

A Season of Service and Celebration

By Gov. Brian E Wells

Dear Nebraska-Iowa District Kiwanis Members,

As we approach the end of 2025, we reflect on a year filled with dedication, compassion, and remarkable achievements throughout our District. December offers us the chance to celebrate our collective impact, spread holiday cheer and look forward to new opportunities in the coming year.

Governor's Corner

The spirit of the holidays is alive in every project, event and act of service you bring to your communities. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to children and families across Nebraska and Iowa. I was privileged to facilitate a "Shop with a K-Kids" activity along with the Kiwanis Club of Bellevue and Avery Elementary School K-Kids. I cannot thank our teachers and the members of Kiwanis Club of Bellevue for their generosity and hard work. The 30+ K-Kids conducted a coin drop during the month of December 2025 (placed ball jars in each classroom asking students to bring in spare change). The class that collected the most change got to SLIME their teacher! Over $500 in coins were raised and along with $250 from the Bellevue Kiwanis we were able to shop for over 10 children in need. What a great time giving! Let's continue to inspire, lead, and serve together.

District Highlights

- Holiday Service Projects: Clubs across the district are hosting toy drives, partnering with schools for holiday meals, and spreading warmth with blanket donations. Share your project stories and photos for our January issue!
- Youth Leadership: Our Key Club and Circle K leaders participated in the December Youth Leadership Retreat. Their enthusiasm for service is energizing clubs throughout the district.

Other District News

We have our first application for Kiwanis Voices (KV)! Reminder, it's the new Kiwanis Club for ages 18-26. We are looking to gathering 15 applications and organize an "Online or Hybrid Club"! We have a District goal of 4 clubs (minimum of 15 members each). So far Keith Prettyman (Lincoln Center) and I (Bellevue) have volunteered to sponsor the first two clubs. What a great Christmas/Holiday present to nominate your friends from church that are 18-26 years old, your grandson, daughter or your special neighbor that wants to meet others their own age and serve the children and communities wherever they might be. Each KV club will have their own officers, decide when they will meet and what projects they will have.

Please drop me a line and I'll send you the signup sheet. No charge for the first 60 applications (for the first year). The District will pay for the first year's dues ($40 per member). We're looking for two more volunteers to help sponsor a KV club… take a chance to make a difference for these young people. Check out the KI website for more information: Kiwanis.org/voices/

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the District Board, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year. Thank you for your dedication to Kiwanis and the children we serve. Together, we make a difference—one child and one community at a time.