

District Clubs Celebrate Centennials

Three of the first clubs formed in New York State have celebrated their centennials.

On April 29 and April 30, Kiwanis International President Sue Petrison participated in the celebrations by the Rochester and Buffalo clubs, respectively. On May 1, Gov. Forbes Irvine highlighted the centennial celebration in Lockport.

More than 100 people including celebrities from around the district gathered April 29 to celebrate the centennial of the Kiwanis Club of Rochester, including International President Sue.

The Rochester club, the fourth Kiwanis club in the world and the first in New York, also was the home club of George F. Hixson, the first president of Kiwanis International and a key player in the organization's early development.

Hixson, who remained active in Kiwanis until his death in 1967, had 41 years of perfect attendance with the Rochester club, and served as charter president of the club in 1916-17, and returned to the post in 1925.

On Sunday, May 1, the Kiwanis Club of Lockport celebrated its 100th anniversary with an event which also served as the Niagara Frontier North Governor's Visit.

Gov. Forbes Irvine and First Lady Helene and several dignitaries attended the event at the Lockport Canalside Banquet Center.

Lockport, which was completed on May 17, 1916, was the second club in New York State and the sixth Kiwanis club in the world.

The Buffalo club was completed July 3, 1916. No pictures from the Buffalo centennial celebration were available.

Later this year the Albany, Utica and Troy clubs will be celebrating centennials.

The Utica club will celebrate with a dinner on Sept. 30 at the Trackside Restaurant.

The Troy Club will have a two-day event on Oct. 28-29.

See the district web site for more on those events.



Above, International President Sue is welcomed. At left are President Sue and the Master of Ceremonies for the event, Past Gov. Jack Tetamore, a member of the Rochester club since 1959 who holds the distinction of having George Hixson as his Kiwanis sponsor. He told the audience about his relationship with Hixson. His club surprised Tetamore with a Centennial Award. International President Sue gave him a pin marking the award.



Above, Gov. Forbes Irvine addressing the Lockport event. Below, Gov Forbes, Helene Irvine, Niagara Division Lt. Gov. Susan Smith and Lockport Club President Mike Sandone.

