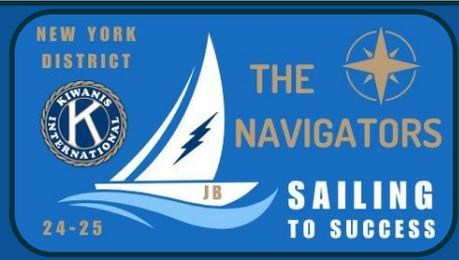


Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International

Oct-Nov-Dec 2024

Governor Gordon Soderholm

Governor's Insights

Welcome everyone! Another K-Family is in the books and the weekend went very well. Thank all who came and participated – 21 of 26 Lt. Governors, a nice turnout. We also had another fundraiser involving water. John Goldstein challenged me to a race in the pool. We were both swimmers in high school. So, I accepted the challenge and we raced one lap. While John won the race, the real winners are the kids. We were able to raise enough money to send another child to Kamp Kiwanis. This was the 4th child that goes along with the 3 children that we sent this past summer from money raised at Lt. Governors training in May. Way to go Navigators!

I hope all who attended at K-Family had a good learning experience meeting all the Key Club and Circle-K members. The Saturday night mixer was a tre-



Gov. "Gordy," who was elected at last summer's District Convention, officially became New York District Governor on October 1, 2024.

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70 Years In Kiwanis - Mickey Hastava

In addition to the Island Park Kiwanis Club recently celebrating 70th Anniversary, founding member Henry "Mickey" Hastava also celebrated his 70th anniversary in Kiwanis. In recognizing the Club's milestone anniversary, it also honored its long-standing member.

First being exposed to all that Kiwanis has to offer as a member of the Oceanside High School Key, Hastava quickly assembled a core and founded the Island Park club shortly after graduating. Through thick and thin, the Island Park Kiwanis Club has provided support to the children of Island Park and the overall community.

For more coverage of the event and Island Park Kiwanis, go to: [Island Park Kiwanis Club celebrate 70 years, honor Mickey Hastava](#) and [Island Park Kiwanis Club celebrates 70 years.](#)



Lindenhurst Kiwanis Supports Literacy in District School

The Kiwanis Club of Lindenhurst participated in the unveiling of the new book vending machine at one of its district's elementary schools, The Harding Avenue School. The club responded to a request by Elicia Dahroug, the PTA president and chairperson of the school's Book Fair committee, to contribute money towards the purchase of the machine. After two years of fundraising from book fairs, fifth grade teacher Carly Dirlam, contacted Global Vending and the parents' association turned to the Kiwanis Club to ask for support to complete the deal.

On March 13, it was unveiled with members of the club present. The ma-

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WHERE SOME SEE GOOFY, WE SEE POTENTIAL

#KIDSNEEDKIWANIS



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®

2024-25 Conventions

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

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

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

October 2024

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

November 2024

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

December 2024

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

January 2025

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

February 2025

- 1 KCF scholarship application deadline
- 10-14 K-Kids Week
- 10 Due date for club reports for January 2025
- 15 Deadline for file 990 IRS forms
- 24-28 Builders Club Week
- 25 Kiwanis Day of Giving
- 23-25 NY District Mid Year Conference, Desmond Hotel, Albany

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New York District of Kiwanis

March 2025

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

April 2025

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

May 2025

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

June 2025

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

July 2025

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

August 2025

- 8-11 New York District Convention, Syracuse, 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: Immediate Past Governor

Greetings & welcome to the 2024-2025 Kiwanis Year! As Immediate Past First Lady Heather and I start to enjoy our time in retirement, we take this to opportunity to say "Thank You."

To all the Divisions of New York District of Kiwanis that have shown us great hospitality and kindness.

With extreme gratitude we also thank the 2023-2024 Excelsior Board, all 2023-2024 District Chairs, my executive assistants, as well as my special advisors.

A special memory and prayer for our dearly departed Past Governor Brenda Leigh Johnson, whose wisdom has help guide me in my journey to becoming your Governor.

As the 2023-2024 Governor, First Lady Heather and I experience so much that this Great Kiwanis District has to offer, due to the generosity

By Lucien Giancursio

*New York District
Immediate Past Governor*



and hospitality of our fellow Kiwanians and with your commitment to the Governor's Project and the First Family's project.

Together we provided "A Future of Hope."

On Behalf of the Excelsior 2023-24 Board, we would like to take this opportunity with extreme gratitude to say:

May your 2024-2025 year be an experience such as your 2023-2034 Kiwanis Year.

Best regards,

Immediate Past Governor Lucien
&
First Lady Heather





UPDATE ON THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT



By Sandy Nagler
*Kiwanis Children's Fund
District Chair*

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



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

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

To learn more about Kiwanis Children's Fund microgrants, visit [kiwanis.org/microgrant-program](https://www.kiwanis.org/microgrant-program).

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

Be a Champion for kids!

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

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

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

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

Kids need Kiwanis

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

What we've raised

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

Why we're raising it

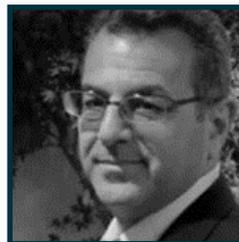
Children going hungry. Students struggling to read. Potential leaders lacking mentors. Even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow. Visit our website to learn how Kiwanis clubs are meeting these needs, and more — and how gifts help them change children's lives. <https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/kiwanis-childrens-fund/possibility-project/>.





New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

Kamp Kiwanis®



By Tom Poccio

Foundation President

Hello my fellow Kiwanians! The New York District Foundation has been hard at work planning for the summer 2025 Kamp season. The Foundation Board met on Thursday October 24th and the main discussion was rates for Kamperships. After much debate, the Board agreed on the following rates:

- Child Kamper Rate: \$900
- Military Kamper Rate: \$900
- Early Child Kamper: \$825 Due January 15, 2025
- Counselor In Training (CIT) Rate: \$750
- Child/CIT Bussing: \$250
- Adult Kamper: \$1,350
- Adult Bussing: \$350

Please allow me to explain how the Board came to these rates. The Board needed to approve a balanced budget. For years the Board has been saying that the cost of sending a Kamper is more than what has been charged to clubs. The Board has relied on additional fundraising to make up the difference. In 2024, the Foundation raised approximately \$94,000 in general contributions, fundraising, the Governor's and First Family projects, in kind donations and grants. Unfortunately, these funds are not guaranteed. In addition, as costs have continued to increase. These are the reasons that the fees needed to be increased.



In 2024, there were 450 registered child Kamperships. The Board believes that 488 Kamperships is a reasonable goal for 2025 and one that we can be met. This number in 2024 includes 72 military Kampers. The funds that we had raised

under Governor Hank's Project have been fully used. Therefore, in order to raise additional monies, Immediate Past Governor Lucien has agreed to serve as the chairperson for military Kampers. He will work to raise funds so we can continue to have these children attend Kamp as well.

As always, I look forward to working with every club and Kiwanis member. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at boardpresident@kampkiwanis.org.



KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION (LONG ISLAND)



DPG Joe Corace

*President
KPTC Foundation*

28th Annual Black & White Ball

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



I want to thank our KPTC Board Members and Club Members that worked so hard to make it happen.

We also took the opportunity of the evening to honor our Former First Ladies and Gents.



Let me also give you an update of what we plan going forward. Having fundraisers during the year that are both fun and successful has worked for us. We will continue partnering with Kiwanis Clubs for events like wine tasting, night at the races, comedy night, bingo, etc.

Our goal will also be, throughout the year, to keep Kiwanis Clubs updated on our Level One Pediatric Trauma Centers at Cohen's and Stony Brook Children's Hospitals, both with their accident prevention programs and their trauma center activities.

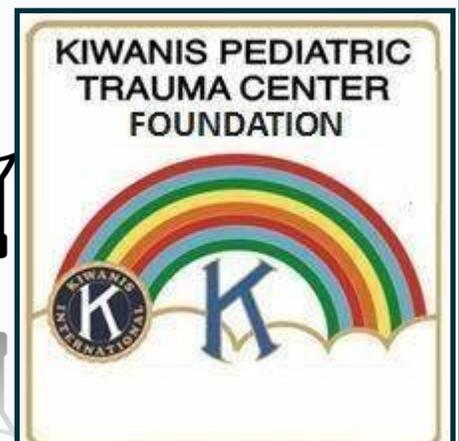
We will ask again for clubs to make donations to our annual campaign, a donation that your Kiwanis Club decides is affordable, and we will say 'Thank You' with a KPTC Annual Campaign banner patch.

Again, let us keep in mind that this is our kids and young adults, in our community, that your support is helping.



Photos from this wonderful evening can be found at:

[KPTC Kiwanis 28th Annual B&W Ball Sept 20 2024](#)



KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER (ALBANY)



Susan Vail

District Chair, KPTC (Albany)

The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center-Albany has been serving the upstate NY area for over 30 years. We are in the middle of our newest partnership with Albany Medical Center Hospital and Albany Medical Center Safe Kids Capital Region Coalition regarding prevention of childhood trauma. Safe Kids Capital Region is part of an extensive network of more than 600 coalitions in the United States, with partners in 27 countries around the world, who work to prevent unintentional injury the leading cause of death and disability for children and teens. Since 1988, Safe Kids Worldwide has helped reduce the U.S. childhood death rate from unintentional injury by 61 percent.



AMC-/Safe Kids provide injury prevention information at booths at community health fairs, street fairs, etc. . As part of the program there are bike helmet fittings in partnership with Law Enforcement at local safety events. AMC/Safe Kids supports the “Annual Walk to School Day” with a local school to promote pedestrian safety and also supports AMC Teddy Bear Hospital day, promoting injury prevention directly to children. “Stop The Bleed” training events are also conducted in schools and with Scouting organizations to get this critical training down to where it will do the most good.

The KPTC -Albany now provides the funding for the prevention vehicle that gives the much needed transportation to the numerous outreach events conducted throughout the expansive Trauma Region. The funds are raised a dollar at a time through the Bells of Life campaign during the holiday season and through various fundraisers in individual communities. All money is given directly to this hospital.

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

By DPG John Gridley

Founder, Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation



The Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation is excited to announce its upcoming 25th Anniversary Jubilee Gala scheduled for Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 12:30pm, at the Crest Hollow Country Club!

The Foundation will be honoring Distinguished Past Governor John Gridley and former First Lady Rose Marie Gridley.

Of course - all proceeds from this even will go to the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation to assist children suffering from Lyme disease.

Looking forward to everyone joining us!

SAVE THE DATE

Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

25th Anniversary Jubilee Gala

honoring

**Distinguished Past Governor John Gridley
& Former First Lady Rose Marie**



Sunday, April 27, 2025 - 12:30 pm

at the **Crest Hollow Country Club**

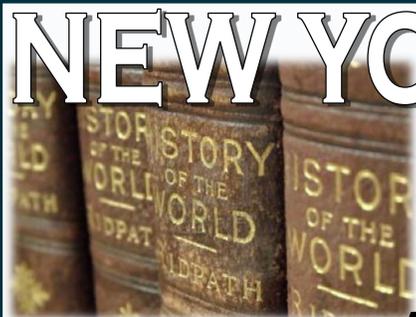
8325 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY 11797

For information contact

Jeanne Egan-Canning at 516 353-8325 - Email: post2004@att.net

Joseph Aiello at 516 828-6304 - Email: joa9014@nyp.org

NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY



PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

DO YOU KNOW? A KIWANIS HISTORY QUIZ

In an effort help newer Kiwanis members learn about the history of the organization since its founding in 1915, last month I gave a “test” of ten questions to give to every “new” member joining your club in the past three years.

Here are the answers:

1. What city was Kiwanis founded? Detroit, Michigan on January 21, 1915.
2. When was Key Club founded and in what city? In 1925 at Sacramento High School in California.
3. Where was the first club outside North America founded? In Europe in Vienna, Austria in 1963.
4. When did Circle K open its membership to women? In 1973 (see photo). Circle K at Fordham University, founded in 1970, was among the first in the New York District to admit women - 14 years before Kiwanis made the change in 1987.
5. Who was the first woman to be Kiwanis Int'l President? Sue Petrisin, from Lansing Michigan in 2015.
6. What city was KI headquarters first established? Chicago, Illinois in 1918.
7. When did Builders Club become an official Kiwanis SLP? In 1975.
8. When were the current Six Objects of Kiwanis adopted? 100 years ago in 1924; unchanged, they have withstood the test of time.
9. Where was the first Kiwanis Club founded *outside* the USA? Kiwanis Club of Hamilton Ontario chartered in Canada in 1916.
10. Who are Walter Zeller and George Hixson?
 - Walter Zeller launched the Kiwanis International Foundation in 1940 by donating 25 Canadian Silver dollars.
 - George F. Hixson was Kiwanis International's first president in 1916. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Rochester, the fourth Kiwanis Club in the world.



PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB!

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



Presents: the Gerald P. Christiano Award

The NYD Past Governor's Council takes nominations for the Gerald P. Christiano Award to recognize a District Kiwanian who is a leader at the club, division or district level but "not usually in the limelight."

The 2023-24 Christiano Award winner was presented to DPLG John "Jack" Hanrahan from the Lewiston Kiwanis Club in the Niagara North Division at last summer's District Convention.



Jack has been a dedicated, inspirational Kiwanian for over 38 years, right out of high school. At his first meeting, the Lewiston Club needed a secretary. Jack volunteered and has continued in that role ever since. He has attended many International, District, and Midwinter conventions; was inspirational in organizing the club's Kiwanis American Canadian Kiwanis Day; chaired the World-renowned Lewiston Kiwanis Peach Festival raffle booth for the past 20 years; chairing many children's programs especially at Christmas, including the Chairman of the Kiwanis Christmas poinsettia program to over 60 seniors.

Jack holds the Kiwanian of the Year Award, New York District Kaiser Award, and is a lifetime Kiwanis member. Jack is also involved with the Niagara University Circle K.

After earning the recognition and title as Distinguished President, Jack became Niagara Frontier North Distinguished Lieutenant Governor. He was active in opening new clubs and building membership throughout the District.

Kiwanis is his passion. Helping to fundraise for his community, Jack sets goals with great expectations and accomplishments.

Jack and his wife, Beverly, have been married for over 58 years, and have two children.

Congratulations to DPLG Jack and thank you for all of his contributions to Kiwanis, the New York District, the Niagara Frontier North Division, and the Lewiston community.

DPG Candace Corsaro
*Nominated DPLG Jack Hanrahan
for the Gerald P. Christiano Award*



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion “DEI”

Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in NY Kiwanis

With an eye towards the new Kiwanis International initiative “Build, Nurture, Retain”, Here’s a summary of what we learned in the first year of the NY DEI Committee’s work.

The Importance of DEI in Kiwanis Clubs: Enhancing Member Attraction and Retention

In today’s interconnected world, NY Kiwanis must evolve to stay relevant. By applying a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lens to their culture and policies, Kiwanis clubs can uncover barriers that hinder member attraction and retention. This introspection is essential for fostering a welcoming environment and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are fundamental principles that ensure all individuals feel valued. Diversity encompasses various differences, including race, gender, age, religion, and more. Equity aims to create fair opportunities, while inclusion fosters a sense of belonging for all members.

By evaluating their culture and policies, Kiwanis clubs can identify practices that unintentionally alienate potential members. A homogenous membership may deter individuals from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, policies that lack inclusivity—such as inaccessible meeting times or non-inclusive language—can limit participation and alienate prospective members.

Adopting a DEI-focused strategy creates a welcoming atmosphere that attracts a wider range of members. This diversity enriches the club’s perspectives and enhances its community

impact. Moreover, a commitment to equity leads to higher member satisfaction and retention, as individuals feel valued and supported. Inclusive practices, such as gender-neutral language and celebrating cultural diversity, strengthen member engagement.

At the District convention many times I was asked how to get started, how to start the conversations around these sometimes difficult topics or issues?

The easiest way to do this is to conduct a DEI Assessment. At a primary level, your DEI examination will reveal the gaps and disparities experienced by different members across key aspects of your culture, practices, policies, and outcomes. Gathering member-



By Miles Malone

*District Chair
Diversity, Equity, &
Inclusion*

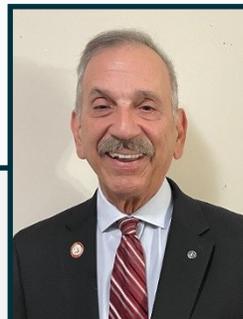
ship data gives you information on how you’re performing on DEI across a range of factors. Meanwhile, qualitative data from your members will add the ‘why’ behind some of your outcomes to give you concrete examples of what you’re doing well, and what you need to work on.

Examining Kiwanis clubs through a DEI lens is crucial for overcoming barriers to member attraction and retention. By fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment, Kiwanis clubs can enhance their appeal and ensure long-term success. Embracing DEI is not just a moral imperative; it is a strategic necessity for making a positive impact.





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



**By DPG Joseph C.
Eppolito**

*District Chair
Charter I, II, III, IV Program*

The purpose of the Charter I, II, III, IV 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.

Marie's Minute: Some Words from Our First Lady

Hello everyone!! Already a month gone and the K family is over. We had a great time at the Villa Roma; learned a lot, got to chat with fellow LTGs and witnessed a swimming race that raised enough money to send a camper to Kamp Kiwanis!! And the fun has just begun!

This is to remind you that we will be dancing the night away at our Sock Hop at the Mid-

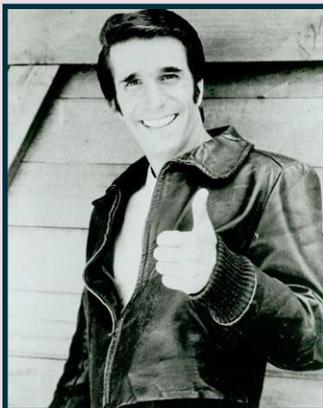


Winter Conference February 14-16 in Binghamton. There will be contests and prizes, so dust off your saddle shoes and leather jackets and be ready for some

fun. Admission is a backpack filled with school supplies to be given to the Kamp or a monetary donation for the Kamp.



Please pass this information along to everyone in your Division. We would love to see attendance soar. And of course, this paves the way to Icon in Pittsburgh this June where we will hear "The Fonz", Henry Winkler speak. So much to look forward to!



By Marie Soderholm
New York District First Lady

First Lady's Project: Autism Acceptance

In order to receive a First Lady's patch at Mid-Winter '26 Conference...You must:

1. Sponsor at least one program by a knowledgeable person in the field of Autism

And...Either:

2a. Financially Support a Participant in an Autism Walk/Run

Or

2b. Make a Donation to a Local Autism-Related Organization



Kiwanis® Membership & New Club Openings

I am pleased that Governor Gordon has asked me to return to the role of NY Kiwanis District Membership Chairman and I am excited to get started. As we start our New Kiwanis year let me first take a few minutes to congratulate PG Lucien Giancursio and past NY District Membership Chair Mark Pohl on their four new clubs for the year 2023-2024. We welcome all the new members and hope to hear about the amazing things that these clubs have installed for this year.

Kiwanis International is rolling out a new membership initiative called Build Nurture and Retain. Their goal is to build 425 new clubs worldwide. Nurture - improve our visibility and recruit 30,000 new members. We will ask all Lieutenant Governors, existing clubs and existing members to help nurture the new clubs and the new members. Retain as per Kiwanis International their average retention level is about 85%, which is not bad; however it can be improved. Kiwanis International is asking all their Governor and District Membership Chairmen to help accomplish these goals. However it does not stop there. Governor Gordon and I have asked all NY Divisions to appoint a Divisional membership chairperson to assist the local Lieutenant Governor. I have established a District-wide membership team of about a dozen people and we are revamping our NY District Club Coaches list. There will be training and a redesign to match this initiative. The current International President Lee has taken this even further in asking all clubs to appoint a membership chairman and asked each club to submit a membership plan.

Governor Gordon and I have discussed our NY Goals, and we are

By SDPLG Thomas Cesiro, III
*District Chair
Membership & Club Opening*

aiming for his stretch goals of 10 New clubs for our district. The NY District membership team and I will work together with all the Lieutenant Governors, Divisional Membership chairs and the club chairs to help achieve their membership goals. We will nurture all the smaller clubs in our District to help them grow to charter strength.



Therefore, I ask all Club Presidents and Club membership chairpersons to reach out talk to your Lieutenant Governor. Get to know who your divisional membership person is. Talk to your club members and bring guests to your meetings or your events to help get them excited about Kiwanis and our mission then ask them to join. Then decide your needs: Does your Club need a Coach? Do you want to do a Club Boost or Membership Drive? Then make an action plan.

I look forward to helping and watching our NY District grow in membership and clubs. Remember more members means more service to help our communities. Kids need Kiwanis and Kiwanis need members to fulfill this goal.

I am here to help you and your club, please feel free to reach out. Email – tcesiro3@gmail.com.



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

Every year we welcome a new group of individuals to our ever-growing class of Past Lieutenant Governors in the New York District. Our group started in the 1999-2000 Administrative year after a discussion at that year's Mid-Winter Conference. The purpose was to create an advisory body to aid the NY District, while itself engaging in one or more service projects each administrative year to benefit the children of the NY District of Kiwanis who need some form of assistance. The Council was envisioned as a 'farm team' for the then sitting and subsequent Board of Directors of the District and the Governors in office each year.

The membership of the Past Lieutenant Governor Council is open to all Past Lt. Governors in good standing, who served a division of the NY District as Lt. Governor. The Council meets twice per year, once at the Mid-Winter Conference and again at the NY District Convention. Other meetings may be called by the Council President as necessary. Officers are elected annually at the Mid-Winter Conference when the Council holds its annual meeting, consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.



By Ed "Woody" Ryder

*Past Lt. Gov. Council
Public Relations Chair*

Officers elected or re-elected at Mid-Winter take office the 1st of October following their election. Other committees may be appointed for specific purposes, which committees will meet in person for the purposes impaneled, present their findings, and then be discharged.

The Council is supported financially by voluntary annual dues of ten dollars (\$10) paid by any past Lt. Governor in good standing who wishes to be a member of the Council.

Projects of the Council for potential undertaking, either *via* financial donation or provision of volunteer labor, may be proposed by any Kiwanian, Kiwanis Club, or officer of the NY District in good standing. Projects will be discussed at the Mid-Winter meeting and one or more projects may be adopted subject to fiscal ability to underwrite multiple projects simultaneously. A vote of the Council will determine the project(s) to be undertaken.

To date, the Council has underwritten, among other projects, disaster relief appropriations and stipends to further the efforts of other NY District entities, such as donations to the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation and the NY District Foundation.

Past Lt. Governors of the NY District are requested to provide their current e-mail addresses to Council Secretary DPLG Noreen Barrett at her e-mail address of: LGNBARRETT3@nycap.rr.com.

Public Relations/Branding

Which is the Better Picture to Use?

In the age where the use of social media is rampant and provide a terrific platform to “sell” the Kiwanis and publicize our service projects, the use of proper pictures can never be emphasized enough. While we all love to line up in front of a nice setting and take a group picture, that type of picture does not “sell” Kiwanis. It does not explain the purpose of the organization or your club. Nor does it show the services that your club provides to the community. If done properly, a well-planned and nicely staged action shot picture will speak a thousand

words about your Kiwanis Club.

A couple of words about group Kiwanis picture at an event - I am the first to line up for such a picture! It is a fun picture to be a part of share with your fellow members.

The action shot, on the other hand, should be more than that. It should tell the story about your event. This is actually a very simple concept when looking at a real example. The differences are obvious.



The picture on the left shows nine Kiwanis members posing for a picture that appears to be some type of Halloween event. The picture on the left shows a child in an astronaut costume, playing a game at a Halloween event with a Kiwanis banner proudly displayed in the background. Is there really any doubt which is the better action shot? Which picture better describes the Kiwanis mission? This is not to say that there is not still room for the picture on the left...it is just that the picture on the right is the one that should be highlighted and more prominently displayed.

That is the challenge for all our clubs throughout the New York District - let’s make sure we are taking the right pictures and displaying them. After all, these are the pictures that will sell your Kiwanis brand and attract your prospective members!



Kiwanis
NEW YORK DISTRICT

CKI[®] Circle K International



By Alison Mandel

*Circle K
District Administrator*

Greetings from New York District Circle K. We are off to a great start for the 2024-2025 year. Governor Anis Choudhury has been hard at work encouraging growth within the existing clubs as well as trying to reactivate those clubs that have become inactive over the past few years. We are currently working on several new clubs as well as reactivating a few more. The new clubs include SUNY Canton and Nassau Community College. We are also working on forming an E Club at Columbia University and hopefully SUNY Geneseo. An E Club allows clubs to form even if they do not have school support. The first E Club to form was at Harvard University and it has become a very active club. There are a few more clubs that have been inactive since COVID that we are hoping to reactivate this year. Circle K International has challenged all clubs within Circle K International to gain at least 10 new members this year!

Circle K International raised the dues \$8 at the Interna-



tional Convention in Denver bringing the dues per student to \$40. (\$32 for International and \$8 for NY District). Circle K clubs may be reaching out to Kiwanis Clubs for help in paying their dues. Their dues are due by December 1. I have encouraged all the clubs that they need to have "skin in the game" and not expect Kiwanis to pay the whole amount. I have encouraged them to use the 1/3 rule with 1/3 coming from the students, 1/3 from Kiwanis and 1/3 from their school or from fundraising.

One of Circle K International's initiatives is the Brick x Brick project in conjunction with UNICEF. The New York District is continuing to fundraise for Brick x Brick this year. The goal of Brick x Brick is to benefit the lives of families in the African nation of Côte d'Ivoire. UNICEF has partnered with Conceptos Plasticos factory in Côte d'Ivoire to create a recycling economy in Côte d'Ivoire by and for women. Local plastic waste and pollution will be collected and manufactured into bricks at a Conceptos Plasticos factory. These bricks will be used to build classrooms for some of the 1.6 million children - mostly girls - who are currently out of school. Circle K International's service initiatives align with many of the goals of this project.

The Circle K District Project is on Literacy and Governor Anis has been in contact with past first lady Helene Harris about the doing some Little Libraries as well as K Kids District Administrator Kevin Kamper about the idea of a short story contest for kids in grades K-5. More information to follow.

I encourage all of you to work with the Circle K clubs in your area, not only to help them out monetarily to attend conventions but they are eager to help with your service projects and fundraisers. Even if you are not a sponsor of a Circle K club, if you have one in your division reach out to them and offer your support! We have seen a large increase in Key Club members joining Circle K and hopefully that will lead them to join Kiwanis when they graduate.

Please mark your calendars for the NY Circle K's District Convention which will be March 14-16 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at alison.mandel@nycki.org

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Kiwanis Kids (K Kids)

A New Year with New Service Opportunities

Welcome to the new service year. To kick off the new year, Kiwanis International and K Kids Clubs around the world will be participating in a global service project focusing on creating a health and wellness campaign in your school or community. The goal is to encourage, educate, provide resources and spread awareness to help people achieve better physical, mental, emotional or social well-being. Examples of campaigns include:

- Holding a fundraiser for a children's hospital
- Holding a healthy snacks donation drive to a local food pantry
- Holding a nutrition fair
- Organizing a get fit challenge
- Holding a mental health awareness campaign with a school assembly speaker and informational posters and brochures
- Any other ideas that fit the theme of the project are welcome as well.

Feel free to have your students choose any of the options for this year's service campaign. Once the project is completed, feel free to share it with us so we can feature the projects in a future article

Details of the project and the video of the Global Service Kickoff that can be shown to your students are available on the K Kids Club website at <https://www.kiwaniskids.org/globalkickoff/>.

Tools are available from Kiwanis International for Faculty Advisors, Kiwanis Advisors and members at <https://www.kiwaniskids.org/advisors/>. At his site you will find K Kids member guides, service guide and advisor guides. These guides and materials contain new ideas for service and recruiting new

Kiwanis
K-Kids[®]
 Young Leaders Helping Others



By Kevin Kamper

*K Kids
 District Administrator*

members. You will find video training materials there for both new advisors and the experienced advisors. You can also register for seminars for club growth at the site. Faculty Advisors can also plan out their year with a checklist included in the advisors' guide. Advisors are strongly encouraged to review the achievement award criteria at <https://www.kiwaniskids.org/news/plan-the-year-with-these-tools/>. By reviewing the criteria at the start of the year will make it easier to apply for awards in May.

Please be sure that your sponsoring Kiwanis Club Secretaries have taken the required steps for renewing their club's membership by entering a member count, mailing address and phone number in their Secretary Dashboard, and paying their invoice. K Kids Clubs will not be mailed their materials until these steps are completed.

October brings us Youth Protection Week. As per Kiwanis International policy, please be sure that your advisors take their Praesidium training, and your clubs review the Kiwanis Youth Protection policy. Information is available at www.kiwanis.org/youth-protection/youth-protection-training/

If your club does not sponsor Kiwanis K Kids Club, now is a great time. Please consider looking into adding a K Kids Club in either a school, library, or community center. A promotional video is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_eNGRQvArQ.

For more information feel free to contact me at knkamper@gmail.com or find more information at www.kiwaniskids.org/.

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Governor Gordy's Insight

(Continued from page 1)

mendous success. Thank you to Lt. Gov. Michaelene Abbott-Cooper for putting it together. This was the most fun I've had in a while at K-Family with all the participants in the game room. Everyone among all parts of the Kiwanis family were getting along well.

This year's Mid-Winter conference, scheduled from February 14-16 in Binghamton, NY, will include another fundraiser for Kamp Kiwanis – in the form of an Ice Bucket challenge. Ten people, including all three (3) Governors, Immediate Past Governor, Lt. Gov. Board President Mark Pohl, NY District Foundation President Tom Poccio and a few of his officers will be participating. There are 2 parts to raising money: (1) straight donations, the more money raised the more ice in the buckets; and (2) the ability to purchase raffle tickets at Mid-Winter to be one of the ten (10) lucky winners to dump a bucket on a participant. Stay tuned to your emails for the announcement to the start of this adventure.

Please be on the lookout for information on the Governor's and First Lady's projects. The Governor's project involves Service Leadership Programs and Special Olympics. First Lady's project involves Autism Awareness.

Lastly, the NY District Kiwanis Charter I, II, III, IV Program is still active for 2024-25. The purpose of this program is to incentive and reward those clubs in the NY District that are currently under Charter strength (15) 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. The Charter I, II, III, IV Program will be administered by DPG Joe Eppolito, Chair of Charter I, II, III, IV program. Joe's Email is pepster@aol.com and his cell is: 315-436-2157. 

Kiwanis Children's Fund Grants Given to Glen Cove Kiwanis and North Shore Kiwanis Clubs

The Kiwanis Children's Fund recently gave grants to the Glen Cove Kiwanis Club and the North Shore Kiwanis Club.

Glen Cove Kiwanis received a grant of \$660 to go towards their Little Free Library program. The books collected and purchased by the club were given away at the City of Glen Cove's Family Fall Festival at Simpson Park.

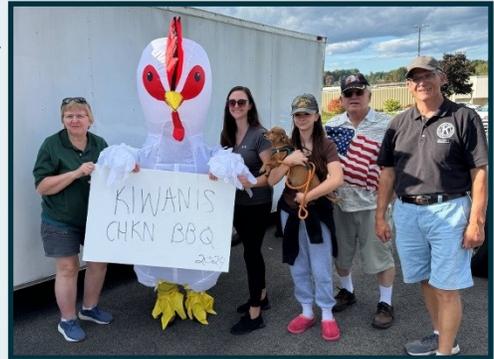
North Shore Kiwanis received a grant for \$2,500 for their Clothes for Kids event. This grant enabled the club to take twenty-two (22) kids to J.C. Penny's for a shopping spree of \$200 per child, and also a pizza lunch.

In doing so, both clubs took advantage of various grant opportunities offered by the Children's Fund to allow them to provide service projects for children in need in their communities. 



New Hartford-Westmoreland Kiwanis Club Chicken Barbeque/Feed the Vets

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, a wave of camaraderie and purpose swept through the New Hartford-Westmoreland Club as Governor Elect Carla Ingram proudly took part in the heartfelt Chicken Barbeque and Feed the Vets program held in New Hartford at the Sangertown Mall. It was a day infused with passion and dedication, as numerous members and fellow Central Division Kiwanians came together, their spirits united in support of this noble cause. Embracing the spirit of service with an infectious zeal, Governor Elect Carla willingly donned the mantle of "Chicken" for the day, immersing herself in the joyous hustle and bustle of the event. The Feed the Vets Truck, a powerful symbol of our commitment to those who have served, stood ready to make a difference, reminding us all of the profound impact of our collective efforts. Together,



Pictured from left to right: Kiwanian Jan Bongiorno-Halpin, the Chicken, Danielle and Charlotte (David's daughter and granddaughter), Duane Niemi, and David Halpin.

er, we feasted, we laughed, and most importantly, we honored the heroes among us.

The Feed the Vets truck supplies food and other needs for the vets in many communities in the Central Division.



Lindenhurst Kiwanis Supports Literacy

(Continued from page 1)

chine is an incentive for students to use a token they have been awarded as part of the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Program. The students earn tokens as a reward for good behavior, called Bulldog Bucks, named after the district's bulldog mascot. The tokens can then be used to obtain a free book from the vending machine. The machine is in the school cafeteria. The fun of receiving a book from a vending machine also



Pictured from left to right: Kiwanians Tom Kropp, Paula Vidal, JoAnn Boettcher, Principal of Harding Avenue school Brian Chamberlin, Teacher Carly Dirlam, PTA President Elicia Dahrough, and Kiwanian Garry Biggs.

promotes literacy and helps students to build their home libraries. Additionally, the PTA sponsors Parents as Reading Partners, to encourage family literacy activities and aims to strengthen the home-school connection.



Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs Honors Veterans

The Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge joined together to bring some happiness to veterans serviced by the Sullivan County Veterans Department and Action Toward Independence (ATI).

They presented little gifts and Happy Veterans Day cards to Veterans Director Stephen Walsh and ATI Executive Director Deborah Worden. The cards were made by the Kiwanis members as well as hand-made ones compliments of the Kiwanis service leadership clubs consisting of the high school Key Clubs and Aktion Club of Sullivan County. Amanda Curless' Liberty Middle School class also designed beautiful cards for this project.

The cards and gifts, consisting of personal toiletry items, body lotion, razors, socks, Find the Word, Sudoku and Crossword Puzzles, playing cards and an assortment of candy, will be distributed to local veterans, including homeless individuals and patients at the local nursing homes and hospitals as well as Castle Point and Albany Veterans Hospital.

Directors Walsh and Worden stated that both agencies work together to serve the local veterans and they thanked the Kiwanis Clubs stating that the individuals will love not only the gifts and cards, but especially the idea that someone took the time to remember and thank them for their service and sacrifice to our country. Many of these veterans face multiple challenges and the time spent to convey a thoughtful message goes a long way in helping them through a difficult time.



From left: Veterans Dept. Agency staff Joseph Putnam, Sheldon Dillon and Director Stephen Walsh, Woodridge Kiwanian Sue Kasofsky, Montcello Kiwanian Sheila Lashinsky, ATI Director Deborah Worden and ATI staff/veterans Vincent Iannacone and Matt Kleman.

Community Care NYC Kiwanis Club Celebration of Moon Festival

The Community Care NYC Kiwanis Club recently held its Celebration of Moon Festival. This event was also supported by the New York Police Department, the Chinatown Kiwanis Club. Twenty-seven members from the Community Care NYC Kiwanis Club were recognized for completing fifty (50) hours of community service. Supported by NYPD and Chinatown club, members of Community Care NYC celebrated the Moon Festival on September 10, 2024. 27 members were recognized for completion of 50 hours of Community service.



Adirondack Kids Day

Adirondack Kids and Central Adirondack Kiwanis sponsored the 17th Annual Adirondack Kids Day in Inlet. New this year was the first annual Loon Call Contest.

The event is inspired by the best-selling children's book series, "The Adirondack Kids" by Gary and Justin VanRiper. The event is dedicated to children and provided many free activi-



ties.

The Adirondack Kids authors provided a book display and book signing at the Inlet Library. 

Pediatric Trauma Kit Presented to Amusement Park

The Kiwanis Club of Brighton Beach & Coney Island recently presented a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Kit to the Wonder Wheel Amusement Park in Coney Island. 



White Plains Hike for Mental Health

The White Plains Kiwanis club recently held a Hike for Mental Health Awareness at Cranberry Lake Preserve in North White Plains. Five hearty hikers showed up. While the club fell a bit short of its \$1,000 goal, \$643, the hikers had a great time. 



Old Forge Bench Project

Each year Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks provides a dozen benches for weary travelers along Main St. in Old Forge.

Due to the nature of the local tourist season the Kiwanis Club of the



Central Adirondacks celebrates its Kiwanis One Day of

Community Service on two days. One Day when the Main St. Benches are put out in spring and One Day when they are taken in for winter storage.

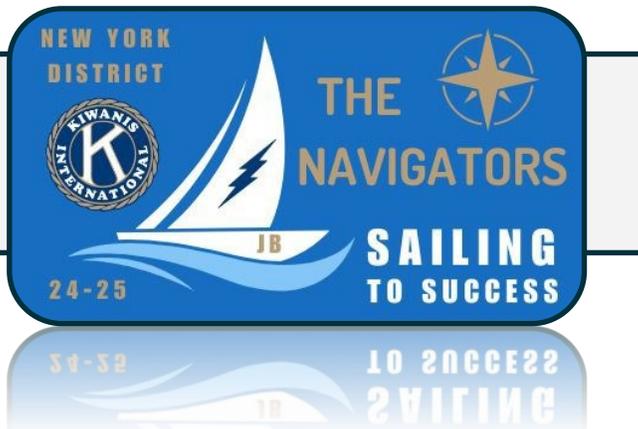
For over 23 years, these benches have provided an opportunity for travelers, tourists and locals to sit, rest, and watch the world go by. Benches are placed along Main St. in time for Memorial Day weekend in the spring and placed in storage shortly following Columbus Day in the autumn. 

Amityville Makes Donation

After a successful year of fundraising, the Kiwanis Club of Amityville was able to make a \$500 donation to the Good Samaritan Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center. 



Empire State Kiwanian



From your Editor:

Thanks to Governor Gordy, I am starting my second year as your ESK Bulletin Editor. Year #2 brings new challenges. As I see this as a dynamic process, it is one that I am always working on ways to improve it, as well as open to suggestions that others may have to improve the finished product that get distributed throughout the District. The most important factor, of course, are receiving the articles from everyone on a timely basis. While I try to add some pizzazz to the format, nothing beats quality articles about all of the tremendous service projects that go on all over.



Tips for Submissions

Email articles and photos to me.

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

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

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

Please proofread for substantive and grammatical accuracy.

Photos: Please email me photos separate from articles. Try to send high resolution photos

to ensure the best quality. Photos from events should be action shots that encapsulate its impact, as well as display the Kiwanis brand. Unless the event is presenting a banner, sign, or citation, please avoid those "posed" pictures (yes, you know what I am talking about).



The ESK is published quarterly—October, January, April, and July. It is important that all submissions are received prior to the stated deadlines—the 10th day of the month that it is to be published. Specifically, that means:



Oct. 10 deadline for Oct.-Dec. issue

Jan. 10 deadline for Jan.-Mar. issue

Apr. 10 deadline for Apr.-June issue

July 10 deadline for July-Sept. issue

Please do not miss the deadlines!

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

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not extend my appreciation and gratitude to Gov. Lucien for having trust and faith in me to carry on the legacy of the Empire State Kiwanian!

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

DPLG Seth J. Blau

esk@kiwanis-ny.org

#KidsNeedKiwanis

