



Governor's Project

Alan Beinhacker

This year's Governor's Project, "Kiwanis and Kids Fit Together," is being met with some exciting ideas and events to try to help combat the problem of childhood obesity. A recent Duke University study stated that obesity in children is an epidemic that threatens to wipe out other improvements made in the children health and safety areas over the last several years. The report claims that there has been a rise of over 16% in obesity cases in children in just the last few years. Many of these children have suffered the effects of drug use and have committed violent crimes. We as Kiwanians have the ability and dedication to make a difference in the way our children eat, play and socialize.

Many of our clubs and divisions are doing their share to make that difference. Several clubs have purchased uniforms for local sports teams. These purchases give our local kids a reason to be active and to look forward to being part of a team. Our members also lend their support and encouragement to these players during their games. The President's Challenge for Physical Fitness was also a project both the Kiwanians and their children could do together. They recorded their activities and kept track of their progress. Better nutritional awareness is another step many of our clubs have taken. For example, a speaker goes into our local schools and talks of the benefits of good eating habits and increases awareness of the food groups that help fuel our bodies so we can be more active.

All of these events and ideas started at the local level from people like yourself. We all read and see on television the problems and effects that obesity causes. We need you
Continued on Page 6

Mancuso

Continued from Page 3

munity businesses, preferably under the signature of some well known local person who has agreed to join the club. A brochure from the New Club Building Kit should also be enclosed in each envelope. The letters should be timed to arrive in the latter part of the week prior to the recruitment drive.

* Recruitment Week - Go get 'em! Each recruit must sign an application and pay an application fee of \$50, which you will hold until the club is formally organized. These fees will be used, in part, to pay the new club's International and District dues.

This process is described in far greater detail in the Membership Development Manual, which you can obtain at no charge by contacting Kiwanis International directly. The manual provides sample letters to prospects and press releases that you can easily customize to your own use. It also covers the steps required to formally organize the club once you reach the necessary number of members, and everything you must do to strengthen the club afterwards.

Leroy Pavilion Club Is Ready for Service



(L-R Seated) Leroy Pavilion Board: Treasurer Shawn Valdes, Vice President Ed Dudley President Terri Starowitz and Secretary Laurie Taillie. Standing LG Lawrence Cartwright , DPG Justin Underwood , Governor Peter Mancuso and PLG David Goodwin.

DeJulio Thanks New York for Endorsement

I wanted to take a moment to express my thanks once again for your endorsement of my candidacy for Kiwanis International Trustee in Hawaii in 2005. I am humbled and honored by the confidence you have placed in me and "Dr. Ro" as we begin this new journey in our Kiwanis lives.

I have been so fortunate to have had many wonderful Kiwanis family journeys - my Key Club and Circle K years between 1966 and 1972 which changed my life in so many ways; my Kiwanis Club years, when I learned the critical importance of "grass roots" service; the journey in 1981-82 that went beyond the local club, learning and sharing service with 27 other Lt. Governors; the five year journey as Circle K Administrator advising and influencing collegiates, so many of whom went on to become professionals and civic minded leaders because of what they learned in the Kiwanis family; the memorable journey as your District Governor in 1996-97 which sharpened my insight into the great potential for good that exists in this vast, diverse state of New York; and the last six years working on various Kiwanis International committees that informed my sense of what needs to be done to make this worldwide network of distinctive, dedicated volunteers more known and recognized

throughout the world.

With Kiwanis embedded in my life for the last 38 years, I cannot imagine how different and less valued it might have been without those many journeys identified above. Did I forget to mention that my wife and I were introduced to each other in 1972 by my Key Club/Circle K advisor? (Of course, she was only "seven" at the time.)

Through your endorsement, you are sending me on another Kiwanis journey, one filled with the hope and promise of working for a better future for Kiwanis - one with a more positive image, one that exudes professional competence and leadership, and one that is better prepared for change and strategically planned growth and expansion. I know you share these hopes, so please be assured I will do everything I can, as a candidate and as a trustee, to achieve them with you, for the sake of others.

Thank you for vesting me with the challenge and the responsibility to make Kiwanis a more distinctive volunteer service organization that places the highest priority on the health and educational needs of children.

Best wishes for your continued success this year and in the years to follow.

Cordially,
Tom DeJulio

Our District New Club Building team., including Mike and your regional New Club Builder, will also make themselves available for whatever assistance you may need.

Let's work together now to begin building the greater New York District that will extend Kiwanis service to many communities where it is now unknown, as we expand our mission to serve the children of the world.

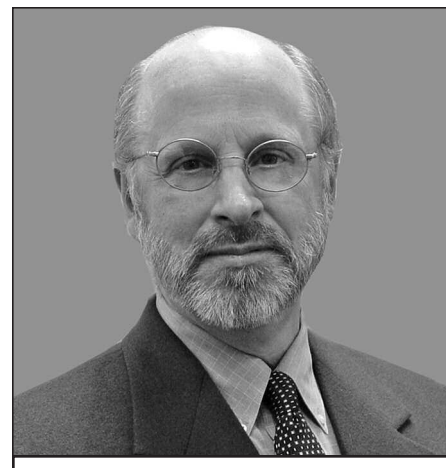
Last call to register for our International Convention in St. Louis from June 25 to 29, 2004! If you have never been there, St. Louis is a fantastic city with many family oriented tourist attractions and a wonderful night life. If you have never been at an International Convention at all, it's a fantastic experience at which camaraderie is shared by thousands of Kiwanians and guests from all over the world.

In addition to electing our International officers, our delegates there (two from each club) will reach decisions that will affect Kiwanis for decades to come. For example, there will be proposed bylaw amendments

this year that would switch our clubs to a staggered annual dues payment system; that would mandate that any motion requiring a 2/3's vote be voted upon by paper ballot; and that would merge our constitution and bylaws. Your club should be there to be heard on all of these matters, and please note that your attendance is also part of your distinguished club criteria.

There will also be workshops and forums that will offer the best ideas from over the Kiwanis world on membership growth, fund raising and service projects, just to name a few topics. And the entertainment will be outstanding, with Willie Nelson and others performing at our Superstar Night. We are also going to have a lovely District Brunch on Sunday morning of the convention at the top of our hotel, the Sheraton City Center, a great looking hotel right in the heart of the city and within convenient distance of all destinations. The view from the ballroom is breathtaking; we will have live St. Louis jazz to entertain us; and the food will be delicious.

I hope that all of you will plan to meet us in St. Louis!



Special Olympics

Don Ciota

What Special Olympics means to my family.

I am an advocate for Special Olympics. Having seen what it offers to children and adults with developmental disabilities would be enough for anyone to feel the same. But my perspective is closer than that.

My wife, Marie, and I are the proud parents of 2 sets of fraternal twins (all girls). My daughters are all grown now and one of them has given us 3 grandchildren; the oldest, a boy will be 4 in October and another set of fraternal twins (a boy and a girl) who turned 1 year old this April.

The younger of our second set of twins, Hope, was born with a developmental disability, Down syndrome. Every parent wishes their children to be born perfect. We were no different. When a child is born with a birth defect we were quite shocked and depressed. It was easy to ask, "why us?" But in retrospect, that initial feeling was not important. What was essential was to get over that feeling right away because initial sorrow and inaction does nothing to help the child.

What was truly important was to educate ourselves about her condition and learn what resources were available. This was in 1979 before the Internet made such research relatively simple. We were able to make contact with organizations with programs designed for infants like Hope. She was placed in a program that included physical and speech therapy from the time she was 2 months old.

Over the years we became acquainted with many programs which aided us in getting Hope the care and training she needed. Today, Hope is a terrific young woman, who lives at home with her mom and dad, works full time, loves music and has many friends. Special Olympics was one of those programs.

Most of the early intervention programs for children with development disabilities deal with physical therapy, training and education. All these are essential, both for the child and the families. But a child with a disability is also a person with a self-perception and the varying ability to understand he or she is "different." Here is where emotional support is critical. How can you deliver self-esteem to a person with limited abilities?

For our family Special Olympics provided an integral portion of a large mosaic of programs and services we had participated in from birth. Hope, you see, wanted to participate in some of the same activities she saw her sisters doing. Through her school Hope and her classmates were able to participate in various individual and team sports throughout the year. It was SO that organized leagues in which different school districts participated. It meant that Hope and her classmates traveled to games and met on a school bus, just like her sisters.

On one level SO gave these children the opportunity to learn physical skills and to participate in "competition." But there are so many other levels it addresses! It gives the
Continued on Page 6