



Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter December 21 , 2023

1 message

Kiwanis Office <kiwanisbrantford@gmail.com>

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**A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER from and about
THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BRANTFORD**

Meeting at the Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre:
Every Thursday at 12:00 noon

Current Membership – 49



E.C. & C. District

Governor

John Chave

KC of Barrie

Governor Elect

Pamela Rodney White

KC of Constant Spring

Vice Governor

Cynthina Blackman

KC of Pride of Barbados

Immediate Past Governor

Anthony Haile

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 21, 2023

Welcome fellow Kiwanians to our annual Christmas Party where we will be entertained by a special guest. If you have not already, be sure and let Phil Hoekstra hoekstra103@gmail.com. know if you would like to attend. Just a few seats left!

KC of Curacao

Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Steele

KC of Brantford

Division Lt. Governor

David MacLennan

KC of Stratford



Club Officers

President

Alfred Hauk

Past President

David Lewis

President-Elect

Nancy Thompson

Treasurer

Jim Steele

Secretary

Bob MacLean

Club Directors

2 Year Term

Randy MacKenzie

Leo Vos

Bob Wade

1 Year Term

Stuart Parkinson

Graham Schram

Nancy Sherritt

HEAD TABLE

President Alf Hauk, Paulette Hauk, Sean Hauk – Name tags will be on tables.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, December 28: Round Table

Thursday, January 4: Fellowship Day

Thursday, January 11: Membership Committee

Thursday, January 18: Heather Vanner, Executive Director, Community Resource Service

Thursday, January 25: TBA

BIRTHDAYS

Nothing to report this week!

ANNIVERSARIES

Nothing to report this week!

ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED

Nothing to report this week!

EDUCATIONAL SPOT

The creation of districts is authorized by Section VI of the International Constitution. The International Board creates and supervises districts and establishes their boundaries. The district governor is the chief executive officer of a district and also an officer of Kiwanis International. Districts are organized into divisions, and the chief executive of each division is the lieutenant governor. .

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When we remember a special Christmas, it is not the presents that made it special, but the laughter, the feeling of love, and the togetherness of friends and family that made that Christmas special.” — Catherine Pulsifer

To view what happened at last week's meeting, please click page down

Last Week's Meeting Highlights



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Highlights of the Thursday, 14 December, 2023 Weekly Meeting

President Alfred Hauk called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM, welcoming all members and noting that our Guest Speaker is Natalie Michlewicz, Manager of Communications, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Grand Erie, Halton & Hamilton.



President Alfred asked Kiwanian Phil to proceed with the 50/50 Draw. Kiwanian Phil indicated that there were 43 Cards in today's Deck. The two lucky ticket holders for this week were Kiwanian Randy and Kiwanian Leo. The Joker was not found. The pot continues to rise for next week.



President Alfred called Funmaster Kiwanian Faye to the podium. Kiwanis Faye announced that her planned presentation will occur in the new year (*PP Dave forgot to bring the graphics*) but she moved on directly to help us celebrate PG Joanne Murray's birthday on December 19th and Kiwanian Ivone DeMarchi who will mark 45 years as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford on December 14th.

We had several Happy Stories and dollars collected. Contributions were made by Kiwanian Randy, PP Dave, Kiwanian Linda, Kiwanian Phil and, PG Joanne thanked all members who help the **Child and Family Services of Grand Erie** by donating \$720 in Gift Cards and 22 unwrapped Toys for their Season of Sharing Toy + Drive that were collected last week. These items will go towards helping some of the 1000 kids in our area have their dreams materialize.

President Alfred thanked Kiwanis Faye and past the Podium over to Kiwanis Linda to Introduce our Guest Speaker.



Kiwanian Linda Introduced our Guest Speaker Natalie Michlewicz, who will share impactful stories of how Big Brothers Big Sisters matches young people facing adversity with trained adult volunteers creating positive relationships that change lives. Natalie is the Manager of Communications at Big Brothers Big Sisters, serving Grand Erie, Halton and Hamilton.

Natalie opened with a brief history of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization's amalgamation over the past 12-15 years to bring them to their current position. She indicated that the Vision was to allow "All young people to realize their full potential" and their Mission was to, "Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people".

She spoke about how young children who are exposed to adverse childhood experience and how youth facing adversity are 2-3 times more likely to reach adulthood without a single mentor.

She indicated that when you mentor a young person, you're providing a stable, healthy, committed relationship with an adult. According to the research, this type of relationship can protect a child from the effects of toxic stress experienced when living with childhood adversities and builds their resilience.



This research, also tells us that resilient children and youth grow to be happier, healthier adults. When you become a mentor (volunteer), what you're really doing is helping a child access their resilience, directly improving their life. According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, you're also helping prevent negative health complications in adulthood such as depression, anxiety, violent behaviors and substance problems.

Measurably, increased resilience means improved outcomes in each of the following categories: 1) Social Emotional Competence, 2) Mental Health & Wellbeing, and 3) Educational Engagement & Employment Readiness.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has Community and School based Programs to assist in the mentorship needed in differing environments.

Natalie highlighted that what is needed right now is:

- Volunteers for the the 1:1 Bigs Community Matching Program
- Male Identifying Mentors
- Over 200 young people waiting for a mentor
- Funds to support the 1:1 Program.

Natalie outline their path for future initiatives.

- We are Little-Led. This means, we listen to, and work with, young people to build innovative programming.
- We are expanding programs to better-serve targeted beneficiaries from priority communities.
- We are forming strategic partnerships and collaborating with industry experts to create wraparound services.
- A national brand change, is on the horizon. BBBS will be renamed to remove the binary representation of our services & better reflect the inclusive organization we are.

Wrapping up, Natalie was asked a number of questions from various members of the Club.

Kiwanis Phil gave our formal thanks to Natalie letting her know that, in appreciation for her presentation the Kiwanis Club of Brantford had made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Brant Community Health Care System Foundation.

President Alfred also thanked Natalie for her presentation and followed with a request for any Committee Reports or announcements.

- Kiwanian Bob Saunders updated us on the progress of the Christmas Campaign indicating that sales were going splendidly and that we only had product left that was at the back of the room.
- Cash Calendars are now on Sale and will be available each week until the middle of January.
- A reminder that the Salvation Army Kiwanis Kindness "Winter Stocking Collection" was on again. Collection Bags are on the tables at the back of the room, each week up until Christmas

President Alfred thanked the members and wish them a good weekend and adjourned the meeting with the ringing of the Bell.

Candid pictures of our meeting follow.

