



KIWANIS KOURIER



KIWANIS CLUB OF WINCHESTER, VA * Serving the Winchester/Frederick County Community SEPTEMBER 2025

Annual Picnic August 13, 2025



A huge "thank you" to everyone that made our picnic such a fantastic event at our new Kiwanis Shelter #2! We enjoyed the camaraderie of our fellow Kiwanians and a fantastic barbecue meal catered by Jordan Springs Market. The Social Committee spent a significant amount of time spearheading this celebration of our Kiwanis family. Thank you Robann Riggleman, Debbie Guiffre, Rick Ours, Beth Smelser, and Susan Creasy! Kiwanians donated baskets of goodies, gift cards, oil changes, candles, and more for door prizes and trivia contest winners. The prize baskets were phenomenal, with wines, chocolates, items from MSV, and much more. Rick Ours, the king of random facts, set up a fun trivia game. We can be quite a competitive group!

The picnic is a way to honor each Kiwanian for their work they do all year long to make our community a better place. Thank you!



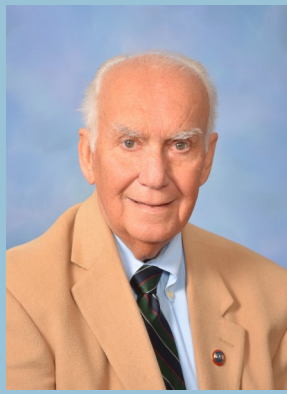
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MIKE DIDAWICK



Since this is my last column, I'd like to reminisce on this past year.

I began my year as President with two major concerns. The first was the difficulty to meet our manpower needs at our Pancake Days. Fortunately, between the effort of our members and major beneficiary we were able to be successful for each event. The real thank you goes to the hard work of the Pancake Day Chair, Jim Coots, and the hard working committee.

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday To Our Members!



Aleck Beeman	09/01
Wayne Yowell	09/02
Greg Hulver	09/03
Becky Starliper	09/12
Rick Balzhiser	09/23
Desiree Nowlin-Washington	09/27
Carl Rio	09/27
John Conrad	09/28

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

CALENDAR

Sept 3: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Business meeting; 12-1pm

Sept 10: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Kay Hallett, Winchester Co-Op Market; 12-1pm

Sept 17: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Lavenda Denney, Winchester Area SPCA; 12-1pm

Sept 24: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Lisa McCauley and Bill Cain, Winchester City Engineers; 12-1pm

Sept 25: Board Meeting at Beth El Congregation; 6pm

Sept 26: Installation Banquet; George Washington Hotel; 5pm



ANNUAL PICNIC August 13, 2025





GUEST SPEAKER

On August 20th, Brandon Teets, representing Katie's Comfort House, spoke to our club about their exciting developments. The idea for Katie's Comfort House started four years ago to honor Katie Teets Bradshaw's life. Family and friends have worked tirelessly to make this dream come true. Their mission is to build a peaceful, comforting place where families can be together during a loved one's last moments. This place will have the care equivalent to a hospital, but is a home.



They are now partnering with Blue Ridge Care and will have 4.2 acres of land on Valley Health property. An architectural rendering has been completed for this house. There will be six to eight large bedrooms comfortably furnished, a fully-stocked kitchen, games for children, and outdoor areas for families to gather.



The Teets' family dream is coming to fruition due to their dedication and hard work the past four years. They hold fund raisers, such as the annual car show, music fest, cash parties, and yummy cinnamon roll sales. The car show will be held on September 27th at the Harley Davidson location. They are even looking forward to expanding to Harrisonburg and the eastern panhandle. It is amazing how much impact one family can make in honoring their daughter/sister/wife. Thank you for what you have done to support our community members during their time of loss.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Steve Locke was inducted as a new member on August 6th by President Mike Didawick and Membership Chair Jody Wall. His sponsor is Mark Dunford.

Steve was a former Kiwanis member, but had to leave due to work commitments. He is now retired and ready to get involved in the community and to help kids.

We look forward to working with Steve in making our community a better place.





GUEST SPEAKERS

On August 27th, author Pam Webber spoke to our club about her journey to writing a best seller. Pam is a nurse practitioner and educator, and has written research articles and textbooks. But, she decided to pursue a third career writing historical fiction. Pam heard true stories from her parents, husband, and friends and decided it was important to write this information down to pass on to future generations. She did not want history to be lost. After writing these stories down, Pam decided they would make good books.



In order to create good fiction, writing is a craft and has to be developed and honed. She spent two years going to Richmond to be a part of James River Writers, that helps aspiring writers. She has also spent time going through information at the National Archives to verify some of the stories she heard. Pam discussed the importance of having a hard-nosed, tough editor to creating good fiction. This hard work has led to three published books, another being published June 2026, and a fifth book is in progress.



Consider going to the Book Gallery in Old Town and picking up her books: *The Wiregrass*, *Moon Water*, and *Life Dust*. We appreciate Pam spending the time visiting our club and share about the art of writing, the importance of working hard to succeed, and how AI generated books are pirating authors' material. Thank you, Pam!

HIXSON AWARD

At the Installation Banquet, you will see some members wearing a Hixson Award medal around their neck. This award is given to Kiwanis members who have contributed significantly to the mission of supporting our community. In 1983, the Kiwanis International Foundation established the George F. Hixson Fellowship, in honor of Kiwanis International's first president. Our club donates \$1,000 to the KI Children's Fund to honor a hardworking club member named at the Installation Banquet a Hixson Fellow.



John Westervelt proudly wears his Hixson award



Kiwanis Club of Winchester, Virginia Foundation, Inc

Doing More for Our Community and Its Children

The Foundation began the year with a balance of \$41,542.99. The balance at the end of June was \$46,781. 29. This amount does not reflect the grant that was given to the "I'm Just Me Movement" in the amount of \$2,500 which will lower the balance to \$44,281.29.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Annually, we are required to donate 1.5% of the average monthly balance. The grant we awarded represented approximately 6% of the balance. The amount of excess grant can be carried over from year to year, which means legally we will be good for a couple of years if we don't have a request suitable for a Foundation grant.

The Officers and Directors nominations for the coming year are as follows:

President..... Dennis Grubbs
President Elect.....Tom Gromling
Vice President.....Craig Morcom
Secretary.....Brenda Dodd
Treasurer.....Kari Dorsey
Immediate Past President....Greg Hulver

Directors:

2024-2026 – Bud Stiles (To replace Craig Morcom)
Mike Didawick (To replace Carmen Rio)
2025-2027 – Ryan Clouse, George Johnson, John Westervelt

These individuals will be voted on at the September 17th Kiwanis meeting.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 2)

The second concern was finding members willing to serve as officers for the next several years. Again, qualified members stepped forward and volunteered to serve. I feel our club is in good hands with the new officers and directors. They deserve our good wishes and support.

The increase in our club's membership has been a pleasant surprise to me. We have inducted six new members this year. Many Kiwanis Clubs are having trouble attracting new members or retaining their current rosters. Thank you to every member who invited someone to share their Kiwanis experience.

Finally, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President this past year. I enjoyed it and appreciate your encouragement. Let's give Susan and her board our continued support and enthusiasm.

-Mike

Board Members: 2023-2025

Jim Coots
John Hess
Robann Riggleman
Lennie Wolfe

Board Members: 2024-2026

Doug Green
Nancy Huth
Rick Ours
Ryan Taylor

Officers

President—Mike Didawick
President-Elect—Susan Corrigan
Secretary—Brenda Dodd
Treasurer—Dennis Grubbs
Past President—John Conrad

Kiwanis Club of Winchester, VA

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Club Contacts

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Susan Corrigan, Kourier Editor: editor@winvakiw.org

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@winvakiw.org, no later than the 22nd of each month.



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

