

Reasons to Attend the District Convention

By Albert Norato Jr.

This year, during the period of August 11-14, the New York District of Kiwanis International will be holding its 95th Annual District Convention in historic Tarrytown, NY. This convention, because of its close proximity to New York City - the capital of the world - promises to offer more chances for members to visit places they've often dreamed of seeing in person, (Liberty Island, Ellis Island, the Empire State Building, the 9/11 Memorial/Ground Zero, just to name a few) but were unable to visit.

In addition, we are less than an hour (approximately 26 miles) from some of the greatest restaurants, brand name shopping stores, Broadway plays in the world, not to mention home of the 27-time World Champion New York Yankees (that weekend, they will be playing at home against the arch division rival Tampa Bay Rays and if you go online, you can purchase tickets at the time of this writing) and the New York Mets (who will be playing several games at home against the San Diego Padres on Aug. 8-11, before they head off for a road trip).

If you are not persuaded to attend for

those reasons, here are a few others.

First, attending conventions, especially a district convention, permits attendees a chance to meet members from various parts of the district that they might not have a chance to meet at any other time. Often, conventioners will find themselves striking up a conversation with a new found friend that can lead to a lasting relationship, which strengthens our resolve to make Kiwanis a better organization.

Second, for any incoming officer, especially presidents and secretaries, CLE training sessions and other forums provides you a chance to get a jump start on your year as a club leader thereby giving assurances to your membership that you are looking forward to having a successful year. This, in turn gives your club members a sense that it will be even more meaningful to work with you as an incoming leader, because you are putting forth the extra effort to make it worthwhile.

A third reason to attend is because on Friday, the District Foundation Board will hold its annual meeting. At this meeting you can learn first-hand about the many events that are taking place

at Kamp Kiwanis. In addition, as in all years, the Foundation will hold its annual elections. This is a time and place for your vote to be heard, so please plan on attending.

Speaking of elections, a fourth reason to attend is to be a delegate for your club and help elect a Governor-Designate and Governor-Elect Designate. The best way to ensure that the New York District has strong leaders to make your opinion known.

Finally, while we may be feeling the pinch from an economic standpoint, because this year's International Convention was held in Geneva, Switzerland, many did not attend. Since you saved yourself the costs of attending an international convention, the actual costs of attending the district convention will be reduced. Our convention committee is working hard to make sure that members obtain optimum value for time that we will be at the convention. Moreover, as members of the district, it is vital that you take an active role in attending these important events.

We hope to see you all in Tarrytown at the New York Kiwanis District Convention.

Convention Speakers Offer Insights

Kenneth Lord, a global professional speaker, successful businessman and involved philanthropist, will present a forum titled "Leading By Example" twice on Saturday morning.



Lord

The talk, which will be valuable for incoming presidents and secretaries, will encourage audience participation, and the use of the Kiwanis Servant Leadership model to help participants discover how their in-

fluence can be utilized more effectively. He will examine how personal choices affect others' view

The presentation is designed to build members' leadership capacity and character potential and provide members with the research and tools to they can use to help them carry out their roles efficiently and effectively.

Participants will learn how leadership by example fits into a servant leadership role.

The speaker at the luncheon on Saturday will be Michael W. O'Reilly. His topic will be "How to Attract and Retain Members".

O'Reilly is a Regional Director for Paradigm Associates LLC. Since 1986, Michael has worked with more than 200 privately-held businesses in addition to large multi-nationals. He and his instructional and sales team worked with more than 3,000 business people from 200 different companies.



O'Reilly

Support Sought for Disaster Relief Effort

Once again at this year's District Convention there will be a collection for the district's Disaster Relief program.

Items will be collected so they can be on hand when disasters occur, rather than requiring that a collection system be set up for each incident.

The following items are being sought: rolls of paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, cleaning products, bleach, laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges and diapers of various sizes.

Personal hygiene items (not travel

size) needed are shampoo, body lotion, soap, shaving cream, toothbrushes, bath towels, razors for men and women, wash clothes, deodorant for men and women, toothpaste, baby power and women's personal hygiene items.

Unperishable food items being sought include canned fruit, canned soup, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit juice, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats such as tuna, spam, chicken, corned beef; pasta, macaroni and cheese, hot cereal, peanut butter and jelly.

The Disaster Relief effort is being chaired by Denis Rosa and Gov. Mike Malark.

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