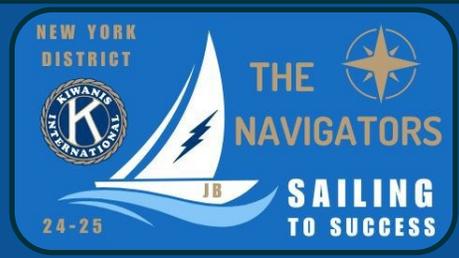


Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International

Apr-May-Jun 2025
Volume 2024-25, Issue 3



Introducing: Dare Boldly Kiwanis Club

In October 2024, the Long Island South Central Division added its latest club - Kiwanis Dare Boldly. The definition of dare boldly is to act with courage and confidence to do something that is both challenging and new to the person. The Club's mission is to help causes related to special needs children with an emphasis on children on the autistic spectrum and those with developmental disabilities.

The first projects for members of Dare Boldly are volunteering as buddies for the East Meadow Little League Challenger Baseball. The members also assist in collecting the many prizes for the Nassau County Games for the Physically Challenged (Games).

Founding members of Dare Boldly Kiwanis come from across Nassau County, NY. Their membership consists of parents or supporters of special needs children, people in the business community, and those with a passion for helping.

The idea of forming a new club was by Lieutenant Governor Ross L. Schiller, a local attorney, thinking outside the box about a single purpose club to help assist with volunteers for the Games, and how to help those with developmental disabilities. Ross brought membership up but



(Continue on page 24)

Official Call to District Convention

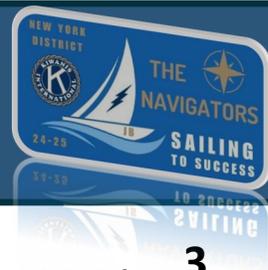
New York District of Kiwanis International announced its 108th Annual Convention August 7-10, 2025, at the Desmond Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albany, NY. The House of Delegates will be convened on August 9th at 2:30pm to elect new officers and consider bylaw amendments, if any ([Official Call District Convention](#)). The New York District Kiwanis Foundation will hold its annual meeting will be on Friday, August 8, at 1:00pm ([NY District Foundation Annual Meeting](#)).

Be on the lookout for more information!

What is Your Club Doing?

Any new, exciting, and fun service projects or fundraisers? Our New York District website and the ESK are great venues to showcase all of the wonderful work our Kiwanis Clubs perform! Please send information to webmaster@kiwanis-ny.org for the website and send to esk@kiwanis-ny.org for the District Newsletter.

WHERE TO FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW:



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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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(Middletown)

Hudson Tri-County

Virtual Lt. Gov.

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Long Island South Central

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(Massapequa)

Long Island Southwest

Michaelene
Abbott-Cooper
Board Secretary
(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

Joseph Eppolito
(Syracuse Young
Professionals)

Queens East

Chung Dick
(Fresh Meadow)

Queens West

Melissa Verdi-Montes
(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®

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New York District of Kiwanis

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 Convention, board meeting, and Kiwanis Children's Fund 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

As I prepare for my year as Governor of Kiwanis, I am filled with excitement and anticipation. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you throughout our district. Together, we will continue to uphold the objectives and mission of Kiwanis, making a positive impact on our communities and the lives of children, one child and one community at a time.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Governor Gordy and Immediate Past Governors for their leadership and dedication. Their efforts have paved the way for us to build upon the successes of the past year. I also want to thank each of you for your unwavering commitment to Kiwanis and for the incredible work you do every day.

This year, we are focusing on creating new and innovative ways to serve our communities, especially the children who need our support now more than ever. We strive to increase our membership, welcoming new clubs and new members who share our passion for service and make a difference.

As part of our Kiwanis International initiative, we continue to:

Build: New clubs are crucial to building Kiwanis in communities worldwide. Opening clubs continuously positions Kiwanis to meet the needs of children for years to come. In the past three years, more than 1,000 communities have been improved because Kiwanis found a need that wasn't being met.

Nurture: The strongest Kiwanis clubs have a culture that emphasizes membership growth

By Carla Ingram

*New York District
Governor Elect*



and retention. Kiwanis International provides resources to help. Consider this your toolbox — whether you're opening a club, serving as a coach or looking to increase your own club's membership. Use the tools that are offered through Kiwanis International and help the Kiwanis family grow!

Retain: The strongest Kiwanis clubs have a culture that emphasizes membership growth and retention. Kiwanis International provides resources to help. We will work together to strengthen our clubs, ensuring that each member feels valued and supported. We provide opportunities for leadership development and encourage collaboration among clubs to maximize our impact.

As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." I am confident that, together, we can achieve great things this year and continue that growth next year. Let's rise to the challenge and serve our children, our communities, and those in need with renewed energy and vision for a better world.

Thank you for your dedication and support. I look forward to working with each of you to make this year impactful and meaningful for our district.

From Our: Immediate Past Governor

Recently Foundation President Tom Poccio asked me to chair the military Kamperships Program that Governor Hank started. As Gov. Hank's Governor's project chair, I have agreed to chair this program as we finally used all remaining money that was raised during Governor Hank's year from his governor project. We will continue on with this program to Honor Governor Hank and his legacy. It will be referred to as, "Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampers."

Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampers: A Summer of Smiles for Military Kids

Subject: Giving Back to Those Who Serve: Send a Military Child to Kamp!

Imagine a summer filled with laughter, adventure, and the joy of making life-long friends. Now, imagine that for a child who faces the unique challenges of military life – deployments, frequent moves, and the constant worry for a parent serving overseas.

Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampership aims to turn that vision into reality. We are launching a campaign to provide free, enriching summer camp experiences to children of active

-duty military personnel, veterans, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Why Kamp Kawanis?

For these children, camp isn't just about s'mores and swimming. It's a chance to:

- **Connect with others who understand:** Build bonds with peers who share similar experiences.
- **Find a sense of normalcy:** Enjoy the carefree joys of childhood, away from the stresses of military life.
- **Build resilience and confidence:** Participate in activities that foster personal growth and leadership skills.
- **Create lasting memories:** Experience the magic of summer camp and forge friendships that will last a lifetime.



Our Goal and Cost Breakdown

We are committed to raising the funds needed to send as many military children to Kamp Kiwanis this year as well as future years. The cost to send one child to camp is \$900.00, which co-

By Lucien Giancursio

*Immediate Past Governor
New York District*



vers tuition and all camp activities. Additionally, we need to raise \$200.00 per child for transportation, ensuring safe and reliable bussing to and from the camp location. Therefore, the total cost to send one child to camp is \$1,100.00.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate:** Every dollar counts! Your generous contribution will directly fund camp tuition, transportation, and supplies
- **Spread the Word:** Share our campaign with your friends, family, and colleagues. on social media to amplify our message.
- **Volunteer:** We need volunteers to help with fundraising events, community outreach, and camp support.
- **Corporate Sponsorship:** If you represent a business that supports military families, consider becoming a corporate sponsor. Your partnership will make a significant impact.

(Continue on page 24)

2025 International Convention Program Schedule

Wednesday, June 25

10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Kiwanis Family Store
3-4 p.m.	First Timer's Reception
3-6 p.m.	Membership Fair and Welcome Reception in Kiwanis Marketplace

Thursday, June 26

7:30-9 a.m.	Signature Project Breakfast (<i>Ticketed event</i>)
9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Kiwanis Marketplace and Kiwanis Family Store
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Convention Kickoff with Henry Winkler
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lunch
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Kiwanis Children's Fund Luncheon — The Generosity Challenge (<i>Ticketed event</i>)
1-1:45 p.m.	Education Block 1
2-3:45 p.m.	Education Block 2
4-4:45 p.m.	Kiwanis Launchpad: Building Bridges
7-10 p.m.	Kiwanis Sunset Social

Friday, June 27

9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Kiwanis Marketplace and Kiwanis Family Store
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Kiwanis Launchpad: Forging the Future
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lunch
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Kiwanis SLP Showcase of Service Luncheon (<i>Ticketed event</i>)
1-1:45 p.m.	Education Block 3
2-2:45 p.m.	Education Block 4
3-3:45 p.m.	Education Block 5

Saturday, June 28

9 a.m.	Annual Meeting (<i>Doors open at 8:30 a.m.</i>)
7-10 p.m.	Kiwanis Roaring 20s Gala (<i>Ticketed event, includes dinner</i>)

For more Information on the programs offered at the International Convention and the programs offered during each of the Education Blocks, go to: [Schedule and education | Kiwanis International.](#)

Candidates and Propositions

For International Pres.

(Pick one)



Michael Mulhaul

For International Vice President

(Pick one)



Chuck Fletcher



Gary Jander



Jackie Sue McFarlin



Cathy Szymanski

For Internat’l Pres-Elect

(Pick one)



Hope Markes

For International Trustee (US & Pacific Canada Region)

(Pick one)



Timothy Sheppard



Amy L. Zimmerman

PROPOSITIONS

Amendment 1: Language Cleanup and District Submission of Resolutions

Purpose: To clarify current language of the KI bylaws requiring Districts to be in good standing to submit resolutions.

The KI Board advocates for this amendment.

Amendment 2: Regional Boards to Propose Resolutions and Amendments

Purpose: To allow regional boards to propose resolutions and amendments.

The KI Board advocates for this amendment.

Amendment 3: Remote Voting for Kiwanis International Business

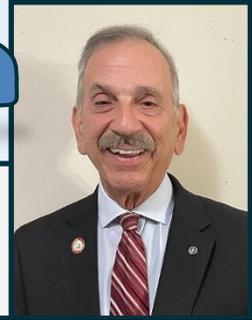
Purpose: To provide for candidate nominating and initial review of proposed amendments and resolutions at the KI convention, with final voting to take place via secure remote voting.

The KI Board does not support this amendment.

For more detailed information on the propositions, please visit the KI website

at: [Final-Proposed-Amendments.](#)

Empire Club



By DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

*District Chair
Foundation Empire Club*

The Empire Club was formulated in August, 2012 to mirror the Heritage Foundation started by Kiwanis International a few years earlier with the approval of then New York District Kiwanis Foundation President Lindy Marrazzo and reviewed by the late Steve Eisman, Foundation General Counsel.

The purpose is to secure long-range gifts to the NY District Kiwanis Foundation and recognize those Kiwanians and friends who believed in securing the legacy of our District Foundation for years to come. Funds could also



be given upfront 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 from 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.

Most are aware how the District Foundation was blessed by the generosity of late PDLTG Ivan Tarnopoll. He had purchased a \$500,000 life insurance policy making the Foundation owner & beneficiary

The Empire Club brochure has been revised utilizing the expertise of Foundation Parliamentarian Peter Mancuso and Foundation General Counsel Jim Prout. The revised brochures are available on the NYD website under the Foundation tab.

There are 32 active Empire Club members, 7 deceased members and 4 of those whom we lost fulfilled their commitment. Commitments are on the honor system we will NEVER pressure anyone.

If interested, please see a financial advisor. I can be reached with any questions anytime @ 315-436-2157 or pepster@aol.com.

THANKS.

The world needs more of that.





New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

Kamp Kiwanis®

Summer is right around the corner and will be here before we know it. Preparations have begun at Kamp Kiwanis to start moving from winter into summer mode to be ready for a fantastic camping season.

We have been blessed over the winter by a crew of volunteers helping update and



refresh the office and staff areas with cleaning, painting, and new furniture. The kitchen is also being updated with the donation of items and/or funds to purchase a new warmer, double convection oven, and salad bar. We also are pursuing a number of grants this year to provide kamperships, address facility needs, and increase the variety and quality of the programs we are offering to our camper families. We are on track to bring archery back this summer after a two-year hiatus.

To date, we have 285 kamperships that have been reserved, including 35 adults, 30 military, and 220 non-military children. This a fantastic start, but far from the upper limits of what we can achieve together. For example, we are committed to serving a minimum of 40 kampers from Fort Drum and 22 kampers from Hanscom AFB, but require the funding to do so. If more



By Daniel Trader

*Executive Director
Kamp Kiwanis*

When funds are received, we can serve even more from these bases and/or other locations. The need for kamp is also very high as we currently have 24 kampers on our waitlist still seeking a sponsor. If you are planning or considering sponsoring kampers this year, please reach out to let us know if you haven't done so already

to help us plan. This is also a



wonderful time that if you are having difficulty filling spots you have reserved, to start discussing opening those spots to waitlist or military

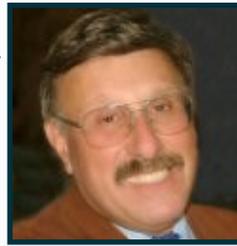


kampers so we can support these families with enough time to complete

paperwork.

Together we are achieving great things and can achieve even greater!

KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION (LONG ISLAND)



DPG Joe Corace
*President
KPTC Foundation*

Let me start by saying thank you and how rewarding it is that our board members find the time to head up fundraisers for the Pediatric Trauma Center and an additional thank you for the clubs and members that support our events. As I mentioned, in a previous article, this Foundation raised \$70,000 over the year and split it into two donations of \$35,000 to each of our Level One Trauma Centers - Cohen's and Stony Brook Children's Hospitals. We will go on with our third annual golf outing on May 13th, and our "Night at the Races" on July 12th. Please look for these special events.

We couldn't pass up being part of the baseball season and our NY Mets Dates are June 23rd and August 25th. Our Annual Duck game is July 19th. In addition the NY District KPTC Yankee game, thank you to Lt. Governor Melissa Verdi of Queens West for arranging it, is on July 10th.

More importantly our program of keeping kids safe continues to go on to bigger and better things, whether it's a bike rodeo or a distracted driving demonstration or a teddy bear clinic just to mention a few. In addition, our involvement with the Ronald

KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION



McDonald House has also given the Kiwanis Clubs a renewal of how special the House is and Kiwanis answering their needs.

And I saved the best for last: the 29th Black and White Ball on September 26, 2025!



Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

By DPG John Gridley

Founder, Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation



It's funny, for Lyme disease, animals have so many more options than humans do. That includes several Lyme vaccines, as well as oral and topical prevention medications. Safety concerns and doubts about public acceptance have hindered the development of these types of drugs for people. But with rates of Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses increasing in recent years, researchers are exploring new and old options, and a few are now being tested in human clinical trials.

The Lyme vaccines that currently exist for dogs are similar to the one that was developed for humans. Both vaccines work primarily by prompting the

immune system to create antibodies to a protein called OspA, which is produced by the Lyme causing bacteria that are transmitted through tick saliva. When a tick ingests a dog's blood, the antibodies kill the bacteria residing in the tick's gut, preventing them from causing an infection.

In recent years, the pharmaceutical companies Pfizer, Valneva and Moderna have developed two new vaccines for humans that target the same OspA protein, though other aspects of the shots have been changed from the original version. Both vaccines currently being tested in clinical trials, and results are expected in a few years.

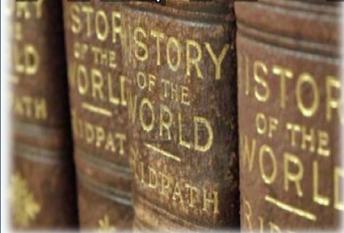
Still, it will be several years, and several more rounds of clinical trials, before any of these medications might be considered for F.D.A. review. And even then, said Dr. Hu, who has worked on the Moderna vaccine, "it's always a wild card how people are going to feel about it."

The other main prevention methods for pet owners are topical and oral treatments. These drugs, called acaricides, get distributed through the animal's body after they're swallowed or applied to the skin and kill ticks along with fleas and mites, when they bite. A major advantage is that they protect against multiple tick-borne infections, not just Lyme disease.



THIS IS WHY WE VOLUNTEER

NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY



The Oldest Circle K Club in the New York District



PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

The Circle K Club at Fordham University in the Bronx recently celebrated its 55th Charter Anniversary, and now holds the distinction as the oldest club in the New York District, with 55 consecutive and uninterrupted years of community service projects.

Why was it formed?

Two former Mount Vernon High School Key Club members, Tom DeJulio and George Latimer, attended Fordham University amidst riots and on-campus protests. They desired to continue their Key Club experience by forming the lesser-known K-Family club called "Circle K". The two classmates rallied about ten others and joined forces with several members of the Tai Kwon Do Karate club, teaching neighborhood kids the discipline of martial arts weekly in the Fordham Gym. It replicated their Key Club's "Buddy Program" held every Friday night at their Mt. Vernon High School gym.

How fast did Fordham Circle K grow on campus?

At first, Fordham students delighted with the mistaken belief that the Circle K being advertised around their campus was the better-known Circle K "convenience store". To this very day, the public still confuses the two.

A few new members tried to find ways to market their new community service club. One creative freshman began posting flyers around the campus which read: "COME TODAY TO A MEETING IN FMH ROOM 434 AND JOIN THE F.U.C.K. CLUB" [Obviously, those flyers were taken down quickly.]

What made Fordham Circle K grow strong on the Bronx campus?

The best answer: its acts of service and kindness performed on and off campus.

By the tenth year after its charter was presented by 1970-71 New York District Kiwanis Governor Walter Fisher, the identity and service mission of Circle K was firmly established. Membership grew exponentially each year.

What projects had the greatest impact on future generations of Fordham Circle K members?

(1) The club sponsored the first on-campus Blood Drive that drew a modest 70 pints. Today, on campus Annual

(Continue on page 21)



Fordham Circle K co-founders New York Congressman George Latimer and Past Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio hold the original charter they received in 1970 and shown to current Fordham Circle K members at a recent reunion brunch held in the same campus building where it was presented 55 years earlier.

Certified Leadership Development

Club Leadership Education Training 2025-26

Club Leadership Education training will start in early June. With the changes to the Kiwanis Membership system to Engage it will be important for club officers to attend their division training in person. Engage will be complete in June but will go live right after the July 4th holiday. Kiwanis International will be releasing some training videos in May and although it is not that different from the current system it is much more user friendly. Once this goes live the current system will be turned off. All the clubs reports will be transitioned over to the new system.

As we plan for the new service year it is important that your club officers have the training necessary to do their job effectively! It is important that all the club officers know what their responsibilities are and what is expected of them. As a club officer you have been called to lead. Your leadership will help your club grow stronger and make an impact on your community. It is important that the officers attend the in-person President – Secretary-Treasurer training as it a great way to share both successful projects and events your club has had or any difficulties your club may be having, your counterparts may have insight on how to help. Now is the time to A) Conduct a Member Survey – ask questions like “What do your members want from their club experience?” B) Value and respect all Members’ Opinions – make it a point to listen to all your members not just the ones that always speak up. C) Make Club Activities Meaningful and Relevant – does your club know what your community really needs? If not, your service projects may go unnoticed. Being noticed in your community is a way to recruit new members – new members bring new ideas and energy as well as more hands for service! Be sure to wear Kiwanis logo apparel and have signage so people



By Alison Mandel

*District Leadership
Development Coordinator*

will know it is a Kiwanis event. When new members join make them feel welcome and include them in discussions and activities.

Clubs should have a new member orientation program so that new members understand what Kiwanis is about and that it is a worldwide service organization. There is a Kiwanis 101 PowerPoint available if anyone is interested in it! As Kiwanians we tend to use a lot of acronyms – CLE, KPTC, DCON, etc. but be sure to explain what they mean to new members! The education of members should be ongoing throughout the year, not limited to just club officer training. Over this past year, there have been monthly district wide webinars on different topics. This will continue during the 2025-2026 service year. These webinars are open to all members and members should be encouraged to sign on to them. It is a great way to learn about different topics such as our District Foundations, Service Leadership Programs, Youth Protection, Governor’s Project, Succession Planning, Recruiting Younger Members etc. Technology is here to stay so we should embrace it and use it to our advantage whether as a communication tool or as a marketing tool. We will continue to rotate the day of the week each month so as not to conflict with club meeting nights. All the monthly webinars are recorded and on the district website. Please be sure to update your club officers on the website so that officers will receive all the emails that are sent out by the district. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or ideas for upcoming sessions at alison.mandel@gmail.com or 607-738-3054.

TRAINING



Legion of Merit

Kiwani Clubs have a simple and easy way to recognize their members. Clubs can recognize their members who have completed 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service with the New York District's Legion of Merit. Clubs can order commemorative pins and certificates from the District. This is a great program to add to a club meeting or event and acknowledge the time involved and achievements accomplished of members meeting those longevity thresholds.



Club secretaries can confirm member longevity by accessing the membership information on the Kiwanis International Portal. All members Kiwanis start dates are listed. Club secretaries should send an email to me listing out the names and appropriate Kiwanis anniversary designations. The cost of each pin is \$5.95, plus \$1 for the certificate (no charge if emailed). Shipping is an additional \$3.00. The completed form and check should be made payable to the New York District Kiwanis and mailed at least 4 weeks in advance, but in most cases orders are filled within a week. Completed form and check should be mailed to Nancy Baxter, 3754 Oceanside Road East, Oceanside, NY 11572. If you have questions, feel free to call me at (516) 972-8011 or e-mail me at baxtamom9@aol.com.

For Kiwanis members who have completed 25 years of service or more, Kiwanis



By Nancy Baxter

*Legion of Merit
District Coordinator*

International. Offers a Legion of Honor. Legion of Honor Certificates and Pins are issued in 5 year increments. Kiwanis International also has Legion of Honor pins that acknowledge certain positions that the individual has held during their time in Kiwanis, such as Past President, Past Club Secretary, Past Lieutenant Governor, as well as various District positions.



Members who have 25 or more years of Kiwanis service do not have to be consecutive, and can be accumulated in more than one club. A member is eligible for each when he or she is within six months of reaching that milestone. Certificates are currently \$6.00 and Pins are \$13.00 and must be ordered at least 2-3 weeks in advance.

More information for the Legion of Honor can be found on the Kiwanis International website at: [Kiwanis Legion of Honor](#).

Whether it be Legion of Merit or Legion of Honor, presentations of these recognitions can create memorable moments for the recipient, fellow Kiwanians, and the entire Club.



Kiwanis®

Membership & Club Openings New Club

By SDPLG Thomas Cesiro, III

*District Chair
Membership & Club Opening*



We are just six months into our Kiwanis year. By the end of April we hope to have organized two additional new clubs for this year. They are the Kiwanis clubs of: St. James / Smithtown and the Boonville and More Clubs. Each one of these clubs will be starting with almost 20 new Kiwanis members each.

April also brings Kiwanis International President Lee Kuan Yung to our District. Working alongside Kiwanis Club Opening Specialist Miranda Burton from Kiwanis International and myself, President Lee, Governor Gordy, Governor Elect Carla along with several other dedicated Kiwanis membership team members walked the street, rang doors bells, and saw people in the Ronkonkoma and Riverhead areas with the hope to stir up the interest to create two new clubs.

I am also happy to report that over fifty (50) percent of all the clubs in the NY District have added new members. Special congratulations to the Glenn Falls Kiwanis Club for adding (as of the writing of this article) **29** new members, bringing their club total to 96 members. Making it the third largest club in our district. This year is their Club's 100th anniversary and their goal is 100 members for 100 years, based on what I see I would not be surprised if they make that goal and go beyond that. Another club that has been growing quickly since its official charter two years ago is the Community Care, NYC club, this year so far, they have added ten (10) new members bringing their club to 106 members strong, so Congratulations to them too.

The Kiwanis Membership Initiative this year is **BUILD**, **NURTURE** and **RETAIN**.

Build: Our NY District is working hard in Building new clubs, two already done, two about to open and several in the works.

Nurture – I am happy to see that over half of our clubs in NY District have added at least one (1) new member.

(Continue on page 24)

How Are We Doing*?

Number of Active Clubs: 242

Members at Start of Year: 5577

Current Membership: 5906

Net Change +329 Members

Divisions Leading the Way

Long Island South Central - 73

Long Island Southwest - 41

Mohawk - 40

Queens West - 38

Central - 33

Clubs Leading the Way

Glens Falls (Mohawk) - 37

Dare Boldly (LISC) - 24**

Commack (Suffolk West) - 21**

Smithtown-Saint James (Suffolk E) - 21**

Community Care, NYC (Metropolitan) - 16

*Data from KI & NY District Portals as of 6/1/25.

** New Club.



Public Relations/Branding



KEY MESSAGES

An extremely important component to branding your Kiwanis club is the ability to properly and clearly communicate with your respective communities.

Kiwanis International refers to this as “Key Messages.” Key Messages are important whenever you are promoting or communicating any event, whether it’s a service project, a fundraiser, or anything Kiwanis-related.

As a result, KI advises that Key Messages be:

- **Jargon-Free** - meaning do not use terms such as SLPs, DCon, Lt. Gov., etc.
- **Informative, but light on data.**
- **Supported with individual talking points.**

Lastly, KI advises to develop only three Key Messages. There is always that delicate balance of trying to provide enough information, but not overwhelm. Your goal should be to properly convey your message within the
Three Key Messages.

KI provides the following Key Messages as an example:

- Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers.
- Kiwanis clubs address the needs of children in their own communities and around the world.
- Kiwanis Members have fun together planning projects, providing service, raising money, and during social events.

For more information and ideas on Kiwanis Club branding, go to [Public Relations/Branding Tips.pdf](#).



Circle K
International



By Alison Mandel

*Circle K
District Administrator*

Greetings from NY District Circle K! As of April 1, we have started a new service year. At the District Convention in March, Sofie Melledy from the University at Buffalo was elected Governor for 2025-2026. Sofie is joined on her board by District Secretary Liliana (Lily) Solimeo from Adelphi University, District Treasurer Roy Lu from Binghamton University and District Editor Alsubah Khan from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. They also elected 6 new Lt Governors - Haley Young - Capital (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Shamima Ruhi - Empire (City College of New York), John Markarian - Iroquois (Syracuse), Julia Ram-saroop - Long Island (Adelphi), Andrew D'Onofrio

- Southern Tier (Cornell) and Sofia Dong - Western (Buffalo). We are still looking for Lt Governors for Liberty, Northern, Hudson Valley and Seneca which hopefully will be filled by the time school starts again in September.

At the District Convention in March, we had about 100 attendees, between Circle K, Key Club and Kiwanis, which is an increase over last year. We look forward to it increasing in 2026. We had workshops, a service fair and a Kiwanis networking session as well as giving awards to clubs, officers and individuals who exemplified the meaning of servant leadership! Michael Berthel, Key Club Senior Assistant Administrator, was recognized as the Convention Honoree and Cherine Anderson, Fordham University Circle K Alumni, received the Glen Fitzpatrick Outstanding Alumni Award. A great time was had by all.

Looking forward to a great 2025-2026 service year. Currently we have several

clubs that hopefully will charter this summer including SUNY Canton and Touro College - Middletown. Vaughan College and SUNY Brockport are working on reactivating as well.

Sofie attended the Governors and Administrators Conference earlier this month where she met her class of Governors and had 2 ½ days of training to help her start out her year. The board will meet at Long Island University-Post on April 26 for their District Officers Training Conference (DOTC) where they will decide their district goals for the year and learn more about tier respective positions. They will also plan their District Large Scale Service Project at Kamp Kiwanis in May as well as NY Speaking in November.

Please mark your calendars for District Convention 2026 which will be March 27-29 at the Crowne Plaza- Desmond Hotel in Albany,



#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis



By Kevin Kamper
*K Kids
 District Administrator*

The winning essay, titled "Project Kindness," was submitted by Mason Hall from Canandaigua Elementary School. His K Kids Club will receive a pizza party to celebrate. Congratulations, Mason!

Here is his winning essay:

"Project Kindness"	
	Once there was a town called Chainville. One day there was an opportunity to help all the neighbors. There was a boy named Ben, a fourth grader, who was great at helping others. He decided he wanted to help by shoveling his neighbors' driveways of the snow. He started at Mrs. Harley's house.
	Knock-knock. She answered the door. "Oh, hello," she said.
	"Hi, I was wondering if I could shovel your driveway for a school project?" asked Ben. "I'd love that," said Mrs. Harley.
	He went back and forth until he was done. Now on to Mr. Frederickson's, Ben thought. Ben crept up to the house. There was a gate that said Do Not Enter! He opened the gate and it squealed. Oh man I'm scared, thought Ben. The branches were so long they looked like claws. As he walked up the driveway his boots crunched in the snow. He knocked on the door and Mr. Frederickson answered. "Get off my lawn!" he shouted with a scowl.
	Ben said, "H-hi, my name is B-ben. I was wondering..."
	"I said get off my lawn!"
	Ben sadly went home for the night. He walked in and slammed the door. "Hey buddy, what's going on?" his dad asked.

(Continue on page 24)

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

As the school year comes to a close, let me take this moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated Kiwanis K Kids advisors and students. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made this year extraordinary, filled with meaningful activities and impactful projects that have touched many lives.

To date New York has 63 active Kiwanis K Kids Clubs. Welcome to the K Family Barringer Road Elementary School sponsored by Mohawk Valley Central, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School sponsored by Kenton, Gouverneur Elementary sponsored by Gouverneur and PS 276 sponsored by Kings Plaza-Canarsie.

One of the most rewarding aspects of starting a Kiwanis K Kids Club is witnessing the transformation of young members into confident, capable leaders. The club provides a safe and supportive environment where children can explore their potential and discover their strengths. Through guided activities and projects they learn essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, which are invaluable throughout their lives. At a recent charter night for a Kiwanis K Kids Club, I had a Kiwanis president tell me it was one of the most rewarding programs she has witnessed as a Kiwanian.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the clubs that submitted essays to our first essay contest. We received 23 essays centered around the theme of helpfulness and family, and it was inspiring to see the diverse interpretations from your students. Additionally, thank you to the New York District Circle K, Governor Anis Choudhury, and our panel of educators for your partnership and support in judging the essays.

Bronx Westchester South Divisional Red Carpet Holiday Event

The Bronx Westchester South Division hosted Red Carpet Night, a holiday even celebrating community partners who make a lasting impact on children, young adults and members of our collective communities. Attending were club members, SLP's and guests across the district, local student and school administered merchants, Santa, and larger than life LED Party Robots. Over 125 people were in attendance.



Walk for a Cure

The Yonkers Aktion Club rallied a team of 11 volunteers who walked the Westchester Fairfield and Putnam Autism Speak Walk on a beautiful October Day. The team was joined by Governor and First Lady Gordon and Marie Soderholm and raised \$450 for autism research, benefiting children and families in

Adopt a Family

Fordham Kiwanis upheld their tradition of the Adopt-a-Family holiday service project by fulfilling the wish lists of families in the Bronx and Westchester who have faced unforeseen losses and challenges. The items provided included children's clothing, gift cards for school uniforms, dolls, arts and crafts supplies, and science related toys.



Halloween Window Painting

The Riverdale Kiwanis Club's Halloween-themed window painting event celebrated its 57th year.

Dozens of kids gathered from across the community to showcase their artistic talent on generously donated windows from area store owners.

For many families, the Riverdale Kiwanis window painting event is a highly-anticipated tradition, uniting neighborhoods and schools, and allowing some of the youngest residents to leave their creative mark on the neighborhood. The event has been around long enough some Riverdale parents can recall attending as children themselves.



Sacred Heart High School Key Club

In mid-December, the Yonkers Kiwanis Club welcomed the Sacred Heart High School Key Club to its family of Service Leadership Programs (SLP's). As their first project, they completed a dental drive collecting over 1,950 dental products, which were donated to Midnight Run of New York, who serves homeless individuals in the NY metropolitan area.



Hartsdale Kiwanis Carnival

The Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale hosted its annual event at Park/ Webb Field on Central Avenue in Hartsdale, NY, during this past Labor Day weekend. The funds raised from this event play a vital role in supporting the club's various community initiatives, including donations to local food banks, scholarships for

deserving students, and luncheons for senior citizens. Several prominent local politicians, such as Paul Feiner, Mary Jane Shimsky, George Latimer, and Andrea Stewart-Cousins, were in attendance, highlighting the significance of the event. As the Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale celebrates its 68th

year of service to the Greenburgh community, this event stands as a testament to its ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting its neighbors.



Morris Park & Westchester Village Kiwanis Clubs Joint Holiday Project

Morris Park and Westchester Village Kiwanis Club. Work together over 30 years to aid underserved communities. NY Institute of Special Education (NYISE) receives a holiday visit, meals and gifts and a magic show. The Kiwanian Chapters have teamed up annually over the last thirty years to provide holiday cheer to this community. NYISE works with children with blindness and without families. Frank Coppola states that this is one of the most satisfying projects that he has

worked on. Morris Park & Westchester Village finds this project one of the earmarks of our Kiwanians testaments and a driving force in their clubs mission.



90 Plus Luncheon

The East Yonkers Kiwanis hosted its annual "90 Plus Luncheon" paying tribute to 22 community honorees over the age of 90. Also in attendance were Gov. Gordon Soderholm, First Lady Marie Soderholm and Past Governor Joseph Ruggiero. Honorees and guests were

serenaded by a Choral Group from Eastchester, "Voice with Jules."



Bronx Shore Kiwanis Club's Holiday Toy & Gift Drive

The Bronx Shore Kiwanis Holiday Toy and Gift Drive was the clubs most successful ever. Of course, that is to be expected since the real Santa Claus is a member of our club. Santa



and his elves delivered 65 toys to a local public school and 1,500 Christmas sweaters to a local women/family shelter; over 300 stuffed animals to the Laval School for the Blind, Adapt (formerly UCP) and Manna of Life Ministries, and over 200

toys to various organizations on Three Kings Day. Donations were generously provided by Turner Construction, Bronx Shore Kiwanis, Kid City (Mario DiGeorgio); Throgs Neck Kiwanis and private donations from members and friends.

A Tisket A Tasket - North Shore Kiwanis Family Donates Easter Baskets to Saint Christophers

On Saturday April 19, an annual event, The North Shore Kiwanis Club and the Key Club joined hands by donating 60



Easter baskets to the St Christopher's children. These baskets were coordinated by both clubs and filled with lots of goodies for the children to enjoy. Pictured are the volunteers who participated. Looks like the Easter Bunny was also a member of this volunteer group!



Seniors Honored at North Shore High School

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore honors North Shore High School graduating seniors each month in the Kiwanis Student of the Month Program. Pictured is the Student of the Month for



the Month for March, Oliver Schweiger standing with Assistance Principal Dr Kevin Kurrus wearing his lucky Knicks shirt.

District History - Fordham University Circle K

(Continued from page 15)

Blood Drives collect thousands of pints;

(2) The club collected and delivered food in 1982 to a "Soup Kitchen" off-campus called "POTS" (Part of the Solution) which is now known for its many "Dignity Services". Now, Circle K members bring not only food to POTS but also participate in fundraisers for refrigeration units. Most recently, members collected over 20,000 much needed (and expensive) diapers for mothers and their babies.

(3) In its first several decades, Circle K visited and befriended lonely and ailing senior citizens living in nursing homes. Today, current members make and deliver holiday cards for retired and ailing residents at Murray-Weigel Hall on campus.

Did Fordham Circle K members continue their service leadership and just as important for the future of Kiwanis, did they become Kiwanians?

Never enough of course, but we never give up trying to find and invite them. Today, almost 40% of Fordham

Kiwanians are former Circle K members, including most of its current club officers and directors. Countless others have gained notoriety in their fields and professions and attribute their success to their involvement in Circle K.

As one Fordham Circle K alumna stated at the recent Charter Anniversary reunion, "My freshman year was a tough adjustment, and I was thinking of dropping out. Then I joined Circle K and it changed my life."



Presentation of Charter: From left - Pat Agovino, Bronx Lt. Gov., Kiwanis; Walt Fisher - Gov., N.Y. Kiwanis; Tom De Julio, acting President Circle K of Fordham; Peter Gordon, Circle K Gov.; Anthony Buccillo, Mt. Vernon

New York District Kiwanis Gov. Walt Fisher of Sloatsburg, NY, presents the official Charter to the Fordham Circle K Charter President in 1970, in the presence of BWS Lt. Go. Pat Agovino and Circle K District Gov. Peter Gordon.

North Shore Kiwanis Makes a Connection with Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club

The North Shore Kiwanis Club visited the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club for the purpose of learning about all the wonderful programs that are provided to support the Glen Cove Community. These programs include homework helpers, nutrition, sports, art, dance, and music. In order to continue their amazing activities funds are needed; during this visit the Kiwanis Club presented them with a check for \$500. In addition, and to keep a connection for both groups, the

Kiwanis Club will send two of the Boys & Girls Club

members to Kamp Kiwanis.

That day the Glen Cove community was in the spotlight to lend a hand to children in need. Pictured are L to R: Kiwanians Steve Bramberg, John Kle, Sonja Nelson; Executives Director for the B&G Club, Franca Trunzo; President of the Kiwanis Club Chris Salmon, and Kiwanian Darianne Bramberg.



Kiwanis Kids (K Kids)

(Continued from page 21)

"Dad, Mr. Frederickson won't let me help him," Ben replied.

"Well, Ben, Mr. Fredrickson is a grumpy old lonely man," Dad told him. "Give him another chance."

One day later Ben went back to Mr. Frederickson's house and asked to shovel his driveway again. "Hey kid, didn't I say to scam?" Mr. Frederickson said. Ben went home sad again. His mom asked him what was wrong. "Mr. Frederickson won't let me help him," Ben replied. "Well, Ben, I can make cookies to help you feel better."

"You mean your world-famous chocolate chip cookies?" Ben asked.

"Yeah!" she answered. In that moment Ben had a wonderful idea. Ben was going to try to share the cookies with Mr. Frederickson. Ben went to bed that night hoping for a successful day tomorrow. When Ben woke up the next morning and zoomed downstairs, he smelled the delicious cookies. He got all bundled up just as mom brought a plate of warm cookies.

Ben took the cookies to Mr. Frederickson's house. He nervously knocked on the door. Mr. Frederickson answers the door with a mean grin. "Hi, Mr. Frederickson. Could I share some cookies with you even if you don't want me to shovel?"

His mean grimace turned to a smile. "Thank you, Ben. I have been lonely for so long and done everything by myself, I forgot how kind people can be." Ben thought to how sad his story was. "I would love for you to shovel my driveway, Ben, and I am sorry I have been so difficult about letting you help me."

Ben happily did his work and from then on, they were friends, both having learned valuable life lessons that service and kindness are important in the world.

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.

Message from IPG Lucien - re: Military Kamperships

(Continued from page 6)

A Story of Impact

(An excerpt from a letter that was received.)

I'll start by expressing heartfelt appreciation for this amazing opportunity. Overnight camps can be expensive, and for a family of 2 or three kids like mine, it can be unrealistic, but because of this program we were able to send our three girls (13, 11, and 8) and because the opportunity was presented by the Blue Star Families, a trusted organization, we felt our kids would be safe and taken cared of at Kamp Kiwanis. Also, our research indicated that Kiwanis was reputable and well known.

Overall, it was a great experience for us all and the girls have expressed interest to do it again next year and we sure will consider it if Blue Star Families presents the offer to military families again. Thank you!

A Message of Gratitude

The New Your District Foundation extends its sincere gratitude for your consideration and support of Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampership. We are deeply committed to honoring the sacrifices of our military families and believe that this campaign will provide invaluable experiences for their children.

Join Us in Making a Difference

Together, we can show our gratitude to the brave men and women who serve our country by giving their children the gift of a summer filled with joy and adventure. Please visit <https://kampkiwanis.org> to donate and learn more.

With heartfelt gratitude and on the behalf of The Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampership Team and The New Your District Foundation and Kiwanis club of Holland.

Introducing: Dare Boldly Kiwanis

(Continued from page 1)

needed more members. Long Island Southwest Lt. Gov. Michalene Abbott-Cooper was contacted. Loving the idea, she brought in members including Kelly Mirro who became the Club's Charter President. Kelly is the owner of Wayfinder Tribe, an enrichment hub that serves a diverse community. With Kelly, Ross and Michalene's assistance, 24 members were signed up.

On February 2nd, Dare Boldly held its Charter Lunch where Governor Gordon Soderholm and First Lady Marie swore in the new members. The Club would also like to thank District Membership Chairs Mark Pohl and Tom Cesiro, LTG Michael Mazzola, PDG James Mancuso, and the Club Coach Kevin Kamper for all their assistance in getting this new club chartered and **Daring Boldly**.

Membership

(Continued from page 16)

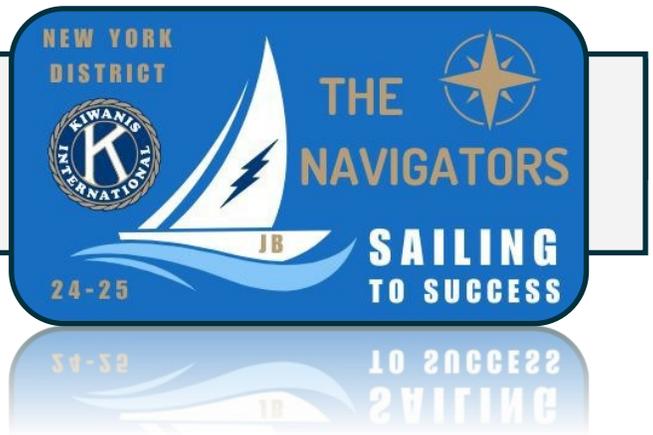
Many clubs have added five (5) or more new members. There are many tools available to help clubs to add new members. Please feel free to reach out so I can help.

RETAIN: - This always seems to be the hardest part – what are you doing to keep the members engaged and interested in your club. Are your meetings fun or are they always a working meeting? Do you have guest speakers? Do you allow social time at the meeting? We must work hard to close the back door of Kiwanis and Keep our members. This is a team effort it takes the entire club to welcome new members and keep existing members; it's not just the Presidents job or the membership chairman's job.

This year is not over yet! Do you have a membership goal for your club? Did you reach it? If not, what can we do to help?

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

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 **July 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 additional tips/pointers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

DPLG Seth J. Blau

esk@kiwanis-ny.org

#KidsNeedKiwaniis

