



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

September 2025  
Vol. 106 No. 49  
*"What is your Superpower"*



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## **Past President Jeanne's Kiwanis Farewell and Thank You Speech**

### **Hixson presentation**

In 1983, the Kiwanis Children's Fund established the George F. Hixson Fellowship. Named for Kiwanis International's first president. Each year our club recognizes an individual for this honor who embodies the spirit and generosity of Kiwanis.

Typically the award is given to a club member who has served a long time,

who has been actively involved in projects, has raised or contributed a significant amount of financial gifts to the club/foundation, and who has been in leadership (officer/board member).

The 2024-2025 recipient of the Hixson Fellowship is JC Taylor. On Wednesday, September 24, at our installation event, JC was awarded his medal and certificate by Jeanne Bollendorf and Steve McGraw.

Past President Jeanne's Kiwanis Farewell and Thank You Speech Our September 24th installation event was made possible by a wonderful group of folks:

- Joyce Montgomery for planning a wonderful evening
- Amy and Lee for their hard work preparing and serving our food and drink
- Jeff Craft for bringing his musical talents (and microphone!) and thanks to Lois for always volunteering Jeff!
- Andree Brooks for her delightful centerpieces
- John Elmer Montgomery for being the glue that holds our club together
- Clark Goodman -- our new Lt Governor who volunteer their time traveling to club events to share in our achievements and encourage and support us
- And Dennis Baugh our Kiwanis International Trustee who joined us to install our new leadership team
- Special thanks to my own personal superhero, my husband, Ben. Be sure to give him a thank you and pat on the back next time you see him, because I think all past club presidents know that our spouses are our unsung heroes

As I stand here tonight, preparing to pass the gavel to our incoming president, I am filled with overwhelming gratitude for what has been an incredible year of service, growth, and friendship. This past year as your president has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, made possible by the unwavering support of David Hartman,

Joyce and John Montgomery, and Mike O'Brochta. Their guidance and friendship have been invaluable, and I am so grateful for their dedication to

our club and to me personally. I also want to express my deep appreciation to our board members, whose ideas and energy have strengthened our leadership team immeasurably.

## **WHAT IS YOUR SUPERPOWER?**

This was my presidential theme for the year -- not only a call to action, but also an acknowledgement of the amazing work of Kiwanians in our community. Over these past twelve months, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible superpowers that each of you possess, and the tangible impact we've made together:

**Our Environmental Stewardship Superpower** has shone brightly through our Nature Park project, where we've worked to sustain water quality in Hortons Branch, championed our mascot Larry the Logperch, continued to help attract pollinators, helped pick up trash along our greenways to provide a beautiful outdoor experience for Roanokers, and work has begun for our new amphitheater and walking paths.

**Our Community Building Superpower** was evident in our successful annual pancake breakfast at the Berglund Center and our STAR dedication ceremony honoring Susan Williams, both of which continue to be beloved community traditions that raise vital funds for our scholarships and grants and pay respect to community leaders.

**Our Youth Development Superpower** has supported Key Clubs and Career Technical Education in our area's high schools, providing much needed funds for scholarships and awards to deserving young people in our community as they prepare themselves for the adult world. I'm especially proud of the work done by our board in reinvigorating our CTE program to create a more meaningful experience for Roanoke area students. And we have several new initiatives for CKI and K Kids on the horizon.

**Our Collective Generosity Superpower** has continued our club's remarkable track record of awarding grants, sponsorships, and providing volunteers in partnership with local non-profits and church-led programs. Two new activities – the Commonwealth Day of Play and Cuts with Cops - showed us that we can continue to serve young people, while being open to new

volunteer opportunities.

You have all donned your capes this year, and together we had a truly powerful impact on our community. These accomplishments represent not just financial contributions, but hours of volunteer service, creative problem-solving, and genuine care for our neighbors.

As I pass the gavel to new leadership, I am filled with confidence knowing that our club is in excellent hands. The dedication and passion I have seen from each of you this year gives me tremendous hope for the future of our organization and the communities we serve.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your patience, your hard work, and your friendship throughout this year. Being your president has been a huge honor for me, and I will cherish these memories always.

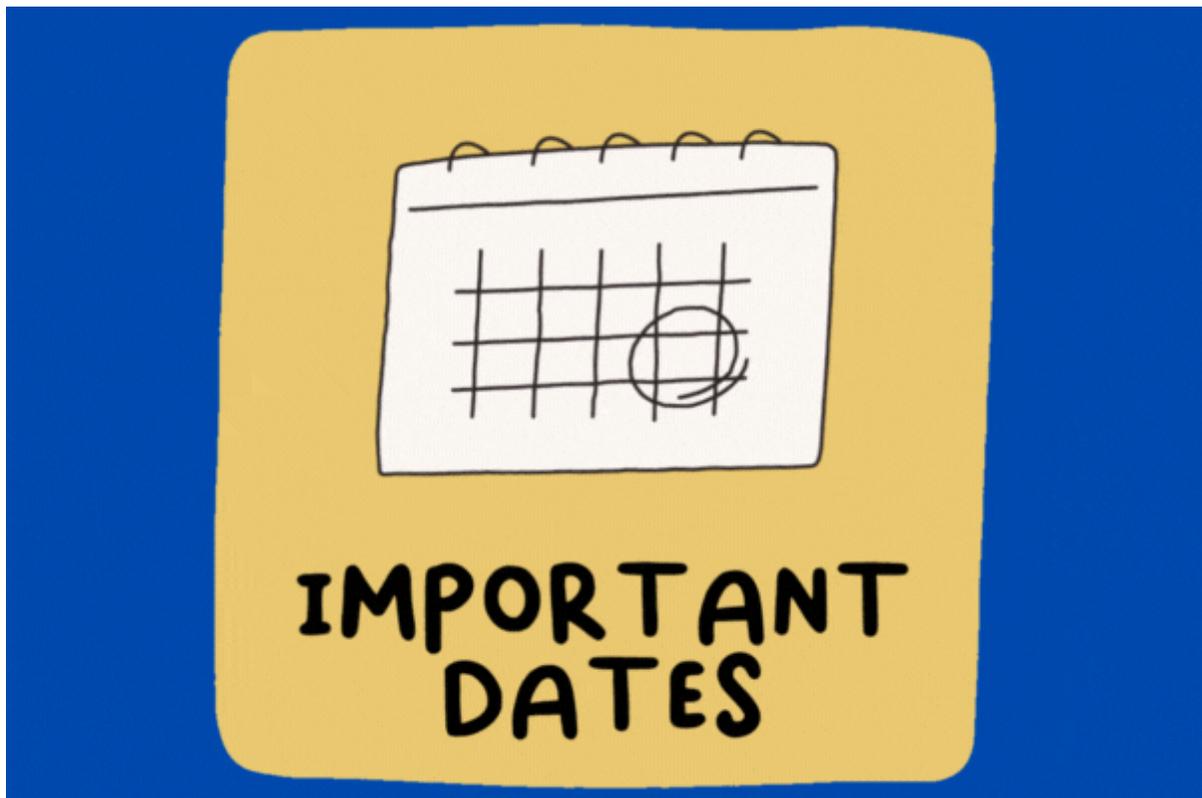
**Message from the President**  
**Emphasizing Community and Action**  
**Joyce Montgomery**

Thank you for placing your trust in me to lead our incredible club for the coming year. As we look ahead, I've chosen a theme that I believe captures the spirit and potential of our collective work: A Year of Inspired Action. This theme is about being inspired by the heart of Kiwanis—by the smiling faces of the children we serve, by the needs of our community, and by the dedication of every one of you. That inspiration shouldn't just be a nice feeling, it should fuel action—tangible, meaningful work that leaves a positive, lasting mark.

Let's make this "A Year of Inspired Action," the most impactful year our club has ever seen.

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**October 1** - (12:30 - 1:30) Club Meeting - Emily Reburn, Hospitality House of the Blue Ridge

**October 8** - (12:30 - 1:30) Club Meeting - Gary Arrington, Hunters for the Hungry

**October 8** - (6 - 7 pm) Book Club

**October 13** - (12:15 - 1:30 pm) Board Meeting

**October 15** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Juanita Prada, BeholdBeGold

**October 15** - (1:45 pm) Membership Committee Meeting

**October 22** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Wesley Bell, Impact Living Services

**October 22** - (1:45 pm) Environment Committee Meeting

**October 25** - (7:30 am - noon) West End Center Spooky Sprint

**October 29** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Natalie Handy, CareForeward

You can always stay up-to-date by checking out the calendar on our [website here](#).

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## **October 1st - Club Meeting, Emily Reburn - Hospitality House of the Blue Ridge**

Join us Wednesday, October 1st, for our weekly meeting at 12:30 PM in Charter Hall on the third floor of the City Market Building to listen to Emily Reburn, Executive Director of the Hospitality House of the Blue Ridge. HHBR is focused on providing affordable lodging for hospital patients and their families. Emily will talk about the progress the organization has made since its formation in 2019 and about recent efforts toward having their own building on a property near Carilion Roanoke Memorial hospital.

Emily has experience in the technology and healthcare sectors. She has a Masters in Public Administration, Government and Nonprofit Management from James Madison University. She is a Roanoke native.



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### **Highlights From Our Last Meeting**

Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt.



J.C. Taylor receives the prestigious Hixson Award!



Past President, Jeanne Bollendorf, passes the gavel to President Joyce Montgomery



President Joyce Montgomery pose with Dennis Baugh and Lt. Governor Clark Goodman



Next year's Triumvirate: Vice President, Reif Kessler, President-Elect, Dave Hartman, President Joyce Montgomery (and Teddy)



Past presidents pass the gavel as an installation tradition



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

### **Membership Update**

The Membership Committee is asking ALL club members to invite one guest to at least one of the October meetings. Help keep our club the largest service club in the Valley!

### **Calendars are Needed**

2026 Calendars are needed for residents at the Salem V A. Please save all those free calendars you receive in the mail and bring them to our meeting. Deposit them in the box on the table near check in. Thank you for helping our veterans! Andree

### **Book Club**

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Sept 10th for the monthly Book Club. Thanks again to Mike Bell for hosting our group. We chose to meet next on Oct 8th at 5:30 - Mike Bell has graciously agreed to host us again in October.

**Kiwanis Key Leader Program (see attachment) — registration is due by October 31, 2025**



## SKELTON 4-H EDUCATIONAL CTR

Wirtz, VA

November 14-16, 2025

Information and registration can be found at [Capital District Key Leader Weekend](#)

### ***WHAT IS KEY LEADER?***

Key Leader is designed for today's young leaders. This life-changing event focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership-development experience. A Key Leader will learn the most important lesson of leadership—it comes from helping others succeed.

### ***WHO CAN ATTEND KEY LEADER?***

Key Leader is designed to open doors to all student leaders and those with leadership potential. The focus is to serve students from 14 to 17 years of age.



### ***FIVE KEYS TO EXCELLENCE***

The Key Leader program is built on five essential principles. These principles reflect our mission to inspire young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership:

**PERSONAL INTEGRITY:** Doing the right thing

**PERSONAL GROWTH:** Developing in mind, body, and spirit

**RESPECT:** Showing consideration for self, others, and property

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** Developing relationships to achieve positive goals

**PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE:** Expecting and achieving the best



## AGENDA FOR KEY LEADER

Students arrive between 4:00pm-6:00pm on Friday.

**\*\*\* NO LATE ARRIVALS OR EARLY DEPARTURES \*\*\***

You will depart after 11:30 am on Sunday. Lodging, meals and activities are included and located at the camp. Students participate in large and small activities, with a combination of information, discussion, and interactive events.



### HOW MUCH IS KEY LEADER?



Student Participant	\$250	District Board Participant	\$200
Student Facilitator	\$150	District Board Student Facilitator	\$100
Adults	\$125	District Committee Chaperone	Free

*Discount Codes and Financial Assistance are available. Please contact the District Chair or Site Coordinator for more information.*

### HOW DO YOU SIGN UP?

[Registration](#) is open. Students and adults attending a Key Leader weekend can complete the form with basic information. **Adults will be required to complete a Background Check in order to stay overnight.**

*If there are any questions about registering online, please feel free to reach out to any of the contacts below.*



### HOW CAN KIWANIS GET INVOLVED?

#### 1) Send a Student to Camp

*Help identify a student that has the leadership potentials but needs a small push. You can support them by telling the student or a local educator about the camp, providing a student a ride to the camp or sponsoring a student to attend.*

#### 2) Join the Local Committee

*Take the time and help the Site Coordinator organize and put on a Key Leader weekend. There are many things that need to get done before the camp.*

#### 3) Become a Sponsor or Donate to the Wishlist.

Your help is needed to make the camp a success. Please visit:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/capital-district-kiwanis-foundation/cdkf-youth-outreach>

#### 4) GO TO THE CAMP!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

EMILIE PINTO, Site Coordinator

[emiliepinto@gmail.com](mailto:emiliepinto@gmail.com)

KAREN ROBERTS, District Chair

[karen.roberts@portsk12.com](mailto:karen.roberts@portsk12.com) 757-652-8390

Health & Safety guidelines will be strictly adhered to.



## Meeting Recordings

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

## Club Meeting Zoom Info

Here is the [zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 817 8581 5453

Passcode: 102906

*Please email any potential Kiwanian happenings by 7 pm on Monday to Alex at [abarge11@gmail.com](mailto:abarge11@gmail.com).*

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**Please consider sharing this email with a friend!**

 **Forward**

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## Kiwanian Birthdays

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3 Vern Danielsen

September 4 Betsy Bohannon

September 5 Sam Lionberger III

September 7 Jackie Bledsoe

September 8 Jason Poff

September 9 Lee Learman

September 11 Scott Smith

September 11 Calvin Witt

September 13 Neal Kinsey

September 14 Eric Danielsen

September 16 Ken Briggs

September 16 LeeAnn Reich

September 16 Glenn Pierce

September 21 John Ewart

September 23 Mike Loveman

September 24 Dave Spangler

September 25 James Matthews



# Kiwanis® 2024-25

CLUB OF ROANOKE

## Officers:

Jeanne Bollendorf, President

Joyce Montgomery,  
President-Elect

David Hartman, Vice  
President

John Montgomery,  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike O'Brochta, Past  
President

## Directors:

Lee Osborne, President  
Kiwaniis Foundation of  
Roanoke

Bob Habermann, 2025

Sheila Umberger, 2025

Harry Zulauf, 2025

Bill Bestpitch, 2026

Greg Lionberger, 2026

Alex Barge, 2026

Preston Tyler, 2027

Bert Boyd, 2027

Chris Rouse, 2027



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