



# Serving our Community



The proceeds from our fall Pancake Day were presented at our February 5<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting. President Mike Didawick accepted the net proceeds check for \$34,641.30 from the Pancake Day Committee Co-Chairs Jim Coots and Carl Rio. This money will be distributed to many worthy organizations in our community.

Kelly Bober, the Executive Director of ChildSafe Center - CAC, was presented a check for \$6,928.26 for their hard work as the Major Beneficiary of our Pancake Day. The ChildSafe Center protects abused and neglected children during the process of investigation and prosecution of their cases. They are a positive support for these children, as they help each child heal and discover their inner strength and resiliency.

Thank you to everyone that made the Pancake Day a success and to the ChildSafe Center for helping children heal from the trauma they have faced in their short lives.



# KIWANIS KOURIER



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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MIKE DIDAWICK



March is upon us and I am certain that we are ready to see a robin or daffodil making its debut. I cannot remember a winter where we had to cancel so many meetings due to snow. Let's hope we've turned the corner on winter.

Spring is a busy time for our club. I'm sure Tim will schedule a trash pickup along Airport Road and plan an inter-club somewhere. Of course,

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### Happy Birthday To Our Members!



Tim Anderson	03/03
TD Clayton	03/14
John Hess	03/15
Elaine Cain	03/15
Kay Anderson	03/16
Archie McKay	03/17
Susan Creasy	03/19
Luther "Bud" Stiles	03/21
Larry Sullivan	03/23
Jeff McKay	03/27
Julia Vettorel	03/30

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

## CALENDAR

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March 5: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Business meeting; 12-1pm

March 11: Social at Piccadilly Brew Pub; 6pm

March 12: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Justin Kerns, Visitor Center; 12-1pm

March 12: Top of Virginia Chamber Mixer; Tru Hilton; 5:30-7pm

March 19: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Rabbi Aaron Stucker-Rozovsky, Beth El Congregation; 12-1pm

March 20: Board Meeting at Beth El Congregation; 6pm

March 26: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Becca Packham, Heroes on the River; 12-1pm

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## Key Club Community Service Projects



John Handley Key Club members worked concessions at basketball games, cuddled with cats at the SPCA and read to the dogs, packed food at the Highland Food Pantry, tutored children at Building Bridges, and collected items to create a fundraising basket for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser for WATTS.

Key Club members at James Wood High wrote pen pal letters to children at Powhatan School, are reading buddies at Apple Pie Ridge Elementary, worked concession stands at sporting events, and attended and raised over \$200 for the Coldest Night of the Year.



Millbrook High Key Clubbers made valentines for Recovery Connection, helped with concessions at sports games, volunteered as swim team timers, mentored Redbud Elementary students, tutored at Building Bridges, and walked at the Coldest Night of the Year.

**A huge THANK YOU goes to the SLP advisor, Ginny Grant, for mentoring these phenomenal young adults!**



## Guest Speaker Wheels for Wellness

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Director of Wheels for Wellness, Traci Toth, spoke to our club about the non-profit she runs. Wheels for Wellness is an appropriate name for this organization as they provide free door-to-door transportation to medical appointments, which includes doctor, dentist, dialysis, eye, and ear appointments. They provide this service for people in need living in Winchester city and the counties of Frederick, Clarke, Warren, and North Shenandoah.

For the volunteer drivers, they cover accident liability insurance and a partial reimbursement of gasoline. They currently have 43 active volunteers, but are always looking for more. Last year they drove a total of 95,949 miles, logged 4,306 volunteer hours, and filled 99% of the requests.

Wheels for Wellness relies on grants and two major fundraisers each year. They will hold the Tablesapes fundraiser on March 30<sup>th</sup>, where a variety of businesses and individuals create beautiful table decorations. They also have raffles, delicious food, and a silent auction at this event. In the fall they hold a raffle for a \$500 gas gift card.

If you or someone you know needs this service, contact Wheels for Wellness for an application.

There is an incredible need to help our community members get to their medical appointments. Consider contacting Traci and becoming a volunteer driver.

Contact information: (540) 536-1006, [www.wheels4wellness.org](http://www.wheels4wellness.org), [wheelsforwellness@outlook.com](mailto:wheelsforwellness@outlook.com)





## Guest Speaker Dr. Mohammad Obeid

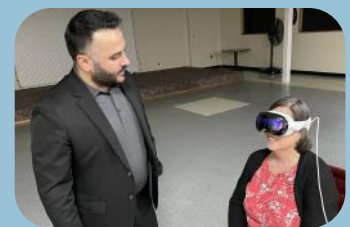
On February 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Obeid spoke at our club meeting about the virtual reality and augmented reality program at Shenandoah University’s Center for Immersive Learning (SCiL). He was dynamic and engaging while sharing information about this rapidly evolving field of study. SU was the first university in Virginia to offer an undergraduate degree in this field, and is still one of the few across the country. They offer degrees in Virtual Reality Design, Game Design & Development, Computer Science, Film Production, and a certificate in History & Immersive Technology.



SCiL works with the departments at SU, government agencies, visitor centers, and medical agencies to create practical usages of VR and AR technology. Dr. Obeid shared some of the fascinating projects SCiL has been working on, with many of them being shared free-of-charge to people that own a VR headset.

Some of the projects SCiL has developed include:

- The Great Experiment—which is a realistic recreation of Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the debating Founding Fathers in 1787. Using the VR headset, you see yourself sitting in Independence Hall next to Benjamin Franklin and are able to listen to and watch these debates. This was a fascinating experience that really brought history alive!
- They have a created a VR experience with the French 75, a WWI-era cannon. You are able to walk across a field, load, and watch the French 75 fire. Battle recreations have also been done, so that you feel as if you are having a first-hand view of war.
- Trainings for medical personnel have been developed, such as having the vertebrae of the spine disassembled that an OT student has to reassemble correctly.



Thank you for sharing your career, and your passion, with our club Dr. Obeid!



## Kiwanians in the News

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Carmen Rio was featured on the front page of the Winchester Star in which he related the origin story of a Peace Sign that was bulldozed in the earth just outside of Camp Eagle during the Vietnam War, in 1971. Carmen served in the army as a lieutenant in charge of combat engineers who built bridges, airfields, and bases for the combat troops. One of Rio's men, David Jurkovich, was assigned to train another soldier on the MR5 (bulldozer) and upon completing the 'training' reported back to Rio that he had carved a Peace Sign into the earth. Knowing this might be misunderstood as a protest, Rio decided to keep quiet about what happened.



The Peace Sign was photographed by a free-lance photographer named David Terry and featured in a July issue of LIFE magazine in 1971. After 54 years of silence, Rio was interviewed by the *Winchester Star* and revealed Jurkovich's name in the hopes of both finding him and giving him the credit for creating such an iconic symbol that may have influenced people's opinions about the War.

A second story was written the following week in which the Star reported that Jurkovich had passed away in 1999, and both stories were seen by the original photographer David Terry as he traveled from Texas to Colorado. Terry reached out to the Star to tell his side of the story and a Zoom meeting was arranged so that Rio and Terry could meet each other for the first time and discuss what had happened 54 years ago.

A third story about this encounter was written on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Star. The story can be read online at this link: [https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester\\_star/photographer-shares-story-of-iconic-peace-symbol-photo-with-local-vietnam-veteran/article\\_e47d1893-637d-5ec0-a46a-c352567ce9ce.html](https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester_star/photographer-shares-story-of-iconic-peace-symbol-photo-with-local-vietnam-veteran/article_e47d1893-637d-5ec0-a46a-c352567ce9ce.html)



## Kiwanis Shelter #2 at Jim Barnett Park

The Kiwanis Club of Winchester has a different #2 shelter at Jim Barnett Park, located on Oak Drive. This shelter is much larger than the previous shelter, has ample parking space, and restrooms close by.



## Regional Re-Alignment

At the January 26, 2025 meeting of the Capital District Kiwanis Board of Trustees, a recommendation from the Task Force on Regional Realignment was approved. This task force reviewed the current regional setup, considering the number of clubs and members in each region.

Due to declining membership and a decrease in the number of clubs, the task force recommended reducing the Capital District from seven regions to six. This creates a regional structure of six regions, each with three divisions, with total regional membership numbers that are more balanced than the current structure.

### Effective September 30, 2025:

- Division 4 will be transferred to the DelMarVA Region.
- Division 8 will be transferred to the Heart of Virginia Region.
- The Blue Ridge Region will be eliminated at the end of Trustee Roger Diehl's term.

The Board of Trustees may need to address further divisional realignments in the future to address current imbalances in numbers of clubs per division.



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*(Continued from page 2)*

the big event is our Spring Pancake Day on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Carl Rio and his committee are well underway to another successful fund raiser. May I be the first to remind you: SELL YOUR TICKETS! Advance ticket sales are very important for the committee to finalize its needs.

At our March 4<sup>th</sup> business meeting we will be voting on the proposed changes to our by-laws. You have received the changes by email and they have been discussed at a recent meeting. If approved, they still need Kiwanis International approval.

We are in need of volunteers to agree to become an officer of the club. Not only is a Vice President and President-Elect needed, but also a Secretary. Brenda is stepping down after serving five years of diligent service. Thank you, Brenda!

-Mike

President Mike Didawick presented a check for \$1500 to Executive Director Charles Harbaugh IV of Access Independence. They support individuals with disabilities by providing independent living skills training, adaptive equipment, and financial management assistance.



### **Board Members: 2023-2025**

Jim Coots  
John Hess  
Robann Riggelman  
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**

**P. O. Box 2591  
Winchester, VA 22604**

### **Club Contacts**

Mike Didawick, President: pres@winvakiw.org  
Brenda Dodd, Secretary: sec@winvakiw.org  
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](http://www.winvakiw.org) Find us on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/winkiwanis>

