

Kiwanis Insider



Rob Parker • Chief Executive Officer

August 25, 2008

For the Leadership of Kiwanis International

Dear Kiwanis Leaders:

Momentum is Building

Reports are coming in from all over the Kiwanis world and they are overwhelmingly positive. Kiwanis clubs and districts are experiencing a renewal of energy and spirit that is spreading throughout the Kiwanis family. International Board Counselors are returning home from District Conventions with amazing stories of service and growth that provide the first compelling evidence that Kiwanis is beginning to build momentum. Like a large ship that requires a tremendous amount of thrust to get up to speed, that same ship becomes almost impossible to stop once it really gets moving. After several years of membership declines, Kiwanis is poised to record its third year of net growth. While the growth percentage over that three-year period is not huge, it is a dramatic improvement over the declines of the past. Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Club Presidents and Growth Team Members are doing a great job of growing existing clubs and opening new ones. Great work, Kiwanis Leaders!

Blog with Us

Please click on the www.kiwanisleader.org and join the ongoing conversation about Kiwanis. Interact with International Board Officers and senior staff of Kiwanis on any topic of interest to you. If you know how to write an e-mail, you have enough technical knowledge to be a part of this blog. Share your opinions and help shape the future of Kiwanis.

Successful Succession

As our leaders throughout the Kiwanis world put the finishing touches on this current year of leadership, there are a few things yet to be accomplished. In addition to pushing right to the finish line, strong leaders always set their successors up for even greater accomplishments in the future. Each of us has a personal responsibility to make sure there is a smooth transition of leadership and that each new leader is as prepared as possible for the task ahead.

Following are a few thoughts about how to do this well:

1. Share with your successor that you will do whatever you can to ensure their success as a leader.
2. Communicate to as many leaders as possible your support of the new leader or leadership team.
3. Make a commitment not to interfere with the work of the new leader and never to engage in criticism or negative comments.
4. Prepare yourself to re-direct people who continue to come to you with problems/issues.
5. Volunteer to take on a new leadership role that will keep you focused on the positive and unavailable for things that are counter-productive.

Once the administrative year is officially over and you have a chance to slow down a little, take a few moments to make a list of the things that you learned this year about leadership and about people. You might be surprised at how the things you have learned will help you develop as a person and as a leader.

The final task is to make a list of all the people who made a difference on your journey and make sure you thank them. Remember to thank them in a way that is proportionate with their contribution as it is probably the only payment they will receive. Lastly, please accept my personal gratitude for your willingness to share your skills, talents and experience with the Kiwanis family.

Thanks for leading.

Rob