



## Membership Statistics

Jean Andrich

Hi everyone! Hope you're holidays were filled with a lot of joy and good feelings as a result of all of the work you do in Kiwanis, but more especially, all the fun you have had giving back to your local communities.

This Chair is a new one – kind of like the Grim Reaper, which I had originally thought to call it because there has always been this underlying feeling that a lot of people are leaving Kiwanis for all of the reasons we seem to think are happening but there has never been a record of these reasons, so this year, we're tabulating to see the real picture.

Each month (I have sent out Oct and November so far) I have e-mailed or mailed to each club President a request to advise me of why they deleted members on their roster and if possible, to give me the name/phone number of those individuals so we can try to get a better understanding of our District and its objectives for growth. For example – are we recruiting the right kind of Kiwanian, one that has our same values/commitments to our local communities? Are they joining for the right reasons, not just to add another club onto their personal resume?

As of the end of December, I have received several responses that I would like to share: 1 member left for financial reasons, 2 have moved, 2 have passed away, 1 for family obligations. While the records show we have lost approximately 140 members, these are relatively low response levels, so I need your help in asking your Club President/Club Secretary to please respond so we can track the statistics. The records are also showing some of the clubs who have lost members are actively gaining new members – great job! Secondly, if you find members are moving out of the area – please contact the District Office or your Lt Governor – they have rosters of every club's location in the world and what a great way to help another club gain new membership!

Thanks for helping us track our stats – you can e-mail me at [jandrick@adelphia.net](mailto:jandrick@adelphia.net) or call me at 518-686-4188.

## Levittown Parties for Kids This Holiday Season



**Town of Hempstead Supervisor and Kiwanian Kate Murray, Esq, PLG Kevin Regan and Levittown Kiwanians joined together to help Santa distribute gifts at the recent Levittown Holiday Party at Summit Lane.**

# Mandell Honored With Hixson



*(left to right) Elmira President Michael J. Wayne presents Allison Mandel the prestigious Hixson Fellowship Award with the help of DPG Dutch Craumer.*

The Kiwanis Club of Elmira, Chemung Division – recently awarded Alison J. Mandel a Hixson Award based on her exemplary service to the Elmira Club.

Mandel received the award during a meeting which also served as a surprise roast in honor of her birthday (which fell on the same day as the clubs meeting). Elmira Kiwanis Officials wouldn't confirm Mandel's age but did say "it was equal to the former NYS speed limit."

The award was presented to Mandel by Past NYS Governor ('93-'94) S. M. "Dutch" Craumer or Corning and current Elmira Club President Michael J. Wayne (DPP '87-'88).

In acknowledging Mandel's contributions to the Elmira club, Wayne noted that she: joined the club in 1989 and was the club's first female President ('95-'96), the club's first female Lieutenant Governor and the first Elmira Club member (male or female) to ever serve a second term as Club President ('03-'04). In addition Mandel serves as District Co-Chair of Staging and is also a Circle K Administrator at the state level.

In addition to a large number of Kiwanians in attendance a number of her Excellus Blue Cross co-workers also attended the club meeting. All in attendance had expected a representative from Excellus to

speak on the topic of rising medical costs and insurance premiums. In addition to Past Governor Craumer, Circle K. Administrator John Keegan and representatives from the Elmira College Circle K - where Mandel serves as an Advisor - also were present to pay tribute to Mandel.

The program featured toasts, tributes and roasts of Mandel by an Excellus Co-worker, Jim Reid, Elmira Club member Mike Hamula and Elmira Kiwanis Past Presidents Paul Hart ('91-'92), Paul Stull ('92-'93), T.J. Malone ('94-'95) and Desi Schneck ('04-'05).

And while the meeting was filled with lots of funny stories and laughter, the most poignant moment came in a tribute to Mandel from Elmira Club member Dick Shaw - who joined Kiwanis in 1951 and served as President of the former Elmira Heights Club in 1961. Shaw, now 87, said if he had his way "Alison would have never been a Kiwanian." He admitted that he and other Elmira members were against the idea of opening membership to women in 1987. "Boy was I wrong," said Shaw. "When I see how much work Alison, and many of the other women members have done for our club over the years, I now know that we needed them to remain a strong club. And I'm sure glad they joined."

## Merrick install Female President

Ilene Dixel, 42, has become the first female president of the Kiwanis Club of Merrick. She was installed on Sunday, Oct. 2 in a ceremony marked by joyful anticipation of the future and the celebration of a rich past.

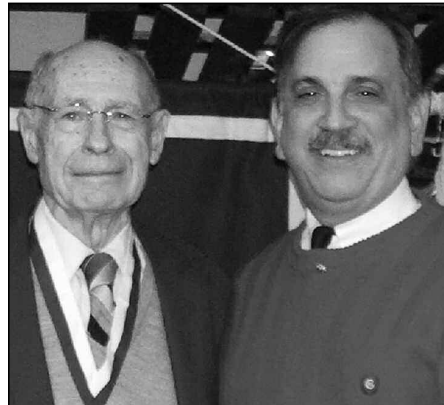


*President Ilene Dixel and daughter Ashlee, 19, a former Key Clubber.*

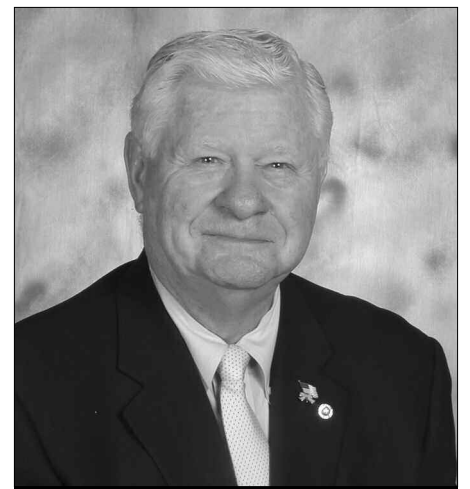
Fighting back tears as she recounted her own experience of needing a helping hand following her divorce, Dixel, who was named Merrick Woman of the Year in 2005 – told the jam-packed room of Kiwanians, friends, family, politicians, business associates and Key Club members, "Kiwanis doesn't make people ask for things they need; they just knock on the door and they are there giving. When I needed help, my family received a knock on the door," she said. As the club's first female President, Dixel promised, "We're going to make Merrick a little bit dif-

ferent. We're going out to tell the community what we are and what we do. The richness of our past is going to be our future, which is dynamite."

## Erwin Stern Celebrates 50



The Kiwanis Club of **EASTWOOD-EAST SYRACUSE**, Chemung Division – recognized Erwin Stern for 50 years of membership at a recent meeting of the Ontario Division. DPG Joe Eppolito reminded everyone that Erwin has served the club and community through the years by participating in fundraisers and service projects. Erwin also led the club to 50 continuous years of Inter Clubs (Round Robbins) and served in a variety of positions, most notable as President in 1988. DPG Joe presented a "Kaiser" blazer, a medallion and a plaque to Erwin, as everyone celebrated the achievements of this fine Kiwanian.



## New Member Orientation

Peter J. Owens

I was asked by Governor David to act as District chairperson for this important operation. Fortunately I had this assignment before with one of David's predecessors so I have good experience.

Unfortunately it is a frustrating assignment. In my travels around the bottom half of the state, I have not seen much improvement in the club approaches in 'how to treat' the new member and how to acquaint them with Kiwanis. Each club within every division has a variation of how they do this vital aspect of a new member's life.

I always ask Kiwanians to remember how they were inducted and how their orientation was handled. The older members have many storied tales of that date-many would have done it differently. It took man of the older members a while to determine what Kiwanis was and their role in this new club and adventure.

Newer members have been more fortunate. KI has prepared tremendous amounts of literature-tapes, seminars-all designed to make this essential moment in the new member life significant. We now have speakers who would visit, tapes to listen to, and many 'how to' brochures etc, all readily available.

I encourage the club president to petition their Lt. Governors to have a divisional meeting set aside to have this matter explored and centered by a 'speaker' who can make the presentation successful.

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## Sherman Named Kiwanian of Year



The Kiwanis Club of **CORTLAND**, Chemung Division – honored Rachelle Sherman with a plaque naming her as the **New Kiwanian of the Year**. She was recognized for her outstanding dedication to Kiwanis. During 2004-05, Rachelle enrolled a new member, chaired the preparation of the booth for the business show case, prepared the vehicle and signs for the dairy parade and is the counselor for the SUNY Cortland Circle-K. For the year 2005-2006 she has accepted the position as Secretary.