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Kiwanis International
Defining Statement
Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

The Keystone Kiwanian
Editor Linda L. Eberly
Norlanco-Rheems

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All members are encouraged to submit articles and photos. They may be edited for length and clarity.

Please submit articles and photos or questions to District Editor Linda Eberly at keystonekiwanian@pakiwanis.org OR Eberlydesigns@comcast.net

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THE KEYSTONE KIWANIAN
I write this still in awe of our 2019 District Convention in Williamsport. High kudos to Co-chairs Mike Haven and Matt Wise, the Committee, and the entire Williamsport Club who made all of us feel welcome to this scenic and storied city.

I promoted this as the “unconventional convention”, and it lived up to its name. We changed the program in ways that we hope met with attendees’ approval. Fewer small workshops, and two all-attendee sessions to discuss membership, and building your club’s image. Installing officers Sunday morning, to serve as a kick-off for the new term under Governor-designate Mike Haven. More service projects, with help from Key and Circle K Club members.

The sessions inspired us, taught us, made us reflect. The Kick-off speaker on Sunday morning, Jeff Nischwitz got everyone thinking differently, and is inspiring many of your next year’s officers to think of new and better ways to lead our District.

We raised about $8,500 for District expenses through the Kiwanis Kash raffle, within the “Width of a Wheatie” (an obscure engineering term) of last year’s total. Thanks to Jen Vare and a host of others who sold tickets at the Convention. Through the basket raffle, Don Sanker’s home-made cookie sale, the Parade of Love, and other donations, the Pennsylvania Foundation cleared over $10,000. And let’s not forget the social aspects. Thursday night’s tour and dinner at the Little League complex in South Williamsport. What amazed me and others are the facts that Little League pays for all the players who qualify for the World Series to come to Williamsport. From all over the world. Over $1 million in airfare alone. Parents/fans need to pay their own way. The cost of a ticket to ANY game, including the final championship? Zero. Friday night’s concert by the Midtown Men, the four leads of the original cast of Jersey Boys—at the Arts Center next to the hotel—was a high-energy sing-along for those of us who grew up in the ’60’s. The Governor’s Banquet on Saturday night at Farrington Place was a unique experience, having a cocktail hour and dinner in a venue designed for this type of event.

It was a great way to end my year of service to you as Governor, and mark the beginning of a new Kiwanis year with new Governor Mike Haven, Governor-Elect Don Smith and new and returning leaders throughout the District.

With this, my last message to you in the Keystone Kiwanian, I thank you all for your support and understanding this past year. It has been an honor and I am humbled by the trust you put in me as your Governor. We are moving forward, and we will continue this momentum into the future, again with the support of every member of this great District of Pennsylvania.

Yours in Service,
Kiwanis members from around the Pennsylvania District met in convention from August 8 through 11 at the Historic Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsport Pennsylvania. In the words of Governor Phil, we enjoyed an “unconventional convention”. Due to space limitations, the convention planning committee was tasked with being creative when it came to education sessions, activities, hospitality, and all other experiences that have laid the foundation of successful conventions before us.

There were several opportunities to impact the local community (and beyond) through service. In a spirit of collaboration, we participated in space-themed service projects at the local James V. Brown Library, collected food for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, assembled Caitlin’s Smiles kits, and packed bags for the food bank’s weekend food program for youth.

Social activities were well attended and the host committee welcomed convention goers at the Welcome Picnic at the home of Little League where everyone was treated to a tour of the World of Little League Museum before having a picnic style dinner at the pavilion next to Lamade Stadium. Just one week before Little League’s signature event, the Little League World Series, they pulled out all the stops to make us feel welcome! Of course, what is a District Convention without having some world-class entertainment. As a result of a successful partnership with the River Valley Transit System, attendees were offered the opportunity to take in a show at neighboring Community Arts Center featuring The Midtown Men (the original cast of the Broadway hit, Jersey Boys). Those who didn’t attend the show had several restaurants and pubs that provided a great example of local culture. On Saturday night we celebrated our heroes and those leaders who served over the course of the past year at the annual Governor’s banquet, where we were treated to a very talented magician and ice cream social afterwards. Something new from years’ past, we installed our incoming officers and chairs at the (renamed) Kickoff Breakfast on Sunday morning.

While we didn’t have the space to schedule breakout sessions, there were several opportunities for participants to attend sessions on Technology (both level 101 and level 102), LGBTQ and Kiwanis, local partnerships with Make-A-Wish Foundation and ACES North America, and local history of an immigrant’s journey to America. The bulk of the education sessions came in the newly designed “All Attendee General Sessions”. The three sessions, held on Friday and Saturday, gave the attendees an opportunity to hear important messages on club strengthening and growth, identifying your purpose, writing and sharing your story, and sharing OUR story. Members were challenged to continually learn about themselves and their club in order to further increase community impact. Chris Martz, the Kiwanis International Director of Global Membership and Education shared with participants an activity to think about something that could be done immediately upon returning to their own club and community by challenging everyone to create their own “What if...” Statement to share on social media. You can find all the creative ideas
District Convention 2019 continued

from this session by searching for #WhatIfI. Ideas ranged from membership, education, service leadership programs, signature projects, branding, Kiwanis Children’s Fund, District Foundation, and more!

We also heard from our Servant Leadership Program leadership on how working together can benefit both the sponsored organization and the Kiwanis Club. The Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation, in additional to orchestrating a very worthwhile and successful basket room, provided attendees with information on how clubs can work with the Foundation in order to leverage dollars for scholarships, raise funds through the rose sale, and other ways to support the many beneficial activities provided by the Foundation for Pennsylvania Kiwanians.

Throughout the week, members were encouraged to capture the moment by posting photos to social media using the hashtag #PADCON19. Now, leading up to this, we didn’t realize that the Key Clubbers were already using that for their District Convention held just a few months prior, but make sure to check out all the additional photos from both events on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

A very special congratulations to Don Smith of the Kiwanis Clubs of Annville-Cleona and Palmyra Area who was unani-
mously elected as our incoming Governor-elect and to Michael Haven of the Kiwanis Club of Williamsport who was Unanimously elected as our incoming Governor during our business session. We also had the privilege of hearing from our Kiwanis International Trustee Counselor, Richard Olmstead, from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District. The Pennsylvania District’s own Cathy Szymanski was also recognized for her recent election as Kiwanis International Trustee during the International Convention held in June at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida!

Our final inning of the weekend was held on Sunday morning during our Kickoff Breakfast (previously the farewell breakfast). After the installation of the 2019-2020 District Board, Lt. Governors, and District Chairs, attendees were treated to an inspirational keynote address by speaker Jeff Nischwitz. Jeff shared about his trip to walk The Camino de Santiago and the lessons he learned as part of this journey. The Camino is a network of ancient trails and routes that stretches across Europe and ends at the tomb of St. James (Santiago in Spanish), which is located in north-west Spain. Jeff was called to take this 10 day, 200 mile journey and as a result has been able to translate the lessons and discoveries along the way. He encouraged everyone to not be afraid to “shake things up”—saying that in order to shift our thoughts and habits, we need to be willing to disrupt ourselves. The seven lessons:

1. You don’t have to know how...just why.
2. Keep your eyes OFF the goal.
3. Keep going...it’s only one step and the momentum is real
4. Walking backwards.
5. Be present, always.
6. Time to let go (of whatever is holding you back).
7. Tolerance is not always a virtue.

Jeff encouraged everyone to be unstoppable, which he defined as “it is not about what/who can stop you, it is about knowing you can be the best you can be and being fully present doing it. To wake up and feel fully in.”

And now, as everyone has settled back in to the daily grind, we hope that you’ve been inspired by this year’s convention. We hope that you had the opportunity to learn, connect, and grow. There were so many lessons to take away. The District Convention is always a time to celebrate the year and become inspired for the future. As a result of our “unconventional convention” it is our sincere hope that attendees are thinking about new ways to attract members, effective education for leaders, providing leadership skills to our next generation, making a continued significant mark on their communities, raising awareness within the community of the impact Kiwanis makes on the lives of children and their families, and the many gifts we can give to people by providing opportunities to help kids.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and be part of the weekend. From the planning committee, to the speakers, the presenters, and the participants. It was truly a team effort. If you are familiar with the flywheel effect, developed by author of “Good to Great”, Jim Collins, you will know that it takes each part of the wheel to create success. You are all part of that wheel... and indeed, the most important.

If you missed the opportunity to attend this year, we welcome you to check out www.facebook.com/groups/KiwanisReading2020 and mark your calendars for August 13-16, 2020 for a trip to Reading, PA for the next District Convention.
In December, we received an email from the Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh about purchasing a booth space at the 2019 Pittsburgh Pride Fest on June 8-9. What caught our attention was if a booth was purchased for $300 before January 15th, we would receive a FREE custom branded 10’x10’ tent that non-profits could keep after Pride was over. After considering this for a few days, we decided this was a perfect way to get Kiwanis into a community that it previously hadn’t really reached before (there is, however, a club in Southern California dedicated specifically to LGBTQ-centric service). It would also provide some “free” brand recognition at future events utilizing the custom tent, but most importantly, it could be the beginning of a membership boost for our area. Thus, began our first venture into PrideFest with the “Kiwanis Clubs of Western Pennsylvania”.

We decided that the booth would have three components/stations: 1.) A hands-on service project to give people a taste of what Kiwanis does for the community (in this case, we created “Pride Packs”, or “blessing bags” as they are commonly known as, which were distributed to local LGBTQ homeless shelters and youth service providers. 2.) An “information station” that would feature brochures and information about Kiwanis, including a signup sheet for more information. 3.) A way to raise money for the clubs that volunteered their time or donated to the booth. As a group, the volunteers that worked the booth agreed that the money raised ($216) would be donated to the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation.

We bought or had donated enough supplies to make 250 “Pride Packs” which contained a comb, shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, toothbrush and toothpaste, small bottle of water, cheese crackers, washcloth, a couple band aids, mints, a bag of fruit gummies and a note signed by the person who made the bag. We planned on completing the bags by Sunday afternoon, however, to our shock, there was a line out of the tent waiting to make the bags. We made all 250 in less than three hours! Everyone who made a bag thanked us for being the only booth at PrideFest that gave something back to the LGBTQ community, not just support their own organization! We thanked them back by giving them a rainbow wristband with the words “Kiwanis of Western PA”. We also had two rainbow wreaths donated which were raffled off and were able to collect around 175 contacts for potential membership!

Over the course of the weekend, we talked to former Circle K and Key Club District Board members from around the country and even met the daughter of the former Gov. of West Virginia who had a large Kiwanis logo tattooed on her shoulder! This event was a complete success and could not have happened without the support of our club, all the members and clubs who donated items or their time volunteering at the booth and the support of individuals from around our state and within KI. We would like to thank the following clubs and individuals for their support of the 2019 PrideFest Booth, whom without which this event would not be possible: (in alphabetical order) Meg Hough, Pat Hughes, Kiwanis Club of Allegheny North, Kiwanis Club of Baldwin, Kiwanis Club of Glenshaw, Marianne Muraska, Matthew Schohn, Jan Schubert, Kiwanis Club of Sheraden, Smith Construction Management LLC, Cathy Szymanski and of course, all the volunteers who worked the booth over the course of the weekend!

On behalf of the entire LGBTQ community in Pittsburgh, thank you for your support and to help make a difference in the lives of homeless LGBTQ children in the Pittsburgh region. #KiwanisPRIDE
Each summer the Abington Aktion Club suspends our business meetings and focuses on summer social events; Miniature Golf, Ice Cream outing, summer concert, volunteering at a 5K run, dinnig out, and other fun events. Although we are not conducting regular meetings the members focus on a “Summer Service Initiative.” As we approached the summer months of 2019, we discussed ideas for this summer’s collection. After a discussion the members voted to collect socks for the homeless.

On September 3 the socks arrived in boxes and bags and totaled 2000 pairs of socks! Members were filled with pride knowing that their combined efforts made a difference in many lives. They don’t know what next year’s project will be but they know, whatever it is, each member will be making a difference.

“I posted information about our socks for homeless project on my social media accounts and told my friends how important this project was to me. My friends dropped off donations and some even mailed me socks!”
~ Dina Buno, Past President Abington Aktion Club

“I feel very proud that I can help other people. I got a great response from the community, my family and friends. I put a collection box at SGS Party store and they posted information about the collection on their store Facebook and Instagram page. I also contacted the local Keswick Theater and asked if I could put a collection box in their lobby, they said yes. The community really supported our project and I was able to collect over 400 pairs of socks for the homeless.”
~ Ryan Hargadon, Abington Aktion Club, Speaker Chair

The Abington Aktion club is now planning their annual Banquet of Thanks and Make a Wish basket raffle, Breakfast with Santa benefiting Abington Hospital Safe Harbor program, letters to armed service men and women, nursing home visit, and more. 2019-2020 will be full of meaningful service, fun social events and interesting speakers.
KIWANIS CLUB OF Norlanco-Rheems

On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, Rainbow’s End Youth Services was pleased to present the “REYS Difference Makers Award” to the Kiwanis Club of Norlanco-Rheems in recognition of the commitment of the club to local children and their goal of improving our community one child at a time.

REYS Executive Director, Joel Hughes, shared the following: “This local club has a heart for serving the children and youth of our community. They have partnered with REYS Youth Center for many years, with a deep connection over the last 5. They have provided food, volunteers, supplies and most recently treated over 30 of our students to a special field trip day to Hershey Park. We are honored to have local community members like the Kiwanis Club of Norlaco-Rheems investing in our community and caring for these students.”

KIWANIS District 16

District 16 Inner-Club “Steak-Out”

Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Norlanco-Rheems hosts The Steak Out, a District 16 inner-club event. This year more than 40 people from 10 different clubs enjoyed an evening of fun, food and fellowship on August 14. Each club shared their most recent and upcoming events. The Kiwanis Club of Lititz sold ducks for the Schreiber Center for Pediatric Developments annual Rubber Duckie Race, a major fundraiser for the center.

Also at the Steak Out, proceeds from a recent District 16 Dutch Apple Theater Show were donated to the Schreiber Center. Karen Davis, Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis PA District 16, presented a $1,250 check to Dan Fink, Director of Marketing and Development for Schreiber.
The Kiwanis Club of the Lititz Area honored Beth Trachte, Pantry Coordinator of the Lititz Warwick Community Chest, with its third Kiwanis Heroes Award on July 13, 2019 at the Lititz Public Library. The event was attended by coworkers and Kiwanians.

Alan Stoeckle, President of Kiwanis Club of the Lititz Area, presented Beth with the Award and check which goes to the Lititz Warwick Community Chest.

### Volunteers Needed for Lititz Chocolate Walk

The Kiwanis Club of the Lititz Area Chocolate Walk for Charity Event is October 12, 2019 from 10am until 4pm in downtown Lititz.

Volunteers are needed for a three hour am or pm shift to either mark tickets or help chocolatiers, chefs, bakers and ice cream makers hand out their chocolate goodies at one of the stores/locations.

Proceeds from this event go to many local children’s charities including Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development, Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, and Lititz & Manheim Township Libraries for children programs.

To participate as a volunteer in this fun filled event, please call the Chocolate Walk Hotline @ 717-560-2295.

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### KIWANIS CLUB OF THE New Holland Area

**BY ANN MEAD ASH**

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In March 2018, CrossNet Ministries launched a transportation ministry in cooperation with the New Holland Area Kiwanis. A year later, the ministry is fulfilling more than 10 rides per month. The service is available to both adults and children. Rides for the children are provided by the Kiwanis Club members for specific appointments including medical, dental, and mental health, along with education-related needs.

Mike Ireland, who coordinates the Kiwanis volunteers when children need rides. “We are focused on helping the family get the children where they need to go,” said Ireland, who is a volunteer driver himself.

“We always get responses about how people appreciate (the service) and how nice (the drivers) are,” shared Joan Yunginger, director of social services with CrossNet. “They don’t just drive; they engage. That means a lot.”

### KIWANIS CLUB OF Meadville

The Meadville Kiwanis Club, in conjunction with the MARC (Meadville Area Recreation Complex), built a new Bocce Court for use by the community. The ribbon cutting to open the court took place in July.
Easton Kiwanis was a primary supporter of the opening day ceremony at the Kolbe Academy, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA on August 26. Kolbe is the first faith-based recovery high school in the nation and only the 2nd recovery high school in PA. Easton Kiwanis’ involvement with the Easton Opioid Awareness Task Force (EOATF) led to the connection with Brooke Tesché, Chancellor of Education of the Diocese of Allentown. The Kolbe Academy is the brainchild of Brooke who has been developing it for several years. At EOATF meetings over the past 2 years Brooke has kept the members fully aware of the ongoing challenges the new school was facing and when they asked for some support financially for their opening event Easton Kiwanis stepped up with a $1000 check. Many dignitaries and officials were speakers at the opening day ceremonies include Bishop Schlert. Also attending were members of Easton Kiwanis and the EOATF. Kolbe Academy is named after St. Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of those with addiction and will be the seventh Diocesan high school serving students in 9th through 12th grade. “Today we dedicate a school for young people recovering from addiction,” said Bishop Alfred Schlert. “As those students walk these halls on their journey forward and toward their life-long recovery process, I’m certain that they, too, will exhibit the courage, the determination, the persistence, and the love of our Lord inspired by St. Maximilian Kolbe.” The Diocese’s Department of Education worked with the Sisters of St. Francis to open the high school in Mullen Hall, the site of the former Saint Francis Academy. The school is guided by a Board of Directors, led by a principal, and supported through the Diocese of Allentown. The Diocese has a total of 40 elementary and high schools in its five-county area. While this recovery non-residency high school is faith-based and operated by the Diocese of Allentown, any student needing a recovery high school is eligible regardless of their faith and finances. Hummm, thinking Kolbe Key-Club in the future?

Playground Dedicated at Boys & Girls Club

Easton Kiwanis culminated the playground part of its multi-year 100th anniversary project. The playground at the Boys & Girls Club of Easton has been open for the summer. It was “officially” dedicated at the clubs Fantastic Friday event on August 23.

Immediate Kiwanis Club past-president Bill Walters officially dedicated the playground to the City of Easton and the children of the Neston Heights Neighborhood around the BGClub. Easton’s Mayor Sal Panto said “I presented Bill Walters, the real mover of this project with a check for $50,000. The playground and gardens totaled more than $200,000. The city grant came from the developer’s recreation fee when building new units in the city. Enjoy!”

More than 167 of the club’s youth remained silent as three of their peers recited the Positive Action Drug-Free Pledge and presented the Clubs Future Stars Creed. “Easton Kiwanis maintains an outstanding partnership with the BGClub,” said Director Dean Young. “They were a driving force behind the new playground and community gardens coming to the Boys and Girls Club on Southside.”

Fantastic Friday goers enjoyed Rita’s Italian Ice, took home backpacks filled with Back-to-School Supplies, and participated in a host of FUN activities, mingling with club supporters, volunteers, and other caring adults, “That’s what Fantastic Friday is all about; a celebration for kids and those who support kids,” Young said.
At the August 6 National Night Out at Hoffer Park, the Kiwanis Club of Middletown distributed early learning guides as part of the club’s “Young Children Priority One” project. Adults of children younger than age 5 listened as a Kiwanian explained how to use the “Learning Is Everywhere” guides. The description communicated how the months of the year had four activities for each age level from infant through kindergarten. Being able to show off the stickers in the booklets as positive rewards for skill accomplishments was a big hit. Several parents commented that they could share the activity ideas with grandparents and babysitters to help in the learning process of their children.

Parents were encouraged to look at the activities in all the months and pick activities that fit what is happening in their family at any given time. There is nothing that says the activities must be done in a certain order. How about doing something from December for Christmas in July. There is the great activity in November about dealing your kids when grocery shopping. What parent couldn’t use that any time of the year?

What it Means to Be a Lieutenant Governor

BY PENNY MEYERS
Division 12N, Lieutenant Governor; President Elect, Kiwanis Club of Bald Eagle and Nittany Valleys; Past Secretary,

As I recently attended the District Convention in Williamsport (I hope many of you will take the time to attend at least one in your Kiwanis lifetime), I came back with many thoughts and inspirations. One thing that has been on my mind is a statement [specific to Lieutenant Governors] that was made at one of the sessions, which kind of bothers me, at least in the way I understood the context.

To me, it sounded very negative and unrewarding. But in this testimonial, I would like you all to understand that it is, in fact, not that way at all. I think that a lot of our current Lieutenant Governor’s will agree with me.

First of all, the statements were made that you are required to meet with your clubs three times a year and many reports are due. That may be true, but yet not. Someone once told me that in Kiwanis, “there are rules, but no rules”. This is one of those situations. You see, I still hold a full-time job. I am not able to visit my clubs much, and honestly—because of logistics and times—some I have not visited at all. Some of my clubs meet at breakfast and are two hours away. One of my clubs is 3-1/2 hours away (one way). At the convention, CHANGE, DIVERSITY, and TECHNOLOGY were all part of the theme. So, you see where I am going with this note.

I do a lot of communication by emails, texts, and phone calls. I am available for questions, concerns, and information. If I am needed to visit a club, I make the time. I try to send out letters of inspiration, congratulations, and other tidbits of thoughts that I may have to help make things go smoothly; and to help with member retention or recruitment.

When I started this journey as LTG, I was probably like most of you—a little insecure, a lot intimidated, and thought “OH MY Gosh, what did I just do!” I will be the first to admit that I was never groomed to be a public speaker. The honest to goodness truth is I was petrified to stand in front of a group of strangers! Becoming Lieutenant Governor has taught me a few things: we are all human and we all have fears of one kind or another. But if you don’t face them, you will never know the outcome. As months progressed into years, I became more comfortable. The group who were once strangers have become my extended Kiwanis family, and true friendships have been established. Talking became more of a conversation. My passion for the Kiwanis mission diminished most of the intimidation I felt in the beginning. The feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment that I gained from helping and working alongside clubs to help them find their “WHY” was all I needed. Can I improve? Can I do more? Absolutely! But “WHAT IF” I had not accepted that first six months of service?
What it Means to Be a Lieutenant Governor continued

I am starting my third and one half year in 2019, and the need for members to step up for leadership positions is very much needed. I must admit, this has been one of the most rewarding tasks I have ever done in my life. I have met new people and made friends. I have helped with problems that seemed overwhelming and impossible. I have seen how clubs differ from one another, but still succeed to obtain the mission Kiwanis strives for—to put smiles on children’s faces and give them a better life! I could probably go on and on.

What I am saying is this—give this leadership ride a try. It is very much worth it. My heart is full of pride when I see what my clubs are doing, even if I only played a small role in helping. I must be doing something right as my division was, thus far, ranked in the top three for club growth in our District. But more and more hands are needed. It becomes more evident every day!

By now, I am sure you are all wanting to know what qualifications are needed to become a Lieutenant Governor. You need to have been a club president or secretary. But most of all, you need to feel the passion for the mission! The knowledge of Kiwanis logistics is important, and the learning also comes with the position. I know that I have learned something new every step of this journey. It is a one year position, unless YOU want it to be more than one year. Personally, I feel it should be two years, as you are just getting your feet wet the first year. The second year you see what has been accomplished, you know how your clubs work, and know how to help them better than you did that first year.

Convention speaker Jeff Nischwitz said it this way: Presence Trumps Best For most of my life, I was repeatedly told that what matters most is to do my best, but I no longer believe it. The biggest reason is that none of us can possibly know if we’re doing our best because you only know your best when you go beyond what you thought was your best. This approach can also literally result in you exhausting yourself in pursuit of your best.

Let’s dump doing our best and instead embrace being your most present. I can assure you that you’re only at your best when you’re most present. And you have much more control over your presence than over your so-called best. Be present and you’ll be your best!

Pennsylvania Kiwanis
OUR CURRENCY: RECOGNITION

BY PHIL WEBER, GOVERNOR

How do we recognize people’s contributions, demonstrate to them how we value them? In the corporate world, it’s relatively simple: financially as well as verbally. In volunteer organizations, where we receive no compensation, the only way we can tell our members and the world of their value is by awards, citations, and other forms of recognition.

At the District Convention, we recognized those Kiwanians in the District who were sponsors of five or more new members in the past year with “Ruby K” pins. A lot of people forgot that they were available or still offered. Only 11 pins were presented. My guess is that there may have been others except that their sponsorships were never recorded by the club secretary.

Only a handful of clubs received recognition for a Prayer/Spiritual event. Once-upon-a-time, prayer breakfasts or meetings were common. As we became a more diverse society, they fell out of favor. However, the First Object of Kiwanis remains the recognition of spiritual rather than material values. As long as a club has a program of any type, that focuses on this First Object, in any form, it should note this on a monthly report to be recognized.

As Governor, I receive copies of both club and division newsletters that are top-notch, yet few of them are submitted to the District Club Newsletter competition. Many clubs do a first-class job of publicizing their events, both before and after the fact, yet few clubs submit entries to Communications awards.

There are few clubs in this District that do not have a signature service project, yet, again, the number of clubs submitting entries are relatively few. Awards for Signature projects honor the club, its legacy in its community, and the members who plan and execute the event.

“Hero In Service Awards” are given by the District upon nomination by the Division Lt. Governor, or by the Region Trustee if no Lt. Governor or surrogate is in place. Next Kiwanis year, we will have 20 Divisions—we should have 20 awardees. This year, there were only 6, all well-deserved, with two from the same Division.
Our Currency continued

All of these recognitions, to both clubs and individual Kiwanians, are at no cost to the clubs other than a bit of work for the submission. I believe that it is one of the primary responsibilities of Club Presidents to be aware of these various honors, and to work with their club secretaries to get the paperwork in place. I believe it is one of the roles of the Lt. Governors to be advocates for these awards, to work with their club presidents to urge participation. To communicate within their Divisions about how, with a bit of work, proper recognition by the District, and even International, can be given.

As I said, recognition is the only currency Kiwanis has to give to its members and clubs about a job well-done. There are few excuses for these awards to go begging.

Pennsylvania Kiwanis

COMMUNICATION CONTEST WINNERS

BY BOB RAUB, DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Kiwanis Club image continues to be stressed by the Kiwanis International Board by keeping Image on the Kiwanis International Strategic Plan. Congratulations to all the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Clubs who displayed their Kiwanis pride and their Club image by participating in the 2018-2019 Club Communications Contest and the Community Communications Contest. These two contests give clubs a chance to reflect on their communications efforts and how they share their clubs’ efforts to share their image and club messages with their members and their communities.

Scoring the entries was interestingly difficult when multiple entries were submitted. Clubs are grouped in membership categories and we found it unfortunate that small clubs and large clubs were unopposed in both contests. “Blue Division” clubs of 25 to 45 members created the biggest challenge to the judges because the entries highlighted many of the same things such as bulletins, websites, and news clippings. Suggestions that can help enhance a club’s entry might be to provide photographs of the participants, the signage, posters, programs of the actual event or Kiwanis meeting or project. An entry might mention that signs were present around the venue, however, no pictures were submitted showing a sign. Many people attend these events, but the only visual entry was a single photograph of members just standing shoulder to shoulder and not really doing anything. Children were absent in many photographs.

If you club is current and active, please consider entering next year’s contest, especially if your club is small and finds it difficult to put together your club’s story to share about an event. A Club or Community Communications contest entry can enhance your ability to formulate a positive club story to share. Who knows, someone in your community might see an article about your event and may want to learn more about Kiwanis or even join in the fun.

Contest Participants and Winners

Clubs who entered the Club Communications Contest were the Kiwanis Clubs of Williamsport, Easton, Sheraden, State College, Wyoming Area and Linglestown.

Winners in this contest were the Kiwanis Clubs of Williamsport, Sheraden, and Linglestown.

Clubs that entered the Community Communications Contest were the Kiwanis Clubs of Williamsport, Sheraden, Wyoming Area, Linglestown, and Middletown.

Winners in this contest were the Kiwanis Clubs of Williamsport, Sheraden, and Linglestown.

Many of the entries were scored within a few points of their competitors. Better pictures and a greater narrative of what your club does to communicate with club members and communities could have put someone ahead in the scoring. It is not necessary to provide electronic copies of every newsletter, multiple pages of monthly web postings, and volumes of data. Communicate simply and effectively with your entries to tell a story about your club. Any attachments should be easily opened, downloaded and printed.

Our winners are congratulated and all the clubs that entered are complimented for sharing their communications efforts and for taking the time in creating an entry for these two contests.

If your club is interested in entering either or both contests, plan your 2019-2020 entry early. Remember that the Kiwanis year starts October 1. You can start communicating then to build an award-winning club entry. Effective and enticing communications build interest and support. It can even help in your club’s growth. Reach out to the new District Public Relations Coordinator Jennifer Gräb; your Keystone Kiwanian Editor Linda Eberly; or Past Governors Bob and Judy Raub. Visit the Kiwanis International website for the latest in story ideas, message development, and branding.
The Kiwanis Club of Bald Eagle and Nittany Valleys held its annual Kids Day/Health and Safety Expo on Saturday, July 13 at the Mill Hall Volunteer Fire Company. Approximately 155 children 12 and under with family members attended for an estimate of over 200 visitors through the doors.

As kids and family members entered the fire hall, they were welcomed by over 15 exhibitors and activities with information related to family health and safety like how to take good care of your teeth and eyes. Kids got to meet Smokey Bear and were able to enter a raffle for door prizes and also a chance to win one of several bicycles provided by a generous donation from Avery Dennison.

Featured again this year was a reading corner where kids could sit and listen to stories from guest readers. While there, they could also select from a variety of free books made possible in part by a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation.

The area that normally houses the fire trucks was transformed into an area with a small petting zoo featuring goats, three craft stations, a fish pond game, and of course, food. Another popular feature in this area was two puppet shows presented by the Kidz4Education division of Kingdom Kidz on the topics of staying healthy and being safe and learning about emotions. The puppeteers had kids and adults singing, dancing, and learning about how to stay safe and treat one another kindly.

Of the three craft stations, perhaps the most popular was the slime station. Kids learned how to use common household materials to make a slimy substance to play with. Science can be fun! Face painter club member Ashley Walker worked without ceasing to decorate the faces of young attendees. Magician Tony Guerriero entertained the kids just outside close by a UPMC Life Size Operation game where kids could learn the location and functions of some of their internal organs.

Other popular outside events were an obstacle course run by Kiwanians and fitness exercises using drum sticks conducted by the Be One organization. Of course, the popular cart train provided exciting rides through Mill Hall Park.

Kids Day Committee chairperson Penny Meyers posted after the event, “Thank you to all the members who worked hard to pull this event together and gave up a beautiful Saturday to show what the Kiwanis Mission is all about! Thank you to all the vendors and readers and puppeteers and magicians who partnered with us in this event. Thank you to the Mill Hall Fire Company for providing a perfect place! It had to be one of the best yet! Thank you, and hope to see you all next year at the same time.” The club is now gearing up for its next service project, the third annual Go Gold event to support local childhood cancer awareness groups. The event will be held on Saturday, September 21 at the Mill Hall Volunteer Fire Company and will feature a raffle table and sale of soups and baked goods.
As you know, the District has been considering a plan to merge Divisions 17 and 18 into one Division with the Upper Perkiomen Club moving from Division 18 to Division 19.

All the clubs but one in Divisions 17 and 18 approved the plan. Accordingly, so did the District Board at its meeting on July 20, 2019.

Effective Oct. 1, 2019, Division 17/18 will consist of the following clubs:

- K00034 Easton Division 17
- K05762 Easton-Suburban Division 17
- K06915 Nazareth Area Division 17
- K07736 Palmer Township, Palmer Division 17
- K08268 Poconos - Daybreak, Monroe County (The) Division 17
- K00799 Stroudsburg Division 17
- K00004 Allentown Division 18
- K05241 Allentown Northeast Division 18
- K03769 Emmaus Division 18

Effective October 1, 2019, Division 19 will consist of the following clubs:

- K10376 Upper Perkiomen Valley Division 19
- K01532 Ambler Division 19
- K19297 Collegeville Division 19
- K01490 Lansdale Division 19
- K18921 Norriton Circle Division 19
- K01083 Pottstown Division 19
- K17246 Upper Bucks Division 19

If you have any questions or need more information, please let me know. Thanks for your efforts on behalf of Kiwanis.
OPEN TO ALL CLUBS

READY! SET! BOOST!

Club Strengthening Workshop
Region 3

Saturday October 12, 2019
9:00 AM – 12:30 pm
Registration Opens at 8:30 am

South Hills School of Business & Technology
480 Waupelani Drive
State College, PA 16801

RSVP by October 7th to:
Barbara Harer at bharer@southhills.edu
Cell: 814-571-3926