



# Des Moines Kiwanis Newsletter

Nebraska-Iowa District Newsletter  
Sweepstakes Winner, 2004-05

Home Club of Past  
International President  
Stephen Siemens

Weeks of Nov 7, 14, & 21, 2007  
www.downtowndesmoineskiwanis.org



**Check Out Our New Jamboree Web Site!**

*Sign up to Volunteer on Game Day*

*Buy Tickets*

*Make a Contribution*

[www.kiwanisbbjamboree.com](http://www.kiwanisbbjamboree.com)

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**  
*11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m., in-Play, 615 Third Street, Downtown Des Moines*

**Nov 7—MEETING IS AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE, 1215 Pleasant**

**Assignments include:**

Podium: Jan Burch  
Program Introduction: Jan (tours of House by Brenda Miller)  
Catering: Melinda Berte  
Set-up & Take-down: Ron Heggen  
Invocation: Dave Turnball  
Greeters: Bill Stirler & Melinda Berte  
Photographer: Bob Mitchell  
Song Leader: Carol Burt  
Reporter: Ken Hayes

**Nov 14—Governor Terry Branstad, CEO, Des Moines University**

**Assignments include:**

Podium: Podium: Jan Burch  
Program Introduction: Dave Turnball  
Invocation: Ober Anderson  
Greeters: Luke Garnaas & Todd Pugh  
Set-up & Take-down: Michelle Wall & Melinda Berte  
Photographer: Bob Mitchell  
Song Leader: Bill Keck  
Reporter: Ken Hayes

**Nov 21—Greenwood School ELL Reading, 316—37th, DM or Roundtable at inPlay**

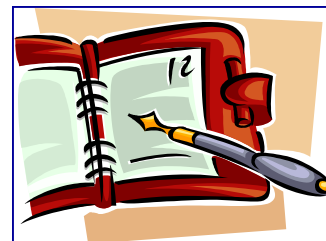
**Assignments include:**

Podium: Podium: Jan Burch  
Program Introduction: Darcy Otis  
Podium: Jan Burch  
Greenwood Set up: Paul Strayer  
Greenwood Reporter: Ken Hayes  
Greenwood Invocation: Steve Siemens  
Photographer: Bob Mitchell  
Roundtable Set-up: Don Wiebold  
Roundtable Reporter: Michelle Wall



## OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Updated October 31, 2007



### Join Us at inPlay/Forte Conference Center 615 Third Street, Downtown Des Moines

- Oct. 31 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Speaker is Andrew Gross, Lincoln Key Club Faculty Advisor. He will share his Key Club insights as well as talk about his RAGBRAI experience riding with Lance Armstrong. Program arranged by Darcy Otis. Note: Membership Growth Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m. immediately prior to start of our regular meeting.
- Nov. 2 **Monthly Basketball Jamboree Committee** meeting, 11:45 a.m., Iowa Lutheran Hospital Private Dining Room, **Sam Gelb**, Chair. **Last meeting before the November 17<sup>th</sup> event!**
- Nov. 2-4 Key Leader Retreat, Gretna, Nebraska.
- Nov. 5 Division 13 & 16 Council Meeting, Plymouth Congregational Church, dinner at 6:00 pm followed by meeting at 7:00 p.m. Dinner cost is \$9; reservations are due to Paul Greenwalt, Lt. Governor, by November 1. Contact him at [judydypaul1@msn.com](mailto:judydypaul1@msn.com) or 279-2383.
- Nov. 7 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., Ronald McDonald House. **NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!** Come learn more about our partnership with RM Charities and take a tour of the House. Arrangements made by Melinda Berte & Steve Scott.
- Nov. 9 **Monthly Board Meeting,** 11:45 a.m., Iowa Lutheran Hospital private dining room. Jan Burch, president, presiding.
- Nov. 11 Charter Night for new Drake University Circle K Club, sponsored by Johnston Kiwanis. Hubbell Hall Dining Room, Drake Campus, in Cool Beans shop, 5-7 pm. Ed Linebach will be arranging an Inter-club for this exciting event.
- Nov. 14 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Speaker is **Governor Terry Branstad**, president & CEO of Des Moines University. Program arranged by Steve Scott & Darcy Otis.
- Nov 17 OUR 60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BASKETBALL JAMBOREE, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Drake Knapp Center. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**
- Nov. 21 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., Greenwood ELL Reading, School Library, 316 – 37<sup>th</sup> Street. Roundtable at *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- Nov. 28 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. **'40 in 90' Membership Growth Meeting.** Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Steve Siemens.
- Dec. 1 Altoona Kiwanis Pancake Festival with Santa, 7:00 a.m. – noon, Altoona Fire Station.
- Dec. 5 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Speaker is **Dave Vellinga**, president & CEO of Mercy Medical Center. Program arranged by Darcy Otis.
- Dec. 12 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., **Greenwood ELL Reading**, School Library, 316 – 37<sup>th</sup> Street. **Roundtable** at *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- Dec. 19 **Regular Meeting:** 11:45 a.m., *inPlay*, 615 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. **'40 in 90' Membership Growth Meeting.** Speaker TBD. Program arranged by Steve Siemens.

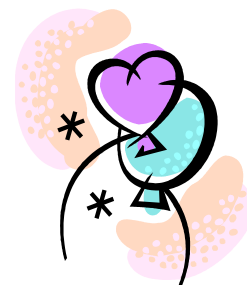
**NOTE:** *Want to help fight world hunger? You can volunteer a couple hours of your time any Saturday morning, 10:00 a.m.—noon, Holmes Honda, off Hickman Road, Urbandale. Help pack food for Kids Against Hunger. See [www.kidsagainsthungerdm.org](http://www.kidsagainsthungerdm.org) for details.*



**Thanks to Tom Pflanz for handling Food Pantry pickup duties in October at Dahl's. Leland Long will pick up in November.**

### Oct/November Birthdays

- 10/29-Scott Griese
- 10/30-Carol Burt
- 2- Mary Lou Garcia
- 3—Lois Smith Underwood
- 8—Mike Sturm
- 11—Jim Egger
- 12—John Mechem
- 13—Bill Keck
- 30—Al Knudsen





## MARY KRAMER SPEAKS FONDLY OF HER SERVICE IN BARBADOS

By Michelle Wall, Meeting Reporter

President **Steve Scott** called our first meeting of October to order with a full agenda that packed in the hour. **Greg Wilson** led the music and **Steve Siemens** provided the invocation.

The first exciting item of order was to induct our newest member **Kristin Boyles** into our club. **Dave Strief** led the charge and gave us the reminders that we should attend meetings regularly, join a committee and get involved, and lastly, invite someone else to join. All things that we can all take to heart as the new fiscal year begins. Thanks to **Carol Stone** for introducing Kristin to our club.

Lieutenant Governor Paul Greenwalt gave us the honor of his visit and installed the new board members. Paul defined responsibilities and handed out the new pins. It's an exciting new year and the board is charged with some big projects. Our new officers include: **Jan Burch**-President; **Michelle Wall**-President-elect; **Marty Kenworthy**-Vice President; **Carol Burt**-Treasurer; **Sherry Halliburton Fenton**, **Bob Mitchell**, and **Don Weibold**-asst. treasurers; and **Carol Stone**- Secretary. New two year board members include **Tina Potthoff**, **Darcy Otis**, **Melinda Berte**, and **Luke Garnaas**. One-year board members include **Jill Olson**, **Ed Linebach**, **Sam Gelb**, and **Sherry Halliburton Fenton**. The board looks forward to the challenges ahead and welcomes all feedback and support of members.

Following the installation of officers, **Jan Burch** took over the meeting and presented outgoing president **Steve Scott** with a plaque recognizing his year as president. **Sam Gelb** did the update on the Basketball Jamboree and things are moving along well, but we still need to be selling ads and tickets. Members were encouraged to attend the Tip off meeting next week for an exciting program including Mike Whalen and Drake University women's coach, Amy Stephens. We have huge goals this year and we need everyone to do their best to continue on with our fund raising efforts.

The '40 in 90' campaign was mentioned as we are counting down days before the end of year. Steve Siemens is heading up this effort, but keep in mind any prospective members that we can invite to join our cause. It's not too late to get our five prospective member names to Steve Scott.

Former U.S. Ambassador Mary Kramer returned as our guest speaker. We sent her off in a 2004 meeting where she left to become the U.S. Ambassador to Barbados. She has recently returned and shared many of her experiences while serving in this honored position.

Ms. Kramer left in January of 2004 while our weather here in Des Moines was 4 degrees below zero. She entered her new position getting off the plane in 85 degrees and sunny weather. She was sworn in by General Colin Powell and began her responsibilities immediately. She spoke of her beautiful beachfront residence and surroundings, and the household staff. She had an amazing location to serve her country.

Many people believe the Ambassador position is nothing but socializing and cocktail parties. While this can be a large part of the job, there is much more involved in the job such as reaching out to people of the country, economic development, and maintaining a solid relationship with the Prime Minister. Issues such as shady banking practices, monitoring criminals and drug lords coming to the country, and working with the government in general to clean up corruption. She also helped their government acquire funds from the US to help with the hurricane clean up in Grenada. It is truly amazing that they were able to rebuild from extensive damage in less than ten months, thanks in large part to her leadership.

Overall, her tour as Ambassador was a very rewarding experience and she was able to accomplish a lot while working for the government. She did mention how nice it was to be home and not to have to live with the Marines security that they became accustomed to while in Barbados.

Mary paid our group a fine compliment by speaking about our efforts stating- "What a blessing to have work that is worth doing." She is exactly right.

Thanks to **Jan Burch** for arranging this great program.





## Highlights from our 2007 Basketball Jamboree Tip-Off

By Michelle Wall, Reporter



Sam Gelb, 2007 Jamboree chair, greets Amy Stephens; Jan Burch, 2007-08 club president; Mike Whalen, chairman of the board of Wildwood Hills Ranch; and Dave Turnball, stand-in emcee.

A full room of nearly 150 athletes, coaches, and members filled the InPlay Conference Center for the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Kiwanis Basketball Jamboree Tipoff Meeting. A real treat was in store for our group as the meeting was called to order by our stand-in for president **Jan Burch**, **Dave Turnball**. Might we mention that Jan was fulfilling yet another civic responsibility as she was called for jury duty (of all days). We were happy to see her sneak in later in the meeting. **Bill Keck** did another entertaining job leading the music with **John Mechem** giving the invocation. Teams were treated to a running reel of last year's pictures provided on the big screen by **Tom Pflanz** and a video by **Michelle Wall** that incorporated what their efforts had accomplished from the 2006 Basketball Jamboree for Wildwood Hills Ranch. **Dave Turnball**, **John Streets**, and **Sam Gelb** introduced our 17 teams present for the meeting.

**Mike Whalen**, from Heart of America and Wildwood Hills Ranch, gave a most inspirational talk reflecting on his childhood, never knowing that kids ever had problems. He spoke of the hard times, abuse, and unlivable conditions some of the kids that visit Wildwood Hills Ranch have encountered in their short lives. He believes that while they don't have a perfect home life, the Ranch staff members are able to show them a different way to live. The scope of the good work they do for kids in our state is immeasurable and he encouraged the athletes to "shoot some hoops for some kids that have to jump through some hoops."

**Dave Turnball** introduced Drake University's Women's Basketball Coach **Amy Stephens**, but not before a short video was played showing the 2006 MVC Championship games and their amazing trip to the NCAA Tournament. Her message was 'triumph over adversity' and she did this by questioning the coaches as to what would they do if they began losing all their star players to injury and illness near the end of the season. The flu also devastated their team, but in the end, the young women were able to capture the title of Missouri Valley Conference Champions--with only sophomores and freshmen. They never gave up and believed that they could win.

Their trip to the NCAA Tournament in Pittsburgh as a 16<sup>th</sup> seed against number one, University of Tennessee, was overwhelming at best. They played their hearts out but were not able to move on in the tournament. When they knew they weren't going to win, Coach Stephens still encouraged them to set goals in the last seven minutes of the game. They accomplished these goals, beating them in scoring (16-14) and preventing the Iowa kid from scoring. They never looked at it as an ending, but rather as a beginning. They welcomed the experience and looked forward to what they could be next year.

Amy gave great advice to players and coaches about responding to athletic adversity. How do you respond? She noted the importance of administrative support and how well Drake University has always supported her. She also encouraged the importance of having a value system and how crucial character plays into times of adversity. They were charged with making a commitment to enjoying every practice and a day-to-day commitment to excellence. "We don't always take the route we set out to take, but if we stay committed, good things will happen."

President **Jan Burch** concluded the meeting with a Matt Lauer video of the Miracle League and great explanation of what we are trying to build for children with disabilities. All who attended walked away with a great understanding as to what the purpose of the Basketball Jamboree really is and what it does for our community.

A special thanks to all our sponsors that attended: **Ronald McDonald Charities, West Bank, Heart of America, Des Moines Radio Group, Des Moines Register, Wolin Electric, Benefit Resources, Iowa Health Systems, and The Graham Group.**



## Des Moines Is Now Home for the Iowa ENERGY NBA Team

By Michelle Wall, Reporter



*Nick Nurse, coach of the Iowa ENERGY, pauses before he answers one of many questions from members who were most interested in how he will staff this new NBA development team.*

Fall welcomed us with a cool rainy day for our Oct. 17 meeting at InPlay. President **Jan Burch** opened the meeting and **Greg Wilson** led the music. **Leland Long** gave the invocation. We recapped the success of the prior week's Basketball Jamboree Tip Off luncheon by watching the video made for the event once again. We were all very happy with the turn out as well as the good message that was presented at our event. **Sam Gelb** followed with another announcement of a \$500 sponsor-Benefit Resources, Inc. *We are all still encouraged to sell ads for the programs and tickets.*

**Mary Lou Garcia** is hosting a fund raising event this weekend at Stonehaven Farms for Wildwood Hills Ranch and offered up extra tickets for anyone in our group able to attend. She had several "takers".

**Dave Turnball** introduced our speaker, **Nick Nurse** from the **Iowa Energy** NBA Development Team. Nick has a long time tradition in Iowa Basketball as he graduated All State from Carroll Kemper and went on to play for the University of Northern Iowa. Nick still holds records with UNI for three point shooting. He did a year of pro ball in Europe before returning to be the youngest college coach in the league for Grandview College. Nick later returned to Europe where he coached for 11 years, making nine playoffs and named Coach of the Year two times during his tenure.

Nick discussed his newest venture with his NBA Development Team coming to Des Moines this year, the **Iowa Energy**. This team will keep a roster that will feed both the *Miami Heat* and the *Chicago Bulls*. Most of the roster will be determined by the pro teams, but Nick will be able to choose a section of players that will include some former University of Iowa and Iowa State players. This is an exciting venture for Des Moines and the games will be played at the Wells Fargo Arena. High school students will be excited to know that several pre-games will be played with high schools from around the state in each division. The season begins at the end of the November and season tickets are still available.

**Patrick Kelley**, Energy marketing/sales director, spoke about how easy it is to get tickets. For more information or group bookings go to [www.nba.com/dleague/iowa](http://www.nba.com/dleague/iowa). Thanks to **Darcy Otis** for arranging a most interesting program.



## CLUB HAPPENINGS

- According to **Mary Lou Garcia**, our Key Leader coordinator, our four Lincoln HS Key Clubbers were not able to get into the November 4-6 Key Leader Retreat in Gretna, Ne. The good news is that the Retreat was full; the bad news was that it was too full for our four students. So, we will plan on sending eight to the spring Key Leader Retreat! Registering early will be very important.
- The official Charter Event for the new Circle K Club at Drake University will be held Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm, on campus at Cool Beans, 2507 University. Plan to attend to help this great group of young people get off on the right foot. Contact **Ed Linebach** who will be arranging an Inter-Club. (There will be a meal, but the cost is not known.)
- And congratulations to the Polk City Kiwanis Club for recently chartering a new Key Club at North Polk High School. Perhaps there will be another charter event to attend! Watch for details.
- Familiar with some of the new benefits available to you as a Kiwanis member? Like a 15% discount on stays at Choice Hotels? Or special deals with the Bank of America Kiwanis affinity credit card? Or \$5 off on Harlem Globe-trotter tickets? (They're coming to Des Moines, by the way, on March 30 at Wells Fargo Arena!) Check out member benefits at <http://www.kiwanisone.org/Pages/Resources/default.aspx?PageID=1>
- Your help is truly needed to be involved with our newsletter. **Ed Linebach, Darcy Otis, and Tina Potthoff** have formed a committee to study the future of our club newsletter. Our president cannot continue to do the tri-weekly newsletter as well as her presidential duties in the coming months. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee!
- Social Committee chair, **Jim Underwood**, reports that the committee will be planning a progressive dinner for the club's holiday party this year. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, late afternoon, and watch for further details!
- **Continue to save your** aluminum can pop tabs (for Ronald McDonald House), Box Tops for Education from Pillsbury products, Kleenex and cereal boxes (for elementary schools), and empty printer cartridges (for the Heart Connection camp). Aluminum pop-tops raised over \$40,000 last year—money that Ronald McDonald Charities used for local community grant requests.
- **Mary Lou Garcia** reports that serious work has begun on refurbishing the outdoor equestrian ring (our project) at Wildwood Hills Ranch. Let's hope they get it finished before the snow flies. She also reports that they have raised enough money for the building of a new indoor equestrian facility.
- Be sure to listen to KRNT/1350AM radio as our new Basketball Jamboree spots are running. And when you go to Dahl's, ask for the paper grocery sacks with the specially printed Jamboree schedules.
- Member concerns:
  - **Sam Gelb** is making a hasty trip to Indiana to make what may be a final visit his father who is 95.
  - **Mike Lacey** will have prostate surgery November 1<sup>st</sup> at Iowa Methodist.
  - Division 13 Lt. Governor, **Jane Lowe**, is recuperating at Iowa Methodist from extensive heart problems. She is in room 464 North.
  - Division 16 Lt. Governor, **Paul Greenwalt**, has just returned from Mayo Clinic where his wife Judy had further testing since back surgery earlier this summer.
- **Ed Linebach** reported nearly 400 attended the annual Highland Park/Oak Park Fallfest on October 27, where young and old enjoyed hay rack rides and a traditional bonfire. Thanks to **Al Knudsen, Ron Heggen, Sherry Halliburton Fenton & husband Denny, Sam Gelb, and Paul Strayer** for volunteering their time to make it a success.

**Kiwanians DO Make a Difference...**



## MEET NEW MEMBER KRISTIN BOYLES

BY KEN HAYES, CHIEF OF REPORTERS

Kristin is our most recent new member. She was encouraged to join our club by Carol Stone who also serves as her mentor/sponsor. Kristin is employed by West Bank as a commercial loan officer. Previously she worked for U S Bank and, prior to U S Bank, she was employed by a bank in Memphis, Tennessee for 8 ½ years. She is married and has two sons, ages 16 and 14. Her husband is Brad who has a working relationship with Darcy Otis. Her hometown is Des Moines where she attended Hoover High School and Des Moines Area Community College. In visiting with her about Kiwanis, she said that her father who was a member of Golden K had talked to her about Kiwanis and that she felt from her initial visit with our club that we were a "good group." Her hobbies include boating, reading and sewing. Welcome, Kristin!



*Every child deserves  
the chance to play  
baseball.*

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1,  
7:30 a.m., Iowa State Bank,  
128th & Hickman Road,  
Clive**

**WATCH FOR FURTHER  
UPDATES AS THE STEERING  
COMMITTEE MOVES CLOSER  
TO SELECTING A SITE  
FOR OUR MIRACLE  
LEAGUE FIELD.**

*"The Miracle League" is a charitable organization that provides children with mental and/or physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball as a team member in an organized league. There is something about playing the game of baseball that lights up youngsters' eyes, but for children facing mental and physical challenges, that opportunity can often be a difficult first step. The Miracle League gives these children the opportunity to get out in the sunshine and enjoy playing the game of baseball in its purest form."*



**Home Club of Past International  
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(Downtown)

**TO:**

## OUR Kiwanis Moments...

*Now that school is in full session for the 2007-08 year, our reading project at Greenwood Elementary School has begun again. September 19th saw 12 Kiwanians and two guests reading to a new batch of ELL (English Language Learner) kindergartners.*

*Who gets more out of these meetings? The students or the readers? If you haven't experienced the thrill of a five year-old looking up at you when s/he knows one of the words, you're missing something special! Plan to read with us on November 21 or December 10.*



*You'll truly  
come away with a  
**Kiwanis Moment**  
of your own.*

