Bill’s Boosters Assume Leadership Role

On Oct. 1, Bill’s Boosters, the administration of Gov. William “Bill” Risbrook began its work for the year.

Risbrook, a member of the Cambria Heights club, has placed a focus for the year on building membership with an approach that looks at recruiting new members, retaining existing members and building new clubs.

For more on the effort, see page 6 of this issue.

Another change this year is the new District Secretary, Past Gov. Justin Underwood, who succeeds Ann Sewert. That change means new contact information for the district office; for more on that, see Secretary Justin’s column on page 2.

Governor’s Project: Raise Asthma Awareness

This year’s Governor’s Project asks the district’s clubs to make a contribution in their community to Childhood Asthma Awareness.

Because the effects of asthma can lead to life-long struggles, Governor Bill is asking clubs to learn about asthma in children.

To earn the banner patch, clubs need to carry out projects such as:

• Invite speakers to your club.
• Set up an information booth or table at community events to educate the public about asthma.
• Partner with a local pediatrician or pediatrics clinic and provide asthma screening for children.
• Donate bubbles to a local Pediatric Asthma Clinic. This will help ease pediatric patients during visits while promoting proper breathing and air exchange.
• Provide allergy relief bedding to a local homeless shelter.

First Lady’s Project: Emphasize Fire Safety

First Lady Lavonia Francis, in addition to being a director of nursing, is a volunteer firefighter with the Hempstead Fire Department. Her focus for this year is children and fire safety.

Clubs can earn the First Lady’s Project banner patch by completing and reporting on one project. Examples of such projects are:

• Participate in events during National Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 9-15) with your local fire department.
• Get fire safety brochures and distribute them to day care centers, children's clinics and other places.
• Schedule a fire safety education program with your local fire department.
• Distribute smoke and/or CO2 detectors to families with a newborn child.
• Distribute free batteries for smoke and CO2 detectors.
• Welcome new residents in your community with a smoke detector.

Governor’s Project gets Oct. 1 Kick-off

The Levittown Kiwanis Club began the 2011-12 Kiwanis Year by holding a pediatric asthma screening at a community fair on Oct. 1.

Under the guidance of nurse Gail Cummo, who is a member of the club’s board, Kiwanians screened dozens of attendees. Kiwanians demonstrated how to properly breathe into the spirometer.

Readings were taken from each child and compared to normal readings based on age, height and gender. Parents of children found to be below the normal range were given information supplied by the American Lung Association and referred to their pediatrician.

The Levittown Kiwanis Club enjoyed a visit by New York District Gov. Bill Risbrook on the first day of his term. Governor Bill demonstrated the proper use of the spirometer to several children.
Welcome to a new Kiwanis Year of Service. While we have all been working to assure that the business of Kiwanis continues without interruption, it is fitting that we take the time to thank “Mike’s Mavericks” for all the work they have done to make sure that our clubs are working hard to make our communities better. THANK YOU, PG MIKE AND YOUR BOARD OF LT. GOVERNORS!

Additionally, we should thank Secretary Ann Sewert for all her work over 3 plus years as the District Office moved from an anchored building in Utica to one that can be mobile in both “working” and in different established locations as needed. Your District office has become close to “state of the art”. You can reach the District Office 24/7 and get answers to your questions via e-mail as you need them.

Club secretaries for 2010-11 should be reviewing your club’s monthly reports to assure that all of your club projects have been properly reported and to assure that your club garners as many points as possible towards becoming a distinguished club. Yes, final reports (interclub reports, Governor’s Project reports, etc.) can still be submitted through the end of October. Your District’s achievement committee uses the information you submit throughout the year to make their determinations of many Annual District Awards.

The new address for the District office is as follows:

New York District Kiwanis International
120 Mushroom Boulevard
Rochester, New York 14623
Phone: 585-427-0006 Fax: 585-486-1796
e-mail: districtoffice@kiwanis-ny.org
District Secretary/Treasurer Justin Underwood
1-800-419-8898 (585-721-9185)

Governor Bill Risbrook and his team have put together a most exciting program for this year. His Governor’s Project this year involves Childhood Asthma. His Partner and fiancé, Lavonia, has a great First Lady’s Project concerning Fire Safety focused on our communities’ children. You can get all the up-to-date information on each of these initiatives on our web site (www.kiwanis-ny.org) along with all the instructions, forms and press releases to make your local club “Shine throughout the community”.

As you know, the new World Wide Service Project in conjunction with UNICEF is EliMiNaTe. It’s an effort to raise more than $110 million to eliminate the devastating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus through the vaccination of women and children in many underdeveloped countries. The cost, just a mere $1.80 for three shots, will assure healthy children. Governor Bill is excited to lead the Great New York District in this initial effort.

Speaking of our website, please note the absolutely wonderful job that continues to be done by our Webmaster, Marty Toombs. All of the current club information should be correct and available on www.kiwanis-ny.org. Please review your club’s information and if there is an error, or a change in secretaries, presidents, meeting places and times, please e-mail Marty directly and he will get it changed. All the forms and information you need to help your club grow in service and membership should be on that same website as well as on Kiwanis International’s website.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the District Office or me at ANY TIME!

Pediatric Lyme Disease
DPG John Gridley

Watch out!
Lyme disease, the most wide-spread, debilitating and difficult to diagnose vector-borne (animal transmitted) illness in the northern hemisphere, is on the rise once again, experts say.

According to information provided by Wayne Memorial Hospital Public Relations Manager Lisa Champeau, 22 percent of those tested for Lyme in July came up positive, as opposed to just 8.5 percent of those tested in June and 3.5 percent in May.

Lyme disease, (or Lyme borreliosis) is an infectious disease caused by at least three species of bacteria belonging to the genus Borrelia. The disease is named after the town of Lyme, CT, where a number of cases were identified in 1975. Borrelia is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected ticks belonging to a few species. In our area, the deer tick is by far the most common carrier.

Early symptoms of the disease can include fever, headache, fatigue, depression, and a distinct circulare (bullseye) rash, though this is not always present. Left untreated, later symptoms may involve the joints, heart, and central nervous system. In most cases, if the illness is treated early by antibiotics, the symptoms are eliminated. Delayed or inadequate treatment can lead to the more serious symptoms, which can be disabling and difficult to treat.

If you are aware of anyone with Lyme disease who is putting off treatment because of the expense involved, call any member of the Lyme Disease Foundation Board.

The Empire State Kiwanian

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Seneca Falls, NY 13148
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2011-12 Events

Nov. 18-20, 2011:
Tri-K weekend, Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany

Feb. 24-26, 2012:
Mid-Year Conference, Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany

May 3-5, 2012:
Kamp Kiwanis Work Days, Open House

June 28-July 1, 2012:
International Convention, New Orleans

Aug. 15-19, 2012:
District Convention, Niagara Falls
Delegates Elect Risbrook, Norato

William Risbrook was elected Governor and Albert Norato Jr. was elected Governor-Elect at the District Convention in Tarrytown.

Both candidates were unopposed.

Risbrook took office as Governor on Oct. 1, and Norato became Governor-Elect.

A member of the Cambria Heights club, Risbrook is a past lieutenant governor of the Queens East Division; during that year, he built two new clubs.

Norato is a member of the Sayville and Suffolk East Young Professionals clubs, and has served two years as lieutenant governor of the Suffolk East Division, and was named a Super Distinguished Lt. Gov. in 2008-09.

In 2009-10 he was honored by the New York District Key Club with its Richard Hill Award.

C. Edgar Flynn Jr., a member of the Minisink Valley club since 1963, was honored with the Gerald P. Christiano Distinguished Service Award for his service to the district at the District Convention in Tarrytown.

The award is presented by the Past Governors Council to a Kiwanian who has not been a governor but has served the district for many years.

In addition to his club service, Flynn has served three years as lieutenant governor of the Hudson River West Division, twice being named distinguished, and has a long record of service to Kamp Kiwanis. He also has 43 years of perfect attendance. He has chaired District Mid-Year Conferences, is a Hixson Fellow, a Hixson Ambassador, a Diamond Hixson Fellow, a Tablet of Honor recipient, and Anton J. Kaiser Fellow and has received the Kiwanis International Distinguished Service Award.

Andrew Lowenberg, who recently completed 14 years of service at the District Key Club administrator, was honored as the Convention Honoree at a reception on Friday at the District Convention.

Lowenberg, a member of the Sayville club, was a Key Club member himself as a high school student. He joined Kiwanis in 1984, and has served in several club leadership roles and then as lieutenant governor in 1995-96. He was club advisor to the Lindenhurst Key Club from 1990-96 and took over as district Key Club Administrator in 1997.

While he has retired as Key Club Administrator, he will serve as his club’s president for 2011-12.
What is MNT?
In 38 countries around the world, maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) can quickly turn the joy of childbirth into tragedy. MNT kills one baby every nine minutes. Its effects are excruciating — tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch. There is little hope of survival. And tetanus kills mothers too.

Who suffers from MNT?
MNT is caused when tetanus spores, found in soil everywhere, come into contact with open cuts during childbirth. The disease strikes the poorest of the poor, the geographically hard to reach and those without health care.

Can MNT be stopped?
Yes! MNT is highly preventable. Just three doses of a 60-cent immunization protect mothers, who then pass on the immunity to their future babies. Together, Kiwanis and UNICEF can stop this disease.

What will it take to eliminate MNT from the Earth?
More than 100 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take US$110 million — and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.

Why focus on this issue?
It is unacceptable that innocent newborns and their mothers suffer and die from MNT when it can be prevented so easily. This is also an amazing opportunity to reach the poorest, most neglected mothers and babies with lifesaving health care. Developing delivery systems for MNT vaccines will blaze a trail to provide additional desperately needed services to these marginalized families.

For more information, see the Project Eliminate web site at www.eliminateproject.org

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The basics of Maternal Neo-Natal Tetanus

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big changes in their physical be told what to do! They are going to independence, they need direction and point in their lives and while wanting to extremely vulnerable. Kids going through people. It's an age when they are ex-
me, they are really big deals! That doesn't sound like a really big deal, but trust me, they are really big deals!

Puberty is a difficult time for young people. It's an age when they are ex-
tremely vulnerable. Kids going through this age are at an extremely crucial point in their lives and while wanting to be independent, they need direction and support from adults, but don't want to be told what to do! They are going through big changes in their physical being. They are attracted to the oppo-
site sex, but at the same time, filled with self-doubt. Hormones are raging, energy abounds, they "know" they are grown up, understand so much more than adults give them credit for but often feel alone and misunderstood. Opp-
pportunity or disaster is just waiting to happen, which will it be? Think back to that time in your own life, and I'm bet-
ing it wasn't your favorite time either. So, what can you do about all this? I'm so glad you asked!

You and your Kiwanis club can help this age group develop into self-confi-
dent, productive, young adults filled with real self-esteem, capable of stand-
ing up to peer pressure, and even drug dealers; young people who are a credit to themselves, their families and their communities. And, it's easy to do! Just sponsor a Builders Club!

Builders Clubs are run by the members. The members decide what they would like to do, and how to do it. In this way, the Kiwanis Club, their advis-
sors and their school show the students that we believe in them. The students are given the opportunity to prove to the world that they are capable and able to do something big, something worth-
while and something that will help oth-
ers or their community. This experience not only makes them feel good about themselves but helps others to see them in a different light and feel good about them and the future too. That Really IS a Big Deal!

The choice is yours. You can ignore the situation and let Middle School stu-
dents flounder, and hope for the best; you can complain about "kids" and blame their parents, the schools, drugs and the times. Is that what you want for your children, your grandchildren and your neighborhood kids? Or, will you step up and make a real difference in their lives by giving them the opportu-
nity to do the things that will make a differ-
ence? That is how we truly "Change the World, one child and one community at a time."

Call me (585) 342-7657, e-mail me (hjoanne202@aol.com), write to me (91 Jewel Street, Rochester, NY 14621) or walk up to your Lt. Governor and ask them, "How do I start a Builders Club"? You'll be glad you did!
New Membership Program Looking for Growth

Zone chairs to work on Membership, New Club Building

Other District Chairs to be involved as well

More Kiwanians means more Kiwanis service in our communities and the world.

That has always been the objective of efforts to increase the number of Kiwanis clubs and the number of Kiwanians in the district.

For the 2011-12 Kiwanis year, the district has implemented a coordinated program designed to make the most of the systems in place to increase the number of Kiwanians in the district.

A new system of Zone chairs also has been established both for the Membership and New Club Building programs in the district. Some overlapping membership means the two efforts will be coordinated throughout the year.

Chairing the Membership committee is Kim Scharoff of the Merrick club. Working with her will be a team of 11 Zone Leaders who will spearhead the effort in the zones, each of which consists of a few divisions.

The New Club Building effort has three chairs. Distinguished Past Governor Joe Eppolito of the Syracuse Young Professionals club is chairing the upstate effort; Joe Aiello of the Glendale club will chair the New York Metro area, and Rev. Rosita A. George-Williams of the Great Neck Peninsula, and East Norwich, Oyster Bay clubs will head the effort on Long Island.

Also part of the membership effort are district chairs for several other programs which also impact membership recruitment and retention: Charter II, Distinguished Kiwanian, Inclusion (Diversity), Member Retention, New Member Orientation, SLP Alumni Support and Women’s Advisory Committee.

Membership Leaders

Membership Growth
Zone 1  John T. Moffitt
Zone 2  Miriam Melegrito
Zone 3  Joseph C. Eppolito
Zone 4  Bonnie Fenwick
Zone 5  Raymond L. Sculky
Zone 6  Rocco Riti
Zone 7  Joseph Aiello
Zone 8  Jim Mancuso
Zone 9  Joseph P. Weiss

New Club Building
Zone 1  Wendy R. Wilcox
Zone 2  Peter J. Pellitteri
Zone 3  Joseph C. Eppolito
Zone 4  David Booker
Zone 5  Raymond L. Sculky
Zones 6, 7  Joseph Aiello
Zones 8, 9  Rev. Rosita A. George-Williams

Other Committees
Charter II  Joseph L. Corace
Distinguished Kiwanian  Verdia Noel
Inclusion (Diversity)  Salvador (Buddy) Lachica
Membership Retention  Henry W. Self
New Member Orientation  Peter J. Owens
SLP Alumni Support  Kristen Reed
Women’s Advisory Committee  Veta Brome

For contact information, see the District web site,
www.kiwanis-ny.org

Webinars aid club membership efforts

Kiwanis International regularly provides online training programs to assist Kiwanians with their club projects, including assistance with recruiting new members and forming new clubs.

The schedule of future webinars can be seen at http://www.kiwaniszone.org/Pages/Resources/default.aspx?PageID=380. Past webinars also have been archived and can be viewed at any time.

Upcoming webinar topics include developing new member prospect lists, club marketing, and recruiting younger members.

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The 2010-2011 Kiwanis Administrative year is now a memory, but what a memory especially for Kamp Kiwanis who is in the business of making memories.

The year started really rough when on a cold November morning we found out that one of the true Giants in the District and especially on our District Foundation, had passed unexpectedly, a man who stood for everything that Kiwanis represents and proved it on a daily basis with giving of his time and resources so that some child will have a better life. Jim Yochum gave his all for the New York District and The New York District Kiwanis Foundation and we as members will never allow that to be forgotten. So what better way to respect his memory than to recommitting ourselves to fill the Kamp this season with challenged and underprivileged kids who would otherwise never have an opportunity to experience Kamp life, so that’s what we did in Jim Yochum’s memory.

Of course, this commitment is not accomplished by just a few, it takes everyone pushing in the same direction to accomplish anything, so we, once again came to you, the New York District Kiwanians, who have always come through, and once again you came you did it. Up until this year, our biggest season had been last year with 644 Kampers, this year we closed out the season with a total of 722 Kampers. There are many reasons why we had this success this year and there are far too many clubs and Kiwanians to mention for all that was done to achieve the nearly full Kampership attendance; however I would be really remiss if I didn’t give you the major reason we achieved this, and that is one person, Governor Mike Malark. The ex-marine gunny sergeant who decided that his Governor’s Project was to send children of active military people from the New York State area to Kamp Kiwanis and thanks to him, we were able to serve more than 120 children of military personnel, mostly from nearby Fort Drum. This was a great project because it fulfills the Kiwanis Ideals, it honors the military men and women that serve our country but more importantly, we are giving something back to the brave individuals who put their lives on the line every day to protect our freedom. For a one week period, these children enjoyed Kamp life with children their age, made new friends, and experienced a week I’m sure they won’t soon forget. This project has been so successful that Governor Bill Risbrook decided months ago that he will continue it for his term, and why not, as the old saying goes “if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it.”

I want to thank Governor Mike for his leadership and for all that he has brought to the New York District Kiwanis Foundation not just as Governor but for the many years that he served on our board. I also want to thank Governor Bill Risbrook for his commitment to the Kamp in extending the military children program.

Now we look forward to 2011-12. I want to remind everybody that Kamp opening day is May 5th, 2012. We are looking for Kiwanians to come up for the weekend to help with getting the Kamp ready; there’s always a lot of work that needs to be done due to the usual rough winters we experience. As I have stated before, you don’t have to be a skilled craftsman, all you have to do is be willing to work, if you are a skilled craftsman, we’ll have special chores for you.

This year at opening day we will have a number of dedications, I’m most looking forward to dedicating the new Arts & Crafts building for two reasons. Firstly, we will now have a much needed arts and crafts center that will be able to accommodate many more children at one time and much more room to store arts and crafts supplies, the other reason is that this building has been sponsored by my home club, The Kiwanis Club of Bensonhurst & Bay Ridge in Brooklyn. This was a three-year, $35,000 commitment which was completed this year with the final payment. I thank all of the officers, board and members of my home club for always being supportive of Kamp Kiwanis.

I am looking forward to a great 2012 Kamping season and I am sure that with the help of Governor Bill, his board and all of you, we will have no problem serving many more children next year. Remember “One More Kamper,” God bless everyone and God bless America.

Attendees at KPTC’s annual Black & White Ball enjoyed a wonderful evening with dinner, dancing and raffle prices while saluting 10 new KPTC Fellows. This year’s event was the largest in the 21-year history of the trauma center. The entire Foundation Board sends thanks to everyone who supported the Black & White Ball by naming a KPTC Fellow, attending the ball and/or purchasing journal ads and raffle tickets. Your generosity will enable us to save the lives of children by providing the best in care to children who are victims of pediatric trauma and preventing traumatic injuries through safety education.

Special congratulations go to KPTC Foundation Board Past President John Lalena on being named the second 5 Diamond KPTC Fellow. John’s generosity and dedication to our trauma center are truly appreciated.

Coming up the Champion for KPTC will be holding a Wine Tasting at Corry’s Ale House in Wantagh. This fund raiser promises to be an evening wine, food, music and fun. Tickets are only $35. For additional information, contact DPG Joe Corace at jcorace@icm-data.com.

The KPTC Service Leadership Committee gratefully acknowledges Levitown Kiwanis President Ann Torcivia and her Joey Foundation for the generous donation of costumes of a car, ambulance and fire truck. These child-size plush costumes will enhance the involvement of young children in the pedestrian safety lessons of the committee’s Safe Kids workshops.

Following their presentation at New York District Kiwanis Convention, our KPTC Service Leadership is poised to expand its partnership with Safe Kids by holding training sessions in the Bronx, Queens and at Circle K’s NY Speaking Conference in Lake George over the weekend of November 4-6, 2011. The Service Leadership Committee will also be presenting a Safe Kids program at the LISC Division’s Tri-K Divisional Council meeting on November 14 at Per Un Angelo’s in Wantagh.

Get the latest District News at www.kiwanis-ny.org
The Empire Club was created back in 2004 to allow Kiwanians and friends of the New York District Kiwanis to make charitable donations to our Foundation via planned gifts in your estate. It gives you the opportunity to leave a legacy to the New York District Kiwanis Foundation and helps the Foundation achieve its mission: support of Kamp Kiwanis, support of youth and overall contributions to the betterment of mankind.

The success of the District Foundation depends on private support and we all have an opportunity to participate. We appeal to you and your family to leverage your giving and to benefit our Foundation, where all New York District Kiwanians in good standing are members.

You can qualify to join The Empire Club in a few ways. If you give $1,000 or more in cash or check, you will qualify. The most popular way to participate is in planned giving. Donation of securities, mutual funds, an existing life insurance policy, where the Foundation is the beneficiary, are just a few ways to make a planned gift. Many other avenues exist to benefit our Foundation in a charitable way.

Consult your financial advisor on what is best for you and your family. Feel free to contact me as well as I have been in the field of financial services for nearly 21 years. The Foundation benefits from your long-range gift and your estate benefits from tax-deductible gifts that reduce the financial size of your estate. Why not let the Foundation benefit from your treasure rather than the Federal and State governments?

We recognize members of The Empire Club at our annual Foundation meeting held in conjunction with the District Convention. If you do NOT want to be officially recognized, we will honor your request.