



The Medina Kiwanis Brick

“serving the children of the world”

Publication of the Kiwanis Club of Medina
www.kiwanis.org



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Welcome Our Newest Member: LeighAnn Garver

The Kiwanis Club of Medina is excited to welcome LeighAnn Garver as one of our newest members. LeighAnn joined the club on June 25 and will be serving as a Club Satellite Member. She was sponsored by Mike Short.

LeighAnn recently began a new role with Leadership Medina County as the Director of Community Impact, where she will be helping strengthen connections and support meaningful work throughout the community.

LeighAnn and her husband, Chris, have been married for 12 years. They have two children, Wesley, age 9, and Evelyn, age 6. Outside of work and Kiwanis, LeighAnn enjoys camping, gardening, and cheering on her kids at their sporting events.



LeighAnn Garver

100 Care Packages, Many Helping Hands

Our club assembled 100 care packages for families and guests at the Ronald McDonald House, offering a small reminder that our community is thinking of them during a difficult time.



Schedule

There will be no board meeting in July.

July 9

Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention

July 16

Access the Arts

July 18

Highway Cleanup

July 20

Club Satellite Meeting

July 23

50th Anniversary Couples

July 29

Project MUNCH

July 30

Fifth Thursday Kiwanis Social **

August 6

Meeting location:
Medina County Home

August 13

Boys & Girls State

August 15

Board Meeting

August 17

Club Satellite Meeting

**** When there are 5 Thursdays in a month, instead of our regularly scheduled meeting, we have a social or service project in the evening.**

STEAM Comes to Kiwanis

We welcomed Kelly Harrison, an art teacher, and Megan Gubanich, a science teacher, from Brunswick City Schools. During COVID, they developed a STEAM curriculum for Brunswick Middle School. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Together, they created a hands-on, project-based program that gives students the opportunity to explore, design, build, test, and problem-solve. They shared how STEAM helps students build curiosity, communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. Their work encourages students to ask questions, test ideas, improve their designs, and think creatively.

The program has grown in popularity. With only 60 spots available, there is now a waitlist of 300 students hoping to participate. Kelly and Megan also help expose students to various career paths and encourage them to identify their interests.

The presentation included a hands-on activity for club members that taught us the science behind bubbles while incorporating art into the experience. The results were creative, surprising, and a lot of fun.

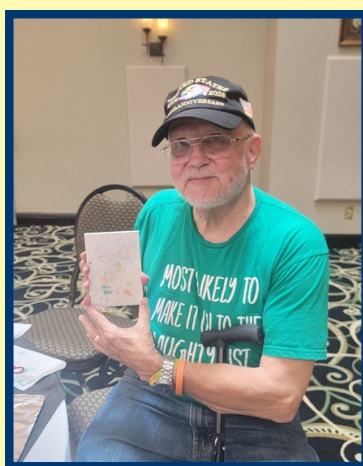
In honor of their presentation and their work with students, the book *STEM Like a Girl: Empowering Knowledge and Confidence to Lead, Innovate, and Create* by Sarah Foster was dedicated to them at the Medina County District Library.



*Megan Gubanich, Kelly Harrison,
Aaron Harrison*



*Erin Grohe, Lucy Harrison,
Aaron Harrison, Marty Gaska*



Dave Gedrock



Anna Slepecky and Pam Vereb

STEAM



Kiwanis Around the World: Erin's First KI Convention

Submitted by: Erin Grohe



I greatly appreciated the fantastic opportunity to attend my first KI Convention in Manila, Philippines. Convention highlights were the opening performance by the Philippine National School for the Blind (who even sang "Don't Stop Believing" and "We Are the World") and Keynote speaker Lei Wang (a highly inspirational mountaineer who shared her story of climbing Mt Everest). I attended five total workshops, including Coaching Conversations that Build Leaders, The Possibility Project, Kiwanis Voices, How Fundraising Fuels Kiwanis Services, and Service Leadership Program, of which the SLP presentation was a standout. I learned so much about how KI runs and votes in addition to hearing about many new initiatives including the Possibility Project and Kiwanis Voices. The Best of Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Showcase Booths were awesome, and I got to meet Kiwanians from all over the globe! Some highlights outside of the KI Convention were the multi-district organized events including a tour of "Old Town" Manila on Wednesday and a trip to Barbara's for dinner and a dance show on Friday night. There were 8 total Kiwanis districts represented at the dance show including a candidate for KI VP (though "Toto" Gonzales of Pampanga, Philippines, won the KI VP race on home turf). Such a neat experience! [Feel free to click through her photo album to see more pictures.](#)



Sandra Fain, Ray Fain - Ohio District Lt. Governor, and Erin Grohe



Creative Living Unlimited: Creating Opportunities and Building Hope

We welcomed Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty, CEO of Creative Living Unlimited, who shared the organization's mission to provide quality housing, services, and supports that help individuals with disabilities live with dignity, opportunity, and greater independence.

Creative Living Unlimited provides a wide range of housing and lifestyle services, including forever homes, subsidized apartments, independent living experiences, direct support, transportation, employment programs, day services, life skills, and education.

Dianne also shared the many vocational training opportunities offered through Creative Living Unlimited, including Grande Café & Roastery, Creative Living Coffee, Creative Living Produce, Creative Living Pet Play, Creative Living Therapy Ranch, and property maintenance.

Creative Living Unlimited continues to grow, including plans to expand Grande Café & Roastery and build four new homes behind the café. Thank you to Dianne for sharing the important work Creative Living Unlimited is doing to create opportunities, build hope, and support independence in our community.

In honor of Dianne's presentation and Creative Living Unlimited's work supporting individuals with disabilities, the book *Different Abilities* from the Bullfrog Books: Celebrating Differences series by Rebecca Pettiford was dedicated at the Medina County District Library.



Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty and Krista Wasowski



Our Guest: Barbara Baley, Co-Lt. Governor, Western Reserve Division

On June 18, we were pleased to welcome Barb Baley as our guest. Barb serves as Co-Lt. Governor for our Western Reserve Division of the Ohio District.

Barb also recognized our club in a recent email regarding the Current Status with Kiwanis International, "Medina Noon 3+ membership 68. All monthly reports complete and membership plan in progress. EXTRAORDINARY"



Krista Wasowski and Barb Baley

Kiwanis Club of Medina Apparel

Is it time for you to order some new Kiwanis Club of Medina merchandise?

To order, visit www.usacustomapparel.com and note the Style Number, Size, Color, and Logo you want. Be sure to include your name and contact number when placing your order.

For questions or assistance with your order, contact:

- Shawn Wode, Owner – usa@zoominternet.net
- Narrah Gibbs, Sales Manager – usa.narrah@gmail.com
- Phone: 330-722-0818

You can also visit their showroom at 229 Harding Street, Medina.



- **Bylaws** - Kiwanis International has asked each club to update its bylaws to ensure compliance with current KI requirements. Please refer to Nancy's email sent Wednesday, July 1, for more information.
- **Highway Clean-Up** - Our next scheduled highway cleanup day is Saturday, **July 18**. [Click here to sign up.](#)
- **Project MUNCH** - Please consider signing up for an upcoming Project MUNCH shift scheduled for **July 29**. [Click here to sign up.](#)
- **YCPO/Youth Services Committee** will meet at 5:30 PM on **July 29** at Johnny Malloy's. There are a lot of agenda items to discuss and suggestions for next year's projects. All club members who want to be part of this committee are invited.
- **5th Thursday** - When there are five Thursdays in a month, our regular noon meeting is replaced with an evening social or service project. This month the 5th Thursday is on **July 30**.
- **Ohio District Reminders:**
 - Read or sign up to receive the Buckeye Bulletin: <https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/district-newsletters/>
 - Register for the 2026 DCON (Ohio District Convention) August 14-16: <https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/district-convention/>
 - Register for the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation (ODKF) Golf Outing, July 16 - <https://odkf.org/odkf-golf-2026/registration.html>

Spirit of '76 at Old Town Graveyard

On June 25, we welcomed Teresa Merkle, President of Friends of the Cemetery and Chairperson of the Medina City Cemetery Commission, to share plans for Medina's Spirit of '76 event.

Friends of the Cemetery was formed in 1997 with a mission to preserve, beautify, and maintain Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Cemetery. Teresa shared that Medina's America 250 Committee was created to help plan special and memorable events in honor of our country's 250th birthday.

As part of that celebration, the Spirit of '76 Committee has been planning an event at Old Town Graveyard to honor the three Revolutionary War soldiers buried there. The committee has been meeting for more than a year and includes more than 50 volunteers, including city representatives, actors, musicians, artisans, partners, and many hardworking community members.

The event will be a meaningful way to bring the community together, celebrate Medina's history, and honor those connected to our nation's earliest days. Thank you to Teresa for sharing this special project with our club.



Teresa Merkle



Lu Ann Hill-Gresh

Medina Community Band: A Community Tradition

On June 25, we welcomed Lu Ann Hill-Gresh, President of the Medina Community Band Association, who shared the history and ongoing work of the Medina Community Band.

The Medina Community Band was organized in 1859 and has been part of Medina's community life for generations. Since then, 20 conductors have helped preserve the tradition of live community band music in Medina.

Lu Ann, who has been a member of the band since 1997, shared that the band has been supported by donations since 1970, while its members donate their time and talent. There are no auditions or dues required to join, making it a welcoming opportunity for musicians who want to share their love of music with the community.

The band performs four indoor concerts each year and continues its beloved summer tradition of playing Friday evening concerts at the gazebo in Uptown Park. Thank you to Lu Ann for sharing the story of this treasured Medina tradition with our club.

Honoring Speakers, Supporting Readers

One of our club traditions is recognizing our speakers with a book dedication at the Medina County District Library. When possible, the book reflects the speaker's topic, organization, or the community conversation they brought to us.

Along with each dedication, our club sends a donation to the Friends of the Medina County District Library. This tradition gives us a meaningful way to thank our speakers while supporting the library and the readers it serves.

We have been doing this for many years, so the next time you borrow a book from the library, take a peek at the front pages. You just may find a dedication from the Kiwanis Club of Medina.

Book Dedications Since October 2025:

- The Everything Kids' Cookbook, Updated Edition: 90+ Easy Recipes You'll Love to Make—and Eat!, by Sandra K Nissenberg
- The Helpers: Profiles from the Front Lines of the Pandemic, by Kathy Gilsinan
- It's a Wonderful World: How to Protect the Planet and Change the Future, by Jess French
- Own Your Past Change Your Future, by Dr. John Delony
- Words That Built a Nation: Voices of Democracy That Have Shaped America's History, by Marilyn Miller
- Developing Differently, by Joshua Muggleton
- Work: Interviews with People Doing Jobs They Love, by Shaina Feinberg and Julia Rothman
- Funny Little Pregnant Things, by Emily Doherty
- The Hospital: The Inside Story, by Christle Nwor
- Sisters in law: how Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg went to the Supreme Court and changed the world, by Linda Hirshman
- The family tree: Polish, Czech & Slovak genealogy guide : how to trace your family tree in Eastern Europe, by Lisa Alzo
- Social Empathy: The Art of Understanding Others, by Elizabeth Segal
- We Follow the Rules (Little Citizens), by Theresa Emminizer
- STEM Like a Girl: Empowering Knowledge and Confidence to Lead, Innovate, and Create, by Sarah Foster
- Different Abilities from the Bullfrog Books: Celebrating Differences series, by Rebecca Pettiford



Cheers to our July Birthdays!

Brian Harr
Ed Zackery
Greg Huber
Jonathan Steingass
Maureen Dabbieri
Nancy Abbott
Rick Davidson
Tracy Knappins



Happy Dollars

- **Joan Rundle** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Our 55 year anniversary is July 3."
- **Dave Sterret** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Trying to get back to lunch meetings."
- **Krista Wasowski** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "We are going to have grandbaby #3!"
- **Hank Waite** gave \$2 Happy Dollars, "Inflatable is in our possession. Our new member LeighAnn Garver."
- **Tim Nelson** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "A great Kiwanis volunteer group at Project MUNCH yesterday!!"
- **Aaron Harrison** gave \$10 Happy Dollars, "\$5 upcoming family vacation - leaving Saturday and \$5 HAPPY 250th U.S.A"
- **Julie McNabb** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Kick off to parade season this past Tuesday started with the Wadsworth Blue Tip Parade."
- **Hank Waite** gave \$10 Happy Dollars, "Happy for a great trip out west and to be home."
- **Erin Grohe** gave \$1 Happy Dollar, "Heading to Manila on Monday for KI!"
- **Dave Gedrock** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Surprise at my John Carroll 50th Reunion."
- **Barb Woodard** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Yesterday - celebrated anniversary #59."
- **Jon Steingass** gave \$10 Thankful Dollars, "For all of your condolences at Barb's death."
- **Bill Young** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Just got back from a wonderful trip to Alaska."



Board of Directors

2025 - 2027

Joan Samkow
Tracy Knappins
Russ Fanello

2026 - 2028

Kimberly Gaska
Nancy Abbott
Ed Zackery

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Club Officers

President	Aaron Harrison
President Elect	Krista Wasowski
Vice President	Kerry Kelley
Immediate Past President	Marty Gaska
Secretary	Nanette Waite
Treasurer	Chery Short

Kiwanis Defining Statement

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child, and one community at a time.