

Empire State Kiwanian

New York



CHAMPIONS
LEADERSHIP SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT

October 2021, Volume 21-22, Issue 1

New York District, Kiwanis International

Let's Go Out and Get It Done!

By Gov. James Mancuso

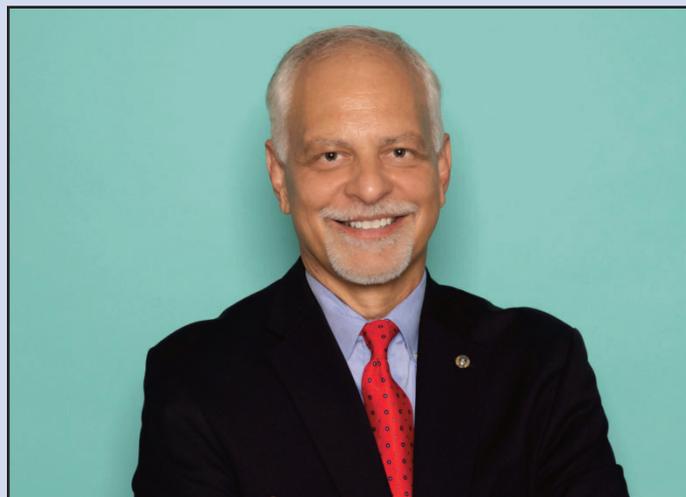
The new Kiwanis year is upon us!

I am looking forward with great enthusiasm about what we will accomplish for those less fortunate in New York State and throughout the world. Many people, including the children need us, especially as we continue to be challenged by the pandemic.

Communication is so important for what we do. We need members that truly understand Kiwanis and are ready for the challenges we face when serving others. It starts with this new newsletter format. I hope you like the changes we have made and the new way we are presenting content. It is more topical, and this issue, we start with membership, a topic which is among the most important things we do. Membership drives our capacity to serve. As we strive to open new clubs, grow membership, and make the membership experience fun and rewarding! One of my favorite sayings has become "If you love Kiwanis, you love recruiting new members!"

Next on the improved communication list is a new website designed to be non-member facing, explaining what Kiwanis is and to attract new members. The existing website will become the "member resources" section. My thanks to Marty Toombs, Maureen Neuringer and Nancy Baxter who all worked very hard to deliver both the new website and newsletter.

There will be more things we do to improve communications. For example, every month I will send out a video message to our membership and host bi-monthly "Governor Officer Hours" to answer your questions, take your feedback and suggestions. Twice a month the district will also holding educational sessions, on a variety of subjects, over web-conferencing.



We have a great group of lieutenant governors who have stepped up to lead their divisions and who will also play a very important communication role to support our initiatives and deliver our message throughout the district. They have my sincere thanks for doing so. The district team is simply named, CHAMPIONS. We need to think like great CHAMPIONS do, believe we can and get the job done. Growing membership is of course one of those areas, we must hit our aggressive goals and succeed.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not thank now Immediate Past Governor Brenda Leigh Johnson. She was my mentor, took me under her wings to learn the "ropes" and became a dear friend in the process. What she did on behalf of the district was purely selfless and nothing short of outstanding.

So, now working together, let's go out and get it done, for those we serve, doing it one child and one community at a time!

Focus of this ESK issue: Membership

For the 2021-22 year, issues of the Empire State Kiwanian will each have a theme that unites them, along with updates on happenings in the district.

The theme for the first issue of the Kiwanis Year is Membership in all its meanings. Articles feature discussions

of opening new clubs, working with the Kiwanis Partners to extend Kiwanis Service, getting to know members in adjoining clubs, and the value of having a good time at Kiwanis meetings.

There's also information on the importance of training for club officers

and ways to honor loyal club members.

We hope you like the new format and find it useful.

The January edition of the Empire State Kiwanian will be an in-depth look at the foundations which are part of the New York District.

Let's Have Fun While We Do It

By Steve Klein

I remember the first year of my 25 years in Kiwanis like it was yesterday.

I was told to join by a mentor. I felt obliged to stay because of my need to give back and help those less fortunate. But it felt like a chore. I would literally drag myself to meetings, and there was never enough coffee to keep me awake through the end.



But those days are long gone, I am happy to say! Over the last decade, Kiwanis has become the most FUN part of my week. And I am not alone. As FUN became the recipe for my club, we have grown and attracted younger members, and today we have a well-deserved reputation as the Fun Club. Every club needs to give this a try -- it will pay great dividends.

There are no specific rules, and there are lots of things you can do to make meetings and events more fun, for example:



- Trivia questions or riddles with prizes.
- An ice cream social instead of a meal every now and then
- Evening mixers once a month (which are much more popular with younger folks than lunch or breakfast)
- After-parties following fundraisers or events
- Exciting guest speakers with hands-on

or active topics.

Poll your members. Find out what makes them happy. Then roll that into your next meeting or event. Nobody is going to get up and leave or quit the club because you try something fun. But you just might find some of them start coming more often, or new people start to show up to make sure they don't miss out!

Interclubs - Round or Square? You Decide!

By Noreen Barrett
Round-Robin Chair

The Round Robin patch has been around for several years. Every club in the district may receive one.

To qualify, your club must visit (in person or virtual) each club in your division at least once during the 2020-21 Kiwanis year. You need 4 members attending if your membership is over 30; 3 members

attending if your membership is between 20-29; and 2 members attending if your membership is under 20.

It is more important now more than ever to stay in touch with your fellow Kiwanians.

You could do a "round table" meeting which is just getting together and talking about service projects or things going on

in your club. Brain storming creates fun ideas! Another idea would be to join another club in their fundraiser or service project.

The forms for the 2020-21 Kiwanis year are due to me by November 1, 2021.

Any questions contact me at lgbarrett3@nycap.rr.com.

The Empire State Kiwanian

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Publication Office:

84 Bridge St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
webmaster@kiwanis-ny.org

2021-22 Events

Nov. 12-14, 2021:

K Family Weekend, Desmond Hotel, Albany

Dec. 5, 2021:

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation Gala

Feb. 11-13, 2022:

Mid-Year Conference, Desmond Hotel, Albany

June 8-11, 2022:

Kiwanis International Convention, Indianapolis, Ind.

July 6-10, 2022:

Key Club International Convention, Washington, D.C.

Aug. 18-21, 2022:

New York District Convention, Hyatt Hotel, Rochester

Partnerships Can Double Your Fun . . . And Double Your Community Impact

By Wendy Prout
Partnership Co-Chair

This year the Partnership Committee is looking to develop powerful alliances with Kiwanis International (KI) Partners.

Partnerships are an exciting and powerful way to maximize our service and resources to communities around the world. We welcome partnerships that align with our mission and preserve the trust of our members and the communities, children and families we serve.



Check out the partners who help Kiwanis clubs change children's lives, and read about our partner-driven programs. See how partnerships make service easier, increase your club's purchasing power and even result in benefits and rewards for members. Go to www.kiwanis.org/partners for more information.

This year, the New York District is focusing on utilizing partnerships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America. When it comes to serving children, KI and BGCA both have long and successful histories, and have been working together since 2008.

In every community, many children are left to find their own recreation and companionship. An increasing number have no adult care or supervision at home. Young people need to know that someone cares about them. That's where a local BGCA comes in. It's a safe place where kids can play, learn and grow. And it's where adult volunteers help young people-especially those who need it most to reach their full potential.

The Partnership Committee has created 3 Goals for this year:

1. Each division have at least two clubs create a new partnership with their local BGCA by Dec. 1, 2021
2. Each division increase membership by adding two BGCA staff members as Kiwanians by April 1, 2022.
3. Each division participate in at least two BGCA activities and ask them to participate in at least two Kiwanis events by April 1, 2022.

Please work with your lieutenant governor to achieve these goals, as they have a list of leadership for all Boys & Girls Clubs in the state.

Once you've gotten the conversation started with your local BGCA, there are all kinds of ways that you can work together



to change kids' lives.

Troy Kiwanis in the Van Rensselaer Division has a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital District. Some of the things they have done are:

1. Donated money to a scholarship program to send children in need to camp during the summer.
2. During the pandemic, Troy Kiwanis promoted literacy by donating new books to be delivered with the children's home deliver meals.
3. Members regularly volunteered at food distribution sites to give out free food to our community. This takes place at the local Boys & Girls Club on a monthly basis.
4. We also have invited other club employees to weekly meetings where they could share information about their programs and ways that people could get involved.

5. The Sand Lake Kiwanis Club with the support of the Van Rensselaer Division, took on renovating and improving the summer camp facility at the Rensselaer Club Camp. This is an ongoing project. For Kiwanis One Day, the Van Rensselaer Division did a camp clean-up/renovation project and then on Earth Day we did another cleanup day.

Check out KI's website for their ideas: <https://www.kiwanis.org/about/partners/boys-and-girls-clubs-of-america>

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Heather Henderson: heather35976@gmail.com or Wendy Prout - wensped@aol.com for help connecting to your Boys & Girls Club of America in your area.

Selected Kiwanis Partners



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA



landscape
structures

Reading
Is Fundamental

unicef 

MARCH OF DIMES

If you missed the District Convention:

Two talked-about programs at the District Convention in August were designed to have some fun. The presenters have prepared the following for those unable to attend:

Challenging Martin Valk's Baseball Knowledge

By Martin Valk

1: Among the 39 hitters elected to the Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility, who hit the fewest home runs?

A: Ozzie Smith (28 career homers)

2: Derek Jeter hit 260 homers during his Hall of Fame career, but only one was a grand slam. Against which team did he hit it?

A: The Cubs, on June 18, 2005

3: What father-son duo each finished their careers with the exact same home run total (319)?

A: Cecil Fielder and Prince Fielder

4: What pitcher-catcher combo made the most starts together in MLB history?

A: Mickey Lolich and Bill Freehan (324 starts).

5: Who is the oldest pitcher to win a Cy Young Award?

A: Roger Clemens, who was 42 when he won the 2004 NL Cy Young Award.

6: Who is the all-time leader for grand slams by a catcher?

A: Hall of Famer Mike Piazza (14 career grand slams).

7: Prior to Miguel Cabrera, who hit his 500th home run on August 22, 2021, who was the most recent player to reach the 500-homer milestone?



A: Boston's David Ortiz, who hit his 499th and 500th homers Sept. 12, 2015, at Tropicana Field.

8: Who took the least number of games to hit his 500th home run?

Answer: Mark McGwire, who hit his 500th home run on August 5, 1999, in career game number 1,639.

9: Which Hall of Famer holds the record for most consecutive 15-win seasons, with 17?

Answer: Greg Maddux (1988-2004).

10: Shohei Ohtani reached 40 homers and 15 stolen bases in 122 games, the second-fastest in any season. Who did it in fewer games?

A: Ken Griffey Jr. (117 games in 1998).

Honeybee Trivia Challenge

By David Morse

1. How long can a Queen bee live?

A. 1-4 years

2. How many bees are there in a strong hive?

A. 40-60,000

3. How much honey will one worker bee produce in her lifetime?

A. 1/12th teaspoon

4. At what constant temperature do honeybees maintain the hive?

A. 92 degrees Fahrenheit

5. How far from the hive will workers fly to forage from the hive?

A. 5 miles

6. How many beats per second does a honeybee's wing beat?

A. 200 beats per second

7. How fast can a honeybee fly?



A. 15 miles per hour

8. How many flowers will a worker bee visit during one collection trip?

A. 100

The True Membership Experience, If You Dare!

By Ronald Palmer
Human and Spiritual Values Chair

This year, as Human and Spiritual Values committee chair, I've been challenged by Gov. Jim to present a point of view that perhaps many of us have taken for granted in everyday life. What I mean is this:



I asked some of the newer members in our club what the Mission and Vision statements are for Kiwanis. What are the six Kiwanis objectives? Not one could answer short of answers that could be logically put together with little or no forethought. This year we will review what we all know one objective at a time. Throughout the year we will review what each means both philosophically and most importantly how we can put feet to our faith so to speak.

Objective 1 "To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life."

Webster's dictionary defines "primacy" as, "the fact of being primary, preeminent, or more important."

When we as leaders provide a definition and an example for our young people today we investing in the future of humanity. Within the context of our recent

time of isolation due to Covid, We can identify the importance of reaching out to (giving primacy to") those in need around us. This primacy is more than sending a check and involves a concerted effort in human contact, providing a lending hand and listening heart.

Most recently, we've focused on these and have had reports of folks who are giving of themselves by just visiting in person

(when appropriate) or by telephone just to be able to convey a message of hope and helping these folks understand they are not alone and that we are available to talk. The Kiwanis programs that have provided for physical need have been quite effective and will always be necessary. The power of our voice as a caring person to someone on the other end of a telephone line could literally save lives.



The Sand Lake club collected 500 pounds of pull tabs which will be sold to support the Ronald McDonald House in Albany.

"Legion of Merit for \$200 ... Alex"

By Marie Soderholm
Legion of Merit Chair

Alex Trebek (RIP) "All right contestants and viewers, welcome back to final Jeopardy. As you know the category is 'KIWANIS'. Please make sure your answer is in the form of a question. Here is the answer "This is an exciting, easy and important way the New York District honors Kiwanis members at special milestones along their membership path" (Music plays...)



Alex: "All right contestant #1 Brenda LeighJ what is your answer?"

Brenda Leigh Johnson: "What is I never promised you a Rose Garden?"

Alex: "Oooo sorry Brenda Leigh not

right. Contestant #2 Peter Mancuso your answer."

Peter: "This is easy..I am king of the world"

Alex: "Well that may be true but sorry, no. And your answer was not in the form of a question. Contestant #3, JimM..."

Jim Mancuso: "Alex my QUESTION (looking at PeterM) is What is Little Red Corvette?"

Alex: "So sorry JimM not correct. The question I was looking for was what is the LEGION OF MERIT."

Legion Of Merit you say? What is that? Did you miss the memo?

The above story is pure fiction. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. BUT..the Legion of Merit is not at all fictional!! It is one of the easiest and most wonderful ways to honor the members of your club. Let's spread the word!!

The Legion of Merit honor includes a personal certificate and a pin engraved with the number of years of membership.

The years are in increments of five, 5, 10, 15, 20. Usually the club secretary finds the form on the district website, fills it in, and mails it with a check made out to New York District Kiwanis. Please allow at least 4 weeks to process. The form and check should be mailed to Marie Soderholm, 3714 Shearman Road, Perry, NY 14530. If you have any questions call or text me at 716-531-3856 or email your question to mmm7swartz@gmail.com.

Kiwanis International awards the Legion of Honor to members with 25 years and over in 5 year increments. Please go to the International website to order pins. If you have questions about this honor call 1-800 Kiwanis, ext. 4113.

Now you know. In this time of necessary membership drives, let's take a moment to honor our current hard-working members. There may even be an incentive to proudly wear your Legion of Merit/Honor pin to the Mid- winter conference!! Stay tuned for details...

It's Always a Good Time to Open New Clubs

By PG Eric G. Paul
Membership and New Club Chair

As our new Kiwanis year opens, there is a renewed emphasis on CLUB OPENING and MEMBERSHIP. Many people say "why open new clubs? What's wrong with what we have"?

Good question, but there is a very good answer. We have been losing Kiwanis Clubs through the pandemic. There are orphan Service Leadership Program clubs left without a Kiwanis Sponsor, previously funded projects left without a benefactor, and entire communities without a viable community service organization.

The emphasis for 2021-22 is not just traditional "knife & fork" Kiwanis clubs, but on a NEW round of out of the ordinary, non-traditional groups. Perhaps a club supporting a food pantry; supporting a school district and their Service Leadership Program groups. A club to address specific or non-specific community needs!

These groups can meet in person weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or via ZOOM.



Or a mixture! Kiwanis knows that the world is changing, and is changing to meet the new challenges of a post-Covid world.

We have able, trained Kiwanians across the district ready to assist you and your lieutenant governor become familiarized with this new picture, and how to begin. What we need is YOUR INPUT and HELP! Make one of your club's community service projects this year to sponsor another new Kiwanis club!

Assistance, financial and manpower related, is AVAILABLE. Please feel free to contact me at 716-598-1401 for more information or to talk about the new Kiwanis programs!

Public Relations, what's it all about?

Joel Harris
Branding Coordinator
Governor Elect 2021-22

I am extremely proud to be entering my sixth year as your Public Relations Coordinator. During this time, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of my fellow Kiwanians through our District and International conventions and forums, phone calls and e-mails. During this time our district has made great strides utilizing all the new tools available to us and most importantly, utilizing our updated logos.

It's all about consistency. We want our Kiwanis brand to be the same worldwide. People who see the "K" here should see the same "K" internationally and get same message. We attract people who want to help, people who like to serve their communities and help kids. We want to use the same branding tools and techniques globally. Our strength is in our mission. Our biggest challenge is with awareness and consistent use of our logo.

I always say that when you see the Starbucks logo, you think of that steaming cup of coffee. When you see the Golden Arches, you should be thinking of a Big Mac or delicious fries. You know exactly what you're getting. When you see the "K" you should see the children, the playgrounds we build, or the pancake breakfast fundraisers so many clubs hold. That is why it is so important to keep uniformity among all our clubs and divisions with the logos they use.

When you see your favorite brand's logo, is it altered in any way? No. Why? Because consistency is key for recognition. But too often we see Kiwanis logos that have been personalized in some way. Many clubs and districts like to decorate the Kiwanis branding with the name of

their club, city or town, their main service project, or a graphic element. These club members likely believe they are distinguishing themselves from other clubs.

But in fact, the opposite is happening. These clubs are diluting the Kiwanis brand. Every addition to the logo -- the Kiwanis seal and the wordmark - serves to dilute the brand and have the opposite effect of distinguishing one club from another. Every decoration to our brand is harmful. These decorations confuse people because they are unable to tell if your club is part of the same organization as another club. Think of Starbucks. If one store uses the green branding color and another uses yellow or red, a coffee drinker might be confused and decide not



to go to that store. Branding makes the experience cohesive. We can't allow every club, district or member to alter it.

The good news is that thousands of clubs, divisions and districts have taken advantage of the custom logo, which Kiwanis International will design free. This logo standardizes our look. Visit our website and request one! Kiwanis will send your logo files in all the formats you need for digital and print use.

Branded materials for clubs to use on all communication channels. Visit www.kiwanis.org/brand for social media photos, media releases, print ads and more. These materials provide consistency to the brand so that anyone, anywhere will be able to recognize the Kiwanis brand. Proper use of the Kiwanis brand can increase our name recognition and awareness and help attract more members. And that will help us help more kids.

Why? Because #kidsneedkiwanis



The Syracuse Young Professionals Kiwanis Club had a successful Bike Safety Rodeo at the Onondaga County Skate Park area in Liverpool on July 31. They worked with the Liverpool Kiwanis Club on the event. The Onondaga County Sheriff's Department did training and gave out free bike helmets as did the Syracuse Young Professionals club. Club members took the children through the obstacle course and simulated street situations with cars, manhole covers, bricks, etc. This will be our signature project for both clubs on an annual basis. We were able to train 40 young children that day and picked up five possible members.

How Important is Club Officer Training?

By Alison Mandel
Leadership Development Coordinator

Why is Certified Leadership Education (Officer Training) Important?

Has anyone been to a club meeting that is poorly run with the officers not having a clue as to what they were doing?

If you were a guest or prospective member would that be a club you would want to join? As we begin 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 in your community. Al-

though some clubs have returned to in person meetings, many have not. If your club is now returning to in-person meeting after either not meeting at all or many months of ZOOM meetings perhaps now is the time to:

A) Conduct a Member Survey - ask questions like "What do your members want from their club experience?" Do you want to mix some ZOOM or hybrid meetings into your monthly schedule?

B) Value and respect all Members' Opinions -- make it a point to hear from



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!

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 to help.

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! Education of members should be ongoing throughout the year, not limited to just officer training.

Over this past year, there were monthly district wide webinars on different topics these will continue during the 2021-22 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 Service Leadership Programs, Youth Protection, Governor's Project, the various foundations, partnerships, 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.

For any club officer the recordings of the live Kiwanis Online trainings are available for your viewing pleasure. Please reach out to me if you have any questions at alison.mandel@gmail.com or 607-738-3054.



Everyone Can Nominate a Kiwanian for the Christiano Award

Every New York District Kiwanian has the opportunity to recognize and honor an "unsung hero," grass roots Kiwanian with the District's highest Distinguished Service Award.

The deadline for nominations is Jan. 1 of each year.

If you know of a Kiwanian who works tirelessly and continuously to help your club improve the lifestyle of disadvantaged citizens in your community and is seldom or never recognized for his or her efforts, you can reward them by nominating them for this prestigious Distinguished Service Award.

The New York District Past Governors Council encourages all New York

District Kiwanians to submit recommendations for nominees to receive the Gerald P. Christiano Distinguished Service Award sponsored by The New York District Past Governors Council.

The award is intended for the "grass roots Kiwanian," often overlooked for their continuous dedication, untiring efforts and commitment to the betterment of people in their community who are less fortunate than themselves.

The award may be presented to only one Kiwanian each year at the New York District Kiwanis Convention. The honoree should be a living New York District Kiwanis member in good

standing, who has "exhibited outstanding meritorious service to individuals in the community and has contributed in an extraordinary manner over a significant period of years to the advancement of Kiwanis."

Governor-elects, sitting Governors and Past Governors are not eligible.

Distict Kiwanians can propose an award nominee to any Past Governor.

Approval of each award recipient shall be by a two-thirds majority vote, by closed ballot of all Council members present at the Mid-Year Conference Council Meeting each year. If no candidate receives two-thirds support, no award will be given that year.

Get Recognized for the Great Work You Do

By Kevin Kamper

The NY District Distinguished Kiwanian Program was originated with Past Gov. Jack Harten in 1984-85. The main purpose was to recognize the individual Kiwanian for bringing in a new member and to perform some service projects related to our service leadership programs, club, division & district. The program's focus is to recognize individual Kiwanians who go above and beyond the call of duty.



Here are the requirements for the 2021-22 New York District Distinguished member program. The process is simple to apply. Here is what it takes for you to receive recognition from the New York District.

1. Sponsor or co-sponsor a new member during the 2021-22 administrative year. Just tell a friend of all the great work we do. It is every member's responsibility to try to add to our membership.

Complete four of the following six criteria:

1. Participate in a project or activity with any of our service leadership programs. This can be anything involving our K Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Club, Circle K, or Aktion Club. You will be impressed by what our future leaders can do.

2. Donate or participate in any fundraiser or that benefits a New York District Foundation, Kiwanis Foundation or an SLP endorsed foundation. This includes Kamp Kiwanis, Disaster Relief,

Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center, Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease, Kiwanis International Children's fund, the Thirst Project, or Project Wash.

3. Support New York District Governor Jim Mancuso's Governor's project "Save the Earth for our Children." The project will focus on awareness and education of environmental issues, specifically recycling and water conservation. A joint project with your service and leadership program as a collaborative effort would be a great way to support the program.

4. Participate in any two club service projects (your club or you can participate in another club's project).

5. Attend three different events. So many to choose from - New York District Mid-Year Conference in February, New York District Convention in August, Kiwanis International Convention in June, monthly district online education conference, divisional or any of our SLP conferences such as Key Club Fall Rally, Key Club Leadership Conference in March, Circle K New York Speaking or New York District Circle K Convention.

6. Help develop a new partnership with another community organization or business. So many are serving our communities so why not reach out to them and develop a partnership. Who knows, you could gain a member of your organization while your partner gains a member too. Examples of potential partnerships - your chamber of commerce, Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, and any other organizations that serve your community. You could even partner with a local business and bring them in as a corporate member.

After you have brought in your new member and completed four of the six above, just send in the form to Distinguished

Membership Chairperson PLG Kevin Kamper at knkamper@gmail.com when achieved but no later than October 31, 2022) and your certificate and pin will be sent to your Lieutenant Governor.

Welcome to the distinguished member program and please share this information with others so we can recognize and pin many more distinguished members.

Achieving Club Excellence

Survey your members. Analyze your club's fundraising. Find new ideas for strengthening your club. Do them all using the Achieving Club Excellence tools.

These tools will help your club create opportunities in fundraising, service, and fellowship—based on what your members love most. Interested in using the tools?

Download the complete toolkit and have a member lead your club through each of the steps within the tools. Use one or all of them, depending on your club's needs. In fact, try this method whether you're planning for an annual club assessment or need ideas for improving one or two aspects of your club experience.

Each tool includes exercises designed to create dialogue, gain perspective and lead you to ask insightful questions that will help your club remain relevant, impactful, and strong.

Find the tools you need based on this list of common concerns here: <https://www.kiwanis-ny.org/clubexcellence.htm>.



Julian Dawson, left, receiving his "Everyday Hero Award" Plaque from Marvin Rappaport, president of Monticello Kiwanis.

Monticello Honors "Everyday Hero"

The Kiwanis Club of Monticello presented its "Everyday Hero Award" to Julian Dawson in grateful recognition of his two decades of service to the community through his work at United Way of Sullivan County and his volunteer service to several other organizations.

Dawson has been employed at United Way of Sullivan County since 2002 and has been chief professional officer since 2014. In that capacity, he works with Kiwanis and other civic organizations to coordinate Project Care Thanksgiving and Holiday Food Drives to provide meals and gifts for those holidays.

He also serves as vice chair of the Monticello Housing Authority, member

of the Sullivan County Land Bank, and has helped provide Narcan overdose trainings throughout the county with Opioid and Heroin Educational Awareness seminars.

He also is an umpire for Monticello Little League and a referee for various adult and children recreational sports leagues. He is a graduate of Monticello High and SUNY Sullivan.

"It is one thing to be a dedicated professional, but Julian takes his job as his life's mission, helping others in need at any time," said Marvin Rappaport, President of Monticello Kiwanis. "We are proud to recognize Julian's distinguished service to our community."



Gov.-Designate James Mancuso speaking after his installation as governor for 2021-22. Seated at left is District Secretary Richard Hall.

District Convention Sets Stage for 2021-22 Kiwanis Year

A busy weekend at the 2021 District Convention Aug. 13-15 in Binghamton ended Sunday with the induction of officers for the 2021-22 year.

James Mancuso was elected governor for 2021-22, and Joel Harris will serve as governor-elect. Two changes to the district bylaws were adopted, and several awards were passed out.

Participating in the weekend's events was International Trustee Cathy Szymanski, shown at right. She will serve as liaison to the New York District during the coming year.

More information and pictures are available on the district web site, including the Sunday morning Memorial Program listing Division and District leaders who passed away since the previous District Convention in August 2019.

Two uncontested elections and two bylaws changes which did not attract a debate were approved at the House of Delegates.

James Mancuso was elected governor for 2021-22, and Joel Harris was elected governor-elect for the coming year without opposition.

Two bylaws amendments were approved by the 165 delegates in attendance.

The first gives the district secretary the additional title of executive director. The new title more accurately reflects the role the district secretary plays, and will ease arrangements for conventions, etc., since businesses outside Kiwanis may wonder why the person they are talking to is a secretary rather than an executive director. The additional title does not change any other part of district operations.

The second bylaw change was required in order to eliminate the district's new member fee and replace it with pro-rated dues for new members in order to comply with the new procedures established by Kiwanis International.

Among those joining the House of Delegates remotely was Kiwanis International President-Elect Peter Mancuso, who was in Austria representing the International Board at the convention of the Austria District.



The 2020 Jerry Christiano Distinguished Service Award was presented to Stanley Thompson for his work on behalf of the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center in Buffalo. From left, Past Gov. Eric Paul, Past International President Jerry Christiano and Thompson. Seated is Gov.-Elect James Mancuso.



Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson opening the House of Delegates.

Canandaigua Heads Up \$1 million Inclusive Playground Project

It all started three years ago when a Canandaigua Kiwanian, Nanci Bentley, brought a problem to her club.

Her son, MJ, now 10, has Pallister Kilian syndrome and as a result has epilepsy, mobility challenges and cognitive delays which made it impossible to enjoy local playgrounds with his friends.

Flash ahead to the week of Aug. 23-28 when 700 volunteers descended on Out-house Road in Canandaigua to help build what planners believe will be the only completely inclusive playground in the country.

Unlike some playgrounds which have certain features which can be used by children with a variety of handicaps, the Canandaigua project will allow anyone to use all of the playground's facilities.

A lot occurred between that initial comment from Nanci Bentley and the activity at the site of the new playground, said Canandaigua Club Secretary Pam Metting.

And the project is far from over. The volunteers' work to install play equipment was part of the first phase of the \$1 million project. When complete, the park will have three zip cruise bays, an inground merry-go-round, wheelchair-accessible swing, six slides, 20,000 square feet of rubberized surfacing, a pavilion, rest room facilities and baseball fields. When the project is finished, the Town of Canandaigua will assume operation and maintenance of the playground.

The 700 volunteers came from throughout Canandaigua and adjoining communities, Metting said. Kiwanians, Rotarians, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity volunteers and individual volunteers were just a partial list of those who participated.

The first task of the week was to assemble the various elements of the playground, which was done with the aid of staff from Landscape Structures, the Kiwanis International playground partner

and its New York affiliate, Parkitects of Lansing. That work was done on the parking lot. The job of moving the assembled pieces to their final locations on Wednesday was aided by 100 members of the St. John Fisher College football team.

Families, including children, did much of the assembly work, said Sonya Smith, one of the design volunteers for the project.

Extreme heat affected the project all week, Metting said, but so many volunteers came out they were ahead of the work schedule all week.

On the final day of volunteer work, several families were busy cleaning the playground structures.

Financial support for the project has come from many sources, Metting said. The Canandaigua Kiwanians donated \$25,000, and the club organized the solicitation of donations. They participated in the annual contest Landscape Structures stages and were able to win \$7,500 from that. Wegmans provided food for the volunteers each day and \$50,000.

The Kiwanis Club of Canandaigua helped raise \$271,532 for the playground, and still have more grants out there that they have not heard back from.

It took six tractor-trailer trucks to deliver the equipment to the site -- and the company did it for free, Metting said. Many other contractors also have done work on the project without charge.

The Bentley family has been active throughout the process, and MJ has been at the work site during the week.

"He's our motivation," said club President Louis Loy. "I can't be prouder to have a project like this. We raise money all the time to support kids, but we've never done anything of this magnitude and this hands-on."

Because of a connection to the IDEA center at the University of Buffalo, other entities have contacted the University of Buffalo to make their facilities universally

designed certified. This includes the new YMCA planned for Canandaigua. So the club not only helped to build a playground, it started a movement to truly create universally designed certified facilities.

Metting noted that additional funds are still needed to complete the project and fund raising is continuing.



Matthew Howlett steadies the ladder for his mother, Jessica.



Sisters Krya, left, and Karen Lynch cleaning one of the structures.



MJ Bentley, his mother, Nanci, and Club Secretary Pam Metting.

Michael Garcia Hired as New Kamp Director

The New York District Foundation has hired Michael Garcia as Executive Director at Kamp Kiwanis.

Michael has a son, Maxwell, who is in his Junior year at SUNY Fredonia and his wife, Angelica, is a preschool teacher. Michael holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from Springfield College (MA). Michael has been working in Youth Development for 30 years mostly in camping, after school, teens, and aquatics-based programming. He has run small city camps up to large outdoor camps.

Michael also volunteers with the American Camp Association (ACA) as a visitor and instructor. He serves on the ACA's Local Council of Leaders as the Upstate NY Standards Leader. Michael is a board

member of the New York State Camp Director's Association (NYSCDA). Michael is a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

"I am excited to be on board at Kamp Kiwanis. I am looking forward to getting to know all about Kamp and begin planning for summer 2022." Says Michael. "I am excited about the rich history that Kamp Kiwanis holds and cannot wait for next summer."

If you are interested in connecting with Michael to have him come speak at your next meeting to talk about Kamp please email him at executivedirector@kampkiwanis.org. Or you can call the Kamp office at (315) 336-4568.



Member Add Fee Changed to Pro-Rated Dues

New member add fees beginning with the 2021-22 Administrative Year are prorated based on the month that the person joins Kiwanis. The total fee is collected by Kiwanis International and KI then forwards the District portion to the District.

Shown below are the monthly charges.

Month	International	District	Total
October	\$77.00	\$24.00	\$101.00
November	\$70.58	\$22.00	\$92.58
December	\$64.17	\$20.00	\$84.17
January	\$57.75	\$18.00	\$75.75
February	\$51.33	\$16.00	\$67.33
March	\$44.92	\$14.00	\$58.92
April	\$38.50	\$12.00	\$50.50
May	\$32.08	\$10.00	\$42.08
June	\$25.67	\$8.00	\$33.67
July	\$19.25	\$6.00	\$25.25
August	\$12.83	\$4.00	\$16.83
September	\$6.42	\$2.00	\$8.42

Clubs take Gifts

To Nursing Home

The Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge joined forces once more to bring cheer to residents at Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility in Liberty.

They presented small gifts and greeting cards to Achieve Administrator Akiva Shapiro, Director of Nursing Tisha Runyan and Director of Therapeutic Recreations Mary Daniels-Gandy. The gifts included an assortment of solar dancer figures, sun hats, sun glasses, plants, coloring books, find the word and crossword puzzles, body lotion, playing cards, diaries and little fans.

In addition to the Kiwanis Club members, the Monticello High School Key Club, Fallsburg Elementary School K-Kids as well as the Aktion Club of Sullivan County, comprised of individuals from Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery, contributed a large amount of beautifully hand-made greeting cards to be distributed with the gifts.

The main mission of this project was to give back to the community by bringing a little enjoyment to the recipients and letting them know that people were thinking of them.

Lewiston Stages 63rd Annual Peach Festival

The Kiwanis Club of Lewiston held its 63rd Peach Festival September 9-12.

This year's event was one of the most heavily attended in recent memory. Money raised from our annual event helps support 5 SLP's at four local schools, an Aktion Club, scholarships for

graduating seniors, food for those in need during the holidays, and funds for numerous local charities and non-profit organizations.

One of the highlights of this weekend is the crowning of the new Peach Queen. During this year's Peach Queen competi-

tion our club donated just under \$900 to our local volunteer fire department so they can purchase a new AED, and \$4,000 to Children's Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center.

Peach Fest 64 will be September 8-11, 2022.

New Kiwanians in 2020-21

New York clubs inducted 580 new members during the 2020-21 Kiwanis Year. The following clubs added 5 or more new members. The district web site has a complete list.

Club	Division	
Douglaston	Queens East	34
Lower Ulster County	Hudson River	29
Levittown	Long Island South Central	21
Malverne	Long Island South Central	15
Mohawk Valley Central	Central	15
Rochester	Genesee	12
Canandaigua	Finger Lakes	11
Holland	Niagara Frontier South	11
East Meadow	Long Island South Central	10
Glendale	Queens West	10
Global eCare-NY	Metropolitan	9
Islips (The), Bay Shore	Suffolk East	9
North Shore, Long Island	Long Island North	9
West Hempstead	Long Island South Central	9
East Yonkers	Bronx-Westchester South	8
Geneva	Finger Lakes	8
Lynbrook	Long Island Southwest	8
Oceanside	Long Island Southwest	8
Ozone Park	Queens West	8
Plattsburgh	Adirondack	8
Saratoga Springs	Mohawk	8
Seneca Falls-Waterloo	Finger Lakes	8
Spencerport	Genesee	7
Bayside	Queens East	6
Greater Westhampton	Suffolk East	6
Lancaster	Niagara Frontier South	6
Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1	Queens West	6
East Aurora	Niagara Frontier South	5
Fordham, Bronx	Bronx-Westchester South	5
Franklin Square	Long Island South Central	5
Middletown	Hudson River West	5
New Hartford-Westmoreland	Central	5
Plattsburgh Breakfast Club	Adirondack	5
Richmond County	Metropolitan	5
Syracuse Young Professionals	Ontario	5
Troy	Van Rensselaer	5

Woodridge Awards Scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Woodridge awards scholarships each year to graduating seniors from the Fallsburg Central School District who are in good academic standing, have participated in community service, and will be attending a two or four year college, or a trade school.

Due to Covid-19, we were unable, again this year, to host a scholarship dinner, but we were able to meet each recipient at their homes or at Morning-side Park to give them their awards. We are very proud to announce the recipients of our 2021 scholarships:

- Angelina Colletti of South Fallsburg who doubled up her courses at FCSO, graduating a year early. She will be attending Quinnipiac University with courses focusing on radiology.

- Bianca Cruceta of Loch Sheldrake will be attending SUNY Sullivan and will be majoring in psychology with an interest in becoming a mental health counselor.

- Neema Darboe of South Fallsburg will be attending New York Institute of Technology to study architecture. The scholarship money Neema received was donated in honor and in memory of Ralph Rappaport, a former FCSO school board member, by his wife Rachel and daughters Lynne and Debby.

- Haddy Gai of South Fallsburg will be attending SUNY Sullivan to study human services with an interest in healthcare management.

- Dolce McPherson of Woodridge will be attending St. John's University and will be majoring in biology with an interest in becoming a physician.

Chester Presents Scholarships

On July 1 the Kiwanis Club of Chester presented three scholarships.

The Chester Kiwanis Humanities Award was presented to Angelina Zaporotsev. Angela is involved in the Arts and will be attending college in Indiana.

The Chester Kiwanis Vocational and Technical Award was presented to George Slicker. George will be attending SUNY Delhi for HVAC Training.

The Key Club Service Award was presented to Tristan Brideweser, who was co-President of Key Club this year. He will be attending Purdue University. Tristan was unable to be present that evening.

The Kiwanis Club of Chester would like to congratulate all the winner and wish them well on their future endeavors. We also thank the community of Chester and beyond for all their support they have given us over this past year. Your support enables us to be able to present these scholarships to such fine deserving people as they further their education.

Monticello Announces 10 Scholarships

Ten Monticello High School Seniors were presented with Monticello Kiwanis Scholarships during a virtual meeting of the club on June 21. Each of the recipients shared their plans for schooling going forward and their professional aspirations.

A total of \$10,000 was awarded in scholarships to these most deserving students: Amanda Bowdren--Founders Scholarship; Max Baum--Ruth Appel Memorial Scholarship; Breannah Bracy--Leo Rappaport Memorial Scholarship; Aidan Dietz--Max Schapiro Memorial Scholarship; Krishna Foster--Irving Kaufman Memorial Scholarship; Emily LaRuffa--Rose Raimond Memorial Scholarship; Dylan Price--Max Schapiro Memorial Scholarship; Claudia Silverstein--Monticello Kiwanis Memorial Scholarship; Carson Somers--Ben Golden Memorial Scholarship; and Noel Varughese--Florence Leshner Memorial Scholarship.

See the District web site,
www.kiwanis-ny.org,
 for the latest
 in district news