

Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International
Volume 2025-26, Issue 2

Jan-Feb-Mar 2026

Kiwanis Momentum Across the New York District

Bronx Westchester South Division

From longstanding traditions to timely acts of compassion, the Kiwanis clubs of the Bronx Westchester South Division continue to demonstrate what it truly means to give back. United by a shared commitment to service, clubs across the division are making a meaningful difference in their communities—bringing people together, supporting families in times of need, and creating moments of joy for children of all ages. Lieutenant Governor Nanda Chaves and Division Secretary Amelia Chaves provided the following highlights to showcase the collective impact of Bronx Westchester South Kiwanis clubs and the many ways they are strengthening communities through hands-on service and heartfelt dedication.

A Beloved Riverdale Tradition Continues

The Kiwanis Club of Riverdale proudly hosted its 68th

(Continue on page 31)

Suffolk East Division

From Sagtikos Parkway to Montauk Point, the Kiwanis clubs of the Suffolk East Division continue to demonstrate the power of service rooted in unity, collaboration, and community pride. As the division moves confidently toward 2026, Suffolk East clubs are working together with a shared purpose—strengthening communities, supporting families, and ensuring that the Kiwanis mission is both visible and deeply felt throughout Suffolk County. Lieutenant Governor Dr. Alesia Olsen provided the following highlights to reflect the collective impact of Suffolk East Kiwanis and the many ways its clubs are making a meaningful difference.

Smithtown-St. James Leading the Charge

The division's newest club, Smithtown–St. James, stepped forward with energy and conviction in its very

(Continue on page 31)

Check out our New District Website: kiwanisny.org

The new New York District website is now up and live! Go to kiwanisny.org for all of our District news and information!



New York District Mid-Year Conference

The New York District's Annual Mid-Year Conference is scheduled for February 27 – March 1 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York. As always, it promises to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Kiwanians, share ideas, and celebrate the spirit of service across the District. The conference will also include recognition of clubs and individuals for their outstanding achievements during the 2024–25 service year under Immediate Past Governor Gordon Soderholm.

Following the District Board meeting and Opening Session on Friday, attendees are invited to a fun tie dye-themed evening event, which will include a request for t-shirt donations for Kamp Kiwanis. Saturday's schedule is filled with engaging forums, informative speakers, and a celebratory dinner honoring the accomplishments of the past service year.

For additional information and a full schedule of events, please see pages 12–15.

WHERE TO FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW:



District Officers	3
Lieutenant Governors	3
Calendar of Events	5
From Your District Officers	6
Foundation News	8
Mid Year Conference	12
Committee Chair Updates	16
Club News	29
From Your Editor	36

The Empire State Kiwanian is the official publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International. It is published quarterly. All articles and pictures should be emailed to esk@kiwanis-ny.org. All rights are reserved ©.

Disclaimer & Fair Use Statement

This newsletter may contain copyrighted material, the use of which may not have been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Some material is made available in an effort to explain issues relevant to the running of service-based, non-profit organizations that conduct programs and events to improve the lives of people and children in our communities, and/or to illustrate, transmit, share, and teach successful methods of accomplishing the goals and objects of Kiwanis International. Some material contained in this the newsletter is distributed for educational and informational purposes and for the public good.

If anyone wishes to use copyrighted material in this newsletter for their own purposes, permission must be obtained from the copyright owner. If anyone has copyrighted material that appears in this newsletter and disagree with our assessment that it constitutes "fair use," please contact us by email at esk@kiwanis-ny.org.



Empire State Kiwanian

New York District

District Officers

Governor Carla Ingram

Governor Elect Martin Valk

Executive Director Rich Hall

Treasurer Kimberly Davis

Immediate Past Governor Gordon Soderholm

Lieutenant Governors

Adirondack

Mary Cunningham
(Ticonderoga)

Bronx Westchester South

Nanda Chaves
(Riverdale)

Brooklyn

Richard Schweid
(Kings Plaza-Canarsie)

Capital

Virtual Lt. Gov.

Central

David Halpin
(Lake Delta, Rome)

Chemung

Sue Mower
(Elmira)

Finger Lakes

Pam Metting
(Canandaigua)

Genesee

Daniel Mammarello
(Rochester West Central)

Hudson River

Katie Landi
(Kingston)

Hudson River West

Christine Mahoney
(Middletown)

Hudson Tri-County

Virtual Lt. Gov.

Long Island North

Helene Harris
(County Seat, Mineola)

Long Island South Central

Marianne Adrian
(Levittown)

Long Island Southwest

Michael Gliner
(Peninsula, Hewlett)

Metropolitan

George Wonica
(Staten Island)

Mohawk

Peg Cassidy
(Glens Falls)

Niagara Frontier North

Tom Fontana
(Lewiston)

Niagara Frontier South

Kimberly Love
Board President
(West Seneca)

Ontario

Joseph Eppolito
(Syracuse Young
Professionals)

Queens East

Orah "Debbie" Charles
(Jamaica)

Queens West

Steve Hansen
(Glendale)

Saint Lawrence

James Reagan
(Ogdensburg)

Southwestern

Virtual Lt. Gov.

Suffolk East

Dr. Alesia Olsen
(Sayville)

Suffolk West

Roger Sirangelo
(Huntington)

Susquehanna

Katherine Newell
(Owego)

Van Rensselaer

Elissa Skeim
Board President
(Troy)



Kiwanis®

Empire State Kiwanian

Committee Chairs

Achievement Martin Valk	Disaster Relief Mike Malark	Historian Tom DeJulio	Legal Council Sean O’Sullivan	Risk Management Roger Eltringham
Aktion Club Kevin Cooney	Distinguished Program Sue Sheehan	Human & Spiritual Values David Vail	Legion of Merit Nancy Baxter	Service Lannette Bowman
Anti Bullying Keith Cummings	Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Miles Malone William F. Risbrook	Interclubs Noreen Barrett	Membership Engagement & New Club Opening Thomas Cesiro, III	Sgt-at-Arms Mike Malark
Basket Raffles Rebecca Ovadia	District Convention/Conference Kerrie Hansen Steve Hansen	Key Club Administrator John Goldstein	On to I-CON Joe Corace Nydia Corace	Signature Project Sandy Nagler
Builders Club Hazel Goldstein	District Foundation (Kamp Kiwanis) Thomas Poccio	Key Leader Crystal Benjamin-Brafford	Partnership Chuck Eckart	Site Selection Jason Steiner
Bylaws & Procedures Michael Marinaccio	Everyday Hero Joe Corace	KI Children’s Fund Kimberly Davis	Past Gov’s Council David Booker	Special Advisor to Governor Joel Harris Lucien Giancursio Michael Ingram
Campaign Practices Doreen Pellitteri	Empire State Kiwanian (ESK) Editor Seth J. Blau	Kiwanis Kids Administrator Kevin Kamper	Past Lt. Gov’s Council Noreen Barrett	Special Projects Michaelene Abbott-Cooper Marie Soderholm Scott Maneen
Charter I-IV Program Joseph Eppolito	Finance Jimmy Yee	KPTC Albany Susan Vail	Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation John Gridley	Technology & Webmaster Jarrod Gordon
Circle K Administrator Alison Mandel	Governor’s Executive Assistants Rev. Christine Mitchell Kim Scharoff	KPTC Buffalo Bill Schultz	Planning Jackie Goldstein Charles Cronin	Veterans Dr. Bob Borowski
Convention Registration Dean Beltrano	Governor’s Project Donna Zobre Baxter Bob Monahan Susan Vail	KPTC Long Island Joe Corace	Public Relations Seth J. Blau	Youth Protection Coordinator Ashley Wolfe
Credentials Sue Bahren		Leadership Development & Education Alison Mandel	Resolutions James Prout	



Kiwanis®

2025-26 CONVENTIONS

FEB. 27 - MAR. 1: MID-YEAR CONFERENCE
DESMOND HOTEL, ALBANY, NY

JUN 24-27: KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

AUG 6-9: NEW YORK DISTRICT CONVENTION
RADISSON HOTEL, CORNING NY

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

JAN
2026

1 NEW YEARS DAY
21 111TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIWANIS
INTERNATIONAL
21-22 KI BOARD MEETING

FEB
2026

15 DEADLINE FOR FILING 990 IRS FORMS
15 KCF SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
25 KIWANIS DAY OF GIVING
27-3/1 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

MAR
2026

13-15 KEY CLUB DISTRICT LEARNING TRAINING
CONFERENCE
23 KEY CLUB INTERNATIONAL BIRTHDAY
27-29 CIRCLE K DISTRICT CONVENTION

APR
2026

14-18 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING
15 COMPLETE CLUB ELECTIONS FOR 2026-27

MAY
2026

14-17 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TRAINING
25 MEMORIAL DAY

From Our Governor

A Strong Start to 2026: Service, Growth, and Momentum Across New York



Carla Ingram
Governor
New York District

The first quarter of 2026 has set a powerful tone for The Challengers' Kiwanis year. Clubs across New York have been hard at work, launching new initiatives, strengthening community partnerships, and showing once again what it means to lead with passion. While our membership is growing at a steady pace, the real story of these past few months is the impact our members are making every single day.

From food drives and literacy programs to environmental cleanups and support for local families, our clubs have embraced service with enthusiasm and creativity. The dedication of our members—new and longtime—is the engine behind every success we celebrate.

One of the most inspiring areas of focus this year continues to be the Governor's Project: supporting foster children across New York State. Clubs have stepped up in remarkable ways— assembling blessing bags, raising funds for Kamp Kiwanis scholarships, partnering with local agencies, and ensuring that some of our most vulnerable young people feel seen, valued, and supported. This project reflects the very best of Kiwanis, and there is still so much more we can accomplish together as the year unfolds.

As we look ahead, excitement is building for our Mid-Winter Conference, taking place February 27 through March 1, 2026, at The Desmond in Albany. This annual conference is a chance to reconnect, learn, celebrate our progress, and recharge for the months ahead. Workshops, fellowship, inspiration, and a renewed sense of purpose await all who attend. If you haven't registered yet, now is the perfect time.

The first quarter has shown us what's possible when we work together with passion and purpose. Let's carry this momentum forward - growing our membership, strengthening our clubs, and continuing to change lives across New York.

Thank you all for your passion, your dedication and your service to Kiwanis this year!



From Our Governor Elect

I attended my home division's meeting earlier this month. I try to attend this meeting regularly. It's a pleasant event. I meet up with friends who I haven't seen in awhile. I have some laughs, some pleasant dinner conversation, and I learn what has happened and will happen in the division's clubs.

Do you attend your division's meetings on a regular basis? If "no", why not? Some of you may claim distance is a factor, but I respond it's only once a month, at most. Some of our divisions meet only every other month or only quarterly. Some of you may claim the division meetings are boring, but then I respond "spice it up". Can the host club present a guest speaker/program? Can the host club run a contest? Can the division run a contest? The offer of a free dinner at the division meeting might be a very nice enticement.

Why is this relevant? As a beginning point, my division enjoys a rich history of clubs supporting other clubs. We attend each other's events, whether it's a pancake breakfast, a guest bartender's night, or a night at a restaurant where your club earns part of the proceeds for that evening. If your club attends events hosted by other clubs, those other clubs will send representatives to your event. Division meetings are where these events are publicized. (Not everything is posted electronically, and

By Martin Valk

*Governor Elect
New York District*



not everything is posted on all forms of electronic media.) Secondly, strength comes in numbers. If you find your division meetings enjoyable, talk them up, and more division members will attend.

As we approach mid-winter, I note that many district committee positions vacant for my year. If you wish to serve on the district level, please contact me. Many of these positions are not a heavy lift. Please don't make me find you- especially since we will be staying at the same hotel during mid-winter.

Speaking of mid-winter, please don't forget to register. We have some exciting plans, and you might even win a raffle gift. You get to see old friends, make new ones, and look to find yourself in the governor's gala photo summary of IPG Gordie's year. Besides, what else are you doing the last weekend in February. The Super Bowl is over, basketball/hockey playoffs don't start for another 1.5 months, the NCAA basketball DI tournaments haven't started yet, and baseball spring training is just starting. Besides, chances are snow is still on the ground where you live. What a great way to excise the winter doldrums from your system! See you there.



New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

Kamp Kiwanis®



By Daniel Trader

Executive Director

Kamp Kiwanis

Winter has once again hit our area, but the work to prepare for a successful summer is year-round. It may not feel like it, but summer will be here before we know it.

Even before the ball dropped and the clocks turned to 2026, the work to get ready for the Summer 2026 season had begun and the support was beginning to roll in. We entered the new year with 76 kamperships already sponsored. This is early success



that is not possible without the dedicated efforts of each individual Kiwanian and Kiwanis club. It also includes grants which

have been received towards providing kamperships and funds received from asks to organizations outside of Kiwanis as we strive to explore all sources of revenue to reach as many kampers as possible. It's important to remember that when you hear about Kamp Kiwanis at a club meeting, division meeting, or district event that the financial ask to support



kamp doesn't have to be from your individual pocket (though that is always appreciated, too), but could also be one extra fundraiser, event, or ask of partners in

your community to build that support. If every club in the district sponsored just one or two kampers, we would have kamp overflowing with kampers and would have the desirable challenge of figuring out how to expand kamp's capacity.

Our preparations for Summer 2026 are also well underway. Applications and Reservation Forms are available at [Application-and-Forms](#) for any kamps and camper recruitment needs you may have. Our staff team for the new year is also coming together.

While next summer could be characterized as a transition year as some of staff from the last couple



years have graduated or are focusing on finishing their studies, we still have many staff returning. Along with early new hires we are already 67% staffed including aquatics, office, and all our program area leaders. If you know any leaders in your community that may be interested in joining the team, they may apply online at kampkiwanis.campbrainstaff.com or by emailing [hiring@kampkiwanis.org](mailto: hiring@kampkiwanis.org).

These accomplishments are only possible with the dedicated efforts of each Kiwanian in the district, and I thank each of you for all of it. Feel free to reach out for any questions or assistance that I may be able to provide you in your efforts.



New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

Kamp Kiwanis®



PLG Scott Maneen

*NY District Foundation
Kamp Kiwanis Grant Committee*

The NY District Foundation Kamp Kiwanis Grant Committee plays a vital role in sustaining and expanding the life-changing impact of Kamp Kiwanis. The Grant Committee is responsible for identifying, pursuing, and stewarding philanthropic support that directly benefits the children and adults with disabilities who attend camp each year. Through relationships with foundations, corporations, and



community partners, the committee helps secure funding for transportation, adaptive programming, camper tuition, facility improvements, and essential equipment. In the past year alone, grant support has strengthened nearly every aspect of the Kamp Kiwanis experience, helping ensure that financial barriers never stand in the way of participation.

This work is both strategic and hands-on. Committee members collaborate to research funding opportunities, assist with proposal development, align grant requests with



Kamp Kiwanis' mission,

and track outcomes that demonstrate impact. Grants do not simply support programs; they create access, dignity, and opportunity for campers and their families across New York State. The success of the committee directly supports the broader Kiwanis promise of service to children and communities, making it one of the most meaningful ways members can contribute beyond the club level.

As Kamp Kiwanis continues to flourish, so does the need for additional volunteers to serve on the Grant Committee. We are actively seeking Kiwanians with an interest in fundraising, writing, relationship-building, or simply a passion for ensuring Camp remains strong for future generations. Serving on the committee offers a unique opportunity to see the District's mission in action and to make a measurable, lasting impact.



Interested in learning more or getting involved? Please reach out to Scott Maneen at scottmaneen62@gmail.com or call 315-525-1230. Your time and talents can help ensure Kamp Kiwanis continues changing lives for years to come.

KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION (LONG ISLAND)



DPG Joe Corace

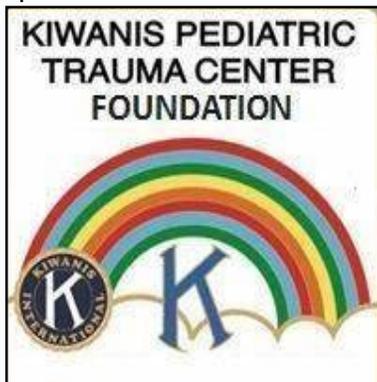
*President
KPTC Foundation*

Since On October 15th, we held our first ‘MINI-GOLF FUNDRAISER’ at the Bethpage Mini Golf Center. My thank you to all that attended and help. A special thank you to SDPLG Liz Fries and DPP Joanne Foley for chairing the event. See pictures at [Mini-Golf Fundraiser](#).

On November 8th, we had our first ‘KPTC MINI CONFERENCE’, presented by Stony Brook Children’s Hospital. Let me again thank all of my board members that helped put it together and the Bethpage Kiwanis Club for arranging to have the event at their local school.

Our challenge was to let Kiwanians get the knowledge of what Stony Brook’s Programs are but do it in a central location. I also want to thank the Kiwanis members that gave up their time to spend a Saturday with us.

We felt, at the end of the day, it was successful, and the feedback was all positive. Stony Brook’s Children’s Hospital presented information about their new children’s



programs highlighting ‘The Teddy Bear Clinic’ and ‘Stop the Bleeding’. Pictures of the event courtesy of Bill Moseley can be found at: [KPTC Mini Conference](#).

A special thank you to the Kiwanis Club of East Meadow, its members and the advisors of their sponsored youth clubs for bringing in the holiday cheer with the “Caroling for KPTC Night.” Can’t say thank you enough.



As we move on to support the programs of childcare and child safety, we held a fundraising event on January 25th, a “Roaring Twenties Murder Mystery.”

We also want to thank the Kiwanis Club of Five Towns for again supporting the KPTC with their Super Bowl Pool.

In the planning stage is our KPTC Annual Meeting with Cohen Children’s Medical Center. Details will follow.

Club presidents and Secretaries information for the KPTC Scholarships was emailed last week. Please get them to your schools.

And thank you all again for supporting the “Ronald McDonald House Meals From the Heart Program” and please keep it going.

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation



DPG Joe Aiello

*President
Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation*

Greetings to the Kiwanis family! On behalf of Pediatric Lyme disease, we wish you all the best in 2026.

The Sayville Kiwanis is going by doing a fundraiser on May 16th Jersey Boys at 7:30 p.m., at the C&M Art Center in Oakdale, Long Island. We have 300 tickets on sale. The tickets are 60.00-dollar per. It will include 1 free beverage, intermission there will be wine and cheese included. We will also have a 50/50. The funds raised will support Lyme and Sayville Kiwanis club. If we sell out the theatre. We will donate to the other 2 foundations KPTC/KAMP

The Lyme Foundation has always assisted children with Lyme Disease. As the president I'm asking every club to do just a fundraiser for the foundation. It does not matter how big or small. It's something to help this cause.

Last year there more tick bites than ever across long Island /upstate. We are here to help these kids with Lyme disease.

If you need any assistance, contact me or if you want, I will come to your meeting and give a presentation about the foundation.

This is my contact information:

email— ioa9014@nyp.org

Cell: (516) 828-6304

Address: 150 Magua Street Ronkonkoma NY
11779

If you want to reserve tickets please contact me. **Thank you all for what you do to save children's lives.**



NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Join us at the NYD Kiwanis Mid-Winter Conference in Albany, York (Feb. 27-28). We are hosting our event at The Crowne Plaza The Desmond Hotel. Discover ways to build and grow clubs, nurturing and building your membership. Learn how to magnify your club's influence in your community. Find out how to transform service projects in ways you never thought possible. Receive hands-on guidance in becoming a skilled Kiwanis leader. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones! You'll leave an exciting and educational Kiwanis event inspired to make a difference.



New Albany-while

DPLG Kerrie & Lt. Gov. Steve Hansen
District Conference Chairs

The Friday night's social event is Tie Dye themed - meaning please attend wearing tie dyed clothes (we will not be doing any tie dying). **Attendees are asked to bring a backpack filled with school supplies (or make an equal monetary donation), which will be sent to Kamp Kiwanis.**



Saturday night is the Governor's Dinner and Awards Gala. We are honoring Immediate Past Governor Gordon Soderholm and 2024-2025 service year. Club awards will be awarded. Dress code is Black Tie optional, Black Coat.

Please check out the website ([Mid-Winter Conference](#)) for Conference updates.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Desmond!

Midyear will be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York.

Hotel Reservations can be made online through the Kiwanis New York District website at:

[Mid-Winter Conference](#)



2026 Mid-Year Conference Schedule

Friday, February 27, 2026	
2-6:45 p.m.	Registration
2-6:45 p.m.	Raffle Basket and Display Tables
Noon-12:45 p.m.	Gov. Ingram's Board Lunch (<i>By Invitation Only</i>)
1-4 p.m.	District Board Meeting
6:45-8 p.m.	Welcome Dinner
8:15-10:15 p.m.	Opening Session
10:15 p.m.	Kamp Kiwanis Tie Dye Party
10:15 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms
Saturday, February 28, 2026	
8-9:30 a.m.	Past Governor's Breakfast
7:30-8:30 a.m.	2026-27 Lt. Gov. Elects' Breakfast with Gov.-Elect Martin Valk
7:30-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Registration (Closed for Lunch)
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Raffle Basket and Display Tables
8:45-11:30 a.m.	Forums
10-11 a.m.	Past Lt. Governor's Council
11:30-noon	Membership with KI International Trustee Scott Sims
Noon-12:30 p.m.	Moving on to Manila
12:45-2 p.m.	Foundations' Recognition Luncheon
2:15-3 p.m.	Forum Sessions
3-4 p.m.	New York District Foundation Board Meeting
4:14-5:15 p.m.	Pediatric Lyme Foundation Board Meeting
6:15-7:15 p.m.	Gala Reception
7-7:15 p.m.	VIP Toast*
7:15-10 p.m.	Gala Governor's Dinner and Awards*
10 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms

Tentative
Schedule
(subject to
change)

February 27- March 1, 2026

District Board Meeting
Welcome Dinner
Opening Session
Forums
Foundation Board Meeting
Recognitions
Gala Governor's Dinner/Awards

* Black Tie Optional, Black Coat

Mid-Year Conference Forums

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Scheduled Workshops

Marking—Making Graphics Pop
Grant Writing
Baseball Trivia
How AI Can Help in Your Kiwanis
Fundraising Made Fun
Re-Energizing Service: Projects that make the Biggest Impact
Planned Giving/Estate Planning
Yoga/Meditation/Mindfulness
Communication 101—How to Get Along With Difficult People
Using Your Phone—Photograph Workshop
Food as Medicine
Membership
Youth Protection

February 27– March 1, 2026

District Board Meeting

Welcome Dinner

Opening Session

Forums

Foundation Board Meeting

—————
Gala Governor’s Dinner/Awards

Photos Wanted



A slide show is being put together for the 2024-25 Service Year. If you

have *action* photos from projects and/or visits by IPG Gordy Soderholm —



please send them to NYKiwanisPictures@gmail.com prior to the conference.

Basket & Gift Card Raffle

There will be a Basket & Gift Card Raffle Fundraiser at the Mid-Year Conference.



Baskets and gift cards can be brought to Mid-Year to support this year’s Governor’s Project.

Please contact Raffle Chair Rebecca Ovadia to let her know if you are bringing a basket at

The New York District Foundation/Kamp Kiwanis and Governor Carla invite you to a

Tie-Dye '70's Party



When:

February 28

10:15 pm – 11:45 pm

(Following Friday's Opening Session)

Where:

Crowne Plaza Albany –

The Desmond Hotel

Room TBD

Bring NEW White T-shirts to donate to Kamp Kiwanis

Youth Sized and Adult Small, Medium, and Large. 100% Cotton is Best

OR

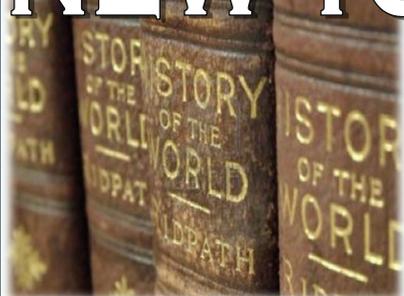
Equal Monetary Donation

Gives ALL Kampers an opportunity to tie-dye and bring home a forever keepsake!

Fun Activities, Refreshments, and Music Will Be Provided!



NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY



A History of Kindness In Kiwanis



PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

This year, thanks to Governor Carla Ingram's "major emphasis," New York District Kiwanis clubs are not only addressing unmet needs relating to "Foster Care," but also placing more emphasis on the meaning of "**kindness**" to inspire current and prospective new members to define their club's identity.

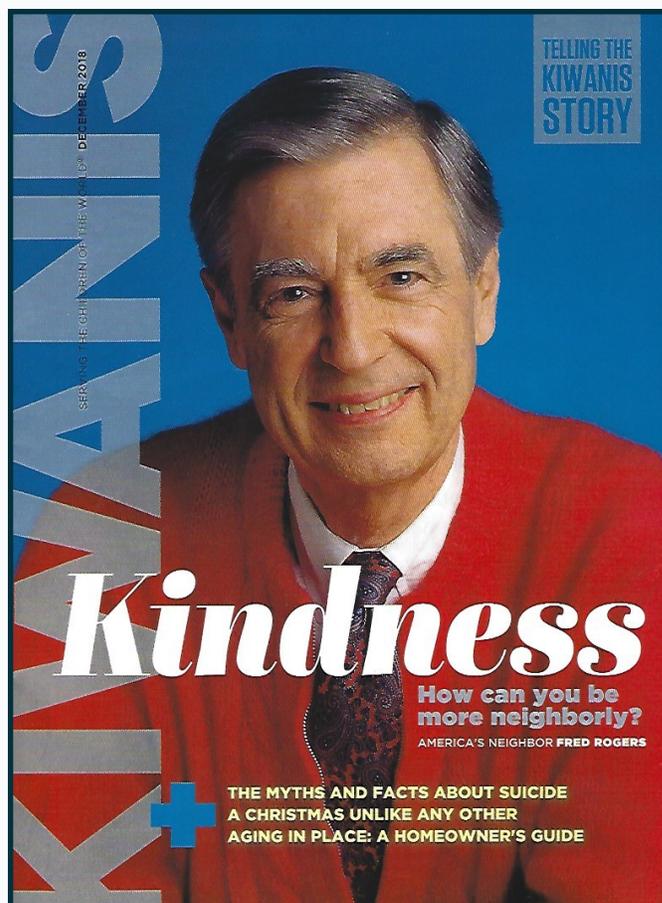
"Blessing Bags" bring Kiwanis kindness to foster children; Kamp Kiwanis brings kindness to kids who are never given an opportunity to enjoy a summer camp experience; and bringing the kindness message to other local service organizations quickly defines what Kiwanis is all about.

In this "high tech" era when hard copy printed magazines are growing scarce, here is one found in my Kiwanis history archives that is no longer available or seen by our newest members. This Kiwanis Magazine cover captures the identity of Kiwanis in a single glance.

Coincidentally and perhaps providentially, this Kiwanis International magazine published in December 2018 included a full-page article about a brand-new Kiwanis Club chartered in the New York District in April 2018 with 75 members. Past NY District Governor Joe Eppolito teamed up with Legion of Honor Kiwanian, Bob Monahan, to form this new Ridgewood Queens Kiwanis Club as "3-2-1" Kiwanians focused on these priorities:

***three parts SERVICE, two parts SOCIAL,
one-part MEETINGS.***

With these priorities in mind over the past seven years, the club now boasts the largest AKTION club in NY District along with eight (8) K-Kids Clubs and eleven (11) Builders clubs.



Military Children To Kamp Kiwanis



The Opportunity to Give Military Kids a "Summer of Smiles" is Here!

DPG Lucien Giancursio

*Chair, Gov. Hank Baker's Military
Kampership Campaign Team*

Imagine a summer of pure joy, laughter, and adventure for a child—a true respite from the unique stresses of military life, such as deployments, frequent moves, and constant worry. This is the vision of Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampership: A Summer of Smiles for Military Kids, and it represents a profound opportunity for every Kiwanis member in the district to make an immediate, tangible difference.

This year, we have the chance to send children of active-duty military families to Kamp Kiwanis. For these children, camp is far more than s'mores and swimming; it is a vital chance to:

- **Connect with others who truly understand:** Build lifelong bonds with peers who share similar experiences.
- **Find a sense of normalcy:** Enjoy the carefree joys of childhood, away from the stresses of military life.
- **Build resilience and confidence:** Participate in activities that foster personal growth and leadership skills.

The Urgent Need & Why This Moment Matters

The momentum is building! We have already received heartfelt feedback from families like the one who was able to send their three girls (ages 13, 11, and 8) to camp, who called it an "amazing opportunity" and stated their daughters want to return next year. This is not just a dream for the future—it is a success story happening right now!

But we need *your* support today to keep this momentum strong.

The total cost to send one child to Kamp Kiwanis is \$1,150.00, which covers:

- \$900.00 for tuition and all camp activities.
- \$250.00 for transportation (safe and reliable bus-sing).

Don't let the New York District miss its chance to own this profound impact. This is a limited window to contribute to a successful, life-changing summer for a military family. Every club that participates will secure their place in this year's story of generosity and gratitude, demonstrating the Kiwanis commitment to service in the most powerful way. The chance to create these memories for a child is fleeting—it happens this coming the summer 2026, and the time to act is now.



How Your Club Can Join This High-Impact Effort

Don't be left out of this wave of community support! The opportunity to contribute to Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampership is a direct way to honor those who serve.

DONATE NOW: Every dollar counts! Your generous contribution will directly fund camp tuition and transportation.

(Continue on page 29)

Empire Club



DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

*District Chair
Foundation Empire Club*

The Empire Club was formulated by me in August, 2002. It was designed to mirror the Heritage Foundation started by Kiwanis International a few years earlier with the approval of then NYDK Foundation President Lindy Marrazzo and reviewed by the late Steve Eisman, NYDK Foundation General Council.

His legacy donation of life insurance liquidated the Foundation's \$300,000 mortgage and established a cultural arts center named after him.

The purpose of the Empire Club is to secure long-range gifts to the NY District Kiwanis Foundation and recognize those

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

Kiwanians and friends who believed in securing the legacy of our District Foundation



The Empire Club brochure has been revised with the expertise of Foundation Parliamentarian Peter Mancuso and Foundation General Counsel Jim Prout. The revised brochure is available and can be found under the District Foundation tab on the District Website [empireclub.pdf](#). Information can also be sent by email to any interested person. For more information, I can be reached by email at pepster@aol.com or by phone at (315) 436-2157.

for years to come. Funds could also be given up-front as well and funds would go for the general operation of the District Foundation at the direction of the Foundation Board. Kiwanians are asked to seek advice their financial advisors, estate planning attorneys and/or estate planning accountants for any recommendations. Planned gifts can also be set-up with the District Foundation as well.

The District Foundation was blessed by the generosity of the late PDLTG Ivan Tarnopoll.





UPDATE ON THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT

One Child, One Community, One Possibility

In the words of Napoleon Hill, "It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed."¹ As Kiwanians, our success is measured by the smiles of the children we serve. Today, I am reaching out to ask you to help us succeed on a grander scale through **The Possibility Project**.

What is The Possibility Project?

This is a bold, five-year campaign by the Kiwanis Children's Fund to raise \$25 million and impact the lives of 10 million children worldwide. While our local projects are the heartbeat of our communities, the Children's Fund allows us to pool our resources to tackle global issues like hunger, literacy, and youth leadership.

The math is simple but profound: **It takes just \$2.25 to change a child's life.**

The Kiwanis Children's Fund proudly supports service projects that meet urgent needs. But the reality is, **millions of children still need our help.**

Consider this:

- **Over 14 million children** in the U.S. alone live in households without enough food.
- Two out of five 4th graders can't read at a basic level.

Two out of five high school students report feeling lonely, sad, or hopeless.



DPG Lucien Giancursio

*Kiwanis Children's Fund
District Co-Chair*

Grant requests to the Children's Fund

have **increased tenfold** in recent years, but as needs continue to grow, we've only been able to fund **\$1 for every \$2 requested.**

Becoming an "Impact Club"

We are calling on every club in the New York District to become an **Impact Club**. This status is achieved by pledging \$100 per member, per year, for five years.

I know \$100 per member sounds like a tall order, but when you break it down, it is just **\$8.34 a month**—less than the cost of two cups of coffee. Your club can reach this goal through a mix of:

Club Funds: Redirecting "Happy Dollars" or small budget allocations.

Events: Low-lift efforts like "Dine-to-Donate" nights.

Individual Gifts: Personal contributions or honoring a member with a Hixson or Blechman Fellowship.

Why Give? The "District Return"

Supporting the Children's Fund isn't just about sending money away; it's about bringing it back. **A percentage of all monies sent to the Children's Fund is returned to the New York District** as a grant to be used at the discretion of our sitting Governor for projects right here at home.

(Continue on page 30)



Legion of Merit

Honoring Years of Service and Commitment

Celebrating Kiwanis Members Who Go Above and Beyond



SDPLG Nancy Baxter

*Legion of Merit
District Coordinator*

One of the most powerful ways a Kiwanis club can celebrate its members is by recognizing their years of dedication and service. Every hour volunteered, every project led, and every child helped tells the story of Kiwanis—and those stories deserve to be honored.

The New York District's Legion of Merit program offers clubs a simple and meaningful way to recognize members who have reached 5, 10, 15, or 20 years of Kiwanis service. Presenting these recognitions during a club meeting or special event not only honors the individual but also inspires others and reinforces the true spirit of Kiwanis fellowship.



Costs:

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

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

Nancy Baxter
3754 Oceanside Road East
Oceanside, NY 11572

For questions, contact me at (516) 972-8011 or baxtamom9@aol.com.

For Kiwanis members who have completed 25 years of service or more, Kiwanis International offers the prestigious Legion of Honor. These recognitions are given in 5 year increments (e.g., 25, 30, 35 years, etc.), and may also include special pins for service in key roles such as Past President, Past Club Secretary, Past Lieutenant Governor, as well as various District positions.

Members who have 25 or more years of Kiwanis service do not have to be consecutive, and can be accumulated in more than one club. A member is eligible for each when he or she is within six months of reaching that milestone.



Legion of Honor Costs:

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

Shipping costs as outlined on the KI website. Orders must be made at least 2-3 weeks in advance. More information for the Legion of Honor can be found on the Kiwanis International website at: [Kiwanis Legion of Honor](#).

Recognizing member longevity is more than a formality—it's a celebration of the heart of Kiwanis. These presentations strengthen club pride, connect generations of members, and remind us all that lasting impact begins with dedicated individuals who choose to serve year after year.

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



DPLG Noreen Barrett
Secretary, Past Lt. Gov. Council

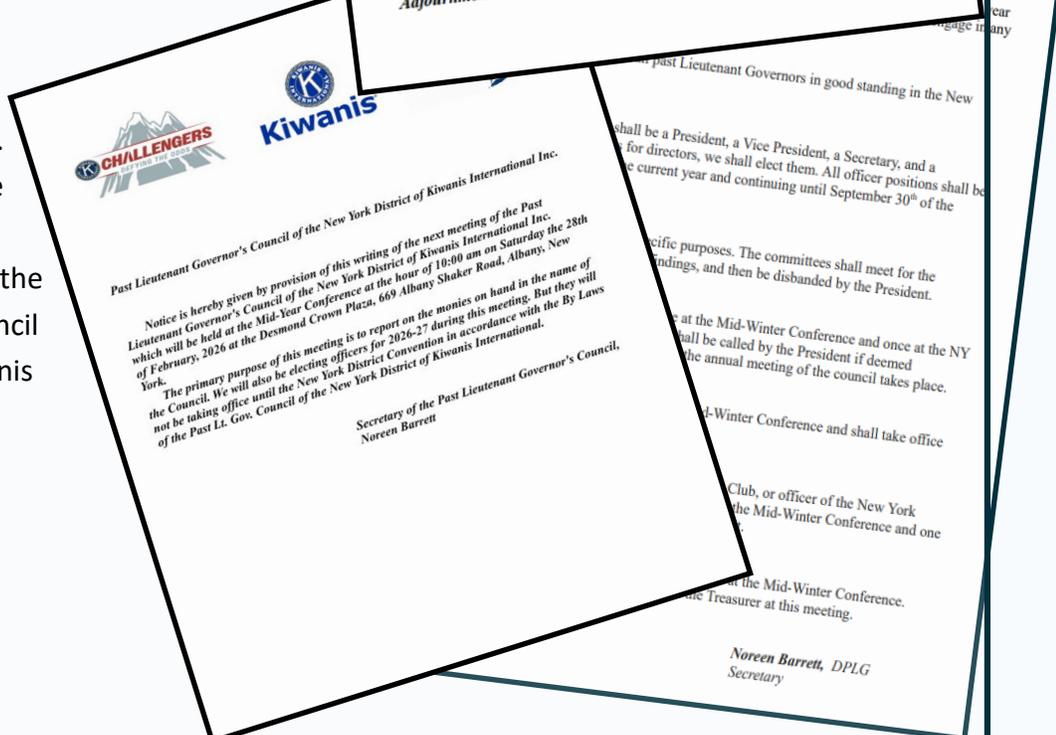
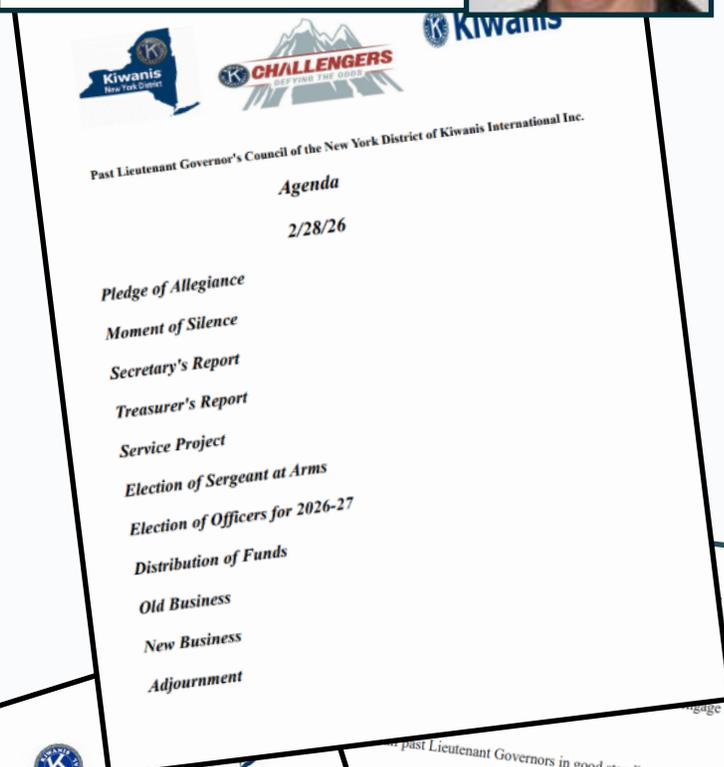
Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International Inc.

Notice is hereby given by provision of this writing of the next meeting of the Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International Inc. which will be held at the NY District Conference at the hour of 10:00 am on Saturday the 28th of February, 2026 at the Desmond Hotel, 669 Albany Saker Road, Albany, New York.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to report on the monies on hand in the name of the Council. Our Service Project for next month is going to help the Long Island North Division collect formula, diapers, baby wipes, and baby powder for St. Aidan Food Pantry in Williston Park.

We will also be electing officers for 2026-27 during this meeting. But they will not be taking office until the District Convention in accordance with the By Laws of the Past Lieutenant Governor's Council of the New York District of Kiwanis International.

Noreen Barrett
Secretary of the Past Lieutenant Governor's Council



Youth Protection



PLG Ashley Wolfe

*Youth Protection
District Manager*

My name is Ashley Wolfe (she/hers) and I have been appointed by Governor Carla to serve as the New York Kiwanis Youth Protection Manager. I had the opportunity to meet many of you at the district convention last August, where I co-presented with the outgoing Youth Protection Manager, Past Governor David Booker. I am looking forward to assisting club leaders and members in this new role!

What I have noticed is that there is a lot of information out there about youth protection, with information available in myriad places. I will soon be sending out a guide that I hope will act as a centralized resource to direct clubs to more detailed information, while also providing some of the basics regarding background checks, Praesidium access, and best practices.

My goals as I step into this role are:

- ⇒ To create a culture of care within the New York District of Kiwanis, educating members on the importance of not only youth protection, but acting with care for all vulnerable populations that we may serve in our communities and in all service leadership programs including Aktion Club.
- ⇒ Provide accurate and timely information to district board and club leaders regarding background check statuses, Praesidium training completion, and updated policies.
- ⇒ Ensure club members have access to resources and understand what is required of them by Kiwanis International and New York Kiwanis.
- ⇒ Provide transparency and clarity to service leadership program members regarding Kiwanis responsibilities and reporting options.

How can I help your club and members?

- Confirm background check status and expiration date.

- Confirm Praesidium youth protection training completion.
- Provide training presentations at a meeting.
- Answer questions about best practices.

I am a Key Club and Circle K alumna, and have been in Kiwanis for over ten years. In the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District, I served as the Builders Club District Administrator, Circle K Assistant Administrator, and as a regional advisor for Key Club.

In New York, I am a past Lt. Governor and currently serve as an Assistant Administrator on the Kiwanis committee for New York Circle K. Professionally, I work in higher education at the Fashion Institute of Technology, a SUNY school in the heart of Manhattan. Personally, I am working towards my PhD in Education and Social Justice from Lancaster University in the UK. I am a New York State certified volunteer sexual assault crisis and domestic violence advocate, with over 300+ volunteer on-call hours with Crime Victims Treatment Center NYC.

I hope to bring my K-family experience, passion for helping youth, and advocacy expertise to our great district. Please check out this guide for additional information and let me know how I can help your club!

How to Reach Me:

Email: nyki.youthprotection@gmail.com.

Please note my email in the directory is not correct, and I am also aware of different spellings of my email being distributed. Therefore, I have created this email to help streamline communication moving forward.

Phone: Please reach out to me privately for phone information or reference the printed district directory.



DPLG Noreen Barrett

New York District, Interclub Chair

Make This a Year of Stronger Kiwanis Connections

Interclubs build friendships, spark ideas, and strengthen our impact

Why Interclubs Matter

- Interclubs bring Kiwanis clubs together - not just for meetings, but to share service, ideas, and fellowship.
- Build new friendships and strengthen existing bonds across local Kiwanis clubs.
- Visiting other clubs is a great way to learn, exchange ideas, and celebrate our impact in the community.

How to Get Involved

- Consider visiting another club in your division to experience new projects and build relationships with fellow Kiwanians.
- Invite a couple of club members to roll up their sleeves, visit other clubs for a meeting or service event—and spark some new ideas!

New York District

ROUND ROBIN PROGRAM

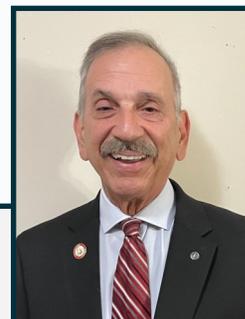
“Visit” all clubs in your Division!

- ◆ Clubs 30 or more members - 4 Members visit
- ◆ Clubs 20-29 members - 3 Members visit
- ◆ Clubs 19 or less members - 2 Members visit

Questions?

ignbarrett3@nycapp.rr.com

Charter I, II, III, IV Program 2025-2026



DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

District Chair

Charter I, II, III, IV Program

The purpose of this program is to incent and reward those clubs in the NY District that are currently under Charter strength (15 members) to increase their membership to Charter strength and beyond during the 2025-26 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.

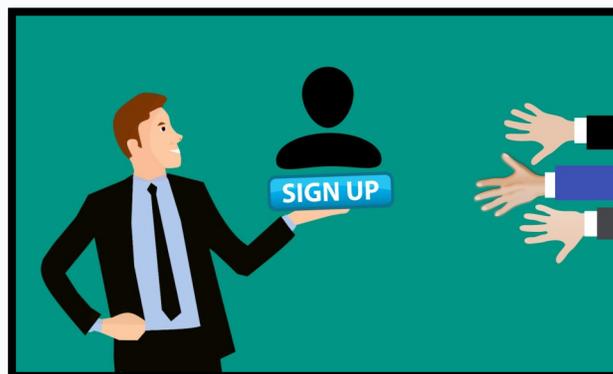
- For those clubs that reach 15 members, they will receive a Charter I Certificate.
- For those clubs that reach 20 members, they will receive a Charter II Certificate.
- For those clubs that reach 25 members, they will receive a Charter III Certificate.
- For those clubs that reach 30 members, they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

So it is 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, 2026, finalized by 10-10-26, they will receive the appropriate banner patch(es) at the Mid-Winter Conference in 2027.

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 Carla J. Ingram. Joe's Email: pepster@aol.com and cell is: 315-436-2157.



Membership & New Club Openings

SDPLG Thomas Cesiro, III

*District Chair
Membership & Club Opening*



The Holidays are over and it's a New Year. Now what is your next excuse as to why your club can't grow in membership? New York District currently has 239 active clubs but only 78 clubs have grown in membership so far during this Kiwanis year. That's only 33% of our district growing. What are the other 161 clubs doing?? NY District and Kiwanis International are here to help. Reach out to your Lieutenant Governor, your Divisional membership chairperson, or reach out to me directly.

What can your local club do?

- Hold an informational meeting
⇒ Explain - What is Kiwanis?
- Host an open house
- Use the Two for Two program
- Have a club boost event
- Reach out to the parents of your SLP Clubs.

What are the 78 clubs doing that your clubs is not doing? ➡ **ASKING SOMEONE TO JOIN.**

There are so many tools available to help your club. Let's see if we can get every club in this District to **ADD** at least one new member before DCON.

Congratulations to the Northport–East Northport Kiwanis Club of the Suffolk West Division for adding 13 new members so far this year. Congratulations also to Forest Hill Kiwanis Club for adding 10 members, taking their club from 4 members to 14 and to Community Cares Kiwanis Club for adding 9 members, making their club the largest in the district with 120 members and they are only three years old. Let's work together to make this the best year ever for membership growth.

How Are We Doing?*

Number of Active Clubs: 239
Members at Start of Year: 5510

Current Membership: 5640
Net Change: +130 Members

Divisions Leading the Way

- Queens West - 31**
- Metropolitan - 21**
- Suffolk West - 16**
- Suffolk East - 15**
- Genesee - 14**

Clubs Leading the Way

- Northport/East Northport (Suffolk) - 13**
- Forest Hills (Queens West) - 10**
- Community Care, NYC (Metropolitan) - 9**
- Glendale (Queens West) - 7**
- Islip Bayshore (Suffolk East) - 6**
- West Hampton (Suffolk East) - 6**

*Data from KI as of 1/25/26.



Show how your club makes a difference — *one story at a time.*

Clubs across the District are invited to create short videos or social media reels highlighting service, impact, and the Kiwanis spirit.

The challenge aims to...

- ✔ Increase visibility of Kiwanis projects and clubs
- ✔ Promote creativity and club pride
- ✘ Build a shared library of district-wide video content.
- ✘ Showcase real stories of impact



How to Participate:

- 📺 Submit one 30–90 second video per theme
- ➔ Use phones or simple equipment — no professional gear required
- ➔ Videos will be judged on:
 - Storytelling
 - Creativity
 - Use of Theme

**Ready to participate?
Share your Kiwanis story!**

Themes & Focus

Theme	Focus
Kindness in Action	Small acts that make a big difference
Serving with Heart	Compassion behind Kiwanis projects
Creating Hope	Stories that uplift and inspire communities

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

AUGUST 31, 2026

Entries must be created during the 2025–26 Kiwanis service year.

Aktion Club



Kevin Cooney

*Aktion Club
Co-District Administrator*

Congratulations to two Aktion Clubs for the New York District for the 2024 / 2025 year: The Anchor Aktion Club and the Forest Park Aktion Club for earning Distinguished Club recognition. Congratulations to Sullivan County Aktion Club for earning Honor Club recognition.

The Anchor Aktion Club held a holiday food drive and raised 475 pounds of food for Island Harvest.



baskets for Thanksgiving that were distributed to families in need in the Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello School Districts, Federation for the Homeless and United Way of Sullivan



County. They delivered a basket containing both food and games to the Sullivan County Family Court Children's Center.

The LISW Division held its annual holiday party for their Division Sponsored Aktion Club, the Oceanside Sailors. Lt. Governor Michael Gliner, Kiwanians from the Division, as well as members from the Hewlett High School Key Club were in attendance. Clubs around the division each provided different items for the dinner.



In addition, they collected toys and games that were dropped off at the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department for disbursement to children in the County. They also collected and delivered gently used coats, gloves and scarves to the Federation for the Homeless.

The East Meadow Aktion Club held a Zumba Fundraiser to benefit the Kiwanis Children's Fund. The East Meadow Aktion Club members also sang holiday songs to the residents of the Sunrise at East Meadow.



Aktion Club of Sullivan County members were involved with exceptionally busy and heartwarming end of year projects. They collected non-perishable food items from club members, agency reps and Kiwanis Co-Advisors and had fun decorating and filling

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis



Young Leaders Helping Others



By Kevin Kamper

K Kids
District Administrator

WELCOME TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome to the second half of the 2025-2026 school year. Hello to all Kiwanians, K Kids members, advisors, and school partners!

I am excited to announce that East Broadway Elementary School and Northside Elementary School have joined the K Family, expanding our community and impact.



This past fall, our K Kids engaged in a variety of meaningful activities. These included trick-or-treating for UNICEF, organizing book drives, and collecting food for those in need. During the holiday season, the Bowling Green K Kids made a significant impact by raising funds for the New York District Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center through Christmas caroling. Their efforts resulted in more than \$700 raised for this important cause.



As we look ahead to spring, consider initiating a project that beautifies your community. Whether it is cleaning up an existing space or creating a new one, your efforts can make a lasting difference. Additionally, prepare for K

Kids Week, which will take place from February 9 to 13. This is a special opportunity for members to celebrate with their club and showcase what makes your K Kids Club unique. During this week, it is encouraged that each K Kids club connects with their Kiwanis Club, assisting in running a meeting or partnering for a service project.

Spring also brings the chance for each Kiwanis K Kids Club to apply for awards. Recognition categories include Distinguished and Honor Club, Distinguished Advisor, Distinguished Officer, and Single Service. There are also entry forms available for a speech contest, poster contest, scrapbook contest, and video contest. Please note that all applications are due by April 1, 2026, and can be found at KiwaniisKids.Org/Awards-and-Recognition.

Are you planning a new event or have a service story to share? I want to hear from you! Send your updates, photos, and questions to me at knkamper@gmail.com. Interested in starting a new club? Reach out, I am here to help and cheer you on. Remember that Kiwanis K Kids is the starting point of the Kiwanis Service Leadership Program where we build our leaders today.

I am so grateful for every member, advisor, and supporter who makes K Kids possible. Your kindness and leadership light the way for others. Let's keep the momentum going and make the rest of the school year full of fun, friendship, and service!

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis

The Kings Plaza Canarsie Club was proud to hold our first annual community Baby Shower. It was done in Canarsie, Brooklyn which has the highest mortality and morbidity rates in the state. Over 300



new and expectant moms showed up for workshops, food, and much more. Each mom was given diapers, wipes, a food processor, clothing, and baby bottles.

There was a sonogram room where the expecting moms could get a free sonogram. The NYC Dept. of Health was there and raffled off car seats. There were also strollers, a cradle, and free future workshops. Maimonides Medical Center was there with educational materials.

The event was successful due to the hard work of our club but also with the support of local Community Board 18 and the Brooklyn Borough President.



East Meadow Kiwanis

East Meadow Kiwanis served 500 Thanksgiving meals at their annual Dr. Frank Saracino Memorial Senior and Veterans Thanksgiving dinner.



The club also collected non-perishable food items for food baskets with help of their Key club.



With the help of their KKids clubs, Builders Club, and Key Club, East Meadow Kiwanis sorted and bagged food baskets that were delivered to 130 families along with supermarket gift cards.



Military Kids (continued from p. 17)

SPREAD THE WORD: Share your club's campaign on social media to amplify our message.

VOLUNTEER: We need volunteers to help with fundraising events and outreach.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP: If you know a business that supports military families, encourage them to become a corporate sponsor.

Please visit <https://kampkiwanis.org> to donate and learn more.

The New York District Foundation extends its sincere gratitude for your consideration and support. The true measure of our legacy is not the

wealth we accumulate, but the kindness we share and the lives we touch. As a District, we have the financial power and the heartfelt commitment to give these deserving children the gift of a summer filled with joy.

Will your club be a part of this inspiring success story?

Join us in making a profound difference today.

With heartfelt gratitude and on the behalf of The Gov. Hank Baker's Military Kampership Campaign Team and The New York District Foundation and Kiwanis club of Holland - best regards and thank you to all that you do.



The North Shore Key Club Buddies Up For Service

The North Shore key Club is working with the North Shore High School Buddy Club for their Major Emphasis Project 2025-2026. The members of the club are intellectually and developmentally disabled. These students are part of the special education department. The key club members act as mentors to this very special group of students and fun is had by all throughout the year with joint activities by the entire K Family members. The Buddy Club members are all honorary members of the key club and join in all activities created by the Key Club. The founder of the Buddy Club is Key Club LG 4N Sadie Elbaum, a North Shore key Clubber, with the purpose of this project to expand people's ideas of who could be their



friend. The goal was for students to connect with Buddy Club member who are often overlooked or ignored because of a lack of understanding of their situation. The club exists because of love, persistence and the belief that everyone deserves to be seen. Pictured are members of the Buddy Club having fun together with their key club mentors.

Fairview-Greenburgh Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of Fairview-Greenburgh had a busy fall! We sponsored a table at a neighborhood Halloween parade. The town closed off a street so the kids could safely trick or treat and our partners, the Fairview Fire Department led the evening off with a parade.



In November, we provided 3 complete Thanksgiving meals to a local organization that works with low to moderate income families.



The Possibility Project (continued from page 19)

Save the Date: February 25, 2026

Mark your calendars for **Kiwanis Giving Day on 2-25**. Why that date? Because of that magic number: **\$2.25** to impact a child. It is the perfect day to make your club's first step toward becoming an Impact Club.

Your District Support Team

We have a dedicated team of Champions across New York ready to help your club create a fundraising plan:

District Chair: Kimberly Davis (Adirondack)

Co-District Chair: Lucien Giancursio

Regional Champions: Martha Anderson (Niagara Frontier South Division, Southwestern), Ron Parent (Genesee, Niagara Frontier North), Joe & Virginia Eppolito (Ontario), Peg Cassidy (Mohawk), David Booker (Capital Division, Van Rensselaer), Helene Irvine (Brooklyn, Metropolitan), Kerrie Hansen

(Queens West), and Kevin Kamper (Long Island North, Long Island South Central).

Divisions with no Champions – Bronx Westchester South, Chemung, Finger Lakes, Hudson River, Hudson River West, Hudson Tri-County, Long Island Southwest Division, Queens East, Saint Lawrence, Suffolk East, Suffolk West, Susquehanna.

If you are interested and would like to get involved, let's Talk!

We must give our members the **capacity to believe they have the ability to give**. Together, we can turn "possibility" into "reality" for 10 million children.



Momentum Across the District

Bronx Westchester South

(Continued from page 1)

Annual Halloween Window Painting Contest, a cherished community tradition dating back to 1957. This year's event brought together more than 150 students who transformed over 50 storefront windows throughout Riverdale with festive and creative Halloween designs.



Local merchants enthusiastically sponsor the painted windows, helping to offset the cost of paint supplies alongside funding provided by the club. For Riverdale Kiwanis members, the most difficult task is choosing the winners — each design reflects creativity, teamwork, and the joy of community participation.



The event is truly intergenerational. Past participants — both young and old — return to cheer on the painters, share tips, and reminisce. Many grandparents in attendance fondly recalled participating in the contest themselves years ago.

Key Clubs from Bronx High School of Science and Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy volunteered throughout the event, assisting with sign-in, paint distribution, escorting families to assigned windows, and handing out candy bags upon completion.



Winners were announced in The Riverdale Press, both in print and online, in categories including Scariest, Funniest, Spookiest, Family-Friendly, Halloween Spirit, and Showstopper. The club is incredibly proud to carry on this beloved tradition, bringing neighbors together

(Continue on page 32)

Suffolk East

(Continued from page 1)

first months. Members adopted families in need during the holidays, supported two new SLP clubs through caroling visits to local nursing homes, and launched fundraising events to establish their inaugural scholarship program. In addition, the club's K-Kids and Builders Club created a powerful video expressing what Kiwanis means to them, amplifying the spirit of service through the voices of future leaders.



Clubs Collaborate to Feed Over 5,000 in Need

The Islip-Bayshore, Sayville, and Patchogue clubs exemplified the strength of collaboration by joining forces with the South Central Division to provide more than 5,000 meals to Long Island families in need. This impactful partnership demonstrated what can be



achieved when clubs work together. Their efforts earned recognition from News 12, along with additional coverage for toy drives that raised thousands of dollars in toys and clothing for local families. Whether through the 5K Toy Run featured on News 12 or the Santa Brunch highlighted in The Islip Bulletin, these clubs



brought joy and support to families throughout the region. Sayville extended its outreach even further by hosting families for lunch and a live performance at the CM Performing Arts Center, many experiencing live

(Continue on page 32)

Momentum Across the District

Bronx Westchester South

(Continued from page 31)

through a family-friendly fall celebration that takes months of planning and dedication.

Special thanks to the event committee, whose members and friends worked tirelessly to make the event a success, including Riverdale President Amelia Chaves; LTG Bronx Westchester South and Key Club Advisor Fernanda Chaves; Virginia and Scott Krompinger; Robert and Barbara Rubinstein; Richard and Janet Peterson; Johanna Edmonson; Dr. Zenath and Jameela Jalal; and Al Levi and family. The club extends heartfelt gratitude to the entire community and looks forward to continuing this treasured tradition for years to come.



Boo University

The Kiwanis Club of Riverdale was the first outside organization invited to Manhattan University's Boo at Manhattan U, previously Safe Halloween where the University opens its grounds for Halloween activities. The club hosted a craft table, candy distribution and a selfie/family photo station. The club enjoyed sharing fun family moments with students of all ages from 5-15 and university students by creating an environment where families could spend quality time together. Wonderful costumes were coordinated by entire families and Kiwanis was there to capture those moments together with them.



Riverdale Kiwanis Membership Open House

Riverdale Kiwanis also hosted a membership open house wine and cheese event, inviting prospective members interested in learning more about the club's

(Continue on page 33)

Suffolk East

(Continued from page 30)

theatre for the first time—complete with a special visit from Santa bearing gifts.

Hamptons Kiwanis Clubs Provide Service for Holiday Season

Further east, the East Hampton Club spread holiday cheer by selling festive trees and proudly marching alongside Key Club members in a joyful holiday parade, earning their own News 12 feature. Westhampton and Southampton Kiwanis clubs continued their proud Kiwanis traditions by raising funds and collecting gifts to help ensure children woke up to fulfilled dreams. The Southampton Club also demonstrated exceptional compassion year-round, preparing homemade soup from scratch twice each month for local soup kitchens.



Planning Ahead

Across Suffolk East, members have remained focused, committed, and supportive—lifting one another up while strengthening every club. Looking ahead, the division is enhancing its outreach by spotlighting individual clubs monthly on social media, rolling out tailored membership plans, and providing additional support through a new website and expanded social media presence.

Together, the Suffolk East Division has shown that unity truly multiplies impact. Through collaboration, creativity, and a shared commitment to service, clubs across the division are expanding their reach and strengthening the communities they serve. As Suffolk East continues to build momentum, it stands as a strong example of Kiwanis in action—advancing the mission with purpose, compassion, and pride throughout the New York District.



Momentum Across the District Bronx Westchester South

(Continued from page 32)

service and volunteer opportunities. Attendees shared personal stories and special moments connected to Kiwanis, strengthening relationships and generating enthusiasm for future involvement.



Bronx Westchester South Division Holiday Party

The Bronx Westchester South Division hosted its annual Holiday Party in December, welcoming members and guests from all 10 clubs for an evening of celebration



featuring classic holiday favorites, live singing, and a DJ.

LTG Fernanda Chaves invited Westchester County Social Services to speak about foster care programs. Members generously donated toys to support foster children during transitional moves, helping bring comfort throughout the holiday season. Past International President Thomas DeJulio distributed blessing bags to clubs, supporting division-wide efforts to provide essential supplies to those in need.

Fordham Kiwanis Thanksgiving Food Drive

Members of Fordham Kiwanis, led by Past President Mike Feierman, partnered with Fordham Circle K President Mary Hawthorn to conduct a Thanksgiving Food Drive. Together, they collected more than 250 food items, which were donated to Part of the Solution (POTS), located across the street from Fordham University.



Builders Club Youth Leadership Collaboration

The Saint Ignatius School Builders Club, sponsored by Fordham Kiwanis, recently completed a semester-long collaboration with the Forward South Bronx Coalition (FSBC) to establish a Youth Leadership Coalition as part of the Archdiocese of New York's Drug Abuse Prevention Program.

Students participated in weekly workshops focused on the dangers of substance misuse.



Club Advisor Alec Hufford, SJ, expressed

gratitude to Fordham Kiwanis for sponsoring the Builders Club and providing students with opportunities to grow as future service leaders.

Mount Vernon Fire Relief Efforts

Just days before Thanksgiving, a devastating five-alarm fire destroyed an apartment building in Mount Vernon, impacting more than 100 families. Mount Vernon Kiwanis volunteered at the Doles Center, assisting with the collection and distribution of food and clothing.

The Bronx Shore Kiwanis Club contributed over 20 bags of new clothing, while Fordham, Riverdale, East Yonkers, Yonkers, and other division members donated funds to support affected families. Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard publicly recognized Kiwanis clubs for their swift response and compassion during this critical time.

Bronx Shore Kiwanis Spreads Joy

Members from Bronx Shore Kiwanis joined Santa Mike Roman to spread joy to children facing medical challenges at Lavelle School for the Blind, Adapt We Change, Mana for Life, and NYPD Community Affairs.



(Continue on page 34)

Momentum Across the District Bronx Westchester South

(Continued from page 33)

Hartsdale Kiwanis Distributes Gift Cards

Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale partnered with Raju Abraham, Executive Director and CEO of the Greenburgh Housing Authority, to distribute ShopRite gift cards to residents.

Throggs Neck Kiwanis's Santa Paws

Throggs Neck Kiwanis hosted a festive Santa Paws Fundraiser, welcoming pet owners to enjoy photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, holiday crafts, treats, hot cocoa, and cookies. Proceeds benefited NY Bully Crew. The event was hosted by Mariana Terranova and Krystin Marie Castro-Roldan, delighting attendees of all sizes — including the furry ones.



Morris Park Kiwanis

Morris Park Kiwanis distributed gift cards and panettone to community members in need for Thanksgiving.

Together, the efforts of the Bronx Westchester South Division reflect the power of Kiwanis service at its best—rooted in tradition, responsive to community needs, and driven by compassion. Whether through beloved annual events, collaborative partnerships, emergency relief efforts, or simple acts of kindness, these clubs continue to build stronger, more connected communities. Their work not only meets immediate needs but also fosters lasting relationships and inspires future generations to serve. The Bronx Westchester South Division remains a shining example of Kiwanis in action, living out the mission of improving the world—one community, one family, and one child at a time. 





Building a Future for Foster Children



2025-2026 GOVERNOR'S Project

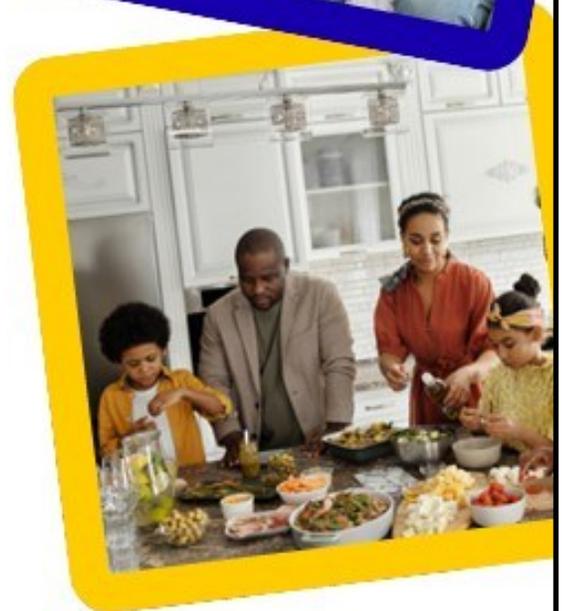
- **Blessing Bags** – provide any type of luggage (back pack, suitcase, etc) with children's items like socks, underwear, books, games, notebooks, crayons, markers, etc.

For More Information Contact:
Bob Monahan
Ph: 917-294-1783
E-Mail: bmonahan@thegryc.org



- **Sending Children to Kamp Kiwanis** during the 2026 camping season or donating to Kamp Kiwanis for this purpose.

For More Information Contact:
Susan Vail
Ph: 518-369-1080
E-Mail: svail76@gmail.com



- **Contacting local Agencies** - like your local Dept. of Social Service or community foster care program to work with them on their needs.

For More Information Contact:
Donna Zobre Baxter
Ph: 518-810-4962
E-Mail: dizzybee04@gmail.com



Empire State Kiwanian



CHALLENGERS
DEFYING THE ODDS

From your Editor:

Mid-Year Momentum Across the New York District

As we move through the heart of the Kiwanis service year under the leadership of Governor Carla, our District continues to demonstrate remarkable energy, creativity, and commitment to service children and communities across New York.

On of the greatest privileges of serving as Editor of the *Empire State Kiwanis* ("ESK") is having the opportunity to highlight the inspiring work being done by our clubs — from innovative service projects to meaningful community partnerships and member achievements. The stories you share not only celebrate Kiwanis service, but also park new ideas, motivate fellow clubs, and strengthen the impact of our District.

Submission Guidelines

Articles

- Submissions must be original content
- Please include 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where, and Why
- Focus on impact, outcomes, and community benefit
- Keep articles clear, concise, and proofread
- Avoid vague summaries—share meaningful details and results.

Photos

- Send high-resolution images (best for print and digital)
- Action shots showing members engaged in service are preferred
- Avoid posed or staged "grip-and-grin" photos unless part of a formal presentation

“

Every submission helps demonstrate the real-world impact of Kiwanis service. Whether it's a *standout fundraiser, a youth leadership initiative, or a heartfelt community project*, your experiences can inform, inspire, and energize clubs throughout the District.

”

As we look ahead to upcoming issues, I encourage District Chairs, Foundations leaders, and club members to continue submitting articles that showcase the reach and heart of Kiwanis. Your stories help tell the powerful narrative of service happening across the Empire State—and they deserve to be shared!

PUBLICATION DEADLINES – 2025–26

Oct. – Dec.	Oct. – 10 Issue
Jan – Mar.	Jan. – 10 Issue
Apc – June	APRIL 10 Issue
July – Sept.	July. – 10 Issue

Keep the Stories Coming

Every article submitted strengthens the voice and visibility of Kiwanis across the District. If you have questions or are unsure whether a story is ready for submission, please feel free to reach out. If you have questions or are unsure about a submission, feel free to reach out.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

DPLG Seth J. Blau

esk@kiwanis-ny.org

#KidsNeedKiwanis

