



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

January 2024
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'OUTREACH'

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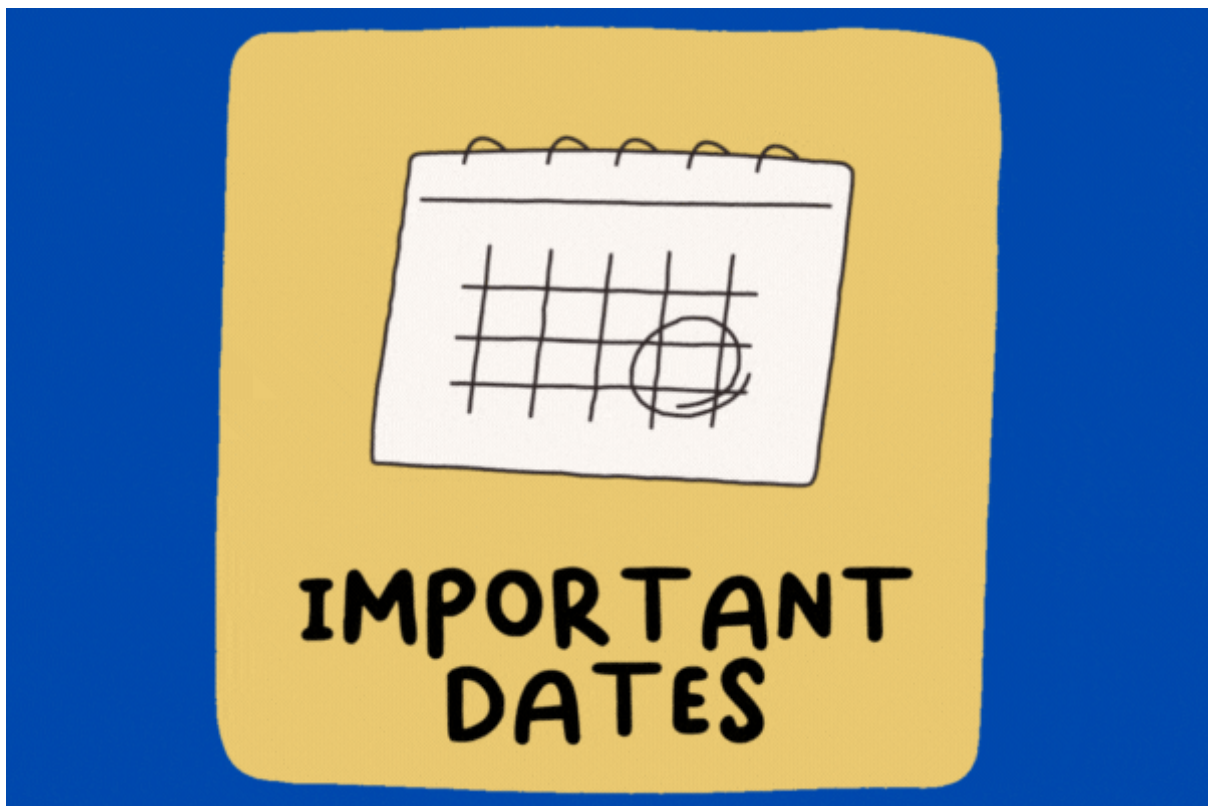
by Mike O'Brochta

Years ago, while in a senior management training workshop at the CIA, I was a member of a team assigned the task of listing the most essential items to take on a climb to the top of a tall mountain. Wow, that was a perfect task for someone like myself who has actually climbed to the top of some of the world's highest mountains. Here is where my "expert" genes kicked in and drove me to ignore and discount anything any other team member had to say; after all, none of them had the experience I had. At the end of the exercise, when we compared our individual answers to the answers from the team to the most effective answers, I surrendered. I saw that the wisdom of the team, even when they were not the expert I was, was better than my answer alone.

Let's recognize the experience and wisdom of our fellow Club members. Let's celebrate the successes, and failures, our Club has experienced. Let's benefit from that as we continue to move forward. Lets look for and act on feedback; it is a gift. Let's benefit from the wisdom of teams.

It is for this reason that my Presidential Advisors committee is comprised of selected Past Club Presidents. The wisdom of the team. In addition to the regular communications this team has been having, we are meeting in person next week to discuss how to further Outreach. Please feel free to share your thoughts with any of them, or with me.

Let's act on our theme – Outreach!



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

January 31 - (5:30 - 6:30 pm) Book Club meeting at the South County

Library

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

February 1 - (8:30-9:30am) Communications Committee meeting at Mill Mountain Coffee

February 7 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Milton Hardy, Everyone Deserves A Chance To Be Great

February 7 - (1:45 - 2:45 pm) Presidential Advisors Meeting at Charter Hall

February 8 - (5:00-8:00pm) Fun Social at Awful Arthur's

February 9 - (8 am) Interfaith Prayer Breakfast Planning Meeting via Zoom

February 10 - (9 am - noon) Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at Carvins Cove

March 14 - (6 pm) Kiwanis Social at Mill Mountain Theater - Margaritaville

May 2, 2024 - (6:45 - 8:30 am) Kiwanis Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

May 4, 2024 - Kiwanis Pancake Day

Wednesday, January 31st - Club Meeting, Katie Slusher, City of Roanoke Parks and Rec

The City of Roanoke's Park and Recreation department has an historic amount of funding to support a number of transformational projects. With five capital construction projects, three master planning efforts and a number of smaller improvements underway, this is an exciting period of development for both the department and the City. Updates will be shared on all the projects on the boards and under construction in our parks and on our greenways.

Speaker's Background: Katie Slusher grew up in the Roanoke Valley and returned after 15 years away to work as the Planning and Development Coordinator for the City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation department. She holds a degree in Environmental Design from the University of Colorado and a Masters of Architecture from the University of Texas, and has worked in

architecture, environmental graphics, urban design and planning before coming to work for the City.



Wednesday, January 24th - Club Meeting, Milton Hardy, Everyone Deserves A Chance To Be Great

Milton Hardy currently serves as Athletics Coordinator for the Roanoke City Parks and Recreation department. A Roanoke native and graduate of William Fleming High School, he is committed to ministry, music (as both a vocalist and an instrumentalist), his family and his community.

Milton also is an enthusiastic patriot, having served his country in both the United States Navy and the United States Army. He has been a Kiwanian since 2022.



Highlights from our last meeting



Lori Baker-Lloyd receives her permanent badge



Ryan LaFountain receives his permanent badge



Local Office on Aging receives
Kiwanis grant



Stephanie Moon Reynolds presents
her autobiography



Diane and Dan Chitwood announce
their Valentine card sale for club
support



Molly Hunter receives honorarium
for presentation on city
neighborhoods



President Mike shows off West End thank you card for the Christmas Party



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

Meeting Recordings

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

Notes from John

- This week's grant will go to Meals on Wheels. A stipend of \$9,000 will be awarded to the parent organization, Local Office on Aging. This is the largest grant currently awarded by the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and is reflective of the club's longstanding annual tradition of supporting commensurately a club project that involves a large contingent of our members, some of whom deliver meals several times each month.
- For the next two weeks, Dan and Diane Chitwood will be stationed in

the lobby of Charter Hall prior to our meeting taking orders for customized Valentines in return for a contribution to help our club's administrative budget. The Chitwoods have offered these personalized cards for several years previously and they have been a hit with our members. Thank you to the Chitwoods for helping our club financially in a creative and fun way!.

Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Book Club

Next meeting - IN PERSON this time! At the South Branch of the Roanoke County Library - 6303 Merriman Road starting at 5:30 pm on January 31st. Come tell us about a favorite recent book - at this club meeting we share what we have chosen to read, NOT requiring that everyone read the same book. THIS IS NOT YOUR MOTHER'S OR FATHER'S USUAL BOOK CLUB!!! Let us know the book, its genre, the author -- a bit about the author; basic plot without necessarily giving away the ending; what you especially enjoyed about the book, what is noteworthy about the author's writing talent, and why you recommend it to others. Who would be most likely to like your book? Anything else you could mention within 5 minutes! A few munchies will be shared too - and of course camaraderie, best of all! Bring a friend! (Remember our President's theme -- outreach!)

~ Cheri and Dave Hartman

Kiwanis Club of Roanoke INTERFAITH National Day of Prayer Breakfast

All are welcome to help us plan the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke INTERFAITH National Day of Prayer breakfast event. The importance of interfaith understanding seems greater than ever - again this year!

Casting light on all faiths elevates us all! Help us organize an inspiring prayer breakfast. The event is held traditionally on the National Day of Prayer - this year that day is May 2nd, 2024, Thursday as always.

PLAN with us -- by joining our Zoom meeting Friday morning, February

9th, at 8 am. Dave and Cheri co-chair the event - let us know if you wish to get the Zoom link for this planning meeting. a brief, efficient meeting will get us started on our planning. AND SAVE THE DATE - May 2nd, 2024!

Thanks!

Cheri and Dave Hartman

Co-chairs of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Prayer Breakfast

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

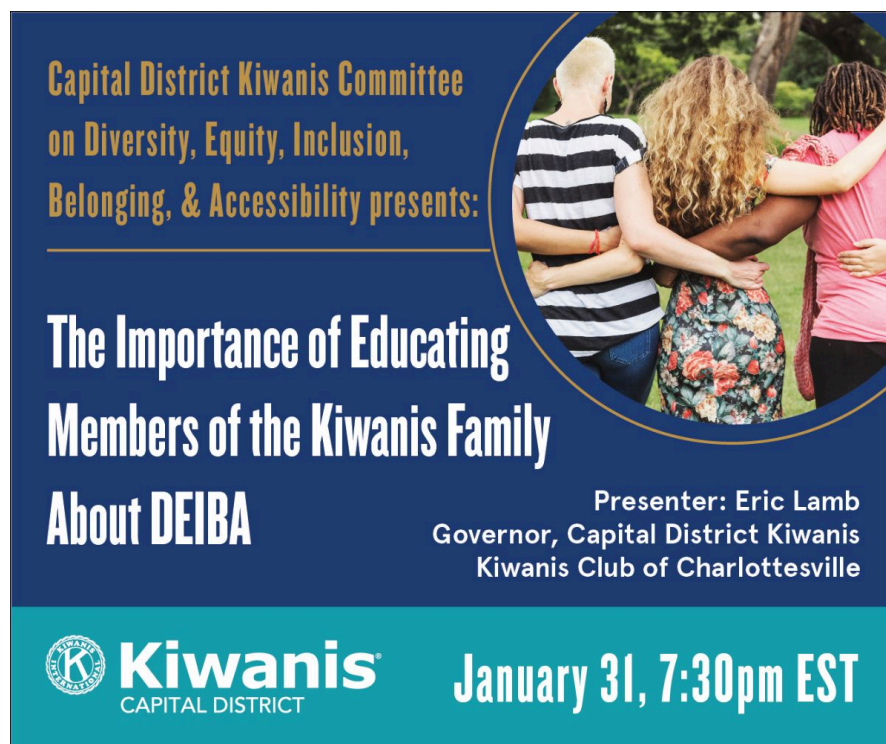
annual training for all members on diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility in order to be acclaimed as a distinguished club? Learn more about this new club expectation, why it is important, and how your club can fulfill this requirement in a meaningful way that moves Kiwanis forward 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

Nature Park

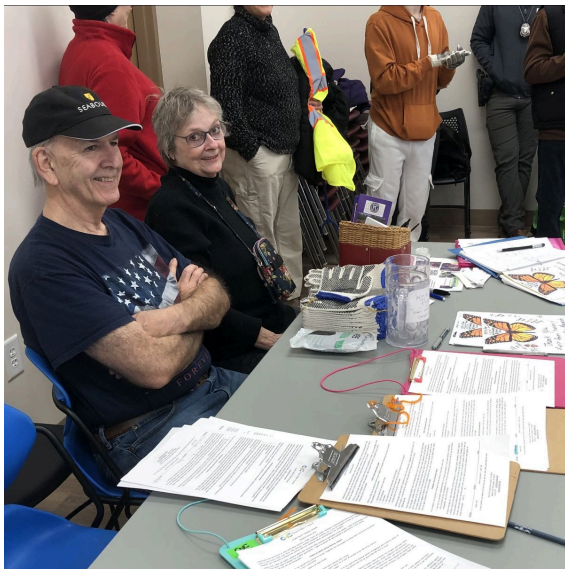
Sampson Construction Co. completed trail construction around our pollinator

garden and extended the trail to our playground. In addition, they removed the wire grass between our garden and the trail and replaced the excavated area with 4 truckloads of topsoil.



MLK Day Horton Park Clean up

Below are a few pictures photographer extraordinaire Don Witt were able to capture from the community clean up at Horton Park. WFXR also did a small story on the clean up [you can watch here](#). It includes a great interview with our very own Dr. Cheri Hartman!



Outreach Awards (initiative and follow through):

- Greg Lionberger
- Cheri Hartman
- Bart Wilner
- Harry Zulauf



Bart Wilner Greg Lionberger Harry Zulauf Cheri Hartman

Lunch Invitation Cards

Every Club member is being asked to take lunch invitation cards and use them during the next few weeks to invite guests to our lunch meetings. The invitation cards will be available at each meeting. We want to build on the momentum of the past couple of weeks where we enjoyed large numbers of meeting guests.

You Are Invited To Lunch



Kiwanis Club of Roanoke

Share The K

*For more information you can find us online at
www.RoanokeKiwanisClub.org*

From:

Date:

Every Wednesday

Time:

Lunch at 12 / Program at 12:30

Location: Charter Hall, 3rd floor of the Roanoke Market Building

The Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke will celebrate its 104rd birthday on January 28, 2024, and for nearly two-thirds of that time the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke has been around to support the Club's work in our community with its financial support. It has been the steady contributions from members of our club and members of our community that have allowed our Club and this Foundation to make a lasting impact on the Roanoke Valley by assisting our youth and the elderly and improving the environment. The Kiwanis Centennial Playground is a recent example of how we have been able to improve our community, and our latest project, the Kiwanis Nature Park, is well underway!

With this long history and the ability to make a significant impact in mind, we are asking our club members to make a "birthday contribution" to the Kiwanis Foundation. Please take a minute to write a check to the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke, which is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and mail it in the enclosed self-addressed envelope or hand deliver it to our Secretary, John

Montgomery.

Your contribution to the Foundation is a gift that will mean so much to so many in our community, and our collective gifts will support the work of our Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in perpetuity. All contributions made between the beginning of the Foundation year (November 1, 2023) and the 104th anniversary of our Club (January 28, 2024) will count toward the drawing.

As an incentive to encourage you to donate, we will have a random drawing after our anniversary next year among the eligible donors for all of the door prizes that are donated from businesses in our community. Thanks to these businesses that believe in what we do for their generosity. These are some of the donated prizes we have received so far:

- a gift certificate for the Sunday Buffet at The Hotel Roanoke Regency Room;
- a \$50 gift certificate to Shakers Restaurant;
- gift cards for Wheeler's Fast Service Laundry
- gift cards for Lucky Restaurant; and
- two mainstage season tickets to Mill Mountain Theatre.

Every person who contributes at least \$104 will be eligible for a chance in the drawing. All donations totaling \$250 or more will receive a second chance at the drawing and will be recognized on our website (unless you indicate with your gift that you wish for it to be anonymous). All donations totaling \$400 or more will receive a Kiwanis Christmas Tree Ornament, recognition on the website as above, and a third chance at the drawing.

Many thanks for your consideration and support of the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke.

J. Lee E. Osborne, President Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke

Donate Today!

Stephanie Moon Reynolds' Autobiography

I was born on January 6, 1958, in Mercer County, WV, to a teenage mother and father who was eight years older. They married when my mother Piccola became pregnant at 15 in 1955 and my dad Stevenson was 23 upon his return home from the Korean War.

We moved to Roanoke when I was less than a year old. Like many working in the coal fields of WV, many were migrating either up north or down south. My parents, not caring much about going north, decided to travel southwest with my grandmother's brother and his family.

By the age of almost 22 years old (1962) – there were five of us (I was 4 years old)

By age 9 (1967) – my parents were seeking a divorce because they were too much alike – wanted a life of their own, not ready to be parents – lots of arguing and sometimes fighting. At that time, my whole world went into a whirlwind – wondering what was going to happen to me (a girl who knew life consisted only of playing with childhood friends in her neighborhood with two parents).

Age 10 (1968) my oldest sister and I went live with my maternal grandparents in Maybeury (McDowell County), WV. There I lived for nearly five years, only returning to Roanoke during school vacations and holidays.

When I was 14 (1972) , I returned to Roanoke for good. At that time, my mom, while still receiving public assistance, was fortunate enough to receive housing in a new public housing complex, on Hunt Avenue. Needless to say, I hated my life even more—public housing and public assistance --always believing once I became 18, I could control my destiny; it would definitely be different.

In June 1976, I graduated from high school as an honor student, seven months pregnant; and at the age of 20 (1978), life was turning out to great. I married a childhood friend, who was my high school sweetheart and we purchased our first home and first jobs working for the City. He later found permanent employment with the railroad and I remained with the City for 42 years, having an impressive career with the Office of City Clerk/City Council- - promotions through the ranks and retiring as the City Clerk.

During my City career, I, too, found myself divorced after 12 years of marriage (1990) with three young children, ages 4, 8, and 12.

While working for the City and raising three children, I never gave up on my dream to obtain a college degree, and finally at the age of 40 (1998), I graduated Cum Laude from Virginia Western Community College with an associate degree in legal services.

At the age of 46 (2004), I started parenting over again -- my youngest child went off to college – I inherited my three grandchildren and raised them as my own - ages 15 months, 6 and 7, respectively). My only daughter found herself on the other side of the law, becoming a felon and at one time even a fugitive.

This time around, a single mom once more, life was somewhat better, I was determined to involve myself in my grandchildren's lives - participating in the PTA, recreational sports year-round, church activities. I even purchased another home, a large one so that they could have more room to grow, such as own bedrooms, bathrooms, tv rooms. I even traded my new car (2004 Maxima) for a new van (2005 Quest) so that they could have their own seats.

Over a period of five years (2009), the oldest two went to live with their mom and stepfather, while the youngest stayed until the age of 19 (2021). If there is such a thing as having a child that holds a special place --Lenora, is it!!! Even now the love is still there.

My experiences with her were different than with my own children and two grandchildren, such as volunteering as her basketball coach (coached her for 10 years), participating in afterschool activities and programs, and memorable vacations she thoroughly enjoyed.

Just as I was considered determined, strong-willed, outspoken, I encouraged my children and grandchildren to be the same. Never settling, always seeking more, and striving to get it.

Now at the age of 66 (2024), “retired, ” living a purpose driven life, remarried (2014) and having celebrated 10 years with a man that complements me, my husband Earl Reynolds, Jr.

As I close, throughout this journey I learned how to lean and depend on God, knowing I could not and would not make it in this world without someone/something bigger than me. Being the overachiever that I am, deciding in 2020 to run for public office, and had a successful win—a seat on Roanoke City Council!

Now looking forward to 2024, I cannot wait to see what else God has in store for me.

Stephanie Moon Reynolds

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

February 6 -- Barry Akers

February 11 -- Keith Hartman

February 14 -- Clark Goodman

February 14 -- Mike Quinn

February 18 -- Kathy Cohen

February 24 -- Tara Marciniak

February 28 -- Betsy Head



Kiwaniis
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



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