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The United States Rare Coin and Bullion Reserve Vault Facility today announces the final release of U.S. Gov’t Issued Gold Coins previously held in The West Point Depository/U.S. Mint. For a limited time, U.S. citizens will have the opportunity to purchase these $5 Gov’t Issued Gold Coins for the incredible “at-cost” price of only $124.00 per coin. An amazing price because these U.S. Gov’t Issued Gold Coins are completely free of dealer markup. That’s correct, our cost. This may be your final opportunity to buy U.S. Gov’t Issued Gold Coins “at-cost.”

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What joy to be a Kiwanian

As I travel around the Kiwanis world, I often ask the question: “Why do you remain a member of Kiwanis?” The answers I get are usually about the same:

“Because of the friendship.”

“Because I’m part of a group that’s making a difference.”

There are other reasons, but they all relate to the overall “Kiwanis experience.”

I’ve said before that people join Kiwanis for different reasons, but they stay for the same reason: the Kiwanis experience.

What are the elements of the Kiwanis experience that cause people to place a value on their membership? Just to name a few:

- The fun and fellowship in the club.
- The quality of the club meeting.
- Making sure all members have the opportunity to feel the “warm fuzzies” by touching a life in a positive manner, especially the life of a child.

It’s an absolute necessity that all members experience a meaningful “Kiwanis moment.” After all, they’re members of the world’s greatest service organization. As part of this great fellowship, it’s our responsibility to ensure that our fellow members have ample opportunities to be truly involved in service and leadership so they, too, experience their own personal Kiwanis moments.

Thank you for all you do in the name of Kiwanis.

Do you have a story of a “member” who, through an extraordinary Kiwanis moment, became a lifelong “Kiwanian”? E-mail President Canaday about it at president@kiwanis.org.

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Twenty-eight years ago, Kiwanis International began preparing a Springfield, Illinois, teen to be a leader. This past June, that leadership training came full circle as former Key Club Governor Paul Palazzolo was elected to lead Kiwanis as its 2009–10 international president.

President-designate Palazzolo, now a member of the Springfield Kiwanis Club, emphasizes the importance of growing club membership to better serve children and communities worldwide. “We grow by doing the right things the right way,” he says. “That means running great meetings, doing service that makes a difference and offering true fellowship.” (Read more about Paul Palazzolo’s vision for the 2009–10 Kiwanis year in the October issue of Kiwanis magazine.)

The House of Delegates also elected these new officers and board members at the 2009 International Convention:

**President-Elect:** Sylvester Neal, Kiwanis Club of the Valley, Auburn, Washington  
**Vice President:** A. Alan Penn, Medina Breakfast, Ohio  
**Region I trustees:** Pam Fleming, Sheffield, Alabama; Jerome E. Peuler, Waldorf, Maryland; Stewart Ross, Mankato, Minnesota

At the 2008 Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District Convention, John Button, a Ridgetown, Ontario, Kiwanian, was elected to represent Region II (Eastern Canada and the Caribbean and Western Canada districts). Piero Grasso of the Italy-San Marino District was elected Region III (Europe) trustee at the 2009 Kiwanis International-European Federation Convention.
Money matters

All amendments considered by the House of Delegates at the 2009 International Convention dealt with money matters. Here’s how the decisions affect clubs.

**Adopted**

- Clubs now may pay insurance premiums from their service accounts, administrative accounts, or both.
- Kiwanis International’s annual billing date for all clubs will become October 1. The change will be made over a three-year period. Since 2004, three payment dates were set according to a club’s organization date.
- Kiwanis International may adjust dues for clubs in countries where the gross national income is less than $10,000. The amendment encourages membership growth in nations experiencing difficult economic times.

**Defeated**

- A proposal to eliminate the spouse waiver for the magazine subscription fee.
Col. Gray Heppner Jr. once voluntarily exposed himself to malaria. Memories of the fever, chills and nausea continue to fuel his passion to find a cure for the deadly disease, which claims more than 1 million lives each year. Children are most vulnerable.

At the 2009 Kiwanis International Convention, Heppner, deputy commander of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, received the Kiwanis World Service Medal for his pursuit of a malaria vaccine. The Kiwanis Club of Lynchburg, Virginia, nominated him for the award.

Quest for a cure

Read more about Heppner’s inspiring story and the World Service Medal at www.kiwanismagazine.org.

Things to do:
✓ buy snacks
✓ gather school supplies
✓ stuff backpacks

Millions of children in impoverished areas around the world go to school without books, supplies and, even worse, food. You can help change that.

Give to the Kiwanis International Foundation and support clubs that provide not only backpacks stuffed with food and supplies, but clean drinking water, vitamins, shoes and clothing, medical care and other life necessities to children from families in need.

Make a difference. Give today.
For many communities, the school year’s about to start. Now’s a good time to make sure the club or clubs you sponsor—Aktion, K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and/or Circle K—have a great year. Follow these 10 sponsorship tips:

1. Appoint a Kiwanis advisor or a committee.
2. Attend your sponsored clubs’ meetings and events.
3. Maintain an expense line item for your sponsored clubs in your service account. (Support their participation in district and international conventions.)
4. Meet with the school principal or facility manager each year.
5. Ensure all dues and fees are paid.
6. Make sure your Service Leadership Program officers are trained properly.
7. Schedule an annual meeting with all your Kiwanis-family leaders.
8. Host or participate in joint activities.
9. Invite your sponsored clubs’ members to Kiwanis meetings.
10. Provide training opportunities beyond the club level.

Santa Clarita, California, Kiwanian Jeanette Mena and Santa Clarita Valley Aktion Club member Barney Edgerton have fun stuffing Kiwanis dolls with cotton. The Kiwanis family delivered the dolls to young patients at a local hospital.
What They Say

WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST KIWANIS MOMENT?

"Attending an installation banquet for a club I helped organize 22 years ago and looking back on the many lives touched by its members."

Don Canaday
International President

"When former Key Club and Circle K members I’ve worked with join a Kiwanis club and successfully serve in leadership roles."

Paul Palazzolo
International President-elect

"Locating and inviting my sponsor to a Kiwanis conference to thank him for being the catalyst for my life-changing Kiwanis experiences."

Sylvester Neal
International Vice President

Submitted through Kiwanis’ LinkedIn group

Last year at our Kiwanis Fresh Air Camp, I helped a young camper who has been blind since birth hit his first basketball shot!

Phil Breedlove
Kiwanis Club of Knoxville, Tennessee

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What is your proudest Kiwanis moment? Send your thoughts to magazine@kiwanis.org.
ToolBox

Ask and improve

It’s time to get ready for a new Kiwanis year. But before you start planning, you’ll need to know what needs to be changed. Use the Club Excellence Tool to survey your members. Based on their responses, the tool lists your club’s strengths. But it also identifies weaknesses and—best of all—links you to online resources to address those problems. Get started at www.KiwanisOne.org/clubexcellencetoolonline.

Learn to lead

Club officer training is the best. It equips you for success, and the face-to-face fellowship and sharing are experiences you won’t forget. But occasionally schedules and travel distances prohibit attendance. That’s when the online Club Leadership Education curriculum comes in handy. You can proceed through the lessons at your own speed and from the comfort of your home. Do your club a favor: Get trained.

ClickIt

Up with downloads

Kiwanis’ most important resources are easier than ever to find on KiwanisOne.org. The Forms & Downloads page organizes critical content under helpful categories, such as Membership, Logos and Marketing, and Videos. There also are three other ways to help you find the resources you need: Search, Browse and Explore.

SneakPeek

What’s your big idea?

Kiwanis is accepting proposals for its second Worldwide Service Project, and the best place to share your idea is at the new www.kiwanis.org/wsp. You’ll find criteria, as well as info about the first global project to virtually eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

Go team! Feed ’em right
Three partners earn MVP honors serving Special Olympic athletes

Teamwork wins basketball championships, and in New Hampshire, Kiwanis-family champions feed basketball teams. A crew of experienced volunteers from the Seacoast, Portsmouth Kiwanis club and Builders Club of St. Patrick School worked together to feed more than 1,200 athletes and coaches at the Special Olympics New Hampshire basketball tourney this past April.

“We’ve built a good partnership with Special Olympics New Hampshire and our Builders Club,” says Seacoast club Secretary Carolyn Patton. “We’ve been working at the basketball tournament as well as the summer games for several years.”

Kiwanians started preparing in February for the April statewide competition, soliciting donations of meat, cheese, bread, fruit and condiments for the lunches.

The night before the games, Kiwanians, their friends, Builders and their parents set up an assembly line to stack the bread, deli meats and cheese into 1,500 sandwiches.

Early the next morning, the Kiwanis-family members were up early to serve breakfast for 500 guests before splitting up to deliver lunches to eight different tournament venues around town.

Because there’s a lot of interest in the community, it generates a lot of media coverage. It’s also impressive to see adult and youth volunteers working together.

“We were talking to the parents of a Builders Club kid,” Patton recalls. “They were unaware of all the projects and activities of our ‘big club.’ Now they’re interested in joining.”

Serving meals to tournament athletes builds bonds between Kiwanis and Builders Club members and strengthens relationships with their Special Olympics partner.

“We’ve built a good partnership with Special Olympics New Hampshire and our Builders Club.”

—Carolyn Patton, Seacoast Club Secretary

Special service
If you volunteer to serve meals at a Special Olympics event, remember to:

1. Assign a member to be your club’s Special Olympics liaison.
2. Get an accurate count of participants so you’ll know how much food to fix.
3. Offer a balanced meal. (The athletes play hard and need healthy, satisfying food, including fresh fruits and vegetables.)
4. If you think a person who has a disability needs assistance, ask first.
For the Kiwanis Club of Rochester Day Makers, Minnesota, partnerships with local restaurant franchises flip a couple thousand dollars into a scholarship fund.

Applebee’s provided all the equipment, kitchen space and food needed for a pancake breakfast, explains club President Marie Alexander. All the Kiwanians needed to bring were volunteers. And they brought the Kiwanis family with them to help fix a menu of pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee.

“We had kids from the Century High School Key Club serving, and they also helped wash the dishes,” Alexander says.

The Kiwanians are now planning a new, less labor-intensive restaurant project with Outback Steakhouse. Lunch guests will choose items off a preselected menu for $10, and the club gets $5 of the proceeds.

The club nets more than $1,000 a meal. “That will be kind of nice, because we won’t have to cook,” Alexander says. “We’ll just go in and eat. And it’s a good-size meal that includes a fresh salad, roll, grilled chicken breast or rack of ribs, coffee or tea and cheesecake for dessert.”

—Cathy Usher

Order up

Keep these tips in mind if your club initiates a fundraising partnership with a restaurant:

- Don’t forget the franchises. Many, like Applebee’s owner Gala Corp., encourage community involvement.
- Use restaurant waitstaff.
- Put volunteers in the kitchen.
- Schedule your meal to end before normal restaurant hours begin.
- Put a tips jar at the door.
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ON THE FAST TRACK

Change expert Verne Harnish coaches Kiwanis in its pursuit of growth

When Kiwanis set a goal to grow to 1 million members by its 100th birthday in 2015, its leaders knew that some things needed to change. With help from well-respected author and entrepreneur Verne Harnish, Kiwanis embraced the disciplines and habits of fast-growth organizations. Author of Mastering the Rockefeller Habits, and CEO of Gazelles Inc., Harnish is on the cutting edge of leadership development for organizations that have growth as a major focus. He recently shared his thoughts on leadership with Kiwanis International CEO Rob Parker.

Parker (RP): When did you first get interested in business education and developing leaders?

Harnish (VH): I have an early memory of riding in the car with my dad listening to audio tapes of Napoleon Hill, who wrote the book Think and Grow Rich. Dad was in sales and he would take me along with him on the weekends. He was always learning and trying to improve himself, and I was intrigued by these great speakers who were sharing their secrets to success. Later when I ran the executive program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I was impressed with the way successful leaders always seemed to be reading and listening for new ideas and that extra edge.

RP: You’ve gotten a lot of media attention for being the “growth guy,” which is how I first found out about your work. Tell us about the special niche you’re focused on, and why it matters.

VH: Our business model is focused on a small sliver of fast-growth companies we call “Gazelles.” This term is used to describe companies that are growing at least 20 percent a year for four years in a row. They’re the ones generating the most new jobs and making things happen in our economy. It’s always been an exciting niche for me because these are the innovators, these are the job generators, and I believe they’re the ultimate ones who help make a community or society or country gain its freedom. At the end of the day, young people who are meaningfully employed don’t commit crimes or become terrorists. So there is also a real cause behind what we do and why we’re doing work in countries all over the world. We know these job generators can transform communities and create remarkable economic opportunities.

RP: What habits do you recommend to companies or organizations that want to grow?

VH: The tools we typically identify with fast-growth companies are useful in any environment where you are experiencing great change. It comes back to the first fundamental, which is if you want to move faster you have to pulse faster. It also includes that fundamental communication rhythm your teams have embraced, where you’re communicating daily with your leaders so you’re all moving quickly and at the same rapid pace.

RP: How will we know we’re making progress other than with top-line growth?

VH: I’d guess there’s a lot happening below the surface that people just can’t see yet. It’s the old acorn analogy. For years the acorn appears to be dormant, then all of a sudden it pops through the ground and grows fairly rapidly. That’s a lot of what you see when you’re taking a 94-year-old organization and one that has to resprout. Any good farmer understands that.

RP: Your book Mastering the Rockefeller Habits highlights some of the principles that J.D. Rockefeller used to build his empire during the 1900s. What would you encourage us to focus on.

VH: Fundamentally, our position is that decisions equal success, and J.D. Rockefeller made some great decisions. People talk about a lot of other stuff, but at the end of the day, until a decision is made, it’s hard to really move forward. So there are a few decisions leaders...
have to get right. These decisions can be grouped in four areas:
1. Decisions about people (selecting the right ones and getting them in the right positions)
2. Decisions on strategy (great strategy sets the right course)
3. Decisions on execution (especially important for fast-growth organizations)
4. Decisions related to cash (fast growth always uses lots of cash).

**RP:** What are the qualities of maturing or growing leaders?

**VH:** There are two indicators I’ve noticed about more mature leaders. One is that they talk less and listen more. The second is they tell less and they ask more questions. Maturing leaders progress from talking to listening and from telling to asking. Those are a couple of the attributes every one of us needs to develop as we grow as leaders.

**RP:** What trends do you see in leadership development and training as a result of recent economic changes?

**VH:** During this critical time for automakers around the globe, there’s a big contrast in how companies are responding. Most notable is that while the big three are doing massive layoffs, Toyota is taking advantage of the slowdown to train its workers.

**RP:** How do you handle criticism as a leader? What advice would you offer?

**VH:** I asked this question of Adam Osbourne, the inventor of one of the first portable computers back in the early 1980s. Adam said it this way: “I have six close friends, and that’s twice what most of the people in this room have. My friends are fine with me and I’m fine with them, and I don’t have time for any more friends.” My new theory is that as long as I have a loving wife and kids and a few close friends, who cares what other folks have to say? By the way, if you do mess up, the real answer is to own up to it and apologize, as quickly and transparently as possible. I did that recently, and I received much more positive response for my apology than criticism for my original comments.

---

**Change lives. Forever.**

Children throughout the world suffer from hunger, abuse and neglect. The World Service Medal recognizes individuals who perform life-changing service to ease this suffering. This year, the medal was awarded to Col. Gray Heppner Jr. for his pursuit of a malaria vaccine. Your gift to the Kiwanis International Foundation provides financial support to medal recipients, like Heppner, so they can have an even greater impact on the lives of children.

You can make a difference. Give today.
Neon words—like Tootsie’s, Jack’s and B.B. King—lit up sultry Tennessee evenings, beckoning Kiwanians from around the world to Nashville this past June for the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. And 5,100 showed up, ate plenty of barbecue, two-stepped around the dance floor, sang their hearts out and soaked up a heapin’ helping of Kiwanis memories, ideas and motivation.

Here, attendees share their cherished convention memories, newfound wisdom and inspiration.

More than 5,000 Kiwanians kicked up their heels in Nashville and headed home ready to make a difference in their clubs, their communities and the world.
LEAD ON

Elbow-to-elbow in standing-room-only conference rooms, conventioners participated in self-improvement forums, such as “Maximizing Your Leadership Opportunities” and Greenleaf Center CEO Kent Keith’s “The Case for Servant Leadership.”

“...in the Exhibit Hall, I met Landus M. Burroughs of the Shepherd Park, Washington, D.C., Kiwanis Club. It’s not really surprising that though he has been in Kiwanis only three years, he’s already a club president. We not only serve but we build leaders to serve.”—Rufino “Ruffy” Leyson, Kiwanis Club of Kalibo, the Philippines

A GROWING FAMILY

Everywhere—in hotel lobbies, workshops, Nashville streets and the convention stage—were former Builders, Key Clubbers and Circle K’ers who are now Kiwanians. The Exhibit Hall’s Membership Experience booths supplied visitors with advice and materials to build Kiwanis through support of its Service Leadership Programs.

“I picked up fliers on all the Service Leadership Programs, and I’m going to dedicate the next year to developing local

The Club Leadership Education forum (above) equipped 2009–10 officers with tools and advice for guiding their clubs. New electronic voting devices recorded—and reported—delegates’ votes within seconds. “I was impressed by the electronic voting,” reported Daphne Bennett (not pictured) of the Caymanas Business District Kiwanis Club in Jamaica. “It helped give order and efficiency to the elections and passing of the amendments.”

With Van Halen’s Right Now surging in the background, Kiwanis International President-designate Paul Palazzolo built up momentum with inspiring words: “It’s time to make a difference. Not tomorrow. Not next week. Right now. Let’s go home from this convention and make the next year the year that it needs to be—the year that it must be.”
Captain Book's pirate-themed literacy project was one of many service ideas displayed at the Hit Parade. Denver & the Mile High Orchestra (right) roused its audience with a number of favorite tunes, such as Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition'.

IDEAS APLENTY

Kiwanis clubs and districts showed off their best service and fundraisers at the Hit Parade, including an "interview a veteran" contest conducted by the Kiwanis Club of Clarksville, Tennessee, and the Kendall-South Dade, Florida, Kiwanis Club's humanitarian mission to Jamaica.

"In the Exhibit Hall, I met Morris Pike, who was dressed out in full pirate regalia. A few years ago, the Kiwanis International Foundation gave a small grant to his Kiwanis Club of Greater Encinitas, California. As a result, he now visits elementary schools throughout southern California as 'Captain Book' with a treasure chest full of books and his unique style of encouraging kids to read."—Harshel Debord, Kiwanis Club of Pasadena, Texas
NEXT MEETS CLASSIC

Los Alamos, New Mexico, Kiwanian Mary Mariner (above) and her husband, Joe, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary with thousands of Kiwanians in the city where they became engaged. Margaret Lee of Indianapolis is only 7 years old, but Nashville is her third Kiwanis convention. There’s no generation gap in Kiwanis.

“As a member of the Kiwanis family since my freshman year of high school, I had the view of Kiwanis as a group of older people, but after attending

CELEBRATE, REFRESH, CREATE

When Kiwanis International CEO Rob Parker asked Business Session attendees to close their eyes and point to “true north,” the results were thousands of fingers pointing to all corners of the Sommet Center arena. His point: Kiwanis needs a vision to reach its destination. Read more at www.kiwanisleader.org/inspire. “With passion and energy, leaders at all levels of the Kiwanis world are responding to the call to celebrate our successes, refresh our classic model and create a next generation of Kiwanis programming. ... Now is the time to act.”
my first Kiwanis International convention, I see that Kiwanis is changing. They are preserving the core values of what makes Kiwanis great while creating a platform to get younger people involved. I’m eager to start my life as a Kiwanian myself and see what Kiwanis has in store for the future.”—Matthew Mund, Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC.

HEE-HAW

Grammy award-winning Ricky Skaggs and promising talent Mark Wills headlined a night of entertainment at the Grand Ole Opry. And songwriter Billy Montana, son of Williamsport, Tennessee, Kiwanian Carl Schlappi, picked a few tunes exclusively for convention attendees on the Kiwanis Presents stage.

“With 3,000 friends, we were treated to a Kiwanis Night at the Grand Ole Opry by the antics of Little Jimmy Dickens who, splendidly radiant in his cowboy outfit, described himself as Mighty Mouse in pajamas. His jokes were as colorful as his outfit. Jimmy is 88 years old and a treasure to western music fans.”—Mike Daly, Kiwanis Club of Mankato Diversity, Minnesota

'TIL WE MEET AGAIN

As Kiwanians said good-bye at the closing session, they learned that comedian Jay Leno agreed to entertain at the 2010 Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“I'll always remember our dinner with the European and Asia-Pacific delegations. After singing Auld Lang Syne, we all left as Kiwanis friends.”—Edith Lantmeester, Kiwanis Club of Genk 3600, Belgium

Read more observations, pick up helpful forum handouts, read speakers’ remarks and more at www.kiwanismagazine.org.

Country music legend Little Jimmy Dickens (left) was just one of the headline acts performing for Kiwanians and other guests at the Grand Ole Opry. The evening’s cast of musicians also included Tracy Byrd and Jeannie Seely. With most eyes closed, delegates point this way, that away and every which way when asked to find “true north”—a little exercise to prove the need for vision in leadership.
Zozobra

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe has a cure for gloom. Take a look at what one spectacular event can do for a club and a community

Story by Alyssa Chase • Photos by Faith-Michele James
It’s September in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On the hills, the chamisa is just about to bloom—aromatic yellow buds open in the sun. Tourist season is done and the locals have begun to reclaim their town. Fiesta celebrations are about to begin, just as they have since 1712. On Fiesta’s eve, only one event is big enough to kick off Santa Fe’s party season—and Kiwanis is at the heart of it.

An old Dodge Ram pulls up at Fort Marcy Park, and Ray Valdez, cell phone ringing, gently pushes 50 ID cards and lanyards from the vinyl seat. Valdez, who joined the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1992, is too busy to talk. He’s expecting 25,000 people at the park tomorrow. He’s got three Key Clubs to manage—they have exclusive rights to food and drink sales. Old friends, including far-flung club members like Matt Horowitz, a New York art conservator, are in town to help with the show. Plus there’s a 50-foot-tall marionette to finish up.

Valdez and his crew have been working on this since December. *This is Zozobra*, more formally known as Will Shuster’s Zozobra. The Santa Fe club has been producing the event since 1964.

**A cure for gloom**

To understand Zozobra, you need to understand Santa Fe. This is a town with more art galleries per capita than anywhere else in the United States. It’s been an artists’ colony since the turn of the last century. “We’re a bunch of crazy artists here,” says Kiwanian John High. So it’s fitting that Zozobra was conceived by an artist.

In 1924, inspired by a Yaqui Indian pageant involving an effigy and firecrackers, Will Shuster created Zozobra. His giant animated marionette
BUILDING A GIANT

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Members of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe stretch the framework and stuffing of Zozobra’s skirt. • Gloomie Sabrina Ortega decorates her costume for the pageant. • Framing a masterpiece. • Zozobra circa 1950.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Kiwanian and Zozobra producer Ray Valdez (far left), his daughter Felicia and Kiwanians Garson Salas (stage manager) and Talia Storch (assistant producer) hoist the world’s largest puppet into place in Santa Fe, New Mexico’s, Fort Marcy Park.
SETTING THE STAGE
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Maria Garcia sets up the Zozobra shop. Her Santa Fe High School Key Club and two other local Key Clubs have exclusive rights to sell snacks and other goodies during their sponsoring Kiwanis club’s big event. • How many Kiwanians does it take to unload Zozobra’s arm? At least three (from left)—Daric Gutierrez, Shannon Martinez and Scott Wiseman—and a couple of volunteers, Amanda Morris and Clark Le Compte. • Kiwanian Matt Horowitz sports Zozobra’s bowtie. • Fiesta royalty, including 2008 La Reina de la Fiesta Angelica Maria Armijo, make an appearance the afternoon of the show.

See videos and pictures of Zozobra and learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe’s big event at www.Kiwanis.org/centerstage.
representing anguish, anxiety and gloom would be set to the torch, burning away the town’s worries. The first Zozobra, a.k.a. “Old Man Gloom,” was part of a protest against traditional fiesta’s commercialism and pageantry. Today, Zozobra keeps Santa Fe’s fiesta fresh. And it includes its own pageantry—a fire dancer chases away “glooms” played by local children; the marionette waves its limbs, turns its head, rolls its eyes and groans. More than $8,000 in pyrotechnics explode when the puppet burns. Over the years, Zozobra has grown to 50 feet. He’s the largest marionette in the world—you can find him in the Guinness Book of World Records.

A devoted crew

It’s easy to understand why Shuster handed off his beloved pageant to these Kiwanians. They’d been devoted volunteers for years—and their passion continues. Zozobra is a huge event. It takes 4,500 service hours and 250 volunteers to pull it off. The “Z crew,” a core team from the 70-member Kiwanis club, pulls it all together. There’s Zozobra’s wooden frame to build. Sewing the skirt takes 200 yards of material and 10 Kiwanians with sewing machines. Children crawl into Zozobra’s body to stuff it with 100 30-gallon bags of shredded paper. Kiwanian artists carefully craft the muslin-covered hands and head, then add light-up movable eyes. Construction alone takes four months to complete.

Anyone would be exhausted just following the Z crew around, but the morning of the burn, at a warehouse on the fairgrounds, these Kiwanians are merry—hugging, joking, kissing, breaking into song. Zozobra’s silky blue bow tie and cummerbund are carefully placed. His giant skirt is rolled up. Kiwanian Ray Sandoval, an Albuquerque lawyer who’s been involved with Zozobra since he was 6 years old, puts finishing touches on a nostril. Talia Storch worries Zozo’s shaggy green mop top won’t fit through the door. It does, but just barely. In the corner, a Kiwanis sign is perched on its side, ready to load into the truck.

Traditions abound. As they have for the past 26 years, the guys from Wilson Storage pull up with their flatbed to haul Zozobra to the park.

258 Volunteers who help with Zozobra each year
A flaming success

By midmorning, Zozobra’s hanging against the blue sky, and the green field below is filled with schoolchildren. Key Club members are selling sodas and snacks, hawking T-shirts, painting faces. Kiwanian Bob Clifford, who’s in charge of security with his wife, Mary, buzzes around in his Zozomobile, directing traffic.

By late afternoon, glooms slip into their white costumes. Fire dancers fuss with makeup. Kiwanians make sure cables and detonators are in place. Fiesta royalty show off their bling. A little girl comes close to the fence to give her Zozobra doll a good look at the real thing. Locals finish scrawling down their worries and stuff the notes in the gloom box, which will burn with Zozobra after dark.

Bands play—a Led Zeppelin cover band, a girl mariachi band, a local group called Soul Fire. They all donate their performances—this is a charity event, after all. In one day, the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe will raise more than $175,000 for the community’s young people. Zozobra scholarships and grants are awarded at a special banquet each year. “Kids get really excited,” Storch says. “They’re proud to have Zozobra funding. It’s cool to be a part of that.”

To the people of Santa Fe, Zozobra is much more than a fundraiser. “That gloom box is cleansing,” says Kiwanian Angela Ortiz-Flores, a therapist who works with at-risk teens. “It’s not magic, but it gives you peace for a little while.” Kiwanian Dan Clavio, the MC who will read Zozobra’s death proclamation, agrees. “It has great significance for the community,” he says. “It’s an affirmation that things are going to get better.”

As the sun sinks behind the mountains, the music swells, and Zozobra’s eyes light up. His arms flail, his head turns. Behind the scenes, Kiwanian animators pull ropes that move the giant puppet’s head and limbs. The field is packed now—25,000 people are on their feet. Torches glow. The gloom box is in place. The crowd shouts, “Burn him.” Zozobra’s arm snaps, and suddenly he’s ablaze. The crowd cheers as their worries go up in flames.
When the going gets tough … the tough get going

Here’s how Kiwanis clubs in hard-hit communities are coping—and thriving

The spearpoint of an economic slump pierced Indiana’s Elkhart County when U.S. gasoline prices began climbing early in 2008. The proud “RV Capital of the World,” Elkhart is home to more than a dozen recreational vehicle manufacturers and companies that produce accessories for these fuel-consuming luxuries. When the subsequent collapse of the financial and real estate sectors started to generate heat, the RV industry was already well into a meltdown.

Elkhart County unemployment soared from 5 percent to more than 18 percent, and a wave of foreclosures on home mortgages followed. In Goshen, leaders at one of the city’s three Kiwanis clubs pondered ways to keep its membership not only healthy, but motivated to meet greater and more urgent needs for community services.

“While we have a pretty tight club, this is not a place where anyone would say, ‘I’m hurting,’” explains Al Mackowiak, president of the Goshen Kiwanis Club. But as the local unemployment rate

Silverlining

Elkhart County, Indiana

Condition: Unemployment rate raced from 4.7 percent to 15.3 percent in just one year.

Good ideas: Tend to members’ needs.

Set membership and service goals.
continued to soar, the board of directors decided to focus on the emotional care of the members. Phone calls, e-mails and cards kept everyone connected. “We put together a directory that enabled members to advertise their business within the club, and encouraged everyone to give our people the first shot at a sale or project,” Mackowiak says.

While the club added 11 members to its roster, the board also challenged the membership to meet its community’s emerging needs. It set goals of putting in 500 additional hours of service and gathering 500 additional pounds of canned food for a food kitchen and a Salvation Army facility. As of this past April, the club was well on its way to exceeding both goals—easily.

WORK IT

In many troubled economies throughout the world, Kiwanis is a shovel-ready organization, full of experienced volunteers with the knowledge and mindset to fill emerging service needs. “But that doesn’t mean the clubs are not struggling too,” acknowledges Jill Madinger, Kiwanis International’s director of Growth and Club Excellence. Communities need more services than ever, even as clubs have to do more with less. “We’re hearing about fundraisers that used to generate $20,000 and the money is just not coming in like in the past,” Madinger says. “So we’re seeing less check writing and more hands-on service.”

It’s an evolution that may be a blessing in disguise. “Club members are having more heart-to-heart experiences with their communities, which in turn can only help strengthen memberships,” observes Madinger.

Yet clubs and members are not immune from shrinking incomes or retirement accounts. “A number of clubs that held weekly meetings where lunch cost $20 have had to think about simplifying,” explains Madinger. Others have created satellite groups that meet less often, at different times and without meals.

Iceland is a prime example. Relative to the size of its economy, Iceland’s banking collapse last year was the largest suffered by any nation in recent history. With some 300,000 inhabitants, what once was one of the richest countries in the world became one of the most indebted. “People lost their savings, their jobs, houses and their positive outlook on life,” says Óskar Guðjónsson, governor-elect of the Kiwanis Iceland-Faroes District. “But Icelanders have not lost their dignity.”

In prioritizing options, Kiwanis dues—and membership—appeared expendable to many members. But the clubs reacted quickly, many decreasing dues and changing meetings to cut costs. Some clubs postponed—or waived—dues for financially stressed members.

“To our delight, overall club attendance increased and meetings became an outlet for social interaction,” adds ØSKAR GUDJÓNSSON

KIWANIS ICELAND-
FAROES DISTRICT

Silverlining

Iceland

Condition: Banks failed; currency in free fall.

Good ideas

Postpone or waive dues.

Encourage supportive fellowship at meetings.

Serve new needs in your community.
Guðjónnson, “a fellowship for people with the same worries and burdens.”

Many of Iceland’s clubs added members, while refocusing their service projects. When members of the Husavik-Skjalfandi Kiwanis Club learned that an annual school trip to Denmark lacked funding, they cancelled the club’s annual anti-drug seminar and sponsored the trip instead. Other clubs worked with ministers to deliver food baskets to families who had approached the churches for help.

SHOW IT

growing, while becoming an anchor in hard times, is also the case at the Woodhaven Kiwanis Club in Michigan. Virtually all of the club’s 40 members have been directly or indirectly affected by the economy. Yet the club has grown by 25 percent in each of the past two years.

“It’s something that’s talked about every meeting,” says club President Al Cotto. “But we make it easy for people to join. We try to keep meal costs under $10, but if a person comes up short, they’re covered. We’re very conscious of members losing work hours or having salaries cut.”

Woodhaven is exceptionally active. Its members recently worked with students from two elementary schools and packed up 10,352 meals for distribution to pantries and shelters in the area.

“We’ve found ourselves doing more for schools, especially where you have at-risk children,” says Cotto. “We keep a contingency fund so that if a teacher calls us and says a student needs a pair of glasses and can’t afford it, we’ll get him those glasses. There’s an agency that sets up a mobile homeless shelter at churches in our area, for one week at a time, so people have a place to stay and look for work and services. When it comes nearby, we’ll have folks there at 5 a.m. to cook and serve breakfast.”

Though the demands for services are increasing, Cotto doesn’t find it particularly overwhelming. “I sometimes worry we take on too much,” he concedes, “but if we pick up five or six new members, we can do even more. And this is really an opportunity for Kiwanis to be more visible in the press, which generates more calls for service projects.”

Back in Goshen, Al Mackowiak is finding similar experiences from the exposure, which has clearly invigorated his club. “Financial contributions are important,” he notes, “but being there is more important. Community service has always been the heart of our mission, and our club has always placed tremendous value on sweat equity and human connection.”

In uncertain times, that’s the kind of club people want to join—one that gets tough in tough times.

If your club needs assistance as it steps up to meet local challenges, check out the resources at www.kiwanis leader.org/inspire or e-mail memberservices@kiwanis.org.

Silverlining

Wayne County, Michigan

Condition: County’s unemployment rate hit 14.9 percent in March.

Good ideas
Reduce meeting costs.
Add hands-on projects.
One Day

Farm fresh

Washington Kiwanians spend Kiwanis One Day planting a garden to feed hungry families

Just a few months ago, that Thurston County Food Bank shopper—the one in the blue sweater putting a yellow box of pasta into her bag—may have been donating a box of macaroni and cheese.

That’s something Robert Coit, executive director of the food bank, expects to see more frequently if unemployment rates continue to rise in the southwestern Washington county.

“From 2007 to 2008, we had a 30 percent increase in traffic,” says Coit, who is a member of the Waterfront Kiwanis Club, Olympia, Washington. “Already (in April), we’ve experienced another 22 percent increase, and it’s going to get worse.”

Many former donors are now laid off. So people contribute less food and money. Adding to the food bank’s predicament is a change in the way grocery stores get rid of surplus foods. Instead of donating nearly expired items, they resell food to discount markets.

But the Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB) has a reliable, long-time partner to fill the gap.

Since 1992, the Kiwanis Club of Olympia, Washington, has been growing and donating an average of 14,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce every year. This past April 4—Kiwanis One Day—

Olympia Kiwanian Derek Valley makes arrangements to till a garden managed by Evergreen State College students and Garden-Raised Bounty. Kiwanians encourage cooperation among community gardens. The more vegetables raised for food banks, the better, Valley says.
Kiwanis vegetables give Thurston County Food Bank Produce Manager Sarah Swanson opportunities to schedule cooking demonstrations—complete with recipes—to help families prepare nutritious meals. For sample recipes, visit www.kiwanis.org/centerstage.
the Kiwanians and an army of other volunteers spread fertilizer, tilled soil, hoed rows, erected bean poles, turned compost and planted potatoes in the club’s three-quarter-acre plot. (They also split and stacked firewood; you’ll find that story and more at www.kiwanis.org/centerstage.)

Across town, Food Bank Garden Committee Chairman Don Leaf worked with a crew of North Thurston, Lacey Kiwanians and area Key Club members to establish a new garden at Vista Village, a condominium community east of Olympia.

Like the TCFB, which has extended its reach by setting up satellite pantries around the country and assisting independent food banks, the Olympia Kiwanians are breaking ground on three more gardens and serving as consultants for other groups.

“Right now, we supply about 70 percent of the food bank’s fresh

“It’s a veritable farmers market in here when the Kiwanis produce comes in. There’s plenty for everyone.”

—Robert Coit, executive director, Thurston County Food Bank
summer and fall produce,” says Derek Valley, chairman of the Olympia club's One Day committee. “We wouldn't mind seeing that percentage go down. It wouldn't mean we're giving less; it would mean other people are giving more.”

To assist other growers, TCFB Produce Manager Sarah Swanson created the Produce Growers Guide, a four-page pamphlet packed with information about how to set up a produce garden, what types of crops the food bank needs, what it doesn’t need (please, no pumpkins) and how to deliver the produce.

“We took this information directly from our experiences with the Olympia Kiwanis Club,” reports Swanson, who also creates recipes to help families use the Kiwanians’ vegetables.

Kiwanis One Day was just one day in the garden project. As spring progresses into summer, there will be more vegetables to plant, weeds to pull, fellow gardeners to help, potatoes to harvest and food bank deliveries to make.

Then, that shopper in the blue sweater can put healthy choices in her cart—green spinach, red radishes and orange carrots—right next to the yellow box of macaroni and cheese.

Nine-year-old Vista Village volunteer Maren Fraser introduces an earthworm to her friend, “Freddy” the grub. Maren's mother is Past Circle K International President Wendy (Schrick) Fraser, who’s a member of the North Thurston, Lacey Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanis One Day was a busy day for Washington Kiwanians. Read about their firewood project and view more photos at www.kiwanis.org/centerstage.

See what other clubs were up to at www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday.
Spell check

What are the most misspelled words in the Kiwanis lexicon? Take a quick look through Web sites and newspapers and you’re likely to find these three errors:

- **Hixon Fellowship**: The Kiwanis International Foundation’s giving program is named after George F. Hixson, Kiwanis International’s first president.
- **Builder’s Club**: Drop the apostrophe; there’s more than one member in Builders Club.
- **Kiwan**: This abbreviation occasionally is heard or read in reference to one or more Kiwanians.

No hard feelings

When the Kiwanis Club of Fargo, North Dakota, reset the world’s pancake-serving record in 2008, Lubbock, Texas, Lions set out to reclaim the title. And it did, serving 66,459 pancakes in eight hours this past February.

When floods ravaged Fargo a month later, the Lions sent $5,000 of its pancake proceeds to help its rival city’s relief efforts.

Young and wise

Once you’ve recruited young blood into your club, how do you keep them? Members of Kiwanis clubs for young professionals have five recommendations:

1. Encourage networking.
2. Be open to new ideas.
3. Treat members of all ages as peers.
4. Encourage and allow them to lead.
5. Be flexible about “rules.”

—Tamara Stevens

“Kiwanis’ advantage is mentoring and networking.”

—Brian McGuire, New Jersey Young Professionals

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Birthdays

These clubs celebrate anniversaries during September and October 2009.

50—1959
West Visalia, California, September 2
Carson City, Nevada, September 10
Glen Ridge, New Jersey, September 15
Campbellsville, Kentucky, September 15
Ridge Manor, Florida, September 16
West Charleston, West Virginia, September 25
Kauai, Hawaii, September 26
Seaway (The), Sarnia, Ontario, October 14
Borealís, Fairbanks, Alaska, October 15
Columbia Heights-Fridley, Minnesota, October 21

25—1984
Chinatown, New York City, New York, September 6
Palmerston/Rural, Australia, September 11
Dübèlstein, Switzerland, September 12
Greater Kingston, Washington, September 13
Biél-Seeland, Switzerland, September 14
Malle, Belgium, September 14
Columbus Golden K, Indiana, September 17
Fridley-Columbia Heights-Golden K, Minnesota, October 21

Two at 100

Two men, one from Oklahoma and the other from Oregon, have a total of 140 years as Kiwanis members—and 200 years of birthdays.

Floyd Allen Wood, born January 22, 1909, regularly attends meetings of the Kiwanis Club of Lawton, Oklahoma. A former teacher and wrestling coach, he is grandfather of past club president Justin Phelps.

Not many Kiwanians can claim that a Kiwanis club bears his or her family name. Born on April 13, 1909, Portland, Oregon, Kiwanian Curtis Tigard is the grandson of the founder of Tigard, Oregon, where the Kiwanis Club was organized in 1964.

By the numbers

2,542 Hours Golden K of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Kiwanians volunteered in 2008 at the Second Harvest Gleaners food banks, generating an estimated 317,781 meals.
Listen and learn

When you grow up in a family with six children, you learn early that you’d better speak up if you want to be heard. As the fifth child in the birth order, I was pretty far down the chain of command. Quite naturally, there were not too many people asking my opinion or inquiring about my preferences. As a child I just wanted someone to listen to me, and when they did, it felt great! It was in this formative environment that I learned that all of us have a natural desire to communicate, and to have someone listen.

The desire to be heard is especially true for our next generation of Kiwanis members. These emerging leaders grew up in an environment where their opinion has been sought on almost everything and where a forum to express it is just a few keystrokes away.

Leaders have traditionally been valued for their communication and decision-making skills—for saying what they think at the right place and the right time. These are important skills for servant leaders too, says Larry Spears, former CEO of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, “but they need to be reinforced by a deep commitment to listening to others.”

As Kiwanis leaders, there are few tools more powerful than the simple act of listening. Often we get so consumed by our need to communicate that we don’t take the time to listen to what others have to say. Yet we learn so much more from listening than from talking.

The most successful clubs in the Kiwanis family are those that have created a culture of listening to their members. These clubs consistently ask their members for input on a variety of issues related to their club experience, and then they use this information to make the changes necessary to remain vibrant and responsive.

Too often we assume that as leaders we know how people feel and what they want. This comes into play in personal relationships as well. Try this test. The next time you share a meal with someone, notice who finishes eating first. Good listeners, who encourage others to talk, will almost always be done first. If you find you’re consistently the first one done eating, you may be a good listener. If not, you may want to be more intentional about developing your listening habits and skills. I know I need to. Thanks for listening.

Listen in. Join the discussion with other Kiwanis leaders at www.kiwanisleader.org.

“The greatest compliment that was ever paid me was when one asked me what I thought, and attended to my answer.”

—Henry David Thoreau
As a Kiwanian, you know what leadership is all about. That it’s more about service than glory. That it starts with young people. And that people who help others—and build others’ leadership skills—are the most valuable leaders of all.

Key Leader weekends—for teens ages 14 to 18—give emerging leaders their first taste of service leadership—and Kiwanis values. Send a teen to Key Leader. Make a difference in a young person’s life.

Take the lead. Do your part.
Get into Key Leader.

www.key-leader.org
We have added two new products for your Kiwanis club’s fundraiser. Mini Pretzels and Gourmet Party mix in 1/2 oz. bags. These new products, along with our traditional bags of peanuts are still the number one fundraising products opportunity for your Kiwanis club’s charities. Remember, we require NO MONEY up-front, payment is due 30 days after your fundraiser to help maximize your cash-flow.

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Kiwanis Peanut Day, Inc.*
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630/990-0400 • fx: 630/990-7401
Retention advice

A panel of members from young professional Kiwanis clubs offers advice about retention. He’s what they had to say:

1. Encourage networking.
“Emphasize the networking aspect. I can go anywhere to do service, because it's become so prevalent. Kiwanis' advantage is a form of mentoring and potential networking.” — Brian McGuire, New Jersey Young Professionals

“Networking and meeting other individuals who can help a person develop professionally and personally are great ways to pique someone’s interest in Kiwanis.” — Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Greater Raleigh, North Carolina

2. Be open to new ideas.
“Be open to new ideas. Inquire what young members think.” — Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Greater Raleigh, North Carolina

“Change the time of your meetings. Mornings and lunches are tough for young professionals to make. The best time is dinner.” — David Chang, Las Vegas Young Professionals, Nevada

“Teleconferencing (instead of meetings) makes it easy to keep in touch at least once a month.” — Brian McGuire, New Jersey Young Professionals

Also read young professional Kiwanians’ advice about:

- Recruiting young members (page 44)

Then watch for the October 2009 KIWANIS magazine for their service project recommendations.

Contributing pros:

- Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Raleigh, North Carolina
- Heather Chin, New York City Young Professionals
- Armando Velazquez, California Young Professionals, Los Angeles
- Elizabeth Bennett, DC Metro Young Professionals
- Kristen Benbazza, Metropolitan Milwaukee Nights, Wisconsin
- Ali Grotkowski, Edmonton Young Professionals, Alberta
- David Chang, Las Vegas Young Professionals, Nevada
- Joseph C. Eppolito, Syracuse Young Professionals, New York
- Brian McGuire, New Jersey Young Professionals
- Whitney Branch, Fayetteville Metro, Arkansas.
3. Treat members of all ages as peers.
“Whatever the age range in your club, you’re all caring individuals who want to serve your community. Think, work and communicate as peers and friends. …
“Club meetings are most effective when members feel comfortable, among people they trust and who will listen to them and treat them as equals.” — Heather Chin, Kiwanis New York City Young Professionals

“Be welcoming: Smile, greet them, include them in your conversations.” — Ali Grotkowski, Edmonton Young Professionals, Alberta

“Our club’s monthly ‘After Hours’ is a social at one of our member’s homes or a restaurant. This is a great way for our members to get to know each other’s families and each other better.” — Whitney Branch, Fayetteville Metro, Arkansas

“Don’t point them out as the youngest members at every meeting.” — Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Greater Raleigh, North Carolina

4. Encourage and allow them to lead.
“Solicit members’ ideas and support them when they plan and implement them. It’s easy to get caught up in hierarchy, but don’t. Give young members the chance to have a role in making the club stronger. Give them a stake in its success. This feeling is invaluable.” — Heather Chin, Kiwanis New York City Young Professionals

“Treat all members like adults. Young members have a lot to offer the club.” — David Chang, Las Vegas Young Professionals, Nevada

“I’ve been a part of the Kiwanis family since high school. I’ve had leadership roles in Key Club, Circle K and now Kiwanis club. It’s part of my life.” — Elizabeth Bennett, DC Metro Young Professionals

5. Be flexible about your traditional practices.
“Our club chose not to have ‘traditional’ meetings, but rather incorporated them with events. All gatherings have a social or service component, allowing for fellowship, serving the community or otherwise having a productive but good time.” — Ali Grotkowski, Edmonton Young Professionals, Alberta
Nashville memories

Prior to the 2009 Kiwanis International Convention, *Kiwanis* magazine asked selected registrants—some first-timers and others veteran attendees—to write daily blogs about their experiences. Here’s what they had to say.

Serena Bearman
Washington, D.C.

I enjoyed the workshop on “Empowering Others to Invite.” The presenter, Tedd Long, of Toledo, Ohio, was spot on about modernizing our “classic” Kiwanis clubs.

Convention is a great opportunity to engage in dialogue about improving our local clubs.

Best lesson: Don’t be afraid of trying something new and thinking about ways to build on your club’s values and tradition into the 21st century.

Patrick Stout
Macomb, Illinois

I picked up fliers on all the Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs, and I’m dedicating the next year to developing local partnerships to bring these programs to our town. It may take a while, but persistence is the key.

I originally resented the emphasis on membership, but my wife gave me a different way to look at it. She mentioned a semi-retired minister in our town who might want to join Kiwanis. “He cares about people,” she said. I realized that was the determining factor I should use in inviting new members. Not networking, not just fellowship, but an offer to share what we do with others who care about people.

My wife, Waneen, went to the presentation on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Our club is really into getting books to kids, and Waneen has become our club’s best young children advocate. This session gave her more information to share at home.
Nashville memories

(Continued)

As a first-time attendee, I’ve been looking forward to making new friends. It’s amazing to know there are lots of Filipinos who are members representing different countries. Bert Almeda from Tampa, Florida, for example, was so happy to meet me. Kiwanis really is awesome.

In the Exhibit Hall, I met Landus M. Burroughs of the Shepherd Park, Washington, D.C., Kiwanis Club. It’s not really surprising that though he has been in Kiwanis only three years, he’s already a club president. We not only serve but we build leaders to serve. It’s not really surprising that though he is only in his third Kiwanis year, he’s already a president. In Kiwanis we “not only serve” but we build leaders to serve.

With the new technology used during the House of Delegates, voting on amendments and the election was smooth, efficient and awesome.

Kiwanis International is a rainbow world. On the streets of Nashville and in the meeting rooms and halls of the convention center, I have met fellow Kiwanians hailing from Japan, Malaysia, Panama, the Philippines, Jamaica, Barbados, Belgium, and all parts of the U.S. With friendly faces, handshakes and hugs, we all celebrate successes, recognize excellence and look forward to meeting new challenges in service together.

I shared lunch with Peter Kim, a medical doctor from Seoul, South Korea. Through Kiwanis, he has spent his life in service to others.

With 3,000 friends, we were treated to a Kiwanis Night at the Grand Ole Opry by the antics of Little Jimmy Dickens who, splendidly radiant in his cowboy outfit, described himself as Mighty Mouse in pajamas. His jokes were as colorful as his outfit. Jimmy is 88 years old and a treasure to western music fans.
I spoke with a fellow Kiwanian from Ohio who, like myself, was recently widowed. We talked about our resolve to do even more service since our loss. The friendship has been overwhelming.

All the forums were standing room only, demonstrating the interest shown in the various topics that were being discussed. I attended the following: new-club building, impactful club meetings and Kiwanis Next.

I left the sessions determined to go through with our idea of building a new club at Angels this year, to do community and club analyses so we can improve our club’s impact and to make my club more relevant to younger people.

Overall, this is my first Kiwanis International convention, and I am impressed. A great learning experience.

“I’ll always remember our dinner with the European and Asia-Pacific delegations. After singing *Auld Lang Syne*, we all left as Kiwanis friends.

In the Exhibit Hall, they were passing out ribbons that you could attach to your name badge. They had humorous titles, such as “Grandpa,” “Grandma,” “Politically Correct,” Old-timer” and “Kiwanian for Life.”

Something like 3800 delegates from clubs all over the world gathered in the Business Session, where for the first time we voted electronically. This was a superb event where Kiwanis friends from all over the world could participate in the election process and make decisions about the future of Kiwanis.
Kevin Dean and Rachel Clifton had a great standing-room only forum titled “A Young Professional Club in Your Community.” Great ideas on how to start a satellite group or young professional club.

In the Exhibit Hall, I met Morris Pike, who was dressed out in full pirate regalia. A few years ago, the Kiwanis International Foundation gave a small grant to his Kiwanis Club of Greater Encinitas, California. As a result, he now visits elementary schools throughout southern California as “Captain Book” with a treasure chest full of books and his unique style of encouraging kids to read.

You can find anything and everything at the Kiwanis International convention: great forums, outstanding display booths and great ideas to build your club.

Seeing the true diversity of Kiwanis members in the House of Delegates opened my eyes to what Kiwanis has done as a global service organization and what potential it has to expand and grow throughout the world and in our own back yards.

As a member of the Kiwanis family since my freshman year of high school, I had the view of Kiwanis as a group of older people, but after attending my first Kiwanis International convention, I see that Kiwanis is changing. They are preserving the core values of what makes Kiwanis great while creating a platform to get younger people involved. I’m eager to start my life as a Kiwanian myself and see what Kiwanis has in store for the future.