

Governor

Peter J. Mancuso

A new administrative year. With it come certain tasks that are vitally important for your club. If you have not already done so, you should conduct a club assessment and community analysis as soon as possible to determine what changes in club administration, service projects and fund raisers are required in order for your club to remain an active and vital force in your community.

Clubs sometimes have a way of becoming stale, favoring the same projects and doing things with which they are already familiar. The needs of your members and of your community are changing all the time, and by keeping up to date, you make your club more relevant to the community, better able to attract new members and more likely to retain the ones you already have.

Secondly, you should appoint a Membership Chair and request that he or she conduct a Membership Campaign and a program for prospective members at a club meeting. You should also budget funds to pay for the meals of the prospective members who attend. It will cost you money in the short term, but there is no better investment in your club's future. Further information about how to conduct a Membership Roundup is set forth below.

While we are on the subject of budgeting, please be sure to include funds in your budget to send delegates to next year's International Convention in St. Louis. It's your way of having input into the future of Kiwanis, and your club's attendance is required in order for you to qualify as Distinguished.

Club Officers, please also take the time to familiarize yourself with this year's Distinguished criteria which is identical to last year's. These criteria will provide you with a useful road map of what you need to accomplish in order for your club to have a year of excellence. It is my ambition to have each of our clubs recognized as Distinguished at year's end.

Finally, our club secretaries should plan on submitting their Monthly Reports on a timely basis. I am sure that Secretary Bill will remind you of this, but you should understand as clearly as possible that I despise late monthly reports, and there are no ends to which I will not go to receive them on time. Without monthly reports, we have no idea whatsoever how your club is functioning, and we as a district cannot function in that way.

January is a great time to conduct a Membership Campaign. By then, you will know how many members you will be losing for nonpayment of dues and need to replace. The installations will be over and you will be several weeks past the rush and bother of the Holidays. An influx of new members as you come into the heart of your annual serv-

Continued on Page 10

Chinatown Installs New Officers



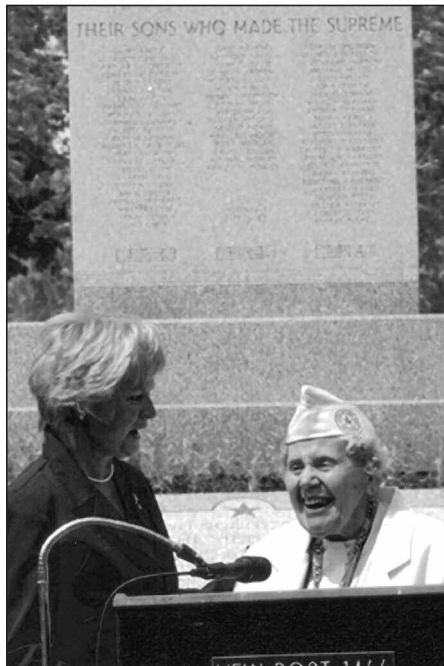
This Kiwanis Club of Chinatown, Metropolitan Division – LG Michael Assenza proudly inducts 2003-2004 officers and directors of the Kiwanis Club of Chinatown.



New York District Governor Peter Mancuso (center) presents a Diamond Kaiser Fellowship Award to DPP Regina Chan and a Kiwanis International Tablet of Honor to DPP James Tong of the Chinatown Club at the recent Installation Dinner. Dr. Nelson Ying of Ying's Foundation received an honorary membership award.

Plattsburgh Breakfast Club Gets Grant to Restore Local Monument

The Kiwanis Club of **PLATTSBURGH BREAKFAST**, Adirondack Division – in partnership with the Senior Citizens Council received a substantial grant from NYS North Country Community Enhancement. The focus of the grant was the restoration of the Gold Star Mothers' Monument, located in the heart of downtown Plattsburgh. The restoration included new lighting, refurbishing fencing and concrete, an irrigation system and the addition of tiers of red, white and blue flowers, which replaced a mound of grass. The rededication ceremony featured noted guests, the North Country Vietnam Veterans Color Guard, Blue Star mothers and fathers, Gold Star mothers, a representative of POW-MIA's and NYS Senator Betty Little's representative. "We are proud to be a part of this very worthy project and commit ourselves to perpetuating the beauty of this special place which honors our fallen soldiers," says Kathleen Hazel, President of Plattsburgh Breakfast.



(l-r) Lt Governor and Immediate Past President Kathleen Hazel with Bernice Conley, Act. Pres., Chapter 30, Gold Star Mothers.



District Historian

Tony Kaiser

The Very Early Years

Most of us have heard many times about the enterprising professional organizer Allen S. Browne and the tailor Joe Prance organizing the first Kiwanis Club in Detroit, Michigan in late 1914, and how we formally adopted as the birthday of Kiwanis January 21, 1915, the date on which the state of Michigan signed off on the club's Articles of Incorporation. So New York and all other Kiwanis districts must forever yield organizational preeminence and bragging rights to the Michigan District. Right? Well, maybe not yet.

To begin with, the somewhat enigmatic "National Organizer" Allen Browne was from Buffalo, New York! And then, perhaps unsurprisingly, the fledgling club soon had its ups and downs, and after some differences between Browne and the new Michigander Kiwanians, in the fall of 1915 he up and left Detroit for Cleveland to form the second club, and then to Pittsburgh for the third.

Before long and propitiously, in May 1916, Browne came home to New York and organized the first Kiwanis Club in his home state, in Rochester, and New Yorkers began in earnest to play key roles in the very early days of what today is a world renowned community service organization nearing its 90th birthday.

Later in 1916, the then existing sixteen independent and free standing clubs (with almost 2000 members) held the first national Kiwanis Convention in Cleveland. Fifteen clubs sent delegates and guess what – Attorney George F. Hixson from Rochester (!) was elected "National President" in a five man race under a newly adopted constitution.

Then on November 1, 1916, thanks to our Buffalo Club as sponsor and Allen Browne as organizer, a Kiwanis Club was formed in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and Kiwanis became "International." In February 1917, Browne published the first issue of Kiwanis Magazine which was edited in Buffalo, the site of the first Kiwanis international Office, and printed in Rochester.

Our District was organized at a meeting held in Syracuse (our first District Convention) on September 27, 1918, 85 years ago. By then nine clubs had been formed in our state in the following order: Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Utica, Troy, Binghamton and New York City. Clarence A. Nelson of the Utica Club became our first District Governor.

Another New Yorker, Albert Dodge, the first president of the Buffalo Club served as the first Kiwanis International Secretary (918-20) before serving as our District Governor in 1920.

Of special interest and great importance, the seminal work on the revered six objects of Kiwanis, ultimately adopted with slight changes at the 1924 Denver Convention and

Continued on Page 4