

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Kiwanis **builder**

A quarterly resource to help build clubs and communities

Hands On Impact



**“DCON in
Ferndale, WA”
See Page 6**



Summer 2026

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

Submissions Guide and the Consent & Release Form can be found online at:
<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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inside the builder | Summer

- 2 Events in 2026
- 3 Builder Editor's Message
- 4 Governor's Message
- 5 SLP Updates - Aktion Club
- 6 DCON Schedule At A Glance
- 7 Outreach Auction at DCON
- 8 Featured Speakers at DCON
- 11 Governor-Elect Candidates
- 12 Fundraiser Cruise
- 14 Membership
- 15 Club Service Showcase
- 16 Past Lt. Governors
- 18 Club Service Showcase
- 20 Legacy Brick
- 21 Kiwanis Children's Fund
- 22 Kiwanis SIGN
- BC New Kiwanians in the PNW

Cover photo courtesy of
David Cowan.

100th Year Portrait



"Genius is in the idea. Impact, however, comes from action."
— Simon Sinek

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Summer is here, and across our district, that means one thing...service in action. From community events to hands-on projects, this is a season where Kiwanis truly shines. If your club is out making a difference, we would love to see it. Please send along your photos, as we would be honored to feature your work in an upcoming issue of The Builder.

It's also the perfect time to look ahead to one of the highlights of our Kiwanis year - our District Convention. There has never been a better time to attend your first conference. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers, engaging sessions, and opportunities to connect with fellow Kiwanians from across the Pacific Northwest.

Whether you're a longtime member or new to Kiwanis, DCON offers something for everyone, and it's an experience you won't want to miss.

Wishing you all the best for a safe, active, and impactful summer. I hope to see many of you at the District Convention!

David Pearson

Builder Magazine Editor 2025-2026 - dsec@pnwkiwanis.org

A message from 2025-2026 Governor John Flaherty

Hands-On Service: The Heart of Kiwanis



Summer is when Kiwanis is at its best.

All across our district, you're out there doing the work; showing up, lending a hand, and making a difference where it counts. That kind of hands-on service is what Kiwanis has always been about.

I've said it before, and I believe it: everything we do matters. Every project, every hour, every conversation. When people see Kiwanis in action, they understand what we're about, and that's how we grow. Not with talk, but with service.

So keep doing what you're doing. Invite someone along. Let them see it for themselves.

I'm also looking forward to seeing many of you at our District Convention in Ferndale, Washington in September.

We've got a strong program lined up, and it's always a good time to reconnect, share ideas, and see the bigger picture of what we're doing together.

You will also be able to participate in the First Lady's Project about buddy benches.

I hope you'll be there.

Thank you for the work you do, it makes a difference.

Yours in service,

John Flaherty, Governor 2025-2026
johnwflaherty@gmail.com



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AKTION CLUB UPDATE

There are many reasons that supporting an Aktion Club in your area can make a difference.

A difference in the life of your Kiwanis club, a difference in the life of the Aktion club participants and a difference in your community.

I want to write about an Aktion Club member who recently passed away and how being a member of Aktion Club impacted his life and of the Kiwanians he met along the way.

Paul “Bear” Brantley was a member of the Green River Valley Aktion Club, at the time of his passing he was president, for the second time, he had also served as the club’s secretary and treasurer.

The Green River Aktion Club does a lot of service projects and Bear always participated in doing them including making Easter treats for the Senior Breakfast hosted by the Kent Kiwanis Club, making comfort kits, holiday cards for the elderly, comfort dolls (known as trauma dolls) along with being great at fundraising

Bear was very active in the Pacific Northwest District as an Aktion Club member. He attended the Mid-Winter Conference on a couple occasions. It was at the 2023 Mid-Winter conference that he met International President Bert West and the 2 became friends. Bert shared with Bear his love of fishing and Bear emulated his new friend by wearing a cowboy hat, showing that often the good guys do wear black hats.

Bear also attended our District Convention several times, always lending a helping hand where needed. He also presided over at least one event, enthusiastically ringing the bell.

Bear and his mother Sarah volunteered with Kent-AM Kiwanis Club doing the monthly park cleanup. With Bear’s passion for service, they both joined our club. Again, Bear was always there when help was needed. Park cleanup, 4th Thursday meal for the homeless, soup making and so much more.

Bear and Sarah were great ambassadors for Aktion Clubs, they joined me visiting other clubs, attending charter night, and speaking to lots of Kiwanians about why Aktion Clubs are so important.

He is greatly missed!

~rita ann Schwarting, PNW District Administrator Aktion



(Left) At District Convention 2025 in Grand Ronde, Oregon - Governor Nicolas Hafez honored Bear for his service, especially helping First Lady Maria Hafez with her First Lady’s projects. (Right) Bear, Governor Nicholas & Maria Hafez.

Schedule-At-A-Glance

109th Annual Convention in Ferndale, WA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Credentials & Registration	Lobby
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PNW Foundation Board Meeting	Chairmans Room
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	CLE Training	The Theater 1
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting	Directors Room
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting	Directors Room
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Lt. Governor Training (Class of 2026-2027)	The Theater 2
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch on Your Own	
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Board Meeting (2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Teams)	Event Center
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Credentials & Registration	Lobby
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	No-Host Bar	Event Center
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Celebration of Service & Lt. Governor Dinner (Teams Dinner - All are welcome, Ticketed Event) / Outreach Auction Opens	Event Center

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

12:00 PM	Exhibits Open & Delegate Credentials	Lobby
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast (Included in Registration, Doors Open 6:45 AM)	Event Center
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Opening Session (Mario Bruni International Board Member)	Event Center
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Mark Moder, Wild Bird Charity	
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Break	
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Levi Ware, President/Co-Founder, Melodic Caring Project	
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Paul Palazzolo, Executive Director, Kiwanis International	
11:45 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch (Included in Registration)	
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Breakout Sessions - Block 1 Sessions	Theater 1 & 2, Event Center
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Breakout Sessions - Block 2 Sessions	Theater 1 & 2, Event Center
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM	Breakout Sessions - Block 3 Sessions	Theater 1 & 2, Event Center
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM	Meet the Candidates for Governor-Elect	TBD
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Past Lt. Governors Association Board Meeting (Bigfoot)	Theater 1
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Bigfoot Happy Hour (Ticketed Event)	Cantina Restaurant
	Buddy Bench - First Ladies Project	Event Center
	Dinner on Your Own	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast (Included in Registration, Doors Open 6:45 AM)	
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Last Chance for Delegate Credentials	Lobby
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Exhibits Open	Lobby
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Awards Program	Event Center
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	CKI Board Meeting	Directors Room
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Break	
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	CKI Presentation & Key Club Presentation	Event Center
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Keynote Speaker Michael Brand	Event Center
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch (Included in Registration)	Event Center
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Delegate Session	Event Center
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Past Governors Meeting	Directors Room
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Outreach & Foundations Reception	Events
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Governor's Banquet	
	Outreach Auction Closes	

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

	Breakfast on Your Own	
10:00 AM	Special Additional Sunday Experience Join Gov. John Flaherty to visit Peace Arch Park, an international park that sits directly on the U.S.-Canada border between Blaine, WA, and Surrey, BC.	Peace Arch Park

Thank You & Safe Travels Home

Revised 6/9/2026

Bring A Basket or Auction Item To DCON To Support Outreach

Items highlighting your local area are wonderful!

The Outreach program is the signature project for the PNW Kiwanis Cascadia Internet Club.

Outreach supports leadership programs for the CKI Governor and Board officers to travel to Governor and administration training and leadership training in Indianapolis. Funds also support Key Club and CKI officer's expenses to Kiwanis District Conventions and Aktion Club members to attend conferences and conventions in certain instances.

We raise funds by having 2 silent auctions each year, one at Mid-Winter conference and the other at PNW District convention. Last year funds were dispersed to CKI, Key Club and Aktion clubs.

Beautiful Outreach medallions are sold for \$100 each. If interested stop by our booth or contact Steve Emhoff at steve@emhoffgroup.com or (509) 945-3944 to order your medallion.

This program would not be successful without the sales of medallions and donations of gift baskets, gift certificates, get aways and more. Thank you!



**OUTREACH FUND
FOR PNW DISTRICT
SERVICE LEADERSHIP PARTNERS**

WHAT DOES OUTREACH DO?
YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT OUR
SERVICE LEADERSHIP PARTNER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
FOR EVENTS SUCH AS DISTRICT CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS
AND OTHER SELECTED EXPENSES.

**DONATIONS TO THE FUND ARE IN \$100 INCREMENTS
WHICH CAN BE MADE BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR BY A CLUB
TO RECOGNIZE A MEMBER.**

**For purchase of Medallions and Pins throughout the year contact:
Steve Emhoff: steve@emhoffgroup.com**

This service project brought to you by Cascadia Internet Club
as an agent for the PNW Kiwanis Foundation.

Featured Speakers At DCON 2026



Michael Brand

Transformational Leader & Nonprofit Strategist

For a generation, Michael Brand has been carrying the message of transformation: that we can rethink the whole nature of our organization and create exciting new models that not only build a better world but also fulfill the hearts of members, donors, volunteers, and staff.



Mark Moder

Executive Director, Wild Bird Charity

Mark leads one of the most impactful hunger-relief efforts in the Northwest. Wild Bird now provides weekend food bags to nearly 1,400 children each week across 49 schools. His work is a powerful reminder of what local service can achieve when clubs and communities come together.



Paul Palazzolo

Executive Director, Kiwanis International

A lifelong Kiwanian, Paul brings decades of leadership and service to his role guiding Kiwanis worldwide. From Key Club member to International President, his journey reflects the very best of our organization. At District Convention, Paul will offer an exclusive look at his vision for what comes next, sharing how Kiwanis can grow its reach, strengthen its clubs, and harness the collective power of our members to make an even greater impact in communities around the world.



Mario Bruni

Kiwanis International Trustee – Canada & Caribbean Region

With more than four decades of Kiwanis service, Mario brings deep experience in membership growth, leadership, and district impact. A past governor and champion of initiatives like The Formula and Eye of the Tiger, Mario understands how to build strong, thriving clubs.



Levi & Stephanie Ware

Co-Founder, Melodic Caring Project

Levi Ware and his wife, Stephanie, co-founded the Melodic Caring Project, a Washington-based nonprofit that brings the power of music to children and families facing serious illness. By connecting patients with world-class musicians, Broadway performers, and a dedicated team of “Rockologists,” Levi’s work creates meaningful moments of joy, healing, and connection when they are needed most. Featuring artists such as Brandi Carlile, David Crosby, and Mumford & Sons, this inspiring work demonstrates the extraordinary impact of service through creativity.

Breakout Sessions

Kiwanis Children's Fund: Turning Service into Global Impact

Mike Frucci, PNW District Chair for the Kiwanis Children's Fund & Kylie Kaspar Howenstein, Development Officer

Learn how the Kiwanis Children's Fund helps turn the service of local clubs into meaningful impact for children around the world. This session will highlight how the Fund supports the Kiwanis causes through grants, partnerships, and programs; and how your club can be part of that broader impact.

Two New Tools for Membership Growth & Meaningful Member Engagement

Brad Boyd, Kiwanis International Area Director

Looking for practical ways to grow your club and keep members engaged? This session introduces two new, easy-to-use scorecard tools designed to help clubs assess their current health and take meaningful action. Participants will walk through real examples, learn what strong clubs are doing differently, and leave with clear, actionable steps they can bring back and implement right away.

Five Keys to Building a Thriving Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo

Join Kiwanis International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo as he shares five essential elements that successful clubs have in common. Drawing from experience across districts and around the world, Paul will highlight what's working, where clubs often struggle, and how to focus efforts for the greatest impact. This session offers both inspiration and clarity for leaders looking to strengthen their club's future.

Strengthening Your Club

Kiwanis International Trustee Mario Bruni

What makes a club truly thrive? International Trustee Mario Bruni brings his energy, experience, and insight to this engaging session focused on building stronger, more resilient clubs. Learn how to identify signs of a healthy club, address common challenges, and create momentum through leadership and culture. Whether your club is growing or looking to re-energize, this session will provide ideas you can put into action immediately.

Telling Your Story: Strengthening Club Visibility Through Public Relations

Dave Towne & Jonny King, PR Committee Chairs for 2026-2027

Effectively using Public Relations to promote your club's activities is important to "Spread the Kiwanis Word" at home. Two presenters will provide an overview of multiple media resources using traditional media combined with newer electronic social media platforms. Implement ideas and tools immediately. Learn how to increase visibility, engage your community and positively promote Kiwanis!

Key Club Leadership: Building the Next Generation of Service

Lawrence McConnell, 2026-2027 District Governor for the PNW Key Club

Hear from our Key Club Governor as they share insights into youth leadership, service, and the impact of Key Club across our district. This session will highlight how Key Club is developing the next generation of leaders, strengthening connections with Kiwanis clubs, and creating meaningful opportunities for service. Participants will gain a fresh perspective on engaging and supporting youth while building stronger partnerships within their communities.

Club Boost: "This Is How You Do It!"

Val Arbacauskas, PNW Membership Coach & Vicki Frucci, Past District Governor

EEGADS! Did you say your Club is aging out and willing to find out how to get some help? Does your Division have a need for a New Club to help your clubs serve the needs of your community? With this information, your club will be able to help make a difference in those 2 scenarios. Yes, this session is the one for you and we look forward to seeing you there.

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2026-2027

*Come learn more about our candidates, their vision,
and their plans to lead our district forward.*

MIKE FRUCCI

Spokane Valley Kiwanis Club



- ✓ Kiwanian for 25 Years
- ✓ Club President 2 Times
- ✓ Lt. Governor 2 Times
- ✓ Passionate about Service, Growth & Community Impact

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GREG CHRISTY

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- ✓ Kiwanian for 37 Years
- ✓ Club President 3 Times
- ✓ Lt. Governor in 2015-16
- ✓ Focused on Membership Growth, Service & Supporting KCCP

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**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026
3:00 – 3:45 PM**



**DISTRICT CONVENTION
(DCON)
FERDALE, WASHINGTON**



Meet the candidates,
ask questions, and
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Announcing the 2nd PNW Kiwanis Fundraiser Cruise

Join Us Aboard the Discovery Princess for an Unforgettable Journey!

Set Sail for Service: PNW Kiwanis Fundraiser Cruise 2027

We are excited to invite you to the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Kiwanis Fundraiser Cruise, an extraordinary voyage that combines adventure, relaxation, and the opportunity to make a difference! Set your sights on the sun-drenched Mexican Riviera and join fellow Kiwanians, family, and friends for a week of fun, fellowship, and fundraising aboard the luxurious Discovery Princess.

Cruise Details

- Dates: January 9–16, 2027
- Departure Port: Los Angeles, California
- Ship: Discovery Princess
- Destinations:
 - Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
 - Mazatlán, Mexico
 - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Why Join the Cruise?

- Support vital Kiwanis service projects and initiatives in the PNW region
- Network and connect with fellow Kiwanians and their families
- Enjoy exclusive onboard events, seminars, and social gatherings
- Experience the beauty, culture, and excitement of Mexico's top coastal destinations
- Relax in style with world-class amenities and entertainment aboard the Discovery Princess





How the Fundraiser Works

A portion of each cabin fare booked through our special group program will go directly to support PNW Kiwanis projects. The more participants we have, the greater the impact we can make together! Look for additional opportunities to contribute through onboard activities and events benefitting our mission.

How to Reserve Your Spot

1. Contact our official Kiwanis cruise coordinator, Cindy Crowther for details on pricing, cabin options, and booking instructions.
2. Book your cruise early to secure the best rates and your preferred accommodation.
3. Invite friends, family, and potential new Kiwanians to join the adventure!

Important Information

- All Kiwanians, their guests, and supporters are welcome.
- Passports are required for this itinerary.
- Additional details, including special group events and fundraising opportunities, will be shared as the departure date approaches.

Contact & Questions

For more information or to sign up, please reach out to the PNW Kiwanis cruise coordinator Cindy Crowther at 20blueskys@gmail.com or call 541-419-9890.

*Don't miss this chance to cruise for a cause!
Let's make waves for service together—reserve your cabin today
and help us create lasting change in our communities.*

More Hands for Impactful Service

Real stories from PNW clubs and the impact of their growth.

Bend Kiwanis Club - Barbara Jackson

Our new members have brought a renewed energy and excitement to our club. They are eager to step up, volunteer at events, and become actively involved, which has also helped inspire and re-energize members who have been with our club since the beginning. Since our club itself is only two years old, it has been exciting to see both newer and founding members working together to continue building a strong and active organization.

With more hands to help, we are now able to participate in and support even more service projects throughout our community. The newer members also seem excited to invite guests and introduce others to our club, helping create even more growth and momentum. In addition, they bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, and valuable expertise in a variety of areas that are helping our club continue to evolve.

Their enthusiasm, willingness to serve, and excitement about sharing the mission of Kiwanis International are strengthening our club culture and building a strong foundation for the future.

New members also filled open positions for club leadership, a welcomed result.

Port Townsend Kiwanis Club - Liz Quayle

In Port Townsend, our newest members (average age 57) have jumped right in and have been participating in our Signature Project, Backpacks for Children, providing weekend meals and snacks for children living with food insecurity - and one has stepped up as the new project chair! Other new members helped recently during our local Rhododendron Festival, either with the Kiwanis Choo-Choo, which brings the Junior Royalty (1st graders) through the festival's parades, or with our Rhody Run water station. We even have one of our new members helping to run the tech for our weekly hybrid meetings!

Redmond, OR Kiwanis Club - Barbara Lutz

One of our new members helped prepare several meals for the Ronald McDonald House and helped fit bicycle helmets for third graders. She also stepped up to be on the Redmond Kiwanis Board next year for a 2 year term.

Two members were inspired to join after speaking at one of our meetings about the trades scholarship they started. They have helped at our R'Oktoberfest fundraiser, made meals for Ronald McDonald House, helped at our Fish Fair and participated in the Red Cross blood drives among other community services projects.

Another new member was inspired to join Redmond Kiwanis based on our mission focused on youth and the fact that he is owner of Oregon Lightning Arena Football which has its own nonprofit to mentor youth that have faced challenges.

One other has jumped right in to existing service projects such as our Vintner's Dinner fundraiser and created all the social media content recognizing the sponsors.

One member started her own nonprofit organization, Central Oregon Baby Resources, and initiated a "Battle of the Buns: A Baby Wipes Tush Push" project where over 100,000 baby wipes were collected.

Another of our members joined based on her childhood experiences of a local Kiwanis club helping her and her family.

Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club - Rebecca Becnel

Over the past six months, our club has increased its membership by 24%, growing from 54 to 67 members. New members are being welcomed into meaningful leadership roles, including serving as Kiwanis advisors to our two Key Clubs, chairing major events, and even preparing to step into the president-elect position next year. One of our newest members recently chaired the High 5 Diaper Drive, which collected more than 21,000 diapers and over \$700 to support infants and families in need.

Kiwanis Club of Olympia - Karen Fraser

Our club growth is close to a 20% increase. The reasons?

Great, superbly-managed year-round service projects: highly informative lunch program speakers; enthusiastic camaraderie among members, and excellent club and financial administration. And, very importantly, members make a point of inviting interested individuals to become members.

A few years ago, we did a survey of how people became members. The Number One way was the simple fact that someone asked them to join.

Think of the impact these new members are having!

- Is your club inviting program speakers to join?
- Would new members help fill club leadership positions?
- Are there deserving projects that will make a difference?
- How do we achieve net plus 1 new member?

You and your club members have the power to change your club's trajectory and attract More Hands for Impactful Service.

Your PNW Membership Team is here to help your club understand the various strategies for attracting new members - when you need us:

Greg Wegrich, Membership Chair, 2025-2026

greg.wegrich@gmail.com
(360) 441-7082

CLUB SERVICE SHOWCASE

Yakima Kiwanis and the Free Bikes 4 Kidz Program

One of the great benefits of being LT. Governor is the ability to join with all the clubs in representing the division. Whether it is fundraising, service projects, interclubs or just dropping in to say “Hi, anything I can assist you with?”

I recently had the pleasure of joining with the Kiwanis Club of Yakima in their regular bicycle give away; which this time was directed to the kids in our outlying small town of Tieton. This was in conjunction with the local police department in Tieton; with over 160 bikes being transported there to become the property of new young riders.



For the past 8 years, the Yakima club has been the local outlet for the FB4K (Free Bikes 4 Kidz) program, which started in a garage in Minneapolis in 2008. In 2015, the Utah Chapter and FB4K earned recognition from Guinness World record for distributing 5,512 bikes in 24hrs.

Every Thursday evening, November through March, volunteers gather to refurbish bicycles that have been donated by the public, some businesses, and by our local Yakima County Landfill. These are then distributed in the months of April and May.

The Yakima club has hosted 15 of these events in those 8 years, and have distributed over 1200 bikes, helmets included.

These are the events that inspire us to keep doing what we do as Kiwanians for our kids. More information can be found at <https://www.FB4K.org> or <http://fb4kyakima.org>

~ Michael McCay, Lt. Governor - Yakima River Basin





Past Lt. Governor Leaders Help Build Our Clubs and Divisions

The Pacific Northwest District has many Clubs and Kiwanians working throughout our region in support of our communities, and especially our children. As one of the largest Districts throughout Kiwanis International, we recognize people join Kiwanis to serve - to make our communities better places to live and to support the development of our children into productive citizens.

Because our Pacific Northwest District is a large geographic area, let's understand how many members and leaders we have:

- Number of PNW District Kiwanians:5,065
- Number of PNW Divisions:32
- Number of PNW Clubs:219
- Number of Current PNW Lt. Governors:26
- Number of PNW Past Lt. Governors:250

Beyond service, some Kiwanians become Club leaders as committee chairs, Board members, and Officers. Some are called to be Division Lt. Governors or the Governor of our PNW District. Some seek the highest positions of leadership as Kiwanis International Trustees and Officers. We say Thank You to each of these leaders and we ask them to continue to be mentors of future leaders.

This is what a Past Lt. Governor group is all about – being mentors of future Club and Division leaders and offering continuity for the operation of our Clubs.

- What is a Past Lt. Governor group?
- How do you form one and who is in it?
- What do they talk about and what do they really do?

Forming a Past Lt. Governor group in each Division brings tremendous value to our Clubs and Divisions by harnessing the energy and experience of our past leaders.

Past Lt. Governor groups offer:

- Assistance and counsel to the current Lt. Governor
- Encourage and assist with Lt. Governor succession planning
- Educate and mentor new Lt. Governor-Elects on their role

Past Lt. Governor groups also create Division cohesion by:

- Leading regular Division Council meetings
- Helping communication between Clubs and leaders
- Sharing ideas for service, membership, and social projects
- Encouraging and leading a Division-wide annual project
- Promote PNW District Mid-Winter, DCON and KI ICON
- Provide Club leaders with resources as issues or challenges arise

Past Lt. Governor Leaders Help Build Our Clubs and Divisions ...continued from page 14

Each of our Divisions would be well served by having a Past Lt. Governor group providing assistance and counsel. It takes leadership to form such a group, but that is what the District-wide Past Lt. Governor Association – known as the Bigfoot Brigade – has chosen as its priority; helping Divisions form their own Past Lt. Governor group to provide assistance through education and resources. Again, we want to harness all the energy and experience of our past leaders and use it to grow our PNW District.

But even before the Bigfoot Brigade, how did a Past Lt. Governor group get formed. Our current Bigfoot Brigade Past President Ken Brutzman shares his story of how it developed in his Division.

“We were fortunate to have great Lt. Governor leaders in our Division, but we lost their expertise when they finished their term. I wanted to do something about that and in 2008, I invited 9 of our Past Lt. Governors to join with me to build a new group. These leaders had been Lt. Governors from 1992 up to 2008 (my year) and it was wonderful they agreed to participate. It took someone to be the catalyst to pull them together, ask for their ideas and assistance, and form our first group.

Today, nearly 20 years later, we continue to have an active group of 16 Past Lt. Governors. We lead the monthly Division Council and facilitate communication between Clubs and leaders, coordinate the annual Division-wide service project, and even barbecue the food for the volunteers! We assist our current Lt. Governor, as requested, and create a three-year pipeline for incoming Lt. Governors for our Division. All this work makes it easier for our current leaders to do their work and be successful. Forming our Past Lt. Governor group is one of the best things I’m proud to have offered as a Kiwanian.”

Now fast forward to today and what is this PNW District Past Lt. Governor Association called the PNW Bigfoot Brigade all about? It is truly a group of Past Lt. Governors that reside across the PNW District region and currently includes over 250 members. For a one-time lifetime membership of \$100, the PNW is retaining the expertise of these individuals to assist leaders throughout our PNW District.



The Mission of the Association is to provide assistance to and promote the Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis International. We are an organization that offers new Lt. Governor training before their year begins and throughout their year of service to help them be successful. We work with PNW leadership, as requested, and we facilitate programs at the Mid-winter and DCON events.

Please contact the Bigfoot Brigade for assistance in forming a Past Lt. Governor Group in your Division! Chair-Elect Chuck DeGooyer (degooyer.chuck@gmail.com) or Past Chair Ken Brutzman (ken.brutzman@brutzmans.com) are looking forward to working with you. Thank you for your service!

CLUB SERVICE SHOWCASE

Three Members of Olympic Kiwanis Club of Port Angeles Presented With Awards

Three members of the Olympic Kiwanis Club of Port Angeles were presented with Community Service Awards at the Clallam County Community Service Awards event held on May 6, 2026. These awards were presented by the Peninsula Daily News, the Soroptimist International Noon Club and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula. Of the six honorees presented with the 2026 Awards three were from Olympic Kiwanis recognizing their outstanding and inspirational public service for their community. A reception was held to honor all the recipients of which seven Kiwanis Club members attended in support of their three colleagues.

Olympic Kiwanis Club members David and Carla Sue were recognized for their volunteer work as club members for more than 20 years. Volunteer work includes Camp Beausite Northwest, Clallam County Emergency Management, Port Angeles Food Bank, downtown Holiday Lights, car seat safety programs and helping to raise funds for youth scholarships, to name a few.

Olympic Kiwanis Club member Frances Howell was recognized for her volunteer work through the club, along with Volunteer Hospice of Clallam County, and for 10 years with the Port Angeles Food Bank as a board member and president.



Olympic Kiwanis Club of Port Angeles Receives Award from United Way

Olympic Kiwanis Club of Port Angeles was recently awarded the Finalist Award at the Live United Ball sponsored by the United Way of Clallam County and presented by First Fed. The award was for Healthy Community, which honors a service organization that strengthens the fabric of the community. There were three service organization finalists, to include Soroptimist and Rotary, who have gone above and beyond volunteering, raising funds and responding to needs in the community that help improve the wellbeing of all.

Of course, the theme for this year's Ball was Victorian Elegance, which most in attendance were dressed in Victorian attire. There were nine members from Olympic Kiwanis representing their club in Victorian flair enjoying an evening of photos, music, dinner and dance. Representing Olympic Kiwanis Club of Port Angeles with the award are club President Geri Zanon and club member and PNW Kiwanis District Lt. Governor Carla Sue.



Olympic Kiwanis Club members David and Carla Sue (left) and Frances Howell (right) were recognized for their many years of inspirational public service work for their communities



CLUB SERVICE SHOWCASE

Kiwanis Supports Teen Mental Health in the Central Okanagan

The Kiwanis Club of the Central Okanagan has for many years focused on programs and projects that help children, youth. When Kiwanis Club members heard from local teens that teen mental health was a concern, and that in the moment of need they did not know where to get help the club offered to do something that would give them the information that they needed. Past-President Tom Cockrell spearheaded the project by collaborating with three groups of teens and school counsellors at Kelowna Secondary School, Mount Boucherie Secondary School and George Elliot Secondary School, as well as the School District 23 (Central Okanagan) Principal for Safety and Well-Being.

Past PNW Governor, Wendy Falkowski, suggested a wallet card with essential information might be useful. After consulting with the school groups, we concluded that a wallet card that is easily carried, as well as a sticker that can be placed on items carried around at most times (water bottle, cellphone) would be useful. The wallet cards and stickers provide simple, concise information to existing agencies that provide the supports that are needed. The stickers and cards were supplied to all middle and secondary schools in the district, potentially reaching over 12,000 students. While the stickers and cards provide limited information, more comprehensive information is available on websites linked by the QR codes on the cards and the stickers.



Thus far, feedback has been positive with comments such as "Thank you for all the help and support with youth in our district on this." S.R.; "Thank you again for supporting and caring for our youth. It means a lot." S.R. and "The process of getting input from our students resulted in over 100 students in our school dialoguing about mental health concerns" G.J. While the knowledge of the school counsellors and their approval was appreciated and necessary, the most important element of the project was input from the teens.

We appreciate the support of the teens and staff three schools involved and the school district for their input and support. The school district provided partial funding to enable distribution to middle schools.

With plans to carry the project on into the 2026-2027 school year the club is seeking input from other schools in the district.

~ Wendy Falkowski, Past PNW Governor

We're In This Together!



Support Resources For Central Okanagan Teens

Advocate For Yourself Or Someone Else

KCR Youth Mental Health Guide



KCR Suicide Prevention Handbook



Kiwanis Central Okanagan



This card is made available to students in School District 23 by the Kiwanis Club of the Central Okanagan with the support of SD23. We appreciate the support of students and staff who contributed to this resource. We also appreciate the work of KCR Community Resources who provided much of the information found on this card.





Emergency Resources	Police Ambulance Fire - 911
Mental Health / Suicide Help	
BC Suicide Line -----	1-800-784-2433 ph/tx 988
Kid's Help Phone -----	1-800-668-6868 ph/tx 686868
Interior Crisis Line -----	1-888-353-2273
CRCL Crisis Response Line (Kelowna) --	778-980-2560 ph/tx
IH Community Response Team -----	250-469-7070 / 310-6478
Mental Health Crisis Line -----	ph 310-6789 (no area code)
Overdose Help	
Poison Control -----	1-800-567-8911
Emergency Shelter	
BCG-Okanagan -----	250-868-8541 ext 202
Indigenous Support	
KU UU Aboriginal Crisis Support -----	1-877-330-6366
Hope for Wellness Helpline -----	1-855-242-3310
Other Supports Available	
Community Social & Govt Resources ---	ph/tx 211
Translifeline Crisis Support -----	1-877-330-6366

MORE





LEGACY BRICK

Have you thought about honoring your Club President, Lt. Governor, Spouse, Friend, your Kiwanian of the Year or perhaps memorialize a member who has passed away with a brick?

It will be placed in the patio outside the District offices.

You can choose from a 4"x8" red brick with block lettering (14 characters on 3 lines) for \$100 or a 8"x8" gray brick with block lettering (14 characters on 5 lines) for \$250.

The PNW Kiwanis Legacy Brick Order Form may be found on the Kiwanis website at:

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



A Call To Action from the Kiwanis Children's Fund Team

The PNW has been doing a great job of welcoming and supporting the Kiwanis Children's Fund Possibility Project fundraising efforts. Through the end of May the Possibility Project has raised over \$10.8 million US dollars (\$362,596 from the PNW) towards the \$25 million goal and has been distributing those incoming funds impacting thousands of children through club / project grants. Our team of Champions have played an integral role in talking with Kiwanians and Kiwanis clubs all around the District, and we have twelve clubs to date that have made Impact Pledges.

Unfortunately, life happens, and a number of our original team members have had to step away from their Champion roles. We are currently in critical need of new Champions to serve in the Puget Sound area, the southwestern Oregon area, and the central Washington area as we enter the final phases of fundraising.

Does being a Possibility Project Champion require a small time commitment - Absolutely, but it also comes with the rewards of knowing you played a role in the project outcome - impacting over 10 million children through funding Kiwanis Club projects in your community and around the world.

The Champion role does not require a long history of Kiwanis or previously holding any particular Kiwanis positions. Simply a shared passion for raising the money that will be used to amplify the impact of the great work being done by Kiwanis clubs around the world. It comes with training and a supply of professionally created campaign materials along with support from our team.

Please consider joining our PNW Team, especially if you are in one of the geographic areas listed above. If you have questions about what the role entails, please call (509-998-4170) or email (frucci101@comcast.net) Mike Frucci for a conversation and invitation to our next monthly meeting.

Thank you
PNW Children's Fund District Chair
Mike Frucci



KiwanisSIGN: 24 Years of Partnership

SIGN is grateful to Kiwanis Clubs in the Pacific Northwest District for their generous and faithful support of SIGN. Since 2002, Kiwanis Clubs from across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, British Columbia, and Yukon Territories, have joined together to donate \$2.64 million to sponsor and sustain 74 SIGN Programs and 28 SIGN Pediatric Programs.

This support enables surgeons in low- and middle-income countries to provide orthopaedic surgery for their patients with broken bones. Rather than lying in traction in a hospital bed for months, patients receive surgery and are typically on their feet the next day, and back to work or school in about a month.



Leaders from Kiwanis Clubs around the Pacific Northwest District have helped the KiwanisSIGN project grow and succeed.

This intervention helps keep families out of poverty by ensuring that an injury does not become a lifelong disability; it keeps children in school and helps family breadwinners quickly return to work.

Partnership History

SIGN's connection to Kiwanis began even before SIGN was founded as an organization. Dr. Lewis Zirkle, SIGN President and Founder, frequently talked with his neighbor, Milt Lewis, about designing and manufacturing surgical implants out of his own garage. A longtime Kiwanian and chemical engineer, Milt was fascinated with Dr. Zirkle's vision.

In 2002, Milt contacted Ralph Curran, then a Kiwanis Club President,

and pitched the idea of SIGN becoming a project for the local clubs. The KiwanisSIGN Project quickly gained approval and steady support. Ralph then recruited John Yegge to help him bring SIGN to the district level of Kiwanis.

Using a video produced by Patti Fraley, Ralph and John took the KiwanisSIGN Project to the Pacific Northwest district meeting. There, then-District Governor Sylvester Neal voiced his support for the project. Two steering committees formed, with direction from Ralph Curran, John Yegge, Jack Nicholson, and Ann Penner. Together, they introduced SIGN to Kiwanis Clubs from British Columbia to Northern California.



Above Left: Kiwanians visit sponsored hospitals in Cambodia.

Left: Each KiwanisSIGN hospital receives a plaque to display.

Above: KiwanisSIGN leaders who presented at the 2011 district convention, Ralph Curran, Andre Lafluer, Jack Nicholson, Ann Penner, Barry Dodd, and Barry Penner.



Invaluable Support

Every part of the Kiwanis family has contributed to SIGN. Kiwanis Clubs and individual Kiwanians have faithfully donated to start and sustain SIGN Programs at hospitals all over the globe, with an emphasis on providing pediatric nails to care for young patients. In addition, support from Builders Clubs, Key Clubs, CKI, and Aktion Clubs have made a significant contribution to supporting surgeons around the world.

Every donor to the KiwanisSIGN project receives a thank you card sent by Emily Citron, and previously sent by Kae Hopkins. To honor individuals who have donated more than \$1,000 to the KiwanisSIGN Project, the Milt Lewis Medal has been awarded to 120 Kiwanians. In addition, 22 Kiwanians have donated more than \$15,000 to sponsor a SIGN Program. Besides financial support, members of the KiwanisSIGN Project speak at club meetings around the district, driving the project forward.

Creating Connections

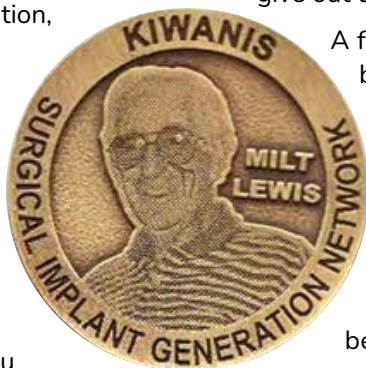
Over the years, many Kiwanians have found ways to connect deeper with SIGN's mission. During the annual SIGN Conference, where between 100 - 150 surgeons from around the world gather in Richland, WA, Kiwanians volunteer to serve refreshments for attendees during



Left: Key Club members Caitlin Snaring and Anna Le present the sponsorship plaque to Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute.

Right: At Muhimbili, Kiwanians Sylvester and Doris Neal and Barry Penner observed SIGN Surgery alongside Jeanne Dillner and Dr. Lewis Zirkle.

Below: The Milt Lewis Medal



the day and provide transportation around town for surgeons in the evenings. Kiwanians also donate hand-knit dolls, which surgeons take and give out to their young patients.

A few Kiwanians have been fortunate enough to visit SIGN Programs and see firsthand the impact of their generosity. Trips to Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Tanzania strengthen relations between surgeons and supporters, and even offer Kiwanians a chance to meet SIGN Patients. Recalling her trip to Cambodia, Ann Penner says "Seeing the number of patients was eye opening. Many of these patients would be crippled for life if it was not for SIGN."

In 2017, the Kiwanis District Convention was held in the Tri-Cities. Members came to SIGN Headquarters where they held a BBQ dinner, learned about SIGN, and toured our engineering and production facilities.

In recognition of the faithful support of Kiwanis clubs and her individual efforts to support SIGN, Ann Penner joined the SIGN Board of Directors in 2021. She continues to serve and provide advice to SIGN Leadership.

THANK YOU!

We are thankful for the remarkable support we have received from Kiwanians for more than 24 years through the KiwanisSIGN Project. Since 1999, SIGN has been able to empower surgeons from around the world and heal nearly 500,000 people who have suffered broken bones. Thank you for your gifts, support, and encouragement.



Members of the Kiwanis Club of Abbotsford knit dolls, which surgeons at the SIGN Conference take home to give to their young patients.

New Kiwanians in the PNW District

April 1 - June 30, 2026

Marcus Anderson	Deer Park	William Jones	Kirkland
Marlene Bauge	Canby	Sariah Khormae	Richland
Shelley Beauchamp	Kennewick	Janet Larson	Klamath Falls
William Bell	Coeur D'Alene	Aaron Lee	Redmond
Karen Bond	Fort Vancouver, Vancouver	Geree Lewis	Kirkland
Mary Bren	Coeur D'Alene	Angelina Liang Luo	Vancouver
Mitchell Burch	Spokane Valley, Spokane	Kirk Liesemer	Steilacoom
Melinda Campbell	Ellensburg	Mary Lochrie	Providence Point, Issaquah
David Christian	Tri-Cities Industry	Lisa Long	Mount Vernon
Kimberly Christian	Tri-Cities Industry	Rodney Long	Mount Vernon
Michelle Clark	Kristmas Town, Shelton	Nicholas Mantovani	Takena, Albany
Sheila Clark	Pullman	Sharron Mathews	Downtown Spokane
Ausuanna Colyar	Corvallis	William McClaskey	Woodburn
James Crilly	Eastmont, East Wenatchee	Slade Meads	Pasco
Jessica daCosta	Winthrop	Gretchen Merrill	Sisters
Kimmie Duncan	Redmond	William Merrill	Sisters
George Eakin	Kennewick	Jessica Morris	Bend
Howard Everakes	Providence Point, Issaquah	Aaron Mountain	Mount Vernon
Maureen Everakes	Providence Point, Issaquah	Al Neighbours	Canby
Julie Feher	Mukilteo	Elizabeth Nelson	Pullman
Marybeth Fidler	Port Townsend	Douglas Olson	Prineville
Jennifer Fischbach	Gig Harbor	Colette Onstot	Milton-Freewater
Stacy Forte-Smith	Mill Creek	Madge Osborn	The Bay Area
Katie Gambil	Puyallup	Haley Palmer	Bend
Noah Gaty	Friday Harbor	Dona Ponepinto	Tacoma
John Getman	Northeast Spokane	Marilyn Porter	Providence Point, Issaquah
Javan Gray	Springfield	Tyler Reinhardt	Table Rock
Richard Greer	Greater Woodland-Kalama	Jan and Steve Reitmann	Table Rock
Zac Guffy	Bend	Melanie Richardson	Pullman
Willem Hanevelt	Tri-Cities Industry	Herbert Rieger	Tri-Cities Industry
Glen Hantelman	The Dalles	Sharen Rockefeller	Rogue River
Susan Harrington	Fern Ridge, Veneta	Lindsey Rogers	The Dalles
Ruth Hart	Providence Point, Issaquah	Jami Sautner	Florence
Hayley Hathaway	Steilacoom	Fredrick Schmidt	Roseburg
James Hayden	Spokane Valley, Spokane	Krysti Seay	Providence Point, Issaquah
Cynthia Heath	West Valley, Willamina	Donald Smith	Snoqualmie Valley
Robb Heston	Kennewick	Eric Smythe	Saint Helens
Gary Hill	Okanogan	Sheila Soares	Rogue River
Graham Holtrop	North Central, Seattle	Kirk Sperry	Issaquah
JoAnn Hulk	Eastmont, East Wenatchee	Scott Swanton	Rogue River
Daniel Hunter	Lincoln City	Denise Swimme	Pioneer Comm. of Mason Co., Shelton
Blandy Inzunza	Issaquah	Julie Thompson	Prineville
Nikhila Iyer	North Central, Seattle	Henry Valz	Olympia
Tejas Iyer	North Central, Seattle	Sara Wynne	Anacortes
Ken Johnson	Rogue River	Rosanne Yates	Coeur D'Alene
Sarah Johnson	McMinnville		