

February 2025



Kiwanis
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



We celebrate many things this month, from love and leadership to diversity and more!

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SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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



ohiokiwanis.org

Feel the love and share the love!



January was another amazing month for me as I traveled throughout the Mighty Ohio District.

My journey began in early January as I visited Division 14 in West of Cleveland. Lt. Gov. Nancy Andrade organized a wonderful dinner event. I enjoyed meeting Kiwanians from the area.

They presented me with a beautiful hand-tied Bee blanket which now lives on the back of my couch where I can quickly grab it and snuggle up with my puppies – they love it, too!

I traveled to Cleveland with Gov.-Elect Marcia and Second Gentleman Larry. As we traveled back south, we stopped in Medina to visit the AI Root company. The Root family are pioneers in bee keeping and bee keeping supplies, so of course I had to check it out.

Thank you, Jeri and Alan Penn, for letting me know about this amazing company. We encountered several snowy whiteouts as we traveled home and thankfully made it back safely!

After a few days of record snowfall, I visited the Mason club which made a very generous donation to the Governor's Pollinator project as well as several community grants to various community organizations. What a giving club!

The following week, off to the TENS visit, which is a combined meeting of Divisions 10E, 10S and 10W. We had a great time and the Governor's project received even more generous donations. I extend my gratitude to Lt. Govs. Will O'Malley, Keith Deel and Jim Shively, as well as Division 10W Secretary Scott Lindsey, for organizing an excellent event.

I also was presented with an original abstract BEE painting by Wallace Peck who is a member of the newly chartered Tri-Village Aktion club, and he is an amazing artist. The painting is now living above my fireplace, and I will treasure it forever. I cannot thank all of you enough for the Kiwanis love I feel as I visit our clubs and divisions.

Then to cap off January, our Ohio State Buckeyes won the College Football National Championship ... Quite a month! OH – IO!

(Contd. from previous page)





(Contd. from previous page)

Speaking of love...it's now February the LOVE month! I am excited to share an opportunity to spread some Kiwanis love to our local communities and around the world by participating in Kiwanis Day of Giving on 2.25 (February 25). It's a fitting date, since \$2.25 is enough to make a difference in one child's life through the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

This year, the goal to raise \$100,000 is more ambitious than ever – enough to reach 45,000 kids in one day! So, we're asking each of you to donate at least \$2.25 to KCF on 2/25. If every Ohio Kiwanian donated \$2.25, our district would raise about \$12,000 on our own. If each Ohio Kiwanian gave \$20.25 – our district would raise more than \$100,000 – wouldn't it be awesome if OHIO was the champion of donations on this day! What a way to give love to children everywhere

Kiwanis International will be sending out more information about Day of Giving but you can mark your calendar now. For more information, visit: kiwanis.org/who-we-are/ways-to-give/kiwanis-day-of-giving/

May you have a “lovely” February ... see you in March!

Yours in Service,
Governor Kelly Brown



What can ODKF Grants Committee do for you?

By Rich Rader, ODKF Grants Committee chairman

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation (ODKF) plays a vital role in supporting Kiwanis clubs and their service initiatives throughout the state of Ohio.

At the heart of this mission is the Grants Committee, which serves as a key mechanism for empowering clubs to make a positive impact in their communities. This article explores the purpose of the ODKF Grants Committee and the impact this group can have on YOUR club.



The ODKF Grants Committee exists to facilitate the foundation's mission to raise, manage, and distribute funds to support programs of Ohio District Kiwanis family organizations for the improvement of the lives of children and families. Specifically, the committee supports service projects, encourages community impact, and promotes Kiwanis values.

The committee reviews grant applications from Kiwanis clubs seeking financial assistance for service projects that align with the foundation's goals. By providing funding for innovative and impactful projects, the committee helps clubs extend their reach and address pressing local needs.

These grants reinforce the values of The Mighty Ohio District of Kiwanis International by focusing on programs that benefit children, enhance education, and improve community well-being.

The process for applying for and receiving an ODKF grant is structured to ensure fairness, transparency, and the effective use of funds. If your Kiwanis club is interested in having ODKF help impact the children of your community, you are encouraged to visit the foundation website, odkf.org, for detailed information about the grant application and review process.

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Grants Committee is a cornerstone of service within the Mighty Ohio District. By providing financial support for meaningful and impactful projects, the committee helps Kiwanis clubs fulfill their mission of improving communities, enriching lives, and changing the world, one child at a time. #KidsNeedKiwanis #ODKF

For more details, visit the web site <https://odkf.org/>.





Hannah Riley

January 22 at 10:28 AM · 🌐



I am very excited to announce that Kiwanis Connected Club will be having our charter party on March 1st at 3pm at Capital University. It will be a cocktail hour reception with a Cash Bar. Registration is \$30 and we are very excited to see everyone to celebrate! We will also be having a virtual option for those that want to attend but can not come to the physical event. If you have any questions you can email KiwanisConnectedClub@gmail.com.

<https://k21349.site.kiwanis.org/1540-2/>



AWANS
TIANA

SCAN ME



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ASSISTANCE

Support disaster recovery efforts with a gift to the CNH Children's Fund





What are you doing to celebrate Key Club's 100th?

Every Kiwanis Club which sponsors a Key Club should be thinking about what it can do to celebrate 100 years of Key Club!

Key Club International's 100th birthday – a century of service, leadership and making a difference. The big day is March 23!

We're inviting you to join the celebration!
Here are some ways you can get involved:

Visit the centennial webpage. Explore the page for stories, resources and inspiration to commemorate this milestone.

Share your Key Club story. We'd love to hear how Key Club has shaped your life! Inspire others to get involved.

Host a Key Club birthday party. Throw a celebration with your friends, family or local club – and post about it on social media. Tag Key Club's official accounts and use the hashtag #KeyClub100.

Share photos. Help us capture the spirit of Key Club by sending us your favorite Key Club moments, old or new.

Make a donation. Support the next 100 years of service and leadership by donating to the Key Club Centennial Fund. Your contribution empowers young leaders to make lasting change and take advantage of new opportunities. Learn more and make your gift today: keyclub.org/donate.

Show your Key Club spirit. Visit the Kiwanis Family Store to grab exclusive Key Club Centennial gear and celebrate in style. Join the Key Club Alumni Network. Sign up to stay connected! It's a great way to continue your journey of service and leadership.

Together, we can make this centennial year unforgettable. Connect with us fellow KI leaders and Key Club alumni using the hashtag: #KidsNeedKiwanis



GOVERNOR'S TRAVELS

Pictures from throughout the District! Gov. Kelly has been one busy bee!



Painting by Wallace Peck was presented to Gov. Kelly during her visit to the "10s" last month.



New committee formed to document Ohio Kiwanis history

By Cynthia Champer, Ohio Kiwanis Historical Revitalization Committee chairwoman

Kiwanis is one of those areas in which the history of today, which we often celebrate, is steeped in the traditions of the past.

With that thought in mind, starting with Gov. Kelly Brown, we are beginning work on a Historical Revitalization Committee, which will take several avenues.

What we are looking to do, beginning with Mid-Year, is have Kiwanians who are interested in preserving items from their club (i.e. an old charter), ADVISE the committee - OR VISIT OUR BOOTH AT MID-YEAR - to inform us of what needs to be handled. This will give us a baseline for costs that could be borne, through fundraisers, club funds, district budget or grants.

We are also looking at digitizing not only old charters, but perhaps folders of materials, photos, photos of awards and other items that will either crumble and die off or become destroyed throughout the years. Some samples of these materials might include SLP items, club birthday items, historical data from both the founding of Kiwanis AND the first women in Kiwanis.

Longer term, we are considering establishing a database of materials that could be categorized and lent out almost like a lending library. Another option would be to digitize materials of importance to Ohio Kiwanians and use them as gifts for dignitaries. And those of the membership growth vein might also want to consider that past membership materials could serve as recruitment items for the future!

Please join me in considering the growth of the history of Ohio District Kiwanis. Send your questions or comments to: cindyhamper@aol.com; or call/text me at 419/350-0477.



Sponsors needed -- Mid-Year will be here before you know it!

Dear Friends: On March 15, 2025, Ohio District Kiwanis will once again host Mid-Year Education Day, an opportunity for Kiwanians across the Ohio District to come together for learning and celebration in the middle of the administrative year.

This year's event will feature nine leadership development opportunities, a District business meeting, and awarding of recognitions from the previous administrative year. Your club, business or family has an opportunity to show their support of ODKI while receiving valuable exposure before and during the event.

Sponsorship levels begin at just \$100 and allow you to link your business or club to the outstanding mission of ODKI. We hope you will join us by sponsoring this year's event.

Return your completed form by February 15, 2025. We appreciate your consideration of this worthy cause and hope to see you at the event in November.

Sincerely,
Susan Black, CFRE, CAP®
Mid-Year Education Day Chair

Sponsorship Opportunities

Queen Bee Sponsor \$500

Opportunity to speak at the event
Logo/name on all materials including
collaterals, event signage and media
Exhibit table as desired
Full page ad in program
Two registrations

Honeycomb Sponsor \$250

Name on all event signage and media
Recognition from the podium during event
Shared exhibit table as desired
½ page ad in program
One registration

Worker Bee Sponsor \$100

Name listed on event signage
1/4 page ad in program



WHAT'S THE BUZZ THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT?

We have scoured the posts of **Facebook** to see what Ohio Kiwanis clubs have been up to this past month. Follow the **Ohio District Kiwanis Page**, and join the **Ohio District Kiwanis Group**, to see more and add your activities!

Marla Marsh
 Top contributor · January 20 at 7:59 AM · 🌐

"The time is always ripe to do right." - Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Thank you to **Ohio District Kiwanis** (Kiwanians) for what you do to make a difference. **Monica Marsh**, DEIB Chair for the Ohio District

Fremont, Ohio Kiwanis
 3h · 🌐

Kristie Bilger, Executive Director, presented about Downtown Fremont, Inc. at the Jan. 30th Fremont Kiwanis luncheon. Bilger, a Lourdes and BGSU (MA in History... See more

Kiwanis of Lima Ohio
 Rising contributor · Yesterday at 3:25 PM · 🌐

The K-Kids of Heritage Elementary School collected 475 rolls of toilet paper and paper towels which were donated to Samaritan House, a shelter for homeless women and children less than 18. It's interesting to note that our club donated the fence that surrounds the playground in 1991.

Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 January 15 at 5:00 PM · 🌐

Gary and Carl have been long-time, committed members of the Aktion Club, a Kiwanis-sponsored service club in partnership with the Allen County Board of Developm... See mo



Berea Open House gives boost to membership

The Berea Kiwanis Club is one of the largest Kiwanis clubs in Ohio and the largest in northeastern Ohio. Like many clubs across Ohio, it has experienced a membership decline and an older membership.

Since 2020, Berea has lost 17 percent of members and are down to 85 members, according to the official count released by the Ohio District in October 2024. Yet, it still has a strong core membership committed to serving the youth of Berea.

The challenge the club faces is enticing "younger" members to join the club who not only want to support the mission of Kiwanis, but aspire to leadership positions within the club to ensure the club's viability.

On a snowy Tuesday night on Jan. 14, Berea conducted its first ever membership Open House. It drew about 60 people. About 20 of these were club members and members of their affiliated Circle K, Aktion Club and Key Club. Remarkably, the event attracted about 20 prospective members! A follow-up activity is now under way and, according to Jeff Wayner, Recruitment chairman, the club has 14 prospects committed to join with additional prospects expected.

The event was held at Tony K's, the same local restaurant where Berea holds its weekly meetings. A simple buffet was offered because "if you feed them, they will come." Delicious Tony K wings and pizza were served and members brought cookies for dessert.

The event lasted about two hours. The club showed a new [five-minute video](#) that is posted on the homepage of its web site titled "Our Story in 5 Minutes." This video concisely summarizes what the club does and the impact members make.

The club shared its membership brochure, various Kiwanis International brochures and a KI "Kiwanis is Fun" business card. All guests were given a kitchen giveaway magnet that contained a QR code directing them to the club's web site and Facebook page.

The club had short presentations from Jeff Haas, president, and former KI President Alan Penn of Medina, who provided some remarks about the importance of Kiwanis in the community. Alan asked the group to think about "What Berea would be like if Kiwanis wasn't serving the youth of the community?"

Later, the President returned for a 10-minute question and answer period. The Open House was well-planned. It took a strong committee to pull this together.

To learn more about hosting your own Open House, reach out to Jeff Wayner, the Berea Kiwanis Open House Chairman at Jeffwayner@gmail.com, or Terry Mazzone, Region 2 Ohio District Membership Representative, at tfmazz1@gmail.com. The Ohio District membership committee is willing to help but it is up to each club and its members to do the work.





It's not too early to plan for convention!

Registration is now open for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This year, Kiwanis International is giving you more time to plan for the biggest and most important Kiwanis event of the year. You'll be part of an event that can help you transform your club and its impact on your community. Explore the ways the Kiwanis International convention can help you forge the future – for your club and for our worldwide organization.

**For more information and to register, visit
[https://www.kiwanis.org/members/
kiwanis-international-convention-pittsburgh/](https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-pittsburgh/)**

Amy Zimmerman seeks support as KI Trustee

Amy Zimmerman is running for Trustee of Kiwanis International! Amy is a very qualified candidate and will represent the Ohio District very well.

She will work hard to serve all Kiwanians! To run a successful campaign, we need donations. The Ohio Past Governors are collecting donations for Amy's campaign.

Please send donations of any amount to: Ohio Past Governors, 7016 Waters Edge Drive, Dublin, OH 43016. Please make checks out to: Ohio Past Governors.

Thank you!

Craig Wallace, campaign chairman, Amy Zimmerman for Trustee



Club grants are providing possibilities

The Possibility Project continues!

The new fundraising campaign is the first that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve.

When you give, you help the Kiwanis Children's Fund reach its \$25 million goal – enough to serve 10 million kids around the world. You also make an impact in children's lives now by funding Children's Fund grants that help Kiwanis clubs serve kids.

See some inspiring examples – and how grants have made them possible -- at the web site <https://www.kiwanis.org/category/kiwanis-childrens-fund/>

2025-26 Call for Ohio District Candidates

As we begin to look forward to Kiwanis year 2025-26, it is time to consider running for an Ohio Kiwanis District Leadership position. This is a fantastic opportunity to serve and lead the Ohio Kiwanis family. The following elected positions are available for the Kiwanis year starting October 1, 2025.

- Governor Elect:
- Treasurer:
- Finance and Structure Committee (two positions):

All qualified candidates for offices to be elected at the annual convention must be submitted written notice of candidacy to the District Secretary no later than March 1, 2025.

Nomination packets can be forwarded to you by contacting Robin Gagnow, Ohio Secretary at secretary@ohiokiwanis.org

Details about district leadership positions and the nomination process can be found in the Ohio District Bylaws and Ohio District Policy manual at Ohiokiwanis.org.

Sincerely,

Robin Gagnow
Ohio District Secretary



Division realignment begins Oct. 1

By Steve Vrooman, Mission Advance Task Force

In August 2022, Past Governor Craig Smith appointed the Mission Advance Task Force, a diverse group of 11 Kiwanians from throughout the Ohio District. The task force was charged with “evaluating and making recommendations on matters related to district governance, divisional boundaries, committee structure, and leadership responsibilities within the Ohio District of Kiwanis.”

The MATF was continued under Governors Dave Kuhn, Jason Miller, and Kelly Brown, to complete its thoughtful analysis and discussions.

The committee spent much of the first year gathering data and input from District stakeholders regarding our current form of governance and structure. During the second year, the task force focused on analyzing the data and forming recommendations. Some small policy manual committee consolidations were approved by the ODK Board in August 2023 and some other committee realignments were presented to the 2023-24 ODK board in August 2024.

A plan for divisional realignment was presented to and approved by the 2024-25 ODK Board on Sept. 28, 2024.

What does this mean to divisions and clubs?

- The approved plan will take effect on Oct. 1, 2025. In the meantime, MATF members have been meeting with leadership and members of current divisions/clubs to discuss the plan and to answer questions related to the division adjustments.
- Currently, the Ohio Kiwanis District has divisions of widely varying sizes – the number of clubs, the number of members, geographic size, etc. As of April 30, 2024, divisional membership ranged from 77 to 624 and the number of clubs in divisions varied from 5 to 16. Based on this, the desire to make divisional sizes more equitable was an important factor in the planning. Data analyzed included the variables, listed above, and membership trends.
- The last, large, divisional realignment was done in 1998 with a review and smaller realignment being completed in 2017. When these were done, Ohio Kiwanis had many more members and clubs than we currently have, thus, one of the needs for this to be revisited, now.
- Some divisions will be combined, some Kiwanis clubs will have the opportunity to develop a relationship with a different division, and some divisions will remain the same. The Ohio District will be comprised of 19 divisions rather than the current 24.
- Division realignment will not affect how Kiwanis clubs serve their communities. It is an adjustment in governance grouping. Clubs that supported each other’s projects can, and are encouraged to, continue to do so.
- Leadership of the current and new divisions are/will be working on future leadership, allocating current division funds, dues structure, bylaws/policies, division council meetings and location, and other necessary details for a smooth transition and move into the future.
- The new divisions are currently designated by letters of the alphabet but the new divisions will have the opportunity to choose a division name representative of the division’s location, geographical trait, well-known attraction, or other creative, unique designation.

Members of the Mission: Advance Task Force will continue to be available to support divisions as they make this transition.



HILLIARD KIWANIS CLUB'S SPAGHETTI DINNER

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVICE IN HILLIARD



Kiwanis

Hilliard

Saturday, Feb. 15

4:00-7:00 p.m.

HUMC Social Hall

5445 Scioto Darby Rd.

Hilliard, OH 43026



KIWANIS DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Standing dates:

5th of the month - Circle K and Key Club Monthly reports due

10th of the month - Kiwanis Monthly reports due

20th of the month - Buckeye Bulletin deadline for submissions

February 2025

1 Scholarships for CKI and Key Club - application open

6/7 Circle K District Convention, Bowling Green, Ohio

10-14 K-Kids Week

27 Finance & Structure, 7:00 pm
via Zoom

28 ODKF Mini Grant Deadline
for March Approval

March

15 Spread Your Wings and Fly at Mid-Year Education Day at the Quest Conference Center. Registration is now open. Early bird rate of \$65 is good through February 15. Sponsorships are also available.

March 14-16 Ohio Key Club Convention is March 14-16

March 15, 2025

Quest Conference

9200 Worthington Road, Suite 400, Westerville, OH
43082

Mid-Year Education Day is an opportunity for Kiwanians across the Ohio District to come together in the middle of the administrative year for leadership development, a bit of business meeting, and member recognitions. Building on Governor Kelly Brown's Pollinator Project and the space and flight themes of our location, the theme for this year's event is Spread Your Wings and Take Flight!

This year's event will include an opening plenary and business session, lunch keynote and awards program, and a total of 9 breakout sessions throughout the day. Three of these breakout sessions will be repeated for an online-only audience via Zoom. In person attendees will enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch, and ending celebration. Cost: \$50 for first timers; \$65 for Early Bird and Virtual; \$80 after February 15

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! <https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/mid-year-education-day/>





SAVE THE DATE!

OHIO DISTRICT KIWANIS

CONVENTION 2025

August 1—3

Niles, OH

(Youngstown Area)

Details coming soon

EASTWOOD
eventCENTRE