

Empire State Kiwanian

New York



January 2016, Volume 2015-16, Issue 2

New York District, Kiwanis International



Brighton Beach-Coney Island Club Chartered

The Brighton Beach-Coney Island Kiwanis Club's charter night took place on Dec. 1. Above, club officers with members of the club opening team. Past Gov. Eric G. Paul and Gov. Forbes Irvine were on hand to pin the new members. The new club received its banner from other Brooklyn division club presidents.

Mid-Year is Feb. 19-21 In Callicoon

The 2016 Mid-Year Conference will take place Feb. 19-21 at the Villa Roma Hotel and Conference Center in Callicoon.

Registration forms for both the hotel and the conference itself are available on the district web site.

The deadline for hotel registration is Feb. 1; conference fees increase on Feb. 5. Villa Roma has both indoor and outdoor recreational activities for the whole family, and children's rates are available.

The Villa Roma's packages include two nights lodging, two breakfasts, a lunch, a cocktail reception, ice cream reception and two dinners.

Governor

**Forbes
Irvine**



Happy New Year!
Welcome to the 100th anniversary of the New York District.

Our Centennial is cause for reflection and indeed celebration. I ask that you take a moment to reflect on those dedicated Kiwanians that have gone before us, to honor their memory and to embrace the future that they would have been so very proud to serve with us in.

The Rochester Club will celebrate its anniversary on April 29th followed by Buffalo on April 30th. If your schedule permits, please make every effort to attend. I am assured that both these events will be fabulous.

Helene and I would like to thank the members and their clubs for the generosity and spirit that was displayed this past holiday season.

So it's 2016 and you're thinking

about the new year – What are your goals? What are your expectations? How about we all make a New Year's resolution. Let's re-dedicate ourselves to our club and our division; and let's resolve to all sponsor a new member, whether for our own club, a neighboring club or anywhere in this great district. Imagine the possibilities, if we all brought in a new member.

We have had the opportunity to attend most of the baby showers being held for the First Lady's Project, "Warm Beginnings," held so far; and please accept our apologies for the ones we missed. To say they were beyond expectations would be a gross understatement. Mothers and their newborns are extremely grateful for your efforts.

I have asked throughout this year to have certain conversations in your club and in your community; and I would like to ask that you continue to do so. Inform parents that they should have their child's heart checked before they take the field. Long Island North Lt. Gov. Jeanne Egan has been doing a tremendous job securing hospitals to provide this service. If you have any questions, I'm sure she would be

happy to assist.

The Massapequa Kiwanis Club has done a sensational job in putting together a program and booklet regarding prescription drug and heroin awareness. They have agreed to do their presentation throughout the district. Ask them to address your club.

Keith Cummings from the Richmond County Kiwanis Club has put together an Anti-Bullying Program. He is also available to come to your club or divisional to talk about the horrors of bullying. He has witnessed it first-hand and knows the horrific results of what this constant torment can do.

All of these are designed to get your club, your Key club, your Circle K into the community working together to be a voice in the communities we serve.

In closing, please remember our foundations – Pediatric Lyme, KPTC, Emergency Disaster Relief and Kamp Kiwanis. I have asked each lieutenant governor to do a fund raiser for one of them and every club to do the same as well. They are OUR foundations. Let's support them!

Remember none of us are taller than when we stoop to help a child. Thank You. See you at the Mid-Winter conference.

**Formula
Chair**

**DPG Joseph
Aiello**



The holidays are now behind us, it's now 2016. The New York District made a big difference in the community during the holiday season.

Now it's time to go back to work. Gov. Forbes Irvine's goal is to take care of our own. Well, what a better way is to bring a friend to join the Kiwanis family.

For the last three years we have not had a positive gain in our district. Now is the time for lieutenant governors and

presidents to motivate, build membership, and clubs.

We all need to do our share. If each member brought in just one new member we would be 14,000 strong. That would be amazing. The way to make this happen is to have open houses, market your club on Facebook, social media, and all other marketing tools.

The Formula Team has put together an incentive program. Review it pass it along to all your clubs and you membership chair. I have witnessed all the amazing projects and events that we do.

Use it as a marketing tool. The Formula Team will make the time to visit your divisions. You just have to ask. We are here for you.

I would like to congratulate Joe Eppolito for his appointment as vice chair

of the Formula. Let's show our support and grow.

Here is the incentives which are available:

1. Bring a New Member (not a dual member) — Member and sponsor will receive a Formula t-shirt.

2. Bring 2 New Members (not a dual member) - Member and sponsor will receive a t-shirt, K-Key.

3. Bring 3 New Members (not a dual member) – Member and sponsor will receive a golf-shirt Formula personalized and a K-Key.

4. Bring 4 New Members (not a dual member) - Member and Sponsor will receive a throw-back personalized K-Key.

5. Bring 5 or More New Members (not a dual member) Member and sponsor will receive a Jacket and personalized K-Key.

**New Club
Opening**

**DPG Joseph
Eppolito**



As part of the Formula team, I am the chair for New Club Opening for the District.

District Formula Chair Past Distinguished Gov. Joe Aiello and I have divided the District into nine zones, with a Zone New Club Opening Chair and Division New Club Opening Chairs for all divisions except St Lawrence Division.

These Kiwanians have been trained by Kiwanis international and are committed to work in their divisions to build new clubs along with their respective lieutenant governors. Lt. Gov. Julie

Watterson from Suffolk East Division serves as our membership chair. Together with Gov. Forbes Irvine, Gov. Elect Steve Sirgiovanni and Immediate Past Gov. Eric Paul, we are totally committed to grow our great New York District. Join us in this mission! If we all work together, we can make it happen!

Each division has two new club counselors who have been trained to work with newly formed clubs for a time period to ensure their success in operating. The new club counselors are also available to clubs that are struggling as well. Do not hesitate to contact them.

We need to grow. The Formula is a five-year program (in its third year) to grow Kiwanis significantly to meet the challenges ahead of us for service and

fellowship.

A few club sites are under way. We hope to have three to four new clubs by March 31st. If you have a site, contact your division new club opener. He/she will form a team to pursue the opportunity ! The entire Formula Team can be found on the district web site, or ask your lieutenant governor.

Let me repeat, if you have a potential site, please contact your division new club opener, lieutenant governor and me.

If we do not grow Kiwanis now, we will have a dim future for our great organization. Let's grow together!

Feel free to contact me at (315) 449-3000 x358 or by email: pepster@aol.com.

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Clubs Should Check Eliminate Totals

The District Eliminate Project Coordinator, Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse, has learned that there may be some discrepancies in the listing of donations to the project by New York clubs. In particular, some of the clubs have not received credit for the matching funds with their Mothers' Day Matching Zellers.

She's asking clubs to look at the Giving Report from Kiwanis International and check their totals. If they find a discrepancy, contact Ashley Meruani at ameruani@kiwanis.org and copy her (kirmse@fordham.edu) on the message. Ashley can also be reached at (317) 217-6215.

A copy of the latest Giving Report is available on the district web site.

The report says that New York is at 100 percent of its goal, but that reflects the district's pledge made at the District Convention last August to complete its goal. The district has to raise \$400,000 more over the next five years to complete our pledge.

2015-16 Events

Feb. 19-21, 2016:

Mid-Year Conference, Villa Roma, Callicoon

June 25-28, 2016:

Kiwanis International Convention, Toronto

Aug. 17-20, 2016:

District Convention, Adams Mark Hotel, Buffalo

International Leadership

Jim Mancuso



Over the past several months we have been preparing for the upcoming election of International Trustees at the Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto in June, for which Distinguished Past Gov. Peter Mancuso is a candidate.

As his Campaign Manager (not to mention his brother!), you think you know the candidate pretty well. And, of course, you do, but many aspects of the candidate and why he should be elected still emerge.

One of the questions posed to Peter recently was "Why do you want to be an International Trustee?" I thought to myself, that the response not only needed to be strong and to the point (which it was) but reflexive. By that I mean, in my heart I wanted a candidate who is totally committed, and I felt the speed of response would be a great indicator of that commitment.

I was not disappointed when I heard the answer roll off of Peter's tongue: "Because it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change so many lives for the better." To me, that was the perfect response.

Here is a candidate who not only wants the chance to serve but appreciates the impact he can have. Message: he gets it, his priorities are in order, and he is on a mission to make a difference. I said to myself, this is the kind of candidate we need to elect for the good of those we serve and all of Kiwanis.

A fundamental principle of Peter's is

that all we do revolves around the Kiwanis unit known as the "club." He has written: "Everything we do of value in Kiwanis happens at the club level.

"The purpose of every other part of this organization is to help our clubs be more successful in offering outstanding service opportunities and fellowship to our members." When I read those words, another little voice went off in my head, which said: "He cares about our members," and "He will support them."

He believes all the good things we do start with our members having a fulfilling and satisfying membership experience.

This is so true in Kiwanis, as the fulfilled member is a member who performs more community service and shares their great volunteering experience with others, which supports membership growth.

As the election draws nearer, it will continually emerge that Peter is the candidate to lead Kiwanis into a bright future. So, please support Peter's candidacy for International Trustee. He is a fine Kiwanian, who has served the New York District of Kiwanis so very well for so many years, including his term as governor.

As we all deeply care about Kiwanis' future, we also should recognize that we need special people like Peter leading its way.

By the time you read this article, registration for the Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto will be open. So, if you have not done so already, please register to attend and help us elect Peter as our next International Trustee! For more information please visit www.mancusofortrustee.com and remember Together We Can Go the Distance!



Register Soon For Toronto

New York Kiwanians are encouraged to plan to attend the 2016 International Convention June 23-26 in Toronto and to register early for it.

Early registration will show support for our district's candidate for International Trustee, Past Distinguished Gov. Peter Mancuso, and it will save you some money as registration fees increase as the convention nears.

The Toronto event will follow on last year's Centennial Celebration in Indianapolis by celebrating the 100th year of Kiwanis in Canada.

It also will be the shortest trip to an International Convention that New Yorkers have had in several years. A truly international city with lots to offer, Toronto should be an attractive location for families as well as for the official Kiwanis events.

Pre- and post-convention tours are being lined up, and more information will be available as the event gets closer.

For more convention information, see the event's web site, www.kiwanis.org/convention/2016.

In addition to official events, there is information about hotels and things to do in Toronto.

That's also the place to go to register when registration opens, which may occur by the time you get this.

Information on the New York event in Toronto will be posted on the district web site when it is available.

Those who plan to attend also need to make sure they have the identification documents they need to enter the country. You must have a passport if flying to Toronto, or at least an enhanced driver's license to enter Canada by road.



Middletown Continues Annual Project

Santa and his Elves from the Middletown Kiwanis Club visited four local day care centers to distribute gifts to 300 children.

According to Co-Chair Sue Sheehan, this annual project has benefitted young children at the Agri-Business Childcare Development Center, the Jean Black Center, the local Head Start school, and the Middletown Day Nursery, a site where Middletown Kiwanis has been holding annual Christmas parties for young children since 1928.

Campaign Guideline Reminder

Campaigns for district office are governed by Section 191, Campaign Policies for District Office, under the Policies of the New York District.

The Candidate may not announce their intention to be a candidate prior to January 1 of the year of their campaign.

The Candidate MUST submit their intention to run for the DISTRICT OFFICE IN WRITING (NOT AN EMAIL) with the signature of support from their Club President and Division Lt. Governor. Wording can be found in the By-laws. The District Office is located at 84 Madison Ave, Island Park, New York 11558.

Recent items added to the Policies are:

- The Candidate must have served one full year as a Past Lt. Governor
- The Candidate must have been involved for one year with the Finance Committee and the budget process (as a member or observer)
- The Candidate must have served

three full terms as a District Chair

- The Candidate must have attended at least one District Foundation Board Meeting.

- The Candidate must have attended at least one International Convention, one NYD Circle K Annual District Convention and one NYD Key Club Annual Leadership Training Conference.

- The Candidate must attend "Meet the Candidates" events and pass a Kiwanis International Background check as outlined in the Policies.

You also can download, Section 191, Campaign Policies for District Office.

Should anyone have questions regarding the above please feel to contact District Secretary David Rothman at districtoffice@kiwanis-ny.org or call 516-318-1585.

You also can download, Section 191, Campaign Policies for District Office from the district web site.

Distinguished Club Criteria Announced

The Kiwanis International Board has decided for 2015-16 to have each District set its own criteria for clubs to be Distinguished.

This year's class of lieutenant governors has worked hard to establish a system. The chart below will be used to determine which clubs should be honored.

Clubs should begin now to see that their club becomes distinguished for 2015-16.

It's important for club secretaries to file their reports on time, and indicate projects that meet the Distinguished club criteria.

But all club members can be involved in the effort to meet the requirements.

Entries Sought For Anti-Bullying Essay Contest

The New York District is sponsoring an essay contest on bullying as part of this year's Governor's Project.

Students in Middle School and High School throughout the state are encouraged to enter. The contest is open to all students in the state, not just to those in service leadership organizations.

An essay of no more than 1,500 words should be written on how to take a bullying situation from a negative to a positivel.



Entries should be sent to Michele Geresi, 393 Holdridge Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312, who will be the judge. Entries must be submitted by Feb. 15.

The winner will receive a trip to Albany where he or she will have lunch with elected officials and have their winning essay put on display. The winner also will receive a \$100 gift card.

Aktion Clubs Raise \$1,000

The East Aurora and Holland Aktion Clubs held their second annual spaghetti dinner on Nov. 8. A basket raffle also takes place at the dinner. The members take turns seating people, selling raffle tickets, pouring soda, serving the salad and serving desserts.

This year the clubs raised a little more than \$1,000.

 Kiwanis 2015-16 Distinguished Club New York District <small>BASED ON THE SIX OBJECTS OF KIWANIS, THE GOVERNOR'S AND FIRST LADY'S PROJECTS</small>			
	CLUB	CRITERIA	★
MEMBERSHIP	Membership Growth	Did the club have a net increase in membership? OR, Did the club sponsor or co-sponsor a new Kiwanis club?	★
		BONUS STAR: Did the club increase membership by 10% (if starting the year at charter strength of 15 or more), OR Did the club increase membership to charter strength of 15 (if starting the year with less than 15 members)	★
	Interclub Visits	Did the club complete the Round Robin for the 2015-16 year?	★
	Division Meetings	Did the club participate in a minimum of 75% of the Division Council Meetings	★
	Conference Attendance	Was the club represented by a member at one of the following: Mid-Year Conference, District Convention or Kiwanis International Convention?	★
BONUS STAR: Was the club represented by delegates at ALL THREE Conventions: Mid-Winter (Callicoon), District (Buffalo), and International (Toronto)?		★	
SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD	Governor's Project	Did the club support the Governor's Project by supporting Pediatric Trauma, Pediatric Lime, Kamp Kiwanis, and/or Disaster Relief, as well as participating in his special focus projects of Student Athlete Cardiac Screenings, Anti-Bullying, and/or Drug Overdoses?	★
	First Lady's Project	Did the club support the First Lady's Project by sponsoring a Baby Shower for the less fortunate?	★
	Service Leadership Programs	Did the club sponsor a new Service Leadership Program, participate in joint service projects, and/or invite Key Club, Circle K, Builders Club or K-Kids to run a meeting?	★
Mark the reached stars! The club must have 5 stars out of 7 to be a <i>Distinguished Club</i> Distinguished Clubs receive: President lapel pin, Distinguished Club banner patch and certificate			Total Stars

**KPTC -
Albany**

Rick Sturm



Little did we realize just how successful the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Program would be at the Albany Medical Center Children's Hospital!

K family members have gone from the ill fated duck race in the Hudson River to providing actual cash payments to the hospital totaling more than \$550,000.

Kiwanis, Circle K, Key and Builders Clubs in the Capital and Van Rensselaer Divisions continue to support this worthwhile project.

Having successfully completed our Trauma Unit pledge of \$500,000, we were asked to help fund equipment for the Albany Medical Center's Neo-natal Unit. Kiwanians met this challenge in



2015, raising \$50,000 allowing the hospital to purchase a very specialized incubator, fondly referred to as a giraffe unit.

Our next project is to raise funds to allow the hospital to purchase brain scanning devices and software to improve care to babies in the Neo-natal unit. This is a \$25,000 pledge.

Since 1993, It has been an honor and

a pleasure for me to lead the team of so many New York District Governors and K Family heroes who continue to work so hard to see this program through!

Pictures memorializing these accomplishments are attached.

Let's keep the program moving at all locations and associate Pediatric Trauma and Neo-Natal Coverage with the Kiwanis organization!

KPTC-Long Island Makes \$50,000 Donation

The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation Board gathered Nov. 4 at Cohen Children's Medical Center to hold the 2015 Annual Meeting and to elect the 2016 KPTC board of directors.

CCMC hospital staff prepared a special program consisting of a virtual tour allowing those in attendance to experience a glimpse of the tremendous

progress of their advanced trauma care and prevention programs such as injury prevention, trauma research and trauma education. This has resulted in Cohen Children's Medical Center becoming the largest pediatric trauma center in New York State and the only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center on Long Island.

A \$50,000 check was presented to NS-LIJ Health System Liaison Rosemarie C. Ennis, EMT, MA by KPTC Foundation President Joseph L. Corace.

KPTC Foundation, Inc. is committed to the continued support of the KPTC Trauma Center at CCMC which provides highly specialized care for injured children.

District Key Club Launches Fund Raiser

This year, New York District Key Club has partnered with a nonprofit organization called The Giving Circle for Gov. Hanna Nichols' Governor's Project "Hunger."

The Giving Circle is based out of Saratoga, NY, and works to combat hunger, the water crisis, and to provide education as well as disaster relief both nationally and internationally.

New York District Key Club has decided to partner with this organization to raise \$10,000 for a farm in Uganda that will be named, "The New York District Key Club Farm." This farm will feed the children who live in the local orphanage and attend the school in addition to all of the inhabitants of the town. It will also provide jobs for the members of the community to sell the goods in the local market.

The founder of The Giving Circle, Mark Bertrand, said that this farm is a matter of life or death for the people living in this community. We are not only



saving the lives of the people that currently live there, but we are impacting generations of individuals. Kids that used to have to stay home from school to work for food will now be able to gain an education and achieve their career aspirations, which will impact their future family and so on.

To raise money, the New York District

Key Club is conducting a District Wide T-Shirt Fundraiser. These T-Shirts are \$10, and the order form can be filled out by clubs as a whole.

For further information, contact Gov.



The North Shore K Family celebrates at St Christopher's, a special education school, with an annual holiday party in December. The North Shore Kiwanis Club and the North Shore key Club join hands for the event. Kiwanian Santa Gary Craner and his Key Club elf Alexis Lovaglio were on hand to give out gifts to all the children. Kiwanis President Roger Hill and Key Club President Elias Mastakouris share the spotlight.



Peninsula Kiwanis assisted by the Molloy College Circle K held a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 12. The event was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Inwood. Pancakes, muffins, juice and various baked goods were served. More than 150 children had their picture taken with Santa. The children were able to select the background and leave with their photo. Member Domenic Sciarrotta did a great job filling in for Santa. He was assisted by three elves, his daughter Rayna, her cousin Emily and Fallon from the Molloy Circle K.

SLP Fees and Dues for 2016

The following fees and dues apply to Service Leadership Organizations for 2016:

Aktion Club:

Charter, no banner: \$260
 Charter, w/banner: \$460
 Reactivation: \$50
 Annual Club Fee: N/A
 Annual Dues: \$8
 District Dues: N/A

K-Kids:

Charter: \$180
 Reactivation: N/A
 Annual Club Fee: \$180
 Annual Dues: N/A
 District Dues: N/A

Builders Club:

Charter, no banner: \$300
 Charter, w/banner: \$500
 Reactivation: \$50
 Annual Club Fee: \$180
 Annual dues: N/A
 District Dues: N/A

Key Club:

Charter Fee, no banner: \$400
 Charter Fee, w/banner: \$600
 Reactivation fee: \$100
 Annual Club Fee: N/A
 Annual Dues: \$7
 District Dues: \$6

Circle K:

Charter fee, no banner: \$400
 Charter fee, w/banner: \$600
 Reactivation fee: \$100
 Annual Club Fee, less than 5,000 students: \$600
 Annual Club Fee, more than 5,000 students: \$450
 Annual Club Fee, community colleges: \$300
 Annual Dues: N/A
 District Dues: \$8

Key Club

John Goldstein



This past December one of my Key Clubbers was writing an article for his school newspaper and he asked me why I liked being the Administrator. I told him that I enjoyed working with the students and that I thought that I was

making a difference in our district, by working with them. I told him that I was most pleased and encouraged with our district board, which is made up of a variety of different religions, ethnicities, races and cultures, all working together to make their communities a better place to live.

I was invited to the Huntington Kiwanis Christmas Project. This involved 150 Key Clubbers from three Key Clubs helping 55 needy children buy clothing at the local Sears with \$150 gift card. Two to three Key Clubbers worked with each child to buy needed clothes for Christmas. Then they were all bused to a high school where the Key clubbers wrapped the presents they had just helped buy. Then they had a pizza party

for everyone and the presents were delivered by Santa and the fire department to the children's homes closer to Christmas. So when someone asked you why you are a Kiwanian, tell them that you work with Key Club and you do make a difference in this world.

The annual New York District Leadership Training Conference is March 18-20, 2016, at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Your Key Clubs will be looking for you financial support to help pay for the conference and transportation. Your Key Clubs should be holding their club officer elections in February, so the new officers can attend the LTC in March.

I also want to thank you for your continued support of the New York District Key Club board, clubs and members.

Monticello K-Family Members Give Back for Holidays

The Monticello Middle School Builders Club and High School Key Club have been busy doing their share to help make the holiday season happy for many children and their families in the community this year.

Both of these school service leadership clubs are sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Monticello.

The Builders Club recently traveled to the Monticello Walmart to purchase \$200 worth of toys and games to donate to the United Way of Sullivan County Project Care Program. They used funds from their club account as well as donations from individual Builders Club members. Members of the Monticello Kiwanis Club also assisted by donating money, toys and games at a recent meeting. Donned in Christmas hats and reindeer antlers, the students carefully selected items for children in various age categories. They were accompanied by Builders Club Faculty Advisor William Oefelein and Kiwanis Club members Pat Monteverde and Sheila Lashinsky.

When their purchases were completed, they got back on the bus and traveled to the United Way. Executive Director Julian Dawson thanked the students for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Key Club members helped bring in the holiday spirit by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign at Walmart in Monticello for four hours on Friday, Dec. 11. They were able to raise \$321.47.

The funds will go to help families and individuals in the community, not only this Christmas, but throughout the year.

Participants included Key Club Officers Adrian Mierzwa (dressed as Santa's helper), Cristiane Salcedo, Jaclynn



A young boy donates to the Salvation Army.

Sorensen and Michele Rodriquez as well as Club members Rebecca Bass, Gerardo Barrera, Sara Sorensen, Victoria Simonova and Veronica Simonova. Faculty Advisor Steven Raabe and Kiwanis Key Club Advisors Jane Sorensen and Sheila Lashinsky were also in attendance.

Sea Cliff K-Kids Host North Shore INN for Holiday Event



The Sea Cliff Elementary School K-Kids played host to the North Shore INN on Nov. 24.

K-Kids faculty advisor Mark Mihopulos greeted NS INN volunteer committee co-chairs Harriet Lewis and Beth Fedirko and K-Kid members welcomed them.

The K-Kids Toothpaste and Toothbrush Drive project, with the theme "give back to our community" involves the entire Sea Cliff Elementary School to participate in helping others who are in need. The goal is to have as many as possible new individually packaged toothbrush and/or a new 4 oz or smaller tube of toothpaste to be sent to the NS INN for distribution to those less fortunate in our community.

Harriet Lewis and Beth Fedirko kicked off the meeting by explaining the mission of the NS INN then followed it up with a question and answer period. Looking on were Olga Scileppi, North Shore Kiwanis K-Kids Liaison and Past President Herb Schierhorst.

Key Leader

Dean
Beltrano



Stella Maris. We can't wait to see the returning students and meet the new ones.

As always, I come hat in hand to our New York District, seeking funds to educate students on what it means to be a Servant Leader. To this end, I am asking any club that is unable to send students to please send \$100 to the district towards sponsoring a student.

If your club is still sponsoring students to attend, we are grateful and look forward to their attendance. If you would like to help defray the costs for other students to attend, then please send a donation of \$100 and some student, somewhere in New York will be

able to attend.

Students will enjoy three days of learning and making new friends as well as reconnecting with friends they may have made at past events.

I am proud to serve as the district coordinator and I know Ann loves being the site coordinator. We look forward to serving the district once again.

There is something new on the horizon from Kiwanis International regarding the Key Leader events, so stay tuned. As I learn more, I'll keep everyone informed.

I'd like to start this year off by thanking all those who have supported the Key Leader program for the last 11 years. Without you, we wouldn't be back for our 12th.

Ann Holevinski and I are looking forward to another great year a Camp

Eliminate Project

Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse



Auld Lang Syne is appropriately playing in the background as I write the last column I will be submitting for ESK. As of Dec. 31, 2015, the first phase of the EliMiNaTe Campaign came to a close, and the roles of Area Coordinator, District Coordinator (my position), Multi-Division Coordinator, and Division Coordinator are no longer needed for the next phase.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda and Past International President Jerry Christiano who served as Area Coordinators; our Multi-Division Coordinators, Augusta Van Duzen, Lynne Catelotti, Peter Pellittieri, and Ron Parent, and our Division Coordinators, as well as Past International President and First Lady Tom and Rosemary DeJulio, our governors and lieutenant governors. New York had a wonderful EliMiNaTe team.

What exactly did New York achieve? We raised almost \$1.4 million in cash and pledges, and the convention delegates last August unanimously voted to raise the remaining money needed to reach our goal of \$1,796,314 by 2020. The passing of that resolution is due to the commitment of Immediate Past Gov. Eric Paul, who is to be commended for bringing this to the floor. Our SLP clubs have been great partners with us in raising awareness and money for Eliminate. We would not have been so successful without them.

So far 90 percent of our clubs have participated in the EliMiNaTe Campaign. This is remarkable, but there are still 10 percent who have not come aboard. This is a personal sadness for me because my goal from the beginning was that everyone would give something to help rid the world of MNT. Unfortunately, some of our clubs still have a Chamber of Commerce mentality, meaning that they will serve their local community, but not go outside of it. As members of Kiwanis International, however, we must have a larger world vision than our own local space.

But what did we really achieve? Because of the efforts of New York Kiwanians, we already have protected



774,955 women and their future babies from the scourge of MNT. When we reach our goal (hopefully before 2020), we will have saved a total of 997,952 women and their future children. That realization is staggering to the mind. The craft fair, Matching Mother's Day Zellers, Kiwally's pencils, murder mystery dinners, Trick or Treat Boxes, \$1.80 donations and all the other fundraising we did joined with the eight major gift donors, the two \$100K clubs, the Platinum Club, the other 13 Model Clubs in protecting those women and children. The world is a better place this New Year's Day because of us.

It has been a pleasure working with you on this campaign. Now let us all take a cup of kindness and remember with joy the days of Auld Lang Syne. And let us continue to work hard to raise the money we promised at last year's District Convention. Excelsior!

Eliminate Project Model Clubs

Clubs are able to show their support for the Eliminate Project by pledging at various levels.

The following clubs have agreed to be 100K clubs, donating a total of \$100,000:

Chinatown, New York City
Fordham, Bronx

The following club has agreed to be a Platinum Club, requiring a donation of an average of \$1,500 per member:

All Island

The following clubs have agreed to be Model Clubs, requiring a donation of an average of \$750 per member:

Amherst
East Greenbush
East Yonkers
Hartsdale
Huntington
Lewiston
Middle Village
North Central Staten Island
Patchogue
Sand Lake
Sayville
Three Village-Brookhaven
York-Leicester



The Kiwanis Club of Middle Village recently received a donation from Schneps Communications of \$1,250 as part of its Eliminate Project campaign. Victoria Schneps-Yunis, Schneps Communications co-publisher, (center) presented the proceeds from a raffle to the club. In turn, she received a Centennial Award in gratitude for the donation. Shown presenting the award are, left, Past President Tina DiTroia, and Past Lt. Gov. J.P. DiTroia.

Eliminate Pledges at \$104 million

During the last five years, The Eliminate Project has raised \$104 million to support UNICEF's MNT elimination work.

In the last year alone, fundraising increased by \$26.8 million and 16 districts showed their support through district-wide commitments.

In 2010, the Kiwanis family set out to raise \$110 million to help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide. During the last five years, 19 countries have eliminated MNT, thanks to UNICEF, Kiwanis and partners, leaving 21 that are still at risk.

Woodbridge Donates Pediatric Trauma Kit

The Woodridge Kiwanis Club presented a Pediatric Trauma Kit to the Woodbourne Fire Department First Aid Squad on Dec. The Kit is a child-sized ambulance trauma equipment kit which was compiled to meet most "on scene" emergency needs of children. Equipment is color-coded based on the size of the child and includes 16 items.

The Woodridge Kiwanis Club and the FCS Key Club raised the money for the kit through a pancake breakfast and a Scratch-Off Raffle which were held during in September and October.

Woodridge Kiwanis, serving the children of the entire Fallsburg Central School District, wants to thank all the businesses that donated items for use at the breakfast, and Stewart's Shops for donating \$250 toward this project.

Woodbourne Fire Department First Aid Squad President James Tavormina presented Woodridge President Deborah Jacobsen with a certificate of appreciation for the donation.



Long Island North Celebrates K Family Connections

During November the K Family celebrates the joining hands for service.

The Long Island North Division annually has a special dinner to recognize all members in the Kiwanis family; this year we had 98 in attendance.

The North Shore Kiwanis Club annually hosts the event.

Also participating were other Kiwanis dignitaries including Gov. Forbes Irvine Long Island Lt. Gov. Jeanne Egan and district administrators for Circle K, John Keegan; K Kids, SDPLG Mickie Leamey; and Key Club, John Goldstein.

Pictured at right is District K-Kids Administrator Mickie Leamey with two K-Kids who participated in the event.



**Pediatric
Lyme Disease**

**DPG John
Gridley**



Instead of my usual article, I would like you all to read a letter that I have received from a young lady with chronic Lyme disease.

*Dear Past Gov. Gridley:
My name is Julia Bruzzese, I am 12 years old. I go to St. Bernadette School in Brooklyn. I am currently in a wheelchair and cannot walk or feel my legs. I have been sick since May. Before I got sick I was very active in my school community. I participated in many activities and clubs. I was also the second vice president-elect of my school. I was a straight A student. In May I got very sick. I visited the emergency room six times and I was in four different hospitals. I have visited numerous specialists and after three months and*

many negative test results I got a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease. I had to start taking pills every half hour. I spent my whole summer in hospitals. My two brothers and little sister gave up their summer and spent every single day in the hospital with me. My dad had to leave his work to take care of me.

After getting oral antibiotics for Lyme disease, I started to feel my toes and wiggle my toes. I started to become more awake when before I couldn't stay awake for more than five minutes.

When September came I wasn't able to go back to school because I couldn't focus on my school work and because my school is not wheelchair accessible. My friends and principal have been by my side every step of the way. My principal, Sr. Joan, gave me and my family tickets to see the Pope at JFK airport. I wasn't expecting the Pope to come over to me to bless me, but he did! Meeting the Pope was the most precious moment of my life.

An Albany doctor saw me on TV and offered his help for free. My family and I took him up on his offer. I now have been living upstate with my father

away from my siblings and my mother. Now we are trying to get a PICC line and medicine delivered to my home. Because my dad is not working, we cannot afford this. We are in danger of losing our home. The insurance company is denying payment for my treatment.

I know that I am only 12, but I believe that this experience has made me stronger than ever. So to whoever is reading this, speaking from the bottom of my heart, please help me!

Sincerely, Julia Bruzzese

As a side note. In speaking to Julia's mother, on May 11, 2015, Julia had an acute onset of abdominal pain that spiraled into a litany of symptoms that included headache, stiff neck, back pain, chest pain, severe abdominal pain, hair loss, fever, migrating joint pain, numbness and tingling in a stocking like pattern of the hands and feet, sensory deficit of the lower extremities.

Central Adirondacks Christmas Project Provides 966 gifts

Each year the Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks collects and distributes gifts and toys to special families in the Woodgate, Thendara, Old Forge, Eagle Bay, and Inlet area and in recent years has added Long Lake and Indian Lake.

In 2015, the program provided 966 gifts and toys to more than 322 children in the Central Adirondack community.

The total distribution included 966 gifts, 171 stuffed animals for the younger children, 90 theatre tickets for the older children, 86 knitted articles, 58 books, 108 sets of scarves, hats and mittens and 58 hams. The scarves hats and mittens were provided by the Old Forge Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

This year Kiwanis again partnered with the Marine Corps League Toys for Tots Program, which greatly helped in providing the appropriate gifts for chil-

dren of all ages. Gift and toy collection locations were at Adirondack Bank, Community Bank, Inlet Department Store (ACE), Kinney Drugs, Old Forge Department Store (ACE), Old Forge Hardware, Smith Marine and Souvenir Village. In addition, there were toy collection sites at the following Post Offices: Old Forge, Eagle Bay, Inlet, Thendara and Woodgate.

The Strand Theatre assisted with discounted movie tickets and Old Forge Department Store donated wrapping materials. The employees of the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari, Water's Edge Inn & Conference Center and the Old Forge Camping Resort did an internal gift drive and the employees of Smith Marine used the tips from their concession at Snodeo to purchase toys.

The Town of Webb Schools Key Club and a number of community volunteers were major contributors to the

success of the wrapping party. The Dec. 16 gift wrapping party was held at the VIEW.

Chris Gaige, Past President of Kiwanis and Chairman of the Christmas for Kids project and Linda Kurtz project co-Chair commented, "There were more gifts and toys and more help and cooperation for this year's project than ever before".

Chris also recognized the generosity of the entire Central Adirondack Community. "Kiwanis volunteers conducted a Christmas Raffle during Christmas On Main Street which raised more than \$1,300, and solicited funds at CAA's Snodeo which raised over \$1,700. This year's Snodeo attendees were more generous than ever. In addition, a number of community members made financial donations. The complete support of the community is what makes this project such a success".

Clubs Jointly Sponsor Dinner

The Kiwanis Club of Ken-Ton We held our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 26.

The annual event was started decades ago as an Eagle Scout Project, sponsored for years by the Serotoma Club (a local service club that no longer exists) and is now sponsored by the Ken-Ton Kiwanis, Kenmore Lions and Zonta Club of Kenmore.

As a true community dinner though, there are many others involved as well.



Bronx-Westchester South Participates in Alzheimer's Walk

On Oct. 4, Kiwanians, Circle K and Key Club members from the Bronx Westchester South Division participated in the Alzheimer's walk on at White Plains High School.

Members from the Yonkers, East Yonkers, Hartsdale, Riverdale, Bronx Shore, Westchester Village, Bronx: Parkchester, North East Bronx, Mount Vernon, Morris Park, Fordham, Bronx.

Circle K members from Fordham, and Key Club members from the Saunders High School also participated.



New York District Kiwanis Foundation

District Foundation

Sal Anelli



Happy New Year! I sincerely hope that everyone has had a great and safe new year and I wish only positive things in the upcoming year.

Last year at this time I told you how we were able to restructure many things in the previous year, cut down unnecessary spending while keeping our standards of a great place for the seniors and children that attend our Kamp. I'm here to tell that most of our goals for last year were realized. We upgraded many cabins that really needed it. Thanks to Kyle Hoffman from the Metropolitan Division

we rebuilt a cabin that was really in need and of course Herb Chan, also from the Metropolitan Division, took care of a great deal of problems that arose during the year.

All this work is always to make the Kamp Kiwanis experience for the attendees is a great one that will be never forgotten. We were able to stay fiscally sound while doing all of the aforementioned upgrades.

Of course, this does not mean that we now relax, much to the contrary; we must stay vigilant in maintaining the quality of the Kamp because upgrades are necessary. The harsh winters alone always give us many challenges to overcome before opening for the next year, then there is government regulations that give us cause for unexpected expense. For example, the pool lift that we have is no longer adequate for government regulation, so before the upcoming Kamping season we will be spending

\$6,000 to \$7,000 to purchase and install a new lift. Thanks to some very generous people, we have already covered part of that expense.

Most importantly however, is the children that attend Kamp Kiwanis. Every year we strive to improve their experience because we know that the better the experience the more they learn and the more that they are likely to be better people as they grow up in their community.

Last year almost 600 children experienced Kamp Kiwanis. We are looking to increase that figure. We can make an impact on many more children, we just need you to sponsor more.

As always, I want to thank all of the Kiwanis clubs and individuals who sponsored children last year. Please know that you truly made a positive impact on them.

Happy New Year and see you at Mid-Winter.

International Foundation

Jim Mancuso



One of the lesser-understood aspects of Kiwanis International to its members is the charitable activities taken by the Kiwanis International Foundation. Sure we all know about the Eliminate Project, which has raised nearly \$110 million, but the foundation has much more to it, and recent improvements have transformed it into a world-class organization.

For example, Charity Navigator, an independent American nonprofit corporation that evaluates charities in the United States, gave our foundation a 0 rating in 2011. It now has reached a maximum possible score of 4. This rating increase occurred because KIF has worked diligently on reporting transparency and continually reducing its

percentage of overhead associated with supporting its giving programs.

More recent great news was that The Lilly Endowment (as in the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company) provided a grant for \$1.5 Million to the foundation. It has been more than three decades since this endowment (which is based in Indianapolis) had provided any resources to Kiwanis. These funds will allow KIF to maintain a version of the staffing and infrastructure built for The Eliminate Project, which is now being repurposed since that program has ended. The formal fundraising campaign for The Eliminate Project concluded December 31, 2015. Over time, this new grant will dramatically increase the KIF's fundraising capacity.

KIF current assets are approximately \$15 million, and now efforts shift from Eliminate to multi-program charitable giving. In 2014, KIF was able to provide \$650,000 in grants, including the fulfillment of a \$300,000 grant to Kiwanis International to support the Centennial Park projects.

I recommend you check out our foundation and take the time to learn more

about it. Understand how the foundation is taking care of our children. Learn about the Kiwanis Children's Fund, which has programs and initiatives that support and benefit thousands of children each year. Learn about the Youth Opportunities Fund, which supports Key Club International. Once our children become adults, KIF continues its support with the Tomorrow Fund helping Circle K International's college and university students serve their communities and develop leadership skills for life after graduation.

KIF also needs your support. So, see if you can find it in your heart to make a donation or have your club find ways to raise funds for the foundation. The foundation has ways to show its appreciation and provide recognition to Kiwanians who support it: The Today Club, recognizing per member giving levels and the President's Challenge for district leadership when they raise district-giving levels.

You can learn more about the foundation at www.kiwanis.org/foundation. Thank you for your support.

Bowling Green K Kids Celebrate Make a Difference Day

In honor of Make A Difference Day, the Bowling Green K-Kids attended the Trunk-or-Treat Street Fair at the Massapequa Train Station. The event was presented by the Massapequa Moms, Long Island Loyalty and the Joey Foundation.

The K-Kids gave out candy to trick-or-treaters and ran a craft table where visitors made Halloween decorations using

paint color sample cards. Visitors making the decoration were asked to donate \$1 to put a new roof on the Bethel Primary School in the island nation of the Jamaica.

The K-Kids received more than \$150 in donations which will be used for the memorial plaque acknowledging donors to the new roof project.

The roof replacement project is a part-

nership between the Hopewell Kiwanis Club and the Joey Foundation.

Plans are currently in the works to set-up a pen pal program between the Bethel Primary School students and the Bowling Green K-Kids.



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Club Donates \$15,000 to Support Abused Children

Every eight minutes a child is sexually abused in the United States. Only 10 percent will ever tell their story.

There was a time in the Rochester community when the system made the challenges of abused children greater. Without a centralized and focused resource, children had to repeat their traumatic stories of abuse over and over again to emergency room staff and police. The lack of organization allowed families to fall through the cracks of bureaucracy.

In 2004, the Bivona Child Advocacy Center opened in Rochester. This organization is focused on child abuse response, healing, and prevention. They are the first line of support and defense for children that have been sexually and physically abused. They guide the children through the process to ensure their safety and feelings are always considered above all others.

Annually 1,500 children benefit from Bivona's services, and sadly, that number continues to grow. Without room to meet growing needs, they recognized that a new and larger facility was necessary. In 2014, Bivona started the "Building Hope Campaign" to raise money to fund the expansion. A new facility meant Bivonia would have more room for child interviews, medical examinations, therapist sessions, and more, all in a child-friendly environment. They could also work more closely with local hospitals, police, and other victim service organizations to simplify and shorten the process.

Mary Whittier, executive director of Bivonia and a Farmington-Victor Kiwanis Club member, brought attention to the rebuild. She and the Club agreed that funding the facility was a worthy cause that would benefit the community for years



to come.

In 2014, the Club's Board of Directors voted unanimously to donate \$15,000 toward the naming of a medical lab within the new center.

"As Kiwanians, we do our best to strengthen our communities and serve children," said Kiwanis' Past Lieutenant Governor, David Jacobus.

"Giving back to Bivona was a natural connection. They help children when they are at their most vulnerable," he said.

On Sept. 10, several members of the Kiwanis Club of Farmington-Victor were on-hand to celebrate the opening of the new Bivona Child Advocacy Center.