



# KIWANEWS

WISCONSIN-UPPER MICHIGAN KIWANIS DISTRICT

JUNE/JULY 2024



The Kiwanis All-Inclusive Playground was dedicated on Saturday, July 13. The project was a collaboration of the Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club, the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club, and Fond du Lac County, with grant funds coming from the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the WI-UM District Foundation.

## RIPON KIWANIS CLUBS DEDICATE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND JULY 13TH

*By Roger Mathews, excerpts reprinted with permission of the Ripon Commonwealth Press*

The grand opening of Riggs County Park's all-inclusive playground on July 13 featured two guests who played there decades ago as children when it was their family farm. The Sherwood sisters were called out by Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Past President Dan Parks. "Before there was playground equipment...these sisters used to play here...and they wanted to come and see the upgrade," Parks said, noting the siblings played on trees, in the cattails and that one even got stuck in the ravine. "I don't know if this is more fun, but we definitely think it's safer than what they used to climb on when they were kids."

Parks addressed the gathered crowd of Kiwanians, parents and children who were on hand for the dedication of the all access playground, built in cooperation with Fond du Lac County and the Ripon Early Bird and Ripon

Noon Kiwanis clubs. "We're so excited that our vision with the two Kiwanis clubs here in Ripon, and Fond du Lac County, finally came together about two and a half years ago," Parks said. "Today finally arrived. It was a dream that's come true, so we're very excited to see you guys help us celebrate this."

The idea of an all-inclusive playground began several years ago and was discussed back and forth by the county and members of the Kiwanis clubs, with fundraising getting started last fall. The result of those fundraisers were checks presented to Fond du Lac County Director of Land Information Terry Dietzel in the amount of \$133,847 from the two organizations. The balance of the approximately \$300,000 price tag was funded by Fond du Lac County.

*...continued on page two*

## Ripon Kiwanis Clubs Dedicate Inclusive Playground...continued from page one

Dietzel noted in 2022 that when Fond du Lac County was approached by the Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club to build a playground at Riggs County Park, the county was excited about the possibility. "This is the first all-inclusive playground at a county-owned park and we're excited to partner with both Ripon Kiwanis clubs on this project," Dietzel said at that time.

Parks noted that many people are responsible for making the dream a reality. "One person that sticks out in our minds is Dennis Valstad," Parks said, referring to the former owner of Vogue Cleaners. "Dennis was a member of our Early Bird club. His famous story was he passed on, and if you came to his funeral, you were going to help share half a million dollars because you cared enough to come to his funeral. And many of us, of course, were there [at his funeral] because it was Dennis."

In addition to giving money to those who attended his funeral, Valstad donated money to the Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis Club, the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club and other service groups. That was the motivation for the clubs to consider raising funds for the playground in his honor. "That kind of prodded us along to say, 'Let's do something in honor of Dennis Valstad, a good member,'" Parks said, adding that another fellow Ripon resident, the late Anthony Vranak, and others also provided inspiration. "That kind of told us, get some fundraising going and turn it into something that the kids here in the area will enjoy for years to come."



Left to right, Kiwanis Children's Fund liaison "Fitz" Fitzpatrick, District Governor Timothy Lubinsky, and Division 9 Lt. Governor Kathy Strong Langolf joined Ripon Noon Kiwanis member Brian Reilly and Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis members Tonya Alling, Dan Parks, and Joan Karsten at the dedication of the Ripon Kiwanis All-Inclusive playground on July 13.

Ripon Noon Kiwanian Brian Reilly, agreed with Parks and noted that individuals from around the area contributed to making the project happen. "This playground is possible because of the entire community," he said. "If you take a look along the sidewalks, we installed bricks that recognize the individual sponsors, totaling about \$10,000." The clubs also received \$39,000 in grant funding, \$22,000 of which came from the WI-UM District Foundation and the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

The all-inclusive playground includes more than 43 features, eight of which are accessible to anyone. Among them are a motion Cruiser, which accommodates two wheelchairs and up to 12 users; a Brava universal swing, which allows independent transfer by providing a stable to-and-fro movement and a large transfer area; a Volta spinner with 19-inch seat height for wheelchair transfer with capacity for up to nine children; a swing seat designed to be used with a parent and child together; a single-user inclusive-seat swing; and three activity panels accessible to all. The poured, rubberized safety surface ensures the area will be ADA-accessible.



From left, WI-UM District First Lady Patricia Lubinsky and Governor Timothy Lubinsky (a Ripon Noon Kiwanis member) help rock the Motion Cruiser, which can accommodate two wheelchairs and up to 12 users.

After several rain delays, the concrete was poured the weekend of July 6 and 7, with the safety surface following on July 10, just in time for the July 13 grand opening. The 300-acre park also features a splash pad funded primarily by the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club in 2017, a disc golf course, hiking trails and a community garden.



# ROAD TRIPPIN' TO THE KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION AUGUST 16-18

Submitted by Justin Hahn, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Director



Justin Hahn

Pack your bags, make sure the car has a full tank, and get the travel snacks ready! It's time for a road trip as we near this year's district convention. Our annual convention is being held August 16-18, 2024 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and we couldn't be more excited to gather with you!

We have some great things in store, including an ice cream social catered by Olson's, an off-site hospitality suite, amazing speakers, great workshops and presentations, and so much more. You will also have an opportunity to meet our new International Trustee, Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges, from the Carolinas Kiwanis District. We will also elect new leaders and conduct business on behalf of the district.

Haven't booked your hotel room? Do so ASAP. The room block is ending and prices will increase. The convention hotel is the Lismore, which houses great facilities, multiple bars and restaurants, a fitness center and more. Remember to keep an eye out for those rhinos while there. To book your room, use the information below or call the hotel at 715-835-8888 using the group name and code.

Group Name: WI-UM Kiwanis District Convention 2024

Dates: August 15-18, 2024

Group Rates: Single \$139/Night | Double \$149/Night

Group Code: WMK

[Please click here for the booking link.](#)

If you're still not intrigued, don't forget about all the

awards we will present and the recognition for a great year of service. We will also have a service breakfast along with a book drive benefiting the local library system, so clear out your bookshelves and bring the books to DCON. Also remember the fundraising opportunities: Circle K will host a Miracle Minute, the District Foundation will complete a live auction and basket raffle, and we may have something in place as well to support our newest Kiwanis club in the district. We will also have some district-branded shirts available to purchase, but sizing will be on a limited basis.

Want to check out what Eau Claire has to offer? There is a wine bar and a brewery across the street from the

hotel, plenty of restaurants and boutiques in the downtown area, the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers offer nice strolls, the Chippewa Valley Museum showcases the indigenous people and culture through time, and there is so much more to do in Eau Claire.

With all this information, how could you not attend this year's convention? [Register now!](#) Please note that all registration is made through our online portal and payment must be made via PayPal which is the card processor for the district. If you are registering more than one

person, you must submit individual registrations for each person. No mail-in registrations will be accepted and you must register before the convention. On-site registration will be available, but very limited.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Executive Director Justin Hahn can be reached at 414-510-1609 or [justinhahn@wiumkiwanis.org](mailto:justinhahn@wiumkiwanis.org).



## 2024 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WAS AWESOME!

*Submitted by Kathy Durner, 2023-2024 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor-elect*



*Kathy Durner*

Representatives from our WI-UM Kiwanis District experienced an exciting Kiwanis International convention July 3-6, 2024. The convention opened with an enthusiastic parade of international flags carried by Circle K members, including some from our district.

The programs were inspiring. Olympian Diana Nyad shared her passion, preparations and persistence to swim from Cuba to the Florida Keys. The challenges that she encountered serve as a reminder to Kiwanians that we should never give up when we set a goal, even if it seems unattainable. Nyad shared that she could not have attained her dream without the support of friends, family, and her support crew. Not all teams are built in a day, a week or a month, but rather, through persistence, re-evaluation of goals, and adjusting or readjusting plans.

There is a correlation between Diana Nyad and Kiwanis. We cannot achieve success in building a new club or supporting existing clubs without the support of fellow Kiwanians, community members and Kiwanis International. Nothing is accomplished without teamwork. If each of our clubs commit to working together, encourage Kiwanians to recruit new members, build new clubs, and support Kiwanis education, we will strengthen existing clubs and build new ones.

Fellow Kiwanians, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone, set a goal to bring in new members in monthly or quarterly increments, re-evaluate your challenges and celebrate your successes.

Remember, our goal is to always support the children of the world. Are you up for the challenge?

2023-2024 Governor-elect Kathy Durner can be reached at 814-331-2240 or [kathydurner1949@gmail.com](mailto:kathydurner1949@gmail.com).

## LITTLE CHUTE KIWANIS CLUB IS SIGNATURE PROJECT FINALIST

*Submitted by Jodie Rietveld, Kiwanis Club of Little Chute*

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Little Chute traveled to Denver, Colorado to take part in the Kiwanis International Convention during the first week of July. Clubs from across the United States and more than 60 countries took part in the convention which brought club members together for fun, fellowship, and learning.

The highlight for the Little Chute club was being honored at the Signature Project Contest breakfast. During the breakfast, club representatives were invited on stage and their signature project was described to the audience. After entering the contest, club members learned that out of 526 entries from 33 different countries they were a top 10 finalist. The top three winning entries were revealed at the convention.

The club's 5th Grade Scholastic Literacy Book Program was recognized for having a high impact in the



*Members of the Kiwanis Club of Little Chute are joined on stage by Kiwanis District Governor Timothy Lubinsky, second from left, to be recognized for their 5th Grade Scholastic Literacy Book Program.*

community. The program involves giving a book to every 5th grade student in Little Chute. In addition, various books are purchased for each teacher's classroom library. The club launched this project two years ago and plans to continue in the future.



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Members from across the district gathered in Denver for the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention. Who do you recognize?



The Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club sent three members to ICON, and they took time out for a photo with convention-themed props.



Even the business session – during which leaders were elected and policies were voted on – brought smiles to the faces of members!



Longtime Circle K District Administrator Janet DeGroot and District Executive Director Justin Hahn posed for an ICON selfie.



Our Circle K International members were well represented at ICON, bringing fun and camaraderie everywhere they went.



# WHY YOU SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND THE WI-UM DISTRICT CONVENTION

Submitted by Timothy Lubinsky, 2023-2024 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor



Tim Lubinsky

The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Convention will be held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin from August 16-18, 2024 at the Lismore Hotel. [Register online](#). The process is simple.

My governor's theme is "Road Trip to Service," which I chose

because the COVID-19 pandemic officially ended in 2022. It's time to get back on the road and gather in person. Attending conventions is important because much knowledge is disseminated and decisions will be made which affect the future of our Kiwanis district. The five most important areas that will be covered at the convention are:

## 1. Club Leadership Education (CLE):

Club leaders (Presidents-elect, Presidents, and future leaders) learn about club leadership and receive guidelines for presiding over club and board meetings.

## 2. Open discussions on membership, fundraising and service projects:

Find out what is and is not working for other clubs in the district. Other topics include cybersecurity and youth protection.

3. **Learn about what is happening with SLPs:** Our Service Leadership Programs are K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K and aKtion Club. Circle K will hold a "Miracle Minute" fundraiser for Camp Wawbeek.

4. **Recognition of outstanding Kiwanis clubs:** These awards are for service projects, fundraising, Kiwanis support, and the 2022-2023 District Governor's Excellent Division.

5. **Election of District Officers:** The 2024-2025 District Governor and District Governor-elect will be voted in during the House of Delegates.

Convention chairperson La Vone Sneen has planned enjoyable activities to help build camaraderie including an ice cream social Friday night. Julian Emerson will speak on the topic of unhoused persons at Saturday's luncheon. Meet the candidates running for district offices on Friday night and congratulate them on Saturday night in the district's hospitality room.



Courtesy of Vectors by Vecteezy

I look forward to seeing you all in Eau Claire.

2023-2024 District Governor Tim Lubinsky can be reached at 920-450-3951 or [tlubinsky19@hotmail.com](mailto:tlubinsky19@hotmail.com).

# KDF REQUESTS RAFFLE BASKETS FOR AUGUST DISTRICT CONVENTION

Submitted by Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation



We are asking clubs to put a raffle basket together to bring to the district convention to help raise funds for the Kiwanis District Foundation. Several clubs have donated a gift card in lieu of a basket and that makes a great prize, too. If you can donate a basket but are not able to attend the convention, let me know and I will make arrangements to have it picked up. All proceeds help provide scholarships and grants for local club projects.



## WI-UM AKTION CLUBS RAISE MORE THAN \$10,000 FOR IPADS PROJECT

*Submitted by Charles Zarnoth, WI-UM Aktion Club Administrator*



For seven years, WI-UM aKtion Clubs have held a bowling event to raise funds to purchase iPads in support of the WI-UM iPads for Autism Project. Club members gather together to bowl, support this project, and have fun. If they wish to, they can collect pledges. In the first year they raised \$724. This year's total on May 18 was an all-time high of \$2,310. This brings the total raised at the seven events to \$10,168. The picture at left shows the aKtion Club members who bowled the first shift. A second shift bowled later that day. More aKtion Club members participated this year than ever before.

## IPADS FOR AUTISM WI-UM DISTRICT SIGNATURE PROJECT UPDATE

*Submitted by Lynn Messer, iPads for Autism District Signature Project Chair*

As of July 1, 2024, the WI-UM Kiwanis District has granted 1,709 iPads to children on the autism spectrum. That is amazing considering that the original goal – set in 2012 – was to grant 1,000 iPads.

Apple has discontinued production of the 9th generation iPads. The cost of the 10th generation iPads increased \$55 to \$395, which is a good price when you consider that the 2012 price was \$500 each. We are trying to work with Apple to arrange an educational discount.

We receive many thank you notes from parents, teachers, and therapists of iPad recipients. The text of one follows:  
*"My daughter was a recipient of an iPad with*

*Prologuo2Go on it. Thank you so much for giving her a voice. She is picking up on the program very quickly and it is wonderful to see her "talking" more than just handing me a PEC (vocabulary) card. I truly appreciate her new voice to speak and what it means for her communication now and in the future. Although I'm not sure Riley understands what having a voice means, I think her teachers and classmates are looking forward to having two-way conversations and participating in class with her. Thank you again for your gift to my daughter."*



More information about the iPads for Autism District Signature Project, including a downloadable application, can be found online at [kiwanisautismproject.com](http://kiwanisautismproject.com).

## 26TH ANNUAL DE PERE KIWANIS GOLF OUTING SET FOR AUGUST 5TH

*Submitted by Steven Wilmet, Kiwanis Club of De Pere*

The Kiwanis Club of De Pere will host its 26th annual golf outing on Monday, August 5, 2024 at Mid Vallee Golf Course in De Pere. The 18-hole four-person scramble will begin at 11:00 am with a shotgun start followed by dinner. The \$100 per person entry fee includes golf with cart, dinner, prizes and free beer and soda after golf. The cost for the dinner alone is \$30.

Proceeds from the outing help fund scholarships for students attending technical colleges, Ribbon of Hope which assists women fighting breast cancer, and other youth and community services.

For more information, please contact Steve Wilmet at 920-680-9690 or [swilmet@new.rr.com](mailto:swilmet@new.rr.com).

# DISTRICT NOW REQUIRES THE CREATION OF A CLUB MEMBERSHIP PLAN

*Submitted by Justin Hahn, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Director*

Membership growth and strengthening needs to be at the forefront of every successful club. As our clubs experience declining membership, the district loses an average of 214 members annually. Every club needs to focus on the benefits of membership and take steps to work towards net membership growth.

Some benefits of Kiwanis membership include:

- **Social connections:** Members can meet people with similar interests, values, and goals, and make friends, workout buddies, and work contacts. Clubs often host or have access to social events like member mixers and charity fundraisers to help members connect.
- **Exclusive experiences:** Clubs may organize or have access to events, workshops, seminars, and trips tailored to members' interests.
- **Sense of belonging:** Members may feel like they are part of an elite group and belong somewhere.
- **Learning opportunities:** Members may learn new skills and enhance their leadership development.
- **Improved health and well-being:** Club membership may aid in physical and mental health development.

What is your club membership plan? Do you have one? Do you have a membership chair or committee focusing on recruiting new members and retention?

Whether you currently have a plan or not, it is time to start preparing for the next Kiwanis year. Every club is required to submit a club membership plan for the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. Don't worry, we have made it super easy for your club to submit one. Access our [Club Membership Plan Google Form](#) for an easy submission of your club's membership plan. Want to look at the membership plan template ahead of time to gather your responses for an even easier experience of submitting your plan? Check out the [Club Membership Plan Worksheet](#) on the Kiwanis International website.

Once submitted, lieutenant governors and district leaders will help your club navigate and follow through with your goals and the measures you wish to achieve. We are asking all clubs to submit their membership plans prior to the district convention, if possible, with a firm deadline of August 31, 2024, so that lieutenant governors and district leaders have ample time to review these plans prior to the start of the 2024-2025 Kiwanis year. There will be plenty of opportunities to utilize your plan and gather ideas on how to execute it while participating in the various sessions at the convention.

If you have any questions about club membership plans, please contact your lieutenant governor or district office.

## JOIN THE DISTRICT'S NEWEST CLUB FOR ITS CHARTER NIGHT

*Submitted by Justin Hahn, Full Circle Kiwanis Club*

Join members of Full Circle Kiwanis, WI-UM's newest virtual club, for a charter night celebration! The club's motto is "Fostering Service and Unity" with a focus on supporting Kiwanis' service leadership programs.

This engaging event will be held via Zoom and will include remarks from Kiwanis International President Katrina Baranko, a fundraiser to support the club's administrative fund, fun trivia, and more! Join us in "Bringing the journey full circle"! [Click for Zoom Link](#)





# INTERNATIONAL DUES HAVE INCREASED; HOW WILL YOUR CLUB ADAPT?

*Submitted by Executive Director Justin Hahn and Master Instructor Jean Long Manteufel*

At this year's Kiwanis International Convention, the assembled delegates voted to approve a Kiwanis International dues increase of \$25 per member. This increase will go into effect on October 1, 2024. You may be thinking "But we already pay so much, how are we expected to pay more?" Following are a few ways your club can help supplement dues and keep them at a manageable level for members.

First, are you aware that – per the Internal Revenue Service – 501c4 organizations (like Kiwanis International and most Kiwanis clubs) are not required to keep administrative funds separate from service funds? This change was effective in 2023. Clubs don't have to combine the funds but are no longer required to keep them separate. Banking and accounting structure comes down to an individual club decision.

With separation of funds no longer required, clubs can use any source to supplement any portion of the dues for members. This means if your funds are separated, you can use service funds to supplement dues. The reasoning behind this allowance is that in order to run a project or fundraiser, there is overhead in terms of administration, operations and labor. If you donate 100% of the funds raised, you are not covering your overhead properly. Thus, you can use any funds to help supplement any portion of dues for members.

Another way that your club can supplement dues is by raising funds specifically to help cover them. If your



club is looking for ways to keep the cost down, here are some fundraiser ideas: Liven up meetings with happy bucks, a 50-50 raffle, a dessert raffle, or selling scrip cards to club members. Hold a talent auction, selling the services or products of club members, like cookies of the month, a convertible ride to Lambeau Field and tour, two hours of garden weeding, addressing holiday cards, or preparing a home-cooked dinner for eight guests. If your members work for an outside organization and get paid for volunteer hours, for example at Green Bay Packers events, parking at Farm Days, working the gate at CheeseFest, etc., ask them to donate the value of their paid volunteering. Whatever you do to help supplement dues will also result in member retention for your club because cost will no longer be a factor.

The possibilities are endless on ways your club can help supplement dues for membership. What will your club do to support your members?

## PART SAFETY NET. PART SPRINGBOARD.



**KIDS NEED KIWANIS**

# THE FUTURE OF SERVICE CLUBS HINGES ON ADAPTING TO CHALLENGES

*Submitted by Alan Arbuckle, WI-UM Kiwanis District Master Club Coach*

The future of service organizations like Kiwanis hinges on several evolving trends and challenges. Here are some key factors that will shape their trajectory:

1. **Digital Transformation:** Embracing digital tools and platforms will be crucial. This includes utilizing social media for outreach, digital platforms for virtual meetings, and online fundraising tools. How well these organizations adapt to digital landscapes will depend on engaging with younger, tech-savvy members.
2. **Youth Engagement:** To ensure sustainability, Kiwanis and similar organizations need to focus on engaging younger generations. This could involve creating programs that address contemporary issues important to younger people, such as climate change, social justice, and mental health.
3. **Diverse Membership:** Increasing efforts to diversify membership will help service organizations stay relevant. This involves not just ethnic and gender diversity, but also welcoming members from various socio-economic backgrounds and professions.
4. **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Forming alliances with other non-profits, businesses, and government agencies can amplify impact. Collaborations can lead to more significant projects, shared resources, and enhanced visibility.
5. **Focus on Local and Global Issues:** Balancing local community service with global initiatives can attract members interested in making a broader impact. Addressing global challenges while maintaining a strong local presence can make the work more meaningful and appealing.
6. **Sustainability and Innovation:** Implementing sustainable practices in a club's operations and projects, and being open to innovative approaches in service delivery, can keep organizations aligned with modern values and practices.
7. **Flexible Membership Models:** Offering flexible membership options, including virtual participation and short-term commitments, can cater to individuals with varying levels of availability and commitment.
8. **Enhanced Volunteer Experiences:** Providing meaningful and rewarding volunteer experiences

can help retain members. Recognizing and valuing the contributions of volunteers will be essential in maintaining a motivated membership base.

By addressing these factors, service organizations like Kiwanis can evolve and continue to play a vital role in community service and global philanthropy.

*Disclaimer:* The content above wasn't written by me but rather "ChatGPT" in response to "What is the future of service organizations like Kiwanis?" However, I agree with all these suggestions.

I would add that to attract new members we need to be flexible at the club level regarding how dues are collected. Many clubs do not utilize the option of taking the insurance portion (\$22) out of the service/project account and passing the savings on to the member. Can dues payments to the club be paid quarterly or monthly? Kiwanis International requires yearly dues payment by clubs but would likely have better cash flow if dues were paid monthly by members. Would it be easier to ask a prospective member to sign up for \$15 per month? Clubs can set that up themselves.

Clubs need to examine their dues structure to determine what is really needed. Don't charge for meals not eaten or charge members to add extra money to the service account. Can there be a fundraiser for the administrative account? Would a club subsidize dues for members under the age of 40? Remember, Kiwanis clubs are a 501c4 non-profit, not a 501c3 charitable organization. It is important to understand how these distinctions differ and how to use the differences to improve recruitment and increase retention of our membership.

Master Club Coach Alan Arbuckle can be reached at 719-502-7853 or [ajarbuckle@yahoo.com](mailto:ajarbuckle@yahoo.com).

**#KIDSNEEDKIWANIS**



# WAWBEEK IS SAFER THANKS TO FORESTRY MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

*Submitted by Randall Durner, Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club*

Camp Wawbeek, a facility run by Easter Seals Wisconsin and supported in part by the WI-UM District of Kiwanis, is located north of Wisconsin Dells situated in a woodland setting of more than 400 acres. This forest consists of both conifer (white and red pine) and hardwood species (oaks, elm, maples, walnut) spread out over and around camp structures, trails, playgrounds, and roads.

These trees are living entities that can suffer from disease, insect damage, mechanical damage from falling trees, and eventually maturity that leads to death. While dead and damaged trees can provide habitat for a diverse variety of wildlife such as cavity dwellers, birds and bats, such trees in the proximity of walkways, parking areas, playgrounds, and buildings pose a hazard and danger to the buildings, parked vehicles and especially to camp staff and campers from falling limbs, bark, or breakage of the tree itself during high winds, heavy wet snows or rot.

From a safety perspective and as part of the camp safety plan, it's important to identify these trees, where they are located via GPS, the species of tree, the specific defect or hazardous condition each tree poses and priority and type of treatment. And to follow up with treatment.



*A dead tree adjacent to a playground at the Respite Camp of Wisconsin Easter Seals in Wisconsin Dells is targeted for removal. To the right, a tracked vehicle with a boom is pushing the tree to the ground. A number of hazard trees were identified adjacent to this play area and were removed this past May.*

Because the Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin Dells meets at Camp Wawbeek twice each month, members felt it was important to develop an inventory of hazard trees that could be treated to improve camper and staff safety as a service project for Easter Seals Wisconsin.

Work began on the assessment and inventory in December 2023 and continued through the mild portions of the winter. Inventory work was conducted around Camp Wawbeek, the Respite Camp and the low ropes course which is used for Key Leader. Club president Randall Durner is a retired professional forester with training in hazard tree identification. He identified the hazard trees and provided his findings in a written report to Camp Director Alex Peters.

Prior to and during the camp cleanup day in early May, a number of hazard trees were taken down, bucked up and the slash and logs removed from roadside areas, near buildings and around playground zones. Additional inventory work remains to be conducted along roadside zones within the camp, as well as more work to remove dangerous hazard trees.



*Rot on the main stem of a tree and the breakage that results without notice when prompted by high wind or ice. These hazard trees pose safety concerns to camp staff and campers unless they are removed.*



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN BY DOWNTOWN GREEN BAY CLUB

*Submitted by Richard Satterlee, Downtown Green Bay Kiwanis Club*

The Downtown Green Bay Kiwanis Club recently awarded \$1,500 scholarships to four Brown County high school seniors planning to study business-related subjects in college. Recipients were selected based on their high school academic record, career goals, volunteer work with community youth, and letters of recommendation. Shown with Anne Van Ess, far left, Downtown Green Bay Kiwanis Club vice president, recipients were, left to right, Kelly Vyskocil, Ashwaubenon; Garrett Rottier, Pulaski; Brianna Martinson, Green Bay Southwest; and Ella VandenHouten, Green Bay Southwest. Brianna and Ella are Key Club members.



## MADISON EAST KIWANIANS PROUDLY SUPPORT AUTISM IPAD PROJECT

*Submitted by Bonnie Nissly, Madison East Kiwanis Club*

Since 2012-2013 District Governor Lynn Messer launched the Focus on Autism iPad Governor's Project



Madison East Kiwanis members Bonnie Nissly, Karen Bailey, and Tom Lindow present an iPad to a child on the autism spectrum.

in 2012, more than 1,700 iPads have been granted to children living with autism spectrum disorders. Madison East Kiwanis Club members are proud to have played a big part in the success of the program. Over the years, members of this small-but-mighty club have awarded more than 50 iPads to children in the East Madison area.

Members share the responsibilities of the project. Some work behind the scenes to install specialized apps requested by the child's teacher, some communicate with special education teachers and speech pathologists to identify children who may benefit from the program, and other members participate by meeting with the child – usually in the family home – to present the iPad. The club has developed a strong relationship with teachers and families in the community and have truly made a positive impact on the lives of the recipients. In recent years, members have focused on younger children who are receiving special preschool education in their homes. The iPads help to encourage communication and speech development at an early age.

Join us at the 2024 Kiwanis District Convention in Eau Claire. Find more information and register online at [www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-convention](http://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-convention).



# WILD ROSE KIWANIS RECEIVES KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL MICROGRANT

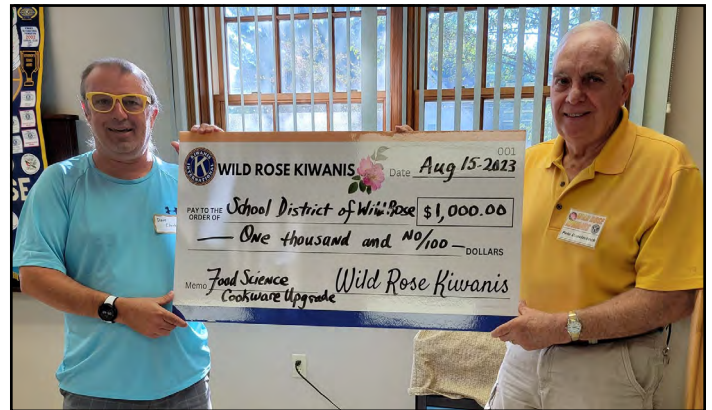
*Submitted by Pete Duesterbeck, Kiwanis Club of Wild Rose*

A recent study by the Food Research and Action Center showed that 39.6% of U.S. adults are obese, with 31.6% considered overweight and 7.7% considered severely obese. Nutrition education focuses on the science of eating well. However, an important segment often overlooked is culinary literacy, which adds “how” to eat well. This component was the focal point behind the Wild Rose Kiwanis Club’s microgrant application through the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

As plans moved forward for renovation of the Wild Rose High School’s family consumer science classroom, the school had a unique opportunity to upgrade every piece of equipment, including ventilation, stoves, video monitors, sinks and more. Dave Clark, a teacher known to bring a spark of creativity to his cooking classes, considered ways to use new technology to improve student learning. “As we move forward into the future our school and community have helped prepare our kitchen to teach students. We have rebuilt our kitchen using all induction burners which require steel pans that are more expensive than aluminum but perform at a higher level.”

Using funds from the Children’s Fund microgrant, Clark was able to purchase hexclad-brand cookware, a hybrid steel often used in newer commercial kitchens. Added Clark, “With steel, students must learn about seasoning the pan to create a non-stick surface, then they can create better browning and more flavors than a traditional non-stick ever could.”

Learning culinary literacy allows individuals to prepare meals from scratch. It is the knowledge and talent to make a delicious tasting dish from available foods. It means having sufficient skills to experiment with food and ingredients, and applying basic food safety and sanitation principles. It is being hungry between meals and having the expertise to look in the pantry and refrigerator, choose ingredients, and then prepare a nutrient-dense snack using common household items such as a peeler, knife, measuring cups, and grater...all of which are taught in Clark’s classroom.



*The Wild Rose Kiwanis Club presented funds provided by a Kiwanis Children’s Fund Microgrant to the School District of Wild Rose.*

“By utilizing these upgrades in my kitchen, students are learning more about health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development. With our updates, students get a better, more modern education in the areas related to food. They will learn to take older recipes and update them to utilize the modern kitchen, and by doing this we can make nutritious, healthy foods with better flavors. As these students continue their education, they can become leaders in the industry as compared to their peers.” In his four years of teaching at Wild Rose, Dave Clark has brought a renewed interest in culinary arts in the high school. Educating young people about nutrition is just one pathway to lifelong healthy eating habits – and the participatory aspect of food preparation and cooking provides students with hands-on experience.

The Wild Rose Kiwanis Club embraced the opportunity to financially assist in the upgrade of Clark’s classroom, and the microgrant provided an extra boost in funding. Club president Pete Duesterbeck recognized the benefits of teaching literacy skills in Clark’s classes. “Food preparation provides a special way to incorporate all areas of the curriculum in a motivating series of activities. Literacy (recipes in print or audio), math (counting, fractions, multiplication), as well as the core components of independent living and social skills, communication, and technology can all be taught through cooking. When it’s taught as Mr. Clark does, it becomes a total learning experience for Wild Rose students,” Duesterbeck said.

# IT'S ALL IN THE (KIWANIS) FAMILY AT FOND DU LAC WALLEYE WEEKEND

*Submitted by Kathy Strong Langolf, Division 9 Lt. Governor*

Fond du Lac's Walleye Weekend Festival – in operation for 45 years – combines a fishing tournament with live music, informational exhibits, and family-friendly activities that showcase the community and give back to area non-profits. Food and beverages are available for purchase at ten food stands, each run by a non-profit which offers their own signature food.

Kiwanis District Governor Timothy Lubinsky and Division 9 Lt. Governor Kathy Strong Langolf made the rounds to all three Fond du Lac Kiwanis fundraising booths during the Walleye Weekend Festival, held June 7-9, 2024 at Fond du Lac's Lakeside Park.



*Members of the Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis club are joined by, front row, left to right, District Governor Timothy Lubinsky, and Division 9 Lt. Governor Kathy Strong Langolf at Walleye Weekend.*

The Fond du Lac Lakeside Evening club is known for its "World's Largest Fish Fry" fundraiser. "Walleye Weekend provides a great opportunity for our club to share the story of our work, to demonstrate how we make a difference in our community, and to help inspire other clubs and individuals to do the same," said member Dan Weninger.



*aKtion Club members help make cheese curds for sale in the Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac's Walleye Weekend food booth.*

Members of the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club offer food, beverages and cotton candy during the fundraiser, which supports many of the projects the club undertakes, including its "Learn to Swim" program in collaboration with the YMCA. Typically, more than 500 children learn the basics of swimming in the annual June program.



*Division 9 Lt. Governor Kathy Strong Langolf, left, and FDL Noon Kiwanis Club President Stephanie Dahlke, right, presented a check to District Governor Timothy Lubinsky for his governor's project to remodel the women's bathroom at Camp Wawbeek. Governor Tim volunteered with the Noon club at the Walleye Weekend Festival.*

The Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac produces and serves cheese curds during the festival. This year they were pleased to have help from members of a newly-chartered Aktion Club, which has its headquarters at the ARC of Fond du Lac. "Shout out to Walleye Weekend organizers for giving nonprofits the opportunity to raise crucial funds through service and give back to our community," said one club member.

Each club has the opportunity to raise \$30,000 or more when the weather cooperates. Clubs give incentives to youth-related organizations to volunteer in exchange for support for their worthy projects. It truly is all in the Kiwanis family at Fond du Lac's Walleye Weekend!



## WAWBEEK RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FROM DOWNTOWN MADISON CLUB

*Submitted by Tom Smith, Downtown Madison Kiwanis Club*

The Director of Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek, Alex Peters, along with District Governor-elect Kathy Durner of the Wisconsin Dells club were hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison on Monday June 17, 2024.

The purpose of the visit was the presentation of a ceremonial check for \$50,000 to Camp Wawbeek to rehabilitate and restore camp facilities over the next year. Rachel Geissler, chair of the Downtown Madison club's sponsored youth committee and Tom Smith, club president, presented the check. Peters talked about the various projects that will be supported by the special grant and Governor-elect Durner thanked the two organizations for their partnership in helping to make wonderful things happen at this magical camp.

Lt. Governor Ken Saville was also in attendance and has a special connection to Camp Wawbeek – he was the Camp Wawbeek Director for more than 30 years.

The Downtown Madison Club created a Signature Grant Program this year to focus extra member time



Governor-elect Kathy Durner, left, Sponsored Youth Committee Chairperson Rachel Geissler, and Downtown Madison Kiwanis Club President Tom Smith, right, present a \$50,000 check to Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek director Alex Peters.

and interest and significant club financial resources on a limited number of projects which will help children in the Madison-area community. Four grants – which totaled \$172,000 – are being given in 2024 for new partnerships with Madison area organizations, including Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek.



## GENE BOHN HONORED FOR 65 YEARS OF KIWANIS MEMBERSHIP

*Submitted by Mark Yanke, Kiwanis Club of Kewaskum*

Kiwanis Club of Kewaskum member Gene Bohn recently received his 65 year Kiwanis membership pin and certificate. Gene amassed 40 years of perfect attendance and was the club secretary for 17 years. District Governor Timothy Lubinsky and his wife Patricia were on hand for the presentation, along with Gene's daughters, Monica and Sue, and his son-in-law, Jeff.

## UPCOMING KIWANIS DISTRICT EVENTS

August 16-18, 2024 ..... Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Convention, Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
September 13-15, 2024..... Key Leader, Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 21 K-FAMILY BASEBALL GAME

Submitted by Elizabeth Johnson, WUM Circle K District Bulletin Editor

Are you ready to watch the Milwaukee Brewers and Arizona Diamondbacks go head-to-head? Come to American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to spend time with Kiwanis Family members and root for your favorite team! The first pitch will be thrown at 6:10 pm on Saturday, September 21st.

Tickets for the Terrace Box seats are available in advance for SLP members (\$30) and Kiwanis members/guests (\$35). A pregame tailgate from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm in a reserved section of American Family Field's parking lot is in the planning stages. Tickets can be ordered [here](#) and paid for via Venmo (@wumcirclek) or check. If paying by check, please make it out to "WUM Circle K" and send it c/o Rachel Geissler, 6308 Offshore Drive, Madison, WI 53705. Ticket orders are due by August 21, 2024.

Event proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children.



**Kiwanis Family Baseball Game**

**You're invited!**

Batter up K-Fam members! The Kiwanis Family Baseball Game is coming up and we can't wait to see you there!

**When?**  
6:10 P.M. CST on Saturday, Sept. 21st, 2024  
6:10 P.M. CST on Saturday, Sept. 21st, 2024

**Where?**  
American Family Field (1 Brewers Way, Milwaukee, WI, 53214)

**Why?**  
To cheer on the Brewers against the Arizona D-Backs and spend a great time with members from the other Kiwanis Family branches!

Want to fill out the order form online? Go to [THIS LINK](#) to submit your ticket order online!

Questions or concerns? Contact Mohor Sarkar at [kiwanisfamily@wumcki.org](mailto:kiwanisfamily@wumcki.org)!

**Pricing**

Kiwanians and Guests - **\$35**  
Circle K International, Aktion Club, Key Club, Builder's Club and younger - **\$30**



**Key Leader provides an opportunity for teens to learn about themselves.**  
**Make a difference in someone's life!**  
**Send a student! Or two!**

**Registration is open through Sept. 13.**  
**Questions? Please contact us!**  
[info@wiumkeyleader.org](mailto:info@wiumkeyleader.org)  
[www.wiumkeyleader.org](http://www.wiumkeyleader.org)

**KIWANIS KEY LEADER PROGRAM**

## KEY LEADER IS A LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR TEENAGERS (14-19)

A weekend leadership experience that prepares teens for life. Friday, September 13 through Sunday, September 15, 2024. Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.