



Sponsored Organizations and Programs

Tony Palangi

It's Time To Reflect Upon the Safety of Our Nation and the Impact On the Youth of America

America is a great nation. In times of threat and conflict, her greatness has been defended and sustained by those who bravely fought on her behalf – the men and women of our Armed Forces. Unfortunately, today America appears divided in our effort against terrorism and the conflict in Iraq. Demonstrations on the part of many citizens and opposition to the war among legislatures, have taken a significant toll on the status and image of this great nation worldwide. While our veterans fought for, and many died for the right of Americans to protest and enjoy freedom of speech, history tells us, there is a downside to protesting irresponsibly or freely expressing opinions that carry the wrong message to the enemy. Terrorists are encouraged, by public antiwar displays here at home. It sends a message that we, as a people, are not united on winning the war on terror. The lack of support is devastating to the morale of our troops who are valiantly fighting to protect our freedoms and the American way of life, as well as giving hope and democracy to the people of Iraq.

As Kiwanians, we are patriotic and believe in the traditional values that were largely responsible for the rapid growth of America both economically and militarily: Love of country, love of family, and love of God. The K-family together can make a difference. Each one of us can carry the message to our communities, friends, and most important to the legislatures who now appear divided in their support of the war in Iraq.

The Circle K Speaking Conference held on November 4-6 at the Georgian Hotel in Lake George, New York, was a highly successful weekend that was both informative and fun. Annually, it's a very important conference because it takes place in the first semester of the school year. It provides Circle K members with the opportunity to implement new service projects and activities offered by the many panels and forums. Also, the new club officers have an opportunity to attend special sessions for training. Governor David Rotham was the featured speaker on Saturday evening. He encouraged all Circle K members to work together with the K-Family. Governor David was especially pleased to hear that both Circle K and Key Club were extensively involved in "Tutoring" as an on-going project. At the closing session on Sunday morning, Past Governor Tony Palangi presented a program on Kamp Kiwanis. Circle K annually supports the Kamp. They hold meetings there and enjoy a fun weekend.

Continued on Page 15

Metropolitan K-Family Project Brings Holiday Joy to Children

METROPOLITAN DIVISION – This holiday season marked the first annual Children's Christmas Party Metropolitan Kiwanians have begun. Over 80 underprivileged children and their parents were treated to joyous party. There were 143 children and 98 adults who came to enjoy the festivities. The children ranged in age from 2-10. These children came from the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island.

The project was a joint Divisional and Key Club event. In attendance were, Curtis High School Key Club with its advisor Janet, and the newly formed Saint Joseph Hill Academy Key Club with its advisor Brian and 12 of its new to-be inducted members.

The party was held at the Renaissance on Hylan Boulevard from 11am to 3pm. Four characters continually walking around (this is when the Key Clubbers helped out) and played with the children. Key Clubbers face painted and used stick on tattoo's for the children.

Bonkers the Clown and his associate brighten up the experience. Throughout the

four hours the clowns continually walked around making balloon animals for the children. Bonkers wowed the children with a 20 minute magic act in front of his audience of children and adults. He was great!

After the magic show, all the children sang Christmas Carols which hailed in the big man himself. Santa visited the children and toys were given to each child present.

The DJ kept the action going on, playing Christmas songs and the Macarana, as well as the Cha Cha Slide. The food ranged from a fine breakfast to an elegant dinner with dessert bestowed to all in attendance.

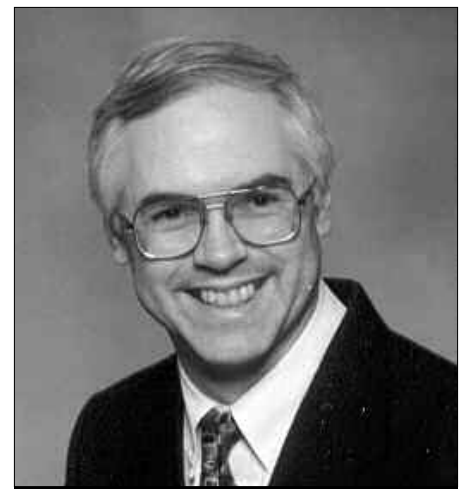
The Chairmen for this event were DPP Alex Inserra and DPLG Joe Battista. Thank you to IPLG Mark Russo and LG Fran Hogan for their great insight in making this party a reality as a joint venture between two terms of office. Also a great thanks to the sponsors; Sean Cusick, PLG and board president Lindy Marrazzo, Mark Russo, Jodi's Bar and Grill, and JR Landscaping. The event was a huge success by the smiles on the children's faces, or was it all that food and the clowns?



Cartoon characters entertain the children.



Bonkers the Clown made balloon animals for the children.



Key Leader

John Swartwout

Key Leader is Kiwanis International's new leadership education program for high school students. Its mission is to provide a "life-changing experience that inspires young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership." Service leadership is the concept of leading by example and empowering others to achieve their full potential. It is the cornerstone of the Key Leader program. The weekend program consists of experiential learning which focuses on building the participants' personal integrity, growth, respect, community building, and pursuit of excellence.

To follow up on the successful Key Leader event held in Holmes, NY in September 2005, New York District will host 2 weekend events in 2006: on May 19-21 at Camp Stella Maris south of Rochester and on October 6-8 at the Warwick Center near the NY-NJ state line. The program is open to students in grades 9 through 12 (plus graduating 8th graders for spring programs).

What can you and your Club do to enable youth from your community to benefit from this program? Contact your local schools, Key Clubs, Builders Clubs, Scout Troops, Youth Groups, etc. and invite them to participate. Sponsor one or more of the local teens at \$150 each. Partner with other local civic organizations, fraternal organizations, and businesses to sponsor additional participants. There is no limit on the number of students from a given school that may participate. You can download a fact sheet on this program to share with your community by visiting the sponsored youth page of the New York District Kiwanis web site (www.Kiwanis-NY.org).

For further information, contact John Swartwout (Upstate Co-Chair) at (518)274-8639 or jswartwout@worldnet.att.net; or Kim Scharoff (Downstate Co-Chair) at (516)432-0850 or kscharoff@yahoo.com. A PowerPoint slide show of the September Key Leader event is available for your use and Key Leader Committee members are available to speak to your Club.



Above: DJ adds a lot of fun for children. Left: Events Chairs DPP Alec Inserra, DPLG Joe Battista and LG Fran Hogan (seated) pose with Santa and children. Missing from the picture IPLG Mark Russo.