

## Governor

**Bill  
Risbrook**



Greetings to all of "Bill's Boosters" from your Governor Bill and First Lady Dr. Lavonia. We are having a fabulous year in our New York District.

First I want to thank everyone who attended this year's International Convention in New Orleans. We achieved something that I don't think has ever been done by any District at one Convention before. A new Kiwanis International President, a new Kiwanis International Foundation President, AND a new Circle K International President all winning from the New York District!

First congratulations to incoming International President Thomas DeJulio and Dr. Rosemary. Also, congratulations to incoming International Foundation Board President Peter Mancuso and Karen. And, congratulations to our new Circle K International President Josephine Lukito. We in the New York District are so proud and happy for all of you.

We had more than 300 Kiwanians who attended the International Convention and I know they enjoyed every

minute of it. Special thanks to Nydia and Joe Corace for putting together a great celebration and dinner for Tom and Dr. Rosemary DeJulio. And of course to our District Secretary Justin Underwood for helping to keep things running smoothly.

Now it is time to talk membership. I am very happy to report our District is currently on the plus side in membership. But, we cannot stop bringing in new members if we hope to end our year on the plus side. I want to say to all of "Bill's Boosters": Our year at this point is NOT winding down, our year is GEARING UP. We are gearing up for a great membership drive during the months of August and September. The dues are pro-rated during the year; therefore, you can bring in a new member in August for only \$12 dues to International. You can bring in a new member in September for only \$6 due to International. If ever there was a good time to bring in new members, this would be the time. Remember, if you want your clubs, your Lt. Governor and your District to be distinguished, membership and service projects are the way to do it.

I am currently in the process of building two new clubs in my own Queens East Division. I want to lead by example. Many thanks to all members of our New Club Building and Membership Growth teams for a great job. Special thanks to Kim Scharoff for informing our clubs of potential new members in



their area.

Our next big event, of course, is the District Convention August 15-19 in beautiful Niagara Falls. I feel this will be one of the best District Conventions ever. There will be something for everyone; Bus Tours, Boat Rides, sightseeing, casino play and lots of shopping. Come early and leave happy. Also some great guest speakers and good forums. Our honorees at this year's convention will be past Governor Justin Underwood and Past First Lady Joanne. This would be a great chance to honor both of them by coming to the convention. I cannot think of two better people who are more deserving and worthy to be honored for their dedication and service to Kiwanis. Let's all show our support for Justin and Joanne.

In closing, I again want to thank all of my Lt. Governors for the great job they are doing. And also thanks to the District for some great Governor's Visits and all the love and support you have given to me and Lavonia. May God Bless you and I look forward to seeing you at our 95th Annual District Convention.

## Builders Clubs

**Joanne  
Underwood**



If you've heard me speak about Builders Clubs, you have heard me say something to the effect that "If you give these kids the opportunity, they will outshine most Kiwanis Clubs, as they know no limits." This has once again been proven true, this time in terms of the EliMiNaTe Project.

I have the honor to represent Builders Clubs on the SLP Eliminate subcommittee for Kiwanis International. This is made up of one K-Kids Administrator, one Aktion Club Administrator, one Builders Club Administrator (me), two Key Club member representatives and two Circle K member representatives and is lead by Ruth Pollak who is the

SLP Campaign Director and KI Trustee Sue Petresin. We meet every two weeks on a webinar.

On our last webinar, July 10, the total amount of money given to the EliMiNaTe Project from Builders Clubs was \$53,191.28. Of the SLP's, only Key Club had given more! That's pretty good considering our Builders Clubs do not have any central coordinating/organizing body, with Lt. Governors, governors, International officers, etc. who communicate regularly to promote giving! Our clubs are totally local, and for individual Builders Clubs, with only their Kiwanis Advisor to explain the project and suggest they might want to do a project to raise funds for EliMiNaTe, speaks volumes for those advisors! Thank you!

New York Builders Clubs are truly among THE best in the world, as evidenced by the fact that in International Builders Clubs Contests, we had four International winners, which was more than any other District! As for Club distinctions, only 12 Districts had any Builders Clubs named Honor Clubs, and we were one of them with the Cohen Middle School from Elmira Heights being an Honor Club. New York had six clubs named Distinguished Builders Clubs. In alphabeti-

cally order these Builders Clubs were: The Albany Academy for Girls in Albany, the Alfred G. Berner Middle School in Massapequa, the WT Clarke Middle School in Westbury, the North Shore Middle School in Glen Head, the Ogdensburg Free Academy Middle School in Ogdensburg and the Woodland Middle School in East Meadow/Woodland. That was more than any other district! I'm so proud of our Builders Clubs and the clubs who sponsor them. And, we had seven new Builders Clubs started this year bringing our number of Builders Clubs up to 76!

For those of you who want to start a new Builders Club, NOW is the time. School Administrators work all 12 months, and have more time now than they will have during the school year, to talk to you about the largest Middle School/Junior High Service Club in the world. Don't wait to make an appointment with the principal. Now is the perfect time. If you need help, call me at (585) 342-7657. I look forward to seeing you at NY's District Convention in Niagara Falls.

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Page 3**