

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES



of Candidates for International Office

*Candidates for each office are
listed alphabetically by office.*

*Information contained herein is provided by the
candidates or their campaign committees.*



KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
92nd Annual Convention ★ July 3-7, 2007



For International President

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For International President-Elect

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Bascom L. Allen Sr. 10-11

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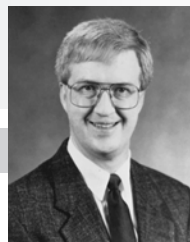
Kiwanis is a global organization
of volunteers dedicated to
changing the world one child
and one community at a time.

FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

DAVE CURRY

Butte, Montana, USA

(Montana District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Wife Eva; 5 children; and 7 grandchildren (with 2 more on the way).

Profession: Lead for Special Projects, Northwestern Energy Company.

Education: Bachelor's degree in social sciences and minor in mathematics from Carroll College. Currently completing a master's degree in philanthropy and development.

Hobbies: Skiing, photography, walking, and lifelong learning.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Member of Kiwanis Club of Silver Bow, Butte, Montana for 18 years and Kiwanis Club of Tombstone, Virginia City, Montana, for 7 years. Distinguished Honors at the following levels: 1995-96 Club President (Silver Bow, Butte); 1997-98 Lt. Governor; 1999-00 Governor; International Growth and Retention Committee 2000-01. Chaired the 1997 Montana District Convention. Counseled 12 districts and served as the International Board Representative to the Priority One Advisory Council 2001-03. Life Member. Tablet of Honor. Awarded the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. Dave and Eva are both Hixson Fellows Diamond Level 3.

Outside Kiwanis:

Participated as a Cub Scout Master, Tiger Cubs volunteer, and Junior Achievement advisor. Coached T-Ball, YMCA basketball, and Little League. Served on the Butte/Silver Bow Council of Commissioners, Planning Board, Economic Development and Attraction of Industry committees, and the Salvation Army and Butte Literacy boards. Awarded UNICEF's Appreciation Award and Pachyderm's Meritorious Service Award for outstanding community service. Commissioned to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.



■ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board as President?

I consider teams to be the lifeblood of our organization, and I have been privileged to work with a phenomenal group of Governors-Elect who are ready to serve their districts. Having served on the International Board for four years and having spent time in all five regions also creates a knowledge base for helping move the organization forward. The success of a leader in Kiwanis at all levels is the transferring of knowledge and motivation to others. We have a great team that is prepared to serve you next year.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

Because of the Kiwanis International Foundation and Kiwanians in the Montana District, I have been involved in an effort to help needy children in Vietnam through Children of Peace International (COPI). One of my favorite moments came through our support of an orphanage in Nha-Trang, Vietnam. The children there received money to buy clothing; instead, they demonstrated their selfless nature by using it to purchase dry beans and rice to help the mountain people nearby. I got great personal satisfaction knowing Kiwanis helped them experience being caregivers themselves.

A recent trip to Ecuador gave me the opportunity to visit several Kiwanis clubs in that district. I met with Ecuadorian Kiwanians as they provided great service in their communities, from dental and medical missions that served the impoverished, to a school in a destitute area in the town of Ibarra where Kiwanians provided a school for children who would not be otherwise educated. This picture is one of the students. I was awestruck at the impact these clubs are having in their communities, and I saw the personal sacrifice required to make it happen. Their efforts provided an inspiring moment for me and reconfirmed our need to support each other within Kiwanis and understand our potential as an organization.

Clubs worldwide are providing amazing humanitarian service. They make me extremely proud to be a Kiwanian. I look forward to hearing other stories of phenomenal service as I visit clubs and divisions next year. Let's share our story with pride.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT

DONALD R. "DON" CANADAY

Fishers, Indiana, USA

(Indiana District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Wife Linda; 6 children; and 17 grandchildren.

Profession: Retired US Army officer and retired business executive.

Education: Business administration from University of Maryland.

Hobbies: Golf, bridge, Civil War history, teaching, and spoiling grandchildren.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of Meridian Hills, Indianapolis, Indiana, for 20 years. Charter Club President 1986-87. Former member and president of Kiwanis Club of Lawrence, Indiana, and Kiwanis Club of Chena-Fairbanks, Alaska. Three times distinguished club president. All club officer positions. Chaired numerous club committees. **District:** Lt. Governor 1988-89. District Governor 1997-98. Chairman of Membership Growth, New-Club Building, Achievement, Fundraising, Training and Leadership, Finance and Budget committees. Vice-Chairman of Worldwide Service Project. Indiana District Kiwanian of the Year 1995-96. **International:** Kiwanis International Trustee 2003-06. District Counselor to Alabama, Austria, Florida, Germany, Iceland-Faroes, Kentucky-Tennessee, Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee, New Jersey, Norden, Pennsylvania, and Rocky Mountain districts. Served on various international committees and Board committees. **Additional:** Life Member. Legion of Honor. Hixson Fellow Diamond Level 10. Tablet of Honor. Heritage Society charter member. Kiwanis International Certified Trainer and New Club Builder.

Outside Kiwanis:

President, Veterans Day Council. Vice-Chairman, Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade. USO Counsel. Boy Scouts of America. Scout Master and merit badge counselor. 2003 recipient of Indiana Veterans Counsel Public Service Award. 5 years as member of the National Board of Trustees of the Association of the United States Army.

■ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board as President-Elect?

As a 37-year member, having served at all levels of Kiwanis now, I believe I have a clear understanding of the purpose of our beloved organization. I believe our community is the world. I have witnessed great successes and also failures in Kiwanis clubs. My varied experience in Kiwanis gives me an understanding of how the International organization can enhance Kiwanis clubs and help them be more successful in community service, club operations, fundraising, growth, retention, and community awareness. My extensive background and experience in management, planning, budgeting, training, and leadership enable me to be an effective, contributing force as a member of the International Board and as your future President.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

One day, I received a call from a middle school counselor, asking Kiwanis' help for a young girl who was being treated for leukemia with chemotherapy and was losing all her hair. The counselor asked if the club could provide funds for the girl to purchase a wig. I said yes immediately, assuring her that if the club didn't approve it, I would see to it personally. But when I announced this request to my club, it took less than a minute to gather enough contributions for the wig. Later, after the girl was cured, she wrote the club a thank-you letter. When it was read, there was not a dry eye in the house. We had touched a child's life with our help, but more importantly, that child's life had touched mine.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOR INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

PETER J. "PETE" MIHELICH

St. Charles, Missouri, USA
(Missouri-Arkansas District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Wife Joyce; children Julie Ann, Diane, and Glenn; and grandchildren Shannon, Matthew, and Jacob.

Profession: Retired printing executive. Senior member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Education: Bachelor's degree, electrical engineering, Marquette University. Master's degree, management science, US International University.

Hobbies: Golf, model railroading, restoring old cars, and conducting membership growth sessions at Kiwanis conventions.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of St. Charles, Missouri, for 23 years with 22 years perfect attendance. Distinguished Club President 1987-88.

District: Distinguished Lt. Governor 1988-89. District Governor 1995-96, when Missouri-Arkansas was 1 of only 4 districts to have positive growth. President of Missouri-Arkansas District Foundation (3 years) and Strategic Planning Committee (3 years). **International:** Kiwanis International Trustee 2004-07, currently serving my third year. Member of International Committee on Membership Growth-North America (2 years), which developed the Six Pak program. Member of Board Committees on Sponsored Youth (2 years) and Membership Diversity. Chairman of Board Committee on Our Voice. Board Counselor to 8 Kiwanis districts and to Key Club International. Member of Sponsored Youth Structure Committee. Forum presenter on Membership Growth at an International Convention.

Additional: Life Member. Hixson Fellow Diamond Level. Tablet of Honor. Attended 18 International Conventions and 21 district conventions, a Key Leader session, K University, 4 Key Club conventions, and 3 Circle K conventions. Received McKitrick award from Circle K.



Outside Kiwanis:

Board of Directors for St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, St. Charles County YMCA, and Kiwanis Camp Wyman. President of SSM St. Joseph Health Center Advisory Board and St. Charles Parks and Recreation Foundation. Past Chairman of St. Charles County Friends of Scouting Campaign.

■ **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board as Vice-President?

Having owned a printing company for 29 years, I had to coordinate customer service and employee relations, using financial ability and planning to ensure our continued success. Printing is the final product that ensures an effective message is delivered to an audience.

We are embarking on a major membership growth campaign. The strength of our organization lies with our individual clubs. It is our job to provide education and assistance to clubs to make them stronger. We need to provide clubs with the programs and aids to help train club officers on how to recruit, orient, and retain the members we work so hard to induct.

To reach our goal of one million members by 2015, we will have to open over 200 new clubs each year. We must enlist more TAG team members to energize our new club building program. We need to find a better way to interest young professionals in joining Kiwanis.

I have the experience, the energy, and the ideas to lead our organization to achieve unprecedented growth in the future. We have the people, resources, and members who are willing to work. I will bring business experience, Kiwanis experience, and educational training to effectively lead our organization. Join me in strengthening our Kiwanis world now.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

One of my Kiwanis moments occurred when our club sponsored an Aktion Club. We held a charter night for the new members with parents, friends and Kiwanians present. During the program, the 35-year-old President told us he was very proud to be an Aktion Club member because this was the first time he had been able to join any club. That statement caused all of us to realize the value of an Aktion Club. The members have been enthusiastic about sharing and doing service projects in our community.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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FOR INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

PAUL PALAZZOLO

Springfield, Illinois, USA

(Illinois-Eastern Iowa District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Wife Suanne; children Maria and Anthony.

Profession: County Auditor of Sangamon County, Illinois.

Education: Bachelor's degree in finance from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Hobbies: Family activities, Kiwanis, history, and current events.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of Springfield-Downtown, Illinois, since August 1984. Distinguished President 1991-92.

Secretary 1984-86. Cheese Sale Chairman (9 years). Bulletin Editor (2 years). Kiwanis

Advisor to Sacred Heart-Griffin High School Key Club 1989-present.

Perfect attendance since joining Kiwanis. **District:** Distinguished Governor 1994-95. Distinguished Lt. Governor 1988-89. District Secretary 1990-91.

Treasurer 1992-93. As governor and district secretary, Illinois-Eastern Iowa earned Kiwanis International's Administrative Excellence Award. President of District Foundation Board. Lt. Governor Trainer (10 years). Club Officer Training (6 years). Member of Key Club District Adult Committee 1984-93.

International: Trustee 2004-07. Member of Board Executive Committee (2 years). Chairman of Board Leadership Development Committee

2006-07. Board Counselor to Circle K International 2005-06. Key Leader Development/ Advisory Committee. Member of Governor-Elect training

team for 2 International Presidents. **Additional:** Member of Griffin High School Key Club, Springfield, Illinois 1980-84. Key Club Lt. Governor

1982-83. Key Club Distinguished Governor 1983-84. Life Member. Hixson Fellow Diamond level. Tablet of Honor. Heritage Society. Secretary of

1994-95 Class of Governors. Alabama Kiwanis Foundation J. Mercer Barnett Fellow. Circle K International Opal Award 2000. Conventions

attended: 20 Kiwanis International (forum presenter at 7), 14 Key Club, 8 Circle K.



Outside Kiwanis:

Treasurer, Senior Center Services Board 2006-present. Treasurer, Springfield Airport Authority 2000-06. Trustee, Springfield Park District 2001-05. Co-Chairman (with wife, Suanne) of Salvation Army's Tree of Lights campaign 2003 & 2004. Member and lector, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception parish. Past President, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central Illinois. Kentucky Colonel 1994. Illinois licensed real estate broker. Springfield Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Community Leadership Award.

■ **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board as Vice-President?

I believe that I'd bring a unique perspective and a history of successful leadership to the role of Kiwanis International Vice-President. Regarding experience, I'd offer a distinct understanding from having served as a Club Secretary, Distinguished Club President, Distinguished Lt. Governor, District Secretary, District Treasurer, Distinguished Governor and International Trustee. When it comes to issues facing our Kiwanis family, I have direct knowledge from having served as a Key Club district governor, a Key Club advisor for 18 years, and from additional work with Circle K Clubs and Builders Clubs. My education and career background contribute to a working knowledge of the financial aspects of our organization. Finally, I also feel that my personal family support and my story of Kiwanis family service will provide an extremely positive example for the future of our organization, both internally and externally.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

During my high school years, many Kiwanians made a difference in my life. Our Key Club faculty advisor, district administrator, and other Kiwanians both locally and throughout Illinois-Eastern Iowa made an impact on me, and I wanted to model my life after them. When I was asked to join the Kiwanis club that sponsored my Key Club, it was an honor and a way to continue being involved with those individuals who helped develop many of the skills I have today. More importantly, I saw it as a responsibility to help the organization continue doing what it did for students like me. As a result, Kiwanis moments for me are when I see young people I've worked with in the Kiwanis family become successful in our organization and in their chosen field.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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FOR INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE REGION I (U.S.)

BASCOM L. ALLEN SR.

Starkville, Mississippi, USA

(Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Wife Jimmye; children Lee and Angelique; and 5 grandchildren.

Profession: Retired banker.

Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting from Mississippi State University. Graduate of Louisiana School of Banking of the South.

Military Service: Veteran, United States Air Force.

Hobbies: Travel, jogging, and grandchildren, but mostly Kiwanis.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of Starkville, Mississippi, for 33 years, with 28 years perfect attendance. Distinguished Club President 1978-79.

Kiwanian of the Year 1980-81. Secretary 1994-97 and 2005-present. Distinguished Secretary 1994-96 and 2005-06. Treasurer 1999-04.

District: Distinguished Lt. Governor 1991-92. Distinguished District Governor 1998-99. Past District Officers Executive Committee 1992-98 and Chairman 1997-98. Kiwanis International Accredited Representative 1992-93. Committee Chairman New Club Building for North Mississippi 1993-94. Kiwanis Training and Leadership 1995-96. Young Children Priority One 1996-97. Regional Coordinator, Worldwide Service Project District Steering Committee 1996-97. Achievement and Strategic Planning 1999-00. Past Governors 1999-01. Education and Club Development 2002-04. Membership Growth 2000-06.

International: Resolutions Chairman 2000-01. Vice-Chairman of Elections 2000. Membership and New Club Building Committee 2000-06. Kiwanis Certified Trainer 1999-present. TAG Team Member 2005-present. **Additional:** Life Member. Legion of Honor. Hixson Fellow Diamond Level 2. Tablet of Honor from International and District Foundations. Heritage Society. Attended 16 International Conventions and numerous district conventions.



Outside Kiwanis:

Starkville Chamber of Commerce. Treasurer, United Way of North Mississippi. Starkville Dizzy Dean Baseball League organizer, coach, and business manager. Past Crusade Chairman and President, local American Cancer Society. Past Board Member Mississippi Division of American Cancer Society. Member and Elder, Starkville Church of Christ.

■ **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board?

For 33-plus years, one of the greatest rewards of the Kiwanis experience has been sharing it with others. Bringing new members into my club and helping to build Kiwanis clubs in communities where K-Kids, Builders Clubs, and Key Clubs do not exist in the local schools fuel my passion to help fellow Kiwanians serve others. It is especially rewarding to see men and women attracted to our message of service and fellowship and thereafter offer themselves for a lifetime of service to their local communities. I have developed, through a trial and error process, ways to motivate Kiwanians to raise their standard of excellence in caring for children in their communities and worldwide. While experiencing great Kiwanis fellowship, we have provided better community service, club leadership, club operations, and fundraising, plus growth and retention. My extensive background in banking (25 years), with 10 years as chief financial officer, gives me valuable experience in budgeting, policy-making, leadership training, and strategic planning. I am confident I have the skills necessary to engage with and help fellow Kiwanians mold the lives of children through better and greater service in all of the world's communities.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

It was a typical day at the Kiwanis Center for Child Development in Jackson, Tennessee, which provides educational, physical, and occupational therapy for children with developmental problems. It was the center's 45th anniversary and I was invited to the celebration. In a class for autistic preschool children, I befriended a little 5-year-old, blond-haired girl. She was sliding her feet along the floor as she practiced riding a tricycle. When I said goodbye, she motioned for me to lean over, and she kissed me on my cheek. Suddenly, I realized that nothing in this life is better or more satisfying than helping a child to reach his or her full potential.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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FOR INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE REGION I (U.S.)

RANDOLPH "RANDY" DELAY

Houston, Texas, USA

(Texas-Oklahoma District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Wife Drue; children Nicole and Randy II; and grandchildren Reagan, Cora, Rand, and Peyton.

Profession: Attorney and Counselor-at-Law (general practice, labor law, governmental affairs, and administrative law). Corporate CEO. Strategist.

Education: Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law (1976). Bachelor's degree in business and finance from University of Houston (1972). Graduate Joint Venture College of St. Mary's University School of Law, Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico-USA.

Hobbies: Golf, outdoorsman, conservationist, and photography.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of Greater North Houston, Texas. Former member of Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi Del Mar. Distinguished Club President 1985, 1990, 1994. Built and chartered an all-women club in Corpus Christi, Texas 1988. Key Club Charter and Club Advisor. Chartered Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids Club. 18 years perfect attendance. **District:** Distinguished Lt. Governor 1986-87. Governor 1999-00. IDD Worldwide Service Project Chair, 5 years. Youth Services Chair.

Children's Miracle Network Telethon Chair. Kiwanis International Foundation Chair. District Foundation Board of Trustees. District Key Club's Hall of Fame award. 21st Century Club Charter Member. CT Bush Award. Started 2 Terrific Kids programs. District Life Member.

International: IDD Worldwide Service Project District Ambassador.

Know to Say No Anti-Drug Campaign. International Committee on Youth Services. Kiwanis International Foundation Heritage Society Committee. President's Advisory Cabinet. Founder's Circle. **Additional:** Hixson Fellow Diamond Level 15+. Tablet of Honor. Kiwanis Children's Fund President's Circle.

Kiwanis Leadership Society. Legion of Honor.



Outside Kiwanis:

Mo Ranch Men's Conference Board of Directors; planned and implemented Boy's Summer Camp. Ada Wilson Children's Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation, Chairman of the Board. Gulf Coast Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Houston Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Palmer Drug Abuse Program Advisory Board. Grace Presbyterian Church elder, youth sponsor, Sunday school teacher, finance, stewardship, and education committees. Presbyterian Men USA Board of Directors. Ronald McDonald House. United Way. Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Leadership Corpus Christi. City of Corpus Christi Park Board. Harbor Playhouse Board of Directors..

■ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board?

I am the founder and owner of a strategic planning and governmental affairs consulting firm: www.ppsci.com. My life's journey has led me along a path from trial and legal advocacy to innovative problem solving in the private and public sectors. Along this path, tools of sensitive listening, innovation, and tireless work ethic have been learned while steering a successful course resolving complex business issues. These blessings, coupled with 25-plus years of Kiwanis service and leadership, have prepared me to offer Kiwanis members a commitment to provide innovative strategic planning, legal advocacy, and intervention services to produce permanent, cost effective and ethical solutions, all with the purpose to continue and further the major objectives of Kiwanis. I am committed to grow Kiwanis to more service and community leadership.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

My first Kiwanis moment that changed my life was the day my neighbor Doug Shields invited me to lunch with the Corpus Christi Del Mar Kiwanis Club. By virtue of attending that meeting and participating in a service project soon thereafter, I became aware that my priorities had been misplaced. I discovered that the way to feel better about yourself is to make someone else feel better. Each one of us has come to know Kiwanis in a different way, but each one of us has been touched by a Kiwanian.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

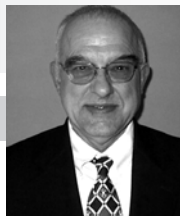
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FOR INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE REGION I (U.S.)

BERNARD WAYNE "BERNIE" KNOTT, ED.D.

Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, USA

(West Virginia District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Spouse of 37 years, Adele; children John, Mathew, Mark, Rebekah, Luke, and Sarah; and grandchildren Alexis, Zachary, Sierra, Anthony, Riese, and Cooper.

Profession: Educator, currently Assistant Principal at a 650 student ethnically-diverse high school for 9th graders.

Education: Bachelor's degrees in secondary education and mathematics. Master's degree in environmental science. Doctor of Education degree in leadership and technology.

Military Service: U.S. Navy, Vietnam Veteran, Honorable discharge.

Hobbies: Gardening, reading, Internet, and academic competitions.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, for 21 years. Club President 4 times. Secretary 7 years. **District:** Lt. Governor 1994-1995. Distinguished Governor 2000-01. Distinguished Secretary 2001-05. Chaired original Strategic Planning Committee. Club trainer. Key Club Zone Committee, 14 years. **International:** Sponsored Youth Committee. Elections Committee. District Secretaries Committee. **Additional:** Built 1 new Kiwanis club and 5 new Key Clubs, and rebuilt 1 Key Club. Key Club Advisor for 21 years. Attended 9 Kiwanis International Conventions, 2 Key Club International Conventions, 21 district conventions and midyear conferences, 20 Key Club district conventions, 4 Fall Rallies, and 5 Kiwanis Family East Conferences. Life Member. Hixson Fellow Diamond Level 2. Heritage Society. G. Harold Martin Fellow. Named a Kiwanis Beneficiary in 2006. Recipient of Charles McCallister Award for Service to Key Club.

Outside Kiwanis:

1995 West Virginian of the Year. Served on many church, cooperative, fair, and civic boards. Local School Improvement Council. Farm Bureau member for 37 years. Math Field Day coordinator for 17 years. Former member of local ministerial association. County 4-H Small Projects Leader.

■ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board?

During my professional career, I have been asked to perform duties as a member and as a leader. This has taught me to be patient and concise in what to say and when to say it. It has taught me how to follow and how to offer advice and opinions within a group setting and how to direct and guide while serving the needs of fellow committee members or board members as the leader.



From these positions, I learned how to look at not just the data before me but the broader picture—the data behind the data. Thus, during my tenure as Governor-elect, I noticed the lack of a guiding document for the West Virginia District. With assistance from Kiwanis International, I helped establish the West Virginia District Strategic Plan. By following the steps in the Strategic Plan, we achieved the first growth year in the West Virginia District in 10 years.

Over the last few years, I have worked with fellow Kiwanians from the Pacific Rim to the European Union. I have learned that we see events through different filters. I have learned to listen and, at times, compromise, to reach a consensus for the common good. I also have learned that what works in one culture may not work in another, thus the need for diversity in our approaches to problems. I see Kiwanis Next as a Kiwanis with common goals but differing approaches based upon the rich cultural diversity found in a global organization.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

As a 20-year-old sailor in the U.S. Navy, I was touring Hong Kong and came upon a group of street boys. One of them came up to me begging for money; he was covered in filth and sores. I made a vow that day that if I were ever able, I would do what I could to help children like him. After stints with different civic organizations, a friend invited me to a Kiwanis meeting. Through Kiwanis, I found the way to serve not just a child, but children everywhere. Today, 21 years after joining Kiwanis, I am still enthused with the organization and its mission “to serve the children of the world, one child and one community at a time.”

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOR INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE REGION I (U.S.)

RUSTY THOMAS

McLouth, Kansas, USA

(Kansas District)



■ PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family: Husband Jim.

Profession: Financial Services.

Education: Miami-Dade Community College. Florida Atlantic University.

Hobbies: Walking, reading, and playing with my dog Einstein.

■ SERVICE AND HONORS

Within Kiwanis:

Club: Member of Kiwanis Club of Lawrence, Kansas, for 19 years. Distinguished Club President 1991-92. Newsletter Editor. Membership Chair. Circle K and Key Club Sponsor. Other committees. Lawrence Kiwanis Club Substantial Citizen 2004. Ruby K award, personally sponsoring more than 60 members. **District:** Lt. Governor 1993-94 and 2001-02. District Governor 1995-96. Kansas Foundation's James W. Putnam award. Membership and Growth Committee 1991-93. PAC Chair 1996-2004. Certified Kiwanis Educator 1996-present. Education/Club Development Committee Chair 1998-2001. Risk Management Chair. Life Member. Kansas Kiwanis Foundation Board of Trustees 2001-03.

International: Life Member. Membership Growth Committee 1997-98. Education/Club Development member 1999-00, and Chair in 2000.

President's Advisory Council. **Additional:** Hixson Fellow Diamond Level 4. Tablet of Honor. Heritage Society. Attended 16 International Conventions and 17 district conventions.

Outside Kiwanis:

Lawrence Chamber of Commerce: Envoy Committee, Small Business Committee, Government Affairs Committee, Ambassadors, Past Board Member/Vice-President, Wally Galluzi Volunteer of the Year 2000.

Lawrence Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors: Past President, State Convention Chair 2004, Newsletter Editor 2002-present. Wakarusa Valley Development Board 1998-present. Lawrence Women's Network 1980-present, President in 1982 and 2004, Career Woman of the Year 1982. Better Business Bureau Board Member 1993-present and Chair 1994-1995.

Beta Sigma Phi 1981-present. League of Women Voters, Lawrence/
Douglas County 1982-present. American Heart Association, Douglas
County Affiliate President 1982-1993 and Board Member 1982-2001.
Douglas County Safe Kids Coalition, Certified Child Safety Seat
Technician 2004-present.

■ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What experience and strengths would you bring to the Board?

After joining Kiwanis, it became clear that the best thing about Kiwanis is the individual club, its members, and the community service that clubs provide. Individual clubs are the foundation of Kiwanis. The best way Kiwanis, as an international organization, can help clubs succeed is by listening and responding quickly to their concerns.

For Kiwanis to succeed, we must grow one member at a time. The most challenging obstacle to increasing membership is the missed opportunities of asking people we know to join. Every Kiwanian needs to go back to the basics and ask those we know and those we meet to join the best service organization in the world. We must be diverse in our membership goals.

It will take a great deal of energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge to help lead Kiwanis into the future. As an International Trustee, I will listen and respond quickly. Being self-employed allows me to be sufficiently flexible to devote the necessary time and energy to fulfill the role of International Trustee. Kiwanis has helped me be a better person and a better member of my community. My work as a Kiwanian and my experience in the professional world have given me the wisdom, vision, financial knowledge and motivation to be an effective Kiwanis International Board member.

What is your Kiwanis moment: a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

After reading aloud to six-year-old Michael P. for several months, having him tell me that now it was his turn to read to me.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

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