. Smaller sessions were presented by one PA and one NJ member... sharing their spin on the same topics. Larger general sessions were conducted with guest speakers from outside the Kiwanis Family, yet sharing the same dedication to volunteerism.

Featured speakers were:

Sharon Mast: Spark Solutions & Support; Paul Palazzolo: KI Executive Director; Mario Bruni: KI International trustee; Michael Mulhaul: KI President Elect Designate; Bert west: KI Immediate Past President; Emily Saalfrank: KI Area Director and Jenifer Coffey: KI Development Officer NE USA PA District Governor Conrad Schlesinger shared the podium duties with NJ District Governor Howard Gordon both announcing special recognitions for members and clubs from both states. The hotel not only provided our individual rooms and suites but sufficient and it was nice to have everything contained in one building. As with every convention, Kiwanis knowledge is expanded, enthusiasm is rekindled and long-distant friendships are renewed. There was a choice of special evening outings offered on Friday night... a wine tour, a ghost tour or a history tour... all accompanied by a special dinner. As always, our club had a hand in the event... Shawn set up his special display for next year's International Convention in Pittsburgh and made his special pitch at one of the sessions encouraging members to attend. He even got governor Designate Tom Harp to wear the Heinz ketchup bottle costume while Keith wore the Heinz pickle costume as part of the presentation. Shawn also joined a New Jersey Kiwanian to do a joint presentation on JEDI in Kiwanis. Barb led a session for "first time attendees" providing them with a 2.0 Orientation of Kiwanis and sent each one on a scavenger hunt throughout the weekend to help them get to know some of the Kiwanis members attending and their leadership roles in our organization. Our club received several honors again this year. We were named a Distinguished Club for 22-23 under the leadership of Past President Andrea Cuda-Gillespie. We received 1st Place for our Club Communications (with its members) and 3rd Place for Community Communications. Five of our club members were recognized as Distinguished Kiwanians: Wayne Meyer, Mairanne Muraska, Maureen Reynolds, Keith Smith and Shawn Smith. Consider attending a future Kiwanis Convention... make new friends, gather new ideas, and expand your Kiwanis education.





2024 International Convention Denver

The 2024 Kiwanis International Convention was held in Denver, Colorado July 3 – 6 with year's theme being “Explore the Possibilities” which was not an issue with those attending.

We had six (6) members from our club attending this year's convention:

Barb & Jeff Carter, Marianne Muraska, Shawn Smith, Keith & Tracy Smith along with one guest of Barb & Jeff's, “Mr. B”.

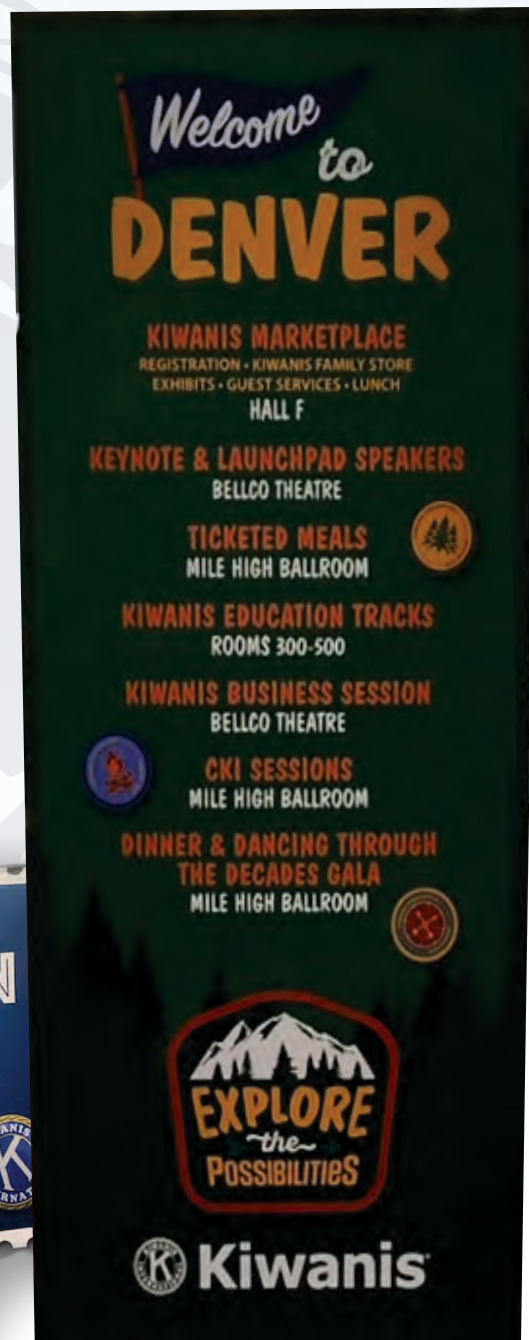
Those attending the convention had a great time and opportunity to meet with old friends, to make new friends, to learn about upcoming Kiwanis initiatives, programs and changes in current programs. We also had a great time at the Colorado Rockies baseball game on the 4th of July followed by a fireworks display put on by our own hometown Zambelli Family.

Our club members also had a great opportunity to advertise for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention which will be held in Pittsburgh (first time ever in Pennsylvania) next summer. Our host committee chair, Shawn Smith, did a great job in having literature regarding the convention along with venues to see and visit in the Pittsburgh area. He especially did a great job on the custom banners he had made highlighting Pittsburgh, Mr. Rogers, Pittsburgh inventions and other items highlighting our region. A special thanks to Barb, Marianne, Tracy & Shawn who had laminated book markers with a save the date on them for the 2025 convention made by various Aktion Club members in Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. The book makers were distributed to those visiting our booth and they were a big hit with our International Kiwanis members.

In addition to the convention venue, our club members attending the convention went exploring the general Denver area before the convention started, after the convention and sometimes during the convention. It was a great experience with breath taking views of the area and its natural beauty! The clubs, restaurants & night life weren't bad either.

It was a great time by those in attendance and we hope to see all our club members next June at the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention here in Pittsburgh.

Keith

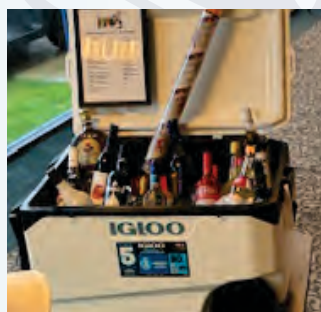
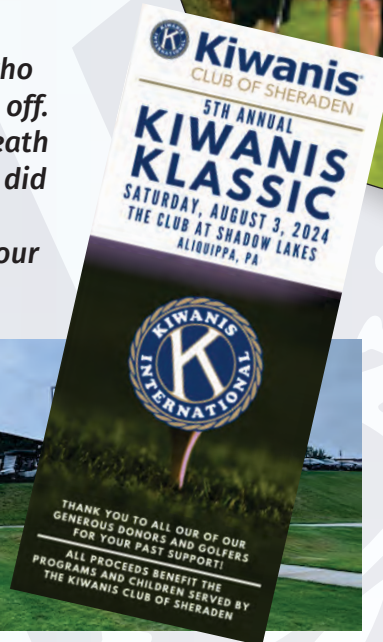


5th Annual Kiwanis Golf Classic

On Saturday August 3rd, we held our golf outing at Shadow Lakes Golf Course. There were 141 registered golfers and 33 golf-hole sponsors for the event. Our Foundation received the proceeds from the golf-hole sponsors.

The rains poured earlier before the outing and stopped to let us begin on time for the 8:15AM shotgun start. Mother Nature threatened all day and finally let out a downpour around 1pm. Most golfers ran for the shelter of the club house and banquet room, but we did have a few 4-somes who toughed it out and finished all 18 holes. Congratulations to our winning teams: ladies' team led by Mary Matus and men's team led by Jack Adlesic. There were skills prizes awarded for closest to the pin on several holes, longest drives and longest putts. We had 18 basket raffle prizes and grand raffles of a booze cooler loaded with adult beverages, a lottery ticket wreath adorned with \$500 worth of tickets, and a 50/50 raffle. Special thanks to all the sponsors who made donations to the make the event a huge success. Formal thank you letters were mailed to the companies and individuals who made donations for the outing.

In case you are wondering, we did contact the gentleman who won the lottery wreath to see how well the investment paid off. Would you believe he only removed the tickets from the wreath and HAS NOT SCRATCHED OFF ANY YET? Total will power! He did promise to scratch them off before our 2026 outing. We look forward to next year... Saturday August 2, 2025 for our 6th Annual Kiwanis Klassic!





Flags Over Sheraden

In 2008, we initiated the idea of placing USA flags on the utility poles along Chartiers Avenue. And so a fundraising campaign was started to fund the project. Many community organizations and citizens gladly donated to the project and so we were able to start this tradition on the patriotic holidays. We initially raised about \$5000 to complete the project. At 7am each Saturday before the holiday, a team of Kiwanians gathered to raise the flags and at the end of the holiday week remove them. Weather was not kind on the flags or the poles and many had to be periodically replaced during that time. In 2016, a major overhaul on all of the flags and poles had to be made and so we held another fundraising drive to replace them and even applied for a grant from the Pa Kiwanis District Foundation to help with the inflating prices. Lucking this time most of the brackets were still good and did not need to be replaced, except for the ones lost when the utility poles were replaced. So here it is 2024, and after many many bad rain storms and winter weather, the faded tattered flags and broken poles needed to be replaced. So rather than asking for donations the club made the decision to make the purchase of 60 new flags, poles, spinners and brackets. Thanks to Ryan for making picking up the flags for delivery to the warehouse. Much to our surprise, when some of the community members heard of this need for new flags, we received several donations to help defray the coasts. Thanks to the many labored hours of the team of volunteers that spent 4 hours at the warehouse unwrapping the packaged flag sets and attaching the flags to each pole to prep them for hanging and attached the holiday flags to the old poles that were still is good condition (Di, Wayne, Maureen, Tracy, Melisa C. and Marianne). On Saturday August 31st, the team gathered, Shawn mounted the new brackets on the poles (as these new flag poles were wider) and raised the new flags (Keith, Maureen, Bill Ford, Shawn, Tracy and Marianne). What a beautiful site! On Saturday September 21 our back up team removed the flags until Veteran's Day (Shawn, Doug, Jan, Maureen - driving the truck and Marianne.)



911 Food Distribution

Each year on 9-11, communities are asked to acknowledge their services provided by the first responders. Meals are provided to the various fire houses, police stations and EMS services. Last year was our first time participating in this event. We met with Theresa Kail Smith, who took care of the food donations and teamed up with members of the Crafton Ingram Rotary to pack meals for the various stations on the City of Pittsburgh District 2, Crafton, Ingram and Scott Township. This year, we are again teaming up with Theresa and other volunteers to provide this service once again.

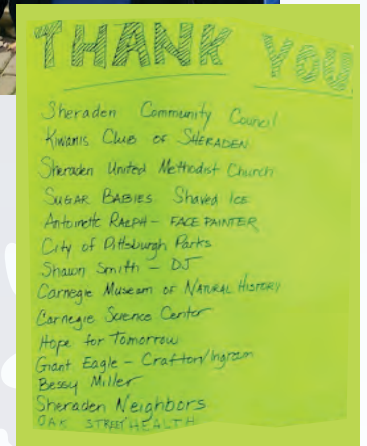
Generously, the owners of Armstrong's Restaurant and Pasta Too are providing pans of pasta, meatballs and sauce and Theresa is providing the salads and bread to finish off the meal. Our job is to pack enough food for each of the first responders' stations and deliver the meals to the stations in City of Pittsburgh District 2. It takes teamwork to pull this off and there are many hands providing these meals on September 11th to hard working men and women who protect our city and its residents every day 24/7.



PICNICKING IN THE PARK

Saturday, September 7, our Kiwanis Club partnered again with the Sheraden Community Council for the annual Community Picnic. This year's picnic was one of the best attended in several years, hosting over 150 guests. Children and their families enjoyed delicious grilled hotdogs (made by our very own Grill-Masters Doug and Jeff), fresh corn on the cob (Wayne was the revered corn-master), watermelon, chips and cookies. Suga' Babies Shaved Ice provided refreshing ice balls. Folks were dawning in face paint and enjoyed crafts from the Carnegie Science Center and dinosaur fossils from the Museum of Natural History. Our local library was also there with giveaways. Other local organizations were present and engaging in the festivities.

Kiwanis had the lucky spinning wheel, giving away many cool prizes and bags. Shawn played the tunes and, also played Connect Four and Tic Tac Toe. Kids enjoyed the playground and learning new dance moves from Hope for Tomorrow dance instructors and the brisk, but beautiful weather. This afternoon was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. It was a true spirit of community.



Terrific Kids 2024

For the last 2 years, we have been rewarding students with perfect monthly attendance with a snack to go with their monthly movie treat. Little did we realize that this is actually part of the Terrific Kids Program: acknowledging improved attendance, academic growth or behavior improvement! And so, let it be noted that this project of ours will now be appropriately labeled Kiwanis Terrific Kids. Each month we provide enough snacks for the number of students achieving this goal with a label identifying Terrific Kids and our club logos. They are then provided either a special movie viewing or an activity at the school. When we began this project in March of 2022, there were less than 50 students achieving perfect attendance. Incentives make a difference; especially after the COVID epidemic made some students lazy and without a push at home, they continued to miss a lot of school. Tracy Smith coordinated purchase



Foundation President Debbie Whitfield

It has been an interesting journey, working to establish the foundation. Sometimes it seemed like we would never get it all in place but from day one it has been a labor of love. We saw a need and had a vision. Thanks to the diligence and hard work of every member and officer, we are an officially recognized foundation through Kiwanis International. We have worked hard to get all the legwork done, with one remaining piece to the puzzle, which is to get approved for the state tax exemption. It is now time for the real work to begin.

My personal goal this year was to see the procurement of the pavilion come to fruition. Thanks to the generosity of the Cozza family, we will be gifted ownership of the pavilion and the surrounding property, creating an identity for Kiwanis in the community. Kiwanis Korner will serve as a daily reminder to the community of all the good things Kiwanis has to offer to the community.

Although the progress of the foundation seems slow, we are now positioned to work on additional sources of funding. We will be looking for grants to provide the needed upkeep and improvements to the pavilion and plan to expand partnerships in events and projects within our community. I appreciate all the support, encouragement and work that went into the foundation. I am excited to see what the next year will bring!



If your dream is a big dream, and if you want your life to work on the high level you say you do, there's no way around doing the work it takes to get you there.

- Joyce Chapman

Foundation News

The foundation was honored to be able to partner with the Kiwanis Club on the 2024 golf outing. Jan Schubert and her team did an amazing job. Although the foundation had little success on rallying hole sponsors, our board showed up and worked hard to help support the committee. Other than some late rain, it was a great day. Moving forward, the golf event will solely benefit the club but I know our board will be there to help our wherever needed.

We currently have one project that falls under the umbrella of the foundation, the Sheraden Kiwanis Scholarship. We were able to provide funding to Blessings in a Backpack to allow the program to finish out last school year. Moving forward, we will be looking to expand both support for the foundation and support to the work of the community groups.

The foundation board will be meeting to discuss ideas to provide support to the foundation, better positioning us to help those who need assistance for programs or service projects. While we still are new in this area, we will be looking to partner on programs.

**WHAT IF
YOU COULD CHANGE
LIVES ANYWHERE IN
THE WORLD?**



From the desk of **LT. Governor Wayne**



On October 17th, I met with the McKeesport/WhiteOak Club and had the privilege of installing their officers. The McKeesport/White Oak club is a small one and the majority of its members are retired seniors, yet they remain faithful, energetic and committed to the ideals of Kiwanis. In their work, they have partnered with the Salvation Army and the local library. They distribute food, treats and clothing through the Salvation Army and provide school supplies, coats, and are currently giving out stuffed animals to the young people at the library.

This is just a sample of the many things they do and they are always looking to how they can serve the McKeesport/White Oak community and their children.

As I think about providing an article for the newsletter, I thought with each issue I would hi-light each club in our division. It will be nice to know what our other brothers and sisters in Kiwanis are doing.

**Rev. Wayne D. Meyer Lt. Governor Division 5
District Chair, Spiritual and Human Values**

UPMC Magee-Women's Pregnancy and Women's Recovery Center (PWRC) is an outpatient facility that provides comprehensive, coordinated, and compassionate care to women with opioid use disorder (OUD). This treatment center is the first of its kind in the region and has helped nearly 1,000 women over the last five years, averaging about 100 women in active recovery at all times. Our Club has partnered with the UPMC PWRC to provide these pregnant women with tools to encourage them to engage with their babies through reading. At our meeting on September 5 we assembled 98 of our Books for Babies gift bags. The bags included materials from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh about library services for families, including the 2024 Top 10 Best Books for Babies reading list, an Early Childhood Development Guide from the PA District Kiwanis, either "Every Day I Learn Through Play", or "Learning is Everywhere", a book from Kiwanis partner Scholastic Books entitled "I Love You Because You're You" by Liza Baker, an adorable bib and teething rattle baby toy, all inside one of our bright yellow Kiwanis reusable grocery totes. The bags were delivered to the UPMC Magee Women's Hospital on September 10 by members Melisa Cardillo, Maureen Reynolds, and Tracy Smith to PWRC staff members Ellen, Tracie, and Maya, with a little help from parking valet Doug. We look forward to our continuing relationship with the PWRC and to provide more Books for Babies in the 24-25 Kiwanis year.



Letter from our Outgoing President:

As I finish up my term for the 2023 -2024 year as president for the Kiwanis Club of Sheraden, I would like to thank the members of "THAT CLUB" for your support, ideas, dedication, hard work and memories over the past year.

The success of our club is not by one person but by all our members. That is especially true with our club as we log in hundreds of service hours (even more with those which are not reported) each month. The accomplishments of our individual members are not only in our division/region, but also in our district and even Kiwanis International.

Our club members are truly dedicated to "Serving the Children of the World" each day.



It is also great to see new/different members stepping up to take on various club board positions, roles, committee chairs, etc. so the same people are not doing everything each year. Getting new people involved/different people involved brings new/fresh ideas and only strengthens our club.

A special thanks to our club's board of directors and officers who faithfully met each month to help guide and direct our club throughout the year.

Thank you all again for your commitment and dedication to Kiwanis and our club and also, for electing me as your president for the 2023 – 2024 year.

Yours in Service,
Keith

The Kiwanis Mission & Vision

Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children. Kiwanis strives to be a positive influence in communities worldwide — so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive. Our Kiwanis club fulfills the Kiwanis mission by serving our community through community service projects.

Interested in helping our children and our community or just learning more about what we do as Kiwanians?

Contact us by phone, letter, E-mail, or simply visit our Facebook page!

Kiwanis Club of Sheraden
2930 Glen Mawr Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15204
kiwanisofsheraden@gmail.com



Kiwanis
CLUB OF SHERADEN