



### **Burlington Kiwanis** **BurlingtonKiwanis.org**

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Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

I wish to thank all of you who made such complimentary remarks to me about a variety of topics during the last month. You are truly a great group of people and it is my privilege to serve as your president.

Even though we should be thankful every day for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, the month of November seems to focus our acknowledgement of thanks more than any other month. On November 13th we will recognize the military veterans that have helped to preserve the rights of all of us by serving in our armed forces. On November 20th we will have our Thanksgiving celebration highlighted by our playing Bingo for Turkeys. This will serve as a reminder of all the many things for which we should give thanks. (Members are asked to not bring guests that day.)

A number of years ago Tom Cameron wrote the following for the Kiwanis newsletter. "This is a time to give thanks. This is the beginning of the very busy season for our club. Thanksgiving is a time for us to give thanks for who we are, and our opportunities to share with others. We were all created with different abilities and talents and the success of this club is the blending of these abilities and talents to accomplish our goals. Not everyone will have the same ideas as to how to accomplish a task, but by working together it is amazing what can be accomplished. This is a time for prayerful recollection of the past and the present. Immediately following Thanksgiving, members are asked to participate in many club projects. The Santa project, Boots and Coats for Tots, Ding-a-lings, Target Shopping with Children, and other opportunities. I guarantee you will get more out of your efforts than you give."

Even though some of the names of the projects have changed, we are approaching the "busy" season when many of our service projects and our Santa fundraiser project take place. These require many hours of members volunteering to make them successful. Please examine your schedules to see which of these you can help with. There are articles on many of these in this month's newsletter.

The Board approved 3 goals at the October board meeting. The first goal is to grow our membership by 5% this year. On a typical year we have 20-25 members leave the club due to death, moving to another area, changes in jobs, or other reasons. To grow by 5% we would have to add 7 more members than we lose. This is a doable, but not easy, challenge. It requires us to share our love of Kiwanis, invite guests and then sell them on joining the club. I know this is outside of many peoples' comfort zone. I am one of those but I will accept my

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own challenge and see if I can't get at least one person to join the club this year. Will you do the same? The second goal is to increase our hours of service by 5%. Currently committee co-chairs are asked to submit this information to the club secretary so she can submit that information on her KI reports. We will continue to do this and we will also be implementing an additional procedure that will allow us to see if the hours are for service or fund-raising. It will involve individual submission of an hours served report. Recognition will be given for reaching specific levels of hours of service given. This was rolled out at the October 31st meeting and will be sent by e-mail to everyone as well. The third goal is to develop written

procedures for the eight policies that we submitted to KI. The first one to be worked on will be the procedure to follow once a member is determined to be a "member not in good standing" to hopefully bring the member back into good standing. If this is not successful, the procedure will also address the termination of their membership. This will be addressed at the November 18th board meeting.

Counting my blessings and realizing that with the great club members we have that we will have fun while we carry out our club's work. Jim Sleister, 2014-15 President

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## Shopping Spree for Children in Need

*Saturday, December 6, 6:45 - 8:15 am*

Another year has passed..... and it is time once again for the annual Kiwanis/Target Shopping Spree for children in need. School counselors will select five children from their school to participate.



Twenty-five children will be invited from the Burlington/West Burlington area. The event begins at 6:45 am where Target employees provide a light breakfast for the children and coffee for the volunteers. A chat with Santa, and of course, a picture and a surprise package provided by Target starts the children's shopping adventure.

Kiwanians are encouraged to invite a prospective or new member to join you at Target to assist children with shopping or wrapping gifts. The stories you will have to share from this event are heartwarming, and sometimes heartbreaking, and are always, always, always a witness to the impact we have as Kiwanians' in our community.

When the sign-up sheets appear volunteer to shop, wrap, or provide transportation. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Lois Blythe

## Coats for Kids

It's getting cold outside and soon we all will be getting out our own winter coats. Some of the youth in the area will not have a warm coat for winter. For the last 23 years Kiwanis has purchased new coats for children in our community. The Coats for Kids project started in 1991 and has been awarded the Iowa "Governor's Award". Historically we have provided around 100 coats each year.

This project has two facets: identifying the need and giving away the coats. First, we need to identify the needed gender, quantity, and size the children wear. The project provides coats to needy children from newborn to 5 years old. We are currently working with the Nest and Head Start to establish the list.

Coordination of the sizes needed is a challenge when it comes to the purchasing of the coats. We try not to purchase all the same color and style for the same size. You want to avoid the identification that a group of kids all got the same coat from Kiwanis.

Second, is determining how to fund the project. Kiwanis members always help with donations during a weekly meeting in November and you have been great to support the project over the years. This year we will be collecting on December 4. The goal has always been to fund this project completely. Therefore, corporate donations have been requested. Last year we received \$500 from the ShopKo Foundation and \$250 from Great River Health Systems.



The following is taken from the History Bulletin on Kiwanis located on the KI website as well as a brochure titled “A Timeline of our History” produced by KI. In August of 1914 Allen S. Browne, a professional organizer, and Joseph C. Prance, a tailor, had an idea or concept to develop an organization that provided not only fellowship, but insurance features as well. Kiwanis was founded as a strictly fraternal club that only young professional businessmen could join. They also wanted to provide an opportunity for other men to experience new ideals in human relationships. Browne, as the professional organizer would receive the \$5 membership fee from each man that joined. Browne legally “owned” Kiwanis. Early on the Kiwanians found that they could make a noise in the world not by scratching one another’s backs in business but by rendering important community service without thought of personal gain.

By mid-July of 1915 Browne had raised the membership fee to \$10 per member. A revolt took place at one of the club meetings and by the time the smoke cleared the club only had about 50 out of its 175 members left. Browne and club secretary Ottie Robertson were disgusted and left for Cleveland to organize a Kiwanis club there. Within 10 weeks the club had 135 members and the Cleveland Kiwanis enthusiastically started building other clubs. It was in Cleveland that Kiwanis service and its special concern for children took firm root. The club started a nursery school for underprivileged children. Meanwhile Detroit club president Don Johnston pulled his club together and soon had them back to full strength. Kiwanis had stumbled but it had not failed.

On May 18 and 19, 1916 the first joint meeting (convention) of the early Kiwanis clubs was held in Cleveland. At that meeting the business included approving the organization’s constitution and electing George Hixson as the president of the “National Kiwanis Club”. Albert Dodge was named the secretary. There was no paid staff and the few general records that were maintained were kept either in Dodge’s office in Buffalo, New York or Hixson’s office in Rochester, New York. In November

of 1916 the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario was chartered making Kiwanis an international organization.

In 1918 the first Kiwanis headquarters was established in Chicago, Illinois. On May 21, 1918 the Kiwanis Convention attendees in Birmingham, Alabama raised \$17,500 in less than 10 hours to buy Kiwanis from founder Allen Browne. By 1920 the total membership of Kiwanis reached 28,500 members in 267 clubs. Kiwanis had a paid staff of 20 employees at its Chicago headquarters. In 1920, something important crystallized for Kiwanis; something that inspired Roe Fulkerson, the gifted editor of the Kiwanis magazine, to propose two simple words – “We Build” – as the Kiwanis motto. It was the coining of the Kiwanis motto, after 5 years of painful and exhilarating growth, that put Kiwanis into its stride. This remained Kiwanis motto until 2005 when during the International Convention the delegates voted to adopt a new motto – “Serving the Children of the World” -- to emphasize the primary focus of Kiwanis over the preceding 9 decades and to make a commitment for the years to come. Next month this Kiwanis History article will cover the 1920s with special emphasis on the founding of the Burlington Kiwanis Club.

## Santa Project

This is the 23rd year the Kiwanis Santa Project has been providing top quality professional pictures of “Kids with Santa” to Burlington area residents and the 8th year we have been located at Fun City. The Project is a major Kiwanis fund-raiser and relies on member’s time and will open on Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

This year we will also be providing an opportunity to have your pet’s photo taken with Santa. Farm King will be hosting our Kiwanis Pet Day with Santa on Saturday, November 29 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Photos are printed on 5” x 7” quality photo paper and can be printed in several options ranging from one portrait per sheet to 8 - I.D. size pictures on the sheet. Our prices are substantially lower than any of our competitors in southeastern Iowa and the quality of our photography cannot be beaten!

Santa Project cochairmen – Gary Young & Pat Shier

## Santa Photo Schedule @ The PZAZZ!

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Fri, Dec 5   | 3 to 9 pm     |
| Sat, Dec 6   | 10 am to 7 pm |
| Sun, Dec 7   | 12 to 6 pm    |
| Fri, Dec 12  | 3 to 9 pm     |
| Sat, Dec 13  | 10 am to 9 pm |
| Sun, Dec 14  | 12 to 6 pm    |
| Fri, Dec 19  | 12 to 9 pm    |
| Sat, Dec 20  | 10 am to 9 pm |
| Sun, Dec 21  | 12 to 6 pm    |
| Mon, Dec 22  | 3 to 9 pm     |
| Tues, Dec 23 | 12 to 9 pm    |

## Pet Day Photo @Farm King

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Sat, Nov 29 | 10 am to 4 pm |
|-------------|---------------|

## ***Dictionary and Thesaurus Project***

This is the 13th year that Jim Garnjobst has chaired the Dictionary and Thesaurus Project. Jim started this project and still is the driving force behind it. Members of the club help distribute dictionaries to third graders in Des Moines county schools. Seventh graders receive a thesaurus. This is usually completed before Thanksgiving. The thank you letters the club receives each year from the students tells the tale as to how much these books mean to the students.

## ***BHS Football Team***

Our club served pancakes and sausage to 90 Greyhound Football players on October 2nd. Thanks to GRMC for donating the pancake mix, Fareway for discounting the sausage and Wilson Rentals for picking up the discounted cost. Jeff Strause and wife and Leslie Johnson handled the set up/tear down and John Hart and Tom Rexroth joined us for the cooking and serving.

## ***Blood Drive Exceeds Goal***

The Kiwanis Blood Drive from August 1 – September 3 exceeded our goal! Our Kiwanis members donated 12 lifesaving units of blood. Thank you so much to those of you who donated. We were able to help up to 48 patients in need.

## ***Mark Your Calendar...***

**6 – Southeastern Community College**

**Men's Basketball, Coach Terry Carroll**

**RED OUT FOR SANTA KICKOFF**

**13 – Dave Wiemer**

**18 – Board Meeting, 12:30 @ The Drake**

**20 – Feather Party with Bingo**

**27 – Happy Thanksgiving**

**Programs arranged by Tom Vance**

**December 4 – Donations for Coats for Tots**

**December 6 – Target Shopping Spree**

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