

Governor

**Forbes
Irvine**



"We might not have much, but we have more than most" – a powerful message taught to me by my parents and grandmother from a very young age.

I believe that Kiwanians live that message everyday and by doing so enrich the lives of so many people and communities. Because of YOU, so many do not have to ask WHO?

Who is going to send the hungry child home over the weekend with a backpack full of food? Who is going to get that child treated for Lyme Disease? Who is going to recognize the child who may not be the best student, but keeps trying? Who is hosting a "Senior Prom" at the nursing home or the prom for autistic and handicapped children? Who will get kids hearts checked? Who will start the races and give the hugs at the Special Olympics? Who will recognize the teachers and give the scholar-

ships? Who will support our Trauma Centers? Who will teach our children to be a Upstander not a Bystander and that bullying is wrong? Who will send that child to Kamp? Who will have a Baby Shower so that no child goes home with nothing? Who is willing to go into our communities and teach our kids that heroin is wrong? Who will provide the greatest student organizations anywhere?

You do, and Helene and I could not be prouder of the New York District for each and everyone of you are as PG Joe Corace says "Everyday Heroes" to your clubs, families and communities.

Thank You for allowing us to share in the absolute kindness, benevolence, and commitment you have each and every-day.

So around 220 members of the New York District descended upon Toronto for the 101st International Convention celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the first club in Canada. It was an extraordinary convention as we elected our own DPG Peter Mancuso, who will continue the exemplary tradition the New York District has furnished to Kiwanis International. I know you will agree that Peter has our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as he trav-

els throughout Kiwanis International sharing his wisdom and knowledge. His morality, keen sense of judgement, values and inherent honesty will serve us well as our representative on the Board of Trustees.

It should also be noted and congratulations extended to John Keegan our Circle K Administrator, Waala Ahmed Circle K Governor, Tyrell Merritt and Edgar Hu all recognized at the Circle K convention and bestowed Distinguished status. Great job by each and every one of them.

Also congratulations to Henry Wang from Baruch College, our newest Circle K International Trustee.

I hope you realize how much Helene and I look forward to meeting as many Kiwanians as we possibly can on our visits; and how much we are looking forward to seeing you at DCON in Buffalo in August. Your hospitality and generosity has been humbling. This year's convention chair PG Eric Paul has promised that Buffalo will be an incredible experience.

Of the 220 who attended ICON, 219 returned as Americans. Does that pique your interest? Come to DCON, and I'll finish that story.

See you in Buffalo.

**Governor-
Elect**

**Stephen
Sirgiovanni**



Kiwanis International Conventions are always fun, inspiring and full of information about the great organization we are part of and Toronto was no exception!

From the opening session to the closing gala dinner, Toronto was the place be! New York District was represented

well in the business session part of the convention. All of us wearing our "Go the Distance" vote for Peter Mancuso for International Trustee. As Peter's name was announced as one of the 'new' trustees, there was no question that New York was in the house with all the cheering. Congratulations, Peter J. Mancuso, We are all proud of the work you have done and will continue to do on behalf of Kiwanis International

Our own District Convention is right around the corner on August 18-21 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo. I hope you will join us at the convention, see your friends, make some new ones, and learn about best practices that will help us serve our communities better.

As we finish up the last few months of this year, the time is now to reach Sept. 30 with the same enthusiasm that we began the year. Gov. Forbes Irvine and First Lady Helene, along with our district board, have lead us through another great Kiwanis year. Their projects have united us in service and fellowship. Coupled with your hard work, together we have made this district stronger. The service you have done, the members you have recruited and retained will have a lasting impact on our district.

It is imperative to end this year with a burst of energy to grow our clubs, and help the children and communities we serve.

Youth Protection Rules Changing

Kiwanis clubs must be aware of changes to Kiwanis International's youth protection policies, especially as they apply to advisors to our Service Leadership Programs (Circle K, Aktion Club, Builders Club, Key Club and K-Kids).

Currently, all advisors are required to have a background check. The fact that the advisor has had a background check conducted (within the last 10 years at the minimum) by Safe Hiring Solutions (Kiwanis International's background check certified provider) or by a third party background check provider (such as one done for a school

district) must be communicated to your club secretary.

On Oct. 1, 2016, this policy is changing and is more restrictive.

Kiwanis advisors to any sponsored Service Leadership Program will be required to have a criminal background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International.

To prepare for this new policy, Kiwanis Club secretaries should start confirming that their club's Kiwanis advisors for the 2016-17 year are correctly entered in the club's secretary dashboard along with their correct email address on file.

Review the information at www.kiwanis.org/backgroundchecks2016. This web page will help you answer questions you might ask.

While the policy is more onerous it is done for one very good reason: To adequately protect our youth, we must be increasingly vigilant for those in our charge.

If you have questions, please contact Jim Mancuso, New York District Youth Protection chair.