The QUEENS EAST DIVISION was very happy to welcome the Kiwanis Club of Jamaica into their division. The charter night for the new club was held on July 21, 2006 at a Gala Dinner/Dance at Thomasina’s Catering Hall in St. Albans. Governor David Rothman was proud to present the official charter to Jamaica’s President Mary Burton-Forbes.

This new club is one of five clubs formed in the last five years in the Queens East Division. SDPLG Bill Risbrook with the help of DPG Peter Mancuso and PR Chair Janice Seyfried were instrumental in the birth of the Jamaica club.

Also in attendance was PLG Gwendolyn King, as well as many of the newly chartered club members. The new club received total support from all the clubs in the Queens East Division and many other clubs throughout the New York District. Welcome to our family Jamaica Club!

Southwestern Hosts Gov. David and First Lady Debra

The SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION recently welcomed Governor David Rothman and First Lady Debra to the official Governor’s visit at the Moonbrook Country Club in Jamestown. Lt. Governor Elect Jason Hansen was the Chairman of the event and over 50 members were out in force, to make the New York District First Family feel special. The Gov. and First Lady were presented special mementos from the region. The First Lady helped draw the grand prize for the Division’s Raffle for the Kiwanis Safety Village Building. The Grand Prize was 4 tickets for the Cleveland Indians/Pittsburg Pirates game in Cleveland, a limo ride to Cleveland and $200 spending money.

A few are taken aback by the thought of figuratively burying the old Kiwanis and recognizing that the past is gone and the best and even more exciting times to be a Kiwanian are ahead.

But the new Kiwanis cannot repeat the past or live in it. Rather, the new Kiwanis will enliven, refresh and recreate Kiwanis traditions so that they will become more relevant to our times while always remaining faithful to our core values of serving the world, one person and one community at a time. The Six Permanent Objects are and will always be our core values.

Yes, we may have “buried” the old motto We Build, but the New Kiwanis will still build, form, and shape lives, especially the lives of more Kiwanis Kids, Builders Club members, Key Clubbers and Key Leaders, Circle Kers, and Action club members. As many know, my life was formed and shaped by Kiwanis 40 years ago when I was invited to join Key Club at the age of 15. The New Kiwanis wants my story to be ordinary, not unique. We need to make it one of tens of thousands of stories of lives changed forever by what is best called, the Magic of Kiwanis.

What is that magic? Well, it’s simply the fact that you cannot help another without also helping yourself. Yes, the magic of Kiwanis is how each of us is affected (or changed) by the effects (or results) of our service.

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The New Kiwanis will make sure the stories of our service are broadcast proudly and boldly in a marketing and branding campaign the likes of which we have never seen before so that the people you ask to join will understand more clearly who we are and why you want to share the magic with them.

Good things are meant to be shared. And Kiwanis is a very good thing although we are far from perfect. We are still a work in progress. The New Kiwanis must climb higher and achieve success by also nurturing excellence.