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Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

January 2025

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"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

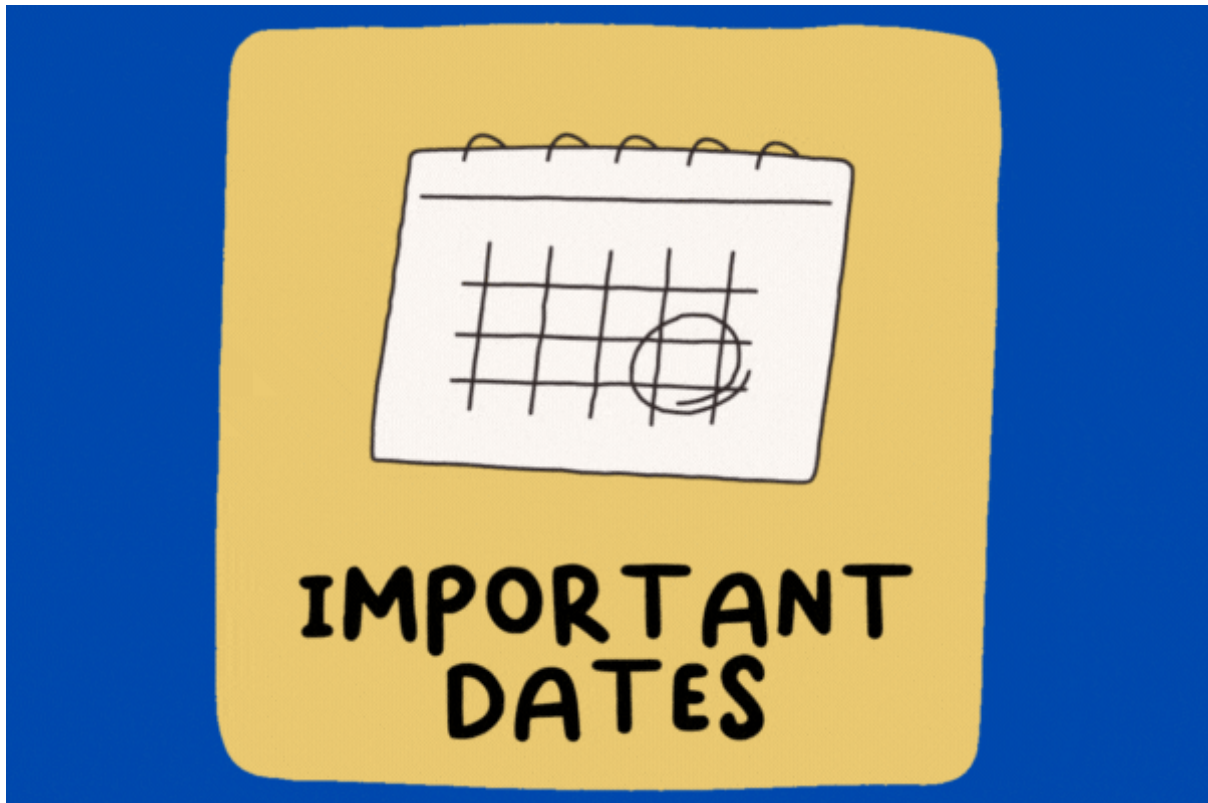
Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays

Elmer's Glue

By Mike O'Brochta

Glue is an important part of everyday life. Children use it for craft projects and adults use it for everyday repairs; even parts of our cars are held together with glue. So too is our Kiwanis Club. And the name of that glue is John Montgomery. At times he is like the glue on a Post-It note, attending meetings as a temporary observer. Other times he is like a two-part epoxy, such as in Board meetings, where he and others come together to form a strong bond. Then, there is magic transparent glue which you may not see and may not even know about, but is doing so many things behind the scenes, just as John does with our finances and official Club record keeping. And finally, there is Elmer's Glue, the quintessential bond that holds most everything together, including our Club; John is our Club's Elmer.



January 21 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Dave Covington - Virginia Department of Transportation

January 21 - (1:35 pm) Membership Committee Meeting

January 28 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Jonathan Pait - Gainsboro YMCA

February 4 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Dr. Frank Shushok - Roanoke College

February 9 - (12:15 - 1:30 pm) Board Meeting

February 11 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Dan Crawford - Sierra Club of Roanoke

February 11 - (5:30 - 6:30 pm) Book Club

February 18 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, KPAD Kick Off

February 25 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Wendy Baldwin - Dolly Parton Imagination Library

April 25 - KPAD

May 7 - Prayer Breakfast

May 30 - Spring Fun Day

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

January 21st - Club Meeting, Dave Covington - Virginia Department of Transportation

Join us Wednesday for our weekly meeting in Charter Hall on the third floor of the City Market Building; networking and lunch begin at 12:00PM. We will listen to Dave Covington, I-81 Program Delivery Director for the Virginia Department of Transportation. He will provide an overview of the VDOT I-81 Corridor Improvement Program including projects completed to date, projects currently under construction, upcoming projects within the program, and an update on the future of the program.

Dave is responsible for the delivery of this \$4 Billion program focused on enhancing safety, reducing congestion, and increasing opportunity for economic development along the 325-mile corridor. Previously Dave served as the VDOT Staunton District Maintenance Engineer and, before that, the Regional Transportation Program Manager for VDOT. He has managed complex design-bid-build projects as well as large design-build contracts both as a consultant to VDOT and as an employee of VDOT. Dave is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and holds a degree in Civil Engineering

from Virginia Tech.



Highlights From Our Last Meeting

Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



Grant recipient, Chester Leonard, explains SWVWildlife's use of the funds



Ben Spiker receives grant check for St Annes Episcopal Day School



Maureen Best explains the workings of LEAP (Local Environmental Agriculture Project)



Connie Kenny of LEAP explains how their grant will be used.



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

Membership Thoughts ...

By John Montgomery

How many Kiwanians are among your closest friends? You may be surprised that it is more than you originally thought. That's not just a coincidence; you come to appreciate people who share similar values. Consequently, it makes good sense to invite your friends outside of Kiwanis to visit our club and consider membership. In the words of Past President Don Wilson, "Do a friend a favor; invite him or her to join Kiwanis!"

I have heard another past club president, Mike Loveman, say he can't decide what's his favorite part of the weekly meeting. Often it's the captivating

words of the speaker, of course, but sometimes it can be a moving introspection; Judy Clark's pre-meeting piano or a guest musician; a touching or otherwise memorable brag buck; a message of appreciation from a grant recipient – or something totally unexpected. Week-in and week-out, I leave the gathering with an extra spring in my step, glad that I was there.

Calendars

We delivered 145 calendars from our club and 77 more from two churches totaling 222. We will collect through the end of January. Please bring any you have by then.

Book Club

Welcome to ALL - especially our prospective club members and new members! So exciting to have such an interesting Book Club meeting last night (January 14th). We had in attendance: Dave and me plus: Jeff and Barbara Vick; Vern Danielsen, James Matthews, Mike Bell, Neil McNally, Scott Smith, John Pendleton, John Montgomery. Thanks to Mike Bell for hosting us and to Barbara Vick for our snacks and water!

Books we reviewed:

- (1) "Boone - A Biography" by Robert Morgan (nonfiction)
- (2) "Slow Horses" by Mick Herron (fiction)
- (3) "The Pretender" (fiction) by Joe Harkin
- (4) "Pioneer Summer: A Novel in the Pioneer Series" by Katernya Sylvanova and Elena Malisova translated by Anne O Fisher (fiction)
- (5) "Cod" by Mark Kurlansky (nonfiction)
- (6) "Outlive The Science and Art of Longevity" by Peter Attia, MD with Bill Gifford (nonfiction)
- (7) "Fantasy Expert: A Baseball Memoir, Historical Tell-All, and One Stat Geeks' Personal Journey through Heaven and Hell" by Ron Shandler (nonfiction)
- (8) "2034: A Novel of the Next World War" by Elliott Ackerman and Admiral

James Stavridis (fiction)

(9) "Leopold and Loeb: The Crime of the Century" by Hal Higdon

(nonfiction)

(10) "Why We Did It" by Ken Miller (nonfiction)

(11) "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans (fiction)

(12) "Putin: His Life and Times" - A biography by Phillip Short (nonfiction)

Next meeting is Feb 11th at 5:30 -- place TBA.

Cheri and Dave

National Day of Prayer Breakfast, May 7, 2026

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke will again host this annual breakfast on the first Thursday in May. Our objective is to bring together the various Roanoke Valley faith traditions for a time of fellowship, understanding, and prayer.

Our planning will begin with a ZOOM meeting at 9:30AM on Friday morning, January 23. If you would like to be a part of planning this Prayer Breakfast, please contact Rita Joyce (540-915-1470) or Ken Briggs (540-314-9616).

Kiwanian Recruitment

Lois James delivers a Master Class with the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce. Kiwanis will participate in 12 Master Classes this year to share the K and recruit new members. Next month on Feb 24th, Mike O'Brochta will lead a class on Kiwanis to the business community.



Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Board Briefs – January 12, 2026

“A Year of Inspired Action”

The new year is off to a lively start! President Joyce Montgomery led a full house of board members and guests at the Western Virginia Water Authority (with a few joining by Zoom). Everyone’s enthusiasm set the tone for a year of Inspired Action.

Club Business & Membership

December minutes and financials were approved with ease. The board also accepted the membership resignations of longtime members Dirk Kuyk and Sherman Lea—both stepping back due to retirement and work commitments. We thank them for their years of service and wish them well on their next chapters!

Membership now stands at 148—up three for the year! A warm welcome goes to our newest members, who will attend orientation on January 13.

Corporate Membership Update

The board approved an innovative new offer: a one-year complimentary corporate membership (a \$1,350 value) for organizations sponsoring at the \$5,000+ level. It’s a great way to engage community partners and strengthen local impact.

Programs & Events

February's speaker lineup is confirmed, featuring a highlight presentation on the Dolly Parton Library—which could spark interest in a future grant. Members can also look forward to a possible Valentine social, and we'll continue our strong support for community events like the Blue Ridge Marathon on April 18.

KPAD 2026: Gearing Up!

Under Dave Hartman's leadership, KPAD planning is well underway. The kickoff is set for February 18, with tickets going to print February 6. Excitement is already building for another great year of fun and fundraising.

Service Spotlight

Ten Kiwanians rolled up their sleeves for a successful Habitat ReStore project on January 10—thank you for another great “Inspired Action” day! Coming up soon: the MLK Day Cleanup with the Clean Valley Committee on January 19 (10 a.m.–noon at the EnVision Center).

Strategic Goals & New Opportunities

Bill Bestpitch reported strong progress toward the club's strategic goals. The board also discussed a potential community forum on constructive civic dialogue featuring local author David Baldacci—a great way for Kiwanis to foster connection in our community.

Looking Ahead

The Nominating Committee, led by Mike McEvoy, is getting started on the 2026–27 leadership slate. And for a bit of fun, Steve McGraw will be polling members about possible new “Kiwanis swag” (starting with T-shirts to show our club pride).

Save the Dates:

- Jan 19: MLK Day Cleanup (10 AM–Noon, EnVision Center)

- Feb 9: Board Meeting
- Feb 18: KPAD Kickoff
- Apr 18: Blue Ridge Marathon (volunteers needed!)

The meeting wrapped up at 1:45 p.m. with plenty of enthusiasm and energy for the year ahead.

Here's to more service, connection, and Inspired Action in 2026!

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.

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian Birthdays

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 5 -- Jeanne Bollendorf

January 6 -- Dirk Kuyk

January 7 -- John Bradshaw (93!..... and a Roanoke Kiwanian for 57 years this month)

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 30 -- Joe Cobb

January 31 -- Frank Rogan



Kiwanis[®] 2025-26

CLUB OF ROANOKE

Officers:

Joyce Montgomery,
President

David Hartman, President-
Elect

Reif Kessler, Vice President

John Montgomery,
Secretary-Treasurer

Jeanne Bollendorf, Past
President

Directors:

Lee Osborne, President
Kiwaniis Foundation of
Roanoke

Bill Bestpitch, 2026

Greg Lionberger, 2026

Alex Barge, 2026

Preston Tyler, 2027

Bert Boyd, 2027

Chris Rouse, 2027

Jeff Vick, 2028

Steve English, 2028

Fred Jeter, 2028



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