



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

November 2023  
Vol. 105 No. 7  
'OUTREACH'

### **In this Issue**

President's Message  
Calling All Volunteers  
Important Dates  
Speakers' Info  
Feature Photos  
Kiwaniis Happenings  
Kiwanian Birthdays

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## **President's Message Strong Board by Mike O'Brochta**

This is an uplifting message. Club members who volunteer their time are special people and deserving of our appreciation. I want to take a moment, since we recently installed some new Club Board members and Officers, and since we just had our monthly Board meeting, to focus for a moment on those volunteers who serve in these leadership positions. I want to call attention to who they are and what they do. The who they are is easy; just look at any weekly Club meeting agenda for a list of their names. Or better yet, look at the Leadership page on our Club website; in addition to their names, you will see titles, terms, and smiling faces. Please do take the opportunity to thank each of these volunteer leaders.

For the what they do, let's recognize that not all Boards serve the same purpose or operate the same way; there is no standardization. Some boards

are more about the size of a members' check book, some about their rolodex, others about prestige, and so on. That is not how we roll here in Kiwanis. We have an Operations Board. Visualize a school bus with a blue Kiwanis logo on the front. That bus is on a journey. In our case, that journey has lasted over 100 years, and it is far from over. This is one of those journeys where it is less about the destination and more about the trip. Our bus is being driven by a nine member Board of Directors, each serving three-year terms; since the terms are staggered, we elect three new members each year. Also driving the bus, elected for one year terms, are the Foundation President, Immediate Past President, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, and President. Note, and this is important, every one of these elected leaders has one equal vote; a majority is needed for a decision. My vote, as Club President, carries the same weight as any other vote. I quite like that.

Also note, this is important too, the duties and responsibilities for each of our Club leaders are spelled out in black and white in official documentation from Kiwanis International. That helps insure that we, as Club leaders, do the “what” and the “how” properly. You can find copies of this official documentation on the Members page of our website. We have a strong Board and they are quite active. I quite like that too.

*Let's act on our theme – Outreach!*

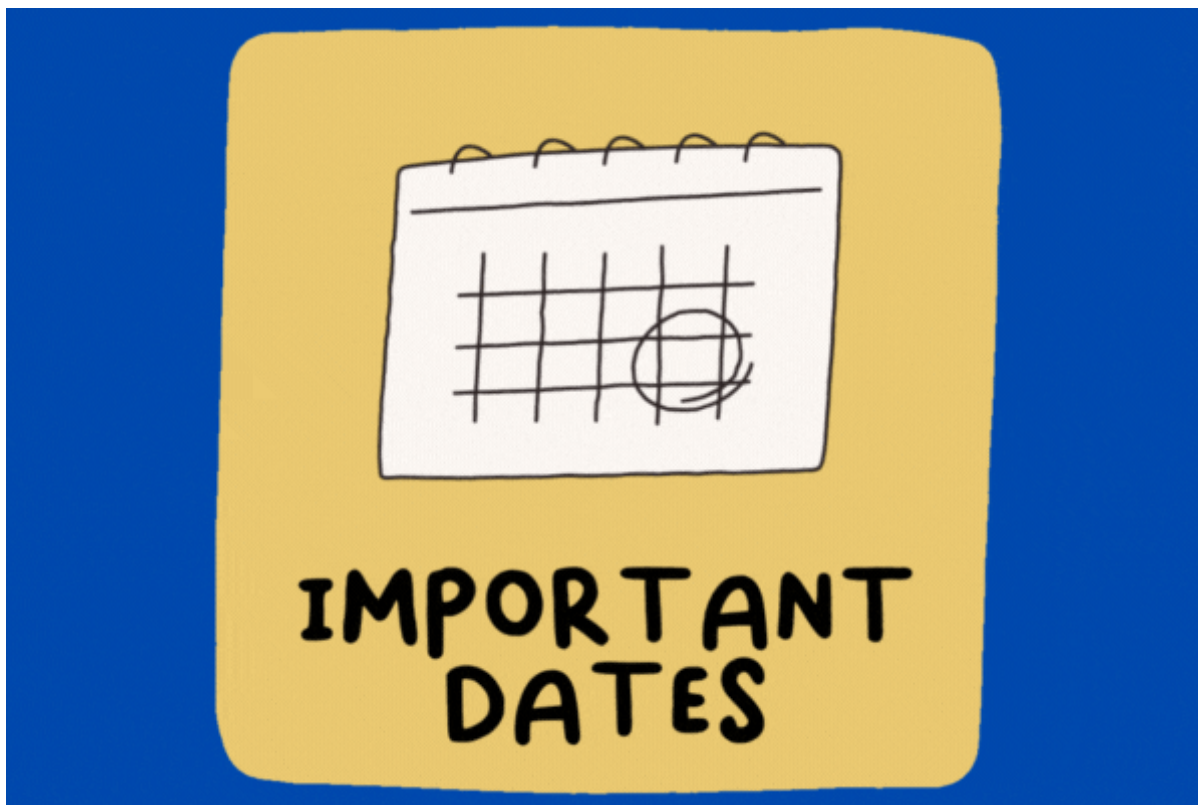


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## Calling all Volunteers!

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 Holiday Craft Show 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 **Saturday December 2 (9am-4pm) & Sunday December 3 (10am-4pm)**. If interested please email **Jeanne Bollendorf** at [jeannekiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:jeannekiwanis@gmail.com) or call/text 757.773.3312

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**November 15** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Richmond Vincent, Goodwill

**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

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**Wednesday, November 15th - Club Meeting -  
Richmond Vincent, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys**

Presentation of the Melrose Plaza Project which will be transformational for the people of Northwest Roanoke and the entire Roanoke Valley area.

Richmond Vincent, Jr. serves as the President and CEO for Goodwill Industries of the Valleys based in Roanoke, VA. In this role, Richmond leads an organization that helps people achieve their fullest potential by empowering individuals, strengthening families, and inspiring communities to ultimately eliminate poverty in Virginia. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys serves over 42,000 Virginians with workforce development programs and by employing over 1,000 team members in a territory spanning thirty-five counties and fourteen cities.

Richmond is engaged in Virginia community leadership with the following organizations:

- Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- Roanoke Regional Partnership Leadership Council
- Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- Engagement Advisory Council Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Community
- The Automated-Connected-Electrified (ACE) Transportation Cluster Coalition

Prior to working at Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Richmond was President and CEO at Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi, and its subsidiary, Goodworks.



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## Highlights from our last meeting



Emanuel Wesleyan receives a  
Kiwanis grant for feeding school  
children



Community Youth Program receives  
a Kiwanis grant to support youth  
swimming lessons



President Mike delivers check to  
Boys and Girls Club



Kristen Nash tells the Boys and  
Girls Club story



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

### **Lunch on November 15th**

Thanksgiving dinner: ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls and dessert.

### **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.

### **Meeting Recordings**

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

### **Members Update**

Farewell to Sheyonn Baker and Welcome New Members!

At Monday's board meeting, the following membership changes were approved:

- Acceptance of the resignation of Sheyonn Baker, whose duties as assistant to the president at Hollins University have expanded and created a time crunch for her. Sheyonn joined Kiwanis in the summer of 2021, coincidentally at the same meeting where her sister, Lori Baker-Lloyd joined our club. Sheyonn has been involved in several projects during her Kiwanis tenure, including coordinating the excellent slate of programs presented to our club this past October.
- Sheyonn took her role in Kiwanis seriously, including introducing a co-worker to join the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in her place. On Monday, the board approved a new member application from Maritza Steele, assistant director of admissions at Hollins. Maritza hails from central Illinois and earned her bachelor's degree in sociology at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and her two graduate degrees from Indiana University. Maritza lives in the Raleigh Court area and is active in the Junior League. Rupert Cutler is serving as Maritza's sponsor.
- The board also approved a new member application from Fred Jeter, sponsored by Bart Wilner. Fred has attended several Kiwanis meetings this fall. Fred is a Roanoke Valley native with extensive experience in project management, financial administration and training and development. Fred has degrees from James Madison University and Erasmus. He has worked most recently with Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project and previously was employed for 15 years by USO, working with active-duty service members and their families. Fred is a master gardener and lives in Botetourt County.

### **Nature Park**

What a great turnout! Eleven Kiwanians and a great group from Roanoke Catholic Key Club, one Fleming Key Club member, the Aktion Club provided 2 volunteers, Standing for Equity in the Roanoke Valley and Clean Valley Council all helped improve our Hortons Branch Watershed. Look at all those trash badges we filled at the Kiwanis



Nature Park and Kiwanis Playground and up Melrose Ave. Thanks to John Montgomery, John Pendleton, Jeanne Bollendorf, Ken Briggs, Alec Bowman, Alex Barge (plus his daughters!), Harry Zukaf, Clark Goodman, Joe Lemmer, Randy Myers, Cheri Hartman. Next chance to roll up your sleeves and grab a grabber? MLK Jr Day in January. Save the Date! Perfect holiday for strengthening our CommUNITY!

### **Roanoke College and Heat Islands**

Kiwanis was mentioned as a partner: <https://www.roanoke.edu/nsfgrant>

### **Board Meeting Notes:**

At its November meeting earlier the week, the board of directors had some excellent conversations about club outreach and memberships efforts. Although we regretfully accepted Sheyonn Baker's resignation, we gleefully accepted her suggested new member replacement - stay tuned for two new member introductions in the near future. In addition to reviewing and approving December calendar and program updates, we reviewed the Business Outreach Committee's future plans. There is ongoing discussion about reinvigorating our Career & Technical Education support - many of you remember that in the past we provided monetary awards to area students and then more recently endowed a scholarship at Virginia Western Community College. There is interest in researching CTE developments at the high school level and Greg Lionberger and Ben Spiker have agreed to spearhead this project; interested club members should contact them to assist. The board approved two expenditures - \$500 to support the Grand Angel program at Family Service Roanoke Valley and \$250 to Valley AFC Soccer for the use of their fields for the Bocce tournament. Don't forget that all members are welcome to join a board meeting, please reserve with John in advance. For full minutes from the meetings, visit the member section of our website here <https://www.roanokekiwanisclub.org/members/>

### **Milton Hardy Autobiography**

I came into this world on June 25, 1976, as the first child of Milton and Cheryl Hardy. My parents were deeply entrenched in the world of music. Mom was known for her beautiful voice in the church choir, while Dad took center stage as the lead singer of a gospel quartet group. Music ran in my blood, and by the tender age of five, I was already leading full songs in the church choir. It was as if I was destined to sing and share my love for music with the world.

At the age of 16, I began to explore my own musical journey by writing songs. The melodies flowed from my heart, and the lyrics poured out like a river of emotions. Music was my way of expressing the profound feelings and experiences that life had to offer.

My years at William Fleming High School were filled with exciting experiences. I proudly joined the marching band, sang in the school choir, and even balanced my life as a football and track team member. These diverse activities not only enhanced my musical skills but also shaped my character and instilled in me a sense of discipline and teamwork.

In January 1995, I embarked on a new journey by enlisting in the United States Navy as a Mess Management Specialist, now known as a Culinary Arts Specialist. I served at NAS Norfolk and had the privilege of being a part of the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). It was on the USS Theodore Roosevelt that I was appointed as the ship's choir director. We made history by performing on the Today Show during the "Where is Matt Laurer?" series, marking the first live broadcast from a war vessel.

After dedicating 4 ½ years to the Navy, I transitioned to the Army Reserve as a finance specialist. I served with the 2174th GSU in Salem, Virginia, under the leadership of my very first colonel, the current Commonwealth Attorney Donald Caldwell. During my time in the Army Reserve, I earned the rank of sergeant and found myself stationed at Fort

Dix, New Jersey, when the tragic events of 9/11.

In 1998, I had the privilege of writing and singing alongside my father, Bishop M. L. Hardy Sr., and the Prayer Temple Mass Choir for their live recording titled "Praise Him." This experience deepened my connection to music and my faith.

In the year 2000, I received a divine calling to the ministry, a turning point that would shape my life's path. I embraced this calling wholeheartedly and began to serve my community and congregation in a more intimate way.

In 2008, I released my first music project, "Love Letters." That same year, I received the honor of being officially ordained as Elder Hardy in my church. My commitment to both music and ministry continued to grow.

In 2009, I welcomed my son Michael into the world, and in 2014, my second son, Josiah, was born. I also ventured into the professional performing arts world by participating in the Bobby Jones New Talent Showcase in New Orleans, Louisiana, which was broadcasted on the Word Network in 2010 and 2011.

In 2013, the UBU Gospel Entertainment Group honored me with the title of Male Vocalist of the Year. In 2016, my family grew with the arrival of my third child and only daughter, Victory. Currently, I proudly serve as the Athletic Coordinator for the City of Roanoke, and I am the President of the Board of Directors for Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM House). One of my most cherished roles is as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, a club that focuses on making a positive impact on the community.

Today, I continue to use my gift of music and my calling to preach the

Gospel to witness, testify, teach, deliver, and set free all those held down by the cares, iniquities, and sins of this world. I firmly believe that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities in high places. I am on a mission for the King, using the gift He has bestowed upon me to make a difference in the world and further His kingdom. For God and Country.



### **"Ringing the Bell" to support the Salvation Army**

Registration is underway for our "Bell Ringing" for the Salvation Army during the 3 nights of "Dickens of a Christmas". Sign-up sheets will be on the tables at our November 15 meeting.

If you can't attend on November 15, you may sign up (or get more information) from John Ewart or Betsy Bohannon. Please see below for the available times. Our goal is to have four ringers for each one hour shift.

Kiwanis Club of Roanoke  
Salvation Army Bell Ringing, 2023  
*Dickens of a Christmas*

**Friday, December 1—“Christmas Tree Lighting”**

5 to 6PM—**Dan Karnes;**

6 to 7PM—Reif & Susan Kessler:

7 to 8PM—

8 to 9PM—

**Friday, December 8—“The Christmas Parade”**

5 to 6PM—Bob & Ann Rutherford; Will & Carol Dibling

6 to 7PM—Glenn & Sue Pierce:

7 to 8PM—

8 to 9PM—David & Margarita Bowers

**Friday, December 15—“The SPCA Pet Costume Contest”**

5 to 6PM—**JC & Lourice Taylor;**

6 to 7PM—Rupert Cutler & Brenda McDaniel; Betsy & Chris Bohannon

7 to 8PM—Joyce Waugh & a guest; Stephanie & Earl Reynolds

8 to 9PM—**Joe Lemmer;**

Ben & Beth Spiker are available, as needed, on December 8 or 15

**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. Those attending should plan to arrive at 10:45 Friday and please wear hats and Kiwanis shirts.

Please email Don to RSVP and for questions [dnjchi@aol.com](mailto:dnjchi@aol.com)

Pictures from last year below:



**Outreach Awards (initiative and follow through):**

- Greg Lionberger

*Please email any potential happenings to 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	Sheyonn Baker
November 10	David Daniels
November 13	Kevin Berry
November 15	Larry Kufel
November 28	J.C. Taylor



**Kiwaniis**  
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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:

Lee Osborne, President, Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke  
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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