



**Laura Grace Gilliland**

## Message from the President

Over the course of the last month, I have been setting appointments, training others to set appointments, attended a Membership Retreat, and participated in club openings in the Kiwanis Districts of LaMissTenn and the Carolinas. The site in LaMissTenn was in Cleveland, Mississippi, and the sites in the Carolinas were Apex, Cary, and Garner, North Carolina.

When I recruit, I tell the prospect that there are many hats you can wear in Kiwanis. Select the hat that fits you best and wear it well. My hat is made up of appointment setting, recruitment, and boosting/opening new clubs. As Vice Governor of my district, I feel it is imperative to offer the Kiwanians who serve

there: education, encouragement, recognition, and motivation. As the Kiwanis International Club Opening Appointment Setter Coordinator, it is my job to train districts and to set as many appointments as I possibly can to kick start the site being opened. In addition, I am often "boots on the ground" with club opening efforts.

I have been out in the field with Kiwanians who have never opened a club. I share the following with them. Two Kiwanians usually go to an appointment. One is the "A" person, and the other is the "B" person. The "A" person is the lead and does the talking, as to not confuse the prospect. Engaging questions are asked. The "B" person takes notes on the cards provided from what the prospect tells them. After the application is completed and the dues are paid, the "B" person may chime in. At the conclusion of the appointment, the "B" person is responsible for taking the photo and putting it in the group chat and/or on Facebook.

Here are some engaging questions that the "A" person may use:

- 1) "Can you please tell us about yourself and what you do?" The contact knows more about himself/herself than anything else on the planet. By leaning in, making eye contact, nodding, smiling, and listening, you are letting the contact know that you are interested.
- 2) "What do you know about Kiwanis?" If a follow-up email was sent after the appointment was made, the contact may be aware of what we do. Otherwise, offer a brief explanation of Kiwanis: date founded (1915), SLPs (Service Leadership Programs), other programs (BUG, Terrific Kids, Key Leader). Remember to be brief, as **the contact should do at least 50% of the talking.**
- 3) Concerning the Service Leadership Programs, ask, "Have ever heard of Key Club?" Once in awhile you will run across a former Key Clubber or former Circle K member. You may even run across someone who has received a Kiwanis award or scholarship. Let them know that Key Club is the world's largest high school service organization, and those students do as many as 200-300 service hours for their communities in a given school year. I usually add that Key Club is the gem in the crown of Kiwanis.
- 4) "Did you know that an average Kiwanian impacts the lives of 106 children each year? So once this new club is organized, a HUGE impact will be made on your community."
- 5) "What do you think about Kiwanis coming to your community?"
- 6) "Do you know of any need in your community? Although our focus is children, we do help others. When we help the community, we improve the lives of its children."
- 7) "Have you ever played a service role/volunteered in your community? Tell us about that."  
This information provided is simply good ole common sense. Once you go through the process, you move on to THE CLOSE, which was presented in a former newsletter.

When attending your Mid Year Conference, International Convention, or District Convention, remember to ask other Kiwanians to join Eye of the Tiger, especially those who are interested in Building, Nurturing, and Retaining. Also, approach those who are seeking Leadership Roles in our organization. We are all so proud of our members seeking International positions. Mohan Lamsal from Nepal is seeking the position of Kiwanis International Vice President. Dr. Linda Ramsey from LaMissTenn, Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefer from CalNevHa, and Taka Ogata from Indiana are seeking the position of Kiwanis International Trustee. ALWAYS HAVE RECRUITMENT ON YOUR MIND.

Finally, thank you for all that you do to make Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis Club one of the best clubs in the world. You are the STARS that make us SHINE.

Yours in service,  
Laura Gilliland  
President EOT



# MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	EOT BOD Via ZOOM	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17 St Patricks Day	EOT Meeting Via ZOOM	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						International PI Day (Hindu) <sup>14</sup>
						21
						21



March  
BIRTHDAYS

**Barbara A. Breuer**  
**William L. Seeman**



## Fundraising 2026

- A. See's Candies: Jackie Sue McFarlin & Bill Seeman
- B. Music Showcase: Mark Petersen
- C. Golf Ball Drop: Mark Petersen

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE'LL PRINT  
CALLING ALL **TIGERS** – WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR **ROAR!**

WE KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING EXCITING THINGS WITHIN YOUR DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS,  
AND WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT ANY NEWS YOU MAY HAVE TO US – WE WILL BE HAPPY TO INCLUDE IT  
IN YOUR NEWSLETTER. DON'T WORRY ABOUT GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX – SUBMIT WHAT YOU HAVE,  
AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL EDITORIAL MATTER TO BARBARA BREUER AT  
[BARBARA.KIWANIS.FINE9@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARBARA.KIWANIS.FINE9@GMAIL.COM).

WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you seen our Facebook page lately? Visit us here: <https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisTiger>  
Website <https://kiwanistiger.org/> Contact Barbara Breuer [Barbara.kiwanis.fine9@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.kiwanis.fine9@gmail.com) with questions or comments.



## 2025-2026 Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis Board Members



- President – Laura Gililand
- President-Elect – Dr. MaryJo Brubaker
- Vice-President – Coleen Lawson-Taylor
- Immediate Past President – Charles Gugliuzza
- Secretary – Barbara A. Breuer
- Treasurer – Mark Petersen
- Sage – Dr. Barbara "Barb" Thompson

- Director – Dr. Delores B. Lewis, MD
- Director – Joseph "Joe" Meyer
- Director – Mark Petersen
- Director – Belle Garcia
- Director – Terry Cunefare
- Director – David Roth
- Director – Dan Brubaker
- Sage – Jim Rochford



**Past President  
Jim Rochford**

## Jim's Gems

Another great program at our club meeting! International President Mike Mulhaul reached out to our club, the only club in the world whose purpose is to foster new club opening and lead by example in getting out in the field. Our club leads by example, hosting Mega events in districts throughout the world to open new Kiwanis clubs.

Because of President Mike's knowledge of our club's focus and his experience at a number of club openings with our members, he requested to be the program at our club meeting in February. Club President Laura is so organized that she already had programs lined up for the entire Kiwanis year, but moved things around in order to allow Mike to be our speaker in February.

The only way Kiwanis can continue its 111 years of stellar community service is to do the hard work of opening new clubs. It is very hard work, but it is also very rewarding. My commitment to Kiwanis is rejuvenated every time I go out in the field on a new club effort. The enthusiasm and excitement of those who become part of our organization by joining and becoming charter members of a new club are exhilarating!

Our club is the only club whose major focus is to open new clubs, which leads to more Key clubs, more Builder clubs, more K-kids clubs, Aktion clubs, and all of our other youth programs.

Nothing is more important to the future existence of Kiwanis than members being committed to doing the hard work of opening new clubs. But in the end, it really is a benefit for those who participate in club openings. It reinvigorates us to understand and appreciate all that we do in our awesome organization! To my knowledge, the Eye of the Tiger is the only club with that focus and singular purpose as a club, and many of the leaders of our organization have joined this club, because once you are in that role of leadership you fully understand and appreciate the importance of having a club like the EOT to help achieve and continue our mission throughout the world!

Carry on, Tigers!

### Pet of the Month: Bobby, Oscar & Arthur

This month, we're shining the spotlight on a trio of loyal companions who belong to Cathy Szymanski, Kiwanis International Vice President. From left to right, meet Bobby, Oscar, and Arthur — three adorable dachshunds with big personalities packed into small, determined frames.

Bobby, the sweet scruffy gentleman on the left, recently had a bit of a scare. On Thursday, February 19 — the same day as our Eye of the Tiger general meeting — he was attacked by another dog. We're happy to report that this brave little guy is recovering, surrounded by lots of love and care from his family (and no doubt his brothers, too).

In the center is Oscar, with his distinguished gray muzzle and soulful eyes, bringing calm and quiet wisdom to the trio. And on the right is Arthur, wide-eyed and curious, always ready to take in the world one sniff at a time.

These three remind us that resilience, loyalty, and unconditional love often come in small packages — and that even the tiniest among us can be mighty.



## What Makes Us Happy

### Dr. Linda Ramsey from LaMissTenn, Candidate for KI Trustee:

I nominated a young man for a scholarship at UT-Martin named after one of our charter members in the Kiwanis Club of Martin, TN. This young man, Jordan Kirby, served as a student facilitator at Kiwanis Key Leader for two years. He and his mother, Elizabeth Kirby, both started a Key Club at White Station High School in Memphis, TN. He became President of that club, and it grew from 30 members to over 300 members. They got the idea to start this Key Club after attending Kiwanis Key Leader Weekend.

The other thing is yesterday we had members of Westview High School Key Club and UT-Martin Circle K helping at our annual Kiwanis Club of Martin, TN Pancake Day. At least 13 young people were helping. It was truly a K-Family Event, and we had people dropping off donations on their way out as they were so impressed with our K Family Service at this event.



### Mohan Lamsal, Candidate for International Vice President:

Born in 1966 in the small town of Dang, Nepal, I learned early that community is built when people choose to care for one another. As a student in the Junior Red Cross, I discovered something that would shape my life: helping others brings a quiet, lasting happiness.

In 1997, I joined Lions Clubs International, supporting cataract surgeries across Nepal. Watching someone regain their sight reminded me that service can change a life's direction. While building my trekking business in the Himalayas, I witnessed hardship firsthand — porters carrying impossible loads and children studying with almost nothing. That experience led me to found Porters Progress Nepal, determined to support those often unseen.

In 2015, I became a founding member of the Kiwanis Club of Kathmandu. When Kiwanis members raised one million rupees in ten days to save a young boy with cancer, I saw the power of collective compassion. Even during COVID, our district chartered 36 new clubs, proving service does not stop in crisis.

I have climbed many mountains, but the greatest summit is service. Mountains test the body. Service transforms the soul.



### Taka Ogata, Candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee

Ten Days of Kiwanis in Action

The past ten days have been a powerful reminder of why we do what we do in Kiwanis.

At the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District Midyear Conference, the energy in the room was electric. Nearly 500 Key Club and Circle K members were in attendance — a powerful sign that the future of Kiwanis is not only bright, but already in motion. Membership growth was front and center, with bold plans to open new clubs and a strong commitment to strengthening existing ones.

I then joined an outstanding team in the Carolinas District working to launch new clubs in Apex, Cary, and Garner, North Carolina. Connecting with community leaders and building momentum for three new Kiwanis clubs was energizing. The excitement, collaboration, and shared commitment to serving children were contagious. The journey concluded at the Indiana District Key Club District Leadership Conference — a weekend filled with service, workshops, leadership development, and inspiration.

In just ten days, I witnessed leadership, growth, and momentum across multiple districts. From strengthening membership and opening new clubs to empowering youth leaders, the mission of Kiwanis continues to move forward with purpose.

Set Your Sail for Kiwanis — Let's Go Do It.



### Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer, Candidate for KI Trustee:

There are so many things that make me happy. It's so hard to choose. Seeing the smile on a child's face and knowing I had a little part of making their day better is tops on the list. Connecting good people to good people makes me giddy, that's why I pay to broadcast my Kiwanis Connects Show every week. I connect people to other people to do good in the world. My family chosen and God given.



# Members Spotlight

## Member Spotlight: Dr. Linda Ramsey

Dr. Linda Ramsey is seeking the position of **Kiwanis International Trustee from the LaMissTenn District**, and we are proud to endorse her leadership journey. A dedicated Kiwanian and respected professional, Dr. Ramsey continues to step forward in service at every level. Her commitment to advancing Kiwanis and strengthening our mission makes her an outstanding candidate for international leadership.



## Member Spotlight: Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer

Dr. Valarie Brown Klingelhofer of CalNevada is known throughout Kiwanis for her heart, wisdom, and unwavering support of fellow members. A champion of the belief that "People go where the love is," she models servant leadership in everything she does. Her encouragement, mentoring, and visible support across districts exemplify the very best of Kiwanis leadership in action.



## Member Spotlight: Taka Ogata

Taka Ogata of Indiana is seeking an international leadership role of **International Trustee** and he serves on the **International Membership Committee**. After stepping into the Governor role mid-year when called upon, Taka led with strength and grace. His dedication to membership growth and global service reflects his deep commitment to Kiwanis and its future.



## Member Spotlight: Mohan Lamsal

Mohan Lamsal of Nepal is running for **Kiwanis International Vice President**.

A respected international leader, Mohan is recognized for his passion for service and his dedication to strengthening Kiwanis worldwide. His global perspective and steady leadership continue to inspire members across districts.



## Celebrating Leadership

We applaud all four members for stepping forward to seek higher leadership roles within Kiwanis. Whether elected or not, their willingness to serve at the international level reflects the heart of our mission — leadership, service, and commitment to children around the world.

## ICON Manila Travel Update

June 21–28, 2026

Sample round trip fares (as of Feb. 19, 2026):

- **Philippine Airlines (Nashville)** – ~\$1,500  
1 stop (LAX) | 21½ hrs going / 20 hrs returning
- **United (Indianapolis)** – ~\$1,770  
1 stop (San Francisco) | 25 hrs going / 22 hrs returning
- **China Airlines (New York)** – ~\$1,200  
1 stop (Taipei) | 20 hrs going / 22 hrs returning
- **Delta + Philippine Airlines (New Orleans)** – ~\$1,450  
1 stop (LAX) | 22 hrs each way

Additional departures available from major U.S. cities, including Atlanta and Orlando. Recommended carriers: **Philippine Airlines or China Airlines.**

Compare fares at **Kayak.com**.

*Note: Prices and schedules change daily.*

### Arrival & Airport Information

- Most **Asia-Pacific airlines** arrive at **Terminal 1** (MNL).
- Most **U.S. and European airlines** arrive at **Terminal 3**, which has a sky bridge connection to the convention hotel.

Travel planning details:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/travel-planning-tips-for-manila/>

### Travel Requirements

- Passport must be valid for **six months beyond your stay**.
- U.S. and Canadian residents do **not currently need a visa** for stays under 30 days (check official government sources for updates).
- Travelers from other countries should check with the **Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines** for visa requirements.

All travelers must complete the **Philippine Travel Information System registration** within three days of arrival to receive an • **eTravel QR code** for entry.



IT'S OFFICIAL —  
THE 2026 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL  
**CONVENTION**  
IS COMING TO  
**MANILA!**  
**JUNE 24–27, 2026**  
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY

REGISTRATION GOES LIVE ON DECEMBER 1, 2025

EARLY RATE: US\$409 (DEC 1, 2025–FEB 2, 2026)  
REGULAR RATE: US\$509 (FEB 2–APR 13, 2026)

CONVENTION WEBSITE + HOTEL LINKS:  
LIVE THIS NOVEMBER



& get **stay TOGETHER**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Kiwanis**  
CONVENTION 2026  
**MANILA**

June 24-27

## Michael Mulhaul Brings “Rising Tide” Vision to Eye of the Tiger



Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis members were treated to an inspiring visit and presentation by Kiwanis International President **Michael Mulhaul**, elected at the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh. A longtime Kiwanian from Interlaken, New Jersey, Mulhaul is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Parsippany (where he has served as president and treasurer) and the Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park, which he helped charter. He has also served as both lieutenant governor and governor in the New Jersey District—and proudly counts Eye of the Tiger among his Kiwanis homes.

Mulhaul opened by thanking members for their years of dedication and service to children around the world, noting how meaningful it was to see familiar faces and reconnect with friends across the organization.

He also shared a personal glimpse into his family’s Kiwanis spirit. Married to his wife Laura for 34 years, he spoke proudly of their three adult children, each of whom has embraced service in their own way. Two of his children were active leaders in Circle K International during college, and his youngest son serves as a dedicated volunteer firefighter. Mulhaul also shared a joyful update about his growing family, including two grandchildren.

The heart of Mulhaul’s remarks focused on what he calls the “**rising tide**”—a quiet but powerful momentum building throughout Kiwanis. Drawing from his 42-year career as a financial advisor, he compared Kiwanis growth trends to subtle shifts in the market: often the most meaningful movement happens gradually, and many don’t recognize it until the momentum is unmistakable.

Mulhaul pointed to encouraging signs of stabilization and growth, including new club openings and increased engagement within Kiwanis’ youth programs. He highlighted a major trend: average club size has doubled in both **K-Kids** and **Builders Club**, and he emphasized the continued strength and influence of **Key Club**, which is approaching a quarter-million members.

Looking ahead, Mulhaul introduced a newer initiative designed to keep Kiwanis-connected young people engaged after high school: **Kiwanis Voices**. Focused on ages 18–26, the program is intended to help young adults “get together and stay together,” whether they head to college, go straight to work, or relocate. Mulhaul emphasized that the key is connecting students *before* they graduate—through advisors and school-based engagement—rather than trying to track them down later.

During Q&A, Mulhaul addressed long-standing concerns about privacy and post-graduation contact challenges, reinforcing that the best approach is to present the opportunity directly to students through established school channels. He also clarified that members cannot be in both Circle K and Kiwanis Voices at the same time, but noted that students still retain eligibility for transitional dues benefits when they move into adult Kiwanis.

Mulhaul’s message was clear, hopeful, and energizing: the future of Kiwanis depends on sustaining relationships, capturing momentum, and supporting the next generation of servant leaders. As he shared, when we stay connected and invest in one another, the children of the world are the ultimate beneficiaries.

Members expressed appreciation for his clarity and vision, and the club thanked President Mulhaul for his time, leadership, and commitment to growing Kiwanis worldwide.

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Tommy Mills, Kiwanis Florida District Governor



*“All In. Kids Win.”*

Tommy Mills, Governor of the Kiwanis Florida District, brings greetings from the great State of Florida — and a lifetime commitment to service.

Growing up in Tallahassee, Tommy knew at a young age that he wanted to give back to his community. When he told his father he wanted to serve, his dad jokingly replied, “Do you not know you’re poor? What do you have to give?” Tommy’s response was simple and determined: “I don’t know what it is — but I’ve got to give it.” And he has been giving ever since.

His path into public service began as an auxiliary trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol, where he served for two and a half years. During a firearms training session, a representative from the Leon County Sheriff’s Office encouraged him to consider becoming a deputy sheriff. He accepted the opportunity — even though his teenage driving record raised a few initial concerns.

continued from page 7 - Tommy Mills

Starting in the jail, Tommy worked his way up through the ranks, serving in nearly every capacity within the department. After 42 years of maintaining his law enforcement standards, he retired as a captain with the Leon County Sheriff's Office. Retirement proved short-lived, however, when a neighboring county called him back into service and promoted him to major, where he oversaw felony investigations, internal affairs, and court services.

Service has always been central to Tommy's life — and Kiwanis is where that calling continues.

A Kiwanian for 24 years, Tommy describes his journey as an exciting adventure that grows more meaningful with each passing year. As Florida District Governor, his focus is clear: early childhood literacy for children ages 0 to 5. His theme for the year reflects that commitment — **“All In. Kids Win.”**

For Governor Mills, Kiwanis is more than an organization. It is a continuation of the promise he made as a young man — to give what he has, wherever he is, for the good of others.

With gratitude, energy, and unwavering dedication, Tommy Mills continues to lead the Florida District — and inspire others — through service.

**MEMBER PROFILE: Jackie Sue McFarlin**

***“No matter where life takes me, there’s always a Kiwanis Club to call home.”***



Jackie Sue McFarlin lives and works remotely from Othello, Washington — the very town where she was born and raised. Growing up in Othello, she was the daughter of a U.S. government surveyor and a dedicated school district employee. Her mother eventually became the high school building secretary, which meant she often knew how she had performed on a test before she even left the classroom. She remembers it with a smile.

After high school, Jackie Sue left Othello to attend a two-year college on a basketball scholarship. That opportunity led to an associate degree and the beginning of a long and steady career in insurance. While she modestly says it was not her “dream job,” it has provided stability and opportunity throughout her life.

For nine years, she also served as a deputy sheriff for Douglas County, Washington. She describes her time in uniform as one of the best seasons of her life. Eventually, as her children's schedules grew busier, she made the practical decision to return to one career, choosing the insurance profession that best supported her family.

She is the proud mother of two adult children — daughter Blythe, 33, and son Nathan, 36 — and the joyful grandmother of five grandchildren. Jackie Sue's Kiwanis journey began in Wenatchee, Washington, when a colleague walked into her office one day and announced she was heading to a Kiwanis meeting—and asked who was coming along. As coworkers stepped aside, Jackie Sue found herself volunteering. That unexpected invitation changed her life.

She has been a dedicated Kiwanian since 1992. No matter where her career has taken her, she has always found a Kiwanis Club to call home. Her leadership includes serving as Governor of the Pacific Northwest District (2015–2016) and as a Kiwanis International Trustee (2022–2025). While she once aspired to advance further, she now embraces whatever the future may hold. What matters most to her are the friendships, the service, and the opportunity to make a difference.

Today, Jackie Sue continues to spread kindness, build community, and serve with heart — proving that wherever life leads, service is always home.

**March winds and April showers**

Romance will soon be ours  
 An outdoor paradise for two  
 I like every month in the year  
 Summer, winter, and fall  
 But love is the tenderest thing  
 It only blossoms in Spring  
 March winds and April showers  
 Make way for sweet May flowers  
 And then comes June, a moon, and you  
 March winds and April showers  
 Romance will soon be ours  
 An outdoor paradise for two  
 Oh, with your lips to mine



In a thrill, divine  
 I'll be so inspired  
 That I'll get you the moon for a toy balloon  
 March winds and April showers  
 Make way for sweet May flowers  
 And May-time, June-time, love-time and you  
 With your lips to mine  
 In a thrill, divine  
 I'll be so inspired  
 That I'll get you the moon for a toy balloon  
 March winds and April showers  
 Make way for sweet May flowers  
 And May-time  
 Oh, June-time  
 Oh, love-time and you