

## Treasurer's Message & Caring Corner



Tom Ramiccio

The future of Kiwanis is bright! Carol and I had the honor of attending the Key Club Convention last month in Orlando. We were amazed at the level of professionalism displayed by our Key Club members and officers.

From the workshops to the Installation Gala, our Florida Key Clubbers were amazing. The entire Key Club convention went flawless "thanks" to the hard work of our staff and BOB PARTON, Key Club Administrator.

Nearly 1,500 young leaders from around the state were there to learn about service to their school and communities. I'm excited about the future of Kiwanis because of the growth of Key Club, which has reached an all time high of 14,000 plus members. We could learn from their successes.

Get your boots shined and your cowboy hats ready for our International Convention in Nashville June 25-28th. I'm looking forward to the night at the Grand Ole Opry. They have not announced the entertainment yet, but I'm sure it will be one of country's greatest performers. Kiwanis knows how to throw a party! Get ready- and most of all GET REGISTERED!!!

Carol and I are requesting that each and every club participate in this year's Caring Corner, which is held each year at the District Convention in Orlando. You can help by donating gift baskets, antiques & collectables and other slightly used items (no flea market items please). If your club is unable to donate an item for the Caring Corner, your club can contribute \$200.00 and you will receive a banner patch. Get excited about the future of Kiwanis!

Tom & Carol Ramiccio

## 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 Parton; 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