

Empire State Kiwanian



Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International
Volume 2025-26, Issue 4

Jul--Aug-Sep 2026

A Heartfelt Farewell from Your 2025-26 New York District Governor

As my term as Governor of the New York District Kiwanis ends, I find myself reflecting on an incredible year filled with service, compassion, leadership, passion and hope. Most of all, I am overwhelmed with gratitude.

To every club member, officer, lieutenant governor, district leader, advisor, sponsor, family member, and volunteer who dedicated their time, talents, hearts and passion to serving others this year—thank you. Your unwavering support and commitment made this one of the most impactful years I have ever experienced.

Together, we demonstrated the true power of Kiwanis. We showed that when people come together with a common purpose—to improve the lives of children and strengthen communities — remarkable things happen.

This year, one of our most meaningful initiatives was our effort to Build a Better Future for our Foster Children through the distribution of more than 1,000 Blessing Bags across the district and 1,000 more blessing bags to hand out at our district convention. Thanks to the leadership, support and dedication of Bob Monahan and the many volunteers who assembled, transported, and distributed these bags, countless foster (Continue on page 5)

Celebrating 90 Years and 64 Years of Service

Past Governor Bob Calabrese will celebrate his 90th birthday on August 10, 2026. Just one month later, on September 13, he will commemorate an equally remarkable milestone—64 years of continuous membership in Kiwanis.

Bob is a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Penfield-Perinton, which was organized on September 13, 1962. Throughout more than six decades of dedicated service, he has held numerous leadership positions, including Club President (1975–76), Lieutenant Governor (1981–82), and New York District Governor (1985–86), while also serving in a variety of District and Kiwanis International leadership roles.



(Continue on page 29)

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!



Taking the Next Step

One Person's Thoughts on Leadership Roles

By Lt. Gov. Dr. Alesia Olsen, Suffolk East

Anyone who knows me knows that I am always talking about our amazing Kiwanis members and the incredible work they do in our communities. Since this is the final ESK of the year, I thought I would change things up and share some thoughts on leadership in Kiwanis.

When I first became President of my local club, and later when I accepted the role of Lieutenant Governor, I

wondered if I would be able to meet the expectations of the position. Like many people considering a leadership role, I questioned whether I was ready.

Before accepting each position, I sought advice from trusted Kiwanis leaders who had served before me. I listened carefully, asked questions, and developed a plan. I met with my board to discuss goals, gather ideas, and determine what we wanted to accom-

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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)



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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 Joe Aiello	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	



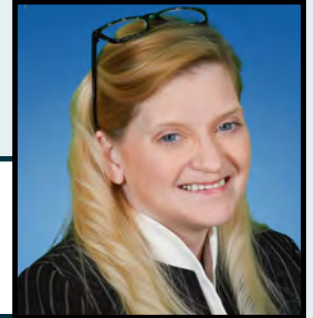
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From Our Governor

A Heartfelt Farewell

Carla Ingram

*Governor
New York District*



children will receive essential items along with a reminder that their community cares about them, giving them just a little hope that their lives can be better.

We also strengthened our commitment to one of society's most vulnerable populations—children in foster care. Through new partnerships and connections with foster care organizations throughout New York, we expanded awareness and support for children who need encouragement, stability, and opportunities to simply be kids and most importantly, giving them hope.

I am profoundly grateful to every Kiwanian who took the time to thank me for this project. Many shared personal connections to foster care, saying things like, "I know a foster child," "I was a foster child," or "I have relatives who are foster parents." Hearing those stories and learning how much this project meant to them was incredibly rewarding. It affirmed that I had chosen a

project with real purpose and impact, making the experience even more meaningful to me.

As a result of those efforts, we are proud to be

sending more than 50 foster children to Kamp Kiwanis this year, providing them with experiences, friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime. For many of these children, camp is more than just a summer experience—it provides hope, a sense of belonging, and an opportunity to dream bigger about their future.

Our district has also experienced tremendous growth. At a time when many service organizations face challenges in attracting new members, the New York District has achieved membership growth of more than 200 members. That growth embodies far more than numbers.

It reflects new ideas, new energy, new leaders, and hundreds of additional hands ready to serve children and communities across our district.

While we should take pride in all that we have accomplished together this year, there is still much work ahead of us.

As I pass the torch to our next Governor, Marty Valk, I challenge every Kiwanian to continue making Kindness Matter. Continue reaching out to those who feel forgotten. Continue investing in children who need champions in their corner. Continue building partnerships that create lasting change.

Most importantly, continue building a better future for foster children throughout New York. Every child deserves the opportunity to feel safe, valued, supported, and loved. The work we have begun must continue to grow, and I know the dedicated members of the New York District are more than ready to answer that call.

Kiwanis has always been about service with heart. It has always been about seeing a need and stepping forward. And it has always been about believing that together, we can make a difference.

Serving as your Governor has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Thank you for your trust, your friendship, your encouragement, and your service. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together, and I have never been more optimistic about the future of our great New York District Kiwanis.

As I say goodbye to this role, I do so with gratitude and complete confidence that the best is yet to come.

On Behalf of the Challengers 2025-2026 Board,

I would like to take this opportunity to say...

"Thank You!"



From Our Governor Elect

WHY DO WE NEED A DUES INCREASE?

By Martin Valk

*Governor Elect
New York District*



At the House of Delegates at next month's District Convention, a bylaws amendment will be introduced to increase dues in the sum of \$2.40 per member for the 2026-27 Kiwanis year, followed by 3 consecutive annual dues increases of \$1.20 per member, commencing with the 2027-28 Kiwanis year. This equates to a first year increase of 20 cents per month, and an average increase over the next 4 years of 35 cents per month. (Even a bottle of water costs more!) While these sums are modest, the question remains: why do we need a dues increase?

To answer this question, allow me to relay some Kiwanis dues background. Our current district dues are \$24.00 per year per member. This sum has not increased in over 25 years. The average annual dues for the Districts within the United States of America is currently \$38.38. New York has the second lowest annual District dues in this country. (The lowest on the list is KY-TN, at \$20.00 per year.) 24 of the 27 Districts are \$30.00 or more per annum; 15 Districts are \$40 or more per annum; 2 Districts are over \$50.00 per annum: California/Nevada/Hawaii and Carolina.

Prices have increased dramatically over the past 25 years. How does that affect the District? The District's costs for meeting space, meals and convention necessities have increased over time. The District's reimbursements for per diems and transportation expenses for Board members have increased, so that the District can encourage the best New York leaders possible to serve in leadership positions. Serving on the Board should not be limited to the wealthy. The District has also bought equipment to

reduce media and A/V fees the hotels charge us. The District has also created a new website.

The District also has goals which, unfortunately, cost additional funds. I want to reinstitute the Key Leader project. The District needs to support new club building efforts. The District has also created new Assistant Secretary and Assistant Webmaster positions. The Kiwanians who hold these new positions are entitled to receive certain reimbursements for their efforts.

Unfortunately, as the total District membership decreases, we have to stretch our District dues income further and further to pay for all of these expenses. Increasing dues will help, but increasing membership will help even more!

While the District currently has a surplus, this should not be used for routine annual expenses. If we deplete the rainy day fund for annual expenses, we will soon expend our entire savings. The surplus should only be used for one-time only expenses or emergency expenses.

I hope that you will consider all of these factors when voting on the dues increase.

Tara and I look forward to joining you in Corning next month. We are looking forward to serving you as the next Governor and First Lady. We are truly looking forward to being the face of the District for the next Kiwanis year. If you are interested in pursuing a leadership role, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Candidate for Governor Elect Kerrie Hansen



There is something truly special about gathering together as Kiwanians, and this year's District Convention in beautiful Corning, New

York will be no exception. I want to warmly encourage every member to join us — to experience the energy, the fellowship, and the joy that comes from being surrounded by people who share our passion for service.

Corning is a charming town with so much to offer, and the convention itself will be filled with festivities, learning, and connection. Come have your voice heard. Participate in workshops. Mingle with members from across the district. Engage in the conversations that shape our future.

Experience you can trust.

A vision for our future.

A heart for every child.

If you've never attended a convention before, please consider making this your first. Bring a friend or two — conventions are always better when shared. I personally look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones. It's one of my favorite parts of being a Kiwanian.

Let's take this time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the Kiwanis spirit together. The vibe is always welcoming, uplifting, and full of pride. I hope to see you there as we shine together in service and fellowship.

THANKS.

The world needs
more of that.



International Convention

Business Meeting Recap Election Results

International President

Hope Markes



International President

Cathy Szymanski



International Vice President

Trinidad "Toto" Gonzales



International Trustee (US & Pacific Canada Region)



Valarie Brown-
Klingelhofer



Taka Ogata



Linda Ramsey

Votes on Proposed Amendments

Amendment 1: Remote Voting for Kiwanis International Business

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

Amendment 2: Reduction of Executive Committee Members

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

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

Purpose: To give a accurate description in today's world

2026 District Convention Election & House of Delegates

New York District' Convention is scheduled on August 6-9, 2026, in Corning, NY. In addition to a variety of workshops, the 2025-26 District Board will have its final Board meeting, and the House of Delegates will meet to elect the District Governor and Governor-Elect for the 2026-27 year., as well as vote on three proposed amendments to the District's Bylaws.^

Candidate for Governor



Martin Valk

Kiwanis Club of Merrick
Long Island South Central Division

Candidate for Governor Elect



Kerrie Hansen

Kiwanis Club of Glendale
Queens West Division

Proposal Amendments to District Bylaws^

The following proposed bylaw amendments will be voted on at the House of Delegates on Aug. 9:

Amendment 1 - Dues Increase [*strike through is old language, bold is new*]

Article 10

Section 1. Each club shall pay dues to the district for each active club member in the amount of ~~\$24.00~~ **\$26.40**. Dues shall be based on each club's annual membership report to Kiwanis International as of September 30 of each year and shall be due annually on October 1 and payable by November 30. **This amount shall increase annually by the amount of \$1.20 for 3 consecutive years commencing October 1, 2027.**

Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Merrick

^ For more information, go to: [Proposed Amendments NY DCON 2026](#)

(Continued on page 10)

2026 District Convention

Program Schedule*

Thursday, August 6, 2026	
1-5:00pm	2025-26 Board Meeting
2-6:00pm	Registration, Credentials, Exhibits
7:30-9pm	2024-25 Board Dinner (by invitation only)
7:00pm	Past Governors' Dinner (by invitation only)
Friday, August 7, 2026	
7:30- 9 a.m.	Past Governors Breakfast & Council**
8:30-5 p.m.	Registration, Credentials, Exhibits
9-5:00 p.m.	Baskets Raffles and Kiwanis Store
11 a.m. -12:30 p.m.	250th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon**
1-4:00 p.m.	District Foundation Annual Meeting & Elections
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Past Governors' Boards Reunion Dinners
8-10:00 p.m.	Opening Session
10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms

* Subject to Change **Ticketed Event

Proposal Amendments to District Bylaws[^]

(Continued from page 9)

Amendment 2 - Transparency on District Finances

Article 4 *[Bold is new proposed language]*

Section 9. Within thirty (30) days after any District Board meeting, the Executive Director shall provide a draft of the meeting minutes or a summary of the actions taken to Kiwanis International, and a copy shall be made available to clubs in the district. The district shall provide a copy of the official minutes of each board meeting to Kiwanis International within thirty (30) days after approval by the District Board. **The District Treasurer shall make the Income and Expenses Statement (Profit and Loss Statement) and Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position) available to the clubs in the District within 30 days of a District Board Meeting and within 30 days of the end of the Kiwanis year. After the approval of the annual audit by the Board of Directors, the Audit shall also be made available to clubs in the District within 30 days of said approval.**

Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of All Island.

[^]For more information, go to: [Proposed Amendments NY DCON 2026](#)

(Continued on page 11)

2026 District Convention

Program Schedule*

Saturday, August 8, 2026	
7:30 –9:00 a.m.	Foundations Recognition Breakfast**
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Registration, Credentials, Exhibits
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Baskets
9 a.m.– 11:50 a.m.	Forums
10:00 - 10:50 a.m.	Past Lt. Governor's Council
12 - 12:30 p.m.	Gov. Elect Candidates' Q & A
1 - 2:15 p.m.	Division Caucuses
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	House of Delegates
6 - 7:00 p.m.	Gala Governor's Reception (with Dinner Ticket)
7:00 p.m.	Governor's Celebration Dinner**
10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Rooms
Sunday, August 9, 2026	
8 - 9:30 a.m.	Memorial Breakfast**
10-11:30 a.m.	Installation of Officers
12 - 2:00 p.m.	2026-27 Board Luncheon (Incoming Board)

* Subject to Change **Ticketed Event

Proposal Amendments to District Bylaws[^]

(Continued from page 10)

Proposed Amendment 3 - Creation of the Position of Vice Governor

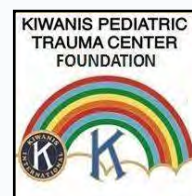
This amendment will create the position of Vice Governor as a member of the NY District Board effective October 1, 2027.

This proposed Amendment inserts the position of Vice Governor into Article 3, Sections 1 & 2, Article 4, Section 1; Article 7, Section 3(C); inserts duties and responsibilities into Article 4, Section 7; and states that the Vice Governor shall be the sole candidate for the office of Governor Elect into Article 7, Section 3(A).

Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of All Island.

[^]For more information, go to: [Proposed Amendments NY DCON 2026](#)

KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTER FOUNDATION (LONG ISLAND)



DPG Joe Corace

*President
KPTC Foundation*

As we continue to support the two Level One Pediatric Trauma Centers, Stony Brook and Cohens, under our Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation, in the past few months we've touched on it all. Fundraising, a donation, our equipment being used for distracted driving and bicycle safety.

Cohens Children's Hospital has also made a commitment in planning to do programs for summer sessions for kids. Several Kiwanis Clubs have donated Pediatric Trauma Kits.

We continued to do several different fundraisers. Jersey Boys and our Annual Nine and Dine were great successes.

We were then contacted to do two new fundraisers: Cosmos soccer and Polo at Bethpage Park. They both worked out well.

We were invited to a Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Stony Brook Pediatric Emergency Department Expansion and were singled out as one of the groups that made it possible.

Last but not least, we continued our support of Ronald McDonald House. We also were able to donate \$20,000 to Stony Brook

thanks to the efforts of our board and the support of our Kiwanis Members and Clubs in the downstate area Divisions.

Going forward we have our Annual Ducks baseball game and Night at the Races.

Our KPTC year of planning ends with our 30th Black and White Ball. This year we are honoring America and its 250th anniversary. We also will be honoring our Veterans. So please plan on joining us to make this Ball a special event.

In closing we welcome any Kiwanis Clubs or Divisions to invite us to do a KPTC Program and learn what we are all about.



Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation



A Summer Reminder from the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

DPG Joe Aiello

President

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors—whether you're spending time at the beach, relaxing by the pool, hosting barbecues, or taking family vacations. It's also the season when ticks are most active, making it especially important to take simple precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people seek medical care for tick bites, and many are diagnosed with Lyme disease or other tick-borne illnesses. As you enjoy outdoor activities this summer, please remember to check yourself, your family, and your pets after spending time in grassy or wooded areas.

Be sure to check:

- Your scalp and hairline
- Behind your neck and ears
- Under your arms
- Your navel
- Between your toes
- Behind your knees and along your legs

Don't forget to check your dogs and cats as well, as they can also bring ticks into your home.

The Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation continues its commitment to education and prevention. If your club would like complimentary tick removal kits or educational materials, please contact us. We are happy to provide these resources to help promote Lyme disease awareness within your community.

The Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to the many Kiwanis clubs that continue to support the Foundation through Brittney's Bracelets and our other fundraising initiatives. Your generosity enables us to continue our mission of education, awareness, and support.

A special thank you goes to our K-Kids clubs for their outstanding support of the Foundation. Their kindness, compassion, and commitment to helping others truly embody the Kiwanis spirit. I look forward to visiting many of these clubs when school resumes

this fall to thank them personally for their efforts.

As we continue to expand our outreach, the Foundation will also be launching a new Facebook presence this fall to provide additional educational resources, updates, and information about Lyme disease prevention.

On behalf of the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. If your club has an upcoming event where the Foundation can participate or provide educational materials, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Joseph Aiello

President

Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation

150 Magua Street

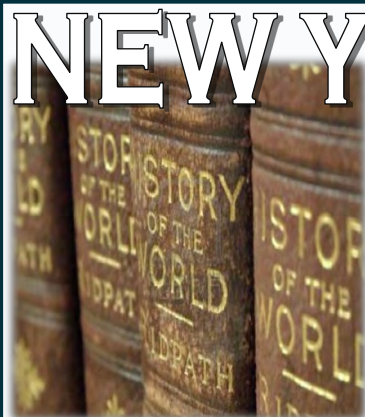
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Cell: (516) 828-6304

Email: JOA9014@NYP.ORG

Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and its mission.

NEW YORK DISTRICT HISTORY



KIWANIS IN NEW YORK CELEBRATES A MILESTONE: 2500 SERVICE YEARS

PIP Thomas DeJulio
District Historian

Over the past 250 years in America, SERVICE has been a self-evident truth that guided our nation. Selflessness was manifested by the actions of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and throughout the following centuries, brave soldiers served and made sacrifices to preserve and protect freedom's aspirations.

After its founding in 1915, Kiwanis members branded their organization by addressing unmet needs in their local communities to benefit children and poverty-stricken neighbors. The New York District is extremely proud of its oldest clubs chartered between 1916 and 1926. Today, these clubs remain actively engaged in the self-evident truth of service.

Charter Year	Clubs/Divisions		Age
1916.....	ROCHESTER-Genesee LOCKPORT-Niagara Frontier North BUFFALO-Niagara Frontier South	ALBANY-Capital UTICA-Central TROY-Van Rensselaer	110 YEARS
1918.....	NIAGARA FALLS-Niagara Frontier North		108 YEARS
1919.....	ELMIRA-Chemung TONAWANDAS (THE)-Niagara Frontier No.	SCHENECTADY-Mohawk	107 YEARS
1920.....	JAMESTOWN-Southwestern	POUGHKEEPSIE-Hudson River	106 YEARS
1921.....	KINGSTON-Hudson River ROME-Central	NEWBURGH-Hudson River OSWEGO-Ontario	105 YEARS
1922.....	GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN-Mohawk	MIDDLETOWN-Hudson River West	104 YEARS
1923.....	BATAVIA-Genesee	WARSAW-Genesee	103 YEARS
1924.....	STATEN ISLAND-Metropolitan		102 YEARS
1925.....	GLENS FALLS-Mohawk OWEGO-Susquehanna	EAST AURORA-Niagara Frontier South BALDWINSVILLE-Ontario	101 YEAR
1926.....	BROCKPORT-Genesee	MOUNT VERNON NY-Brx Westchester So.	100 YEARS



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

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!

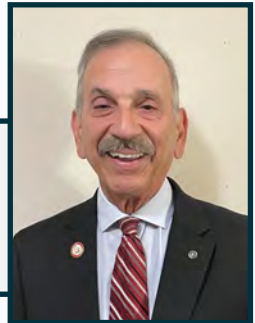
Clubs will be recognized with an appropriate certificate on a monthly basis. when their membership reaches 15, 20, or 25. The certificates will be issued to the Club President and the Division Lt Governor will receive a copy of the certificate that the club has earned.

- 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.

By DPG Joseph C. Eppolito

District Chair

Charter I, II, III, IV Program



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

Finally, for those clubs that are able to maintain those respective membership numbers through September 30, 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.

Baldwinsville Kiwanis Turkey Day Race Wins Signature Project Gold



The Kiwanis Club of Baldwinsville earned the Group One Gold Award in the 2026 Kiwanis International Signature Project Contest for its Annual Turkey Day Race. Selected from a record 590 entries from Kiwanis clubs worldwide, the race was recognized during the Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines, as one of Kiwanis' outstanding community service projects.

Now in its 57th year, the Turkey Day Race has become a Thanksgiving tradition, attracting approximately 1,800 runners while bringing together local government, schools, businesses, first responders, volunteers, and sponsors in a true community effort. The event returns more than \$50,000 annually to the community through scholarships, youth programs, charitable organizations, and a holiday food drive. The event has also introduced 19 new members to Kiwanis, demonstrating how one signature project can strengthen both a community and the club that serves it.

By the Numbers

2026 Gold Award

Kiwanis Signature Project Contest

57

Years of Racing Tradition

1,800

Runners

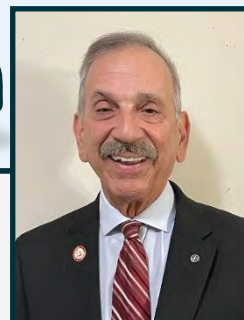
\$50,000 +

Returned Annually

19

New Kiwanis Club Members

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.

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.



Taking the Next Step

One
Person's
Thoughts

(Continued from page 1)

plish together. Looking back, those conversations were invaluable, and I'd like to share what I learned with anyone considering stepping into leadership.

What Does a Lieutenant Governor Do?

The responsibilities are very manageable with planning and teamwork. As Lieutenant Governor, you attend four in-person Board meetings with the Governor throughout the year, typically during conferences and conventions. The Governor may also schedule virtual meetings to keep everyone informed and connected. These meetings help ensure that divisions and clubs are working together to achieve district goals.

You also visit each club, attending at least one club meeting and one board meeting, serving as a resource, answering questions, encouraging members, and helping clubs stay current with their reports and goals.

Dream Big...Then Build a Plan

I'll admit it, I set some ambitious goals this year. Many of those goals went beyond the basic responsibilities because I saw opportunities within our division to grow, strengthen clubs, and better support our members.

I began by asking myself three simple questions:

- What does our division need?
- What do I hope we can accomplish?
- What do our clubs want?

From there, I created a plan with my leadership team, presented it to several past Lieutenant Governors, listened to their advice, and officially began implementing it in August as my term started.

Build an Amazing Team

No leader succeeds alone.

Surround yourself with dedicated people who share your vision. You'll need an outstanding Secretary,

Treasurer, Public Relations Chair, Membership Chair, and whatever additional positions your Governor recommends.

I have been incredibly fortunate to work alongside an amazing team. Quite simply, we would not have achieved our goals without each person's talents, commitment, and willingness to serve.

The Greatest Reward

The responsibilities are important, but the fulfillment is what makes leadership truly special.

Whether you serve as Club President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Lieutenant Governor, you have the privilege of making a lasting difference.

Leadership has allowed me to:

- Meet incredible people.
- Mentor, encourage, and support fellow Kiwanians.
- Attend meaningful community events.
- Celebrate the success of our clubs.
- Take A LOT of pictures!
- Most importantly, remind our members that every service project, fundraiser, and act of kindness is making our communities stronger.

There is no greater reward than watching others succeed because you encouraged them to take that next step.

Great Leaders Create More Leaders

One lesson stands above all the others:

Great leaders inspire others to lead.

If one person holds a leadership position indefinitely, we miss opportunities to develop new leaders. We've all heard comments like:

"Why replace them? They're doing a great job."

(Continued on page 29)

Certified Leadership Development

Club Leadership Education Training 2026-27

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 training. Although this is typically called President & Secretary training it is open to all officers in your club. The President – Secretary-Treasurer training is 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. The Kiwanis International online training will be available in August but that should be used if you are not able to attend an in-person session as that is a high-level overview due to the number of people on the call and there is no New York specific information.

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



By Alison Mandel

*District Leadership
Development Coordinator*

signage so people 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 2026-2027 service year. These webinars are open to all members and members should be encouraged to sign up for 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.



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

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

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 New York District Conference at the hour of 10:00 am on Saturday the 8th of August, 2026 at the Radisson, 125 Denison Parkway East, Corning, New York.

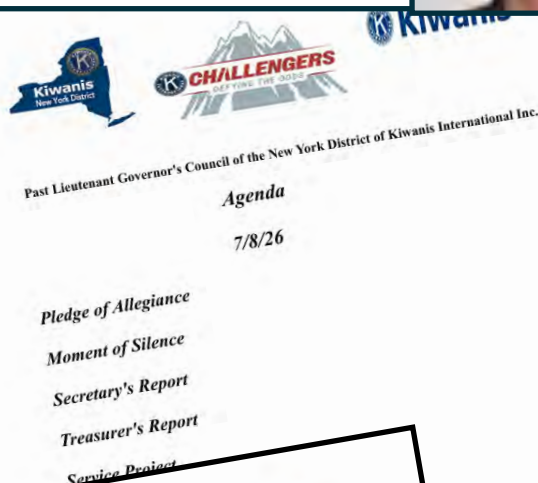
The primary purpose of this meeting is to report on the monies on hand in the name of the Council. Our Service Project is going to the Brooklyn Division to collect baby items (diapers, baby wipes, bottles, etc.) for a shelter for battered women and their babies.

Noreen Barrett

Secretary of the Past Lieutenant
Governor's Council

DPLG Noreen Barrett

Secretary, Past Lt. Gov. Council





Legion of Merit

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

As another Kiwanis year comes to a close, clubs across the New York District will soon gather to celebrate new officers, recognize accomplishments, and reflect on another year of service. It's also the perfect time to honor the members whose years of dedication helped make those accomplishments possible.

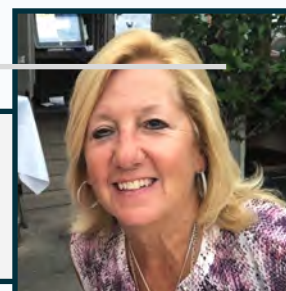
Every year of service tells a story, and every Legion of Merit recognition celebrates that story. Legion of Merit recognizes members at 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service, while Kiwanis International's Legion of Honor recognizes milestones beginning at 25 years and continuing every five years thereafter. Whether they have served as club officers, committee chairs, project volunteers, or quiet supporters behind the scenes, these members represent the foundation upon which strong Kiwanis clubs are built.



**Recognizing
dedicated
members
not only
honors past service—
it encourages
future service.**

SDPLG Nancy Baxter

*Legion of Merit
District Coordinator*



Every Legion of Merit and Honor recipient has a unique story to tell. It may include:

- The reasons he/she Joined Kiwanis
- Years of faithful service
- Leadership within the Club
- Mentoring new members
- Improving the lives of children and strengthening their communities.

Why Recognize Years of Service?

Legions of Merit and Honors allow clubs to:

- Celebrate Dedication
- Inspire new members
- Preserve your club's history
- Strengthen your traditions

Every successful service project, fundraiser, scholarship, and community partnership is built upon years of dedication by members who continue to answer the call to serve. Legion of Merit recognition celebrates those whose commitment has helped shape our clubs and our communities.

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](http://www.kiwanis.org/LegionofHonor).

Building Kiwanis Connections



DPLG Noreen Barrett

New York District, Interclub Chair

It's Not About the Visit — It's About the Connection

As we approach the close of another outstanding Kiwanis year, there's still time to participate in the New York District Round Robin Program. Whether your club is just getting started or only one visit away from qualifying, now is the perfect time to make those connections!

Attend another club's meeting, support a fundraiser, volunteer at a service project, or even participate virtually. Every visit strengthens the friendships that make Kiwanis unique.

Why One More Visit Matters

- ⇒ Support another Kiwanis Club
- ⇒ Build friendships across the division
- ⇒ Share ideas and successful projects
- ⇒ Experience another club's traditions
- ⇒ Strengthen the Kiwanis family

One visit may qualify your club for the Round Robin Program, but the friendships you build will last long after the Kiwanis year ends.

**One Visit.
New Friends.
Fresh Ideas.
Lasting Connections.**

New York District

ROUND ROBIN PROGRAM

Club Participation

- ◆ 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

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in NY Kiwanis

This Kiwanis Year, I was asked by Governor Carla to serve as District Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DEI”). DEI is becoming an increasing priority for service organizations like Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions Clubs throughout the world! What do these three words really mean?

What is Diversity? Diversity is less about what makes people different- their race, socioeconomic status, and so on- and more about understanding, accepting and valuing those differences.

What is Equity? Equity is about creating fair access, opportunities, and advancement for all those different people. It is more so about creating a fair playing field to use a familiar metaphor.

What is Inclusion? Inclusion is the extent to which various team members, employees, and other people feel a sense of belonging and value within a given organizational setting.

The heart and soul of Kiwanis is its clubs, and having a good club meeting. One way clubs can foster an inclusive environment is by being mindful of



By PG Bill Risbrook

*District Chair
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*

practices that may unintentionally make members or guests feel excluded. Examples

include:

- Partisan political discussions or religious advocacy unrelated to the club’s purposes.
- Showing favoritism of one member over another.
- Discriminatory/inappropriate jokes
- Denominational prayer - consider ways to ensure that opening reflections, prayers, or invocations are welcoming to members and guests of all faiths.
- New ideas not considered
- Lack of flexibility with meeting.

It's imperative that everyone who participates in Kiwanis - no matter who they are in the world, or how long they have been associated with Kiwanis- feel valued, respected, and welcomed. In other words, everyone must feel a sense of belonging and that what we are doing matters to all.

I would like to thank my friend and fellow Kiwanian Bob Monahan for providing me with some excellent ideas in writing this article.



Membership Matters

Build • Nurture • Retain

SDPLG Thomas Cesiro, III

*District Chair
Membership & Club Opening*



As another Kiwanis year comes to a close, clubs naturally begin looking ahead. Membership is often thought of as recruiting new members or building new clubs. In reality, it begins by strengthening the clubs we already have through retaining members, nurturing out clubs, and building new clubs where Kiwanis is needed.

RETAIN

Keep members engaged.

Retaining members should always be a club's first priority. Make your club meetings meaningful and fun. Reach out to members you have not seen recently. Celebrate years of service through the New York District's Legion of Merit and Kiwanis International's Legion of Honor programs. Invite experienced members to mentor newer Kiwanians and continue to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. Members who feel appreciated and involved while having fun in making a difference in the lives of others are far more likely to remain active.

Ask Yourself...

Who haven't you seen lately?

NURTURE

Strengthen your club.

Every club should establish a membership goal for the coming year—even if that goal is simply welcoming one new member. Every service project and community event is an

opportunity to introduce others to Kiwanis. Display membership information, invite guests, and most importantly - ask them to join.

Ask Yourself...

Who could you invite next month?

BUILD

Expand Kiwanis into new communities.

Expanding Kiwanis into new communities remains an important priority. One new club has already been organized, and seven additional communities are currently exploring the possibility of starting a Kiwanis club. This is really not so difficult. Building new clubs remains an important priority throughout the New York District. We are hoping that by the end of October 2026 we will reach Governor Carla's goal of 6 new clubs. Every community deserves the opportunity to experience Kiwanis, and every member can help identify places Kiwanis can make a difference.

Ask Yourself...

Where could Kiwanis make a difference near you?

Clubs Leading the Way

Nearly half of the District's clubs currently report a net membership gain. Congratulations to these

**“One invitation
can change a life,
strengthen a club, and
improve a
community.”**

clubs for leading the way:

- Kiwanis club of Newburgh (Hudson River Division) with 19 new members.
- Kiwanis club of Northport–East Northport (Suffolk West) with 15 new members.
- Kiwanis club of Smithtown-St James (Suffolk East) with 14 new members.

Membership is not the responsibility of the president, lieutenant governor, or membership chair alone—it belongs to every Kiwanian. As you begin planning for the new service year, ask yourself one simple question:

Who will you invite to join Kiwanis?

Membership begins with one invitation. Tom Cesiro and the District Membership Team are here to help your club succeed.

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 district-wide library of Kiwanis video stories.
- ✓ Showcase real stories of impact.

How to Participate:

Submit one 30-90 second video for any theme

- ➔ Use phones or simple equipment - no professional gear required.
- ➔ Judging Criteria:
 - 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.

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Aktion Club

Serving with Purpose: Aktion Clubs in Action



Kevin Cooney

Aktion Club

Co-District Administrator

Kiwanis Aktion Clubs throughout the New York District continue to demonstrate that service has no boundaries. Sponsored by Kiwanis clubs, Aktion Clubs provide adults with disabilities opportunities to develop leadership skills, build friendships, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Recent projects from Seneca County, Sullivan County, and Long Island highlight the many ways Aktion Club members are making a lasting impact.

Supporting Foster Families

(Seneca County Opportunity Center Aktion Club)

Members of the Seneca County Opportunity Center Aktion Club observed National Foster Care Month by assembling care bags for the county's

13 foster families. Filled with snacks and scavenger hunt activities created by club members,



the bags were designed to provide families with opportunities to spend quality time together. Prior to the project, members learned about the importance of foster care from representatives of Seneca County Job and Family Services.

Beautifying the Community

(Monticello/Sullivan County Aktion Club)

Sponsored by the Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs, the Sullivan County Aktion Club joined Monticello Kiwanis members in planting

and maintaining flower beds throughout the Village of Monticello. The annual beautification project

showcases the club's commitment to community service while creating a welcoming first impression for residents and visitors alike.



Helping at Camp Anchor

(Peninsula Kiwanis/Anchor & Oceanside Sailors Aktion Clubs)

Members of the Anchor Aktion Club and Oceanside Sailors Aktion Club partnered with the Peninsula Kiwanis Club during its Annual Special Field Day and Family Picnic at Camp Anchor. Serving more than 800 participants, Aktion Club

members distributed event T-shirts and helped prepare approximately 700 hamburgers and 600 hot

dogs, ensuring families enjoyed a memorable day together.





By Alison Mandel

*Circle K
District Administrator*



Greetings from NY District Circle K! As of April 1, we started a new service year. At the District Convention in March, Helen Conde from Cornell University was elected Governor for 2026-2027. Helen is joined on her board by District Secretary Fatima Ahmed from the University at Buffalo, District Treasurer Pritish Anand from Binghamton University and District Editor Jintong Ye from New York University. They also elected 6 new Lt Governors - Julian Arnold - Capital (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Ryan Radwin - Empire (City College of New York), Ethan Chambers - Iroquois (Syracuse), Kallie Mehta - Liberty (New York University) Hazel Agicha - Long Island (Adelphi University) and Empress Britton - Western (Buffalo).



We are still looking for Lt Governors for Northern, Hudson Valley, Seneca and Southern Tier which hopefully will be filled by the time school starts again in September.

At the District Convention in March, we had about 100 attendees, between Circle K, Key Club and Kiwanis, which is an increase over last year. We look forward to it increasing in 2027. We had workshops, a service fair and a Kiwanis networking session as well as giving awards to clubs, officers and individuals who exemplified the meaning of servant leadership! Distinguished Past Kiwanis Governor Lucien Giancursio was recognized as the Convention Honoree and Alvina Khan, University at Buffalo alumni received the Glen Fitzpatrick Outstanding Alumni Award. A great time was had by all.

At the recent Circle K & Key Club International Convention in Dallas, Texas, Sofie Melledy was recognized as a

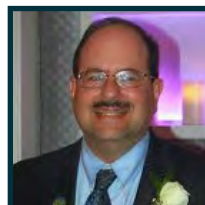
Distinguished Governor and as a Distinguished International Committee member and our Circling the Empire District Newsletter received third place. Neha Pasupuleti from The Ohio State University was elected International President and Ananya Bommineni from the University of Michigan was elected Vice President.

Looking forward to a great 2026-2027 service year. Currently we have several clubs that hopefully will charter this summer or early fall including Molloy University and the State University of New York at New Paltz

Circle K will be having their annual New York Speaking Conference at The Georgian Hotel in Lake George Oct 16-18, and the 2027 District Convention will be March 12-14 at the Crowne Plaza-Desmond Hotel in Albany! If you are in the area for either of these events, please feel free to attend. You will be impressed by these student leaders!

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis



By Kevin Kamper
K Kids
District Administrator

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SERVICE

What an exciting year for New York District Kiwanis K-Kids! With 65 clubs across the district, our K-Kids continue to make a meaningful difference in their schools and communities. Congratulations to all clubs recognized by Kiwanis International this year:

Distinguished Club

Barnum Woods Elementary School
East Broadway Elementary School
Lee Road Elementary School
Meadowbrook Elementary School
Otisville Elementary School

Honor Club

Florence A. Smith Elementary School

Single Service Project

Barnum Woods K-Kids
(Cereal Box Challenge)
Meadowbrook Elementary School
(P.S. I Love You Day)

Distinguished Officer

McVey Elem. School K-Kids Advisor Marco
Smithtown K-Kids Vice President Sadie
Smithtown K-Kids Treasurer Augustus

Distinguished Advisor

Melody Schiller of Barnum Woods
Danielle Ulbrich of Otisville Elementary,
Julie DeMartini of Smithtown K-Kids

Please encourage your clubs to apply for awards next year so they can receive the recognition they deserve.

Service Spotlight

Our clubs have been busy serving others in creative and meaningful ways. Barnum Woods K-Kids hosted a Name That Tune fundraiser to support the New York District Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center.



The Northside Elementary K-Kids Club held a fundraiser for the New York District Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation.



Oceanside K-Kids also stepped up with a lemonade stand benefiting the New York District Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation.



(Continue on page 31)

#KidsNeedKiwanis

#KidsNeedKiwanis

East Meadow Kiwanis Distributes Over 3,000 Books

East Meadow Kiwanis distributed more than 3,000 children's books during East Meadow Community Day, thanks to support from a Kiwanis Children's Fund grant and a districtwide book drive led by K-Kids clubs across the East Meadow School District. Together, these efforts helped the



club collect more than 5,000 books with the goal of providing a book to every child in attendance. Remaining books will be donated to local hospitals and The Book Fairies. East Meadow Kiwanis extends its appreciation to the Kiwanis Children's Fund for helping fund the initial purchase of books and supplies.

"We are proud to support literacy and help put books directly into the hands of children in our community," East Meadow Kiwanis said. "This effort reflects what can be accomplished when local families, students and service organizations come together for a meaningful cause."

North Shore Kiwanis Honors Graduating Seniors 2026

The North Shore Kiwanis Club annually recognizes graduating seniors for their dedication to our community in various ways. This year 6 scholarships were awarded to North Shore seniors, and 6 seniors were recognized as Seniors of Distinction; volunteering more than 500 hours of service to our community during their 4 years at the high school. Pictured are two students receiving their awards: Left of the banner with his parents is Jayden Reo, holding his plaque for 1074 hours of service to the community.



To the right of the banner with her parents is Chloe Connolly who was the \$4000 recipient of the James Hebron Memorial Scholarship and also received a plaque for her 612 hours serving the community. President Chris Salmon stands next to the Parents of Kayla Wassnieski (not present) who received her plaque for 503 hours serving the community. Outstanding awards for outstanding seniors and a job well done serving our community.

Taking the Next Step (continued from p. 18)

Or...

"I can't find anyone to take my place."

While those thoughts are understandable, they can unintentionally limit the growth of our clubs.

The more people who are prepared to lead, the more our organization can accomplish.

Every member has leadership potential. Sometimes all they need is someone to believe in them, show them the way, empower them, and support them until

they're ready.

As leaders, our greatest legacy isn't the titles we've held or the goals we've achieved. Our greatest legacy is the leaders we inspire to follow us.

I encourage each of you to consider taking that next step. You may be surprised where your Kiwanis journey leads, and whose life you'll inspire along the way.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Suffolk East Division this year. It has truly been one of the greatest honors of my Kiwanis journey.

Celebrating 90th Birthday Bob Calabrese

(Continued from page 1)

Congratulations, Bob, on these extraordinary milestones, and thank you for your lifelong dedication to Kiwanis and the countless lives you have touched through your service.



Brooklyn Clubs Making a Difference

Serving children, families, veterans, and communities across Brooklyn

Kiwanis clubs throughout Brooklyn have continued to make a meaningful difference through a variety of service projects benefiting children, families, veterans, and individuals with special needs. The Bensonhurst–Bay Ridge Kiwanis Club's annual **Little North Pole**, hosted with Joe Mure, welcomed more than 1,000 attendees while raising funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Williams Syndrome awareness, Special Olympics, and autism awareness initiatives.

The Gravesend Kiwanis Club once again honored veterans by hosting its annual fishing trip for veterans living with PTSD, providing breakfast, lunch, fellowship, and a day of relaxation on the water. The Kings Plaza–Canarsie Kiwanis Club held its annual Community Baby

Shower, where nearly 200 expectant mothers received gifts, free sonograms, and valuable educational resources to help prepare them for motherhood. Meanwhile, Liberty Kiwanis supported veterans transitioning to permanent housing by collecting and donating essential items ranging from toiletries to blankets.

The division also celebrated growth with the chartering of the Kiwanis Club of South Brooklyn. Already making an impact, the club has organized both Christmas and Easter community events, demonstrating its commitment to serving children and families from the very beginning.



MIDDLETOWN KIWANIS BABY SHOWER

The Kiwanis Club of Middletown joined Garnet Health's Community Baby Shower in support of Governor Carla's District Project, donating baby clothing, diapers, and other essentials for local families. The effort reflects Kiwanis' ongoing commitment to improving the lives of children and strengthening the communities they call home.

North Shore Kiwanis Celebrates 58 years of Service

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore has served its community for more than five decades, sponsoring hundreds of events that have enriched the lives of local residents. Among its signature projects are the annual Sea Cliff Mini Mart, the Clothes for Kids program, which provides back-to-school clothing for children in need, and the Nassau Bike Ride, which raises funds for a variety of charitable causes.

Each year, the club also hosts a special celebration recognizing members for their dedication and service. This year's "Gala Affair," held at La Spezia Restaurant in Sea Cliff, honored two-term Club President Chris Salman, who received a proclamation from Town



of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino. The proclamation was presented by Master of Ceremonies John Canning.

Additional honors were presented by Past New York District Governor Joe Aiello, President of the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation. Barbara Black and Tony Consolvo were recognized for their outstanding service. Pictured are members of the Kiwanis Club of North Shore celebrating 58 years of dedicated service to the North Shore community.

Suffolk East Clubs Continue to Grow Through Service and Community

Kiwanis clubs throughout the Suffolk East Division remained active this summer through community service, fundraising, membership initiatives, and recognition of outstanding volunteers. Division clubs joined together for the annual Duck Game Fundraiser, while the Sayville Kiwanis Club continued its efforts to support membership growth by sponsoring a membership drive and helping develop new Kiwanis clubs.

Service projects remained a priority across the division.

Members of the Smithtown–St. James Kiwanis Club, joined by students from their Service Leadership Programs, participated in a community beach cleanup despite the summer heat. The club also hosted its annual Family Fun Day and Open House, offering families a day of fun while introducing visitors to Kiwanis and its Service Leadership Programs.



The Sayville Kiwanis Club honored veterans during



America's 250th anniversary celebration by hosting a free showing of Independence Day, complete with food, refreshments, and prize raffles. Meanwhile, the Kiwanis Club of Greater

Westhampton recognized longtime members Fred and Terrie Bauer, each of whom received a George F. Hixson Fellowship in recognition of their dedication and service to the community.



Together, these projects highlight the many ways Suffolk East Kiwanis clubs continue to strengthen their communities while sharing the Kiwanis mission with others.

K-Kids Celebrating a Year of Service

(Continued from page 28)

Lee Road K-Kids continued its service efforts by raising funds for a pediatric trauma kit for the New York District Pediatric Trauma Center.



These projects are just a few examples of the wonderful service happening across our district. As you plan, consider organizing a project that

supports one of our district foundations or the Kiwanis Children's Fund. And, as always, please send me any project updates you would like to share in a future newsletter.

Looking Ahead

Summer is the perfect time to start planning for the new year. Consider meeting with your K-Kids faculty advisor to develop goals and service ideas for the upcoming school year. You may also want to explore starting a Kiwanis K-Kids club in your area. It is a wonderful way for students to begin their

journey as young leaders. For more information, visit [Start a K-Kids](#).



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



From your Editor:

Celebrating a Year of Service

As we publish the final issue of this year's *Empire State Kiwanian*, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who helped tell the story of Kiwanis across the New York District.

Throughout Governor Carla's service year, clubs from every corner of our district shared inspiring stories of service, leadership, fellowship, and impact. Every article and photograph showcased the countless ways Kiwanians continue to improve their communities and change children's lives.

This newsletter has always been about more than documenting events. It preserves our history, celebrates our members, and reminds us that every service project—large or small—makes a difference.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who took the time to write an article, submit photos, or encourage others to share their stories. Your contributions are what make this publication possible.

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

*We don't just
publish newsletters—
we preserve the
history of Kiwanis
in New York.*

Looking Ahead

I'm pleased to share that I'll once again have the privilege of serving as Editor of the *Empire State Kiwanian* during Governor Marty Valk's 2026-27 service year.

I look forward to continuing to showcase the outstanding work happening throughout the New York District. To help everyone plan ahead, article submission deadlines will remain the same:

PUBLICATION DEADLINES – 2026–27		
Oct.–Dec.	OCT. 10	Issue
Jan.–Mar.	JAN. 10	Issue
Apr.–June	APR. 10	Issue
July–Sept.	JULY 10	Issue

Every article submitted today becomes part of tomorrow's history. Years from now, members will look back through these pages to see how Kiwanis made a difference in communities across New York. Thank you for helping preserve that history.

Here's to another outstanding year of service—and another year of telling the stories that inspire us all.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

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#KidsNeedKiwanis

