

MAY 2026

HOOSIER KIWANIAN

INDIANA DISTRICT OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

**May is
Membership
Month.**

**Reach Out -- Find
a Kiwanis Member
Wherever You Go.**



APRIL — MONTH OF WOW!

Looking over April, I couldn't help but think "WOW!"

Here are things that happened — and I bet you'll be saying "WOW!" too.

Indiana welcomed its newest club: The Kiwanis Club of Parlor City in Bluffton! Mayor Scott Mentzer didn't just champion the idea — he single-handedly rounded up the first 18 charter members, each one eager to serve the children of Bluffton and beyond. Governor Sue and Governor-elect Greg attended the



organizational meeting, where excitement filled the room and the club's energy was unmistakable.

Mayor Mentzer and his fellow Parlor City Kiwanians are ready to go — and they're already standing tall.

Out of nearly 600 Kiwanis clubs worldwide, two Indiana clubs rose into the global spotlight for their outstanding Signature Projects:

- Kiwanis Club of Carmel — Top Ten finalist among clubs with 27 members or fewer with its Night of Service
- Kiwanis Club of Richmond — Top Ten finalist among clubs with 28 members or more for its Safety Village

This summer, we'll learn whether one or both will be named 2026 Kiwanis International Signature Project award winners. Regardless of the outcome, Indiana is already shining on the world stage.



Kiwanis International has announced that our Trustee Counselor for 2026–27 will be Mr. Shinichi Yoshikuni of Japan. Hoosier Kiwanians will have the opportunity to meet him in person at our District Convention in Muncie this August. What a privilege it will be to welcome Mr. Yoshikuni to Indiana in our special OUTSTANDING way.

And speaking of international trustees, our very own former governor Taka Ogata is seeking election as a Kiwanis International Trustee at ICON in the Philippines this

summer. Whether you're attending ICON or cheering from home, I urge every Hoosier Kiwanian to show support. Indiana stands tall when we stand together.

April reminded us that Indiana Kiwanis doesn't just grow... we reach higher, see farther, and lead with heart just like our giraffe friends.

MERRY MEMBERSHIP MONTH OF MAY, HOOSIER KIWANIAN!

Nineteen Indiana clubs added 25 new members during April — what a month of growth! We should all be incredibly proud. The South Central Indiana club, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in April, led the way by welcoming eight new members, several of them joining during the celebration itself. Kudos to SCI for stretching its neck higher than ever and picking up a whopping 20 new members since October 1.

Other clubs that grew in April include Fishers, Castleton, Northwest Indianapolis, Akron-Mentone, Avon, Scott County, Elkhart, Goshen Maple City, 101 Lakes Angola, Kokomo, Cambridge City New Day, Richmond, Greater Princeton, New Harmony, Tell City, LaPorte, Portage, and Valparaiso. Every one of these additions helps our district stand a little taller.

May is Kiwanis International Membership Month, so let's keep this momentum going. I hope every club does its best to Reach Out and Net One (or MORE) new members.

And speaking of Membership Month, I know many Kiwanians wrack their brains trying to think of people to invite. But potential members aren't hiding — they're everywhere.

Here's my short list, which is now your list, too: your neighbors, your friends, your family members, your co-workers, people in your church or other organizations, former and current teachers, your insurance guy or gal (or the whole office), people on Facebook who LIKE your posts, your favorite banker (or the whole bank), your dentist, doctor, or therapist, your favorite giraffe (Stretch insisted I include that to make sure everyone is still paying attention), your favorite restaurant owner (or the whole restaurant), and your favorite librarian (or the entire library).

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. I know you can think of more. The key is simple: talk to the people on your list personally. Invite them to a May meeting or event. Share your love of Kiwanis — and maybe they'll discover it's exactly what they've been looking for.



Here's to another month of growth for our Hoosier Kiwanis clubs — let's keep stretching higher.

STAND TALL. BE STRONG. SERVE WELL.



Plans for our Indiana District Convention are coming together beautifully. Our theme — the one at the top of this article — will guide a weekend filled with helpful educational sessions, fresh ideas, and the kind of rollicking, giraffe-filled fun that only Hoosier Kiwanians can create. As governor, my hope is simple: that every attendee leaves thinking, “What a terrific convention — I can’t wait to share this with my entire club.”

All of our educational sessions are designed to help you, your club, and our district stay strong and healthy — mentally, physically, and organizationally. After all, we can’t serve the children of the world if we aren’t equipped, energized, and confident ourselves.

That’s why we’ll offer sessions focused on helping yourself (preventing burnout, finding your fit, discovering your value), helping your club (membership ideas, service ideas), and helping our district (how to be a club coach or builder). Whether you’re brand-new or decades in, there will be something that lifts you higher.

And of course, we’ll have wonderful entertainment, food, displays, and vendors. Chuckling, chortling, and hearty laughter will not be optional — and as Stretch reminds us, laughter is still the best medicine.

Registration is open now at www.indkiw.org. You may register for the entire weekend (my personal recommendation) or select individual parts of the program.

Come to Muncie in August — Stretch, Kay, and I can’t wait to meet you there.

CLUB LEADERSHIP EDUCATION (CLE) IMPORTANT INFO

(New and Improved — Coming Your Way!)

Here is extremely vital information from our Leadership Development Coordinator Kris Bowers:

Attention 2026-27 Indiana Kiwanis club officers! There are Club Leadership Education (CLE) sessions coming to a site near you. This year we are offering six in-person sessions at sites around the district. We have a team of Certified Instructors ready to help you prepare for your year of club leadership. The curriculum is updated and tailored to your specific club office. Attending one of these training sessions is an important step as you prepare to lead

your club. Considering a club leadership position in the future? Anyone is welcome to attend one of the education sessions to learn more!

Choose one of the following sessions and register [HERE](#).

- June 13, 2026 — 10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Columbia City @ Peabody Public Library, 1160 E. SR 205
- June 13, 2026 — 10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Scottsburg @ Scott County Partnership, 1092 W. Community Way
- June 20, 2026 — 10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Jasper @ Jasper-Dubois County Public Library, 100 3rd Avenue
- June 27, 2026 — 10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Valparaiso @ Porter County Public Library, 103 Jefferson Street
- July 11, 2026 — 10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Indianapolis @ Kiwanis International, 3636 Woodview Trace
- July 14, 2026 — MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS ONLY — 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm, via Zoom (link sent upon registration)
- August 7, 2026 — 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm — Muncie @ Horizon Convention Center, 401 S. High Street

Please note: The Membership Chair material will be presented ONLY at the Zoom session on July 14th. Membership Chairs, please register for that session.

Questions? Please contact Kris Bowers, Leadership Development Coordinator, at drkristenmbowers@gmail.com

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TAKE US OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Whether you're a Cincinnati Reds fan or not, I think you'll have a fantastic time at the Tri-District Meet-Up at the Reds game that our Kiwanis International Trustee Counselor Amy Zimmerman has arranged for Sunday, June 14. Game time is 1:40 p.m. (Eastern). And what a day to be at the ballpark — it's not only Flag Day, but also Veterans and Military Appreciation Day.

The three districts joining together are Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky-Tennessee. Everyone is invited — Kiwanians, families, and all members of our Kiwanis



Service Leadership Programs (CKI, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, and Aktion Club).

Tickets are just \$25, and you get \$10 back as a food voucher. Our group area is down the left-field line, with both seating and standing-room spaces — plenty of room to mingle, chat, and enjoy the game with Kiwanians from all three districts.

Stretch McNekk says he's practicing his "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" rendition. I hate to tell him that he won't be attending.

Links to tickets & parking are below:

Tickets: <https://www.gofevo.com/event/KiwanisDayattheReds26>

Parking passes: <https://www.mlb.com/reds/tickets/single-game-parking>

HAPPY MAY "BIRTHDAY" TO THESE INDIANA CLUBS

Kokomo — 106

Greencastle — 105

Huntingburg — 104

Tell City — 99

Chandler — 76

Scott County — 65

Perry Twp – Indianapolis — 44

Carmel Golden K — 40

Westfield — 10



Thank you for serving the children of your community. We wish you MANY more!

GOVERNOR SUE ON THE ROAD

Governor-elect Greg Ayers recently told me that wherever he goes in Indiana, he looks up — and there I am, too. I'm not sure that's entirely true, but my April travels did overlap with Greg's more than once.



Some of the best things happened right here in my hometown with our Rush County Kiwanis Club and RCHS Key Club. My April kicked off with the Key Club's fundraiser for Riley Hospital. Students donated dollars for strips of duct tape and then taped a high school teacher to a wall. Yes, you read that correctly — they

duct-taped a teacher to a wall and raised more than \$225 doing it. All proceeds went to Riley, of course, and the teacher (an incredibly good sport) survived the experience with dignity mostly intact.

Later in April, my Rush County club celebrated our 7th birthday by honoring our Key Club graduating senior officers and our faculty advisor, who is also a member of our club.

April seemed to be full of “birthday” celebrations. The South Central Indiana club held a big 20th anniversary bash on April 11, and the Kiwanis Club of Wawasee celebrated its 49th anniversary on the 23rd. I was honored to attend both. Those Bloomington and Syracuse folks really know how to throw a party.



I mentioned earlier that I attended the organizational meeting for the Parlor City Kiwanis Club in Bluffton — a highlight of the month. And earlier in April, I delivered the sensory toys for blind & vision-impaired infants (made at Mid-Year) to VIPS in downtown Indy.

Near the end of my busy April, it was a pleasure to attend the Kiwanis Club of Carmel’s Night of Service on April 29. It was an informative, relaxing, and fun evening spent with old and new Kiwanis friends. I witnessed one of Kiwanis International’s 2026 Top Ten Signature Projects in action. And yes — Richmond Kiwanis, consider this your official hint: invite me to your next event at the Safety Village.



May is filling up quickly with meetings, club visits, and events right here at home. Watch for me — or Governor-elect Greg — coming your way. We can’t wait to meet you.

Yours in service,

Sue Prifogle

Governor, Indiana District of Kiwanis 2025–26