

Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International

Jan-Feb-MarDec 2024

Welcome Kiwanis Club of Commack!

New Kiwanis Club in the Suffolk West Division

New York District Gov. Gordy Soderhold and District Membership & New Club Opening Chair Thomas Cesiro are thrilled to welcome one of the newest Kiwanis Clubs in the New York District—the Kiwanis Club of Commack! The Commack Kiwanis club was organized on Dec. 12, 2024, with 19 members.



Commack is a hamlet of approximately 35,000 people in the Suffolk County Towns of Huntington and Smithtown on Long Island. It is the first new Kiwanis Club in Suffolk County in a few years.

Much appreciation goes to Huntington Kiwanis Club President Roger Sirangelo, Suffolk East Lt. Gov. Roger Budzinski, and NY District Membership Chair Tom Cesiro for all of their hard work in seeing this club come to fruition.

A recent picture from a meeting of the newly organized and chartered Kiwanis Club of Commack.

The Club is excited to join the Kiwanis family, plan its first Charter night and organize its first fundraiser.

Bellmores Kiwanis Reaches Out to Thousands in Need

This year's Bellmore Kiwanis Thanksgiving Meal Distribution project resulted in us assisting over 4000 individuals with a



Thanksgiving meal.

Alongside the Long Island South Central Division Kiwanis, Kiwanis members and

the community helped cook, prepare side dishes, carve and package meals at the American Legion Massapequa NY Post 1066.

In total this year we prepared:

- 4700 pounds of cooked turkey prepared by NY BBQ Brigade
- 1200 pounds of Stuffing Provided By Embassy Diner

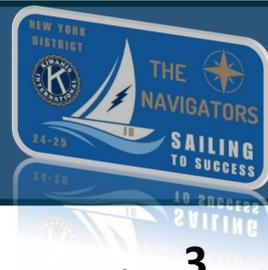
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New York District Mid-Year Conference

New York District's annual Mid-Year Conference is schedule this year for February 14-16, at the Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton, New York. As always, it looks to be great time and opportunity to network with your fellow Kiwanians. The District will also be honoring Clubs and individuals for their achievements for the 2023-24 service year under Immediate Past Governor Lucien.

More information and details about Mid-Year are on pages 8-10.

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WHERE SOME SEE GOOFY, WE SEE POTENTIAL

#KIDSNEEDKIWANIS



Empire State Kiwanian

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Immediate Past Governor Lucien Giancursio

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Abbott-Cooper
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(East Rockaway)

Metropolitan

Dennis Gabel
(Staten Island)

Mohawk

Virtual Lt. Gov.

Niagara Frontier North

Carmen Gentile
(Ken-Ton)

Niagara Frontier South

Martha Anderson
(Springville)

Ontario

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(Syracuse Young
Professionals)

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Chung Dick
(Fresh Meadow)

Queens West

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(Lefferts-Liberty)

Saint Lawrence

James Reagan
(Ogdensburg)

Southwestern

William Karrow
(Westfield-Ripley)

Suffolk East

Eric Budzinski
(Patchogue)

Suffolk West

Gregory Bravo
(Deer Park-North Babylon)

Susquehanna

Katherine Newell
(Owego)

Van Rensselaer

Wayne Gendron
(Sand Lake)



Kiwanis®

2024-25 Conventions

Feb. 14-16: NY District Mid Year Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Binghamton

June 25-28, 2025: KI International Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Aug. 8-10, 2024: NY District Convention, Desmond Hotel, Albany

October 2024

- 1 — Beginning of the new Kiwanis service year
- 3-7 — Kiwanis International Board Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
- 9-13 — Youth Protection Week
- 10 — Deadline to finalize roster for the 2023-24 year
Due date for club reports for September 2024
- 16-20 — Circle K Week
- 28 — Kiwanis One Day

November 2024

- 1 — Kiwanis Children's Fund ("KCF") Scholarship applications available online
- 1-3 — Kiwanis Family Weekend
- 4-8 — Key Club Week
- 10 — Due date for club reports for October 2024
- 13-16 — KCF Board meeting
- 28 — Thanksgiving
- 30 — Deadline for club dues to be submitted

December 2024

- 10 — Due date for club reports for November 2024
- 31 — New Year's Eve — Year end gifts to KCF post marked by 12/31

January 2025

- 1 — New Year's Day
- 10 — Due date for club reports for December 2024
- 15-16 — Kiwanis International Board meeting
- 21 — 110th Anniversary of Kiwanis International

February 2025

- 1 — KCF scholarship application deadline
- 10-14 — K-Kids Week
- 10 — Due date for club reports for January 2025
- 15 — Deadline for file 990 IRS forms
- 14-16 — NY District Mid Year Conference, Doubletree, Binghamton
- 24-28 — Builders Club Week
- 25 — Kiwanis Day of Giving

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New York District of Kiwanis

March 2025

- 3-7 Aktion Club Week
- 10 Due date for club reports for February 2025
- 14-16 Circle K New York District Convention
- 28-30 Key Club New York District LTC, Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY
- 23 Key Club International Birthday

April 2025

- 10 Due date for club reports for March 2025
- 15 Target date to complete Club Elections for 2025-26 service year
- 23-26 Kiwanis International Board meeting
- 27 Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation's 25th Anniversary Gala

May 2025

- 10 Due date for club reports for April 2025
- 15-18 2025-26 Lieutenant Governor Training, Utica, NY
- 16 Kamp Kiwanis Work Weekend & Open House, Taberg, NY

June 2025

- 1 Deadline for Club Election Reports to be submitted in the Portal.
- 10 Due date for club reports for May 2025
- 25-28 Kiwanis International Board and KCF Board meetings

July 2025

- 2-6 Key Club International Convention
- 10 Due date for club reports for June 2025

August 2025

- 8-11 New York District Convention, Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY
- 10 Due date for club reports for July 2025

September 2025

- 10 Due date for club reports for August 2025
- 30 Deadline to make any changes to club roster for the start of the 2025-26 service year.
- 30 Last day of the Kiwanis service year

From Our: Governor Elect

Stepping into Leadership to Conquer our Challenges

It is with great anticipation that I step into the role of Governor-Elect for the New York District Kiwanis. Collaborating closely with Kiwanis International President-Elect Michael Mulhaul and my fellow district Governor-Elects, we are diligently preparing for the 2025-2026 year. Our collective efforts are directed towards addressing the challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities that lie ahead for our members, divisions, and the district.

The support and guidance of the New York District board have been pivotal in our preparatory efforts. Their contributions have been invaluable in laying the groundwork for our initiatives. Our shared mission is to provide steadfast support and foster an environment where every Kiwanian can excel and make meaningful contributions to our community-focused goals.

Following an intensive training session in Indianapolis, we have been tasked with formulating a strategic plan for the forthcoming year. This plan will be crucial in guiding our actions and initiatives. Kiwanis International is poised to introduce a series of new projects and programs designed to empower clubs at the grassroots level. These initiatives will not only

By Carla Ingram

*New York District
Governor Elect*



enhance our service impact but also strengthen the camaraderie within our Kiwanis family.

As Governor-Elect, I am committed to maintaining open lines of communication and ensuring that every member remains informed and engaged. Throughout the year, you will hear more from me as I actively seek to visit as many districts as possible. These visits will provide opportunities to connect, share insights, and celebrate our collective achievements.

In conclusion, I am honored to serve as your Governor-Elect and look forward to collaborating with each of you to ensure the 2025-2026 year is a resounding success. Together, we will overcome our challenges and continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.



From Our: Immediate Past Governor

The New York District has experienced a series of losses most recently. A few that I had the pleasure of meeting such as:

- Jack Hanrahan, DPLTG of Niagara Frontier North from Lewiston the 2024 recipient of the Gerald P. Christiano Award.
- Herman Ovadia our beloved basket Raffle co-chair. As long as I have been around, Herman has served this position and a great many Governors over the years with much dedication.
- Kathleen O'Hara the president of the Glendale Club. I meet Katheen at an unannounced visit to a Glendale club event in July. At that visit one could tell that she was well on her way to being a great Kiwanis leader.



By Lucien Giancursio

*Immediate Past Governor
New York District*



On behalf of the New York District, let's us give our condolences to their families and to the families of our other fellow Kiwanians that have also been called home.

Foundation President Tom Poccio has asked me to chair the military Kamperships Program that Governor Hank started. We finally used all remaining money that was raised during Governor Hank's year from his governor project. I have agreed to chair this program. It will be called "Governor Hank's Military Kampers." I am going to start to inform the district about it and begin the fundraising process. I will start to look for a committee as well. If interested, please let's talk.

Our 2025 Mid-Year Conference is Feb 14-16. This is our most intense educational conference of the year. It cannot be stressed enough, the importance of this conference. This is where we educate our new Kiwanians as well as ourselves to the ever-changing world of Kiwanis. I believe that when one stops educating one's self, one ceases to grow. It's important for you to join us there.

Best regards,

Immediate Past Governor Lucien

NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Greetings everyone!



DPLG Kerrie & DPP Steve Hansen
District Conference Chairs

Join us at the NYD Kiwanis Mid-Winter Conference in Binghamton, New York (Feb. 14-16). We are hosting this event at The DoubleTree by Hilton in Binghamton. Discover ways to build and grow clubs, while nurturing and building your membership. Learn how to magnify your club's influence on your community. Find out how to transform service projects in ways you never thought possible. Receive hands-on guidance in becoming a skilled Kiwanis leader. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones! You'll leave an exciting and educational Kiwanis event inspired to make a difference.

The Friday night Sock Hop is a wonderful way to pump up the energy for the weekend and celebrate Valentine's Day. Attendees are asked to bring a backpack filled with school supplies (or make an equal monetary donation), which will be sent to Kamp Kiwanis. The First Lady Marie is getting us ready to meet Henry Winkler, "The Fonz" at the KI Convention in Pittsburgh, PA this June.



Saturday night is the Governor's Dinner and Awards Gala. We are honoring Immediate Past Governor Lucien Giancursio and 2023-2024 service year. Club awards will be awarded. Dress code is Black Tie optional, Black Coat.

Please check out the website (<https://www.kiwanis-ny.org>) for Conference updates.

Look forward to seeing everyone in Binghamton, NY!

**Midyear will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in
Binghamton, New York.**

**Hotel Reservations can be made online through
the Kiwanis New York District website at:**

[New York District Kiwanis](https://www.kiwanis-ny.org)



2025 Mid-Year Conference Schedule

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Friday, February 14, 2025	
2-6:45 p.m.	Registration
2-6:45 p.m.	Raffle Basket and Display Tables
Noon-12:45 p.m.	Board Lunch (<i>By Invitation Only</i>)
1-4 p.m.	District Board Meeting
6:45-8 p.m.	Welcome Dinner
8:15-10:15 p.m.	Opening Session, Keynote Speaker TBD
10:15 p.m.	SOCK HOP
10:15 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms
Saturday, February 15, 2025	
8-9:30 a.m.	Past Governor's Breakfast
7:30-8:30 a.m.	Lt. Gov. Elects' Breakfast with Governor Elect Carla Ingram
7:30-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Registration (Closed for Lunch)
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Raffle Basket and Display Tables
8:45-11:30 a.m.	Forums
10-11 a.m.	Past Lt. Governor's Council
12:00-2 p.m.	Foundations' Recognition Luncheon
2:15-3 p.m.	Forums
3-4 p.m.	New York District Foundation Board Meeting
6:15-7:15 p.m.	Gala Reception
7-7:15 p.m.	VIP Toast*
7:15-10 p.m.	Gala Governor's Dinner and Awards*
10 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms

February 14-16, 2025
District Board Meeting
Welcome Dinner
Opening Session
Forums
Foundation Board Meeting
Recognitions
Gala Governor's Dinner/Awards

* Black Tie Optional, Black Coat

Mid-Year Conference Forums

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Scheduled Workshops

Empower your people – How to motivate your members for success in your clubs & community

Booster Rockets – How to use a club Booster Kit

Do you want to be a leader – Club officer, Lt. Governor, Governor

Youth Protection

How to Create a Newsletter That Sells Your Club

Governor's & First Ladies Project - Gov Gordy & First Lady Marie

Autism Workshop – Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together

Canva 101

Photography- Taking full advantage of the camera in your pocket

Kiwanis Engage – A Sneak Preview

Possibility Project – What is it?

How to Recruit Younger Members

Social Media – Multiple platforms

February 14-16, 2025

District Board Meeting

Welcome Dinner

Opening Session

Forums

Foundation Board Meeting

Gala Governor's Dinner/Awards

Photos Wanted



A slide show is being put together for the 2023-24 Service Year. If you

have *action* photos from projects and/or visits by IPG Lucien Giancursio – please send them to



NYKiwanisPictures@gmail.com prior to the conference.

Basket & Gift Card Raffle

There will be a Basket & Gift Card Raffle Fundraiser at the Mid-Year Conference.



Baskets and gift cards can be brought to Mid-Year to support this year's Governor's Project.

Please contact Raffle Chair Rebecca Ovadia to let her know if you are bringing a basket at woodsidekiwanis@gmail.com.

Kiwanis CHILDREN'S FUND | the POSSIBILITY PROJECT

The Possibility Project is a monumental initiative to raise \$25 Million in the next 5 years. This isn't just a number; it represents our commitment to impact at least 10 million children worldwide through Kiwanis Children's Fund grants and scholarships.



Kids need Kiwanis

Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, US\$2.25 addresses the needs of one child. Imagine the possibilities if we raised US\$25 million — enough for Kiwanis clubs and members to serve 10 million children around the world. That's the goal of The Possibility Project. Join the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve.

What we've raised

There are nearly 180,000 Kiwanis club members in 85 nations. What if everyone in our global network came together to make an impact? Here's what The Possibility Project has achieved so far: over \$5.4 Million (U.S.)!

Why we're raising it

Children going hungry. Students struggling to read. Potential leaders lacking mentors. Even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow. Visit our website to learn how Kiwanis clubs are meeting these needs, and more — and how gifts help them change children's lives. <https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/kiwanis-childrens-fund/possibility-project/>.

Kiwanis CHILDREN'S FUND | the POSSIBILITY PROJECT



UPDATE ON THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT



By Sandy Nagler
Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair

From July through September, smaller clubs made a big impact through the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

In July, August and September 2024, more clubs around the world received Kiwanis Children's Fund microgrants for small projects that will make a big impact. These clubs are giving out books throughout their communities, providing food and emergency supplies to families and training parents of children with autism in sensory therapies. The following three projects highlight the ways Kiwanis clubs are using microgrants to advance the Kiwanis causes of education and literacy, health and nutrition, and youth leadership development.

To learn more about Kiwanis Children's Fund microgrants, visit kiwanis.org/microgrant-program.

If you want to help the Children's Fund provide grants like these that reach children around the world, you can [make a gift](#) to The Possibility Project. Your club can also [apply for a grant](#) to help kids in your community today.

Be a Champion for kids!

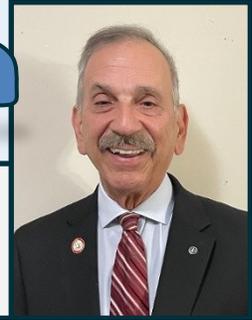
Thanks to The Possibility Project, Kiwanis service will reach 10 million kids in communities around the world. To achieve this remarkable impact, we need the support and dedication of volunteers. That's why we're calling on enthusiastic and passionate individuals to join us as Champions.

As a Champion, you will work closely with Kiwanis Children's Fund staff and other dedicated volunteers across the U.S. to help raise awareness and funds for The Possibility Project. In this vital role, you will:

- Meet with clubs in your area (within your division and potentially in surrounding divisions).
- Promote the impact of the Children's Fund by serving as a representative for your area.
- Encourage Kiwanis clubs to contribute gifts that support children through Kiwanis.

Your involvement will be instrumental in transforming lives and creating brighter futures for children worldwide. Join us and be a Champion for kids! Learn more here: [The Possibility Project Interest Form](#).

Empire Club



By DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

*District Chair
Foundation Empire Club*

The Empire Club was formulated by me in August, 2002. It was designed to mirror the Heritage Foundation started by Kiwanis International a few years earlier. It was created with the approval of then NYDK Foundation President Lindy Marrazzo and reviewed by the late Steve Eisman, NYDK Foundation General Council.

The purpose of the Empire Club is to secure long-range gifts to the NY District Kiwanis Foundation and recognize those Kiwanians and friends who believed in secur-



ing the legacy of our District Foundation for years to come. Funds could also be given up-front as well and funds would go for

the general operation of the District Foundation at the direction of the Foundation Board. Kiwanians are asked to seek advice their financial advisors, estate planning attorneys and/or estate planning accountants for any recommendations. Planned gifts can also be set-up with the District Foundation as well.

The District Foundation was blessed by the generosity of the late PDLTG Ivan Tarnopoll, whom I was fortunate to do some financial planning with several years ago. His legacy donation of life insurance liquidated the Foundation's \$300,000 mortgage & established a cultural arts center named after him.

We have 32 active Empire Club members, 6 deceased members and 3 of those whom fulfilled their commitment. Commitments are on the honor system with no pressure applied whatsoever.

The Empire Club brochure has been revised as I utilized the expertise of Foundation Parliamentarian Peter Mancuso and Foundation General Counsel Jim Prout. The revised brochure is available & can be found under the District Foundation tab on the District Website ([empire2023.pdf \(kiwanis-ny.org\)](#)). I also can send them via email to any interested person. For more information, I can be reached by email at pepster@aol.com or by phone at (315) 436-2157.

THANKS.

The world needs more of that.





New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

Kamp Kiwanis®



By Daniel Trader

*Executive Director
Kamp Kiwanis*

Hello Greetings, NY District Kiwanians!

I hope all are well as we settle into the cold and snowy winter. At these times it may seem hard to believe, but summer will be here before we know it. Here at Kamp Kiwanis, we're hard at work making sure that we are ready for another amazing summer and have some big things on the horizon to make sure we take the jewel of the district to the next level.

Even before the clocks turned to 2025, we already had 68 kamperships paid for and reserved through the continued generosity of Kiwanians across the district. This number continues to increase steadily and is a great beginning to a memorable summer. We look forward to an updated website very soon, if not already at the time of publishing. In the meantime, applications are updated for 2025 and can be found at: [Kamp Kiwanis Applications](#).

We've also been fortunate to have almost 70% of our 2024 staff confirmed to be returning and rehired. In addition, we're already 72% staffed for 2025. This includes the aquatics and health areas that can be a challenge to hire at times. We've also added additional office staff for this summer to process registrations more efficiently and address Kiwanian and kamper family questions during the summer, including one that is fluent in Spanish. This added stability has allowed us to continue to look for ways to improve and make the best use of our lovely Kamp Kiwanis.



We continue to explore different grant opportunities to maintain and improve programs and facilities. We are making arrangements to improve our Biking activity and implement it more consistently



into our Sports program area. And we're working to bring Archery back for 2025 after a two summer absence. We've also been blessed to make better connections in our local area and with the different divisions of the district including connecting regarding grants, connections for recruiting kampers, and planning and coordination of potential Kiwanis events and projects that could occur at Kamp Kiwanis.



None of these successes are possible without the outpouring of support from each Kiwanian of the NY

District so we thank you for it all! As we proceed forward we would love to hear from you and especially any stories and feedback you may gain from kampers so that we can continue to share the impact and make any improvements necessary. If there is anything we can do to aid you, don't hesitate to reach out. We're all in this together!

KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION (LONG ISLAND)



DPG Joe Corace
*President
KPTC Foundation*

Well let me start by saying thank you to all. With your help and support we again had a successful Black and White Ball. Close to 300 Kiwanians and friends gathered again to celebrate helping children in our community.

This is a great time of the year for the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation. We get to plan our fundraising events for the year.

We've already had Candy Cane Bingo thanks to President Antoinette Cantone and Past Lt. Governor Nancy Shaw with the support of the East Yonkers Kiwanis Club and President Bob Monahan and the Ridgewood NY 321 Kiwanis Club. We then had our Psychic Fundraiser thanks to DPP Alicia Cosentino of the Bethpage Central Park Kiwanis Club and DPP Gary Crozier from the Levittown Club and all that attended.

We also had our Annual meeting at Cohen's Children's Hospital. They presented us with an update and informative program. At this meeting we presented our annual donation in the amount of \$35,000.00 to Cohen's Children's Hospital. We also elected our directors, appointed our committee members and thanked our returning advisory council. Congratulations to:

Nancy Baxter
Anthony Campanile
Thomas Cesiro
Joseph L. Corace
Charlie Cronin

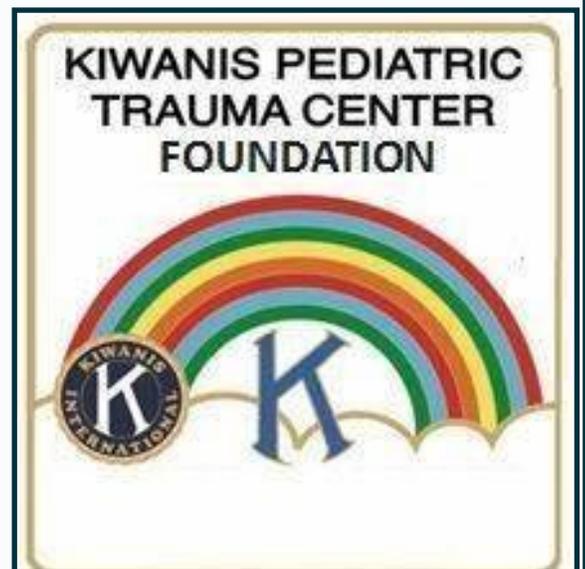
Gary Crozier
David Cummo
Gail Cummo
Theresa Gaffney
Lisa Hallett

Kerrie Hansen
Steve Katz
Chris Lindsley
Doris Mellina
Rebecca Ovadia

Dr. Fred Seltzer
Michael S. Siniski
Michael Terry

Let me take a minute and thank all of you for supporting our events, donating to our Fellowship Program, Annual Campaign and many of the other donations through the year. This is how this donation as well as the \$35,000.00 that will be presented to Stony Brook Children's Hospital in the spring, is made possible.

Going forward our next fundraising event is Comedy Night, thanks to President Valerie Shapiro and Billy Scoppa of the West Hempstead Club.



Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

By DPG John Gridley

Founder, Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation



Lyme Disease Symptoms - What to look for:

It is very important to know the symptoms of Lyme disease for children and adults.

Lyme disease symptoms for children include but are not limited to: early symptoms are Flue like illness such as fever, muscles aches, fatigue, nausea, joint pain, rash and Bell's palsy.

Later symptoms are headache, stiff neck, light or sound sensitivity, cognitive impairment, uncharacteristic, inability to sustain attention, outbursts & mood swings, arthritis, fatigue, chest pain, shortness of breath and tingling, burning or shooting pains.

Lyme disease symptoms for adults include but are not limited to: (early symptoms) are Flue like illness such as fever, nausea, chills, sweats, muscles aches, fatigue, and joint pain. Rash (less than 10% have classic bullseye rash) and Bell's palsy.

(later symptoms) include but are not limited to: headache, stiff neck, light or sound sensitivity, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, depression, anxiety or mood swings, arthritis, fatigue, nausea, diarrhea, chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, tingling, burning or shooting pains.

It is also important to go to your doctor immediately and demand to be put on antibiotic.

SAVE THE DATE
 Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation
25th Anniversary Jubilee Gala
 honoring
**Distinguished Past Governor John Gridley
 & Former First Lady Rose Marie**



Sunday, April 27, 2025 - 12:30 pm
 at the **Crest Hollow Country Club**
 8325 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY 11797
 For information contact
 Jeanne Egan-Canning at 516 353-8325 - Email: post2004@att.net
 Joseph Aiello at 516 828-6304 - Email: joa9014@nyp.org

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

25th Anniversary Jubilee Gala

Open Letter to Fellow Kiwanians

Hello Kiwanis Family,

In several weeks you will be heading to the Mid-Winter convention. Please stop at our Pediatric Lyme Table. We will be having a Valentine Raffle. A chance to win Chocolate/ Liquor. At the same time pick up the information for the Jubilee. We just a few months away from the Gala. If you haven't made your reservation. Now is the time to do it. Talk with your clubs and divisions about the Gala.

If you want to have a great time. You need to come to this event. This event will be better than ever. We will have live entertainment during the cocktail hour and at the reception. The food will be spectacular, several open bars all day, and a special dessert bar. Everyone that attends will receive a thank you gift. If you are unable to attend, please consider a sponsorship, making a donation on behalf of your club, purchasing a medallion, providing a raffle prize or even a journal ad!

We have made arrangements to have a block of rooms if you want to come in the night before. Which are almost sold out. Don't wait until the last minute to reserve

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**DPG Joe Aiello
Jeanne Egan-Canning**

*Event Co-Chairs
Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease
Foundation Jubilee/Gala*

Be There Or Be Square:

The 25th Anniversary Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Gala is just months away! This major milestone will celebrate the vision and contributions of our Founders Distinguished Past Governor John and Past First Lady Rose Marie Gridley. It will be a wonderful celebration honoring two extraordinary Kiwanis leaders on Sunday, April 27th and we hope you can join us!

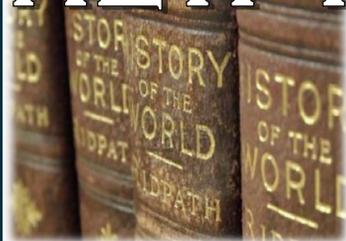
We will have printed packets available during the February mid-year convention in Binghamton. For all forms and details, please check out our gala page: [Lyme Gala](#)

If you are from out of town, our participating hotel is Hilton Garden Inn Melville 1575 Round Swamp Road, Plainview (516) 755-5552. Please use "KPLDF" group code on registration by March 28, 2025: [KIWANIS PEDIATRICS LYME DISEASE FOUNDATION](#) . After this date, we need to release our room block.

Thank you for your

Continue on page 24

NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY



REMEMBERING WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN KIWANIS



PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

In 1915, Kiwanis was established and its all-male membership began to provide community service in the United States. This March during Women's History Month, we will note the fact that it took at least seven more decades for women to be invited to join worldwide Kiwanis clubs.

This "late start" should never minimize the value and importance of women's contributions toward fulfilling the Kiwanis service mission. The photo (below) provides evidence of the involvement and impact women had before they were invited to become Kiwanians in 1987.

All but one of the women seen in this photo taken in the mid-1990's were not yet Kiwanis members. But they should be credited for performing extraordinary Kiwanis service and remembered not only because of the support they gave to their spouses and partners, but also how they utilized their own time and talents to make a difference in the lives of those who benefitted from the Kiwanis brand.

To site a few examples, 1984-85 First Lady Jackie Harten (standing fourth from the left) was very involved in the "Save the Lady" project that raised funds to restore and beautify the Statue of Liberty in its Centennial year; 1990-91 First Lady Lucia Vasami (standing far right) rallied Kiwanis Clubs to support "Reading is Fundamental", an organization that continues today to partner with Kiwanis to promote literacy and impact the lives of young children, a Kiwanis "Priority One"; and 1996-97 First Lady Rosemary DeJulio (seated on the right) who educated Kiwanians about the human necessity to eradicate Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) that affected millions around the world caused by the lack of iodized salt in their diet.



Standing, from Left: Woody Craumer (1993-94); Binky Hebron (1980-81); Renee Scharoff (1989-90); Jackie Harten (1984-85); June Spataro (1979-80); Pauline Price (1987-88); Sheila Martin (1981-82); Shirley Sutherland McIntyre (1988-89); Mildred "Mim" Kaiser (1971-72); Roddy Hart (1968); Lucia Vasami (1990-91).

Seated, from Left. Jean Weeks (1995-96); Rosemary DeJulio (1996-97).

For more than 100 years, whether by design or personal choice, countless heroic women never wore a Kiwanis member pin or had their names added to Kiwanis club rosters. Nonetheless, there will always be women who perform invaluable volunteer service that supports the Kiwanis Brand. Women's History Month is an opportunity to remember that fact, and always be grateful.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

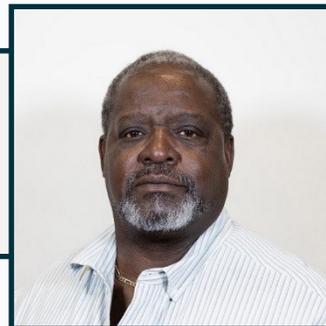
“DEI”

The Golden Rule

Just before I emailed another banal article imploring proactive pursuit of the tenets of D.E.I. in our Divisions and Clubs, I witnessed the inauguration of the 47th President of the United States. In the Capital rotunda, amongst a homogenous select group of admirers, he stated that one of his first directives would be to remove D.E.I. directives from the federal government.

By Miles Malone

*District Chair
Diversity, Equity, &
Inclusion*



It became evident in that moment the necessary question needing an answer is:

Why should Kiwanis adhere to the precepts of diversity, equity and inclusion when government and many educational institutions are disassembling the concept?

The simple answer lies within the Kiwanis mission. “Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.” Global, in addition to meaning world-wide, has a connotation of embracing or including all aspects of a thing. A volunteer, freely of their own volition, commits to undertaking a task. The task in this case is to help children. Our commitment is to all children regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation etc.

ALL are welcome **HERE**



Each one of us has made the same commitment. The same doctrine that creates a SLP in a Kiwanis club around the world aligns with our District through to your club. We are like-minded volunteers striving to make a difference.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are inseparably essential to the primacy of the Golden Rule. To do unto others as you would have done to you is our 110-year-old sacred precept, not a transient concept with which to trifle.



Kiwanis®

Membership & Club Openings

By SDPLG Thomas Cesiro, III

*District Chair
Membership & Club Opening*



We are now five months into our Kiwanis year, and I am happy to report that our District is considered as one of the fast-paced districts by Kiwanis International. We currently have two new clubs open and operating, both with 19 members and the third just a few steps away.

Congratulations to Dare Boldly Kiwanis Club in the Long Island South Central division and most recently the Kiwanis Club of Commack in Suffolk West. Our Membership team and Lt Governors are also working in several other areas to explore and see if a Kiwanis Club is needed.

I am pleased to announce that overall our district has a positive net membership growth of 138. As you know Kiwanis International President Lee Kuan Yong has a new membership initiative called Build Nurture and Retain. There are many tools available to you and your clubs to help boost membership. Two for Two, reMember initiative, club boost are some examples that you can find on the Kiwanis International website at [Build](#), [Nurture](#), [Retain](#). Of course, I am always here to help you and your club. Please feel free to reach out. Email – tcesiro3@gmail.com.

How Are We Doing?

Number of Active Clubs: 242

Members at Start of Year: 5577

Current Membership: 5715

Net Change +138* Members

Divisions Leading the Way

Long Island South Central - 40

Suffolk West - 23

Long Island Southwest - 22

Queens East - 16

Clubs Leading the Way

Commack** (Suffolk West) - 19

Dare Boldly** (LISC) - 19

Dyker Heights-Boro Park (Brooklyn) - 10

Community Care, NYC (Metropolitan) - 7

*Data from KI Portal as of 2/2/25.

** New Club.

The Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International



Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International Inc.

By DPLG Noreen Barrett
Secretary, Past Lt. Gov. Council

Notice is hereby given by provision of this writing of the next meeting of the Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International Inc. which will be held at the NY District Conference at the hour of 10:00 am on Saturday the 15th of February, 2025 at the Doubletree Hotel, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, New York.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to report on the monies on hand in the name of the Council.

We will also be electing officers for 2025-26 during this meeting. But they will not be taking office until the District Convention in accordance with the By Laws of the Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International.

Secretary
of the Past
Lieutenant
Governor's
Council
Noreen
Barrett



Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International Inc.

Agenda
2/15/25

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Service Project
- Election of Sergeant at Arms
- Election of Officers
- Distribution of
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment



Article 1: Name
This organization shall be known as "The Past Lieutenant Governors' Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International". For practical purposes, we shall be known as the "PLG Council" or just "The Council".

Article 2: Purpose
The purpose of this organization shall be to engage in one or more service projects each year that will benefit the children of the district who need our help. This organization shall not engage in any political activities whatsoever.

Article 3: Membership
Membership shall be open to all past Lieutenant Governors in good standing in the New York District.

Article 4: Officers and Directors
The officers of the Council shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. If a time and/or a need arises for directors, we shall elect them. All officer positions shall be for one year, starting on October 1st of the current year and continuing until September 30th of the following year.

Article 5: Committees
Committees shall be formed for specific purposes. The committees shall meet for the stipulated purpose, report to the Council on its findings, and then be disbanded by the President.

Article 6: Meetings
The Council shall meet twice a year; once at the Mid-Winter Conference and once at the NY District Convention. Other meetings of the Council shall be called by the President if deemed necessary. The Mid-Winter Conference shall be where the annual meeting of the council takes place.

Article 7: Election of Officers
Officers and Directors shall be elected at the Mid-Winter Conference and shall take office the following October 1st.

Article 8: Projects
Projects shall be proposed by any Kiwanian, Kiwanis Club, or officer of the New York District of Kiwanis in good standing. Projects will be discussed at the Mid-Winter Conference and one or more projects shall be adopted. The Council shall pick the project.

Article 9: Finances
The annual dues of the Council shall be \$10.00 payable at the Mid-Winter Conference. There shall be a report from the Secretary and a report from the Treasurer at this meeting.

Noreen Barrett, DPLG
Secretary



January 6, 2025

Dear Members,

Our dues are payable in February. The annual membership fee is \$10.00. Your check is made out to "NY District PLG Council". Please write 2025-26 dues in the memo. You mail your check to: PLG Sue Sheehan, PO Box 1292, Pine Bush, NY 12566. You may also bring your dues to our conference in February. Thank you for your continued support to our council.

Secretary,
Noreen Barrett

P.S. Contact Sue Sheehan at sue46559@gmail.com if you have any questions about dues.

Public Relations/Branding

Custom Kiwanis Logo

The Kiwanis International website provides treasure trove of resources for marketing and branding for your Kiwanis club. One of their useful tool for clubs the service of creating and providing free custom Kiwanis logos. These logos can also be Kiwanis Divisions and Districts.

Here are some examples of Club, Division, and District logos:

Examples:



Kiwanis
ISLAND PARK, NY



Kiwanis
LONG ISLAND SOUTHWEST DIVISION



Kiwanis
NEW YORK DISTRICT

Kiwanis International also offers special logos for clubs' 25th, 50th, 75th, and 100th anniversaries:



Custom Kiwanis logos are extremely simple to request. Go to the following Kiwanis International website link at [Kiwanis custom logos](#). Then just follow the steps. A representative from Kiwanis will follow up within twenty (20) business days with a draft of the logo. That is it!

Once you have your custom logo - it can easily be used to for marketing and branding purposes by including the it on all flyers, websites, social media, graphics, or any other specialty item your club may order.

The only question is — what are you waiting for?



Circle K
International



By Alison Mandel

*Circle K
District Administrator*

Greetings from New York District Circle K. We are off to a great start for the 2024-2025 year. Governor Anis It is hard to believe that the 2024-2025 Circle K year is almost complete since Circle K operates on an April 1- March 30 service year. Governor Anis Choudhury and his board have worked hard to get some of the schools reactivated this year. The dues increase of \$8 per member has also been a challenge to some schools but slowly but surely, we are getting the enrollment back up to the pre-Covid years. We recently reactivated Adelphi University, and both SUNY Canton and Vaughan College are looking to charter soon. We have also had some additional interest from some other colleges.

Circle K is looking to cap off the 2024-2025 year at its 63rd District Convention (DCON) March 14-16 at The Crowne Plaza-Desmond Hotel in



Albany. This year NY District Circle K has chosen Key Club Sr Assistant District Administrator Michael Berthel as its honoree. Although Michael is best known for his role in Key Club, he has been extremely supportive of Circle K. He has offered us space several times for our District Board Meetings and overnight dorm accommodations at the Long Island University-Post campus. He has been very supportive of the Circle K Clubs at both the Post & Brooklyn Campuses.

Our Glen Fitzpatrick Alumni Honoree is Cherine Anderson. Cherine was a Circle K member at Fordham University where she served as a Lt Governor, District Secretary and District Treasurer and since her graduation has been a theater, television, film, and entertainment industry executive with a background in marketing, development and production management. Cherine is a Co-Producer of The Wiz, Hell's Kitchen, Day of Wine and Roses, A Beautiful Noise and Co-Founder of Impact Broadway. Since the theme for this year's District Convention is "A Time to Shine" loosely based on a Broadway theme Cherine is the perfect choice.

We are asking you to please take an ad to both recognize Michael Berthel and Cherine Anderson as well as showing your support for the Circle K officers and members who are our future Kiwanis members. There will be several Circle K members at the Mid-Winter Conference in Binghamton Feb 14-16 with ad forms and if you aren't able to attend please feel free to reach out to me at alison.mandel@nycki.org for more information. We are also offering sponsorship opportunities to clubs this year to defray some of the costs of the convention. A flyer and letter about the sponsorship opportunities is being sent out separately but feel free to reach out to me if you have questions.

If you are in the Albany area from March 14-16, please feel free to stop by and see the convention in action. There will be workshops, a service fair, a Kiwanis Networking session, awards and the election of the 2025-2026 District Board.

On behalf of all the New York Circle K'ers, "thank you!"

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Kiwanis Kids (K Kids)

Creating Leaders in Our Elementary Schools

Kiwanis K Kids is the perfect starting point to begin developing leadership skills for our future leaders. Involvement in K Kids provides the opportunity to develop self-esteem, leadership skills, and character education where learning that their opinions count. It is remarkable seeing the changes of a member from the time they begin as a member and when they graduate school.

Welcome our [new Kiwanis K Kids Club at Lee Road Elementary School in the Levittown School District](#) sponsored by Levittown NY Kiwanis. Thank you for your support.

While it may be cold, service does not stop during the winter months. There are so many different projects to choose from. From February 10 to February 14 consider planning for K Kids Week. The week gives members the opportunity to showcase what K Kids is all about, the opportunity to serve your school and community. Consider inviting your K Kids leaders and advisors to your Kiwanis meeting where they can show you all the great work they do. Information on K Kids Week is at [K-kids week](#).

February is a great time to organize programs such as PS I Love You Day. On this day, students wear purple and exchange positive messages, make you feel special. It is a great program on mental health. Another popular program is a cereal box kindness challenge. Your club can collect cereal boxes and donate to a local food pantry. You can set up boxes to show the domino effect of kindness. Also continue to organize your projects for the Global Service Kickoff. Information is available at [kiwaniskids.globalkickoff](#).

Kiwanis
K-Kids
 Young Leaders Helping Others



By Kevin Kamper

K Kids

District Administrator

Thanks to our partnership with New York District Circle K (the collegiate branch of the Kiwanis family), we are proud to roll out a new opportunity for your students to learn about service and improve their writing skills. Introducing the 2024-2025 New York District Kiwanis K Kids essay contest. The objective is for a student to write a 300-to-500-word essay on the theme of helpfulness and family. This activity can be introduced at a club meeting and completed at home. Your students can decide for themselves what helpfulness means to them. Once completed, you can have these essays scanned and sent to a google link. The essays will be judged by a panel of teachers. The winning entry will be published around the district and your club will be rewarded with a pizza party. Note the deadline to enter is January 31, 2025. The form for submission is at [Essay Contest](#).

Finally consider entering your K Kids club in their annual contests and awards. The contests are for speech, poster, scrapbook, and club video. All members are encouraged to participate. Use different students for each contest. Also, club achievement forms and nominations for distinguished club members and club advisors are online. Let's show off all the great work our clubs are doing by entering and applying for these awards. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2025. More information is available at [Awards and Contests | Kiwanis Kids](#).

If you need any further information, please contact me at knkamper@gmail.com. Also please send me photos and project ideas that I can share with others. Thank you for your support of Kiwanis K-Kids.

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Bellmores Kiwanis Feeds Those in Need for the Holidays

(Continued from page 1)

- 1200 pounds of Potato Mixed and prepped by South Oaks Hospital
- 1500 pounds of carrots provided by Arrow Produce
- Peeled chopped and cooked by JFK CHAMPS Program
- 100 gallons of gravy provided by The Tap Room
- And 255 pounds of cranberry sauce. Provided by Inter-County Bakers, Inc.

Meals were sent to those in need from Coney Island out to riverhead.

A special thank you to Jim Silberger and Gary Crozier for all the time and energy they devoted to this project over the last 4 years – which has provided almost 30,000 meals at Thanksgiving.



Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation Jubilee Gala Messages from the Co-Chairs

(Continued from page 16)

your table or your ticket to come to the jubilee. Everyone should have a great time.

We are going to sell a special 25-year limited edition Medallion.

The foundation is looking forward to seeing you and saying Thank You for 25 years of contributions that were made by you to help the Children. I want you to know we have given out 1,000,000.00 dollars in grants to Children during 25years. This was accomplished by the Kiwanis Family. If you have any questions contact DPG Joe Aiello at joa9014@nyp.org.

Have a great time at the convention see you soon.

Be proud to be a Kiwanian!

Yours in Service,
DPG Joe Aiello

(Continued from page 16)

continued support. No child should suffer from this devastating disease! Our mission could not be fulfilled without your support and we are most grateful for your generosity. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to event chairs

Jeanne Egan-Canning at post2004@att.net or DPG Joe Aiello at joa9014@nyp.org.



Central Adirondacks Kiwanis Toy Drive

Each year the Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks collects and distributes gifts and toys to special



families in Woodgate, Thendara, Old Forge, Eagle Bay, Inlet, Long Lake, and Indian Lake. Over 57 Kiwanians and volunteers make this project succeed by soliciting funds, sorting and wrapping gifts, providing books, mittens, and food

to over 96 families and their 244 children.

The total distribution included over 750 gifts, 60 stuffed animals for younger children, 66 theatre tickets for older children, over 80 books, and 48 hams. There were 92 sets of scarves, hats, and mittens provided by the Old Forge Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary and

Carol Canne of Big Moose.

Kiwanis partners with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program by making a generous donation, which greatly helps in providing appropriate gifts for children of all ages. Gift and Toy collection locations were at Adirondack Bank, Community Bank, Inlet Department Store (ACE), Kinney Drugs, Old Forge Department Store (ACE), Old Forge Hardware, Smith Marine, and Souvenir Village. In addition, there were toy collection sites at local Post Offices in Old Forge, Eagle Bay, Inlet, Thendara and Raquette Lake.

The Strand Theatre assisted with discounted movie tickets. Old Forge Department Store (ACE) donated collection and delivery bags. Employees of Enchanted Forest/Water Safari, Water's Edge Inn & Conference Center, and Old Forge Camping Resort did an internal gift drive focused on older children. Community volunteers were major contributors to the success of the gift wrapping party.

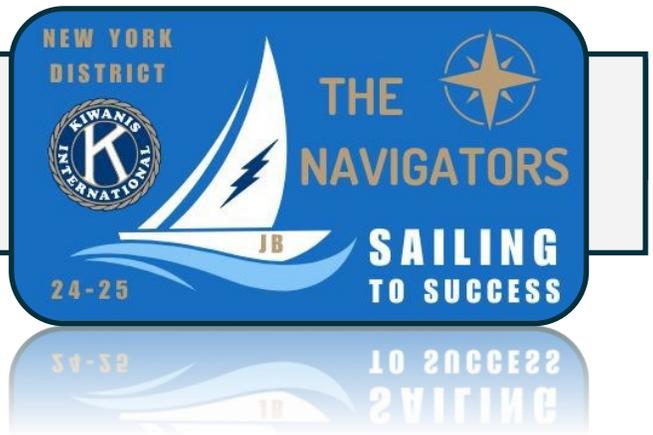
Fordham Adopts Families for Holidays

Fordham Kiwanis continued its longstanding "Adopt-a-Family" holiday service projects by addressing the wishlists of three families in the Bronx and Westchester who have encountered unexpected loss and hardships.

Specific items included children's clothing, gift cards for school uniforms, princess dolls, arts and crafts and science toys. Seeing the faces of those receiving our gifts brings one moment of happiness for them, but to Kiwanis members, it brings a more everlasting sense of joy and purpose in our Kiwanis lives.



Empire State Kiwanian



From your Editor:

Calling on Kiwanis NY District Chairs and Clubs—this Newsletter is open for business! All are encouraged to submit articles for publication. It is great to spread the word about all of the wonderful service projects going on throughout the District.

You just need to follow some important suggestions:



Tips for Submissions

Email articles and photos to me.

Articles: Please be sure that articles are originally written. This means that previously published (*i.e.*, non-original) articles cannot be used without the express, written consent of the author.

As we all learned as children, articles should be clear and concise, and contain the five “W’s”: who, what, when, where, and why:

- Who participated/benefited;
- What the project/event was;
- When the project/event took place;
- Where the project/event was;
- Why the project/event was important.

Please proofread for substantive and grammatical accuracy.

Photos: Please email me photos separate from articles. Try to send high resolution photos to ensure the best quality. Photos from events should be action shots that encapsulate its impact, as well as display the Kiwanis brand. Unless the event is presenting a banner, sign, or citation, please avoid those “posed” pictures (yes, you know what I am

talking about).

The ESK is published quarterly—October, January, April, and July. It is important that



all submissions are received prior to the stated deadlines—the 10th day of the month that it is to be published. Specifically, that means:

Oct. 10 deadline for Oct.-Dec. issue

Jan. 10 deadline for Jan.-Mar. issue

Apr. 10 deadline for Apr.-June issue

July 10 deadline for July-Sept. issue

Please do not miss the deadlines!

Just to clarify, the deadline for the next issue of the ESK is **April 10, 2025**.

Please note: the Editor retains the right to make the final determinations with respect to edits and inclusions in the ESK.

Please do not just forward a picture with a few words or just one sentence. While it can be brief, there still needs to be context, description, and information about the event.

If anyone has any questions, or needs to add additional tips/pointers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

DPLG Seth J. Blau

esk@kiwanis-ny.org

#KidsNeedKiwaniis

