LG Rocco Riti Receives Yonkers Teacher of The Year Award

Kiwanis Club of YONKERS, Bronx Westchester South Division – LT. Gov. Rocco Riti, Jr. was honored April 5th as Yonkers Teacher of the Year at the 50th Annual Dinner. The event, at the Riverview Restaurant in Hastings, was organized in cooperation with the Yonkers Public School System. It has given recognition to teachers who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, made significant contributions to the school community and engaged in activities that have led to student growth and development. One teacher who meets these criteria is selected each year from a slate of nominees to be inducted into the Yonkers Teacher Hall of Fame.

Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone presented LG Rocco with a proclamation. Other proclamations were presented by Hastings, Kiwanian and Westchester County Legislator Lois Bronz. Congresswoman Nita Lowey, and Senator Nick Spano.

John Bartunek, President of the Yonkers Club and chairperson of the event, commented that more than 26 teachers, friend, Kiwanians and family of the LTG attended. The evening of testimonials and awards honoring the Bronx West South Division’s vivacious leader. Among the celebrities were Kiwanis NFD Gov. Glenn Hollins and lovely First Lady Susan. Gov. Glenn gave a glowing testimonial on behalf of Kiwanis distinguished educator. John Bartunek presented Rocco with a Kiwanis Plaque of Recognition for his outstanding service. Pres. John was the dinner’s Master of Ceremonies and presented the history of Kiwanis.

The evening’s agenda consisted of greetings from Robert M. Ferrito, Pres. of the Board of Education and Bernadette Dunn, VP of the Board of Education; remarks by Angelo Petrone, Superintendent of Schools, and Steven Frey, Pres. of Yorkers Federation of Teachers, Steven Mazzola, Principal of Saunders Trades and Technical High School presented LG Rocco with the Teacher of the Year Award.

LG David Rothman Holds 2005-06 LGs Orientation

Incoming 2005-06 Luis gathering for orientation and a visit to Kamp Kiwanis this past June. The new board is working hard and getting ready to take their positions and become one of, “David’s Diamonds,” the theme for the upcoming year.

State Senate Passes Kiwanis Plates Bill

On June 23, 2005 the State Senate gave final passage to the “Kiwanis distinctive license plate” bill. This legislation, sponsored in the Senate by Dale M. Volker of Western New York and in the Assembly by George S. Latimer of Westchester County, directs the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles to offer a series of “vanity” license plates bearing the Kiwanis logo and the words “Kiwanis International”. These plates are to be available within six months of the bill being signed into law.

What is important now is to have Kiwanians urge the Governor to sign the bill into law. Letters should be addressed to Governor George Pataki, Executive Chamber, Albany, NY 12224. The letters should reference Senate bill 1219A / Assembly bill 2349B, the Kiwanis license plate bill.

Due to a moratorium placed upon new distinctive plates by the Department of Motor Vehicles, legislation was required to direct the department to add these plates to those already offered.

There is an additional fee of $25 per year for those desiring these plates, which should be a fantastic public relations tool for Kiwanis.

The securing of these vanity plates has been a long time effort for Kiwanians, starting under Gov. Bob Meye in 1995-1996 and a major effort of Gov. Justin Underwood in 2002-2003. I urge all Kiwanians to contact the Governor in support of his signature of the bill, and to thank the sponsors and their local state legislators for the passage of this legislation. – DLFG Eric G. Paul