



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF BURLINGTON

January, 2019

Burlington Kiwanis
BurlingtonKiwanis.org

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To my fellow Kiwanians:

It's hard to believe that the calendar has turned over to 2019. This club accomplished a lot in the 2018 calendar year and I look forward to continuing that success in the New Year. This is a time to look back as well as forward, both reflecting and making plans for the future. I hope that everyone had a great Christmas with their family and friends and look forward to a New Year with our Kiwanis Family.

I would like to reflect on the most recent accomplishments. It was discussed in last month's letter, but the excitement from the Kids Shopping Spree runs over for me, as this club served nearly 40 kids this year, giving them the opportunity to buy for their family or themselves. Our Coats for Kids total came to nearly 140 coats this year, which is significantly higher than the need in previous years. This is both heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same time. Along with each of these coats, I ask for prayers for each of these children and more that they have what they need on a daily basis. It was very touching to see out Kiwanians contribute nearly \$900 towards this project through individual donations. The Santa Project kept many of us busy all month long. The project had more than its share of frustrations this year between technology issues and lack of volunteers. However, the project did make it through as scheduled, although the project took on a little different look towards the end. I would like to thank Mary Wienand and Lois Blythe for spear heading this project this year. A special thank you goes to Chuck Siekman for helping with the tech side on multiple occasions. Last, but certainly not least, the projects in the month of December include our annual bell ringing for Salvation Army. I believe the spots were 100% filled this year and although we don't have a dollar tally for our shift, I know that the SA is very grateful for our coverage of the kettles.

We have to reflect on the Thursday fun that we had in the month of December as well. We had a good group of ugly sweaters on the 20th, with Duane Lee taking home the Honors for ugliest sweater! The Third Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange was a big hit with many folks taking home something special from one another. I saw everything from food items to Lavender scented toilet paper and

President's Message Continued

everything in between. Our celebration on the 20th was topped off with a great selection from our Kiwanis Singers and we couldn't have asked for a better performance from the group! Our final Thursday of 2018 was very Grinchy, but lots of fun. Cassie Gerst and Karen Erickson conducted quite a program for the kids complete with delicious kid-friendly food, music, games, and prizes. My boys had a wonderful time and judging by the smiles around the room, I think all the others did as well.

As we move into the New Year, I want to encourage all of you to dig a little deeper and remember why you are in this club. I hope you will find that the core is the service aspect of this club and what it means to the community. This club is nothing without the volunteer efforts of everyone that is able. I also want to encourage you to share what you love about Kiwanis with others so that this club can grow and make even more of an impact. With that, I also remind you of our Membership Drive context that will continue throughout the year. One lucky Kiwanian per quarter that brings a potential new member will receive a \$50 gift card to any area business of their choice. Also, each Kiwanian that sponsors a new member will be in the grand prize drawing for a \$100 gift card to a an area business of their choice!

LOVE KIWANIS, LIVE KIWANIS, SHARE KIWANIS!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Brent Hartley,

2018-2019 Burlington Kiwanis President

Cuddle Cot Donation a Blessing to Many

Kiwanis is proud to support Alex from Forever Angels as she continues to serve communities in Southeast Iowa.

Alex is a past Kiwanis Scholarship recipient and has been recognized for her work creating burial gowns repurposed from donated wedding dresses as well as getting three Cuddle Cots donated to local hospitals.

Upon hearing Alex's story, the Burlington club help complete the funding needed to provide a Cuddle Cot for Great River Health System.

Thanks for your caring work on such a heavy topic Alex!



Holiday Fun

The annual Ugly Sweater Contest, White Elephant Gift Exchange and Kiwanis Singers is always a club favorite.

Left, Duane Lee was victorious as the winner for the Ugliest Sweater featuring a light up flamingo and palm trees.

Below, Lois Blythe came in with a close second place finish with her sweater featuring a tree and her family stockings along the fireplace mantel.

Featured at the bottom of the page, the Kiwanis Singers were fabulous as always. A special thanks to the time and effort they put into making beautiful music for members to enjoy.



Board of Directors Update

Your Directors and Officers met and discussed several items.

Jim Garnjobst presented on the Nurses program, which started in 1950. Over the past 20 years, the program has helped 3,800 students in the Burlington and West Burlington school district. The Nurses have the ability to solve a child's problem immediately by going to Target and using a Kiwanis credit card to make the purchase. Jim also read two letters from the Nurses stating their gratitude for this project.

They approved the following funding requests at the December board meeting:

- \$1,000 was donated to the Kiwanis Children's Fund, which is a yearly campaign through Kiwanis International.

The Burlington Kiwanis club membership as of November 30 was 132. As always, feel free to bring a guest to showcase the club and inform them about the work we do. Prospective members are treated to lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Erickson,
Secretary

Mark Your Calendar...

3 Silgan Containers, Tom Peterson
Invocation by Doug Howell

10 Iowa Fertilizer Company, Darrel Allman
Invocation by JCraig Smith

15 Board Meeting, 12 pm@Bees Stadium

17 Big River Resources, Katie Powers and
Shelley Johnston
Invocation by Lois Blythe

24 Des Moines County Historical Society,
Robin Schneiderman
Invocation by Sam Newkirk

31 Weather, Sam Larson
Invocation will be announced

Programs arranged by Sam Larson
Invocations arranged by Lois Blythe



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



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Burlington, IA 52601
PO Box 15

