



Kiwanis CONVENTION



Report on Annual Kiwanis International Convention
Submitted by club delegates Dr. John and Debbie Button

The 99th annual Kiwanis International Convention was held in Tokyo Chiba July 16 – 19, 2014.

The 39th annual Asia-Pacific Region Convention and the celebration of 50 years of service in the Asia Pacific Region were held in conjunction with the Kiwanis International Convention.



The Asia-Pacific Region of Kiwanis International is comprised of clubs from:
District of Malaysia
District of Japan
District of Taiwan
District of Philippine South
District of Philippine Luzon
District in Formation of Australia
District in Formation of New Zealand-South Pacific

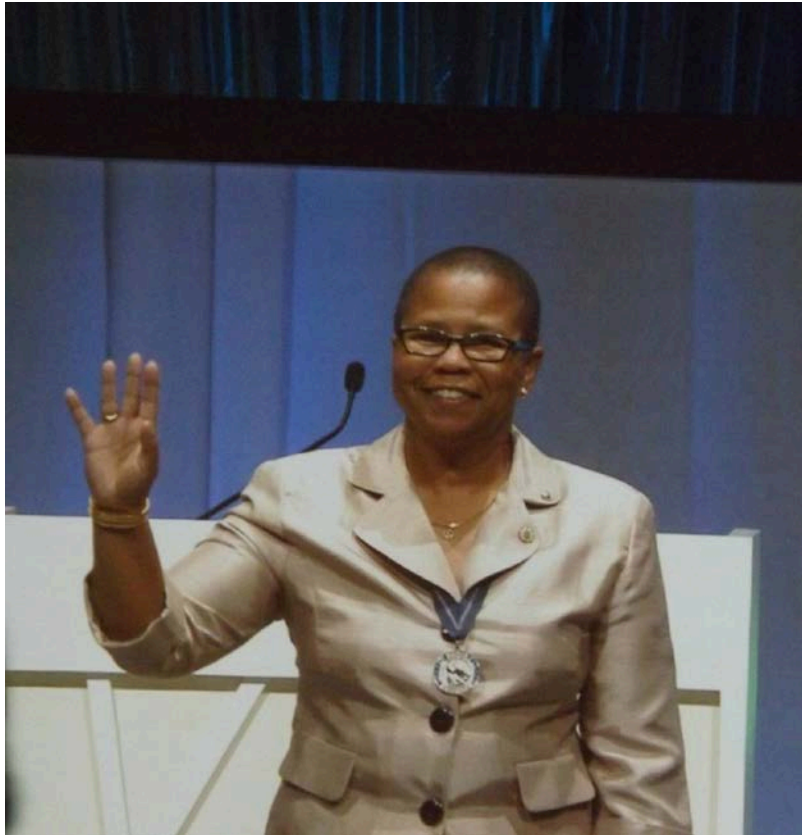
The first club in the Region, the Kiwanis Club of Tokyo celebrated their 50th anniversary in March 2014 and the second club in the region, the Kiwanis Club of Manila celebrated their 50th anniversary July 11, 2014.

The combining of two conventions at one time, at one site worked very well. The region held their business session then took advantage of the International education sessions. Kiwanians from the region had the advantage of one cost and one time away from home/work for both their conventions. It has set a model for future districts to follow when hosting an International convention. The Indiana district will follow this model when they host the International Convention in 2015.

Wednesday, July 16 was a day for registration, delegate certification and shopping at the Kiwanis store.

Thursday, July 17 was the official opening of the convention, held from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

President Gunter Gasser presided over the session that began with the introduction of the current International Board of Trustees and the 2013-14 district governors.



Eastern Canada & Caribbean Governor Hope Markes introduced at opening session.

Following the introduction of governors the chairman of the Asia-Pacific Region, Tadao Oda spoke welcoming attendees to the International and Asia-Pacific convention. There were presentations on the Eliminate Project and the Formula.



Leaders of the Eliminate Campaign and the Formula joined together to show how workings together on both campaigns will strengthen Kiwanis.

Entertainment at this session was exceptional. The Symphonic Orchestra and the Choir of Makuhari Sohgo High School performed. They were both very good. It was like listening to a professional orchestra. Hisako Yashikawa, Flutist performed as well.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino attended the opening session. This was an extraordinary experience for attendees, especially the Japanese Kiwanians. Prince Akishino welcomed attendees to Japan and spoke to Kiwanians about the great work Kiwanis is doing around the world. It was a great privilege to have the Prince and Princess in attendance and for the Prince to address the session. Security was on very high alert and we were not allowed to take pictures of the Imperial Family members. John was fortunate to have been part of the six member welcoming party to meet, talk to and escort the Prince and Princess.



The governor of the Chiba Prefecture and the mayor of Chiba City both spoke at the session and welcomed Kiwanis to their area of Japan.



President Gunter and Christiana with the mayor of Chiba City. The mayor hosted a dinner on Tuesday evening that featured locally sourced food and drink.

The Eliminate Project and Kiwanis International Foundation Honours Luncheon followed the opening session. John gave the keynote address – the Eliminate Project and our trip to Guinea to witness the project in action.



Thursday afternoon attendees had 17 forums to choose to attend. Debbie presented at the Kiwanis and Early Childhood Development forum. This forum presented information on how critical the first 2,000 days of life are for a child's future. Other forums included information on foundations, service leadership programs, celebrating Kiwanis' 100th anniversary, achieving club excellence, the Eliminate Project, Kiwanis' new partner – Up With People, Kiwanis International Foundation grants, Kiwanis' partner for playgrounds and the 100th anniversary designs, what to expect at the 2015 convention, visit Indy, the Detroit 2015 celebration and Kiwanis' Formula for a new century.

Friday, July 18 started at 7:00 am with the Walk to Eliminate MNT. Hundreds of attendees walked through a local park and the streets of Chiba City to raise awareness and funds for the Eliminate Project. The event received great coverage on local radio and TV stations.



From 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday there was a Japan Culture Fair in the main hall of the exhibit area. This fair included origami, calligraphy, Bonsai, Kimono wearing, tea ceremony and flower arranging demonstrations and participation as well as a demonstration of Japanese martial arts.

Again on Friday morning from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm there were another 17 forums for attendees to choose.

Friday afternoon the Business Session ran from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.



The session started with entertainment by Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble. This group of very young musicians played the drums and xylophones and danced around the stage. Some of them were so young we could barely see them over their instruments.

The Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism was awarded to Mr. Shun Gen. He was honoured for endangering his own life to save a child from drowning in the Yodo River in Japan.



Kiwanis International Executive Director Stan Soderstrom gave his report at the business session.

The report covered three key areas:

Strategic Direction of Kiwanis

Financial highlights of the past year

Progress on three main initiatives; The Formula

Eliminate Project

100th birthday celebrations

Strategic priorities for Kiwanis are: Membership

Service

Enhance our image

Varied revenue streams to build a financially strong organization

Following the Executive Director's report the credentials committee gave their report.

676 clubs were represented at the convention

1,004 delegates and 217 delegates-at-large for a total of 1,221 voting delegates

The first order of business was the presentation of proposed amendments and resolutions.

Detailed information on all proposed amendments and resolutions are at the end of the convention report. For those not interested in that detail of the business – you can stop reading before you get to the business/legal information!

The bylaws amendments business in the house of delegates took three hours!

The next business was the nomination and election of Kiwanis International Board members.

Election order was:

President-elect

President

Trustee-at-large

Region 1 (U.S.A.) three elected

Vice-president



The first election was for Kiwanis International President-elect. The sole candidate for the office was Sue Petrisin from the East Lansing club in the Michigan District.

Sue is an alumnus of Key Club and Circle K. She joined Key Club in 1978 and has been a member of the Kiwanis Family since then. Sue is the Associate Director of the Michigan State University Alumni Association.

Sue will be president for the 2015-16 Kiwanis year.



The next election on the agenda was for President. John was blessed to have his brother Doug give his nomination speech. It was a very special day for us.

There were four candidates for the Trustee-at-large seat. They were:
Ken Alovera, Kiwanis Club of Roxas City, Philippine South District
Frank Arenz, Kiwanis Club of Saarbruecken, Germany District
Pierre Bourgouin, Kiwanis Club of Troyes-Chrestien de Troyes, France-Monaco District
Daniel Vigneron, Kiwanis Club of Vielsam, Belgium-Luxembourg District

Ken Alovera was elected on the first ballot. Ken will begin a three-year term on the International Board October 1, 2014.

Asia-Pacific Region elected Koshiro "Kit" Kitazato to fill their guaranteed seat. Kit will begin a three-year term on the International Board October 1, 2014.

There were six candidates for the election of three seats for Region 1, United States and Pacific Canada. They were:

John Brown, Kiwanis Club of Tooele, Utah-Idaho District

Fred Dietze, Kiwanis Club of Grater Hudson Wisconsin, Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District

John DeVilbiss, Kiwanis Club of West Alexandria, Ohio District

Art Riley, Kiwanis Club of Westminster Maryland, Capital District

Dewey Smith, Kiwanis Club of Albany, Georgia District

Barbara Thompson, Kiwanis Club of Florissant Valley Missouri, Missouri-Arkansas District

Elected on the first ballot were:

Art Riley

Dewey Smith

Barbara Thompson

The final election of the day was for the position of Vice-president.

The two candidates were:

Jane Erickson, Kiwanis Club of Bellevue-Offutt, Nebraska-Iowa District

Warren Mitchell, Kiwanis Club of Greeley Colorado, Rocky Mountain District

Jane Erickson was elected. Jane has been a member of Kiwanis for 23 years. She has served as President of the Kiwanis International Foundation and facilitated training sessions throughout Kiwanis as well as Key Leader events.

The delegates of the 99th annual Kiwanis International Convention spent a long afternoon representing their clubs and conducting the business of the organization.



We took this photo in a traditional Japanese garden close to our hotel. We had time to tour the garden the morning we left for home.

Saturday, July 19 started at 9:00 am with the closing session.

Past President Ito Torres recognized the departing board members:
Immediate Past International President Tom DeJulio – after 7 years on the International Board

Trustees completing their three-year terms – Lee Kuan Yong, Malaysia District, Clinton Green, New Zealand South-Pacific District, Steven Hill, New England District and Warren Mitchell, Rocky Mountain District. These board members were thanked for giving so much of their time to our organization.

Past President Ito then introduced the 2014-15 International Board of Trustees and Officers.



Next Immediate Past President Tom DeJulio presented his 2013-14 Distinguished Districts. E.C.&C. was awarded Distinguished District. Congratulations to Past Governor Peter Tudisco and District Secretary Jim Steele.

Following entertainment by the Makuhari Sohgho High School Dance Group and Philippine South Dance Group, the Eliminate Campaign recognized donors to the project.

Debbie was pleased to accept the “100K club pledge” recognition on behalf of our club.



US Fund for UNICEF representatives Barron Seager and Michael Grudzinski made the presentations. Following the presentation donors were invited on stage and thanked by Eliminate Campaign chairman Randy DeLay, Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser, Kiwanis International President-elect John Button and Kiwanis International Foundation President Lance Incitti.



The final presentation at the closing session was the President-designate's remarks and the call to the 2015 convention. The 2015 host committee showed a great video on Indianapolis and invited everyone to save the date June 25 – 28, 2015 to attend the 100th annual Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

During his presentation John revealed the theme for the 2014-15 year.



From John's presentation:

"I am blessed and excited to serve as your International President for this special time in our organization's history. It is about 100 years of impact, 100 years that have changed the world because you, me and members around the world and those who have come before us chose the way ahead.

Most importantly, it is about the beginning of the next 100 years. It is also about being the courageous leaders that we need to be today, making some difficult decisions and changes that will forge the way ahead, not just for us but for generations of Kiwanians to come; moreover, for generations of children we, Kiwanians, will serve. So that, one day, all children will wake up in communities that care for them, that believe in them and build futures for them.

That is what the next year of Kiwanis will be about: The Way Ahead. And I firmly believe that the way ahead is filled with opportunity. While we have every reason to celebrate our past, let us remain focused on our future, The Way Ahead. The children of the world deserve no less.

There is a saying in the Barbados: the Lord doesn't give, he sends. All over the world, from Europe to Asia to Africa to the Americas, He is sending Kiwanis.

He is sending you. He is sending us. Come with me and be The Way Ahead. The future is ours. Let's to and get it."



2013-14 President Gunter and 2014-15 President John – together adjourn the convention.



Night-lights of Tokyo



A big thanks to the E.C.&C. Kiwanians and especially Ridgetown members – Ken, June, Larry and Brian Hoskins for making the trip to the Toronto airport to welcome us home. Thanks to Chuck & Dorothy McIlravey for organizing the group and hosting the reception in the airport hotel. Also a big thanks to Gary & June for hosting the reception at their home to welcome and congratulate us, and thanks to the members who were there. It is very special to have such a show of support.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS & RESOLUTION

Proposed Amendment 1 – submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Purpose: To restate the existing authority and responsibility of the Kiwanis International Board to comply with “best practices” for nonprofit organizations.

Effective date: Immediately

Vote required to adopt: 2/3

Notes: The amendment does not change the way the Board currently operates or give the Board any new authority. The “best practices” for nonprofit organizations being adopted is to assure membership and donor confidence.

Passed in favour by 97%

Proposed Amendment 2 – submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Purpose: To clarify provisions related to filling a vacancy in the office of Kiwanis International trustee.

Effective date: Immediately

Vote required to adopt: Majority

Notes: In four of the last five years, Kiwanis International has been faced with vacancies in the office of Trustee. These events have brought to light unanticipated challenges in the Bylaws in trying to properly fill the positions.

Passed in favour by 98%

Proposed Amendment 3 - submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Purpose: To eliminate the required separation of subscription funds to allow them to be applied to various printed, electronic and digital communication vehicles now commonly used by Kiwanis members.

Effective date: October 1, 2014

Vote required to adopt: Majority

Notes: Various types of communication vehicles other than the printed magazine make use of the same articles, stories, photography and other content, thus blurring the boundaries between the magazine and other communication methods. Removing the restriction on subscription and advertising funds will allow more flexibility for budgeting and expensing in all media categories, which will still include the printed magazine.

A motion was made to refer this issue back to a committee for further study.

Motion to refer back **passed in favour by 53%. Therefore the original motion died.**

Proposed Amendment 4 - submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Purpose: To provide greater flexibility in district operations, in agreement with proposed revisions to the Standard Form for District Bylaws.

Effective date: October 1, 2014

Vote required to adopt: 2/3

Notes: The Board appointed Task Force on Governing Documents conducted a comprehensive review of the Standard Form for District Bylaws with the goal of allowing more flexibility for districts within specified parameters.

Passed in favour by 79%

Proposed Amendment 5 - submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Purpose: To establish stronger disciplinary provisions to help protect the entire Kiwanis organization and the youth we serve.

Effective date: October 1, 2014

Vote required to adopt: 2/3

Notes: Kiwanis International requires clubs to address allegations of conduct unbecoming a member of the Kiwanis family. However, Kiwanis International currently cannot require a club to remove that member if he/she is found to have committed the alleged conduct, even if such conduct involves depraved or unacceptable behaviour in relation to children or youth. The new policy now defines "depraved or unacceptable behaviour in relation to youth or children". This change will significantly reduce the amount of risk faced by clubs and the organization and especially the potential harm to the youth we serve.

Passed in favour by 94%

Proposed Amendment 6 - submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Purpose: To assure that every Kiwanis club in North America is protected from liability through affordable directors and officers insurance coverage (D&O).

Effective date: The Bylaws word change would be effective immediately.

Coverage for clubs would begin November 1, 2014.

Vote required to adopt: Majority

Notes: The general liability insurance provided by Kiwanis International covers only bodily injury and property damage. The proposed D&O insurance provides protection for directors, officers, committee chairpersons and members for liability and legal expenses arising out of the performance of their duties that may result in claims, such as wrongful dismissal, harassment, discrimination, defamation, unfair hiring/firing practices, failure to follow club bylaws and violation of state/province and federal laws. D&O insurance also covers foundations and service leadership program members.

Many clubs currently purchase D&O insurance through an optional program negotiated by Kiwanis International. Under the new program clubs on average will receive coverage at a much-reduced rate.

Passed in favour by 86% after a great deal of debate!

Administrative Resolution - submitted by the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees

Be it resolved that the House of Delegates directs the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees to investigate the option of allowing all clubs worldwide to vote electronically to elect Kiwanis International Board members, to amend the Kiwanis International Bylaws and to consider proposed resolutions. Such plan will include the necessary technology, an appropriate process and timetable and steps to educate clubs and club members.

And be it further resolved that the Kiwanis International board is directed to present its report to the House of Delegates at the 100th annual Kiwanis International convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2015.

Passed in favour by 70% - There was a great deal of debate by the delegates on this proposed resolution. This resolution just gives the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees direction to study the process of "online voting for Kiwanis International business". Any change to the Kiwanis International Bylaws will still have to be approved at a future convention.