February – A Month of Love and Family

The month of February often makes us think about our “Valentines” who are often family members. Please also take some time this month to reflect on your Kiwanis family. Think about how the service you have done with your club has impacted your heart and often the hearts of those you are serving. Think about what you love about your club and share it with a friend. Think of the many friends you have in your club, and possibly reach out to one you have not seen in a while and invite them to attend an upcoming meeting or service project.

Don’t forget to think about your extended Kiwanis family, which includes our Service Leadership Programs and the other clubs and Kiwanians around the Ohio District and the world. Over the coming month we will have several opportunities to fellowship with our extended Kiwanis family. The first of which will be the Circle K District Leadership Conference being held on February 18 and 19 at Capital University in Columbus. Then on March 4 we will have our Ohio Kiwanis Mid-Year Education Day being held at the Crowne Plaza North in Columbus. Lastly will be the Key Club District Leadership Conference being held on March 10-12 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each of these events will provide numerous opportunities for education and fellowship with members of our extended Kiwanis family. I honestly believe after attending any of these events you cannot help but leave with new ideas and energy for our organization and serving our communities. Please plan to attend one or all of these upcoming events. Kiwanians are always welcome as guests at the Circle K and Key Club events. If you sponsor a Circle K or Key Club please encourage them to attend their respective District Leadership Conferences, as a sponsoring Kiwanis club encouraging their attendance at these events is an expectation and part of being a good sponsor. More information about all of these events can be found on the Ohio Kiwanis website (www.OhioKiwanis.org).

So during this month of love take time to show your family, your Kiwanis Club and your sponsored Service Leadership Programs how important they all are to you by being actively engaged with them and encouraging others to do the same.
We are rapidly approaching our 2017 Mid-Year Education Day and registrations are coming in at rapid pace. If you have not registered, you can still do so until Noon on Tuesday, February 28th. After that date you can register on-site but we cannot guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket to lunch. You can register online at www.ohiokiwanis.org on the Mid-Year Education Day page or you can call the district office at (614) 848-5000, Extension 1, and Sarah will be sure to get you registered for Mid-Year.

Charter Suspended List
As of February 3rd, 35 clubs in the Ohio District are currently on Suspended Status with Kiwanis International for Non-Payment of dues, new member enrollment fees, Builders Club, or K Kids Club annual fees. Kiwanis, and the Ohio District, have communicated directly with the Club Presidents and Club Secretaries of those 35 clubs to advise them that their charter will be revoked if payment is not made by July. If you need detailed information, please call us in the district office.

Personal Health Update
Some of you may have been aware that I have had some health issues the past year and a half leading to my being on dialysis for kidney failure. We received the welcome news recently that my daughter has been approved to donate a kidney to me. We have been scheduled for a kidney transplant on March 14th at The Ohio State University Medical Center. The estimated recovery time for this surgery will be 6 weeks. While I am out of the office recovering, please feel free to contact Sarah Roush with any questions you might have. Sarah will be writing this column in March and April. Your thoughts and prayers have been most appreciated. I look forward to being back in the office as soon as possible.

Take Note of these Dates....
March 2. Read Across America Day
March 3. Ohio District Kiwanis Board Meeting
March 4. Ohio District Kiwanis Mid-Year
March 10-12: Key Club Leadership Conference
March: Club Election of Officers for SLP’s (and Kiwanis)

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.
For the past several months, the MidYear Education Day committee has been preparing a day for you. However, there is still something that needs to be done. And, you can help. Being the service hearted people that you are, you are probably asking yourself this question... what can I do to help? If you hadn’t asked that question, you probably did now. The answer has two parts. First, register and attend MidYear 2017. I bet you didn’t see that one coming. The second part is easy for Kiwanians. Participate. If you do those two simple things, MidYear will be a huge success. Last month, we listed the 18 sessions that will be available to enrich your Kiwanis knowledge and involvement. For this month’s article, I want to focus on our keynote speaker.

This year, I expect that the first family project will have a great impact on the lives of children across Ohio. Reading is such a critical skill for success in life. Kiwanis members from all over Ohio are challenged this year to get involved in the effort. Based on our many past successes, I know we will all come together and make Governor Bill and First Lady Peggy’s project a huge success.

There will be many opportunities at MidYear to learn how you can make an impact. One that I am very excited about is our keynote speaker. Shary Williamson will get us pumped up about changing the lives of kids. She is one of the most high energy and passionate people I know. Now, you are thinking, how do I know her? Well, last month you heard a story about my dad and ending up at ice cream places when we would take car or truck trips (don’t worry, there will still be ice cream at MidYear). This story also involves my dad. The 1963 graduating class of Mt. Gilead High School — I would follow him 22 years later. Boy did I hear stories about this class growing up. The undefeated football team, the only one in the history of the school among many others. I felt like I knew many of the class members. Shary Williamson was a good friend of my dads’ in school and for 50+ years after. I got to know Shary personally in 2013 when we were involved in planning the 50th reunion of the football season. She got me involved in her book project in the very early stages. She had a passion for teaching kids. After 40 years of teaching she retired. Then came a new mission. To get kids reading and sparking their imaginations. Like many authors, her books have some connection to their personal lives. The Woodland Elves and their adventures share a connection to her real life grandchildren and is a story that will touch your hearts. Marion, Ohio is her home and a place filled with magic and joy. A joy which she wants to pass around to all of us. Come hear how her books are reaching children around the world. Once the magic of the Elves touches you, you will want to get these stories in the hands of kids all around you. Her enthusiasm is contagious. Being at MidYear is your first step in the adventure. The elf characters Tanglewood, Barely-Crumb and Beanpod are waiting for you in The One and Only Forest.

18 forums, an amazing keynote, celebrating the achievements of clubs, honoring lifetimes of service with Hall of Fame inductions, hundreds of Kiwanians. I am ready for MidYear, can’t wait to see you there!
Club Contests for Builders Clubs

I’m sure that all of you have very exciting and helpful projects up and running for the remainder of this school year. Are you aware that Kiwanis is sponsoring monthly contests for Builders clubs?

There are opportunities for Posters for a Cause (February), Best Speech or Oral Report in March, Best Club Impact Video in April, and Best Annual Achievement Report in May.

There is also the single service Scrapbook in April and Best Song, May 1-12. You can check out the rules and regulations at www.Buildersclub.org/contest. There are prizes awarded each month. This is a great way for KI to know what your clubs are doing and that leadership is being built all year long. Good Luck to all!

Wilmington Club Takes Aktion

On Thursday, January 19th, the Wilmington Kiwanis Club and the Aktion Club of Wilmington met for service, fun and fellowship. The service project involved preparing greeting and old Christmas cards to be repurposed by St. Jude’s Ranch for Children in Nevada. The group also prepared Valentine gift bags for seniors receiving Meals on Wheels. Holiday Inn on Holiday Dr. graciously donated bottles of lotion to be included in the gift bags. Immediately following lunch prepared by Shoelaces Catering, Aktion Club officers were installed. As a way to show appreciation to the Aktion Club for their service to the community, the Kiwanis Club hosted a bingo game with wonderful prizes.
How many times have you been asked “What is Kiwanis?” Like most, probably more times than you can count. We then take a few minutes to explain what Kiwanis is and what kinds of things we do in our communities. Providing service to our communities is one of the biggest and most rewarding experiences of being a Kiwanian, and what better way to help your club than to recruit new members. But there is something even more rewarding, and that is helping to build a new club.

This year has been an exciting one for me. As the Ohio District Club Opening Chair, I have had the privilege of working with District Leaders, Club Opening, Club Counseling and many other members in making preparations for opening new and strengthening existing clubs. Every one of them are part of a dedicated group of members who have many things in common, but nothing is more evident than their love of Kiwanis and the need to share it with others. As the goals of our District continue to grow, there is a need for more volunteers with a Love for Kiwanis to step up and assist our efforts. If you have the desire and would like to assist in strengthening existing clubs and sharing Kiwanis with other communities, we would love to talk with you. Our team members receive training and normally work in a team setting.

For more information, you can contact me at rulmes@natca.net or 937-524-7300

Richard Ulmes
New Club Building
rulmes@natca.net

During the grey days of central Ohio’s February, imagine strolling in the warm July sunshine of Paris, a truly walkable city. Meander along the quais at the edge of the Seine, examining the offerings of the booksellers and watching a bateau mouche filled with tourists as it cruises through the city. Meander through the Luxembourg gardens where children push lazy toy boats across ponds, old men play boules (a cousin of bocci), and still older men play chess at tiny metal café tables. Tennis courts here, fenced-in playgrounds there, young adults playing soccer on the grass with do-not-walk signs, statues—including a life-size statue of liberty—scattered throughout the gardens.

If the morning is cool, visit the shop across the street from the back of the Louvre for remarkable hot chocolate. During the hot afternoon, cross a stone bridge to the Isle de la Cité, the original heart of Paris, and find the famous shop with extraordinary ice cream. Stop before dinner for a beer or glass of wine in any café, where you can watch people passing by.

Don’t miss the parade and fireworks of the celebration of Bastille Day, the start of the French Revolution, which ended the rule of a monarchy and eventually led to a republic only a few years after our own Independence day.

Need more ideas? Go to The 22 Best Landmarks of Paris You Absolutely Must See. Then register with KI and buy your plane tickets.

Attention Delegates and Club Secretaries: Online voting delegate submission for the Kiwanis International Convention in Paris has been enabled on each club's secretary dashboard; club secretaries; assistant secretaries and presidents can now login to www.kiwanis.org/login, to access their dashboards, and report their voting delegates directly to KI.

From the form, clubs can submit the names of their two primary delegates and their two alternate delegates from the list of members on their club rosters, and electronically certify the submission. Please note, submitting a list of delegates is NOT the same as registering for convention.

International and district leaders that are automatically certified as delegates-at-large need not submit a delegate form - unless they will be representing a club of which they are an active member. If representing a specific club they are a member of, these individuals will relinquish their delegate-at-large status.
Bill Snellgrove  
Membership Chair  
Governor_Bill@columbus.rr.com  

The Formula – Strengthen Your Club

Happy New Year!!

It’s still time for New Year’s resolutions – and an important one needs to be to strengthen your club. Bringing in new members continues your club’s service into the future and I cannot think of anything more positive than the service that all of your clubs do.

Of course New Year’s resolutions are easy to make but hard to keep. Even so, I encourage you to make this one happen. Make bringing in new members – and keeping them – a continuous effort for your club. It pays terrific dividends for the club and community.

As a further incentive (as if more is needed), we have our “Laps for Literature” contest. I hope you have heard about it. This is a fantasy marathon that runs all year and has our Ohio divisions compete to meet their division’s goal to quickly add new members to clubs in the division. All clubs are members of their division’s team.

Your Lt. Governor received the latest update on January 15th – so ask them for that information. Join your division team today: INVITE A NEW MEMBER AND BE A WINNER.

As always, I encourage you to let the rest of the world know how essential and important your club really is. Share the excitement with someone. Show them how belonging can meet their needs and invite them to join your club. Do it today – it is the only way to continue your club’s wonderful legacy of service to your community!!!

Love Your Club! Share Your Kiwanis Experience! Live Kiwanis Out Loud!

Avon Kiwanis Family Hosts Veteran Honor Run

The Avon Kiwanis Club and Avon Lake Key Club are pleased to be hosting the 5th Annual Veterans Honor Run. A 5K race (1-mile walk) will benefit the Nine Line Foundation. A 501 (C) (3) charitable organization, the Nine Line Foundation is dedicated to meeting the financial and specialized needs of severely injured soldiers and their families.

In combat, a Nine Line is an emergency medevac request, and is often the difference between life and death for the most severely wounded soldiers. This race, in addition to providing funds to organizations who support our veterans is meant to honor and empower our wounded warriors, locally and nationally as well as help raise awareness for our veterans and their needs.

The goal this year is to raise $10,000. The race/walk will be May 27, 2017 at Kopf Metro Park in Avon Lake, Ohio. To register for this event to support our veterans, visit www.events.com and type “Veterans Honor Run” to find secure online registration. Advance registration fees are $20 ($25 the day of the race). Veterans receive free registration and handmade medals will be awarded to the top three participants in the men, women and veteran categories.
So Much Progress, So Many Lives to Save!

When the Eliminate project first began in 2011, its goal was to save the lives of 60 million women and children through providing BOTH series of three immunizations and education on clean birthing practices. At that time, one baby was dying EVERY NINE MINUTES from the ravages of MNT. Today that number has decreased significantly to one baby dying EVERY 15 MINUTES.

And there is more good news! Equatorial Guinea has eliminated Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus, and equates to 18 countries—less than half—of the 39 countries who needed help eliminating it when Kiwanis first got involved.

Yet, there is still an urgency of cash flow to help countries such as South Sudan and Papera New Guinea, who along with Ethiopia, the Congo and the Phillipines are looking to eliminate MNT this year and save many more lives. We have the answer and that is to continue to surge ahead by fulfilling our pledges.

In Ohio, we/I THANK YOU for all you have done. As the first district to raise $1 million for this life-saving effort, we must continue to finish our club and individual pledges; or simply start a new fundraiser that you can continue for your club long after Eliminate has ended.

Please look for our book at Mid Year for information, fun stuff and our new KI representative Jereme Grinsdale, who is here to help you and help answer questions.

Annual Book Drive Reaps Large Results

The Kiwanis Club of Dayton recently held their 7th Annual Book Drive to Support Brighter Futures/Nurse Family Partnership Program to provide books to the young children/babies and Mothers. This encourages them to read to their children which not only helps in the child's language development but also is a way for mother and child to bond. The club will also be building Brighter Futures book cubes/cases in April to distribute to the families as well. We collected 1000 books and presented them to Pam Albers, Director, Help Me Grow Brighter Futures at Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association. Pam is also a recent addition to our Dayton Kiwanis Club Membership and we are glad to have her!

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a nationwide, evidenced based, community healthcare program. The program pairs eligible first time mothers with a specially trained registered nurse for home visits. The nurse empowers first time mothers to become confident parents and strong women and their children to be healthy and developing on target.
Whetstone Aktion Club Spreads Christmas Joy Overseas

Christmas was in the air at Whetstone Industries Monday, December 19, 2016, as Morrow County/Whetstone Industries’ Aktion Club, along with People First, a self-advocacy group of Whetstone Industries, remembered troops overseas with special donations.
Aktion Club Vice President, Chad Wogan said that the clubs’ officers and members voted to give back to our service members spending their holidays away from family. The clubs received lots of help from the community as well, with donations from community service groups, businesses, and even a Viet Nam veteran donated items on the list of needs for the deployed military.
Danielle Williamson, a Mount Gilead High School grad and now a Medic with the Army National Guard 371st Special troop’s battalion in Newark, got involved with the project since her mom, Sandi Williamson, is the Aktion Club Advisor. Danielle said that she is especially glad that the donations collected will go to the 37th Ohio Infantry Brigade Combat team now deployed in Bosnia and Kosovo in Eastern Europe.
“It’s really nice to see the Aktion Club and the community support a local Ohio unit that’s deployed overseas during the holidays,” Danielle said.
Aktion Club members, with the help of Whetstone staff and employees were able to shop and purchase many of the items for the military. Wogan’s cousin recently came back from Afghanistan and gave them several suggestions for items most needed by troops.
Aktion Club President Harold Swazey along with People First thanked the 371st Sustainment Brigade for helping get the donations to troops of HQ37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Chad Orwig of the National Guard Columbus Army Base DSCC thanked all the people who organized the donations and announced that his fire department is covering postage for sending all the packages overseas.
Former Marine and National Guard officer, Nathan Anderton said, “As someone who has been deployed before, I know it’s really appreciated and something that lifts the spirit to get a package from home.”
How are you getting to MidYear Education Day?

Literacy and service recognitions will be the focus of our 2017 Midyear on March 4. Speakers will include outside experts and successful Kiwanis peers, who will help us learn more about how to serve our clubs and our youth. We have a choice of 18 forums during three break-out sessions. And if sitting “in class” is not for you, attend three new hands-on, activity forums! Breakfast and lunch will feature Governor Bill Flinta and invited author Shary Williamson. Exhibitor tables will be open all day, as well as the Kiwanis Store to purchase branded items. We will close the day with an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social sponsored by ODKF and KIF, with OSU-theme and Mr. Buckeye. Stick around to the end to win items in a FREE door prize raffle. Everyone who registers will be automatically included!

Thank you to the committee, especially Governor Bill Flinta, Education Chair Eric Bush, KI Partnership Chair Jamie Kaufman, Secretary Dave Whiteman, Asst. Sarah Roush, Key Club and Circle K Govs. Prestin Minter and Ally Beechy, and ODKF Exec Dir Alan Penn, for helping to organize this great event!

Register today at ohiokiwanis.org. Note, reservations must be received by Feb 27 to guarantee lunch!

Closing thought: My first memory of Midyear was dominated by the car ride. Admittedly I was guiled into attending and carpooling by our club President, dedicated Secretary and a past LTG who was our “go-to” guy for anything Kiwanis. The ride turned out to be an eye-opener and true joy. These once serious figures opened up about their favorite projects and they asked me to help with the Key Club. They treated me like an equal and I felt welcomed. They even cracked jokes about deserving characters in our club. Our early departure plan was diverted when we found a District chair and other club members to help us on an upcoming project. I learned what Kiwanis and the various committees were all about from the sessions, talking to other club members and making personal connections with the District officers. MidYear certainly covered Kiwanis in more detail than our new member orientation, but more importantly, I met interesting people from other clubs with similar service interests and club issues. I enjoyed my new club, but after MidYear I realized I was part of a bigger global organization. That car ride gave our President his interclub, and it we all appreciated the fellowship. So how are you getting to MidYear? Make the most of this Midyear event, invite someone to carpool!
The Kiwanis Club of Youngstown named member Jerry Osborne "Kiwanian of the Year" during the club’s December 16 meeting. Club President Carla Hunter and Past President Anthony D’Apolito presented Osborne a plaque recognizing the award and his service to the club and the community.

Jerry is a retired banking executive and a member of the Youngstown Kiwanis Club since 2002. He is a former club president and Lt. Governor. He currently serves as the club’s treasurer and plays a significant role in all club activities.

During this Presidents’ Day month it seemed appropriate to open with those quotes. The importance of reading to these great American leaders, during their times, is obvious. Nearly every depiction of a young Lincoln shows him reading books, in front of a fireplace or by oil lamp at a table. The printed word was their main vehicle available to gain knowledge and be entertained.

Certainly times have changed! Television, video games, eBooks and the Internet are the media through which many people experience new information. It is important to recognize however that not all families in our communities are able to provide those experiences.

Perhaps sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair and providing vouchers for children from low income families would be a viable project for your club. Scholastic, a Kiwanis Partner, has everything needed to conduct the event. An elementary school with a high free or reduced lunch population would be a good location for a book fair. The school may already have an event scheduled for which a Kiwanis club could provide vouchers, helpers or other assistance. More information may be found at Kiwanis.org and following the path: About Kiwanis, Our partners, Promotional Partners, Scholastic.

If you have witnessed the joy of a young child receiving a “book of their own” you know the value of the action. So consider how you can make that joy happen in your community.
MID YEAR EDUCATION DAY

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

REGISTER TODAY!
Event information at www.ohiokiwanis.org

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

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!”