



Kiwanis Insider

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For the Leadership of Kiwanis

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Dear Kiwanis Leaders:

It has been a busy two weeks since my last conversation with you. The majority of that time was spent at the International Convention in San Antonio with 5500 of my new Kiwanis friends. It was awesome to meet so many people who have chosen Kiwanis as the way they want to lead and serve others. I enjoyed sharing some of my hopes and dreams for our organization, and the Kiwanis member responses were very encouraging. Hundreds of leaders told me they desire to be part of refreshing *Kiwanis Classic* and helping build *Kiwanis Next*.

For those of you who were not able to attend, I will offer a few of the highlights:

- The opening session was the “Kiwanis Show” with Nelson Tucker and Steve Siemens serving as the hosts. My portion of this event included a chance to share what it has felt like to be a newcomer to Kiwanis and the challenges and joys of learning a new culture. This event was a departure from our normal routine of speeches and introductions and was very well received by the attendees.
- The delegate sessions, including a new scanned balloting system, went very smoothly, and many of the critical amendments passed by overwhelming majorities.
- The “Next Generation Kiwanis” Amendment passed with over 90% of the delegates voting to give the board, staff and local clubs the flexibility to create new forms of Kiwanis memberships to help attract more people to Kiwanis.
- Paul Palazzolo was elected as Vice President, which will put him in line to serve as International President in '09-'10.
- Peter Wuellenweber and Ed Sedillo were officially elected as board members to fill the seat for Europe and Asia-Pacific.
- My title was officially changed from Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer. I have been acting in this capacity since last August with authority delegated by the board and the International President, so this will not significantly change my duties.
- Brian and Miki Cunat and Elmer and Bernyce Austermann were recognized as “Elite Eagles” for their million dollar commitments to the Kiwanis Endowment Campaign.
- Clint Black performed on the main stage and was a highlight for country music fans.
- The KI Board, KIF Board, ASPAC Board and the Past Presidents all held meetings in San Antonio in addition to District dinners, caucuses and meetings.
- The World Service Medal was presented to Karen Scheeringa of “Hearts In Motion”.

Share Your Opinion at 1-800-207-9350

We are testing a new way to gather the opinions of our leaders and would like you to participate. A short, five-question telephone survey is currently available by calling 1-800-207-9350. While this test survey is currently only available in English through a US-Based Toll-Free Number, it will be expanded for use in other languages and regions in the future. Please give it a try.

Technology Update

A new website for leaders is now located at www.kiwanisleader.org. Although there is much more work that needs to be done to make this a valuable destination for our leaders, we have begun to populate it with leadership content. Please take a moment to visit the site for access to an ongoing web conversation (blog) called "Leadership Matters", as well as videos, electronic presentations, and other resources. A refreshed website at www.kiwanis.org was also unveiled at the KI Convention with an all-new look and simplified navigation. Early feedback has been very positive and I look forward to hearing your reaction to the new sites.

New Ideas for Kiwanis Growth

With the passage of the Kiwanis Next Amendment, we are in need of your thoughts and ideas on how we might make Kiwanis more attractive to the Next Generation of Kiwanians. Please log onto www.kiwanisleader.org and click the link asking for new ideas. Your comments will be viewed by other Kiwanis Leaders who will be able to react and respond. This will move our communication towards a two-way conversation on this important issue.

Finishing Strong

One of the dynamics that we face at Kiwanis is the natural temptation to allow the International Convention to mark the closing of our Kiwanis year. As a leader you may already be looking at September 30th as the finish line and begin to slow down now. My encouragement to you as a fellow leader is to sprint all the way through the finish line. Successful leaders do not slow down when they near the end of a race. Leaders look within themselves to find additional energy to finish strong. Please resist the temptation to "mail it in" and let someone else take it from here. Our success as a force for good in this world is dependent on your leadership, and we need your ability to motivate your volunteers to finish with a strong push. Your teams will take their cues from you and will respond if you make the extra effort to motivate and inspire them.

Personal Update

At the end of this month, I will be taking a few days off to refresh and recharge my internal batteries. Although we all do this a different way, my plans include some time outdoors riding my motorcycle, camping and hiking and enjoying a couple of good books. I also plan to step back and take a good look at this past year and consider what kind of progress we have made here at Kiwanis. My next update to you will hopefully include a new perspective that comes from stepping away and taking a fresh look at things. As someone who has not been very good over the years at taking time away, I would encourage all of you to try to find that important time to invest in yourself and your family. It will pay remarkable dividends.

Thanks for leading.

Rob