Reflections by the Governor

Foundation Building Blocks

I would like to extend a warm and thankful congratulations to Immediate Past Governor Dave. If you should see him, please thank him for investing a significant amount of time and personal resources in his quest to improve the Michigan District of Kiwanis.

If you were able to attend this year’s convention in Grand Rapids, you should have been exposed to this year’s logo. It consists of three elements. The first element consists of several building blocks stacked together to form a strong foundation. The definition of a foundation is the “lowest load-bearing part of a structure – a body on which other parts rest”.

Some examples of foundation building blocks for the Michigan District would be:

- Members
- Good officers
- A respectful and supportive Kiwanis family (i.e., Key Club, Aktion Club, etc.)
- Meaningful by-laws
- A passion to serve
- Positive attitude
- Financial stability

The second element consists of the Mackinac Bridge. This is to symbolize the bridge in Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser’s logo.

The third and last element is a special super hero that I have named “K-Man”.

He represents the best and greatest things about Kiwanis. He excels in making sure that our ‘foundation building blocks’ are sound and work well with each other.

You too can become K-Man! Please do your part to make sure that our ‘foundation building blocks’ remain strong. It isn’t easy. It takes effort. **We Still Have Work To Do!**

Has your club sought out new, or additional service projects to work on this year? **We Still Have Work To Do!**

Do you think that most of our clubs have adequately contributed to the Michigan Foundation of Kiwanis so that they can continue to support our children’s hospitals? **We Still Have Work To Do!**

Whatever you love about your club, membership makes it happen. A club’s fellowship, leadership, community connection, community service and service to children all require Kiwanis members. How are we doing relative to asking folks to be part of our experience? **We Still Have Work To Do!**

Your Kiwanis club is a vital part of your local community. Use of public awareness helps you make sure your community knows. How are we doing relative to ‘Patting ourselves on the back’ in public? **We Still Have Work To Do!**

We can go on and on. There are countless opportunities that still need some service attention. **We Still Have Work To Do!**
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A few words of gratitude

As we embark on a new Kiwanis year, I would like to share a few words of gratitude to all of you for your support in my journey to become Governor-Elect. It was truly a pleasure for me to be a part of such an amazing convention in Grand Rapids. I would also like to personally thank Dee Hudson and her team for creating such an amazingly fun atmosphere for all of us who attended. Now I would like to take a moment to reflect on the events of that wonderful weekend.

Friday we shared in many exciting exhibits, displays, workshops and trainings. The kickoff luncheon was spectacular and our guest speaker did a great job giving us a brief history of the Grand Rapids area. We then hosted our first delegate session. It is always great to hear about the magnificent things that our Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation accomplishes throughout the year. I was fortunate enough to share a wonderful night of fellowship at a White Caps baseball game. While some others enjoyed what I heard was an interesting night at Gun Lake Casino.

Saturday we kicked off our day with a breathtaking walk for The Eliminate Project. “It’s great; it’s great to exercise for Eliminate!” We then enjoyed more exhibits, displays, workshops and programs. Then our second delegate session. Closing out our Saturday was a lovely Governor’s banquet where we got to celebrate another great year in Kiwanis with Governor Dave.

This upcoming year will bring many changes. We will say farewell but not goodbye to Past Governor-Liz. Dave will be our Immediate Past-Governor and Stan Nelson has promised a FUNtastic year as our new Governor of the Michigan District.

At the close of the 96th Annual Michigan District Convention, International President-Elect Dr. John Button summed up our purpose as Kiwanians with the poem, [We pray for our Children.](#) If you were unable to hear this reading, I would highly recommend you look it up and share it with your club.

This convention was a most memorable experience which I will not soon forget. We, as humans, do not remember days, we remember moments. Let us take all of the marvelous Kiwanis moments we shared this past year and turn them into actions.

As we venture into our new year together remember Governor Stan’s goals, and remember “We still have work to do!” We must educate our members, our communities, our children and the world about what Kiwanis International stands for.

Kiwanians change children’s lives. Kiwanians change their communities. Kiwanians make this world a better place to live. Be a part of something bigger than yourself! Lead by example, lead with hard work, lead with dedication and lead our children into a bright and fulfilling future.

Rebekah Hildreth
2013-14 Governor-Elect
Michigan District
rebekahseventplanning@gmail.com
As I look back at the 2012-2013 year, Fran & I could not have wished for a better year. We have enjoyed meeting all the various Kiwanis members and their families.

First of all, I would like to thank my wife of 45 years, because without her I would not have been able to accomplish all the things I have done for Kiwanis. My heart is in Kiwanis but like Fran says my heart belongs to her. And I am thoroughly thankful that she has officially joined Kiwanis.

I would like to thank all my Lt. Governors and my District Chairs for an excellent job. Without you we would not have had so much fun.

I would also like to thank Kathy and Al for keeping me informed and keeping me on task. Al, the scripts were excellent! You did a stellar job.

I was so pleased that we truly are indeed a Kiwanis family.

I cannot forget about our SLP administrators Gary & Bev Surratt, Greg Smith, James Grutza, Lori Stillwell, Caitlyn Kienitz, Gordon Schleicher, Pat Kiroff, Tom Wilson and Liz Wilson and all their work. Also we had great and active Governors of the Circle K, Key Club and Aktion Club!

We all worked as a team.

The Council of Past Lt. Governors has also worked very hard this year to further our Kiwanis goals.

A special acknowledgement goes to Dee Husdon and Linda Lawther for their many contributions to Michigan District of Kiwanis. Thank you again for your outstanding efforts.

The Michigan district efforts in the Eliminate project created an additional six model clubs, Thanks goes to all our members’ efforts especially Richard “DICK” Buttery and his team of area coordinators.

As I continue to reflect back on the 2012-2013 Kiwanis year I could and would not want to forget about the Past Michigan District Governors. What an outstanding job they did this year. They truly stepped up! I had the pleasure working with our immediate Past Gov. Liz Luttrell Wilson, Mark Rabaut, Philip Rutledge, Bill Gohier, Joan Van Arsdalen, Denny Kiroff, Clare Burns, Fred Model, William Van Arsdalen, Charles Kincaid, Chuck Nagy, Nels Haan, George Brown, Sue Petrisin, James Heymes, Joe Medrano, and Gene Overholt . The Michigan District is truly blessed with these great leaders. They help make Kiwanis great!

This year our Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio’s theme has been “Connect, Inspire, Advocate for Our Children, Their Future”. Michigan District Kiwanis Clubs have done an outstanding job in CONNECTING with their communities, youths, and Kiwanis members. Our Kiwanis Clubs have INSPIRED their members, their communities, and the children of those communities with Kiwanis Service. The same Kiwanis Clubs have ADVOCATED for betterment of our children’s lives and ADVOCATED the SIX Objects of Kiwanis. Yes, the Michigan District of Kiwanis has done an outstanding job for OUR CHILDREN, and THEIR FUTURE.

We (the Kiwanis Family) truly know and understand that KIWANIS IS THE VEHICLE. One person can make a difference in one child’s life but through Kiwanis and its members, we can definitely make a difference in many more lives. KIWANIS IS THE VEHICLE that is the most effective way to enhance a community and its children. Thus we help make the world a better place. And remember we must always ask “What more can we do?”

Again, Fran and I thank you for a very enjoyable year.
Leadership at all levels in Kiwanis start with a clean slate on October 1 each year. The truth is, that if each of us in leadership positions did not begin our planning two or three months before October 1 (when the slate was really clean), we will have a difficult time accomplishing goals, making changes, and getting volunteers to do all the things we expect of them.

**My question to Club Presidents is:** What have you planned to do to make your regular meetings more fun and attractive to prospective members?

**My question to Club Board members is:** Will you be prepared in advance of your board meetings to make decisions in the best interest of the club?

**My question to Committee Chairs is:** Do you really know what projects or events that your fellow Kiwanians want to participate in?

**My question to Club Secretaries is:** Will you communicate the valuable information that you receive from Kiwanis International and the District Office with the appropriate member of your club on a timely basis?

**My question to all of the above is:** Will you be content to do exactly what you or your predecessor did last year?

Kiwanis is a very efficient vehicle to provide much needed service to our local communities and like all vehicles, runs very smoothly if all the parts function together.

Since we only publish every two months it will be December before you hear from us again. Given that, I ask that you consider quickly the information and opportunity you find in this edition of the Builder.

You will find the annual opportunity from the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation to send your Holiday Greetings to fellow Kiwanians with a contribution and listing of your name in the Thomas Oliver Greeting Program. Use the money you would have spent on cards and postage to help our hospitalized children in Michigan.

As Kiwanis nears a celebration of its 99th year on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at the Detroit Yacht Club......make sure your club sends a contingent to participate in that party. The reservation form will appear in next issue, but make the commitment now.

Two very successful youth leadership and education programs, Key Leader and the Law Enforcement Career Academy, need your attention to begin identifying students for those programs. I hope your Youth Services committee has both on their agenda and in their budget.

Lastly, as we near the end of our personal fiscal years.....consider your personal contributions to Project Eliminate, the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation, and the Kiwanis International Foundation. As I mentioned earlier, Planning and budgeting are the keys to accomplishing our dreams as Kiwanians. Now is the time.

\[Image 36x735\]

\[Image 541x288\]
Hey it was great! It was great to Exercise for ELIMINATE!!!

It was 7:30 a.m. but look at those smiling faces. They were off to Exercise for ELIMINATE. It might have been a short walk (over the bridge to the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum and back), but these early bird Michigan District Kiwanians were long in spreading the message that no baby needs to die from Maternal Neonatal Tetanus. Celebrity walkers included Ultra Marathon Runner, George Melichar (second row left) and International President-Elect Dr. John Button (second row right). This event saved /protected 540 moms. The Michigan District is great!!!
George Melichar, an Ultra Marathon runner, came to Michigan to raise funds and awareness for the ELIMINATE Project. At the 2013 Michigan District Convention he was awarded the Tablet of Honor for his work on behalf of The Eliminate Project. George lives in New Orleans, but Marge Ballheim was his Key club Advisor and Mentor. See how one can change lives, who will then change other lives? George raised over $5000 for the Eliminate Project and also spent time performing community service before he began his run from Windsor, Ontario to Chicago, Illinois. George states, “It was an honor to work with the Michigan District”. Why would an Ultra Marathon runner who works for the Hard Rock Café and has lots of sponsors champion the Eliminate Project with such passion? He does it to make a difference in the world and says “we must fight to be part of the solution”. You rock George!
District Convention

KMF Workshop at Convention

District Convention Luncheon

Michigan State Police - guests at Convention this year.

Chuck LaTour, Speaker

Roy Klay

Steve Russell, Aktion Club
District Convention

Dr. John A Success at Convention

Governor Dave at his Best!

Somehow he got elected...

Kiwanians at Convention

Circle K

Elisabeth Guise gets Key Club Scholarship

Leaders change at Convention

Exhibit Hall
We continue making progress in the Michigan district with over $685,067.37 in donations and pledges saving 380,593 mothers and their babies from Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus, a deadly and excruciating disease. With 7 Model Clubs, 2 – 100K Clubs, 2 Bronze Club levels, 1 Gold Club level and 88 Walter Zeller Fellowships awarded, the Kiwanians in the Michigan district care about these mothers and are helping eliminate Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus in the world.

Michigan’s per member average is $124.40. The International total of pledges and donations is $37,752,743.33, saving 20,973,746 lives toward our global goal of $110 million by 2015. The International per member average is $162.75. The difference is only $38.35 from Michigan and the International total of per member average and we in the Michigan district can close that gap with your donations and pledges. MNT has now been eliminated in 10 countries since the start of our campaign in 2011 from the original total of 38 countries. Once eliminated in all 38 countries we have eliminated this deadly disease throughout the world. What a great achievement we as Kiwanians have done so these babies will have a happy and healthy life. We still have a long way to go to eliminate this disease for 61 million mothers that need our help. All it takes are three shots for a mother to be free of MNT during most of her child bearing years at a cost of 60 cents per shot or $1.80.

In Vancouver at the International convention in June the Michigan district was honored to have one of their own, Sue Petrisin, elected to become the first women as President of Kiwanis International in the year 2015-16. At our district convention in Grand Rapids, I made a challenge to all Kiwanians in the Michigan district that we will have 100% participation in the Eliminate campaign and show the world we support President Sue in the year 2015-16. Sue is former Vice Chairperson of the Eliminate campaign.

As we have raised funds and seen our accomplishments over the past two years, this year is the Kiwanis Year of Participation for the Eliminate project. If you or your club have not participated in this campaign now is the time to step forward with pledges and donations telling us what you or the club want to accomplish over the final two years. This is a perfect time for your club to commit to pledges and donations to help achieve our district goal of over $2.6 million, saving 1,450,818 lives of mothers and their newborns. We have achieved only 58% of club participation in the district, a great accomplishment, but we need to have 100% by 2015 with your help. We are also at 26% of our district goal.

One of the following Multi-Division Coordinators (see box right) will work with you and your club from a Bronze to a Diamond level of participation, or you may call or e-mail me. We can show your club how easy it is to pledge or donate and be part of a team in reaching our goal.

In Kiwanis We Serve,

Richard A. Buttery
District Coordinator for the Eliminate Project
E-mail: rbuttery@charter.net
Phone 269.349.1859

Jeanette Harris, Detroit #1 Club for divisions 1,3,4,5,7 & 9
Phone 248.752.1747
E-mail: jharris48@yahoo.com

Joseph Scheuring, (Chelsea Club) for divisions 10,11,12,13,14 & 16
Phone 734.426.3586
E-mail: scheuring5@aol.com

David Garland (Charlevoix Club) for divisions 17,18,19,20,21 & 22
Phone 231.547.6707
E-mail: dgarland@sbcglobal.net

Multi-Divisional Coordinators

In 10 October/November 2013 Issue
The first meeting of the new Board was held in Mason on Saturday, September 21, and with a quorum present:

- Accepted reports from Finance; Membership Growth; Kiwanis International Foundation; Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation; Key Club; Circle K; Education; Convention Review
- Approved language changes to the District Distinguished Program
- Approved the Budgets for Key Club, Circle K, Service Leadership Fund, and MI District
- Approved the District Calendar
- Endorsed the appointment of Elizabeth Peters as Class Chair of the Lt. Governors
- Eliminated Mileage reimbursements in Policy related to District Convention
- Discussed need to review District Bylaws, and gave direction to Strategic Planning Committee
- Extended the Contract for the Executive Director
- Accepted the retirement notice from the Executive Director as of June 1, 2014
- Discussed potential locations for 2015 District Convention
- Discussed need to Rebalance Divisions

Questions on these items and District Operations should be directed to your Division Lt. Governors. Your Division Council meetings are the appropriate venue to provide comments about any aspect of Kiwanis for your Lt. Governor to bring to the Board for action or consideration.

Next meeting to be in the Detroit area on Saturday, January 18, 2014.
**Aktion Club at District Convention**

Governor Steve Russell received a standing ovation at the 96th Annual Kiwanis of Michigan District Convention in Grand Rapids August 16. Here is part of the speech to the convention delegates. “I belong to the Holt Aktion Club sponsored by the Holt Kiwanis Club. We have been a club for five years. I have attended the Leadership Training Conference as well as the Kiwanis International Convention (New Orleans 2012). As Michigan District Aktion Club Governor I have seen Aktion Clubs grow. I hear members talk about their projects with pride. Some service projects include raising money for the Eliminate Project, helping at food banks, making (Kiwanis) hospital dolls, and participating in projects with their sponsoring (Kiwanis) clubs.

Aktion Club is the fastest growing (Service Leadership Club). We have 32 clubs in Michigan with over 800 members. Members elect their officers and develop leadership skills. They run their own meetings and are making decisions to grow their clubs. Members of Aktion Clubs are making a difference in their communities. Being a member has changed my life. It has given me opportunities to develop leadership skills, participate in service, and work as part of a group. It has helped me feel good about myself. It has given me the courage and confidence to try new things. We are Aktion Club, We are Service Leadership, We are part of the Kiwanis Family. That is what Aktion Club is all about. Thank you.”

**Kiwanis Club of Canton**

The Kiwanis Club of Canton is pleased to announce the formation of the Walker-Winter Elementary School K-Kids Club. It is part of the Wayne Westland Community Schools and it borders Canton with over 70% of its students as Canton residents. Pictured on right are some of the new members at the organization meeting and first service project.

**Michigan District of Key Club**

This past weekend, the Michigan District of Key Club International’s District Board met in Mayville, Michigan for their annual summer board meeting. Although the board had lots of fun going canoeing, playing beach volleyball, and roasting marshmallows, lots of Key Club business was accomplished. The District Board learned Robert’s Rules of Order and Parliament procedure, pounded through several discussions about Fall Rally and District Convention, and approved a budget for the 2013-2014 year. The board also bonded over duct tape and cooking meals throughout the weekend. Overall, the summer board meeting was a success and district board is looking forward to this upcoming year to be one of the best of Key Club yet! - Kelly Peng, District Secretary.
Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Detroit #1 club donates thousands of books to literacy groups around the Detroit Metropolitan area. The books are labeled with Kiwanis stickers to indicate they are gifts from the Detroit #1 Club. On this day, book stickering was done by the Detroit Helping-Out Aktion Club. Aktion Clubs are the fastest growing segment of the Kiwanis Family. The Detroit Helping-Out Aktion Club loves to do community service. In July, the Detroit Helping-out Aktion club stickered books with Ultra marathon runner, George Melichar.
91 Years of Eaton Rapids Kiwanis service was celebrated with Division 16. Although August 27 was The Kiwanis Club of Eaton Rapids last day as part of the Kiwanis family, Kiwanians from Division 16 gathered to celebrate 91 years of Kiwanis service that the club has given to the community, district and Kiwanis world. Presidents from Charlotte and Grand Ledge Kiwanis Clubs were on hand to thank the Eaton Rapids Kiwanis Club for sponsoring their clubs and Margie Schleicher thanked them for their 100% plus contribution to The Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation on behalf of children from Eaton Rapids and Eaton County helped by Kiwanis supported children’s hospitals. Division 16 Lt. Governor Gordon Schleicher presented David and Charlene Shumaker with a Tablet of Honor recognizing their club leadership as officers. The Shumaker’s pledged to continue supporting local scholarships and one Eaton Rapids club member said he would transfer his membership and work toward establishing a future club satellite in Eaton Rapids.”
Bob Burlison Jr. of the Kiwanis Club of La Cañada-AM California set a new Guinness record while saving moms and babies. His K.U.R.E., Kiwanis Unity Ride to Eliminate, has received media attention from all over the country. Each story put the worldwide efforts to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus in the spotlight. In Michigan, Bob met with the Southgate Club as he rode through Michigan in July. His visit at the Southgate Club was coordinated by John Burns, President of the Southgate Club and Division 5 Eliminate Coordinator.
Key Leader is a weekend event where young leaders develop their understanding of integrity, personal growth, respect, community building, and the pursuit of excellence. A Kiwanis Club, school, church, parent, business, or community can sponsor a student to go. Students do not have to be in Key Club to attend, but must be 8th – 12th grade.

Michigan Key Leader Camp

May 2-4, 2014

FAHOLO Conference Center
3000 Mount Hope Rd.
Grass Lake, MI

For More Information:
Administrator: Tom Wilson
michkeyleader@aol.com
Coordinator: Marian O’Higgins
marian.o@sbcglobal.net (586) 801-6706

Register at KEY-LEADER.ORG

The camp was fun. I will be back next year!
Hello Michigan District!

First, the District Board members who recently attended the Michigan Kiwanis Convention would like to extend a warm thank you to the Michigan District of Kiwanis for the invitation. At convention, Board members were given a unique opportunity to interact with various members of the Kiwanis family and to network with Kiwanis Clubs in the hopes of sponsoring new Key Clubs. Administrators of Kiwanis Servant Leadership Programs were given the opportunity to meet each other and plan for a year of more successful collaboration and communication. The weekend was well spent with a baseball game, lots of tasty food, and adventures in Grand Rapids.

The Kiwanis Family Relations committee is currently in the process of planning a park clean up at the Shelby-Utica Kiwanis Park. More details to come! We hope that your year has been going well and wish for everyone to continue to prosper.
The Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation

is proud to announce it is time for the

Thomas Oliver
Holiday Greeting Program

This year ....
get the most out of your Holiday Cards.
It is easy! It is inexpensive!

& it supports Hospitalized Children

Your Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Elected Trustees say,
Rather than purchasing Christmas Cards, purchasing stamps,
writing notes, sealing envelopes, for your Kiwanis friends,
participate in the Thomas Oliver Holiday Greeting Program.

Your Holiday Greeting will be published in the
December/January issue of the Michigan Builder.

Thomas P. Oliver Holiday Greeting Program
Say Happy Holidays and help hospitalized children during the Holiday Season

Enclosed is my contribution $_____ My check payable to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation is enclosed
Name _____________________________________________
Address ______________________________________ City ________________________ MI ______
Club ____________________________ Division _______________________

Please return this form to
Michigan District of Kiwanis • P. O. Box 231, Mason, Michigan 48854-0231
Donations are tax deductible (EIN Number 38-1723513) (Sections 501(c)3 Tax Code) • Consult with your Financial Advisor
To be included in the December/January Builder, checks must be received by Friday, November 15, 2013.
In Memoriam

DONALD D. KENNEY
Ann Arbor

JOHN E. “JACK” GATES, JR.
Lt. Governor 1988-89
Birmingham Central

SHIRLEY Y. HOWIE
Boyne City

AMADA DIZON
Cosmopolitan Detroit

EDWARD A. DAROCY
Dearborn

STEPHEN C. JACOBS
Hastings

CHARLES E. REIFSNYDER
Lansing

LOUIS H. STREBEL
Livonia Early Risers

CEZAR CABRERA
Metropolitan North-Troy

GARY B. DYGERT
Lt. Governor 1998-99
Monroe

WAYNE HARRIS
Owosso

HERBERT E. SAWIN
Traverse City

CHARLES W. JENNINGS
Traverse City Area G.K.

2012-13 Governor’s
MEMBERSHIP TROPHY

Cheboygan +17
Harbor Springs +9
Lapeer +8
Warren +8
Ypsilanti +8
Chelsea +7
Detroit No. 1 +7
Tri Cities, Gd. Haven-Spring Lake +7
Flint +5
Gaylord +5
Portage-Suburban +5

Net gain is from 10-1-12 thru 8-31-13 and includes only clubs with at least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.

AS WE GO TO PRESS

Active Clubs 166
Charter Suspended Clubs 3
District Beginning Membership 5127 members
Reporting Members Sept. 1, 2013 5225
Net Gain +98

October 2013

5 Fall Leadership Training (FLE) for Committee Chairs, Novi
5 Governor Banner Exchange, Alpena
19 Fall Leadership Training (FLE) for Committee Chairs, Mt. Pleasant
27 Kiwanis MI Foundation Board Meeting, Mason

November 2013

9 Council of Past Lt. Governors, Mason
28-29 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

Mark Your Calendars!