



# Kiwanis®

**KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN**

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## **NEWSLETTER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

The 98<sup>th</sup> Kiwanis International Convention was held in Vancouver, BC June 26 – 29, 2013. The 58<sup>th</sup> annual Circle K International convention was held at the same time in Vancouver. Over 4,000 Kiwanians, Circle K members and guests attended the events.



The convention centre from the outside



# ELIMINATE

maternal/neonatal tetanus

Club Website: <http://www.ridgetownkiwanis.com>  
E.C.& C. District Website: [www.kiwanisecc.org](http://www.kiwanisecc.org)  
Kiwanis International Website: [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)

## **Wednesday, June 26**

Registration and the Kiwanis Store opened at 7:00 am and the Exhibit hall opened at noon. Workshops started Wednesday afternoon followed by a Welcome Reception in the exhibit hall.

## **Thursday, June 27**

KI President Tom DeJulio, Circle K President Josephine Lukito and Key Club International President Rebecca Riley officially opened the convention Thursday at 8:30 am.



At the opening ceremonies International President Tom and Rosemary DeJulio introduced their team of district governors and their partners. The Circle K governors joined the Kiwanis governors of their respective districts.



E.C.&C. Governor Peter and Joanne Tudisco with Eastern Canada Circle K Governor Katie Wyslocky.

The entertainment at opening ceremonies was Justin Willman, a comedic magician and host of Food Network's Cupcake Wars.



The keynote speaker at the opening session was John O'Leary. As a nine-year-old boy he was burned on 100 percent of his body and given less than a 1 percent chance of survival. He endured months in hospital, years in therapy, many surgeries and lost all his fingers to amputation. Despite the odds he survived and thrived. He is a college graduate, business owner, international speaker, husband and father. His story was emotional, humorous and empowering. His message to all in attendance was "What More Can I Do?".



John O'Leary [www.RisingAbove.com](http://www.RisingAbove.com)

The Leadership Luncheon was held on Thursday following opening session. Keynote speaker at the luncheon was Rick Hansen. In 1987, Canadian Paralympian Rick wheeled through 34 countries in 26 months to raise awareness for people with disabilities. The original \$26 million raised on his Man in Motion tour has grown to over \$245 million for spinal cord research through his foundation. Rick's message was very inspirational. He was very interested in Kiwanis and stayed after lunch to meet with members for pictures.



Thursday afternoon 21 different forums were offered - Club Membership committees; The Power of Key Club International; Key Leader for Adults; Fundraising for the Eliminate Project; the Eliminate Project update with UNICEF Canada CEO David Morley; Landscape Structures: make a difference through play; What to do in Vancouver; First-time attendee orientation and many more.



### **Friday, June 28**

Friday started at 6:30 am with registration for the Eliminate Project Walk. The Olympic Torch was lit to start the hundreds of Kiwanians walking! Circle K members lined the route to cheer on the Kiwanians. CBC television was there to capture the walk beginning.



Following the Eliminate Walk another 20 forums were offered – Introduction to the new Kiwanis.org website; Support for preferred charities; Foundation 101; Opening the world to children with books; Maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination progress - a three person panel including Elle Canada managing editor Christina Reynolds, myself and Kiwanian Bill Harrigan from Kentucky; Recruiting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and many more.

Friday afternoon was the business session and house-of-delegates. At this session the current international board and their partners were introduced as well as the international foundation board and partners. The Kiwanis International Foundation presented the **Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism to Nicole Bunting**. Nicole, an elementary school teacher from Fairview Heights, Illinois, saved a woman from drowning in a frigid lake on January 22, 2012. She dove into the icy water and swam about 20 meters to reach the woman before pulling her safely to shore.

There were 15 proposed amendments to the Kiwanis International Bylaws to be debated and voted by the convention delegates. Each Kiwanis club throughout the world is allowed two voting delegates and there are current and past officers that have delegate-at-large status. At this convention there were 1,337 clubs represented by 2072 delegates and 450 delegates-at-large for a total of 2,522 voting delegates.

**Proposed Amendment 1** – To provide for earlier publication of proposed amendments and resolutions, allowing clubs to take advantage of early-bird registration rates for the convention. Proposed amendments must be submitted to Kiwanis International by October 31 prior to the next scheduled convention. **Passed by 83%**

**Proposed Amendment 2** – To provide that district house action will be the standard method of endorsing candidates for Kiwanis International Board offices. All candidates for International office must be endorsed by the candidate's district house of delegates prior to announcing their candidacy. **Passed by 72%**

**Proposed Amendment 3** – To provide that a district governor must have finished his/her term as governor before officially announcing their candidacy for Kiwanis International trustee. **Passed by 87%**

**Proposed Amendment 4** – To discontinue the dues rebate for clubs that have grown at least 25% in the prior year. **Passed by 73%**

**Proposed Amendment 5** – To discontinue the dues waiver for new members of clubs who were former members of Kiwanis' Service Leadership Programs. **Withdrawn by Kiwanis International Board**

**Proposed Amendment 6** – To allow clubs to have a varying number of club delegates at district conventions, based on the number of members enrolled in their clubs. **Failed by 78%**

**Proposed Amendment 7** – To establish stronger provisions to help protect the entire Kiwanis organization and the youth served by Kiwanis from members whose conduct involves moral turpitude or whose behavior with minors is found to be illegal. After two amendments to the amendment, there was then a motion to refer this amendment back to the international bylaws committee for further study. Amendment to refer back **Passed by 78%**

**Proposed Amendment 8** - To clarify provisions regarding conduct unbecoming a Kiwanis International officer. This amendment aligns provisions applicable to Kiwanis International officers with those applicable to district officers and club members, making the standards and processes as similar as possible at each level of the organization. **Passed by 96%**

**Proposed Amendment 9** – To clarify that Kiwanis clubs are the constituent members of federations. This applies to clubs within the Kiwanis International European Federation. **Passed by 87%**

**Proposed Amendment 10** – To allow flexibility in the composition of the governing board of a Kiwanis federation. At this time the Kiwanis International European Federation is the only existing federation. This amendment applies to Kiwanis clubs in Europe and provides the federation with the flexibility to operate as best suits the needs, cultures and practices of their clubs.

**Passed by 96%**

**Proposed Amendment 11** – To waive Kiwanis International dues payment by a club for members experiencing hardship while still retaining those members' rights and privileges. The proposed amendment was withdrawn by the submitting club, The Kiwanis Club of North St. Andrew Jamaica. They received clarification that members pay dues to their clubs and the club may set membership dues at any level. It is the Kiwanis clubs that are members of Kiwanis International and the club is responsible for the international dues.

**Withdrawn**

**Proposed Amendment 12** – To prohibit all campaign spending and restrict campaign practices by candidates for Kiwanis International Board offices.

**Failed by 72%**

**Proposed Amendment 13** – To provide that a criminal history background check will be accepted by Kiwanis International when a district conducts its own background check on a volunteer that meets or exceeds Kiwanis International standards.

**Passed by 85%**

**Proposed Amendment 14** – To restrict expense reimbursement for Kiwanis International past presidents to only the last three office holders.

**Failed by 50% - 2/3 vote needed to adopt**

**Proposed Amendment 15** – To change the motto of Kiwanis International. The submitting club proposed "We Help Build Better Communities" to replace the current motto "Serving the Children of the World".

**Failed by 97%**

#### **Administrative Resolution**

In accordance with the Kiwanis International Bylaws, the House of Delegates at the 2013 Kiwanis International convention agrees to permanently adopt company-based clubs, corporate membership, affiliate clubs, and club satellites as new forms of club membership.

**Passed by 96%**

Also during the business session the elections for Kiwanis International trustees and officers were held.

#### **2013-14 Kiwanis International Officers elected:**

President – Gunter Gasser from Austria



Gunter and Christiana Gasser

President-elect – John Button from Ridgetown



Vice-President – Sue Petrisin from Michigan  
Sue will be the first female president of Kiwanis International



There was an election for three trustees representing Region I – the U.S. & Pacific Canada clubs. Elected were:  
Patti Barsotti from California  
Patrick Ewing from British Columbia  
Kevin Dean from West Virginia

As you can see the house-of-delegates and business session was a very long afternoon. The two delegates representing our club – PLG Allen and myself – were in the house for over 4 hours – 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Friday evening entertainment, a separate ticketed event, was the Midtown Men, members of the original cast of Jersey Boys. They gave a great performance of 60's music.



## **Saturday, June 29**

Saturday started at 7:00 am with the Faith and humour breakfast. Keynote speaker at the breakfast was Nick Katsoris, author of the acclaimed Loukoumi children's book series. The books' main character is Loukoumi, a lamb that wants to make the world a better place.

Katsoris sponsors the annual Growing Up with Loukoumi Dream Day Contest, which gives children an opportunity to spend the day in their dream careers. He also rallies thousands of children each October on National Make a Difference Day. Following his talk he read his most recent book soon to be published.

Following the breakfast another 18 forums were offered - Protecting your online identity; Up with People; Pep rally for 2013-14 leaders, from clubs to districts; Young Children Priority One – the first 2,000 days; Health and wellness for the young at heart; Youth Protection Guidelines and you; The Power of Service Leadership Programs; You don't have to be a tri-athlete to be fit and healthy and many more.

The Eliminate Project Luncheon was held on Saturday. Keynote speaker was Caryl Stern, president and CEO of U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Caryl spoke of the progress we have made with our funds raised for the Eliminate Project. She shared stories of her many trips to countries still affected by maternal neonatal tetanus (MNT) and the many women she has met that still need our help. UNICEF is working to eliminate MNT in India. Due to the size of the country they are working state by state and currently 19 of 36 states have been declared MNT eliminated.

As she travels Caryl has found 3 common things in every country in the world:

- children will play with some form of a ball
- your lap is never your own when children are near
- parents the whole world over want the same things for their children



Caryl Stern

Following the luncheon the Closing Session was held.

At this session:

- Departing Kiwanis International board members are recognized
- 2013-14 board of trustees are presented
- 2012-13 Distinguished Districts are presented
- The World Service Medal is presented
- 2013-14 President Gunter Gasser presents his goals for the coming year
- Japan district's invitation to the 2014 convention

The **World Service Medal** is presented annually at the Kiwanis International Convention. One medal is awarded each year to an individual or organization working to improve the quality of life for children. Previous winners have included actors and humanitarians Sir Roger Moore, Audrey Hepburn and Jamie Lee Curtis; First Ladies Nancy Reagan and Rosalyn Carter and organizations Heifer International and Sleeping Children Around the World. This year the medal was presented to Canadian singer **Sarah McLachlan**. The medal was presented to recognize her dedication to music education. The Sarah McLachlan School of Music in Vancouver provides music education to underserved and at-risk youth. The school is dedicated to helping young people build community and find their voice. In 1987 she took first place at the Nova Scotia Kiwanis Music Festival. McLachlan brought several of her students with her to perform, and she performed two songs.



Our 2013-14 International President Gunter Gasser, is a retired engineer. Gunter and his wife Christiana are caring and dedicated Kiwanians ready to share their dedication and motivate members around the world. The theme for next year is "We Build Bridges for Children to the Future". The focus for next year will be the new campaign for growth that was announced at convention. Gunter is building a team throughout the Kiwanis world to tackle our declining membership. Regional and district chairs are in place and those in North America will be meeting in September.

Following Gunter's presentation the Japan district extended their invitation to next year's convention in Chiba, Tokyo July 17 - 20, 2014





As you can see attending a Kiwanis International convention is a great experience – a busy four days but worth your time. There are many opportunities for education – Kiwanis and personal. There are great motivational speakers at sessions and luncheons and great entertainment. There is an exhibit hall that held over 30 exhibitors – Boys & Girls Club; Children’s Miracle Network; Dictionary Project; Kids Against Hunger; Landscape Structures; March of Dimes; Scholastic; See’s Candies; US Fund for UNICEF and many more. There are many opportunities to meet Kiwanians from around the world to share ideas and learn about other cultures.

As a club delegate you have a responsibility to your club and the opportunity to shape the future of Kiwanis by electing officers and voting on the proposed amendments. The two delegates your board elected to represent our club were present in the business session the entire time.

An International convention has something for everyone. Next year’s convention is in Japan and will be a major commitment to attend. The 2015 convention will be in Indianapolis – a 5-hour drive from Ridgetown. June 25 – 28, 2015 mark your calendar! Even closer – the 2016 convention will be Toronto June 23 – 26, 2016.

