

Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International
Volume 2024-25, Issue 4

Jul-Aug-Sep 2025

Kiwanis International Convention

Another Kiwanis International Convention is now in the books. The New York District had a nice turn out in part to the 2025 convention being relatively local - in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was a great opportunity for everyone to meet and socialize with Kiwanians from all over the world. The convention provided many different education blocks designed to provide instruction and guidance on club operations, services, and best practices. The convention was also the time for Kiwanis International's House of Delegates to meet and conduct necessary business in electing KI officers, trustees, and amendments to its bylaws.

The results of the officer elections were for 2025-26 were:

- Michael Mulhaul of Interlaken, NJ, was elected Kiwanis International President;
- Hope Markes of Hanover, Jamaica, was elected as president-elect;
- Cathy Szymanski of Erie, PA, won a four-way race for vice president.

In the elections for Kiwanis International trustees, Timothy Shepard of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Amy Zimmerman of Beavercreek, Ohio, were elected trustees for the United States and Pacific Canada Region. **(Continue on page 29)**

New York District Distinguished 2023-24

During the International Convention in Pittsburgh, the New York District and Immediate Past Governor

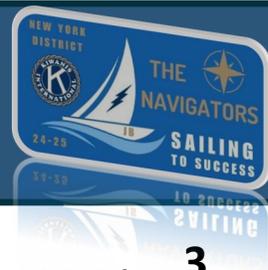


(IPG) Lucien were honored with the Distinguished District/Governor designation for the 2023-24 service year. Past International President Katrina J. Baranko formally presented the recognition to the IPG Lucien and the New York District. Congratulations to IPG Lucien for his outstanding leadership and success in guiding the District.



Many members of the Kiwanis New York District in attendance at the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, who attended a District cruise luncheon along Pittsburgh's three rivers.

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Empire State Kiwanian

District Officers

Governor Gordon Soderholm

Governor Elect Carla Ingram

Immediate Past Governor Lucien Giancursio

Executive Director Rich Hall

Treasurer Bill Davis

Parliamentarian Sean O'Sullivan

Legal Counsel Martin Valk, Esq.

Executive Assistant Ron Palmer

Executive Assistant Ross Schiller

Executive Assistant Lanette Bowman

Lieutenant Governors

Adirondack

Mary Cunningham
(Ticonderoga)

Bronx Westchester South

Nanda Chaves
(Riverdale)

Brooklyn

Mark Pohl
Board President
(Kings Plaza-Canarsie)

Capital

Susan Vail
(Latham)

Central

Scott Maneen
(Frankfort)

Chemung

Sue Mower
(Elmira)

Finger Lakes

Pam Metting
(Canandaigua)

Genesee

Dr. Gene Scherline
(Geneseo)

Hudson River

Katie Landi
(Kingston)

Hudson River West

Frances Amelio
(Middletown)

Hudson Tri-County

Virtual Lt. Gov.

Long Island North

Mary Capobianco
(County Seat, Mineola)

Long Island South Central

Mike Mazzola
(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

- 7-10 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

Gearing Up for the 2025-26 Service Year

By Carla Ingram

New York District
Governor Elect



The “Challengers” Gear Up for the Start of a New and Amazing Kiwanis Year

As the new Kiwanis year is just around the corner, *The Challengers* are stepping forward with a renewed passion for service and fellowship, ready to make this season one for the history books. With a name that symbolizes boldness, progress, and unity, the group is rallying to elevate every aspect of our Kiwanis club’s life.

Rebuilding Strength in Numbers

This year, the focus begins with rebuilding our membership to restore charter strength. Whether you're a returning member or someone exploring Kiwanis for the first time, we welcome fresh faces, new ideas, and open hearts.

Revitalizing Our Meetings

Let’s be honest - nobody wants to sit through another meeting that feels like a rerun. That’s why we’re committing to **engaging, meaningful, and inspiring gatherings** that spark energy, exchange ideas, and leave members feeling empowered.

Service That Resonates

At our core, Kiwanis is about community. This year, we are looking for our clubs to launch new projects and reimagine existing ones to better meet the needs of our neighbors. Whether it's youth outreach, local beautification, or partnerships with other service organizations, *The Challengers* are ready to assist.

Strengthening the Kiwanis Family

Fellowship isn't just a feature of a club – it's the glue that binds us. *The Challengers* are focused on bringing our Kiwanis family closer through teamwork, shared success, and celebrations of every contribution.

Together, we’re not just planning another year – we are setting the stage for impact, connection, and transformation. Here’s to embracing the challenge...and rising to it.



From Our: Immediate Past Governor

Remembering Our Kiwanis Family

This past year, our Kiwanis family has felt the profound sadness of losing several cherished brothers and sisters. While their absence leaves a void, their spirits and contributions continue to enrich us all. Today, we take a moment to honor two remarkable individuals whose lives deeply impacted our district: First Gent Peter Johnson and the incomparable Mercedes "Mickie" Leamey.

Peter Johnson: A True Kiwanian Spirit

First Gent Peter Johnson, affectionately known as "First Dude," lived his life as a quintessential Kiwanian. His hospitality was legendary, extending warmth and welcome to everyone he met. Peter was more than just a member; he was a steadfast friend whose unique perspective and thoughtful insights will be deeply missed. He embodied the generous spirit of Kiwanis, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and genuine camaraderie.

Mercedes "Mickie" Leamey: A Pioneer and Mentor

Where does one even begin to describe Mercedes "Mickie" Leamey? As I ventured into the leadership of the New York District of Kiwanis, her name was often whispered with a mix of awe and respect. I was told, "Wait until you meet Mickie!" Stories of her unwavering firmness and relentless pursuit of proper protocols preceded her. She was outspoken, never afraid to voice what needed to be said, and always with a purpose.

Over the years, our professional relationship blossomed

in-
to
a

By Lucien Giancursio

*Immediate Past Governor
New York District*



deep friendship. Mickie became so much more than a colleague; she was a blend of a great aunt, a loving grandmother, a wise mentor, and a trusted friend, all rolled into one extraordinary woman. I held immense respect for her, and even when she disapproved of a decision I made, I listened intently to her counsel. She was a phenomenal teacher who guided me with grace and wisdom.

Mickie was a true pioneer in Kiwanis, one of the first women to join what was once an all-male dominated service organization. She undeniably shattered the glass ceiling, paving the way for countless others with her exceptional grace and poise, which were always beyond reproach.

For many years, Mickie dedicated herself as our K-Kids Administrator, a role she cherished and excelled in. It was my distinct honor as Governor to bestow upon her the title of "K-Kids Administrator Emeritus," a title she earned through a lifetime of unwavering dedication to her passion: K-Kids.

As I traveled throughout the district during my governorship, Mickie and Peter were among the dear friends I always made time to visit. Those visits were highlights, filled with genuine connection and shared Kiwanis spirit.

Without a doubt, we are all better people for having

(Continue on page 29)

From Our Candidate for: Governor Elect

As the sole candidate for Governor Elect for the 2025-26 Kiwanis year, I ask for your support for the next 3 years.

I am a member of the Merrick club in the Long Island South Central Division ("LISC"). Besides serving in several club positions, as well as Lieutenant Governor of LISC, I have served as District Counsel and District Parliamentarian. I have also helped to plan several District events at the International Convention ("ICON"), and have procured and served donuts to the New York delegates during our Saturday morning meetings at ICON.

I am a proud son of Brooklyn, NY, a loyal alum of Vanderbilt University, and an attorney, husband, father and Kiwanian.

The most important issue facing our clubs is membership growth, especially with respect to younger members. What can Kiwanis offer a younger prospective member? A job. How can we do that? A good number of our clubs are integrated with local chambers of commerce. The members of the local chambers of commerce have jobs to offer younger people. We help train prospective employees with resume writing skills and interview techniques, local businesses hire the prospective employees we have help trained, and the now new employees join our Kiwanis clubs. It's a win-win for all those involved.

By Martin Valk

*Candidate for
Governor Elect
New York District*



Another method of increasing membership is the round-up. The District, as you may know, traditionally has set funds aside to help pay for the food served at these events. That money is wasted if prospective members haven't learned that a round-up is being held. I would rather see these District funds allotted for advertising.

Iwould also like to see the District newsletter published on a monthly basis. By the time we read the quarterly-published Empire State Kiwanian ("ESK"), most of the news is old. A monthly newsletter, even if it is simply a column from me and a calendar of upcoming events, would be more useful. LISC, for one division, enjoys a rich tradition of each club supporting other division clubs at fundraisers. Even if an event gains only a few more attendees, it becomes a more successful event. An event listing in the ESK would be free publicity.

These are just some ideas. Please consider contacting me with your ideas to help our District achieve all it can. I look forward to meeting all of you next month at DCON.

2025 District Convention Program Schedule*

New York District' Convention is scheduled on August 7-10, 2025, in Albany, NY. In addition to a variety of workshops, the 2024-25 District Board will have its final Board meeting, and the House of Delegates will meet to elect the District Governor and Governor-Elect for the 2025-26 year.

Thursday, August 7, 2025	
1-5:00pm	2024-25 Board Meeting
2-6:00pm	Registration Credentials
7:30-9pm	2024-25 Board Dinner (by invitation only)
7:00pm	Past Governors' Dinner (by invitation only)
Friday, August 8, 2025	
7:30- 9 a.m.	Past Governors Breakfast & Council (Ticket)
9:30-6 p.m.	Registration Credentials
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Exhibits and Baskets
11 a.m. -12:35 p.m.	Veteran's Luncheon (Ticketed Event)
1-4:00 p.m.	District Foundation Annual Meeting & Elections
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Past Governors' Boards Reunion Dinners
8-10:00 p.m.	Opening Session
10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms

* Schedule subject to change.

2025 District Convention Program Schedule*

Saturday, August 9, 2025

7:30 –8:30 a.m.	Foundations Recognition Breakfast (Ticketed)
8:30 a.m. - Noon	Registration, Credentials
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Exhibits and Baskets
9 a.m.– 11:50 a.m.	Workshops (TBD)
9:50 - 10:35 a.m.	Past Lt. Governor's Council
10:40 - 11:15 a.m.	Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation Board
Noon - 12:30 p.m.	Gov.-Elect Candidates' Q & A
12:30 - 2 p.m.	Division Caucuses
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	House of Delegates
6 - 7:00 p.m.	Gala Governor's Reception (with Dinner Ticket)
6:45 p.m.	Governor's Toast (by invitation)
7:00 p.m.	Governor's Celebration Dinner (Ticketed Event)
10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms

Sunday, August 10, 2025

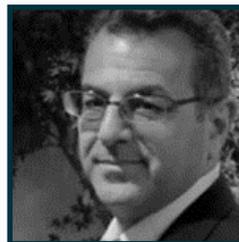
8 - 9:30 a.m.	Memorial Breakfast (Ticketed Event)
10-11:30 a.m.	Installation of Officers
Noon - 2:00 p.m.	2024-25 Board Luncheon (Invitation Only)

* Schedule subject to change.



New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

**Kamp
Kiwanis®**



By Tom Poccio

Foundation President

On behalf of the Foundation Board we thank everyone for the support of *your* Foundation as without your support the children and adults would not experience the camp life and meet other children and make new friends.

This year we once again were challenged by some snow storms dropping almost 9 feet of snow on the kamp that caused damage to roof vents, the wall to the library and the walk-in freezer.

We quickly notified the insurance company and a claim was quickly

resolved and we were able to purchase a new walk in freezer, remove and install a new block wall at the library.

A storm hits as Adult week one

starts causing down power lines, trees and no phones or internet. Kiwanis road was impassable for a time do to downed power lines and trees. This caused an unexpected expense of over \$5,000. Once again Daniel, Jay and staff were able to get things in order for our camping season. Great Job.

Don Herring Walk way was installed this year prior to opening. The new brick paver wall also was installed on

the right-hand side of the kitchen. See photos

The Grant committee was hard at work by securing a number of grants to date and are continuing to find and submit grants. We have been funded with over One Hundred Thousand dollars in grants. The dedicated committee meets every 2-3 weeks to discuss grants. Thank you Ltg. Scott Maneen for stepping up and chairing the Grant committee and all the committee members. If anyone is interested, please contact President Thomas Poccio.



This year we received 42 applications for scholarships compared to the previous years when we were only receiving up to 10 applications, with the exception of last

year when we received approximately 30. Thank you, DPG Jim Mancuso, for chairing the committee and the committee members.

Our raffle fundraiser is one of our major fundraisers for the year, please consider taking a raffle ticket to support your foundation. The funds collected are used for general use such as repairs and unexpected expenses such as storms and tree

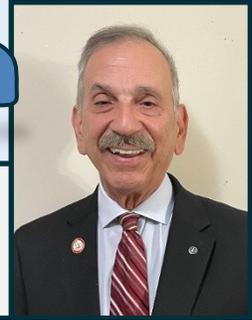
removals etc. All presidents, secretaries, incoming and current LTG.Gov., Past Governors and chairs have all received tickets. If anyone would like additional tickets please contact DPG Joe Aiello, Lisa Hallett, S.D.P. Ltg. Liz Fries or any board member. You may also purchase a ticket and pay for it using Zeffy which is our fundraising platform, just indicate that it is for raffle tickets. Thank you, DPG Joe Aiello, for chairing the fundraising committee and all the committee members.

We all know that there have been so many disasters this year already in Texas, New Mexico, North Dakota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and in our own back yard New York State. Disaster relief will be focusing on New York State right now as many areas have been hit with the flooding and storms. There will be correspondences going out through Constant Contact. Thank You DPG Mike Malark and DPG Joe Aiello for chairing Disaster Relief

Anti Bullying- any one interested in having Keith Cummings come and present an Anti-Bullying presentation please contact Keith Cummings. Thank You Keith Cummings for chairing the Anti-Bullying.

Thank You to All Board Members for your dedication to the Foundation.

Empire Club



By DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

*District Chair
Foundation Empire Club*

The Empire Club was formulated in August, 2002 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.

The District Foundation was blessed by the generosity of late PDLTG Ivan Tarnopoll. His legacy donation of life insurance liquidated the Foundation's \$300,000 mortgage and established a cultural arts center named after him.

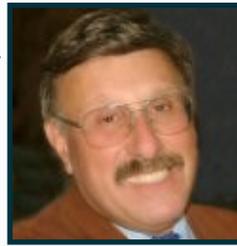
The Empire Club brochure has been revised utilizing the expertise of Foundation Parliamentarian Peter Mancuso and Foundation General Counsel Jim Prout. The revised brochure is available and can be found under the District Foundation tab on the District website. I can also send them via email to any interested person.

There are 38 active Empire Club members, 7 deceased members and 4 of those whom fulfilled their commitment. Commitments are on the honor system with no pressure applied whatsoever.

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



KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION (LONG ISLAND)



DPG Joe Corace

*President
KPTC Foundation*

Since our last report thanks to our board members creating fundraisers and Kiwanis members and clubs supporting them, we continue to successfully raise funds for both our level one Trauma Centers. The Comedy Club, the Golf Outing, the Duck's Baseball Game, the Yankee NY District Game and the additional new Flower Design fundraisers were all a success and let's not forget the Five Towns Super Bowl Pool.

We finally got the opportunity to present a \$35,000.00 check to Stony Brook and as luck has it we were able to have our New York District Governor Gordy be part of the presentation.

So luckily our challenge is not getting people together for fundraisers that are fun, it's getting the average Kiwanis member to see and know what we are all about.

We've been thinking of a downstate, one day, KPTC mini- conference to have the hospitals show their programs for preventive accident safety. More details will follow.

At the International Convention I was fortunate enough to spend some time with the current President of the KPTC of the Cal-Nev-Ha District and got some really great ideas and hope to continue with zoom meetings and gather more information.

We'll finish up our season with the scheduled 'Night at the Races' on August 23rd and 'NY Mets game' on August 25th. In September Liz Fries

KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION



and Joanne Foley have put together a miniature golf outing fundraiser on September 17th and our invitation flyers for the Black and White Ball, on September 26th, are being sent. On March 1st of 2026 our board member Antoinette Cantone and her committee will be presenting a 'Murder Mystery' fundraiser at Leonard's of Great Neck with their usual first-class service. Look for the advertisement shortly.

So let me say again, THANK YOU to all that support, attend and help us because they care about the children in our community.



Charter I, II, III, IV Program 2024-2025



By DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

District Chair

Charter I, II, III, IV Program

The purpose of this program is to incent and reward those clubs in the NY District that are currently under Charter strength (15 members) to increase their membership to Charter strength and beyond during the 2024-25 administrative year. It is also designed to encourage clubs that have memberships between 15 and 29 to reach memberships of 20, 25, and/or 30 and beyond, respectively!

Clubs will be recognized with an appropriate certificate on a monthly basis. when their membership reaches 15, 20, or 25. The certificates will be issued to the Club President and the Division Lt Governor will receive a copy of the certificate that the club has earned.

- For those clubs that reach 15 members, they will receive a Charter I Certificate.
- For those clubs that reach 20 members, they will receive a Charter II Certificate.
- For those clubs that reach 25 members, they will receive a Charter III Certificate.
- For those clubs that reach 30 members, they will receive a Charter IV Certificate.

This make it possible for smaller clubs to receive multiple certificates based on their membership success throughout the year.

Finally, for those clubs that are able to maintain those respective membership numbers through September 30, 2025, finalized by 10-10-25, they will receive the appropriate banner patch(es) at the Mid-Winter Conference in 2026.

It is important to note that for clubs that are under 15 members, a Club Coach can be requested to be assigned to them and have a realistic plan for growth. Contact NYDK Membership Coordinator Tom Cesiro @ 516-860-4457 or tcesiro3@gmail.com.

The Charter I, II, III, IV Program will be administered by PDG Joe Eppolito, Chair of Charter I, II, III, IV Program for District Governor Gordon Soderholm. Joe's Email: pepster@aol.com and cell is: 315-436-2157.

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

By DPG John Gridley

Founder, Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation



On April 27, we celebrated 25 years of the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation providing support to children 18 years and younger suffering from the debilitating effects of Lyme Disease. At this event, we had the privilege of 330 attendees joining us at the Crest Hollow Country Club to acknowledge the vision and tireless dedication of our founders Distinguished Past Governor John and First Lady Rose Marie Gridley. \$30k was raised and the proceeds will help us continue our mission.

holding club and/or division fundraisers. Education and advocacy is key in light of no vaccine.

We look forward to continuing the Mission of Kiwanis "Serving the Children of the World." Please feel free to listen to our board meetings or stop by our information table during District Convention in Albany.



Since inception, we have raised over \$3M, which has allowed us to facilitate treatment grants.

Our success is attributed to your ongoing support whether by attending our galas, donating baskets or



NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY



Celebrating the Century of Key Club International: Bringing It Close to Home



PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

Key Club International is now celebrating its 100 years of service, so it is a good time for New York District Kiwanis clubs to reach back and recognize Key Club members they sponsored and mentored throughout their high school years.

One such former New York Key Club member is Doug Madenberg.

Doug was a member of the Walt Whitman High School Key Club in Huntington Station Long Island. It was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Northport in the Suffolk West Division. In 1986, Doug became the New York District Key Club Gover-



Doug Madenberg

nor and worked alongside 1985-86 Past New York Kiwanis Governor Bob Calabrese. Doug then went on to become Key Club International President in 1987-88 when he served alongside 1971-72 Past Governor and Kiwanis International President Anton J. "Tony" Kaiser.

After his Key Club years, Doug received BS and MBA degrees in Marketing and Strategic Human Resources at Cornell University, where he was lauded for his academic and leadership skills. He has a long professional career as an officer of *The Feedback Group* and executive director of the Food Retail Alliance. And to no one's surprise, he continues to work with several service and not-for-profit organizations.



Doug with 1985-86 NY Past Governor Bob Calabrese.

In his own words, read the impact Key Club had on Doug's life:

I met my wife, Jill Pincus (member of Roslyn Key Club) when we served on the New York District Key Club board. We have lifetime friends from those days.

My generally positive outlook, my work ethic, my curiosity, my love for our country, can be traced back to my being in Key Club.

Read the full interview here: [KeyClubAlumni-Kiwanis.org](https://www.KeyClubAlumni-Kiwanis.org).

This is just one of literally hundreds of stories that support the fact that Kiwanis-sponsored youth programs foster leadership skills and life-long service to others in need. As a result, lives are changed forever.



Doug Madenberg (second from right) honored by 2023-24 Kiwanis International President Katrina Baranko (far left). Standing behind Doug is the 1996-97 Key Club Int'l President Craig Melvin (now host of NBC's *Today Show*).

Doug with Past Kiwanis Int'l Pres. Tony Kaiser (right) and 1987-88 Circle K Gov. and Fordham Circle K alum John McCarthy (left).



Certified Leadership Development

Club Leadership Education Training 2025-26

Now is the season for club leadership training for your new officers! Returning officers can be mentors to new ones and should plan to attend the Division in-person training session. The new Engage platform was launched on July 15th. Although the format is different, many of the screens are the same as Kiwanis Connect. They tried to keep it similar as possible as we all know that Kiwanians don't easily adapt well to change but once you use it you will see that it is more user friendly! This is a work in progress and there will be additional updates to the system coming in the months ahead. KI is still working on transferring all the information over so please don't panic if something that you are looking for isn't there yet.

The monthly reports will all be transferred over by mid-August, so you do not need to re-input any data. You can do your reports from June forward and the rest will catch up.

Once you sign onto Engage you will be required to change your password. Just click "forgot password" and enter a new password. I know that people sometimes use multiple email addresses, but you need to use the email address that is on file at Kiwanis International. If you don't know what it is you can reach out to Member Services at 1-800-KIWANIS, and they can help you. There are several short training videos on the Kiwanis International website that can walk you through the new system - [Kiwanis Engage Learning Resources](#).

You can also reach the videos on the website by clicking Members on the top of the screen and scrolling down to the section that says Kiwanis Engage Learning Resources.



By Alison Mandel

District Club Leadership & Education Coordinator

If you cannot attend your division's training reach out to a neighboring Division and hopefully

you can attend that one. Kiwanis International will do their online version the first week of August with President training – Monday August 4 – 8-9:30pm, Secretary Training – Tuesday August 5 – 8-9:30pm, Treasurer Training – Wednesday August 6 – 8-9:30pm and Club Membership – Monday August 11-8-9:30pm. Please remember that this should NOT be your first choice for training. This is a high-level generic training course and last year there were over 500 people on the President's call which limited the ability for anyone to ask questions. There is no New York specific information. There is usually a survey at the end so you MUST be on the call the whole time to access the survey!!! You will not get credit if you sign on and then sign off ten minutes later! This is the link to register for one or more virtual training: [2025 Virtual Club Leadership Education \(CLE\) Registration](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at alison.mandel@gmail.com or 607-738-3054.



Legion of Merit

Kiwanis 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, where every member's Kiwanis start date is listed. Once confirmed, an email should be sent to me with the names of members and their corresponding anniversary years.

Costs:

- Pin is \$5.95 each
- Certificate: \$1.00 (free if emailed)
- Shipping: \$3.00 flat fee.

Please make checks payable to New York District Kiwanis and send them along with the completed forms at least 4 weeks in advance, but in most cases orders are filled within a week. Mailed to:

Nancy Baxter
3754 Oceanside Road East
Oceanside, NY 11572

For questions, contact me at (516) 972-8011 or bxtamom9@aol.com.

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



By SDPLG Nancy Baxter

*Legion of Merit
District Coordinator*

offers the prestigious Legion of Honor. These recognitions are given in 5 year increments (e.g., 25, 30, 35 years, etc.), and may also include special pins for service in key roles 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.

Legion of Honor Costs:

- Certificates: \$6.00
- Pins: \$13.00

Shipping costs as outlined on the KI website. Orders must be made 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 offer a powerful way to celebrate your club's legacy, honor dedicated members, and create lasting memories for recipients and fellow Kiwanians alike.



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

We are having a meeting in August. Our service project is for the homeless shelter in the Susquehanna Division. They are looking for hygiene products and non-perishable food items.

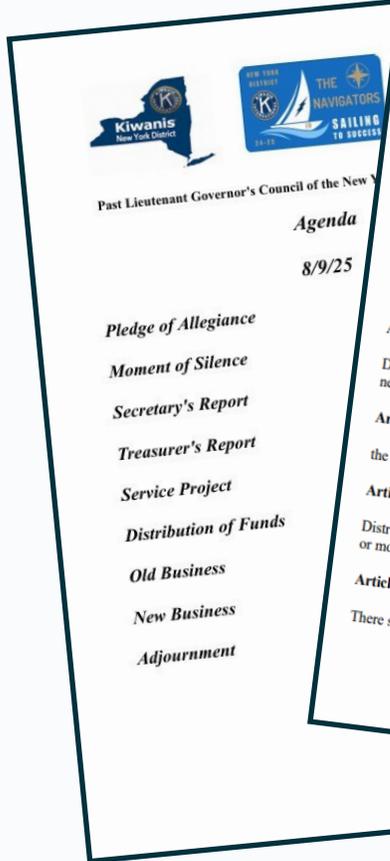
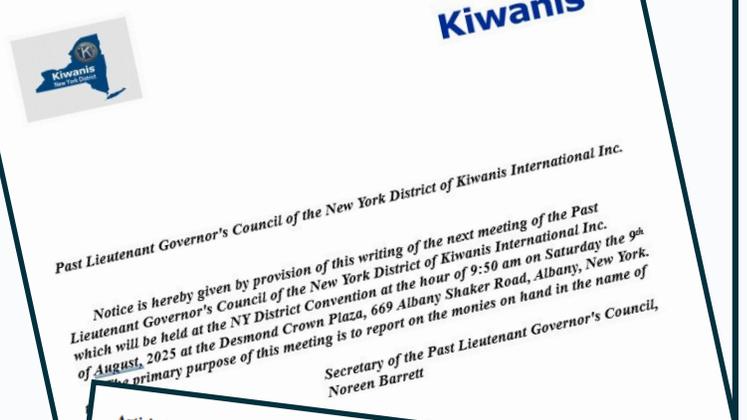
Here is a list to help you: nail clippers, toothbrush, tooth paste – any size, comb, toothbrush holder soap, disposable wash cloths, toilet paper, deodorant, hand sanitizer, lotion – small bottles shampoo – any size, feminine hygiene products non perishable items - peanut butter, individual fruit packets, canned tuna, soup, vegetables, individual cereal, and individual crackers packets.

If you have any item that you feel would be appropriate, please bring it.

Attached is agenda, By Laws, dues letter, and announcement.

Noreen Barrett

Secretary of the Past Lieutenant Governor's Council



Noreen Barrett, DPLG
Secretary



Kiwanis® Membership & New Club Openings

By SDPLG Thomas Cesiro, III

*District Chair
Membership & Club Opening*



It's the middle of July and we are about three weeks away from the final board meeting of the Navigators, under Governor Gordon. During this year we have seen four (4) new clubs join our New York District:

- Dare Boldly with 24 members
- Smithtown–Saint James with 22 members
- Commack with 22 members
- Booneville and More with 15 members.

In a few days, I will travel up to Booneville to officially welcome them at their Charter Night. Let me congratulate you and welcome all four new clubs and all our new members. Welcome to the NY Kiwanis Family. I know that we still have clubs being worked on Peconic Bay, Ronkonkoma, Spring Creek, Henrietta and Bath Beach, just to mention a few. As of today's date we show a net growth in membership of 345 new members. Two clubs have grown with double digits in new members this year: Glen Falls added 38 new members and Levittown added 10. These are the only two clubs that have added double digits but there are several clubs right behind them with 9 new members.

Many clubs in our District have invested their time and efforts into making sure that Kiwanis is alive and well in their communities and have increased their membership. What about the rest? Why did you join Kiwanis? What was exciting about joining Kiwanis? How has Kiwanis helped your community? These are all the items that we need to remember to help your club grow. When was the last time you invited someone to your meeting or community event? Have

you ever spoken to the parents of your K-Kids, Builders Club or Key Club? There is no magic in growing in membership it just takes someone to use that magical word – ASK someone to join you, come to a meeting, come to an event, come to learn what we are all about.

The goal of Kiwanis International and New York District is not to just Build new clubs, but we must Nurture and Retain our current membership. Yes, it's exciting when a new club opens, but we are extremely happy to hear that a club has grown in numbers, reached charter strength or when a single digit club tells you that they added a new member or two. Look at your



current membership, ASK them who they know, where do they shop, bank or who their dry cleaner is? Are they involved in other clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Church or Temple, PTA? Maybe it's time that you to attend their other meetings and introduce your Kiwanis Club? Joining today doesn't cost a lot of money and maybe you can add it to next year's dues and sell them on the idea that they are members

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Membership & New Club Openings

(Continued from page 19)

now until next September 30, 2026.

July, August and September is the time of year when we are asking members to recommit to Kiwanis and send their new Kiwanis year dues notice. Try to get these out soon than later, leaving your club with enough time to talk to the members who are on the fence about staying. We must Retain our membership levels in our clubs. Reach out to the members who you haven't seen in awhile and tell them you miss them. Remind the members who are wavering about continuing and tell them of all the good your club does in the community and how many hands make light work. Just don't let a member fade away, find out why? What can your club do to fix that?

Attention to the Club Officers and Lieutenant Governors, just because it's DCON and it's the end of the Kiwanis year does not mean your job is over. Now is the harder part of your job, to retain your membership and if possible, to keep it growing. Lieutenant Governors talk to your clubs and see how you can help get your Lieutenant Governor Designate involved.

Remember the goals: Build, Nurture and Retain, because Kids need Kiwanis and Kiwanis needs members.

How Are We Doing*?

Number of Active Clubs: 242

Members at Start of Year: 5577

Current Membership: 5923

Net Change +346 Members

Divisions Leading the Way

Long Island South Central - 76

Mohawk - 42

Long Island Southwest - 41

Queens West - 40

Central - 34

Clubs Leading the Way

Glens Falls (Mohawk) - 39

Community Care, NYC (Metropolitan) - 17

Dyker Heights (Brooklyn) - 13

Levittown (LISC) - 11

Kings Plaza-Canarsie (Brooklyn) - 10

Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1 (Queens West) - 10

New Clubs

Dare Boldly (LISC) - 24

Commack (Suffolk West) - 22

Smithtown-Saint James (Suffolk E) - 21

Boonville and More (Central) - 15

*Data from KI & NY District Portals as of 7/30/25.

Public Relations/Branding

Your Club's Brand Matters More Than You Think

— *Not just a logo, but your club's reputation in action*

When people think of "branding," they often picture a logo, banner, or maybe a T-shirt. But for a Kiwanis Club, branding goes much deeper — it's about how your community perceives you, how members talk about you, and whether potential members, partners, or sponsors want to join or support you.

In short: branding is your club's identity — and it directly affects your ability to grow, fundraise, and make an impact.

A Brand Is More Than a Design

Yes, logos and colors matter — they help people *recognize* you. But more important is what they associate with your name. Do they see "Kiwanis" and think *action, service, and community impact*? Or do they see a name with no clear connection to what's happening in their neighborhood?

Your brand is built every time someone sees your club in action — whether it's your name on a food drive, a park clean-up, or your members in matching shirts at a parade.

It's More Than Marketing — It's Mission

Great branding reflects your club's values and energy. It tells your story. But branding alone can't make up for inaction — it has to be backed up by real service and impact.

When your events, your presence, and your members all reflect the same positive, consistent message — that's when your brand becomes more than just a look. It becomes a magnet for growth and community trust.

Your Brand is Already Out There...

...the question is whether you're shaping it or letting it shape itself.

Take the time to define, strengthen, and proudly present your club's identity. Because in the end, people don't just support causes — they support people and organizations they trust.

Let Kiwanis be that name in your community.

Good Branding Attracts

When your club consistently shows up with a visible identity, it builds trust and familiarity. People remember you. And when they remember you, they're more likely to:

- Volunteer at your next event
- Recommend your club to a friend
- Say "yes" when invited to join

In short, people want to be part of something successful — and a strong, consistent brand makes your club look and feel like a thriving organization.

Quick Branding Check-Up for Your Club

- Are all your projects clearly marked as Kiwanis-sponsored?
- Do your flyers, shirts, and signs include your club name/logo?
- Is your social media consistent and active?
- Do members know how to talk about what Kiwanis is and does?

KEY CLUB®



By John D. Goldstein

Key Club

District Administrator



#KidsNeedKiwanis

I want to thank the Great New York District Kiwanis for your unwavering support of the New York District Key Club Board and all of the Key Clubs in our District. Our membership continues to be just under 13,000 members in about 245 clubs.

This years Leadership Training Conference in March was a 25% increase over last year with about 660 attendees. The growth this year was great and we hope

that next year we will be back to about 700 attendees.

We attended the Key Club International Convention in Orlando FL June 29 -July 5. We have 30 students and 4 adults. I want to congratulate North Shore High School Key Club who came in First Place in the Major Emphasis Award. I want to thank all of the

Kiwanis Clubs and Division who helped financially to send your students to this great opportunity.

The New York District is successful because of the tremendous support from the New York Kiwanis District, the Kiwanis Clubs and Kiwanians in this great District. It is an Honor and a Privilege to continue to serve as the Administrator for the New York District of Key Club International.

#KidsNeedKiwanis



I pledge, on my honor, to uphold the Objects of Key Club International; to build my home, school and community; to serve my nation and God; and combat all forces which tend to undermine these institutions.



Celebrating a Year of Service with Kiwanis K Kids Clubs

This year has been truly inspiring thanks to the unwavering commitment and enthusiasm of our Kiwanis K Kids clubs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each club member, advisor, and supporter for your hard work and devotion in making a difference within your schools and communities. Your creativity, kindness, and passion for service have brightened lives and set a shining example for others to follow.

We are excited to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of several clubs that were

(Continue on page 28)



By Kevin Kamper
K Kids
District Administrator

In Loving Memory of SDPLG Mickie Leamey



With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of SDPLG Mickie Leamey, the district's first K Kids Administrator. Mickie's unwavering dedication to the K Kids program and her selfless service to both the district and the wider community have left an indelible mark on all whose lives she touched.

As the inaugural K Kids Administrator, Mickie was a true pioneer. She devoted countless hours to nur-

(Continue on page 28)

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Honored Kiwanis K Kids Clubs

- Barnum Woods Elementary K-Kids – Distinguished Club
- K-Kids of Otisville – Distinguished Club
- Meadowbrook Elementary K-Kids – Distinguished Club
- Parkway Elementary School – Honor Club
- Mckvey Elementary School – President Graham Distinguished Officer
- Smithtown K-Kids – Vice President Matthew and President Annabella Distinguished Officers
- Connolly School K-Kids – Dora Ricciardi – Distinguished Advisor
- Smithtown K-Kids – Albert Lindsey – Distinguished Advisor

For the first time Kiwanis International introduced a single service award. Congratulations to the following Schools on their awards.

- Barnum Woods – Cereal Box Challenge
- Mcvey Elementary School – Change Challenge
- Meadowbrook Elementary School – P.S. I Love You Day
- Parkway Elementary School – Holiday Toiletries

Also congratulations to Rylenne who showed off her prize-winning design for her Otisville Elementary KKids Club !!



Each of these clubs has embodied the Kiwanis mission, showing that young people can make a real and lasting difference. To all club members, advisors, and families: thank you for your dedication. Let us continue to serve with enthusiasm and compassion in the year ahead!

East Yonkers Kiwanis Honors 22 Everyday Heroes in Westchester County

On June 16, the East Yonkers Kiwanis Club proudly hosted an outdoor celebration in Yonkers to honor 22 “Everyday Heroes” from across Westchester County. The Everyday Hero Award, founded by Past New York District Governor Joe Corace and President of the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Foundation recognizes individuals who quietly go above and beyond in their daily lives, making a difference in their communities through simple yet powerful acts of kindness.



The award ceremony served as heartfelt recognition while donating funds to this foundation. Among those honored were school counselors and social workers who go the extra mile for their students, advisors who guide Key clubs and Builders clubs, Business Owners who provide more than just service, teachers who made Covid bearable, and students who have led meaningful school-based projects. A particularly moving moment came with the recognition of a student Jake Campisi, who was honored for saving a student’s life, a true definition of the Everyday Hero Spirit. This event was attended by Past Governor Joseph Ruggiero and DPG Joe Corace.

East Yonkers Kiwanis has long been committed to recognizing community members of all ages. This event marked yet another initiative celebrating local heroes while raising awareness for pediatric trauma care in New York State.

Successful Inaugural Year for Builders Club

The Builders Club of Lindenhurst has successfully completed its inaugural year at Lindenhurst Middle School and received the Honor Club Award. Under the supervision of teacher Teresa Moar, the club began the 2024-2025 academic year with 14 sixth-grade students. The club aims to double its membership in the 2025-2026 school year by welcoming new sixth-grade students. To support this initiative, the club will host a Club Fair for the entire school on October 1, during which it will showcase the positive contributions made by the club in its first year and its plans for the year ahead.



Throggs Neck Kiwanis Paw-Hop Eggtravaganza

The Throggs Neck Kiwanis Club hosted their very first, Paw-hop Eggtravaganza! At this event, they raised funds for the Home Run Hounds Animal Rescue, a rescue that saves dogs from kill shelters in Texas. Dog parents came with their fur babies and human babies to take pictures

with the Easter Bunny, paint paw prints (with their real puppy paws!!), partake in the onsite bar, let the puppies make friends in the Throggs Neck Kiwanis Dog Run and of course, search for treats in the egg-hunt inspired treat hunt!



Club Rebuild Case Study - Kiwanis Club of Rochester

One Member's Experiences

When I was Lt. Governor of the Genesee Division under our beloved DPG Brenda Leigh Johnson during the 2020-2021 service year, I made it a priority to give extra attention to Kiwanis Club of Rochester, the 4th oldest charter in Kiwanis International ("KI") history and home to George F. Hixson, the 1st KI president. The efforts worked, but only short-term. Over the last couple of years, the club fell back to barely existing and the roster down to 7 with only 4 active members.



Fast forward to March 2025 - I made a commitment to take a different approach to membership growth - to dedicate some serious time, attention, and overall investment to rebuild and revitalize the Rochester club!

Here are some things that were done:

- Contacted 8 businesses as potential new meeting places - they all responded, but only 1 responded in a "partnering-promising" way - Boulder Coffee Co. located in the South Wedge neighborhood. The owner is a former Rotarian, young, eager to help the community and organization like ours. The club now meets there (for free) the 2nd & 4th Thursdays - 5:30pm social / 6pm meeting. This led the club to focus on the South Wedge area as a not-so-daunting demographic. This was the BEST decision we have made!
- After asking around and doing our own research, the club joined the following local organizations:
 - ⇒ South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) - IPDG Lucien and I are attending every meeting (once a month) and building a partnership with them in the community. We provided peanut

butter at one of their Pop-Up community events; we collected underwear and socks for their Resource Library; we are even co-hosting a fundraiser with them!!

⇒ SWPC Community Engagement Committee - IPDG Lucien and I are attending these monthly meetings as well.

⇒ Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA) - paid to be a member; put an ad in their quarterly magazine; attending all their networking events.

⇒ Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Section 6 - attending monthly meetings.

- We have hosted two Open House / Membership Mixers and have already gained 3 members already! We plan on hosting one of these a month for the rest of the year! This involved walking the streets and going door to door to introduce ourselves and put flyers on community boards.
- Created an Instagram account: [@kiwanis.rochesterny](https://www.instagram.com/kiwanis.rochesterny) (along with keeping the Facebook page and Website updated).
- We are a Community Sponsor and will have an informational table at the annual South Wedge Fest on Saturday, August 16.
- Partnered (long-term) with Cub Scout Pack #20 (met the leader by attending their Pancake Breakfast) - and will be co-hosting a Bike Rodeo with the help of local government and organizations!!



By Club President SDPLG Heather Henderson, pictured with IPDG Lucien Giancursio and SWPC Board Members.

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Riverdale Kiwanis Club's Silent Auction

Riverdale Kiwanis Club launched its first silent disco at the Riverdale Block Party to fundraise for the North Riverdale Grand Slam Baseball sponsorship and local youth charities. Volunteers from the Bronx

Science Key Club and local students were excited to get this fun-raiser going and bring music and dancing to the kids at the Block Party. Kiwanis was introduced to 100 vendors and 500+ attendees. In addition, Riverdale and Fordham Kiwanis were excited to sponsor students from Bronx HS of Science to the Key Club Convention in Orlando celebrating 100 years. The

sponsored students were rising leaders who have contributed volunteer hours for both their Key Club and the supporting Kiwanis events. The Bronx High School of Science was honored as a distinguished club. The sponsored students learned about leadership skills and more about Kiwanis International and its charities.



East Yonkers Kiwanis Receives Grant to Build Living Skills and Career Center

"Members of the Kiwanis Club of East Yonkers are excited to have received this grant, which will assist in our effort to help teens thrive, prosper and grow," said Antoinette Cantone, President of East Yonkers Kiwanis Club. "We know kids need Kiwanis, in our community and in communities around the world."

In response to the increasing number of high school students with autism and a community needs survey, East Yonkers Kiwanis has decided to build a Living Skills and Career Center at Gorton High School. This center will not only provide daily living skills but will train our students for the workplace. Antoinette, President of the Club and Lt. Gov Elect of Bronx Westchester

South states that this was the year best fit for this project. Our First Lady, Marie Soderholm, has diligently made every effort to educate Kiwanians on all aspects of our autistic population and the variety of needs they have.

She has effectively established a sensitivity and has been well spoken of the vast unique skills they have that we, as teachers, need to foster.

"We worked with Principal Morales, teachers and Yonkers school officials to identify their needs and help provide something that will really benefit kids in our community." Kiwanis Club of East Yonkers is also working with Wren Kitchens and P.C. Richards on the project.

Yonkers Kiwanis Honors Teachers

Chaired by Judy Bartunek and in partnership with the City of Yonkers and Yonkers Public Schools Board of Education, the Yonkers Kiwanis Club honored Jessica O'Neill, Tatiana Galasso and Cristina Doley at the 69th annual Teachers of the Year Awards ceremony. In addition, President Erin Anderson awarded Aldijana Srdanovic, a Senior at Lincoln High School the clubs 2025 Herman B. Fine Scholarship Award for academic merit on behalf of the club. Aldijana will attend Manhattan University this Fall as a pre-med student.



Club Rebuild - Kiwanis Club of Rochester

(Continued from page 25)

- Signed up with Zeffy – online giving platform – to take donations (and use for future ticketed events).
 - Had 2 fundraisers already – at The Distillery (received % of sales) and a Clothing & Household Textile collection (through a local thrift store).
 - Attending regular networking meetings like South Clinton Merchant Association, South East Area Coalition (SEAC), Business Association for the South East Quadrant (BASE).
 - Starting dialog with key stake holders in the area, such as the Director of public library ; Principals of the schools ; the Fire Chief.
- The list goes on and on, but in summary, here is the takeaway: To invest in the community, to build solid partnerships and relationships, do NOT ask for anything up front – take the time to prove to those partners that you are here to stay and truly want to help the community. Consistency is key. Then, when the time is right, you can ask for an official membership commitment.

Farmingdale Kiwanis Scholarship

Farmingdale Kiwanis presented a scholarship to Farmingdale High School Sr. Jaylyn Umana who will be attending Harvard to study Medicine.



Monticello Kiwanis Maintains Flowerbed

The Monticello Kiwanis Club continued its tradition of maintaining the Village of Monticello flowerbeds located on Jefferson Street and Route 42. This year Past Kiwanis President Jane Sorensen volunteered to be in charge and she received much appreciated assistance from several members of the Sullivan County Aktion Club.



Central Adirondacks Annual Food Kart Day

On June 28 the Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks sponsored its 17th annual FOOD KART DAY supporting Webb Community Food Pantry located at St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge.

Twenty-three Kiwanis members, friends, families, and other volunteers were stationed at Kalil's Market in Inlet, DiOrio's Supermarket in Old Forge, and at Kinney Drugs in Old Forge. Shoppers were asked to consider buying non-perishable food items, then drop them off in the



grocery carts stationed at store exits. Each shopper was given a "Shopping List" of non-perishable items needed by the Food Pantry. Some generous donors filled whole shopping carts!

In addition to full carts, \$1,000 of cash donations were collected. Jane Cameron, Director, stated: "The local Kiwanis Food Kart Day resulted in grand donations of nonperishable food items given to our Food Pantry. Special thanks go to the Kiwanis Club, and to all the generous donors who contributed items at DiOrio's Supermarket, Kalil's Market, and the Old Forge Kinney Drug store."

At the end of the day, Kiwanis volunteers transported food items that filled 5 pantry tables for distribution from St. Bartholomew's Church. Kiwanis Members and volunteers contributed more than 30 hours to the project.

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 23 - Celebrating a Year of Service)

honored by Kiwanis International for their outstanding dedication to service. These clubs have demonstrated exceptional teamwork, leadership, and a true spirit of giving, making a positive impact that reaches far beyond their local communities.

Start your plan now for 2025-2026. Meet with your school leaders and advisors to get a jump on the new school year. Plenty of materials are available on the website at [KiwanisKids - Advisor Resources](#). Be on the lookout for information on the worldwide service initiative.

Remember, every act of service, no matter how small, contributes to a greater legacy. Here's to another year filled with opportunity, friendship, and the unwavering belief that together, we can accomplish remarkable things!

You can always contact me at knkamper@gmail.com if you have any questions. Enjoy your summer.

(Continued from page 23 - Remembering Mickie Leamey)

turing and guiding the program, ensuring that young students found purpose, joy, and the rewarding experience of serving others. Her leadership was marked by compassion, vision, and a deep belief in the potential of every child.

May we honor her memory by carrying forward her passion for service and her dedication to making a difference. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and all those whose lives she so profoundly touched.

Thank you, Mickie, for your years of service, your leadership, and your enduring legacy.



Kiwanis International Convention

(Continued from page 1)

KI President Michael Mulhaul

A Kiwanian for 33 years, Michael Mulhaul is member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Parsippany, New Jersey, and has served as its president and treasurer. He is also a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Asbury Park. He has been a governor and lieutenant governor of the New Jersey District and is currently president of the New Jersey District Foundation and a Kiwanis Children's Fund trustee. Mulhaul and his wife and fellow Kiwanian, Laura, have three adult children, a son-in-law and a grandchild.



twice served as president. She served as secretary and chair of the Fundraising, Membership and Interclub committees. Markes will serve as Kiwanis International president in 2026-27.

KI Vice President Cathy Szymanski

Cathy Szymanski has been a Kiwanis member since 1994. Her home club is the Kiwanis Club of Erie, Pennsylvania, U.S., where she has served as distinguished president and secretary. She was elected a Kiwanis International trustee in 2019. During her tenure, she served as the board's membership chair and as a counselor for Circle K International, the Kiwanis program for college and university students. Szymanski was a distinguished governor of the Pennsylvania District in 2011-12, following terms as distinguished lieutenant governor and district membership chair.



KI President-Elect Hope Markes

Hope Markes, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Hopewell in Hanover, Jamaica, was governor of the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District in 2013-14 and previously served as lieutenant governor. She was also a member of the district's Strategic Planning Committee and was regional vice chair for The Formula, a membership growth initiative of Kiwanis International. She also has served on the Membership and Education committees. At the club level, she



In addition to the many workshops and meeting fellow Kiwanians from all over the world, we had the pleasure of hearing from keynote speaker Hall of Fame Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw.



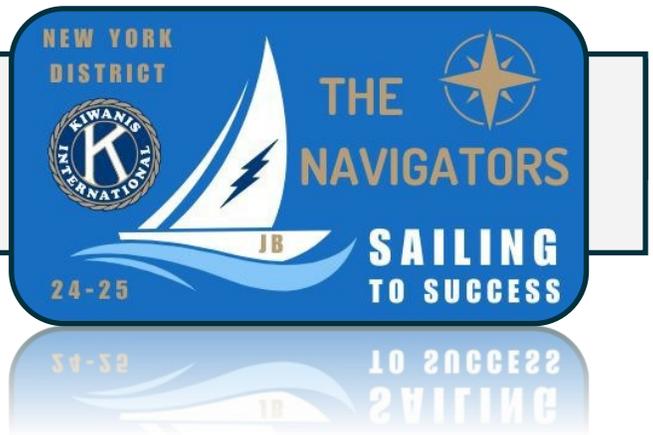
From Our Immediate Past Governor

(Continued from page 6)

known our beloved departed Kiwanis friends. Let us hold onto the good times we shared with them, for these cherished memories will surely overshadow our sadness and bring comfort to our grief.

In closing, as we reflect on the lives of Peter and Mickie, and all our Kiwanis friends who have passed, let us carry forward their dedication to service, their spirit of friendship, and their unwavering commitment to making the world a better place for children. Their legacies will continue to inspire us, and they will forever remain in our

Empire State Kiwanian



From your Editor:

As we wrap up another successful service year, we are also starting to plan for the next year. October 1, 2025 is right around the corner.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to Gov. Gordy for the opportunity to serve as ESK Editor this past year, and I am equally grateful that Gov. Elect Carla has asked me to continue in the role for 2025-26



As we head into the new service year, I once again encourage District Chairs, Foundation Presidents, and Kiwanis Clubs to submit articles for publication. Sharing your projects helps spread the word about the incredible service happening throughout our District — and can inspire others to do the same!

Tips for Submissions

Email articles and photos to me.

Articles: Submit original content only. Articles must be written specifically for the ESK. Previously published content (print or online) may not be used unless written permission from the original author is provided.

Please ensure your article answers the 5 "W's":

- Who participated/benefited?
- What was the project/event?
- When did it take place?
- Where was it held?
- Why was it meaningful or impactful?

Articles should be clear, concise, and proofread for both content and grammar. In addition, please be sure to provide context - please don't submit just one sentence or a vague summary. Even brief articles should tell a story.

Photos: Please send all photos as separate email attachments, not embedded in the article. High-resolution images provide for best print and digital quality.

As for the content of the photos, please submit action shots that show members engaged in service are encouraged — these tell the story of Kiwanis in action! And please avoid posed "grip-and-grin" photos, unless they include a banner, citation, or are part of a formal presentation.



The ESK is published quarterly. It is important that all submissions are received prior to the stated deadlines—the 10th day of the month that it is intended to be published:



- 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 **October 10, 2025**.

Please note: the Editor reserves the right to make the final decisions regarding edits and inclusions of submitted content.

Every submission is truly appreciated as they help showcase the energy, passion, and impact of Kiwanis across the District. Keep those stories coming!

If you have questions or are unsure about a submission, feel free to reach out.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

DPLG Seth J. Blau

esk@kiwanis-ny.org

#KidsNeedKiwanis

