

Kiwanis Club of Columbus

# Member Handbook

2022 Edition

# Kiwanis Club of Columbus

## Member Handbook

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### Chapter 1: Quick Facts/Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is Kiwanis International?

Kiwanis International (KI) is a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time. Today, we stand with more than 550,000 members from Sponsored Youth Programs (K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Clubs and Circle K) to traditional Kiwanis Clubs for adults in 80 countries and geographic areas. Each community has different needs, and Kiwanis empowers members and their clubs to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children and other members of the community in need, e.g. through fighting hunger, improving literacy, and offering guidance.

#### What does Kiwanis do?

We are creative with our ideas. Whether rolling up our sleeves or opening our wallets, Kiwanians make transformative changes in communities around the world. On average, members of the Kiwanis family host approximately 150,000 service projects and complete more than 19 million service hours a year. Every year, our clubs raise more than \$100 million to support community causes — in addition to supporting the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

The Kiwanis Club of Columbus is a membership-based service organization dedicated to improving the Columbus, Ohio community. Partnering with local nonprofit organizations and businesses, we use our club's resources to:

- improve quality of life through hands-on service projects;
- make a broader impact on pressing community problems through philanthropic initiatives; and
- stay informed about issues affecting our community through weekly forums with community leaders.

As a part of the Kiwanis International family, we join with thousands of clubs around the globe that are focused on serving the children of the world.

#### Who belongs to Kiwanis?

Members of traditional Kiwanis Clubs, such as the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, are adult professionals representing varying ages, experiences, and worldviews. Membership in Kiwanis is open to all who are

willing to financially support the organization through dues, to attend meetings, to work on projects, and to volunteer for programs that positively impact our neighbors.

### **Why should I join Kiwanis?**

Some of the reasons are:

- To become personally involved in the life of our Central Ohio community and help improve our community, our nation, and our world;
- To help train tomorrow's leaders through Kiwanis's unique Sponsored Youth Programs;
- To help broaden your general knowledge by hearing from speakers on various interesting topics presented at our Club meetings;
- To experience the fellowship of our members and make lifetime friendships based on mutual interest in serving our community;
- To develop leadership skills by taking roles of responsibility (e.g. committee chair, trustee, officer) in the Club; and
- To experience the satisfaction of knowing you have personally helped your neighbors who are in need in the community.

### **What does it mean to be a member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus?**

Being a member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus means being part of a diverse, active group of individuals who genuinely desire to make a positive impact on the community. Members support and encourage one another, building lasting friendships as they work together through hands-on service projects, philanthropic initiatives, and weekly discussion of important community issues.

**Our Club Vision:** The Kiwanis Club of Columbus envisions a day in which our club's impact in the Columbus community is widely known and clearly measurable. We will accomplish this through partnerships with community leaders, nonprofits and businesses that share our mission to improve the lives of children and families in central Ohio.

### **What is expected of Kiwanis members?**

Expectations are:

- Meeting attendance to the extent possible
- Committee involvement to the extent possible
- Involvement in hands-on projects to the extent possible
- Financial support – payment of dues and additional contributions to the extent affordable

### **What are the financial costs of membership?**

Our dues structure is based on what is needed to administer the Club, the Ohio District, and Kiwanis International. For our Club, dues cover the expenses incurred to maintain records, provide insurance for the activities of the Club, manage our website, and provide for a good Club experience for our members.

Currently our standard membership costs \$275 per year. There is also a standard initiation fee of \$125. Initiation fees are waived for former Student Leadership Program members. About 1/3 of our dues are passed on to the Ohio District and Kiwanis International to pay the cost of the support KI provides relative to the basics of a well-run nonprofit organization (including, but not limited to, our Club website platform, our basic Club organizational documents and policies and procedures, training of club officers, and insurance) . Discounted dues are assessed to members that fall into certain categories:

- Corporate - \$300 for an initial individual representing the employer; \$220 for a second individual from the same employer; \$192.50 for each additional individual from the same employer
- Spouse of an existing standard member - \$220
- Retirees - \$137.50
- Nonresidents of central Ohio - \$137.50
- Young professionals (under age 40) - \$137.50

Dues are prorated for partial year membership in the initial year.

## Chapter 2: Brief Background of Kiwanis International and the K Family, Ohio District, Division 10W

Kiwanis International was founded in Detroit in 1915 and has grown to include nearly 7,000 clubs in 80 countries. It was a male-only organization until 1988 when women were accepted into membership.

Kiwanis International is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana and is run by a professional staff that answers to a volunteer board consisting of International Officers and Trustees. The International Officers and Trustees are elected at the annual International Convention by delegates sent by each club.

For organizational and communication purposes, Kiwanis is divided into 51 districts and each district is further divided into divisions.

- 1- Each District is led by a **District Governor** elected by the clubs within the District at the annual District convention (held in August). They also elect a **Governor-elect** (*who will step into the Governor's role the following year. This provides an opportunity for learning and preparation for their term*), a **District Secretary** and a **District Treasurer**. Each serves a one-year term. The Governor may appoint a number of people to fill various roles as needed within the specific District, such as membership, club formation, education, etc.
- 2- Each Division within the District has a **Lt. Governor** who works with the clubs in his/her Division. This person is elected at an annual Division meeting (held in May) along with a **Lt. Governor-elect, Division Secretary** and **Division Treasurer**. The Lt. Governor may also appoint volunteers to carry out specific tasks as needed by the Division, such as membership, fundraising, etc.

**Kiwanis Club of Columbus** was founded in 1916 and is the fifth oldest club in Kiwanis International. It is located in **Division 10-W** of the **Ohio District**. The Ohio District is divided into 24 Divisions and has more than 250 clubs and nearly 6,000 members. Our Club sponsors the Circle K Club at Capital University.

Under the umbrella of Kiwanis, there are a number of programs designed to reach different age groups and market segments. Collectively, they are referred to as Sponsored Youth Programs and include:

- 1- **K-Kids** - K-Kids gives elementary school students opportunities to work together on service projects, develop leadership potential, and create strong moral character.
- 2- **Builders Club** - Builders Club provides students in their early teens (junior high school) with opportunities to develop leadership skills, improve self-esteem, increase civic engagement, and learn life skills through service.
- 3- **Key Club** - Key Club is the oldest and largest service organization for teens (high school) and teaches leadership through service to others.
- 4- **Circle K** - CKI is the world's largest student-led collegiate service organization, with clubs on college and university campuses in 17 nations and geographic areas.
- 5- **Aktion Club** - Aktion Club is the only community service club for adults with disabilities. It provides members with opportunities to become integrated into their communities while developing initiative and leadership skills.

**Inter-clubbing** occurs when four or more members of our Club attend another Kiwanis Club's meeting, activity or event. Inter-clubbing is encouraged and is designed to foster the exchange of ideas and the extension of business networking.

**Mid-Year Education Day** is an annual event held at the District level that brings current and future Kiwanis leaders together for education, training, and fellowship. It is usually held in March.

**Kiwanis Children's Fund (formerly known as the Kiwanis International Foundation)** – Kiwanis International has a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable foundation which provides a variety of giving opportunities and fundraising programs including the Hixson Fellowships and the Zeller Fellowships. Funds from this foundation are used to support international causes such as the elimination of iodine deficiency disorder and the reduction of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

**Ohio District Foundation** – The Ohio District also has its own foundation designed to provide grants to support worthwhile club projects within the Ohio District.

### Chapter 3: The History of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus by Club Historian, Ron Cook

The first Kiwanis club was organized in Detroit by thirty-three-year-old Allen S. Browne, of Buffalo, New York, who sought to supplement his income as a club organizer for the Loyal Order of the Moose. The initial name of the Detroit club was “The Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order Brothers.” This was soon changed to “Kiwanis” based upon a Chippewa Indian word of somewhat disputed meaning. A second club was organized soon afterwards in Cleveland. There exists some confusion as to the date the Kiwanis Club of Columbus was founded. The organizer, Allen S. Browne, arrived in Columbus and began work on March 4, 1916. An organizational meeting was held on March 11 at the Chittenden Hotel. Fifteen prospective members were present, including the men who were to become the Club’s first four presidents, and all those who attended agreed to join the proposed club. The Club did not reach 150 members, the membership required to receive a charter, until January 10, 1917. That was the Club’s charter date. However, the Club’s initial organization was complete, and permanent officers of the Club were first elected, on May 10, 1916. That date has therefore often been regarded as the Club’s birthday. The Club was the twenty-second club to receive its charter, although it was the fifth club to be organized. It was generally agreed during these early years that the aims of Kiwanis clubs were fellowship and service to the community.

In 1918, the first meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus Past Presidents Fraternity was held. In attendance were Oscar Avery, Herman Jeffers and Homer Gill, the Club’s first three presidents. The fraternity has been continuously meeting since that date. Through the years, the Club has initiated many large and small programs. During the presidency of Dr. Perry Clark in 1921, the Club joined the efforts of other Ohio citizens and organizations and called for the creation of a rural police force similar to the ones that had been established in Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut. After twelve years of continuing controversy, the Ohio State Highway Patrol was created in 1933.

In 1923, under the presidency of James Van Nostrand, the Club established the Kiwanis Health Center in the Linden neighborhood of Columbus in an effort to reduce the then high infant mortality rate.

In May of that same year, 1923, a member of our Club attended the Kiwanis International Convention in Atlanta and was elected the seventh President of Kiwanis International. That member, Edmund Arras, was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus. He had served as Division Lieutenant Governor, Ohio District Governor, and International Trustee. However, for reasons that have been lost, he had never served as the president of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus.

Everett Antrim served as president of the Club in 1931. He is the first member of the Club to make a large gift to provide for the future of the Club’s community service work. He established the Everett Antrim Scholarship Trust many years before the Columbus Kiwanis Foundation came into being. That fund is now a part of the scholarship funds held by the Foundation, which was incorporated in 1956. In 1937, the Club was involved in founding the Columbus BoyChoir, which gained a national reputation as the American BoyChoir, and performed for eight Presidents of the United States.

Beginning in 1999, the Club entered into a collaboration with the Columbus Public Library that included a contribution of \$10,000 (now increased in some years to as much as \$20,000) from the proceeds from each of the Club’s annual regattas to support the Library’s summer reading program. Sponsorships of yachts propelled across swimming pools by squirt guns were obtained from Columbus businesses, and the event was held on the front lawn of the main branch of the Library. That collaboration has resulted in over \$250,000 in contributions to the Library.

The list of the organizations and activities that the Club has supported in just the recent past is incredibly long, including Franklin Park Conservatory; the Salvation Army; the Columbus Public Schools; Children’s Hospital; The Buckeye Ranch; the various Columbus seniors’ centers; Greenwood Lake Camp; the Boy Scouts; Rosemont Center; Faith Mission; Junior Achievement; the Homeless Shelter; the Hannah Neil Center; Habitat

for Humanity; the Boys and Girls Club and its Builders Club; the Capital University Circle K Club and the Key Clubs at the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind; Central Community House and others of the city's neighborhood houses; the Center of Science and Industry; the Columbus Children's Choir; Opera Columbus; the Columbus Museum of Art; Actors' Theater Company; the Cultural Arts Center; and the Manna Café at Broad Street United Methodist Church.



## Chapter 4: Organizational Structure of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus and the Columbus Kiwanis Foundation

**Kiwanis Club of Columbus** is led by a Club President and a 6-person group of Trustees comprised of Club members serving two-year terms. The terms are staggered (three elected each year) to help assure continuity.

The Club's Nominating Committee, chaired by the Club's Immediate Past President, identifies and recruits candidates to run as Club Trustees. The nominees are presented to the Club membership at the first meeting in May via individual skits touting their experience and qualifications. Elections are held on the second Monday in May. The newly elected Trustees take office on October 1, giving them several months to prepare.

Immediately following the election, the 3 newly elected Trustees and the 3 Trustees entering their second year of their two-year term, meet to elect the incoming Club officers consisting of a Club President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officer positions are one year in length and take effect on October 1.

One requirement for Club President is to have completed two terms (4 years) as a Club Trustee. Typically, the in-coming Club President has previously served as Vice President and President-Elect.

The Club Treasurer and Club Secretary may or may not be a Trustee and are not limited to the number of consecutive years they can serve in that office. The final member of the Board is the Immediate Past Club President. Only the elected Trustees are voting members of the board, with the President casting their vote when a tie needs to be broken.

The Kiwanis administrative year (both on the local and international level) runs from October 1 through September 30. Annual Club membership dues are collected in September in preparation for the new administrative year that begins on October 1. The annual membership dues are utilized to pay Kiwanis International, District and Division dues, and to run the Club. They are not used for philanthropic purposes.

**Columbus Kiwanis Foundation** was established in 1956 to receive and distribute charitable funds to be utilized for philanthropic purposes by the Kiwanis Club of Columbus. This is a separate organization from the **Kiwanis Club of Columbus** with its own governing board.

All members of **Kiwanis Club of Columbus** are voting members of the **Columbus Kiwanis Foundation** and elect the Foundation Trustees at the January annual meeting of the Foundation. The **Columbus Kiwanis Foundation** Board of Trustees is comprised of 9 members, three of which are ex-officio members due to their elected positions in the Club (Club President, President-Elect and Vice President). Foundation Trustees serve a three-year term.

The **Columbus Kiwanis Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Each year, the Foundation Trustees allocate a certain number of dollars to be placed back into the community via scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations. The process for receiving grant requests and the awarding of grants, (up to the amount allocated by the Foundation) is managed by the Trustees of the Club with input from committee chairs.

The **Columbus Kiwanis Foundation** grows the corpus of its portfolio in several ways:

- 1- A managed investment policy – The Foundation Trustees work with an investment firm that manages our funds in a conservative manner designed to protect and grow the assets.
- 2- Direct contributions from individuals and organizations – Any individual (both Club and non-Club members) may donate directly to the Foundation via check, credit card, or cash.
- 3- Fundraising events conducted by Kiwanis Club of Columbus – To help build the corpus and to generate funds to be distributed to the community via scholarships and grants, the Club membership conducts several major fundraising activities including the following:
  - a. **Kiwanis Charity Regatta** – Sponsors, consisting of companies, organizations and individuals, are solicited to support the entry of a yacht in a competitive double-elimination event that races small wooden yachts across a small swimming pool using super-soaker squirt guns. In addition, each yacht represents a local 501(c)(3) non-profit that can participate in an on-line voting program that raises funds for their particular charity.
  - b. **Buckeye Raffle Ticket sales** – Each year, we raffle off two season tickets to the Ohio State home football games. Raffle tickets are sold by our Club members, as well as members of Kiwanis Clubs and other participating organizations throughout the state of Ohio. Each raffle ticket is \$5.
  - c. **Pet Contest** – Pet owners are asked to enter a photo of their pet (cat or dog, depending on the year) and to garner votes from their family, friends, and neighbors. Each vote is \$1 and individuals can vote as many times as they wish, casting multiple votes at a time. The winning pet receives recognition and prizes. Historically funds from this event have been earmarked for community programs that reduce infant mortality.

## Chapter 5 - Introduction to the Club PortalBuzz Website

As a member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, it is important for you to become familiar with our Club website at <https://columbuskiwanis.org/>. It is the primary source of information for members about the Club, including:

- The Club roster
- The Club calendar
- Club committees, their chairpersons and members and a brief description of their missions
- Certain Club documents, including (but not limited to):
  - Club policies and procedures
  - Club bylaws
  - Club's current strategic plan
  - membership application
  - Grant application and instructions
  - documents useful to committees in conducting recurring projects
  - administrative forms, such as the funds request forms
- The current weekly Club newsletter

As a member of the Club you will need to establish a log-in to our website. Click the LOGIN button in the top right of our site – [www.columbuskiwanis.org](http://www.columbuskiwanis.org) – and use the email you entered on your application. The site should direct you to set up a password. If there are issues, please contact the Club Secretary at [1916kccsecretary2gmail.com](mailto:1916kccsecretary2gmail.com) for help!

Members may (and should) enter or update information about themselves in the Club roster by selecting “member login” on the menu on the left right side of the website home page. Once on the Portalbuzz section of the website, you may click on “People” to view your profile and update as necessary.

Certain members (principally officers and the Club communication coordinator) have administrative rights to update the website. All Club members may use Portalbuzz to circulate email messages to all or some of the members. When you click on EMAIL from the menu on the left side of the homepage, you then click on compose in the top right corner where you may type in ALL MEMBERS to send to everyone, or simply type in a member name to send an email (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME).

We welcome opportunities to improve this vital communications tool for our Club. If you have suggestions for the improvement of our website, please contact our Communications Coordinator or Club Secretary, or any of the other Club officers.

## Chapter 6: Kiwanis Club of Columbus Membership Calendar

Regular membership meetings are held at noon every Monday with the exception of certain federal holidays as noted in the PortalBuzz website calendar by the Club President. Trustees meetings are held monthly on the second Monday or Tuesday of the month as scheduled by the President.

### October

Kiwanis administrative year begins Oct. 1

Club and Foundation budgets to be drafted and approved at the first trustee meeting held this month

Kiwanis One Day – service project held in conjunction with our Circle K Club

### November

Past President's Party on the first Friday of November. This social event celebrates the outgoing president of the club.

### December

Salvation Army bell ringing as scheduled for club members

Community Grant review process begins with applications available to nonprofit organizations

### January

Annual Foundation Trustee meeting and elections

Day of service on Martin Luther King's Birthday

### February

Nominating Committee meets to identify new trustees including Club Vice-President

### March

Kick off of Coolest Pet Fundraiser (typically held every other year)

Ohio District Mid-year Education Conference

### April

Winner of Coolest Pet Fundraiser announced

Nominating Committee completes its work of identifying new trustees including Club Vice-President

### May

Anniversary of founding of Kiwanis Club of Columbus and Club annual meeting

Election of Trustees to begin term October 1st

Distribution of Buckeye Raffle Tickets

### June

Club fundraiser at Columbus Arts Festival

Selling of Buckeye Raffle Tickets

Kiwanis International Convention

### July

Kiwanis Charity Regatta voting

Selling of Buckeye Raffle tickets

**August**

Annual Kiwanis Charity Regatta

Annual Buckeye Ticket Raffle drawing held

Ohio District of Kiwanis Convention

**September**

Kickoff meeting for next administrative year

Kiwanis administrative year ends

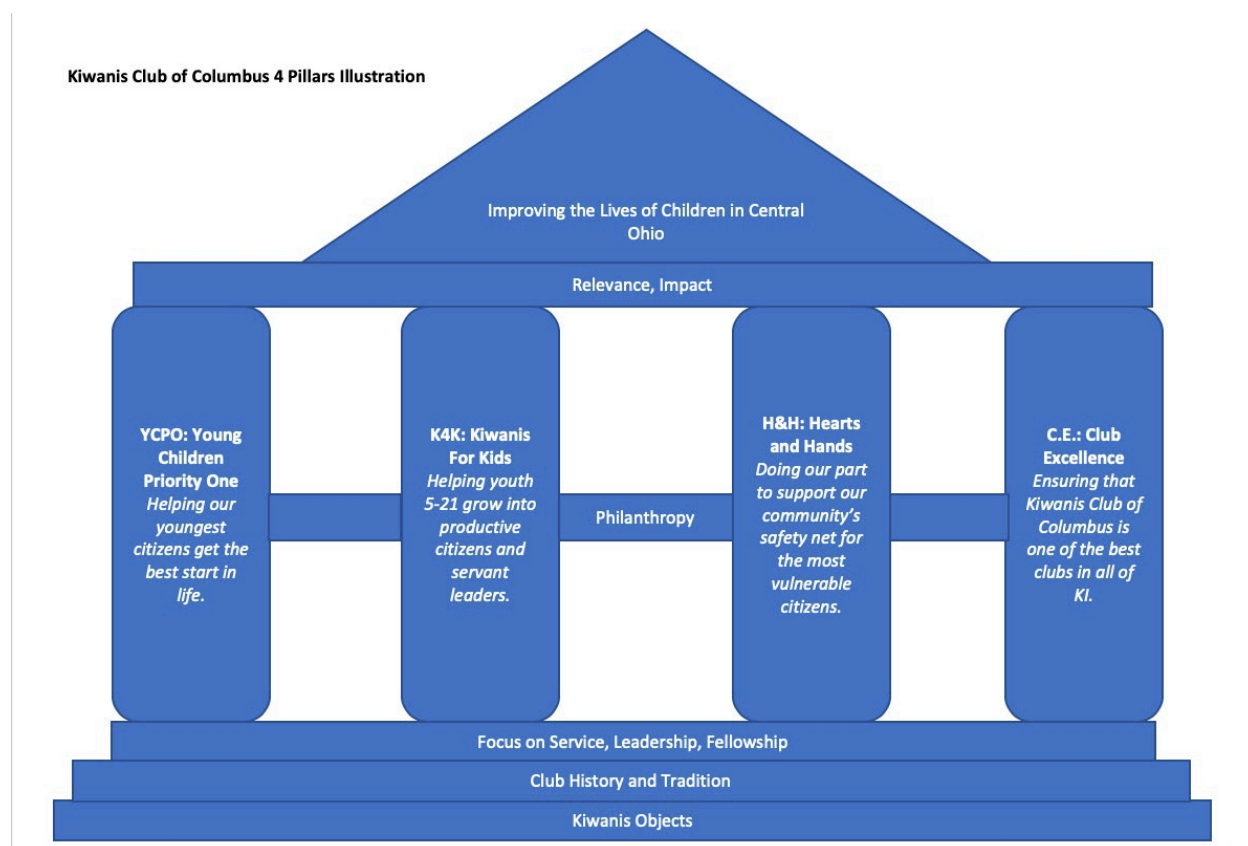
Traditional date of Kiwanis College Fair

**Social events and service projects are held throughout the year so watch the club weekly update, website, social media accounts, or club announcements at Monday meetings for more information about these ongoing opportunities.**

## Chapter 7: Current Committees of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus

The standing committees of the Kiwanis Club drive virtually all the philanthropy, community service and service to Club members that is accomplished by the Kiwanis Club of Columbus. There will at times be an ad hoc committee appointed for the planning and administering of a short-term project. An example would be our Centennial Celebration Committee, which planned the celebration of the Club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In accordance with the Club's current Strategic Plan adopted in 2020, our Club structure is supported by four pillars. Each of our committees, based on its function, falls under one of those pillars. Here is an illustration of those four pillars.



Following are each of the Club's standing committees with a brief description of their purpose categorized by the pillars under which each fall:

- **Young Children Priority One** – *Helping our youngest citizens get the best start in life.*
  - The Young Children Priority One (YCPO) Committee – *planning and executing projects to benefit young children from birth to 4 years of age*
- **Kiwanis for Kids** – *Helping youth 5-21 grow into productive citizens and servant leaders.*
  - Student Leadership Programs (Circle K) Committee – *supporting the activities of the Circle K Club at Capital University that our Club sponsors.*
  - College and Career Fair Committee – *planning and administering an annual college and career fair for Columbus Public School students.*

- Music and Arts Committee – promoting the performing and creative arts to young people
- Scholarships Committee – awarding college scholarships to applicants from Columbus City Schools.
- **Hearts and Hands** – *Doing our part to support our community’s safety net for the most vulnerable citizens.*
  - Hearts and Hands Committee – supporting those members of our community who suffer from insecurity relative to basic needs of living. This committee is our most active service committee.
  - Senior Citizens Committee – supporting senior citizens of our community in need of assistance.
- **Club Excellence** – *Ensuring that the Kiwanis Club of Columbus is one of the best clubs in all of KI.*
  - Executive Committee – supporting the Club leadership in directing the Club.
  - Finance and Budget Committee – planning for the use of and accounting for Club financial resources.
  - Nominating Committee – vetting and recruiting future officers and trustees of the club.
  - Boast/Good Cheer Committee – promoting the positive accomplishments of Club members.
  - Interclub Committee – planning and arranging the interaction of our Club’s members with the members of other Kiwanis Clubs at Club, Division, District and International meetings, as well as our SLP sponsored clubs.
  - Laws and Regulations Committee – providing legal guidance to the Club and maintaining club legal documents.
  - Program Committee – arranging for interesting presenters at Club meetings.
  - Social Committee – planning and promoting opportunities for social interaction among Club members.
  - Spiritual Aims/Reflective Moment Committee – arranging for members to provide a reflective moment and serve as greeters of attendees at every meeting; arranging for clergy to speak for Thanksgiving and Passover/Easter.
  - Membership and Retention Committee – leading the Club in attracting, orienting, and retaining Club members.
  - House Committee – planning for the location of and meals for in-person lunch meeting.
  - Kiwanis One Day Committee – planning for a project to take place on or about the date of “Kiwanis One Day” as designated by Kiwanis international (usually in late October every year).
  - Golf Committee – providing opportunities for member fellowship through golf outings.
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – addressing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion relative to the Club’s membership, recruitment of members, and engagement with community partners.
  - Kiwanis Philanthropy Committee – made up of the chairs of the following events:
    - Charity Regatta Committee – fundraising
    - OSU Ticket Raffle Committee – fundraising
    - Coolest Dog Contest Committee – fundraising
  - Grant Review Committee – attracting and vetting grant applications from nonprofit organizations in the community and advising the trustees on awarding of grants to applicants.
  - Communication Committee – publishing a weekly newsletter, maintaining the Club website, and maintaining the Club’s social media presence.

Every member should be active in at least one committee at all times. Check the club website for the chairs of each committee or ask a club officer.

## Chapter 8: How to Get Involved

Undoubtedly, you joined the Kiwanis Club of Columbus because you wanted to get involved in its mission and give back to the community.

There are many ways to get involved and stay active in the Club.

- **New Member Orientation**

Our Club has a new member orientation program called “Lose the Blues”, which is designed to foster interaction between new members and existing members, with the ultimate goal of getting the new member to feel more at home and involved. Here is how the program works: When a new member is inducted into the club, a member badge is prepared for him or her. Six blue dots are adhered to the badge. One dot is removed every time the new member completes one of these ten objectives:

- 1- Join a committee
- 2- Attend a Trustee Meeting
- 3- Serve as a greeter
- 4- Provide the reflective moment at the start of a Club meeting
- 5- Bring a potential new member to a Club meeting
- 6- Purchase a Kiwanis Giant Eagle gift card
- 7- Participate in a major Kiwanis fund raising event
- 8- Take part in a Kiwanis hands-on service project
- 9- Attend an Ohio District or Division 10W meeting or event
- 10- Participate in an inter-club meeting or event.

In the course of losing the blue dots, the new member will certainly have ample opportunities to learn about Club activities and get involved.

- **Attending Weekly Meetings**

The most important way to get involved is to become a regular Monday meeting attendee. The mere act of attending meetings represents a good level of Club involvement. In the act of attending, you will become more aware of other Club activities from the formal announcements during the meetings, as well as through interacting with other involved Club members. If you then participate in some of those activities, your relationships with other Club members will grow.

Currently most meetings may be attended in person or by Zoom. In person attendance provides more opportunities for personal interaction with other attendees, thus increasing your opportunities to learn about other club activities.

- **Joining a Committee**

Another way to get involved is to review Chapter 7 of this Member Handbook entitled “Current Committees of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus”. There you will find a list of all Club standing committees and a brief description of their functions. You can find the names of the chairperson of each committee (and for some committees, names of other committee members) in our Club’s website (see Chapter 5, Introduction to Club PortalBuzz Website for information about the website). Virtually every committee chairperson is happy to accept a new committee member or



even a Club member who is willing to assist with a project in some way without committing to committee membership.

- **Connecting with Your Sponsor**

Also available to all new members seeking more Club involvement are their own membership sponsors. New members desiring more knowledge about and involvement in the Club should reach out to their sponsors, if the sponsor has not already proactively reached out to the new member to assist them.

- **Donating to a Kiwanis Cause**

Members can also get involved by donating funds to the Columbus Kiwanis Foundation or the Kiwanis Club of Columbus. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible and support the charitable work of the Club. Foundation donations can be made by financially supporting the fundraising projects of the Club (Buckeye Ticket Raffle, Regatta and Coolest Pet Contest) or by making a separate gift directly to 1916 Society fund of the Foundation. Gifts to the club are not tax deductible but are critical in helping the club pay for administrative expenses not otherwise covered by dues revenue. You can financially support the club by purchasing Giant Eagle Gift Cards from the Club (a percentage of every purchase is returned to the Club), by contributing Happy Dollars to the Club at Club meetings or by volunteering at Club fundraising events (typically at the Columbus Arts Festival in early June every year).

- **Sponsoring a New Member**

An excellent way to get involved is to sponsor a new member to the Club. The Club has a critical need to grow its membership. You can invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to a meeting or other Club event to share information contained in this Member Handbook with him or her to provide info about the responsibilities and benefits of membership. The application for membership, which you and your prospective member will need to fill out is located in the Club website as indicated in Chapter 5 of this Member Handbook. You will want to introduce your prospective member to at least one other Club member in order to have the required two membership sponsors to sign membership application.