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Kiwanis Builders Club
Building Leaders

Like the Pennsylvania Builders Club’s Page on Facebook to find out about news, project ideas, club events, and more! You can also like the Kiwanis Builders Club Page on Facebook to find out what’s happening on the international level!

Disclaimer: The Keystone Kiwanian is the official publication of the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International. This publication is supported by district dues. ALL members are encouraged to submit articles. They may be edited for length and clarity. Please submit articles and pictures or questions to District Editor Brett Cutright at keystonekiwanian@pakiwanis.org.
District Inbox: Writer’s Block Update

By Governor Jen Vare

All throughout high school and college I would procrastinate writing a paper because I never could get started or find the right opening line. Our editor asked for this article and I developed writer’s block all over again. But this time it is because there has been so much that has happened since our last Keystone Kiwanian edition and there is so much about to happen in Kiwanis here in Pennsylvania that I struggle to determine where to begin and how to proceed!

Do I tell you about the “Philly Blitz”? Kiwanis members from all over the world came to Pennsylvania to help open 6 new Kiwanis Clubs in Region 7. I listened as members described why they love Kiwanis and wanted to share their experience with new business connections and service partners. I had the privilege of being on a team visiting a preschool in North Philadelphia that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I will never forget the smiles on the children’s faces and the little boy so energized to tell me a story that I couldn’t comprehend, yet I listened and brightened his world. Can you imagine dropping your child off at a school when it is dark outside? Can you imagine not having dinner with your family? We quickly realized how much these kids need Kiwanis and we were excited to welcome the Alphabet Academy as a corporate member in the new club. Every Kiwanis member that was involved in this experience can share stories from “out in the field” and every story is different, but most end with someone new now understanding what was missing in their life—Kiwanis!

Do I tell you about my visits to the Wyoming Area and Tunkhannok Clubs in Region 6? As I prepared for my visit both clubs had a +16 membership total on their roster for this Kiwanis year. What could 16 new members do for your club? Could you read to more children, clean more parks and playgrounds, sell more tickets to your fundraising events? Could you sponsor more Service Leadership Clubs? Could you fund more scholarships, Key Leader weekends, conventions for our youth, camp opportunities for children, Early Learning guides? I imagine what it would be like to have 16 new members in my club, but I realize that we need to start with just 1. One new member attending club service projects that make a difference, 1 new member attending a club fundraiser that makes a difference, that one new member could be the spark. That 1 new member will share their experience, and it will quickly become 2 new members, who will multiply and become 4, eventually your club can have 16 new members too! I learned at both Wyoming Area and Tunkhannok clubs they are having fun, doing service and not stressing about their meeting being the top focus of their club. They have full calendars of projects for their members to do and that is the key to member happiness. These clubs probably state the Kiwanis motto and make sure that their members can live the Kiwanis motto! I also learned that neither club is finished adding members and have sparked a friendly competition with one another. The winner of the competition is all of the kids being served by these new Kiwanians!

See Governor on page 19.
District Inbox: Call to Convention
By Executive Director Kevin Thomas

This will serve as the official call to the 2016 District Convention on August 11-14, 2016, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The convention program, registration, and all related convention material can be found at pakiwanis.org. Click on the events tab and then the link for the 2016 District Convention. The hotel reservation deadline is **Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 5:00 PM**. After that time hotel rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed. Reservations may be made by calling (570) 343-3000 and identifying yourself with the 2016 Kiwanis Convention. Hotel reservations may also be made at the link on our website, pakiwanis.org. The room rate is $129.00 for a single or double plus taxes (currently at 13%). The convention registration deadline is **Friday, July 22, 2016**. After July 22nd, space at the convention cannot be guaranteed.

Every chartered club in good standing with the District and Kiwanis International is entitled to three voting delegates. You may also choose one alternate for each certified delegate. The three certified delegates from each club do not pay the registration fee as each club has already paid for those three delegates via its annual dues invoice. To be a certified delegate, a member’s name must appear on the club’s election of delegates form. **The three delegates listed on the Election of Delegates Form will be considered registered for the convention.** Non-certified delegates must pay the $20.00 convention registration fee and register using the official convention registration form. If a certified delegate wishes to order tickets for any convention event, they must do so by using the official convention registration form. Please contact the District Office if you have any questions or would like convention materials mailed to you.

**Important Contacts**
Hilton Scranton & Conference Center
100 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
Registration: (570) 343-3000
*Mention 2016 Kiwanis Convention by July 20th to get the convention rate.*

District Office for Questions and Materials
Kevin Thomas: kevin@pakiwanis.org
(717) 540-9300
pakiwanis.org
*Conventional registration is due by July 22nd.*

**Above:** A city banner displaying fictional, local business Dunder Mifflin from The Office (US, 2005-2013). The hit television show was set in Scranton.

**Right:** The Pennsylvania Paper and Supply Company Tower from The Office opening credits.
April 1, 2016 marks the start of the second half of the 2015-2016 Kiwanis administrative year. This is an ideal time to assess the status of Kiwanis in districts around the world. There are accomplishments to celebrate this year; including thousands of Kiwanis members diligently working on The Formula, ongoing leadership of President Sue Petrisin, the first female president of Kiwanis International, The Eliminate Project approaching its $110 (USD) goal and the ever increasing enthusiasm I have witnessed as I have traveled in various Kiwanis Districts. This enthusiasm is especially evident when I stand before a Kiwanis Club and I see an increase in younger members and more diversity in Kiwanis.

But there is work ahead. This is why Kiwanis needs advocates for the future. To strengthen Kiwanis, these advocates will need to look ahead and determine how Kiwanis is going to “serve the children of the world.” The needs of the children in Kiwanis communities are growing and if Kiwanians really mean to fulfill the pledge we have made there is a lot of work ahead. This work is not confined to a particular country, district, division, or town, and each of us as an advocate for children must recognize the priorities that are needed in our community. From Asia-Pacific to Europe and from South America to Canada there are needs, whether it is early childhood education, nutritional support, child care, child abuse prevention or one of any number of services that will improve the lives of children. Meeting the needs of children can lead to a signature service project. A signature service project is one that will be maintained annually, will result in better opportunities for children, and will recognize Kiwanis as the world leader, in not only advocating for children, but producing results.

The recognition derived from signature service projects will make the work of The Formula Teams easier. Who in your community would not want to be affiliated with an organization that improves the welfare of the children? More people involved with Kiwanis will mean that Kiwanis can provide even more services. It also means when neighboring towns see the success of Kiwanis there will be demand for additional Kiwanis clubs. More Kiwanis clubs will bring additional sponsorships of Key Clubs, CKI Clubs, Kiwanis Builders Clubs, Kiwanis K-Kids, Kiwanis Aktion Clubs and Key Leader Weekends.

Greater Kiwanis activities and service projects will yield a more positive image for Kiwanis in the community. But increased visibility in the community is not the only component of image. Kiwanis image is also the way we conduct meetings, the way we interact with SLP organizations, the impact that results from district and international conventions and the way clubs respond to community emergencies. Every time we put on a Kiwanis shirt or attend a Kiwanis service project each of us is responsible for the Kiwanis image.

The Kiwanis image is further enhanced by the manner in which Kiwanis clubs manage and develop resources. Financial resources that are derived from contributions and fund raisers are a trust from the community. How does Kiwanis invest resources? Does Kiwanis utilize funds for projects that are necessary and that will have a long-lasting affect? Does Kiwanis develop community leaders from within the club? Does Kiwanis invest in the future through children? Each contribution Kiwanis makes must be an investment in the future.
DCON 2016 Preview
By Trustee Mike Coolbaugh

The 2016 District Convention Committee has been hard at work planning fun and educational activities and projects for attendees to participate in. District Convention will be held in Scranton, the Electric City, from August 11-14, 2016. The site will be the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center. The convention packet will be coming out soon with additional information.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, August 11
Large Scale Service Projects
The NEPA Children’s Advocacy Center and The Scranton Ronald McDonald House
Welcome Picnic Dinner at PNC Field
Baseball game: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders vs. the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs

Friday, August 12
Early Childhood Development Summit
Heroes in Service and SLP Luncheon
Kiwanis and Special Interest Workshops
Evening Out on the Town
Meet the Candidates & Hospitality Suite

Saturday, August 13
Early Learning Walk
Blood Drive
Kiwanis and Special Interest Workshops
General Business Session and Elections
Keynote Speaker:
John Schertzer, Chief Programming Officer for Kiwanis International
Governors Banquet and Installation of 2016-2017 Officers

Sunday, August 14
Farewell Breakfast
Speaker:
Stephanie Jallen, two time Bronze Paralympic Medalist

Left: Stephanie Jallen is a Wyoming Valley native and Paralympic Skier who won two bronze medals at the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games. She is hoping to qualify for the 2018 Paralympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. She will be speaking Sunday Morning.

Above: Hilton Scranton & Conference Center
100 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
Candidates for 2016-2017 Governor-Elect

Judith A. Raub
Kiwanis Club of Elizabethtown
Kiwanis Club of Norlanco-Rheems
Centennial e-Kiwanis Club

Born in Poughkeepsie, New York — September 19
Graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School
Graduate of NVCC w/Associates Degree in Childhood Education — 1976
Cardinal Hayes Home for Children (residential care for developmentally disabled children /young adults)
IBM-East Fishkill, 1st line Manufacturing Manager (1978-1993)
Teahan & Constantino, Attorneys at law, Office manager/Paralegal/Notary (1993-2006)

Currently employed by Associated Builders & Contractors – Keystone Chapter, Education Coordinator
Married to Bob Raub and we reside in Mount Joy.

Volunteer / Community service pre-Kiwanis

American Cancer Society, Dutchess County –
Daffodil Festival volunteer more than 20 years; served as Chairman for 10 years. 1974-1998
American Cancer Society, Dutchess County –
RELAY for Life, Founding Chairman continuing for 10 years 1995-2005
American Cancer Society, Dutchess County, Board member from 1994-2000
Dutchess County Volunteer of the Year 1999


Kiwanis Experience

Norlanco-Rheems Kiwanis Club – 2007 to current; board member
Elizabethtown – 2009 to current; President 2012-2013 (distinguished) and 2013-2014 (distinguished), and 2015-2016
Successfully organized 3 interclub/divisional membership drives
Key Club Advisor to Elizabethtown Area High School 2010 to current
Key Leader – chaperone / attendee 2012
Division 16 – Lt. Governor 2014-2015
Centennial e-Kiwanis Club – 2015 to current
The Formula Team member: Certified as a Club Opener and Counselor
Diamond Zeller and Centennial Zeller in support of our Eliminate project
Tablet of Honor recipient 2016 presented by Division 16 – for leadership and support

Productively busy people always have time to pitch in – we don’t make excuses.
I love that I have found my “busy” with my Kiwanis involvement and my extended Kiwanis family.
Jeffrey W. Rose
Candidate for Governor-Elect 2016-2017
Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club
Current Lt. Governor 2015-2016 Division 18

Jeff has been a member of the Kiwanis family since 1999 when he joined
the Kiwanis Club of Washington, New Jersey. There he chaired the club’s
annual Fourth of July fundraiser held in the club’s home town. As his job
location changed, Jeff transferred to the Bethlehem Club where he served
as President 2003-2004. He later moved to the Lehigh Valley Industrial
Park Club (LVIP) in Bethlehem and was President there 2006-2007 and was
honored with the Distinguished President award. Jeff took on an additional
leadership role in PA Kiwanis serving as Lt. Governor during 2005-2006 and
2007-2008 achieving Distinguished honors both terms.

In 2009, Jeff joined the Upper Bucks Kiwanis Club in Division 19 and was
very active in their annual BBQ chicken fundraiser. Another job change
brought Jeff back to Division 18 and to the Allentown North East Kiwanis
Club. Since joining the Allentown Club he has been Lt. Governor 2013-
2014, and is currently the Lt. Governor 2015-2016.

Jeff demonstrates his commitment to the Kiwanis SLPs by volunteering two
weekends a year to be a chaperone during Key Leader programs. Recently
he became the Kiwanis Advisor to the Roberto Clemente Charter School
Key Club and was instrumental in their charter process.

In 2007, Jeff became active in the Miracle League program in the Lehigh
Valley and guided his Kiwanis club to support this organization that allows
disabled children to play baseball in a safe and controlled environment.
When the Miracle League of Northampton County was launched, Jeff joined
the board of directors and continued to run the sound and video board. It’s
just like the big leagues when Jeff is at the microphone and video board.
He announces each player and projects their picture on the big screen.

Jeff is also an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church in
Bethlehem, where he is finishing two terms on the Staff Parish Team and
sits on the Board of Trustees as Vice-Chair.

Currently semi-retired, Jeff works part-time at Barnes & Noble Booksellers
where he is involved in Customer Service and other various
responsibilities. He lives in Bethlehem with his wife, Karen, and their cat,
Dolce. He is an avid bowler, golfer and guitarist.
In February, I continued my quest for more Kiwanis information and interfacing and attended the Pennsylvania Midwinter Conference at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort. Never having been at Nemacolin (normally out of my price range) was all the more incentive to see this beautiful resort. Even in the heart of winter, the place was beautiful, the staff knowledgeable about the property, and overly gracious while we were there.

This year’s conference and forum topics were new, energized, and provided more of an insight about club building, retaining membership, and encouraging all of us to take look at our clubs, examine what makes our club so good and what we need to adjust to make it better. Sharing with Kiwanians from other clubs was the best part; new ideas for service projects, ways to attract new members, affirming our clubs’ position in hands on service projects instead of check writing. Doing the same old, same old, gets monotonous, does not promote growth, and makes us stale in what we are doing.

The continuing education on The Formula and the plan to, “Love it! Live it! Share it!” was a motivational kick off to get the weekend started. With our District Leadership sending out the challenge to each and every club to grow, be more involved in our communities, and to support the growth of SLPs in the schools. Every forum I attended had “freshness” about it and I felt like I was being given new information. My only wish was that I could have attended them all! It was a good thing my club members split up to cover all of the forums and reap the benefits shared at each session!

Friday sessions included a hands on service project that provided attendees with a feel for simple projects clubs can do together on a low budget. Lanton Lee’s group led a fun team building exercise. Finally, the Mile of Dimes Project and Early Childhood Learning Calendars forum provided some needed exposure for many who still are not helping to distribute the calendars to the families in the community who need support in early childhood development. Time to explore the calendars was valuable and offered some insight to use when we share the calendars with parents to use as guidelines in working with their children. Plus, helping to count the dimes collected made an impact on how far some loose change can go!
Conference Recap
Member Marianne Muraska

The Saturday Forums continued to offer some fresh outlooks on the facets of Kiwanis. These workshops made us take a look at our clubs and do a quick evaluation as to how we operate, what is successful, what is not, and the need to attract young people into the clubs to insure their survival. It may be time to rethink how we do things, when and where we meet and to make an effort to connect with former Key Clubbers and Circle K'ers to continue growth in our clubs. The forum, “We Have Great Ideas From Convention,” pulled it all together and made the most sense. “What do we do when we get home after a conference?” The forum guided us in preparing an Action Plan for our club using the information we gained at many of the seminars.

The visit by our International Trustee, Art Riley, was also motivating. To actually meet the people from the International level makes it seem real. His enthusiasm is contagious and only started the excitement at the banquet. The speeches by the outgoing Key Club and Circle K Governors make each of us consider how much young people do to help others while still in school. They have so much energy and so many fresh ideas. They get the meaning of service to others. They know that we learn best by doing. These young people also make you hopeful and encourage you to believe that there is a brighter future out there for the children of the world.

The Sunday Closing Session speaker was Kay Hollinger who is the President of the Club of Norriton Circle. She was a perfect send off after a busy weekend. As a relatively new Kiwanian, she inspired us to do better in each of our clubs. She suggested the a, e, i, o, u, and y lettered adjectives to describe Kiwanians. A – Audacious – We really believe that we can change the world! See the Eliminate Project. E – Enthusiastic – We have a passion for service – it’s contagious! I – Intrepid – The blitz! O – Opportunity - Given in Scholarships. U – Unique – In our focus on children. Y – not sometimes but always Y as in YOU! YOU are what makes Kiwanis happen! Kay is proof that it is never too late to join Kiwanis, there is always time for service and we all benefit from our efforts. So the moral of this article, if you have never attended a conference, state or an international convention, you are missing out on a big part of the Kiwanis experience. Our International convention is in Toronto in June and the PA District Convention is in Scranton in August. Think about participating in one or both. Make it a little vacation to explore the city and to immerse yourself in Kiwanis Education. It is so much more than the bell, the prayer, and the song!
The Formula is Working!
By Past Governor Cathy Szymanski

Thank you Pennsylvania District Kiwanians! You are FANTASTIC. The difference you are making is truly being noticed. We have a lot of work to do and now is the time finish what we have started. Our district can be proud of the growth we are experiencing this year. It is great to see you ‘loving’, ‘sharing’ and ‘living’ Kiwanis. Please make sure your club has a membership plan. If you do not, and would like help, please contact Matt or Cathy.

As I look over the monthly membership report it is very clear that in many communities you are adding members. Kevin Thomas made the following comment a couple of years ago and it is still true today; “When I think about those clubs and some others like them I think of what is an all too familiar story. We are tired. No one will join. The community doesn’t care. We tried but couldn’t get anyone. We only want active members. I could list many others. You all have heard them too.” Yet, I look at the membership report and I can see clear evidence that in many communities, whatever barriers exist that can’t attract members have been overcome and replaced by the opportunity to attract new members. The, “why it can’t,” has been replaced with, “why it will.” “We have tried” is being replaced by, “we are” and “we will.”

Governor Jen’s goal is to open ten new clubs this year. We need to motivate and encourage each other to bring in members to our existing clubs. Jen also wants to bring in 800 new members this year. Can you imagine if each one of us were to bring in just one member into our club or into a new club? In no community is it easy to add members. It takes work and planning and a can do attitude. If you have a Service Leadership Program, make sure you are looking for new quality members. We cannot have our leadership programs left without a supporting Kiwanis club. Kiwanis International has made investments to grow our clubs, and the Formula team can help strengthen your membership.

Here are some tips for existing clubs: host membership meetings, post on social media, check out the marketing materials with tips and tricks on the kiwanisone.org website. Contact a Formula member to help you with these items. Or contact me. There are many resources out there to help grow your club. Work with your Kiwanis LTG and Kiwanis Trustee. Contact your Key Club and work with them on joint projects. Talk to them about their family members joining your club.

I have never been more proud of the Pennsylvania District than I am right now. You are doing more service than I can ever remember hearing in the past. We have been blessed to work with children and mentor young adults. Membership in Kiwanis is a blessing; not only do we make a difference in the lives we touch; we develop lifelong friendships. We need to invite more people to join us in our clubs so that we can add more service to our existing projects.

April 24-27, we had a Membership Blitz in the Philadelphia area. Kiwanians from around the world came to Philadelphia to help open one club in New Jersey and six in the Philadelphia area. This was an amazing success with two clubs, Central Bucks and Conshohocken, receiving enough applications to open a new club within two days. Four others, Ridley, South Philadelphia, North Philadelphia and Chesterbrook have a lot of interest and many applications have been received for these clubs also. With the new skills learned during this two day process our Formula team is even more prepared to open new clubs in your community and strengthen our existing clubs. If you know of anyone in any of these areas please contact the local lead opener as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Bucks</td>
<td>Joe Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterbrook</td>
<td>Kate Feryo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conshohocken</td>
<td>Lillian Mateja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Philadelphia</td>
<td>Jen Vare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridley Park</td>
<td>Sarah Zulueta</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Philadelphia</td>
<td>Sarah Zulueta</td>
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On March 11, the Kiwanis Club of Dillsburg and the Dillsburg K-Kids sponsored the fifth annual Pasta dinner held at Dillsburg Elementary School. This annual dinner is held to support the Dillsburg Public Library. The library is in the middle of a capital campaign and this money will assist them in purchasing and relocating to a much needed new building. The dinner included spaghetti, meatballs, salad, dessert, and a drink.

The club met its goal of raising $1,000 for the library. The K-Kids, Dillsburg Kiwanis and Dillsburg Elementary School all work together on this project and the community enjoy it every year.

Steve Myers, manager of Mechanicsburg Walmart, donated much of the food. New World Pasta donated the pasta and the teachers at Dillsburg Elementary School made the desserts. Working together will allow the new library to be built and the joy of books to reach more in the community of Dillsburg.
Around the District
New Members for Milton-Warrior Run
By Jane Mertz

Left: Division 12 South Lieutenant Governor Shirley McPherrin presents Kiwanis pins to four of the newest members to the Milton-Warrior Run Club. Left to right: Cheryl Smith, Jan Salwocki, Mike Mertz, Shirley Kelchner, and Shirley McPherrin.

A Formal Invitation From Erie
By Past Governor Cathy Szymanski

Mark your calendars for the 100th Anniversary Dinner on Friday, August 26, 2016, from 5:30-8:00 PM. The Kiwanis Club of Erie is celebrating their 100 years of service to our community at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Tickets are $45 in advance which will include a scrumptious dinner followed by entertainment provided by Erie Youtheatre from the Erie Playhouse.

The Kiwanis Club of Erie has a rich service history in the Erie community. Our youth choir was very famous and would travel all around the country performing and competing in contests. We also had a Kiwanis Kamp that was well done and admired for many years. Although throughout the years our projects have changed, our focus has remained the same, and that is for our youth. We currently sponsor an Aktion Club, Circle K Club, Key Club, Builder’s Club, and K-Kids. Erie Kiwanis was instrumental in bringing the BUG (Bring up Grades) program to this part of the state.

Some of our other projects include volunteering at a Soup Kitchen, reading to Pre-K, making trauma dolls, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Humane Society, YMCA, and several other organizations in our community. The Kiwanis Club of Erie has provided support for the Imagination Library, Camp Cadet Troop E, Scholarships, Erie Children’s Museum, Community Shelter Services, and Erie Zoo to name a few. We are very proud of the legacy our members have left for us and we will all continue to make sure people join our legacy in improving children’s lives in our community. If you would like more information or to RSVP, please contact cathy@szy.com.

Right: City of Erie as seen from the Bayfront Convention Center.
The Sheraden Kiwanis held their sixth annual Biggest Bedtime Story. We partnered with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Sheraden to make this event a great success. In attendance were about 50 children accompanied by their parents. The evening was a celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday, complete with story time, crafts, games, and, of course, cupcakes and cookies! Guest readers included Dr. Anand Germanwala, Ian Eberhardt, and Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto. The readers shared Dr. Seuss’s classics like *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *Oh the Places You’ll Go*.

The children were also entertained by none other than the Cat in the Hat himself! Following story time, the children played games like “pin the hat on the cat,” guessing the number of fish in a bowl, and made Dr. Seuss bookmarks. At the end of the night, each child was presented with a gift bag, an early learning calendar, a book, and a variety of other goodies.
An Open Letter on Child Abuse Clearances

Part of the Process, Not the Solution
By LTG Bob Gilson

Bio: Bob is a 25 year veteran of the Williamsport Bureau of Police; working ten years as a juvenile officer and a sex crimes and child abuse investigator. He has also worked thirteen years with the Williamsport Area School District as a substitute teacher.

I recently attended a Key Club Convention and went to an advisors meeting. The first thing that the presenter mentioned was about clearances, and Kiwanis International wanted another set of clearances for Kiwanis advisors beside the ones we have in the Commonwealth. I shook my head and thought this is becoming maddening.

Let me say this. Child abuse clearances only prove one thing. They prove that a person has not been arrested for sexual offenses, or had a report indicated by Children and Youth in the past. Clearances do not make people more trustworthy or incapable of child abuse. Think about it. How many news reports have you listened to where a teacher, a teacher’s aide, or a police officer was charged with a sex offense charge or providing alcohol to teens. These people had clearances and it did not stop them from committing a crime.

The time for Kiwanis International to try to screen members is in the application process. If Kiwanis does not want members with a history of child abuse, then it should be stated on the application that you may be asked to obtain a criminal history check and a child abuse inquiry prior to joining Kiwanis. If the criminal history check reveals a conviction for any sexual offense, corruption of minors, or endangerment of children under your state’s criminal code, you may not become a member. It is awkward to ask members, even long-time members to obtain clearances.

I think the smartest route should be an emphasis on educating members. Kiwanis has a great online course on Youth Protection Guidelines. There are important procedures that adults should follow in dealing with the transportation of children, and the handling of incidents that we may encounter when around children. This is a commonsense approach for all adults, not just Kiwanians.

As a Kiwanis advisor to the Builders Club, I have never had a problem going into a school and working with the kids. No one asks to see my clearances, even when I have asked if the school needed to see them. We are guests of the school and should act accordingly. Its a public classroom with another adult or two in the room. Our Kiwanis activities and projects are public, with many adults and children present. The same is true for any person who goes to a school football game, a concert, or a play. As Kiwanians, we should not be doing anything different than other adults who are interested in our children's activities. They should be in public and with other members in attendance.

A clearance should not be perceived as a license or permit to be alone with a child. As Kiwanians and adults should not allow ourselves or other members to be placed in a situation that may compromise our reputations. Just because you have a clearance does not mean that you drive a Key Clubber several miles by yourself to attend a Key Leader Program or a convention. Don’t let yourself be put in that position. Follow the Youth Protection Guidelines, have another adult member or parent along with you.

My apprehension about Kiwanians obtaining clearances is that it gives them a false sense of security. “We got to get the Key Clubbers to attend our meeting. George, you have clearances, can you do it?” George or any member may have done this lots of times picking up kids by themselves or were one-on-one in an activity. If George gets accused of inappropriate conduct, that clearance does not mean a thing in court or in the land of public opinion.

To sum it up, clearances are not the solution to protecting our youth. It is part of a process to weed out convicted child abusers which we as Kiwanians should do prior to joining Kiwanis. We are volunteers and
Child Abuse Clearances

should follow the direction of our faculty advisors when working in our schools. Educate yourself and fellow members on the Youth Protection Guidelines and follow them; having a clearance does not eliminate the risk of accusation of abuse if you decide to transport a child by yourself or go some place where no other members or adults are present. Be vigilant. If you see something or hear something that makes you feel uncomfortable involving a child and an adult, or between children, report it to a school official in charge of the children or other persons in authority.

District’s Response
By Phil Weber

I find myself in agreement, and in many places strong agreement, with Bob’s well expressed observations. He hits the nail on the head in a number of areas. Education of our members is key. The Guidelines are there not only to protect our youth, but also we Kiwanians from unwarranted accusations, and therefore must be followed. And that background checks, no matter the source, can never be 100% effective in preventing this most heinous of crimes. As Bob says, background checks are part of the process, not the solution.

Kiwanis International Youth Protection Guidelines were in place before Pennsylvania passed its first Youth Protection law in 2012. The Kiwanis guidelines have always singled out the Club SLP Advisor as the only Club position requiring a background check. The recent change made by International is that, where previously it was up to the Club to determine the source of the background check, now KI will only accept background checks through Safe Hiring Solutions. Again, this affects only the Club SLP Advisor. Pennsylvania is still the only state in the nation with its own Youth Protection Law and Background Check protocols – and thus the only state (and District) with the resulting redundancy. Thank you Bob for your insights.

Around the District
Williamsport Progressing Toward ELIMINATE Goal
By Ralph Zeigler

Williamsport Kiwanis has surpassed the 70% mark toward its $59,250 goal in helping to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus around the globe. As a model club, the Kiwanis Club of Williamsport pledged $750 per member toward this international project. Personal commitments and fundraising efforts by the club have generated more than $41,000 to date. The Kiwanis International Foundation has partnered with UNICEF in this $110 million world-wide effort to provide a free series of three vaccinations (costing approximately 60 cents each) to protect more than 60 million women plus their future babies from this deadly disease in 21 countries around the world.

Right: Celebrating the campaign progress are (left to right Governor Jen Vare, Division12 North Co-Lieutenant Governor Robert Gilson, Region IV Trustee William Henning, Williamsport President Gerry Fausnaught, and President-Elect Dawn Astin.
Governor continued.

Do I tell you that we are over ¾ of a mile for Mile of Dimes? Most clubs that I have visited have a dime jar out at their meeting. Most clubs that I visit encourage their members to empty all of their change from their pockets or even dollar bills! So far we have raised just under $7,000 for the Pennsylvania Kiwanis Foundation Early Learning Fund! How exciting to know that 1 little dime can make a huge difference. The early learning guides are being requested more than ever. These dimes help fund this project so that no club, no family, no child will have to pay for these family learning activities guides. Our next large collection spot will be at District Convention in Scranton. We will not stop at 1 mile as we need every family with children to have access to these educational resources! Thank you for continuing to save your dimes for our children.

Maybe I do not have writer’s block at all, maybe all I needed was to visualize smiles and remember stories of adults and children that realize the importance of Kiwanis. I look forward to seeing you all in Scranton, where together we can share more stories, celebrate successes, energize our experiences and build on to your passion for Kiwanis! Thank you for the service that you are doing in your community and sharing your Kiwanis story with everyone you meet.
Pennsylvania has never hosted an International Convention.

Other North American Districts that have never hosted an International Convention include the Carolinas, Kansas, Nebraska-Iowa, Western Canada, and West Virginia.


Canada has also hosted International Convention in Montreal (1926, 1973, 1999, and 2006) and Vancouver (2013) for a total of eleven times.

Countries that have hosted International Convention include the United States, Canada, Austria (1983), France (1993, 2017), Taiwan (2001), Switzerland (2011), and Japan (2014).
Night at the 2016

Kiwanis Night at the Phillies June 18th
Phillies host the Arizona Diamondbacks
Game time 3:05pm

All tickets for the June 18th game can be purchased online at: www.Phillies.com/Kiwanis
Go to our exclusive website, enter your contact information and select your club in the drop down menu to receive credit for tickets sales. Next, you will be directed to the ticket purchasing page. Ticket prices are based on the seating location of your choice.

It’s as simple as that!

Don’t Forget!
Additional 2016 Home games (excluding Opening Day) are also available for fundraising opportunities.

To purchase tickets other than June 18th or for special needs seating contact Earl Wolf
wolfonline@comcast.net or phone/text 215.512.7513

Clubs will receive a $6.00 rebate for each ticket they sell!
Think of the exciting potential for fund raising and engaging community support for your Kiwanis Club.