

The Abingdon Kiwanian

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<http://www.abingdonkiwanis.org/>
We meet at noon at Greenway Haven

A weekly publication of news, information and images from the Kiwanis Club of Abingdon, Virginia

New Member

Ryan Fabbri is a young area banking exec

RYAN FABBRI, 25, grew up in Bristol TN, and still lives there with his wife of a year, Megan, a Bristol, VA teacher. Ryan was graduated from Tennessee High and East Tennessee State, then began working for

First Bank & Trust where he is the Electronic Commerce Representative (credit and debit cards) for the bank's offices in Abingdon, Lebanon, Norton and Wise. In his spare time, Ryan loves to play golf.



This Week's Program



Joe Johnson Reports on State Government

State Capitol, Richmond



Joe Johnson

Joe Johnson soon will turn 80. He has served in the Virginia House of Delegates since 1990, and an earlier period of House service was interrupted by an unsuccessful run for the 9th District Congressional seat.

Joe's District was revised after the recent census. The opposition party removed some of his Abingdon area strongholds and added coalfield areas where he never has run as a Delegate. Yet this long-serving Democrat has announced his candidacy for reelection. In recent races, Joe had no Democratic or Republican opposition, but some are asking whether a coalfield candidate could make this a hotly contested race.

With that background, our club will hear a legislative report Tuesday from this formidable Abingdon lawyer and cancer survivor. Plan to be there.

Should social events have beer, wine?

Some wanted beer to be an optional beverage at this week's Bristol-Abingdon Kiwanis Picnic. The Bristol club was ready to poll its Board, but Fred Keller, our prez, said no. Our Board just met, he noted, and no such proposal was presented. The issue is likely to be raised again. For what it is worth, Abingdon Rotary has long offered alcohol at its social events. Should we do the same? - JW

Capital District may end loss string that began in 1989.

By Jack White

Service clubs in North America, as a group, have been losing members for the past quarter century. Many reasons have been given, and some date the onset of losses to the IRS rule that dues to clubs like Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions no longer would be tax deductible. Until then, many businesses encouraged their better employees to join these clubs and the company paid the dues.

For the Kiwanis Capital District, growth peaked in the 1987-88 year, then dropped the following year. The total bounced back in 1989-90, but losses resumed in 1990-91 – exactly two decades ago – and there has been no letup since.

The losses have been despite growth efforts by club and District leaders and changes Kiwanis International made to try to meet needs of younger prospects with different family and work patterns.

Last week, messages of cautious optimism circulated around the District when a report showed a net membership gain at the end of July,

with just two more months remaining in this Kiwanis year.

The gain was small, 23 members from 178 clubs in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and D.C. But it was widespread. Of eight Regions in our District, five have grown this year and just three lost members – Northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley and the Richmond area.

The report said 122 clubs grew or stayed even and just 57 declined. That is a 2:1 margin. Our SW Virginia Region and Division 8 had strong gains. This club, we know, finished a growth campaign with eight new members. Last week, our Board approved a ninth and people tell us there are more to come. We could very well end the year with a dozen new members on our roster.

Our gains will be needed because clubs historically purge their rolls near the end of the year of members who are not current on dues or have become inactive.

Abingdon appears ready to do its part. Let's hope a big District-wide celebration erupts on October 1.

News notes from the August Board Meeting

THURSDAY'S ABINGDON-BRISTOL KIWANIS PICNIC will have a big turnout from both clubs, up from 80 last time to about 100 this year. Register at Tuesday's meeting

WINGS & WHEELS, our antique car and aircraft display, will have an air show this year after all. Virginia aviation officials first told us they lacked funds for another \$10,000

grant to help pay for the air show. Now, they tell us the money is available. This year's Wings & Wheels will be on Sat, Sept. 24, from 9am to 3pm at Virginia Highlands Airport.

BOARD MEETINGS will continue to be held next year at the Tuscan Italian Grill. There was talk of finding a new place, but Prez-Elect Ben Hamby chose to stay where we are.