



Secretary/Treasurer

J. Don Herring

I have just returned from the International Council Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The District Secretaries were invited along with the Governors of all the Districts worldwide. Governor David and I were able to get much information that will help us serve you better for the rest of this year.

There was a significant amount of time in the meetings dealing with the topic of growing clubs. This topic took into account all aspects of club growth. For example, there are currently 3,700 Kiwanis clubs that are losing members. This is a very large number. It was suggested that we spend time trying to strengthen those clubs that are losing 1-5 members. Practice has shown that clubs in this range are most likely to show progress toward improvement. Ways to strengthen clubs were discussed. For example, there are still 400 clubs who have no women members. Those clubs could be strengthened by the addition of women. There is a need to build clubs in ethnic neighborhoods. There are many neighborhoods that need a Kiwanis club but do not have one because we have not reached out sufficiently to various ethnic groups.

There was also much discussion about getting Kiwanis working again. That means giving the clubs something to do. There are many programs that are available to the clubs. For example; Kiwanis in a Box, Bringing up Grades, Read around the World, the Flu Shot Program, K-Kids, Terrific Kids, and more. We need to take advantage of all possibilities to allow Clubs to serve.

The last portion of the meeting was the goal of 1,000,000 members by 2015. This was discussed at length, with many ideas presented as to how to achieve this goal. We will all hear more about this in Montreal.

All in all it was a very good meeting. The work accomplished will benefit our organization, if we can include many of the goals that were set forth into our District.

The Mid-Year Conference is just around the corner. It will be a chance for all of us to learn more about how to make our Clubs better in the job of providing service to our respective communities. Send in your registration form now and be prepared to have a great Conference.

Lastly, take a look at the Kamp Kiwanis website. Rebecca Lopez and Marty Toombs have updated the information on the site. I think you'll agree with me that they have done an excellent job. We can all be proud of the work that has been accomplished with the Kamp and the Website.

Should you have any questions about Kiwanis please call us at the District Office. We are there to serve you and the Clubs that you represent.

Lobells Send Thank You to Kiwanians

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with His purpose." – Romans 8:28

To those who have touched our lives:

As we enjoyed the season of celebration of the birth of Jesus, we were so grateful for the blessing of family and friends and the caring and concern they have shown us since the devastation brought upon us by Hurricane Katrina. In these difficult times, communities have grown stronger and we have made many new and lasting friendships. So, while we are saddened by the destruction of our beautiful Gulf Coast, we are a truly blessed family. As God's Word says, God takes care of His children. And He did just that through the generosity of others.

Since August 29, our lives have been greatly changed. Immediately following the storm, we spent a few days in Louisiana where we were able to regroup and find some direction as to what God would have us to do. After much prayer, we returned to Long Beach where Adam returned to his job at BellSouth and I worked with our church's recovery effort.

At first, we stayed in a "tent city" established through BellSouth where the people were wonderful in providing for all of our needs. They not only cared for adults but also kept an ever-watchful eye on our children who grew to love them all. After a couple of weeks, we were able to move into a large camper that belonged to a friend from our church. We remained there for about six weeks before we were able to rent a three bedroom, two bath duplex here in Long Beach.

After three months, our lives have finally returned to "normal." Evan and Christen have gone back to school and are both doing quite well. Both will be celebrating birthdays this month and their major objective is to have a "cool" birthday party. Seth is suffering through the "terrible two's" a few months early! Of course, we were excited about Christmas, but Evan said all he wanted for Christmas is "his two front teeth!"

Our lives will never be the same not only because of the storm but also because of the love, caring, and compassion of others. Your gifts of money, clothes, toys, and other personal items have made our lives so much easier. You enabled us to come out of one of



Adam, Seth, Christen, Evan, and Dodi, Lobell this past Christmas 2005.

the most difficult times of our lives with dignity and thankfulness. Your love, support, and prayers have sustained us through these months and we rely greatly on your continuing to pray for all of us. We will continually seek God for direction and are excited to see what He has in store for us.

God has provided for our family most abundantly. His grace has truly been amazing!

We hope you have had a blessed Christmas and will enjoy the fulfillment of God's promises for the New Year! - Adam, Dodi, Christen, Evan, and Seth.

Mid-Year Basket Raffle Being Held

by Rebecca Ovadia, Raffle Chair

This year, as in the past, we will be holding a basket raffle at the Mid-Year Conference at the Hudson Valley Resort Feb. 23-26, 2006.

The success of the raffle year after year is truly a shining achievement for our District and for all of our generous Kiwanians within.

This year Kamp Kiwanis, the Pediatric Trauma Centers at Albany, Buffalo, North Shore University Hospital, and the Syracuse Children's Hospital will be the recipients of money raised by the raffle.

We are requesting at least one gift basket from each Division in the District to be raffled off at the February conference. Of course, we will be happy to accept as many baskets as are donated. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase the uniqueness of your Club or Division and to highlight the product native to your area.

We hope to create some excitement and fun at our weekend at the Hudson Valley Resort and in the process raise much needed money for our Kamp and Pediatric Trauma Centers.

If you have any additional questions about the basket raffle, please contact me at <WoodsideKiwanis@verizon.net> or at 516-462-5690. I look forward to meeting you and the fruits of your labor in February.



Governor Elect

Joseph Corace

I can't keep the excitement and anticipation from jumping out. As a result of my trip to Kiwanis International and meeting my fellow Governor-Elects, I am excited about the upcoming year. This meeting took place the middle part of January, a new scheduled time for Governor-Elects. In the past, Governors-Elect would get installed in August, take office in October and were off to International for training and education in November – there was no time to think about what had taken place.

This year, I've been given the time to think of how exciting my term as Governor will be. I met my board of Governors-Elect from all over the country and the world for the first time. I listened to my International President Nelson Tucker speak about his plans and goals. He remarks, "It's an exciting time to be a Kiwanian." He doesn't know just how exciting our New York District can be. I look forward to representing our district and will be reporting his message to all.

Now let's get ready for our Mid-Year Conference. The forums are all in place and the conference will be, as always, informative. Governor David has "Wine Tasting" and "Food Prep Demonstration" planned and a Texas Holdem for those of you that want to try your luck. There's something for everyone at this Mid-Winter. Encourage your club members to attend. It's a learning experience and they will come back rejuvenated.

My board of Lt. Governors-Elect will be meeting at breakfast on Saturday and I will have information and a surprise or two. See you at Mid-Winder.

**THE EMPIRE STATE
KIWANIAN**

Official Publication of
THE NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS
FOUNDATION, INC.

Published by
The New York District Kiwanis
Foundation Inc. in the interest of
and for the development of the clubs
in the district.

Circulation10,000

Publication Office:
MizMo Grafix Inc.
1535 63rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219
Phone: 718-259-9679
Fax: 718-259-3422

Email ADDRESS:
NYKIWESK@aol.com
Maureen Neuringer, District Editor

Can You Help?

Boy Needs Wheelchair

The Kiwanis Club of **LEFFERTS-LIBERTY**, Queens West Division - has an ongoing Medical Supply Project where they give walkers, cans and other medical supplies to anyone who needs them.

They are in need of a wheelchair for an 18-year-old boy who is in dire need of one, preferably with a seat belt.

If you would like to donate or receive medical supplies, please contact their Lefferts-Liberty Chair Joan Ferguson at 718-738-5039.