



KIWANIS KOURIER



KIWANIS CLUB OF WINCHESTER, VA * Serving the Winchester/Frederick County Community SEPTEMBER 2022

Annual Picnic August 10, 2022



Fun was had by all at the annual Kiwanis Picnic held at the Kiwanis Shelter in Jim Barnett Park. Vice President John Conrad did a seamless job organizing the perfect get-together. Jordan Springs Market catered a delicious meal of barbecue pork and chicken with sides, dessert, and drinks. The weather cooperated nicely with the sun shining after some storms passed through. We could not ask for a better time sharing food and friendship.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

LYNNETTE EMBREE



Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

This is my last newsletter column as the president of the club. It is bitter-sweet.

It has certainly been the honor of a lifetime to lead this club during the centennial celebration! Thank you for your support, your guidance, and your patience these last twelve months.

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday To Our Members!



Aleck Beeman	1-Sep
Wayne Yowell	2-Sep
Greg Hulver	3-Sep
Kim Viollette	9-Sep
Jeph Embree	12-Sep
Rick Balzhiser	23-Sep
Desiree Nowlin-Washington	27-Sep
John Conrad	28-Sep

(for birthday errors & omissions, please email editor@kcow.org)

CALENDAR

September 7: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Business meeting; 12-1pm

September 14: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; 12-1pm

September 15: Social at Homestead Farm; 6:00

September 21: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; 12-1pm

September 27: Packing food at Bright Futures; 5:30pm

September 28: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; 12-1pm

September 29: Board Meeting at Winchester Airport Conference Room; 6pm

September 30: Installation Banquet at George Washington Hotel; 5pm



Kiwaniis Donates Two Trex Benches

Ginny Grant spearheaded a fantastic service project that benefited the environment and our community. She asked Kiwanians, friends and family, and CKI club members to collect plastic items, such as grocery bags, bread bags, and dry cleaning bags, and bring them to a club meeting or drop them by Ginny's house. She collected 500 pounds of plastic over the last year and took them to Trex. Our local Trex then turned this plastic into two high-performance composite benches. These two benches were proudly put into place August 24th in front of the War Memorial Building at Jim Barnett Park. A huge thank you to Ginny Grant for making such an impact on our community and to all the members that collected the plastic each week for the entire year!





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100 Past Presidents Video

In case you missed the 100 years of Past Presidents video at our lunch meeting or the banquet, it has been added to our website. You can find it at the bottom of the History page.

<https://www.winchesterkiwanis.org/about/history/>



Scott Straub did an amazing job creating an animated video containing every Kiwanis Club of Winchester Past President. Scott spent hours upon hours researching and found multiple pictures pertaining to each of the 100 past presidents to compile into this video. Even more fascinating is how Scott took these still photos and brought them to life. It is definitely worth your time to view this incredible piece of our history. Thank you Scott for your dedication to our organization!



Installation Banquet September 30, 2022

Mark your calendars for a night on the town at the Kiwanis Installation Banquet.

Location: George Washington Hotel

Cost: \$25/person

Time: Social hour 5:00-6:00 pm, Dinner seating 6:00 pm, Program 7:00 pm

Invitations will be mailed September 7. RSVP no later than September 21st by signing up at a club meeting or calling Pat Snapp at 540-323-7155.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The August social was held at Valerie Hill winery. Everyone enjoyed an evening together in one of Winchester's premier haunted locations.



Upcoming planned socials:

Sept. 15: Homestead Farm at Fruit Hill Orchard, dinner 6-7 pm, bluegrass music, 7-9 pm, bring a lawn chair

Oct. 14: West Oak Farm Market, 6 pm, live music, food trucks

Nov. 10: El Centro in Old Town, 6 pm

INTERCLUB NEWS

Tim Anderson & Robin Doss

On Wednesday August 17th we visited the Kiwanis club of Front Royal. Their social meeting was held at Rancho Nuevo Restaurant. President Ed Daley spoke about their very successful backpack program. They succeeded their \$5000 goal by \$2500 with the help of another civic club. Way to go Front Royal!! Those attending: Doug Butler, Mike Didawick, Jeff Smelser, and Robin Doss.

by Robin Doss, Interclub co-chair

Kiwanis Capital District Convention (DCON)

Lynnette and Jeph Embree, Rick Balzhiser, Dennis Grubbs, and Ginny Grant attended DCON in Baltimore. Members went to many work sessions and enjoyed networking with members from other Kiwanis Clubs. Dennis is presenting the basket our club donated for the raffle, and Ginny is working on a service project packing care items for the homeless.





Law Enforcement Appreciation Day July 27, 2022

The Kiwanis Club of Winchester honored law enforcement officers for their dedication to our community. We appreciate their commitment and service to guarding the lives, property, and constitutional rights of all. Their dedication ensures a safe and secure community for us all.

Twenty officers from the region were able to attend this appreciation luncheon. The Guest Speaker was Chief Gary Benedict of the Middletown Police Department. Officers attended from Laurel Ridge Community College, Winchester Police Department, Virginia State Police, Middletown Police Department, and Frederick County Sheriff’s Office. Thank you to Kiwanian Chief Al Sibert, of the Haymarket Police Department, for organizing the program.

Thank you to all law enforcement officers for their exceptional services that help enable the safety, security, and well-being of all citizens.





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Bright Futures Stuff the Bus Drive August 6, 2022

Kiwanians helped stuff the bus with school supplies donated by area residents. A school bus was parked outside Walmart where Kiwanians accepted donations with the goal of filling the bus. Items donated included writing implements, paper, backpacks, water bottles, headphones, and clothing. These school supplies will help many children start school on the right foot in Winchester and Frederick County. Thank you to the following for donating their time to improve the lives of children in our region: Brenda Dodd, Ginny Grant (and her granddaughter), Debbie Guiffre, Robann Riggleman, Barry Swears, Al Sibert (and his children), John Conrad, Kay Anderson, Jody Wall, and several Key Clubbers.





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Mulch Project at Jim Barnett Park

Project Chairman Barry Swears (and his trusty dog, Ruby) did a great job organizing the placing of mulch around the new and older trees in the Kiwanis area of Jim Barnett Park. The mulch was needed to conserve moisture, control weeds and grass, and improve the appearance of the trees. Kiwanian Johnny Craig ordered the mulch and our crew Robin Doss, Barry Swears, Doug Butler, Lennie Wolfe, Ryan Clouse, John Conrad, and Ginny Grant circled each of the trees with an attractive supply of mulch. Thank you for spending a Saturday morning on this much needed community service project.





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

S eptember's Featured Kiwanian: John Conrad



Family - John's immediate family consists of Mother, Father, and 11 siblings. He was fortunate to be the second oldest, and the first son, which meant that his previously worn clothes were not dresses, and most likely only had one other owner. Their home in Northeast Washington, DC originally had one bathroom, two real bedrooms, and one dorm style bedroom for most of the boys. There are 19 years between John and his youngest sister. That age difference is burned into his mind because his Mother was nursing his sister when he came home, really buzzed from celebrating his birthday, and all hell broke loose in his teetotaling home. Except for school and work John was confined to home forever, or 30 days, whichever came first.

Education - You might be able to figure out that John's family were Catholics, and he attended Catholic grade school and high school in DC. It appears that his curse was heaped upon those schools because they both closed, and the high school got swept-up in the redevelopment of 14th Street NW. John rode a DC transit bus and a streetcar to and from high school until he had his own car. The elementary school was three miles away, uphill both ways, and the snow was never less than four feet high. Sometimes he had to jump to see where he was going. Ben Franklin University in Washington DC was John's next disaster. He was a terrible student. He worked each afternoon and night and caught up on sleep while studying or in class. Two years is all that John could stomach, and the call to make money was overwhelming.

Career - John's career began when a fellow asked John if he could and would finish a small housing subdivision in Prince Georges County. John's summers had always been dedicated to some type of construction jobs. Summers included surveying, heavy equipment operating, building decks, and various jobs for a road construction contractor. One day he was digging loose dirt along the edge of the road in Landover Maryland, in preparation for new asphalt. This is the route frequently used to access the bay beaches. Traffic still used the existing roadway, and he was only a few feet from the passing cars. One of the cars was filled with nuns that taught at his grade school. Traffic was stop and go, and when the nun's car was next to John, the nastiest of the bunch rolled down her window and proclaimed, "I told you that you would never be more than a ditch digger" and off they went.

(Continued on next page)



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Career (continued) - After delivering the last houses in the above subdivision the owner and John became partners in a homebuilding operation, and that launched a wonderful career that included apartments, subdivisions, offices, warehouses, and shopping centers. Don't be misled, most of the above-mentioned construction was performed as an employee, not an owner, but it was still a wild ride! John remembers an interview with a VP at Ryland Homes, and during their conversation lamenting the current trend to tolerate sub-quality performance. John was told that "You get what you inspect, not what you expect." This is a mantra that he repeated to his supervisors, all the time.

Love - During this 50-year construction career John married, divorced, married again, divorced again until he found someone who would tolerate his craziness, and love him unconditionally. Suzanne and John have been together for 40 years and married for 35. John has a son and daughter from his first wife and Suzanne has three boys from her first husband. She is quick to point out that she is better than John, that even though she was married three times, she buried one! Their youngest is 53 and the oldest is 64 (Suzanne started early). Unfortunately, they are spread out from Colorado, to Mississippi, to Texas, to Virginia. They have five grandchildren, one great grandson, and one in the oven.

Books/Movies - John enjoys reading adventure/mystery novels. He reads to be entertained, not to learn. TV doesn't interest John, but when things wind down for the evening, that's the time to relax, read, and have a toddy, maybe not always in that order! There are two movies that share first place in his life: *Animal House* and *Blazing Saddles*. He knows most of the words!



John made the best elf at the Christmas Party for the children at Fremont Street Nursery.



(Continued on next page)



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Travel - Suzanne and John have been blessed with the ability to travel often. John remarked that they have seen a lot of the world but have not experienced the wonders of the United States. Their remedy for that was to purchase a Harley and they traveled across the country twice. They discovered that while riding in a car you miss the smells of the scenery. One day they chased the smell of a bakery for five miles only to arrive at a Wonder Bread Factory! Hog farms, and hog carrying semis are nasty. The Big Sur, on the other hand was delightful. The most fantastic vacation for them, and they did it twice, was a chartered, three masted, 80-foot sailboat that they used to tour the Greek Isles. Nothing compares to the sunset as they sailed out of Athens, champagne in hand, during the vacation of a lifetime.

Why John joined Kiwanis - John and Suzanne have lived in Winchester for fifteen years and truly believe that moving here was a life changing decision. Northern Virginia had been home for them for most of their lives, and they have said many times that their blood pressure lowered as soon as they crossed Paris Mountain. John intended to join a social organization and when Bud Goode approached John and invited him to a lunch, he was hooked. It's a decision that he has never regretted. The members, the projects, and the camaraderie was what he desired. And it's what Kiwanis does so well.



John and Suzanne on Segways in Savannah, GA.

John is fortunate to be Suzanne's "arm candy."



Kiwanis Club of Winchester is successful because of its many volunteer members who give so freely of their time and effort.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF KIWANIS CLUB, JOHN!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 2)

After a short break (one minute), I will end my presidency and begin my three-year term as the Leadership Development and Education Coordinator for the Capital District. I am excited about this position as I know that I will gain even more knowledge about leadership both within and outside of Kiwanis.

Our first "5 O'clock Somewhere" program will happen on October 20th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom and I am very excited to have best-selling author and time management coach Elizabeth Saunders as our first program. Elizabeth will be talking about daily and weekly planning, and she will also be answering questions. As I get more information, I will be sending out the Zoom link to the Lieutenant Governors to share with the members district wide.

In August I attended my first District Convention and met some truly amazing Kiwanians. I encourage you to attend the Mid-Year Conference. It will be held at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency from March 3rd to March 5th.

If you have ideas or suggestions for leadership education that you would like, please let me know. I will do my best to find a presenter and get something scheduled. If you are interested in becoming a certified trainer to help deliver Club Leadership Education (CLE) in 2022-2023, please let me know that as well.

My thank you list is far too long for this column so I will end by thanking everyone for their leadership, their commitment and dedication to our Kiwanis Club. You are the best and I am so proud and honored to be a member of this Club!

Thanks for the memories.

Yours in service,

Lynnette

Board Members: 2020-2022

Ginny Grant
George Johnson
Lennie Wolfe
John Westervelt

Board Members: 2021-2023

Rick Ours
Freda Roberson
Barry Swears
Becky Starliper

Officers

President—Lynnette Embree
President-Elect—Jeff Smelser
Vice President—John Conrad
Secretary—Brenda Dodd
Treasurer—Dennis Grubbs

Kiwanis Club of Winchester, VA

**P. O. Box 2591
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The Kiwanis Club of Winchester meets for lunch each Wednesday from 12 to 1 pm at the
Winchester Moose Lodge, 215 E. Cork St., Winchester, VA 22601.
Newsletter submissions may be emailed to editor@kcow.org, no later than the 22nd of each month.

Visit our Website: www.kcow.org // Find us on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/winkiwaniis>

