



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

September 2023
Vol. 104 No. 49
'DEFY GRAVITY'

In this Issue

Board Leadership
Committee Membership
Officer Installation Dinner
Important Dates
Speakers' Info
Feature Photos
Kiwaniis Happenings
Kiwaniis Birthdays

Board Leadership

Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect

Let's take a moment to collectively appreciate and say thank you to our outgoing members of the Board of Directors. Each of them, in their own way, has contributed to the success of our Club.

Luke Young brought the spirit and perspective of a young professional. Thank you.

LeeAnn Linkenhoker also brought the young professional spirit and perspective, and she worked hard to make multiple KPAD auctions and yard sales a success, in addition to bringing us several top-quality speakers during her board tenure. Thank you.

Jamie Bailey brought the mindset of a successful small business professional

to our team leadership, routinely offering out-of-the box thinking to help solve problems. Thank you.

Bruce Swanson, who served a partial term until his business demands took priority, began the groundwork for our club's next strategic plan, intertwining a clever sense of humor and a kindness to his thoughts that inspires others. Thank you.

Immediate Past President Clark Goodman has now concluded a five-year stretch of board leadership - much of it during the challenging time of COVID - displaying initiative on such innovative ideas as bocce and FUN committee activities.

And Ben Spiker, as outgoing President, brought us a much-appreciated, understated leadership style and calming influence that has successfully guided us through an outstanding year. Ben will move to the position of Past President, continuing on the board another year. Thank you.

Let's also take a moment to recognize our club members who are starting new terms on the Board:

Dave Hartman, who works in the psychiatric profession as Section Chief for Outpatient Adult Psychiatry at the Carilion Clinic and as an associate professor for the VTC Medical School and Research Institute, has been leading our annual Prayer Breakfast and will be leading our new Book Club committee.

Alex Barge, who works as Director of Development and Marketing at Brain Injury Solutions, has enthusiastically embraced our weekly newsletter as editor, and led the marketing for our recent KPAD.

Bill Bestpitch, who spent a career in social services as well as serving as a longtime member of Roanoke City Council, served as Club Secretary-

Treasurer two decades ago and brings an array of leadership ideas from his vast experience.

Greg Lionberger, who has joined the successful Lionberger Construction family business as a Project Manager in the past 18 months, elevated the impact of sponsors for our recent KPAD.

John Montgomery, who is returning for another year as Club Secretary-Treasurer, has recently earned the nickname of “Elmer,” for his ability to hold our Club together as the strongest glue.

Joyce Montgomery, after retiring from Carilion and continuing to help others as a Reiki Master, has already succeeded in many roles in our Club including 2021 Capital District Convention Chair and Roanoke Ducky Derby Captain. She is beginning her term as Vice President and Programs Committee Chair.

Jeanne Bollendorf, who advanced the Virginia Children’s Theatre as Managing Director, faithfully served as our newsletter editor for a decade and also has served as our Public Relations & Marketing Committee Chair. Jeanne most recently managed our weekly programs, and now moves to the position of President-Elect, overseeing KPAD.

Mike O’Brochta, our incoming Club President, had a long career at the CIA and then ran a consulting business. He has sold rubber chicken raffle tickets, led our Environment Committee, led our recent KPAD, and is looking forward to working with such a strong leadership team.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to thank these leaders, as well as our continuing board members Bob Habermann, Kevin Reeder, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Sheila Umberger and Harry Zulauf, at our Officer Installation ceremony and dinner (New Orleans Gumbo) at Carvins Cove on Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00pm; RSVP soonest to John Montgomery.



Committee Membership

Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect

All forty committees for next year have been established and each has a volunteer leader. Now it is your turn. Each and every member of our Club, and we have very active members in our Club, each and every member of our Club can volunteer for as many committees as they wish. Just contact each individual Chair of the committees you are interested in joining. Or, fill in a Committee Volunteer form available at our Club meetings. Note, and this is important, we are scrubbing the Directory to eliminate ghost committee members (names previously listed on a committee for people who have not been actively participating). Consequently, this is important too, we will not automatically carry over a name of a committee member from last year's Directory, you must re-volunteer. The deadline to volunteer for a committee is September 30. The Directory will be published in October. Now, on with the

committee volunteering.

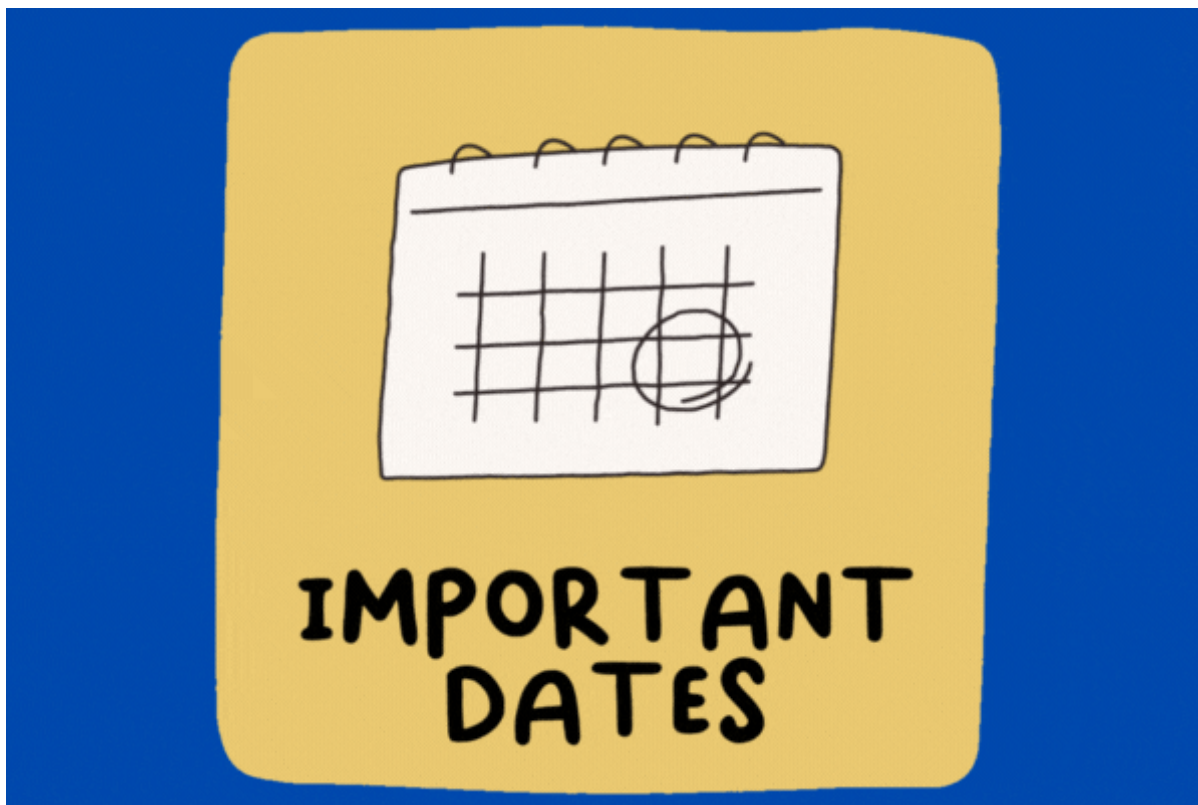
Committees are listed at the end of the email.

Call for **Committee Volunteers**



Officer Installation and Dinner

Take advantage of the opportunity to thank our outgoing and incoming leaders at our Officer Installation ceremony and dinner (New Orleans Gumbo) at Carvins Cove Wednesday September 27 at 5:00pm. No charge for members, guests \$12, casual dress. RSVP soonest to John Montgomery.



September 13 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Jonathan Lee/Meghan Jester, Roanoke College's PLACE - On Campus Career Center

September 20 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Robert Turcotte, Entre Computer Center

September 27 - **No meeting**

September 27 - (5:00-7:10pm) Officer Installation - Gumbo at Carvins Cove

September 30 - Committee volunteer deadline

October 21 - Bocce Ball Tournament

Wednesday, September 13th, Club Meeting - Jonathan Lee/Meghan Jester, Roanoke College's PLACE - On Campus Career Center

Roanoke College's PLACE is the on campus career center dedicated to helping students find their place through purpose, life, and exploration.

Jonathan Lee graduated from Roanoke College and received a graduate

degree from Virginia Tech. Meghan Jester graduated from Virginia Tech and received a graduate degree from the University of Lynchburg.



Wednesday, September 20th, Club Meeting - Robert Turcotte, Entre Computer Center

Robert Turcotte will be speaking on what is artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language progressing (NLP) and why is everyone talking about it.

Robert has been senior system consultant at Entre Computer Center for 34 years. He is a leader in the business community and numerous community organizations.



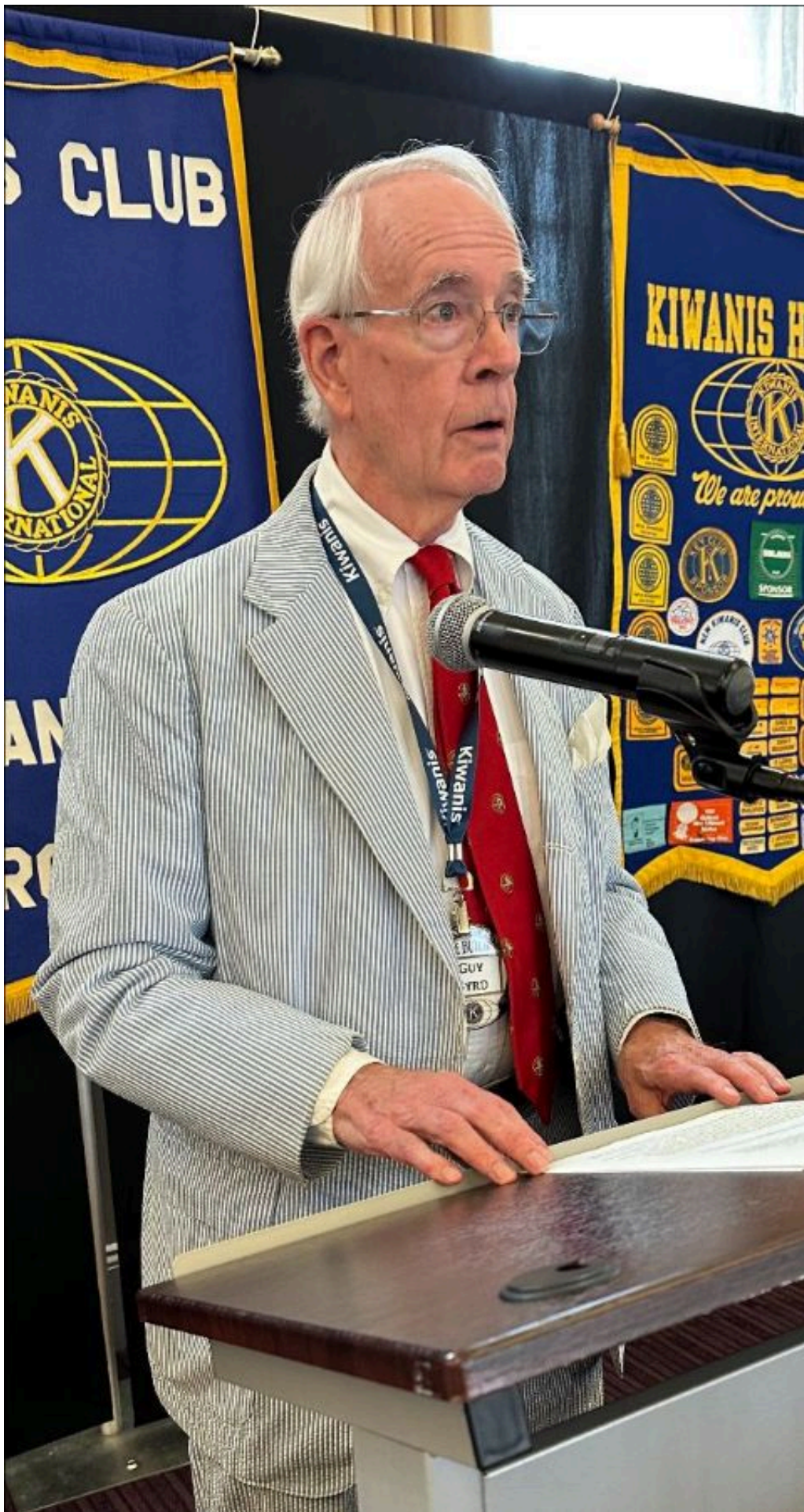
Highlights from our Last Club Meeting (two weeks ago)



Full Room At Club Meeting



Tree Cutting Project Volunteers





Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

FAREWELL TO TWO OF OUR MEMBERS...

We are saddened to share the news of the departures of two of our members. Their respective letters of resignation from the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke were accepted at this week's board meeting:

- Longtime Kiwanian Wendy Mellenthin will be leaving the club at the end of September due to time constraints. Wendy has become a Secular Franciscan priest recently and is now devoting much of her time to that pursuit. Wendy has been in our club 24 years (34 years as a Kiwanian in total) and has successfully led a number of club projects during her tenure – including academic scholarships, the prayer breakfast, membership retention, Kiwanis Kares, and weekly invocation coordination. Wendy was sponsored in our club by Past President Gary Duerk.

- Eddie Smith, our youngest club member, joined Kiwanis in 2020. He accepted a position with Arthur J. Gallagher & Company in Richmond as a financial advisor. A Roanoke native and Roanoke College graduate, he was employed locally by Merrill Lynch. Eddie is also getting married later this year. Eddie says he will miss the Roanoke club and the many friends he has made. Gary Duerk was also Eddie's sponsor.

We wish both Wendy and Eddie the best in their endeavors and thank them for their outstanding service to our club.

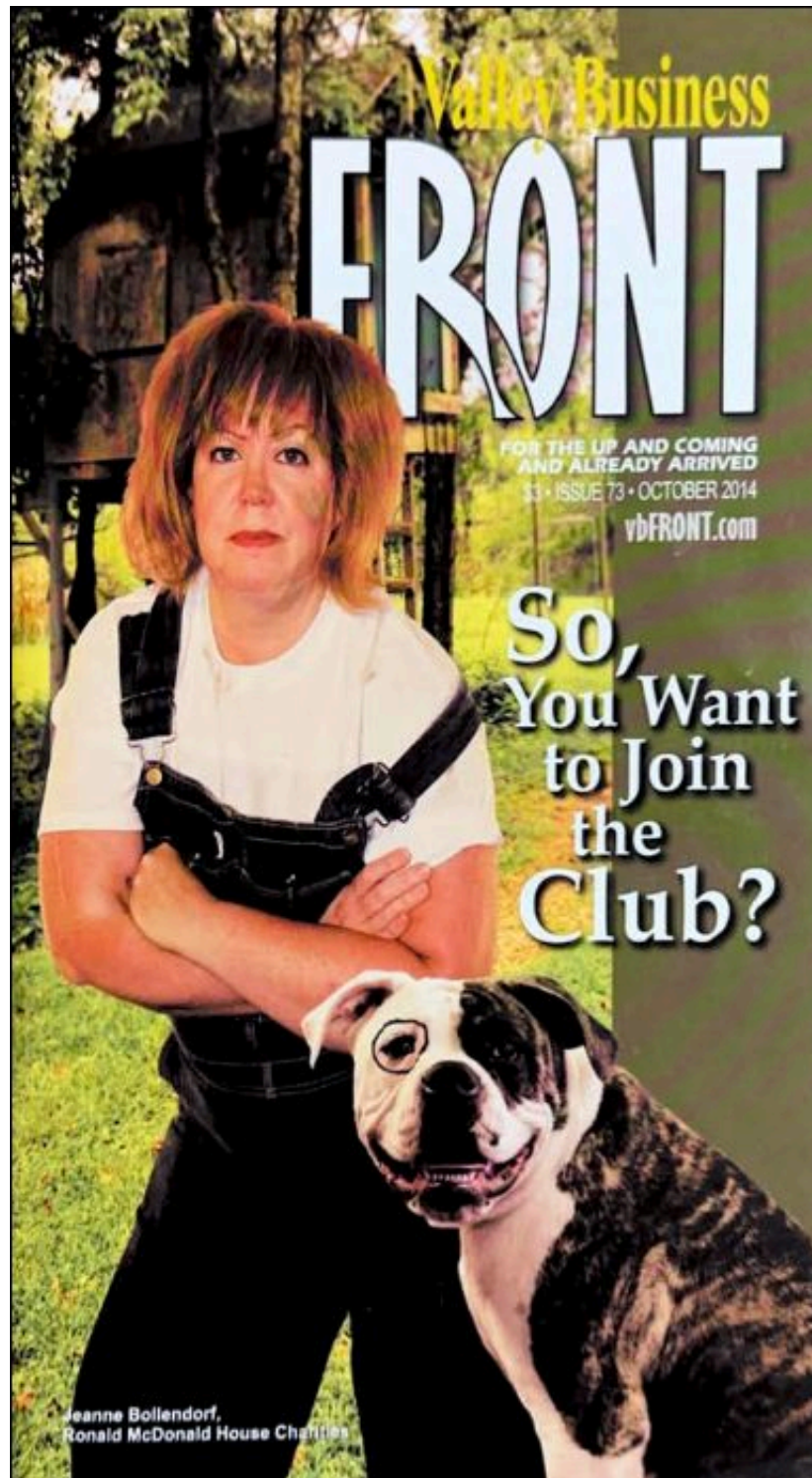
Meeting Recordings

Note that club meeting recordings can be found on our YouTube channel

[here.](#)

In the News (a few years ago)

Reminiscing about times yore at yesterday's board meeting, Jeanne Bollendorf circulated a copy of the Valley Business Front magazine from 2014, she is featured on the cover; see below.



Committees 2023-2024

- **Administrative Budget – John Montgomery**
Implement strategies to strengthen and support the club's administrative budget and prepare budget for board approval.
- **Adult Care Thanksgiving – Don Chichester**
Coordinate Thanksgiving dinner for elderly at the Adult Care Center.
- **Bocce – Greg Lionberger**
Plan and conduct fun Bocce event.
- **Book Club (new) – Dave Hartman**
Jointly read, explore, and discuss selected books.
- **Business Outreach (new) – Keith Hartman**
Form relationships between our club and local area businesses to increase our club's visibility, and enhance community awareness.
- **CHIP Backpacks – Betsy Bohannon and Joe Lemmer**
Coordinate the collection of funds to purchase backpacks and school supplies for children entering elementary school.
- **Environment – Dave Perry**
Plan and implement projects which have a positive impact on our local environment.
- **Environment Scholarships – Rupe Cutler and Lee Osborne**
Subcommittee of Environment Committee. Solicit applications from Roanoke students currently attending one of four designated local colleges or universities and majoring in an environment-related degree, develop selection criteria, evaluate, and recommend scholarship awards.
- **Fun – Lois James and Emily Bailey**
Conduct a variety of fun activities to encourage social interaction among our members; promote and encourage non-members to attend.
- **Grand Angel Tree – Jill Sluss**
Solicit contributions to support the Family Service of Roanoke Valley gift program for the elderly in need.
- **Grants – Bob Habermann**
Solicit proposals from local nonprofit organizations, develop selection criteria, evaluate, and recommend grant awards.
- **High School Scholarships – Steve English**

Solicit applications from local High Schools with Key Clubs, develop selection criteria, evaluate, and recommend scholarship awards.

- Inductions – Don Wilson

Conduct an induction ceremony for each new club member.

- Introspection – Preston Tyler

Coordinate weekly club meeting introspection.

- Kids Fishing Day – Bob Rutherford and Mike Bell

Conduct a program for children to participate in a fishing rodeo.

- Kiwanis Foundation – Lee Osborne

Build and manage an endowment that will support the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in effecting meaningful and lasting changes in our community and our world.

- Kiwanis Kares – Jenny Lee

Tend to members' needs outside Kiwanis meetings.

- Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD) – Jeanne Bollendorf

Conduct annual signature fundraising event to include serving pancakes, auctioning the Mill Mountain Star, and conducting a yard sale.

- Meals on Wheels – Don Wilson

Participate in the Meals on Wheels program.

- Meeting Set-Up and Break-Down – John Ewart and Joe Lemmer

Perform weekly set-up of club meeting elements including keyboard, pipe, drape, banners, gavel and bell.

- Meeting Zoom (new) – Stephanie Moon Reynolds

Perform weekly set-up of club meeting Zoom cameras and presentation computer.

- Membership – Milton Hardy

Increase and diversify membership; assist new members in becoming engaged with the club and its service activities.

- Nature Park – Rupe Cutler, Cheri Hartman, and Don Witt

Subcommittee of Environment Committee. Develop a park adjacent to the Kiwanis Playground that provides educational and recreational opportunities for area residents.

- Newsletter – Alex Barge

Edit and publish weekly club newsletter.

- Nominating Committee – Jenny Lee

Develop a slate of candidates for officers and directors.

- Photographer – Don Witt
Take photos of weekly meeting and other club events.
- Pledge of Allegiance – Harry Zulauf
Coordinate weekly club meeting introspection.
- Policy (new) – Lee Osborne
Conduct review of existing club policy documents, develop updates where needed, and present updated documents for approval.
- Prayer Breakfast – David Hartman
Organize and lead an interfaith breakfast on the National Day of Prayer to develop understanding and goodwill among those professing different religious faiths.
- Presidential Advisors – Mike O’Brochta
Provide information, recommendations, and guidance to the club President.
- Programs – Joyce Montgomery
Recruit speakers for weekly meetings to address meaningful topics related to the mission, vision and values of the club.
- Public Relations & Marketing – Jeanne Bollendorf and Peg McGuire
Promote and enhance the image of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke within our community.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers – Ken Briggs
Ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the three nights of “Dickens of a Christmas.”
- Service Leadership Programs – Reif Kessler
Advise, support and encourage leadership and growth among students in local school Key Clubs, the Westside K-Kids Club, and the Aktion Club.
- Music – Judy Clark
Coordinate occasional music and songs for club meetings and other events.
- Sponsorships – Tom Miller and Ben Spiker
Solicit support from corporate sponsors.
- Spring Fun Day – Joe Gaither and Cheri Hartman
Participate in community event held in proximity to the Kiwanis Playground and Nature Park.
- Strategic Planning (new) – Bill Bestpitch
Develop a blueprint plan for the club’s future.
- Webmaster – Mike O’Brochta
Maintain content on club’s website.

- Welcome – Pegram Johnson

Greet attendees and introduce visitors at each meeting.

- West End Center Holiday Party – Lois James

Conduct the annual Holiday party for West End Center children, including the purchase and wrapping of gifts and arranging for a visit from Santa and the gang.

- Young Professionals – Kevin Reeder

Develop programs and implement strategies designed to make Kiwanis an attractive option for a younger audience of professionals within our community.

Kiwanian Birthdays

September 3 Vern Danielsen
September 4 Betsy Bohannon
September 4 Joe Bradney
September 5 Sam Lionberger III
September 7 Jackie Bledsoe
September 9 Lee Learman
September 11 Calvin Witt
September 13 Neal Kinsey
September 13 Jessie Coffman
September 14 Eric Danielsen
September 15 Mike Leigh
September 16 Ken Briggs
September 16 LeeAnn Linkenhoker
September 16 Glenn Pierce
September 21 John Ewart
September 23 Mike Loveman
September 23 Mike Adams
September 24 Dave Spangler



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

David Hartman, 2024

Bob Habermann, 2025

Sheila Umberger, 2025

Harry Zulauf, 2025



Copyright © 2023 Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

