

Empire State
Kiwanian

New York



An Eye to The Future 2022-2023

April 2023, Volume 22-23, Issue 3

New York District, Kiwanis International



Builders Club in Port Chester Planting Garden Beds

The Builders Club at Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School in Port Chester has used donated funds to purchase a mini-greenhouse and raised garden beds to begin our school garden project

to help feed the poor.

Shown are the students filling the raised garden beds that they assembled themselves.

April 23 Dinner to Celebrate Kamp Kiwanis' 55th Anniversary

The New York District Kiwanis Foundation is sponsoring a 55th anniversary celebration for Kamp Kiwanis on Sunday, April 23, at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury.

The event will honor Foundation President Sal Anelli, who has led the foundation since 2007.

Tickets are \$100 per person if purchased before April 1. Tickets purchased between April 1 and 14th are \$125 each. No walk-ins or payments at the door will be accepted.

The event will include a dinner, open bar, dancing and live entertainment.

Checks should be made out to NY District Kamp Kiwanis and mailed to Joe Aiello, 150 Magua St., Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. Checks should include your club affiliation in the check memo.



Sponsors also are being sought, including ads in the event program. See the information on the district web site for details.

Kamp Kiwanis Readying for 2023

The new Kamp Kiwanis Executive Director Ryan Mack is busy hiring staff and readying the Kamp for the 2023 Kamping season.

The 2023 Kamp Open House will be May 13. The District Foundation Board of Directors will be meeting that day, and volunteers will help get the kamp ready for the summer.

Clubs have received mailings asking them to make reservations for campers for this summer to help with planning.

There will be two weeks for adults this summer, starting June 25 and July 2.

Six child kamping weeks will run from July 9 through Aug. 19.

For the latest information, go to www.kampkiwanis.org

Keep Working to Meet 2022-23 Goals

By Gov.-Elect Lucien Giancursio

Greetings to you my fellow New York Kiwanians.

Here we are at the 6-month mark of Governor Joel's Year of the Visionaries: 3 new clubs, +246 members, well on the way to the goal of 6 new clubs, +750 members.



Let us continue to support Governor Joel and these goals.

As we move through this year and prepare for the coming 2023-24 year, our path has an obstacle ... the ever present \$30 dues "adjustment" proposed by Kiwanis International.

We all can rightfully consider this a

dues increase.

Without a doubt we face some hard decisions, hard reactions if the dues adjustment passes, such as loss of membership and diminished service.

Let us be mindful that every Kiwanian through service reaches 200 plus people. This is what is at stake.

It is extremely hard to put a price tag on this, but it seems there is. There should not be. For what we do is priceless.

We need to embrace the ever-changing financial landscape. Mindful that our district budget is based on membership. So

that we the New York District Kiwanis can continue to do what we do best, that is to serve, One Child, One Community at a Time.

Let us focus on the solutions to this situation, not the frustrations. Kiwanis is 100 years plus old, through those years many obstacles have presented themselves. And solutions were developed to overcome those obstacles.

As we move forward, let US define who we are.

Not this obstacle. Let us continue to provide "A Future of Hope"

2022-23 Events

April 23, 2023;

Kamp Kiwanis 55th Anniversary Celebration, Woodbury

May 13, 2023:

Kamp Kiwanis Work Weekend and Open House, Taberg

June 21-24, 2023:

Kiwanis International Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 21-24, 2023:

Circle K International Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 5-9, 2023:

Key Club International Convention, Anaheim, California

Aug. 10-13, 2023:

District Convention Radisson Hotel, Corning

Sept. 22, 2023:

Black and White Ball, Leonard's of Great Neck

The Empire State Kiwanian

Official Publication of
the New York District of
Kiwanis International

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Hard to Believe the Kiwanis Year is Half Over

By Gov. Joel Harris

Mid-Winter, SLP Conventions and we're halfway through

It's hard to believe that we are now six months through our 2022-23 year. For me, it has been an awesome experience.



Both Helene and I have had so many opportunities to visit clubs, divisions, and their fund raisers and that does not include official Governor's Visits, of which we have done three so far.

We also attended the Circle K D-Con and walked out feeling overwhelmed with pride and a sense of just how terrific these young adults are. Watching Key Club Governor Gabriella Slootsy and Circle K Governor Haleigh Gaston has been inspiring.

It was a wonderful experience seeing the incredible conference that these Cir-

cle K students put on and participated in. Congratulations to all of them for being empathetic, inspiring, and positive leaders in our communities.

While attending the Circle K DCON I spoke about focus and noise: how important it is that we remain focused while pushing and navigating away from the noise that distracts us. It is so important for our students to follow that. They have so many distractions around them and so many tasks that they must complete.

I also reminded them that it is their responsibility to help nature, train and help create new leaders to follow them so this good work they do will continue.

Our Mid-Winter Conference was a great experience as is usual. It's wonderful to all come together to learn, share ideas and be with our Kiwanis family members. Congratulations to all the recipients of Immediate Past Governor Jim Mancuso's recognition awards for the 2021-22 Kiwanis year.

While we're still a year away, I look forward to next year's Mid-Winter Conference.

The level of caring by our membership

is not measurable because we all touch so many lives and these good deeds spread to additional lives. It's a spider web of good.

These random acts of kindness and recurring good deeds have positive repercussions that don't end.

We have consistently shown the world through our international projects what makes a Kiwanian a Kiwanian. This level of caring goes way past our clubs. We support our foundations selflessly and provide services to those who need them.

This year my Governor's project has helped bringing awareness to Crohn's and Colitis. It makes us more mindful of things happening around us that we don't often notice or think we can help with.

The First Lady's literacy project is helping to put books in hands of children as well as participating in reading programs.

I am certain that they will help our children in non-measurable ways. That's what we are all about ... helping children and the communities of the world because #kids Need Kiwanis

Why is Membership So Important?

By Thomas Cesiro III
Membership/Club Opening

In the Real Estate world, the three most important words are Location, Location and Location.

When it comes to Kiwanis the three most important words are Membership, Membership and Membership.



Why is membership important, why do we need new clubs and more members? That seems to be a common question that I hear as Membership Chairman, and I know that Gov. Joel gets it a lot too.

Well let's discuss this, Kiwanis International is a service organization driven by their members and the work they do for their communities and the children. Without members there will be no Kiwanis. More members simply mean more service for the children and the communities.

Each year Kiwanis International loses approximately 300 clubs worldwide and in New York District over the past ten years we as a District have lost an average

of 6 clubs per year and between 300-400 members annually. Simply put, if we don't add new clubs and new members each and every year, where we would be in the next 10 to 15 years?

Each time a club closes that community, the children suffer.

So far this year we have opened three new Kiwanis Clubs - Erie Niagara in the Niagara Frontier North Division, Bushnell's Basin-Pittsford in the Finger Lakes Division and Queen West Pride Club in the Queens West Division. Gov. Joel's goal for this year is six new clubs so we are halfway there. We are still working on several other locations we hope by the end of his term we will reach and maybe exceed his target.

We are not only focused on a new club, but we are also focusing on trying to help clubs grow. There are many tools available to help a club grow, 2 for 2 membership recruitment tool just to name one. Several clubs in the district are using this program and are showing results. Other clubs are holding membership events to attract new members.

There are Club Coaches available to help any club. If you are interested in a coach, please reach out to me and we will assign one to help you. The district also has funds available to help a club fund a

membership event, please reach out to me to discuss this further.

I want to take this time to congratulate some of the clubs who have shown a large increase in membership so far this year:

Island Park - Long Island Southwest: 15 new members

Ridgewood 3-2-1 - Queens West: 12 new members

Community Care, NYC - Metropolitan: 12 new members

Yonkers - Bronx Westchester South: 9 new members

Holland - Niagara Frontier South: 8 new members

Garden City - Long Island South Central: 8 new members

Chinatown, New York City - Metropolitan: 7 new members

Congratulations and keep up the great work. Who will be next to make this list?

Again, I am here to help you and your club, please feel free to reach out. Email - tcesiro3@gmail.com or call / text 516-860-4457 (Please note it's wrong in the directory.)

For the Latest News
go to www.kiwanis-ny.org

Mid-Year Conference



Above, left, Gov.-Elect Lucien Giancursio; above right, Gov. Joel Harris. At left, the audience during the General Assembly; below, participants in the Onesie Party to support Kamp Kiwanis. More pictures and other coverage, including information on the 2021-22 Distinguished Divisions, Distinguished Clubs and Achievement Awards is on the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org



Register Now for International Convention

Registration is now open for the 2023 Kiwanis International Convention, June 21-24 in Minneapolis. Kiwanians can choose to attend in person or virtually, although voting in the House of Delegates requires in-person attendance.

For those planning to attend in person, various registration packages are available ranging in price from \$199 to \$375. Discounted early registration ends May 15. Online registration ends June 19; on-site registration will be available after that.

The cost to attend the convention virtually is \$59. The House of Delegates will be broadcast live without a registration fee.

The House of Delegates will be voting on entirely new bylaws for Kiwanis, an effort to remove unnecessary and duplicative language from the existing bylaws. The intent of the proposal is not to make any changes in operations. As a result of a provision approved at the 2022 convention, no amendments to that proposal will be considered. Other



amendments may still be considered; as of March 15, none were being published.

See the district web site for additional information.



Division Raises Funds For Behavioral Health Program

The Finger Lakes Division's annual MMOD (Miracle Mile of Donations) took place April 1 at the Eastview Mall. Several clowns were busy making balloon figures for the children as part of the event this year. Volunteers from clubs in the division fanned out around the mall soliciting donations, which will support programs at the Golisano Children's Hospital's Behavioral Health Program.

Being On Time May Not Be Enough

By James Mancuo
Immediate Past Governor

In 2004, the NFL football Giants lost to the Eagles 31-17.

Afterwards, in an unusual move, the team's then head coach, Tom Coughlin, fined three players \$1,000 each for being several minutes late to a meeting. "Players ought to be there on time, period," Coughlin said. "If they're on time, they're on time. Meetings start five minutes early."

That Coughlin rule has always stuck with me. Before every meeting his words



ring in my ears, and I say to myself "be in that chair five minutes early." It is a rule which has always served me well.

In the Kiwanis world, the lesson applies but not only for meetings. It should be followed when we think about membership dues. The simple lesson is to get notices out early (and I don't mean five minutes early). There are two very good reasons why this is good practice. Our members need to budget their money and advance notice helps them to do so. Members do so much for us. The least we can do as club leaders is make it easy for them to pay their dues (what generous people you all are who pay money so you can volunteer to help others!).

Clubs can get themselves into a bind if they do not collect dues on a timely basis. There is nothing worse than having to drop a member because dues were not

paid by the end of September before the start of the new Kiwanis administrative year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). Sometimes that is unavoidable, but at other times our members need more lead time.

Worse yet, clubs have been known to put up the money and "vouch" for members' outstanding dues. Doing so is a bad club practice. We should not be funding dues which have not been previously collected.

My advice is therefore straight forward. Send dues notices out a few months ahead of time, no later than July 30, asking for payment to be made within 30 days. This will give members ample time to pay on time.

In part, it is the little things we do which leads to member satisfaction, a key for retaining members, and clubs operating in a professional manner.

Club Awards Available for Publicity Efforts

By Seth Blau
Branding Chair

Gov. Joel has always placed great importance on the Kiwanis public relations and the Kiwanis brand.

Generally, Kiwanis public relations are the actions of a club or a Kiwanian to promote goodwill between Kiwanis and the public, as well as its members.

Kiwanis branding, on the other hand, is the process of creating a strong, positive perception of your Kiwanis club by combining elements such as the logo, mission, and a consistent theme; it is the perceptions and the image that comes to their mind when they hear or see Kiwanis.

This year, the district will reward clubs that successfully complete the District's Public Relations project. All components are designed to further promote and strengthen your Kiwanis club brand.

The club may select to do an over-all picture of the club's efforts in "getting the word out" by selecting five of the following forms of media:

I. Mandatory criteria:

• Either already have or submit request for official club logo through Kiwanis International at <https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/logos/custom-logo-requests>; and



• Appoint a Club Public Relations Chairperson.

II. Publicize your club for any for two (2) functions, whether service projects or fund raisers, performed between 10/1/22 and 9/30/23, through the use of three (3) of the following:

- Newspaper article
- Press release
- ESK article (can be on District website)
- Club bulletin or newsletter
- Club website
- Club social media post
- Club brochure
- Community support flyer
- Special event flyer
- An audio or video segment.

Your Kiwanis Club Public Relations chairperson should indicate on the application form the three outlets selected for each of the two functions the club has completed, have the club president and club secretary attest to it, send it in, and the club will receive 2022-23 Public Relations Project patch.

Any literature that displays the Kiwanis logo must have a correct and authorized Kiwanis logo to receive credit.

Submissions are to be sent to DPLG Seth J. Blau, District Public Relations Coordinator, NY District Kiwanis, 3747 Il-lona Lane, Oceanside, NY, or email to SJBlau1@hotmail.com.

The hope is that all clubs will have fun participating in this project -- all while improving the Kiwanis brand throughout your communities. The form will be put on the district web site.

KPTC Sponsoring 3 Nights at Mets

There will be three KPTC events at Mets games this summer.

The events will be Sunday, June 4, against the Toronto Blue Jays; Wednesday, Aug. 30, against the Texas Rangers, and Saturday, Sept. 30, against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Tickets cost \$40; \$10 of the purchase price will go to KPTC.

Tickets can be purchased online. More information is available on the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org, and the KPTC web site, www.kiwanis-pediatrictraumacenter.org. For group seating, choose Promenade Reserved Seats when ordering.

Clubs Support Heart-A-Thon

The Monticello Kiwanis Club has continued its support of the 98.3 WSUL Heart-A-Thon.

This year the club members, friends and family raised \$1,100.

The Kiwanis service leadership clubs contributed to the event as well. Monticello High School Key Club collected \$110 and the Sullivan County Aktion Club raised \$210 by selling paper hearts.

A total of \$1,420 was collected by the three clubs.

Valley Stream Builders Club Gets Charter



Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School added a new program to its catalog on March 16 with the chartering of its Builders Club.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Valley Stream, Memorial's Builders Club empowers its members to lead and serve by cultivating leadership skills, developing friendships and performing community service.

Builders Club members have a passion for helping others and gain leadership skills that they will carry with them for a lifetime.

The Central-Memorial PTSA celebrated the founding of this new club on March 16 with the installation of club officers, who were presented with the club banner, charter certificate and officers toolkit. Following their installation, members of Valley Stream South High School's Key Club, including Key Club Division 7 Lt. Governor David Huang, met with the Builders Club members to answer questions and share their experiences with the club.

District Key Club Membership Tops 11,300

By John Goldstein
Key Club Administrator

I am happy to report that the New York District of Key Club International is in great shape.

This year, under the leadership of District Key Club Governor Gabriella Slootsky and her District Board, the New York District exceeded both its fund raising and service hour goals



by the beginning of November. They reset their goals for both and exceeded them again.

Last year as of this date we had 11,300 registered members. We now have 12,111 registered members and we are not done

yet.

The Leadership Training Conference (LTC), scheduled for March 31-April 2 currently has well over 400 registered attendees in person.

Last year we did a hybrid conference with online students being able to interact with workshops and speakers and we had just over 200 in person and 150 for a total of around 350.

We are not offering a hybrid conference this year, but we will live stream the 5 general sessions that will be occurring during the conference. So while we are not back to our normal pre-pandemic 750 plus attendees, we do have 24 percent increase in attendance this year over last year. We think that is great news.

I am writing this article on the Sunday before LTC so we have not yet held the elections for the District Officers.

This year the Key Club International Convention is in Anaheim, CA and the

dates are July 5-8.

We will be flying out on Tuesday, July 4 and returning on Sunday, July 9. We will be doing one day at Disney as the tour part of the trip. The total cost is \$1,750, which is the most expensive trip we have ever run. The airfare is very expensive and then there is the registration for the conference and the hotel and Disney.

I am asking you to please help your District Board members to attend this conference by setting aside some money from your club. My club budgets at least \$250 each year to send our division's lieutenant governor. I am asking you to do the same.

We have had a very successful year and you should be proud of your Key Club and your Governor and District Board. I know I am. Thank you for all you do for Key Club and for allowing me to serve as you District Administrator for the New York District of Key Club International.

Douglaston Celebrates Lunar New Year

The biggest Lunar New Year parade in the country held on Jan. 21 attracted more than 10,000 spectators.

A Kiwanis float drove through the parade route for the first time in history. Kiwanis Hope Foundation and Kiwanis Club of Douglaston have led the Key Club members from RFK High School and

Queens High School for Language Studies to design and implement the Kiwanis float. More than 100 members spent two and a half months and more than 500 hours on this project.

Kiwanis Hope Foundation has raised more than \$6,000 from the members and local businesses. There were 500 Kiwanis

Hope Foundation goodies bags and 200 bunny-shaped balloons handed out to the parade goers.

The 38-foot-long parade float was filled with Lunar New Year flowers and a lucky coin on the sides, a 6-foot-tall carrot, and 6 bunnies to represent prosperity and longevity.