

Empire State Kiwaniian

New York

April 2021, Volume 20-21, Issue 3

New York District, Kiwanis International



2019-20 District Leadership Honored at Mid-Year

The 2021 Mid-Year Conference concluded on March 20 with an event honoring clubs, divisions and individuals for their accomplishments during the 2019-20 Kiwanis Year.

The event took place at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, with limited in-person attendance but remote access for many others who participated in the event. More than 100 remote participants were able to view the opening and awards ceremonies, and participate in forums.

At right, Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson puts a diamond Past Governor's pin on Immediate Past Gov. Joseph Ruggiero. The pin was presented to him by the 2019-20 lieutenant governors who served with him.

Winners of the club achievement awards as well as distinguished clubs and lieutenant governors also were announced during the final event of the conference.



Education and Leadership Conference Registration Open

Increase the positive impact your club has on the lives of children. Attend the 2021 Kiwanis Education and Leadership Conference — either online or in person in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Be in the kind of atmosphere that reminds you why Kiwanis matters. Registration is open until May 25.

The conference will be different than any other Kiwanis International event. You'll learn how to develop a solid plan for improving your club, get ideas about funding sources and maybe even create your own blueprints for change so your club can leave its mark on the community.

If you're concerned about travel or large groups — or just can't attend in person — the Virtual Registration Package is your best option. For \$39, you will be able to participate in real time with Kiwanians who are attending in person. You'll get access to all the keynote speaker sessions, including the 2021 Kiwanis Education Conference Kickoff featuring Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger. If a program doesn't fit your schedule, a recording will

be available to view at your convenience.

In-person registration for \$295 includes access to all keynote speaker sessions and educational offerings. Additionally, in-person attendees can enjoy dinner and entertainment at the ELC in SLC Opening Party and the Kiwanis BBQ with performances by country legends Lorrie Morgan and Larry Gatlin. In-person attendance will be determined by capacity limits established by local and state officials and is first come, first served.

Kiwanis International has adopted the meeting guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We intend to meet or exceed every rule for pre-meeting testing and preparation and will follow guidelines for suggested spacing and social distancing during meals and meetings.

All attendees must attest that they have been fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC or have received a negative COVID-19 test result within five days of the first day that the attendee will be at-

tending meetings.

All attendees attending the meetings shall sign a waiver of COVID-19 claims.

Any attendee who has tested positive for COVID-19 is prohibited from attending the meetings unless they provide proof of two negative tests after contracting COVID-19.

Any attendee who is not fully vaccinated and has been knowingly exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days prior to the meetings is prohibited from attending the meetings.

All attendees agree to undergo a temperature test prior to the beginning of any meeting. Any attendee who has a temperature higher than 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit will be excluded from attending the meetings in person, but may attend virtually.

All attendees agree to wear face coverings while attending the meetings and in common spaces.

All attendees agree to abide by strict social distancing protocols established by the hotel and Kiwanis.

Key Club Leadership Training Conference Will Be May 14-15

This year, the New York District Key Club Annual Leadership Training Conference (LTC) will be a hybrid event, live streamed to the New York Key Clubbers from the Desmond Hotel on Friday, May 14th and Saturday, May 15th. We will be bringing our outgoing and incoming Districts Boards to the Desmond to run this great event for your students!

This year the cost is only \$25 per person which includes a Key Club gift pack sent to every registered student, including a conference pin, a conference decal, a New York District Key Club cell phone wallet and a Key Club grocery bag.

Because LTC will be mostly virtual due to the effects of the ongoing pandemic, it

will be the most affordable and accessible LTC we will likely ever hold. The cost is extremely reasonable and there are no attendance caps, so more students than ever before can attend. We are asking Kiwanis Clubs to encourage and to sponsor their Key Clubbers to attend this important annual event. Please contact Assistant Administrator, Jason Steiner, if you wish to pay for your group of students. His email is ianjs@aol.com.

We will have the very popular Play Fair on Friday night and a special Keynote speaker on Saturday. We will have workshops and award sessions on Saturday as well as the retirement of last year's District Board and the installation of the Dis-

trict Board for the new year.

We invite all sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs, Foundations, District Organizations and Groups to place an ad in our online program. The link to the Program Ad Submission Form can be found at tinyurl.com/keyclubad. You may securely pay online using a credit or debit card or you may pay by check. If by check, please make payable to New York Key Club Foundation and mail to Jason Steiner, 68-36 108th St, Apt B-41, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support of our high school servant leaders and look forward to seeing many of them at LTC 2021.

Partner's Project

Lucien Giancursio



When we hear and think of veterans, we tend to associate them with WWII, Korea, Vietnam. While this is certainly true, there are veterans who have served since then. They have provided us the freedom and ability to live the life that we do.

The transition from military life to civilian is sometimes not that easy. With this First Partner's Project "Veterans in need" we can assist them in doing so. There are many ways:

- Reach out to your local Veteran Outreach Center.
- Contact your local American Legion Post.
- Start a dialogue to see what you and your club and division can do.

Through this project we can help and provide hope and fulfill the needs of our veterans. If you want to connect with people, you start with their needs, not your own. Start with their hurts, not your own. Start with what they want, not what you want.

Through the diligent work of my division's lieutenant governor, Heather Henderson (Genesee Division) I have met a veteran, Joseph Van Cura. Joe has recently joined Kiwanis as one of the newest members to the Rochester Club, by the way which is the 4th oldest club in Kiwanis and the first club in the New York district, which Lt. Gov. Heather is rebuilding. Kiwanian Joe Van Cura owns and runs Mission Coffee Rochester. <https://missioncoffeerochester.com>

Lt. Gov. Heather and Joe are working on a project to support the First Partner's Project "Veterans in Need". I would encourage Governor Brenda Leigh Johynson's lieutenant governors to have a discussion with each other as to share thoughts and ideas and to become a possible source of information for each other

as to how to have a community impact with this project.

Through Gov. Brenda and Peter Johnson, I have had the great pleasure of meeting Lonnie and Susan Sherman of General Needs. I invite you to check them out as a source to complete this project.

Throughout the pandemic, needed services were suspended due to health concerns, but the needs and hopes of people did not stop. All New York Kiwanis clubs are encouraged to be a part of this project because combining our resources and maximizing results, we can truly make a difference in our clubs and communities. With this project we can make a difference in the life of a veteran. We as Kiwanians never stop providing hope to those who have needs.

In these ever-changing times, Kiwanis is needed ever more.

Please Check out Supporting General Needs, Ltd, supporting Your local American Legion Post: Go to Legion web site to find your local post.

Mission Coffee Rochester, <https://missioncoffeerochester.com>

The Empire State Kiwanian

Official Publication of the New York District of Kiwanis International
Publication Office:

Martin Toombs
84 Bridge St.

Seneca Falls, NY 13148
webmaster@kiwanis-ny.org

Empire State Kiwanian
Page 2

Lyme Disease Gala Rescheduled to Dec. 5

The Kiwanis Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation Gala has now been re-scheduled for Dec. 5.

The event will celebrate 20 years of the foundation's work.

It will be at the Floral Park Terrace, 250 Jericho Turpike, Floral Park.

2020-21 Events

June 24-26, 2021:

Kiwanis International Education and Leadership Conference

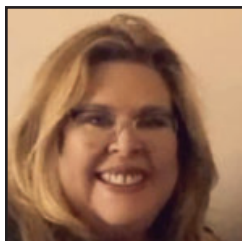
Aug. 11-15, 2021:

New York District Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Binghamton

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

Governor

Brenda Leigh Johnson



After our blended mid year conference, the planning and convention committees sent out a survey of attendees. Thank you to all that took the time to give us your thoughts, we heard you and will be making changes for the future.

One of the suggestions from that survey is for the District to have regular zoom district meetings on various topics. We are planning for the next few months to have zoom meetings on the following topics: The District Foundation, Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center, The Pediatric Lyme Disease Emergency Foundation, Key Club and Circle K, as

well as 'ask the District'. It is important to communicate to our entire district the goings on around the district. Please watch your emails for invitations to join on these calls.

The Kiwanis International Convention has turned into a Education Conference and council meeting due to the restrictions for International travel due to the ongoing Covid pandemic. All Kiwanis members are invited to take part in the conference. The conference will take place in Salt Lake City, UT from June 24-26. I do hope that many of you will join us for fellowship, leadership training, and service!

Our District Convention will be in Binghamton, our opening session taking place on Friday August 13, at the Doubletree Hotel. We will continue to have both in-person and virtual attendance. Already we have booked a keynote speaker for Friday evening, who will inspire and motivate us to be a better us. Mark your calendar and plan on being with fellow Kiwanis members in August!

Our District Convention will be in Binghamton, our opening session taking place on Friday, Aug. 13. We will continue to have both in-person and virtual attendance.

Peter and I are looking forward to seeing many of you in the upcoming months as we are traveling around the state for Governor's Visits, as well as seeing many of you in the virtual world on screen.

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

Governor's Project

Cynthia Ewanciw-Morse



Spring is finally here and with that we have completed half of our 2020-21 Kiwanis year.

The year of a continuing pandemic has certainly been different than any of us could ever have imagined. However, this pandemic cannot and will not hinder the community service and outreach of New York Kiwanians.

Throughout the year, I have been contacted by many club presidents, club secretaries and lieutenant Governor's regarding the Governor's Project. A leading question has been, "Are clubs ex-

pected to fulfill every aspect of the Governor's Project?" The answer to this question is, "No, each club may complete ANY aspect of the Governor's Disaster Relief Project."

Divisions within the district have varying community needs, members must determine what this need is and continue from there. My home club, Minisink Valley in the Hudson River West Division, has realized the continued need for necessities in the areas four food pantries.

The Governor's Project has three categories of which you may choose to fulfill the requirements and thus receive the Governor's Award for your club. These categories are emergency training, emergency kits and non-perishable food collection.

Training may consist of CPR, NARCAN, Stop the Bleed, First Aid or Emergency Preparedness.

Emergency Kits may be created to fulfill a need within your community or to be

stored in the District's Disaster Relief area, for use during a more widespread disaster.

Components for these kits are many: food, first aid, toiletries, cleaning items and activities for children, to help them cope with a disaster and embrace a sense of normality.

Non-perishable food items may be donated to a family in need, local food pantry or the District's Disaster Relief storage area.

For a complete list of information on training programs, suggested items for emergency kits and food donations, please contact me.

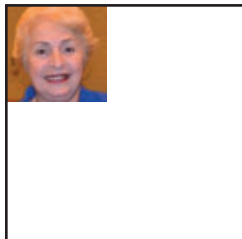
Need is all around us, especially during this pandemic.

We as Kiwanians must be ready and able to help those in need during any crisis.

Remember to think locally, then within your division, the New York District and globally.

K Kids

Mickey Leamey



As of today, there are 66 K Kids Clubs listed in New York District; 32 are listed as active status, and 34 are on hiatus due to Covid-19.

It has been a challenging, unpredictable year, and Kiwanis is still learning about clubs that are unable to meet. If your club is not meeting because of the pandemic but

has not yet notified Kiwanis, please send an email to slp@kiwanis.org so your club will be updated to on hiatus.

I know that this year has been difficult for all but, I am looking forward to the resumption of in person activities next fall. Let us try to have everything in place for school opening. Some suggestions:

1. If your K Kids club does not have a faculty advisor, reach out to your school's administration to arrange for an advisor.

2. Review the information on the K Kids Website at <https://www.kiwaniskids.org/> Look over the IDEA toolkit and meeting and project suggestions.

3. Meeting kits and sample agendas can be used from the K Kids website. They can be modified in any way that works best for

your clubs.

4. Promote the importance of K Kids. Mention it at club meetings. Invite your school's principal and your school's faculty advisor to your meeting and set up a program.

5. Remember that K Kids is the entry point to develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service. Today's K Kids are tomorrow's leaders.

With your help, I look forward to a rebirth of our K Kids program for the 2021-22 school year. We can do it. As always, please feel free to reach out to me by email or phone if you have any questions or concerns.

Distinguished Lieutenant Governors Honored

Immediate Past Gov. Joseph Ruggerio honored 12 lieutenant governors from his 2019-20 board as distinguished. They are:

Brooklyn: Lenny Gioia, Bronx Westchester South: Douglas Hickey; Finger Lakes: John Treahy; Genesee: Marie Schoenacker; Hudson River West: Dan Higbie; Long Island South West: Ralph DeSena; Metropolitan: Dennis Gabel; Niagara Frontier North: Christina McCormick; Queens East: Sandy Liew; Queens West: Debbie Kueber; Suffolk West: Janice Bar; Van Rensselaer: Lynn Catelotti.

Past Gov. Joe also awarded the title of "Super Distinguished" to John Treahy and Christina McCormick.



Kiwanians participating in person and remotely in a forum on Membership at the Mid-Year.

2019-20 Distinguished Clubs Announced

Adirondack

Plattsburgh Noon
Ticonderoga

Bronx Westchester South

Fordham, The Bronx
Hartsdale
Throggs Neck
Yonkers

Brooklyn

Bensonhurst & Bay Ridge
Kings Plaza- Canarsie
Liberty
Mapleton
Parkway East

Capital

New Scotland

Central

Central Adirondack, Old Forge
Lake Delta, Rome

Chemung

Bath
Dryden
Horseheads

Finger Lakes

Canandaigua
Newark
Penfield-Perinton Townships
Seneca Falls-Waterloo
Webster

Genesee

Greece
Nunda
Rochester
Spencerport

Hudson River

Saugerties

Hudson River West

Callicoon

Chester

Maybrook
Middletown
Minisink Valley
Monticello
Woodridge

Hudson Tri County

Fairview-Greenburgh

Long Island North

Glen Cove
North Shore, Long Island
Westbury

Long Island South Central

Hempstead
Levittown
West Hempstead

Long Island Southwest

The Five Towns
Oceanside
The Peninsula-Hewlett

Metropolitan

Chinatown
North Central, Staten Island
Richmond County

Mohawk

Saratoga Springs
Schenectady

Niagara Frontier North

Amherst
Lewiston
Lockport
Niagara-Wheatfield
Northern Niagara County
The Tonawandas

Niagara Frontier South

Buffalo
Holland
Orchard Park

Ontario

Auburn
Fulton

Liverpool

Queens East

Big Apple
Douglaston
Jamaica
Rosedale-Laurelton

Queens West

Glendale
Howard Beach
LaGuardia Airport
Lefferts-Liberty
Ozone Park
Queens Boulevard
Ridgewood 3-2-1

St. Lawrence

Gouverneur
Malone
Potsdam

Southwestern

Falconer
Gowanda
Jamestown
Westfield-Ripley

Suffolk East

East Hampton
Greater Westhampton
Patchogue
Three Village - Brookhaven

Suffolk West

Amityville
Copiague
East Farmingdale
Huntington
Lindenhurst
North Amityville
Northport-East Northport

Susquehanna

Conklin

Van Rensselaer

Castleton-on-Hudson
Troy

Around Mid-Year



At left, Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson addresses the District Board meeting. Seated is District Secretary Rich Hall. The remote participants can be seen on the screen behind him. Below, Immediate Past Gov. Joseph Ruggiero addressing the board.



Speaking at the board meeting were, at left, Kiwanis International President-Elect Peter Mancuso, and at right, Governor-Elect James Mancuso. Below are board members during the meeting.

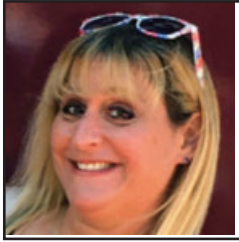


International Trustee Michael Mulhaul addressing the board remotely



Aktion
Club

Jaimie
Neuringer



At the midpoint of the OPWDD directives, Aktion Club members living in group homes have not been allowed to attend in-person meetings. Although some technology is available, many Aktion club advisors are finding that even Zoom meetings are difficult to coordinate with our members. Because of this, many Aktion Clubs have not been meeting.

Kiwanis International has excused dues collection this year for Aktion Clubs that cannot meet. They created a special charter status for clubs temporarily not meeting due to COVID.

KI updated the international Aktion

Club website (aktionclub.org), and is providing extra resources online, including meeting kits that include meeting agendas, and the following:

- Ideas for safe, socially distanced service projects.
- Message and information from our service partners.
- Leadership lessons and information on community impact.

We are providing links to these kits on the resources page of www.aktionclub-ny.org as they become available. These kits are designed to keep our clubs serving and leading safely.

2019-20 New York District Aktion Club International Award Winners:

After winning the District Level Aktion Club contests, winners were submitted for judging at the international level.

Congratulations to the Brighton Aktion Club for receiving second place in the Single Service contest. Their project, "Happy

Birthday Cha Cha Cha: Abilities in Aktion" sponsored birthday gifts for a class at a local inner-city primary school, made birthday cards for the students, and hosted a gift wrapping party. Congratulations to the Brighton Aktion Club for this International honor, and all their effort!

Congratulations to the Anchor Aktion Club for receiving an honorable mention for their scrapbook entry!

Congratulations also to the Anchor Aktion Club for receiving distinguished club status for 2019-20.

Details of all these projects are available on our website: www.aktionclub-ny.org

I look forward to helping Aktion Clubs restart in the near future. Please reach out to jaimie@aktionclub-ny.org if you have any questions or need more information. For those clubs still serving their communities, please send pictures and write-ups to submission@aktionclub-ny.org for pub on the website.

Pediatric
Lyme Disease

DPG John
Gridley



Preventing Tick Bites

1. Know where to expect ticks - Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, or even on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. Many people get ticks in their own yard or neighborhood.

2. Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing, and camping gear and remain protective through several washings. Alternatively, you can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear.

3. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. EPA's helpful search tool can help you find the product that best suits your needs. Always follow product instructions. Do not use products containing OLE or PMD on children under three years of age.

4. Avoid contacts with ticks. Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter and walk in the center of trails.

After You Come Indoors

1. Check your clothing for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least ten minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended. Cold and medium temperature water will not kill ticks.

2. Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later. So carefully examine pets, coats, and day packs.

3. Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tick-borne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks and it is a good opportunity to do a tick check.

4. Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Conduct a full body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, including your own backyard. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body, and check these parts of your body and your child's body for ticks: under your arms, in and around your ears, inside belly button, back of knees, in and around the hair, and between the legs.

Each year state and local health departments report cases of Lyme disease to CDC through a passive reporting system, the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. This system provides vital, detailed information for monitoring the geographic, seasonal and demographic features of Lyme disease in the United States. However, because it is a passive system that relies on busy health care pro-

vides to submit records, many cases do not get reported. Having said that, if you think you or your child has gotten bit a by tick go to your doctor (preferably a Lyme Literate Doctor (LLD) immediately and demand a blood test and to be put on antibiotics. Do not wait for the blood test come back, that may be too late. Remember when it comes to Lyme disease "TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE".

For the last year raising funds and receiving donations has been slow at best and none at worst. If you or your club can see a way to make a donation to the Lyme Foundation or purchase a Brittany Fellowship, one of our Emerald Awards, or a Joseph Michael West Fellowship, please do, as this is the only way we receive funds.

We need the funds to help pay for the treatment and/or medication of a child with Chronic Lyme Disease.

Rose Marie and I want to say "Thank You" to the most generous people that we know, and belong to the greatest community service organization in the world, Kiwanis.

On a lighter note, mark your calendars. The new date for the Lyme Gala is December 5, 2021, at the Floral Terrace, 250 Jericho Turnpike in Floral Park. If you have any questions about the gala please feel free to call Distinguished Past Governor Joe Aiello, who is the chairman of the Gala, or any board member. Rose Marie and I and all the board members look forward to seeing you there.

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

District
Historian

PIP Tom
DeJulio



Having just celebrated "Women's History Month", this may be a good time to look back on the historic 1987 "amendment to the amendment" that dramatically and beneficially changed the history of Kiwanis.

Members know that Kiwanis began in January 1915 in the context of a fraternal and business-oriented society when few if any raised questions about the gender of club members. But how many of us knew that the provision restricting membership to males only was not codified until almost a decade later in the organization's newly adopted Constitution and Bylaws?

One can speculate that the Women's Suffrage Movement, a movement that had its greatest strength in New York State, influenced Kiwanis leaders to spell out, specifically, restrictions on membership in local clubs. In New York State in 1925, there were well over two dozen Kiwanis clubs with all male members - a rather potent voting block at upcoming national conventions able to protect the status quo.

Fifty years later, in response to the Women's Rights Movement of the sixties and seventies, almost every Kiwanis International convention had an amendment presented in its House of Delegates to admit women to full membership. In 1976, there was even a proposal to grant women "honorary membership" which many viewed as a hollow attempt to "get

a foot in the door for change" or worse, a demonstrable lack of courage to "do the right thing" immediately. For opposite reasons, honorary membership status had the effect of uniting both adversaries and proponents of female membership.

Angered by what soon became a "cause celebre", delegates at ensuing Kiwanis International conventions engaged in heated debates over amendments, and amendments to amended amendments, that failed repeatedly to reach the necessary two-thirds vote for passage. This forced defiant clubs to take bold new steps to admit women.

One such New York club was the Kiwanis Club of Great Neck, but as long as Kiwanis International continued to threaten charter revocation, defiant clubs faced the Hobson's choice between submission, camouflaging the names of women listed on their membership rosters, or initiating legal action.

In 1985, legal action was taken by one woman, Marcia Baer, representing the Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Via a television broadcast, Baer announced she was bringing a lawsuit against Kiwanis International to strike down the bylaw provision restricting club membership to men only. Other lawsuits followed, including those filed against Rotary and Lions International.

With the mounting expense of litigation and negative publicity, not to mention prolonged and divisive battles at local club board meetings, the "amendment as amended" to allow women to become full-fledged members in "all Kiwanis clubs throughout the world" was finally passed. It gained the necessary two-thirds majority vote at the 1987 Kiwanis International convention in Washington, DC. Was it providential that an unusually large

Kiwanis History Trivia:

There are presently 26 active New York District Kiwanis Clubs that were chartered between 1915 and 1925. More than half are currently led by women serving as club presidents and secretaries.

crowd of news reporters were on site to hear the convention's speaker, President Ronald Reagan, as well as to announce the consequential vote in the House of Delegates?

Within the following two years, more than 10,000 women were officially enrolled as Kiwanians, including many Kiwanis spouses who for years were already doing the "heavy lifting" in their local Kiwanis clubs. Far more important than any revenue-raising membership gain, the admission of women prompted Kiwanis leaders to develop a more focused and consistent "major emphasis" program, one which to this day, brands Kiwanis distinctively as the leading service organization "Serving the Children of the World."

In the next edition of this column, we will review how Circle K and Key Club overcame Kiwanis resistance to become co-ed organizations, recalling courageous and lesser known efforts made by several New Yorkers in the early 1970's.

Kiwanians of the Year Honored

Sharon Finkle-Kleps, president of Kiwanis Club of the Central Adirondacks announces the recognition of club members Carmen Mastroianni and Robert Teesdale as Co-Kiwanians of the Year for Program Year October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Over several years Carmen Mastroianni and Bob Teesdale have been Kiwanis representatives and Board Members of the Kommunity Youth Activity Center (KYAC) in Old Forge.

Carmen, a Kiwanis member since 2012, and Bob, a member since 2010, have devoted many hours to the organization and management of KYAC. Improvements in the facility and financial condition of the organization have been just a small part of their contribution to the children of their Central Adirondacks.

Public Supports East Meadow Food Drive

The Kiwanis Club of East Meadow held a food drive outside of the ShopRite in Uniondale. Seven truckloads of non-perishable food and 54 gift cards were collected for local pantries with monetary donations amounting to \$545.

The beneficiaries of the food drive were pantries ran by St. Raphael Parish in East Meadow, Saint Martha's Roman Catholic Church in Uniondale, St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Westbury, the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency located in Nassau University Medical Center and East Meadow Beth-El Jewish Center.

"The generosity was unbelievable," said Catherine Razzano. "They realize the last thing you ever want is for people to be hungry and not be able to feed their families. It takes a village and this village really came out today and yesterday."

Approximately 50 Kiwanians supported the cause.

"People are really generous in general," Razzano said. "It restores your faith in humanity when you see the generosity in the community."

"[The pantries] were so very grateful," said club President Lisa Hallett.

"We really found that during this whole time of the pandemic that people's hearts are open and are searching for some way to help, and this is one example," said Deacon Darrell Buono of St. Brigid's food pantry. "We're so grateful because the numbers of people coming to the pantry have really more than doubled."

Easter Baskets

Welcomed

Kiwanis family club members delivered Easter/holiday baskets to the children of St Christopher Otille Robert McMahon Children's Home in Sea Cliff on March 29.

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore partnered with the Key Club, Builders Club, and the United Methodist Church. The 80 themed baskets were filled with coloring books, crayons, pencils, plush toys and approved chocolate candy.

"It was such a fun morning with every child and young person receiving a basket including the families visiting that day also received a basket to take home to a sibling," said Amy Gunter of the center.

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore was the first group to visit St Christopher's in a year.



Mohawk Valley Central Gets Charter

The Kiwanis Club of Mohawk Valley Central had its charter night on March 6, in conjunction with the Central Division's Governor's Visit. Frankfort is the sponsoring club. From left, Secretary Carla Ingram, Eric Larsen, Lt. Gov. Greg Riddle, President Carolyn Trimbach, Treasurer Katie Congdon, Scott Pizer, Devin McDonald, Gov. Brenda Johnson, Peter Johnson, and Distinguished Past Gov. Joe Eppolito.

Immediate
Past Gov.

Joseph
Ruggiero



We had a great mid-winter. As well as we could have. The boards of my year and this year were invited. Many chose

Empire State Kiwanian
Page 8

to attend in person and those who stayed home were able to attend virtually. The event was also open to the entire district. I was happy to see many Kiwanians attending.

It was an honor to serve as governor for the previous year. Although we were cut short, I think we rebounded quickly. Many clubs found out how to have Zoom meetings and learned how to think outside of the box for their fundraisers. It kept us connected and allowed us to continue to serve our communities. It was one year ago that our lives were turned upside down but

we are looking forward to continued success.

I am very proud of all my lieutenant governors. They continued to strive to tackle the difficult task that was ahead of them. Also, I am proud of all Kiwanians that continued to serve through this ordeal.

I was happy to acknowledge certain lieutenant governors who made an extra effort to serve and two lieutenant governors who performed at a very high level.

Please stay safe and let's all hope we can return to normal very soon.

Finger Lakes Clubs Provide Child with Special Bike

Recently at a fundraising event for both the Honeoye Falls-Mendon and Geneva Kiwanis clubs, the club members became acquainted with Justin Hilimire, who shared that his 12-year-old son Patton has four disabilities and could no longer ride his bike, and what heartbroken over the prospect that he may never be able to do so again.

Knowing that many of the Kiwanis Clubs in the Finger Lakes Division have used Ace Automatics to provide their Chicken BBQ, the members of Kiwanis Club of Honeoye Falls-Mendon took this challenge on as a project to provide a new bike specially designed for Patton. With the help of the Finger Lakes Division clubs, the Kiwanis Club of Honeoye Falls-Mendon worked diligently to fulfill Patton's dream of riding a bike once again.

Patton Hilimire and his father Justin were overjoyed when the bicycle specifically designed for Patton's disabilities was delivered just after Christmas. The Kiwanis Club of Honeoye Falls-Mendon would like to thank the other Clubs in the Finger Lakes Division: Farmington-Victor, Canandaigua, Geneva, Webster, Seneca Fall-Waterloo, and Penfield-Perinton for their help on this project.



Kamp Gets \$10,000 Donation

Past Governor Forbes Irvine (right) and Past District Finance Chair Jack DeSantis (center) present District Foundation President Sal Anelli with a check for \$10,000 earmarked for the refurbishment of the infirmary at Kamp Kiwanis. The money was donated by the Callahan-Pierog Family Foundation

Monticello Feeds Vaccination Workers

On March 24, the Monticello Kiwanis Club, in conjunction with the Miss Monticello Diner, delivered 60 lunches to the SUNY Sullivan Paul Gerry Fieldhouse to say thank you to the Sullivan County Public Health Services professional staff and volunteers who were administering Covid-19 vaccines.

Public Health Director Nancy McGraw stated that the salads were truly appreci-

ated.

The Monticello Diner co-sponsored the meals in memory of Stavros "Papou" Niforatos, late owner of the Blue Horizon Diner.

During February, the Monticello Kiwanis Club delivered lunches to the nursing staff and volunteers administering vaccines at the Public Health Nursing location in Liberty.

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