The beautifully colored autumn leaves have finally fallen from the trees. The temperatures have dropped, the furnace is running, outdoor maintenance completed, all in time for, “Winter” to officially roll into our Ohio District. Yes, even snowfall for some of us. All these events leading us into the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. They say, “It’s the busiest and happiest time of the year.” Some of us may or may not, agree with that statement.

As Kiwanians, the month of December is full of reflection with regard to our first three months into our new administrative year. For many, this process has been a new learning experience serving in leadership roles within our clubs, divisions and District. We have been trained and educated ahead of time, but nothing beats the actual first-hand, experience of fulfilling our new or previously served roles within Kiwanis. They also say, “Experience is the best teacher.” Remember, you are not alone. Past club presidents, club secretaries, club board members, fellow club members, Past Lt. Governor’s, Division Secretaries and fellow Kiwanians all want to help YOU succeed in your role. Involve your, “Team” in our goals, community service, fundraising projects and SLP sponsorships this year. You will be amazed at the difference it will make.

Ohio District Membership Chair, Bill Pees and Public Relations and Media Chair, James Minter are off to a great start. Together, they make a great Team. Two new clubs are ready to Charter and new Membership growth for our first quarter has successfully been achieved. Thank you all for POSITIVE Membership numbers. The Membership and Public Relations Committees are working non-stop developing new ways to build and revive existing clubs, educate members with website design and social media exposure and interaction for all our Kiwanis Clubs. “KIDS NEED KIWANIS”

Official Governor’s Visits, special occasions, community service projects, annual traditions and SLP events have kept us mobile these past three months. Anne and I, “Thank you” for welcoming us with open arms and great kindness and appreciation of what has been accomplished thus far. All in the name of, KIWANIS. We also are humbled by monetary donations and/or bike helmet orders received and delivered thus far pertaining to our chosen, First Family Project. It’s been a great experience! We are so very proud to be serving our GREAT Ohio District of Kiwanis International as 2019-20’ Governor and First Lady. “ALL ROADS LEAD TO KIWANIS”

We wish you and your families a safe, happy and healthy Holidays and New Year!

Thank you for your Kiwanis Service! You are all AMAZING!
Notes from the Executive Director

Planning for the 2020 Ohio District Mid-Year Education Day is now in full swing. You will be able to register online by the middle of December by going to 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, who register online only, will receive a $15.00 discount!

990 Tax Return
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, 2020. 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: https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/club-leader/club-treasurer-education/irs-forms

2019-20 Club Insurance Resource Guide
Your club secretary should have received the 2019-20 Insurance Resource Guide in a mailing from Kiwanis International. It contains answers and information to most questions about your liability coverage and risk management practices. If you have specific liability insurance questions, you can call the Risk Services Department at Kiwanis International (1-800-549-2647) or our district Risk Manager Jack Hilborn (1-740-369-9641 or hilborn@midohio.net). You can also view the material online at http://www.kiwanis.org/liability

2020 International Convention
Mark your calendars now for the 105th Kiwanis International Convention June 17-20, 2020 in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year’s theme is Play with a Purpose and the convention will focus more than ever before on educating members on how to be great leaders and improve a club’s service to the community. Redesigned master classes will go deeper into leadership training and community service with subject-matter experts. These trained professionals will get you thinking and send you home with a to-do list designed to take your club to the next level. NEW THIS YEAR: Come for the entire convention or just for the Kiwanis Education Conference — or just come for a day. New options let you personalize a convention experience that works best for you. The Ohio District has a candidate running for International Office at this convention. Past Governor Kip Crain of the Wooster Kiwanis Club is a candidate for International Trustee. What better time for you to consider attending the International Convention! Registration is scheduled to open January 15. For more information visit the Convention website at https://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2020

District Office Holiday Hours
Administrative Secretary Sarah Roush and I would like to wish you all a most Joyous Holiday Season this year. The District Office will once again be closed beginning on Christmas Eve and we will reopen at 8 am on Tuesday, January 2nd. Thanks again for all you do for your communities and the Children of the World!

- Club dues paid for Kiwanis, Key Club and Circle K Clubs
- Aktion Club, K-Kids and Builders Club Fees paid to Kiwanis International
- Key Club Sponsorship Fees paid to Ohio District Key Club
- 990 Form Filed with IRS
- Monthly Reports Completed
- Club By-laws reviewed and updated (as needed)
My First Kiwanis Key Leader Event

Since 2005, students throughout Ohio have attended Kiwanis Key Leader conferences. At a weekend long event held at Recreation Unlimited, a beautiful location in Ashley, Ohio, students experience leadership, growth, personal development, fun and friends. The schedule mixes learning, teamwork and fun with free time. This year the Kiwanis Children’s Fund awarded a grant to Ohio Key Leader for scholarships aimed at lowering the cost of attending the event. As the Ohio District Chair for KCF, I was curious to know more about Key Leader and to see the Mission Statement and Principles in action.

**Key Leader Mission Statement**

The mission of Key Leader is to inspire young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership.

The Mission Statement is supported by the five Key Leader Principles:

- **Personal Integrity**
  - Doing the right thing
- **Personal Growth**
  - Developing in mind, body and spirit
- **Respect**
  - Showing consideration for self, others, and your surroundings
- **Building Community**
  - Developing relationships to achieve positive goals
- **Pursuit of Excellence**
  - Expecting and achieving the best while living a life with purpose

By the time my husband Ken and I arrived on Saturday morning the event was in full swing. Welcomed by Kelly and Brian Shaffer and Brian Yacucci, we were invited to attend the next workshop. The workshop facilitator, Carol Clyde-Gallagher, was awesome. She connected with the students who responded to her as well as interacting with each other. Everyone participated. During the break between sessions, Brian Yacucci gave us a tour of the very impressive facilities, pointing out posters and artwork created by the students in one of the Friday night sessions. Lunch, which was delicious, was followed by another session and a team building activity. Our first Key Leader event was enlightening, encouraging and fun.

I am impressed by the work and organization of Kelly and Brian Shaffer and Brian Yacucci and their volunteers. I can only imagine the hours and hours of planning that went into the event, an event that looked effortless to me! By the end of the weekend I’m sure all who attended had learned the most important Key Leader lesson in leadership. Leadership comes from helping others succeed. I am proud of Kiwanis, proud of our members and proud to be a Kiwanian. We can all be proud of the leaders we are sending out into the world. I ask all Kiwanis Clubs to support Key Leader.

The Kiwanis Children’s Fund grant was able to substantially lower the cost of Key Leader for students from last year. For our Kiwanis family, the Children’s Fund is a way of reaching children through grants, Kiwanis youth programs and, as noted above, scholarship programs.

Please contact me with questions on how to submit a grant request or how to donate to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

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: info@ohiokiwanis.org. We will use them as space allows.
As we end the calendar year let’s all be thankful for our Kiwanis Clubs and Members who are dedicated to helping serve the children in their communities. One of the great benefits of being in a Kiwanis Club is how much you learn about that community. With that being said each club can use the Achieving Club Excellence Tool found on kiwanis.org/ACE Tools and go to the Rediscovering Your Community Tool. This can also lead to Developing Partnerships In Your Community. The contacts club members can make raises the awareness of your Kiwanis Club and the possibility of growing your membership.

In addition, the use of Facebook posts can create interest from your community because it reaches a wide area. At a recent new club opening meeting in Cincinnati, five people showed up who saw the meeting notice strictly on Facebook. Four of them signed applications. Club websites are also effective to generate interest in local Kiwanis Clubs. Getting them up to date and kept active can be a great recruiting tool.

A few weeks ago, James Minter District PR Chairman announced to all club Presidents, Secretaries, and PR Chairmen if a club has one, a new Membership Contest called “JUST ONE MORE”. The idea is for this contest to encourage each club in their Division to add “JUST ONE MORE” member to their club throughout the year. Secretaries will report on a monthly basis, new members that they have added. A one member lost to attrition is allowable provided the club shows they have added a minimum of one new member per month between October 2019 and September 30th, 2020. There is some required minimum criteria that all clubs should have at this time. Other judging criteria will include: any additional membership drives and new member events. Prizes will be $150 checks and Certificates. These will be awarded during District Convention by the Ohio District PR Chair and Membership Coordinator. This is a great program because Membership is a 12-month responsibility of every club.

Completed forms should be e-mail to PR@OhioKiwanis.org or mail to Ohio District Kiwanis- PR Contest, 941 Chatham Lane, Suite 326, Columbus, Oh 43221. If you have questions contact James Minter at jamesminter-bms@yahoo.com, 614-374-3341 or Bill Pees at williampees61985@gmail.com, 937-361-8694.

From the Ohio Membership Team we hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Granville K-Kids Sweeten the Season

The third grade students of Granville K-Kids participated in a sticky and messy project. They made and decorated gingerbread houses for good causes.

Their creations will be showcased at a community senior luncheon and will also be on display at the Robbins Hunter Museum during the City of Granville’s Chamber of Commerce annual candlelight walking tour. Finally, the confectionary creations will be transferred to a local nursing home to be used as seasonal decorations.

While they had fun, building and decorating also helped them develop teamwork and leadership skills. The K-Kids members had to come to a consensus on how the houses were built and decorated while supporting the decorating theme of “Elf Village”.

Membership Coordinator
Bill Pees
williampees61985@gmail.com
Granville Club Beats Rotary in Blood Battle

The Granville Kiwanis Club soundly defeated the Granville Rotary Club in the second annual Red Cross Blood Drive held at Centenary United Methodist Church. Kiwanis generated 30 units of blood to Rotary’s 17. Last year, Rotary came out on top with a collection of 27 units to Kiwanis 15.

The Granville Kiwanis and Rotary clubs enjoy a congenial competition, with the real winner being the community at large. Kiwanis President Terry Van Offern opined that through projects, service and assistance, both clubs strive for the benefit of the community with Kiwanis focusing on the needs of children throughout the year.

The Kiwanis win resulted in two requirements for Rotary President Steve Thaxton. He had to wear a Kiwanis cap at the first Rotary meeting after the blood battle, and Rotary donated $250 toward the Kiwanis International Eliminate Project.

Both Presidents felt the donations by club members and community members on behalf of each club mark support for their efforts to support the community and their various projects.

Ohio K-Kids Chair Jennifer Lewis and boyfriend, Mike, prepare to participate in the blood battle of Kiwanis vs. Rotary.

Fundraising for the Kiwanis Club of Newton Falls is a Cake-Walk, for 94 years.

For the past 94 years, the Kiwanis Club of Newton Falls has hosted an annual cake walk. This event raises funds for their service project, but, also provides a means for other organizations in the community to raise funds as well.

Each year, the City of Newton Falls closes a stretch of road in downtown where the Kiwanis Club hosts a Halloween costume contest providing cash and coupon prizes to the winners of different categories. During the 1920’s when the event first started, prizes included a 25-pound bag of sugar, a rearview mirror, and even 6 bottles of catsup!

Multiple businesses and social organizations get involved by donating prizes and in-kind contributions. Organizations who bake and donate cakes make money for their service initiatives. Tickets are sold to participants, the more tickets sold, the more each group makes in the fundraiser. At the end of the day, after expenses are settled, the overall proceeds are divided by the number of cakes, and each organization receives a percentage based on the number of cakes provided.

Tickets to walk through the arches downtown are sold prior to and during the event. As you pass through each arch, you give up a ticket. If the horn sounds/music stops and you are in the arch with your ticket, your ticket will be exchanged for a cake of your choice from those displayed. It is a festive, family friendly event enjoyed by many members of the community as well as the civic and school organizations involved.
Kiwanis Club of Lancaster All-Abilities Multi-Generational Playground

On October 29th, the Kiwanis Club of Lancaster culminated their centennial celebration by presenting a legacy gift to the City of Lancaster and the residents of Fairfield County. The club opened their Kiwanis Hunter Park, the largest all abilities, multi-generational playground in the county and one of the largest in the state.

Partnering with the Lancaster Parks and Recreation Department, these Kiwanians raised nearly $350,000 in one year. A Kiwanis Special Fund was established at the Fairfield County Foundation in August of 2018. Since then, donations were received from over 100 individuals, businesses and organizations. Located in a previously underutilized and undeveloped park, the facility features accessible playground equipment, adult fitness equipment, 10,000 square feet of soft rubber surface, accessible parking and is adjacent to a bike path. The project will continue in the spring with the addition of a covered picnic pavilion and paving the entire parking lot.

Donors of $1000 or more will be inscribed on a permanent plaque at the park. To highlight this unique playground, the club plans to hold a walk, run, roll 5K/10K event on April 4th, 2020, to raise funds for their youth and community service programs. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring this event, contact Rachel McCoy at kiwannagoforarun@yahoo.com.
Coping With Holiday Loneliness

The holiday season is typically thought of as a period of joy and love, but for far too many people, it’s a time of loneliness. Some people live far away from family and seeing their love ones during this time of year is often difficult. Others fear attending holiday parties without a friend or partner and end up staying home. It’s also prevalent for people to feel emotionally distance from the people they’re around.

Loneliness can feel never ending and overwhelming. There are three distinct kinds of loneliness. However, the one that people seem to battle with during the holiday is Emotional Disconnect. Emotional Disconnection is when you have people around yet you feel misunderstood, unengaged, or unnoticed. Or perhaps you just don’t feel like you fit in holiday gatherings with friends and family. Here are some strategies for coping with Emotional Disconnect.

- Choose one person to engage with. Strike up a conversation with a person you don’t see often. Introduce yourself to someone new, or ask an old friend some questions.
- Act more social than you feel. Behaving in a friendly manner could be the key to developing a deeper connection that will put you at ease. Make eye contact, smile, and ask thought-provoking questions while staying engaged.
- Reframe your negative thoughts. If you catch yourself thinking negative thoughts about yourself, other people, or your ability to connect, respond with more realistic statements. Say this to yourself, “We are just getting to know each other. It’s ok if this person doesn’t understand me yet.”

Loneliness can be a serious threat to your physical and emotional health. If you’re feeling overwhelmed by your emotions, seek professional guidance.

Finally, remember to try and be inclusive of other people and realize that there are many things you can do to feel less lonely around the holidays.

Parting is such sweet sorrow—or not.

The district office receives many requests for help this time of year. While many of the requests are for money or big ticket items, such as wheelchair ramps or major appliances, some of the requests are for in-kind donations. The type you can provide by cleaning out your closets. Here are some suggestions that you and your club might be able to contribute.

Animal Shelters/Rescue: Dawn dishwashing soap, old towels, bleach, animal toys, litter, pet food, some even accept old easy chairs for animals to relax in.

Homeless Shelters: Socks and winter clothing. Toiletries and bedding are often asked for as well. Children’s books are sometimes requested.

Schools/Classrooms: School supplies, notebook paper, crayons, markers, tissues, hand sanitizer, pencils

Youth Centers: Art supplies, tissues, hand sanitizer, paper towels, board games

Food pantries: Low sodium food items, toilet paper, paper towels, dry pet food

Retirement/Rehabilitation facilities: Large print books and magazines, word find or puzzle books, puzzles. (Residents are often have wish-lists for secret Santas’—check with activity coordinators).

Job and Family Services: School backpacks with supplies, hygiene kits, new stuffed animals, gift cards (many agencies have angel trees for children—especially teens with wish lists, ask about “adopting” a child for the holidays.
Mark Your Calendar for DESTINATION EDUCATION on March 21

Now that the Thanksgiving celebration is behind us along with Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday, it is time to look ahead to even more significant events like Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year’s and MID-YEAR EDUCATION DAY! That’s right...it’s time to mark your calendar for the 2020 MYED which is set for Saturday, March 21st and will be here before we know it. Once again it will be held at the Nationwide Conference Center and hotel in Lewis Center. We’re excited to announce Early Bird registration of $75 will open-up online sooner than ever and will go live following Ohio District Board meeting on Saturday, December 7th.

As “All Roads Lead to Kiwanis” this year, we invite you to stop-off at Destination Education where you will experience a full day of information, education, and motivation while having lots of fun, fellowship, and food along the way.

If you’re not familiar with MYED, allow us to enlighten you. We call it Mid-Year as it falls around the mid-point of the Kiwanis administrative year which is the perfect time to reflect on what the District and individual Clubs have been working on since October 1st. It is a great opportunity to reenergize and determine how your Club will finish out the Kiwanis year. Any and all Kiwanians can benefit from MYED: club leaders can pick-up ideas on how to improve the club experience for their members, new Kiwanians can learn more about this awesome service organization they have joined and meet Kiwanians from around the Ohio District, and all Kiwanians can discover what other clubs are doing to make a positive impact on children in their area and meet the needs of their communities. Service sharing is a highlight of this event.

If you’ve never attended before, there is an added benefit for you...the “first timer’s” discount of $15 which is available to the first 50 First Timers who register online for the MYED event. That’s right, whether you are a relatively new Kiwanian or a long-time Kiwanian who has never attended this conference, you are entitled to the $15 discount if you are one of the first 50 online registrants.

We are happy to reveal that our Keynote Speaker for 2020 is none other than Past International President Sue Petrisin. Sue is a dynamic public speaker who will deliver a message to motivate all Kiwanians as well as recognize the great work we do to serve the children of the world. In addition to being our speaker, Sue will also be a forum presenter, so you’ll be able to experience her expertise up close and personal. Speaking of forums, in addition to our customary topics, attendees will find many new offerings and new presenters this year – more details to follow on these great programs.

An additional feature of this year’s event is the opportunity for you, your club or your business to showcase your support of MYED and the Ohio District by becoming an event sponsor for just $100.

New this year, we’ve expanded the number of exhibitors and moved their space to an area of the venue which is more integral of the day’s program. Exhibitors will be available all day for club members to explore a variety of information and garner fresh ideas.

A variety of special events are being planned throughout the day along with lots of time for fellowship and shopping. There is something for everyone at this event! So, plan now on attending the 2020 MYED on March 21st. In fact, why not go online and register this next week! We will to see YOU at "Destination Education"!

Kelly Brown & Dick Brulotte, Co-Chairs for MYED

For more information about Destination Education, visit OhioKiwanis.Org in mid-December and look for the Mid-Year Education Day tab.

Recognitions and Awards

Club awards and recognitions for the 2018-19 administrative year will be available at the midyear conference. This will include distinguished clubs, Interclub Awards, First Family Project and the K-Kids Contest. Clubs will be allowed to pick up their packets with patches or certificates after the mid-day sessions.
Interested in supporting our collegiate students with their leadership development? Just not certain how you can do so? Look no further. A simple program ad for their district convention will help offset the cost of their event. Don’t have a business or not sure what to say? A simple patron line (only $10!) is an easy and inexpensive way to say “Congratulations and thank you for your service!” Looking to donate an in-kind item? They can always use gift cards for drawings, donations of snack food items for breaks, or materials for registration (75 pieces minimum)—such as tote bags, ink pens, note pads, packs of mints, chocolates, tissues or hand sanitizers. The Ohio Circle K members will thank you.

PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT FORM

Name (or Company Name): ____________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ____ Zip: ______

Phone Number: (___)_____________ Email: _______________________

__ Full Page Advertisements (8.5” X 5.5”) $50

__ Half Page Advertisements (4.25” X 5.5”) $30

__ Your name mentioned as a patron with an optional one line (100 characters) ad or message - $10

Message: ____________________________________________

__ Senior Gift Sponsorship (1 only) - $150 (includes full-page ad and label on gift)

Please include your copy-ready advertisement with your payment and send to the following address:

The Ohio District Circle K | 941 Chatham Ln, Suite 326, Columbus, OH 43221

All checks should be made payable to Ohio District Circle K. All payments and copy-ready advertisements must be received by Wednesday, January 22, 2020. If you would prefer to send an electronic copy of your advertisement, please email the advertisement in the form of a Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) document to Governor Austin Underwood odckigovernor@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020.

If you do choose to email the advertisement, the payment for the advertisement must still be received by the Ohio District of Circle K no later than Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020!

Please direct any questions to: Austin Underwood
Phone: (419) 559-7099 | Email: odckigovernor@gmail.com

The 63rd Annual Ohio District Circle K Convention will be held from February 14 - February 16 in Columbus, OH. If you are interested in attending this event, registration forms are available on the Ohio Circle K website at www.ohiocki.org.
It’s that time of year!

Our hearts are full of joy, and we want to share it with everyone. Looking for a way to help others this holiday season? Have a hectic holiday schedule to work around? Here are some very simple and easy club projects that can be done to coordinate with the holiday season.

- Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army
- Putting food/toys baskets together for your favorite local charity/shelter
- Collect coats, gloves & hats
- Put a baggie of goodies together for someone on the street. A gallon size zip lock bag with couple pair of socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, bottle of water, granola bars/snacks, hand warmers, etc. would go a long way!
- Reach out to tree farms about donating Christmas trees to nursing homes, hospitals, or families that can’t afford to buy their own
- Donate books/toys to the local fire station to use after an incident /fire.
- Go to shelter and have a baking lesson with the kids
- Reverse Advent Calendar (food basket)

Often, we forget after the holiday season that it is important to give back year-round and not just through the holidays. How do you want to help others this coming year? Start the year off with your service resolutions!

- Reading to your local preschool/elementary students
- Delivering meals to local food bank/shelters
- Make “care kits” with shampoo, toothbrush, combs, etc to local charity.
- Adopt a road
- Participate in National Youth Service Day in April
- Help deliver meals/gifts to patients at a local hospital
- Host a Bingo night at local nursing home/assisted living
- Put on a “Senior Prom” for residents at the nursing home/assisted living
- Pet food drive for your food bank
- Send cards/care packages to Soldiers serving overseas
- Organize a blood drive
- Help with mailings/put together packages for non-profit
- Organize bicycle safety events, or safe - swim events
- Put on a workshop (help kids learn to sew, wood working, any special talent you might have)
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Work with habitat for Humanity to build houses or even plant flowers at the new house
- Build a little free library in your neighborhood
- Add non-perishable food to your little free library
- Crochet baby blankets for infants in the NICU

Don’t forget that no matter how big or small, it’s the action that counts. What is your call to action? How are you helping others today?