

September 9, 2024



KIWANISCOPE

2024

KIWANIS CLUB OF ELYRIA - President's newsletter

My term as club president will be over on September 30th. Thank you to all who made this a very productive year. If you were not active, here's what you missed.

The Year in Review:

October 2023 - September 2024

OCTOBER: The board revised the club bylaws, and made some revisions to our accounting procedure to provide a clearer paper trail.

We participated in a Halloween Trunk or Treat event, and gave out lots of pumpkins!

NOVEMBER: November was dedicated to working with our graphic designer to produce our new brochure, and our web designer for our new website. I wrote bid specs, solicited bids and conducted interviews with multiple graphic and web designers, and presented the results to the board.

I wrote and submitted a grant application to the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation for funding for READ | WRITE | RIDE.

We created a new web page on the Kiwanis Ohio District platform, which allows us to sell tickets, memberships and sponsorships online. This year, 12% of our flag sales were made online and we sold Trivia tickets and table sponsorships. Thank you to Treasurer Neal Hubbard and member Barry Hubbard for assisting with getting the money flow through PayPal worked out. Thanks to Ken Frankel and Celeste Brlas and Mark Stewart for going with the flow as we all learned this new method of processing Trivia registrations and flag orders. Hopefully, we have worked all the kinks out! Thanks to Barry Hubbard and Jen Starkey, who attended website training with me, and retained a lot more than I did! Jen is serving as our webmaster.

DECEMBER: We held our first ever Holiday Lights at Finwood event for the kids in placement with Lorain County Children's Services. Thank you to Nicole Edwards for getting us in for this special sneak preview, and to all who helped make the event a success.

We rang the bell for the Salvation Army, and donated to the Not Forgotten Box.

Kiwanis business cards and our new brochures were handed out to members. Let me know if you need print products to have on hand when you share your stories about what you do in Kiwanis.

JANUARY: With the New Year, we began planning for our Trivia Contest, with committee members busy soliciting pizza donations, sponsorships and raffle baskets.

Planning was also underway for READ | WRITE | RIDE, with bicycle orders placed, and meetings with the school district to set our calendar. Our grant request to ODKF was funded for \$2500 and 21 bike helmets.

FEBRUARY: Our second annual Trivia Night was a great success. Thanks are due to Ken Frankel and Celeste Brlas for chairing the event, and to Denny Lehman, Major Bob Sears, and Glenn Mitler, for hustling and delivering the pizzas and salad, and to all who stepped up to pull off this event.

MARCH: Notice of the READ | WRITE | RIDE contest went home with all of the ECSD third graders. We received the bicycles at our Warden Street space, provided to us by member Steve Kaplan. The Ohio District Mid-Year convention was held virtually, and READ | WRITE | RIDE is selected as the state Signature Project contest winner in the large club division!

APRIL: Our flag program letters went out and the online ordering system went live. Bicycle assembly began. Strawberry Social committee members, led by chair Denny Lehman, solicited ads, and began organizing the event.

MAY: RWR judging took place at the five elementary schools. Thank you to everyone who judged and those who attended the awards assemblies. This year, member Steve Kaplan provided a Kaplan Furniture truck for member Steve Sump to deliver the bikes to the schools. I think Steve Sump's back appreciated the lift gate!

The first flag deliveries began for Memorial Day. Thanks to all who plant and retrieve 200 flags, and to chair Mark Stewart who sends the initial letters, tracks the money, and organizes the deliveries.

JUNE: We cored and sliced a whole lot of crates of fresh strawberries for the Strawberry Social. Neal and Barry Hubbard operated their food concession stand. Thanks to all who manned the work crews for set up and tear down, ticket sales, inside serving and take away orders.

JULY: I attended the International Convention in Denver, CO, and did a presentation on RWR for a session about successful club signature projects. The delegate session was very interesting - and somewhat heated! - but the delegates did vote in favor of a proposal put forth by the International board to raise dues.

Beginning October 1, 2024, there will be a \$25 increase in annual International dues. Their argument was that there had not been any dues increase for about 15 years, although salaries and expenses have gone up. They felt have done everything possible to reduce operating expenses, and did not want to cut services to member clubs. The increase is just over \$2 per month.

AUGUST: The District Mid-year Conference took place in Toledo. Thanks to Kiwanis and boat club member Dan Petticord, our quarterly division meeting included a picnic at the Lorain Harbor Boat Club, and a tour of the Lorain Lighthouse. Dan also grilled our lunch.

SEPTEMBER: Members Celeste Brlas and Jen Starkey and I began Community Assessment interviews with selected community organizations who deal with kids. The goal is to get information about the state of children's literacy in Elyria, both for the purpose of seeking additional funding for READ | WRITE | RIDE and to see what successful community partners we should be collaborating with and possibly funding.

This is a very condensed list of what went on this year. I'm sure I forgot half of what we did, and failed to acknowledge all of those who contributed to our success, so THANK YOU TO ALL.

Thanks to Mary Ochenas for her faithful service on the club's board.
We will miss her when her term ends on September 30th.

Your new president for Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025 is Stan Wojdyla.

Thanks for a great year! (soon to be Past President) Lyn Crouse