



Aktion Clubs

Debra Fuchs

I had the distinct please of attending the annual Service Leadership Conference in Denver this year, and I return with great news. The NY District is fourth in growth for Aktion Clubs with a 52% increase over last year. When I first started in the position of Aktion Club District Administrator in October of 2006 there were nine clubs and we successfully added five more last year, bringing us to the current total of fourteen.

It looks like we may have several more clubs in the works for this year, as numerous LTGs have contacted me regarding start up and chartering information. Any club, division or sponsored youth club that is interested in starting a new Aktion Club can reach me at blueyes1255@aol.com or visit the Aktion Club website at www.aktionclub.org.

Every two years each of the Service Leadership Programs of Kiwanis International participate in a wide scale service project. The current service project for Aktion Clubs is "SCAW", Sleeping Children Around the World. This past year the Aktion Club's participation with SCAW was instrumental, as we donated approximately 800 bedkits to children in the Philippines. SCAW was founded in 1970 by the late Murray Dryden, a Kiwanian, along with his wife Margaret. Murray had a hobby of photographing sleeping children, and as a retirement project both he and his wife decided to provide bed kits to fifty children in India. The concept grew and eventually "Sleep Children Around the World" was born. Bed kits are produced in the country where they are being donated, to bring money into the county as well as allowing for varying contents based on need. For a \$30 donation each kit may contain: a mat or mattress, a pillow, a sheet, a blanket, a mosquito net (if applicable), clothing, a towel and school supplies. Every child is photographed with the kit and a photo is mailed to the original donor. For each \$200 donation made through an Aktion Club, Kiwanis International will match the funds. This program truly enables Aktion Clubs to become part of a world wide project. To date more than 800,000 children, in over two dozen nations have been the recipients of free bed kits. For those of you who attended the NY District Convention in Buffalo, we had the please of having Dave Dryden (Murray's son) speak about SCAW and his recent trip to the Philippines with Anthony Ng, the president of the Toronto Aktion Club. I was so honored that they took the time to visit our district convention. Dave even left me a SCAW kit that was used for donations in India. If your clubs are interested in making donations, you can make them through an Aktion Club in order to receive matching funds or a Key Club, Circle K or Kiwanis Club can make a direct donation to Kiwanis International. Remember to write SCAW in the memo of the check along with your Kiwanis ID number and include your address for a picture. If you are interested in having me attend a meeting to speak about SCAW please feel free to contact me.

Penn Yan Celebrates 69 Yrs of Service

The Kiwanis Club of **PENN YAN**, Finger Lakes Division – was founded on February 13, 1939 with Ralph Davis as their first President. The club was sponsored jointly by the Geneva and Elmira Clubs. After the addition of the Penn Yan Club, the Geneva Division had quickly grown to an impressive 21 clubs. With such a strong number, the division had to be divided and thus the Finger Lakes Division was formed. Penn Yan is the southern most club in the division, being 12 miles from the Chemung Division border. Despite the distance, the club is still very active. The club has had seven LG's, two of which remain active, Bill Sutherland and Bill Moravec, and one honorary member Ted Henry. Also notable, Penn Yan has one Hixson Award member and numerous Legion of Honor recipients. The club was one of the first to admit ladies following by-law changes. Two of the original ladies, Delores Southerland and Marilyn Moravec, are still active and received the 20



Left to Right: President Barbara Pringle, PP Art Covert, 65 year member, Susan Loughnane, PP Delores Sutherland, PLG Bill Sutherland, and PP Deborah Clancy.

year perfect attendance awards.

The club has a reputation of commitment as there have been three sets of father and

son Presidents and three husband and wife Presidents. Their current President is Barbara Pringle.

Penn Yan Crafts for Golisano Hospital

The Kiwanis Club of **PENN YAN**, Finger Lakes Division – has a special project going for the Golisano Childrens hospital.

They are knitting, crocheting or sewing hats for the preemie babies in the NICU. These newborns must keep their bodies warm and the hats provide them with a nice cozy headcover. Not only have the Kiwanians been making the hats but many churches and individuals in the community have joined in on the project.

The are also collecting beanie babies for the children awaiting radiation treatments at the hospital. President Barbara feels this is a good project and would like to see Kiwanis clubs around the state pick up on it for the local NICU in their community.

Photo right: Penn Yan Kiwanians display hand-crafted items for Golisano hospital children.



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wanis requiring "orientation", staff has been directed to produce a downloadable video or DVD to be delivered to every new member.

In connection with its focus on mentoring and developing future leaders, the Committee, with the assistance of the Task Force on Service Leadership and Branded Program Expansion, will be submitting proposals to the International Board regarding service leadership expansion in all regions.

The Committee has also been charged with the assignment to develop proposals to achieve organizational objectives at conventions, with strategies to maximize focus on leadership through service, diversity, and global inclusion. Some ideas that have surfaced include the promotion of more interaction and participation by international participants; spotlighting present and former members of Kiwanis Service Leadership programs; workshops to identify and cultivate new and more diverse leaders at the highest levels of Kiwanis; and offering a convention-wide service project that will involve simultaneous action by more than "5,000 volunteer leaders" assembled at convention.

Governance

The Board enhanced and expanded its "conflict of interest" policies, amended board counseling and travel policies, clarified the role of the International Committee on Resolutions and Bylaws, and considered proposals to have Districts hold their conventions concurrently with the International convention. - January 2008

Sunnyside Celebrates 60th Anniversary as a Family



Queens West LG Angelo Maltaghati, PLG Joanne Billharz, DPP Robert Billharz, and newest Sunnyside member Henri J. Billharz.

Kiwanis Club of **SUNNYSIDE**, Queens West Division – When Henri X Billharz founded the Sunnyside Kiwanis, in 1947, he knew it was a good thing for his community. Whether he envisioned the club becoming as important to his family as it has been, we're not sure. At the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Sunnyside Kiwanis Club, Henri J. Billharz (grandson of Henri X. Billharz) thought, It's time for me to do more than just help out this club whenever they have a project that needs me. It's time for me to "join the family" in another way, and become an active member of the Sunnyside Kiwanis Club, and join it he did, making three generations of Billharz, active Sunnyside Kiwanians.

Kiwanis is a family, and has become a

family undertaking for the Billharz family as well. Founder Henri X. Billharz became Lt. Governor of the Queens West division. Henri's son Robert became a member and a distinguished President of the club and brought his wife Joanne in as a member. Joanne Billharz became Queens West Lt. Governor in 1995-96, leading the division to the rank of Super Distinguished that year. Now Bob and Joanne's son Henri J. Billharz has joined his parents and grandfather, in the Kiwanis family as well.

Congratulations to founder Henri X. Billharz for founding not only a great Kiwanis club but for founding a family whose hearts belong to Kiwanis and their community, generation after generation, as well.