



DIVISION 39
TX-OK DISTRICT OF
KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter Date
July 6, 2006
Spirit Builders

“The Spirit of Excellence” Newsletter

Salute for Excellence

Each club secretary gets a salute for submitting the reports that reflect the excellence of your club. Your efforts help greatly in your club being recognized as a distinguished club.

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Deadlines:

- **July 10: Club Monthly & Interclub Reports due**
- **July 27: (7 pm) Division leadership meeting at Texas Star Ravens Grill**
- **August: Visit HS and start Key Clubs**
- **August 10: Club Monthly & Interclub Reports due**
- **August 16-21: TO Convention at Sea**
- **September 21: Passing the Banner Banquet**
- **September 30: All new member adds due at International.**
- **October 1: Beginning of new administrative year—and the continued building of Kiwanis and your club**
- **October 8: K-Kids and Builders club training in Irving**

The Division View from the Kiwanis International Convention by Lt. Governor Jim Walther

The Montreal Convention provided great insights into the focus of Kiwanis International as well as the actions and projects of clubs from around the world. My congratulations to 6 Flags, Denton, Sundown, Mansfield, and North Star for being a part of this great learning opportunity that connects clubs worldwide.

There are some great opportunities for international service projects that you can pursue that will make a difference in the lives of children around the world. Your board of directors is encouraged to have at least one international project in its annual plan. Please consider one of the following:

- You can sponsor a new Kiwanis Club <http://www.kiwanis.org/resources/build/worldlink.asp> through the World Link Program in an authorized county or sister city.
- You can participate annually in the Heifer International Program, bringing a better life to 3rd world families and children <http://www.heifer.org/site/>
- A new opportunity outlined at Montreal is the Water For People Program—that helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education

programs <http://www.waterforpeople.org/>.

I was pleased that many of our clubs were represented at this event and participated in the voting on the election of international officers and the passing of amendments and a resolution. This was clearly the best House of Delegates I have observed in my Kiwanis experience. It contained both a great understanding of Roberts Rules of Order—and the need to be entertaining during the process. By participating in this experience, you develop a better understanding of the leadership skills you can use in your local club.

My compliments to International President Steve Siemens and the leadership he provided throughout these sessions. The focus of this convention was clearly on our youth around the world, illustrating that “One can make a Difference.” The spot light moved from a heroine girl who courageously saved a young boy from an attacking dog—to two daughters who were saved by a Kiwanis Pediatric Program. The defeat of IDD and the growth of the K-Family were also highlighted as great Kiwanis successes.

Steve’s friend and songster, Ken Medema, listened carefully to the heart of Kiwanis service and to the humor of the delegates—and then composed his own songs to reflect this vision. It brought a lump in your throat and then inserted humor that allowed us to see our selves better. He truly contributed many miracle moments at any pause in the proceedings. This was the garnish on a great meeting!

Your Delegates Elect International Officers in Montreal

Kiwanis International has been blessed with many outstanding leaders who have helped us grow in service and membership. Two-time distinguished club president Nelson Tucker was elected President of Kiwanis International, effective October 1, 2006. In addition to serving twice as a distinguished club president, Nelson Tucker was 1996-97 governor of the **California-Nevada-Hawaii District**, a distinguished lieutenant governor, and has sponsored more than 300 men and women

into Kiwanis clubs. He joined the International Board in 2001 as a Trustee.

David A. Curry, a 17-year member of the Silver Bow, Butte, Montana, Kiwanis club was elected as President Elect.

Other officers and their background can be found in the KI news release at this website: <http://www.kiwanis.org/news/article.asp?id=341>

Every Club Needs a Social Outing Like This!!

By Mary Harris, Denton Breakfast

On Wednesday, April 19, 40 members, friends, and youth sponsored by Denton Breakfast Kiwanis saw the Frisco RoughRiders defeat the San Antonio Missions. The RoughRiders are a farm team for the Texas Rangers, and their ballpark in Frisco is designed to provide lots of group activities, food, and fun for baseball fans and others. Denton Breakfast Kiwanis purchased 40 seats at \$15 a piece, which included a hot dog, chips, soft drink, and group seating.

The ten best things about the evening at the ballpark included the following:

- Comfortable seats with a great view of the field. The ballpark won an award as the 2003 “Best New Ballpark in America.”
- “Denton Breakfast Kiwanis” name on the ballpark sign.
- Free game program with information about the players, the team, and the ballpark. The RoughRiders were the 2004 Texas League champions.
- Getting to sit together as a group.
- Excellent handicapped seating for non-mobile members.
- Player autographs before the game.
- Excellent Guest Services Division sent us tickets and food vouchers before the game. It was easy to hand these out as people signed up to attend. They called us up afterward for feedback on our experience.
- Entertainment between innings and during time outs.
- A chance to play games and win prizes.
- A chance to see future Texas Rangers play.

You can visit the RoughRiders website at www.ridersbaseball.com.



Club Coordinators for Division

Website: Each club is asked to designate a person to ensure that the Div 39 website contains up-to-date information about your club’s meeting location and time, club officers, and other helpful information. Please ask your designee to immediately contact webmaster Ron White, to get their special user ID and password. Ronwfs@comcast.net

The June 22nd Division Council Meeting Addresses Three Important Issues Lt Gov. Jim

This is a report to all Division 39 members about three important projects:

- The deadline for the division’s “Membership Excellence Trophy” was changed to August 31st by a unanimous vote. This provides each club more time to encourage more members to sponsor a new Kiwanian..
- The proposal to either submit an application to host the 2009 TO convention in Arlington or support Div 37’s application to host it at the Adams Mark Hotel in Dallas — has been postponed until more information is available concerning the costs of hosting it in Arlington. Lt. Gov. Jim will provide the additional information in July and ask for an e-mail vote by each club.

- Next year’s Lt. Governor and Club Presidents were introduced to the Council. Since we are developing a new level of expertise in membership development, a resolution was passed that asked current and next year’s leadership to work together now and in the future to fulfill the objects of Kiwanis, finding better ways to serve our children and communities. This resolution is designed to both finish this year with growth in each club and continue our growth effort in the coming year. We are in this together and everyone can make a difference.

I have been impressed with the growing level of membership development in our Division. I hope each club can publish and provide me a copy of your Membership Development Plan for the final 4 months.

Stay Safe, Stay Sober

By Teresa DeBaun, Mansfield Afternoon

The months of April, May & June are a time for students across the country to attend celebrations associated with Prom & Graduation. As Prom nights and graduation parties kick off, the consequences of under-age drinking become clear in the headlines across newspapers and on the nightly news. The months of graduation and prom are among the deadliest for our teens.

The Mansfield Afternoon Club adopted "Stay Safe Stay Sober," a community support program giving parents and businesses an opportunity to get involved and show the students of our community that we support their decision to stay safe and stay sober.

In creating the Stay Safe Stay Sober program, we determined that we had three main objectives. To address our first objective-- to work with other community service programs-- we decided to work in conjunction with the "Every 15 Minutes" program in hope of utilizing their event to accentuate the message and get the kids involved. We also worked with the "Kids Day America" event on health and wellness issues prevalent to kids in our community. This event helped us raise awareness about our program and about the growing dangers related to under age drinking.

Our second objective was to raise community awareness and involvement. We decided to create a scholarship fund with the money we raised. Students would compete for the scholarship by writing essays on the dangers of under age drinking. We felt this would create excitement among the students and give them incentive to help raise awareness and funds by selling small awareness ribbons and window clings. We then offered local businesses sponsorship opportunities.

Finally we offered large red ribbons, both with the sponsorships and for purchase separately, to be displayed on front doors and storefronts to show their support for the students during prom & graduation.

Our final objective was to raise money to cover our costs and to fund the scholarships. While the largest funding came from the Kids Day America donation made by Glenda Davis & her partner Dr. George Bobbitt, the club strived to raise over \$5,000 to cover costs and seed the scholarship fund for next year. We have decided as a club that this will be a major community service event for our group.



Brenda Allums, District TAG Team, suggested that these signs were designed by a female engineer.

Southwest Helps Break the Cycle of Abuse!

By Amir Ajami, Southwest

One of the local children's organizations supported by the fund-raising efforts of the Kiwanis Club of Arlington Southwest is Trinity Kids, Inc., a non-profit organization whose major event is Royal Family Kids' Camp #47. This is a free and specialized weeklong camp for abused, abandoned, or neglected children in the Metroplex. The camp's goal is to replace the horrible memories of abuse with positive camp memories, such as unconditional love and praise for daily accomplishments.

For one full week, children, selected by Child Protective Services, are supported by dedicated, trained adult role models on a ratio of 1 volunteer for 2 children. This gives many opportunities to demonstrate to these hurting children that they are loved, to prove that they are not "throw-away" kids, and that they are valued. This is no ordinary camp and these are no ordinary children. They come lonely and scared, but in one week they are shown how worthy they are.

This year will be the ninth summer for Royal Family Kids' Camp #47. North Texas children, ages 7-11, will be treated to a full week of specially designed positive experiences, ones where they will feel deeply cared for and encouraged. Although it is only a one-week residence camp, it does make a difference. By showing the children that the cycle of abuse can be broken for a week helps them to see that it can be broken permanently. Foster parents and Child Protective Services have seen the positive impact that this week can make on these special children.

Here are some facts about Royal Family Kids' Camp:

It is the only organization dedicated to abused, neglected children ages 7-11 with a ratio of 1 trained adult to every 2 children.

This is a residence camp rather than a day camp.

All administration and counselors are volunteers

---there is no paid staff!

As a society, we spend thousands of dollars each year on the "prevention" of child abuse through attempts to train adults. At Trinity Kids, work is done to prevent child abuse and neglect by breaking the cycle. Much effort is spent championing the victim. The cycle of child abuse and neglect must be broken by reaching out to the victims while displaying unconditional love and cultivating acceptance. Through week-long camps which are meticulously planned toward reaching the victims, Royal Family Kids' volunteers do make a difference-----one child at a time.

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Submission to editor by the 2nd Friday of
each month.
Publication by the 3rd Friday each month

Division 39 is on the web!

<http://www.tx-okdivision39.org/>



Monthly Collaborative Partnerships Tip:

Collaborations do not survive without thoughtful and continual attention. Sustaining a partnership—and the comprehensive strategies it promotes—requires flexibility and resourcefulness. Partners must meet regularly to communicate and to reexamine their goals in order to keep programs focused on a shared vision and connected to the communities they serve. **Remember:** As partners become more adept at tackling challenges, the partnership becomes increasingly effective and efficient!

Excellence: A virtuous expediency, then, seems the highest desirable or attainable earthly excellence for the mass of men, and is the only earthly excellence that their Creator intended for them. Melville, Herman

Goal Busters!

The Latest on Conversion to 501c3 by Kiwanis International —and its Umbrella for Your Club.

Lt Gov Jim

Many clubs have wanted to know when they will be able to convert to a 501c3 and gain the advantage of allowing donors to claim a tax deduction. Because of the interest in our Division, I choose to attend a Montreal workshop on this topic. I would like to first say that IRS approval of KI's application would have been achieved before now had it not been for the Katrina Emergency. It is hoped that we will have an approval in the next few months.

Once approved, Kiwanis International will issue specific requirements that clubs must meet prior to their being covered by the umbrella. This will include changes to both the club's articles of incorporation and its bylaws. Once those changes have been approved, then Kiwanis should be able to approve your clubs conversion to 501c3 status. Clubs will have additional responsibilities under this umbrella to maintain documentation and submit reports to the IRS. Kiwanis International through their Districts (and Lt., Gov) will have a responsibility to ensure that these club responsibilities are carefully carried out.

A detailed review of the responsibilities and requirements of a 501c3 reveals that there will be many subtle changes that we will need to study carefully prior to deciding to convert to 501c3. There will be some requirements that affect scholarships, gaming activities, possible penalties, and additional tax deductions for your members. Kiwanis International will provide club training on these features. Because of these details and implications, I plan to review the need for a Division Steering Committee to help advise each club in its approach to this process. If a committee is established, it should have members from the different geographic areas in our division, allowing for close and available support for all clubs. Additionally, it should be composed of professionals from both the accounting and law fields. Send comments and suggestions to Lt Gov Jim.

KI Foundations Launches "You Can Make a Difference" Campaign to raise \$37 million.

The Kiwanis International Foundation has a lofty goal, and you can help. The Foundation has launched the "You Can Make a Difference" campaign to raise US\$37 million by December 31, 2008. From those funds, allocations will be made to support the Kiwanis youth leadership, including Circle K and Key Club International, Builders Club, K-Kids and Aktion Club.

The funds will be used to distribute grants around the world. Contributions will be made to sustain the Worldwide Service Project. Monies also will be

given to build new initiatives and infrastructure and, US\$2 million will be used to build the new education center and auditorium at the International Office.

The auditorium will equip the Indianapolis headquarters with a leadership education and meeting facility. State-of-the-art multimedia and translation equipment will address organizational needs to deliver messages and training to a growing Kiwanis world. The project, which is being funded through individual donations, is expected to be completed in March 2007.