

the official newsletter of the
Kiwanis Club of Frederick, MD

FrederickKiwanis.org | info@frederickkiwanis.org

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2025-2026 OFFICERS

President: Sue Vona
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Pres. Elect: Clara Thompson
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Treasurer: Bob Failor
301-698-9425
Secretary: Lauri Cutting
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Past President: Richard Cutting
518-593-9672

DIRECTORS

Timothy Dinterman ('25-'26)
301-401-0434
Allen Byrne ('23-'26)
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Ray Ediger ('24-'27)
301-788-2250
Diane Reba ('24-'27)
301-371-4796
Colette Baker ('25-'28)
301-514-9144
Dex Ryberg ('25-'28)
301-668-1228

Meetings

Meetings are held the 2nd and
4th Tuesday of the month in
the Garden Room, Elks Lodge,
289 Willowdale Dr., Frederick,
MD 21702



Allen Byrne

Past-President

Great Christmas Party!

Club members gathered at Gladchucks in December for a festive Christmas Party! An auction raised several hundred dollars for the club's Service Account.





Thank You Bell Ringers!



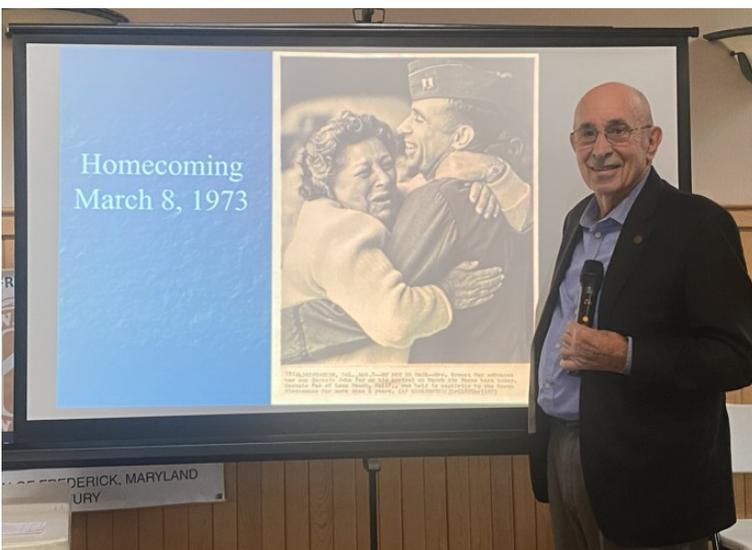
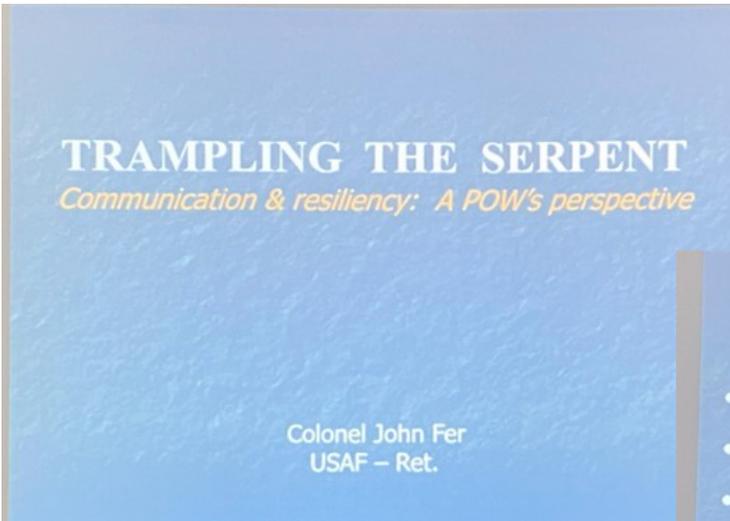
The cold did not prevent members from volunteering for this year's Salvation Army bell ringing!

In the top photo are Theresa Thompson and Colette Baker. In the bottom left photo are Tim Dinterman, Sue Vona and Bob Kaufmann. At bottom right, the lone volunteer is Lauri Cutting, though hubby Richard is probably behind the camera!



Col John Fer (USAF Ret): Vient Nam Captive '67—'73

Shot down over enemy territory in North Viet Nam on his 55th mission, Air Force Pilot Colonel John Fer (Col. USAF-Ret) made an incredibly exciting presentation to our Kiwanis Club recently. He detailed the shoot down which took the life of his fellow aviators, his capture, treatment and daily life among the other captives at the Hanoi Hilton. Released in 1973, in a photo below, Fer is being greeted by his joyous mother upon his return home.



Right, Col. Fer is being presented with a club Challenge Coin as a thank you by Pres. Sue Vona as Dr. Bob Kaufmann looks on.



Member's Sensory Friendly Santa

Member Ashley VanCleaf, founder of the Parent Resource Center, played a significant role in the development and execution of the Sensory Friendly Santa events. These events are designed to create a calm and inclusive environment for children with sensory sensitivities, allowing them to enjoy the traditional holiday experience without the usual sensory overload. VanCleaf's efforts in partnership with Autism Speaks have made these events a significant part of the holiday season for families with children on the autism spectrum and those with other special needs. "We held our 3rd annual Sensory Friendly Santa event hosting approximately 50 families with an opportunity to meet and take professional pictures with Santa in a sensory friendly setting," she said.



Members Celebrating Christmas

Only one family submitted a Christmas 2025 family photo. Here is Dave and Barb Maloney's family members how gathered for Christmas Eve dinner.

(not shown is grandson Evan and his fiancé, Laci who had to leave early.)



Wreaths Across America 2025

Wreaths Across America is a national effort to put wreaths on the graves of veterans around the country. Before the volunteers spread out to distribute their wreaths, they are urged them to think about the names on the graves in front of them. “You are not just laying wreaths on the ground. You are honoring a human being,” the helpers are told.

Organizing the event is a yearlong effort that involves hundreds of people. It’s a chance to remember and honor the veterans, and teach younger generations about what they fought for, and It’s important that younger generations don’t forget the sacrifices that were made by previous generations. Helpers come to honor the veterans and to remember others around the Christmas holiday. (FNP)





Above, Dr Bob heading for veterans grave to place a wreath



Above, Dr Bob, Pastor Martz and Sue Vona



Richard Cutting making some remarks at wreath laying at Utica cemetery.



Above, Richard and Lauri Cutting, Sue Vona, Bob Kaufmann

Utica Wreaths Across America 2025



Richard Cutting and USAF combat veteran Mary Leatherman after she placed the POW/MIA wreath.

Literacy Council of Frederick County



Andrew West, Development Coordinator at the Literacy Council of Frederick County, recently spoke to our club about the LCFC’s English language services which are driven by the fundamental belief that literacy should be attainable for everyone. “Literacy is more than reading and writing. It’s greater access to resources, it’s opportunity for employment advancement, and it’s inviting our neighbors into a shared community,” he said. Below, club Pres. Sue Vona (left) presents a club Challenge Coin to West as club Pres. Elect Clara Thompson looks on.





Please stop by the Wes Patrick St. Roy Rogers between 12 and 3 for lunch. Mention Frederick Kiwanis when checking out and 25% of your net sale will be donated to our club!

BOD Agenda for Dec 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION UPDATE

KEY CLUBS

BUSINESS

November 8th: Mt. Airy Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast – There were enough in attendance to have an interclub.

November 14th: Roy Rogers Update

Shaun Butcher possible new member.

Wait Staff Holiday Gift Discussion

Mission of Mercy Food Distribution – Four Kiwanians were in attendance.

Wreaths Across America Update and Deadline.

December 8th Kiwanis Holiday Dinner at Gladchuks. Don't forget to sign up, dinner is \$45 p/p. Also, don't forget to bring a wrapped item to auction off.

December 20th: Salvation Bell Ringing Update.

Notes: No Sleep in Heavenly Peace for Dec. & Jan.

Speakers: 12/9 Lifting Lives through Literacy

12/23 – John Fer (POW Veteran)

ADJOURNMENT

Member Monthly Volunteer Hours: November 2025

by Colette Baker

Here are volunteer hours for the month of November 2025. Be sure to report your monthly hours on the first of each month for the preceding month. Go here to do so:

<https://davidmaloney.com/machform2/embed.php?id=18517>

Bed Build	2 members	8 hours	70 youth
Mission of Mercy Food Distribution	2 members	2 hours	
Marine Corps League Santa Photos	1 member	9 hours	
CTC Beekeeping Mentor	1 member	4 hours	
Gift Wrap	1 member	1 hour	
Cub Pack 285/Boy Scout Troop 795	1 member	1 hour	
Helping Seniors	1 member	4 hours	



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- Eye On KI
- Beyond the Call

[Click here to read the latest edition of *The Capital Kiwanian*](#)

Upcoming Birthdays!

Richard Cutting 1/20 rcut01@yahoo.com

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