Kiwanians of YONKERS, Bronx Westchester South Division – gave Distinguished IPLG Rocco Riti of the Kiwanians Kiwanians Club a party to honor his term. The event was not the typical celebration and held several surprises. To the audience’s delight, Rocco himself sang his rendition of “Cabaret” from the Broadway musical. Rocco was persuaded to perform by the Master of Ceremony and co-chair of the occasion, PLG Bob Rubinstein (Riverdale Club). Rocco was terrific, judging by the response.

The fun was just beginning with the premier performance of the “Roccolettes”, which consisted of one extremely talented Key Clubber from Ursuline High School, Gillian Munysayac, and seven Kiwanians to fill out the chorus. The ladies, who had rehearsed several times over a one-month period, adapted version of “Don’t Forget About the Boy” from the Broadway hit, Thoroughly Modern Millie. It was staged and directed by DPP Division Public Relations Chair Claudia White. The performance, dedicated to Rocco, by describing his term as Lieutenant Governor, was a smash hit with the crowd. How else could they respond to the lovely Roccolettes wearing their costumes from the roaring twenties and their fishnet tights? As they sang and tapped their hearts out, they also danced the Charleston. Among those in the chorus line was one of the co-chairs of the event, DPP Millie Radonjcic (Parkchester Club).

Just when you thought the night could not improve, the testimonials and the awards were presented. Rocco received the George I. Rothman award for his service to Kiwanis and the New York District, along with Bronx Kiwanians.

A second recognition from the Bronx Westchester South Division was the presentation of the Kaiser Award by PLG Bob Rubinstein, who also gave testimony to Rocco’s exceptional leadership.

Governor Elect Joe Corace was in attendance, and made Rocco a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Fellow in a touching moment. IP Governor Glenn W. Hollins also spoke in glowing terms regarding Rocco’s year and declared him highly distinguished. One of the “energizers” had proved to be just that.

Other dignitaries in attendance were: Lt. Governor of Bronx West Division Jack Glazier, DPLG Nydia Corace (upcoming First Lady), Peter Owen (District Chair of New Member Orientation/Special Assistant), Senior Anne-Marie Kirmse (District Chair of Human and Spiritual Values), and Joseph Michael Wuest (New York District Co-chair of Pediatric Lyme Disease).

The special night was like no other in recent memory. Everyone strolled away humming. Once again, Rocco had won their Kiwanian admiration and respect, and had stolen their hearts.

Yonkians Sends Love to Riti on Valentines Day

Left to right: The “Roccolettes” – East Yonkers DPP Palma Volino and DPP Nancy Shaw; the Honorable West County Legislator Lois Bronz from the Hartsdale Club, Parkchester DPP Millie Radonjcic, Key Clubber Gillian Munysayac, Fordham Pres. Susan Bruculeri, Hartsdale DP Secretary Lucille DeBellis and East Yonkers DPP Vickie Volino.

Past Governor Glenn Hollins (left) joins the festivities and thanks DPLG Rocco Riti for his service to Kiwanis and the New York District, along with Bronx Kiwanians.

DPLG Rocco Riti, is congratulated by International Trustee Thomas DeJulio and DPLG Dr. Rosemary DeJulio.

Rothman

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K Governor Grace for their coming year. Please make every effort to attend the meetings of our Sponsored Youth and invite them down to your club meetings. Share their enthusiasm by doing more joint projects together and invite their parents to attend your meetings and ask them to join our Kiwanian organization.

As you know by now, our new Sponsored Youth Leadership program is Key Leader and no longer H.O.B.Y. Please support the Key Leader program. There are two scheduled for this calendar year in the New York District. Clubs should now be scheduling elections for the coming Kiwanian year and all dues should be paid. If you have any questions or need assistance with this matter please contact the District office.

The New York District will be hosting our International President Steve Siemans and his lovely wife Barb, from May 5 thru May 7. He will be visiting the greater New York City and the Long Island area on May 5. He begins his visit at the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at North Shore University Hospital and ends the day with a gala affair where both first families will make official visits. The next day we will travel to Kamp Kiwanis and be part of the open house weekend ceremonies. President Steve will have the opportunity to address Kiwanians present, as well as the incoming class of LT Governors. We will then be traveling to the Finger Lakes for a gala dinner that will be hosted in Steve and Barb’s honor. They return home the next day.

Please make an effort to meet and hear the dynamic International President Steve Siemans speak. Kiwanians strive to grow to one million members for our centennial in 2015. Remember one can make a difference!