

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.