Sibs Place Gets $3000 from Peninsula Kiwanis Fundraiser

The Kiwanis Club of PENNISLIA, HEWLETT, Long Island Southwest Division – On February 1st, with the help and support of Peninsula Kiwanis, Hewlett High School hosted its 4th annual Hoops For Hope basketball game with the event proceeds going to Sibs Place. The project was started by Hewlett High School basketball coach and Peninsula Kiwanis member Bill Dubin.

This year with various fundraising efforts your Kiwanis Club does not qualify for tax-deductible contributions for individuals and corporations. (Your club may have a separate 501(c)(3) entity that you most likely have identified as a foundation). This is an update of Kiwanis International’s application to the IRS:

1. The applications have been forwarded with an agent’s and supervisor’s recommendations to the IRS Quality Review Department. Though no official communications have been received, this department reportedly will send Kiwanis International additional questions related to the original application.

2. If that department denies 501(c)(3) status, the application will proceed to Washington DC for another level of review.

3. If 501(c)3 tax reclassification is approved, the IRS wants a January 1, 2007 effective date, not October 1, 2007 as requested in the application. Kiwanis has responded that it will accept that change.

Why should my club be incorporated and is it hard to do?

Incorporation of your Kiwanis Club is not really an option. All new clubs that are chartered agree that the club will be incorporated within one year of their charter. Why is this important? It provides a layer of protection for the individual officers and board members. We do live in an era of lawsuits.

It is not hard to become incorporated and does not need to cost a lot of money. Yes, an attorney would be good to have do this for your club, however, you can easily go to the New York State website (Department of State, Division of Corporations) www.dos.state.ny.us. There you will find a blank Certificate of Incorporation (under Section 401 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law). Just fill it in with your Club’s name, purpose for which your club is formed, the names and addresses of the initial directors and officers. Send that form with $75 payable to “Department of State” NYS Department of State Division of Corporations, Albany, NY 12231.

How your club can have free dues for new members

During the Montreal Kiwanis International Convention the delegates approved a bylaw that would reward those clubs that grew by 25% from September 30th of one year to September 30th of the following year. Clubs from now on would receive a credit or other payment for the International Dues for those new members over and above the club membership of the previous year. In January, Kiwanis International sent checks to the following clubs for achieving this criterion:

Baldwinsville (Ontario)
Fonda – Fultonville (Mohawk)
Fordham, Bronx (Bronx: Western South)
Gouverneur (Saint Lawrence)
Hamburg (Niagara Frontier South)
Manhasset Port Washington (Lin)
Mount Morris (Genesee)

What a terrific motivation to grow! We hope to report your club here next year! Just three caveats, be sure to get all your member adds and deletes into Indianapolis well BEFORE September 30th. Your club’s dues billing must have been paid in full.

Additionally, the credit or payment will be for ONLY Kiwanis International dues (currently $42) and only for the numbers of members at year’s end that exceed the beginning of the year!

The Kiwanis International Site has changed

When you go to www.kiwanis.org you will find a brand new look. This is the site that most people surfing the Web will see. The content is designed to explain to non-Kiwans what we do as a group of volunteers. Lots of splash and neat stuff will be found on this page. However, to find the form download and reporting information you need to administer your club just click on “member resources” on the left menu and you will be taken to www.kiwanisone.org. This is the site that will give you all of the information and forms you need at Club Secretary, etc. They have also added some neat features and search functions that should help your club improve your members’ experiences at meetings and projects.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the District Office or me at ANY TIME! … Justine Underwood, NY District Secretary/Treasurer, 1-800-419-8898 or justinunauchester@ccrr.com

Key Leader

Kim Scharoff

Kiwanis Key Leader going Strong…

Kiwanis International has impacted positively on the lives of young people since 1915 through its youth leadership organizations K-Kids, Builder’s Club, Key Club and Circle K. Many credit these programs for their first taste of leadership, including myself, senators, governors, presidents, board members, corporate executives and a United States President.

In 2003, a task force of professionals was asked to invent something extraordinary. The result is an exciting program designed to move beyond where most other youth leadership programs stop. The result is KEY LEADER. Sponsored by Kiwanis International, a professional facilitator will guide the potential youth leaders through an interactive weekend retreat at the conference site. KEY LEADER is designed to open doors for graduating eighth grade through high school seniors. It is designed to reach students in the middle of the pack as opposed to those on the top of the academic pyramid. It focuses on personal leadership growth and service leadership as the most meaningful leadership –development experience.

In the New York District, we have 2 events each year. The first will be May 16-18 at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia and the second will be October 17-19 at the Greenki Conference Center in Port Jervis.

The all-inclusive cost for this weekend is $175 for a student and $85 for a student facilitator. A school, Kiwanis Club, community organization, church group, family or others may pay this cost.

What we have found successful is for clubs to award “scholarships” to the Key Leader Weekend so that students realize that they have been singled out because of apparent potential. The key to utilizing these projects is to contact local schools and ask for nominations. Clubs can then either require an essay from each student or work with a leadership club advisor (hopefully a Key Club Advisor) to work on selecting the recipients. The Kiwanis club would decide who and how many they will send to the Key Leader weekend and present the awards with enough time for the students and their families to plan.

A Kiwanian should be assigned to contact the students weeks prior to the event and help guide them through the registration process. I would also suggest keeping the names of other students in case substitutes are needed. You can also let those students know that they can attend the Key Leader weekend if another sponsor can be found (it can be a parent, church or any other group).

Here in New York, we have a committee of dedicated Kiwanians who are available to answer any questions and provide additional support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at kscharoff@yahoocom. I look forward to making the Key Leader program a larger success in New York.