

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Kiwanis **builder**

A quarterly resource to help build clubs and communities

Serve With Purpose!

Latest
Golden
Cozy
EDITION

“Finding
Your
Why!”
See Page 6



Fall 2025

**International Convention
June 25-27, 2026
Manila, Philippines**



WHAT TO PLAN FOR IN 2026



**Mid-Winter & CKI DCON
February 6-7, 2026
Hood River, Oregon**



**District Convention
September 9-12, 2026
Ferndale, Washington**

inside the builder | Fall

The **KiwanisBuilder** magazine is produced quarterly by the Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis International.

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<https://k22.site.kiwanis.org/builder-magazine/>

Schedule - (Submission by...)

Winter	January 1	(by Dec 1)
Spring	April 1	(by Mar 1)
Summer	July	(by June 1)
Fall	October 1	(by Sept 1)

www.pnwkiwanis.org

KiwanisBuilder magazine

John Flaherty
Governor
2025-2026

Pacific Northwest District
of Kiwanis International

Submissions to the Editor
publications@pnwkiwanis.org

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"Happiness comes from
WHAT we do.

Fulfillment comes from
WHY we do it."

— Simon Sinek

Cover photo courtesy of Kiwanis International

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

It is the Kiwanis New Year and Fall is a time of transition and change, not only for nature, but for our Kiwanis organization as well.

For many years, Melanie Bozak guided this very publication as editor of The Builder, shaping how we celebrate service and share our stories across the Pacific Northwest District.

As we turn the page to a new Kiwanis administrative year, may we carry forward Melanie's spirit of service, her gift for connection, and her joy in telling the Kiwanis story. The best way to honor her is to keep building, together, for the children and communities who need us most. We remember Melanie with our story on page 7.

Youth Protection Education is a very import issue for Kiwanians and we have resources to help you and your clubs located on pages 17-19.

Please stay motivated in your service. Don't miss the finding your "why" article on page 6.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, please send us your club activities and updates to share.

David Pearson, Builder Magazine Editor 2025-2026 - dsec@pnwkiwanis.org

A message from 2025-2026 Governor John Flaherty

Aah – it's October again!



Time for renewal. Time for a fresh start.

October marks the beginning of a new Kiwanis year, and for me, it's also a personal milestone: my 45th year as a Kiwanian. That's right, I joined in 1981, and I'm just as excited and energized today as I was back then.

There's something truly invigorating about this season. With new officers stepping into their roles and clubs launching into fresh goals and service plans, it's a chance to tap into new energy, spark new ideas, and recommit ourselves to the heart of what we do: serving the children and families in our communities.

It's also a time to reconnect with longtime friends and fellow members, and to extend a hand to new ones just joining our mission.

One of our greatest strengths as a Kiwanis family is our network. Let's make the most of it! I encourage you to partner with your Service Leadership Programs and seek opportunities to collaborate with other nonprofits, schools, and civic organizations. Together, we can improve the livability of our communities in ways that no one group could do alone.

Thank you for all you do—and for all you will do in the year ahead. I'm looking forward to visiting with each of you during this 2025–2026 Kiwanis year!

In Service and Friendship,
John Flaherty, Governor 2025-2026
johnwflaherty@gmail.com



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HOST FOR THE 2026 PNW DISTRICT CONVENTION!



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CASINO RESORT

Kiwanis

Pacific Northwest

John Flaherty, Governor 2025-2026

"Growing Together Into The Future"



Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis

2025-2026 Goals

“Growing Together Into The Future”

Kiwanis Family-Centered

- Promote an understanding of the relationships among the various groups of the Kiwanis Family.
- Develop/foster effective means of communication between the family entities.
- Utilize the strengths of each group to support the needs/projects of K-Family Members.
- Foster an environment, (between the family members), of trust and cooperation to insure the best possible outcomes with community service project endeavors.

Service-Driven

- Perform annual reviews of current club projects to evaluate their effectiveness.
- Perform “Community Surveys – Needs Assessments, to stay current with the problem area(s) of your specific community.
- Work Collaboratively with schools, non-profits, other service organizations and government social service agencies to enhance the effectiveness of your projects.
- Investigate and Evaluate (annually) the prospect of carrying out joint projects with the other clubs in your Division/District/KI.
- Promote the “Kiwanis Children’s Fund” with your club members.

Membership-Focused

- The focus of club leadership needs to center on supporting the activities of your current club members.
- Every club needs to have an active “Membership Team” that supports the proposition that “more members means more service”.
- Club members and leaders will find support for increasing their club membership and effectiveness through their utilization of the Membership Team and materials that are offered from the PNW District and Kiwanis International.
- Perform annual club surveys of current and former club members to recognize and understand what can be done to better support our members.
- Be conscious of promoting Kiwanis through the wearing of Kiwanis-branded clothing or Kiwanis pins.

Leadership Education-Oriented

- Promote Kiwanis education at the club level, (history/goals/objects).
- Promote CLE (Club Leadership Education) courses to your club and Division leaders
- Promote/Sponsor a Kiwanian that has a desire to advance thru the ranks at the Club, Division, or District level.
- Ensure that all club members, associated with our SLP programs, are current with their requirements including background checks.

FINDING YOUR *Why* in KIWANIS

Rediscovering Purpose, Reigniting Passion

We all have a reason we joined Kiwanis.

For some, it was an invitation from a friend. For others, a desire to serve, to connect, or to make a difference in the life of a child. But as the years go by, routines set in. Projects come and go. Meetings blur together. And sometimes, our “why” gets buried beneath the busyness.

That’s why it’s important—vital, even—to pause and ask: Why am I here? Why do I keep showing up?

The Power of Purpose

Your “why” is your internal compass. It keeps you grounded during hard seasons and helps you see the bigger picture when the to-do list feels long. It turns service from an obligation into a calling.

When clubs focus on their “why,” they don’t just survive—they thrive. Meetings feel more meaningful. Projects connect more deeply with the community. New members can feel the energy and purpose in the room.

How to Find (or Reclaim) Your Why

Here are a few ways to reflect on your Kiwanis journey:

1. ***Think Back to the Beginning*** - What drew you to Kiwanis in the first place? Was it a project that moved you? A person who inspired you? That first “aha” moment matters—it still holds value today.
2. ***Celebrate a Moment That Mattered*** - Was there a time when Kiwanis made you feel like you truly made a difference? Maybe it was packing backpacks, hearing a thank-you from a student, or working late at a fundraiser and laughing with club friends. Those moments are your why.
3. ***Ask: What Would My Community Lose Without Us?*** - Kiwanis doesn’t exist for its own sake. It exists to serve. What would be missing in your town if your club disappeared tomorrow? What needs would go unmet? What kids would miss out?

Try This at Your Next Club Meeting

Kick off your next meeting by asking members to share their “why” in one sentence. Keep it light and personal. You might be surprised how meaningful—and energizing—it is to hear the stories that brought people to the table.

You could also try a short activity:

- Each member writes their “why” on a notecard.
- Post them anonymously on a wall or table.
- Read a few out loud and let others guess whose is whose!

Reconnecting With Purpose

Whether you’ve been a member for 30 years or 30 days, your why matters. It shapes how you lead, how you serve, and how you inspire others to join in.

So take a breath. Reflect. And remember: your presence in Kiwanis is part of something much bigger—a movement to make our communities better, one child and one act of service at a time.

Remembering *MELANIE BOZAK*

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our dear friend and fellow Kiwanian, Melanie Bozak of the Port Townsend Kiwanis Club. Melanie died recently after a long and courageous struggle with cancer.



Melanie's impact on Kiwanis was felt far beyond Port Townsend. She served with distinction as a Governor of the Pacific Northwest District, providing strong, compassionate leadership and inspiring members across our region. Her dedication and vision left an enduring mark on our clubs, projects, and communities.

Her many honors reflect her legacy of service. Melanie was the recipient of the Governor's Cup, the Jack Delf Award, the Lee Price Award, and most recently, the Foundation's **Melanie Bozak Women in Kiwanis Award**, each a testament to her outstanding contributions and her ability to lead with both heart and determination.

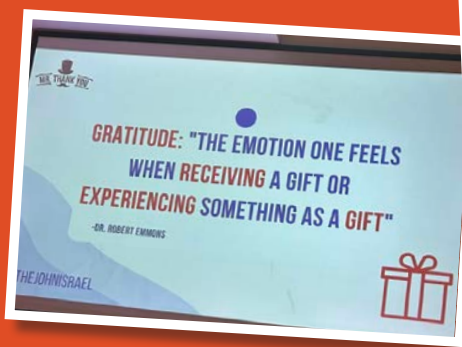
Closer to home, Melanie was a dedicated member of the Port Townsend Club. She poured her energy into service projects, youth programs, and community partnerships, while also nurturing members with her kindness, wisdom, and encouragement. Even in the midst of her illness, Melanie demonstrated courage and grace, reminding us of all what true servant leadership looks like.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and to all who were touched by her friendship. Her legacy of service, leadership, and love for Kiwanis will continue to inspire us for years to come.

We invite all who knew her to join us in remembering and celebrating this remarkable Kiwanian. ***Please hold Saturday, November 22, 2025, for a Celebration of Life honoring Melanie Bozak.***

The family is anticipating an afternoon gathering in Port Townsend. Location and final details yet to be confirmed.

PNW DCON 2025 IN GRAND RONDE



2025 DCON RECAP

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO IN GRAND RONDE, OREGON

What a weekend!

Our 2025 District Convention at Spirit Mountain Casino brought together over 240 Kiwanians from across the Pacific Northwest for three days filled with connection, inspiration, and action. With the beautiful Oregon Coast Range as our backdrop, we celebrated the service year, welcomed new leaders, and leaned into new ways to grow our impact.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

Opening Session

Governor Vicki Frucci opened our 108th District Convention with heartfelt reflections and a powerful call to service. Incoming Kiwanis International Vice President Cathy Szymanski joined us with inspiring remarks that set the tone for the weekend.

Youth Leadership Spotlight

Key Club Governor Gavin Ahumada energized the room with a message that celebrated 100 years of Key Club and the bright future of youth leadership across our district.

Workshops & Panels

From growing club membership to using digital tools for operations, our education sessions were filled with practical strategies and engaging conversations. Regionally-led panels brought fresh ideas and honest dialogue about what's working and what's next.

Recognition & Celebration

We honored outstanding clubs and individuals, including Distinguished Clubs and Kiwanians of the Year. Special congratulations to Don Gibbard, this year's recipient of the Governor's Cup, presented by Immediate Past Governor Nicholas Hafez.

Keynote Inspiration

John Israel, aka Mr. Thank You, reminded us that small acts of gratitude can have a profound impact. His talk on the power of a handwritten thank-you note left a lasting impression.

Fellowship & Fun

From shared meals to hallway conversations and evening socials, the spirit of Kiwanis shined in every corner of the convention center.

BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

The House of Delegates conducted the election of incoming district officers.

We welcomed Don Gibbard of the Walla Walla Kiwanis Club as the 2025–2026 Governor-Elect.

Governor-Designate John Flaherty shared his vision for the upcoming year—centered on purposeful service, bold thinking, and renewed energy.

We celebrated outgoing leaders and welcomed new voices ready to serve.

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks to every volunteer, presenter, and member of our host team who helped make DCON 2025 a success. And to every Kiwanian who made the trip to Spirit Mountain: thank you for showing up with your passion, ideas, and service-driven hearts. You are what makes this district strong.

SEE YOU IN 2026!

Mark your calendars now...

DCON 2026 will be held in Ferndale, Washington | September 9–12, 2026

We hope to see you there!

From the Dugout...

2024-25 Season

This has been a great season, with many outstanding teams throughout our Pacific Northwest District. I am so proud of all the teams throughout our District for the impact they have had on the lives of others everywhere they played.

Of course, it doesn't just happen. We underwent extensive preparation and training to stay on top of our game. We've had numerous training sessions to keep our games sharp and exciting, and we've played in several great venues this past year, serving others throughout the season. There have been so many great things done this year.

Some of our events, such as Mid-Winter, focused on our incoming Lt. Governors in the training facility in Hood River, Oregon. Along with the Speakers and Education sessions, that was a Home Run for sure. Our team at the event also made a significant impact on the local community while we were there. They delivered a large quantity of clothes and various items to the Local Key Club and Kiwanis Club from The Dalles, which they could take to support those in need within their community. Our TEAMS are always willing to make a difference in the lives of others wherever they are. Thank you to everyone for their help with Mike Frucci's First Gent's project.

We had a lot of great projects and games led by our leaders and officers serving throughout the PNW as well. Many of our teams have been making a significant impact on their communities. It was fulfilling for me to see the type of effort and care that our members extended throughout this great organization.

I'm pleased to report that the survey results for our District Convention were also very well received, yielding very positive results. It takes a lot of organization and cooperation with our convention team and others to make that event happen each year. I'm excited to see all the training and work that came together and the appreciation of the "Fans".

We have a lot of players and TEAMS. In games, you count on having a few big hitters to cover others that are having an off night. That's all about TEAMS and why we have training facilities, trainers, coaches, and batting cages. No matter how good something or someone is... You can always make improvements. That's what we will be looking for in the next year throughout our District.

It has been a great season, and I have been honored to serve you all. I have handed over the "Dugout" and all our TEAMS' secret signs for the runners to our new Governor, John Flaherty.

By the way.... I do love Hot Dogs, but I must admit...
I am looking forward to a "Zag" menu.

Through Service

Vicki Frucci
Immediate Past Governor
mvm101@comcast.net



Irreplaceable Kiwanians

I am going to steal the phrase that John Isreal (Mr. Thank You) used in his presentation to us at DCON.

“When you think of something that is irreplaceable, you think of something so unique, so valuable, that nothing else can quite take its place.” That’s exactly what each of you are as Kiwanians.

An irreplaceable Kiwanian is not defined by titles, length of service, or how many projects they’ve been part of. Instead, they are defined by the heart they bring to serving others—the compassion, the consistency, and the spirit of joy in lifting someone else’s burden.

Each of you brings gifts and experiences that no one else can replicate. You bring your laughter, your ideas, your hands to serve, and your willingness to show up when others might not. In a world that often celebrates the “big and flashy,” our communities are transformed by the quiet, faithful acts of irreplaceable Kiwanians.

Remember this: you don’t just fill a seat in a meeting or check a box of service hours. You are the light in someone’s darkness. You are the reason a child smiles, the reason a community grows stronger, and the reason hope continues.

So today, I encourage you to recognize the value you carry. You are not just a Kiwanian—you are an irreplaceable Kiwanian. And together, we are building something that will outlast us all: a legacy of service, love, and hope.

Each of you are here with unique gifts to serve. Let us remember that we are each irreplaceable in our unique design and in the mission of Kiwanis. May we continue to serve with joy, compassion, and love.

Lt. Governor Mike Boisture



Honor a Kiwanis member, club officer, district leader, or club by purchasing a brick that will be placed in the patio area at the District Office.

They are available in two sizes and can be ordered using the form here:

<https://k22.site.kiwanis.org/legacy-patio-at-the-district-office/>

A message from 2025-2026 Governor-Elect Don Gibbard

Keys to the Future



At the beginning of this service year, there were 17 orphan Key Clubs in our district. Starting this new service year beginning October 1, 2026 it looks like we will have 21 orphaned Key Clubs and several more potential throughout the year. What does this really mean? It means that there are fewer Kiwanis Clubs providing guidance and direction. It means there are fewer support dollars for the work Key Club does in their schools and community. It means there is less interaction between our Key Club members and our Kiwanis Family.

The most common cause for an orphaned Key Club is the loss of the local Kiwanis Club. Too often we forget the impact closing a Kiwanis Club has on the community. It is not just the membership that is affected. Think about the projects and service your club has provided. Consider also the years of service your club has given to the community. All that goes away when you decide to discontinue your service.

As Kiwanians, we strive to “Serve the Children of the World.” That includes our Key Clubs and other SLP’s. Without a Kiwanis sponsor, our Key Clubs lose the community connection and experience of adult leaders. They struggle to finance their projects and the leadership experience they gain from attending your Kiwanis meetings and District Conventions.

As we move forward, I want to challenge all of us to begin thinking about solutions for continued support of Key Club as a whole and more specifically, about alternative support for orphaned Key Clubs. I am looking for ideas to provide financial support and mentoring of our young leaders. I am looking for ways to strengthen our local clubs, so we don’t leave our kids out on a limb.

In future articles, I will share ideas I glean from you and other sources. If you would like to be part of the discussion (and I mean part of the solution) you can contact me directly at governor2027@kiwanispnw.org or use the Executive Officers contact page at <https://k22.site.kiwanis.org/executive-officers/>.

Yours in Service,

Don Gibbard, Governor-Elect 2025-2026



CLUB SERVICE SHOWCASE

West Valley Kiwanis Supports Local 4H and FFA

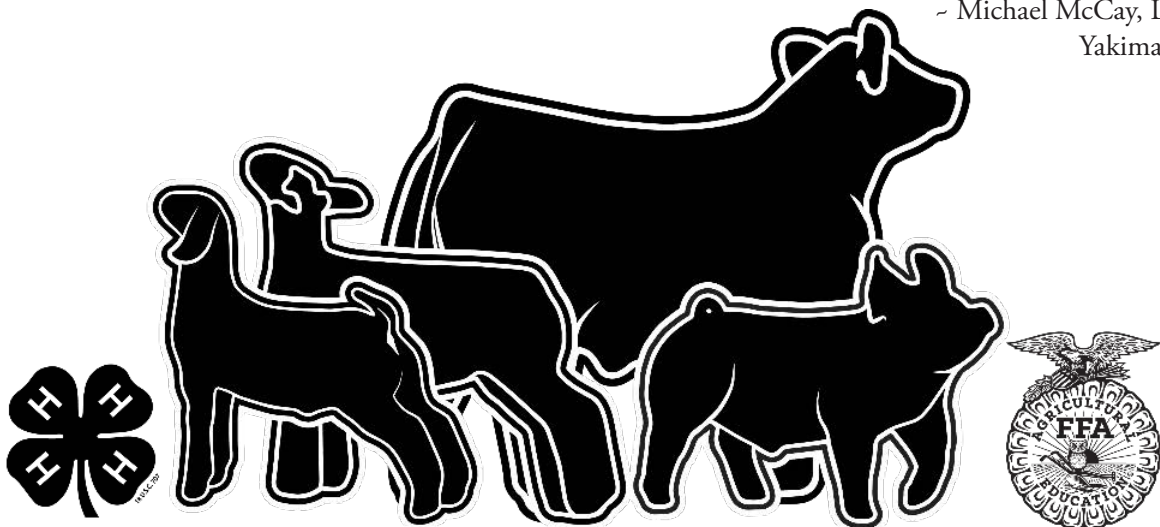
For 70 years in the Yakima Valley, the community of West Valley has supported a local 4-H and FFA fair to give the youth of the community an outlet to “showcase” their skills with their animals, home economics and agricultural exhibits. While it has had its “up and down” years, (especially with the Covid difficulties); for 68 of those years, the one constant that has always been counted on is that the Kiwanis Club of West Valley would be in their concessions building serving breakfast, lunch and early dinner to the exhibitors, and everyone else in attendance.



This is a 3-day labor intensive service project requiring at least 10 people at all times, working in shifts, for over 300 hours, including planning sessions. This picture fully embraces Governor Vicki’s theme for this year, TEAM’S (Together Everyone Accomplishes More Service). It captures a member of Key Club, the wife of a club member, the current Lt. Governor from a neighboring club, and a West Valley club member fulfilling their individual duties for another successful day of feeding the fair goers.

The fair board receives 100% of the funds raised, which for this year’s event equates to over \$6500. These funds are then used in support of the fair’s activities and awards; all for the kids.

– Michael McCay, Lt. Governor
Yakima River Basin



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

HAPPY PNW KIWANIS NEW YEAR!

The turning of the calendar gives us a chance to pause, reflect, and look ahead. It's a season to celebrate our members, our clubs' achievements, the impact of our service, and the friendships that bind us together. It's also the perfect time to ask: What's next?

Facing Challenges, Finding Solutions

Let's be honest—this isn't always a cakewalk. Many clubs are asking tough questions:

- *How can we do more when membership has declined in recent years?*
- *How can we do more as we grow older and can't serve at the same pace we once did?*

These are real concerns. But they're also opportunities. Because the truth is simple: **membership growth means more hands for service.** And with community needs rising, every PNW club has the chance to improve the lives of more children.

Six Pathways to Growth

No matter your club's size or circumstances, there's a growth strategy that can work for you. Here are six proven options:

- **Two for Two** – Each month, two members meet with two prospects.
- **Club Boost** – Partner with district team to meet prospects in their workplaces.
- **Guest Day** – Host a special event where guests hear your club's story.
- **Open House** – Invite prospects to a project, fundraiser, or service day.
- **ReMember** – Reach out to former members who may be ready to return.
- **Club Competition** – Form teams to see who can welcome the most new members.

Your PNW Membership Team can help plan and execute any of these strategies. Let's talk about which approach best fits your club's goals—call me to get started.

Stronger Together

Maybe your club isn't struggling with membership. Even better! Strong clubs are in the perfect position to grow, extend their reach, and serve at an even higher level.

And here's one last thought: is there a nearby community that could benefit from the values, service, and impact that a new Kiwanis club could bring? If so, I'd love to hear from you.

Your Partners in Growth

Your PNW Membership Team is ready to share ideas, provide support, and help your club achieve its goals. Together, we can make this a year of growth, service, and impact.

Greg Wegrich
Membership Chair, 2025–2026
greg.wegrich@gmail.com
(360) 441-7082

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

2025-26 NEW CLUB

OPENING & COACHING TRAINING PROGRAM

Click the registration link for any training you wish to attend.

Presentations will be recorded and posted on [Membership Leaders Facebook page](#).

October 2025

Club Opening – Monday, October 13 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – <https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/XNtXRp0nS5-sBvAxmqrQ>

New Club Coaching – Tuesday, October 14 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – <https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/y8qsB0ZwRISKb3INmKp6vw>

December 2025

Club Opening – Monday, December 8 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/o0W1mDKESJO0KV_UWijnEQ

New Club Coaching – Tuesday, December 9 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – <https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/PTWPETfRRYmQTmKOZ7TsTw>

February 2026

Club Opening – Monday, February 9 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/9pjzlg3RTMKDil8bT_wrhQ

Club Coaching – Tuesday, February 10 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – <https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/fciWSUYWQTSvsz5xoqQsHw>

April 2026

New Club Opening – Monday, April 13 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/m5w1poWnQEe_eRygA6wO1w

Club Coaching – Tuesday, April 14 at 8 p.m. Eastern

Register – <https://kiwanis-org.zoom.us/j/85921616289?pwd=uOIYN5ifn3yF5McRXJblopy0xwrPEp.1>

Membership online resources

kiwanis.org/membership

kiwanis.org/club-opening

kiwanis.org/club-toolbox



Kiwanis®



KCCP - Research in Childhood Cancer Gives Us Hope!

Our very talented and brilliant physician/scientists at our 3 major children's hospitals in the Pacific Northwest (which are Seattle Children's Hospital, Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, and B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C.) continue to make major break throughs in childhood cancer through their research on new types of immunotherapy using AI and other advanced super computer technologies to create new, less invasive therapies and cures for children diagnosed with childhood cancer. Researchers will soon be able to predict which children are the most at risk for developing childhood cancer, what type of childhood cancer they are likely to have, and when and where the cancer will appear. Our physician/scientist researchers at our 3 major hospitals will eventually shift their research to prevention and early intervention for the children who are most at risk for having childhood cancer based on the information obtained from AI and super computers. In addition, clinical trials using immunotherapies that are a lot less toxic and less invasive than chemo and radiation continue to demonstrate success in saving the lives of children diagnosed with advanced childhood cancers.

Donations from your Kiwanis Club and Key Clubs as well as individual donations to our Kiwanis Children's Cancer Program (KCCP) are making a huge impact for our physician/scientists who are advancing the science and bringing about better therapies and cures for childhood cancer. This is especially important now that research funds for childhood cancer are becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain from our federal and local government health agencies.

Congratulations to our hardworking Kiwanis Clubs and Key Clubs in our PNW District that held fundraisers and made donations this past Kiwanis year to our 3 major hospitals in our KCCP community!

We welcome and appreciate your continued support of our PNW District's Kiwanis Children's Cancer Program (KCCP) at our 3 major children's hospitals so that our dedicated researchers can save the lives of even more children who, through no fault of their own, are diagnosed with these cruel and painful types of diseases that are known as childhood cancer.

We thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our big Kiwanis hearts!

We are also so thankful to Frank Morehouse for establishing Kiwanis Children's Cancer Program (KCCP) in the Pacific Northwest District.

By purchasing an exclusive Frank Morehouse commemorative medallion you will be honoring Frank's work and striking a blow against children's cancer.

The numbered medallions are \$500 each. Your donation can be directed to the KCCP Fellowship Program of your choice at one of our 3 partnering children's hospitals in our KCCP community.

Yours in Kiwanis service to children diagnosed with childhood cancer,

Carol Mahoney
PNW District Chair for KCCP
(360) 434-5932
carolmahoney12@yahoo.com



Youth Protection:

Training, Policies and Procedures, and Responsibility

As of October 1, 2025, everyone's Youth Protection training requirement becomes due for the new Kiwanis Year. Kiwanis dedicates the entire first week of October each year to Youth Protection Week. This serves as a reminder to take action. The sooner...the better. As of August 31, 2025, we still had over 70 clubs that had not completed the required training and/or followed through to mark it in the Secretary's dashboard. This is something we need to take more seriously by completing the training and then entering it into the records. Members have a responsibility to abide by Kiwanis International's Policies and Procedures to protect the youth, our organization, and our members.

Kiwanis International has made it very easy. Each club is responsible for completing its own Annual Youth Protection Training as soon as possible, each year. Let's see how quickly we can get it done this year.

See below for the resources made available to your club for conducting its own training, ensuring that all members have the opportunity to participate and complete it. There's also a list of Kiwanis International webinars, with dates noted that are helpful as well.

Visit the Kiwanis Youth Protection Week webpage where you'll find links to all of the training and resources: <https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/youth-protection/>

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to email Bill Glenn, our PNW Risk Manager at mrradiodad@aol.com, or Vicki Frucci, Immediate Past Governor at mvm101@comcast.net.



YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

UPDATED OCTOBER 2022

These policies can be found in Kiwanis International Policies and Procedures as **Procedure 432**.

All adults working with youth under the age of 18 at any Kiwanis event are required to read/understand, agree to and abide by these policies.

EDUCATION: Every Kiwanis club is expected to inform and educate its members on these policies, best practices and required actions for individuals who become aware of youth in potentially harmful situations. This education must occur annually, including providing a copy of these policies to each club member. Every Kiwanis district is expected to provide an educational forum or workshop at every district-produced convention and conference regarding policies and best practices for adults working with youth, using materials provided by Kiwanis International.

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS: Kiwanis International requires clubs to have a clear criminal history background check for any club member serving as an advisor to any Service Leadership Programs club. The check must be conducted and verified by Kiwanis International. Any person without a clear criminal history background check may not serve as the advisor. Approved background checks shall be valid for no more than two years. Kiwanis advisors shall acquire a new criminal history background check upon their initial appointment to the position.

CHAPERONE: A chaperone is defined as a Kiwanis member, faculty member, parent, legal guardian or person who is in loco parentis, twenty-one (21) years of age or older, who has been approved by the school or agency and registered with the school or agency to accompany the youth members at the specific event. All chaperones (club members and non-members) participating in any single-day or overnight Service Leadership Programs event must have a clear criminal history background check and must have completed Kiwanis International youth protection training. Additionally, chaperones must follow all applicable policies and procedures.

CHAPERONES FOR OVERNIGHT EVENTS: A minimum of one adult per 10 students must be serving as chaperones during the entirety of an overnight event.

CHAPERONES FOR SINGLE-DAY EVENTS: A minimum of one adult per 50 students must be serving as chaperones during the entirety of a single-day event.

OVERNIGHT EVENTS: All adults (club members and non-members) registered for or staying overnight at any Service Leadership Programs event must have a clear criminal history background check and must have completed Kiwanis International annual youth protection training. However, parents/guardians of participating students who are not chaperones may attend the event for a maximum of one overnight stay without a criminal history background check.

OVERNIGHT STAYS: While attending a Kiwanis event that requires an overnight stay in a hotel or camp/ conference setting, adequate adult chaperoning is expected and must include no fewer than one adult male for each ten or part of ten youth males, and one adult female for each ten or part of ten youth females. Except for a parent sharing a sleeping room or other sleeping quarters (e.g., a tent) with his/her own child, no adult should share a hotel or dormitory sleeping room or other sleeping quarters with a youth. In the event that sleeping quarters consist of multiple beds (such as in a bunkhouse or camp cabin), adults may share the sleeping quarters with youth members of the same gender, provided that two or more adults are present.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS FOR SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: Kiwanis International requires all SLP district administrators to complete an application process, which includes submission of a completed application, having a clear background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International, completion of Kiwanis International youth protection training and any other elements that may be required by Kiwanis International. After receipt of an individual's application and verification of all required elements, Kiwanis International will review the information and decide, in



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its sole and absolute discretion, whether the individual is accepted to become an SLP district administrator. Kiwanis has no obligation to allow an individual to become an SLP district administrator based solely on a “clear” background check. Denial may be appealed via the process outlined in Procedure 197.

ANNUAL MEETING WITH KEY CLUB AND CKI

ADMINISTRATORS: Each Key Club district administrator and CKI district administrator shall hold an annual meeting, either in person or virtually, with Kiwanis International staff and the district Youth Protection manager to discuss respective Key Club and CKI district events and activities and the status of the respective district Key Club and CKI programs.

TRANSPORTATION: When transporting youth, the best practice is the “rule of threes,” with at least three people in the vehicle at all times, along with documented approval from a parent or guardian for the transportation arrangements. When both of these conditions cannot be met, one of them should be. All transportation decisions should be made in accordance with local laws and school policies.

USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA AND OTHER SUBSTANCES: While attending any Kiwanis event that is produced primarily by or for the benefit of youth, adults are expected to refrain from using or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and/or marijuana products, even if prescribed for medicinal use. In addition, the use and/or possession of illegal drugs or the improper/illegal use of legal drugs is prohibited.

MEDICATIONS: The possession of prescription and non-prescription medications by youth at a Kiwanis event should be permitted only by the written permission of the parent/guardian.

REPORTING: If a Kiwanian observes troubling behavior involving a youth at a Kiwanis event or becomes aware of a situation that is illegal or potentially unsafe for a young person at a Kiwanis event, they must immediately contact the appropriate personnel at the event, as well as provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate. All local, state, provisional and federal laws regarding reporting must be followed. If the Kiwanian becomes aware of the troubling behavior after the event, they must contact leaders of the event and provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate. Kiwanis

International now offers a 24-hour, confidential helpline at 1-866-607-SAFE. The helpline can be used if you think a youth has been harmed or their safety and well-being are at risk.

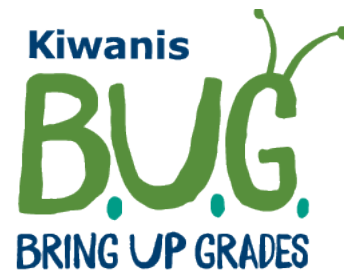
PERSONAL INFORMATION: All documents bearing personal information of any youth attending a Kiwanis event, including registration forms, medical information forms, permission to treat forms, etc., should be treated as confidential. Processes that protect this information must be created, including minimizing the number of people who have access to any such documents. The documents shall be maintained a minimum of three years or longer, as may be required by applicable state/provincial laws and regulations. After the maintenance period has expired, the documents shall be destroyed in a way that maintains confidentiality, such as shredding. The disposal and destruction of all confidential information shall conform to applicable state/provincial laws and regulations.

YOUTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA: For any social networking site that involves requesting a connection (such as inviting someone to be a friend on Facebook), adults should never initiate such connections with youth. If a youth requests such a connection from a Kiwanian, the Kiwanian should use their best judgment in responding. Adults should treat their interaction with youth on social networking sites as though the interaction were occurring in public, in front of other adults and young people. In other words, if it would not be appropriate to say something to a young person in public, it should not be said as a comment on a social networking site, either. Kiwanians should refrain from interactions that can be seen as excessive (such as constantly “liking” or commenting on a person’s posts on Facebook). Prior to posting any media online, such as photographs, obtain permission from all individuals (or parents, for minors) who appear in that media; it could be illegal to do otherwise. See Kiwanis International Policy B for complete social media guidelines.

BEHAVIORAL OR HEALTH ISSUES: Kiwanians are often seen by a young person as adults to trust with personal and/or sensitive information. Kiwanians should refrain from counseling youth and should instead find, or assist the young person in finding, appropriate expert assistance.

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER RULES: Whenever these policies conflict with local school policies or rules, or local, state/ provincial or national laws or regulations, the highest applicable standards for conduct shall prevail.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS



PNW K-KIDS UPDATE

B.U.G. is an acronym for Bring Up Grades and is a terrific way to get elementary kids to recognize something achieved through extra effort. Giving these youngsters a goal, then rewarding them for achieving that goal, gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment. As one of the Kiwanis non-chartered programs to develop our leaders of tomorrow, B.U.G. is simple to implement and simple to reward. It is a program that is actually tracked through a task that the teacher or facilitator is already performing, tracking grades. It actually helps the teacher to achieve the goals of their job. In the Kiwanis world, that is referred to as a “Win-Win”.

Kit items include:

- Student/Parent Pack
- Teacher/Facilitator Guides
- Sponsor Guide
- Buttons, Sticker Rolls, Certificates, Folders, and Bumper Stickers.

Kits include enough materials for 30 students.

For more information or to start a club, go to <https://www.kiwaniskids.org>.



SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

PNW KEY CLUB UPDATE

Greetings, PNW Kiwanians

In July, several Pacific Northwest Key Clubbers represented our district at the 2025 Key Club International Convention. From July 2 to July 6, each PNW Key Clubber experienced a tightly-packed agenda. We had the opportunity to network with Key Clubbers from around the world, learn from compelling workshop presenters, elect the next International Board, and much more! As part of the District Tour, we also enjoyed the magical Disney World Parks for a full day of fun.

Aside from these exciting activities, ICON was a time of celebration! During the Recognition Ceremony, several Pacific Northwest District Officers were recognized for their inspiring achievements:

- Isabella Baldisseri: 2024-2025 Distinguished District Governor
- Jeffrey Basilio: 2024-2025 Distinguished District Treasurer
- Tessa Hill: 2024-2025 Distinguished District Editor
- Addison Wooster: 2024-2025 Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lieutenant Governor
- Kyly Diep: 2024-2025 Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lieutenant Governor
- Gavin Ahumada: 2024-2025 Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lieutenant Governor
- Olympic High School: 2024-2025 Distinguished Club
- Sherwood High School: 2024-2025 3rd Place Club Promotional Video

These awards are a testament to the professionalism, dedication, and passion nurtured within the Pacific Northwest District. One additional achievement demonstrates these qualities in an even more spectacular manner, however. After months of preparation, networking, and campaigning, IP PNW District Governor Isabella Baldisseri was elected as the 2025-2026 Key Club International President! We look forward to her incredible leadership and accomplishments, and we know that she will move this organization into a new era.

If you missed your opportunity to attend ICON 2025, I strongly encourage you to consider attending ICON 2026 in **Dallas, Texas from July 1-5, 2026**. Registration for ICON 2026 will come with opportunities to network, learn, bond, and create cherished memories. I hope to see you at ICON 2026!

[Click here to view pictures from our ICON journey!](#)

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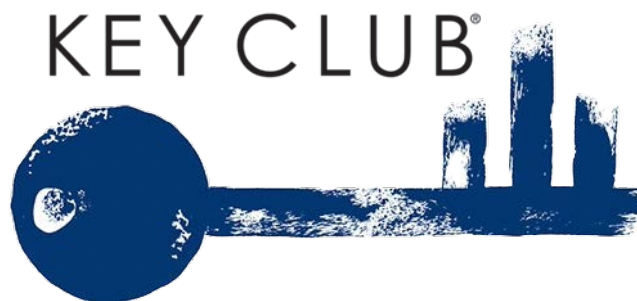
In Care and Service,

Gavin Ahumada

District Governor

Pacific Northwest District Key Club International

governor@pnwkeyclub.org



CLUB SERVICE SHOWCASE



START PLANNING NOW

The Kiwanis International **Signature Project Contest** opens for submissions on **January 6, 2026!** Connect with your fellow members and start planning how to make your club's signature project stand out from the crowd.

Past participants have shared that the contest increased club pride, grew club membership and enhanced club awareness in their communities. Shine a spotlight on your club by participating in the Signature Project Contest, too!

Remember, a signature project must:

- Be recurring.
- Enhance the Kiwanis image.
- Demonstrate significant impact on the community in terms of money raised and/or children served.
- Strengthen membership and partnership opportunities.

If you're looking for some inspiration, browse the contest's **Hall of Fame** here:
<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/service-projects/hall-of-fame/>

Ready to get started? Let's do this!

<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/service-projects/signature-contest/>

Important Dates for 2026

2025-2026 Mid-Winter Conference	Best Western Plus Inn Hood River, Oregon	February 6-7, 2026
65th Circle K District Convention	Best Western Plus Inn Hood River, Oregon	February 6-7, 2026
Key Club Winter Board	Marriot Portland Downtown Waterfront Portland, Oregon	February 20-22, 2026
76th Key Club District Convention	Marriot Portland Downtown Waterfront Portland, Oregon	March 6-8, 2026
2026-27 Lt. Governor Training	TBA	2026
111th Kiwanis International Convention	Manila, Philippines	June 24-27, 2026
109th PNW District Convention	Silver Reef Casino Resort Ferndale, Washington	September 9-12, 2026

SKARAMBLE solution...don't peak. Puzzle is on the back cover.

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KIWANIS SKRAMBLE

Fall Into Service!

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Solution on page 23.