Peggy and I wish each of you and your families the happiest and healthiest of New Years. Have you made any New Year’s resolutions for 2017? The history of making New Year’s resolutions dates back to early civilizations. We often make resolutions to make ourselves better. Did you know that many early civilization resolutions involved being good to others? So what will you do for others in the coming year? A great way to start is with your Kiwanis Club. I challenge each Ohio Kiwanis club to consider adopting a few of the following resolutions for the coming year.

1. Complete a literacy related service project in your community and include your Service Leadership Programs in the project if possible. If you need help thinking of a project view First Lady Peggy’s list of 102 ideas on the Ohio Kiwanis website under the Today’s Readers-Tomorrow’s Leaders tab. Please don’t forget to report your project to us at gobuckspbf@sbcglobal.net and include photos if you have any.

2. Sponsor a new member into Kiwanis. Consider sharing your Kiwanis experience with a family member or friend. Think of the added service we can all accomplish with more hands helping us in service, and the fun you will have performing this service with your loved ones and friends. Ohio Kiwanis has an aggressive goal to install 1000 new members this year and we all need to work together to achieve this goal.

3. Attend the Ohio District Kiwanis Mid Year Education Day on Saturday March 4, 2017. This is a great one day event to expand your Kiwanis knowledge, fellowship with other service minded Kiwanians, and get new ideas for service and fundraising. This year the event will once again be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus. Please visit the Ohio Kiwanis website under the Mid Year Education Day tab for more information and to register. The first 50 first time attendees registering online will receive a $15.00 discount on their registration fee, so if you qualify register soon to not miss this discount opportunity.

4. Show your support and pride for your sponsored Circle K and Key Clubs by encouraging them to attend, and helping them with their expenses to attend, their own District Leadership Conferences. This year’s Circle K District Leadership Conference will be held on February 18th and 19th at Capital University in Columbus. The Key Club District Leadership Conference will be held on March 10th, 11th and 12th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio.

5. Show you support for the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation who, year after year, shows their support of our Ohio Kiwanis clubs by providing grants for club service projects and providing fundraising support and funds management for Ohio Kiwanis clubs through their Club Advised Funds program. Ways to support the Ohio Kiwanis Foundation include showing your Kiwanis pride by purchasing an Ohio Kiwanis logoed license plate, attending their District Golf Outing on June 28 in Canton, or using their various recognition programs as a means to recognize your club leaders and outstanding members for their service to your club and community.

Just think of the growth in Ohio Kiwanis, both in service and membership, we can achieve if each club would adopt just a few of these resolutions. Thank you for all you do for your clubs and communities and best wishes for much Kiwanis success in 2017!

Yours in Service,

Bill Flinta
Ohio Kiwanis Governor
Registration for the 2017 Ohio District Mid-Year Education Day is now in full swing. You can register online by going to [http://www.ohiokiwanis.org/](http://www.ohiokiwanis.org/) and clicking on the link on the Mid Year Education Day page in the menu on the right side. Other information, as well as links to print off hard copies of the registration forms can also be found on that page. We will have the workshop schedule listed on the website very soon. Please register soon as space is limited and the first 50 "first time" Kiwanis member attendees registering online will receive a $15.00 discount!

### 990 Tax Return Final Notice

All Kiwanis Clubs (regardless of size) must file a Form 990, Form 990 EZ, or a Form 990-N with the Internal Revenue Service by no later than February 15, 2017. Failure to do so could result in loss of your Blanket Exemption from Federal Income Taxation. For additional information, please click on the following link on the Kiwanis International website: [http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms](http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms)

Please remember that the Ohio District Office has moved. When mailing anything to our office please be sure to use the following address:

Ohio District of Kiwanis International  
941 Chatham Lane, Suite 326  
Columbus, OH 43221-2416

Our phone numbers and email addresses have not changed. We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Circle K Convention (celebrating 60 years of Service!), the Mid-Year Education Day, and the Key Club District Leadership Conference. All three events will be coming up in the next two months.

### Start Planning!

Clubs should make plans for your annual club meeting/election of officers between January 1 and May 15.

Review first quarter club and board meetings; committee programs/projects; and involvement in division, district and international events and programs. Look for areas of success as well as needed improvements.

### Have news to share?

The Buckeye Bulletin is always looking to share good news about the terrific service that our clubs are doing. To share your club’s story in the Buckeye Bulletin, please submit an attached photo of your club members in action. A brief description of the project and who will be benefitting from the activity should be included. If this is a signature project or a new project that information should be included as well.

You never know, your project could inspire another club in the district to do something similar in their community. We are also interested in your Service Leadership Program clubs’ activities, since they often do amazing projects with minimal resources available to them.

Send articles to: secretary@ohiokiwanis.org. We will use them as space allows.
MID YEAR EDUCATION DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017
Crowne Plaza Columbus North Hotel
6500 Doubletree Avenue
Columbus, OH 43229

COST: $50 THROUGH FEB. 7
Discount for first-timers and SLP members. Includes 18 interactive forums and service break-out sessions, exhibitions, breakfast, lunch and OSU-themed ice cream social and service fair with Mr. Buckeye.

REGISTER TODAY!
Event information at www.ohiokiwani.org

SHARY WILLIAMSON
FAMOUS CHILDREN’S BOOK AUTHOR AND AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR

Shary Williamson’s career as an educator spanned four decades in Florida, Virginia and Ohio. She graduated from Miami University in 1967 and later received a master’s degree in early childhood education. Though she taught children from pre-school through high school, her first love and focus for 25 years has been in early childhood education.

Shary has often been recognized for her exemplary work, most notably as District Educator of the Year, Ohio PTA Outstanding Educator of the Year, American Red Cross Clara Barton Award for Education and The Ohio Department of Education Leadership Award.

On two separate occasions, she was named one of Marion, Ohio’s Outstanding Citizens in recognition of her broad community involvement and volunteer work. She served on The Ohio State Board of Directors for The American Diabetes Association and was named its Ohio Volunteer of the Year. For over ten years, she directed the children’s choir at local churches and volunteered over 1,000 hours in the children’s wing of the local hospital. Her humorous articles were published in The Marion Star between 2006 – 2010. She is currently an active member of Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI), one of Marion, Ohio’s parks commissioners and remains very involved in community service.

Her contagious enthusiasm and positive energy follow her wherever she goes. Her well-known “mission statement” hung in her classroom for 40 years, and it still hangs in her home today. It is the motivation for the creation of The Woodland Elves. Simply put, her mission statement is to “Pass the Joy of Life Around!”

SHARY WILLIAMSON
AUTHOR, FAMOUS CHILDREN’S BOOK AUTHOR AND AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR

www.thewoodlandelves.com
What are our youngest readers reading these days? Reading stories with infants and toddlers introduces them to the complex nature of language and helps them in acquiring important language skills. The type of books read to children contribute to the depth of their learning. Parents should try to include different genres of books, which are associated with different amounts and types of language, and different conversation with children.

**Picture storybooks** are great for young children because the colorful illustrations support a simple story line and provide information not covered in the text. Children enjoy being able to repeat suggestions in **participation books**, such as clapping hands, covering their eyes, or lifting the flap to peek and find an answer to a problem or make a new discovery. **Rhyming stories, nursery rhymes, and books with repeated patterns** and sounds are particularly appealing to children and contribute to their early math skills. **Simple counting books** also develop the concept that numbers are symbols for counting, as **alphabet books** introduce our letters as symbols to build words. The patterned language, repetitive phrases and predictable storyline in **predictable books** help preschoolers anticipate what is coming next, and will often be able to “read along” when the book is reread, an important pre-reading skill. It is never too early to introduce **informational books** to a child’s library, written about topics that children have a natural interest, such as food, vehicles, seasons, animals, or holidays. Finally, **poetry** introduces young readers to the sounds of language and help develop phonemic awareness.

We have enjoyed hearing from the clubs that have already participated in literacy projects. Great things are happening out there! Remember, as you complete your projects, let us hear what you are doing! Send an e-mail and include photographs, if available, to us at gobucks.pbfs@sbcglobal.net.

Keep getting books into the hands of readers. Today’s Readers will be Tomorrow’s Leaders.

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**Ohio District Circle K**

**Allyson Beechy**

**Governor**

allybeeches@gmail.com

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**CALLING ALL CIRCLE K ALUMNI AND MEMBERS OF THE K FAMILY**

Ohio Circle K is so excited to be hosting our 60th District Convention this year! We will be celebrating the past six decades of Ohio Circle K on February 18-19th at Capital University in Columbus, OH. But we could use some help from our wonderful alumni and K Family. Do you have any fun stories or anecdotes from Circle K in the past? We would love to share stories, photos, and past experiences throughout the weekend to give our members a look back at Ohio Circle K. If you have anything you’d like to share, please email me at allybeeches@gmail.com.

We are also selling advertisement space in our program! Do you have a business you’d like to advertise? Are you proud of a member or club’s accomplishments? Have a cool service project you want to tell us about? Consider buying an ad in our program! Remember, a lot of Circle K seniors will be graduating and looking for Kiwanis clubs in their area!

Would you like to attend part of our exciting weekend? Everyone is invited! You can find the guest registration form, as well as the advertisement form, on our website: [www.ohiocki.org](http://www.ohiocki.org)

I hope you are all having a wonderful new year and thank you so much for all you do for all the Service Leadership Programs!
MidYear Education Day 2017: Come prepared to learn, do, and return ready!

MidYear is fast approaching and there will be a lot to see, learn, and do this year. The forums will support the I-Plan, leading your clubs, service, and literacy (supporting the First Family project). Something new this year will also be hands-on forums crafts and activities you can do with the young and those who were young a while ago.

When I was a kid, we would get in the car or truck and take a trip with my dad driving, we almost always ended up somewhere that had ice cream. I miss those trips. Guess what? If you come to MidYear, your trip will end up somewhere with ice cream too... The Ice Cream Social sponsored by your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation. Special Buckeye surprises await those who venture to MidYear.

Along with Governor Bill and MYED Chair Jennifer Lewis, we have tried to put together an exciting slate of forums and sessions so there is something for everyone.

The topics listed below are still subject to change, but should not change too much for MidYear. For the long term planners, this list will get you started.

For club organization and leadership we have: Best Practices for Effective Club Meetings, Strategic Planning for Clubs, Creating a Signature Project, Effective New Member Orientation, Club Treasurer Training, and Monthly Report Training.

For new ideas and options for fund raising we have: Using Social Media to Enhance Fundraising, and Fundraising Ideas (including golf, running, and trivia).

Hands-on sessions include: Craft for seniors in nursing homes, Service Projects to Complete with Aktion Club, Craft for children in hospital, and Create your Kiwanis Tri-Fold

To increase your "K"nowledge we have: First Family/Literacy related, Kiwanis Children's Fund, Kiwanis International Partnership Programs, and Benefits of SLP Sponsorship.

And, for general skills for use as Kiwanians there is: Taking better pictures and editing for success (Photography 101) and Bootcamp For Engaging Children (Kids 101).

Hope to see you there Saturday, March 4, 2017!

Santa’s Annual Visit

In 1921, the Bellevue Kiwanis Club came up with the idea to host a Christmas Party for the orphans at Flat Rock Children’s Home. This tradition has continued for 95 years. Every child, despite the Great Depression, the World Wars or any other situation was never forgotten since then.

The Flat Rock Orphanage was established by the Methodist Church during the Civil War to provide a home to care for orphans on the "Orphan Trains" and remained an orphanage until 1978 when the blizzard destroyed the main building. The focus transcended from an orphanage to serving children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In 2015 the Bellevue Kiwanis Club formed an Aktion Club for residents of Flat Rock Community Services Program. Each year, members of the Bellevue Kiwanis Clubs select several names of individuals living at the home and buy them gifts from their wish list.

The festive evening, complete with singing, cake and punch culminates with the visit of Santa and Mrs. Claus much to the excitement of everyone in attendance.
New Incentive Program to Support the
First Family Project

Each year the Governor of the Ohio Kiwanis District designates a project that Kiwanis clubs and members are encouraged to support.

Your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation plays a key role in the project serving as the conduit through which funds can be donated for designation for the First Family project.

During the 2016-17 administrative year Governor Bill Flinta and First Lady Peggy's First Family project is focused on Literacy.

The project is designed to encourage every club to complete a literacy related project in their own community and to include their Service Leadership Programs in the project with them.

Each club will be free to determine the size and scope of their project based on their community needs.

A resource guide is available to assist with the program. Click "102 Projects to Support Literacy," to view the guide.

The primary measurement of success of local projects will be in service hours as opposed to dollars raised.

However, monetary donations to the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation designated for the First Family Literacy project will be accepted.

These funds will be used to fund grants to Ohio District Kiwanis clubs to help fund literacy projects or literacy related projects in Ohio communities.

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Board has approved a special incentive program to support the First Family Project.

Any Past International President's award donation of $500 will be split between the First Family Project Fund and the Foundation Fund. This is a great way for individuals or clubs to receive recognition while supporting a very worthwhile project.

If a member or club wishes to make a donation to the First Family Literacy Project through the donation to the Past International President's program they should send a check to the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation at P.O. Box 668 Circleville, Ohio 43113 or use the Donate Button on our website.

One of the most valuable skills we can give our children is the development of good reading skills. This literacy project will change lives in a very positive way. Give today!!!!!
Hello Ohio Kiwanians!

I hope you all are having a great start to your new year! As the Key Club year draws to a close, we have all spent some time reflecting upon that which we have accomplished and that which we wish to still accomplish before our terms end. I personally didn’t make any new year’s resolutions - because knowing myself I knew that I wouldn’t uphold any of them J - but I wish you all the best as you continue to live a happier and healthier 2017.

On the district level, Ohio District Key Club has been in full swing planning this year’s District Leadership Conference (DLC), themed “Superheroes of Service”. At our upcoming board meeting we will continue to plan this incredible event. This year’s DLC will be held similarly to last year, at the Dublin Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio. All registration information can be found on our district’s website, ohkc.org. DLC is an incredible experience for any Key Clubber and is one full of meeting teenagers from across the state all dedicated to service, as well as learning more about our organization, and electing next year’s executive board. I highly encourage you to reach out to your Key Clubs and encourage them to attend this amazing weekend. This year will mark my third year as a DLC attendee and I cannot wait to see what a remarkable convention will come out of the hard work and dedication of the district board.

I am so pleased to announce that our efforts to combine with Ohio Kiwanis and Ohio Circle K in the “First Family” project promoting literacy has been a huge success. There have been so many Key Clubs throughout the state that have switched their club’s focus to this project and we could not be happier. There is still so much more we can do, and I am interested to see how much of an impact we can make by March. As Key Clubbers begin on their journey to promote literacy, plan service projects with your sponsoring Key Clubs to truly make this a unifying experience.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of Ohio Key Clubbers. On behalf of the district and the district board I wish you well on your endeavors this new year, and may it be one that will change countless homes, schools, and communities across the state.

Beavercreek President Kim Farrrell, right, and Treasurer Bill Pees present Feed the Creek’s share of $6,000 in proceeds from the club’s third annual silent auction.

Feed the Creek provides weekend meal packs for needy Beavercreek students. Other organizations receiving checks were Shoes 4 the Shoeless, Beavercreek Schools’ music education, and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program in Greene County.

The October $1,500 2016 silent auction was the club’s most successful to date with 120 items up for bid.
Once again, the Tiffin Middle School Builders Club served as “helper elves” for the Salvation Army Christmas Family distribution. This has become an annual project for the Builders and they look forward to it every year!

KKids of Granville Elementary Read to Seniors

The Granville Elementary K-Kids (52 second graders) enjoyed an afternoon of Reading and Bingo during a field trip seniors at our local Middleton Senior Living Facility on Tuesday, December 20 from 3:45-5PM. We sent some of our best behaved to read in the Memory Unit. Many of these residents are grandparents and former teachers. Our Kiwanis Club volunteers helped and blended right in! We enjoyed sharing with our SLP KKids group in this terrific literacy service project. We helped cover the cost of the $30 school bus ride and chaperoned with parent volunteers. It was such a success on all sides that we were invited to return and become regular reading buddies! We took many fun photos that show the students reading to seniors and our volunteers, everyone smiling and participating, and kids even sitting in residents’ laps! We had some publicity with coverage in the local newspaper, The Granville Sentinel and the school bulletin, which featured a few photos.

On Monday January 9, three KKids and their school advisor Dr. Jessica Wilson presented an overview of their service activities including their field trip at our Kiwanis meeting. They were so professional and genuinely enthusiastic! Their parents seemed pleased also and have been involved in many of the activities. This club was only chartered in August and has a terrific start with many positive activities. This KKids club meets for an hour twice a month on a Tuesday afternoons. There are two main advisors and many adult parent and Kiwanis volunteers. We usually break into small group projects and rotate. This trip to Middleton was their first field trip as a group and Monday was their first presentation to our club. We often invite a few KKids and their parents to our meetings when the program is interesting and everyone enjoys it.

Their KKids Advisor Dr. Jessica Wilson will be presenting at our Midyear about her KKKids program and teach us something about working with young children. She’s a super teacher and KKKids advisor. She’s also a Key Club alumna from Marietta and a member of the Granville Kiwanis Club. Please look for her session at Midyear Education Day on March 4!
When the K-KIDS at Wilder Elementary started collecting canned food for Westerville Caring and Sharing and the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, they didn’t realize their efforts would not only provide a lesson in giving, but in math as well! A whopping 742 canned goods were brought in for the local charities. And if that’s not enough, they crafted 75 ornaments for a nearby nursing home. Coordinator Lynn Holland said, “These kids are amazing!”

Kiwanis provides Wilder with guidance and opportunities to complete local and worldwide service projects. The K-Kids are guided by Kiwanis Vice President James Minter.
Youth Services: Why Literacy?

The First Family’s Project this year is an emphasis on literacy: “Today’s Readers - Tomorrows Leaders”. This broad-based theme provides enormous opportunity for clubs to make a big impact in their communities.

The ability to read and comprehend materials is one of the leading indicators for future success of children. The National Institute for Literacy estimates that 43% of adults with low literacy skills live in poverty. About 70% of adult welfare recipients have lower level literacy on the National Assessment of the Adult Literacy. About 43% of adult welfare recipients have not graduated from high school.

Individuals ages 25-34 who dropped out of high school are more than three times as likely to receive public assistance as high school graduates who did not go on to college.

Per one study of welfare recipients without high school diplomas, when recipients increase their basic reading and comprehension skills, they tend to make substantial improvement in employment, earnings and self-sufficiency. In a study of mothers receiving welfare, each additional year of schooling led to approximately a 7% wage increase.

Two thirds of children who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. Over 70% of America’s inmates cannot read above a 4th grade level. Nearly 85% of juveniles who face trial in the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.

Students who don’t read proficiently by the third grade are 4 times likelier to drop out of school.

It seems like a such a simple skill, but, the results of the inability to read are obviously far reaching. How can you or your club help?

Promote reading programs through Head Start, B.U.G. and after school programs. In low income school districts, donate popular children’s books to libraries or even classroom teachers (many have their own library in the classrooms). Donate Scholastic Books gift certificates to teachers or outstanding students, so they can select their own reading materials through the annual book fair. Have outstanding students select a book to be donated to the school library in their honor. Make certain there is a faceplate in the front of the book stating it is in honor of a particular student.

Collect and donate “Box Tops for Education” to local schools with the understanding they are to be used for books. If your school does not participate in that program, send them to the district Kiwanis office and we can get them to schools in the Appalachian Area that will gladly accept them.

Promote reading circles in schools, literacy can be more than just story time. March 2 is National Read Across America Day (aka Dr. Seuss Day), encourage a contest for short story writing or a poetry contest. Encourage students or educators to dress up as their favorite book character. Give books or certificates as prizes for best costume or story.

Have younger children write stories that feature themselves as action hero’s or friends of historical figures. Encourage students to visit nursing homes to read to residents or even to animal shelters to read to the dogs as a socialization activity.

Donate early reader books to Children’s Services for parent visitation rooms or to Shelters to encourage parents reading to their children.

Be sure to visit the Ohio District Kiwanis website, www.OhioKiwanis.org to study the page promoting Today’s Readers, Tomorrow’s Leaders and the kiwanisonline.org/read website for information about our service partners, Scholastic Books.

Choices are limited to your imagination. Our children deserve to have every tool available for success and reading is a skill that can reused forever.