



The Medina Kiwanis Brick

“serving the children of the world”

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www.kiwanis.org



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Celebrating 50 Years Together



One of our club's favorite annual traditions returned as the Kiwanis Club of Medina hosted its 50th Anniversary Luncheon, honoring Medina County couples celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Mayor Jim Shields joined us to congratulate the couples, while Stuart Neal and Denise Gerspacher of the Medina County Fair Board presented each couple with a lifetime pass to the Medina County Fair.

This year, we were pleased to celebrate eight couples: Jean and Jim Blankenship, introduced by Keith Dirham; Jill and Alan Clark, introduced by Alan's cousin, Hank Waite; Carol and James Koppes, introduced by Linda Hoffmann Joseph; Terry and Bob Loyer, introduced by Tim Nelson; Lauren and Barry Muha, introduced by Anna Slepecky; Ginger and Dave Stanek, introduced by Kerry Kelley; Carolyn and Glenn Squire, introduced by Nancy Abbott; and Marcia and Bill Young, introduced by Bob Fenn.

The afternoon also included a little wisdom from someone who knows something about a lasting marriage. Kiwanian Lou Livengood, married for 63 years, shared his advice for a great marriage: pick the right person in the first place!

Anna Slepecky also shared a poem written by Terry Shuman especially for the couples, adding another special touch to the celebration.

A great deal of work goes into making this luncheon possible each year. Our thanks to Joan Rundle for organizing this meaningful Kiwanis tradition and giving us the opportunity to celebrate these couples and an impressive milestone: 50 years together.



Schedule

August 17

Club Satellite Meeting

August 19

Board Meeting

August 20

Reportable Diseases Update (Medina County Health Dept)

August 26

Project MUNCH

August 27

Let's Make A Difference

September 3

Access the Arts - Jane Back

September 10

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

September 16

Board Meeting

September 17

Bike Medina County

September 19

Highway Clean-up

September 21

Club Satellite Meeting

September 23

Project MUNCH

September 24

Kiwanis Possibility Project

Buckeye Girls State: Learning Government by Doing

Submitted by: Nancy Abbott

For more than 80 years, the American Legion has supported Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State, giving high school students the opportunity to learn firsthand how government works. This year, American Legion Post 202 supported six boys and 23 girls, with Dave Lofy continuing his longtime work guiding the students. Our club also supports these programs.



Pictured: Hailey, Autumn, Dave Lofy, Keith Dirham

Hailey and Autumn, both entering seniors at Brunswick High School, joined us to share some of what they experienced at Girls State. As the program describes it, delegates can learn more about city,

county, and state government in one week than they might learn in an entire semester in school. Autumn ran for state representative and said she knew very little about how government actually worked before attending the week-long program. Campaigning taught her that running for office involves a lot of talking, meeting people, and building relationships.

Hailey admitted she was not initially interested in attending Girls State, but her teachers encouraged her to apply. She ran for county engineer and, although she was not elected to that position, went on to serve as city engineer. She described the campaigning process as both interesting and educational.

Both students came away with a better understanding of government along with leadership, communication, and relationship-building skills they can carry with them into the future.

Have You Earned a Ruby K?

The Ruby K Award recognizes Kiwanians who have sponsored five or more new members during their Kiwanis career. Awards begin at five sponsored members and continue through 100, with additional recognition for each 25 members sponsored beyond that.



The award is cumulative, so members who have previously received a Ruby K may earn another as they continue bringing new members into Kiwanis.

Curious how many members you have sponsored? Log into <https://engage.kiwanis.org/> and select Sponsorship under My Profile.

For a little inspiration, incoming Ohio District Governor Judy Raub has sponsored 100 new members during her Kiwanis career!

More information about the Ruby K and other Kiwanis awards can be found at:
<https://www.kiwanis.org/members/awards-recognition/>

Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention: Building Awareness and Hope

Taylor Volovar of Alternative Paths joined us to share the work of the Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention and the many ways it supports prevention efforts throughout our community.

Taylor highlighted the Coalition's focus on education, awareness, outreach, and community events, including QPR training, youth contests, the Step Up to Prevent Suicide Walk, and efforts to encourage safe firearm storage during times of crisis. She also shared local data showing the continued need for prevention, early intervention, and community support across all ages.



Krista Wasowski and Taylor Volovar

In recognition of Taylor's presentation, the Kiwanis Club of Medina dedicated *Beneath the Surface: A Teen's Guide to Reaching Out When You or Your Friend Is in Crisis* by Kristi Hugstad at the Medina County District Library.

Annual Visit to the Medina County Home



Greg Brown

Our annual visit to the Medina County Home gave members a chance to hear from Superintendent Greg Brown about the home, its residents, and what is ahead.

The home currently has 44 residents, with capacity for 50. The youngest resident is 41, while the oldest is 102 and has lived there since 1972. Greg also shared that Medina County is one of only 12 counties in Ohio with a county home.

One unique source of support comes from livestock donated at the Medina County Fair. Last year, donations included 17 turkeys, 18 chickens, 11 swine, two beef cattle, and three lambs. The meat is processed, stored in freezers throughout the county, and used to help provide meals for residents throughout the year.

Looking ahead, plans include replacing the parking lot with grant funding and, eventually, rebuilding the heavily used outdoor pavilion.

Our club has made this annual Fair Week visit to the Medina County Home since 2010, making it another special Kiwanis tradition.

Meet Key Club Lt. Governor Jackson Kase

Submitted by: Nancy Abbott

Jackson Kase, Key Club Lt. Governor for Division 15, joined us to share his Key Club experience and current leadership role.

Jackson is a student at both Highland High School and the Medina County Career Center. He first joined Highland's Key Club as a freshman and later became involved with the Career Center's club, where he experienced a more structured format with regular meetings, activities, and district involvement.



Key Club Lt. Governor Jackson Kase

After attending the Ohio Key Club convention, Jackson was encouraged to run for Lt. Governor. He now serves as the liaison for Key Clubs throughout Medina County, along with Norton High School, Wayne County Career Center, and Wooster High School. He also had the opportunity to attend the Key Club International Convention in Texas.

Division 15 is currently supporting the Thirst Project, which works to help provide access to safe, clean drinking water. Donations may be made at <https://my.thirstproject.org/ohiokeyclubdivision15>

July Fifth Thursday at Feeding Medina County

For our July Fifth Thursday gathering, the Medina Breakfast Kiwanis Club invited our members to join them at Feeding Medina County's annual volunteer luncheon. The Breakfast Club volunteers there each month and has extended an open invitation to our members who would like to join them. For more information, contact Roy Lehman.

Remembering Alan Penn

The Kiwanis community recently lost longtime Kiwanian Alan Penn, a member of the Medina Breakfast Kiwanis Club since 1975 who went on to serve in numerous district and international leadership roles, including as Kiwanis International President in 2011-12. His many years of service reflected a lifelong commitment to children, education, and community.

Please keep Alan's wife, Jeri, and their family in your thoughts and prayers.



Visitation: Friday, August 28, from 4:00–8:00 PM at Waite Funeral Home, 765 N. Court Street, Medina.

A second visitation will be held Saturday, August 29, from 10:00–11:00 AM at Medina United Methodist Church, followed by a Celebration of Life at 11:00 AM.

To learn more about Alan's life and his service to Kiwanis:

[Alan Penn's obituary – Waite Funeral Home](#)

[Kiwanis International remembers Alan Penn](#)

Parade of Flags Update



Our Parade of Flags teams will be back in action for the Labor Day and Patriot Day display. Flags will go out the week of August 31 and remain up through September 11, with pickup beginning September 14.

This round also brings a few route changes. Krista Wasowski will manage the new Lexington Ridge route, and LeighAnn Garver will manage a new Far West route. Nancy Abbott and Sue Milligan Russell are also joining the Country Lakes team.

Several existing routes, including North Central, North West, and South West, have been revised. All teams should watch for their updated route sheets by August 30.

Supercommittee Meeting: Bring Your Ideas

Before the new Kiwanis year begins, the Supercommittee gets together to brainstorm program ideas for the year ahead. It's informal, it's fun, and nothing is off the table. In fact, after a few drinks, some of the ideas may get a little more creative than others!

Dave Gedrock is hosting the next Supercommittee Meeting on Monday, August 17, at 5:30 PM at Sully's.

Bring your ideas, practical or otherwise, and help us start building next year's program calendar.

A Reminder of the Objects of Kiwanis

Other than during a new member induction, how often do we stop and think about the Objects of Kiwanis International?

The six permanent Objects were adopted in 1924 and continue to reflect the values and purpose of Kiwanis:

- **To give** primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life.
- **To encourage** the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- **To promote** the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards.
- **To develop**, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.
- **To provide**, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.
- **To cooperate** in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and goodwill.

More than 100 years later, they remain a good reminder of what Kiwanis is about and why we serve.



Becky Crain, Krista Wasowski,
Kip Crain, and Kerry Kelley

Our Club Members at the Ohio District Convention (DCON)



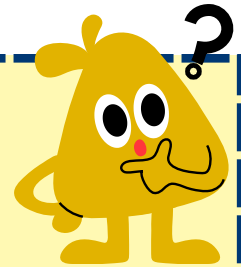
Kip Crain, Becky Crain, Mike Short,
and Chery Short



Kip Crain as convention
election Chairman.

The “No Prize” Prize

Dave Gedrock is back at it—serving up brain teasers, trivia, and laughs with his famous “no prize” prize. No trophy, no ribbon, just bragging rights.



1. When do you address a judge as “Your Honor,” and when do you call them “Judge”?

Answer is on the last page.



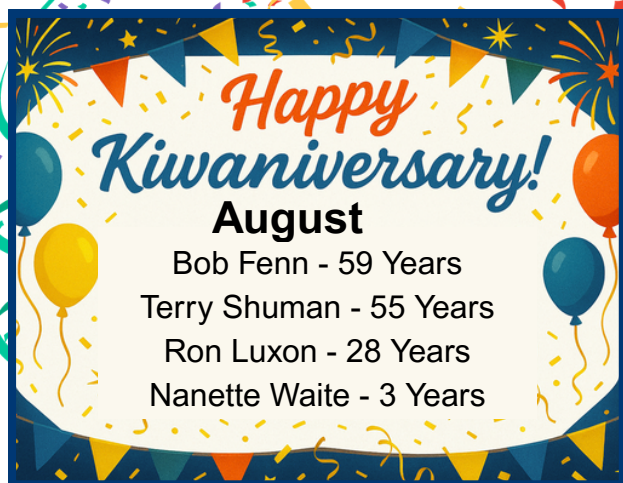
The K Has Arrived!

After what felt like a very long wait, our new inflatable Kiwanis K finally arrived! Hank Waite, who placed the order, made sure we all knew just how long it was taking to get here.

But once it arrived? All was forgiven. Hank was like a kid on Christmas morning!

We’re looking forward to showing off our giant K at upcoming Kiwanis events around the community.

A big thank you to Hank for taking care of the order and helping make this fun addition to our club possible!



Happy Dollars

- **Hank Waite** gave \$10 Happy Dollars, "For Owen's hard work on the Medina High School class reunion and Jim Shields. And the Key Clubs help too. Everyone did a great job yesterday!"
- **Hank Waite** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Glad to have Amy Busby and Tina Cassidy with us today, great to have Russ back."
- **Nancy Abbott** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "For Jackson Kase's color picture on the front of *Hinckley, Granger, & Sharon Living*."
- **Hank Waite** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Happy to talk to Terry Shuman yesterday and for our new Kiwanis "K" inflatable."
- **Nanette Waite** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "We finally have our Kiwanis inflatable."
- **Kerry Kelley** gave \$3 Happy Dollars, "Jim Shields kicked off our Sponsorship Program for the Medina Holiday Decorations on Monday, a project I am leading. Cleveland.com picked it up and published an article about it!"
- **Jon Steingass** gave \$1 Happy Dollar, "I have some corn from the garden, pick some up on your way out."
- **Joan Rundle** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "My granddaughter Georgia won 3 ribbons showing her pig at the fair and she was 4th for grand champion pig!"
- **Linda Hoffmann** gave \$1 Happy Dollar, "For a great County Fair and successful entries. And, ribbons on my jams!"
- **Becky & Kip Crain** gave \$2 Happy Dollars, "Two grandsons, Eli & Isaac turn 17 years old this week, August 11 and August 13."
- **Mike Short** gave \$20 Happy Dollars, "For Rex's great work on the new lock box at the storage unit."



Sign up to volunteer!

PROJECT MUNCH

[Click here to volunteer on](#)

[SignUpGenius](#)



Make sure you select
the correct date!

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

[Click here to volunteer on](#)

[SignUpGenius](#)



When the judge is on the
bench, use "Your Honor."
Outside the courtroom, use
"Judge."

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
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Vice President	Kerry Kelley
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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.