

WE ARE TURNING THE BOAT AROUND...

It is no secret the Kiwanis membership rolls have decreased drastically over the last decade, but fortunately that trend is turning around. What began as an idea of Past International President Gunter Gasser, and continued through our International President Jane Erickson, our beloved organization has again attained an upward direction. I am guilty myself for not pressing the Kiwanis brand and cause. I vow I will increase my expression of Kiwanis--many people believe we drive little go-carts in parades and buy eyeglasses for those that cannot afford them. A very noble cause, but we do much more.

I pulled up a “google” thing, just curious of what I wanted to find. The nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan is almost 1100 feet long, 134 feet wide, and displaces over 103,000 tons. With a top speed of 30 + knots, and with the control device thrown over hard turn, the ship still takes an estimated 3-4 miles (radius) to accomplish a 180 degree turn to the opposite direction. The time to complete that turn is by my guess, factoring in the mass, nearly two minutes. The “CVN 76 “ as it is designated”, is a Forward range ship, meaning the ship is “...almost front line...” in battle, so maneuvering speed and time are premium.

It will take time to reach my goal of 10%-20% growth for the Utah-Idaho Kiwanis District. With our present membership, that equates to an increase next October 1st of 120-240 new Kiwanis members for the District. Using Past President Gunter’s Formula concept, and President Jane’s I-PLAN to reach that goal, I am confident we can do it. I have received club inquiries within the District that Kiwanis International has passed along, and a few of those new friends have attended meetings.

Many new things are coming down from International, and a few new concepts are being discussed within the District. One area is an idea to increase attendance at our District Convention. What better way to stay connected with your fellow Kiwanians, but through the training and comradeship at a week-end retreat?

This year has really buzzed along—it seems just a few weeks ago, I was gassing up the old lawn mower for another summer attack on my “Johnson grass “! Now I am enduring the toy ads and planning for the New Year. For Kiwanians this is going to be an exciting New Year! We will have a new President for our wonderful country, ideas will be voiced, and many children

will be influenced and impacted by the many new Kiwanis members available to Protect, Nurture, and Mentor the Children of the World.

Sandy and I wish each of you a very peaceful, merry, and safe holiday season. Thank you for your support and trust, and together we will make the Utah-Idaho Kiwanis District one of the most productive!

In Kiwanis Service
Captain Jim Vaughan
Governor, Utah-Idaho Kiwanis District