

September 2008



Serving the Children of Grand Rapids and the World
Meeting Every Tuesday at 12:00 noon at the Radisson at Ann Street and US 131

Kiwanis Grand Rapids North

Notes from the President

To all the Grand Rapids North Kiwanis members; thank you for honoring me with the duties of your President for the 2007-2008 year.

I am proud to be a member of this group with more than half a century of service to the children of Grand Rapids. Our club has a strong foundation with the wisdom and experience of the members who have served the club with distinction for many years.

I'm thrilled to see the fresh new faces to the club eager to serve the West Michigan youth. I call upon the veteran members to assist the juniors with education and training on the history of our organization, the plethora organizations that we support and the projects we undertake.

I'll start the education right here.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

The name "Kiwanis" means "we trade" or "we share our talents."

It was coined from an American Indian expression, Nunc Kee-wanis.

Michigan has a very important place in the Kiwanis record. The very first club was founded in Detroit in 1915.

The six permanent objectives of Kiwanis International were approved at

the 1924 convention in Denver and have remained unchanged.

1. To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
2. To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
3. To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
4. To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
5. To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
6. To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

We all have that "something" in our hearts to make this world a better place. With the enthusiasm that is presented by you, the road is wide open for all of us to succeed in dedicating our service to the local community, families, and especially the children.

Albert Einstein said, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

Linda Paige, President

On-Going Service Projects

- Terrific Kids Program at 5 elementary schools in the Grand Rapids Public School System
- “We Do Care: at De Vos Children’s Hospital
- Catherine’s Care Center
- Volunteering at St. John’s home
- Mentoring at Palmer Elementary School
- Aktion Club support

Youth Service Activities

- Girls Choral Academy
- Kids Food Basket
- Dictionary Project
- Michigan State Police Academy
- Palmer Elementary School Weather Station

Community Service Activities

- Neocom Food Pantry
- Community Action Food Pantry
- Christmas Food Baskets
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- GRAYO Kids Football Team

Young Children Priority One

- Kids First Food Basket
- Medical supplies for Booth Clinic for pre-natal care

Membership Committee

Purpose and Mission: To recruit new members and provide appropriate orientation and induction.

Over the past few months, this club has added four new members.

Committee members are visiting Creston Neighborhood businesses and asking a representative to join us for lunch.

Committee members have been contacting members who have missed at least three meetings.

Member News

John Laports: Recognized as a Sustained Donor by Kiwanis International Foundation.

John Bigari: Recognized with a 1st Place ribbon for newsletters for clubs over 40 members.

Bill Weitzel: Left Aquinas College this summer, and after much consideration, landed as Director of Planned Giving at Grand Valley University.

Don Sweringa: Spent a wonderful summer driving to Washington state, cruising north to Alaska and then driving home along US 2.

Humor



Programs You May Have Missed

August 19

Jerry Hoek, Grand Rapids Airport air traffic controller, discussed his 16 years serving as an air traffic controller for the Oshkosh Air show of the Experimental Aircraft Association in Wisconsin. Held the last 7 days in July, they land 400-500 planes on hour without radar support. Jerry provided an interesting video highlighting the range of aircraft participating in the show each year.

September 2

Kim Koeman, Director of Youth and Family Programs at the Grand Rapids Art Museum discussed the range of activities at the museum. Coming this fall:

- Super Second Saturdays family activities
- Winter in Paris Dec. 23-24, 26-31 and Jan 2-3
- Richard Avedon: Larger Than Life Oct 3—Jan 4
- Toulouse Lautrec and La Vie Parisienne Oct 3—Jan 11

September 9

Kim Schwamberger of Finishing Touches by Kim, LLC discussed some of her home decorating ideas:

- Scale and Proportion
- Lines and Angles
- Balance
- Rhythm and Harmony
- Pattern and Color
- Storage and Organization

Notes from the Editor

At the August board meeting, I agreed to take over the club newsletter. This is the first edition of my reign.

My intention is to capture as much as possible of the on-going club activities. This edition is intended as an annual review. In future editions, I want to capture what is happening in our club each month. This not helps current members understand the scope of our activities, but becomes an important resource for recruiting new members.

The newsletter will be distributed primarily by email. For those on the leading edge of technology (ie those without email), I will provide copies at each meeting and will gladly mail a copy to any member who requests a regular mailed copy.

Please feel free to provide any suggestions or critique of this effort

Roger Brook, kiwanisgr@gmail.com

Coming Programs

September 16

Noon Kiwanis lunch
Rich Miller, Principal, Palmer Elementary School

September 23

11:30 am Kiwanis Lunch at Boulder Creek Golf Club
Annual Fall Golf Outing to follow

September 30

Noon Kiwanis lunch

October 7

Noon Kiwanis lunch
Craig Rich with the Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates will discuss their recent discoveries and future searches

October 14

Noon Kiwanis lunch
Jerry Swett will provide Kiwanis education on our various banner patches and their significance
1:00 pm Board Meeting

October 21

Noon Kiwanis lunch
Mr. Cliff Charles - "Driving to a Better Self" - from Gordon Food Service

October 28

Noon Kiwanis lunch
State Rep. Tom Pearce will discuss issues important to Grand Rapids as we approach the general election in November

KIWANIS GRAND RAPIDS

**Located in Grand Rapids,
Michigan, and dedicated to
Serving the children and
youth of the greater Grand
Rapids Area.**

Email: kiwanisgr@yahoo.com

**We are on the web
kiwanisgrandrapids.org**

Norm's Quotable Notables

August 19, 2008

The measure of a man's character is not what he gets from his ancestors, but what he leaves his descendants.

God's Little Instruction Book

September 2, 2008

I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of His creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own—a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty.

Albert Einstein, from "Inspiration"

September 9, 2008

Good deeds are like wild flower seeds. Throw enough of them around and a desert becomes a garden.

Dear Abbey, Grand Rapids Press, Sept. 7, 2008

KIWANIS—Serving the Children of the World

Purpose: To improve the quality of life for children and families.

Mission: Kiwanis is a global organization of men, women and youth dedicated to serving the children of the world and improving the quality of their life.

Objectives:

- To give primacy to human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
- To encourage daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business and professional standards.
- To develop by precept and example a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
- To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and goodwill.

Email membership news items to Roger Brook at kiwanisgr@gmail.com

If you are not receiving this newsletter by email, contact Roger Brook at kiwanisgr@gmail.com