Buffalo Club Kiwanian Hold Memorial Day Program

The Kiwanis Club of BUFFALO, Ontario Division – held its Annual Memorial Day Program at the American Legion Troop 1, No. 665 in Buffalo, NY on Wednesday, May 24, 2006. Members from several Western New York clubs joined members of the Buffalo club. Lt. Gov. William Tobar from the Niagara Frontier West Division was the evening’s special guest.

The Harry E. Crosby VFW Post 2472 provided the Color Guard. The group sang the 1st Verse of “America,” followed by an invocation by Maj. Jim Smith of the Salvation Army. The group then honored the living and remembered the fallen, with the playing of “TAPS” Bugler Charles Camillo.

A buffet lunch was followed by Guest Speakers MSG Phillip Elia, 3rd Brigade 42nd Infantry, NYARNG and H3M (FMF) Max Elia, USN both “Heroes” who just returned from Iraq. Both gave a fitting rendition of their thoughts about how the war in Iraq is progressing. They both feel very proud to be American Fighting men. H3M Max Elia is a Corpsman in a Marine unit and was wounded shielding his fallen buddies from further harm. His father MSG Elia received the Bronze Star Medal for his action in Iraq.

Photo right: Buffalo Kiwanian have fun as “Fine Meister” Rudi Rainer put the arm on Bud Jost and Steve Cherico for some donations.

Mount Morris Central School PTSA Gets Aid From Kiwanian

The Kiwanis Club of MOUNT MORAIS, Geneseo Division – donated $500 from their Bingo to the Mount Morris Central School PTSA for their matching funds for new elementary playground equipment.

Mount Morris Central School has authorized the release of $30,000 for new playground equipment and the PTSA is trying to raise an equal amount to make the total $60,000.

Currently the PTSA have raised half the amount or $15,000.

Spring Valley Receives First Place in Spiritual Aims Award

Kiwanis Club of SPRING VALLEY, Hudson Tri-County Division – At the Mid-Winter Conference, won a lovely and unexpected first place award for its annual prayer breakfast at Salvation Army. Every year Spring Valley holds the breakfast with their three Key Clubs. Everyone brings Angel gifts for eligible children in the Salvation Army program and canned goods for the food cupboard. Sometimes, a few Key Club members ride on the Salvation Army truck that goes out to feed the homeless. Spring Valley Kiwanis donates a modest amount of money. They have non-sectarian discussion of values that they try to demonstrate by actively engaging in community service. When breakfast is done, they go over to a local mall and ring the bell for the Salvation Army. What is not mentioned in any award is what Spring Valley Kiwanis owes to members who established and taught newer members this tradition.

It just so happens that this year member John Watt will celebrate thirty years in Kiwanis. He is about to retire to Tennessee. John has held a variety of offices including President 1985-86, Key Club advisor during the 70s and 80s, and received an award as Outstanding Key Club Divisional Administrator in 1984. Most recently, he was our Chairman for Spiritual Aims. For years John bought and cooked the food, typed up the program and spoke to Key Club members. Over the years, he has taught the newer members how much food to buy, how to cook on the Salvation Army industrial stove, and what topics to use for discussion. The event is made possible by John’s efforts. His steadfast commitment to preserving this lovely tradition is certainly worth mentioning in connection with our recent award. Thanks John!

Photo at right: Spring Valley Kiwanis Salvation Army Prayer Breakfast. Left: Salvation Army Captain R. Michael Hines and Past President John Watt.

Floral Park Raises Funds for Kamp

Kiwanis Club of FLORAL PARK, Long Island North Division – recently held a St. Joseph night fundraiser to raise funds to send children to KampKiwanis. The fundraiser was held at Floral Park Village Hall and was a great success.

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