

Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International
Volume 2025-26, Issue 3

Apr-May-Jun 2026

Building at Work Across the New York District

Frankfort Kiwanis Celebrates 50th Annual Hot Shot & Kiwanis vs. Faculty Basketball Game

Frankfort Kiwanis marked a major milestone on March 13, 2026, hosting its 50th Annual Hot Shot and Kiwanis vs. Faculty Basketball Game at the Frankfort -Schuyler Central School gymnasium. The golden anniversary event was a resounding success, drawing more than 100 student participants and generating over \$800 in donations for the Herkimer County Food Pantry. The evening showcased the club's longstanding commitment to serving youth in the community while raising vital funds for neighbors in need. The club also gained two new members from the event!



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100+ Years Strong—and Still Innovating: Rochester Kiwanis Debuts New Fundraiser

Innovation meets tradition as the Kiwanis Club of Rochester brings a fresh new fundraiser to life this spring with its first-ever Meat Raffle, set for Sunday, May 17.

Hosted at Fairport Brewing Company, the event will open its doors at 12:30 p.m., with the first spin beginning at 1:15 p.m. Guests can look forward to a lively afternoon featuring multiple raffle rounds, opportunities to win a variety of meats and gift baskets, and a fun, social atmosphere. Attendees are even encouraged to bring a cooler for their winnings.

While the event itself is new, the club behind it carries a remarkable legacy. Chartered in 1916, the Kiwanis Club of Rochester is the fourth oldest club in Kiwanis International and proudly holds a place in Kiwanis history as the home club of the organization's first International President,

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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!



Social Health is Wealth

By DPG James Mancuso

What does it take to live a happiness. For many, happiness is flourishing life? That was the closely tied to wealth. Thoughts opening question in a compelling such as "If I could only get rich, article I recently read in New everything would be okay" or "When Philosopher magazine, written by I win the lottery, my life will finally Myisha Cherry, Assistant Professor change" are common refrains of Philosophy at the University of echoed throughout the piece. A California, author, keynote speaker, 2023 poll conducted by Empower, a financial services firm, found that six in ten Americans believe money can and of course, a philosopher.

The article explores human nature buy happiness.
as it relates to our perception of

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WHERE TO FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW:



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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®

From Our Governor

Mid Year Report from the Governor



Carla Ingram
*Governor
New York District*

As we reach the midpoint of the 2025–2026 administrative year, I am pleased to report that the district continues to demonstrate strong progress in both membership growth and service impact. Membership numbers are trending upward, reflecting the dedication of our clubs and leaders to strengthening Kiwanis throughout our communities.

A significant milestone this year has been the establishment of a new Kiwanis club, a testament to the commitment of those who champion expansion and engagement. In addition, five prospective clubs are currently in development. Each represents an opportunity to extend our reach and deepen our service to children and families of communities that do not have a Kiwanis Club in the area.

I have now completed approximately one-third of my official Governor's Visits. These visits have provided valuable insight into the exceptional work being carried out across the district. I remain committed to attending as many events and divisional meetings as possible, and I encourage clubs and divisions to continue sending invitations—particularly for remote or hybrid gatherings. Your outreach ensures that I can remain connected and supportive of your efforts. I consider it a profound honor, as Governor, to meet with members in every corner of the New York District that I would not otherwise be able to meet.

The Governor's Project, Build a Better Future for Foster Children, has been met with remarkable enthu-

siasm. Nearly every division has embraced this initiative with a level of compassion and determination that speaks to the heart and passion of Kiwanis service. Clubs have mobilized to provide Blessing bags that contain comfort and essential items, and meaningful support to children navigating the foster care system. The collective impact of these efforts has already been substantial, and I am confident that the momentum will continue throughout the remainder of the year, if not into the future.

As we look ahead, I encourage all members to sustain the energy and commitment that have defined the first half of this term. Together, we are strengthening our organization, expanding our reach, sharing the passion we have for Kiwanis and making a measurable difference in the lives of children. I am grateful for your dedication and proud of all we have accomplished thus far.



Our Governor's Project

The Governor's Project for **FOSTER CARE** has had good progress in the District Club's participation, but **DON'T STOP NOW.**

- ⇒ Blessing Bags – pack a bag for a foster child, therefore, giving them dignity when entering a foster home. Items placed in bags are hygiene, clothing, games, bedding, etc.
- ⇒ Kamp Kiwanis – Be a proud sponsor by sending a Foster Child to camp. Let them experience the camp life and discover themselves while discovering nature.
- ⇒ Social Media & Contacting Agencies – by making contact you can see what programs or help is needed. Spreading the word on social media is having others become aware of the needs of foster children.

Check out the Governor's Project Facebook page for info : [Governor's Project Page](#)



The Governor's Project Completion submission form is now available at [Governors Project](#).

Go PURPLE May 5, 2026 – National Foster Care Awareness Day

- Foster Care Awareness Day is observed on the first Tuesday of May each year. This day is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of foster parents and the importance of the Foster Care System. It is part of National Foster Care Month, which aims to raise awareness and support for children in Foster Care
- So, wear **Purple**, design your shirts, make flyers, post on social media and keep spreading awareness.

WHY IS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS SO IMPORTANT

- **We Love Kids** - National Foster Care Day is an important day to recognize the struggles of children in foster care, and the effort made by foster parents. It also draws attention to how we can improve conditions foster children find themselves in.
- **We want to help the Foster Care System** - There are various ways of helping, such as funding and donations. Awareness may also help programs that will benefit the foster children when they age out of the system.
- **We want to spread AWARENESS** - A lot of people are not aware of the struggles of the foster care system, so please share.

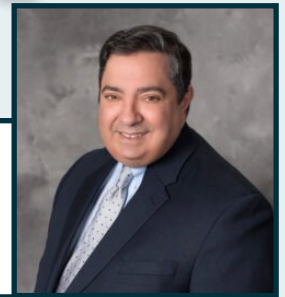
Bob Monahan - Susan Vail - Donna Zobre Baxter

From Our Governor Elect

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES WANTED – NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY –

By Martin Valk

*Governor Elect
New York District*



Imagine if we had to hang a sign like that! Guess what – in several divisions we have to do so. We are looking for past presidents to step up and take on the task of being a lieutenant governor (“LTG”) in several divisions.

I’m not about to say that being an LTG is easy – it’s not. It is time consuming. Besides planning and attending your divisional meetings, you have to visit each of the clubs in your division. I understand that some of the upstate divisions (and I mean really upstate, not some of this Westchester County is upstate nonsense) can be hours of driving between clubs. (When I was an LTG, it sometimes took me that long to visit a club, and I was negotiating Long Island rush traffic.) You are also expected to attend District Board meetings and perhaps the International Convention. Yes, it is a commitment, but when each of us joined Kiwanis, we each made a commitment to this organization. Not everyone is destined to be an LTG, but if you want to have a say on the District level on the issues currently confronting Kiwanis, step up and run for LTG. If you want to change the direction of your division, step up and run for LTG.

One of our stalwart divisions, Queens West, is currently without an LTG for next year. I hope one of the past presidents in this division will step up. Another division without an LTG for next year is

Adirondack. Surely someone from the Great White North wants to flex his or her leadership wings.

A few years ago, the Board passed an LTG term limits rule. Due to this rule, the Board is losing the services of Peg Cassidy from the Mohawk Division. She has no one to follow her. Is this the result of her legacy? If you are a past president from the Mohawk Division, please consider following her.

Several other divisions, including Susquehanna and Southwestern, are also without LTG’s. These divisions have active clubs. Without LTG’s, the clubs in these orphan divisions will begin to fail. Perhaps not next year, or the year after that, but surely and certainly. We need your help to avoid this certainty. If you wish to step up and become a leader in a division which does not have a LTG for the 2026/27 Kiwanis Year, please contact me at Valk-Land@aol.com. If you respond quickly, you can even attend LTG training in Utica, NY next month.

Candidate for Governor Elect

Kerrie Hansen



Kerrie Hansen's 15-year journey in Kiwanis reflects a deep commitment to service, leadership, and strengthening the organization from the ground up. A dedicated member of the Kiwanis Club of Glendale, she has served at every level—earning the respect of fellow

members through her steady, hands-on leadership.

Kerrie served as Distinguished Lieutenant Governor of the Queens West Division during the 2020–2021 service year, guiding clubs through a time that required adaptability and strong communication. At the club level, she is a Distinguished Past President and currently serves as Secretary, staying closely connected to the work that drives Kiwanis forward.

Her service extends across the New York District, including roles on the Finance and Grant Committees and as Conference and Convention Chair. She also serves as a Director and Past Secretary of the KPTC Foundation and as a Children's Fund Champion. Her dedication has been recognized with a Lifetime Membership from her club and honors from community leaders across Queens.

As a candidate for New York District Governor-Elect, Kerrie brings a clear and focused vision built around three core priorities:

- **Fiscal Integrity** — ensuring every dollar is managed with transparency and purpose to support the Kiwanis mission.
- **K-Family Synergy** — strengthening the connection between Kiwanis, Key Club, Circle K, and the entire Kiwanis family.

Experience you can trust.

A vision for our future.

A heart for every child.

- **Club-Centric Leadership** - empowering clubs with the tools, training, and support needed to grow and succeed.

These priorities are shaped by years of experience working directly with members and communities. Kerrie believes Kiwanis is strongest when clubs are supported, members are connected, and service is meaningful.

Beyond Kiwanis, Kerrie is a current board member and past president of the Sacred Heart of Glendale Educational Foundation and has volunteered with organizations such as Make-A-Wish and City Harvest. Professionally, she brings experience from Barclays Capital, Lehman Brothers, and Bank of America, along with a degree from St. John's University.

Kerrie and her husband, Steve—a Distinguished Past President of the Glendale Kiwanis Club—have one son, Steven, a CPA with Deloitte.

As Kiwanis continues to evolve, Kerrie Hansen offers leadership rooted in experience, guided by purpose, and focused on what matters most: strong clubs, connected members, and meaningful community impact.



The Possibility Project: Funding Miracles for \$1.92 a Week

What is the value of a possibility? In Kiwanis, we measure it by the lives we touch. Today, I am calling on every club across the New York District to join a historic movement: **The Possibility Project**.

The Kiwanis Children's Fund has launched this ambitious campaign with a singular goal: to raise \$25 million to serve 10 million children worldwide. The math is powerful: Just **\$2.25** is enough to impact the life of one child.

The Vision: Becoming an "Impact Club"

The heartbeat of this campaign is the **Impact Club**—a distinction for clubs that make a dedicated, five-year commitment to the children of the world. To achieve this status, a club commits to a per-member average of **\$100 per year for five years**.

I know what many of you are thinking: "*Lucien, our members are already stretched thin.*" I hear you. But let's look past the "*sticker shock*" and break down the psychology of how we get this done.

Strategy Spotlight: Breaking the \$100 Barrier

To move our clubs forward, we must shift our perspective from a "tax" to a "mission." Here is how we bridge that gap:

- **The "Daily Habit" Reframe:** \$100 a year sounds like a lot; **\$1.92 a week** does not. That is less than the price of a small coffee. For the cost of one Tuesday morning beverage, a member can provide life-changing support to **44 children** every single year.



UPDATE ON THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT



DPG Lucien Giancursio

*Kiwanis Children's Fund
District Co-Chair*

- **Average, Not Assessment:** This is a **Per-Member Average**, not a mandatory fee. We reach the finish line as a team. Some may give more, some less, and some of the total can come from outside your membership entirely.
- **The "30/30/40" Roadmap:** You don't have to dig into your own pockets for the full amount. We suggest a balanced approach:
 - **30%** from a dedicated community fundraiser.
 - **30%** from local business sponsorships.
 - **40%** from voluntary member donations.
- **Focus on the Solution, Not the Budget:** Don't tell your board you need \$2,000. Tell them your club has the opportunity to **save 880 children** over the next five years. It is much harder to say "no" to a child than to a spreadsheet.

Celebrating Our Early Leaders The New York Impact Clubs

Success leaves clues, and as of April 1, 2026, several clubs across our District have answered the call. Let's recognize these clubs for their leadership:

The Northern Adirondacks
Greece
Rochester
Rochester West Central
Chester
Mineola County Seat
East Meadow
Chinatown, New York City
Lewiston
Northern Niagara County
East Greenbush
Sand Lake

Miracles in Action: Recent New York Grant Stories

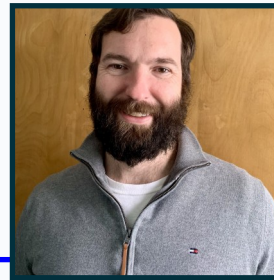
When we talk about \$1.92 a week, we aren't just talking about change—we are talking about changing lives right here in the New York District.

(Continue on page 34)



New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

**Kamp
Kiwanis®**



By Daniel Trader
*Executive Director
Kamp Kiwanis*

Spring is here and summer will arrive before we know it and it won't be long before Kamp Kiwanis will be filled with the smiles and laughter of kampers once again!

We are finalizing our staffing and preparations for another fantastic summer. Through the generosity of Kiwanians, donors, and grants we are on pace to exceed the number of kampships we have had since being closed in 2020 and 2021. Please help us prepare and be the

best steward of funds provided by letting us know how many kampers you are planning to sponsor, if you have not done so already. The sooner applications are received, the better chance we have to reach out to families regarding any questions and any missing forms to make sure drop-off and bus pick-ups run smoothly and no one misses out for not having the necessary paperwork completed.

Don't forget that part of Gov. Carla's project is



sending foster care kampers to Kamp Kiwanis, as well. We've already received many generous

kampships towards this project and are working with Director of Office of Children and Family Services, Gail Geohagen-Pratt (who you may remember from Mid-Year Conference) and her team to find foster care children to send. So if you have the funds to contribute but don't have a camper, don't let that stop you from contributing to this worthy cause.

We've also been fortunate to have many clubs recently begin donating items from our wishlist ahead of summer. We are extremely grateful for this support! You can find our wishlist online at [2026-Wishlist](#).

Finally, I would like to cordially invite all Kiwanians to join us on May 16 for our Opening Weekend to help get Kamp ready, take a tour of Kamp, usher in the new LTG's, and see this year's dedications. It always makes for an enjoyable weekend and the more, the merrier! I hope to see all of you there.





New York District Kiwanis Foundation Inc.

Kamp Kiwanis®

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



PLG Scott Maneen

*NY District Foundation
Kamp Kiwanis Grant Committee*

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*

*A*s we start our Kiwanis news we completed our Annual Meeting with a zoom program. Cohen Children's Medical Center provided an in-depth update of the safety programs they conduct throughout schools and libraries to help prevent accidents through education. They also gave us a real good picture of the hospital's growth in services.

We also elected our directors and appointed our committee members for the following year. The meeting was highlighted by the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation presenting a check in the amount of \$40,000.00. Close to 100 Kiwanians were on the zoom program and we thank them all for taking the time. We hope to schedule the same type of meeting again for Stony Brook Children's Hospital in the near future.

*A*s we continue to put together fundraising events, I must again thank my directors and committee members for their ideas and fundraising efforts.

The 'Murder Mystery' was a real success and we hope to do it again next in April staying away from the bad weather. A special thanks to all that helped Antoinette Cantone, Valerie Shapiro and Billy Scoppa. The costumes were fabulous.

A unique request was made by Raymour and Flanigan. We were asked to sponsor an Easter Party for the kids. They had the opportunity to take pictures with the



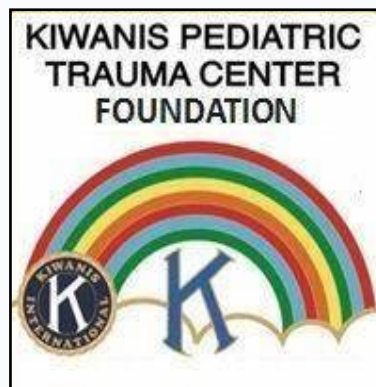
Easter Bunny and also make an easter basket. We thank the team of Linda and Gary Crozier and Bill Moseley for their participation. A donation will be made to the KPTC Foundation.

*O*ur next events are as follows:

- May 3rd, Jersey Boys – an afternoon theater event – Thank you Matt for chairing the event.
- May 12th, our fourth Annual Nine and Dine Golf Outing – contact Theresa Gaffney for information.
- June 28th, Bethpage Polo At The Park contacted us to see if we might be interested in doing a fundraiser at the park. Details to follow.

We hope to continue to let each of you know what your funding and support means to the KPTC Foundation. And we thank you for continuing your support in keeping and caring for the children and young adults in our community.

We thank you all for supporting the 'Ronald McDonald House Meals From the Heart Program' and please keep it going.



Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

It saddens me that we lost the founder of Pediatric Lyme DPG John Gridley.

For 25 years he devoted his time to the children with this terrible disease. His leadership and passion raised over a million dollars plus for grants. He always contacted the families to follow up on their progress. He made it his business to visit some of these families.

Now he is in paradise, smiling upon us as we keep his legacy alive. His legacy will continue. Currently the board of directors committed to raise money for this cause.

I'm working with the Webmaster to rebuild and make it better than before. We will have different links to go to. Some the links you will find with information on Lyme are: signs and symptoms; types of ticks; what to do if you get a Tick bite; and treatments.

Applications for a grant. Also, a link to receive tick kits. Another link how you can help. There will be listing of all board members and contact information. We also have upcoming fundraising. All this information will be coming in the next few months. Till then we need your



DPG Joe Aiello

*President
Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation*

help to continue to support the foundation.

I want to thank you everyone for your donations to the foundation in memory of John, we couldn't do this without your help. We are a family of great members. I have a special thank you to the K-Kids who fund raise to support the foundation. Their efforts are amazing. They understand what KINDNESS means.

In closing, I will gladly visit your club if available across this great NY District. If you are having a fundraiser, contact me so we can make every effort to support you. If you need information on the Brittany program or other programs.

Please don't hesitate to contact me. My information is as follows

Joseph Aiello, President
150 Magua Street
Ronkonkoma NY 11779
CELL # 516-828-6304
E-MAIL JOA9014@NYP.ORG

Thank you for continuing to support the foundation.

2026 International Convention

Program Schedule

Wednesday, June 24, 2026: Fellowship & Culture Day	
Afternoon	The Best of Asia Pacific Showcase Booths & Retail
	Kiwanis Amplify Capstone
	First-Timers Gathering
Thursday, June 25, 2026: Convention Kickoff Day	
Morning	The Best of Asia Pacific Showcase Booths & Retail
	2026 KI/Kiwanis Asia Pacific Opening Session
Lunchtime	Fellowship Lunch for all registered attendees
	Kiwanis Children's Fund Luncheon*
Afternoon	Kiwanis Asia Pacific Business Session & House of Delegates
	Educational sessions
Evening	Colors of Asia Pacific—A Night of Unity & Recognition*
Friday, June 26, 2026: Learning & Engagement Day	
Morning	The Best of Asia Pacific Showcase & Retail
	Educational sessions
	District caucuses
Lunchtime	Fellowship Lunch for all registered attendees
	Celebrate Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs Lunch*
Afternoon	Educational sessions
Evening	District Dinners (<i>on your own</i>)
Saturday, June 27, 2026: Annual Meeting Day & Closing Gala	
Morning	Kiwanis Annual Meeting
Lunchtime	On your own! (<i>Lunch not provided on Saturday</i>)
Evening	KI Gala: The Culture of the Asia Pacific*

For more Information on the programs offered at the International Convention,
go to: [KI-Convention](#).

*Ticketed Event

Candidates and Propositions

For International Pres.

(Pick one)



Hope Marks

For International Vice President

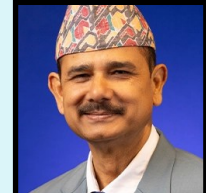
(Pick one)



Michel Fongue



Trinidad "Toto"
Gonzales



Mohan Lamsal

For Internat'l Pres-Elect

(Pick one)



Cathy Szymanski

For International Trustee (US & Pacific Canada Region)

(Pick three)



Valarie Brown-
Klingelhoefer



George
Elkins



Taka Ogata



Eric Paul



Linda
Ramsey

PROPOSITIONS

Amendment 1: Remote Voting for Kiwanis International Business

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

The KI Board does not support this amendment.

Amendment 2: Reduction of Executive Committee Members

Purpose: To adjust the size of the Executive Committee, commensurate with the size of the KI Board.

The KI Board supports this amendment.

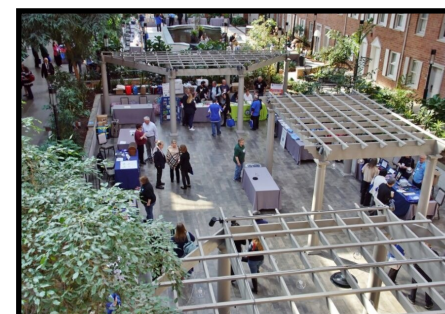
Amendment 3: Kiwanis Object #4 Change of Word "Aggressive"

Purpose: To give an accurate description in today's world what Object #4 truly means.

The KI Board does not supports this amendment.

NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Pictures courtesy of William Hoseley



NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Congratulations to the following
Club Achievement Awards 2024-25 Service Year

Single Service Award

Coral Division

Queens West Pride - Hot Cocoa with the Grinch
Baldwinville (H) - New Legacy Fire Response & Recovery
East Yonkers (H) - Children's Coat Drive

Emerald Division

Greece - Special Needs Fishing Derby
Long Beach (H) - Color Their World Through Art

Ruby Division

Chester - Toyland
Sand Lake (H) - Summerfest

Diamond Division

Glendale - Light Up Glendale
Lewiston (H) - Holiday Baskets

Citizenship/International Relations

Coral Division

Queens West Pride - Voter Registration

Emerald Division

The East Coast - Tampa Water Project
Long Beach (H) - Improving Society's Way of Life

Ruby Division

Minisink Valley - Thank You for Your Service
Ridgewood 3-2-1 (H) - Recognizing Veterans and First Responders for their Service

Diamond Division

Glendale - Our Time to Serve: Veterans BBQ
Lewiston (H) - Memorial Day Remembrance

(H) - Honorable Mention

Young Children Priority One

Coral Division

Queens West Pride - Pajama Drive & Toy Collection

Emerald Division

Lefferts-Liberty - Children's Christmas Party
Richmond County (H) - Baby Shower

Ruby Division

Kings Plaza/Canarsie - Community Baby Shower
Minisink Valley (H) - A Day of Fishing

Diamond Division

Glendale - Extra Love Baby Shower

Youth Services

Coral Division

Conklin - Playground Project
Syracuse Young Professionals (H) - Bike Safety Rodeo

Emerald Division

Mt. Vernon - College Campus Tour Project
Marilla (H) - Playground Shade Shelter

Ruby Division

Middletown - Little Free Library
Merrick (H) - School Scrabble

Diamond Division

East Meadow - Kiwanis Kids Day
Oceanside (H) - Lemonade for Lyme with K-Kids

NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Congratulations to the following
Club Achievement Awards 2024-25 Service Year

Spiritual Aims

Kiwanis One Day

Coral Division

Queens West Pride - Hungary Monk Food Pantry Support

Coral Division

Queens West Pride - Family Game Night

Emerald Division

East Rockaway - You Can Seder that Again

Emerald Division

Mount Morris - Joe Christiano Day

Rockaways (H) - Halloween Parade

Ruby Division

Ridgewood 3-2-1 - Racing Chaplaincy

Ruby Division

Massapequa - Christmas in the Cabin

Middletown (H) - Trunk or Treat

Diamond Division

Lewiston - Lewiston Christmas Walk

East Meadow (H) - Dedication of Trees

Diamond Division

East Meadow - Arbor Day

Glendale (H) - Service to Youth

Service Leadership

Coral Division

Queens West Pride - IS77 Builders Club/Loukoumi
Foundation Partnership
Rochester (H) - Bike Rodeo

Public Relations

Coral Division

Monticello - Community Connections

Emerald Division

Fordham Bronx - Joint Projects with all the Fordham
sponsored SLP Clubs
Riverdale (H) - Silent Disco for Service Leadership

Emerald Division

East Rockaway - Banner Projects
Long Beach (H) - Enhancing Visibility and Validation

Ruby Division

Howard Beach - Halloween Parade
Middletown (H) - Supporting and Adding to our SLPs

Ruby Division

North Shore - Sea Cliff Mini Mart
Chester (H) - Kiwanis Branding

Diamond Division

Oceanside - Community Winter Wonderland
East Meadow (H) - SLP Sponsorships and Achievements

Diamond Division

Glendale - Public Relations Excellence
East Meadow (H) - Public Relations Campaign

NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY

KIWANIS YEAR 1996-97

With its THEME: "TOUCH A LIFE"



PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

Here is a brief sampling of what NY District Kiwanis Clubs did thirty years ago. Clearly, it demonstrates that past is prologue, because today, three decades later, Kiwanis clubs continue to support Kamp Kiwanis, three Pediatric hospitals in New York State, and many other projects impacting the health of children and changing the lives of our Kiwanis sponsored youth.

LISC Plays Softball to Benefit Kamp Kids



Members from the 14 Kiwanis clubs that make up the Long Island South Central Division of Kiwanis International played an interdivisional softball game Friday, May 23, to raise money for Kamp Kiwanis, their 55-acre sleep-away camp located in up-state Tabor. The camp is owned and operated by the New York District Kiwanis Foundation. Disadvantaged girls and boys ages 8 - 14 sponsored by a Kiwanis club or outside agencies spend a week's stay during the summer months. The camp is an "American Camping Association" accredited camp. Kamp Kiwanis is principally aimed at providing fun and adventure; it strives to meet the needs of campers, individually or as a group.

The Kiwanians next softball game will be played

Long Island South Central Division members of Kiwanis International get together at home plate for a team photo before the game.

Photo by: John H. Meyer

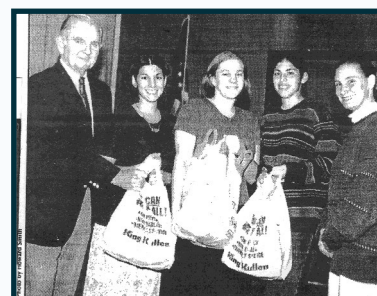
July 11 at 7 p.m. at MacLaren Field in Levittown. Members from the Brooklyn Division will make up the visiting team. According to Peter J. Mancuso, Lt. Governor of the Long Island South Central Division, the evening event is being billed as a family night. The community is encouraged to come to the game and support Kiwanis. Refreshments will be for sale or bring your own picnic basket. Kids will be allowed to pinch hit for their mom or dad who plays and run the bases with former baseball players. Call Mike Lozito at 735-3810 for further information.

LISC KIWANIANS SUPPORT KAMP KIWANIS



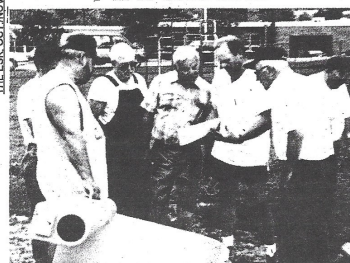
KIWANIANS "RING"
BELLS FOR ALBANY
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

VALLEY STREAM KEY CLUB HELPS THE HUNGRY



HELPING THE HUNGRY: The Valley Stream South Key Club collected food from the entire school. From left, deputy Mayor Ed Cahill, Madelyn Marino, Key Club president Kathy Jakubowski, Susan Galgano, Key Club secretary Laura Pokorny, Key Club advisor.

KIWANIANS BUILD PLAYGROUND



THE PLANNING STAGE

The Holland Kiwanis Club recently completed the largest project ever undertaken in its 45 year history, the construction of a modern state of the art playground built on the grounds of the Holland Central School District.

The project's prime mover was the Club's immediate Past President, Mark Sigeti. It took two years of intensive effort by the relatively small club, (about 20 active members) to complete. The theme, "Playground of Dreams", was used extensively during the fund raising and was featured on tee shirts sold by the Club and local merchants.

HOLLAND KIWANIS CLUB BUILDS A PLAYGROUND
For those interested, Kiwanis International now provides support for the acquisition of playground equipment
(See [KI-Playgrounds](#))

NEW YORK DISTRICT SHINES IN KIWANIS SIGNATURE PROJECT CONTEST

The New York District has reason to celebrate—and celebrate big.

In a truly remarkable achievement, two of our clubs have been named Top 10 finalists in the 2026 Kiwanis International Signature Project Contest - one in each category.

- ⇒ The Kiwanis Club of Lewiston was recognized for its long-standing and beloved Peach Festival.
- ⇒ The Kiwanis Club of Baldwinsville earned honors for its Turkey Day Race.

To have finalists in both categories is an extraordinary accomplishment—and, as noted by District leadership, may very well be a first for New York.

This recognition comes in a year of unprecedented participation and impact across Kiwanis worldwide. The 2026 contest drew a record-breaking 590 entries from 46 districts, showcasing the passion, creativity, and service-minded spirit that defines Kiwanis. Of those entries, 308 came from smaller clubs (27 or fewer members) and 282 from larger clubs, demonstrating that impactful service is happening at every level.

“We are indeed a mighty District and have MANY projects to be proud of.”

— SANDRA NAGLER
New York District Signature Project Chair

Even more impressive is the collective impact behind these projects. Across all submissions, Kiwanis clubs reported serving or positively impacting more than 1 million children, while representing an incredible 8,358 years of combined service. These numbers tell a powerful story - but it's the local stories,

PLG Sandy Nagler

*Signature Project
District Chair*



like those in our New York District, that bring that impact to life.

Closer to home, the New York District was strongly represented, submitting 43 total entries—20 in Group I and 23 in Group II. This depth of participation speaks volumes about the strength, creativity, and commitment of our clubs. As District Signature Project Chair Sandra Nagler shared, “We are indeed a mighty District and have MANY projects to be proud of.”

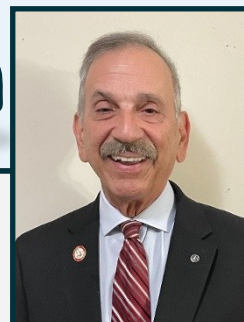
Beyond the numbers and recognition, what makes this achievement truly meaningful is what these projects represent. The Lewiston Peach Festival and Baldwinsville Turkey Day Race are more than events—they are traditions rooted in service, community engagement, and a shared commitment to improving the lives of children. They bring people together, inspire volunteerism, and create lasting impact year after year.

As we celebrate these outstanding accomplishments, we are also reminded of the broader opportunity ahead. Every Kiwanis club has a story worth telling—a project that reflects the heart of its community and the mission of Kiwanis. Whether large or small, new or long-standing, these signature projects are the foundation of our service.

Congratulations to Lewiston and Baldwinsville for this well-deserved recognition, and thank you to every club in the New York District that continues to make a difference.

Because when Kiwanis serves, communities thrive—and #KidsNeedKiwanis.

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 Counsel.

The purpose of the Empire Club is to secure long-range gifts to the NY District Kiwanis Foundation and recognize those Kiwanians and friends who believed in securing the legacy of our District Foundation for years to come. Funds could also be given upfront as well and funds would go for the general operation of the District Foundation at the direction of the Foundation Board. Kiwanians are asked to seek advice 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. His legacy donation of life insurance liquidated the Foundation's \$300,000 mortgage and established a cultural arts center named after him.

The Empire Club brochure has been revised with the expertise of Foundation Parliamentarian



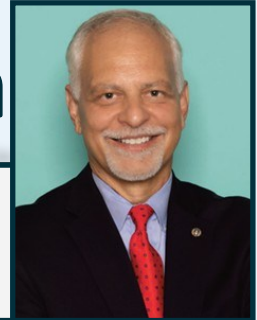
Peter Mancuso and Foundation General Counsel Jim Prout. The revised brochure is available and can be found under the District Foundation tab on the District Website [empireclub.pdf](#). We have 38 active Empire Club members, 7 deceased members and 4 of those whom fulfilled their commitment.

Commitments are on the honor system with no pressure applied whatsoever.

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.



Social Health Is Wealth



DPG James Mancuso

(Continued from page 1)

Yet the reality is that money can only do so much, and it does very little to sustain our emotional well-being. An ongoing 80-year study conducted by Harvard University revealed a powerful truth: our social connections are the greatest contributors to long-term happiness and health. As Robert Waldinger, Director of the study and Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, states: "Good relationships keep us happier and healthier. Period."

If relationships are the key to a flourishing life, the question then becomes: how do we create and sustain them?

There are many paths, but one that immediately comes to mind is being a Kiwanian.

Reflecting on the article, I thought deeply about the many relationships Kiwanis has helped me form over the years. In my opinion, we as Kiwanians enjoy more meaningful friendships



and social connections than many people experience in a lifetime. We do business with fellow Kiwanians

because we trust them. We vacation together because we genuinely enjoy one another's company. We attend wakes and services not only out of respect, but to comfort families and demonstrate how many lives were touched by their loved one.

These connections matter.

“

“Good relationships keep us happier and healthier. Period.”



— **Robert Waldinger, MD**

Director, Harvard Study of Adult Development

”

The well-known line from the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi: "It is in giving that we receive" beautifully captures this truth. Selflessness, generosity, and service to others foster spiritual growth, joy, and inner peace. This sentiment resonates deeply with who we are as Kiwanians.

The article concludes with a powerful reminder: "Money will run out. Tough times will come. But if our support system is strong, we can survive and thrive. This is the true definition of wealth."

The next time you are seeking new members, or reflecting on your own involvement in Kiwanis, I encourage you to consider both the facts and the feelings shared here. Kiwanis does more than allow us to serve others; it enables us to build lasting, high-quality relationships that lead us toward healthier, happier, and more fulfilling lives.

Legion of Merit

It's Not Just Years — It's a Legacy of Service

What does five years of Kiwanis service really mean?

- It means showing up — again and again.
- It means giving your time, your energy, and your heart to something bigger than yourself.
- And over time, it becomes something even more meaningful — a legacy.

The New York District's Legion of Merit program and Kiwanis International's Legion of Honor offer clubs a simple way to recognize members who have reached important service milestones — from 5, 10, 15, and 20 years, to 25 years and beyond. Pins and certificates are available and can be easily ordered with advance notice.

Recognitions Are About Far More Than Milestones

Legions of Merit and Honors reflect:

- Years of consistent service
- A lasting commitment to Kiwanis values
- And a belief in improving the world, one child and one community at a time



SDPLG Nancy Baxter

*Legion of Merit
District Coordinator*



When we take the time to recognize member longevity, we do more than honor individuals — we *strengthen our clubs*. These moments inspire newer members, celebrate experience, and remind us all that meaningful impact doesn't happen overnight. It happens through dedication, year after year.



As clubs across the New York District continue their important work, I encourage you to make these recognitions part of your meetings and traditions. Take the time to celebrate your members — not just for how long they've served, but for what that service represents.

Because in Kiwanis, it's never just about the years - it's about the difference those years make.

For more information or to request Legion of Merit recognitions, please contact me directly (516) 972-8011 or baxtamom9@aol.com. Details regarding Legion of Honor recognitions are available through Kiwanis International website at: [Kiwanis Legion of Honor.](#)

Certified Leadership Development

Club Leadership Education Training 2026-27

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

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



By Alison Mandel

*District Leadership
Development Coordinator*

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

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

TRAINING





DPLG Noreen Barrett

New York District, Interclub Chair

Buidling Kiwanis Connections

More than visits — it's about learning, sharing, and strengthening Kiwanis together

Why Round Robbin Matter

Round Robin is more than a program — it's about connection. When Kiwanians visit other clubs, they:

- Build relationships across their Division
- Share ideas and experiences
- Learn new approaches to service
- Strengthen the spirit of Kiwanis fellowship

Together, we become more than individual clubs — we become a stronger Kiwanis community.

What you Gain

- Fresh ideas and perspectives
- Stronger connections with fellow Kiwanians
- Renewed energy for service

Make It Meaningful

When you visit another club:

- Take time to engage and connect
- Share your club's stories
- Learn what makes each club unique
- Bring back ideas that strengthen your own club

The True Value

Recognition may come with participation — but the real reward is in the connections you build and the ideas you share.

It's not about the visit — it's about the connection.

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?

lgbarrett3@nycap.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 Kiwanis Membership Initiative has long been framed as **Build, Nurture, Retain**. But as we enter May—following club and division elections and the transition to new leadership—it may be time to rethink that order.

What if we started with what matters most?

RETAIN

This is often the most challenging - and most important - part of membership. What are you doing to keep members engaged and connected to your club? Are your meetings energizing, or do they feel like routine work sessions? Do you incorporate guest speakers, meaningful programs, or time for fellowship?

We must focus on closing the “back door” of Kiwanis. Retention is not the responsibility of just the club president or membership chair—it belongs to every member. Creating a welcoming, engaging, and purposeful environment is a team effort. When members feel valued and connected, they stay.

NURTURE

There is much to celebrate across the New York District. More than half of our clubs have added at least one new member this year, with many adding five or more. Six clubs have welcomed 10 or more new members—an outstanding achievement.

Special recognition goes to the Smithtown–St. James Club, which, in just its second year, has grown to 34 members. Congratulations also to Northport–East Northport for adding 15 new members, and to Newburgh, which leads the district with 18 new members.

At the division level, 18 of our 27 divisions are showing growth. Queens West leads the way with 45 new members, followed by Long Island South Central with 30, and both Genesee and Suffolk East with 26. While this progress is encouraging, we also recognize that five divisions have experienced membership declines—reminding us that nurturing growth requires ongoing focus and support.

BUILD

The New York District continues to prioritize building new clubs and expanding our reach. We are proud to have recently added a new club in Brooklyn, and district and divisional membership teams are actively working to establish 7–8 additional clubs this year.

Looking Ahead

The Kiwanis year is not over yet. Did your club set a membership goal? Have you reached it? If not, what can we do to help? Lieutenant Governors—have you set goals for your divisions?

For incoming club presidents and Lieutenant Governors, now is the time to think strategically: What can you do to grow your club? How will you create an environment where members want to stay—and invite others to join?

As New York District Membership Chair, I—and our entire team—are here to support you. Please don’t hesitate to reach out. Email – tcesito3@gmail.com or call / text 516-860-4457. Together, we can strengthen our clubs and grow Kiwanis across the district.

Public Relations/Branding:



**KIWANIS
IN
ACTION!**
SHORT VIDEO &
REELS CHALLENGE



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.

This 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 for any 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

Aktion Club in Action:

Service, Leadership, and Impact Across New York

Kevin Cooney

Aktion Club

Co-District Administrator



Aktion Club Week once again showcased the very best of Kiwanis service in action—highlighting inclusion, leadership, and the meaningful contributions of adults with disabilities across the New York District. As the only service club of its kind, Aktion Club empowers more than 12,000 members worldwide to lead, serve, and make a tangible difference in their communities.

Across the district, Kiwanis clubs and their Aktion Club partners marked the week with celebrations that went far beyond recognition—they told stories of impact.

The Peninsula Kiwanis Club hosted a special dinner in honor of the Anchor Aktion Club, creating an evening centered on appreciation and pride. The highlight of the event came from the members themselves, who presented the many service projects they completed throughout the year. From community outreach to hands-on service initiatives, each presentation reflected not only the scope of their work, but also the confidence, leadership, and ownership that define Aktion Club at its best. It was a powerful reminder that these clubs are not just participants in service—they are leaders of it.



Similarly, the East Meadow Kiwanis Club celebrated alongside their East Meadow Aktion Club, recognizing a year filled with



meaningful accomplishments. Members shared

highlights of their projects, including a standout Zumba fundraiser that brought both energy and purpose to the community. Their efforts resulted in \$1,000 raised for the Kiwanis Children's Fund—demonstrating that creativity, teamwork, and determination can translate directly into impactful support for children around the world.

Further north, the Aktion Club of Sullivan County demonstrated the power of grassroots fundraising and community connection.

Through the simple yet effective sale of paper hearts to family and friends, the club raised \$303 for the 98.3 WSUL

Heart-a-thon. Supported by organizations including The Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community, and The Center for Discovery—and sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge—the club exemplifies the collaborative spirit that makes Aktion Club thrive.



These celebrations and accomplishments underscore a larger truth: Aktion Club is not defined by limitations, but by possibilities. When given the opportunity, support, and platform to lead, members consistently rise to the occasion—bringing enthusiasm, creativity, and heart to everything they do.

As we reflect on Aktion Club Week, we are reminded that Kiwanis is at its strongest when it embraces inclusion and creates space for every individual to contribute.



By Alison Mandel

*Circle K
District Administrator*



Greetings from New York District Circle K!

At the recent Circle K District Convention (March 27-29), members celebrated the close of the 2025-2026 service year and the beginning of a new one—Circle K operates on an April 1 to March 31 calendar.

Governor Sofie Melledy concluded her term on a high note, chartering three new clubs: SUNY Brockport, Touro Medical College (Middletown), and Hofstra University. The district now includes 20 active clubs with 389 members, along with four additional clubs currently inactive but with plans underway for reactivation.

Looking ahead, delegates elected Helen Conde of Cornell University as Governor for the 2026-2027 service year. Helen, originally from Texas, was an active Key Club member in the Texas-Oklahoma District and brings fresh perspective and energy to New York Circle K. Joining her on the District Board are Fatema Ahmed (University at Buffalo) as Secretary, Pritish Anand (Binghamton University) as Treasurer, and Jin Tong Ye (New York University) as Editor.



While the district is currently seeking to fill four Lieutenant Governor positions, the remaining Lt. Governors have already been trained at the District Officers Training Conference and are preparing for a strong start. They will be reaching out to their Kiwanis and Key Club counterparts, with an emphasis on strengthening K-Family connections through increased collaboration and joint events.

Circle K has an exciting year ahead, with several key events planned:

- New York Speaking Conference - October 23-25, Lake George
- K-Family Weekend - November 13-15, Corning
- District Convention - March 12-14, Albany

Kiwans are strongly encouraged to attend the Speaking Conference and/or District Convention—you will be impressed by the professionalism and leadership demonstrated by these students.

Before those district events, Circle K (June 30-July 3) and Key Club (July 1-5) will participate in their International Conventions in Dallas,

Texas, at the Hotel Anatole—also the future site of the 2027 Kiwanis International Convention.

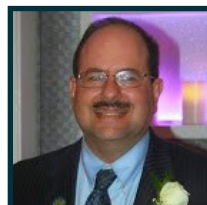
This year, Circle K members are being encouraged to connect more directly with local Kiwanis clubs—introducing themselves, supporting service projects, and assisting with fundraising efforts. In turn, we are launching an outreach initiative to Kiwanis clubs that do not currently sponsor a Circle K club, with the goal of expanding support through sponsorships or event partnerships.

Please note that Circle K International dues will increase by \$8 in October, bringing the total annual dues to \$52 per member (\$44 International, \$8 District). While there is no expectation for Kiwanis clubs to cover these costs, any support—financial or otherwise—can make a meaningful difference in a student's ability to participate.

If I can assist your club in connecting with Circle K or exploring ways to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out at 607-738-3054 or alison.mandel@nycki.org.

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis



By Kevin Kamper

*K Kids
District Administrator*

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS THROUGH SERVICE

As spring arrives and the school year winds down, it's important to recognize the incredible leadership skills fostered by participation in Kiwanis K-Kids. Leading a Kiwanis K-Kids club offers elementary students in grades K-5, the opportunity to grow into compassionate and confident leaders through service. As a club leader, your guidance is essential in helping students navigate the Kiwanis Service Leadership Model: Learn, Engage, Serve, and Lead.

Here are some examples of projects completed by our K-Kids over the past few months:

McVey K-Kids organized a Change Challenge, inviting each class to bring in loose change to support an environmental cause. Their efforts resulted in raising \$1,800. In addition, the Parkway K-Kids crafted valentines' cards for a local senior center and Meadowbrook Elementary K-Kids participated in PS I Love You Day, promoting a welcoming and supportive community where everyone feels valued.

Now in their second year, the Lee Road K-Kids have 40 members in 4th and 5th grade. They established a K-Kids shop selling stickers, bracelets, clothes pins, bookmarks, and stones—all featuring positive affirmation messages. The proceeds are intended to purchase a pediatric trauma kit for donation to the Wantagh Volunteer Fire Department. They have also made cards for children in hospitals and contributed to beautifying their school by replacing a tree and planting flowers.

In their first year, East Broadway K-Kids with 21 fourth-grade members made cards for hospitalized children, crafted dog toys for a local animal shelter, and decorated coffee

sleeves with uplifting messages for a Wantagh coffee shop owned by a former East Broadway graduate. Patrons were delighted to receive their coffee with these positive sleeves.

Northside K-Kids, also in their first year with 18 members, held a "Shoe Us the Love" shoe drive, collecting over 500 pairs of shoes. They sold Lucky Duck and Smiley Pocket Hugs for St. Patrick's Day and are planning a movie night at their school in May.

The students at Barnum Woods Elementary School organized a remarkable donation of 1,019 boxes of cereal for the East Meadow community and beyond. To

celebrate, they created a domino display with the cereal boxes that stretched through the school's longest hallways. The challenge's proceeds benefited multiple recipients: Long Island Cares received 600 boxes on February 13, with the remainder going to the Veterans Food Pantry at Nassau University Medical Center and local parishes including St. Martha's, St. Raphael's, and St. Bridgette's.

The Salamanca K-Kids in Salamanca, New York, extended their kindness beyond friends and family by writing cards and making beaded heart chains for residents of a local nursing home, reminding them they are loved and cared for.



(Continue on page 35)

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

Lake Delta/Rome Kiwanis Co-Sponsors Annual MLK Day Breakfast with Rome NAACP

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19, 2026, members of the Lake Delta/Rome Kiwanis Club once again partnered with the NAACP Rome Branch to host



the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Church Service at Zion Episcopal Church, 140 West Liberty Street, Rome. Lake Delta/

Rome Kiwanis members — with an assist from fellow Kiwanians from the New Hartford/Westmoreland and Frankfort clubs — arrived before 6:00 a.m. to prepare a hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and hash browns, ready to serve when the event began at 7:30 a.m. This spirit of community service runs deep: Lake Delta/Rome Kiwanis members recall participating in a breakfast event honoring Dr. King dating back to the 1970s.

The event featured prayers, songs, and powerful speeches focused on continuing the fight for civil rights and carrying forward Dr. King's mission of equality, justice, and love. Bishop Dr. H. Bernard Alex, senior pastor and teacher at Victory Temple Fellowship Church in Syracuse, served as this year's keynote speaker, reminding those gathered that the pursuit of fairness and liberty must be an ongoing commitment. The breakfast also emphasized



strengthening the unity between law enforcement and the broader community. Among the local dignitaries in attendance were New York State Senator Joseph Griffo, Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol, Rome Mayor Jeffrey Lanigan and other community leaders who joined Kiwanians, scouts, veterans, and neighbors in honoring Dr. King's enduring legacy.

Rochester Kiwanis Meat Raffle (continued from p. 1)

George F. Hixson. That legacy of leadership and service continues today—now paired with a willingness to try new and creative approaches to fundraising and community engagement.

As a first-time fundraiser, the Meat Raffle has already generated excitement among members and the community alike. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$10, and participants are encouraged to bring dollar bills to play each round. Tickets can be purchased at [Meat Raffle FUNdraiser to benefit Kamp Kiwanis](#).

Proceeds from the event will benefit Kamp Kiwanis and other local service

initiatives, reinforcing the club's longstanding commitment to supporting children and families in the Rochester area. Light snacks and a cash bar will also be available, adding to the welcoming and festive environment.

For a club with more than a century of service, this event is a perfect example of how Kiwanis continues to evolve—honoring its history while embracing new ideas to strengthen its impact.

Sometimes, even the most established clubs find new ways to make a difference.



MEAT raffle

@ Fairport Brewing Company
1044 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14607
Doors Open at 12:30pm - 1st Spin at 1:15pm

-benefits Kamp Kiwanis & other community service projects-

**Pre-Sale
Tickets
\$10***

We will provide light snacks. There will be a Cash Bar, including a Full Bar and a wide selection of NA beverages.

**Don't forget your \$1s
to play each round**

NO Outside food or drink of any kind!

SUN • May • 17

bring a cooler for
your winnings



Scan me

gift baskets &
raffles available



***Online Tix Purchase (recommended):**
www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/meat-raffle-11
Contact Heather for Hotel Discount Code & more info:
rochesternykiwanis@gmail.com or 706.331.1022

Suffolk East Kiwanis Clubs

By Lt. Gov. Alesia Olsen

Suffolk East continues with long standing traditions while adding new exciting events and service projects.!

East Hampton Kiwanis

Starting with our furthest Kiwanis Club of East Hampton who will be hosting a Kiwanis Trivia Social Night on April 18th. Most recently a well-deserved member was honored, Allen Gregg, for his service to the club and community.



Southampton Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Southampton held its 54th Annual Police Officer of the Year award, honoring all different



forms of service-related departments for the east end. The club sure does know how to put on a snazzy party that honored those who protect and serve!

Greater Westhampton Kiwanis

Kiwanis of Greater Westhampton member Christine Lamprecht organized a donation to local pantries. Filling shelves and stomachs of the Eastend. Nice job!

Patchogue Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Patchogue recently funded the "Shark Tank" student entrepreneurs' competition at the Patchogue-Medford Sd. Allowing students to show off their talents and skills as upcoming unique business thinkers. They are also preparing for their upcoming Bayfest fundraiser May 30th .

Kiwanis Club of Smithtown-St. James

The Kiwanis Club of Smithtown-St. James, our fastest growing club, marched in the St. James St. Patrick's Day Parade. With them they had their: K-Kids,

Builders Club, potential Key Club members, Stony Brook Circle K members and Club members marching -all showing a sea of blue and white Banners. They will be hosting their first Boozy Bingo night on May 7 th at Bull Smith's Tavern Smithtown.

Kiwanis club of the Islips-Bayshore

Both the Kiwanis Club of the Islips-Bayshore and Southampton hosted Inter-clubs recently. In addition, the East Islip Key Club President updated them on events while the Sayville Club visited. The Isip's-Bayshore has a new place for their upcoming car show that is sure be a hit -April 19 th Brightwaters at Mamma Santina Pizza.



Kiwanis Club of Sayville

Kiwanis Club of Sayville has been busy planning multiple events. Jersey Boys on May 16th, at the CM Performing Arts, Oakdale, their annual Pancake Breakfast on April 19th, and they just finished their Comedy Club fundraiser for student scholarships.

Suffolk East Division

Suffolk East Division continues to focus on strengthening our unity. Members participated in Mid-Winter and KPTC Murder Mystery. A Suffolk East K-Family Day event at the LI Ducks on June 7th to support various division wide community goals. We



are also working closely with Long Island South Central, modeling working together to increase awareness and reach of the Kiwanis vision.

GLENS FALLS KIWANIS RAISES \$14,000 FOR BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF THE SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS

On Sunday, March 15th members of the Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls joined teams from local businesses and service clubs at King Pin Alleys in South Glens Falls to support Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks at their annual Bowling for Kids Sake Fundraiser.

Twenty Kiwanians (the largest team ever) took to the lanes, raising \$14,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters. This is the highest amount raised by the club! The team out-raised their rival, Rotary,

and took home Service Club pin. Since 2010, Glens Falls Kiwanis has raised over \$110,000!

Cheering them on were Governor Carla, club President Mike Bushman, Immediate Past President Jerrod Ogden and Lieutenant Governor Peg Cassidy.



Frankfort Kiwanis

(Continued from page 1)

The fun-filled night featured age-appropriate competitions for students at every level. Elementary school students took part in the classic Hot Shot contest, testing their skills by shooting from multiple locations around the court. Middle and high school students competed in a Three-Point Shot Contest, putting their long-range accuracy to the test. The shooting contests gave way to the Kiwanis vs. Faculty basketball game, a crowd-pleasing matchup that pits club members against school staff in a spirited battle on the hardwood. The evening culminated with a Juniors vs. Seniors basketball game, sending the crowd home on a high note. It was a memorable evening that brought the entire community together for a wonderful cause, and a fitting way to celebrate 50 years of this cherished Frankfort Kiwanis tradition!

The Possibility Project (continued from page 9)

1. Compassion in Crisis: Penfield-Perinton Townships the Kiwanis Club of Penfield-Perinton Townships recognized that a psychiatric emergency unit is often an anxiety-inducing space for children. By partnering with their local children's hospital and utilizing a Children's Fund grant, the club transformed the pediatric emergency program with sensory equipment, white noise machines, and interactive art. This project will impact up to **1,000 children** every year during their most vulnerable moments.

2. Inclusive Play: Canandaigua's "Dream Big" The **Motion Junction** Playground in Canandaigua, the local Kiwanis club helped lead a massive community effort to build an all-inclusive playground—the first Universally Designed certified outdoor space in the US. Supported by the Kiwanis Children's Fund, this space features ramped structures, zip-lines, and sensory play centers, ensuring that **180,000 children** of all abilities have a place to belong.

The Empire State Challenge

The New York District has always been a leader in service. By becoming an Impact Club, we ensure that the Children's Fund can continue providing the very grants—like the vital Microgrants—that our own local NY projects rely on.

I challenge every Club President to put the **Possibility Project** on your next board agenda. Don't look at the \$100; look at the 10 million children waiting for us to act. Let's show the world what "Empire State Service" truly looks like from the New York District of Kiwanis!

Together, we aren't just dreaming of possibilities—we are funding them.



300 Moms, One Mission: Healthier Beginnings in Canarsie

The Kings Plaza Canarsie Kiwanis 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 work-

shops, 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 CB18 and the Brooklyn Borough President.



The North Shore Kiwanis Family Joins Hands at St. Christophers

It was a beautiful day in the Sea Cliff neighbor where the North Shore Kiwanis Club and the Key Club joined hands on April 4 th at St Christophers for their annual Easter Basket Give – A-Way. 63 baskets were created by members of each club putting smiles galore at St Christopher when they were delivered to the children. A special guest was the Easter Bunny



KKids - Building Tomorrow's Leaders

(continued from page 31)

Bowling Green Elementary School K-Kids hosted the Richard Santer Memorial Caroling for the New York District Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center. Through combined efforts with the Builders Club and Key Club, they raised \$900 for KPTC.

The Smithtown K-Kids showcased their creativity by painting colorful rocks to support Stony Brook University Circle K. These artistic creations help spread joy and positivity across campus for both students and visitors.



The Otisville Kiwanis K-Kids, who collected more than 130 items for the Carlucci Home, an assisted living community in Port Jervis helping adults with activities of daily living, as well as memory care and any medical needs they may have. Each resident received a personalized, decorated gift

bag filled with warm wishes from the K-Kids containing two puzzle books, soup and fuzzy socks.



During the remainder of the school year, I look forward to seeing all the community beautification projects that are being organized as part of the Kiwanis Global initiative "make your community beautiful" by cleaning up a space, improving a space or creating a new space.

Thank you to those who have sent me project descriptions. Please continue to send project ideas that I can share with others by emailing me at knkamper@gmail.com. Also feel free to contact me if you are interested in starting a new Kiwanis K Kids club or need any assistance. Thank you to all our teachers, parents, advisors and students for all the great work you do.



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:

Sustaining Momentum Across the New York District

As we move into the second half of the Kiwanis service year, one thing is clear - momentum is building across the New York District. Under Governor Carla's leadership, clubs continue to deliver meaningful service, strengthen communities, and create lasting impact for children. Now is the time to capture and share those stories.

These newsletters are an opportunity to highlight the energy and innovation happening right now in your clubs and divisions. Whether it's a standout service project, a creative fundraiser, a new partnership, or a member success story—your experiences deserve to be shared. These stories don't just celebrate accomplishments; they inspire ideas, strengthen connections, and remind us all why Kiwanis matters.

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

“

Let's finish the Kiwanis year strong—make sure your story is part of it.

”

As Editor of the *Empire State Kiwanian*, I encourage you to keep the submissions coming. The strongest issues are built on a wide range of voices from across the district.

Looking Ahead

With one more issue remaining after this, now is the time to make sure your story is told. Have you highlighted your signature projects? Recognized your members? Showcased the impact of your service projects?

Every submission helps demonstrate the real-world impact of Kiwanis service across our district. Your stories inform, inspire, and energize others—and they deserve to be seen.

Let's finish the year strong!

- The Next Deadline is June 10th!

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

