Fellow Kiwanians,

I am humbled and honored to be elected as your Governor for 2017-18. We have an outstanding board of lieutenant governors this year. Many new changes will be instituted this year, some from Kiwanis International and some from our district.

Our clubs need to grow to be able to continue to help our children and our communities. Our SLPs are growing like wild fire; WHY aren’t we? We must do what we need to do to continue to be successful. This year we will do just that! Open New Clubs - Retain Our Members and Have FUN Doing It!

Our 2018 Mid-Year Conference theme will be Rock-N-Roll, so bring your poodle skirts, lettermen jackets and saddle shoes with you to the Desmond, Feb. 16-18, 2018. The 2018 District Convention will be in Syracuse and the theme will be the Roaring 20’s. We will be changing things up throughout the year, especially at our Mid-Year Conference and DCON. There will be recognition of members, clubs and lieutenant governors. Our “Everyday Hero” award is returning.

My Governor’s Projects are “Children with Special Needs” and “No Veterans Left Behind”. Past Gov. Bill Risbrook will chair “Children with Special Needs” and Past Lt. Gov. Al Federico will chair “No Veterans Left Behind”.

I ask that you concentrate on “Children with Special Needs” in two areas: children with Down Syndrome and childhood cancer touching that individual child.

Our “No Veterans Left Behind” project should be tailored to what works in your community, such as having a breakfast, lunch or dinner for veterans, collect toiletries, socks or blankets for veterans, or take a veteran to the movies. Whatever you can do will help these men and women who served our country. Just don’t do a project once, make it a sustaining project for the whole year and beyond!

All clubs that participate in the Governor’s Projects will receive a club patch and a certificate.

‘I am excited to announce my Governor’s Projects. First, I would like to work with Children with Special Needs with the help from Chairman Past Gov. Bill Risbrook and our second program is No Veterans Left Behind with Chairman Al Federico and his committee.’

God Bless Kiwanis. God Bless America.

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God Bless Kiwanis. God Bless America.
Islips Supports Autism Awareness

The Kiwanis Club of the Islips (The), Bay Shore held a bowling fundraiser at East Islip Lanes on April 1 Gov. Stephen Sirgiiovanni’s Autism Awareness project.

All of the profits went to Wing Elementary School’s Reach program to purchase much needed specialized equipment. The Reach program is a highly structured learning environment that provides students with individualized learning goals that enable each student to REACH their fullest potential. The goal for the program is that students will improve language, communication and social interactions while increasing academics skills and their ability to function independently. This program has a small teacher to student ratio.

In addition to selling tickets to the event, the club sold t-shirts, bracelets and magnets to support the cause. They raised more than $2,000.

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Two participants in the Islip program.
In 2006, Kiwanis Gov. Joe Corace asked Kiwanis clubs in the New York District to recognize individuals that have performed outstanding service. This was also an opportunity to recognize individuals that go above and beyond the ordinary or expected, and do so without regard for attention or expecting something in return. In some instances one particular heroic action can make a difference and even save a life. Kiwanis Clubs across the district presented these individuals the Everyday Hero Award.

The 2016-17 Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson challenged my class of governors with leaving a positive handprint on our communities. I was fortunate to see the many positive handprints left by our club members from Long Island to Rochester, from Albany to Syracuse and everywhere in between. We are making a difference -- leaving our positive handprints on communities where people rely on Kiwanis to pick up the slack when programs are cut in cities, towns, schools and libraries. Communities turn to Kiwanis for help with books, backpacks, clothes and shoes, holiday gifts, food, scholarships, camps -- everything a kid needs to thrive, prosper and grow. We don't stop there. We help those who need it because we care.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to distribute Pediatric Trauma Kits, for helping kids get to spend a week at Kamp Kiwanis and for helping the Pediatric Lyme Foundation support youth who are suffering. Thank you for holding poetry nights, parades and pancake breakfasts to raise the money needed to get things done.

I hope you will continue our efforts to build more clubs, invite more friends and family to join a service project, come to a meeting, help with an event or work with a club that is supporting an Aktion Club, a Key Club or any of the other valuable youth programs.

And I hope you will support Governor Candace Corsaro and her team during the coming Kiwanis year. Now is the time to work together to support our leaders, club members, youth who depend on us and community members who have come to rely on our help. I'm proud to say we've gained nearly 550 new members this year, more people who can work with us to leave positive handprints on communities around our state.

Thank you for your service to Kiwanis! And thank you for your support this year.

Chester Presents Everyday Hero Awards

In 2006, Kiwanis Gov. Joe Corace asked Kiwanis clubs in the New York District to recognize individuals that have performed outstanding service. This was also an opportunity to recognize individuals that go above and beyond the ordinary or expected, and do so without regard for attention or expecting something in return. In some instances one particular heroic action can make a difference and even save a life. Kiwanis Clubs across the district presented these individuals the Everyday Hero Award.

The Everyday Hero Award also recognizes individuals who have personal struggles, physical or life events that you would never recognize when you are with them and speak with them. The way they carry themselves, their actions inspire everyone that comes in contact with them.

The Chester Kiwanis Club embraced the project and has continued to honor persons each year. The club has presented more than 25 individuals with an Everyday Hero Award.

On July 20, the Everyday Hero Award was presented to three such outstanding individuals from the Chester Community: Ashton Guidi, a 5th grader from the Chester Elementary School, who knows what it means to “stand up for the little guy”. Having a cousin with autism, Ashton knew right away that he was here to look out for his cousin. He took spirited words from the coach of the West Point Lacrosse Team, Joe Alberici, and turned them into action, encouraging both the West Point Lacrosse Team and his own Goshen Lacrosse Team to wear “Autism Speaks” stickers on their helmets for the remainder of the season. He also continues to spread the word about Autism everywhere he goes.

Also honored were Anthony Battiato and Kassandra Catlett, two individuals who were in the right place at the right time and helped save the lives of a family of four. After seeing the back of a house on fire, Kassandra assisted the mother with gathering the two children from the upstairs while Anthony called 911. They ran to the back of the house and seeing that the fire was out of control banged on the downstairs window, knocking it out to wake the father who was sleeping in the family room.

Ashton Guidi receives his award from Sue Bahren.
Candace Corsaro was elected 2017-18 Governor and John "Hank" Baker was elected Governor-Elect for 2017-18 during the House of Delegates Saturday. The votes took place during the District Convention in Lake Placid.

Corsaro was uncontested, while Baker won in a contested election.

Also during the House of Delegates, the delegates approved a bylaw amendment which made non-substantial changes to the district’s bylaws that were requested by Kiwanis International. The approval came in a voice vote.

A second amendment, which would have segregated $5 in the district dues already being collected as a fund to pay for the Empire State Kiwanian was more contentious. Proposed by the North Central Kiwanian Club, it was supported by Immediate Past Gov. Forbes Irvine from that club but drew objections from many others.

An amendment was approved changing the date the proposal would be effective from Oct. 1, 2017 to Oct. 1, 2018, but then there was a motion to table the question, and that was approved in a voice vote, ending all consideration of the proposal.

After more than 20 years of work, Kiwanians in the New York District should soon be able to buy special license plates celebrating their Kiwanis membership.

On Aug. 21, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill to make the Kiwanis plates available, pending completion of a design and arrangements for either a bond or 200 orders to cover the initial cost of the design.

Past Gov. Eric G. Paul, who has worked on the license plate issue for many years, said the preparation work is now being done. Information on how to order the plates will be made available on the district web site when it is available.

Paul expressed thanks to state Sen. Patrick Gallivant, R-59, and Assemblyman Michael Miller, D-38, who sponsored the legislation. Miller is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Glendale.
The House of Delegates, taking place in the ice rink used for the 1932 Winter Olympics.

3 Re-Elected To Foundation Board of Directors

The three incumbents running for re-election to three-year terms as members of the Foundation Board all won re-election.

Winning were Board President Sal Anelli, Vice President Joe Battisti, and Kim Scharoff.

Kamp Executive Director Rebecca Clemence reported that during the summer, nine kamper needed 1:1 coverage, seven of them were from the autism spectrum. There were 74 children with special needs, and 67 military kamper.

During the summer, the kamp was inspected by the American Camping Association, which accredits summer camps, and once again got a 100 percent score, she said.

The weather for the 2017 season was the "worst ever," due to the rain.

Three new programs were added this year. A donation of bicycles allowed cycling to be added. A bullying prevention program was provided to all kamper. They also added a gardening program.

There were 52 staff from 15 different countries.

For more information on Foundation activities at the convention, see Page 11.
Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse Receives Christiano Award

The Gerald P. Christiano Distinguished Service Award, the top award for service in the New York District, was awarded Saturday to Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse, who for five years headed the district's Eliminate Project fund-raising effort.

Kirmse, a member of the Fordham, Bronx, Kiwanis club, was selected for her service to Kiwanis and especially for her work on the Eliminate Project, explained Past International President Thomas DeJulio, who also is a Fordham club member.

The Eliminate campaign raised $1.1 million in the New York District during her time chairing it. She noted that there were 49 countries in the world with maternal neo-natal tetanus when the project began, and now there are 32. It has been eliminated in the Western Hemisphere.

Past Governors Seeking Nominations for 2018 Christiano Award

The New York District Past Governors Council annually recognizes the extraordinary, meaningful and distinctive achievement of the New York District Kiwanian with the "Gerald P. Christiano Distinguished Service Award", named in honor of Past International President "Jerry" Christiano.

This award may be presented to only one Kiwanian each year. The presentation takes place at the annual New York District Convention.

The honoree should be a living New York District Kiwanian in good standing who has "exhibited outstanding meritorious service to individuals in the community and has contributed in an extraordinary manner over a significant period of years to the advancement of Kiwanis."

Sitting governors, governor-elects and past governors are not eligible for the award.

Award presentation and expenditures will be financed by the Past Governors Council only, and cannot be purchased by clubs or individuals.

All Kiwanians are invited to suggest someone as a candidate for the award. To do that, they need to recommend an individual to a past governor. Nominations must be submitted by a past governor and shall be presented in writing to the current council chairman not later than Jan. 1 of each year.

Evaluation and approval of each award recipient shall be chosen by vote of the council during its Mid-Winter meeting.

Past winners of the award can be seen on the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org/distserv.htm.

On Aug. 22, James Tong Scholarships for $1,000 each were awarded to Alvin Zhu and to Sharon Leung, members of the Stuyvesant High School Key Club. From left, club President Jimmy Yee, Alvin Zhu, Distinguished Past President James Tong and Sharon Leung.

The Kiwanis Club of Minisink Valley awarded 17 $1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from Minisink Valley High School. The winners, from left, first row: Ashely DeRose, Lovina John, Molly Clayton, Izzy Schatzle, Ashely Durma; second row: Lauren Fritzch, Maggie Cazzetta, Erin Clifford, Bridget Wiley, Meaghan Cahill; third row: Jack Golden, Kevin Lewis, Jacob Banse, Morgan Volpe, Jordan Spordone. Award winners unable to attend the dinner were Madison Ball and Shannon Feely.

Copiague Awards 9 Scholarships

Nine scholarships have been presented to new high school graduates by the Kiwanis Club of Copiague.

The Anthony Iannotta Scholarship was awarded to Lyndsey Wilson. The Robert McIntosh Scholarship was awarded to Jackalyn Gonzalez.

The Warren Gumbs Scholarship was awarded to Sofie Wilson. Other scholarships were awarded to: Nicole Mikolajczak, Jenna Langan, Ashley Burgos, Tiana Roe, Amrelle Pence, Nilsu Yildiz.
On Sept. 15 the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation held its 22nd annual Black & White Ball at Leonard’s Palazzo.

The Black & White Ball, created in 1995, was the brainchild of the New York District Kiwanis Distinguished Past Gov. Joseph L. Corace, president of the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center. This year a record number of attendees, more than 300 Kiwanians, guests and Northwell Health hospital employees were present.

As tradition dictates, Kiwanians dressed up in their black & white finest with many wearing formal tuxedos and gowns, all in black & white of course.

“It’s fun to dress up and come out for our children. The music is lively and I just don’t want to sit down,” shared Former First Lady Nydia Corace. The room was decorated with beautiful black and white mask tablescapes and balloons, donated by Distinguished Past Lt. Gov. Wayne Scheriff of the Queens West Division. Guests enjoyed having their pictures taken by professional photographers and Kiwanians Bill Moseley and Joel Harris. Many of them received souvenir photos in their black and white garb before the evening was over.

Past Governors and Kiwanians throughout the district joined in for the festivities. A moment of silence was taken to honor long-time KPTC Board member and avid supporter Distinguished Past Lt. Gov. Rich Santer of the Long Island South Central Division who passed away this year. He was a tireless supporter of Sponsored Youth and encouraged them to work hard for KPTC.

Tom Cohen, president of the Kiwanis Club of Five Towns, presented the 2017 Annual Distinguished Past Gov. Alfred J. and First Lady Rita Bevilacqua Memorial Scholarships. Melissa Kamper and Chelsea Morrison received $1,000 scholarships.

Speeches were kept to a minimum and as a highlight of the evening unfolded, this year’s KPTC Fellows where called up to join the ranks of KPTC Fellow honorees. The KPTC Fellowships Awards represent a $1,000 donation that has been made in the honored recipient’s name. The 2017 honorees included:

- Manny Corman, Brighton Beach Coney Island club; Joel Harris, County Seat Club; Maree Rubenstein, East Meadow club; Alice Grosman, Sean Lally, Brian Rappaport, Barry Ringelheim, Five Towns club; Tom Poccio, Herb Chan, Metropolitan Division; Victoria Crappone, Maspeth club; and Sherry Tsang, Jenny Wu, Douglaston club.

- Level-One Diamond KPTC Fellowships included: Dr. Sally Thompson, Uniondale club; Wang Yu, Jian Huai Yu, Douglaston club; Victor Rodrigues, Ozone Park club; Kevin Kamper, East Meadow club and Governor Stephen Sirgiovanni, Howard Beach club.

- Level-Two Diamond KPTC Fellowships included: Tom DeStio and Linda DeStio, North Shore club. Level-Three Diamond KPTC Fellowships include: Lisa Santer, East Meadow club and Sandy Liew, Douglaston Club. Level-Five Diamond KPTC Fellowships included: Juan Na (Hannah) Chen.

Thanks to the all the supportive divisions, clubs, and members that placed ads in our B&W Ball journal and made it a great success.
Summer in Amityville was one the themes for this year's July 4th Parade in the Village of Amityville. More than 30 organizations walked approximately two miles, and of course the Kiwanis Club of Amityville had the best float in the parade. The Little Red Wagon of everyone's childhood was built by Kiwanians John H. Schad, Jr (Hal), Dave Heller, Rick Licari, Kevin Smith, and the mastermind and committee chair, Townsend Thorn. Children who sat in the "wagon" are all Amityville Kiwanians' grandparents.

Nassau to Suffolk Bike Challenge Raises $26,000

The 21st annual Nassau to Suffolk Bicycle Challenge took place on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The ride is organized annually by the North Shore Kiwanis Club to raise funds for Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center (KPTC) as well as other charities.

The ride is spearheaded by North Shore Kiwanian Tom Destio who started the event to "give back" to the KPTC for the life saving treatment his son received from them as an infant. This year there were 390 riders and the event raised $26,000.

Pictured is the K family at work: putting up the tent at Tappen Beach in Sea Cliff, where the ride begins and ends; The North Shore Key Club making 480 peanut butter and jelly sandwiched for the rest stops along the way; and Kiwanians "one and all" turning out on Sunday ....the day of the ride.
On Aug. 5 the Kiwanis Club of Webster celebrated its 60th anniversary with a gala dinner at the Penfield Country Club. Club President Roger Awe was the master of ceremonies for the event, and he gave those in attendance information about the club’s activities and community service over the years. At left, Awe (left) makes a presentation to Jack Harten, who is a past governor and past president of the Kiwanis International Foundation.

Webster Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Distinguished Past Gov. Joe Corace and Dr. Jose Prince conducted a tour the Cohen Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Unit at Northwell Hospital for Gov.-Designate Candace Corsaro. The unit is supported by the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Foundation. The tour was to show the scope of the system and just how child-friendly both the rooms and decorations are. From left are Lt. Gov.-Designate Joel Harris, Corsaro, Prince, Corace and Mike Siniski, a member of the foundation’s board.

Sullivan County Aktion Club has Car Wash

The Aktion Club of Sullivan County was on the move during August hosting two enjoyable events.

On Aug. 19, they held their second annual car wash at the SullivanARC location on lower Broadway in Monticello.

The members warmly greeted each customer and did an outstanding job washing the cars. There was no charge for the car wash; however donations and tips were gladly accepted.

The money raised will help the club fund various community service events. A few days after the car wash, the members gathered to visit residents at the Skilled Nursing Unit at Catskill Regional Medical Center.

The group sang songs, including “God Bless America”, “The Rose” and “Amazing Grace” to the delight of the residents. One of the club members performed a superb tap dancing routine.

The Aktion Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge.

Pediatric Facilities Toured

Distinguished Past Gov. Joe Corace and Dr. Jose Prince conducted a tour the Cohen Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Unit at Northwell Hospital for Gov.-Designate Candace Corsaro. The unit is supported by the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Foundation. The tour was to show the scope of the system and just how child-friendly both the rooms and decorations are. From left are Lt. Gov.-Designate Joel Harris, Corsaro, Prince, Corace and Mike Siniski, a member of the foundation’s board.

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The Aktion Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge.
What is Lyme Disease? Lyme Disease is caused by bacteria usually transmitted by the deer tick. It is a scary possibility to consider for New York State residents who enjoy spending time outside.

Lyme disease may affect the brain in many ways. The most common is a disturbance in thinking (cognition). The spirochete (Borrelia Burgdorferi), which causes Lyme disease can invade the central nervous system within days to a week of initial skin infection, as a result it disseminates through the blood stream. The majority of people who are treated early with antibiotics do well and incur no long term problems. The people who are not treated until later in the illness may have a more complicated course. That is why I have been telling you for the past 17 years, if you think that you have got bitten by a tick go to your doctor immediately and demand a blood test and do not wait for the blood test results. Start an antibiotic treatment at once.

Did you know? Lyme disease is 1.5 times more common than breast cancer and 6 times more common than HIV and is the fastest growing infectious disease. Did you know, the CDC acknowledges at least 300,000 new infections per year. Did you know, the tell-tale “bull’s-eye rash” after a bite occurs in less than half of all Lyme infections. Did you know, current testing often provides a false negative result. Did you know, most insurance companies do not cover treatment for Lyme disease.

How can you help? Please help us to help young Lyme disease patients receive the care and treatment they need and deserve. Become a distinguished member of the Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation donors and take part in this important charitable work by purchasing a Brittany Fellowship, Level One Emerald, Level Two Emerald, or a Joseph Michael Wuest Award.

Thank you for taking the time to care and share.
Another great Kamping season is in the books and once again Kamp Kiwanis made lots of memories and made dreams come true for all of the children who attended.

Our totals this year were: 573 child Kampers (23 fewer than last year) and 68 adult Kampers (4 more than last year) so it was a pretty good year.

I want to take this time to thank all clubs, divisions and individual Kiwanians for sponsoring children to attend Kamp Kiwanis. A special thank you goes out to the following clubs and divisions for their extra efforts in sending children this year:

- LaGuardia Club, 30 Kampers; East Meadow Club, 34 Kampers, and for the second straight year, the winner Peninsula-Hewitt Club sponsored 62 Kampers.
- The Long Island South Central Division sponsored 81.3 Kampers, Long Island Southwest Division 82 Kampers and for the second straight year the winner, Queens West Division with 83 Kampers.

We are so grateful for your extra effort into changing a child’s life for the better.

A big thank you goes out to the New York District Circle K who once again had its conference at Kamp Kiwanis on September 22-24 which also happened to be our Kamp closing weekend. More than 150 Circle K’ers rolled up their sleeves and worked along Kiwanians to clean up the Kamp, put equipment away and basically get the Kamp ready for the winter.

I can’t describe the amount of tasks we were able to do thanks to them being there. Hopefully we can make this weekend an annual event.

We thank Governor Stephen Sirgiovanni for his help throughout the year, always promoting Kamp and raising funds to send children. We congratulate Governor Sirgiovanni on his wonderful tenure and we know that he will always be there for our Kamp.

We wish our incoming Gov. Candace Corsaro all good wishes for the upcoming year and know that we at the New York District Kiwanis Foundation will always be there for her.

Finally, I want to tell you about our upcoming Gala, celebrating 50 years of making a difference for children in the New York District. This will be a great event on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. You will be getting updates on all the particulars and reservation forms. This will be an event like no other so make sure you make your reservations early.

From all of us at the New York District Foundation, we thank you for your constant support.
Penfield-Perinton Celebrates 55 Years of Service

On August 15 the Kiwanis Club of the Penfield-Perinton Townships celebrated its 55 year anniversary of providing service to the community and the Kiwanis organization. This celebration also provided the club with an opportunity to honor its 55-year charter member, 1985-86 Governor Bob Calabrese. At this dinner Past Kiwanis International Pres. Jerry Christiano presented Past Governor Bob with his 55-year Legion of Honor Past Governors pin. Also Distinguished Past Lt. Gov. John Hanratty presented club Past President Geddy Reinis with his 30 year Legion of Honor Pin and recognized club Past President Father Fredrick Bush for his 30 years in Kiwanis.

In addition to Christiano, the dinner was attended by Past Gov. Doreen Pellittieri, Past Gov. Eric G. Paul, 12 club past presidents and 12 past lieutenant governors.

Past Rotary International Director Jack Best, from Penfield Rotary, attended, as did Penfield Town Supervisor Tony La Fountain, Jim Costello, director of developmental services for the town of Penfield and retired Supreme Court Judge Andy Siracuse, a former club president.

Christiano presented Calabrese with his Legion of Honor pin for 55 years of Kiwanis membership. Calabrese, who was a charter member of the club, served as club president in 1976-77, and as New York governor in 1985-86.