

Membership

JP DiTroia



We are well on our way, 1-2-3 You Hold the Key

We are well on our way this month toward reaching our goal of 1,000 new members within Gov. Joe Aiello's term. As of this writing we have more than 125 new members for the New York District. By keeping this pace of 100 new members per month we will exceed our

goal.

To help your clubs get started we have re-activated the 1-2-3 You Hold the Key Program. Everyone should have received the flyer by now.

It is a simple program whereby we recognize and encourage our members by rewarding them with a Key Pin. For the first new member recruited, the sponsor receives a Bronze Key Pin, a Silver Key Pin for second new member and a Gold Key Pin for the third.

The Key Pin is also great a conversation opener. I wear my pin all the time. People ask me, "What is that key you are wearing?" I tell them that it is the key to my heart and my heart is in Kiwanis. And of course, that leads to a conversation about Kiwanis.

The key to membership growth is within every Kiwanis member. Whether at a business event or social function, there is always an opportunity to share your Kiwanis story and the good work that we do.

Every member should set his or her own personal goal to bring in one new member. Out of our 270 clubs, 7,000 plus members and our great leadership, our clubs should be able accomplish our goal.

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." - Ryunosuke Satoro

If you have any questions or suggestions, or need any assistance in membership, you may reach me at (718) 821-9700.

Child Protection

Jim Mancuso



Serve and Protect the Children

I need not inform you of the many troubling incidents which we have all read in the papers and have seen in the news of child abuse cases on all levels: sexual, mental and physical. To say these are unsettling reports, making us all cringe, would be an understatement.

For Kiwanis International and the New York District, protection of our youth has always been of paramount importance and now even more so through a new Youth Protection program which is being introduced this year.

As Youth Protection Manager for the New York District, it is my job to get the

word out on the guidelines we are asking every one of our clubs to follow to protect our kids. It is so important that Kiwanis with 300,000 youths who are part of our organization, are cared for with the proper adult supervision.

Some hard and difficult facts to consider as reported by ChildHelp (<http://www.childhelp.org>) an organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse:

- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.
- More than 90 percent of juvenile sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator in some way.
- About 30 percent of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse.
- 14 percent of all men in prison and 36 percent of women in prison in the United States were abused as children, about twice the frequency seen in the general population.
- Abused children are 25 percent more likely to experience teen pregnancy.
- As many as two-thirds of the people

in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused or neglected as children.

Kiwanis' motto is to "serve the children of the world." We must and will lead the way on the topic of youth protection. In the coming months, you will be hearing more and more on this topic as education is provided across the entire district to raise awareness and make sure we do all we can to ensure a Kiwanis youth's experience is safe.

As a start, I encourage you to visit www.kiwanis.org and search under the words "youth protection." There you will find a plethora of materials to review including guidelines for protecting our youth. A good start is also to have background checks performed for anyone in your club who participates in Service Leadership Programs. You can find affordable solutions related to this topic at www.kiwanisone.org/background-checks.

Let us all as Kiwanians commit ourselves to proactive protection of our youth. So, much good that we do can become undone by not paying close attention to this topic. Worst yet, a child's life could be irreparably damaged forever.

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2013-14 Events

Feb. 21-23, 2014:

Mid-Year Conference, Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany

March 14-16, 2014:

Circle K District Convention, Albany Hotel, Albany

March 28-30, 2014:

Key Club Leadership Training Conference, Desmond Hotel, Albany

May 1-3, 2014:

Kamp Kiwanis Work Week and Open House

June 30-July 6, 2014:

Key Club International Convention, Anaheim, California

July 17-20, 2014:

International Convention, Toyko-Chiba, Japan

July 19-22, 2014:

Circle K International Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

Aug. 13-17, 2013:

District Convention, Desmond Hotel, Albany