



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

January 2024
Vol. 105 No. 11
'OUTREACH'

In this Issue

President's Message

Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays

President's Message New Year's Resolution by Mike O'Brochta

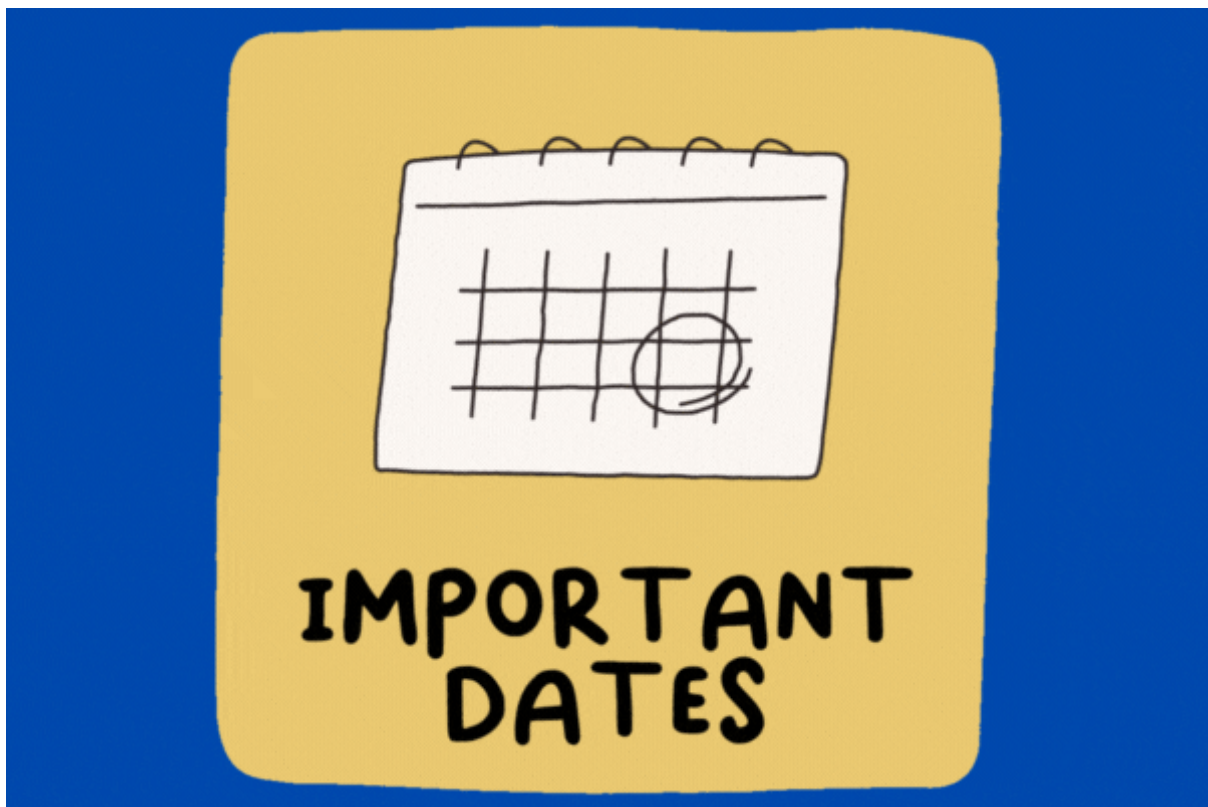
What better way to start the new year than among Kiwanis friends. And, being the sort of goal-oriented person I am, starting with a New Year's resolution is also in order. This year, however, it will be a bit different. Instead of a typical resolution about diet, or exercise, or money, or self-improvement, or improving relationships - all worthwhile resolutions - my New Year's resolution is really focused on you. It is focused on each and every individual member of our Kiwanis Club.

My New Year's resolution is to make myself available to anyone, and everyone, who asks for information or assistance regarding what they can personally do to further the Outreach theme. After all, Outreach is much more than a theme; it is an objective. It is a future-focused objective. It is an objective not only for our Club in general, but also an objective I am hoping every individual member of our Club acts on. And, this is where I am offering

my help. If you ask, and I sure hope many of you do, I will do what I can to assist you in personally taking action toward the Outreach objective. I can share information, I can share specific easy-to-take actions, I can provide encouragement, I can provide help. And, importantly, I can provide appreciation.

Let's act on our theme – Outreach!





January 3 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Mike Hutkin

January 8 - (12:15 - 1:15 pm) Board Meeting

January 8 - (4 - 5 pm) Nature Park Project Meeting

January 10 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Scott Booth, Roanoke City Police Chief

January 15 - (10:00 am - noon) Clean Up Day

January 15 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Environment Committee Meeting

January 17 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Vice Mayor Joe Cobb, Gun Violence Prevention Commission

January 19 - (8 - 9 am) Membership Committee Meeting

January 24 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Molly Hunter, Roanoke Neighborhood Services

January 31 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Michael Clark, Roanoke City Parks and Recreation

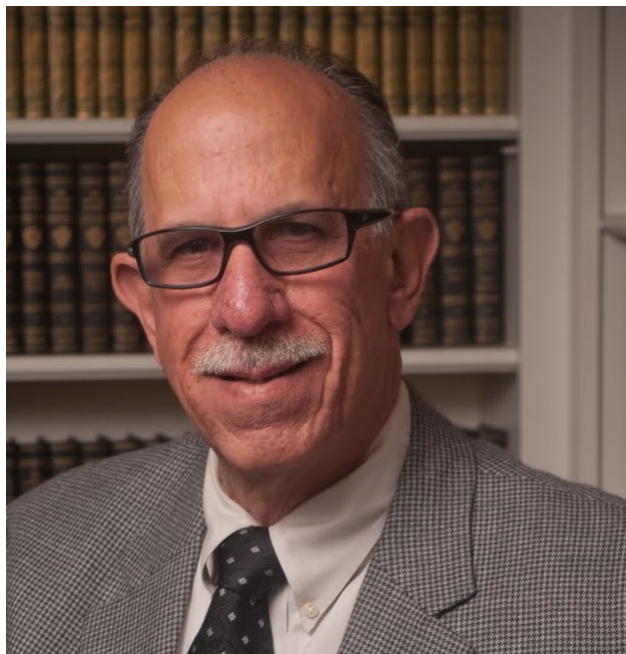
January 31 - (7:30 - 8:30 pm) DEIBA Webinar

May 4, 2024 - Kiwanis Pancake Day

Wednesday, January 3rd - Club Meeting, Mike Hutkin, Astronomy 2024 Highlights

Mike Hutkin is an electrical engineering graduate of Drexel University in Philadelphia (BSEE) and received his MBA degree from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg Virginia. After spending four years with the General Electric Company in Philadelphia, he transferred to Roanoke Virginia with the expansion of the Salem GE facility, where he spent the next 32 years. Initially he focused on the design of power and control automation equipment used in steel, paper, material handling, and other related industries around the world.

In the late 1970's he began a series of transitions through engineering management positions, spending his last twelve years with GE as a project manager at the international level. Upon retirement from GE in 2003 he joined the faculty of Roanoke College as a lecturer where he brought his experiences in manufacturing, production, operations, and global business to the classroom until his retirement in 2017. His hobbies include amateur astronomy and painting. He and his wife, Barbara reside in Roanoke county. His son and two granddaughters live in Sydney, Australia. His daughter and two granddaughters live in Mason, Ohio.



Wednesday, January 10th - Club Meeting, Scott Booth, Roanoke City Police Chief

Chief Booth started his law enforcement career with the Richmond, Virginia, Police Department in 1996, where he served for nearly twenty years. During his tenure with the Richmond Police Department, he held positions as a patrol officer, undercover officer, detective in the Vice/Narcotics Units, SWAT team member, Honor Guard member, Firearm/drug enforcement unit sergeant, sergeant at the training academy, detective supervisor in the Narcotics Unit, Sector Commander, Watch Commander, Precinct Commander, Special Investigations Division Commander, Operations Major and Major in charge of the Office of Professional Responsibility/Internal Affairs. While serving with the Richmond Police Department, Chief Booth focused on the reduction of violent crime, community engagement, and working proactively with neighborhoods to effectively recognize and respond to problems.



Highlights from our last meeting



Bob Habermann and Reif Kessler award grant check to Karen Pillis, Executive Director of the West End Center for Youth



Holiday Brass Band



Gary Duerk introduces the brass band



Preston Tyler's debut as Santa



Susan Kessler reads to West End kids



Room is packed for West End Christmas party



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

Meeting Recordings

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

Horton's Branch Watershed Clean Up

Details are finalized: the next Horton's Branch Watershed Clean Up event will be held in partnership with the Envision Center (Roanoke Redevelopment Housing Authority) at Lansdown's ENVISION CENTER facility (2607 Salem Turnpike, Roanoke) and with Shiloh Baptist Church, SERV, Clean Valley Council, our district's Key Clubs, Aktion Club - all who can join us! Start time is 10:00 am - we will finish cleaning up by 12 noon. Join us for light refreshments, camaraderie and TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Sign up sheets and flyers will soon be found on your luncheon table -- OR email Cheri Hartman to RSVP: chartman2423@gmail.com.

Dress warm and appropriately - Clean Valley Council will have grabbers, bags and vests for us. Who will use this Nature Park the most

and our adjacent playground? Answer: this very neighborhood we are joining for the Clean Up - on MLK Jr Day - a day ON, not a day OFF as they say for this holiday!

Hope to see you then!

Cheri W. Hartman, Kiwanis Nature Park Co-chair with Don Witt and Rupert Cutler

January 31st Capital District Kiwanis Family DEI webinar

Improve your DEIBA IQ -- a great New Year's Resolution! A Webinar by our Governor Eric Lamb (Gov. of the Kiwanis Capital District) YOU are INVITED!

Topic: Educating Members of the Kiwanis Family About Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging & Accessibility (DEIBA) -- WHY is this vital for you and for your Kiwanis Clubs, Key Clubs, Aktion Clubs?

IMPORTANT FOR ALL CLUB PRESIDENTS WHO WISH TO ACHIEVE DISTINGUISHED CLUB STATUS. PUT JANUARY 31ST ON YOUR CALENDARS AND ON YOUR CLUB'S WEBSITE.

All clubs surely want to be inclusive -- welcoming -- to celebrate diversity, to be equitable and to provide access regardless of ability.

What does this mean?

Governor Eric Lamb is elevating this value by making the achievement of a Distinguished Club status hinge on providing DEIBA educational experiences for its members. January 31st you can hear from our Governor of the Capital District -- Eric Lamb -- about WHY, WHAT, HOW...

Did you know there is a new requirement for clubs to complete an

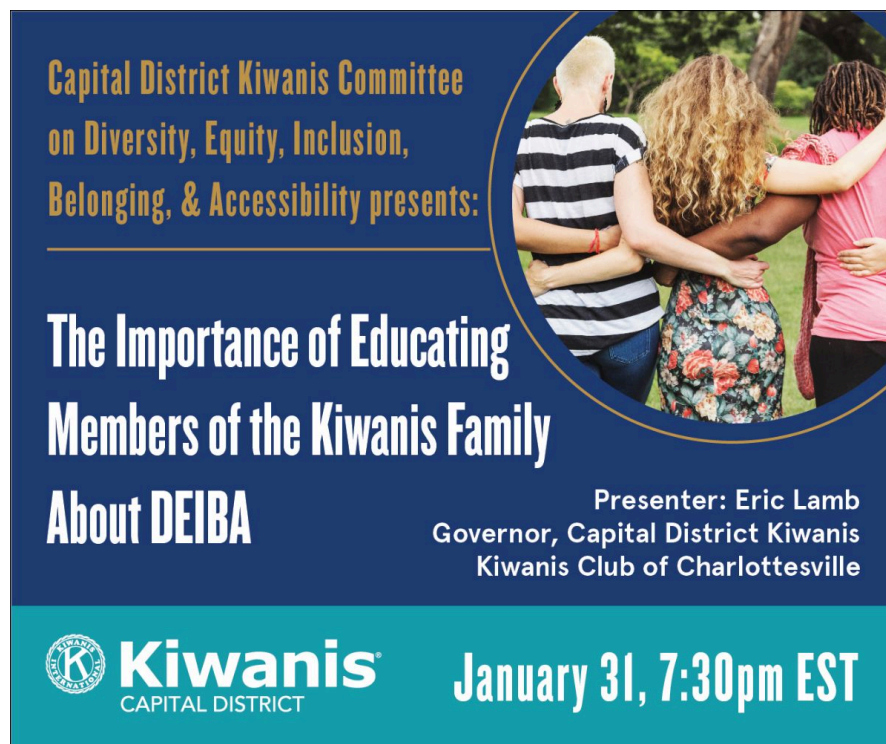
annual training for all members on diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility in order to be acclaimed as a distinguished club? Learn more about this new club expectation, why it is important, and how your club can fulfill this requirement in a meaningful way that moves Kiwanis forward while earning the honor of being named a Distinguished Club. Many ideas will be shared that can be used by Key Clubs, CKI clubs, and Aktion Clubs as well! Kiwanis clubs are encouraged to achieve Distinguished Club status each year. The criteria set forth by the Capital District this year through Governor Eric's leadership create a road map for clubs to use when setting goals for the year. Join us on January 31st to learn more. Register today!

January 31, 2024

7:30 PM (EST)

[REGISTER HERE](#)


Message brought to you by the Capital District DEIBA Co-chairs: Cheri and Dave Hartman (Kiwanis Club of Roanoke members)



Capital District Kiwanis Committee
on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,
Belonging, & Accessibility presents:

**The Importance of Educating
Members of the Kiwanis Family
About DEIBA**

Presenter: Eric Lamb
Governor, Capital District Kiwanis
Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville

 **Kiwanis**
CAPITAL DISTRICT

January 31, 7:30pm EST

Rupert Cutler - Roanoke Citizen of the Year!

Congratulations to Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Past President Rupert Cutler, who was honored last evening by Roanoke City Council as Roanoke's 2023

Citizen of the Year!

Mayor Sherman Lea, also a proud Roanoke Kiwanian, made the presentation. Pictures are below and you can read about it here:

https://roanoke.com/eedition/page-a2/page_5a22a846-e354-58fb-8200-d84ce87e22ba.html

Rupert was asked to attend the council meeting to give an update on the Kiwanis Nature Park, which following his acceptance of Citizen of the Year, he shared the following:

Mayor Lea and honorable members of Council, I am Rupert Cutler, speaking on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. I am pleased to report that we are on track with the creation of a nature park along Horton Branch on the City-owned Forest Park Academy property adjoining Melrose Plaza in Northwest Roanoke. In due course, when the improvements we are installing are completed, those improvements will be turned over to the City by Kiwanis and the area will become a regular unit of the city park system.

We thank the City for an ARPA grant of \$12,500 for the park that is being used to foster community engagement by distributing educational materials such as backpacks with nature exploration supplies, and large posters. My project co-leader, Dr. Cheri Hartman, has one to show you.

Our intended impacts include improving the water quality of Horton Branch and providing public access to an attractive and safe open space where residents can explore, enjoy, and learn from nature. Our community partners include Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Roanoke City Library, Roanoke City Public Schools, Roanoke City's Stormwater Division, the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Envision Center, Feeding America's Community Solutions Center "run" by Stephen Niamke, Clean Valley Council, and Decca Knight's Standing for Equity in the Roanoke Valley or SERV. Cox Communications gave us a major donation for the park, and Total Action for Progress or TAP and Shiloh Baptist Church are major supporters.

City staff members whose help has been essential include Ian Shaw and Marcus Aguilar of the Stormwater Division and Michael Clark, Renee Powers, and Katie Slusher of City Parks. We thank Mrs. Patricia Maxey, Program Director of Forest Park Academy, for working with us on the timing of work adjacent to her school. Eagle Scout Lucas Birdleough installed the handsome picnic table and benches with backs. Backs are important to us

senior citizens!

We hope you agree that the Kiwanis Nature Park project at Melrose Plaza is a model "public-private partnership" and will be an important contribution to the ongoing redevelopment of the Melrose Plaza/Melrose Library/Forest Park Academy neighborhood of Northwest Roanoke. The members of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke enjoy their volunteer work there, weeding the pollinator garden, picking up streamside trash, and conducting educational programs with neighborhood children in what we call our club's "signature project." We thank the City for its unstinting assistance in seeing to it that progress is being made daily on this multi-year environmental education project.



Robert Habermann is happy to share a thank you note from Allison Netting of St. Anne's Episcopal Day School

Dear Mr. Habermann,
Thank you so very much for the Roanoke
Kiwanis Club grant of \$2,000. We are
excited to share this information with our
families who are in need of financial
assistance to attend our school. Serving as
the director of St. Anne's, I receive phone calls
weekly from families who are in need of child
care. We are thrilled to be able to open our
doors to everyone! With gratitude, Allison Netting

First Bank & Trust Company donate to the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke

First Bank & Trust Company (www.firstbank.com) made a year-end donation to the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke. Pictured are Kevin Reeder, Kiwanian and First Bank & Trust Company representative sharing the donation with President Mike O'Brochta.



Outreach Awards (initiative and follow through):

- Greg Lionberger
- Cheri Hartman (Pictured below receiving her ribbon)

The Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke

The vision of the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke is to build an endowment that will support the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in effecting meaningful and lasting changes in our community and our world. The Foundation contributes

heavily towards the Club's support to the children of our community and the world, serving the needs of older adults in our community, and improving the environment of Virginia's Blue Ridge. Through donations, planned giving, and strong financial stewardship, assets exceed \$1M.

Everyone can help from a little to a lot by making donations, making annual tax-free contributions, contributing stock shares that have large gains, or listing the Foundation in your will or obituary. This year's Foundation contribution of \$50,000 helped 1,000+ local citizens.

The Foundation Board serves at the pleasure of the Club Board without compensation but with expertise. The Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke is a Section 501(c)(3) organization. Our financial statement was prepared by Cole & Associates CPAs, LLC. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Donate Today!

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

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian Birthdays

January 5 -- Jeanne Bollendorf

January 6 -- Dirk Kuyk

January 6 -- Stephanie Moon Reynolds

January 7 -- John Bradshaw

January 8 -- Bob Rutherford

January 11 -- Steve English

January 13 -- Chris Head

January 15 -- Tom Blake

January 21 -- Rhonda Perdue

January 23 -- Terry Vandelinde
January 28 -- Pegram Johnson
January 28 -- John Montgomery
January 28 -- Andy Stone
January 29 -- Don Evans
January 31 -- Frank Rogan



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

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



Copyright © 2024 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](#).



