Governor David and Fearless Fuchs Enjoy Their Visit To Lewiston Peach Festival

The Kiwanis Club of LEWISTON, Niagara Frontier North Division – It began during the reign of Kiwanis Peach Queen Casey in the Village of Lewiston, when Governor David Rothman and First Lady Debra came to oversee the election of the new Queen in the Lewiston 48th Kiwanis Peach Festival. After a plane delay on Friday night, Governor David and Debra finally arrived and checked in to a new Bed & Breakfast (www.pipervillageinn.com). The traditional Saturday Parade began at 11:00 am. After leading the parade, Governor David reviewed 150 units as they marched, danced, drove, played instruments, solicited votes, or bragged about their company.

The parade ended at 2:00 pm, and Governor David was escorted to the stage for the first of his two scheduled appearances. He was presented $500 for the NY District Foundation, enabling him to share a review of Camp Kiwanis.
Lewiston Kiwanians escorted Governor David and First Lady Debra to the hospitality tent and they enjoyed the first Peach shortcake. 6000 plus pounds were supplied this year by a Niagara County farmers, unlike years past.

Governor David and Debra went see the Falls up close and personal. President Colin Smith teased, “you should have brought your swimsuits.” The Cave of the Winds Tour, at one time, went behind the falls until an overhang collapsed. Now, they built the same walk up to the falls. <http://www.niagarafallslive.com/cave_of_the_winds.htm> Not knowing what to expect, our District Officers trusted us enough to give it a try.

From the quiet wait on top of the falls they descended into a raging maestrom of a gorge as the 150,000 gallons per minute of the Bridal Veil Falls, which made yelling to one another useless. This volume is what Niagara is noted for not it’s height. There is another 600,000 gpm falls adjacent to the Horseshoe Falls. The water creates its own windstorm at the bottom and this is what they faced, as the group proceeded behind the guide along a wooden walkway.

At one juncture the guide stood aside giving the group the choice of turning back or going on the “Hurricane” deck, which is an appropriate title. The band faced the brute force of Mother Nature, or a short cut back. It is here, First Lady Debra, stepped forward as they marched, danced, drove, played instruments, solicited votes, or bragged about their company.

Governor David bought a peach shortcake from Lewiston Distinguished Treasurer Tom Minarcin.

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Just First Ladies being girls – Lewiston First Lady Susan Smith and New York District First Lady Debra Fuchs.

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Dangerous First Lady extra time to dry out. Governor Rothman accepted a $100 check for the Katrina relief fund. A gentleman approached David afterwards and offered 12 boxes of clothes. Gov. David also discussed his mentoring project for this year.

Following a leisurely dinner with recent past Lt Gov. Tony Attardo and his wife Alice everyone ventured back onto the field for some evening entertainment by Elvis “Buchwald.” Not knowing when to quit they opted to close with rides. This amounted to one ride on the big Conklin Ferris wheel before queasy tummies suggested we retire. It appears neither Governor Rothman or President Smith care to challenge gravity.

After another restful night the group enjoying other rides, games, photo shoots and of course the Gov’s mandatory shift of serving Peach shortcake which he did alongside of Debra. The weekend was a special memory-filled weekend for NY’s first couple.

First Lady Debra ad I would like to thank Immediate Past Governor Glenn and First Lady Susan and Immediate Past District Secretary/Treasurer Joe for their year of outstanding service to the great New York District of Kiwanis international. We would like to thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm as new Kiwanis year begins. Additionally, we would like to thank those divisions and clubs that have provided us with their warm hospitality during our visits.

What an exciting time to be a Kiwanian. I want you to remember three words throughout this coming year. “Together We Can”. Our International President Steve Siemens and his board has begun a program to triple our membership to 1 million Kiwanians by the year 2015 when we will celebrate our hundredth year of service. Sounds lofty, but not impossible. Just thing if every Kiwanian made an effort to bring in one new member and that member brought someone else in to join our ranks, it can be done. Just remember, with more members in our ranks, we can provide more service to those that need it.

Kiwanis International has provided us with several tools to help us not only build, but to help rebuild clubs worldwide. The New York District has over 18 members that were trained by Kiwanis International and are part of our “tag” team, “Together Achieving Growth.” The tag team has provided the skills and marketing programs to help increase our membership. It is no longer up to one member or club to mentor a club, but now becomes a divisional project. Obviously, strength in numbers, International has given us the “1-2-3” membership incentive program as a way to reward those Kiwanians who help bring in membership. The grand prize winner of this program will get to spend a day with Kiwanis International Steve Siemens at his home in Iowa.

Kiwanis International has developed new and exciting public service announcements that are available to your clubs. They have also developed a new “branding” program. Please visit the Kiwanis International website and the Kiwanis store for more information. Another new program is “Kiwanis In A Box”.

Every club in the district received in September a kit from International and the Chyron Corporation outlining the steps necessary for a flu immunization program. There are four other “Kiwanis In A Box” projects from International that are available to your club at no cost. Please take advantage of them.

The Governors Project this year is mentoring. Please take a moment to close your eyes and think back to someone who touched your life in a special way. They could have been a relative, teacher, neighbor, clergy, coach or a peer. Whoever they were they helped shape your life. We all have special skills that and I am asking that you share that skill with our Continued on Page Four

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December 2005

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