

August 2026



Kiwanis
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



***It might be the dog
days of summer, but
Kiwanians are still
busy serving their
communities!***

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SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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



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Membership, DCON attendance matters

By Marcia Copeland Hudson, Ohio Governor

As we enter August, we're in the final stretch — two months left in the Kiwanis year —and our focus is clear: DCON attendance and membership growth.

Beginning in 2024, I've enjoyed the opportunity to travel throughout our Ohio District — from the Ohio River to Lake Erie — and I've met so many energetic and enthusiastic Kiwanians!

I've seen firsthand the real passion, real pride and a forever connection of friends and family that Kiwanis creates. You can find that same love for the District in our clubs every day, and it's why these last two months matter.



DCON: Let's show up!

Next week, I'll be calling the Lt. Governors and Board members I haven't spoken with in a while to encourage everyone to show up at DCON! DCON is where we gather ideas, strengthen relationships and bring high energy back to our clubs.

We will be gathering in Central Ohio, at the lovely Renaissance Hotel in the Westerville/Polaris area, which is so convenient to so many Kiwanians throughout the state.

See you there!

Membership Matters

Membership is our heartbeat. Let's keep building momentum by inviting others in and supporting one another across the District.

Just Do It, folks. Let's work together to finish strong in DCON attendance, membership growth, and service to children and families!

Marcia Copeland Hudson,

Ohio Governor, 2025-26



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August memory inspires First Family focus

By Larry D. Hudson

I remember is as if it happened yesterday. It was an August afternoon, sunny and hot. I was mowing the lawn when Marcia interrupted. The call from Dayton Children's Hospital had been important. The news brought a cold wave of fear: Lauren, our 11-year-old, had cancer.

What followed was a whirl of doctor visits and hospitalizations. What got us through the heartbreaking months that followed was the support of friends (some we had met at the Ronald McDonald House of Dayton), the patient explanations of Lauren's care team at the hospital, and the Special Wish granted to Lauren and our family by Make-A-Wish.

Lauren's Special Wish was a Central Florida adventure during the weeks before Christmas. It brought us to a magical place where Christmas gifts appeared under the tree every day and a Wish Kid could choose ice cream for breakfast. Lauren was treated like a celebrity at Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World. It was a wonderful break for Lauren and everyone in the family.

We'll never forget that magical time, and the Christmas that followed a few days later. It was Lauren's last, because childhood cancer ended her life a few days later on January 8. She was 12 years old.

Lauren would be 36 if she were still with us today. We're still inspired by her spirit – her fight to live during multiple medical challenges, and her desire to make a difference.

Kiwanians have helped make a difference for families facing serious childhood illness. Contributions to the First Family Project are helping Make-A-Wish and Ronald McDonald House Charities continue to serve families every day.

Thank you, Ohio District Kiwanis, for supporting the First Family Project 2025-2026! Wish Kids and their families are grateful!

Larry D. Hudson

ODK First Gentleman 2025-2026

Co-Chair, First Family Project

P.S. -- I'm happy to report that more than a few individuals made gifts to the Project this year in addition to the gifts presented by Kiwanis Clubs. To join them, click [here](#) or point your cell phone camera at the QR code below to learn how to contribute to the Project by credit or debit card and help grant more Special Wishes to Wish Kids and their families!



Snapshots from the ODKF Golf Tournament





2026 District Convention

August 14th-16th, 2026

409 Altair Pkwy, Westerville, OH 43082



Register today for DCON!

Planning for 2026 DCON is well under way, with lots of information either already posted on the district [website](#) or coming soon.

It will an exciting weekend of enrichment, inspiration and good old-fashioned Kiwanis fellowship Aug. 14-16 in Westerville.

Our convention will be treated by the presence of several special guests, including Paul Palazzolo, Kiwanis International executive director.

This weekend also will be shared with our Aktion Club family members, as they gather in the same location for their Leadership and Educational Day.

More information their event can be found at the end of this month's *Buckeye Bulletin*.



DCON offers many opportunities for Ohio Kiwanis members

Greetings Ohio Kiwanians! Come one, come all to the District Convention!

The 2026 Ohio District Convention will be held Aug. 14-16 at the Renaissance Hotel in Westerville in Central Ohio.

This will be a time of education, elections, business, eating and FUN! And to make it more exciting, we will be joined by the Aktion Club as those members will hold their Education Day on Saturday. It will be great to have the Kiwanis Family together!

On Friday, the 14th, there will be CLE training for Kiwanis leaders as well as several meetings. Friday evening will be a "Family Reunion" picnic dinner followed by a lot of games and activities. You will have a passport which will be stamped as you complete the various activities. Then you will be able to turn in your stamped passport for useful items. It will be a fun start to the weekend!

On Saturday, the kickoff session will get the day rolling. The day will be filled with educational workshops, a great luncheon, the House of Delegates and the very special Governors Banquet.

There will be 12 workshops offered in three sessions of four workshops each. During the House of Delegates, we will take care of District elections and business. The Governors banquet will be a time of celebration of Governor Marcia Copeland Hudson's year and recognition of those who have made it a great year.

Sunday kicks off with a memorial service, followed by the District Foundation breakfast and Annual meeting. The convention closing session will follow the foundation meeting.

After the closing, in the same facility will be the Installation of the 2026-2027 Ohio District leaders will be held as Governor Elect Judy Raub and her Lt. Governors are installed.

It will be a wonderful time to be together so come join in the celebration at the District Convention!

Information and registration, including hotel reservations if needed, can be found here:

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

Yours in Service,

Craig Wallace,
District Convention Coordinator, 2026



Basket Auction a Big Benefit to Foundation Support Your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation

In case you missed these posts on the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Facebook Page, please read and follow us on Facebook (Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation).

For Kiwanian friends attending 2026 DCON in Westerville
The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Basket Room

One Basket. Countless Smiles.

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Basket Room is back at the 2026 Ohio District Kiwanis Convention, August 14–16, and we need your creativity!

Every themed basket you donate helps turn generosity into opportunity. Thanks to the incredible support of Kiwanians across our mighty district, the ODKF Basket Room has become one of the Foundation's signature annual fundraisers.

From coffee lovers and movie nights to backyard BBQs, holiday treats, family fun, gardening, sports, bourbon, spa days, and everything in between, every basket tells a story—and every bid helps change a child's story.

A special addition to the Basket Room will be handmade quilts. These much-sought-after items will be available for bidding.



Basket Drop-Off

We'll gladly accept baskets all day Friday (August 14) and Saturday morning (August 15).
You may:

- Bring your basket to the convention.
- Send it with someone who is attending.
- If neither option works, message Marla Marsh, and we'll work with you to arrange pickup or delivery.

Please Include

- Your name or club name
- A list of the basket contents
- An approximate value



Why it matters: Every dollar raised is returned to our Ohio communities through Ohio Kiwanis District Foundation grants that support children, youth, families, and communities.

Fill a basket. Fund a dream. Change a life.

LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW YEAR OF SERVICE

The 2025–2026 administrative year is wrapping up, and we're looking ahead to a fantastic new year of service. As your club transitions to new leadership in a few months, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Recognize Your Stars** – Have you ordered awards for the dedicated members who made this year a success? It's the perfect way to show your appreciation and celebrate their hard work.
- **Plan for the Future** – Incoming boards and officers, now is the time to consider how your club's budget can support the Foundation's mission. Small contributions can make a big difference!
- **Dream Big, Serve Bigger** – Does your club have a great idea for a new service project? Don't let a lack of funds hold you back! The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation offers grants to help turn those ideas into reality.

Ready to make an even bigger impact? Visit our website at odkf.org to learn more about grants, awards, and how your club can partner with the Foundation to serve the children of Ohio!



Ohio Kiwanis History Comes to DCON

For more than 100 years, the Ohio District has collected Kiwanis records, photos and memorabilia that tell the story of our clubs, our members and our shared service legacy.

The District Historical Committee has been sorting and inventorying items from our Columbus storage unit, uncovering countless memories along the way.

Now, we're excited to bring a piece of that history to DCON through a special display for all attendees to enjoy.

Be sure to stop by, take a look, and celebrate the history of Ohio Kiwanis.

Some club-specific memorabilia also will be available for clubs to take home, helping preserve these keepsakes while easing the growing challenge of storing and tracking them.

Kelly Brown,
Immediate Past Governor,
ODK Historical Committee member

Sidney Kiwanians develop pollinator garden

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Sidney for this pollinator garden that it helped establish at Tawawa Park in Sidney.

The club helped develop a 1.5-acre pollinator garden, pictured here behind an all-inclusive playground that Kiwanis and Rotary clubs spearheaded a few years back. It gets a lot of use. It was about a \$250,000 project that received a lot of support from the community.



According to the Ohio State University Extension Office, a 1.5-acre pollinator garden is a significant bee habitat — it can benefit thousands of individual bees per day and support multiple colonies of honeybees and many species of native bees, especially if it's diverse, well-maintained, and part of a larger foraging network.

The First Family project for 2024-25 was a focus on pollinators and helping them survive and thrive.

Keep sharing your good news to help Kiwanis grow in your community!

We love seeing Kiwanis service and volunteer activity get the attention it deserves! People need to hear and see what we are doing before they can decide to join us in our fun and work!

Here are a few “public relations wins” we spotted during the past month or so:

Kiwanians help Free Store --- *The Delaware Gazette*



Painesville plans zip line, more at Kiwanis
Recreation Park --- *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

OSU Football tickets help fund car seats
- *Hometown Stations/Fox*

Bryan Kiwanis hears from county officials
--- *Village Reporter*

Reporting of Support Hours

As you are volunteering at your local Ronald McDonald House this year, we ask you to complete the form on the ODKF website to collect how many members have supported the First Family Project in Service

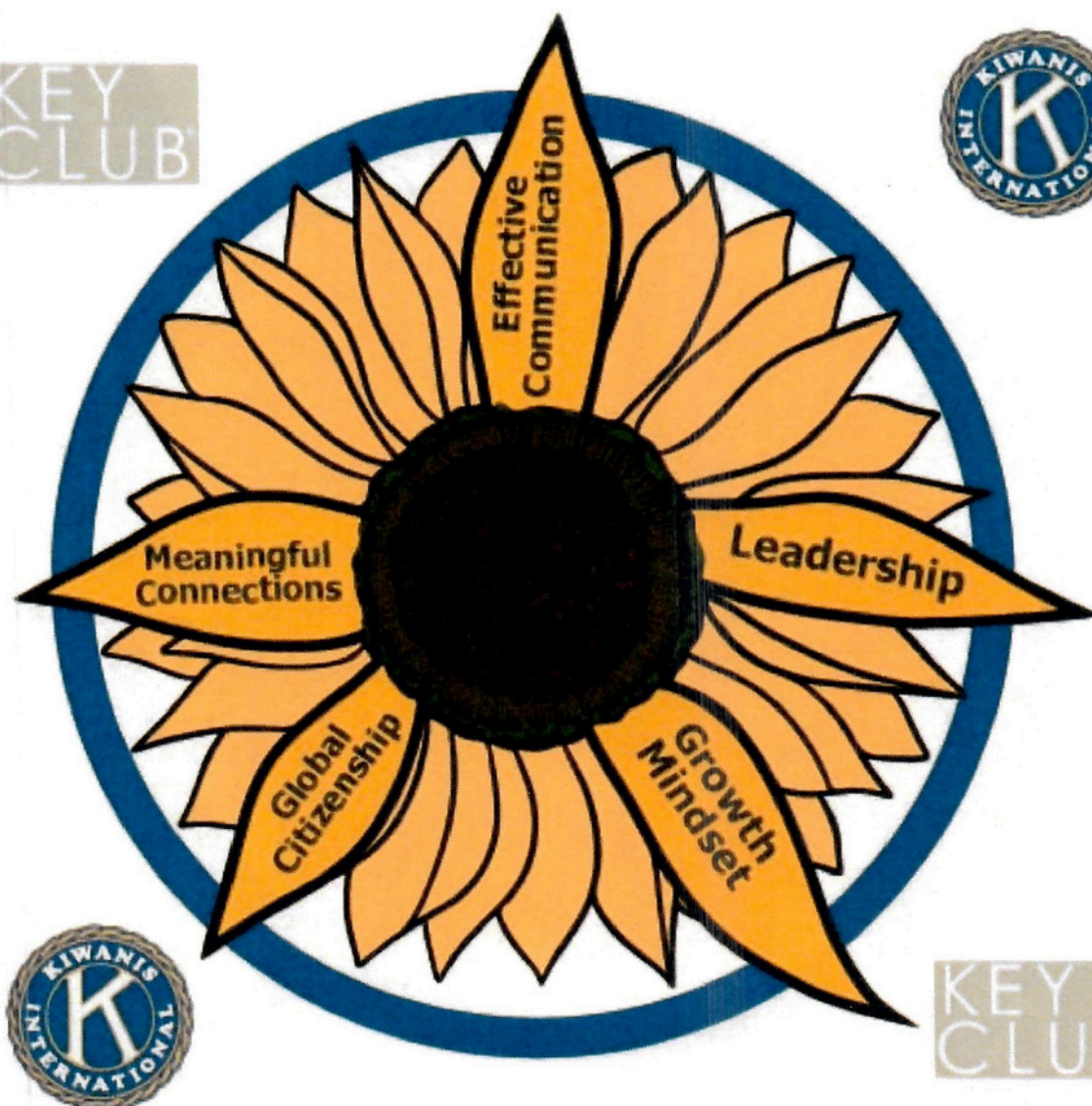


Scan the QR code to get access to the ODKF First Family project page and link to support hours!



Coming to Ohio Kiwanis One Day Key Leader

KEY
CLUB



KEY
CLUB

Contact Coordinators Below to Volunteer!

Cindy Champer
CindyChamper@aol.com
419-350-0477

Tish Keegan
tkeegan@lamar.com
419-545-3418

Salem club hosts craft show

(As reported by WKBN)

SALEM, Ohio (WKBN) – While many events today were cancelled or postponed due to the air quality, one annual event in Salem welcomed the community to its annual celebration. The Annual Kiwanis Craft Show took place Saturday at Centennial Park.

Vendors selling homemade crafts and antiques were scattered throughout the park along with bubbles, live music, and even a dunk tank.

Money is raised from the event for the Kiwanis Club, which says its main goal is to give back to the children.

"We always do something for the park," Caron Richey, secretary for the Salem Kiwanis Club, said. "We've helped update the electrical system here. We've painted the picnic tables in the pavilion. We just donated money for the new water slide that they put in here. So, it's just a way for us to give back to the community."

If you missed Saturday's show, don't worry—a second craft show has been added during the second week of September.

The Kiwanis Family Fall Fest features crafting and antique vendors, as well as a "big kids" section to make it a complete community outing day.

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Following our Family on Facebook

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.



July 26 at 1:42 PM · 🌐

Kiwanis Club of Findlay 2026 Purse Bingo

We were truly honored to have Marcia, Larry, and Kelly attend our event.

Findlay is excited to help you plan your event and I'm sure some of us would love to sup attendance. I know I would really have a great time playing bingo.



View insights

Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is with Marietta O...
All info · July 14 at 9:39 PM · 🌐

Country roads and beautiful scenery led Larry and I to Marietta, Ohio today for my Governor's visit. Kiwanis leadership, service, and commitment to the community has been woven together for more than 104 years.

Congratulations to Samantha Skinner, Mark Doeblich and Michelle Secrest who were recognized today for their service and leadership to the K-Family youth programs in the community.

A special thank you is extended to Steve Vrooman, President of the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation, for sharing the highlights of the Foundation, Key Club, and Circle K International. We had an enjoyable time and appreciated your hospitality! 🙌 See less



Kiwanis Club of Fairport Harbor
July 28 at 9:39 PM · 🌐

Let's get our students ready to learn!

The Kiwanis Club of Fairport Harbor is here to support the Annual Skipper Start Up, and we need your help to ensure our local classrooms and students are fully prepared. We are currently collecting donations to purchase essential hygiene products for our students for classrooms.

Even better, our club will be matching all donations made up to a total of \$300, double the impact! 🙌

Send us a message or click the link below to donate and support our local schools or your continued generosity! 🙌

<https://square.link/u/Ccg9PK2R>

FairportHarbor #KidsNeedKiwanis #BackToSchool #CommunitySupport #FairportHarbor



Marla Marsh is with Judy Raub and 2 others.
All-star contributor · July 21 at 4:29 AM · 🌐

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Bs2Fn2yFD/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Marla Marsh is with Judy Raub and 12 others at Holiday Inn Cincinnati N - West Chester.
All info · July 21 at 4:22 AM · West Chester Township · 🌐

Members from the Ohio District Kiwanis Queen City Division - E OH Kiwanis came together last evening for a very enjoyable evening. Bringing together representation from... See more

Marla Marsh is with Monica Marsh.
All-star contributor · July 28 at 11:16 PM · 🌐

www.facebook.com/share/18SzMWMpRv/?mibextid=wwXlfr



Kiwanis Club of Middletown, Ohio is at CBI at The Robert "Sonny" Hill Community Center.
All info · July 28 at 11:11 PM · Middletown · 🌐

Child deserves the freedom to ride—and the knowledge and confidence to ride is exactly what Kiwanis is all about: serving the children of the world, ... See more

Leadership training is crucial

For those who cannot attend in-person Kiwanis leadership training, there is the option to take the training through Kiwanis International and get the appropriate credit.

No matter whether you do this individually or as a group -- it's important to take this CLE Training to strengthen the future clubs in our Ohio District. Our children and our communities deserve well-trained leaders as we serve them.

You can access the Kiwanis International-led Club Leadership Education (CLE) videos and resources here:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/for-leaders/officer-guide/kiwanis-led-training>

On that page, you'll find training resources for the following club officer roles:

- Club President – Slides, Q&A chat, important links
- Club Secretary – Slides, Q&A chat, important links
- Club Treasurer – Slides, Q&A chat, important links
- Club Membership Chair – Slides, Q&A chat, important links
- Kiwanis Engage – Slides, Q&A chat, important links

After viewing the videos, be sure to complete the Completion Credit Form linked on the page to receive credit for completing the Club Leadership Education.



- [Club President Slides](#)
- [Training Q&A chat](#)
- [Important links](#)

Treasurer



- [Club Secretary Slides](#)
- [Training Q&A chat](#)
- [Important links](#)

Membership Chair



Portage celebrates two remarkable milestones!

This year marks a very special occasion for the Kiwanis Club of Portage Lakes as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary in October.

For three-quarters of a century, our members have built a legacy of friendship, service, and community.

Making this anniversary even more meaningful, our final surviving founding member, Tom Longworth, celebrated his 100th birthday. On June 24, club members, family, and friends gathered to honor Tom and celebrate this extraordinary milestone.

Tom's vision and commitment helped establish the Kiwanis Club of Portage Lakes 75 years ago, and his living legacy continues to inspire our members today. We are grateful for his many years of service and the example he has set for generations of Kiwanians.

Congratulations Tom, on your 100th birthday, and thank you for helping build the strong foundation of our club.

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we proudly honor the past while we look forward to continuing our tradition of serving the Portage Lakes community for years to come.

Submitted by Cathy Dietz, secretary, Portage Lakes Kiwanis



Kiwanis
Aktion Club
OHIO DISTRICT
2026

Thank You
Leadership and Educational Day Sponsors!



Aktion Club of
Licking County

10th. Anniversary

Welcome New
Aktion Clubs:

- ★ Butler County of Ohio
- ★ GreeneMont

★★★★★
PREFERRED PATHWAYS
Celebrates
AMERICA 250TH

TIFFIN ★ FOSTORIA ★ LUCAS COUNTY



K-FAMILY SUPPORTING PARTICIPANTS

Together,

We show that abilities unite us and make a lasting impact
on the lives of Aktion Club Members across Ohio.



Amy Zimmerman, Trustee
& First Mom Sandy

Kelly B(ee)
Immediate Past
Governor &
First Fella Larry Brown

Lt. Governor
Nancy Andrade,
Emerald

Baldwin Wallace
Univ. Circle K Intl.

Kiwanis Club
of Fremont

Kiwanis Club of
Seneca County

Cindy Champer &
Fred Franklin, First Gentleman

Kiwanis Club of
Port Clinton

EmPath For Autism

Special Olympics Ohio

Distinguished LTG &
President
Janet Molineaux

Kiwanis Club of
Northwest Columbus



Marcia Copeland Hudson
Governor & Larry Hudson,
First Gentleman

Kiwanis Club of
Delaware County

Del Ray Fox
Ohio Aktion Club Administrator &
Distinguished LTG, Div. 12

Jessicka and Tatumn

Dick Brulotte
Immediate Past Ohio
Aktion Club Administrator

Kiwanis Club of
Bellevue

Tiffin Kiwanis Club

Bill & Peggy Flinta,
Past Governor

Kathleen and Mike Moylan

OHIO AKTION CLUB LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL DAY WORKSHOPS

PLEASE NOTE: Workshop timings, track assignments and room allocations are subject to change. K-Family is encouraged to attend workshops.

★ FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION ★ 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM



ASL Basics: Communicating Beyond Words

Presented by:
Amy Mullins
ASL Trainer

ROOM: Admiral C

Learn the basics of American Sign Language (ASL) in this fun, interactive workshop. Practice common signs, greetings, and everyday phrases while discovering how ASL can strengthen communication, build connections, and promote inclusion. You'll leave with practical signs you can begin using right away.

**No experience is necessary—
all are welcome!**



Building an Inclusive Mindset

Presented by:
Special Olympics Ohio
Athlete and Staff

ROOM: Admiral D

Please join Special Olympics Ohio for a discussion on building an inclusive mindset. We will discuss the components of an inclusive mindset including universal dignity, empathy and perspective taking, and courageous action. You will hear from a Special Olympics athlete who will share real-world examples of these components in action. See how a shift in mindset can lead to a change in behavior and help build a more inclusive community for everyone!

★ SECOND WORKSHOP SESSION ★ 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM



K-Family Connections: Growing Aktion Club Together

Presented by:

- **Paul Palazzolo**, Executive Director, Kiwanis International
- **Governor Marcia Copeland-Hudson**, Ohio District Kiwanis
- **Neha Pasupuleti**, President, Circle K International
- **K-Family Service Leadership Program Leaders**

ROOM: Admiral C/D

Join leaders from across the Kiwanis Family for an inspiring and interactive conversation about the power of Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). Learn how K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K International, and Aktion Club work together to develop leaders, strengthen communities, and create lifelong opportunities for service. Discover how we can increase awareness of Aktion Club, build stronger partnerships throughout the K-Family, and inspire future growth. Bring your questions, share your ideas, and be part of the conversation as we celebrate the message:

**Disabilities Don't Define Us—
Abilities Unite Us.**

★ THIRD WORKSHOP SESSION ★ 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM



Hands-On Leadership – Building Together

Presented by:
Melissa Balsom Fisher
GreeneMont Aktion Club &
Kiwanis Club of Beavercreek

ROOM: Admiral C

Leadership is more than giving directions—it's about working together, communicating, and supporting one another. In this interactive workshop, participants will complete a fun, hands-on craft project that highlights the importance of teamwork, cooperation, creativity, and problem-solving. As everyone works together toward a common goal, they'll discover how each person's unique abilities contribute to the success of the group.



The Magic of Leadership: Discovering the Power of Teamwork, Inclusion, and Believing in One Another

Presented by:
Magician Rodney Biggert
Owner, Preferred Pathways

ROOM: Admiral D

Join Magician Rodney for an interactive and inspiring experience where magic becomes a powerful reminder of what can happen when we believe in ourselves and one another. Through amazing illusions, humor, and audience participation, Rodney will demonstrate how leadership, teamwork, inclusion, and service can create extraordinary results. Discover that the greatest magic isn't found in tricks—it's found in encouraging others, embracing everyone's unique abilities, and working together to make a positive difference. **Prepare to be amazed, laugh, and leave inspired to create a little magic in your own community.**

★ KEYNOTE ADDRESS: KYLE FISHER & CLOSING CELEBRATION ★ 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM



Keynote Address: Kyle Fisher & Closing Celebration

Kyle Fisher, a Seneca County resident, Preferred Pathways participant, and Heidelberg University student, will share his inspiring journey of determination and achievement. He'll reflect on his college experiences and the unforgettable opportunity to be part of the excitement at the 2026 NFL Draft, where he was alongside his favorite team, the Pittsburgh Steelers. We'll conclude the day with a fun game of Kahoot!, closing reflections, and a celebration of Aktion Club, leaving inspired to lead, serve, and make a difference in your club and community. **Disabilities Don't Define Us - Abilities Unite Us. Together. We are FAMILY.**