



CHESTER KIWAN-O-GRAM

MEMBER NEWSLETTER VOLUME XIII - ISSUE NO. 3 DEC, 2003
CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE KIWANIS CLUB OF CHESTER IS ON-LINE AT [HTTP://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/BDKCRAB/KHOME.HTM](http://www.geocities.com/bdkcrab/khome.htm)

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INTERCLUBS

Dec 8 - Central Chesterfield at Gulliver's Restaurant, Centre St ~ 12:30 pm

Dec 10 - Keyette (6:30 pm) & Key Club (7:15 pm) meetings at TDHS.



December SCHEDULE

- 1 ~ Board Meeting
- 2-7 ~ Bizarre Bazaar at RIR
- 4 [THU] ~ Angel Tree at Southpark Mall 5:00 - 9:00 pm.
- 6 [SAT] ~ Can Food Drive, Food Lion 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- 8 ~ Key Club Presentation
- 14 [SUN] Kiwanis Christmas Parade, Village Green, 2:00 pm
- 15 ~ Mary Blackwood, Chesterfield/CH Christmas Mother
- 22 ~ Member Christmas Party, Dr. Joe's, 6:00 pm
- 29 ~ Don Schroder, Capital District Foundation.

Meetings on Monday at 6:30 PM at Eckert Drug Meeting Room, Chester unless other wise stated. Call Ron Gray with program suggestions .



Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

By the time you receive this newsletter it will probably be December. As I write this we have not celebrated Thanksgiving nor eaten our turkey, but the projects for next month are looming large on the horizon. Steve Miles and Dave Duncan are hard at work organizing the Christmas parade for Sunday December 14th. The applications are coming in steadily. If the weather remain nice we are going to have a spectacular parade. Everyone can help and participate. Logistically it is a big undertaking so please volunteer. ~ Tom Williams, Wayne Stuart and Marshall Henry have the Key Club lined up for the Can Food Drive on December 6th at the Food Lion located in the Centralia Shopping Center. It will benefit the Chesterfield Colonial Heights Christmas Mother. At the same time the Keyette Club will man the Food Lion on Jefferson Davis. David Triplett, Phil Crow and I plan to be there with them. The youth stand at the two entrances of the stores and solicit donations of non-perishable food. Last year they collected a vanload of cans. Let's not forget Bizarre Bazaar at the Richmond International Raceway. This project is for the benefit of our club. We work at the bazaar and we get pay \$8 per hour for our labor. Guy Smith has made all the arrangements so it should go very smoothly. It is fun and after your shift you can even do your Christmas shopping. The money we make will go into our administrative account. Another project is the Salvation Army Angel Tree at Southpark Mall in Colonial Heights. On December 4, from 5 pm to 9 pm several Kiwanians, with the help of the Keyettes, will accept presents and also help shoppers choose an angel from "The Angel Tree" of course. Each angel has the name, age and wish list of a child on it. The shoppers, then purchase gift(s) for that child. It is amassing how many children ask for a bicycle as their big present and even more amassing is how many bicycles are generously given. Many ask for clothing too. Being at the mall really puts you in the Christmas spirit especially working on this worth while project. To give is more fun then receiving and to see the people give unselfishly makes you feel good.

All is not work this month of course. Danny Wyatt, Human and Spiritual Values Chairman, is inviting everyone in the club, spouses and children etc. to his church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 620 Lafayette Avenue in Colonial Heights, on December 21 for their Festival Of Lights Concert. The concert will be at 3 pm and repeated at 6 pm. You will have the opportunity to see Danny at the drums and hear the church's wonderful choir. To celebrate the holidays we are having a members-only Christmas Party on December 22nd at 6 pm. That is a time for camaraderie and friendship. Bring an hors d'oeuvre and enjoy the company. Our last meeting of 2003 will be Monday December 29. Then on with the New Year but in the mean time HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all!



The Chester Kiwan-O-Gram
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Vol XIII # 3

Changing times and Changing Minds

It seems natural that with changing times minds would change too. Unfortunately this logical process does not occur automatically. We are creatures of habits and changes are scary to most of us. In our daily life we follow the same route to work, shop at the same stores, patronize the same restaurants, watch the same TV programs etc. Our little habits give comfort to our life. Only when drastic events occur are we willing and sometime forced to change or at least to give it a try.

The number one concern for the Kiwanis organization from the very top to the local clubs is membership. The numbers are slipping steadily. The clubs are not growing. Yes we induct new members but at the other end we loose members just as fast. Last year our club for example brought in six members but also lost six members. We can pat our self on the back for the six members coming in. The six leaving brings up the other question HOW DO WE RETAIN MEMBERS? The Kiwanis organization is looking for ways to change, to address the issue. There are plans to reconstruct. Questions such as should the district governor serve more then on year? Should another level of administration be added? Input is solicited. Do you have an idea? Steve Miles is serving on the committee involved in this process. Share your thoughts with him.

I'd like to see the club presidents serve 2 years. Why? To give continuity and give time to implement new ideas. Twelve months pass to quickly. Going back to the membership, I read in the E-Builder that we need to keep the members happy and that we need to advertise our clubs so that others want to join. It is time to think outside of the

box. We need to try new things and go so far as to change our by-laws and guidelines. Flexibility and education I think are the key. Young professional pressured by time constraint cannot attend all the regular meetings and may be able to participate in only one project a quarter. Can it still be counted as perfect attendance? Can we draw up a contract with this new Kiwanians? Attend X number of meetings and participate in one project this quarter and he/she will have fulfilled the requirement for perfect attendance? Does everyone know we can attend another club meeting and get credit? The Petersburg Breakfast, Petersburg Luncheon, Central Chesterfield and the Colonial Height Luncheon all meet close by. Check page 18 of the 2003-2004 Yearbook (the little blue book) for dates, times and locations. What does the proverb says: There is more then one road that can take you to Rome.

Ok this said let's find new ways to attract and keep new members. The Kiwanis family is big and it is comprised of members from different culture and countries. With all this diversity I'm sure there are solutions out there. We can make changes to accommodate the times. All it takes is imagination, education and a willingness to change.

Remember our goal is TWO new members per month. We are on the right tract. This month we inducted Ed Thompson and Shawn Stack. Congratulations gentlemen! Now that you are part of our Kiwanis Family we want to keep you . You are our most important resource!

Nicole,

Proud to be in the GREAT Kiwanis Club of Chester

Welcome Ed



Ed Thompson was inducted on Nov 3rd in a ceremony conducted by Chairman Danny and President Nicole. Sponsor Dayton Todd introduced Ed and pinned on his Kiwanis membership pin. Thank you Dayton, and teach him the ropes.

Welcome Shawn



Shawn Stack was inducted on Monday Nov 17th by Membership Chairman Danny Wyatt and President Nicole. Special thanks to Raleigh Sayler for sponsoring Shawn and for agreeing to guide him through his first six months.