



Secretary/Treasurer

Ann Sewert

Our Mid-Year Conference at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa was a great success. The forums and other meetings were well attended and very informative. The Opening Session on Friday evening was about our Sponsored Leadership Programs. The District Administrators as well as our Circle-K and Key Club Governors brought us up to date on their respective programs and shared many success stories. Lunch on Saturday was dedicated to members attending a conference for the first time and our new Kiwanians. Many new members were in attendance and a great time was had by all. Saturday evening we celebrated the success of Governor Don, First Lady Marlene and Don's Dream Team. Congratulations once again to Governor Don and his team on a very successful year.

As winter fades to spring, make your plans to participate in Kiwanis One Day. On April 4, 2009, all Kiwanis Family members around the world united in a day of hands on service. Information on Kiwanis One Day can be found on the Kiwanis International web site. On the home page click on "Service Projects" and follow the links to Kiwanis one Day. There you will find a One Day Game Plan. How to get started, selecting a project, resources available and how to report your success to receive your Kiwanis One Day Banner patch.

International Convention

It's time to make plans to attend the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention June 25-28 in Nashville. You'll meet new friends, reconnect with old ones—and have a blast in Music City. Kiwanis International is planning a dynamic program this year, with targeted educational tracks and specialized sessions on member retention, club development and growth. And don't forget the fun! It starts with the Chart Toppers celebration in the exhibit hall on June 25 and builds to the Saturday Night Stampede on June 27 at the Wildhorse Saloon, where there will be dinner and dance lessons at an exclusive Kiwanis party.

The New York District has been assigned to the Gaylord Opryland Hotel Resort and Convention Center. Registration forms for the Hotel and the Convention can be found on the Kiwanis International web site at www.kiwanis.org, look for the Nashville link on the home page. Opening session of the convention is scheduled for Thursday afternoon from 2-4 pm. Thursday Evening we are planning a New York District Dinner. Details will be sent to each club president and secretary and will also be posted on our district web site at www.kiwanis-ny.org. At this time our New York District caucus is scheduled for Friday morning from 7:45 am-8:45am. The Kiwanis International business session is scheduled from 2pm-5pm on Friday afternoon. Friday evening is Kiwanis Night at the Grand Ole Opry (an optional ticketed event). Saturday afternoon is the closing session followed by the

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Kiwanis Int'l Proposes Major Revenue Changes in Nashville

Simplifying Dues

Despite a time of global economic difficulties, planning and stewardship have positioned Kiwanis International in a strong financial condition. To help ensure that continues, the Kiwanis International Board is proposing Bylaws amendments that aim to simplify the dues-collection process and sustain financial stability.

A special task force of Kiwanis members studied Kiwanis International's revenue sources for the past year with a goal to provide the necessary flexibility to address changing needs while maintaining accountability to clubs and members. The International Board considered the group's recommendations and will forward four suggestions as proposed Bylaws amendments to the House of Delegates at the 2009 International Convention in Nashville, June 25-28. A fifth recommendation does not require Bylaws changes. The proposals include:

1. Develop an online billing system for annual club fees and new-member enrollments integrated with Kiwanis International's member database. Members would be able to update their own information 24/7, and club secretaries can process rosters and pay fees online, all via secure methods, though they would still have the option to mail paper copies if preferred. This aspect is key to the proposals, but does not require a Bylaws change to implement.

2. Establish a common annual billing cycle of October 1 to September 30. This would simplify the process by eliminating the

confusion of staggered payment dates based on when each club organized.

3. Replace the word "dues" with "annual club fee" when it relates to what clubs pay to Kiwanis International. Members owe "dues" only to their clubs, while clubs pay an "annual club fee" to Kiwanis International.

4. Replace the current flat "new-member add fee" with a "graduated enrollment fee" schedule that decreases each month from a starting point of \$62 (the same amount currently charged for membership dues, magazine subscription, and liability insurance combined) down to \$6 at the end of the year.

5. Eliminate individual magazine fee waivers for spouses. Even though Kiwanis credits clubs \$8 for each waiver, Kiwanis still pays \$5 for each magazine not mailed in fixed costs that cannot be waived (staffing, article purchases, etc.) Members who do not receive benefit of this waiver absorb the costs.

These recommendations are designed to streamline and modernize the dues and fees collection process, use technology more efficiently for members and staff, and simplify club reporting requirements, making the jobs of club secretary and treasurer easier.

Kiwanis International has prepared a brochure with more information, which is available via <http://community.kiwanisone.org/media/p/9157.aspx>. Presentations are also scheduled at many midyear conferences to allow members to ask questions. Members are also encouraged to e-mail their questions to feedback@kiwanis.org.

Nashville Convention June 2009 Highlights

Author, servant leader Kent Keith on bill for convention

Kent Keith, CEO of the Greenleaf Center for Servant leadership, will present a 3-hour workshop on June 27, 2009, at the Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The workshop will use as its guide Keith's book *The Case for Servant Leadership*, which cites the universal importance of service, defines servant leadership, compares the power model of leadership with the service model, describes some key practices of servant leaders and explores the meaningful lives of servant leaders.

Keith has been helping people find personal meaning since he was a college student in the 1960s. He's the author of *The Paradoxical Commandments*, guidelines for finding personal meaning in the face of adversity. He is also the author of "The Universal Moral Code," a set of fundamental moral principles that remind each of us to live our values and do what's right.

Keith has given more than 900 presentations, conference papers and seminars, and been featured in *The New York Times*, *People* magazine, *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *Family Circle*. He has appeared on NBC's *Today Show* and *The Hour of Power*. His most recent books are *Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2002); *Do It Anyway: The Handbook for Finding Personal Meaning and Deep Happiness in a Crazy World* (Inner Ocean Publishing, 2003); *Jesus Did It Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments for Christians* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005); and *The Case for Servant Leadership* (Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, 2008). His newest book is *Have Faith Anyway: The Vision of Habakkuk for*

Our Times (Jossey-Bass, 2008).

Keith serves on the Kiwanis International Key Leader Advisory Board. Learn more at www.kentmkeith.com.

Jeff Wolf to speak at leadership luncheon

Business coach and consultant Jeff Wolf, who will speak at the Leadership Luncheon, understands how business acumen, leadership skills and common sense make successful leaders. Wolf, who co-authored the book *Roadmap to Success* with management gurus Ken Blanchard and Stephen Covey, will share tips to help Kiwanis leaders clarify their purpose and vision, set goals and stay focused and committed.

Learn more at www.wolfmotivation.com.

Be inspired, entertained by comedian Judson Laipply

Don't miss this dynamic inspirational comedian, who will infuse laughter with thought-provoking moments during the opening session (2-4 p.m., June 25).

Known as a breath of fresh air in a sometimes-suffocating world, Laipply draws from his vast array of experiences that include jobs on a cruise ship, at a camp and as a part-time auctioneer and weekly columnist. (If you've seen him perform at a Key Club or Circle K International convention, you know what we mean!)

Laipply will share his humor and wisdom on topics from change to teams to setting goals, and he'll top it off with a performance of *The Evolution of Dance*, whose Internet video has recorded more than 10 million views. Learn more at www.theevolutionofdance.com.

Register for the Kiwanis International convention at www.kiwanis.org/convention.



Empire Club

Joe Eppolito

International Foundation - Fulfilling "One Child and One Community at a Time"

Have you ever realized that by each club giving to the Annual Club Gift Campaign, that club helps fulfill our Kiwanis International theme & motto? As of mid-January, the clubs in the New York District have amazingly given over \$14,000 to date compared to that same time last year's total of over \$5,000.

Clubs that give to the ACG Campaign earn 10 points towards Distinguished Club Status and is often the "tipping point" on whether or not the club reaches that distinction. More clubs need to make that donation, not just for the points but for the fact that the money is used for disaster relief, Key Leader, Sponsored Youth education, and grants to clubs. A percentage of the funds gets returned to our District in the way of a reimbursement for our annual breakfast recognition for Tablet of Honor, Hixson, Heritage Society, Hixson Ambassador, Kaiser and Empire Club recipients at our District Convention.

I encourage all clubs to give to the Annual Club Gift Campaign, consider awarding a Hixson, Tablet of Honor or a Hixson Ambassador to a deserving Kiwanian or outstanding member in your community. The money will be used to help children all over the world.

As New York District Chair for the Kiwanis International Foundation, I am amazed at our District's generosity. Let's "step it up a notch" in our Annual Club Giving. In spite of our great giving so far this year, it is hard to believe that we are 27th out of 30 North American Districts in total giving and 20th out of 30 North American Districts in per Kiwanian giving (\$1.70). Let's summon up some competitive juices and move up the ladder for our District to be recognized as a leader in this area.

Feel free to contact me @ 315-449-3000, ext 358 or email me @ Pepster@aol.com

Van Rensselaer Kiwanis Clubs Receive Awards at MidYear Conference



Governor Elect David Booker, left and the Van Rensselaer Division attended the New York District Mid- Winter Conference. Van Rensselaer Kiwanis Clubs of Sand Lake, Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer and Troy received Distinguished Club awards. All these Clubs in addition to the North Greenbush Club received a Public Relations Award.