

# Empire State Kiwaniian

New York

July 2021, Volume 20-21, Issue 4

New York District, Kiwanis International



## Mancuso's Election as KI President Confirmed

On June 26 the Kiwanis International Council confirmed the election of New Yorker Peter J. Mancuso as president of Kiwanis International for 2021-22.

Mancuso, by rule the only candidate standing for the seat, is a member of the East Meadow club and a distinguished past governor of the New York District. He will take office Oct. 1.

Mancuso was nominated by New York Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson.

The council session took place during the Kiwanis International Leadership and Education Conference in Salt Lake City. The conference was conducted in place of the annual Kiwanis International Convention due to the pandemic.

The council also confirmed the election of Bert West of the Rocky Mountain District as president-elect for the coming year.

Five candidates stood for the office of vice president. The winner was Katrina J. Baranko of the Georgia District.

The International Council, which con-



sists of the KI Board of Trustees, officers, past international presidents, district governors and leaders of the affiliated or-

ganizations, met as a result of the pandemic, replacing the usual House of Delegates.

Convention  
Chair

Alison  
Mandel



REGISTRATION IS OPEN for District Convention coming up on August 13-15 in Binghamton.

Binghamton is known as Carousel Capital of the World, as it houses six of the remaining antique carousels. Two are within city limits, one at Recreation Park and another at the Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park as well as being known for their famous chicken or pork "Spiedies".

Please mark your calendars to attend as I know that everyone is anxious for an in-person convention (of course, adhering to CDC guidelines) and we are planning to have a large turnout! Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson has worked very hard this crazy year to offer many virtual district wide

calls to keep us all informed on different Kiwanis topics and they have had impressive turnouts, but I think we all are suffering from ZOOM burnout so now is the time to come together to celebrate Gov. Brenda Leigh and her class of lieutenant governors.

<https://www.kiwanis-ny.org/dc2021/>  
Past Governor Patrick Cooney will be the Convention Honoree. On Friday, we are planning to offer a large group workshop in the morning with a professional speaker from Dale Carnegie, the Veterans Luncheon and the Foundation Annual Meeting in the afternoon which is open to all members. Friday night's opening session will have a keynote speaker, Winn Claybaugh, his presentation is entitled BE NICE LEADERSHIP.

On Saturday there will be some new and exciting workshops both on Kiwanis and non-Kiwanis topics (list of workshops is on the website) and Saturday we will have the House of Delegates and the Governor's Gala Reception and Dinner.

We will be streaming a few of the workshops and recording a few more but we

really encourage you to attend in person if possible.

Those attending in person will vote to fill 7 open seats on the Foundation Board and/or in the House of Delegates for the governor and governor elect. There will be no remote voting. All district Kiwanians can vote in the Foundation Annual Meeting; each club is entitled to 3 delegates for the House of Delegates.

Outside of the hotel there are quite a few restaurants in Downtown Binghamton and if you are a baseball fan the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, the Double A affiliate of the New York Mets will be in town and the stadium is not far from the hotel.

If you would like to place an ad in the convention journal (form is on the website) to recognize Convention Honoree Pat Cooney, Gov. Brenda Leigh and Peter on a great year and or Gov.-Elect Jim Mancuso and Susie on a successful upcoming year please send it to me by July 23.

Hope to see you all in Binghamton August 13.

# Chester K Kids

## Plant Trees

On April 28 the Chester Elementary School K Kids Club celebrated Arbor Day by planting a Prairie Fire Flowering Crab Apple Tree at the Chester Elementary School Memorial Garden.

K Kids members helping were Andrew Grassi, Ariel Lopez, Tessa Moccio, Liam Peterman, Joseph Veltri, and Connor Wood. The K-Kids Club was also joined by Principal Cathleen O'Hara.

The club would like to thank Mrs. Toni Keglovitz, K-Kids Advisor, the Chester School District Buildings and Grounds Department, and Kiwanis Club K-Kids advisors EJ Szulwach and Georgina Robillard who were accompanied by Jane and Larry Dysinger who assisted with planting of the tree. All of the students got to participate in filling the hole and making sure the ground was properly watered and mulched.

Over the course of this year, the Chester Elementary School K-Kids Club have been learning about the environment and the value of recycling and taking care of the Earth. In the upcoming weeks, the K-Kids and Ms. Keglovitz will continue to water and care for the tree. They continue to collect bottles and cans for recycling. The proceeds of these collections go to the Kiwanis International Eliminate Program, which is serving to eliminate Neo-natal tetanus throughout the world.

### New Email Address

District Treasurer Michael Wayne has a new e-mail address: [treasurer@kiwanis-ny.org](mailto:treasurer@kiwanis-ny.org). Please direct all correspondence to the new address.



**The Empire State  
Kiwanian**

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Martin Toombs  
84 Bridge St.  
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[webmaster@kiwanis-ny.org](mailto:webmaster@kiwanis-ny.org)

Round  
Robin

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Noreen  
Barrett



Let's get patches for your banner! Clubs are starting to meet in person. But if your club doesn't feel comfortable doing that yet that is fine. You can still count zoom meetings as an interclub. Clubs have also

done fund raisers on line. Well, that counts as an interclub too.

This is what you need to qualify for a patch. Members visit each club in their division either zoom or in person once during the year. A Kiwanis Club of 30 or more members needs to have 4 members present. If the Club has 20-29 members, they need 3 members attending. If the Club has fewer than 20 members, they need 2 members attending.

Get the form on line at the District website or email me and I'll send you the form. My email address is: [lgnbarrett3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lgnbarrett3@nycap.rr.com)

### 2020-21 Events

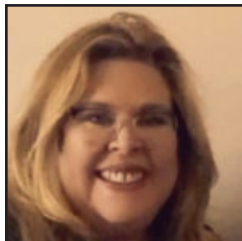
**Aug.13-15, 2021:**

New York District Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Binghamton

*Check the district web site for the latest information.*

Governor

Brenda Leigh Johnson



While out at the Kiwanis International Education & Leadership Education Conference, a woman came up to me after the workshop I conducted and said, "You are from New York, right?"

I said and I was, with tears in her eyes, and a trembling voice, she said, "thank you, thank you for helping my cousin, thank you".

The woman was a Kiwanian from the Southwest District. She had moved to Arizona shortly after the COVID 19 pandemic hit and was from New York originally. Her cousin, between the winter storms and COVID, had become a shut in, unable to get the store for groceries or clear her walkway.

The district office had received an email asking for someone to check in on this woman's cousin. As soon as the email was received, the office forwarded it to the Rosedale-Laurelton club in the

Queens East division where this woman's cousin lived. The next day, The Rosedale/Laurelton Kiwanis Club had not only shoveled her walk but brought her a weeks' worth of groceries. As I listened to the woman from the Southwest District describe the relief that she felt knowing that her cousin was now being looked in on, I found I too had tears in my eyes.

This is just one of so many stories of compassion and kindness that Kiwanians do every day. They do service when others cannot, they fill the void in peoples' lives, and they do it not for a reward, or any recognition. They do it because they know it's the right thing to do.

I am grateful for the Rosedale-Laurelton club for stepping up and doing it quickly. They made a difference in someone's life.

Service is an a never-ending journey that keeps us motivated to continue to do good works for our communities. To continue to do service we need to add members to our clubs. Invite your friends to a meeting, host a meet and greet. Explain your "why" for joining Kiwanis. Be enthusiastic, show your love of Kiwanis, ask people to join.

We have all been craving the company

**"with tears in her eyes, and a trembling voice, she said, "thank you, thank you for helping my cousin, thank you".**

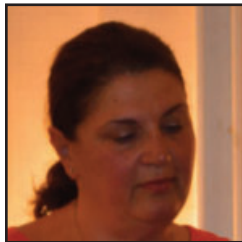
of other Kiwanians, what a great opportunity to see each other with our upcoming District convention. It will be in Binghamton. Our opening session will take place on Friday Aug. 13, at the Doubletree Hotel. We will continue to have both in-person and virtual attendance. We are celebrating our honoree, Distinguished Past Gov. Pat Cooney!

Registration is open. Don't delay, register today before the fees go up! <https://www.kiwanis-ny.org/dc2021/>

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

Children's Fund

Helene Irvine



On behalf of Kiwanis International and the New York District, I would like to thank you for your dedication and perseverance thru these trying times.

For those who aren't sure this is a brief overview of the Kiwanis Children's Fund. As always the purpose of the Children's Fund is to serve the children of the world as well as those in our communities. We do this by raising funds and supporting Kiwanis initiatives. Supporting the causes

that are important to Kiwanis such as:

1. Service Leadership projects
2. Club and District signature projects
3. Disaster Relief (our Governor's project)
4. Eliminate Project
5. Iodine Deficiency Disorders

The Children's Fund can and will assist you also in

1. Applying for Grants
2. Managing a Foundation
3. Assist with fund raising and club membership

Clubs can apply for grants as many times as they want. As long as your club is in good standing (your dues are paid). The Children's Fund approves applications based on their merit. The club or individual applying giving history is not taken into account.

We all remember what lead us to Kiwanis. The children in our communities as

well as those around the world. We can continue to help our kids by contributing to the Children's Fund. There are different ways to contribute from club or individual donations, yearly or monthly, to shopping or donating your car. Look up our web page. It is very easy to follow.

Due to the pandemic we as well as everyone felt the financial crunch. Grant money was lowered across the globe. In 2019-20 the New York District was able to receive a \$10,000 grant based on individual giving average of New York Kiwanians. Happily we were able to award ten \$1,000 scholarships as a result.

So remember, we don't just ask for your donation we happily return it for worthwhile projects. We are a source of information and assistance. Don't hesitate to seek us out. We are there for you and the children.

## Park Cleaned to Mark Earth Day

Earth Day, an annual global event, observed on April 22, celebrates the environmental movement and raises awareness about pollution and ways to maintain a clean habitat.

On May 1, the Kiwanis clubs of Douglaston and Big Apple joined together to clean up Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Members cleaned the lawn, where much debris is left by the public. After learning how to clean a large area in the park, our members appreciate the hard

work done by the park employees each day.

The park coordinator wanted us to interact with the park goers by distributing the orange bags to them and encouraging them to keep the park clean and join the park volunteer program.

"We love our volunteers, our park needs more volunteers to help with our everyday tasks." said Cassandra Hickson, volunteer coordinator. Each volunteer is rewarded with a special edition earth day t-shirt and an earth pin.

## Clubs Clean Garden

More than a dozen Fordham Kiwanians and Fordham Circle K members assisted future Builders Club members at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in the Bronx clean up their school grounds and flower garden. This was the first joint project undertaken in person since the start of the pandemic.

Legal  
Counsel

Martin  
Valk



At August 14, 2021's meeting of the House of Delegates, two proposed bylaw changes will be introduced for consideration, debate and vote. The District Board recommends that the delegates vote to adopt the proposed changes.

The first proposed bylaw change seeks to eliminate the new member add fee in favor of a pro-rated dues structure. Kiwanis International ("KI") currently requires Districts to delete the new member add fee from their respective fee structures, to be replaced by pro-rata District dues for new members. New York District Bylaws require an amendment to effectuate this change. Additionally, KI will permit the continued waiver of pro-rata dues for former SLP members.

Accordingly, the District Board proposes that Article X Section 2 of its bylaws be amended to state "Prorated district dues shall be charged for each new member of a club on the same prorated schedule used by Kiwanis International. Prorated district dues are waived for any new member who was a former member of a Kiwanis International service leadership program. Prorated district dues are also waived for former military personnel as defined in Article X Section 4."

Article X Section 4 would relieve a Kiwanis Club of the obligation to pay District dues for a club member for a period of two (2) full administrative years from the date of joining the club, provided the proposed member was a member of a Kiwanis International Service Leadership Program or is an active, retired or honorably discharged member of New York State or US military services.

The second proposed bylaw change seeks to add title of "Executive Director" to the position of District Secretary. Many Districts have acknowledged that the position is in line with a not for profit's office of executive director. KI made this change in its office structure several years ago. The District Bylaws contain nineteen (19) separate references to the position of District Secretary. The District Board requests that all of these references be changed to the term "Executive Director" where they occur. Thus, the language of Articles III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX and XIII would be changed to delete the term "District Secretary" or "Secretary", where such term refers to the District Secretary, to be replaced by "Executive Director".

# Candidate for Governor: James Mancuso

The sole candidate for Governor for 2021-22 will be Gov.-Elect James Mancuso.

A member of the East Meadow club and a past lieutenant governor of the Long Island South Central Division, Mancuso is in line to serve as district governor at the same time as his brother Peter Mancuso, will serve as president of Kiwanis International.

Mancuso has been involved in several Kiwanis efforts, including membership, chairing New York District's committees for Youth Protection, Kiwanis Children's Fund and International Leadership. His role on the International Leadership Committee included managing his brother's successful cam-



paign to be elected International Vice-President.

He's also with MADD to curtail drunk driving. His professional experience as a technology executive, now with IBM.

## Tentative Convention Schedule

### Thursday, Aug. 12

2020-21 Board Meeting .....	1-5 p.m.
Registration, Credentials and Exhibits .....	2-6 p.m.
Basket Raffles .....	2-6 p.m.
2020-21 Board Dinner (Invitation required) .....	7:30-9 p.m.

### Friday, Aug. 13

Past Governors Breakfast and Council (\$) .....	7:30-9 a.m.
Registration, Credentials and Exhibits .....	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Basket Raffles .....	9-5 p.m.
Dale Carnegie Large Group Workshop.....	9-10:30 a.m.
Veteran's Luncheon (\$) .....	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
District Foundation Annual Meeting and Elections .....	1-4 p.m.
District Foundation Board Reorganization Meeting .....	4-4:30 p.m.
Member Reception .....	4:30-5 p.m.
Past Governors' Boards Reunion Dinners .....	5:30-7:30 p.m.
Opening Session .....	8-10 p.m.
Hospitality Rooms .....	10 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 14

Foundations Recognition Breakfast (\$) .....	7:30-9 a.m.
Basket Raffles .....	9 a.m.-Noon
Registration, Credentials and Exhibits .....	8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Forums .....	9-11:50 a.m.
Past Lt. Governors Council .....	10:55-11:40 a.m.
Gov.-Elect Candidates' Q & A .....	Noon-12:30 p.m.
Lunch on Your Own .....	Noon-1 p.m.
Division Caucuses .....	1-2:15 p.m.
House of Delegates .....	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Gala Governor's Reception (with Dinner Ticket).....	6-7 p.m.
Governor's Toast (by invitation).....	6:45 p.m.
Governor's Celebration Dinner (\$) .....	7 p.m.

### Sunday, Aug. 15

Memorial Breakfast (\$) .....	8-9:30 a.m.
Installation of 2021-22 Officers .....	10-11:30 a.m.
2021-22 Board Luncheon (by invitation) .....	Noon-2 p.m.

See the District Web Site, [www.kiwanis-ny.org](http://www.kiwanis-ny.org), for the latest schedule.

# Candidate for Gov.-Elect: Joel Harris

Kids need Kiwanis and it's my goal to live this simple phrase to let other people see what we're doing so they too, will want to be part of our Kiwanis family.

2020 was quite a year, but we continued to show the world that nothing stops Kiwanians from helping our communities and children. Why? What makes us have this drive to keep us moving forward and pivoting when necessary, to continue our service. Kiwanis is in our blood; it is a part of us. We all want to help, and Kiwanis lets us channel that need. One of our members once said that Kiwanis is a verb, and it is, it's what we do, we serve, we help, we provide support, and we do it with a smile and burning desire to continue to serve.

I declared my candidacy with the express idea of working with our New York District to help it continue to move forward with its service projects, SLPs and doing everything necessary to help our district grow its membership. What drove me to this decision? It's simple, I want to do more to help our district be the lighthouse district that other districts admire. As a leader, I realize that my job is to help create and nurture new leaders. I want to hear all the great things that you do and help guide our teams so we can achieve even more.

One positive thing that COVID gave us was a new medium to communicate. If we



can't have an in-person meeting, we now have the option to go virtually. We can be anywhere at any time from the convenience of our own homes. While this is a good thing, we must constantly remind ourselves that we are a people organization and personal contact is the most important thing we can do. I am looking forward to visiting your in-person gatherings.

I am confident that my business careers in accounting and banking gave me a solid platform to plan and execute a team's ideas. After leaving the accounting and banking industry, I managed pension plans in the private sector. From there, I spent three years with the Leukemia and

Lymphoma Society to reinforce my fund raising and team building skills. Finally, I work part-time in local government where I am part of a team that has more than 220,000 constituents. The goal here is to be efficient and cognizant of the needs of the people. I am the immediate past president of my local Chamber of Commerce and the treasurer of the Nassau Council of Chambers, the umbrella organization guiding the local chapters in Nassau County. I also own my own photography business.

My commitment remains with our New York District. As the Public Relations Coordinator for the last five years, I have worked closely with our governors and will continue to work with our clubs and divisions to help them maximize the publicity of the impact of their projects. As a photographer, I am proud to conduct forums at our Kiwanis district and international conventions to help members properly use their cameras to capture the best images of their projects and club members.

I hope that you will support me to achieve this new role. I look forward to visiting your clubs and divisions in-person or virtually to talk about my initiatives, and your needs. You can reach me by phone at 516-319-4465 or e-mail joelh54@gmail.com. I am always available to you.

## Past Lieutenant Governors' Council Formed To Serve

By Ed "Woody" Ryder

In the 1999-2000 Administrative year, a discussion was begun at that year's Mid-Winter Conference about creating an advisory body to aid the New York District, while itself engaging in one or more service projects each administrative year that would benefit the children of the district who need some form of assistance. The Council was envisioned as a "farm team" for the then-sitting and subsequent District boards and Governors.

Membership is open to all past lieutenant governors who served in the district. The council meets twice per year,

at the Mid-Winter Conference and at the District Convention. Officers are elected annually at the Mid-Winter Conference and they take office the following Oct. 1.

The Council is supported financially by voluntary annual dues of \$10 paid by any past lieutenant governor who wishes to be a member. Potential projects, either a financial donation or provision of volunteer labor, may be proposed by anyone. Projects will be discussed at the Mid-Winter meeting, and one or more projects may be adopted. A vote of the Council will determine the project(s) to be undertaken.

The elected officers of the Council are

President, Vice President, Secretary, and a Treasurer. Other committees may be appointed for specific purposes.

Among other project, the Council has underwritten disaster relief appropriations and donations to further the efforts of other District entities, such as was done at the virtual April 3, 2021, meeting where donations were made to the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation, as well as the District Foundation.

Past lieutenant governors are asked to provide their current e-mail addresses to Council Secretary DPLG Noreen Barrett at her e-mail address, LGNBARRET3@nycap.rr.com.

## Monticello Delivers Books to Second Graders

The Kiwanis Club of Monticello recently delivered chapter books to the 13 second grade classes at the George L. Cooke Elementary School in Monticello.

The books were selected by Kiwanian Doris Motl, who is a retired 4th grade teacher. Accompanying her to the classrooms was Jane Sorensen, who is a Kiwanis member as well as Family

Engagement Program Manager for EPIC (Every Person Influences Children). Some classrooms had students in the room and others had students on zoom.

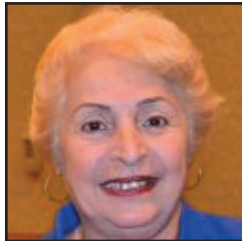
Teacher Ms. Barbara Bitjeman stated "A big thank you to Kiwanis Club for their continued tradition of bringing new chapter books to our Second Graders. It is such an important and endearing gift to

enhance the joys of reading".

The students were very courteous and expressed their appreciation for the gift of reading material and they were especially thrilled that they were chapter books.

K Kids

Mickey  
Leamey



Hello K Kids advisor and supporters.

Did you know that in just a few short weeks the 2021-22 school year will start? Use this time wisely and start your planning now for the new school year. Here are some tips to help you get started.

1. Make sure your K Kids Clubs have a Kiwanis Advisor listed on your club's Kiwanis Portal and that advisor's background check status is up to date.

2. Set up a meeting between your school administration, your faculty advisor, your Kiwanis advisor, and your club liaison to your school district. Now is the time to reconnect and set your goals for the new year. Request they connect with school administration and faculty advisor. This is the year to meet with your school administration. Know what to expect about

school extracurricular activities. Ask how we can better support you?

3. Make every effort to welcome back your K Kids at the start of the year. Make those first few meetings special. Show them that you care. Bring some of your fellow members to meetings.

4. Consider purchasing water bottles with K Kids logos that are available from the Kiwanis Store to give out to members. The bottles are a great marketing tool and students need them for school. This is a great way to show that you care.

5. Set up a meeting at your Kiwanis Club where you honor your Service and Leadership Program Leaders. Have them speak as part of the program and thank our teachers and administrators for all their hard work.

6. Look in your inbox for materials from Kiwanis International. KI is preparing a special Homecoming 2021 theme to start the new year. There will be material provided that will help you pitch for new members, parents, and administrators to buy into the K Kids Experience. You can register to be a part of this program at [https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/ki-](https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/kiwanis_youth_program_back_to_school_back_to_servie)

[wanis\\_youth\\_program\\_back\\_to\\_school\\_back\\_to\\_servie](https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/kiwanis_youth_program_back_to_school_back_to_servie)

7. Meeting kits with sample agendas are a great way to get your planning started. These meeting kits are available at the K Kids website and can be customized to your liking.

8. Remember to use the IDEA toolkits found on the K Kids website. The tools are written for club officers and guides members to plan a service project through their choosing.

I – Identify the Need and choose a project.

D – Develop the passion

E - Execute the project

A – Advance the impact

9. Please make sure your club pays your invoice to Kiwanis International by Dec. 1.

I look forward to the amazing work that our K Kids program brings to our schools and communities. Remember that Kids Need Kiwanis. Our K Kids program is the entry point to our Service and Leadership Program. Future leaders start here. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or I can be of help in any way.

Pediatric  
Lyme Disease

DPG John  
Gridley



Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread by the bite of an infected black legged tick.

Lyme disease can affect the skin, joints, nervous system and/or heart. When detected early, Lyme disease can usually be treated with antibiotics. If left untreated, it can result in serious health problems.

The type of tick responsible for spreading Lyme disease in New York is the black legged tick. Not all ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease; they become infected after feeding on an infected animal, such as mice or other small mammals. You cannot get Lyme disease from another person or an infected animal. Transmission times for Lyme and other tick-borne diseases vary, and the sooner a tick is removed the lower the risk of infection. It is important to always check for ticks after spending time outdoors. Black legged tick nymphs are the size of a poppy seed and adult ticks are the size of a sesame seed. Both can transmit Lyme, as well as other tick-borne disease.

Transmission time is a current topic of debate, but some pathogens are transmitted in minutes, while others hours. As I al-

ways say, err on the side of caution; the sooner the better.

Most tick encounters occur from April through November. Their preferred habitats are wooded areas and adjacent grasslands.

Lyme disease is often hard to diagnose because the symptoms are usually non-specific (fever, fatigue) and similar to those of other common illnesses. Symptoms may occur shortly after being bitten by a tick, but may be so mild that they often go unnoticed. Some people notice a rash after experiencing a tick bite, but many do not. Many tick-borne microbes also cause disease symptoms of varying severity. Babesia is a parasite that causes headaches, recurring fevers, and anemia. Symptoms of Anaplasma include fever and extreme fatigue. Powassan is a virus that can cause encephalitis in a small subset of those infected. These diseases can be life threatening.

What you should look for are flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, and swollen glands, particularly during times like summer, when colds and flu are uncommon. Severe symptoms such as heart arrhythmias/chest pain or meningitis can also occur. High fever and profound fatigue may accompany infections caused by other tick-borne microbes. If a rash at the site of a tick bite is observed, it may appear as a solid, expanding red rash. It may look like a bulls eye, or it may take other forms. If your child, grandchild, or neighbors' child gets bit by a tick, go to the doctor immediately and ask your doctor to put the child on antibiotics and to take a blood test. Time is of the essence.

On another note, we have stopped issuing new grants for the time being. Due to the pandemic, donations have stopped or almost stopped, forcing us to tap our reserve funds to pay the grants we have already issued. Please help us to build up our reserve funds so we can once again issue grants to the children on our waiting list to help pay for their treatment and/or medication. Please, please consider making an outright donation to the Lyme Foundation, or by purchasing a Brittany Fellowship, Emerald and/or Diamond Brittany, or by joining the Joseph Michael Wuest Fellowship. Thank you all for your support in the past and I look forward to your support in the future Children need Kiwanis.

The 25 Anniversary Gala is set to go on Dec. 5. Hope to see you all there.

## Middletown's 18th Annual Golf Outing was June 7

The Kiwanis Club of Middletown hosted its 18th annual charity golf outing on June 7 at the Town of Wallkill Golf Club.

Principal sponsors were Johnston's Toyota, Garnet Health Center, Zick Whitted Taub Group, State Senator Michael Martucci, and Kiwanis's own past President Chuck Krogslund.

In spite of the impact of Covid-19 and the extremely hot weather golfers were very supportive of our mission. Perhaps they felt happy to get out and do something they all enjoyed. All 63 golfers had breakfast and lunch at the club in addition to winning great raffle prizes.



Susan McClernon



Greg Faulkner



Craig Melvin, left,  
and DeJulio



George Latimer



Renee Wetstein

District  
Historian

PIP Tom  
DeJulio



In my last ESK column, I reported on the history (or should I say herstory) on how women were ultimately admitted to Kiwanis membership, precipitated by the legal action taken by one woman, Marcia Baer, representing the Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood New Jersey in 1985.

Fourteen years earlier in 1971, the admission of women in the all-male Circle K organization was also precipitated by the courageous actions of a few Circle K leaders and the delegates to the Circle K International convention who voted in favor of the change.

However, that "radical" change to the Circle K organization was met with resistance from Kiwanis International which retained "veto power" over any changes made to Circle K governing documents. Although Circle K's origins as a fraternity house at Washington State College in the

1930's was abandoned in the late 1940's at Carthage College in Illinois, the embedded roots in this all-male organization survived. By 1955, Kiwanis International had sponsored as many as 150 Circle K clubs in the United States and adopted the three tenets of Service, Leadership, and Fellowship (with the understanding, of course, that fellowship still meant male only).

It took two years of debate and one bold move on the part of Circle K leaders in 1973 to convince the Kiwanis International board to approve the admission of women.

Unlike the legal action brought by a woman against Kiwanis in 1985, the change happened only after leaders on the Circle K Board, among them a co-founder of the newly chartered Circle K Club at Fordham University in the Bronx, threatened to end their relationship with Kiwanis and join Rotary.

On Feb. 6, 1973, Kiwanis International approved the change in Circle K's governing documents to become the first co-ed organization in the Kiwanis Family.

The progressive actions by Circle K leaders in the early 1970's was followed by the election of Fordham's George Latimer as 1973-74 Circle K International

President and Baruch College's Greg Faulkner (currently Assistant New York District CKI Administrator), as the first African-American to serve in the position of Circle K International President in 1975-76.

New York leadership at the highest levels of Circle K also influenced the change that followed in 1977 allowing women to join Key Clubs. Among the first females elected to the Key Club International Board was Renee Wetstein, now a Family Law attorney, who was a member of Spring Valley's Ramapo High School between 1977-81.

In 1984, Susan McClernon, now an innovative health care leader from Minnesota, became the first female elected President of Circle K International. In 1996, Broadcast Journalist, author, and Today Show co-host Craig Melvin from South Carolina was elected as the first African-American President of Key Club International.

Making change takes both courage and wisdom. New York Kiwanians are proud to know that members of its New York Kiwanis Family displayed the necessary courage and wisdom a half century ago that brought more diversity and inclusion into our organization's leadership ranks.

## Circle K Leaders Recount Salt Lake City Conference

By **Haleigh Gaston, NY Circle K District Secretary**  
and **Chelsea Shuren, NY Circle K District Governor**

Some of our New York Circle K members have had the opportunity to attend the Education and Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The conference was in place of the annual international events that Kiwanis International and Circle K International hold. At this conference, members from Kiwanis and Circle K from across the world were able to come together for an outstanding experience.

From New York, we had many Kiwanians and Circle K's attend and receive honors. Chelsea Shuren received the Distinguished District Secretary Award, Haleigh Gaston received the Distinguished District Chairperson Award, Jason Zhao received the Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Award, John Kee-

gan received the Distinguished District Administrator Award, and St. Lawrence University received the GEM Award for Membership Recruitment.

Two New York Circle K members were elected to the International Board of Trustees, Isabelle Wang and Tyler Kearns.

Throughout our time at the Education and Leadership Conference we had the pleasure of listening to some amazing speakers that focused on assisting and guiding children in our communities. These speakers included Captain Sully Sullenberger, who spoke about his life changing experience of landing an airplane in the Hudson River; Rachel Gianini, who spoke about the importance of play in teaching children; Kevin Carroll, who spoke about dreaming big with intention, and Ethan Zohn who spoke about his time on the reality TV show Survivor and how he implemented the rules for survival in the real world as he fought cancer and

founded a charity called Grassroot Soccer.

By going to Salt Lake City, we were able to connect with members of the Kiwanis Family across the world while all striving towards a common goal as an organization. In addition, we were able to attend workshops hosted by our own members that allowed us to develop personal friendships and learn more about the different ways in which we can best serve our community.

For the latest news, visit  
the District Web Site:  
[www.kiwanis-ny.org](http://www.kiwanis-ny.org)



## Kamp Open House

Kamp Kiwanis won't be open once more this summer due to the pandemic, but a low-key open house did take place at the kamp on May 15. At left, the incoming class of lieutenant governors in the Patchogue Cabin during their tour of the kamp. Some cleanup work took place, as did a meeting of the foundation board.



## Farmington-Victor Assists Opening of Storywalk

The ribbon cutting for the Farmington Storywalk took place on June 19 at the Farmington Town Park.

Generous gifts from the Farmington-Victor Kiwanis Club and ROC the Day donors allowed the library to bring this educational, outdoor activity to Farmington.

Installed by volunteers from Victor Hiking Trails and employees of the Town of Farmington's Highway/Parks Department, the Storywalk will allow children and adults to enjoy reading while spending time outdoors. The story, which will change periodically, is geared to both adults and children. The brightly colored laminated pages of a picture book rest on stands mounted on posts around the park, all cut to size by talented volunteer Larry Fisher.

The featured story, "Milo's Moonlight Mission", is by local author Kathleen Blasi.







Mike Wayne at Notre Dame High School



Ron Allison at 911 Dispatch Center



Tony and Mary Panetta at Fassett Elementary School

## Elmira's Project: 'Make Everyday Sweeter'

As the pandemic took hold, the Elmira Kiwanis club's board brain stormed ideas as to how to could continue to make a difference. From those sessions they came up with a pandemic year mantra, Find a Need, Fill a Need.

From that grew two ideas that impacted our community in very positive ways. First came: "Elmira Kiwanis Makes Everyday Sweeter" and the second was our focus on the local Homeless Shelter.

"Kiwanis Makes Everyday Sweeter" was an effort to let essential front-liners know that their work throughout the extremely fearful times of the pandemic was appreciated. A list of potential recipients of Kiwanis Makes Everyday Sweeter was compiled and our work began.

We visited the following:

- Several troubled youth facilities whose residents received books, art supplies, or special dinner treats to help make their days inside more tolerable.
- Faculties at 14 of our local schools

along with Administrative Offices received doughnut treats.

- Our local hospital staff was given cookies on their No-Bake Tuesday.
- Our 911 dispatchers were treated to lunches and dinners during their shifts.
- The Youth Community Center in Elmira received pizzas for an after school treat.
- Our local Economic Opportunity Program workers received ice cream vouchers at a local ice cream stand.
- A volunteer fire department was treated to pizzas on their training night.
- The bus transportation employees in our town were given cookie treats.
- Our two local TV stations were given cupcakes on St. Patrick's Day.
- Grocery store workers at a local super market were treated to cookies.
- Our local Community Kitchen was given cookies to place in their lunch bags distributed to those who come to the kitchen for lunches daily.

• Our local Health Dept. was treated to cookie treats.

• A local business that employs handicapped individuals was treated to a platter of cookies along with our local Catholic Charities offices.

At the same time, but through a different approach, our club in concert with the nearby Horseheads Kiwanis Club, set up a contribution bin at one of our member's houses and weekly donations of necessary supplies to support our local homeless shelter were collected. Kiwanians, working in collaboration with Catholic Charities of Chemung County, have donated new clothing (socks, t-shirts, sweatshirts), outerwear (hats, gloves and scarfs), toiletries and quick snack items (nutritional bars, etc.). Now that summer has arrived, the clothing and outerwear needs have shifted to seasonally appropriate items. Additionally, our club has donated 50 duffle bags for residents of the shelter to use to help transport their belongings.



The Glens Falls club recently honored Richard Trowbridge, who has served as Club President and Foundation Board Secretary, for his 50 years of service. Shown is Club Secretary Pat Van Buren, right, presenting Trowbridge with his 50 year membership pin.

### Woodridge Supports Food Pantry

A recent food drive by the Woodridge Kiwanis club will benefit the Veterans Food Pantry sponsored by the Sullivan County Veterans Coalition and the Federation for the Homeless.

The club also collected clothing and toiletry items for the Coalition and donated \$250 to them to use for the veterans of Sullivan County.