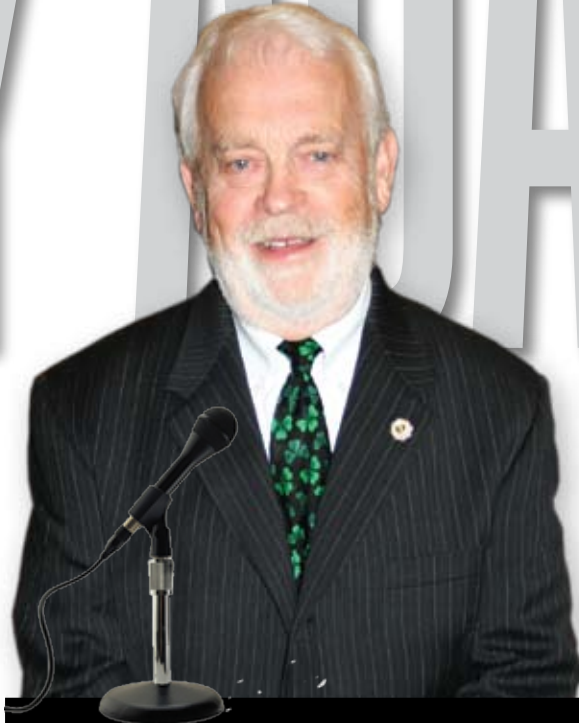


RAY ADAMS



ON THE WILLIAMSBURG KIWANIS CLUB

Raymond "Ray" Adams currently serves as the historian for the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club.

He was born in Henderson, NC, moved to Richmond in 1951, and made his way to Williamsburg in 1966 after serving with the US Army in Korea. Ray received a BS in Business from the University of Richmond and served as the Director of Finance for the City of Williamsburg for 26 years.

Ray joined the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club in June of 1969 and has been an active member ever since. He has held every elected position offered and has also served on every club committee during the past 41 years.

Ray has also received some well-deserved honors. He has been named distinguished President, distinguished Club Secretary and distinguished Lt. Gov. of Division 13.

Ray also served on the Capital District Foundation Board and served as President from 1995 to 1997. In 1985, he was instrumental in helping to form the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club Foundation and

he has served on the board since that time. In 1988, he was also the president of this board. He has been Kiwanian of the Year, has received the Korczowski-Fuller Award, the George F. Hixon Award and the Life Member Award in the Capital District Foundation.

In addition to his work for the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club, Ray also serves on the board of Kiwanis Children's Council of Hampton Roads, Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation Board and the Board Finance Committee.

When was Kiwanis first established in the United States?

Kiwanis was established January 21, 1915 in Detroit, MI. It was called BOB - Brotherhood of Business, and later the name was changed to Kiwanis.

In Williamsburg?

April 28, 1958.

Where does the name Kiwanis come from?

"Nunc-kee-wanis" - meaning we share or trade our talents.

What is the primary focus of the organization?

To change the world one child and one community at a time.

How many Kiwanis clubs are there in the Williamsburg area?

Three. Colonial Capital Kiwanis Club, Toano Kiwanis Club and Williamsburg Kiwanis Club.

How many total members are there?

340- 350 members for all three clubs.

What is the difference between Kiwanis and similar civic groups such as Rotary

clubs?

We sponsor youth organizations. CKI in college, Key Clubs in high school and Builders Clubs in lower schools.

How long have you been a member of Kiwanis?

41 years in June.

What are your responsibilities as Historian?

To maintain the clubs records and provide info when needed.

What are some of the most notable contributions the local Kiwanis has made to our community during your membership years?

• Kiwanis Park was started by our club over 40 years ago so the kids would have a place to play baseball. Now it is a world class park operated by the City of Williamsburg. We like to think John Korczowski and Jimmy Fuller who got garden hoes and started chopping grass to make Kiwanis Park were the beginning of all the

recreational facilities the Williamsburg area is blessed with. That is one reason why we give the Korczowski-Fuller award each year to a Kiwanis member for exceptional service to the community.

• The Community Christmas Tree lighting each December 24 in Colonial Williamsburg is another notable contribution. We have carol singing, a local high school band, the Mayor welcomes everyone, and a Colonial Williamsburg interpreter reads the story of the first Christmas Tree in Williamsburg. For several years the President of the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club had the pleasure of reading the Christmas Tree story. It was (for me) one of the highlights of my year as president. 2009 was our 50th year and one of the best. As the tree was lit, you could see in the sky above, a single very bright star. It was so vivid I wanted to find the three camels that came with it.

• We also bought the first heart telemetry equipment for the City of Williamsburg's

EMT vehicle and it save a tourist's life the first week they had it. It also saved the life of Bob Dutro, one the most productive members of the Kiwanis Club for the last 40 years.

• We put a bronze plaque in the courthouse to honor all the area servicemen killed in Vietnam.

• 39 club members spent 57 work days building Kidsburg, a permanent playground for small children.

• With longtime member Jim Anthony leading, we established Kiwanis Day, later known as Band Day, which for 17 years brought up to 30 high school bands and 3,000 students to Williamsburg each year. The bands were judged while parading down DOG Street with the top three performing at halftime for William and Mary football games.

• Also with Anthony leading, we helped with the first few Occasion for the Arts

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event that has become so popular.

- We sponsored Sabin oral polio vaccine clinics that served 20,000 residents over a four month period.
- Through Olde Towne Medical Center we provided small pox vaccinations for children starting school.
- For over 30 years we have read to children. This program, started by Kiwanis International, is known as Reading is Fundamental or RIF. We now read once a month in three different facilities. None of those facilities existed when we started the reading program.
- In the early 1990's, the Kiwanis Clubs of Hampton Roads collectively pledged \$1,000,000 to help build a Pediatric Trauma Unit at Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters (CHKD). Because of our efforts the hospital named it Children's Kiwanis Emergency Center (CKEC). The CHKD doctors asked if we could raise \$100,000 for an "Ouchless" program. This money enabled the hospital to put TV monitors and PlayStations® in each examining room along with special equipment that would help the kids be less frightened while they were being examined or treated. After that we raised another \$300,000 for a transport vehicle which is really a mobile intensive care unit. I am more proud of this than anything else we have done.

- During our 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2008, we built a 700 square foot storage facility for the Historic Triangle Building in one day. The Kiwanis International President worked on this project.
- We sponsored the Colonial Capital Club which has become one of the best Kiwanis Clubs in all of Kiwanis International, and more recently the Toano Club which is growing fast and doing wonderful things.

What types of fundraising and community service projects will Kiwanis hold in 2010?

We had a Charity Ball held earlier in May and the Shrimp Feast will be held on September 11th.

The Shrimp Feast is a popular fundraiser for Kiwanis. How many years has your organization been holding this event?

2009 was our 30th Shrimp Feast and maybe our best. It seems to get better each year.

The Shrimp Feast is also an important fundraiser for Kiwanis. How much money does it raise for the community?

Over the 30 years we have raised \$500,000 to help the community. All of this money goes to charities.

Why do you think this event is so supported by the Williamsburg community?



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It is a fun event with good fellowship, good food and it is reasonably priced. It is my favorite project to work and almost everyone helps including our sponsored youth organizations. Joel Sheppard and Mike Sternberg did a great job building this event. Thanks also to Mickey and John Chohany from Second Street Restaurant. We couldn't do it without them. All of us working together have made this an event not to be missed.

What are some of the local organizations that Kiwanis has benefited over the years?

CDR, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Youth Athletics, Dream Catchers, Autistic Children, ARC, Olde Towne Medical Center, Rita Welsh Adult Program, Salvation Army, and many, many more.

How does someone become a member of Kiwanis?

Call Hugh Siggins at 757-564-8033, go online at www.williamsburgkiwanis.org or tell a Kiwanian you want to be a member.

What kind of commitment does it take to be a member of Kiwanis?

A willingness to be part of a team, to help others, and a desire to make your little spot on this earth as good as it can possibly be.

As a long standing member of the organization, you probably have some positive experiences that you can talk about. What are some of the most memorable moments you have had as a Kiwanis member?

- I have a lot of memorable moments but the one that I will never forget because it let me know Kiwanis is on the right track: On a Saturday night during the Christmas season, I was at Kmart® ringing the bell for donations to the Salvation Army (another one of the clubs projects). A cute little boy with a quarter in his hand ran over by me because he wanted to ride the mechanical pony at the store entrance and it cost a quarter. I was sitting close by. He looked at the pony, looked at me, looked at the pony then came over and put the quarter in my basket. Talk about making Christmas special.

- Linda [wife who passed away in 2006] and I had the good fortune to visit our sister Kiwanis District, The Netherlands, and spend a few days in the homes of five different Dutch families. What a joy. During a Kiwanis meeting, a young vice president of the club made a wonderful speech thanking us for saving them from the Nazis. 20 Virginians were in attendance. This person was so young he could hardly remember Vietnam let alone WWII, but he knew his history. It was our Memorial Day and our hosts took us out to a US military cemetery that the Dutch had started during WWII. Dutch families adopted different graves and maintained them. Our government does it now. We had some WWII veterans in our group and they had the honor of laying wreaths on the Unknown Soldiers graves. It made the hair on my neck and arms stand up.

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- During the 1983 International Convention In Vienna, Austria, seeing and hearing a 15 year old Key Clubber from Montana making a speech that was so great everyone felt sorry for the European Economic Community bigwig that had to follow him. No contest. Unfortunately that young man, who became an attorney, died in his late 30's or early 40's.

- I had been President of the Williamsburg club three weeks when the club hosted International President Maury Gladman's official visit to the Captial District (DE,MD,DC,VA) Over 500 Kiwanians and guests from all over the District attended and I had the honor of addressing and welcoming them to this historic place where Washington, Jefferson, Randolph, Henry and many more patriots met to plan this great country we call home.

- On a lighter side, I shook hands with Shirley Temple Black, and Mitzi Gaynor. I met some other famous people - Peter Graves, Vincent Price and a few others.

How has being a member of Kiwanis impacted your life?

Kiwanis has given me the opportunity to meet and make friends with so many people all over this country and abroad. It has also given me the means to help make my community and the world a better place.

What is on the horizon for Kiwanis in Williamsburg?

The Kiwanis horizon is as bright as a Hawaiian sunrise. We brought women into Kiwanis in 1987 and they have revitalized a lot of failing clubs, brought more energy to good clubs and infused Kiwanis worldwide with wonderful ideas and a new way of thinking. They are willing to work hard to accomplish great things for Kiwanis while living the Six Objects.

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