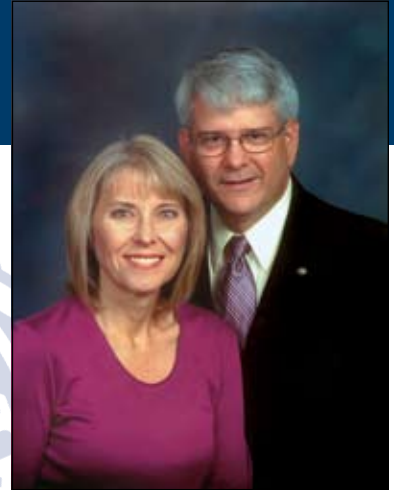


from the Governor's Gavel

By Mark C. Taylor



The End of the Beginning

One of my favorite songs is entitled "The End of The Beginning." It talks about the end of a plan being put into place and the main event starting. That is what happened at the Florida District Convention in Marco Island. All the plans are in place for the 2007-2008 Kiwanis year and we are starting the main event.

The convention was a great success. Over 1,000 Florida Kiwanis members gathered to celebrate the success of the past year, learn new ideas, and receive motivation that only comes from being with so many other Kiwanis members. On Friday, we heard from a one armed athlete who did not let his handicap keep him from being excellent at what he strived to do. On Saturday, we elected new officers and retired old ones. We gave awards to outstanding District Chairs and Lt. Governors. On Sunday, we remembered old friends and looked forward to making new impacts.

In accordance with tradition, I delivered my Governor-designate's address on Saturday. From the feedback I received, I know that people were listening during the speech. I know they heard that I want Kiwanians to improve the image of Kiwanis. I know they heard that I want Kiwanians to take their orange jackets to the dry cleaners. I know they heard that wearing something that says "Kiwanis" is the main thing, regardless of color.

I want to make sure that I emphasize the other things I said. First, support our Service Leadership Programs. Second, we must grow our clubs. There is a simple three step plan to do this. It involves three proven programs. Please contact Eddie Lee, Chair for Special Membership Programs at elee34@tampabay.rr.com for more details. Third, keep doing great service. Finally, have fun. Please do not miss the last one. For the 2007-2008 year, this is the End of the Beginning. Let's start the real race.

from the

"First Lady"

Mark and I are really looking forward to serving as Governor and First Lady this year. We spent most of last year getting ready for this challenge. We traveled all over the state, meeting the wonderful men and women who will serve as Lt. Governors in 2007-2008. We enjoyed sharing a meal with them and their spouses, talking a little about Kiwanis but, mainly, making some great new friends.

In April, we held a week-end training conference for the Lt. Governors, their spouses, and all of the District Chairs. We truly enjoyed having all of our new friends together in one place! In addition to all of the service that we do in Kiwanis, I think that lasting friendships are one of the best benefits that we receive by being Kiwanians. Don't you want to share that blessing with others in your community? Why not invite someone to join YOUR Kiwanis club? We need to share that special bond of service and friendship with others. Invite someone to visit your club today!

Mark and I are really looking forward to traveling around the state again this year. This time, however, we look forward to meeting YOU at the Governor's Visit. Please come and tell us about your Kiwanis experience. We want to hear about your projects, your clubs - about all of the great things that Kiwanians are doing for children and their communities. We want to hear about YOU. Like I said, making new friends is one of the best benefits of being a Kiwanian!