

Governor

Stephen
Sirgiovanni



I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and I wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

I would like to thank all of the clubs for your efforts to give children, senior citizens, the less fortunate and the sick have a happier holiday season by providing dinners and food baskets, caroling, and bringing toys and visits from Santa Claus. Kiwanis did what Kiwanis does best.

Thank you to all in the New York District who attended the gala in honor of Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson. I'd like to offer a special thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Howard Beach for hosting the gala, and to New Jersey Governor Anthony Affalati and the New Jersey contingency for attending. We collected a lot of toys for children; they were taken to Abraham House, a shelter in the South Bronx.

President Jane was very appreciative of the New York District's hospitality and grateful for the District Foundation Kaiser Medal, presented by Tony Kaiser, former

Kiwanis International president, and District Foundation President Sal Anelli; the Pediatric Lyme Disease Brittany Medal, presented by Julia Bruzzese and foundation founder John Gridley, a former governor; and the KPTC Trauma Kit that was presented to her by LI-KPTC President Joe Corace. The trauma kit will be sent to Nebraska.

Now that the holidays are over we need to get back to work. We need to concentrate on membership. In my business, I must constantly look ahead and plan for the future. We must do the same in Kiwanis, and that means we need to retain the members we have and ask new members to join. The more members we have, the more kids we can help. The communities and the children we help would be hurt the most.

I'd like to reinforce my challenge -- I would like each member to bring in at least one new member to their club. Since becoming your governor, I have brought two new members to my club. I would like every club to have a membership drive and would like clubs to invite the parents of members of Aktion Clubs, Key Clubs, Builders Club and K Kids to attend a club meeting and learn about the ways Kiwanis helps their children, and other children in the community. This tactic will not work for all clubs -- so think outside the box and find ways to invite community members to

join your club.

Even though we are in the heart of winter it's time to start thinking of raising money to send children to Kamp Kiwanis. Last year we sent 620 children to camp -- this year let's set our goal at 650 children. We need to raise an additional \$20,000 to meet that goal.

The mid-winter conference will be held at Villa Roma in Callicoon Feb. 10-12. International President-Elect Jim Rochford, the International trustee assigned to the district, and his wife Deb, will attend our conference. Jim will conduct a seminar in conjunction with the Formula Team on new club building and retaining members. This is Jim's specialty as he has opened more than 100 clubs. I would encourage every club to send a representative to this informative presentation.

There will be many other education forums, and the basket raffle. The club that brings the best basket will win a special prize. Check the district website for updates.

On Friday night, the district will hold a pajama party and ask club members to bring pillows, twin size bed sheets and comforters to be used at Kamp Kiwanis.

All of the amenities of Villa Roma will be available to us so please bring your families. Those who register early will have a better chance of getting a room in the main house.

2016-17 Governor's Project is Multi-Faceted

The Governor's Project for 2016-17 has several parts:

- Autism awareness.
- Juvenile (Type 1) Diabetes awareness and fundraising programs.
- Anti-Bullying efforts.
- Drug Abuse Prevention Program.
- Heart Screenings for student athletes.
- Foundation support.

Help is available for clubs planning to carry out a project.

Keith Cummings is the chairperson of the Anti-Bullying Program. Clubs that want to know more about this program should contact Keith by e-mail, kcmplum66@aol.com. He is willing to come to

club meetings and discuss the program.

The Massapequa Club members will present their program on drug abuse prevention to any club.

If you are interested in an athlete cardiac screening program, contact Past Lt. Gov. Jeanne Egan to set up a heart screening in your community. She can be contacted by e-mail at post2004@att.net.

Clubs also can support the district's foundations: District Foundation, Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Centers and the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation.

More information on the Type 1 Diabetes effort is available from William Basso. He can be reached by e-mail to

wedcoach@aol.com. Clubs can invite local experts on diabetes to speak at a club or division meeting, or a conduct a public educational campaign.

Autism is a condition that has reached epidemic proportions. Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder impacts social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication. Clubs can sponsor a speaker at their meeting, or work to plan local events as a club or in conjunction with other organizations.

Forms for clubs to report what they have done under the project can be downloaded from the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org/govproj.htm.

2017 International Convention is in Paris July 13-16

The 2017 International Convention will be July 13-16 in Paris, France, at the Paris Convention Center.

Registration may be open through the Kiwanis International web site by the time you read this. Registration fees are \$300 until April 15, and \$400 after that.

You can book your hotel online as well; there are two convention hotels, and according to International, they are close enough to the convention center that no shuttles will be used. Costs start at 190 Euros per day; currently the ex-



change rate is \$1.05 to purchase 1 Euro.

While the International Convention is going on, the Kiwanis International European Federation Convention will be taking place as well.

Information on the candidates running for office in Paris is on the International web site. The proposals which will be considered will be viewable on the web site at least 90 days in advance

of the convention.

The opening session will be Thursday July 13, in the evening and the business session will be Friday afternoon.

Friday, July 14, is Bastille Day, a major holiday in France. Friday morning's schedule is open so that Kiwanians can attend the parade and other Bastille Day activities.

The closing session will be Saturday afternoon.