Hello! My name is…

Greg Smith – your new Michigan District of Kiwanis Executive Director. Here is a bit about me or just the facts, ma’am. I was born in the Chicago area, went to college at the University of Illinois and have lived in Michigan since 1973. I’ve worked at Sears, Compuware, MCI, McLeodUSA, Quick Connect and have been in business for myself since 2003. I received my MBA from Oakland University in 1985.

Since 2003, I have been an independent telecommunications consultant with Abilita. Interestingly, George Veach, a Kiwanian with the Jackson club, also is a consultant with Abilita. Being in business for myself has allowed me more time to spend with my family and get involved with Kiwanis.

My wife, Elaine, and I have been married for 29 years. We have a son, Nick, who works for Intel in Phoenix and a daughter, Kelli, who currently lives in Lansing but will be shortly moving to Florida with her fiancé, Christian. So we are set with warm places to visit during the winter.

I belong to the Kiwanis Club of Utica/Shelby Township and have been a member since 2001. At that time, I had made a sales call on Mark Rabaut trying to sell him telecom services. He said OK, but that I had to attend a Kiwanis meeting. The rest, as they say, was history. Positions held in the club have been Kiwanis advisor to the Eisenhower Key Club, Club President and currently Service Leadership Committee Chairperson. In 2004 Chuck Nagy appointed me as Key Club District Administrator succeeding George Brown. I’ve held that position since then.

It is an honor to have been selected to the position of Executive Director succeeding Al Dailey who has done a wonderful and masterful job for the past 10 years. Knowing he is around and seeking his guidance adds a level of comfort to handling everything.

That’s it for me. Now what about you and the Michigan District? What needs to happen to help your club and the District add new members, create a greater awareness of Kiwanis and become one of the top go-to service organizations in the state? That will be the focus of the District leadership team. We want you to join in, give us ideas, volunteer to help lead, get energized and spread the word about Kiwanis to all you know.

I look forward to visiting your club, hearing your ideas and using the District team to help your club accomplish its goals.

Contact me at 586-530-5174 or e-mail at al.mikiwanis@sbcglobal.net.

Together we can help fulfill the Kiwanis mission of “helping improve the world one child and one community at a time” by starting in our own state.
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Michigan Builder
Michigan District of Kiwanis International
(USPS344-660)
Vol. LXXX
April/May 2014 No.4

GOVERNOR
Stan Nelson

GOVERNOR-ELECT
Rebekah Hildreth

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR
David Babbage

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Greg Smith

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(email fountain@chartermi.net)

Articles are due to the editor by the 5th of the month prior to the month of publication.

Builder Publication Schedule
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Attention: Club Presidents, Secretaries & Bulletin Editors: Lt. Governors and District Chairpersons. Submit all articles and photos to Mikiwanis@sbcglobal.net. All photos and artwork must be sent as either .jpg or.bmp files.

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Continued from Page 1…

club’s organizational structure, please give your division’s Lieutenant Governor, Denny Kiroff (Membership Chair – 989-366-4936), or Linda Lawther (Education Chair – 734-320-5810) a call. They would be happy to assist your club with information or offer assistance that is needed to get a Club Satellite started.

I would also like to introduce you to a new phase in our long successful District history. Last fall Al Dailey, who has been our Executive Director for a number of years, announced his intention to retire. Under John Steele’s leadership, a Search Committee was formed. I would like to thank the folks on that committee that personally invested many, many hours and miles to complete their task of recommending one person as our new Executive Director.

A few weeks ago our Board of Trustees approved Greg Smith to fill this leadership position. Many of you know Greg as the Administrator of the District’s Key Club. Effective April 1st , Greg will assume his new role as the Executive Director of the Michigan District of Kiwanis.

Thanks Al for a job well done. Welcome aboard Greg!

If your schedule permits, consider attending a local SLP club meeting. The folks that belong to our family programs (Aktion, Circle K, Key Club, Builders, K Kids, Key Leader) enjoy helping us. Let’s return the favor!

Attending Circle K and Key Club District Conventions are an excellent way to become energized and appreciate the developing talents of our future leaders.

“The Evolution of Service” was the theme of this year’s Key Club District Convention. “Service” is caring about our fellow man. The “Evolution” part pertains to how we have learned to care for our fellow man. Serving others can be some of the most rewarding experiences that you will ever have.

A couple of people presented excellent motivational material for the audience to consider. I would like to share a few ‘bullet points’ that we all should think about.

“We become service leaders when we move ME to WE”

“Service leaders are all on the same side.”

“When we serve, we are the richest we can be.”

“We are all different, but when you become one, you become stronger.”

Consider the message the above phrases contain. If you haven’t already experienced your “Kiwanis Moment”, try applying one of the above comments to reinforce your path to this great experience.

Thanks for your service! We Still Have Work To Do!

Stan Nelson
Governor- MI District
One of our core values as Kiwanians is to help the youth in our communities. Support them by influencing and being a part of their future. Bridge the gap. Discover ways to seek out our Service Leadership members and include them in your Kiwanis Family.

– Rebekah Hildreth

If you attended the 2013 Michigan District Convention you heard Governor Stan discuss his goals. One of the Governor’s goals that is the most effortless to attain is to “have fun!” In my journeys throughout the Kiwanis world I have found that an absolute finest way to achieve fun is to be involved with our Service Leadership Programs. The mentoring, bonding and relationships that arise from working with our SLPs is genuinely unique.

Join your club in handing out “Terrific Kids” or “B.U.G.” awards at a local elementary school and watch the excitement on the students’ faces. Participate in a Builder’s Club meeting as their energy is contagious and it will re-energize you. With springtime finally revealing itself, it is the perfect time to team up with a K-Kids or Builder’s Club and organize a park or playground clean-up.

Key Club members always have innovative, fresh and novel ideas. These students long to be a part of our Kiwanis Family. Be a mentor and guide these young adults into a successful future. Your example will help to mold them towards a path of life long service. However, expect that they may also teach you a little something about the generosity from the heart.

Assist Circle K members with various service opportunities. They would love to host a service event for Kiwanians to attend. Encourage them to follow the course of giving to their communities. They are the future of Kiwanis!

All of our SLP members are caring individuals, but this compassionate and unpretentious spirit is undoubtedly manifested in the members of our Aktion Clubs. The pure drive and desire to help make this world a better place is evident with everything that they set out to do.

In March both the Michigan District of Key Club and the Michigan District of Circle K hosted their respective conventions. If you are ever in need of reaffirming why you are committed to the objects of Kiwanis, I would strongly suggest you attend any of our SLP’s District events in the future. There is always an event that you can find to attend.

One of our core values as Kiwanians is to help the youth in our communities. Support them by influencing and being a part of their future. Bridge the gap. Discover ways to seek out our Service Leadership members and include them in your Kiwanis Family. Have fun with them, enjoy their company and become the memory that will stick with these wonderful and special individuals for many years to come.

Yours in Service,
Rebekah

A Kiwanis member from Belgium is searching for a school and a guest family in Michigan for their daughter. She is 18-years-old and finishes high school this summer. She would like to go to the US to broaden her horizon. Her wish is to stay with an American family for six months to a year and do her 12th grade over in a school in the US.

If you’re interested, contact the District Office for more information.
Have you Shared the News recently?

The Michigan District offers a great opportunity to showcase the successes of your Club, your members and your community.

Your successes when published reward your members for service and provide ideas to other Kiwanis clubs. The following guidelines will help get your information published:

**Articles:**

Provide the basic information that includes your club name, division, what was done, who benefitted, when it was accomplished, and how it was accomplished.

Narrative can be attached to an email in Word, or edited and typed in the body of your email.

**Pictures:**

Send any pictures as attachments (not included in the body of a document) in highest resolution possible. Pictures downloaded from the web are generally not acceptable.

Identify persons in pictures, and try and use action pictures rather than poses of acceptances, podium speakers, and groups in rows. Usually only one or two pictures will be used, so choose wisely.

**Submit:**

Send your email and attachments to: al.mikiwanis@sbcglobal.net

Subject Line: Builder

**Deadlines:** for our six issues: Sept. 7, Nov. 7., Jan. 7, Mar. 7, May 7, and July 7.

---

District Convention at Kalamazoo

One of the highlights of Conventions is the opportunity to choose from a variety of Workshops that touch on subjects of interest both for you and your club.

You will find the following available to you on Friday and Saturday in August:

- The hearing on Bylaws, Resolutions and Candidates prepares you in your role as a delegate
- Aktion Club is the fastest growing segment of Service Leadership, is your club ready to sponsor one of these Clubs
- Aspects of Diversity will be identified by our Key Note Speaker in a workshop designed to assure that our Clubs recognize the differences in cultures and ages in Kiwanis
- If what we know most in life is learned as a child, then you will want to attend the session on Kiwanis Kids and Builders Clubs
- There will be separate sessions for Club Presidents and Club Secretaries for those who may have missed the CLE training in July
- Members and Club officers will have an opportunity to attend a Leadership Summit with an opportunity to raise issues and ask questions of District and International Leadership
- Uncovering leadership potential of club members will be addressed to help your club identify those who will follow
- Youth Protection is the next significant initiative within Kiwanis… come find out what steps you will have to take to assure the youth served by Kiwanians are protected from abuse
- Strategic Planning at the Club level is necessary to sustain viable clubs….this session is for anyone who is dedicated to strengthening the local commitment to service
- The Hospitals supported by our District Foundation will present examples of how our contributions are used
- Committee Chairs will have a session on how best to organize and control the heart of decision making in most clubs
- Education is one of the premier benefits of Kiwanis Membership…. learn why it is so important and who should be trained in this area and how to become involved
- Key Club and Circle K will have an opportunity to share the impact Kiwanis has on their efforts and the tremendous relationship between youth and the Kiwanis organization

Registration begins June 1. We look forward to seeing you in Kalamazoo at one of the best venues we use for Conventions, August 14 through 17, 2014.
We in the Michigan district have saved 451,483 lives from Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus and raised $812,669.40 from donations and pledges as of our latest giving report dated February 16th. We are at 31% of our goal of $2.6 million but mothers and babies are still dying from MNT and need everyone’s help. Clubs and individuals must come forward with their support. There are many recognition programs available for clubs and individuals to step into the ring and show that you want to save lives with your donations and pledges. Just ask the many volunteers, multi-divisional coordinators listed below, division and club coordinators or myself how your club can become part of this International project.

A new and exciting initiative is that a club can support the project with 100% member participation and with proper documentation they will receive a 100% banner for their club with one of the following steps.

100 babies = $180 in donations
200 babies = $360 in donations
300 babies = $540 in donations
400 babies = $720 in donations
500 babies = $920 in donations
ETC.

This is another excellent way for your club to have that good feeling of saving lives, and all donations could go toward your club becoming a model club.

We also have a great accomplishment with our International total of $48,199,177.45 saving 26,777,321 lives from MNT as noted in our last giving report. This is 44% of our goal of $110 million. We will celebrate our achievement at our International convention in Indianapolis in July 2015.

Let us serve and help people that cannot help themselves.

Richard A. Buttery
Michigan District Coordinator for the Eliminate Project
E-mail: rjbuttery@charter.net
Phone 269.349.1859
Since its beginning in 1922, your Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation has been supporting the needs of children hospitalized or receiving treatment throughout the State. We have established a legacy of service that few can match and no one can deny has made a difference in the lives of millions of children.

As supporters of the Child and Family Life programs at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation, our efforts improve the lives of children. The staff at the hospitals are critically important in the ever changing world of medicine. With innovative programs from interaction in the ER to art therapy sessions, hospitalized children hear a voice of comfort and encouragement.

The teams that provide this support are made up of professionals who are specifically skilled in assisting in the emotional recovery, as the medical team is focused on the physical side. By combining the two, you have an approach that allows children to respond to treatments more readily and as a result they can begin moving to a normal life. Their life may be different, but the staff will help them focus on their abilities and not their disabilities.

From Newberry to Monroe and Kalamazoo to Alpena, children from all over the state benefit from the support you provide. This support has always been the core resource for our programs, and we appreciate the sacrifice to make that happen. We need and encourage you to make your club contributions as soon as possible.

Your Foundation Trustee is a wealth of information, and would make an excellent club or Division Council program. They can provide you with more details so you can really understand the reach and impact that your support provides.

A New Day and A New Year, but like sunrise and sunset, and the change in seasons, the cycle of support continues. Somewhere, right now, there is a child who is benefiting from the efforts of the Kiwanis family. Think of that as you start the New Year.

On behalf of the Trustees, Thank you and Happy New Year!!

Mark Ott, President
Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
2013-2015
Key Club held a very successful second annual Eliminate Ball! Headed by the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee and the Projects Committee. The Michigan District of Key Club recruited the members of the Kiwanis Family to come out to this great event. There was dinner, dancing, and a lot of fun! We didn’t let the crazy snow put a hold on the event!

A special thanks to the Keynote Speaker, Kiwanis International Vice President, Sue Petrisin. She did an amazing job about talking about her experience with the Kiwanis Family and the Eliminate Project. The Michigan District board was fortunate enough to take a picture with her.

The Projects and Kiwanis Family Relations committee want to thank everyone who came out to the event. Because of everyone’s efforts, we were able to save about 720 mothers and her future children from Maternal Neonatal Tetanus! It was truly a fantastic event that we will be hosting again next year!

Yours in service and friendship,
Sean Foe
Lieutenant Governor Division 15
Orchard Lake St. Mary’s Key Club

Key Club at District Convention

For the past few months, the Michigan Key Club District Board has been hard at work to plan a weekend full of fun, service, and learning for their fellow Michigan Key Clubbers. District Convention will take place March 14th-16th. On Friday, the 14th, Key Clubbers saw Keynote speaker, Judson Laipply, and received awards for their hard work this past year. On Saturday, Key Clubbers experienced a variety of workshops, caucusing for district positions, and the Governor’s Banquet and Ball in the evening. On Sunday, the current District Board was retired and a new board installed. The 2013-2014 Michigan District of Key Club District Board would like to thank the Michigan District of Kiwanis for a great year of collaboration and service!

Kelly Peng, Michigan District of Key Club Secretary
Kiwanis Key Leader

Key Leader is a weekend event where young leaders develop their understanding of integrity, personal growth, respect, community building, and the pursuit of excellence. A Kiwanis Club, school, church, parent, business, or community can sponsor a student to go. Students do not have to be in Key Club to attend, but must be 8th – 12th grade.

Michigan Key Leader Camp

May 2-4, 2014

FAHOLO Conference Center
3000 Mount Hope Rd.
Grass Lake, MI

For More Information:
Administrator: Tom Wilson
michkeyleader@aol.com
Coordinator: Marian O’Higgins
marian.o@sbcglobal.net (586) 801-6706

Register at KEY-LEADER.ORG

The camp was fun. I will be back next year!
Kiwanis International

Goodwill Week Banquet

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Location: The Lambton Inn 1485 London Rd, Sarnia, ON
Social Hour: 5 PM
Dinner: 6 PM - 8 PM
Speakers: Sarnia Mayor, Mike Bradley and Scouts Canada Leader, Robert Tuer

Reservation Confirmation:
- Make checks payable to: “Seaway Kiwanis Club”
- Kiwanis Club of the Seaway PO Box 116, Sarnia, Ontario, CANADA N7T 7HB
- Canadian $30 US $27
- Will accept payment at the door
- Deadline for reservation is: April 16th, 2014

Map: http://goo.gl/maps/gkrmu
Website: http://seawaykiwanis.ca/

Kiwanis Club

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Attendees

__________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
__________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
__________________  __________________  __________________  __________________
__________________  __________________  __________________  __________________

Kiwanis Club of Sarnia-Lambton

Kiwanis International

Serving the Children of the World
Satellite of the Kiwanis Club of Okemos

The Kiwanis Club of Okemos Satellite meets with a pre-kindergarten class each Wednesday morning. The pre-kindergarten class is an 18-child group of five-year-olds taught by Mrs. Rebecca Spitzer. The day these pictures were taken the class was practicing writing the letter “K”. The children wrote K both in capital and lower case sizes on a page with about 20 of each letter outlined for them to trace. (Perhaps some of them will be members of the K [Kiwanis] family during their later classes and into adulthood.)

The pre-kindergarten classes are held in the Donley elementary school which has other classes from kindergarten to fourth grade and has about 350 students total. Donley elementary is in Meridian Township and is part of the East Lansing School District. The East Lansing Schools includes the area of the City of East Lansing and portions of the City of Lansing, Lansing Township, and Meridian Township. The ethnicity of the school is 45% non white while the state-wide school average is about 30%.

Our satellite group works (plays) with the children by reading and listening to their reading, helping them print, color with crayons, paint and markers, and helps with really neat jig saw puzzles, cut-out snow flakes, draw pictures, Legos, magnetic edged plastic pieces, straw buildings, building blocks, play kitchen, and on and on. These children know the letters of the alphabet, colors, and how to play together.

Adults in the back row of the attached pictures are, from left to right, Kiwanians Irma Moss, and Frank Moss. Also in the back row are Donley School Principal Robert Stephenson and Pre-K Class Teacher Rebecca Spitzer.

Woodhaven

The sixth annual Kids Against Hunger Packing was held at Bates Elementary School in Woodhaven on Saturday, February 1, 2014. 40,524 meals were packed by the over 450 students from the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District and Gibraltar School District. Students from the Woodhaven High School Hockey Team worked as team leaders on the 16 packing lines, along with Kiwanians, teachers, parents and PTO members, coaches, and school principals.

Working with the Woodhaven High School Hockey team were third, fourth, and fifth graders from Bates, Chapman, Erving, Gudith, Hunter, Weiss, Wegienka, and Yake Elementary Schools. Additionally, 50 students stepped up from Patrick Henry Middle School to work with the third graders. Kiwanian, Lt. Larry Williams, co-chairman of this year’s packing, thanked the students for unselfishly giving their Saturday morning to help hungry children around the world.

The 40,524 meals packed at Bates School, will be sent to countries where the U.S. armed forces fly humanitarian aid and will also be delivered by Woodhaven Kiwanians to Downriver area food pantries, the Salvation Army in Wyandotte, and food pantries in the City of Detroit.
The Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven held its 2014 Essay Contest Awards Dinner on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the Woodhaven Community Center. Over 100 students, parents, principals, teachers, representatives from eight charities and Kiwanians were in attendance.

With the dual goal of teaching both good writing skills and good citizenship, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven sponsors a persuasive writing contest for fourth graders. Each February, fourth grade classes from Woodhaven-Brownstown School District and Gibraltar School District are invited to participate in our annual persuasive writing contest. Our topic is “If I had $100.00 to donate to a charity, I would choose ________ because...” The author of the winning essay contest from each school, along with their parents, and a representative from the school are invited to attend a Dinner Meeting in March. Students read their essay and present a check for $100.00 from the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven to their charity.

This year, our winners were: Miranda Barden, Bates Elementary School, Emily Gloskey, Chapman Elementary School, Max Thisse, Erving Elementary School, Colin Reagan, Gudith Elementary School, Blaize Kaczor, Parsons Elementary School, Samuel Schantz, Wegienka Elementary School, and Mary Dimilia, Yake Elementary School.

They received a check for $100.00 for their charity, which was presented by the student to a representative from their chosen charity, a Dr. Seuss hard-cover book for the student’s elementary school media center, and a framed certificate to commemorate their achievement.

Congratulations to all our winners!
Kiwanis  
Michigan

March 2014 Issue

Active Clubs 166
Charter Suspended Clubs 0
District Beginning Membership 4857 members
Reporting Members March 1, 2014 4976
Net Gain +119 members

In Memoriam

2013-14 Governor’s MEMBERSHIP TROPHY

Swartz Creek +8
Midland +7

Net gain is from 10-1-13 thru 2-28-14 and includes only clubs with at least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.

AS WE GO TO PRESS

Active Clubs 166
Charter Suspended Clubs 0
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Reporting Members March 1, 2014 4976
Net Gain +119 members

Mark Your Calendars!

April 2014

5  Spring Divisional—Division 4 and 5, Governors’ Visit
5  Kiwanis One Day Observed (District Wide)
12  Spring Divisional—Division 16 and 18, Governors’ Visit
18  GOOD FRIDAY, District Office Closed
26  Spring Divisional—Division 20, 21, and 22, Governors’ Visit

May 2014

1  Club Boards to Select District Convention Delegates
2--4  Key Leader, Camp FaHaLo, Grass Lake
4  Foundation Board Meeting, Petoskey
10  Training of District Chairs (2014-15), Mason
17  Council of Past Lt. Governors, Mason
16—18  LG 103, Lt. Governor-Elect Training, E. Lansing
23  District Office Closed
26  Memorial Day, Office Closed

HOWARD REIST
Charlotte

GEORGE MERVA
East Lansing

JOHN R FEHSENFELD
Hastings

HERBERT HINE
Hillsdale

WILLIAM L. ATWOOD
Madison Heights

DUANE S. GERLACH
Mt. Clemens

KENNETH SCHWARK
Mt. Clemens

JULIE ANN HUBBS
Mt. Morris

CHARLES A. PLOUGHMAN
Plymouth

MITCHELL W. JABCZENSKI
Lt. Governor 1999-2000
Romeo Area

FRANCES ANNE LAUGHLIN
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor