And so we begin. Your 2015-16 administrative board on behalf of First Lady Helene, president of this year’s board, Julie Waterson, and all of your lieutenant governors thank you for this opportunity to serve.

We pledge to serve diligently and ever mindful of the trust bestowed upon us.

As we start our 101st year of Kiwanis and enter the 100th anniversary of our first clubs I could not be prouder to be the 99th governor of this great district and would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Kiwanis 101, "Back to Basics." Back to the principles that we were founded on, back to OUR foundations: KPTC, Pediatric Lyme, Disaster Relief, Kamp Kiwanis.

I have asked each lieutenant governor to hold a fund raiser for one of these most worthy endeavors. In turn I have asked them to work with all their clubs to do the same. Imagine the results with 260+ clubs and 27 Divisions all working for our foundations.

I am asking all our clubs to have three conversations within their clubs and in their communities:

1. Let’s make parents aware of getting their children’s hearts checked before they let them join organized sports.

2. Before social media, kids who were bullied were basically free once school let out. Today between Facebook, texting and everything else these kids are being bullied 24 hours a day. Keith Cummings from the Richmond County Kiwanis Club has put together an informative program and is looking forward to coming to any club or division at anytime.

3. I am so very proud to be from Staten Island, yet ashamed at the same time because of this disturbing fact: Staten Island leads the NATION in drug overdoses; young men and women are dying at an alarming rate. If you don’t think these drugs are in your community frankly you’re wrong. The Kiwanis Club of Massapequa has put together a fabulous program that is available to all of us and they should be commended for their foresight and commitment.

The First Lady’s project is called “Warm Beginning’s." It’s a wonderful project that will provide much needed clothing for newborn babies. Every club can take part by having a Baby Shower for your local hospital or outreach center that provides for mothers and newborns.

Each of these projects and conversations are designed with your club and community in mind.

Incorporate your SLP’s, get your club excited, be the voice and conscience of your community.

It’s a new year and a new beginning, it’s back to basics. It’s about Taking Care of Our Own; it’s about your club and your KIWANIS experience. It’s about The Formula: Live It - Share It - Love It.

Kiwanis is simply about you because without you there is no US and then what becomes of that child or that senior, who remembers that veteran or provides that service it’s all about KIWANERGY and KIWANERGY is you.
At the upcoming Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto, June 23-26, 2016, Past International Foundation President and Distinguished Past Gov. Peter Mancuso will be running for the office of International Trustee.

KI is greatly in need of solid, principled leadership in these very challenging times. There is no one better suited to provide it than Peter. His professional background, Kiwanis experience, and temperament are perfectly suited to the task, and his record of Kiwanis achievements at every level of our organization is exemplary.

You will soon be able to learn more about him and what he brings to Kiwanis on his campaign website, which is currently under construction but will be available soon.

We expect this to be a highly competitive race and will need all of your support to elect Peter. Our goal is to have 400 members of our district at the Toronto Convention, 300 of whom will need to be voting club delegates. These delegates will join with many others expected to support Peter from districts across our country.

When you’re encouraging clubs to send delegates, please don’t forget that past lieutenant governors can represent any club in your division, not just their own. We will be watching to see whether any PLG’s are registered, but not as delegates. They should all be delegates in Toronto.

If you have never been to an International Convention, it’s a wonderful experience at which camaraderie is shared by thousands of Kiwanians from all over the world. Toronto is a fantastic place for a vacation. It is a cosmopolitan city full of great restaurants, culture, and other terrific attractions.

To learn more, visit the Toronto Convention page on the KI website (http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2016).

Please keep in mind that to enter Canada, a passport or an enhanced driver’s license are acceptable forms of identification. When returning by air, a valid US passport must be presented. When returning by land or sea a passport or an enhanced driver’s license is required.

While not open yet, you will be able to register for the convention soon at http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2016/register.

It is terribly important that we have a strong early registration from our district.

These early attendance figures will be watched carefully throughout the Kiwanis world as a sign of the depth of the support that Peter enjoys in his home district.

When the time comes to book your travel, please plan to stay for the entire convention. Believe it or not, we have lost races in the past because members scheduled their flight home before the vote in a runoff election in which a tie took place.

Also, please make it a point to reach out, if you have friends who are Kiwanians in other districts, perhaps ones who have moved elsewhere because of work or retirement, to share our enthusiasm for Peter's campaign and ask for their support.

Since International Trustees represent all of us, this is not Peter's campaign; instead it is truly all of ours. That’s why we have themed this campaign “Together We Can Go the Distance.”

Thank you again for all that you will be doing over the coming months to support “our” campaign and see to it that the New York District’s convention attendance in Toronto is our best ever.

Kid’s Fest Held

Each year the Penfield-Perinton Kiwanis Club along with other area businesses sponsor the Penfield Kids Fest at the Kiwanis Stage. On July 30 child-friendly bands are brought in to entertain the kids, while the Kiwanis club gives away books to every child to help promote literacy.

The Empire State Kiwanian

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2015-16 Events

Feb. 19-21, 2016:
Mid-Year Conference, Villa Roma, Callicoon

June 25-28, 2016:
Kiwanis International Convention, Toronto

Aug. 17-20, 2016:
District Convention, Adams Mark Hotel, Buffalo
New Aktion Club Chartered in Sullivan County

The Kiwanis clubs of Monticello and Woodridge are the co-sponsors of the newly formed and chartered Aktion Club of Sullivan County.

The club is made up of adults with disabilities who are affiliated with SullivanARC, New Hope Community and Center for Discovery. Some of the benefits these members receive from participating in the Aktion Club are the opportunity to contribute to the community, develop social interaction awareness, improve their self-esteem and develop leadership skills.

They are in the process of selecting fundraisers and picking service projects for the coming year.

Charter Night July 23 was a big celebration. The event drew Aktion Club charter member, family members and members of the Monticello, Woodridge, Chester, Middletown and Minisink Kiwanis Clubs as well as agency advisors.

The new club’s 14 members received pins and certificates.

The club conducted its first meeting Aug. 18.
At the 2015 New York District Convention, several items of business were taken care of by the House of Delegates.

The delegates adopted the new form of District Bylaws as established by Kiwanis International, with little discussion after the delegates voted to replace the bylaws originally submitted with an updated and newly approved wording.

Gov.-Elect Forbes Irvine was elected governor for 2015-16, and then, in a contested race, past Queens West Lt. Gov. Steve Sirgiovanni defeated Past Niagara Frontier North Division Lt. Gov. Candace Corsaro to become the governor-elect for 2015-16.

The delegates also approved several resolutions:

• Honoring the Convention Honorees for their service to Kiwanis.
• Thanking the Convention Committee, including Kevin Love, David Morse, Tricia Hook, Udo Glosch, Justin Underwood and Jack Tetamore, as well as the staff of the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, for their efforts.
• Thanking Kiwanis International Board Counselor Patrick Ewing for his contributions to the convention.
• Committing the district to complete its goal for the Eliminate Project.
• Thanking Gov. Eric G. Paul for his efforts during the 2014-15 Kiwanis Year.
• Supporting the election of Distinguished Past Gov. Peter Mancuso to the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees at the 2016 Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto.

The night before he was elected Gov.-Elect for 2015-16, Steve Sirgiovanni participated in a Pie in the Face fundraiser for the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation, raising $1,000 for the foundation.

Distinguished Past Gov. Peter Mancuso after the delegates approved a resolution supporting his candidacy for the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees.
During the annual meeting of the New York District Foundation, Foundation President Sal Anelli honored the Long Island South Central Division for sending the most kids to Kamp Kiwanis the year, 87, and the Kiwanis Club of Peninsula (Hewlett) for sending the most from a club, 53.

Treasurer David Vail said the District Foundation would end the year in the black for the second year in a row. He said it was due to the efforts of the entire board, but added that he also was proud that "every child who wanted to go to camp, went to camp." Camperships and other donations were used to pay for children who otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford it.

Kamp Executive Director Rebecca Clemence reported the camp had 63 adults this year, a decrease due to reductions in funding for recreation by the state Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

There were 582 child weeks, down from 598 in 2014. The goal remains to have 840 child weeks, the maximum the camp can handle in a season.

There were 37 teens in the teen program, and 7 campers which required 1:1 staffing. There were 80 campers with special needs and 39 children of military personnel.

In addition to Peninsula’s total of 53 campers, Clemence also noted that East Meadow sent 35, LaGuardia sent 25 and Staten Island sent 18.

Kim Scharoff reported that they had a profit of $2,500 from the Mets game in July, selling 200 tickets.

The Mets gave Kamp Kiwanis their Spirit Award, and they talked for three minutes on the PA system before the game about what the camp does, helping to spread the word.

Three board seats were filled. Incumbent Anthony Merendino and newcomers Distinguished Past Gov. Joe Aiello and Tom Poccio were elected to three-year terms.

Many more pictures are on the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org
Based on a program I recently saw at a club meeting, it occurred to me, drug abuse equals child abuse. Think about it, adults sell drugs to children. Children sell drugs to children. So, we need to add drug abuse to the list of abuses perpetrated on our children. Drug abuse is an entirely different and overlooked angle on the topic of youth protection.

Where do children get their drugs? There are many sources: other students in their school, old prescriptions left in medicine cabinets, older peers, brothers, sisters, dealers, even parents, known "curb service" drug areas in the city or dope houses, your child's workplace, legal over-the-counter diet pills, caffeine pills (No Doz, Vivarin), cough medicine (i.e. Robitussin) and other drugs, through magazine subscriptions and, of course, there are always channels over the Internet or drugs are only a text away on their cell phones.

The club in my division that gave the program was Massapequa Kiwanis. They have started a drug awareness program in their school district. Their program centers around the publication of a book for parents titled "A Parent's Guide for the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use." The book has information on the various forms of drug abuse so a parent can be pre-emptive and spot the signs of child drug abuse, hopefully before it can reach the addiction level.

Parents received the book for free and can also download the "Drug Guide for Parents" app for free as well. This Massapequa Kiwanis' message will be infused into other school presentations throughout the school year, such as the district's mandatory parent/athlete meetings to reinforce the importance of substance abuse prevention.

This quote from Dr. Thomas Fasano, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Massapequa School District says it all: "We want parents to walk out of their child's school armed with the information they need to keep their children safe, and to have the knowledge they need to start the conversation, or even detect a problem and be able to find the right resources. This problem keeps growing ... we hear on the news almost every day a new, cheap, easy-to-obtain synthetic drug or even prescription drugs that are wreaking havoc in our communities. Parents and the entire school community need to partner together."

I applaud Massapequa Kiwanis club's effort to raise the awareness level of child drug abuse. Child abuse prevention's greatest weapon is awareness. Awareness of the signs and the situations where child abuse occurs helps us to act before it happens. Awareness is also the greatest tool to protect our children from the horrors of illegal drug usage too. I hope this information helps you to protect against this form of child abuse and might also inspire you to follow the Massapequa Kiwanis example to promote child drug abuse awareness in your community.
Lyme Disease manifests, and consequently, the accuracy of Lyme Disease tests may in fact have some limitations. Newer homes expose people to toxic mold, while others are not. These variations in accompanying health disorders change the way people respond and react to various treatments.

The people affected by Lyme Disease live in different climates and environments. Some people live in brand new houses at high elevation. Others live in older houses at lower elevations. Variations in climate and living environment mean very significant differences in nutrients and toxins to which the body is exposed. There is more oxygen available at lower elevations, and less at higher elevations. Newer homes expose people to different synthetic toxins than older homes. Some homes are infested with toxic mold, while others are not. These environmental variations quite possibly have a profound effect on how Lyme Disease manifests, and consequently, the treatment that works best.

Co-infections, such as Ehrlichia, Babesia, and Bartonella, can have a tremendous impact on the overall disease picture.

Recent research has shown that up to 90 percent of people infected with Borrelia Burgdorferi (the causative Lyme Disease bacteria) may also be harboring co-infections, which may have been acquired at the time of the tick bite along with Borrelia Burgdorferi (ticks are hosts to many types of pathogenic microbes, not just one).

Since the recovery process stagnates if co-infections are not detected and treated, it is critical that every Lyme Disease sufferer address co-infections, please do not miss this important point. These are only a few examples of variables that can lead to differing responses to Lyme Disease treatment. So the bottom line is that what works for one person does not always work for another.

So if you get bit by a tick, go to the doctor and demand a blood test, safety first is always the best course. Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Thank you all for taking the time to care and share.

The new school year has started and Key Club is in full swing.

We had our first Key Club District Board meeting in of September. We have more than 13,000 Key Clubbers in more than 230 clubs around the district.

The Key Club lieutenant governors have had or will have their Divisional Fall Rallies to train, educate and inform the incoming club officers and members. There is a lot of information that needs to be communicated to the clubs and their officers.

This year Gov. Hanna and her board decided to cut the number of District charities to 6 from 10 in the past years. The charities are: Kamp Kiwanis, KPTC, KPLD, Make A Wish, St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Eliminate. We have always had the 3 Kiwanis District charities in our group. The governor's project, The Brighton AC. Congratulations to all the participants and the winners. Job well done!

In September, Distinguished Past Gov. David Rothman and I walked with the Niagara County Aktion Club in the Lewiston Kiwanis Peach Parade. We had the pleasure of attending the Peach Festival with Gov. Forbes and First Lady Helene Irvine.

Please visit our New York District Aktion Clubs Face book page to view our Aktion Clubs, their chartering, their many service projects and fundraisers.

Please contact me if you have any questions about chartering a club in your area. 

There are many different types of Lyme Disease bacteria, and possibly even other types of bacteria capable of establishing infection in the body that mimic Lyme Disease bacteria. Each type of bacteria may be susceptible to completely different methods of antibacterial therapy.

Current Lyme Disease tests do not offer 100 percent accurate results. In fact, the accuracy of Lyme Disease tests may be as poor as 50 percent. Therefore, determining exactly what is causing symptoms is part science and part speculation. So, people who think they have Lyme Disease may in fact have some other problem that requires different treatment.

Different people, with different body chemistries and different genetic constitutions, may respond differently to chronic infection.

Biochemical changes in the body as a result of infection most likely vary significantly between individuals. Therefore, the appropriate biochemical interventions may also vary.

Concomitant health problems in people suffering from Lyme Disease are most certainly different. For example, some Lyme Disease sufferers are also affected by obesity or diabetes. Others may have mercury poisoning or co-infections.

These variations in accompanying health disorders change the way people respond and react to various treatments.

The people affected by Lyme Disease live in different climates and environments. Some people live in brand new houses at high elevation. Others live in older houses at lower elevations. Variations in climate and living environment mean very significant differences in nutrients and toxins to which the body is exposed. There is more oxygen available at lower elevations, and less at higher elevations. Newer homes expose people to different synthetic toxins than older homes. Some homes are infested with toxic mold, while others are not. These environmental variations quite possibly have a profound effect on how Lyme Disease manifests, and consequently, the treatment that works best.

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If you get bit by a tick, go to the doctor and demand a blood test, safety first is always the best course. Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow.

Thank you all for taking the time to care and share.
Happy New Kiwanis Year! And it is a very happy beginning to the 2015-16 year for The EliMiNaTe Project.

We have recently received word that Cambodia and India have eliminated MNT, bringing the number of countries that have eliminated MNT to 38, with only 21 still remaining. This amazing success is due to the hard work and dedication of Kiwanians all over the world. In August the amount of money raised reached $100 million!

Here in New York, we have many reasons to rejoice. Recently, the Chinatown Club completed its $100K pledge, and the East Meadow Club completed its Bronze Club pledge. Over the summer, the East Yonkers Club pledged to become a Model Club. To date, but not including some of the money raised at the District Convention in August, New York has raised over $1.3 million for EliMiNaTe. The figure is $1,320,337.73 to be exact, and that translates into 733,521 mothers and their future babies who have been protected from MNT. To achieve these wonderful results, we have had the participation of 88 percent of our clubs.

However, 88 percent is not 100 percent. While the 88 percent of clubs can rightly rejoice in their part in this endeavor, there is still 12 percent of our clubs that have not taken part. It is my fervent hope that these clubs will be inspired to donate something -- any amount -- to EliMiNaTe before the end of the calendar year. I am sure that no club and no member wants to left out of New York's success story, wishing that they would have done something. It's not too late for these clubs to get on the bandwagon.

Some things soon will be too late. Since the Centennial Award was designed to commemorate Kiwanis' 100th birthday, it will no longer be available after December 31. After that date, the Walter Zeller Award will be available only to those clubs which have made a $100K, Model, Silver, or Bronze pledge. So if you are thinking of obtaining one of these awards, it is time to act! Many of you also consider donations at the end of the year for tax purposes, so seize the opportunity.

I have saved the best until last. At our District Convention, the delegates unanimously approved a resolution to pledge to complete our $1,796,314 pledge within five years. So with all the good news we have today, we cannot rest on our laurels. We have pledged to raise the remaining $475,977.00 by August 15, 2020.

I have used many images over the years to describe The EliMiNaTe Project. Let us now think of it as a race, and we are coming up to the home stretch. This is not the time to falter or slow down. On the sidelines are the mothers and children we have protected and saved, and they are cheering loudly for us to reach the finish line. May the sounds of their gratitude resound in our hearts and encourage us to keep on going to the end. Excelsior!
Members of the Ogdensburg Free Academy Key Club spent Sept. 19 staining Kids Kingdom Playground in Ogdensburg’s Morissette Park in cooperation with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department.

Key Club members helped build the Kids Kingdom Playground more than 20 years ago. Over the past two decades, the members of the high school service club has donated its time each year helping to preserve the wooden playground by painting sections with a special preservative stain.

Ogdensburg Key Club Helps Maintain Playground

From left, front: OFA Key Club Advisor Christina Frank, Chloe Frank, Logan Bailey, Cameron Anderson, Maria Polusi, Connor Banning, Webmaster Annalese Dutch, President Jordan Snyder, Treasurer Tessa Richardson, Editor Madison Wescott. Top: Desirae Graveline, Nick Lacombe, Carly Fiacco, Emma Henry, Payton LaRock, Ellen Miller and Alec Lacombe.

Peninsula Trains 35 in CPR

On Sept. 20, Peninsula Kiwanis sponsored a CPR training course at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Inwood. The class was conducted by members John Kohan and Joe Girardi, with assistance from the Inwood Fire Department and the Atlantic Beach Rescue Company. In addition to CPR, blood pressure readings were taken. The class was attended by 35 people and was conducted in both English and Spanish. Martha DeLacruz and Avi Golan.

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Ogdensburg Key Club Helps Maintain Playground

On Aug. 31 the Oceanside Kiwanis Club held the last night of its 9th Annual Summer Gazebo Reading Program. Everyone in attendance was treated to a free BBQ sponsored by members Robert Steinberg of Robert Ian Caterers of Oceanside, assisted by Past President Bob Transom and Betsy Tramson.

The event ran each Monday throughout the summer, with the exception of one rain out, and raised just under $7,000 to help the club send Oceanside children to Kamp Kiwanis.

Each week approximately 50-80 people bring their lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy some dessert and coffee while they listen to three or four poets or authors read some of their works.

Paddle Classic Draws 55 participants

On June 27 The Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks held the 6th Annual Kiwanis Paddle Classic. There were 55 participants in 36 boats, canoes and kayaks in the race.

The were two races, a 6 Mile Race from Old Forge lakefront to Treasure Island, on First Lake, and back, and a 12 Mile Race from Old Forge lakefront to Alger Island, on Fourth Lake, and back.

Central Adirondack Search and Rescue Team provided a command post and assisted with communications during the event.

Reading Program Raises $7,000

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Central Adirondack Search and Rescue Team provided a command post and assisted with communications during the event.
On Sept. 19, Kiwanians from throughout the downstate region and Kiwanis VIP’s from across the district put on their formal wear to celebrate the life-saving work of the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center and 20 years of KPTC’s Black & White Ball.

This year’s ball was a tremendous financial success thanks to the largest journal yet, which was chaired by Maureen Neuringer. Basket Raffles, 50/50, and a raffle to win a trip to Aruba all brought in additional revenue.

In addition to its fundraising aspects, the ball provided an opportunity for the KPTC Foundation to thank its supporters. This year, 16 Kiwanians and one Key Clubber were named KPTC Fellows or Diamond Fellows in recognition of a $1000 donation to KPTC.


In addition, a special 5 Diamond KPTC Fellow was presented to KPTC Foundation President Joe Corace, honoring him for his tireless efforts on behalf of KPTC and his coordination of the Black & White Balls since their inception.

In honor of the 20th Anniversary, guests received commemorative pins designed by KPTC Service Leadership Committee member Maheen Nasir. Later in the evening, Maheen was presented the KPTC Robert “Bob” Cummo Scholarship for all her work on behalf of the KPTC.

The KPTC Foundation Board would like to extend its gratitude to the clubs and businesses which took journal ads as well as every Kiwanian who attended the event.

Adirondack Kids Day was Oct. 3


The event celebrates the outdoor activities described in the Adirondack Kids series of books. Mark Manske with Adirondack Raptors held a demonstration with several of his amazing birds of prey. Master Photographer Eric Dresser provided a slide show on Wildlife of the Adirondacks. A Fishing Derby sponsored by French Louie ADK Sports and supervised DEC for children 12 and under accompanied by an adult was very successful.

The weather was a spectacular Adirondack fall day and the children enjoyed many special events during the day such as a petting zoo provided by Word of Life members.

Kiwanis members assisted with an information booth and fishing derby signup while Town of Webb Key Club provided a food booth an opportunity to enjoy hot dogs, chips and a drink.
Once again another great Kamping season at Kamp Kiwanis comes to a close.

Every year we reflect on the season and somehow it always feels like it was the best season yet, but I guess it’s just a feeling because we all know that each season is a great season simply because we have given so many children a great experience of new friendships, a renewed sense of confidence, cooperation and tolerance for others.

Of course, let’s not forget the great deal of fun that is had by these children by participating in sports and games.

We know by looking at them in their reluctance to leave the Kamp on Saturday morning, that they have had a life-changing experience and can’t wait to come back next year.

This thought brings me to something that Gov. Forbes Irvine said in his remarks at a meeting that I attended. Forbes reminded all of us who have been involved in sending children to Kamp Kiwanis and it’s something that sometimes many of us don’t think about.

It is a wonderful feeling when a club or an individual finds a needy child, sends him or her to Kamp and know that they have done something really great for that child. But what happens after that when the child goes back home for the next 51 weeks of the year?

Do you know if that child and his family need some help, perhaps that child needs clothing and books for school, perhaps the family may need help for food, perhaps the family cannot afford to provide that child and his/her siblings toys for Christmas or anything else that the family may need.

I wanted to relay those very poignant remarks because I know that they made me think a lot about them. I hope it affects you the same way. Follow those children, see what you can do to make their lives just a little bit better and you will change their lives and make them better productive member of their communities.

I know that if you do that, they will grow up to be better members of society and they will pay it forward.

I hope that you will have a great, healthy and safe 2015-16 Kiwanis year, I hope that all of your goals are achieved and I hope that in this upcoming holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas that you think about Forbes’ remarks and follow those children.

God bless you for all you do for our community.

Nassau County Honors Kiwanians

A concert night held by Nassau County at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow and was declared Kiwanis Night.

Several Kiwanians from various clubs were honoring for their outstanding service to their local communities and to Nassau County in the name of Kiwanis.
Patchogue Feeds Camp Paquatuck Campers

Once again the Patchogue Kiwanis Club spent an evening at Camp Paquatuck providing a barbecue dinner and other entertainment to the campers and staff there. What has turned out to be an annual event for the club is a complement to the club’s sending kampers to Kamp Kiwanis. Camp Paquatuck is a camp owned by the Rotary Club and is located in Center Moriches, Long Island. The facility specializes in caring for special needs children and provides intense coverage of care for these children. For the Patchogue Kiwanis Club, the early evening event allows for the joining of the campers, counselors, and Kiwanian families for picnicking, bubble machine, face painting and ice cream floats. Suffolk East Lt. Gov. Roy Fedele, attended the affair and helped serving of the food for the campers.