

Florida District News: District Convention

Who Will It Be?

Immediate Past Governor Mark Taylor will announce the winner of the highly coveted "Florida District Club of the Year Award for 2007-08" Finalists are (in division numerical order): Flagler, Palm Coast, Div. 7; Brooksville, Div. 8; Winter Haven, Div. 15, Lauderdale Lakes, Div. 23; and Grand Cayman, Div. 25. The winner will be announced at the beginning of the convention and will be given the honor of hosting the farewell session on Sunday morning.

The Biggest Bargain In Kiwanis

The Florida Kiwanis District Convention is the Biggest Bargain in Kiwanis. Your all-inclusive package for \$150.00 will get you into Friday's Interclub Luncheon with keynote speaker Al Higgenbotham, Friday night's Michael Andrew and Swingerhead concert and dance, Saturday's Interclub Luncheon featuring the goals and theme of Governor-Designate Donna Par-ton; Saturday's Retirement and Installation Ceremony featuring the farewell remarks of retiring Governor Dave Liddell; and Sunday's Memorial Breakfast; over 40 workshops and forums; and Saturday's House of Delegates; and all convention materials and souvenirs.

Every Club Must Be Represented In Orlando

Every Kiwanis Club is required by its Bylaws to be represented at the District Convention. Florida District Bylaws permit 3 delegates per club in the House of Delegates. All current District Board Members and all Past Lt. Governors of a club in good standing in the Florida District are permitted in the House of Delegates as Delegates-At-Large. The District has two qualified candidates seeking election as District Treasurer. Your club needs to be represented by 3 voting delegates to be fully represented.

Creativity and Sensitivity in a Tough Economy

As we are "Reaching Out and Reaching Up" to others in our community, let's be mindful that we may have members who are facing economic challenges that might have them struggling to make ends meet. As the demands of our communities become greater and our need for manpower increases, clubs are encouraged to examine the costs of Kiwanis membership, meals and activities. If there are ways to pare expenses and save members' budgets, let's explore them. Let's consider reducing the cost or number of meals. Let's make whatever adjustments the club can to encourage continued participation and as a last resort, let's offer an "Honorary Membership" rather than losing valued members entirely.

Hopefully, we only need to address a short-term solution to this problem and we will all be back on our feet soon, but whatever we do let's reach out to our fellow Kiwanians so we can reach up and continue in service and fellowship.

During the Depression, Roe Fulkerson shared a letter in the Kiwanis Magazine from a man who relinquished his membership in Kiwanis because of personal financial difficulties, "I hold no ill feelings toward any member, and when my personal circumstances permit, I am going to ask the boys to take me back into the fold." He then added with disillusionment, "During the past three years, during which time I lived in near poverty, I did not have a single club member slap me on the back and offer words of cheer or encouragement."

I hope that each and every one of us will heed the lesson left by a Kiwanian 75 years ago. Reach Out and Reach Up!

*George Langguth, Executive Director
The Florida District of Kiwanis International*

A Tribute to Sinatra & an Evening of Romance!

**MICHAEL ANDREW
SWINGERHEAD**

Michael Andrew and his 7 piece Band, SWINGERHEAD, will be Florida Kiwanis Convention's featured show and dance band on Friday, August 28, 2009 at the Rosen Centre Hotel



For two years, Michael was the headline singer and bandleader at the world famous Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center in New York City where he entertained audiences nightly and hosted a live Radio Broadcast, "LIVE FROM THE RAINBOW ROOM". He was the band-leader and singer at Merv Griffin's "Coconut Club" in The Beverly Hilton in California. While on "Larry King Live," Merv called Michael Andrew "one of the great singers of all time."
www.michaelandrew.com

Al Higgenbotham to Keynote Florida District Convention

The 92nd Annual Florida District Convention at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida August 27-30, 2009 will feature a keynote address by Al Higgenbotham an inspirational speaker who will share his life experiences and how his book, "By Faith...I'm Still Standing" reinforces the powerful message of Governor Dave Liddell's theme, "Reaching Out and Reaching Up." Higgenbotham will speak at Friday's Interclub Luncheon.

AL SPEAKS about the true power of paralysis

Al speaks across the nation to audiences ranging from churches, to political events and national conventions.

At the peak of his career a freak hunting accident left him paralyzed. Learn how he triumphed over tragedy, learned to walk again and made a nearly impossible trek to Grinnell Glacier, located at 7,000 feet in Glacier National Park in Montana.

You will laugh and cry as Al shares his story. When you hear him speak you will leave knowing you too can overcome life's most difficult challenges. As Kiwanians we can provide the support and encouragement to help others overcome their challenges and obstacles in life.

Al takes the audiences on his journey and concludes with comments on the evolution of disabilities and draws a comparison between his physical paralysis and one's potential personal paralysis. The challenge of both can be overcome and he tells you how.



Excerpts from Al's new book, BY FAITH... I'M STILL STANDING

FOREWORD

By Governor Jeb Bush

One of the really great things about being in public life is spending time with extraordinary people. Through large events and one-on-one conversations, from all across Florida and from around the nation, I've been privileged to hear the stories of so many people who have led and are leading extraordinary lives. Despite the cynicism with which many of us view politics, I'm continually amazed at how often people of quality and character are drawn to it. More than once I've left an event thinking someone has just shared a compelling story full of insight into our common human experience. "That guy should write a book," I'd say to myself.

And now one of them has. Al Higgenbotham is a man I'm proud to call my friend, and whose story would be captivating to me based on that friendship alone. But the intimate and personal story Al shares in the following pages, I think, will resonate with many people who have never met him but who will be moved by his words.

Part of the reason for that is the words themselves. They are straightforward and honest, like the man himself. There are real feelings and real pain described here, and he doesn't sugarcoat it. There are also real insights and real wisdom here, and he doesn't embellish it. In reading you'll learn some of Al's philosophy, which is not the kind you get by reading philosophy books.

It's a philosophy about family, about spouses and children and parents. It's a philosophy about the outdoors, about mornings and woods and dirt roads. It's a philosophy about moving – with great difficulty – first from a bed to a chair, then from helplessness to renewed strength and confidence, and ultimately from Hillsborough County, Florida to a beautiful lake at the top of a mountain in Glacier National Park.

Along the way Al faces the stark reality that life does not prepare us for everything that it has in store. Not everybody experiences that reality in the same way Al has, but we all experience it one way or another, sooner or later. We come to a place that forces us to throw all of our plans, all of our ideas and all of our desires out the window. We come to a place where something that could never happen to us, happens to us.

The truly fortunate among us find in that place what Al found, and that is God. His story reminds us that you don't necessarily have to be looking for God to find Him, or rather for Him to find you. It's both incredibly shocking and incredibly comforting to realize that God has been there all along. And when you start counting on the fact that God will be there all along in the future, that's when faith grows and the most exciting part of life really begins.

CHAPTER 16

After the mountaintop – the Power of Paralysis

The only disability in one's life is a bad attitude. – Scott Hamilton

We all face challenges in our lives and make choices. We can be happy, sad, stay down when we are down, accept responsibility or blame others. The choices are clear and simple. It is up to each of us. I know I was at the right place at the right time the day that tree fell on me. It was in God's plan! No, I was not being punished for some misdeed in my life, and God knows I have done them.

Rather He placed me on a big "time out" to allow me to remake myself and become the man I am today.