

Governor

Bill
Risbrook



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you New York District for making this year's Mid-Year Conference a huge success. I have received many calls and also many compliments as I have traveled around the district saying how much everyone enjoyed this year's conference.

Everyone was excited about the new forums that we introduced at the conference. Our forums on the use of Facebook, establishing websites for clubs and divisions and helping to start Internet clubs went over really well with our members. I want to thank all of the people who conducted the forums for a job well done.

One forum in particular that was well received was "How to Run a Proper Kiwanis Meeting", which was conducted by Lt. Governor-Elect Frank Romeo of the Genesee Division. When I walked in, it was standing room only. Even I could not get a seat. Good Job Frank.

As always, I want to thank Jack Roddy and the great staff of the Holiday Inn for the great job that they did. I would also like to thank our volunteer photographer Joel Harris of the County Seat, Mineola, Club for his taking photos that you have seen on our website. And as always, a

special thanks to Rebecca and Herman Ovadia for the wonderful job they did with the Basket Raffle. We raised more than \$5,000 this year from the baskets which was then distributed to both Kamp Kiwanis for military children and to our Pediatric Trauma/Hospitals throughout the district.

Our membership in the New York District is steadily growing. As I travel throughout the district, doing my Governor's Visits, I am delighted by the good news of new members coming into our Kiwanis Family. Also, I have enjoyed listening to reports on all the great projects that the clubs are doing. Keep up the good work.

One of the great moments for me as your governor took place on April 4, 2012. On that date I was very proud to present the charter to our new Kiwanis Club in Farmingdale. Congratulations to Charter President Georgiana Sena, who played a big part in organizing the club. Also to Lt. Governor Dr. Steven Perrick for all his hard work in helping to start this new club. And of course to past Distinguished Governors Joseph Corace and Joseph Epulito for all their help with the new club. I am looking forward to more new clubs during my year as Governor. Also, let us congratulate Immediate Past Distinguished Governor Michael Malark and his team of "Maverick's" for leading the New York District to Distinguished status during the year of 2010-11.

Our next big event will of course be our International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year will be extra special for our New York District because

our next International President will be our very own Thomas E. DeJulio and our next International Foundation Board President will be Peter J. Mancuso. I am looking forward to a large number of our New York District members attending this great event to honor two of our greatest Kiwanians to ever represent our District. We are also planning a huge celebration to honor Tom and Dr. Rosemary for their accomplishments and dedication to Kiwanis. New Orleans has a lot to see and do in the way of fun, music and education, and I know our New York District will want to take advantage of this.

Our own New York District Convention will take place this year in beautiful Niagara Falls. This will be held August 15-19, 2012. Please start making your vacation plans now. Our members are encouraged to stay at the beautiful Sheraton At The Falls hotel. This hotel is right in the heart of everything and has a casino directly across the street. The convention center is right next door. Our convention committee headed by chairperson Ron Parent is now in the process of setting up sightseeing tours and other entertainment to help make this a great week to remember. We hope to see everyone there.

In closing, I want to thank all of my Lt. Governors for their hard work and dedication and on behalf of myself and First Lady Dr. Lavonia, I want to thank all of the Divisions we have visited so far for our Governor's visits. We have been overwhelmed by the great hospitality and welcome we have received at each Division. Thank you so much.

District Historian

PIP Anton
Kaiser



At the June 28-July 1, 2012, Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans a highly significant event in our New York District History will occur: Our own favorite son, Tom DeJulio, our 1996-97 District Governor, will be elected the 96th president of Kiwanis International. Tom will be only the third New York District Kiwanis Leader to achieve the highest officer in our global organization in the 94 years since our 1918 formation as a district of Kiwanis International, the first being yours truly at the Washington, D.C. convention 25 years ago, in 1987, and the second being Jerry Christiano 16 years ago in 1996.

That 1987 convention was especially significant in Kiwanis history as the occasion at which at long last clubs were

authorized to invite women to join Kiwanis. It was also only the second time in our history that a sitting U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, personally attended and addressed our convention, the first being Franklin D. Roosevelt who in 1936 addressed some 4,000 convention delegates assembled on the White House lawn. (Incidentally, that 1987 convention was during the term of Charlie Price, our first African-American district governor, and 25 years later, the upcoming convention at which Past Gov. Tom will be elected by a single unanimous ballot will be during the term of our current Gov. Bill Risbrook, only our second African-American governor.) But I digress ...

Our New York delegates in New Orleans will be on hand to celebrate Past Gov. Tom's and First Lady Dr. Rosemary's extraordinary and well-deserved culmination of a decades-long distinguished career in leadership roles at all Kiwanis levels. Their many years of service to our district and to worldwide Kiwanis have been highlighted by a long list of important elected offices and appointed positions, all most admirably performed and a constant source of

great pride to our district and of great benefit to our organization.

As our favorite son assumes the office of president on Oct. 1, 2012, our New York Kiwanis hearts will swell with justifiable pride and reflected glory with every expectation born of experience of a wonderful turnaround year, 2012-13.

We trust that our delegation to New Orleans will be the largest in our history and that all in attendance and all New Yorkers unfortunately not able to be with us will join in wishing Past Gov. Tom and First Lady Dr. Ro a most successful Kiwanis year and safe travels. I cannot imagine a Kiwanis couple better qualified in every way to lead Kiwanis in these challenging times. We are blessed indeed that they have offered themselves to Kiwanis. Tom and Ro, Viva con dios.

Editor's Note: Of course one other President of Kiwanis International also came from New York: George Hixson of Rochester, the first president of Kiwanis. He was elected president before the New York District was established.