

January 2023



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

# *THE* BUCKEYE BULLETIN



*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**  
*2023*

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From the desk of the  
**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to the Ohio District! 2023 is going to be a good year. We will have the opportunity to elect the next Vice President of Kiwanis International in Minneapolis. For those of you that have heard me speak, I have stressed the need for all hands-on deck to boost and build clubs to make the Ohio District powerful again. In January we will begin the process of boosting clubs and reaching out to prospective members. We have teams all over Ohio to help with this process so if your Lt. Governor asks for your help, please consider making phone calls or going out on appointments. I believe in all of you, and we can accomplish our goals if we work together. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me, I will be happy to discuss my plans with you.

I also want to thank everyone who have donated to the First Family Project. We have been able to send out over two hundred backpacks. Keep those pictures coming, we love seeing how everyone is having fun with stuffing parties and dropping them off at the Children Services locations. Please continue to help so we can make a difference in the lives of children. In closing, First Lady Laurie and I are enjoying our visits and meeting all the great Kiwanians. We look forward to meeting and visiting the rest of the Divisions. Let's have fun while we get out there to boost and build; remember we are the mighty Ohio District.

*In Service,  
Dave Kuhn*



## 2022-23 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

**Governor** David Kuhn  
governor@ohiokiwanis.org

**Imm. Past Governor** Craig Smith  
gov2021-22@ohiokiwanis.org

**Governor-Elect** Jason Miller  
jmillier@ohiokiwanis.org

**Treasurer** Steve Steinbrunner  
treasurer@ohiokiwanis.org

**Secretary** Jim Janosik  
executivedirector@ohiokiwanis.org



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**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT



From the desk of the  
**DISTRICT SECRETARY**



**HAPPY** New Year, fellow Kiwanians! 2023 brings a fresh slate for us all to write another story in our lives. For some, that will be without loved ones who we lost in 2022. For others, it will be with loved ones gained either through birth or union. My new chapter began a few days earlier than the new year on the sunny sands of Daytona Beach where my family gathered to celebrate my marriage to Jennifer Frey. It only took me four and a half years to propose to her, which happened on her birthday last April. And while our engagement was somewhat short, the timing couldn't have been better. A wedding on the winter solstice is said to be blessed because it marks a turning point in lives, just as the solstice marks a turning point in the seasons and the world. Additionally, as December usually is reserved for holiday gatherings and celebrations, we figured this would add one more special occasion.

There's a great article I found online that I've shared on page 16 here about the winter solstice which I encourage you to read. May this be a "time of peace and reflection, embracing the darkness and forgiving, accepting and loving embracing goodbye the past year" as we usher in 2023 and all of the opportunity that it holds.

*In Service,  
Jim Janosik*

Need to meet with me? Book an appointment at [calendly.com/jimjanosik](https://calendly.com/jimjanosik)

“

## INSPIRATION

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

*Edith Lovejoy Pierce*



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## CONTACT US

941 CHATHAM LANE  
SUITE 226  
COLUMBUS, OH 43221  
614.848.5000  
[EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR@OHIOKIWANIS.ORG](mailto:EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR@OHIOKIWANIS.ORG)

## SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

<https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/article-content-submission/>



## KIWANIS FAMILY WELCOME

Our newest members November 21 through December 20, 2022



### New Members

Joshua Cole  
Adam Knapp  
Estrella Alvarez  
Nicole Beagle  
Gabrielle Faulkner  
Jill Vinecourt  
Brittany Burchett  
Melissa Eberwein  
Megan Gleadle  
Tamara Gunther  
Laura Roseum  
Diana Zaverl  
Donald Hudson  
Cheryl Russell

### Club

Galion  
Galion  
Findlay  
Findlay  
Findlay  
East Geauga  
Beavercreek  
Norton  
Portsmouth  
Lancaster  
Willoughby  
Willoughby  
Greenhills-Forest Park  
South East Cleveland

### New Members

Angie Holmes  
Marvin Logan  
Daniel Mack  
Jared Strickler  
Kelly Davenport  
Rebecca Hampton  
Jennifer Blanchard  
Mary Lee Skelly  
Cristen Tarquinio  
Jennifer Garst  
Philip Momicall III  
Patrick Norris  
Linda Oda

### Club

Sunbury Big Walnut  
Warren  
Bay Village  
Mansfield  
Fremont  
Zanesville  
Granville  
Riverview Delhi Hills  
Steubenville  
Brookville  
Lindenwald Hamilton Fairfield  
Bath-Richfield  
Lebanon

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the Granville Kiwanis Club on February 11, 2023 for their annual Pancake Breakfast featuring Kiwanis' own Pure Maple Syrup, All-you-can-eat from 7 AM - noon. Celebrating 50 years of Granville Kiwanis' maple syrup project! Pure Maple Syrup for sale, while supplies last. St. Edwards Church, 785 Newark Granville Rd., Granville, [info@granvillekiwanis.org](mailto:info@granvillekiwanis.org)



Join the Kiwanis Club of Logan for a warm bowl of home made bean soup after the Winter Hike in Hocking Hills State Park on January 21st. Hikers will meet at the campground between 9:00 - 11:00 AM

The Kiwanis Club of Berlin Heights will host its 3rd Annual Trivia Contest on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023 at the Berlin Fire Hall Community Room in Berlin Heights. 10 rounds of trivia. \$5 per person. Teams of 4-8. Doors open at 5:30. Call 419-588-2600



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**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT





January  
Board  
Member  
Birthdays



## THINKING OF STARTING A K-KIDS CLUB?

**Kiwanis**  
**K-Kids**  
Young Leaders Helping Others

The first K-Kids Club to be chartered this year will receive a \$50 check from the Ohio District. All others chartered by March 17, 2023 will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$100 check to be awarded at MidYear Education Day.



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## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AROUND OHIO



Kim Huffman of the Kiwanis Club of Fremont shared their annual Youth Services Committee sponsored School of Hope Movie Day at the Fremont Paramount Cinema. A 35+ year tradition of Fremont Kiwanis, our Service Leadership Programs (SLP) typically help by serving as runners for more popcorn and soft drinks. Thanks to the Gibsonburg and SJCC Key Clubs for providing invaluable assistance to the developmentally delayed individuals who attend School of Hope. The movie this year was the animated Strange World.

Victor Rutkoski of the Kiwanis Club of Berea spent an evening at the Jack Frost Festival of Lights in Berea with the Berea Kiwanis, Baldwin Wallace Circle K and the Community Aktion Club. Great evening with a skating rink, inflatables, music, ice sculptures, hot cocoa and cookies, food vendors, fireworks, light show, tree lighting and parade.



Members of the Lucasville Kiwanis Club collected and packed items for Good Samaritan's Christmas Child boxes.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AROUND OHIO



Barbara Baley shared that the Bath Richfield Kiwanis Club were ringing the bell at Montrose Acme for Salvation Army, helping to support local families this season!



Milford Kiwanis members Charlotte Evans and Yvonne Steinhauer delivered 24 backpacks and boxes with leftover toiletries packs, coloring books colored pencils journals erasers pencils to Clermont County Children Services.



Doug Falk, Lt. Governor of Division 26 shared the Kiwanis Club of Western Reserve in Hiram held their annual Pizza, Crafts and Santa's Secret Workshop event. This is year 13! The event was held at Hiram Christian Church. The Aktion Club they are sponsoring decorated the fellowship hall for the event. Football players and students from the Education Department from Hiram College volunteer their time for this event. There were 50 plus kids that attended the event. As LTG for division 26, part of my role is to visit the clubs and help support them however I can. It was a fun event! Their hospitality was great! The members are very community minded!





# CHRISTMAS AT MEMORIAL PARK

by Shelley Grieshop - Kiwanis Club of Coldwater

**THE** park in this small village is the envy of many communities in the area. It spans a full square mile and is home to playground equipment, ball diamonds and courts, shelter houses, a swimming pool and lots of shade trees. Each winter the laughter of children and cheers of baseball fans disappear. The park is silent except for the scurrying of squirrels on fallen leaves. But that all changed in December 2021. The Kiwanis Club of Coldwater, Ohio, and hundreds of local volunteers successfully debuted the first-ever Christmas at Memorial Park event. The northeast section of the park came alive with Christmas lights, holiday characters, kids' games. Santa and much more. The event returned bigger and better this year on Dec. 2 and continues through Dec. 30.

## How it all began

During a Kiwanis Club meeting in 2020, decorating the park for Christmas was one of the ideas shared for giving back to the community. "The Kiwanis wanted a project that would benefit locally," said Molly Hay, a Kiwanis member who chairs the park project with Nancy Hartke. Hartke said the idea fit the goals of school leaders, community officials and Kiwanis. "The (Kiwanis') mission statement is "to help improve the world one child and one community at a time," Hartke said. "And that is exactly what we are trying to accomplish." The Coldwater Kiwanis club wanted to create an event that promoted family time at no cost. Making Christmas memories became the theme. "Every child can leave with good memories of this fun event," Hartke added. Once the idea was approved and shared, donations from businesses and organizations began arriving. About \$22,000 was donated in 2022 and another \$14,000 this year. The money is used to pay for supplies such as lights, cords and decorations, and the growing list of activities.

## Back-to-back weekends of fun

Approximately 2,000 people gathered again this year for the parade that circles the park before the "Flip the Switch" lighting event. Parade entries include walkers, golf carts, tractors and other vehicles strung with Christmas lights and other decorations. Large inflatables and Santa Claus also make an appearance. Activities are scheduled the first two weekends in December. However, the decorated park is open to the public the entire month. The east entrance to the park features a 200-foot lighted tunnel guarded by life-size toy soldiers. Walking snowmen, a Grinch and other holiday characters greet visitors and kindly pose for photos. Activities and displays include ice skating, pony rides, a game and craft tent for kids, a holiday-themed amphitheater, and hot cocoa and cookies. Organizers this year added a few new items such as a live Nativity, ice sculpting demo, carriage rides and a gingerbread house contest.



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## CHRISTMAS AT MEMORIAL PARK (CONT.)

### A positive experience for the community

Coldwater Mayor Doug Bertke said the event brings much-needed joy to the village. "I believe it gives everyone a break from the stress in their lives and a chance to spend time enjoying the warmth of family and friends," he said. "The lights, decorations and games bring the old-time holiday experience to our community, giving everyone some extra cheer in their lives." Coldwater Kiwanis Club President Denny Riethman said the park project delivers a great sense of pride and unity to the area. "The event brings many community organizations and individuals together volunteering their time and talents to decorate the park and coordinate activities for kids to spread the message and spirit of Christmas," Riethman explained. Hay said one area resident told her Christmas wasn't his favorite holiday until last year. After experiencing the joy and seeing so many families together at the park, the holiday took on new meaning for him. Others in the community appreciated the fact they didn't have to drive out of the area to enjoy so much holiday entertainment, she said. Hay said one couple captured the magic of the twinkling lights by getting engaged at the amphitheater!

### Volunteers are the key to success

The organizers estimate there are more than 300 volunteers involved in the project — many working behind the scenes. Besides committee members, there are students from kindergarten through high school that help with everything from decorations to the kickoff parade around the park. Scores of people bake cookies to hand out with hot cocoa for free. Volunteers paint decorations, wear costumes, decorate trees and bags for the kids, help with children's activities and tear down when it's over, Hartke explained. "We also have volunteers from K Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and Aktion Club," she said. "It wouldn't be possible without these wonderful volunteers."

### The future of the new Christmas tradition

Hartke and Hay have a five-year plan in place to ensure Christmas at Memorial Park lives on. "We hope it continues to grow and expands all the way through the park," Hay said.







# NEW HALL OF FAME PLAQUE UNVEILED

by Jim Janosik

**LAUNCHED** in 2009 to recognize Ohio Kiwanians who were nominated and selected to be recognized for their Time, Talent, Dedication, and Leadership roles in Kiwanis, the Ohio Kiwanis Hall of Fame inductees have not had a proper permanent recognition until now. Previously, HOF honorees were only recognized on the District website and when inducted during the MidYear Education Day. After more than a few hours of work sanding, staining, etching new tags, and reassembling, the new plaque was hung just inside the entry door to the District office near the Giving Tree wall.







Our newest additions to the Giving Tree are from our current District Treasurer Steve Steinbrunner and his wife, past Lt. Governor Linda, and from past Lt. Governor Kathleen Moylan. You, or your club, can recognize a member's contributions with a copper, silver, or gold leaf on the Giving Tree, prominently displayed at the Ohio District Kiwanis Office.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO DONATE

<https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/district-office-events/>

## SIGNATURE PROJECT CONTEST RETURNS

Get ready to tell us all about your club's benchmark service project or fundraiser. The 2023 Signature Project Contest will recognize the best signature projects from Kiwanis clubs around the world. Clubs can submit their projects from January 9-27. Signature projects:

- Are recurring. (Note: A new project can qualify as a signature project if the intent is to continue the project.)
- Enhance the Kiwanis image.
- Demonstrate significant impact on the community in terms of money raised or children served.
- Strengthen membership and partnership opportunities.

Clubs with 27 members or fewer will be judged in Group I. Clubs with 28 members or more will be judged in Group II. The top 10 finalists will be determined for each class. The top three selections from each group will be recognized as the gold, silver and bronze winners at the 2023 Kiwanis International Convention. Visit [kiwanis.org](http://kiwanis.org) to submit your project during the open period.



Order an Ohio Kiwanis License Plate to support children and families in Ohio through its grant program for Kiwanis Safe and Healthy Kids. \$25 for each license plate goes to the Foundation annually. Purchase online at [www.oplates.com](http://www.oplates.com) or at your local BMV office.



[ohiokiwanis.org](http://ohiokiwanis.org)



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## ODKF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### PLANNING YOUR SUCCESS in 2023



**FOR** entrepreneurs just getting started or business owners closing out books for another year, December, generally is a great time to establish goals and monthly benchmarks for the new year. Developing a vision map, road map, or strategy map will allow you to see things more clearly, define operational elements that will help you accomplish set goals and achieve greater success in areas of finance, customer satisfaction, strengthening your brand, addressing procedures within your company, determining best practices for training, and developing your leadership team. Although some of these initial plans will likely change slightly, you will be better prepared should the need arise to pivot or shift due to a situation because you had already considered possibly challenges you might face based upon the past or while preparing for the future. SCORE and SBA provide valuable resources locally for new and existing businesses including a 12 step Startup Roadmap which may be very beneficial for anyone just starting their business. You also have members in CONNECTED and other networking groups who can be valuable resources with helping you navigate through your planning and execution phases. Buy them a cup of coffee and ask for advice.

There isn't a guaranteed formula for success that matches up exactly with every business plan. In doing your research, perhaps you'll find a business guru with a book or a 7 step process that speaks specifically to the vision you have for your business. The most important thing is that you find or develop a system or strategy that will assist you in planning for success. There is truth in what Winston Churchill said: "He who fails to plan, is planning to fail" which was based off a Benjamin Franklin quote: "By failing to plan, you are preparing to fail". These leaders experienced success during their lifetime and it likely started in their preparation. As business owners, we all want to be successful which isn't necessarily equated to dollars and cents.

Perhaps you're a non-profit wanting to increase the families you serve from 100 to 250, or an individual wanting to build your social network capital by 30 people, or a business owner wanting to increase your retainer clients by 12 and add a manager in 2023? It all requires calculated planning.







## ODKF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

Much of the planning process is establishing a true, honest evaluation of where you are presently, asking yourself questions that will help frame the action steps needed each month to assist you with accomplishing monthly, quarterly, and annual goals. Evaluate your human capital, informational capital, and organizational capital. Set relevant objectives and key performance indicators to ensure you're on the right track. For some, these basic questions may come from your Mission, Value, and Vision statements. If you don't have these in place, it's a good starting point to help define your business. Why do you do what you do? What's most important to you in business and in serving others? How do you want your business message to be received by the masses? Where do you hope to take the business in the next 12 months and the next 12 years? Which consumer markets should you specifically target for profitable growth? Sometimes, part of this process will involve a S.W.O.T. analysis to evaluate the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats that exist from your competition. How are they perceived in the community and what do you need to do in order to be a top three choice by consumers wanting your same products and services? With answers to these questions, you should be able to identify an initial starting point of a (new) plan to help you build a strong business brand, satisfy more customers, satisfy stakeholders, build a stronger, more prepared workforce, see an increase in business growth, while hopefully, maintaining a true balance between work, life and play.

Don't overwhelm yourself with tasks but be accountable to the goals you've identify and the benchmarks you've set throughout the year and stay focused on the long term vision for your business. If something doesn't go exactly as planned the first few weeks or months, DON'T GIVE UP, don't get discouraged, it will likely happen, stay on course, make adjustments as needed, seek counsel from experts in the areas you're struggling with, but stay true to your charted course. Pivot and adjust as needed throughout the year and take notes along the way as you begin preparing for an even better year next December. Remember, look at SCORE, SBA, and tap in the resources you have available through your CONNECTED family.

*In Kiwanis Service,*

*James Minter*

ODKF President 2022-2023

614-374-3341

ODKFpresident2022@odkf.org





## GET READY FOR MIDYEAR 2023

**SAVE** the date for March 18, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North. Registration is now open!

Early bird discount will be available through Feb 17, and there will be a \$15 discount for the first 50 first-time attendees to register. Sponsorships are now open via the district website and include the following options:

### "LEARN" SPONSOR - \$100

Promotion of Sponsorship on Facebook, Buckeye Bulletin, Website, event sign board, and in the program

### "PREPARE" SPONSOR - \$250

Learn Level Benefits, plus...  
Free half page ad in event program  
1 Free 2023 MidYear Registration

### "LIVE" SPONSOR - \$500

Learn Level Benefits, plus...  
Free full page ad in event program  
Option to place item in event 'Swag Bag'  
Recognition at all general sessions  
2 Free 2023 MidYear Registrations



**Waterford Elementary  
Builders Club  
sponsored by the  
Marietta Kiwanis Club**





*Sponsorships  
Deadline:  
1/31/2023*



### *sponsorship levels*

"TIL THE BREAK OF DAWN" ----- \$200

*Social media, program, and podium recognition; Event t-shirt; Full page ad;  
Exhibitor table; Governor's Banquet ticket*

"LATE NIGHT REVELER" ----- \$100

*Social media, program, and podium recognition; Half page ad; Event t-shirt*

"WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN" ----- \$50

*Social media and program recognition; Half page ad*

### *program advertisements*

FULL PAGE ----- \$40

*Entire page within the event program*

HALF PAGE ----- \$25

*Half page within the event program*



<https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/circle-k-district-convention/>



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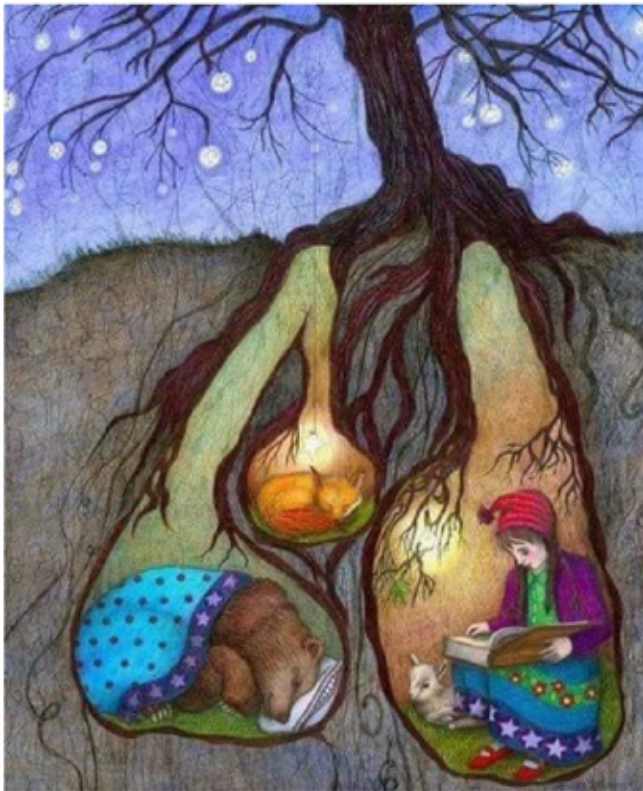


**Kiwanis**  
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# FIND YOUR SOLACE IN THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Written by Bridget Anna McNeil  
Artwork by Jessica Boehman



**THE** winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this is a period of descent and rest, of going within our homes, within ourselves and taking in all that we have been through, all that has passed in this full year which is coming to a close... like nature and the animal kingdom around us, this time of hibernation is so necessary for our tired limbs, our burdened minds.

Our modern culture teaches avoidance at a max at this time; alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, over spending, comfort food and consumerism.

And yet the natural tug to go inwards as nearly all creatures are doing is strong and the weather so bitter that people are left feeling that winter is hard, because for those of us without burning fires and big festive families, it can be lonely and isolating. Whereas in actual fact winter is kind, she points us in her quiet soft way towards our inner self, towards this annual time of peace and reflection, embracing the darkness and forgiving, accepting and loving embracing goodbye the past year.

"Winter takes away the distractions, the buzz, and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb like love, bringing fire & light to our hearth".

.. and then, just around the corner the new year will begin again, and like a seed planted deep in the earth, we will all rise with renewed energy once again to dance in the sunlight. Life is a gift a Happy winter to you all...



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## DISTRICT STORE

**WELCOME** new members to your club with a window cling. They work on the inside or outside of a window to show pride in membership of the Ohio District. Or consider a yard sign to be prominently displayed at the new member's home. Order now and have them on-hand for new member inductions!



[HTTPS://K20.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG/SHOP/](https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/shop/)

## New Club News

Pickerington High  
School North



## CKI ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT IS JASON MILLER FROM BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY!

**THE** December CKI Advisor Spotlight is Jason Miller from Bowling Green State University! Jason Miller is a remarkable K-family member, friend, and individual. He is a role model who has undoubtedly influenced, inspired, and impacted many. Jason goes above and beyond as BGSU's advisor and is also their biggest supporter. Jason is the most compassionate, altruistic, diligent, honest, yet quirky individual, and BGSU is very thankful to have him as their advisor!



[ohiokiwanis.org](http://ohiokiwanis.org)



**Kiwanis**  
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## BUILDERS CLUB GIVES BACK

by Jim Janosik

**THANKS** to a grant from the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation, the District Builders Club recently gifted \$250 to Big Walnut Friends Who Share in Sunbury on behalf of the Sunbury Big Walnut Middle School Builders Club. Students of the Builders Club conducted their second annual food drive to benefit the pantry, collecting a literal truckload of food. Making the collection a bit more engaging, classes competed with one another, and the class that collected the most was able to name their teach Top Turkey, replete with a turkey hat and reveal at a school assembly.

Kiwanis Advisor Gene Linton brought the food to BWFWS where K-family members met up to sort the food, stock the shelves, and present the check.





## GROWING MEMBERSHIP - "TOP 10 LIST"

by Sam Slater, Secretary – The Kiwanis Club of Mason

**BUILDING**, or re-building membership, in our Kiwanis clubs across the Ohio District is a continual challenge. Many clubs struggle in growing their membership, especially in attracting younger members to continue their club's legacy. However, a number of clubs in our District are having success in building membership. Mason has had good success in recent years. We had a net gain of 15 members last year, the highest in the Ohio District among established clubs. I have been asked to share our secret formula. My initial response to that is that there isn't a "secret formula" per se, but we do have a well thought out plan and are trying to be very consistent in our efforts to build membership. We do a number of things to attract new members, which I am happy to share with you. Based on our efforts, here is my "Top 10 List" for growing your club's membership:

1. Develop a membership growth plan for the year with goals and objectives. Involve the entire club in the effort! Get their buy in!
2. Run a planned, timely, and professional regular meeting each and every time you meet, so that every meeting is a good meeting to bring a guest. Remember what they say about first impressions!
3. Evaluate your meeting venue. Your meeting should be held in an inviting, bright, welcoming place that people look forward to going to. If it is not, then it's time to make a change!
4. Create a website for your club! If you already have one, refresh it and bring it up to date in a big way. Develop good, relevant content. Make sure it has a public calendar that is always up to date with your events and meetings, and it clearly welcomes guests to attend these events. Use your website to sell tickets and sponsorships online. Mason has had great success in selling pancake day tickets, golf outing foursomes and sponsorships online. We have online signups for volunteers. This stuff works! It shows your club is modern and up to speed with technology. Make it easy for the public to participate. You should have the path to membership very clearly visible and detailed on your site. Tell them about Kiwanis. Share about your club and why it is important in your community. Give them some history of your club. List your officers and directors. Promote your event sponsors on your website. All these things are very important. Your social media efforts should drive traffic to your website, which should be your primary online presence.
5. Use social media and lots of it. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are all good platforms to potentially use. Many clubs are great at posting photos and videos of events that have already happened. You should do this. But even more importantly, you need to use social media posts well ahead of events to drive interest, attendance, sponsorships, and potential members to your club's events and meetings! Let people know your club welcomes community volunteers at your events and give them a place to sign up. A volunteer is a great potential member! Be consistent and persistent in these efforts.





## GROWING MEMBERSHIP - "TOP 10 LIST"

6. Get outside of your comfort zone in meeting new people. Have the club join the local chamber of commerce. Have members start attending their events on a regular basis. It's a great way to meet new prospective members, especially those of a younger generation. It's also a great way to find new sponsors for your club's fundraisers. The club should consider joining other organizations in the community that similarly could be beneficial. Develop a strategy. Be involved in your community beyond your own doors. Be a true community partner.

7. Train your own members to think about Kiwanis on days of the week other than the one you meet. Everyone they encounter in their daily lives has the potential to be the next new member. Your members know what Kiwanis is about and who likely fits the mold of a Kiwanian. Invite them to a meeting! It's that simple. Just do it!

8. Is your club bringing in guests on a regular basis as speakers or parents of your "student of the month," for example? If so, they are prospective members. Invite them back to another meeting. Talk to them about their interest in club membership. Get their contact info. Continue to communicate with them.

9. Target your community leaders. Do you have your city's manager, director of public works, mayor or council members in your membership? How about the Superintendent of your school system? The director of your public library? The director at the local YMCA? Learn who the key leaders are in your community and have a targeted effort to make them members. These people can give you more visibility and help your club in so many ways.

10. Do things that are fun once in a while! Have an after hours social. Go to a ballgame as a club. Have a Kiwanis movie night. Have a summer picnic in the park with games and activities. Have a bowling night. Remember to promote these events and invite guests always.

Building club membership can and should be fun and exciting! New members bring new ideas, fresh enthusiasm, new friendships, and more hands to accomplish community service. It doesn't happen by accident, however and a concerted effort will be required by all members to accomplish your goals. Is it worth it? Absolutely! All of us want to see Kiwanis continue for future generations! Our Kiwanis legacy is important! Your community needs Kiwanis! Kids need Kiwanis!

I welcome your comments and feedback. I am happy to discuss this article with you at any time. I can be reached at [samslatterre@cinci.rr.com](mailto:samslatterre@cinci.rr.com) or at 513-235-1595. Look us up at [MasonKiwanis.org](http://MasonKiwanis.org).





# DELAWARE KIWANIS HELPS KEEP DELAWARE COUNTY KIDS SAFE

by Dick Brulotte, Secretary – The Kiwanis Club of Delaware Evening

**THE** Kiwanis Club of Delaware (Evening) has always focused on serving the needs of young children and have been big supporters of Kiwanis International's program, "Young Children: Priority One". The Club is a charter member of the Safe Kids Coalition for Delaware County – one of 13 Ohio Safe Kids Coalitions. The mission of Safe Kids is to work with families and communities to prevent childhood injuries – ages 0 to 19.

Since the 1990's Kiwanians have worked with members of the Delaware General Health District and trained technicians to make sure that infants and young children are safe whenever they are transported by automobile. Car seat checks help parents determine which car seat is best each child brought in to a car seat station; Provide car seats for parents who may not be able to afford one; technicians check the condition of your present car seat to make sure there is no damage, or has been recalled, or has expired. And most importantly fit a new car seat for parents or determine if an existing seat is properly installed. Years ago, members helped to install car seats after a 3-day training, but with newer safety rules and certifications, installation is now left to certified technicians. Now Kiwanians serve as scribes who greet parents and children as they arrive, weigh and measure height for each child and fill out paperwork which is handed off to the technicians to finish the car seat check.

At the October Delaware County car seat check, the Kiwanis Club of Delaware also presented Certified Car Seat Technician and Deputy Sheriff Stephanie Herrington, 9 car seats to replace expired car seats and booster seats that are used for loaner seats by the County Sheriff's Office. Besides helping with the Delaware County car seat checks with the Safe Kids Coalition, the Kiwanis Club of Delaware (Evening) also provides free bike helmets and fitting to Delaware children who need bike helmets.





## AMPLIFY SET TO RETURN



Become the leader your workplace, community and club need. Dive into eight leadership topics with experts in the field. Explore the interactive online modules at your own pace. Then interact with other participants to turn lessons into reality. Become the kind of leader people want to follow.

### Participants will:

- Explore the value of servant leadership.
- Discover their personal strengths so they can lead confidently and successfully.
- Strengthen the ability to lead others in a strategic manner.
- Build and manage a strategic plan that works.
- Learn from experts as well as from peers from across the globe.
- Earn a certification of completion.

### Participants will take a deep dive into eight leadership topics:

1. The qualities of a good leader.
2. Methods of communication.
3. Planning engaging events.
4. Promoting diversity, equality and inclusion throughout a team.
5. Working with others.
6. Sharing a message.
7. Planning for the future.
8. Staying focused.

The participation fee is US\$200. Individuals may enroll themselves for Kiwanis Amplify — or a club, division or district may sponsor participants. The participation fee is considered an educational expense, so clubs have the option of paying it from their service accounts.

To learn more or register, visit [kiwanis.org/amplify](https://kiwanis.org/amplify).

**Kiwanis® Amplify**

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

**THE** District Office will host a monthly zoom to help new Kiwanians acclimate to all things K-Family. Covering International and District topics only, staff will share information on history, nomenclature, happenings, and most importantly, how to engage beyond the club level.

Look for the registration link on the District website under Resources > Membership and the zoom link will be emailed to you upon registration. Sessions will run approximately 60 minutes allowing for participant Q&A.

The schedule will be a rotation of noon on the second Wednesdays and 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesdays. The first one will be held at 12:00pm January 11th.



[ohiokiwanis.org](https://ohiokiwanis.org)



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# MINNEAPOLIS AWAITS YOU

by Hasani Wheat, On to International Convention Chair

**LET** the countdown to Kiwanis International Convention begin! In a little under six months, Kiwanis will host its annual International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota (June 21-24, 2023). While more information pertaining to the International Convention will be featured in a future article (which includes details on registration, hotel sites, and other Ohio District of Kiwanis specific information), I wanted to turn your attention to a taste of what Minneapolis has to offer should someone choose to arrive early or stay in the area after the International Convention.



## Nature and Outdoors

There are over 180 parks in Minneapolis (<https://www.minneapolis-parks.org/parks-destinations/parks-lakes/>). A notable park to consider visiting in the downtown area is St. Anthony Falls Park and Nicollet Island.

The Mississippi River flows through Minneapolis and there is a lot of things to do along the Mississippi River (<https://www.minneapolis.org/things-to-do/itineraries/rivers-and-lakes/>).

## Shopping

If you have more time in your schedule, no trip to Minnesota is complete without visiting the Mall of America (<https://www.mallofamerica.com/>). The Mall of America is just 15 minutes from downtown Minneapolis and only a few minutes from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (and is accessible by light rail- <https://www.metrotransit.org/metro>).

There are many popular shopping districts in Minneapolis. Be sure to check out at least one when you arrive or before you depart the International Convention (a few of those shopping districts can be found at- <https://www.minneapolis.org/things-to-do/shopping/popular-shopping-districts/>)

## Arts and Culture

If you are looking for a museum to spend some time in during some down time, the Minneapolis area has 55 museums in total ([https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g43323-Activities-c49-Minneapolis\\_Minnesota.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g43323-Activities-c49-Minneapolis_Minnesota.html)).

If you like taking pictures, Minneapolis has amazing architectural gems- <https://www.archdaily.com/127516/architecture-city-guide-minneapolis>.

This is just a sample of what Minneapolis has to offer. Want to experience more? I would recommend the 52 Minneapolis Must-Sees to add to the itinerary (<https://www.minneapolis.org/things-to-do/itineraries/52-must-sees/>). There is something for everyone... plan accordingly!



# NOW'S THE TIME TO MAKE PLANS FOR SPRING SERVICE PROJECTS

by Steve Vrooman, Community Service Chair

**WHILE** the snow flies and your Kiwanis club is looking toward the spring and summer, this is a time to lay the groundwork for future community projects. Don't forget to enlist the help of your club's SLP groups to provide extra hands and for the opportunity to interact with the young people.

Your club's current service projects may not fill a current, high-priority community need. If you're looking for a new challenge and wish to identify, or confirm, your service goals, a community needs assessment may be in order. The rationale and process for a full assessment are available on the Kiwanis International website. This is an exercise that should be done by a Kiwanis club on a regular basis to make sure you are meeting the needs of your community. A less-time-and-effort-intensive (but, likely, less accurate) method would be to contact several key leaders in the community and talk with them about their community concerns and how Kiwanis can be of assistance.



The following list includes some projects that have been very successful in communities and accomplish a task, put your club's name in the forefront, and are fun for lots of volunteers with a common goal:

- **Playground Housekeeping** – See whether your school playground could use a spruce-up (painting, cleaning, planting, etc.). Or, ask the local parks department whether or not it needs volunteers for park projects.
- **Planting or Beautification Project** – Add color to the school grounds, or ask a local gardening group if they know of other community areas that could use the help.
- **Summer Clothing Drive** – Work with a local charitable organization to determine its areas of greatest need and set up convenient collection points for donations.
- **Yard Cleanup for Seniors** – Ask volunteers to donate a few hours for post-winter yard cleanup for older people; reach out to an elder services organization to find residents who would could use the help.
- **Bike and Outdoor Toy Drive** – Ask for donations of used bicycles and new or gently used outdoor toys. Work with a local bike shop to make bicycle repairs. Donate the bikes and toys to an organization for children in need.
- **Bike Rodeo** – this is a great project that requires significant planning but it's a great opportunity to collaborate with you local law enforcement agency. This is a signature project of many Ohio Kiwanis clubs.





## SPRING SERVICE PROJECTS (CONT.)

- Community Theater – provide financial and human resource support to a local theater group. Help backstage and onstage.
- Arts in the Park – create or support an existing arts week/weekend by providing logistical and operational assistance.
- Collect Food – Contact your local food bank. They can provide you with the necessary information and materials to have a food drive. Prizes can be awarded to individuals who donate the most.
- Recycling Program – Starting a recycling program is a big task but a worthwhile one. Your local environmental agency can provide instructions about how to get started and run the program. Recycled objects can be turned into many useful items.
- Community Garden – a community garden is a great way to meet your fellow citizens and provide healthy food. You may be able to identify a sponsor to help get your garden started. Consider making a garden just for children, so they can learn about the process of gardening. It is a great educational opportunity.
- Blood Drive – Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. By hosting a blood drive, you and your community can make a real difference. The American Red Cross provides planning assistance, recruitment tools, equipment, supplies, and a trained staff to screen and collect donations safely.
- Participate in a charity walk, fun run, or race – Many organizations take advantage of warmer weather by hosting or participating in fundraising walks and fun runs.

If you have successful service project ideas you'd be willing to share with other clubs, please contact Steve Vrooman at vrooman@mac.com. Ideas can be included in future articles and newsletters.

Kiwanians have always stepped up to be a factor in addressing community needs. Your Kiwanis club can be the leader in making a positive difference in the lives of children, families, and communities.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

