



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

November 2022  
Vol. 104 No. 7  
"DEFY GRAVITY"

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Dear Kiwanis Club of Roanoke members,

It is our honor to serve on the Capital District DEI Committee - as diversity, equity and inclusion is seen by us as lying at the core of who we are in our club. We want to share with you the following statement adopted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees:

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

As a volunteer organization serving children around the world through members in more than 70 countries, Kiwanis International has had a longstanding commitment to opportunity and dignity for all people. In June 2022, the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees adopted the latest expression of that principle: a detailed statement of our continuing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

**KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

At Kiwanis, our mission — to serve the children of the world, one child and one community at a time — is reflected in our continuing commitment to

diversity, equity and inclusion. We understand that the children of the world represent a variety of races, ethnicities, religions, abilities, socioeconomic statuses, gender identities and sexual orientations. Our vision is to be a positive influence in societies worldwide, so that one day, regardless of background, all children wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to survive.

To ensure our vision comes to life, it is imperative that our Kiwanis family welcomes, includes and serves individuals with diverse backgrounds, talents and perspectives. With Kiwanis' worldwide presence, it is critical that we work with and engage members and organizations representing diverse communities throughout all levels of our organization.

**Diversity:** We commit to increasing diversity and celebrating the range of human differences. Kiwanis clubs shall not discriminate based upon race, color, creed, national origin, age or sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity, when considering membership or during any of their activities or operations.

**Equity:** We commit to a policy of opportunity that promotes fairness, impartiality and nondiscriminatory actions for all persons — no matter the criteria.

**Inclusion:** We commit to pursuing efforts to ensure the dignity of all people is recognized, respected, valued and empowered.

Questions or comments about diversity, equity and inclusion can be emailed to [diversity@kiwanis.org](mailto:diversity@kiwanis.org).

An exciting program is offered by our Capital District DEI Committee on November 30th at 7 pm - hope you can join us. Powerful renowned speakers on this topic will be featured! See attached flyer. [Register here!](#)

Cheri and David Hartman  
Kiwanis Club of Roanoke

**Capital District Kiwanis  
Family Committee on  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

# WHY DEI?



**Presenters:**  
**AJ and Adrienne Young**  
**The LIFEworks Project**



**Kiwanis**  
CAPITAL DISTRICT

**November 30, 7pm EST**

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## **Salvation Army Bell Ringing during the three evenings of Dickens of a Christmas**

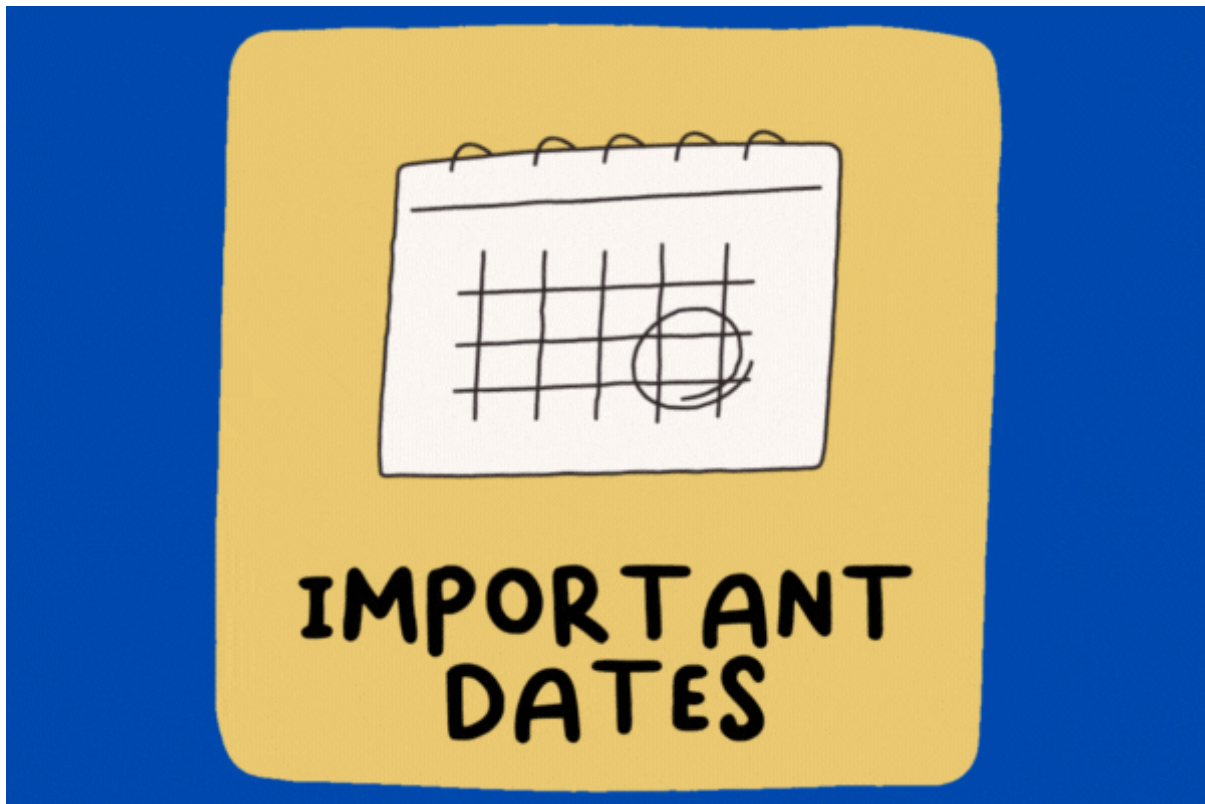
Our Kiwanis Club will again be “Ringing the Bells” for the Salvation Army on the evenings of December 2, December 9, and December 16. Our location will be outside the Market Square Entrance to Center in the Square.

Since 2008, the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke has collected more than \$17,000.00 in donations for the Salvation Army. This money came from “ringing” at the Dickens of a Christmas Kettle and from our “Virtual Red Kettle” that was established during the pandemic of 2020.

This year’s “Virtual Red Kettle” will be launched around December 1. “Sign-up sheets” for ringing volunteers will be “on the tables” at our luncheon meetings on November 16 and November 30.

For more information, contact Co-Chairs Betsy Bohannon, John Ewart, or Ken Briggs.

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**Nov 16** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) - Melissa Woodson

**Nov 18** - (8-9 am) Membership Committee meeting

**Nov 18** - (11 am - 1:30 pm) Adult Care Center Thanksgiving! Volunteers needed!

**Nov 21** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Environment Committee meeting

**Nov 23** - No meeting, Happy Thanksgiving week!

**Nov 30** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) USA Pickleball Association - Nick Perez

**Nov 30** - (7 pm) Capital District DEI Committee program

**Dec 1** - Kiwanis Social Night at Mill Mountain Theater to see Holiday Inn and Reception

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**November 16th Club Meeting - Melissa**



## Woodson with [RAM House](#)

Melissa is a native of King George, VA. who fell in love with the people and mountains of Roanoke when first visiting her husband's grandparents in 1983. She obtained her B.S. from Mary Washington College in 1985 and completed her MBA from Averett University in 2006. She has found her heart and home with RAM House. Melissa's non-profit career spans over 28 years. Prior to joining RAM, she served as executive director of the YWCA of Roanoke Valley and Susan G. Komen. She has also worked for Boys' Home, Roanoke Valley American Red Cross, TAP and the Rappahannock United Way. She dedicates her non-profit work to the memory of her influential parents who never hesitated to help a stranger in need.



## **November 30th Club Meeting - Nick Perez, [USA Pickleball Association](#)**

Nick was born in Indianapolis, IN. His family moved to Columbus, OH shortly afterwards, and then to Salem in 1954. He graduated from Glenvar High School having concentrated on fun rather than academics.

Towards the end of the Vietnam conflict, Nick served 3 years in the Army Security Agency, (a military intelligence branch, linked to the NSA.) His entire non-training duty was served in the Republic of Panama. He and his first wife had a son while they were living in Panama.

After returning home, he attended Radford University, obtaining a B.S. in Biology, a teaching certification, and a minor in Psychology. He worked for a short while with children and teens having psychological and emotional difficulties before being hired as a flight attendant by Piedmont Airlines where he met his future wife Martha. They have been together over 42 years and have a daughter born in 1989. Between the two children there are now 3 grandchildren who light up their lives. Piedmont and USAir merged and was later bought by American Airlines.

Retiring from American Airlines after 36 years of domestic and international travel, Nick, and his wife, together with their best friends opened a large consignment store dealing in quality home furnishings. They owned that business for over 10 years, then sold it and found pickleball.

Nick and Martha spent many hours hunting for antiques over the years and have a very eclectic mix of antique and mid-century modern furnishings in their home here in the beautiful Roanoke Valley. Though Nick and Martha have traveled a good bit for jobs and pleasure, they have found nowhere as appealing as the Roanoke area.

In 2019 Nick became an Ambassador for USAPA, the USA Pickleball Association (The official name changed 2 years ago to USA Pickleball). Nick is the moderator for the national USAP Ambassador's Forum. In 2021 he took on the role of the USAP Mid- Atlantic Regional Director. This region of the USAP includes DC, MD, VA, NC, SC, KY, and TN and is represented by about 200 local Ambassadors. Ambassadors are volunteers who pledge to promote pickleball and help grow the sport.

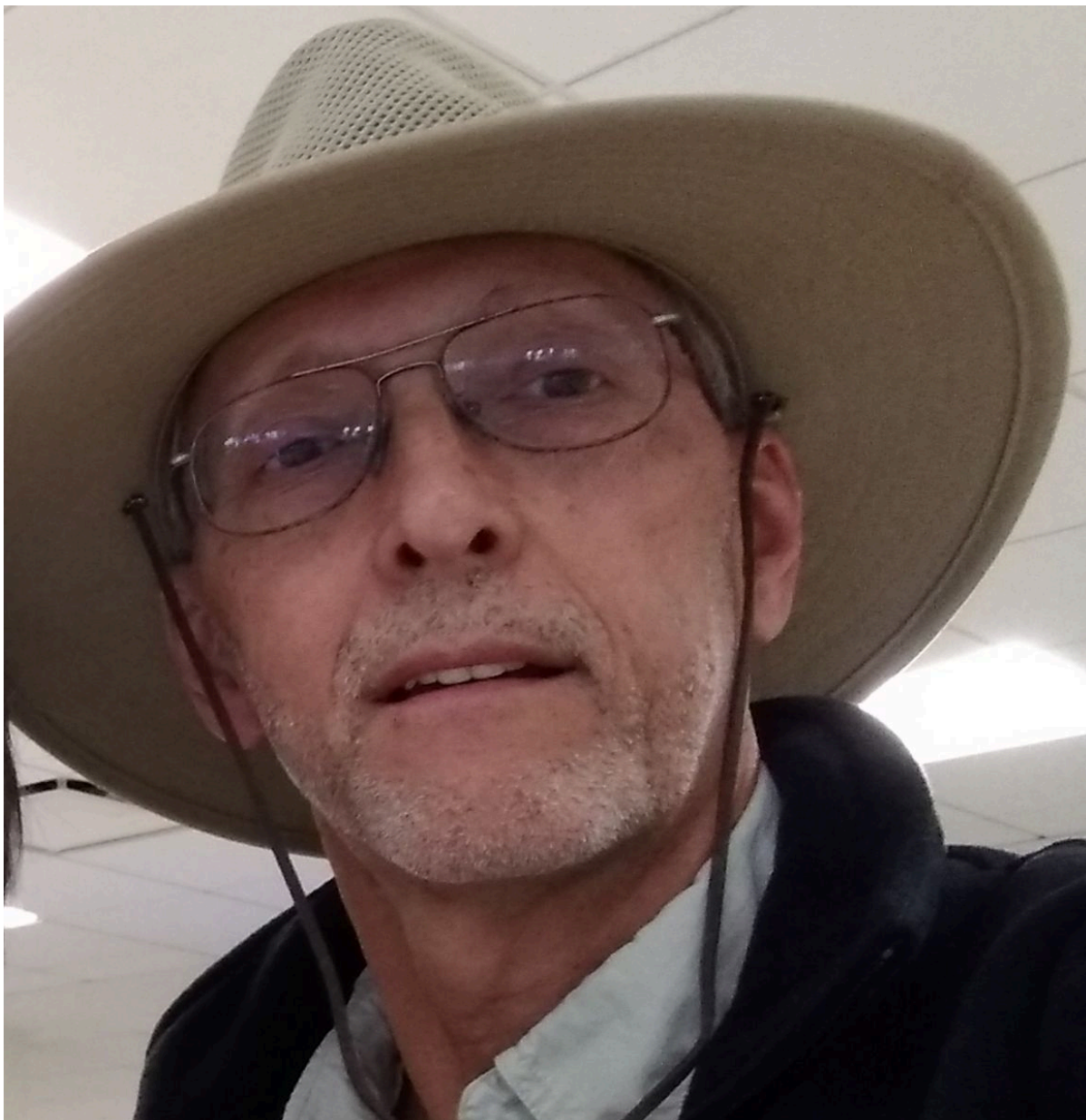
Nick organizes many pickleball socials, became the local rules “guru”, organized and gathered volunteers to teach pickleball in a local school several times, and started a Google Groups email for local player communication prior to the introduction of a much better player communication tool called Play Time Scheduler.

Nick earned a coaching certification from the Professional Pickleball Registry, an organization that is internationally recognized for its pickleball teaching certification program. He routinely runs free lessons and clinics, gaining as much enjoyment from sharing his passion for the sport as playing it.

Several years ago, someone said Nick was like a preacher spreading the gospel of pickleball, so he started calling himself Brother Nick of the Monks of Pickleball™ as a joke. He worried about someone taking the Monks of Pickleball name and monetizing it, so he started adding the trademark symbol to create a “Common law trademark”.

One of Nick’s goals is to play singles in a tournament at age 90!





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## Feature Photos

(Photos by Mike O'Brochta)





(Above) Emily Moore with Mill Mountain Zoo, a grant recipient, showing off a lizard.



(Above) Judy Clark providing some good vibrations for the weekly meeting.



(Above) Members enjoying the meeting.



(Above) Clark Goodman with his guest, Keely Lancaster.





(Above) Our guest speaker, Abby Verdillo Hamilton of United Way of Roanoke Valley.

(Above) Ken Briggs receiving the "I Beat Membership Milton Award," presented by Milton Hardy.



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

## **New Birth!**

We congratulate Donna and Mark Lynch who added to their family on October 26th with the birth of a granddaughter, Milena Fay Ramirez, weighing 5 lbs 9 oz and 18" long. This is the first child for parents, Amber (Lynch) and Jeff Ramirez of Roanoke.

## **New Section**

This column is for short items about new members, departing members, member deaths, member accomplishments (as just happened to Sam Darby being recognized as one of the top lawyers in the country)... *The*

*success of this new column will depend on receiving a steady stream of relevant information from Club members! You can do so by emailing Alex at [abarge11@gmail.com](mailto:abarge11@gmail.com).*

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## Kiwanian Birthdays

November 1	Joyce Waugh
November 3	Will Dibling
November 3	Jay Massey
November 4	Tom Miller
November 8	Manly Aylor
November 10	David Daniels
November 10	Sheyonn Baker
November 13	Kevin Berry
November 15	Larry Kufel
November 28	J C Taylor



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

2022-23

### Officers:

Ben Spiker, President  
Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect  
Jeanne Bollendorf, Vice President  
John Montgomery, Secretary-Treasurer  
Clark Goodman, Past President

### Directors:

Don Wilson, President, Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke -Term Ends 2023  
Jamie Bailey, 2023  
Luke Young, 2023  
LeeAnn Linkenhoker, 2023  
Kevin Reeder, 2024  
Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 2024  
Bob Habermann, 2025  
Bruce Swanson, 2025  
Sheila Umberger, 2025  
Harry Zulauf, 2025



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