

**Governor-Elect**  
**Forbes Irvine**



Welcome to a New Kiwanis year, the perfect time to reflect on our past year.

First and foremost Helene and I would like to thank each and every Kiwanian for your support at District Convention. We pledge to work tirelessly for you, your club, your division and this great district over the next three years.

I would like to thank Immediate Past Gov. Joe Aiello and First Lady Carole (Cookie) for their dedication and relentless enthusiasm in bringing in 1,059 new members. THAT IS OUTSTANDING. It is now incumbent on all of us to engage and keep them; a busy Kiwanian is a happy Kiwanian. There is no better way than to do projects that directly impact the community YOU serve - no one knows your club and your com-

munity better than you.

2014-15 promises to be an exciting year. Kiwanis will be celebrating 100 years of service. There will be many parties and celebrations. Please take the time to enjoy them while keeping in mind that Kiwanis is at its finest when we do heartwarming projects cut from at-times heart-wrenching situations. It's often not pretty but it's what we do and why we are KIWANIANS. I call it KIWANERGY it's the ability to help - that child - that senior - that veteran - your neighbor - your friend - your friend's friend. Get involved, get your club involved, get your division involved.

Many of us sent a child to Kamp. Now would be a great time to follow up on that child. Do they need a warm coat - a pair of jeans-winter boots. Do they have a safe place to Trick or Treat, do they have a costume? Are Kiwanians or Key Clubbers available to take them?

Thanksgiving is coming. Can your club provide a meal or basket a place at a table?

At your meeting please consider a collection for Pediatric Lyme Disease. These

kids are ill and can't afford treatment.

The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center provides trauma kits to hospitals and first responders. A collection for any of these goes along way to helping and/or saving CHILDREN. It's what we do - WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.

So 2014-15 is under way. Get your Builders, Key Clubbers and Circle K'ers involved. Show our kids why they are "terrific" even if no one else does. Teach them about Kiwanis. We only have them for a few years let's ensure their future and ours and turn them into Kiwanians. Engage our Aktion clubs. They are vital and relevant to ALL the communities they serve. We are proud to serve with them as KIWANIANS.

Finally, Helene and I are off to Indianapolis. We are looking forward to meeting the other governor-elects and bragging about The New York District. We look forward to seeing many of you at Tri-K in November and many more throughout this year.

Good luck Gov. Eric and this year's board. Thank you Joe Aiello and the 2013-14 board. Simply put, extraordinary.

## Woodridge Holds Event for Autistic Children

It was a Saturday afternoon of pure fun and meeting new friends at Fallsburg High School.

The Woodridge Kiwanis Club and Benjamin Cosor Elementary School K-Kids coordinated an event for children on the autism spectrum and with other special needs. The goal was to create awareness of children with disabilities and to give them a chance to interact with their regular peers. The idea for this event originated from the concept of "Autism Awareness", which is the New York State District Kiwanis Governor's project for 2013-14.

Together the children engaged in hands on activities. Seven Kiwanians supervised the children and activities, as well as set up the event. Volunteers with a background of working with special needs children helped make this event meaningful.

Cory Nichols, a riding instructor, and Dorothy Novogrodsky, a Behavioral Specialist, taught the children about horse care, with a real miniature horse. Rachel Countryman, a Kindergarten teacher from Liberty, captured children's attention with a tank of live newts.

Other activities that interested the children were kite flying with Fallsburg



Teacher/Councilman Mike Weiner, singing with FCS high school students Alexis Shea on the guitar and Ilyssa Weiner on the keyboard, and lots of music to go along with the event. There were also crafts, bubbles, tactile materials, gross motor activities, and remote control vehicles. Sherry Eidel and Charlene Wright from New Hope Community provided parent resources.

The children ranged in age from 3 to 17. The nine K-Kids, three Builders Club members and other volunteers, along with K-Kids advisor Jill Weiner, helped plan many of the activities, taking into consideration the needs of the special children.

## Christiano Award Nominations Sought

The New York District Past Governors Council recognizes, on an annual basis, the extraordinary, meaningful and distinctive achievement of the New York District Kiwanis member with an award titled "The Gerald P. Christiano Distinguished Service Award", named in honor of Past International President "Jerry" Christiano.

This award may be presented to only one Kiwanian each year at the annual New York District Convention. The honoree should be a living New York District Kiwanis member in good standing who has "exhibited outstanding meritorious service to individuals in the community and has contributed in an extraordinary manner over a significant period of years to the advancement of Kiwanis."

Sitting governors, governor-elects and past governors are not eligible for the award.

Award presentation and expenditures will be financed by the Past Governors Council only, and cannot be purchased by clubs or individuals.

Recommendation and proposals for award nominees must be submitted by a past governor and shall be presented in writing to the current council chairman not later than January 1 of each year. Evaluation and approval of each award recipient shall be chosen by vote of the council during its Mid-Winter meeting each year.