2nd Annual Car Seat Safety Check Day A Success!

Support Circle K and KNRF by attending HOLIDAY EMBRACE! Details on page 16
Many may not be aware of the battle our Executive Director, Andrea, is facing. She is not alone on this journey. Her immediate family and her Kiwanis Family will be with her every step of the way. Strengthen her, Rob and Will with your thoughts and prayers until her recovery is complete. For more details, please see Andrea’s article on the next page.

Governor’s visits are complete, and I wish to thank John Lorenzo, Dave Daniels and all the lieutenant governors for their assistance in making those visits possible. Also, a big thank you to all the members who attended and shared news of service projects, fund raisers and their concern for membership. I wish everyone in the district had the opportunity to visit all our divisions—I can assure you this district is alive and working for kids and the betterment of our communities. The passion and commitment to our mission is exciting.

Several club members and officers expressed concern with a drop in the club membership. Did you know that for each member our district loses, 206 children are impacted? For that number alone, membership is critical. Concern is important but action is more important. I would like to challenge each club to set a goal of increasing their net membership by at least 10% by September 30, 2020. That, plus new clubs, will ensure hundreds of kids the impact of Kiwanis in the future.

At the District Convention next August, we will recognize the individual or individuals who bring in the most, new members for the year. We will also recognize the club with the most new members. The Lt. Governor for the leading division will receive special recognition. The nature of this recognition is still under discussion but will be announced soon, so, stay tuned.

Recognition is also important—not only for an individual, a club, a division or the district, but for Kiwanis as a whole. It helps get the word out about Kiwanis and the good things its members accomplish on a routine basis. Share your club’s signature project with the community and with the district. We can learn from each other! In this Illeiowan issue you will find examples of local news outlets recognizing local Kiwanis clubs. Many times all it takes for your club to get some recognition is a phone call or email to your local newspaper or radio or TV station.

For each member our district loses, 206 children are impacted.
Kiwanis fills many needs within each of our communities, and that is one of many things that brings us together as Kiwanians. I challenge every one of us to step up and participate in one of your club’s several community projects over the holiday season! Whether it’s helping an agency with their holiday party, volunteering with toy distribution for Christmas or ringing a bell for The Salvation Army, get out there and get involved! Agencies and organizations in our towns need our help to make a child or family’s holiday season that much better. The best tool you can use to bring folks in to our organization of serving others is to invite them to one of these many service opportunities. Someone thought enough of you to share the Kiwanis family service with you. What better way to show others what Kiwanis is truly all about and how they can get involved than inviting them to a Kiwanis holiday service project?

When you think about what each one of us does in our communities and for our individual clubs, it is a small part of what we do globally as Kiwanians. We make a tremendous difference in the lives of children both here and afar. Our time and talents are priceless when it comes to helping others. My family and I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and bright and prosperous New Year!

ANDREA RAYCRAFT
I-I DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Special note from Andrea:
Team Raycraft starts a new battle. I was diagnosed last Thursday with Follicular Lymphoma, Stage 4. Lots of disease, pretty much all lymph node areas affected (neck, chest, groin, abdomen). I have two very large masses in my abdomen, one as big as 7.1” and second about that big. Our family truly appreciates your thoughts, prayers, support and understanding during this time. I ask that you please email the office and not call as it is very difficult to talk at this time. Thank you.

If your club has a Signature Project
be sure to enter the 2020 Signature Project Contest hosted by Kiwanis International!

DID YOU KNOW??
Your Club's Service Account Can Now Cover Personal Convention Expenses!

Midyear Conference for I-I District Leadership
MARCH 14
Crowne Plaza, Springfield
See page 6 for details and to register

Plan now to attend!

New this year, clubs can pay all or a portion of each member’s convention expenses from its service account. The Kiwanis Education Conference qualifies as an acceptable educational expense of the club. Covered expenses can include:
• Registration fees
• Hotel
• Airfare or mileage
• Meals
• Per diem
• Other expenses as determined by the club.

Clubs have always been allowed to cover members’ convention expenses from their administrative account. The increased educational tracks offered at the 2020 Kiwanis International Convention meet the requirements of educational expenses allowed to be deducted from a club’s service account. You can read more in the Leadership Guide: Treasurer Section.
Signature Projects

Signature projects show the impact a Kiwanis club can have on a community. From playgrounds and parks to festivals and fundraisers, signature projects are the hallmarks of what Kiwanis clubs are known for in their communities.

Kiwanis International will host the Fourth Annual Signature Project Recognition Program for districts in 2020. New to this year’s contest is the establishment of two contest tiers. Clubs with 27 members or fewer will be judged in the Tier I category. Clubs with 28 members or more will be judged in Tier II category. Each tier will be judged separately and the top 10 finalists will be determined for each tier. The top three selections from each tier will be recognized as the gold, silver and bronze winners at the 2020 Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

The Kiwanis International Board Committee on Service and Partnerships will review qualifying submissions and select the finalists. The finalists will be recognized at the Kiwanis International convention where the top winners will be announced and receive awards. Finalists will be notified of their selection in time to take advantage of the discounted convention early registration rates. We look forward to all submissions! Thank you for participating!

Click here for a definition of Signature Projects and Criteria
Click here for the Signature Project Contest Rules and Regulations
Click here for the Project Submission Questions that are required
Click here for the 2019 Contest Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contest Opens</td>
<td>Sunday, December 15 **</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contest Closes</td>
<td>Midnight EDT Monday, January 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Selection Due</td>
<td>Midnight EDT Friday, February 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 10 Selected</td>
<td>March 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards and Recognition Breakfast</td>
<td>June 18</td>
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** The link for the submission form will be found by clicking here
(available between December 15-January 27)
Children with medical conditions that impact mobility frequently face other challenges that most of us would not begin to associate with their diagnoses. For those kids with special physical challenges, custom modified ride-on cars are more than play things—they represent opportunities for improved mobility, increased socialization with non-challenged siblings and peers, and in some cases may even incorporate elements of physical therapy.

Members of the Belleville, Illinois Kiwanis Club learned of Go Baby Go at a Division convention in the Fall of 2018 and visited a GBG build hosted by the Chicago area Kiwanians of River Forest/Oak Park. With guidance from these experienced Go Baby Go builders, the Belleville Kiwanians recently partnered with Belleville West Key Clubbers, Gateway Stem Robotics Team 931, Fairview Heights Kiwanians, therapists from St. Louis Children’s Hospital along with corporate sponsors for Go Baby Go Belleville 2019.

The initial goal was to build cars for five area children with Spina Bifida. In the process of planning the event, the group became aware of more kids who could benefit from a Go Baby Go vehicle, including a child with cerebral palsy and another with a diagnosis of DiGeorge Syndrome (who also suffered a hypoxic brain injury).

In the end, six children were custom-fitted with cars that featured a special Go button, allowing for hand acceleration rather than the traditional foot pedal, along with a parental over-ride switch. One child’s height caused complications, resulting in a larger vehicle being ordered and he was fitted in a follow-up session. So many lessons learned. A seventh car was set aside for a little one who was hospitalized and will be fitted when her health permits.

The faces of these kids lit up when they saw their cars being assembled and realized that the car was theirs to take home. Kids who were not friends prior to this event were racing and chasing each other as they learned to drive their special vehicles. The smiles on their faces and those of their families were heart-warming.

Team work really does make the dream work.

Stephens recognizes longtime Kiwanis members

Published in the Murphysboro Times, November 26, 2019
Please join us as we join the I-I District Key Club Leadership Convention!

**Midyear Conference Schedule***

8 AM – 9:30 AM  Neuroscience Research Foundation Board Meeting
10 AM–12:00 PM  I-I District Board Meeting
12:30 PM–2:30 PM  KNRF Luncheon
3 PM–4:30 PM  Forums (to be determined)

* *Tentative Schedule*

Please go to the registration website by clicking here or complete this form and mail
(must be received by March 7, 2020)

Please mail this registration form with payment to:
I-I District Office
Midyear Conference
10037 Old Sawmill Road
Bloomington, IL 61705-5242

March 14, 2020 • Registration Form
Crowne Plaza Hotel • Springfield, Illinois

Member Name

____________________________________

Club Name

____________________________________

Division #  2019-20 Office Held

____________________________________

Member Street Address

____________________________________

City / State / Zip Code

____________________________________

Phone Number

____________________________________

Email Address

Saturday Lunch (check one):

_____ Meat Lasagna  _____ Vegetarian Lasagna

Total Due $30.00

Please note any special dietary needs at the bottom of this form.

Registrations received after March 7, 2020 will be assessed a $15.00 late charge.

Please make all checks payable to I-I Kiwanis District, or include credit card information below:

□ Visa  □ Mastercard  □ Discover

____________________________________

Number

______/_______ _____________

Expiration Date  3-digit Security Code on back

____________________________________

Signature

____________________________________

Name on Card
eKiwanis of Greater Chicago and the Carol Stream Police Department help keep children safe on the road.

On September 21, eKiwanis of Greater Chicago partnered with the Carol Stream Police Department for their second annual Car Seat Safety Check Day! This was the second year that eKiwanis partnered with the police department for Safety Saturday, a state-wide car seat check day. The event was held at the Ross Ferraro Town Center in Carol Stream, IL from 10AM–2PM and welcomed all families to come out!

Sixteen Certified Safety Technicians were at the event, including six from the Carol Stream Police Department, a retired Streamwood officer, and a nurse. Other Certified Safety Technicians came from Roselle, Darien, Lakemoor, Hanover Park, Streamwood, Glendale Heights, and LaGrange Park. The technicians assessed if the car seats were installed correctly, that they were safe to ride in, that they had not expired, and if the

SAFETY continued on next page
child was in the correct car seat for his/her size. If the family needed a replacement car seat, a new car seat was given to the family and installed for free!

eKiwanis of Greater Chicago donated 11 car seats to the Carol Stream Police Department for Safety Saturday. Four car seats were replaced. One had a broken internal harness, two were situations where the child had outgrown the car seat, and the last was given to an expectant mother that was referred by a local hospital. The remaining car seats were brought back to the police station and will be used when families come in for a car seat check—every day at least one family comes in. eKiwanis also put together snack baggies to pass out to the kids and included an eKiwanis brochure for the parents. The snacks included juice boxes, fruit snacks, goldfish crackers, apple slices, and cookies.

In total, 36 car seat checks were performed for 28 different cars! This was one of the most checks that the Carol Stream Police Department performed in a single day, despite it raining for two of the four hours of the event. The Carol Stream Police Department noted they used to not advertise the event as much because they didn’t have enough replacement car seats to give away. This year a lot of additional promotion was done, and both eKiwanis and the Police Department think they would have gotten even more people if it hadn’t rained that day. The event was promoted on Facebook, in emails to local communities, and in local papers. The Carol Stream Police Social Services Department

SAFETY continued on page 10
Dear I-I District Kiwanians,

I want to personally extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the Clubs that supported the Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation (KNRF) during the 2018-2019 Kiwanis year. Your outstanding support allows our nine researchers to touch the lives of thousands of children and adults afflicted with neurological issues, issues ranging from Alzheimer’s disease to spina bifida and everything in between. When I talk to Clubs, I typically ask them, “If you had ONE DOLLAR, would you spend it on PREVENTING a disease or on IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE of someone who has the disease?” Usually a loud, passionate debate ensues, and after I settle the crowd down I tell them, “That’s why I am asking for TWO DOLLARS from each of you!” Some of our researchers are working to find ways to prevent and cure neurological diseases, and others are working on finding ways to improve the quality of life of those who have a neurological disease. Both are very worthwhile causes.

I know from my own club fundraising activities that these are hard-earned dollars you provided, with all sorts of fundraisers and “a-thon's”, countless hours spent raising money to help support OUR DISTRICT’s FINEST PROJECT. But I want you to know beyond a shadow of doubt that your support is an investment into the lives of others. According to our audit results, $0.91 of every $1.00 you provide goes directly into the hands of the men and women performing the medical research. And that research is profoundly impactful, for example:

- Our research dollars supported evidence that an increase in FOLIC ACID before and during pregnancy reduces the risk of spina bifida in a child.
- Our research dollars helped to establish the link between genetics and some forms of cancer.
- Our research dollars are helping those with spina bifida lead a more independent and productive life through Camp Independence
- Our newest research activity includes defining the link between congenital heart defects and cognitive deficits such as autism.

Knowing the good things that your dollars support, I encourage each club to please INCREASE your donations this 2019-2020 Kiwanis year. Challenge your Key Club to a Bowl-A-Thon contest with the funds going to KNRF. Plan now in your budgeting to attend the KRF Luncheon this August at the I-I District Convention and support the Parade of Love with donation LARGER than last year!

Thank you!

**Ken Whitmore**

Executive Director, Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation
Past Governor, 2006-2007
Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International
Dr. Michael Pranzatelli was a Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation researcher from 2005 to 2014. Sadly, I must report Mike’s death in October 2018. A tribute to Dr. Pranzatelli recently appeared on the web site of the Child Neurology Society (https://www.childneurologysociety.org/about/in-memoriam/pranzatelli-mike). It is my pleasure to acknowledge what he meant to me as a colleague and as a KNRF researcher.

Mike was recruited to the Department of Neurology, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIUSM) in December 1999. As Chair of Neurology, I was responsible for his recruitment. He had exceptional clinical skills and training in child neurology and was already internationally known for his research in a rare childhood disease called opsoclonus-myoclonus. Mike was so dedicated that he published his last paper only a few months before his death from cancer.

Mike had a very valuable and beloved colleague, his wife Elizabeth Tate. Liz and Mike worked tirelessly in their quest to conquer a disease that viciously attacks the nervous system of children, causing myoclonus (sudden body jerks) and impaired walking, coordination, eye movements and mental function. The basic problem in opsoclonus-myoclonus is that the immune system, which normally fights infection and cancer, is somehow tricked into attacking normal nerve cells in the child’s brain. Half of all children with this immunologic illness have a rare abdominal tumor called neuroblastoma. The cells in this tumor trick the immune system into erroneously thinking that normal brain cells are harmful and must be destroyed. It is unclear why children without neuroblastoma develop this disease. Similar illnesses occur in adults with and without cancer, so Mike’s research had far-reaching importance.

Rare diseases are very hard to study because patients are difficult to find and recruit. I have practiced neurology for 41 years and have seen only two cases of opsoclonus-myoclonus, and both were already diagnosed by other neurologists. Liz and Mike formed an national center devoted to opsoclonus-myoclonus and related illnesses, and they recruited patients from all over the world (http://www.omsusa.org/index.htm). They recruited and studied 356 patients from the US alone. Liz and Mike carefully evaluated each patient and performed laboratory studies on white blood cells collected from blood and spinal fluid. Years of hard work produced important discoveries of abnormalities in immune function, and these discoveries led to a new and effective treatment protocol (http://www.omsusa.org/pranzatelli-before&after.htm).

Like most researchers, Mike and Liz struggled to find the time and money to conduct their research. They sustained their research with small grants from private foundations and with private donations. In 2005, I put them in contact with Don Miller who was immediately impressed with their work and dedication. Liz and Mike were very proud and elated to become KNRF researchers. They frequently expressed their gratitude to me and to the Kiwanians who worked so hard to support their important work. Mike represented the highest ideals of the KNRF, and we are all proud to have contributed to his outstanding career.

Also gave information to their clients and passed information on to the Outreach Center in Carol Stream.

Overall, eKiwanis noted it was a great honor to once again partner with the Carol Stream Police Department for Safety Day. eKiwanis has already begun brainstorming ideas for next year. Both eKiwanis and the Carol Stream Police Department hope to continue to make the event bigger and increase the number of car seats checked each year. ☺
MEETING MARKS END OF AN ERA

As the meeting was called to order on Tuesday September 24, it marked the end of an era for both Kiwanis officers and the location the Taylorville Kiwanis Club has met at for more than 26 years, when the club held its annual officer installation luncheon at the Taylorville Memorial Hospital auditorium.

It was the last meeting at the T-M-H auditorium. Why the change in venue after 26 years of partnering with Taylorville Memorial Hospital? The T-M-H auditorium will be coming down as part of the hospital’s building project early in 2020.

The Taylorville Kiwanis members began meeting at the Taylorville Moose Lodge on Tuesday, October 1. Kiwanis District Governor Charles Smith was in attendance to install the new officers, assisted by former Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo. The club’s president is Sarah Van Huss, and president-elect is Adam Jeffrey. Martin Vota continues to serve as club secretary, and Judy Prasun continues to serve as club treasurer.

It was also the last meeting to be presided over by outgoing Taylorville Kiwanis Club President Michael Evanchak, who told the gathering that serving in that position has been a great experience.

Evanchak also awarded the “Kiwanian of the Year” award to Kiwanis member Martin Vota for his tireless efforts for both the local club and the Illinois-Iowa District. Vota told the club his commitment is about the children and the community.

Others who were in attendance for this special meeting included Past District Governor and First Lady Terry and Ruby Cunefare, Governor’s Assistant (South) Dave Daniel, along with several local dignitaries who have supported the club over the years.
The Kiwanis Club of Frankfort received some great publicity in the November 2019 issue of Frankfort Neighbors. According to club President Sam Giordano, all it took was a few emails and phone calls from him to the editor a few months prior. If there is a similar publication that focuses on your immediate town or community, consider this as an option to showcase your club!

The following page is the four-page spread published by the magazine. Although newspaper articles provide good exposure, this full-color publication is certainly a step up!
During the critical beginning years, young children develop language skills by listening to picture books and also singing songs that emphasize rhyme, rhythm, and repetition such as the Mother Goose favorite *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. Sometimes, however, when popular song lyrics may be too difficult for young children to commit to memory, adults substitute simple words to the catchy tune to create a child-accessible piggy-back song.

An excellent example of a piggy-back song/story book is *The First Day of Winter* based on the tune of *Twelve Days of Christmas*. Against a background of outdoor winter fun with woodland animals cavorting amidst large droplets of falling snow, a snowman counts the different things his best friend (a little boy) gives him for ten consecutive days.

- first day .......... 1 red cap with a gold snap
- second day .......... 2 bright blue mittens
- third day ............ 3 striped scarves
- fourth day ............ 4 prickly pine cones
- fifth day ............. 5 birdseed pockets
- sixth day ................ 6 tiny twigs
- seventh day ............ 7 maple leaves
- eighth day ............. 8 orange berries
- ninth day ........... 9 big black buttons
- tenth day ............. 10 salty peanuts

Each turning page of this cumulative tale depicts a snowman with additional adornments until, at the end, there appears a full two-page spread of a snowman decorated with all these items. But, wait, there’s more. The very last page focuses on a grouping of three, decorated snowmen—two large and one wee little one against a backdrop of a blanket of white, uncluttered snow.

Denise Fleming, who is also the artist of this picture book, uses her signature technique of colored, pulp cotton fiber to create the paint for her illustrations. A prolific author/illustrator of numerous books for young children, Denise Fleming has a highly informative website [www.denisefleming.com](http://www.denisefleming.com) that contains the titles of her books and a wealth of teachable ideas pertaining to her numerous publications.

**THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER**

By Denise Fleming

Reviewed by Joyce Mesrobian, M.Ed.

*The First Day of Winter* by Denise Fleming

Reviewed by Joyce Mesrobian, M.Ed.

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**Decatur Early Birds and Division 27 Recognize Service Excellence and Longevity**

Division 27 recently honored several Kiwanians for numerous years of membership and excellent service.

The three charter club members still active in the division include Paul Wisovaty and Wayne Ward (Tuscola) and John Pulley (Decatur Early Birds). The longest serving members in Div. 27 clubs are Donald Minton (Golden K of Decatur), Max Sites (Clinton), and Bob Emmons (Decatur Noon).

Each club selected a member for meritorious service. The honorees were Gary Goeken (Decatur Golden K), Shirley Elkin (Decatur Noon), Ritchie Barnett (Decatur Early Birds), Richard Kaufman (Clinton) and Mike Damler (Tuscola), Janet Butler (Tuscola) was also honored for many years of serving as the Division secretary.

Decatur Early Bird Kiwanis Club also recognized Legion of Honor members at their Award Day: John Pulley, Ritchie Barnett and Robert Byrkit (45 years); Troy Swinford, Paul Francis, Daniel Gaumer and Dave Zindel (35 years); Dan Basnett, Martin Hippie and William Meyer (30 years). ☺

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**ABOUT JOYCE MESROBIAN**

Joyce Mesrobian was a preschool teacher for 30 years and an adjunct faculty member for eight years at a local college. Also, for 20 years, she wrote a children’s book review column for a major early childhood organization, the Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children. Mesrobian is a member of the Lindenhurst Kiwanis Club.

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Front Row: John Pulley, Ritchie Barnett, Troy Swinford, Dan Basnett.
Not Pictured: Dan Gaumer, Dave Zindel.
INTRODUCING THE NEW PAST LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS CLUB!

PICTURED BELOW ARE THE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR THE CHARTER NIGHT FORMALITIES:
ROW 1: IMMEDIATE PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT JIM ROCHFORD, DEBRA ROCHFORD, RUBY CUNEFARE, CINDY RICE, CLUB SECRETARY DEBRA PALIFERRO, CATHY ROBIESON.
ROW 2: TIM ROBIESON, CLUB PRESIDENT-ELECT TOM WILLIS, JOHN BLASEK, GOVERNOR CHARLES SMITH, DAVID DANIEL, TOM MICHAEL, JOHN LORENZO, CLUB PRESIDENT CHARLIE RICE.

FARMER CITY KIWANIS INDUCES NEW OFFICERS

DIVISION 22 LT. GOVERNOR DAVE BROWNELL INDUCTED NEW FARMER CITY KIWANIS CLUB OFFICERS AT THEIR OCTOBER 22 MEETING.
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SECRETARY DAVE BOWMAN, LTG DAVE BROWNELL, PRESIDENT JERRY SCHMITZ, TREASURER RON VANCE, AND IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT JERRY MCKINLEY.
Season’s greetings, Kiwanians!

Holiday Embrace is just around the corner! It will be held at the DoubleTree hotel in Oak Brook, IL on January 18. Doors open at 6PM. Dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by the murder mystery program from 8–11PM.

The theme is mystery so during dinner the guests will have to solve the holiday mystery presented. Keep in mind Holiday Embrace is our big fundraiser for Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation (KNRF) so we would love to see as many of you come.

If you cannot come, please think of donating a basket for our silent auction whose proceeds benefit KNRF as well. If you are interested in donating please reach out to me at governor@iicirclek.org. The registration is currently live on Circle K International’s Illinois-Eastern Iowa District Facebook page and will soon be added to the I-I Circle K website!

If you have any trouble finding the link or have general questions, feel free to email me. I hope to see as many of you as possible at Holiday Mystery 2020! 😊

Yours in service,

CHRISTINA SANDERSON
CIRCLE K I-I DISTRICT GOVERNOR

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT
https://iikiwanis.formstack.com/forms/2020ckihe