



Community Services

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Everyone knows that part of our fabric as true Kiwanians is to develop new and inventive ways to do Community Services in our towns and villages. Some clubs – for years have concentrated on the same certain projects and have accomplished them. Others do not have a designed project and will do one or two random service projects each year.

First thought is – each club should appoint and maintain the position of a Community Services Coordinator/chairperson.

This individual should immediately review what is planned or not and begin to tie all loose ends to accomplish the goal.

Another thought is – try something new. Last year Governor Joe asked me to begin a new project – to get all clubs to try a new project – one they never did before to attain a new dimension of service. About 20 clubs made that effort last year- they broke the mold and did something new. Finally – we suggest that clubs ally themselves with neighboring clubs to try something more inventive – like blood drives, clean – ups projects. We suggest to include your Key Clubbers and K Kids to expose them to community service and broaden your commitment. Governor Don is anxious to make this year more productive and wants clubs to be creative especially by breaking out and trying something NEW.

Kingston Kiwanians Bring Joy to Kids



The Kiwanis Club of KINGSTON, NY, Hudson River Division – held their annual Children's Party for the Brookside School this past December. The party, held at Skytop Steakhouse, hosted 36 children from the school. Santa (played by Kingston Kiwanian Joey LoBianco) distributed gifts donated by club members to each child.

The children and their teachers/ chaperones were treated to lunch at the restaurant.

Everyday Heroes Honored For Unique Refuse Art Trucks



BWS Lieutenant Governor, Palma Volino, seated second from right, joins many other Kiwanians in honoring local Everyday Heroes at November 28, 2007 event.

The Kiwanis Club of EAST YONKERS, Bronx Westchester South Division – attracted wide publicity and special recognition recently as they wrapped six refuse trucks in colorful art work depicting environmental themes, a project of the Yonkers Department of Public Works.

New York District 2006007 Governor Joseph Corace asked local Kiwanis Clubs to present "Everyday Hero Awards" to individuals who have performed acts of service that go beyond the ordinary.

The East Yonkers Kiwanis chose to honor local "heroes" involved in creating and producing the unique "Refuse Art Truck" project,

as well as members of the Yonkers DPW Educational Environmental Team who go into the Yonkers public and private schools to give presentations to students about the work of DPW.

According to the President of East Yonkers Kiwanis, Claire Campisi, "The art trucks offer a dramatic method of raising public awareness of the importance of recycling and other conservation approaches."

Presentations to honorees were made at a special Awards Dinner sponsored by East Yonkers Kiwanis. It was held recently at the Dunwoodie Golf Course Oak Room.

The Everyday Hero Recipients are:

- Hon. Phil A. Amicone, Mayor
- John A. Liszewski, Commissioner DPW
- Helen Tvedt, Director of Economic Dev.
- Mona Chen, JMC Art Partners
- Jodi Moise, JMC Art Partners
- Barbara Segal, Segal Fine Arts
- Lou Picani, Safety Coordinator, DPW
- Pete Capobianco, Environmental Manager, DPW
- Michael Ruggiero, Environmental Manger, DPW
- Tony Martelli, Labor Supervisor, DPW
- Brian Carter, Environmental Worker, DPW
- Rosemary J. Uzzo, Educational Consultant

10 Tips for Effective Club Meetings

A club meeting is usually the only time when members interact directly with the club. What do your meetings say about your club? Are they friendly, organized, and interesting to all members?

Here are 10 tips for holding a well planned meeting that projects a professional image to both members and non-members.

- Start on time and end on time.

Delaying the meeting start time for the sake of latecomers only penalizes those that do make the effort to show up promptly. It may take a few weeks, but once those latecomers see that the meetings really do start with or without them, they will eventually start showing up earlier.

- Introduce visitors and guests warmly.

This starts off the meeting on a friendly tone and makes non-members feel welcome. Remember that every visitor is also a prospective member.

- Prepare and follow a proper agenda.

This point cannot be emphasized enough – agendas are critical to meeting success. Give the mic to committee chairs or other members who would like to make announcements, but keep good control on time.

- Plan meetings with variety.

Strive to plan meetings to be interesting, entertaining and informative for added value to the membership. Search for speakers bureaus to get ideas, or contact nearby clubs to exchange tips on great speakers.

- Create a congenial atmosphere.

Members feel best and gain the most when they are at ease. They need opportunities to get to know each other, to talk together, and to build trust. A few ideas to help create positive situations where members feel free to "join in" are team-building activities, small group discussions, and committee work.

- Move people around.

In a meeting, seating arrangements become important. Some members, especially new members, may not be outgoing. By changing the seating arrangements from time to time, members will get better acquainted and feel more at ease. Some clubs use a system where each member upon arriving at the meeting will draw a number from a hat, which will designate which table they will sit at, which helps eliminate cliques.

- Hold interesting programs.

To ensure interesting programs for the whole fiscal year, the program committee divides the membership into groups of two. Each pair is assigned the responsibility for one program during the year.

- Keep backup programs.

Have the program chairperson keep a good program or two available that can be substituted on short notice. Or, hold an impromptu club assembly where the club is divided into two or three groups, and each will focus on different areas of improvement for the club. At the end of the meeting, each group will present to the rest of the club their ideas and conclusions.

- Promote meetings in advance.

Announce the program for the following meeting in advance to give people enough notice to ensure they attend. People are much less likely to double book their meeting if they are aware of the speaker and have a genuine interest in attending.

- Keep the board meetings open.

Encourage all members to attend board meetings even though only board members have voting privileges. It is particularly valuable for new members to attend and learn the business operations of the club, so add this item to the list of new member induction steps.

Central Adirondacks Kiwanis "One Day" Event a Success

Every one of the more than 600,000 people in the International Kiwanis family has been encouraged to participate in a special ONE Day of community service. The worldwide event is scheduled for Saturday, April 5.

However, due to the annual spring break in the Central Adirondacks the Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks determined that it should schedule its event to coincide with another need in our community.

Recognizing the need for operating funds for the Community Youth & Activity Center (KYAC) in Old Forge, The Kiwanis Club and the Town of Webb School Key Club determined to hold a Spaghetti Dinner as a fundraiser.

The event was held at the Old Forge Fire House on Saturday March 8 and was a great success. Nearly 200 were served a spectacular meal prepared by Jim Connerty and his staff from the North Woods Inn and assisted by many Kiwanis and Key Club volunteers. A super bake sale and a 50/50 drawing were held.

Several local businesses donated supplies. DiOrio's sent makings for 150 salads and food distributors Sysco, Maines, and Zy-mowski donated most of the food and paper products for the event.

Over \$2,000 was raised for KYAC and Leo DeVincenzi won the 50/50 drawing.

Sheila Brady and Jim Connerty, co-chairs for the event, were especially thankful for all the neighbors who attended, all the volunteers who set up, served the meal and cleaned up and noted special thanks to the contributors of supplies that made the unique Kiwanis ONE Day event such a success.

When the International Kiwanis One Day arrives on April 5, the local Kiwanis Family will be enjoying a well-earned Spring Break.