Kiwanis Int'l Proposes Major Revenue Changes in Nashville

Thomas E. DeJulio, Past International Trustee

Like many nonprofits, Kiwanis International has been examining its revenue sources to determine how it can better leverage its resources to achieve organizational growth and service objectives. As a Kiwanis International Trustee and as a member of the Revenue Task Force that met over a year ago headed by International Trustee Don Sanker, I have been advancing certain ideas which the Kiwanis International Board approved in October for presentation to the House of Delegates in Nashville in June 2009.

Here are just three of the important initiatives for our members to consider and approve in Nashville:

1) Implementation of the New Member Add Fee: The term “Add Fee” has a terribly negative connotation and is perceived as a immediate “penalty” on recruitment. Moreover, the manner in which Kiwanis has collected this fee in the context of the three-part billing cycle has seriously impacted prompt reporting and enrollment of new members. It has also created havoc on the calculations needed for awards incentives. The Ki Board is recommending that the “add fee” be replaced by a “New Member Enrollment Fee.” The fee will be a graduated enrollment fee based on an established rate schedule when the new members enroll. The Ki Board has decided the current system based on charge of $62 for the total of dues, magazine, and insurance.

2) Establishing One Common Annual Billing Cycle: In preparation for a new online billing system to be initiated in 2010-11, the three group billing cycle will be replaced with one annual billing based on the number of members reported as of midnight September 30. To facilitate the transition for clubs currently operating in the Groups 2 and 3 cycles, a reasonable payment deferral system will be enacted to phase-in the transition so as not to harm club finances and cashflow.

3) Replacing the word “Dues” in the Kiwanis International Bylaws with the term “Annual Club Fee”: Contrary to what most members believe, members do not pay dues to Kiwanis International nor do they pay dues to their Districts. They are members of clubs to which they remit club dues. By remitting club dues, they do not become members of Kiwanis International or District. Members owe their primary loyalty to the financing of their clubs and the members themselves decide the amount of their club dues. Kiwanis Clubs are “members” of Kiwanis International and the Districts in which they reside. To make this distinction clearer, the Ki Board is proposing to change the wording in the International Bylaws to state that clubs in good standing are levied an “Annual Club Fee” based on the number of members reported in each club by midnight on September 30. The cost of this fee will be no more than $62 for each reported member, the current total $42, magazine ($8) and insurance ($12).

With the implementation of online billing and “real-time” Ki Board is recommending that Kiwanis International believes these changes, including the reconfiguration of dues, magazine, and insurance into one annual club fee along with the eventual elimination of individual “dues waivers,” will lead to increased club income, less cumbersome revenue collection process.

Anticipating that there will be many questions, I will be discussing these changes at a special forum to be held at the New York District Mid-Year conference on Saturday morning February 21. I hope many will attend to further clarify and understand the importance of these changes to improve the efficiency of our Kiwanis organization.

Check out the New York District Website at www.kiwanis-ny.org

2009 Mid-year Basket Raffle

Angie Politano

2009 Basket Raffle

This year, as in the past, we will be holding a basket raffle at the Mid-Year Conference at the Hudson Valley Resort on February 20-22. The success of our efforts in recent years is truly a shining achievement for our District and for all of our generous Kiwanians within. This year Governor Doreen has designated CMN Hospitals in Rochester and Syracuse will split one half of the proceeds and the Pediatric Trauma Centers in Buffalo, Albany and Long Island will share the other half.

We are requesting at least one basket for each division. Items can be presented to the Kiwanis Club of New York District for the raffle at the February Conference. Of course, we will be happy to accept as many baskets as are donated. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase the uniqueness of your Club or Division and to highlight the products native to your area.

We hope to create some excitement and fun at our weekend at the Hudson Valley Resort and in the process raise much needed money for charter and other Kiwanis projects.

If you have any questions about the raffle, please contact me, DPLG Angie Politano, man.com or at (718) 823 9100. I look forward to meeting you and the fruits of your labor in February. Thank you.