

August 2025



**Kiwaniis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

# THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



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## SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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



ohiokiwanis.org

# District Convention was experience of lifetime

**--By Gov. Kelly Brown**

As Governor, overseeing the district convention entailed significant responsibilities and numerous logistical considerations. The experience was both demanding and rewarding. I sincerely hope that all attendees found it to be as worthwhile as I did. We had a terrific team of 43 volunteers, led by Randy Beard and Dave Kuhn, who put together this excellent event! BIG THANKS to our local host, the Kiwanis Club of Warren.



I am extremely thankful to the District Secretary Robin Gagnow who kept us organized and took care of business throughout the weekend. District Event Coordinator, Mikayla Bisson was exceptional in handling everything from overall logistics to the tiniest of details.

As you will see throughout this edition of the Buckeye Bulletin, there was so much to see and do at the event. I think what was most special to me was celebrating a very successful Kiwanis year and those Kiwanians who made it happen!

It was my honor to present awards to these extraordinary Kiwanians and clubs:

- Kiwanis Club of the Year: Kiwanis Club of Granville
- Kiwanis Club President of the Year: Jeff Haas, Kiwanis Club of Berea
- Kiwanian of the Year: Jeff Wayner, Kiwanis Club of Berea
- Douglas C. Everette, Outstanding District Chair: Cliff Wiltshire, Kiwanis Club of Northern Columbus
- David P. Gillespie, Outstanding SLP Support: Doug Falk, Kiwanis Club of Salem, Division 26 Lt. Governor
- Outstanding Lieutenant Governor: Sandy Elliott, Division 16
- Walter G. Sellers Leadership Award: Lori Humphrey, Kiwanis Club of Sidney
- Rober Hobart Award for Support of Circle K: Dick Honneywell

Past Governors Sharon O'Neal and Diana Keplinger and I presented a very special award to Dick Brulotte for his Outstanding Service to Aktion Club as he transitions out of his six years of



exceptional leadership in the district administrator role. Dick has been instrumental in growing Aktion clubs throughout Ohio, we now have 34 clubs: the most of any district in all of Kiwanis International! He has even gone beyond Ohio with the first ever virtual Aktion Club which launched with 80 members has expanded to 120 members in a few short months.

As part of our annual business meeting, we elected our 2025-26 district leaders. I am looking forward to another great year under their leadership!  
Congratulations to:  
(Contd. on nex page)





(Contd. from previous nex tpage)

- Governor, Marcia Copeland Hudson, Kiwanis Club of Kettering-Centerville
- Governor-Elect, Judy Raub, Kiwanis Club of East Fork Region
- Finance and Structure Committee, Dr. Willie J. Heggins III, Kiwanis Club of Lima

DCON was also a great opportunity to expand Kiwanis knowledge and learn new strategies for growth and leadership. This year was no exception with the offering of 12 workshops to choose from; it was most fulfilling for me to host a special session for

“First Timers.” There were 45 attendees participating for the first time, representing almost one quarter of total attendees. I enjoyed discussing aspects of convention as well as Ohio District structure and leadership. We then had an “ask anything” Q&A where no question was off-limits!

We had a lot of fun and entertainment at convention! Friday night we played SINGO! which is a combination of music trivia and BINGO. I enjoyed watching players singing and chair dancing as songs were played on their BINGO card. Saturday night, we celebrated the year at the Governor’s Banquet and then danced the night away at the BEE-BOP Ball – a good time was had by all!

Another very special moment for me happened early Friday morning as we visited a newly planted pollinator garden in downtown Warren. The garden was planted in June as part of my Governor’s Pollinator Project. It was in full bloom when we visited, and it fulfilled my vision of turning brown space into a beautiful flower habitat for our pollinator superheroes. Thank you, Kiwanis Club of Warren, for this gift to your community.

With all the fun and celebration, we also had some somber moments. Sunday morning, we held a memorial service for the Kiwanians we lost during the past year. Kiwanian, Monica Marsh read a touching poem called *The Dash* which refers to the dash between our birth date and death date. Life happens in the Dash.

As we put another DCON in the books, I am eternally grateful for all the love and support I have received as your Governor throughout this event and throughout this year. My term will end in a few short weeks and as I reflect on my experience as your district leader I see how blessed I am for an amazing year which has been a huge part of my DASH!

**Kelly (BEE) Brown**  
**Ohio District Kiwanis Governor**





## Foundation has options to honor special Kiwanis Club members

*By Mike Rudolph*

It was so great to see so many of our ODK Kiwanis family at the recent DCON in Niles, Ohio. Another shout out to DCON co-chairmen Randy Beard and Dave Kuhn and their committee for a great event!

Another super shoutout goes to all attendees who stopped by the Foundation Basket and Art Auction and bid on great baskets, snacks and special pieces of art. The bids raised more than \$4,500 to help grow the foundation assets and we raised another \$251 with a raffle at the Foundation Annual meeting of the beautiful quilt created by Linda Steinbrunner. Thanks to all for your support of the Foundation at DCON.



Now as the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year begins to wrap up, you are certainly looking for ways to recognize the special Kiwanians in your Club who have gone above and beyond the call in leadership or service or recruiting for the year. Recognition is a great tool to keep our members focused on the mission and vision of Kiwanis and keep them repeating their great efforts year after year. Our Foundation has a number of very special recognition opportunities available that provide a beautiful plaque and medallion or pin, as well as a lasting contribution to the funds that allow the Foundation to give grants. Please consider the following for your Club Leaders:

### 1) Legion of Honor

- Kiwanis award for 25 years of membership, and every 5 years thereafter
- \$5 for each year of service as a contribution to ODKF.
- Plaque and pin

### 2) Club Leadership Award

- \$100 contribution to ODKF to honor a remarkable Kiwanis Club member
- Plaque and pin

### 3) Past International Presidents Award

- \$500 contribution to ODKF to further honor a remarkable Kiwanis Club member
- Plaque, pin and medallion on a ribbon

### 4) Schneider, Williams, Sellers and Penn Awards

- \$1,000 contribution to ODKF to honor a remarkable Kiwanis Club member and support focused programs for needed funding:

- \*Stanley E. Schneider Award – supporting ODKF Safe and Healthy Kids programs
- \* Donald E. Williams Award – supporting ODKF Children's Hospital and Pediatric Trauma programs
- \* Walter G. Sellers Award – supporting ODKF Disaster Relief Funds
- \* A. Alan Penn Award – supporting ODKF Service Leadership Program Funds
- Plaque and medallion on a ribbon

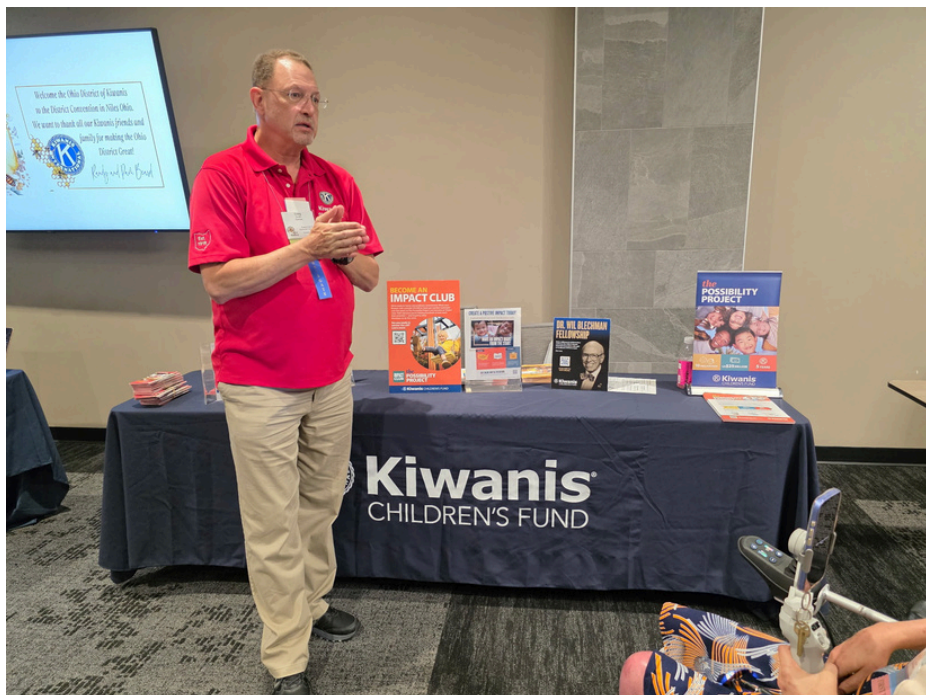
Reach out to ODKF Executive Director Alan Penn ([director@odkf.org](mailto:director@odkf.org)) or view these awards at the ODKF website, [odkf.org](http://odkf.org), to order. This would be a great way to end the year!



Because so many Kiwanians across the state are not able to attend the District Convention, we thought we would use the next few pages to share photos from some of the fun moments during the weekend in Niles! Many thanks to the team of volunteer photographers who captured these – and many more – images throughout the special weekend!











For many more photos, visit the shared drive: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/159n\\_gFoOyC5dN5FXOO-TwdYaiO94ldzt?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/159n_gFoOyC5dN5FXOO-TwdYaiO94ldzt?usp=sharing)





# Granville named Club of the Year

In the midst of another banner year of serving its community, the Kiwanis Club of Granville was named Ohio District Kiwanis Club of the Year by Gov. Kelly Brown during this year's District Convention.

The governor saw firsthand how important the club is to its community when she attended the four-day July 4 Celebration in Granville. Everyone in town knows that Kiwanians are responsible for this huge celebration, making it a true Signature Project that helps the club add members every year.

But the club's inspiring efforts do not end there.

It sponsors SLP clubs at every level, developing hearts for service and leadership from elementary school up through high school and beyond. Granville plays a key role in the extremely successful Aktion Club in Licking County, which also is supported by Kiwanis clubs in Newark and Heath.

To raise money and connect with the community in other ways, the club hosts an annual Pancake Breakfast, sells maple syrup and administers a tent-rental organization which benefits the club's service work in many ways – including being able to award \$15,000 in college scholarships every year.

One highlight of the current Kiwanian year is the club's support of Gov. Kelly's emphasis on protecting pollinators.

Members created a 300-square-foot pollinator garden at Wildwood Park in the village of Granville with assistance from the Licking County Master Gardeners Volunteers and the Licking County Pollinator Pathway organization. The Aktion Club donated \$75 to purchase two of the native shrubs.

Many volunteers helped plant, weed and water the garden, including 15 club members, three Granville High School Key Club members and one GHS Rotary Interact Club. It received \$250 from the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation.

Members designed signage with Kiwanis branding and are part of the official Pollinator Pathway Project in Licking County. They passed out poppy seed packets in memory of Norma Krueger, who passed away.

Members helped Aktion Club plant flower containers and create seed packets and seed bombs which they passed out at DCON.

The club meets weekly on Monday nights in the historic Granville Inn, which is definitely worth a visit. For more information on the club, visit its website <https://k05681.site.kiwanis.org/> or search for the club on Facebook.







# Berea Club's Jeffs are honored for huge membership efforts

At the 107th Annual Ohio District Kiwanis convention in Niles, Ohio, on August 1-2, Jeff Wayner from the Berea Kiwanis Club was selected as the "Kiwanian of the Year" within the State of Ohio for 2024-2025.

In addition, fellow club member Jeff Haas was selected as "Club President of the Year."

There are more than 5,500 Kiwanis members in Ohio within 191 clubs.

The awards were presented by Kiwanis Governor Kelly Brown. The inscription on Wayner's plaque read "For exemplifying the ideals of Kiwanis and expanding the Kiwanis family in the Berea community."

More specifically, he was awarded this distinction for chairing the club's New Membership Recruitment committee. His leadership, dedication, and commitment for expanding the club's membership resulted in 21 new members being inducted into the club since the beginning of 2025.

The inscription on Haas' plaque read "For excellence in leadership and exceeding the expectations of Club President."

He was recognized for his leadership in promoting the creation of the New Member Recruitment committee and supporting and advocating their efforts.





# Newark Kiwanis Club Annual Fish Fry



dinner includes:

Fried Ocean Perch

Grilled Chicken Breasts

Fresh Licking County

Sweet Corn

Lots of Super Sides & Stuff

Frosty Adult Beverages

Iced Tea, Water, Lemonade



Entertainment provided by: **Barefoot McCoy**

Entertainment sponsored by Handelman Law

**Thursday, September 4th, 2025**

Social Hour at 4:30

Dinner begins at 5:30, serving 'til at least 8:00

at Camp O'Bannon

9688 Butler Rd., Newark

(parking at Kiwanis ballpark next door)

Tickets are \$15 & are available at the door or from any  
Newark Kiwanis member



All proceeds benefit

Camp O'Bannon & Kiwanis youth programs



# New officers for 2025-26



**Gov. Marcia Copeland  
Hudson**



**Gov. Elect Judy Raub**



**Willie Heggins, Finance  
& Structure**



# The Governor's Travels

Our Ohio District Governor puts on plenty of miles throughout the year, so Gov. Kelly Brown can be hard to track down. But this month was a little easier, as we share some of her moments from this year's DCON in Niles.





# Help welcome our newest governor, Marcia Copeland Hudson, as she is installed!

In celebration of the 2025-26 Kiwanis term, join incoming Governor Marcia Copeland Hudson and her board for a fellowship luncheon to install our Ohio District Kiwanis Leaders.

The installation ceremony is a special opportunity to show your appreciation of the District leaders who dedicate themselves to cultivating our Kiwanis family. Show your unending support and encouragement by attending this joyful event!

## **WHEN**

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

## **MENU**

Choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Quinoa Stuffed Mushroom (GF and Vegan)  
Baked Potato (GF and Vegan) and Broccoli Spears (GF and Vegan)

## **WHERE**

Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio 45429

## **DRESS CODE**

Please dress in your “Sunday Best” for this celebratory luncheon

## **COST TO ATTEND**

\$35 per Kiwanian/Guest      \$25 per Active SLP Member

Register by Sept. 7 to guarantee your attendance.

To sign up as a sponsor of this event, visit:

[k20.site.kiwanis.org/installation-banquet-sponsorship/](https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/installation-banquet-sponsorship/)

For tickets to attend, visit: [k20.site.kiwanis.org/installation/](https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/installation/)





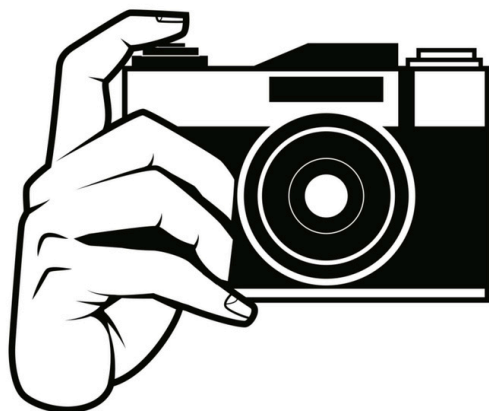
Kudos to Kiwanian Tish Keegan and the team at Lamar for designing these great digital billboard messages which were displayed during DCON in Niles, Aug. 1-3.

This digital billboard features a blue background. In the top left is the Kiwanis International logo, a circular emblem with a 'K' and the words 'KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL'. To its right, the word 'Kiwanis' is written in large white letters, with 'OHIO DISTRICT' in smaller yellow letters below it. On the left side, there is a cartoon bee with large eyes and wings. A white speech bubble with a black outline from the bee contains the text 'PROTECT POLLINATORS!'. At the bottom, a black banner with white text reads: 'LEARN ABOUT THIS GOAL & ALL THE OTHER WAYS WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES: [OHIOKIWANIS.ORG](http://OHIOKIWANIS.ORG)'.

This digital billboard features a blue background. In the top left is the Kiwanis International logo. To its right, the word 'Kiwanis' is written in large white letters, with 'OHIO DISTRICT' in smaller yellow letters below it. On the right side, there is a cartoon bee. A white speech bubble with a black outline from the bee contains the text 'HEARD THE BUZZ ABOUT THE CONVENTION IN TOWN!'. At the bottom, a black banner with white text reads: 'LEARN ABOUT THIS SERVICE ORGANIZATION AT [OHIOKIWANIS.ORG](http://OHIOKIWANIS.ORG)'.

This digital billboard features a blue background. In the top left is the Kiwanis International logo. To its right, the word 'Kiwanis' is written in large white letters, with 'OHIO DISTRICT' in smaller yellow letters below it. On the right side, there is a cartoon bee. A white speech bubble with a black outline from the bee contains the text 'WELCOME MEMBERS!'. At the bottom, a black banner with white text reads: 'NOT A MEMBER YET? SEE HOW WE SERVE THE COMMUNITY AT [OHIOKIWANIS.ORG](http://OHIOKIWANIS.ORG) AND CONSIDER JOINING!'.





2025 Ohio District Kiwanis

## Photography Contest

Sponsored by Ohio District K-Kids

Congratulations to the winners in our Ohio District Kiwanis Governor's Project Pollinator Photography Contest.

The winners were announced and their photos displayed at the District Convention on Saturday, Aug. 2.

We received many outstanding submissions and related stories. The contest focused on the standard elements of quality photography (subject relevance, composition, focus/clarity/resolution, light/contrast and appeal to Judges).

The contest was co-sponsored by the PR Committee and K-Kids.

First Place: Eric Bush, Westerville (pictured here; other winners' photographs are on next page)

Second: Calvin Bowling, East Fork Region

Third: Malinda Stidham, Middletown

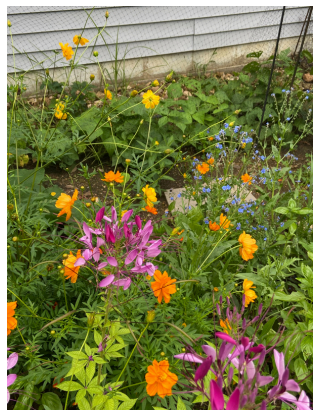
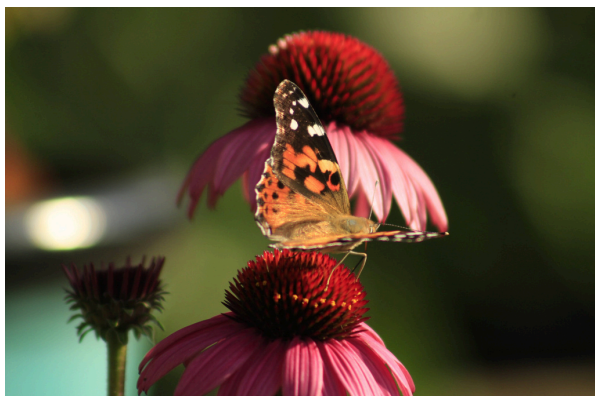
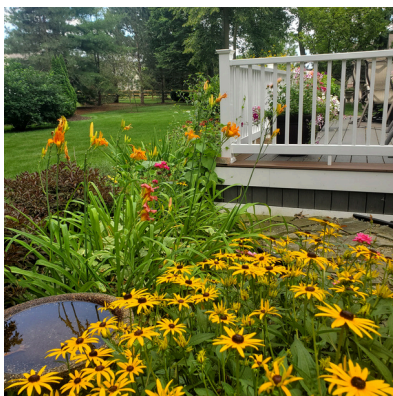
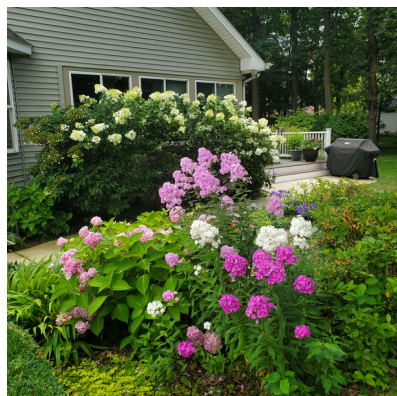
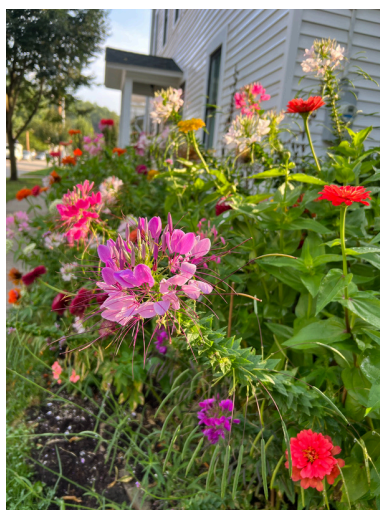
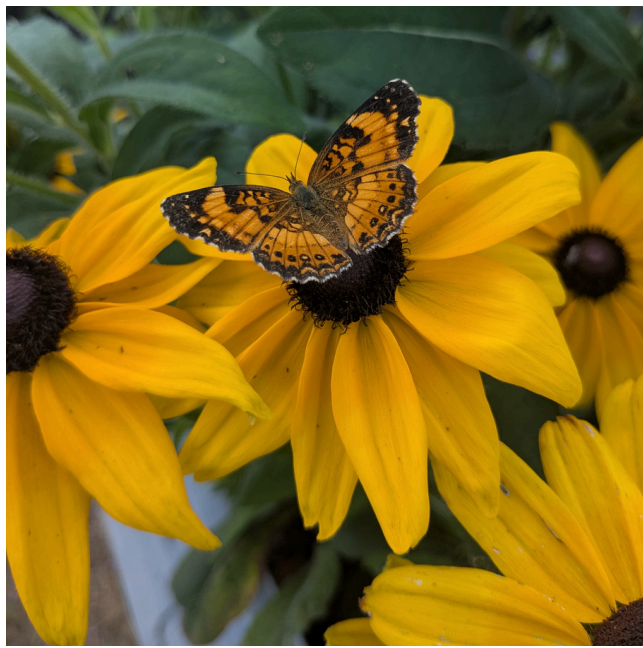
Fourth: Debbie Crawford, Norton

Fifth: Eric Bush, Westerville

Plus eight Honorable Mentions: Calvin Bowling, East Fork Region; David Gigler, East Toledo; Naomi Eberlly, Wooster; Barb Polack, Granville; Keith Deel, Ashville; and Jennifer Lewis (2), Granville









## 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.

**Richard Ulmes**  
August 6 at 6:05 PM · 🌐



**Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation**  
August 6 at 6:03 PM · 🌐

Great News from the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation! 🎉  
This administrative year, we've proudly awarded over \$26,000 in grants to support impactful projects across our district! At our annual meeting during the District Convention in Niles, it was an honor to present these much-deserved checks to the dedicated members of our local Kiwanis clubs.  
Picture 1: A fantastic group of Kiwanians representing the clubs whose projects received funding this year! Picture 2: ODKF Grants Chairman Richard Ulmes presenting a grant check on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Sandusky to Todd James, Director of the North Central Ohio Red Cross, for their vital smoke detector installation program.  
Thank you to all the clubs and individuals who make the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation's work possible! Together, we are making a difference in the lives of children in Ohio.

**Robert Day**  
★ Rising contributor · August 7 at 10:25 AM · 🌐



**Kiwanis Club of Bryan**  
Organization

**Kiwanis Club of Bryan**  
August 7 at 10:20 AM · 🌐

This past Kiwanis meeting, charter member, Carlton Hardy shared with recognition for 70 years in the Bryan Kiwanis from Ohio House Represent

**Kiwanis of Lima Ohio**  
★ Rising contributor · 9h · 🌐



**Kiwanis of Lima Ohio**  
9h · 🌐

Members of the Aktion Club of Allen County volunteered at the Lima City Schools Back to School Event where 750 students received backpacks and other school supplies.

**Kiwanis Club of Greater Loveland, Ohio**  
July 31 at 5:25 PM · 🌐

Who's up for a celebration?





## **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

### **August 2025**

2-6 Key Club International Convention in Orlando

31 ODKF Mini Grant Applications Due

Sept. 1 Labor Day

Sept. 17 ODKF Annual Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Sept. 20 2025-26 District Installation, Kettering, OH





# Help Delaware Noon Celebrate 50 years

Organizers are excited to announce that the Delaware County Noon Kiwanis Club is celebrating its 50th year of being a club!

With three of our Founding Members, Jack Hilborn, Bob Holm, and Dan Bennington, in attendance, members will celebrate them and the club for leading the charge to make a difference in the lives of children and our community for these past 50 years!

## When:

September 6  
5:30 Mix and Mingle.  
Dinner at 6:30

## Where:

Willow Brook  
at Delaware Run,  
100 Delaware Crossing W,  
Delaware, OH 43015

Cost: \$30 per person





# Amy Zimmerman inspires with 'Grinch' speech

*The following is the text of the speech Amy Zimmerman shared during the International Convention in Pittsburgh last month. It was too inspirational to not share with the rest of the Mighty Ohio District, especially as she moves into a new role as an elected board of trustees member for Kiwanis International!*



Have you ever had a Grinch moment?

First, let me define it for you. A Grinch moment is that instant when something so powerful, so moving, makes your heart grow three sizes.

I had the incredible opportunity a few weeks back to participate in the kick-off of the first ever Worldwide Aktion Club. There, I felt an energy unlike any other – the raw emotion, the unfiltered excitement, a joy radiating from every single member. It was a reminder that service transcends barriers.

That moment reinforced why we must continue to champion Kiwanis programs – because when we do, we create spaces where everyone belongs, where every voice matters, and where service truly changes lives. "It truly made my heart grow 3 sizes."

Kiwanis is the engine of transformation, the spark for these Grinch moments. And I want to keep them happening – for everyone.

So how do we ensure that these moments continue?

**First, by Inspiring Clubs –** Every Kiwanis club has a unique identity. My mission is to empower clubs to rediscover their local purpose, embrace their strengths, and shape experiences that matter. Like Susie Lou Who welcoming the Grinch, we invite new members to the table – creating a space where they find belonging and inspiration. Let's amplify that inspiration to ensure every club thrives.

**Second, by Growing Membership –** To build our future, we must grow our family. A stronger membership means a stronger Kiwanis. I will champion practical strategies – mentorship programs, outreach efforts, and dynamic engagement – to make sure we continue welcoming new leaders into our mission. We must "Build, Nurture and Retain."

**Third, by Expanding Youth Programs –** Kiwanis is about legacy. I was a Key Clubber & Circle K'er, and I wouldn't be standing here if not for the initiative of Kiwanians like YOU. Our youth programs are not just add-ons; they are investments in tomorrow's leaders. By expanding K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, Aktion Club we don't just create future Kiwanians – we shape changemakers who will define the next generation of service.

And if the next generation starts now, I am here to lead with:

(Contd. on nex page)





# Red Cross would love to partner with clubs

Hello fellow Ohio Kiwanians!

The Sandusky and Norwalk Clubs recently volunteered for Red Cross of North Central Ohio events.

We have developed a great relationship with this organization and their Executive Director, Todd James. Todd is asking to be a guest speaker at our local weekly/ bi-weekly meetings to help US and our communities be RED CROSS READY for natural and human-caused disasters.



Below you will find a flyer with that information. Red Cross of North Central Ohio covers several counties. If your county is not in this area, Todd will be more than happy to get you contact information for your area! His goal is to have this information presented to EVERY Kiwanis Club in Ohio!!

With the floods in Texas, I am sure this hit all of us pretty hard emotionally, especially with the children who lost their lives. These RED CROSS READY workshops can help us to better prepare for future disasters.

If you would like, you can also contact me, Tish Keegan, Sandusky Club:

CELL: 419-545-3418

EMAIL: [tkeegan@lamar.com](mailto:tkeegan@lamar.com)

Thank you all!!!



## (CONTD. from previous page)

Fiscal responsibility – so every dollar serves our mission.

Transparency – to build trust.

Collaboration – to strengthen our impact.

Alignment – to keep us moving forward together.

This isn't just about electing a leader – it's about securing the future of Kiwanis. A vote for me is a vote for growth, innovation, and a service-driven future.

Let's make sure our organization continues to thrive for generations to come.



## Kiwanis welcomes new club at Greater Loveland

We have a “lovely” new addition to Ohio Kiwanis! The Kiwanis Club of Greater Loveland held its charter celebration on Sunday, Aug. 10, at O’Bannon Creek Golf Club.

The event was well-attended by the community along with supporters from Ohio Kiwanis and local leaders. The club officially chartered in February and has already grown to 35 members with more joining each week.

Governor Kelly expressed how personal this club build was to her. She was part of a fundraiser in Loveland for their Hearts Afire event in February 2023.



She said, “she could feel the love of the Loveland community at that event.”



She also commented that she observed a Kiwanis sign along a bridge in Loveland and discovered it was for a Kiwanis park. She knew then, “Kiwanis has once had a presence in this community, and it was time to bring that presence back.”

The district membership team did an outstanding job in bringing this new club back to the Loveland area. Congratulations to Greater Loveland for receiving the gift of Kiwanis! Welcome to the Kiwanis Famil!

## Watch ‘Join or Die’ for fresh perspective

Join or Die -- it’s a serious message. Originally it was a political cartoon showing the disunity in the American colonies in the context of the French and Indian War in 1754, and it is attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

The modern-day reference is to a documentary which explores the importance of civic engagement in our communities and each other. It shows us what is possible when people and communities pull together. It also contributes to our organization’s longevity.

Watch *Join or Die* on Netflix to learn more.

Look for email alerts to participate in group discussions with Governor Kelly in September. Learn how the *Join or Die* documentary can be a tool to grow our Kiwanis family in your community! For more information, visit the website [joinordiefilm.com/](http://joinordiefilm.com/)