

# December 2020 – January 2021

## Kiwanis Club of Dubois



Serving the  
children of the world

Organized May 1992

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

### Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays (subject to change)  
St. Thomas' Church Community Rm @ 7:00 a.m.  
Social distancing, masks & health checks required in adherence to Covid-19 guidelines & Wyo Health Orders.

### Regular Meeting Dates\*

December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
January 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
\*Board meetings announced as needed

### Celebrate!

#### Happy Birthday ~

Dec 14 Jerry Perry  
Dec 28 Troy Sullivan  
Jan 21 Kiwanis 106<sup>th</sup>  
Jan 31 Michele Burdick



#### Happy Anniversary ~

Dec 17 Sue and Jerry Bodar

### Kiwanis Education ~ From Business to Service

The first Kiwanis club was organized in Detroit, Michigan in 1914. The group received a charter from the state of Michigan on January 21, 1915, the day that is regarded as the birth date of Kiwanis. The club's name is Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1 in recognition of its heritage.

Kiwanis was created by a professional organizer named Allen Simpson Browne. His concept for the new organization included the exchange of business among the members. However, the Detroit club had been organized only a few weeks when the members became involved in their first service project. During the next five years, Kiwanians would debate the basic purpose of the organization: mutual business exchange or community service, and ultimately chose to switch the focus to a service club, specifically dedicated to children in need.

An article, *History Mystery: Just Who is Walter Kiwanis?* tells of the Detroit club's care of an orphaned boy, which would move the organization toward that new path. Check it out on pages 30-33 in the December 2020 issue of your [Kiwanis Magazine](#).

### Upcoming Events

- Dec 6 **Club Christmas, 4 p.m.**  
Headwaters Sunroom
- Dec 16 **WHF Monthly Wellness Screening**  
Dubois Clinic, 7-10 a.m. (Tammy)
- Dec 10 – 18 **Hanukkah Sameach!**
- Dec 25 **Merry Christmas!**
- Jan 20 **WHF Monthly Wellness Screening**  
Dubois Clinic, 7 – 10 a.m. (Jennet)
- Feb 15 - 21 **Random Acts of Kindness Week**  
[randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org)

### News and Notices

~ **Our Halloween** carnival effort was successful, with nearly 90 Beanie Babies and several pounds of candy distributed to children via PVC pipes from the back of 2 trucks. One was decorated as a witch and the other as a spider web. Many thanks to Pat, Ron, Karen and Mike for building the apparatus and to all who assisted at the event.

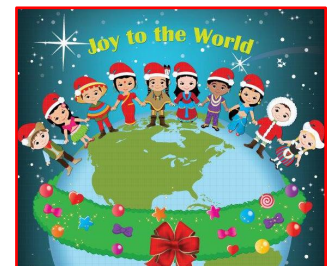
~ **During the annual Quilts of Valor** ceremony, Mike was the Veteran who received the beautiful quilt created by his fellow Kiwanian, Mark.

~ **Many thanks** to those who spent time stringing Christmas lights around St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. This is one way to thank the church for allowing us to meet in their community room.

~ **\$500 from the Wyoming First Lady's Hunger Initiative** allowed us to assist the Boys & Girls Club, Ram Paks, FCSD#2 Extended Day Programs, Community Food Bank, and Tiny Tot Adventures Child Care with food needs during Thanksgiving week.

“ Kindness is choosing  
love over hate,  
light over darkness,  
compassion over  
judgment. ”

– RAKtivist



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## October & November Meeting Notes

### Oct 6: MARY TURNEY: ASMAT BISJ POLE

A 2018 exploration of the Asmat region of Papua in Indonesia and a visit to the village of Biwar Laut provided rich cultural experiences and an opportunity to bring home a unique artifact. As we sat distanced from each other on a brisk Dubois morning in Mary's yard, she explained the acquisition of a Bisj Pole that was displayed nearby.

A Bisj Pole is a ritual carving created by the Asmat people of south-western New Guinea, and is erected to pay homage to the ancestors, to calm the spirits of the deceased and to bring harmony and spiritual strength to the community (which can take on many forms). In the Asmat culture, when a person dies their spirit is in a transitional state. Once this carving is complete and the celebration of the ancestors is held, the spirit is allowed to move on to the desired state of harmony and balance.

The process of creating the Bisj Pole takes about two years to complete, with woodcarvers using Stone Age tools. Human figures, standing on top of each other, are carved within Mangrove Trees, and once completed, presented in a ceremony in the village. The pole would traditionally be returned to the jungle and allowed to rot, however one of Mary's travel partners was able to arrange purchase and shipment of a few to the United States.

Having been a percussionist during her high school years, Mary also explained her desire to bring home one of the drums she'd heard in the longhouses during the ceremonies. It took 20 months for the items to arrive from a remote village in Indonesia to Dubois. The Museum of Metropolitan Art has a collection of Bisj Poles, as do several private collectors. *50/50 won by Mike*

### Oct 13: VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*(minutes on file; emailed to members 11/15)*

Maintaining reduced dues through December was approved. President-elect Ron will assume the presidency as Cindy will be spending the winter in Minnesota with her children.

### Oct 20: COMMITTEES, BUDGET AND MORE

The 2020-2021 budget was approved and discussion was held about the Halloween carnival and toys & treats for Santa bags. Ron thanked everyone who helped him move from his house in town to the new neighborhood. Many hands made light work!

Karen S has graciously agreed to step into the position of President-Elect! *50/50 won by Reenie*

### Nov 3: MEMBERSHIP GOALS & EVENTS

Goals set for 2020-21 include recruiting two new members, increasing visibility to the public and retaining current members. The goals will be shared with Lt Governor Dennis and RM District.

Dates were set for putting up lights outside the church building, and for installation of officers. Mark displayed the beautiful quilt he created for donation to Quilts of Valor. Karen S and Kristi have items on order for Santa. *50/50 won by Reenie*

### Nov 8: INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Lt Governor Dennis Van Denbos joined us at the Headwaters for a socially distanced evening, with all wearing masks. Professional caterer Connie served a plated meal and we were challenged by Tammy with a competitive game of *I Should Have Known That!*

Those installed included: Ron Blevins, President; Karen Sullivan, President-Elect; Jennet Ballinger, Secretary and Karen McCullough, Immediate Past President. Judy Johnson, Treasurer, was unable to attend. Michele Burdick, Kay Jacoby and Mike McCullough will serve on the board.

### Nov 17: POT POURRI

Communications generated the following:

We agreed to host a pancake breakfast for Dubois Aviation Day & Fly In, July 31, 2021

Wyoming Health Fairs will offer a free blood panel to homebound seniors on Nov 17 and Dec 15, thanks to a WY Small Dollar, Big Impact grant from AARP. We will provide a driver if the need arises.

Funds were received from the Wyoming First Lady's Hunger Initiative/Governor's Residence Foundation to assist local children/families with food during the Thanksgiving holiday. Past RMD Governor Tim Sheppard had a hand in getting \$500 to our club for distribution. A committee of 4 was appointed to determine the best use of funds.

The Ability Experience shared their Journey of Hope 2021 Itinerary. If COVID conditions have improved, our club will provide the traditional dinner to the bike group on June 28.

The Boys and Girls Club of Dubois sponsored a coat giveaway to for families the last 2 weeks of October. A few extras were given to us, with some going to the Opportunity Shop & some to the coat rack at the Community Food Bank.

FCSD#2 school counselor has asked organizations to consider varying post-high school awards for the unique and small Class of 2021. We agreed to create a separate grant application to assist students who will be entering the military or training with mentors for hands-on experiences.

It was announced that DHS Junior Ethan Howard is now a member of the Riverton High School Key Club. DHS no longer has a club due to extremely low enrollment and lack of faculty to advise. *50/50 won by Karen M*

**50/50 treat providers** currently include  
Karen McCullough (December); Kristi Perry (January)  
Michele Burdick (February); Mark Hinschberger (March)



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On Facebook at **Kiwanis of Dubois, WY**