

May 2025



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

# THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



***April showers have extended  
into May, though the flowers  
they bring would not be possible  
without our pollinators!***

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

<i>Governor's Message</i>	p2
<i>Past LT governors are valuable</i>	p4
<i>ODKF Schedules Golf Outing</i>	p5
<i>Club reaches children with books</i>	p6
<i>Bee facts are featured by club</i>	p7
<i>ODKF offers club-advised funds</i>	p8
<i>Pregane fun at DCON!</i>	p9
<i>DCON is place to beel</i>	p10
<i>Basket and Art auctions to raise \$\$</i>	p11
<i>Come to ICON and support</i>	p12
<i>Amy Zimmerman</i>	
<i>Pollinator Project Photo Contest</i>	p14
<i>Governor's Travels</i>	p15
<i>What's the Buzz?</i>	p16

## CONTACT US

P.O. Box 588  
Berea, OH 44017  
614.848.5000

## SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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



ohiokiwanis.org

# May flowers are a beautiful thing

--By Gov. Kelly Brown

April showers are behind us so it's time to focus on those May flowers.

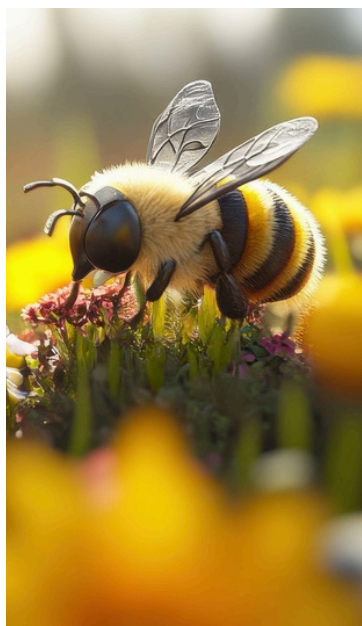
It is thrilling to see our friends, the pollinators, awaking from their winter slumber and newly "born" bees emerge from their hives to start their mission of collecting pollen and nectar. I've already observed bees clinging to dandelions which are a favorite source of early food (please spare them if you can) as well as circling the blooming trees in my yard and throughout my neighborhood. It's a reminder of how important it is for these little superheroes to be well fed and healthy. May flowers are blooming, and it makes my heart happy to see pollinator habitats coming to life.



As I've traveled our mighty Ohio district spreading the word about my Pollinator Project, I continue to be amazed by how this initiative is being embraced. Lots of Kiwanians share their ideas and tell me about the projects being planned. By June, we will see projects in full bloom!

Many Kiwanians have educated me as well. The pollinators and I cannot thank you enough! If you are still thinking about a pollinator project, it's NOT TOO LATE. Seeds can be sown into late May. They can be planted later but will require more water and attention during hotter times to completely germinate. You can plant adult flowers all summer long and late bloomers into fall.

Remember ... bees need nutrition spring through fall before they go dormant for winter. If your club or student leadership program needs financial assistance for a project, WE STILL HAVE GRANT MONIES AVAILABLE. Go to [ODKF.org](https://odkf.org) to fill out and return the application. We will review and approve in real time so projects can get under way.



For more information about the Governor's Pollinator Project, visit the website <https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/district-service-project/>, where we have a complete guide.

You may also record your project by entering it into the form on the same page. Keep in mind that we want to measure and record your project so that we can quantify the impact of Ohio Kiwanis on pollinator habitats throughout our state. Existing pollinator gardens count, too.

I recently received a report from a Kiwanian who has more than 1,400 square feet of pollinator gardens already growing in his yard. Yay! There will be some fat and happy bees in his neighborhood.

(Contd. on nex page)





(Contd. from previous page)

I thank all of you who have adopted this initiative. Humans need bees because they pollinate one-third of our food supply. Bees need humans to keep them safe from toxic chemicals and to provide healthy pollinators habitats where they can thrive.

Albert Einstein said, "If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination ... no more men!" Let's not prove him right!

Looking forward to seeing lots of beautiful pollinator gardens popping up throughout our Ohio District.

Happy as can BEE,

**Governor Kelly Brown**







## Past Lt. Governors can be a valuable resource

Where do past Lieutenant Governors go?

While this sounds like the beginning of a really bad joke, there really is a great punchline! They join the Ohio District Past Lieutenant Governor's Association (ODK PLTGA) and provide input, training and leadership for current and future Ohio District Lieutenant Governors.

Anyone who has served in the role of LTG will understand the many roles and responsibilities that come along with the position of LTG and that these can be somewhat intimidating at first for new leaders. The ODK PLTGA members are always ready and available to share their expertise and past experiences with the new class of LTGs as they assist the Kiwanis Clubs in their Divisions to grow and expand their membership and service in their communities.

The role of the LTG is to be the liaison of information and support between the Ohio District and the local Division Kiwanis Clubs. The LTG serves on the Ohio District Board as a trusted officer and policy maker for the business dealings of the Ohio District and the future of our organization.

By visiting Division Clubs and working with the leadership of those local clubs to assist in membership growth, service and fundraising ideas, as well as sharing the goals and plans of the Ohio District, the LTG is a most valuable resource in the building of better current and future Kiwanis Clubs.

So, the role of the ODK PLTGA is to support the current LTG class when needed, as well as to help recruit and develop future classes of LTGs. There are five Regional Area Directors that work with Divisions assigned to them and their respective LTGs. These Regional Area Directors, along with President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer make up the Board of the ODK PLTGA.

However, a most important role of the Board is that of "Big Bird," the official cheerleader and mascot for the year to help promote the workings of the ODK PLTGA. Look for the official red head hat and feathers next time you are at the District Convention.

This is just another resource that your Ohio District Leadership provides to help those helping others as we lead the way for Kiwanis. If you have any questions about this great resource, or want to learn more about the role of LTG, please reach out to current ODK PLTGA President Julia Martin at [jamartinja@gmail.com](mailto:jamartinja@gmail.com)







# Foundation seeks to add golfers for fundraiser

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation and its golf committee are seeking more sponsors and participants for this summer's 68th Annual Ohio Kiwanis Golf Outing.

This year's event once again will be held at Raintree Golf and Event Center located at 4350 Mayfair Road, Uniontown, Ohio. Raintree is located just off I-77 between Akron and Canton. This year the event will take place on Thursday July 17, and participation is limited to the first 128 players registering and prepaying.

The fun begins at 9:30 a.m. with a shotgun start and a scramble format of play. All registrations and sponsorships are being processed online, and you may register or sponsor at [odkf.org](http://odkf.org) under the scrolling registration and sponsorship tabs.

As in the past this year's event will feature various levels of prizes by age group and all-female player teams. The net proceeds from the event will be used to help support the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation projects. As always, this event is open to the entire Kiwanis family and friends of Kiwanis.



The price of this year's event remains \$90 and includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. Registration deadline is July 10.

To continue to make this event a success and help raise funds for our Foundation and its grants programs, sponsorships are being sold. Sponsorship levels are as follows; a hole sponsorship for \$100, a par sponsorship for \$300, and a birdie sponsorship for \$550.

The hole sponsorship will get a professional sponsor sign on one hole with special recognition in the program and on the Foundation's website. The par sponsor will receive one sign on the course, special recognition in the program and on the website plus golf for two players. The birdie sponsor will receive two sponsorship signs on the course, special recognition in the program and on the website plus golf for four players.

Strong support in sponsorships to help keep the tournament at the quality level everyone has come to expect and to benefit the Foundation, so seek event sponsors from your club members and businesses you may know who would like to support this worthy cause.

Mark your calendars and arrange now to take advantage of the great fun and fellowship that takes place at this event every year. The event is held rain or shine.

No cancellations can be accepted after July 10.

Please encourage your club to send one or more foursomes to this great District event. If you have any questions regarding the tournament please contact event co-chairs Dave Kuhn or Bill Flinta at [golf@odkf.org](mailto:golf@odkf.org). Thank you for supporting this event and your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation. We look forward to seeing everyone in July.



## Kiwanis Club reaches children with books

The Kiwanis' Eisenbraun Books For Kids Program is a very special project. In Youngstown and Boardman, elementary students from 1st to 5th grade receive a book every other month during the school year to keep and continue to enjoy at home.

Kiwanis members pack and deliver these books to the elementary schools.

"We are so grateful to Boardman-Youngstown Kiwanis!" said Shannon Sefcik, a Harding Elementary School teacher and the initiator of the project.

"A couple years ago they were looking for a project that would impact children and they selected a project I submitted that would put new books into the hands of children at Harding Elementary School.

The program was so successful that they made the commitment to not only continue the project at Harding Elementary School, but to expand the program into all the Youngstown and Boardman elementary schools."







## **Kiwanis Club of North Ridgeville shares beekkeeping facts at library storytime** (from the May 4 *Morning Journal*)

The Kiwanis Club of North Ridgeville hosted a Kiwanis and Community Helper Storytime at the Lorain Public Library System North Ridgeville Branch, 35700 Bainbridge Road.

The interactive storytime May 2 featured beekeeper and club Treasurer Gary Krone, who provided facts on bees and read books aloud for guests.

According to club President Toni Krone, each quarterly storytime event features a guest representing a profession, such as a police officer, dentist or firefighter, to help children learn about the responsibilities of each occupation.

“We’re all about the kids,” Toni Krone said. “We thought it would be a fun thing to do.”

Gary Krone and Felicia Coffey, public services professional at the North Ridgeville Branch, led the program with songs and stories about bees, encouraging both children and adults to participate.

Gary Krone said he has been a beekeeper for 25 years and enjoys spreading awareness about the importance of bees and the role they play in the environment.

The storytime event was filled with educational material surrounding the life cycle of a bee, how bees make honey, honeycombs, beeswax, the queen bee, beehives, pollen, beekeeping material and equipment and many other facts, he said.

Samples of beeswax and honeycomb were passed around the audience for patrons to see close-up. “Bees are such incredible insects, creatures,” Gary Krone said. “My favorite part is just spreading that knowledge about them and what they do for us, and how beneficial they are to our society.”

The Kiwanis Club also provided free books, snacks, drinks and homemade pillows with carrying handles and book pouches for the children who attended.

Toni Krone said club members who enjoyed sewing made each pillow featuring a variety of fabrics.

“It’s (the pillows) so thoughtful,” Coffey said. “It upped the level of education that we usually get in our storytimes, because it was very, very informative and something the kids were interested in, too.”

According to Coffey, the program emphasized that bees are not a creature to be scared of because they sting but rather to treat them with care.

“I feel like a childhood fear is related to bees are bugs,” she said. “So, normalizing that and making them (children) comfortable with interacting with that is very important. “They’re our friends; they make us honey and we care for them.”







# All clubs can establish a club-advised fund

Clubs can work with your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation to establish their own 501(c)3 Club Advised Fund.

Your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation is here to provide many resources for our Ohio District Kiwanis Clubs to utilize.

The CAF or Club Advised Funds program is one of our more popular and growing resources. To date 48 Kiwanis Clubs and organizations have established their own Club Advised Fund with assets of \$1,603,943.00 invested.

Clubs may invest their funds in the investment pool of the Foundation as a Club Advised Fund or subfund. This allows the Club Advised Fund to receive tax deductible donations under the 501(c)(3) IRS provisions of the Foundation. The Foundation also handles financial reporting to the club, the State of Ohio and the IRS.

The minimum amount required to establish a Club Advised Fund is \$5,000. The club pays 1 percent annually for the administration of the fund under \$100,000 and 0.75 percent for a fund over \$100,000. The club also pays investment manager's fees.

The club may distribute funds for their projects at any time upon approval of the Foundation Board. Distributions are made to qualified charitable tax-exempt organizations.

Contact the Executive Director (Alan Penn) or Treasurer (Travis Humphrey) for more details about establishing a Club Advised Fund for your Kiwanis Club. They are available to meet with your club and board members to answer all questions that you may have.



How to Establish a Kiwanis Club Advised Fund:

1. Request a meeting with the Foundation Executive Director to review
2. the agreement form of the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation.
3. Have your Board of Directors and membership vote to approve the establishment of the Fund.
4. Select two individuals who will be responsible for depositing and withdrawing monies from your fund.
5. You will be notified of your approval by the Ohio District Foundation Board of Directors
6. Once approved you will be asked to deposit an initial investment of \$5,000 into your Fund.
7. You may begin to collect funds and make deposits in your Fund with the Foundation

If you have questions you can contact [caf@odkf.org](mailto:caf@odkf.org).

# ODK DCON PRE-GAME FUN

Join Governor Kelly and your Kiwanis Friends for a Fun-Filled Day of Golf or Pickleball as we Kick-Off DCON Weekend!



**Thursday July 31**

**GOLF** Tee Times  
11:20 TO 12:30

**\$86 Per Player which includes cart!**

*There is a golf attire requirement for this course.*



**Squaw Creek Country Club**

761 Youngstown Kingsville Rd. Vienna, OH 44473

[www.avalongcc.com](http://www.avalongcc.com)

**PICKLEBALL**

2 Courts at Squaw Creek

**Time 2:00-4:00**

**\$15 Per Player for 2 Hours**

Please make Golf and Pickleball checks to:

Warren Kiwanis Club

Mail to Randy Beard

41 Evans St. Niles, OH 44446

**The last day to register is July 18th**

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ PB or Golf

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ PB or Golf

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ PB or Golf

Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_ PB or Golf

**List individual players or a golf team of four**

Circle  
Choice



Questions??

Contact

Randy Beard

330-509-1527

[randy.beard@saswealth.com](mailto:randy.beard@saswealth.com)



**AUGUST 1-3  
2025**

**Save the dates as we head to Niles  
for a weekend of Kiwanis learning,  
business & fellowship!**





# Support the basket auction at DCON

Are you planning to attend the District Convention in August in northeast Ohio? It truly will “bee” a great time!

DCON is great opportunity to meet new people, renew friendships from the past, complete a service project, learn from each other, and DONATE TO, AS WELL AS SHOP, THE BASKET & ARTWORK ROOM! All of the proceeds, 100 percent, will benefit the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation (odkf.org).

Please consider bringing a themed basket and-or artwork from your club. Raffle baskets can include a variety of items such as gift cards, experiences, event tickets, or curated items related to the theme.



Common themes include sports, travel, movie night, date night, spa treatments, and more.

Please contact Gail Keaton (coordinator of the Basket Room Committee, gaillukemimi@yahoo.com), or Marla Marsh or Monica Marsh, committee members, (marlamarlamarsh@aol.com or monicamarsh1@aol.com).

## Sponsors are needed to make DCON a success

For the Ohio District team to make its annual District Convention financially viable, and keep costs down for attendees, sponsors play a key role.

If you, your club or your division would like to support the district in this way, by becoming a sponsor, please start by visiting the web site <https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/2024-dcon-sponsorship/> to review sponsorship benefits and the level that works for you.

Also, if you know of a business or vendor who might want to support Kiwanis efforts – and get their brand in front of hundreds of service-minded volunteers who are well-connected in their communities – please point them to that web site or have them contact the district staff and we will work on getting those potential supporters on board!





## Hope to see you in Pittsburgh!

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

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 more information and to register, visit <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-pittsburgh/>

### Amy Zimmerman seeks support as KI Trustee

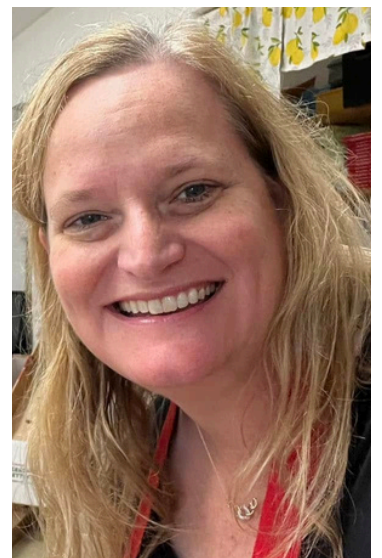
Amy Zimmerman is running for Trustee of Kiwanis International! Amy is a very qualified candidate and will represent the Ohio District very well.

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





## Several Ohio clubs have stepped up to be designed Impact Clubs. Are you ready?

The Possibility Project continues! The current 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 [kiwanis.org/category/kiwanis-childrens-fund/](https://kiwanis.org/category/kiwanis-childrens-fund/)

The campaign has generated \$7.9 million in donations and pledges so far, with \$1.6 million coming from the Midwest Region including \$317,000 from Ohio clubs.

## Did you know??

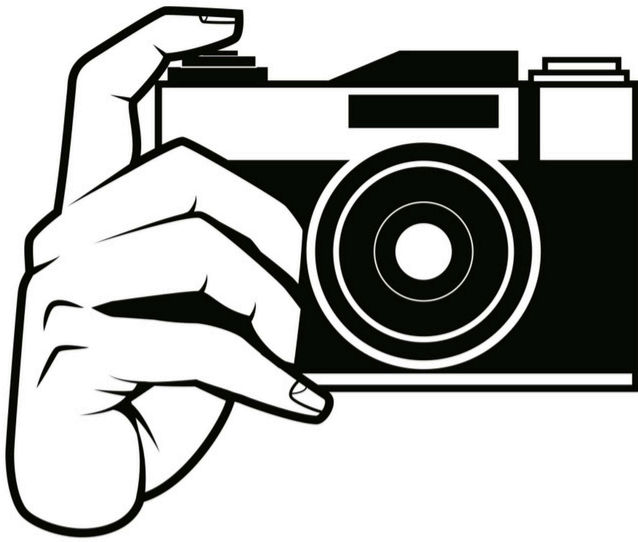
The “We Thrive Together Virtual Aktion Club,” sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Chillicothe, was chartered on April 1 with 80 members!

Ohio, under the leadership of Dick Brulotte, remains a leader in the development of Aktion clubs. This is a brilliant way to meet the needs of service-minded adults with developmental challenges who live in areas which might not have the support of their own in-person clubs.

For more information, visit <https://wethrivetogether.org/aktion-club/> or find the club's Facebook page by clicking [here](#).







2025 Ohio District Kiwanis

# Photography Contest

Sponsored by Ohio District K-Kids

*Send us your best photographs of Flowers, Gardens and Pollinators!*

## Rules and Instructions:

1. Each person can submit 2 digital photographs of Flowers, Gardens and/or Pollinators to support the District Pollinator Project.
2. The photos must be original and by the person submitting.
3. If people are included in the photo, please have them sign the Kiwanis Photo Release.
4. Email each photograph separately to Jennifer Lewis at [OhioKKids@gmail.com](mailto:OhioKKids@gmail.com) and include in the subject line "Pollinator Photo Contest." Include in the email your name, club name, location (city) and phone number.
5. Winners will be announced at the Ohio District Convention. Participants do not need to be present to win. Select photographs will be displayed at the conference..
6. Winners will receive gift cards and recognition in the Buckeye Bulletin.
7. Deadline to submit is August 1, 2025 at midnight.

*Sponsored by Ohio K-Kids and PR Committee for Gov. Kelly Brown's Pollinator Project.*



# The Governor's Travels

Our Ohio District Governor puts on plenty of miles throughout the year, so Gov. Jelly Brown can be hard to track down. But we'll do our best to share some of the highlights of her travels right here in your Buckeye Bulletin.





## 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 posts and add your club's activities! We can learn from each other and better serve the youth in our communities.

**Celeste Chury Brlas**  
★ Rising contributor · May 2 at 8:17 PM · 🌐

In case you missed the news, Elyria and Lorain Kiwanis member Dr Dennis Lehman was named to the Ohio District Kiwanis Hall of Fame, a very well deserved honor. Along with their congratulations, Denny received proclamations from Ohio State Representative Gayle Manning and Ohio State Senator Nathan Manning.



**Samuel Kiner**  
May 3 at 7:13 AM · 🌐

What a great evening! Thanks to everyone who attended.



**Celeste Chury Brlas**  
★ Rising contributor · May 2 at 8:05 PM · 🌐

Eastern Heights Builders Club displays bird houses they built and painted. Soon they will be homes to birds all over the campus. Great students, great faculty advisors, great project!



**Heir Force Community School**  
Yesterday at 6:22 PM · 🌐

We wrapped up our K-Kids club this year with a party and got our club shirts!!



# **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**

**May 2025**

## **Kiwanis Club Elections**

**11 Mother's Day**

**16-18 Incoming Lt. Governors Training at Hampton Inn, Columbus**

**17 ODKF Board Meeting at 10:00 am at the Ohio**

**Chambers of Commerce**

**23 CKI ICON Registration Closes**

**26 Memorial Day**

**29 Finance & Structure, 7:00 pm via Zoom**

**31 Deadline for Key Club Officer Election reports**

**TBD OFFICIAL CLUB VISIT REPORTS are due**

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**June 25- 28, Kiwanis International Convention, Pittsburgh, PA**

**August 1-3, Ohio Kiwanis District Convention, Niles, OH**







# Newark Strawberry Festival

**MAY 30TH. - JUNE 1ST.**

**FOOD, RIDES, GAMES... AND OUR  
FAMOUS STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**FRI: 8PM • THE GAS PUMP JOCKEYS  
SAT: 8PM • THE FORECLOSURE BAND**

Kissel Amusement Co. on the Midway



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF NEWARK, OH • Chartered in 1918

