



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

October 2023
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"OUTREACH"

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President's Message Time Well Spent

For the past several weeks, this message has been about “Outreach”. Specifically, last week the message was about what individual Club members can do to further that goal. We will definitely be coming back to that. Let’s shift gears a bit. Let’s take a look at why people join, or leave, volunteer organizations. This includes our Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. After taking a deep dive into membership in civic organizations, after reading over 1,000 pages in peer-reviewed journals, after reviewing the data from a survey of our Club membership, after discussing the topic with long-time Club members, there is one particularly important takeaway. Many of you have likely intuited this takeaway. “Is my time being well spent?”

How do Club members feel about the time they spend in our Club? Do they

find satisfying ways to spend their volunteer time? Do they spend time with people they enjoy? Do they feel the time they spend is making a difference in ways that matter to them? How acceptable to them is the amount of effort they spend? How easy or hard is it to fit the time into their schedules? How easy is it to fit in with others? How much does it cost to spend this time? What do they get out of it?

Likewise for potential or new Club members, particularly the younger demographic. Rhetorical question, why join our Club if you are unsure your time will be well spent?

So, if we want to return to a period of membership growth, and I certainly hope we do, then we will go beyond gut instinct, we will go beyond “turning the crank” by simply repeating past practices, and we will take actions that reflect the new membership related information available. Remember, much is known about this subject. Feel free to take a look at the seven-page “Kiwanis Membership Analysis” document that summarizes available information on this topic. It is, where else, posted on the Members page of our Club website. Please visit that page early and often.

Let's act on our theme – Outreach!



Calling all Volunteers!

Even though our annual pancake fundraiser is still several months away...we are getting our promotions out early. Our Club is setting up a vendor space at The Stocked Market and the Holiday Craft Show. Both events are at the Berglund Center and help is needed to man (or woman) our booth for a 4-hour shift, where we will promote our pancake fundraiser and sell our new Roanoke Star ornament! Dates are **November 10-12, 2023 (Friday-Saturday) at The Stocked Market and December 2 & 3, 2023 (Saturday & Sunday) at the craft show**. If interested please email Jeanne Bollendorf at jeannekiwanis@gmail.com or call/text 757.773.3312

Nature Park Clean-up

Nov 4th will be a Nature Park Clean-up and Chris' Coffee Day! More info below -- note the meeting site is the Kiwanis Centennial Playground and NOT the Goodwill shelter. This is different from our usual meet up site. Time is 9:30 am for arrival and muffins; cleaning from 10:00 to 11:00ish; then those interested will head over to Chris' Coffee and Custard on Ninth St SE.

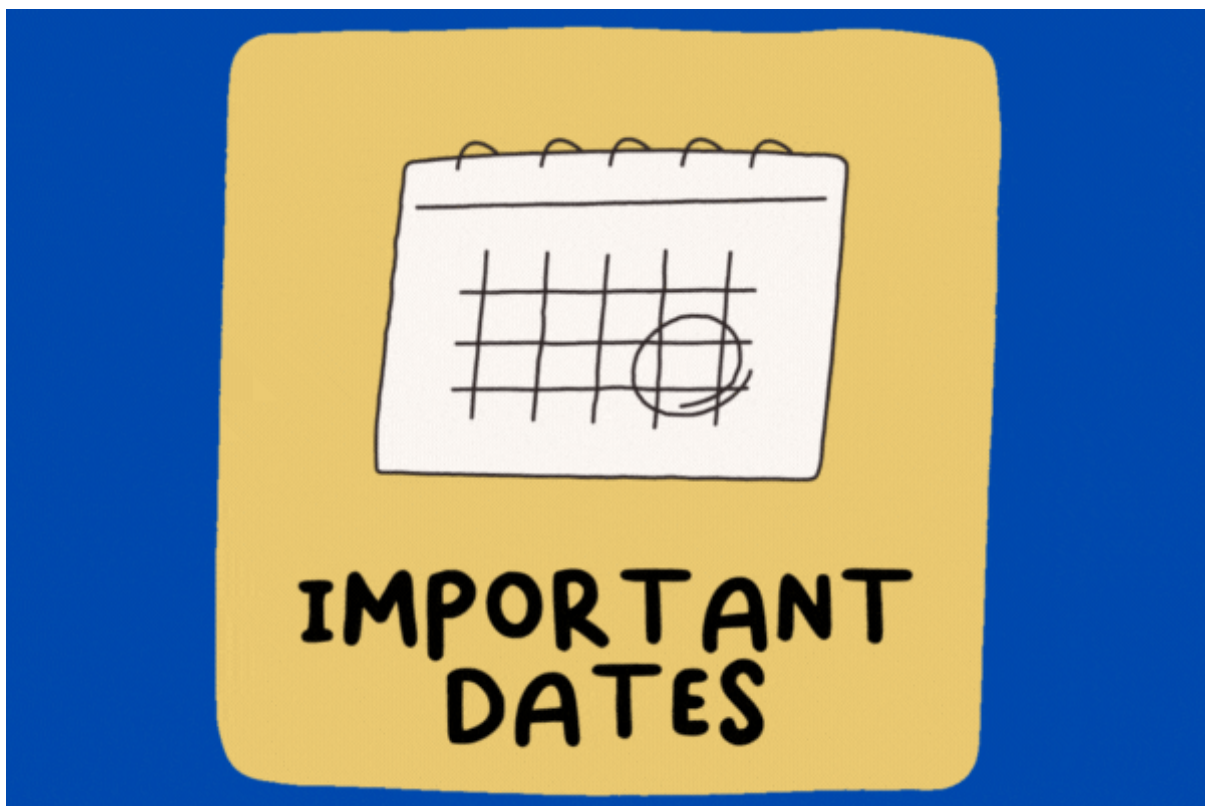


Survey

What do you think?

We are always improving and thinking about the future. How can we better serve you, our members, and our community? Our Strategic Planning Committee is asking for your help as they evaluate the previous strategic plan and create a new one for the next 5 years of our Club's activities.

Complete the survey



November 1 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Mark Johnson, YMCA

November 4 - (9:30 am) Nature park clean-up

November 7 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Rebekah Meadows, Boys and Girls Club

November 10-12 - Kiwanis table at Stocked Market

November 15 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting

November 17 - Adult Day Care Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 22 - No Club Meeting

November 29 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting

November 30 - Elf the Musical social at Mill Mountain Theater with reception

December 1 - (6-9 pm) Salvation Army Ringing of the Bell

December 2-3 - Kiwanis table at Holiday Craft Show

December 8 - (6-9 pm) Salvation Army Ringing of the Bell

December 15 - (6-9 pm) Salvation Army Ringing of the Bell

December 16 - (9:00 am - noon) Strategic Planning Committee

May 4, 2024 - Kiwanis Pancake Day

Wednesday, November 1st - Club Meeting - Mark Johnson, YMCA

Mark started his YMCA career at the Altavista YMCA. Mark has been CEO of the YMCA of Virginia's Blue Ridge since 2013. Under his leadership, the organization has expanded to five facilities and 25 childcare sites. Mark enjoys spending his spare time with his wife of 28 years, Jaim, and his children, Payton, Jame, and Macy.



Wednesday, November 8th - Club Meeting - Rebekah Meadows, Boys and Girls Club

Rebekah has worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia for 12 years, starting as a youth development staff member. She has served as Area Director and Director of Programs prior to becoming CEO in January of this year.



Highlights from our last meeting



Rupert Cutler celebrates his 90th with whopping check to Roanoke Kiwanis Foundation



Guy Byrd accepts grant check for Adult Care Center



Dr. Calandra Quarles of Carilion speaks of “Propelling Our Community Forward”



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Happenings

Calendars for Residents at Salem VA

Please recycle the calendars you receive in the mail that you are not going to use by bringing them to the Kiwanis meeting for the resident at the Salem VA. They are used to help the patients follow the date. Only 2024 calendars are needed. Thanks for recycling and supporting this Kiwanis project.

Notes from John

Don Chichester is soliciting volunteers to assist with serving Thanksgiving Dinner at the Adult Care Center on Friday, November 17, the week prior to the holiday. Please email him at dnjchi@aol.com

Directory Has Been Published

Our newest Kiwanis Club directory has been published. Check out the Members page on our website for a copy; that online document will be updated every time we have a new or departing Club member. Hardcopies are available from Andree' Brooks at Club meetings.

"Ring the Bell" to support the Salvation Army

For the past 15 years, our Kiwanis Club has been "Ring the Bell" to support the Salvation Army, and the great work that they do in our community.

As in past years, we plan to "ring" during the three Friday evenings of "Dickens of A Christmas" in Market Square. This year, the dates are December 1, 8, and 15.

With our theme of "OUTREACH", we're hopeful that our Kiwanis members will invite friends (especially prospective Kiwanians) to join in this project.

Volunteers are asked to ring for one hour between 6PM and 9PM each evening, leaving plenty of time to enjoy the festivities of "Dickens".

Please check your calendars. "Sign-up sheets" will be available at our November 8 luncheon meeting.

Ken Briggs, Betsy Bohannon, John Ewart--Co-Chairs

Meeting Recordings

Note that club meeting recordings can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Introspection from Dave Spangler

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it.

Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

Love, God

Autobiography by David Perry

Basic stuff: from Blacksburg, went to JMU, work at the BRLC.

The Baby Boomers perfected rock and roll, protested, did a lot of drugs, went to Woodstock, and then became hopelessly greedy, uncool, and generally to blame for everything. I call this generation "Mom and Dad."

I'm as Gen X as they come. Gen X is defined as being born between 1965 and 1980, and I'm right smack in the middle, having been born in

1972. My formative years were spent under the watchful eye of Ronald Reagan, and then a couple of years under his protégé, George HW Bush. Jimmy Carter, Vietnam, Watergate, and long gas lines are distant and vague but still present memories for me. I'd wake up most mornings, run to the TV, which was a piece of furniture with real wood paneling, and turn on Captain Kangaroo. Sesame Street, the Electric Company and Mr. Rogers were my afternoon companions. My mom drove a 1972 puke green Ford Gran Torino station wagon that was approximately the size of the Queen Mary. We didn't even consider seatbelts.

What defines Gen X? We're the latchkey generation. Many a Gen Xer went to school every day on the bus, or walked (we still walked in those days), wearing a house key on a piece of string around their necks. We'd arrive home after school to an empty house, let ourselves in with said house key, and then call mom at her work to tell her we were safe. Then we'd sit down in front of the TV with a snack for two hours.

Why did we call mom at work? Do I mean to say she didn't meet us at the door like Carol Brady, giving us a hug and asking us how our day was? That's exactly what I mean to say. The dog may have met us at the door, but it was mostly the sounds of silence. Mom was at work for one of two reasons:

1. It was the '80s, and those greedy Baby Boomers realized that if both mom and dad worked, they could afford twice as much of everything.
2. Mom and Dad were divorced. Yes, those Baby Boomers stuck it to us again. The Summer of Love turned into the Winter of Mom and Dad's discontent. So, Mom may have been working to pay the bills, or because she and our new stepdad who's not my Dad and can't tell me what to do wanted 50 percent more stuff, like VCRs and two cars in the driveway. (If you were really, REALLY Gen X, you'd spend half your time at one parent's home and half your time at the other, which leads to exactly the kind of traumatic and unstable childhood you might imagine.)

Speaking of watching TV after school, we're the MTV generation. In the summers in the early '80s, my friends and I would spend hours in my grandparents' basement (because my mom and dad were divorced and mom moved back in with her parents so she could make ends meet) watching MTV, waiting for one video in particular: Michael Jackson's Thriller. Once that came on, we knew it would be a long while before they showed it again, so we'd walk to nearby strip mall to wander K-Mart or Eckerd's Drug Store. Sometimes in the evenings, we'd play softball in the vacant lot across the street, using pieces of firewood as bases.

We rode bikes. Everywhere. I had a yellow Schwinn Stingray Junior with a banana seat and coaster brakes. We saw a lot of change. When I was a senior in high school, the Berlin Wall came down, and when I was a sophomore in college, the Soviet Union collapsed, capping off the Reagan Years with a bang, or lack thereof, thankfully. Computers arrived during our youths. Cable TV. VCRs, videocassettes and video rental stores.

But you know, most of all, what I feel when I think Gen X is being left alone. It was easy to slip through the cracks. You learned to like being alone, and you grew to resent anyone who tried to tell you what to do and when to do it. We were happy being in the background, ignored on the one hand, but not hassled by anybody on the other. It's not a bad way to live.

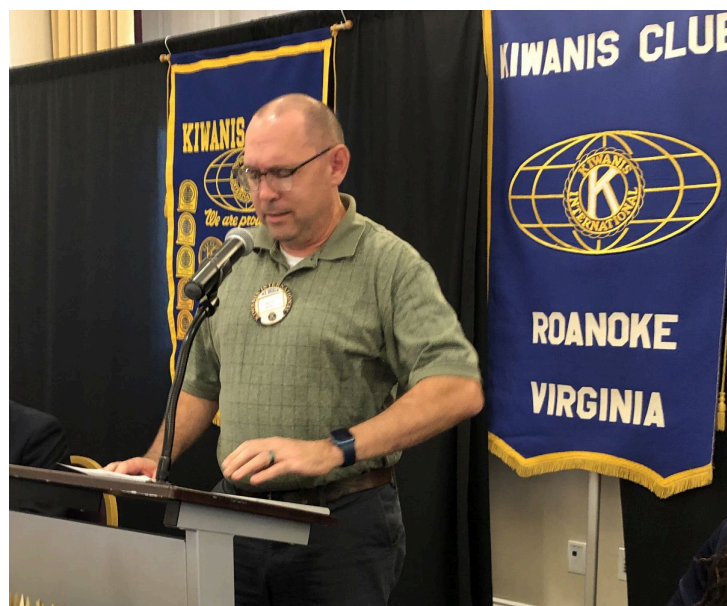
I do hold a lot of resentment towards my father, with whom I'm pretty much estranged these days. He's now on his third wife, and after a life of union work for the phone company and voting for Democrats, he retired, started watching Fox News, and now owns a lot of guns and voted for Trump. Dad was never around. When he and mom divorced, mom left with us kids and went back home to southwest Virginia. Dad was six

hours away in Tidewater, and I saw him a few times a year on the occasional weekend.

I've always wondered how Dad could just let us kids go. I can't keep my kids close enough, and the fact that they're seniors in high school now is both a source of immense pride, and a feeling of incredible loss, wondering where the time and my two little rugrats got away to. One afternoon years ago, I left work early to drive to one of their events—a school music performance or a kindergarten graduation or something, and I was suddenly filled with incredible rage towards my father. Here I was, dashing across town to see my guys, and he just let his guys go. I remember my eyes filling with tears as I beat on the steering wheel in anger and frustration.

But, you know, I'm okay. I'm here. I've been lucky. I've had a little help from my friends. I've had opportunities fall in my lap. That's how I got to Roanoke—an opportunity came along when I needed it most. I have a wife of 27 years and two beautiful and talented children. A favorite saying of mine is, "I'd rather be lucky than good." People say that after a while, it's not luck—it's that I'm good, but I know the truth.

Thanks for letting me share.



Outreach Awards (initiative and follow through):

- Greg Lionberger



Please email any potential happenings to Alex at abarge11@gmail.com.

Kiwanian Birthdays

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



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2023-24

Officers:

Mike O'Brochta, President

Jeanne Bollendorf, President-Elect

Joyce Montgomery, Vice President

John Montgomery, Secretary-
Treasurer

Ben Spiker, Past President

Directors:

Don Wilson, President, Kiwanis
Foundation of Roanoke -Term Ends

2023

Kevin Reeder, 2024

Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 2024

David Hartman, 2024

Bob Habermann, 2025

Sheila Umberger, 2025

Harry Zulauf, 2025

Bill Bestpitch, 2026

Greg Lionberger, 2026

Alex Barge, 2026



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