Summer– A Busy Kiwanis Season

Spring and Summer become very busy times for many of our Kiwanis Clubs as many Kiwanis planned festivals, parades, clean-up days, golf outings, etc begin to get organized and take place. Just as this becomes a busy time for local Kiwanis Clubs don’t forget the many District and International Kiwanis events happening as well.

Please mark your calendars to complete, support and participate in as many of these upcoming programs and events as possible.

Don’t forget, as discussed in my article last month, that May is membership month. I hope many of our clubs have been holding membership related events and programs this month. Don’t forget our new member contest this month, any club that grows by a net two members in May will be entered in a drawing for a free District Convention registration.

Also May is the traditional Kiwanis Club elections month so please plan for your club’s election of next year’s officers and directors. Don’t forget to turn your election reports into Kiwanis International in a timely manner.

May and June also mark our Club Leadership Education season in Ohio. There are many such events planned for several weekends in late May and June, with a make-up session if needed at District Convention in August. A list of dates and locations is available on the Ohio Kiwanis website at www.ohiokiwanis.org. Please make sure your new officers are receiving this important training to help them prepare for their year of leadership. Even if an officer is repeating or has held the position before they are strongly encouraged to attend the training to learn of things that have changed within our organization and to begin bonding with their fellow club officers. Although attending leadership training in person is highly suggested, if an officer cannot make it there are online modules available at www.kiwanis.org.

June 28, 2017 is the date for the 60th annual Ohio Kiwanis Golf Outing sponsored by the Ohio Kiwanis Foundation. Please plan to have your club represented at this great fellowship event and to show your support of our District Foundation. The event is a 10:00am shotgun start at Tam O’Shanter Golf Course in Canton, Ohio. Please visit the Foundation website at www.odkf.org to learn more or sign up.

July 13-16, 2017 are the dates for the Kiwanis International Convention in Paris, France. There is still time to sign up and be represented at this important annual Kiwanis event. Much Kiwanis International business is accomplished at this annual gathering including the election of our Kiwanis International officers and trustees as well as important by-law amendments. To learn more visit www.kiwanis.org.

August 11-13, 2017 marks the time for our own Ohio Kiwanis annual District Convention. This year’s event will be held in Dayton, Ohio at the Dayton Convention Center with accommodations at the adjoining Crowne Plaza Hotel. There will be many opportunities for member education and fellowship with others from around the District at this event. At this annual gathering we also elect our District leaders for the coming year and consider any by-law amendments for Ohio Kiwanis. Registration information for this event is available on the Ohio Kiwanis website at www.ohiokiwanis.org.

As you summer calendars begin to take shape please don’t forget to include all of these important Kiwanis events. Best wishes to all Ohio Kiwanians for a wonderful summer 2017! Please include Kiwanis and service as part of your summer plans.
District Secretary’s Notes

Whew! May has been super busy! It’s exciting to see all the leaders in our organization prepare for their new roles by attending their education sessions.

The Circle K Board spent a weekend at Camp O’Bannon not only learning the ins and outs of their new roles within the district, but, bonding while doing service projects for the camp as it prepares for another busy summer.

The Key Club District Board spent a day and a half in Columbus for their trainer. They went home toting a wealth of materials and a laundry list of tasks to complete before the end of school and the next board meeting.

Kiwanis Lt. Governor Classes will be in mid-June, so Governor-Elect Dan has a few more weeks to prepare his class of officers for their roles in October.

Then, there are the club officers for our Kiwanis Clubs. As clubs wrap up their elections, Certified Leadership Education is taking place across the state for the next month, as well as on-line at www.kiwanis.org.

Why take a CLE class? Like any new job—you want to be prepared and part of that is knowing exactly what that job may entail. CLE, provides tools to help officers, evaluate, plan, and make revisions to their organization in such a way there is more member satisfaction and greater impact in their community. These leads to club growth and more service; a rather fabulous cycle if you ask me. Plus, many of the tools we provide through Kiwanis leadership education can be utilized in other areas of our lives.

I hope every club has at least one officer attending this year. For a listing of the remaining class dates, please see page 5 of this Buckeye Bulletin.

Take Note of these Dates....

April & May, Officer Election Month for Key Club, Circle K, Aktion Club and Kiwanis. Be sure to submit officer information on-line and on time!

May 13, May 20, June 3, June 10, Club Leadership Education, locations vary

June 16-17, Kiwanis Lt. Governor Elect Training, Lewis Center

June 28, District Golf Outing, Tam O’Shanter Golf Course, Canton

July 5-9, CKIX International Convention, San Antonio, Texas

July 5-9, Key Club International Convention, San Antonio, Texas

July 13-16, Kiwanis International Convention, Paris, France

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.
Dayton, The Birthplace of Aviation Welcomes Ohio Kiwanis!

We’re so excited Kiwanis has chosen Dayton as its host city for the 2017 Convention. Dayton is rich with history and proud to be the hometown of the Wright Brothers. It is also known for innovation, flight and all kinds of fun. We invite you to take in the city, see the sites, fine dine or have a bite on the streets.

Be amazed by the national treasure of the US Air Force museum, stroll the streets of Oregon District, and most importantly...relax and have fun!

Your 2017 DCON Co-Chairs, Paul Price and Kelly Brown

The eleven clubs of Division 4 look forward to hosting Ohio Kiwanians and their guests at the 100th Annual Ohio District Convention August 11-13 at the Dayton Convention Center. Convention is a great opportunity to experience engaging educational programs and to meet and share ideas with fellow Kiwanians.

Books, books and more books! The convention service project is all about books! We want each club in the District to bring 100 donated books for kids and adults. Books will go to local literacy programs as part of first family literacy project, “Today’s Readers, Tomorrow’s Leaders.” Contact Chuck Sousa, Dayton Noon club, for more details. csousa@woh.rr.com

The convention will open Friday evening with a fun night of trivia and barbeque planned by Governor Bill Flinta and First Lady Peggy. Saturday features the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation annual meeting, education workshops, a fellowship lunch, the Delegate Session and the annual Governor’s Banquet. Sunday’s program includes a prayer service and memorial for our departed Kiwanians followed by a festive installation brunch for incoming Governor Dan Litzinger and additional 2017-18 officers and lieutenant governors.

Online registration for the convention opens June 1. Early bird registration will be $75 through July 14 and includes Saturday’s fellowship luncheon. A block of rooms has been arranged at the adjoining Crowne Plaza Hotel; a rate of $109 plus tax will be available August 10-12. Online registration for Crowne Plaza is now open.

Come to Dayton – it’s the “Wright” place to be!

We can’t wait to see you in August.

The Wilmington Kiwanis Club kicked off their new literacy service project, “Today’s Readers Tomorrow’s Leaders” with a book donation to the Faith Lutheran Church. This is a new project encouraged by the Ohio District Kiwanis First Family Project to better the community as a whole. Families served by the church food pantry will also have access to an age appropriate book their child may keep. Also helping with the project is the Aktion Club of Wilmington. They have helped purchase and sort the books and have also made bookmarks encouraging the families to visit the local library.

Paris, mon amour!

The countdown has begun! In about six weeks airplanes from all over the world will be heading to Paris carrying Kiwanians to our International Convention!

Spending time in Paris, particularly over the Bastille Day weekend, will be a thrill. Bastille Day, July 14, is a celebration of the start of the French Revolution which began France’s march toward becoming a republic. As with our Fourth of July, there will be bands, parties, dances, parades and jet flyovers leaving blue, white and red trails in the sky—not to be confused with our red, white and blue!

The sites in Paris begin with ancient Roman baths and amphitheaters and end with modern buildings like the Musée Pompideau and the modern sculptures and office buildings of La Defense, the business area that matches Napoleon’s Arc de Triomphe in front of the Louvre with an enormous arch of its own at the far end of the Champs Elysées. (The Louvre itself, one of the largest art galleries in the world, originated as a royal palace.) Between those extremes are gardens, churches, museums, and other remarkable structures that have evolved over the centuries.

Many Kiwanians are opting for pre- or post-tours to explore other regions. The Normandy beaches and museums of World War II are an attraction for Americans. Mont St. Michel, the abbey topping the town on a rock off the northwest coast of France is a draw; the quicksand-studded beaches can be swiftly covered by tides that rush in at the speed of a galloping horse.

Castles are all along the Loire, of course. Azay-le-Rideau, the “fairy-tale castle,” on an island in the middle of the Indre river; Chambord. with its famous double spiral staircase, constructed to serve as a “hunting lodge” for François Ier, able to accommodate two thousand; Villandry, where the attraction is not the castle itself but the terraced gardens with swans swimming in the moat; the black castle of Angers, with the largest collection of medieval tapestries in the world, including the Tapestries of the Apocalypse; and Cheverney, still occupied by descendants of the original owners, complete with its own pack of seventy hunting hounds.

The Mediterranean coast with its tourist cities of Cannes, where the famous film festival takes place, and Nice with its Old Town are attractive to those with a summer vacation mindset. And Monaco, with its famous Casino, pink royal palace, immaculate streets, and a port filled with yachts the size of small cities is just on the other side of the foothills of the Pyrenees from Nice via a steep curving road where the American film star-turned-princess Grace (Kelly) died in a car accident.

Less well-known to Americans are the huge medieval walled city of Carcassonne in the southwest of France, or the capital of Upper Normandy, Rouen, where Joan of Arc was put to death and where evening light shows, accompanied by classical music, are projected on the flamboyant face of the Cathedral of Rouen, subject of Monet’s art.

Old cities first established by the Greeks and Romans, such as Arles and Avignon, have summer street performers and theater and music festivals. In fact, wherever you go you will be stunned by the history and culture associated with a region. You can still attend by planning to register on site. Don’t miss it!
May Is Membership Month

While we should work on membership every month, the month of May is a special time to focus on strengthening our clubs. It is Membership Month.

Who should be involved? Each of us should be involved in this. Yes, our club has a membership committee but they can only be effective if all members get involved.

What can we do? All of us know people like ourselves who would be good members. Share your story with them, listen to their interests and show them how being a member will meet those needs. If you feel that you are not the best person to make “the ask”, give the membership committee the reference to follow up on.

When should we start? There is no time like today – there will never be a better time.

Why should we do it? For our service to the community continue for another 100 years, we must continuously rejuvenate and strengthen our club.

For several clubs, May will be a continuation of their great efforts to strengthen their clubs this year. Thirty clubs have grown 10% or more so far. At 10-19%: North Ridgeville, Riverview-Delhi, Fremont, Celina, Cheviot-Westwood, Dayton, Kirtland, Riverfront Cincinnati, Genoa Area, Rocky River, Eastlake Area, Wooster, Hudson, Cleveland, Lancaster, Powell, Ravenna, Piqua, Marysville, Anderson Hills, Columbus & Toronto. At 20-30%: Richmond Heights, Coldwater & Canton. At 30-40%: Dover-New Philadelphia, Dayton Breakfast & West Chester-Liberty Township. And at 40+: Medina Evening & Springboro!! WOW!!

And, leading the pack with the largest number growth are: Medina Evening, Granville, Riverfront Cincinnati, Mason & Piqua (+5 members); Bowling Green & Olmsted Falls (+6); Springboro & Riverview-Delhi Hills (+7); Cheviot-Westwood (+8); Lancaster & Kirtland (+9); Columbus & Fremont (+12); Coldwater & Dover-New Philadelphia (+13) AND Wooster (+21).

For the Laps for Literature Contest, it is still a tight race. The leaders, who are over 40% of their goal, are Division 4 (44%), Division 8 (47%), Division 16 (47%), Division 2 (50%) and Division 6 (58%). Congratulations and keep up the good work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE CLUBS AND DIVISIONS FOR GROWING THEIR SERVICE THROUGH ADDING NEW MEMBERS. We all need to do this.

When members share Kiwanis with others, our clubs become stronger, new clubs open and communities benefit from stronger, better Kiwanis service. This idea inspired The Formula’s tagline (Love it. Share it. Live it.).

CLE Sessions for June: Certified Leadership Education for Club Officers

June 3: Cambridge: Mr. Lee’s Restaurant, 2000 E. Wheeling Avenue, Cambridge (8:00 AM)
June 3: Cincinnati: Sharonville Firehouse (1:00 PM) 11637 Chester Rd., Cincinnati
June 3: Kettering: Christ UMC, 3440 Shroyer Rd, Kettering (8:00 AM)
June 3: Norton: Norton Community Center, 4060 Columbia Woods Dr., Norton (8:00 AM)
June 3: Westerville: Westerville Public Library, 126 S. State Street, Westerville (9:00 AM)
June 3: Fremont: Elks Lodge #169, 436 Croghan Street, Fremont (9:00 AM)
June 10: Parma: Parma/Snow Library, 2121 Snow Rd., Parma (9:00 AM)
June 10: Kirtland: Kirtland High School, 9150 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland (8:00 AM)
June 24: Toledo: Josina Lott Community Center, 120 S. Holland-Sylvania Rd., Toledo (8:00 AM)

Advance registration is requested to ensure enough attendees to prevent event cancellation. To register please contact the district office by no later than Wednesday afternoon of the week of class. 614-848-5000 or Sarah@ohiokiwanis.org. Please indicate which club you will be representing, the office you will be entering and a way to contact you in case of cancellation.
As we pass the halfway mark in the 2016-2017 year, I wanted to pass along some additional information about the Partnership Program.

Kiwanis Partnerships are divided by purpose. Sponsors are marketing programs paying a direct fee to Kiwanis International. Promotional Partners help drive awareness of the Kiwanis brand and mission. Preferred charities provide Kiwanis with possible service projects and opportunities that support their mission. Community Partners work with local clubs on cooperative programs to strengthen the missions of both organizations. Cause marketing partners work with Kiwanis in specific campaigns and, finally, our Vendor partners provide preferred pricing and other benefits specifically to Kiwanis clubs and members. In this article we will explore how you and your clubs can get involved with our Vision Partners.

First is the US Army. Kiwanis’ partnership with the Army stems from our shared values concerning leadership, service and education. Local Army units can supply your club with speakers on a variety of subjects, They can partner with your club on service projects and can assist High school students in Key Clubs to take advantage of their free, online standardized test preparation programs For more information: www.goarmy.com

The children’s TV network Nickelodeon sponsors a Worldwide Day of Play every year. On that day (September 21 in 2017) the network goes dark for the entire day and encourages youth to spend the day outdoors playing and having fun. Kiwanis clubs and their SLP programs can encourage local youth to participate, and can host or organize outdoor activities such as ball tournaments, bike rodeos and the like. To learn more go to www.nick.com/play

Rustic Pathways leads international education and service programs, working with high school students to give them an international service experience. Rustic Pathways sponsors a trip each year specifically for Key Clubs or your club can work with them to tailor an experience for your group. They also offer student scholarships for their programs and provide fundraising ideas and opportunities to help defray costs. They can provide speakers on these subjects and will put together District wide experiences when asked. www.rusticpathways.com

Our last sponsor partner is Landscape Structures. Landscape Structures can help your club create a signature project in your community. They will incorporate the Kiwanis logo, branding a playground forever as provided through your club. They will assist in planning playground design and recommending the right equipment to fit any budget. You can learn more at www.kiwanis.org/playground, or see examples of Kiwanis playgrounds at www.playlsi.com.

Please reach out at any time if I may assist your club further with establishing a local partnership or in providing further education on the Kiwanis International Partnership Program or those established within the Ohio District. More information on Kiwanis International Partners can be found at http://www.kiwanis.org/about/partners and information on our current Ohio District partnerships can be found at http://ohiokiwanis.org/Page/29768.

You can reach me at james.f.kaufman@gmail.com or 419-266-2984
Ohio Infant Mortality Rates Make Young Children A Top Priority For Ohio District Kiwanis Clubs

Congratulations Ohio! According to a new report issued by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, statistics assembled between 1980 and 2014 show that life expectancy in all 88 counties in Ohio has risen 6.25 percent in that time period. But, we can’t really celebrate too much yet. Unfortunately, all the data is not as bright. While life expectancy has gone up in Ohio, our infant mortality rate is still abysmally high!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 25 other industrialized nations do better than the United States at keeping babies alive. Latest figures show a decline nationally from a high of 6.86 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2005 to 5.82 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2014. Unfortunately, Ohio cannot claim a decrease. After showing a steady decline in infant mortality rates, Ohio’s overall infant mortality rate rose from 6.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 7.2 in 2015. This puts Ohio in 44th place out of 50 for the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births with Mississippi in the last place with a rate of 9.3 deaths. With the focus of Young Children Priority One being centered on children from birth to age 5, this seems an area Kiwanis Clubs might want to consider looking into and helping put together a community-based initiative to help combat infant mortality in your area of the state.

“Infant mortality in Ohio is trending downward over time, and Ohio’s infant mortality rates improved faster than the national rates during the past five years. Still, these numbers show that we still have a lot of work to do to save babies lives, especially African-American babies,” said ODH Director Rick Hodges. Ohio’s stepped up funding focuses on adding and improving state and community-based efforts to improve our infant mortality rate. With the emphasis on community-based programs, it seems like a no-brainer for local Kiwanis Clubs to seek out a partner and get involved in one of the three areas that contribute to the infant mortality numbers. The three leading causes of infant deaths in Ohio are prematurity/pre-term births, sleep-related deaths and birth defects. All three areas might provide inspiration for projects local Kiwanis Clubs might want to take on.

Infant Safe Sleep Practices – Community-based efforts are being put in place throughout the state to promote safe sleep practices for infants. This often can be accomplished by groups working with county health departments and agencies like The United Way to provide free and safe cribs to eligible families. Other initiatives include developing and assisting with educational programs to help families learn safe sleep practices. In the Columbus/Franklin County area check out, CelebrateOne, a community coalition in the Columbus area and the Columbus/Franklin County Ohio Equity Institute. In the Northeast part of the state, look into the Canton/Stark County Ohio Equity and of course be sure to look into programs offered by your local children’s hospital, county health departments, Help-Me-Grow offices and United Way programs. Also check into the “Baby Box” program being introduced to the U.S. and based on a similar program in Finland.

Encourage Safe Pregnancy and Baby’s Infancy – There are a number of providers who encourage healthy practices for expectant and new mothers to follow. Definitely look to partner with your local health department and local hospitals as well. There are many ways to help from putting together baby showers for expectant mothers in the WIC program to providing assistance in many of the Help-Me-Grow programs.

Prevention of Birth Defects/Coping With A Special Needs Child – Kiwanis has been a long-time partner of March of Dimes and other programs aimed at preventing birth defects and helping parents deliver healthy babies. In addition, there is always a need for groups to work with children with special needs as well as helping families to cope with all the demands a special needs child brings to the mix.

Needless to say, there are many ways for a Kiwanis Club to focus on children from birth to age 5. Be sure to check out the many suggestions on the Kiwanis International pages for projects and handouts your club may want to and be sure to check out our Ohio District Kiwanis Young Children Priority One-facebook page.
Hello Ohio Kiwanians!

My name is Bethany Sara and I am honored to be serving as the 2017-2018 Circle K Governor for the Ohio District. We have a great, enthusiastic group of officers this year. We completed our District Board Trainer May 12th-14th, where the members of the new board came together to plan and set goals for the coming year while learning about how our district runs. Some of our goals for the year include: 425 members, 3,000 reported service hours, 9 clubs represented at Fall Rally and 11 clubs represented at DCON, net gain of 1 club, 75% club reporting, and 100 total K Family Relations.

As Kiwanis clubs, I encourage you to work closely with local Circle K clubs in order to help us reach our goals. Try to attend some of their meetings or service projects, and encourage them to attend yours. Invite them to help with your pancake breakfast, or donate materials to their big service project, or even participate in a joint project! As you work with these clubs, encourage them to attend District Events as well. These events are great opportunities for us to connect with each other, get fresh ideas on service and fundraising, and have a voice in the future of the district.

I am truly looking forward to serving with you all this year, and hope we can continue to strengthen our membership and interaction among the branches of the K Family. Please feel free to contact me if ever you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, or if ever you want to share the wonderful things happening throughout the other branches of the district!

Bethany Sara  
Governor  
Ohio District Circle K  
Basara@Bgsu.edu

DIVISION 24 SERVICE PROJECT “KIWANIS CARES PACKAGES”

The Division 24 Kiwanis Clubs of the suburban Cleveland area participated in a service project on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at the Brecksville Human Services Building. These clubs include: Berea, Brecksville, Brooklyn, Brunswick, Garfield Heights, Independence, Middleburg Heights, Nordonia Hills, North Royalton, Parma, and Strongsville.

Kevin Brusk, a Brecksville Kiwanian and Division 24 Lieutenant Governor, has led the Division in a “Kiwanis Cares Package” service project. The clubs created over 100 clothing gift boxes with special notes for preteen and teen girls who are victims of violence. These packages will be presented to representatives of Cleveland MetroHealth at a later date.

This is a very heart-rending project which came to the attention of Kiwanis last year when an Eagle Scout candidate, Ethan VonDuhn, approached the Brecksville Kiwanis Club to help support this project. Ethan explained the project and a representative from MetroHealth later was invited to speak to the Brecksville Kiwanis Club. She explained the circumstances for women in our area and also related some of the issues that must be addressed to prepare for an event such as last year’s Republican National Convention.

The Division 24 Kiwanis Clubs raised funds and were able to receive substantial discounts on clothing items from major retail outlets. Area Key Clubs created packages also. Boxes were assembled by Kiwanis, Brecksville Broadview Heights High School National Honor Society and Key Club members, and Friends of Kiwanis.
Dear Kiwanians,

My name is Esam Hammoudi, the newly elected Governor of the Ohio District of Key Club International. It’s an honor to serve with you and your respective Key Clubs throughout the year! Myself and the District Board are excited for the upcoming year. We’ve been working on quite a bit in the past month and a half.

Our District Convention was held on March 10 – 12. The newly elected officers for the 2017 – 2018 year are as follows:

- Bulletin Editor: Stephanie Bell
- Secretary – Treasurer: Eli Cole

Lieutenant Governors have been focused on obtaining contact information for Key Clubs in their respective Division. After doing so, they are expected to maintain contact with each club.

I have started committee arrangement for the District Board. The few that will be most relevant to Kiwanians are as follows:

- K-Family Relations
- Public Relations
- District Service Project

Key Club International Convention in San Antonio, Texas from July 5 – 10.

Our First District event, Fall Rally will be held on October 29th 2017 at the Ohio Union.

My expectations of district board members this year are clear and concise and the Ohio District Key Club board has been briefed. I expect all Key Club Lt. Governors to keep in constant contact with clubs in their division, hold divisional meetings, contact their Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor, and complete committee expectations. Likewise, the District has some clear goals. Throughout the next Key Club year, we hope to revamp the website with the help of our new Webmaster, Alexis Lee. The Public Relations Committee will be in charge of and expected to contact local papers and news stations to promote individual club initiatives/projects as well as District events. The Club Membership & Development Committee will be creating resources for club growth and retention. Additionally, the District Service Project committee will be developing a project for Key Club this year as well as providing service ideas for different clubs to implement.

I encourage Kiwanians to engage their Key Clubs throughout the school year. Key Clubbers are frequently excited to do project with their respective Kiwanis counterparts. This year, I hope to have increased attendance at District events. Clubs are definitely more inclined to engage with the division and District with encouragement from their sponsoring Kiwanis Club!

The 2017 – 2018 District of Key Club is excited to work with you all in the following year. We look forward to serving Key Club, with Key Club, and as an extension of Kiwanis. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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Welcome New Kiwanis Club!

Division 10-S is home to the newest Kiwanis Club in Ohio! The Bloom Carroll Kiwanis Club sponsored the building of the Groveport-Madison Kiwanis Club. A team of Club Builders including Governor Bill Flinta, Governor-Elect Dan Litzinger, Club Builders Rich Ulmes, Kathleen Moylan and Rita Corbin recruited a group of civic-minded individuals in the Groveport-Madison Area to charter an organization that will provide opportunities to improve their community through volunteerism. The club officially filed paperwork on May 10, 2017.

The new club will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at noon at alternating locations.

Congratulations to President Megan Vansickles and Secretary Rita Corbin.
Kiwanis Kids
Jennifer Lewis
Lewis.792@osu.edu

Summertime is Prime Time to Start a K-Kids!

It is my honor to serve as the 2017-18 Ohio District K-Kids Administrator. Thank you to Jeri Penn who has done such an excellent job to support our K-Kids program and promote the formation of many new clubs during her Administration. Her service to Ohio District Kiwanis will be in other areas but she will continue to be an excellent resource and mentor.

K-Kids is our Service Leadership Program for children in grades K-5, developing leadership through Service to the School and Community. Many clubs are sponsored or co-sponsored by Kiwanis Clubs, schools, youth organizations or churches. As any of our clubs who sponsor a K-Kids Club knows – K-Kids epitomize our youth service leadership focus in terms of teaching, caring for and inspiring service. Helping with my own K-Kids club is one, if not THE most rewarding aspects of my Kiwanis service. It helps to have a team of supportive Kiwanis volunteers, a dedicated advisor(s), support from the administration or institution, interested parents and a convenient, safe space for kids with a Heart to Serve and interest to learn leadership skills can meet at least once a month. As with all of our service projects and SLPs, the more time and energy you give, the rewards are exponential. And the highlights are unexpected – a smile from a kid with his parent who you helped on a project, irreplaceable kid’s laughter when a K-Kid was invited to attend a Kiwanis program about WWII with Veterans and his parent after he showed great interest in a K-Kids Veteran’s project, a sincere offer to help you during a K-Kids meeting, a request to join the K-Kids club Midyear because they heard it is so much fun, or the apparent satisfaction of an eight-year old excited to give his favorite book to another kid in need.

If your club is trying to start a new K-Kids Club, would like information on how to start one, or wants to share good news! Please contact me at lewis.792@osu.edu or (740) 485-2040. Everyone benefits when their club sponsors a K-Kids club. Summertime is a great time to meet with Principals and teachers to plan your new club!

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest K-Kids club, the Amanda Elementary School K-Kids. The club is sponsored by the Middletown Kiwanis Club with Advisors Jessica Driscoll and Bonnie Riesbeck. Please let’s congratulate the K-Kids and Middletown Kiwanis Club via e-mail to their Kiwanis President Marla Marsh, at marlamarlamarsh@aol.com. Feel free to send them any tips or invitations to share in service.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Granville Elementary School K-Kids club, sponsored by Granville Kiwanis, for installing their new Buddy Bench on May 16, 2017 at their year-end celebration and dedication ceremony with Principal Travis Morris, parents, Kiwanians, Advisor Jess Wilson, 52 2nd grade K-Kids and Sno-cones! The recycled bench was decorated by K-kids and rests on the playground in a perfect place for all to relax, read a book or find a new friend!