

Caring Corner



It was so great to see so many old friends as Tom and I traveled to the various Zone Conferences around the state this past month. The attendance was awesome and inspiring! It's amazing what we can accomplish as Kiwanians when we focus on Young Children. Tom & I are passionate about helping young children and our service leadership programs.

As you know I will need your help in volunteering at this years Caring Corner during the District Convention in August. I am asking each club to donate a gift basket or hand crafted items like quilts , blankets etc...

Or your club can write a check to the Florida Foundation in the name of the "Caring Corner".

If you would like to help email me at car5915@aol.com or call 561-582-5915.



Carol Ramiccio

Kiwanis International News

Simplifying Dues

Despite a time of global economic difficulties, planning and stewardship have positioned Kiwanis International in a strong financial condition. To help ensure that continues, the Kiwanis International Board is proposing Bylaws amendments that aim to simplify the dues-collection process and sustain financial stability.

A special task force of Kiwanis members studied Kiwanis International's revenue sources for the past year with a goal to provide the necessary flexibility to address changing needs while maintaining accountability to clubs and members. The International Board considered the group's recommendations and will forward four suggestions as proposed Bylaws amendments to the House of Delegates at the 2009 International Convention in Nashville, June 25-28. A fifth recommendation does not require Bylaws changes. The proposals include:

Develop an online billing system for annual club fees and new-member enrollments integrated with Kiwanis International's member database. Members would be able to update their own information 24/7, and club secretaries can process rosters and pay fees online, all via secure methods, though they would still have the option to mail paper copies if preferred. This aspect is key to the proposals, but does not require a Bylaws change to implement.

Establish a common annual billing cycle of October 1 to September 30. This would simplify the process by eliminating the confusion of staggered payment dates based on when each club organized.

Replace the word "dues" with "annual club fee" when it relates to what clubs pay to Kiwanis International. Members owe "dues" only to their clubs, while clubs pay an "annual club fee" to Kiwanis International.

Replace the current flat "new-member add fee" with a "graduated enrollment fee" schedule that decreases each month from a starting point of \$62 (the same amount currently charged for membership dues, magazine subscription, and liability insurance combined) down to \$6 at the end of the year.

Eliminate individual magazine fee waivers for spouses. Even though Kiwanis credits clubs \$8 for each waiver, Kiwanis still pays \$5 for each magazine not mailed in fixed costs that cannot be waived (staffing, article purchases, etc.) Members who do not receive benefit of this waiver absorb the costs.

These recommendations are designed to streamline and modernize the dues and fees collection process, use technology more efficiently for members and staff, and simplify club reporting requirements, making the jobs of club secretary and treasurer easier.

Kiwanis International has prepared a brochure with more information, which is available via <http://community.kiwanisone.org/media/p/9157.aspx>. Presentations are also scheduled at many midyear conferences to allow members to ask questions. Members are also encouraged to e-mail their questions to feedback@kiwanis.org.