

Circle K

John Keegan



I don't know where the time goes. Nine months of the Circle K year has already passed. I hope you have taken a chance to visit your local club. You do not have to be the sponsor to ask them to help with your projects. Circle K members prefer to work in the communities.

In October 84 members from the dis-

trict went to Kamp Kiwanis to help clean up the camp. The weather was cold and wet. That did not stop them from working outdoors.

In November we held our annual conference in Lake George where there were 185 in attendance. We had a motivational speaker on Friday night who really got everyone enthused for the weekend. On Saturday various workshops and topics for members and officers on leadership skills.

The program is not just education. They have a banquet on a smaller scale than what we have at district convention and a dance to celebrate the first six months of the year.

Now they are preparing for the Dis-

trict Convention which will take place March 20-22, 2015 at the Albany Hilton, 40 Lodge Street.

Each year we have a convention honoree, this year's honoree will be Past Governor Jack Tetamore. Jack also served as the District Administrator of Circle K.

We will also have an alumnus of Circle K receive the Glen Fitzpatrick alumni award. The honoree this year will be Richard Hall who has been a member of the Kiwanis committee of Circle K for more than 25 years.

We would like to see many Kiwanians attend to attend to honor these great Kiwanians. Information will be coming out soon.

Youth Protection

Jim Mancuso



I just finished watching the story about Stephen Collins, the well-known actor, who was recently exposed as a child abuser on ABC's 20/20 news magazine program. If you are not familiar with this situation, Collins has been seen on many television shows and movies over the past 40 years. His most prominent role was that of a minister and father on the show 7th Heaven, where he played the part of Rev. Eric Camden for 7 years.

In real life, he was married for 29 years and has recently been going through an ugly divorce. His wife recorded conversations they had where Collins exposed three episodes of sexual child abuse. According to Collins in 1972, 1982 and 1994 the episodes of abuse occurred with 10, 13, 14 year old girls, respectively. In the first case he had inappropriate contact and in the other two he exposed himself.

What drives a person to abuse children, if what Collins is saying is true, so sporadically? We typically think of a child abuser as a chronic repeat offender. Watching the Collins interview, I felt he was telling the truth. If that is indeed the case, it shows that those who abuse children may do so infrequently and sometimes in very isolated ways.

Large gaps in time between episodes of child abuse are, in and of themselves, very concerning. Those large gaps in time make child abuse harder to identify. Of course, infrequent episodes of abuse are better than if they occur frequently but the Collins case illuminates another type of child abuser. This type uses gaps in time as camouflage, to cover up their offenses. In this case, after the first episode in 1972 it took an-

Kiwanis Opens Protection Hotline

Nothing is more important than the well-being of those we serve. To help Kiwanians protect youth, Kiwanis International has opened a hotline to report a troubling incident involving a youth and/or club member. The hotline is available in two ways:

- Phone: 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 298
- Email: protectouryouthhotline@kiwanis.org

During the convention in Chiba, Japan, the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees approved the addition of Section 9 to Article VIII of the organization's bylaws providing direction to clubs regarding "depraved or unacceptable behavior in relation to youth or children." One new requirement was for a Kiwanis club to report such behavior, and such a club member, to the proper authorities and to Kiwanis International.

With the new hotline, Kiwanis is helping ensure that members have a way to do so promptly. What kinds of behavior should be reported?

- Documented and confirmed inappropriate touching
- Documented and confirmed inappropriate sexual or bullying conversations
- Documented and confirmed behavior that would be considered contributing to the delinquency of a minor (such as alcohol or drugs)
- A felony conviction involving children or youth

It might be hard to believe that such an incident involving a youth or a club member could happen in any club or community. But there are countless examples among all types of youth service organizations. That's why Kiwanis International provides club members with information and resources regarding youth protection. Find these resources and links to key information at www.KiwanisOne.org/youthprotection.

other 10 years before the next episode in 1982 occurred and then taking another 12 years for the next time. Collins let his desires hide dormant and in the shadows for very long interludes. He claims since the last episode he has felt no desire to abuse again, but given his track record, who can place trust in that statement?

The Collins case represents a strong reminder that a pattern of child abuse

does not always readily reveal itself whether due to gaps in time or other techniques used by abusers (i.e. such as "grooming" which I have written about before). Spotting child abuse is a difficult task to say the least. When child abuse happens in such an isolated way the challenge is only amplified. The message therefore is to be vigilant and keep child abuse top-of-mind at all times to protect our children.

Oceanside Charters K-Kids

During December the Oceanside Kiwanis Club chartered the club's fifth and sixth K-Kids Clubs.

On Dec. 2 Oceanside Kiwanis Club President Thomas Cesiro presented the official charter to Fulton Avenue School. On Dec. 17, the charter presentation took place at Florence A Smith School #2 K Kids Club.

Key Club Cares with Bears

The North Shore Key Club has created a service project called: "North Shore Cares With Bears."

The North Shore Medical Center pediatric patients will receive the gifts and the club members will distribute the bears personally.