

December 2025



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

# THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



*Thank you for being a  
light in your community  
and far beyond!*

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

<i>Governor's Message</i>	<i>p2</i>
<i>First Family Project</i>	<i>p3</i>
<i>Get Mid-Year on Your Calendar!</i>	<i>p4</i>
<i>ODKF Offers Options to Honor</i>	<i>p5</i>
<i>ICON 2026 Registration Now Open</i>	<i>p7</i>
<i>Are You Thinking of Running?</i>	<i>p8</i>
<i>Possibility Project</i>	<i>p9</i>
<i>Treasurer of the Year</i>	<i>p10</i>
<i>K-Kids Adds to Ranks</i>	<i>p11</i>
<i>Key Club Learns Philanthropy</i>	<i>p12</i>
<i>Nominate Your Signature Project!</i>	<i>p13</i>
<i>Sock the Halls!</i>	<i>p14</i>
<i>Governor's Travels</i>	<i>p15</i>
<i>Checking in on our Family!</i>	<i>p17</i>

## 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

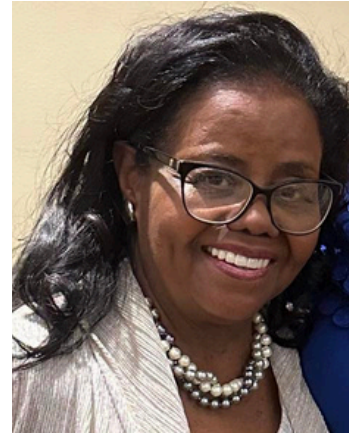
# The more, the merrier on this journey!

*By Governor Marcia Copeland Hudson*

Happy Holidays Everyone!

As we celebrate this wonderful season of good wishes to our friends and families, I want to reflect on the incredible strides our district has made this year.

We are actively developing new club openings in Conneaut, Huber Heights, Wyoming, and soon in Delaware County and Clinton County. These new opportunities are exciting for all of us!



However, to fully realize our potential, we need more members to join us in this journey. Our Membership Chairman, Rick Fox, is eager to hear your suggestions. You can reach out to him at [kirtlandpc@aol.com](mailto:kirtlandpc@aol.com).

Remember, whether someone joins a new club or an existing one, a member is a member is a member – and new members bring new hands and hearts to our service projects and fundraisers. Together, we must continue to grow as a district to ensure a brighter future for the children and families in our communities.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season! Stay safe and cherish this festive time with your loved ones.

With warm regards to all,

**Marcia Copeland Hudson**  
**ODK Governor, 2025-26**

*Happy Holidays*

Looking forward to another great year together!



ohiokiwanis.org



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT



# Families are focus of holidays and our project

*by Larry D. Hudson, First Gentleman and Co-chair of the First Family Project*

Holiday Greetings from the 2025-2026 First Family Project!

It's that most wonderful time of the year again – a time for festive gatherings of family and friends. The season when we look back at the year and make plans for the next.

As we enjoy the glittering season, we hope you'll spare a thought and a prayer for the families across Ohio who are facing frightening challenges.



These are the families whose children are spending the holidays in hospitals because of serious illness. They are all discovering how different the holidays feel within hospital walls.

Our First Family Project is asking Kiwanians to help these families by supporting two worthy organizations that have been working to help them for years: Make-A-Wish and Ronald McDonald House.

Make-A-Wish literally makes dreams come true for Wish Kids and their families. The opportunity for the family to get away from the realities of illness for just a few days – on an adventure that helps families bond for the health struggles Wish Kids face.

The Ronald McDonald House helps families when their children face lengthy hospital stays. Comfortable accommodations, hot meals and fellowship with other families.

Both of these organizations offer their help free of charge. That's where Kiwanians can help by supporting the First Family Project.

**Larry D. Hudson, First Gentleman & Co-Chair,  
ODK First Family Project 2025-2026**

**For more information on how you and your  
Kiwanis club can support the 2025-2026 First Family  
Project, visit the Project's page on the Ohio District  
Kiwanis Foundation website:**

**<https://odkf.org/first-family-project/the-governors-first-family-project.html>**

Happy  
Holidays  
From  
Our  
Family  
To Yours.





# Time to get Mid-Year on the calendar

On Saturday March 28, 2026, Kiwanians from across the state will gather for the Ohio Kiwanis Mid-Year Education Day. It's an annual event built around leadership, hands-on training and service that makes a lasting impact. It's a chance to sharpen skills, share ideas, and strengthen the work Kiwanians do for children and families throughout Ohio.

Hosted by the Ohio District of Kiwanis International, this day is designed to energize clubs, engage members and equip leaders with practical tools they can put to use right away in their communities.

## Breakout Sessions and Workshops

This year's program offers a fresh mix of sessions for members at every level. Highlights include:

- Officer training for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers
- Newark Earthworks: exploring Ohio's historic landmark
- American Sign Language basics
- Youth risk mitigation and children's mental health
- Hands-on CPR instruction
- Social media & AI strategies for club success
- Building multi-generational inclusivity

Each workshop is focused on real-world skills and knowledge that strengthen clubs and enhance service projects.

## Support the 2025-26 First Family Project

A centerpiece of the day is support for the 2025-26 First Family Project, benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities across Ohio and Make-A-Wish. Members are encouraged to bring donation items and join fundraising efforts that directly help children and families facing medical challenges.

Requested Donations for Ronald McDonald House include:

- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste)
- Pantry items (snacks, shelf-stable foods)
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent and dish soap
- Paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper)
- Gift cards (grocery, gas, restaurants, retail)
- Handmade blankets or comfort items for children

All donations collected will be distributed to Ronald McDonald House locations across Ohio. Make-A-Wish representatives will also share resources to help clubs continue their support throughout the year.

## Networking & Collaboration

Education Day isn't just about workshops — it's also about connection. Members will have time to network, exchange ideas and collaborate on new initiatives. These conversations often spark projects that strengthen clubs and build unity across the district.

## Be Part of It

Join us Saturday March 28, 2026, for a day dedicated to growth, service, and the spirit of Kiwanis. Together, we'll learn, serve, and continue making a difference -- one child and one community at a time.

**--Sally Schasdt and Brian Gottfried , Mid-Year Education Day Coordinators**





# ODKF offers options to honor Kiwanians

*By Steve Vrooman, 2025-26 ODKF president*

We all know of Kiwanis members who go above and beyond the expectations of a good Kiwanis member.

These Kiwanis members are regularly available to help with projects; come early and stay late for activities; often work in the background, preferring no recognition; always have a positive attitude; and, once they volunteer for a task, they complete it.



The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation can help your club recognize and honor that individual. Check out the following ODKF programs and consider how they can work for your club.

**Club Leadership Award** – \$100 contribution. Presentation includes a certificate of recognition.

**Legion of Honor Society** – This award is presented at 25 years of Kiwanis service and every five years after 25. There are 3 levels of the Legion of Honor awards – \$20, \$10, and \$5 per year.

**Past International Presidents Award** – This award is given in recognition of a donation of \$500 to the foundation's endowment funds. It was established in honor of the five Ohio District Kiwanians who served as President of Kiwanis International: Edmund F. Arras (1923-24), Stanley E. Schneider (1976-77), Donald E. Williams (1985-86), Walter G. Sellers (1997-98), and A. Alan Penn (2011-2012). A plaque with the recipient's name on it, a medallion on a ribbon, and a pin are presented to the recipients.

**Schneider/Williams/Sellers/Penn Award** – For a donation of \$1,000, recognition is given with a Stanley Schneider Award, a Donald Williams Award, a Walter Sellers Award, or an A. Alan Penn Award. Each recognition includes a plaque and a medallion on a ribbon. These donations become part of the endowment of the foundation to support Kiwanis service into the future. Note the specific programs supported by these awards.

**Stanley E. Schneider Award** – Established to honor Ohio District Kiwanian Stan Schneider who served as International President during the 1976-77 administrative year. This award is presented based on a contribution of \$1,000, which will be used to support ODKF Safe and Healthy Kids programs.

**Donald E. Williams Award** – Established to honor Ohio District Kiwanian Donald Williams who served as International President during the 1985-86 administrative year. This award is presented based on a contribution of \$1,000 which will be used to support ODKF Children's Hospital and Pediatric Trauma programs.

**Walter G. Sellers Award** – Established to honor Ohio District Kiwanian Walter Sellers who served as International President during the 1997-98 administrative year. This award is presented based on a contribution of \$1,000 which will be used to support ODKF Disaster Relief Fund.

*(Continued on next page)*



## *(Continued from previous page)*

**Alan Penn Award** – Established to honor Ohio District Kiwanian Alan Penn who served as International President during the 2011-12 administrative year. This award is presented based on a contribution of \$1,000 which will be used to support Service Leadership Program funds managed and supported by the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation.

**Ambassador Fund** – entry level donation of \$50 – Individual Kiwanians may make continuing contributions to the foundation in increments of \$50 and receive recognition at various levels based on the total of their gifts.

Individuals, clubs or organizations may choose to make tax-deductible contributions to the foundation at any time. These may be to honor a Kiwanian, as a memorial for a deceased person, or for other reasons.

**Memorial Contributions** – Kiwanis clubs can make donations to the foundation endowment in memory of deceased Kiwanians or other individuals. Donations are used to provide scholarships or recognitions to deserving Kiwanis awardees. A receipt for the gift is provided to the donor, and a letter is sent to the family of the deceased or the individual being honored, informing them of the donation.

Donations may be made to the following memorial funds, which honor Kiwanis members who have passed:

- o Leach Scholarship
- o Dan Bergolc Key Club Secretary scholarship
- o Doug Everett Kiwanis Award
- o B. David Whiteman Kiwanis Secretary Award
- o David Gillespie Kiwanis Award
- o Albert and Iris Gilbert Kiwanis Humanitarian Award

A member of the ODKF Board can make the presentation of any of these awards at a meeting or event.

Consider designating your club's donation to the Ohio District Kiwanis as a recognition award to a deserving Kiwanian or community member. The benefits are far-reaching.

Additional award, honor, and recognition information, and forms can be found on the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation website, [ofkf.org](http://ofkf.org).  
([odkf.org/what-we-do/how-to-help/](http://odkf.org/what-we-do/how-to-help/))



# Registration is now open for historic ICON in Manila



Kiwanis ICON will be heading to the Philippines for the first time!

The 2026 Kiwanis International Convention will be held in Manila, Philippines, from June 25 to 27. Gov. Marcia Copeland Hudson reported that at least a dozen Ohioans already have committed to attend.

This exciting event offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Kiwanians from around the world, share ideas for community service projects, and learn new strategies for club growth and development. Attendees can also participate in the democratic governance of Kiwanis and experience cultural exchange with the vibrant host city of Manila.

Convention programming typically includes:

**Leadership Elections:** Opportunities to meet candidates for international board officer and trustee roles.

**Local Exploration:** Cultural activities to learn about Manila and Filipino culture.

**Fundraising Innovation:** Workshops exploring new concepts for club fundraising efforts.

**Networking Sessions:** Structured opportunities for Kiwanians to share best practices.

**Membership Development:** Training in enhancing club membership and community influence.

The 2026 Kiwanis International Convention is being held jointly with the Asia Pacific (ASPAC) Region's 2026 convention. Many events will be combined, such as the opening session.

The ASPAC region is hosting our Thursday evening ticketed event to showcase the culture of their regions. Everyone is welcome to attend - add that ticket to your registration packet.

The last time the Kiwanis International Convention was outside the United States was 2017 in Paris, France.

The last time the Kiwanis International Convention was held in the Asia Pacific region was 2014 in Tokyo-Chiba, Japan.

For the most up-to-date information about the 2026 convention, visit the website [kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-manila/](https://kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-manila/).

## 2026-27 District Officer Elections

If you are interested in serving the Ohio Kiwanis District, please consider serving as the 2026-27 Kiwanis District Governor Elect, District Treasurer, or in one of the two available positions on District Finance and Structure Committee.

Completed and signed nomination forms must be turned into the Ohio District Secretary no later than March 1, 2026.

Elections for these positions will take place at 2026 District Convention Aug. 14-16 at the Renaissance, Columbus Westerville Hotel, 409 Altair Parkway.

To obtain a copy of the nomination forms, contact Robin Gagnow at [secretary@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@ohiokiwanis.org).

If you are interested in serving as Lieutenant Governor for your division, please contact your current Lieutenant Governor.

**Robin Gagnow,  
Ohio Kiwanis Secretary**

-----



## Help Wanted!

The Ohio Kiwanis District Seeks Board Chair for 2025-2026. The Ohio District Board needs a Risk Management and Youth Protection Chair. This is an important volunteer position.

Best practices are:

1. The Chair provides clubs and members advice on how to mitigate risk and promotes awareness of potential liabilities to clubs, officers and members.
2. The Chair must follow the bylaws of Kiwanis International on Youth Protection policies and membership youth protection training.
3. The Chair must have a current background check as given by Kiwanis International. Proof of clearance is required. It cannot expire before October 1, 2026.

Send your recommendation for this position to District Secretary Robin Gagnow: [executivedirector@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:executivedirector@ohiokiwanis.org)





## Coffey to guide Ohio's efforts for Children's Fund

Ohio has a new leader helping to build momentum for the Possibility Project and its efforts to supplement the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

Jennifer Coffey, CFRE, serves as associate director of development for the Kiwanis Children's Fund, where she helps donors create life-changing opportunities for children around the world.

With more than 20 years of nonprofit experience, she is passionate about connecting generosity with meaningful impact. A dedicated Kiwanian, Jennifer is the immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Avon, Ind.

In her role, she partners with Kiwanis districts across the Northeastern United States and Europe, championing programs that help kids thrive.

She said she looks forward to working with Ohio Kiwanians to share how the Kiwanis Children's Fund strengthens service, supports clubs, and transforms communities.

She will work with Ohio's team to increase awareness, and financial support, of the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the current Possibility Project.

Jennifer lives in Indiana with her husband, Noah, and their two daughters.

If your club would like to learn more about the Possibility Project, or have someone speak to you about becoming an Impact Club, contact the Ohio District staff.

For more information, click [here](#).



ohiokiwanis.org



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

# District launches Treasurer of Year award

The Ohio District proudly announces the launch of the Treasurer of the Year Award, a prestigious new honor designed to recognize outstanding achievement, integrity and leadership in financial stewardship.

On the recommendation of the Past District Treasurers Committee, Immediate Past Governor Kelly Brown's board approved this new award to be given annually.

"Behind every successful organization is a treasurer who ensures stability, transparency, and trust," said Brown.

"The Treasurer of the Year Award shines a spotlight on these unsung heroes whose dedication to financial stewardship makes all the difference."

Treasurers play a vital role in ensuring the fiscal health and sustainability of Kiwanis clubs. The Treasurer of the Year Award celebrates individuals who exemplify excellence in financial reporting, transparency and accountability while making a lasting impact on their clubs.

The requirements for this award can be found on the district's website under the Recognitions tab.

The deadline for applying is March 31, and the award will be based on the prior administrative year.

The winner will be recognized at the District Convention. The selection committee will be made up of the most recent Past District Treasurer (Steve Vrooman) and two additional past district treasurers appointed by him.

## Treasurer of the Year – Requirements

1. Member in good standing
2. Submit timely monthly reports and bank statement reconciliation
3. Should attend CLE training or take online module at least once
4. Attendance at club board meetings
5. On time filing of annual 990
6. Timely filing of Attorney General Charitable Law Section
7. Must be a club treasurer
8. Assist in preparation of annual club budget
9. Timely satisfactory year-end audit/review

One page narrative to be included with the above requirements.

Additional Considerations:

1. Attendance at Mid-Year Conference
2. Attendance at Kiwanis District Convention
3. Attendance at Kiwanis International Convention
4. Sponsor new member

Certification by club president that the above criteria has been met.

Selection Committee is made up of three past district treasurers appointed by the immediate past treasurer.

# Welcome to the Kiwanis Family!

On Nov. 18, The Kiwanis Club of Westerville Kiwanis recently chartered a new K-Kids Club at Emerson Elementary School.

Club representatives report that the young leaders are already making waves.

The first project was a Caring & Sharing donation drive which aimed to raise \$3,000 to support 30 local children and families. That's \$300 per classroom, which represents big hearts and a big impact.



Huge thanks to:

- Mrs. Pauze & Mrs. Samborsky, teacher advisers leading with heart
- Merl Breen, club liaison and party planner extraordinaire
- Tom Babik, for championing the charter process
- Dr. Hazlett, Emerson's principal, for bringing her passion for K-Kids from Wilder Elementary and championing this new club
- Jennifer Lewis, Ohio Kiwanis District K-Kids Administrator, for her guidance and resources
- Steve Helba, Student Leadership Programs Chairman, for his leadership

To help the club get started, Westerville Kiwanis provided resources including an engraved gavel and stand, organizational notebooks, and a project calendar full of ideas. The enthusiasm from the advisers and students is inspiring. These students are ready to serve!

The Emerson K-Kids charter class includes 20 students (four per grade), meeting every other Tuesday in Room 205 from 2:45 to 3:20 p.m.

As a club chartered 64 years ago, Westerville Kiwanis deeply appreciates the significance of this moment. Members look forward to seeing Emerson's K-Kids Club grow, serve and make a lasting impact on their school and community.

This was a momentous day for the Westerville community and future leaders.

**--Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Westerville**





# Newark Key Club develops caring culture

The Newark High School Key Club participated in BuckeyeThon's Youth Philanthropy program to raise funds for Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The initiative raises funds to help provide life-saving care for young people battling cancer and blood disorders, while introducing youth to the concept of raising money for a non-profit cause.

Newark Key Club's goal is to raise \$10,000 this year. Day of Miracles was Nov. 19 and Key Club members worked hard to raise awareness and funds for this special day, when they raised nearly \$3,000.

Youth Philanthropy is a branch of BuckeyeThon at the Ohio State University that encourages high school students to foster a culture of philanthropy within their school and community.

BuckeyeThon is the largest student-run philanthropy in Ohio. All year long, it raises funds and awareness for the Hematology, Oncology and Blood & Donations Transplant Unit at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Twenty-eight Key Club and Sources of Strength leaders attended a BuckeyeThon Youth Philanthropy Retreat at Nationwide Children's Hospital today. The event featured career and college panel discussions as well as information about childhood cancer and blood disorders.

Donations remain local to ensure that all kids get the care they need at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The funds raised go to a wide variety of initiatives, such as chemotherapy treatments, art therapy, cancer research, tutoring sessions with teachers and so much more.

Donations can be made by clicking [here](#).







## Nominate your special project for Signature Project Recognition!

We are about one month away from the 2026 Signature Project Contest opening! This is an important club and district event that has been growing each year since it started in 2017. Here are the key details to share with your clubs:

- The contest opens on Tuesday, January 6, and closes on Thursday, January 29, 2026
- Entries can only be received by completing the online forms found at [www.kiwanis.org/signatureproject](http://www.kiwanis.org/signatureproject). The links will be available and live on January 6. Note we are using a new platform for the contest so it will look a little different, but is greatly improved!
- When a club submits an entry, a copy will be generated to the club, its district secretary and district governor.
- The districts will need to submit their top entry for each group by Thursday, February 26. A link will be provided closer to this date. As a reminder, clubs with fewer than 27 members are Group 1 and clubs with 28 or more members are Group 2.
- Districts and clubs will be notified in early April if their club projects have been selected to the Top 10 of each group.
- NOTE: We will not be having the Signature Project Breakfast at the convention this summer. Instead, we will package and send this celebration to the districts that have top 10 finalists for use at their district conventions.

Thank you for your continued support of this project. Please reach out with any questions!

Elizabeth Warren, Director of Programs and Partnerships, Kiwanis International  
3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268 USA  
U.S. & Canada: 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 211  
Worldwide: +1-317-217-6211  
[kiwanis.org](http://kiwanis.org) | #KidsNeedKiwanis



# Students plan to ‘Sock the Halls’

The Kirtland K-Kids Club is hosting a winter clothing, blanket and diaper drive this December.

"Sock the Halls" is a schoolwide drive. The poster is attractive, professional and the title is creative. The club is facilitating donations by providing a QR code to allow people to purchase items directly from Amazon for delivery to the school.

Students also are accepting donations brought to the school. The direct purchase and delivery option might be more convenient for parents, kiddos and the community and include a broader community.

It should also save time, resources and increase donations. Thank you, Kirtland K-Kids, for making an impact and helping others!

*--Jennifer Lewis, K-Kids Administrator*



## KIRTLAND KIWANIS K-KIDS PRESENTS

# SOCK THE HALLS



**DONATE SOCKS OR OTHER ITEMS & CHANGE A LIFE NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 10TH!**

Too many individuals in our community are facing harsh weather without proper clothing. Your donation can provide warmth, comfort, and dignity to those in need.

### WHAT WE'RE ACCEPTING:

- SOCKS OF ALL SIZES (new only, please)
- Hats, gloves, and scarves
- New or gently used blankets & cold weather gear (boots, coats)
- Diapers/wipes (new, unopened boxes)

*Please kindly make sure all items are in new/unused condition unless noted*



### CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISHLIST: LINKED HERE!

Items will be shipped directly to the school!





on smart phones, screenshot/save photo and tap on QR code to access link!



**Birthright**  
*Lake, Inc.*

### HOW TO DONATE:

Students can bring items to their classroom for collection

**OR**

Items can be sent directly to the school by purchasing through the Amazon link/QR code above!



# Follow our Governor's Travels

Governor Marcia and her First Gentleman Larry been on the road conducting installations and visiting clubs throughout the Mighty Ohio District!

Click here at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579035076996> and follow her to keep tabs on where she visits!



**Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District**  
November 19 at 1:39 PM · 🌐

Larry and I were honored to be in attendance for the Kiwanis Club of Lima, Ohio, Family Day. They sponsor 12 Service Learning Programs. It was an amazing afternoon.

Below is a link to the local news for the Kiwanis Club of Lima which highlighted the day:



HOMETOWNSTATIONS.COM

Unity highlighted at Lima Kiwanis Club family meeting

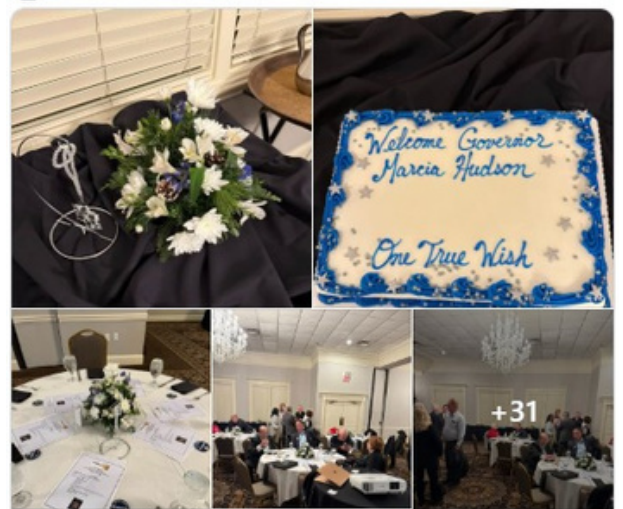


**Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is in Montgomery.**  
November 14 at 2:47 AM · 🌐

Thank you Lieutenant Governor Wayne Stein for inviting Larry and myself to attend the Gateway Division Council meeting on 11/12/25. Your clubs were well represented wi... See more



**Queen City Division - E OH Kiwanis is with Monica Marsh.**  
December 2 at 11:46 AM · 🌐



**Marla Marsh is with Judy Raub and 13 others at Manor House Event Center.**  
December 2 at 11:38 AM · Mason · 🌐

Last evening the **Queen City Division - E OH Kiwanis** held it's inaugural Council Meeting/Governor's visit at the beautiful Manor House in Mason, Ohio. All but two of our eleven clubs were represented. We were thrilled to welcome **Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District** and First Gentleman, Larry Hudson. Governor Marcia shared updates regarding the Mighty **Ohio District Kiwanis**. First Gentleman Larry shared their passionate background of the "One True Wish" First Family project. Individual clubs and clubs who submit member dues to the Queen City Division treasury, presented their donations for the project, to Governor Marcia.

Four Kiwanians were awarded the Brilliant Star Award by Governor Marcia based upon Lieutenant Governor **Monica Marsh's** recommendation. Congratulations to Mike Kahsar, Kathleen Moylan, Mike Rudolph, & Marla Marsh.

Thank you to Lt. Governor Monica and the generosity of Janet Nelson (and hubby) Kiwanians in the **The Kiwanis Club of Mason Ohio**, and owners of the Manor House, for a beautiful



**Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is in Medina.**  
November 13 at 7:44 PM · 🌐

Larry and I had the opportunity to visit with the Kiwanis Club of Medina, Ohio, today. They were doing their quarterly service project of care packages to the Ronald McDonald House. Becky Crain won the weekly 50/50 raffle prize. She donated her winnings to our One True Wish first family project. ❤️



## Ohio joins others in mourning Van Kleef's passing

Case Van Kleef, the 2004-05 Kiwanis International president, passed away November 30. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Northside Naples in Florida, U.S. Past club memberships included Wheeling Township (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.); Stevens Point (Wisconsin, U.S.); Plover, a club he built (Wisconsin, U.S.); Bonita Springs (Florida, U.S.); and Rose Float of Pasadena (California, U.S.).



Van Kleef joined Kiwanis in 1965 and held various leadership positions, including club president, lieutenant governor and international vice president/treasurer. He received many Kiwanis honors, including a George F. Hixson Fellow, Diamond-level 11; Charter Walter Zeller Fellow, Diamond-level 3; Heritage Society member; Tablet of Honor; Kiwanis Leadership Society; Carthage-Pullman Society; and G. Harold Martin Society.

Kiwanis International 2005-06 President Steve Siemens recalled how he, Van Kleef and 2006-07 President Nelson Tucker collaborated and worked together for the betterment of Kiwanis.

"When Case became president-elect, since I would follow him [as president], we met and created a continuous plan to have a seamless transition between the Kiwanis years we served. It was our goal to focus on the members, have the same distinguished program and work closely together. We talked weekly. We planned often. We worked together, not caring who was credited," said Siemens. "After Nelson Tucker was successful in his election, we became three leaders with the same mind and mission. Case's creativity, humor, caring heart and humility motivated both Nelson and me, and the members his life touched."

For the complete obituary, click [here](#).

## Bee sure to report your Pollinator Project work

Hello Ohio District Kiwanians!

As 2025 is coming to an end, we would like to say thank you for your amazing support in the Bee a hero project!

Don't forget to report the amazing work that you have done this past service year at this [link](#).

<https://forms.gle/EGTMxKbG1ikgZ9Ei7>

Thank you,  
**Hannah Riley**  
Kiwanis Connected  
Club Secretary/Treasurer  
District Service  
Chair & First Family  
Project Co-Chair, 2025-26





# WHAT IS OUR DISTRICT FAMILY UP TO IN OHIO?

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.



Kiwanis Club of Wooster, Ohio  
November 20 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Kiwanians will be at **Buehler's Towne Market** in Downtown Wooster on December 10 and 17, ringing bells for **Wooster Corps- The Salvation Army**. Want to join the fun? Sign u... See more



Northern Kiwanis and Whetstone Key Club students team up to serve families at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio.



Northern Kiwanis Club  
December 2 at 11:45 AM · 🌐

Our Club and the Whetstone Key Club that we sponsor teamed up to prepare and serve dinner at columbus' Ronald McDonald House. A fun time. A worthwhile service activity.



The Kiwanis Club of Westerville gathered 19 volunteers who came together for a high-energy meal-packing event Nov. 20.

In just one hour, members packed 3,024 meals for the local food bank, Westerville Area Resources Ministry. All meals will be distributed to help community families.

The room was filled with music, laughter, and the spirit of service. It was a joyful reminder of what can be accomplished together.

Volunteers included four Kiwanians, 1 supportive spouse, two neighbors new to the community and 12 Key Club members.

**Kiwanis Club of Greater Loveland**

PRESENTS

## Bunco For A Cause

### Come Roll With Us!

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of Bunco, laughs, and community spirit! This exciting event will help raise funds for Kiwanis community projects and is sure to be a good time for all!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

at the American Legion  
897 Oakland Road, Loveland, OH 45140

Check In at 1:00 p.m. | Games begin at 1:15 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door

Event Highlights: Prizes for most Buncos, most wins, & most losses. Door prizes, 50/50 raffle, snacks, and cash bar. Proceeds benefit Kiwanis community projects. Don't miss out on the fun—gather your friends and come roll the dice for a great cause!

Register now at <https://givebutter.com/6PmfrH>

# **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**

## **December 2025**

<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>General deadline for SLP dues</b>
<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>CKI dues become delinquent</b>
<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>Ohio Hall of Fame nominees from selection committee</b>
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>ODK Board meeting via Zoom, 10 a.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>Deadline for 2024-25 Application for Gov's Pollinator Project</b>
<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>Expense reports due from Lt. Governors</b>
<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>ODKF Mini-Grant Deadline for January approvals</b>
<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>Deadline to submit Trick or Treat donations for UNICEF</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Club Education and Contact visit report due</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Circle K District Board meeting</b>

**Enjoy your holidays this month, and thank you for the many ways you help your communities celebrate!**

---

## **Kiwanis Voices welcomes young adults**

Our new pilot program, Kiwanis Voices, is under way! It's an opportunity to create Kiwanis clubs specifically for young adults ages 18-26 — and to help bridge the gap between Kiwanis youth programs and traditional Kiwanis clubs.

In fact, traditional clubs are crucial: A sponsoring Kiwanis club is required for the launch of a Kiwanis Voices club. See how you can help bring the energy and passion of young adults into our organization!

Find details and resources on the **program's webpage** — including links to a fact sheet, applications and a five-step guide to organizing a Kiwanis Voices club.