



First Lady

Debra Fuchs

I am so happy I had the pleasure of meeting and discussing the Partner's Project with so many of you during the Mid Winter Convention. Additionally, I was pleased at the tremendous turnout for the forums that both Gov. David and I hosted for the Governor's Project as well as the Partner's Project. Numerous interesting questions were raised and I hope that we were able to answer most of them. Many of you have come up with even more innovative ideas on projects for the disabled. I was quite touched and deeply moved.

Recently, I attended both the Circle K Convention and the Key Club Convention. Both Gov. Helen of the Circle K and Gov. Kristen of Key Club have had their groups participate in projects for the disabled. These young adults have put in countless service hours, as well as raising large sums of money for some wonderful causes. They never cease to amaze me with the amount of energy they put into each and every new endeavor. I applaud them for the help they have given me with the Partner's Project this year. As the new district officers take over for the 2006-2007 year, I know that they will continue helping me with this project.

Finally I would like to congratulate my daughter Gabrielle on her election as Treasurer for the New York District Key Club. I am so proud of her accomplishments. I am confident in the knowledge that the "Mighty New York" District of Key Club will have another successful year.

Please continue the excellent work that you are doing in your clubs and divisions as I look forward to receiving many more completed Partner's Projects.

Mid-Year Conference

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NEW YORK DISTRICT MID-YEAR CONFERENCE, HUDSON VALLEY RESORT & SPA, KERHONKSON, NY – Kiwanians gathered in the beautiful Catskill Mountains for their annual Mid-Year Conference. This year's event included some very unique opportunities to attend interesting forums, enjoy a food preparation presentation and taste by distinguished Chef Jennifer Stoker, Culinary Institute of America in New York and Kiwanians also sipped delicious wines from the Brotherhood Winery.

This year's forums included topics about the new Key Leader Program, Attracting Sponsored Youth, and Mentoring the Disabled, as well as Member Retention, New Club Building and TAG Team. Our International Trustee PG Thomas DeJulio held a very well attended forum on Kiwanis International. The discussion included our agenda to bring in one million members before the year 2015.

After reviewing the Convention Survey, it was clear Kiwanians has a great weekend.

Yonkers Sends Love to Riti on Valentines Day

Kiwanis Club of **YONKERS**, Bronx Westchester South Division – gave Distinguished IPLG Rocco Riti of the Yonkers Kiwanis Club a party to honor his term. The event was not the typical celebration and held several surprises. To the audience's delight, Rocco himself sang his rendition of "Cabaret" from the Broadway musical. Rocco was persuaded to perform by the Master of Ceremony and co-chair of the occasion, PLG Bob Rubinstein (Riverdale Club). Rocco was terrific, judging by the response.

The fun was just beginning with the premier performance of the "Roccoettes", which consisted of one extremely talented Key Clubber from Ursuline High School, Gillian Munsayac, and seven Kiwanians to fill out the chorus. The ladies, who had rehearsed several times over a one-month period, highlighted the evening with an adapted version of "Don't Forget About the Boy" from the Broadway hit, Thoroughly Modern Millie. It was staged and directed by DPP Division Public Relations Chair Claudia White. The performance, dedicated to Rocco by describing his term as Lieutenant Governor, was a smash hit with the crowd. How else could they respond to the lovely Roccoettes wearing their costumes from the roaring twenties and their fishnet tights? As they sang and tapped their hearts out, they also danced the Charleston. Among those in the chorus line was one of the co-chairs of the event, DPP Millie Radonjic (Parkchester Club).

Just when you thought the night could not improve, the testimonials and the awards were presented. Rocco received the George

A second recognition from the Bronx Westchester South Division was the presentation of the Kaiser Award by PLG Bob Rubinstein, who also gave testimony to Rocco's exceptional leadership.

Governor Elect Joe Corace was in atten-

Pediatric Lyme Disease).

The special night was like no other in recent memory. Everyone strolled away humming. Once again, Rocco had won their Kiwanis admiration and respect, and had stolen their hearts.



Left to right: The "Roccoettes" – East Yonkers DPP Palma Volino and DPP Nancy Shaw; the Honorable West County Legislator Lois Bronz from the Hartsdale Club, Parkchester DPP Millie Radonjic, Key Clubber Gillian Munsayac, Fordham Pres. Susan Brucculeri, Hartsdale DP Secretary Lucille DeBellis and East Yonkers Pres. Vickie Volino.



LG Jack Glazier and DPLG Rocco Riti.



Hartsdale DP Secretary Lucille DeBellis, DPLG Rocco Riti and the Honorable West County Legislator Lois Bronz also from the Hartsdale Club enjoy the fun.

F. Hixson Fellowship, presented by International Trustee Thomas DeJulio and DPLG Dr. Rosemary DeJulio (Fordham Club). In his speech, Tom remarked, "In my forty years of being part of the Kiwanis family, I have seen many hearts of gold, but few glow with the goodness, humility, and compassion we discovered in the heart of Rocco Riti."



Past Governor Glenn Hollins (left) joins the festivities and thanks DPLG Rocco Riti for his service to Kiwanis and the New York District, along with Bronx Kiwanians.

dance and made Rocco a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Fellow in a touching moment. IP Governor Glenn W. Hollins also spoke in glowing terms regarding Rocco's year and declared him highly distinguished. One of the "energizers" had proved to be just that.

Other dignitaries in attendance were: Lt. Governor of Bronx West Division Jack Glazier, DPLG Nydia Corace (upcoming First Lady), Peter Owen (District Chair of New Member Orientation/Special Assistant), Senior Anne-Marie Kirmse (District Chair of Human and Spiritual Values), and Joseph Michael Wuest (New York District Co-chair of



DPLG Rocco Riti, is congratulated by International Trustee Thomas DeJulio and DPLG Dr. Rosemary DeJulio.

Rothman

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K Governor Grace for their coming year. Please make every effort to attend the meetings of our Sponsored Youth and invite them down to your club meetings. Share their enthusiasm by doing more joint projects together and invite their parents to attend your meetings and ask them to join our Kiwanis organization.

As you know by now, our new Sponsored Youth Leadership program is Key Leader and no longer H.O.B.Y. Please support the Key Leader program. There are two scheduled for this calendar year in the New York District.

Clubs should now be scheduling elections for the coming Kiwanis year and all dues should be paid. If you have any questions or need assistance with this matter please contact the District office.

The New York District will be hosting our International President Steve Siemans and his

lovely wife Barb, from May 5 thru May 7. He will be visiting the greater New York City and the Long Island area on May 5. He begins his visit at the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at North Shore University Hospital and ends the day with a gala affair where both first families will make official visits. The next day we will travel to Kamp Kiwanis and be part of the open house weekend ceremonies.

President Steve will have the opportunity to address Kiwanians present, as well as the incoming class of Lt. Governors. We will then be traveling to the Finger Lakes for a gala dinner that will be hosted in Steve and Barb's honor. They return home the next day.

Please make an effort to meet and hear the dynamic International President Steve Siemans speak. Kiwanians strive to grow to one million members for our centennial in 2015. Remember one can make a difference!