

## NEW YEAR...DID YOU KNOW??

The earliest record of a 'New Year Festival' dates from about 2000 BCE in Mesopotamia, where in Babylonia the new year began with the new moon after the vernal equinox and in Assyria with the new moon nearest the autumn equinox (mid-September). On the Roman republican calendar the year began on March 1, but after 153 BCE the official date was January 1, which was continued in the Julian calendar of 46 BCE.

In early medieval times most of Christian Europe regarded March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, as the beginning of the new year, although New Year's Day was observed on December 25 in Anglo-Saxon England. William the Conqueror decreed that the year begin on January 1, but England later joined the rest of Christendom and adopted March 25. The Gregorian calendar, adopted in 1582 by the Roman Catholic Church, restored January 1 as New Year's Day, and most European countries gradually followed suit: Scotland, in 1660; Germany and Denmark, about 1700; England (and our colonies), in 1752; and Russia, in 1918.

Many of the customs of New Year festivals note the passing of time with both regret and anticipation. The baby as a symbol of the new year dates to the ancient Greeks, with an old man representing the year that has passed. The Romans derived the name for the month of January from their god Janus, who had two faces, one looking backward and the other forward. The practice of making resolutions to rid oneself of bad habits and to adopt better ones also dates to ancient times. Some believe the Babylonians began the custom more than 4,000 years ago. These early resolutions were likely made in an attempt to curry favor with the gods. In the West, particularly in English-speaking countries, the nostalgic Scottish ballad "Auld Lang Syne," revised by the poet Robert Burns (my elementary school!), is often sung on New Year's Eve.

And now you know more than you ever even wanted too!

January 9, 2025

### Our January Birthdays!

Joe Phea – 1/11  
Tom Andrews – 1/16  
Roger Mahan – 1/24

### Kiwanis Magazine-Telling the Kiwanis Story

The **October 2024 issue** was entitled 'Inspiring New Possibilities', an apt title for the first issue of the new fiscal year for Kiwanis. One of the articles in this issue is '**Introducing: Build. Nurture. Retain.**' Kiwanis Intrnl. Is launching a new membership 'initiative', NOT a 'campaign'. That's because 'campaigns' begin and end. The 'initiative' is an ongoing effort designed to help growth become a part of Kiwanis's 'culture'! The focus is on building new clubs, nurturing new and existing clubs, and retaining members by providing an unsurpassed service experience. We have a challenge just to keep OUR club going, so the 'Build' & 'Nurture' portions will have to wait. The '**Retain**' portion however, is what we need to implement, more so now than ever!

### RETAIN

Kiwanis International provides tools, staff and/or volunteer support to assist clubs with recruitment and retention. Begin with the Create Your Club's Membership Plan worksheet, one of the Club Toolbox resources. This worksheet will guide you through the process of:

- 1- Examining where your club is today
- 2- Strategizing where you want to be
- 3- Analyzing membership strategies that will work best for your club
- 4- Deciding on your specific goals & how you plan to meet them
- 5- Reporting info: tactics, assistance

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John Paul Batrice's



Signs that Wayne Kohout saw hanging on walls at the **Cast Iron Grill** where he and a dozen other men from 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church meet for breakfast Tuesday mornings at 7:00. Any of 'youse guys' are welcome to join us! Coffee & fellowship

"To the world you may be just one person, but to one person, YOU may be their world!"

"To Do List: Watch a sunrise; Snuggle on the couch; Read a good book; Take a long nap; Watch the sunset!"

"I'd rather be lost at the lake, than found at home!"

"You can never have 'too much' HAPPY!"

"Life is a journey - enjoy it!"

"The hardest thing in life is to know which bridge to cross - and which bridge to burn!"

"Let us be silent that we may hear the 'whisper of God'!"

"Life is like a camera! Focus on what is important! Capture the good times! Develop from the negatives. And...if things don't turn out, TAKE ANOTHER SHOT!"

"Yesterday's 'home runs' ...don't win 'today's games'!"

"You only live once! But if you 'do it right'...once is enough!" Mae West

"The difference between the 'Impossible'!...and the 'Possible'!...is in a person's 'DETERMINATION'!"

"First God created Man...then He had a better idea!"

"All I need today is a little bit of coffee...and a whole lot of Jesus!"

## TODAY

Thur. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> – Jamie Havens, Dir. Heart Gallery of the Panhandle Plains, Addressing Foster Care Crisis

## ALSO... COMING SOON!

Thur. Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> – Lucinda Mann, Idalou Harvest Company

Thur. Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – Brian Massey & Luke Massey, Houses for Healing