

Empire State Kiwanian

New York



January 2021, Volume 20-21, Issue 2

New York District, Kiwanis International

Governor

Brenda Leigh
Johnson



As Kiwanians, we reach out and make sure that our communities are having their needs met, we provide food, clothing, and other essentials. We care about the individuals that make up our communities, and that should include our own Kiwanis family.

It is time for our clubs to look inward and to plan for the upcoming months.

Review the ACHIEVING CLUB EXCELLENCE tools that can be found on the Kiwanis International website:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/division-leader/club-strengthening/achieving-club-excellence>

It has been decided that the district will postpone the Mid-Year Conference. It is now scheduled for March 19-21. This will be a closely monitored situation. We will be having a virtual aspect to this conference. Please make sure to watch the website and your emails for information in the coming months.

I am grateful for those that took the time to fill out the first survey. The results have been published to the website. The planning committee has taken all com-

ments into consideration for planning for our districts future, including the formation of a task force on building better relationships between the various regions of New York State.

Virtual events are becoming a part of our Kiwanis experience, whether it's a club meeting, divisional, fundraiser, or a membership roundup. Keeping in touch is so important to the health of your club. Reach out to your lieutenant governor or other leaders of our district, to help you ensure a successful meeting.

I urge all of you to be open-minded and forward-thinking as to how to grow and enhance our district.

Remember, BE KIND, LOOK FOR JOY IN ALL YOU DO, and BE THE LIGHT IN SOMEONE'S LIFE!!

Mohawk Valley Central Club Organized

The Mohawk Valley Central Kiwanis Club in the Central Division was organized Nov. 5 by Distinguished Past Gov. Joe Eppolito assisted by Central Division Lt. Gov. Greg Riddle. The new club will meet the first and third Wednesdays at the Mohawk Reformed Church in Mohawk.

Greg Riddle will serve as the charter president, Carla Ingram as the charter secretary and Katie Congdon as the charter treasurer. The club coaches are Distinguished Past Lt. Gov. Carolyn Trimbach and Distinguished Past Lt. Gov. Carla Ingram.

The new club was organized with 15 members with the hopes of a few more joining in the immediate future.



From left, 2019-20 Gov. Joseph Ruggiero, Honeoye Falls-Mendon President Dave Jacobus, and Finger Lakes Division Lt. Gov. John Treahy with the new club's charter.

Honeoye Falls-Mendon Charter Presented

The charter for the new Honeoye Falls-Mendon Kiwanis club was presented during a dinner Oct. 17 at the Country Club of Mendon.

The charter was presented by Immediate Past Gov. Joseph Ruggiero, since the club was organized during his year as governor.

Also present for the event was Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson and several other district dignitaries, including

the district's membership and new club chair, IDistinguished Past Gov. Eric G. Paul and Distinguished Past Gov. Joseph Eppolito, who assisted with the club's organization effort.

Monroe County Sheriff Todd Baxter was the guest speaker for the event.

The club was organized Aug. 10 with 17 members. It is in the Finger Lakes Division.

Mid-Year Conference?

Plans for a Mid-Year Conference are being formulated. Check the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org, for any new information.



East Meadow Supplies Thanksgiving Meals

On Nov. 21 East Meadow Kiwanians delivered meals to 70 East Meadow and Salisbury homes. Then, on Nov. 22, they set up a drive-through service at East Meadow High School and handed out 230 meals to residents. Each had turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and gravy – a full Thanksgiving meal.

Aktion Clubs Win KI Awards

Two Aktion Clubs in the New York District have won awards from Kiwanis International for 2019-20.

The Anchor Club won an honorable mention in the Scrapbook Contest, and was named a Distinguished Club. The club is sponsored by Peninsula (The), Hewlett.

The Brighton Aktion Club, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Brighton, won second place in the Single Service Category. Their project, "Happy Birthday Cha Cha Cha: Abilities in Action" sponsored birthday gifts for students in an inner-city primary school.

The club has also been making weekly contributions to the food and supplies pantry at McVey Elementary School, dubbed the McVey Mighty Kind Market. Each week, a different Kiwanian shops for supplies and donates them to the market.

The club has been presenting Everyday Hero awards to residents, teachers and businesses as well as the Island Harvest Food Bank for its help with the food-distribution efforts. "There were so many people who stepped up to help," Hallett said, "and we decided we would give back

to them."

On Nov. 21 an award was presented to Steven Sacks, a social worker at Bowling Green Elementary School in the East Meadow School District. Sacks was responsible for pinpointing students from families in need so Kiwanis could help them with its services.

"He has been extremely helpful in helping us meet the needs of people throughout the community," Hallett said of Sacks, "especially when schools were closed and over the summer."

Feb. 15: IRS Filing Deadline

All Kiwanis Clubs are required to file annual tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts normally are \$50,000 or less are not required to file IRS forms 990 or 990-EZ. But they are required to file an electronic form annually. Failure to file for three consecutive years could result in revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status.

The electronic form is at Form 990-N. The standard information the IRS will

require when filing the electronic Form 990-N is the name of your Kiwanis club, mailing address, Web site address (if applicable), employer identification number (EIN), annual tax period date, and a statement that annual gross receipts are still normally \$50,000 or less.

Because Kiwanis International operates on a fiscal year of Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, the filing due date is Feb. 15 each year.

More information is available on the Kiwanis International web site, at <http://www.kiwanis.org/form990>.

The Empire State Kiwanian

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2020-21 Events

June 24-27, 2021:

Kiwanis International Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

July 7-11, 2021:

Key Club International Convention, Orlando, Fla.

July 25-28, 2021:

Circle K International Convention, Austin, Texas

Aug.11-15, 2021:

New York District Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Binghamton

Schedule is subject to change. Check the district web site for the latest information.

Immediate
Past Gov.

Joseph
Ruggiero



A very Happy New Year to all my friends and family in the New York District. I hope this new year brings us closure to this terrible ordeal we are facing. I pray the vaccine will knock this sickness out and we can return to our normal routine.

Thankfully we have the ability to meet virtually. This is a big plus, we need to stay connected as much as possible. Please if you haven't tried it, don't let it scare you.

Please try to do whatever you can to support your club, for example, any type of donation, collecting food and distributing it to the needy and how about something as simple as making a phone call to an elderly neighbor. That little bit of connection will go along way.

I look forward to the day when we can ALL meet in person. I look forward to seeing ALL of you at convention and conference, where we can learn, serve, enjoy fellowship and enjoy the great hospitality rooms.

Again, First Lady Debbie and I wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Children's
Fund

Helene
Irvine



Hello all, Happy New Year 2021. As we say goodbye to 2020 we are unfortunately still going to be dealing with COVID-19 and the restrictions placed upon us. In the past year I have marveled at the Kiwanians and the service projects that were accomplished in our district. Children, veterans and seniors were still our priority while keeping ourselves and them safe.

As district chair for the Kiwanis Children's Fund we are continuing our mis-

sion to raise funds so that we may distribute grants for SLP, club and district service projects and disaster relief. Never forgetting the continued efforts in the elimination of maternal neonatal tetanus as well as IDD.

This year we are asking our clubs to participate in the \$365 donation. \$1 a day for the year. Many clubs give more and many less. We understand the trying year this has been for fundraising. We ask that when you are deciding to make your contributions you remember a donation to the Children's Fund.

We all remember the one moment that had us join Kiwanis. We know the good we have done for our communities. I ask you to remember the Children's Fund this year.

Be safe, be healthy. Have a wonderful Kiwanis year. I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you soon.

Round
Robin

Noreen
Barrett



It is more important than ever to stay in touch with your fellow Kiwanians. You don't have to see them in person either. You could do a zoom meeting with an-

other club in your division. It can count as a meeting as well.

You have plenty of time to get started on this quest. All you need to do is visit every club in your division once during the 2020-21 Kiwanis Year.

The size of your Club matters. If you have 30 members or more, you need four members to attend the interclub; from 20-29 members, you need three to attend, and less than 20 members, two attendees.

How easy is that? Any questions contact me at lgbarrett3@nycap.rr.com.



Fordham Donates Baby Supplies

Thanks to the generosity of Fordham Kiwanis members in the weeks before Thanksgiving, hundreds of items including Enfamil formula, diapers, wipes, and child masks valued at more than \$1,000 were delivered to POTS ("Part of the Solution") by Committee Co-chairs Michael and Annette Feirman.

POTS offers a mosaic of services and support for families in need through a unique "one-stop shop" under one roof at the Webster Avenue Food Pantry in the Bronx. Focusing its attention on infants and young children, the club donated the specific items last month that were in great demand during the pandemic

KPTC
Albany

Rick Sturm



Little did we realize just how successful the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Program would be at the Albany Medical Center Children's Hospital!

K family members have gone from the duck race in the Hudson River to providing actual cash payments to the hospital totaling more than \$625,000. Kiwanis, Circle K, Key and Builders Clubs in the Capital and Van Rensselaer Divisions continue to support this worthwhile project.

Having successfully completed our Trauma Unit pledge of \$500,000, we were asked to help fund equipment for the Albany Medical Center's Neo-natal Unit. Kiwanians met this challenge in 2015, raising \$50,000 allowing the hospital to purchase a very specialized incubator, fondly referred to as a Giraffe unit.

Our next project raised funds to allow the hospital to purchase brain scanning

devices and software to improve care to babies in the Neo-natal unit. This was a \$25,000 pledge.

Most recently, we participated in funding a portion of the new Children's Hospital Emergency Department. Our activity was recognized with signage on the door of a new treatment room within this new Department. This pledge was for \$50,000.

Currently, due to COVID, things are very quiet, no Bells of Life, no golf tournaments, no pancake breakfasts, or other events. But we do have a Key Club and a Kiwanis club that are fundraising for our next project.

Since 1993, It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve so many New York District Governors and K Family heroes who continue to work so hard to see this program through!

For the latest news:
www.kiwanis-ny.org

District
Historian

PIP Tom
DeJulio



As the new calendar year begins when Kiwanis celebrates its 106th birthday, Kiwanians will continue to bring more light and healing into our fractured world. This is a good time to reflect on the word "legacy" and its particular application to the Kiwanis Family.

Sometimes we think only about the monetary value of a legacy, such as a gift of cash or stock from an estate bequest. To be sure, such legacies bring value to our organization, especially when deceased Kiwanians include such donations in their estate plans.

Recent examples of generous gifts to the New York District Foundation include those from Ivan Tarnapoll, 2002-03 Past Distinguished Lt. Governor of the Niagara Frontier West Division, and from 1976-77 Past International Vice President Steve Hart from the Bronx-Westchester South Division.

Nonetheless, we should also remember that every Kiwanian leaves a legacy, measured not by its monetary value, but rather its spiritual value. Author Steven Covey said leaving a legacy satisfies one's "spiritual need" to have a sense of meaning and purpose in their lives. Or as one philosopher put it, the greatest legacy anyone can make is a positive impact on the lives of others.

This is hardly a new revelation considering that the First of the Six Objects of Kiwanis adopted in 1924 placed priority on spiritual values. Membership committees frequently remind prospective new



From left, Past Gov. Charles Wall, Past Gov. Steve Scharoff and W. Harry Prout.

members that this object is the reason people can find joy impacting the lives of others, just by participating with others in "hands-on" Kiwanis service projects.

We find purpose and meaning in our lives when helping others, experiencing joy (selfless and everlasting) along with happiness (personal contentment and often fleeting).

In keeping with the role of district historian, I call your attention to the special generational legacies left by three deceased New York Kiwanians as the fathers of children who are leaving their own legacies to Kiwanis.

Charles Wall was a member of Hamburg Kiwanis and served as New York Kiwanis District Governor in 1960. He inspired his adopted daughter, Susan Ganey, to become District Governor in 1997-98, the first woman in the New York District ever to assume that important leadership role.

Merrick Kiwanian Steve Scharoff was District Governor in 1989-90. He inspired his daughter, Kim, to become a Kiwanis leader in her own right.

In fact, on the day Kim was born, Past Governor Steve placed many proud "happy dollars" in his weekly club meeting basket. Before his passing, he expressed his joy having seen Kim's years of

involvement in Kiwanis service leadership programs, the prelude to her becoming a Distinguished Kiwanis Lt. Governor from the Long Island South Central Division in 2010-11. Kim's current leadership positions on the District Foundation Board and work on other District Committees represent her father's "spiritual legacy" to Kiwanis.

A multi-generational legacy also continues in the Kiwanis Club of Troy. The recently deceased past Empire State Kiwanian editor W. Harry Prout was the son of 1963 Honorary Past Governor George H. Prout, grandfather to James Prout, a 2014-15 Distinguished Lieutenant Governor. Jim currently serves as the District's legal counsel and is the husband of current Van Rensselaer Lt. Gov. Wendy Prout. Together, they proudly boast having two daughters and a son-in-law who are Kiwanians.

I imagine there are many other Kiwanians in the New York District who are passing along their special Kiwanis legacy to sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters. In these troubled times, we need many more. It may be the right time to acknowledge them, and invite others to gift an invaluable, non-monetary legacy to the future of Kiwanis and those we serve.

North Shore Raises \$5,000 for Salvation Army

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore finished the holiday season with bell ringing Dec. 24 for the Salvation Army.

Shoppers were greeted outside the store entrance of Holiday Farms in Glen Head by Santa (Kiwanian Roger Hill) and toy soldier (Kiwanian Lisa Hill) who loved seeing such great support for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive.

Due to Covid-19, so many people are out of work and short on funds to support their family. Yet this year the Kiwanis Club of North Shore raised more than \$5,000 in only five days.

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Floral Park Donates Food

On Jan. 6 Floral Park Kiwanians John Gridley and Art Greb, on behalf of the club delivered donations to the food pantry at Our Lady of Victory in Floral Park and to the Belmont Race Track Chaplaincy.



From left, front row: Trish Roshelli and Sarah Dew; back row: Dee Kraft, Donna Zuckert, Mary Ann Nelson, Penny Stuart, Linda Kurtz, Dawn Lenci and Chris Kraft.

Central Adirondacks Distributes 800 Gifts

Each year the Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks collects and distributes gifts and toys to special families in the Woodgate, Thendara, Old Forge, Eagle Bay, and Inlet area and in recent years has added Long Lake and Indian Lake.

In 2020, this very worthwhile program provided gifts, toys, mittens, and food for over 100 families and nearly over 230 kids in the Central Adirondacks including Woodgate, Otter Lake, Thendara, Old Forge, Eagle Bay, Inlet, Raquette Lake, Indian Lake and Long Lake.

The total distribution included nearly 800 gifts, 60 stuffed animals for the younger children, 71 theatre tickets, 47 books, and 45 hams. There were 90 sets

of scarves, hats, and mittens provided by the Old Forge Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary and Laura Cahill.

Kiwanis donates \$1,000 to the Marine Corps League Foundation and partners with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which greatly helped in providing the appropriate gifts for children of all ages.

Gift and Toy collection locations were at, Community Bank, Inlet Department Store (ACE), Kinney Drugs, Old Forge Department Store (ACE), Old Forge Hardware, Smith Marine, Great Pines and Souvenir Village. In addition, there were toy collection sites at the following Post Offices; Old Forge, Eagle Bay, Inlet, Then-

dara and Raquette Lake.

The Strand Theatre assisted with discounted movie tickets. Old Forge Department Store (ACE) and Rebecca Frackleton of Split Branch donated a supply face masks for all children ages 3 and up. The employees of the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari, Water's Edge Inn & Conference Center and the Old Forge Camping Resort did an internal gift drive. The Lions Club of Long Lake coordinated the gifts to that community.

"There were more gifts and toys and more help and cooperation for this year's project than ever before," said Kiwanian Linda Kurtz.

Floral Park Donates To Food Pantry

The Floral Park club donated about 15 boxes of groceries and 20 frozen meals at the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Victory.

The groceries were provided to the club by Mickie Leamey, distinguished past lieutenant governor.

Maureen, who runs the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Victory, was very appreciative of these donations.



Public Relations

Joel Harris



Happy New Year Fellow Kiwanians.

To say that 2020 was a tough year would be an understatement, but we continued to creatively care for others and while we did that captured many of those moments in pictures. I am pleased to see the increased use of our brand identification in the pictures. This is so important because this is how non-Kiwanians see what we do and identify our logo to our actions. Our image matters, because it reflects to the public who we are, what we stand for, what we're made of and even what we do.

Back in 2016 to find out what people outside of Kiwanis thought about us, a perception study was done by a third-party research group. The study was scientifically conducted and statistically

valid. The researchers surveyed thousands of people who did not belong to a service club. They did not know they were being surveyed about Kiwanis, and other service organizations were used to help make comparisons along with mentions of Kiwanis. Here are a few key findings:

- 28 percent had heard of Kiwanis, but only 12% could correctly identify our mission
- 67 percent of those who had heard about Kiwanis had a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Kiwanis
- Only 9 percent said they would be very or somewhat likely to join Kiwanis. That's the number we really needed to work on.

The Kiwanis brand is all the things that define how people see us. It is the impact we have on communities around the world, and the emotion our words and actions instill in them. While much of our brand is defined by public and media perception, the visual brand is wholly within our control. The brand book, which is downloadable from the Kiwanis International site, is designed to help you consistently and effectively bring the Kiwanis brand to life across various communications.

I know that many of you have been to one of my forums on branding at mid-winter or district convention. I always start the same way. With a Starbucks logo on the screen, I ask what you see. The correct answer is a steaming cup of delicious coffee. We want people to see the "K" and match it to a playground being built by Kiwanians, a group of Kiwanians serving in a service project or children being helped by us around the world. Of course, the ultimate goal here is for someone to see that "K" and want to be a part of our organization when they see all the good things we do.

The message is not, "join Kiwanis because we do good things for kids." It's more direct: Kids need us. They need you. That is a worthwhile endeavor to want to join!

I am here to help you with your campaigns. Please use me as a resource. Reach out to me if your uncertain about a social media posting, or correct use of our logos or designs. I am available to attend your club or division meetings (currently virtually) where I can share branding techniques and any photographic questions you may have.

Pediatric Lyme Disease

DPG John Gridley



Yale researchers have discovered a protein that may help protect hosts from infection with the tick-borne spirochete that causes Lyme disease, a finding that may help diagnose and treat Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in North America and is transmitted by ticks infected with the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The course of the disease varies among individuals, with the majority experiencing mild symptoms easily treated by antibiotics if taken immediately. However, in some cases of untreated Lyme the infection can spread to the heart, joints, nervous system, and other organs.

For the study, the Yale team expressed more than 1,000 human genes in yeast and analyzed their interactions with 36 samples of *B. burgdorferi*. They found that one protein, Peptidoglycan Recognition Protein (PGLYRP1), acts like an early warning signal to the immune system when exposed to the bacteria. When exposed to the Lyme spirochete, mice lacking PGLYRP1 had much higher levels of *B. burgdorferi* than mice with the protein and showed signs of immune

system dysfunction, the researchers reported.

"Stimulating the ability of people to make more of this protein could help fight infection," said Yale's Erol Fikrig, the Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Medicine (Infectious Disease) and professor of epidemiology (microbial diseases) and of microbial pathogenesis and co-corresponding author of the study.

Fikrig and his colleagues are also investigating whether people with higher levels of PGLYRP1 may be less susceptible to infection by *B. burgdorferi*, which would help explain why some infected individuals have better outcomes. I will keep you posted, we can only hope..

On another note, we could use your help in raising funds for the foundation to continue giving out grants to children with this dreaded disease called chronic Lyme disease. Since the pandemic started our fund raising ability (visiting clubs) has almost shutdown and I am afraid that this will hinder our ability to pay existing grants and the issuing of new grants (we have a waiting list for grants). The need is there, so I am asking for you help.

If you have a Brittany Fellowship please consider purchasing a first level Emerald Brittany, if you have a first level Emerald Brittany please consider purchasing a second level Emerald Brittany, and if you have a second level Emerald Brittany please consider purchasing the new third level Diamond Brittany, it all will help. Thank you in advance of your purchase and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Hixson Presented to 40-year Member

On Oct. 10 the Seneca Falls-Waterloo Kiwanis Club presented a George Hixson Award to Past President Mark Robinette.

Robinette, who joined the club on Feb. 26, 1980, served as club president in 1987-88. He and the rest of his family have been involved for many years in the club's Easter Egg Hunt.

The presentation was made in the front yard of Mark's home so his family could attend.

Douglaston, Big Apple Publish Journal

The year 2020 is the most memorable time for us. We have been through the scariest moment in our lifetime, the pandemic, and the worldwide lockdown that caused the loss of many lives, businesses, and jobs.

They created a journal to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Douglaston club.

"This journal is a homage to our members, volunteers, and donors. It documented our achievements throughout the year. In addition, I took the opportunity to celebrate leadership, compassion, and friendship," PR Manager, Anthony Tam said.

The Journal features a personal interview with the key leaders from both clubs.

Lakeshore Builds Desks For Young Students

This service project originated with the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore-Rochester. The idea of building and distributing the desks began with an evening news story featuring a man that built desks for at-home learners affected by the Covid-19 virus.

The idea behind the desk project was to provide a safe dedicated work/study environment for at-home students. A teacher at #33 School told the club that at least 6 laptops which were returned to the school had been damaged due to a lack of a safe place to keep a computer while at home.

The club built 26 desks at a cost of just over \$25 each. Ken Page and Mike Kramer built a few desks in Ken's workshop as a trial run. Afterward, we purchased all the remaining materials (cabinet grade plywood and 2 x 4's) for building the remainder of the desks. Ken cut all the desk components in his shop and on Nov. 14, we met as a group at Edison Tech High School to assemble and finish the desks.

Fortunately, one of our club members, Denny Malinowski, knows the principal at Edison Tech, Jacob Scott. Scott granted our group access to the woodshop facility at Edison Tech for the day. This gave us plenty of space and room to work, much appreciated given that we are still under strict distancing guidelines during this pandemic.

The group included six people from the Kiwanis club, two club member relatives, Ken Page and also Auke Verbree.



Within five hours, we were able to complete the desk assembly and clear coat finishing of the desks. After drying overnight, we started the distribution process. Scott was excited about our service project and hoped to be able to keep some of the desks, distributed through his network of administrators throughout

RCSD.

We left eight desks at Edison, three were delivered to RCS, eight desks were delivered to #7 School, and seven desks went to #33 School, for a total of 26 desks.

The project may lead to a Key Club at Edison.

Chester Delivers Toys to 243 Children

On Dec. 12 the Kiwanis Club of Chester held its annual Toyland Event at the former Chester High School gym.

Families pre-registered with the Kiwanis club so that the club was able to pre-pack Santa Bags to spread cheer to the Chester community and beyond. The club was overwhelmed with the responses that they received from those individuals who dropped gifts at the various collection boxes throughout Chester and at our two in-person drop offs. As they have in the many years past, the business community came through and allowed us to place the drop off boxes.

With all of the public's generous donations both in toys and financial, the Kiwanis Club of Chester was able to provide gifts for 80 families with approximately 243 children.

It would be difficult to identify every single person, business or organization that helped make all this possible again



this year, but please know that each and every toy and dollar donated went to bring joy to a child this Christmas.



Kiwanis Club, Builders Club Install Bird Houses

On Nov. 20, Nelson Kent and Russ Pokorny from the Helderberg Kiwanis Club worked with students in the elementary Builders Club, and their advisors Carey Raymond and Melissa Lindberg, to put up 20 bird houses along the Uhai Trail, which runs behind the Berne-Knox-Westerlo elementary school in Berne.

More Uhai Trail improvements are planned: Students in BKW's FFA chapter, and advisors Michaela Kehrer and Sarah McArdle, will use grant funds from the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation Department to add signs noting unique plant life along the trail.

BKW is thankful for partnerships with the Kiwanis and the Albany County grant program in improving the trail for the benefit of all in the community.



Monticello, Woodridge Busy at Holidays

The Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge joined forces to bring holiday cheer to nursing home and rehab residents and to local families in need in the community.

They presented little gifts and greeting cards to Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless Program Administrator Kathy Kreiter and to Garnet Healthcare Skilled Nursing Unit Director of Nursing Jessica Piccard and Activities Manager Matthew Reyes. The gifts included an assortment of holiday solar dancers, Santa snowglobes, playdough, coloring books,

Find the Word and Crossword Puzzles, body lotion, playing cards, musical stuffed animals and children's story books.

In addition to the Kiwanis Club members, the Monticello High School Key Club as well as the Aktion Club of Sullivan County, comprised of individuals from SullivanOrangeArc, New Hope Community and Center for Discovery, contributed a large amount of beautifully hand-made greeting cards to be distributed with the gifts.

The main mission of this project was to reassure the recipients that people were thinking of them and wanted to make their holiday a little more enjoyable during these trying times.



KPTC Long Island Holds Virtual Annual Meeting

Covid-19 has effected virtually all of us, and the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation is no exception. Despite the challenges posed by what many are calling the “New Normal” Foundation President Joe Corace, his Board of Directors and Committee Members have continued to move forward. Perhaps, one of the best examples of this was the Nov. 17 Annual Meeting. This year, it was not a snowstorm or the weather that posed a challenge. It was Covid-19.

More than 50 people gathered on a call. After outlining the agenda for the meeting, Corace turned it over to Rose Enis of Northwell Health.

Northwell and its staff had to think on their feet in order to adjust the things that they do to deal with the New Normal. Rose pointed out that many injuries were the results of accidents at home and in the yard around the home. The Trauma Safety team adjusted their presentations to meet this need. They learned very quickly how to present their lessons in a virtual environment.

Dr. Jose Prince talked about the challenges faced by the medical team in dealing with trauma as hospitals became crowded with victims of the awful pandemic.

After the team at Northwell described how they were able to accomplish these difficult tasks, thanks in no small part to the support that they received from the KPTC Foundation, DPG Joe Corace presented them (virtually), with a check for \$30,000.

Once the team at Northwell had fin-



ished their presentation, it was time for the KPTC Foundation to tackle the rest of the business that needed to be accomplished. Elections were held with Julia Salat presiding over them. The slate of people who would serve as Board of Directors was elected unanimously.

Once this had been done, DPG Joe Corace thanked the clubs and Kiwanians who attended the meeting. “I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the times that you and the members

of your clubs have helped us out. I hope that you have a better idea of just how the money that you have donated has impacted the lives of so many young children. I know that these words are inadequate, but Thank You!

Special thanks to Kiwanis International President-Elect Peter Mancuso who served as the meeting’s Parliamentarian. We also want to thank New York District Governor Brenda Leigh Johnson for joining us and her very kind remarks



Fordham Circle K Makes Blankets

Fordham Circle K members managed in the age of Covid to organize and conduct an on-site hands-on service project.

Members ordered enough fleece to make a half-dozen no-sew blankets for children served by the Manhattan chapter of Project Linus. <https://www.projectlinus.org/>

K Kids

Mickie Leamey



Here is an update on Kiwanis K Kids. As of today, the New York District has 67 K Kids clubs; 44 are on active status and 23 are on hiatus due to COVID-19.

Nationally, 54 percent of the clubs are not meeting, 32 percent are meeting virtually, and 14 percent are meeting in person.

While COVID-19 has affected the way we do business, it should not stop us from helping others. Kiwanis International has provided resources to allow our clubs to continue to operate virtually. You can find these resources on the K Kids website. They include a virtual meeting kit including agendas, service ideas, civic engagement, anti-bullying, and hunger. Virtual meetings allow students to understand the issues that are important in the community and give them the opportunity to learn to help others.

Faculty and Kiwanis advisors are en-

couraged to read the new advisor's guide located on the K Kids Website. It contains information on IDEA, a high-impact service toolkit. IDEA stands for:

- Identify the need - choose an activity.
- Develop the passion - understand the service need and form a personal connection.
- Execute the project - how to plan and carry out the project.
- Advance the impact - Review and reflect on the project. Take the time to see what is accomplished.

The concept of IDEA will form the building blocks of our students to be leaders and to preform community service for years to come.

The manual also includes information on the role of an advisor and club officers and how to recruit new members. It is a great resource.

Here are some recommendations for Kiwanis Clubs that sponsor a K Kids club.

1. Make sure that all clubs have a Kiwanis Advisor and that advisor has a cleared background check and has taken the youth protection training. A reminder that this applies to all Kiwanis advisors. Kiwanis club secretaries should update their Kiwanis Advisor in the portal and verify the background check.
2. Each Club that sponsors a K Kids

club should notify Kiwanis International if their K Kids club is unable to meet due to school policies. KI has developed a COVID-19 status that places the club on hiatus and there would be no charge to the club for this year. The status can then be reactivated next year without a reactivation fee. If a K Kids club on hiatus is able to be reactivated this school year, just notify KI that the club is now active and have your Kiwanis club pay the dues and the club will resume active status.

3. A reminder that if your K Kids club is active, the yearly dues should be paid.

4. Active K Kids clubs should file their service reports with KI on the portal, so we all know what service has been performed.

5. All the resources to run a K Kids club are available at <https://kiwaniskids.org/en/KKids/Home.aspx>

Kiwanis International has spent a lot of time and money to provide these, so let us use it.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions about K Kids or if you are interested in starting a K Kids Club

We are beginning to turn the corner and are starting to think outside the box. Together we can make a difference.

Distinguished Kiwanian

Kevin Kamper



New York District Kiwanis Distinguished member program is an easy way to showcase the exceptional work that a club member has achieved during our service year.

The program allows your club at no cost to honor your members who demonstrate special dedication to service, membership, and education of your Kiwanis club.

Each year the district compiles a list of requirements that are to be emphasized. All it takes is for your club to fill out the distinguished member application which contains a list of five categories that are very achievable.

The requirements are:

1. Sponsor one new member.
2. Participate in four projects. They can be from any club.
3. Attend three events. They can be any conference, convention, or an event from any of our Service and Leadership Programs. Note participation can be virtual if available.
4. Donate or participate in a fundraiser that benefits a New York District Foundation or the Kiwanis Children's Fund. Any amount or activity counts; the donation

could even be items donated to help these causes.

5. Train in Kiwanis Youth Protection. It is an easy program that you can do together as a club at a meeting or view the one-hour video on your own.

Once the five categories are fulfilled, your club secretary can fill out the form and send it to me and I will send out a distinguished member certificate that can be presented at a club meeting. Please review these categories and start checking off what you have done now.

I look forward to seeing these forms submitted to showcase the incredible work that your members achieve each year. Please feel free to contact me at knkamper@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Greece Marks Kiwanis One Day

Kiwanis Club of Greece participated in Kiwanis One Day on Oct. 24.

They focused on Emergency Preparedness, which is part of the Governor's project. This project had the collaboration of a few organizations that came together to deliver a service (provide disaster preparedness kits) to those who would not have been able or aware of what to include in a kit.

