

Treasurer's Message

I'm so excited and I just won't hide it!

I'm excited to be 2007-2008 Treasurer of the mighty Florida District.

My journey in Kiwanis began in 1980 when my husband Bob brought home the orange jacket and hung it in our bedroom. I looked at that orange jacket and asked "Why did you buy that orange jacket, and more importantly, where are you going to wear an orange jacket"?

Bob excitedly replied that he was now a member of the Kiwanis and was a Kiwanian. And I asked, "What is Kiwanis and what is a Kiwanian?"

In a short time, I realized what Kiwanis was, as our children and I began accompanying Bob on his service projects and fundraisers and after 1987, when women were invited to join Kiwanis, I got to know first hand what it was to be a Kiwanian. And I got excited.

When I was in high school, many, many years ago, I was a cheerleader.

A big part of my job was to support my team, keep them excited in good times and bad, and to encourage them to be the best that they could be. But that wasn't all. My job was also to get the fans involved, and get them excited to help cheer our team to victory.

When I was LTG, of division 21, my motto was "Making A Difference". During my visits, I would tell the starfish story and I would encourage each club member to make a difference in their communities and in the lives of others.

As your Treasurer, Governor elect and Governor, I will be your cheerleader, supporting our team of leaders to greater strides and getting others excited about Kiwanis. I will encourage every Kiwanian to "Make a Difference", by embracing and living the Objects of Kiwanis, by actively supporting our sponsored programs and YC:PO projects, and by recruiting quality members.

Thank you for this exciting opportunity!

Donna Parton



Donna Parton

Past Governor's Farewell Message

WOW! What a ride! We lived the dream and made a difference in 2006-2007 for hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of Floridians, students and others around the world. It only happened because of you.

Way over 100,000 dictionaries were distributed through the end of September 2007. Due to your wonderful efforts, we had huge increases in service hours, including the widely acclaimed 2007 Kiwanis Service Day. You bought and sold or are selling 4,000 Kiwanis Lighthouse ornaments, raising almost \$20,000 for our district in this new approach to raising funds. Over 1,500 Kiwanians were educated and or participated in our brand new division based Kiwanis Education Days and our 2 mid-winter Conferences, another first for Florida.

We have opened 100 new Kiwanis Family (Service Leadership Programs) clubs, which should set a world record for this achievement by a single district in a single year. The Florida Key Club District will end this 2006-2007 Kiwanis year with a record number of members for the Florida Key Club District. Over 30 Key Clubs were opened, rechartered or re-activated; double any other districts 2006-2007 activity and about 4 times Florida's previous year's growth rate. Likewise Florida K-Kids club growth was double the closest district's growth with a Florida Kiwanis District growth rate approaching 50%. The largest K-Kids club in the world was built this year in St. Petersburg, Florida area with a total membership exceeding 600 members. Aktion Clubs' growth rate was likewise up 100% from the previous year. Builders' Clubs growth rate is also up and substantially leads other districts in number of clubs built. Our CKI club growth rate is about the same as last year and is about equal to other districts club growth rates. Our 4 Key Leader Service leadership Education week-end programs, including one in the Cayman Islands were double our previous year's events.

We opened many more club and division web sites with electronic bulletins. We moved into using our new "credit card" style badges, thus moving us towards a new youthful look; removing governor logos and devising a fresh look to the Florida District of Kiwanis International. We will be positive in growth for another year. You all went out and recruited lots of members, improved retention, and helped open a double digit number of new clubs, around 13, the most new clubs built in a single year since about 15 years ago. Florida Kiwanis is on a roll now. Through the 2006-2007 team's planning and efforts, about 10 new clubs are in some type of building progress as the new year begins with recruiting having already begun on some of them.

I thank your 2006-2007 lieutenant governors, the district chairs, CLE Trainers, district board, your club presidents, officers and club and division leaders, our district office staff, our Florida Kiwanis Foundation, our entire membership and everyone else who made this a record year. Thank you for an awesome year. It was a privilege to serve as your 2006-2007 Florida Kiwanis District Governor. Keep living the Dream!



Love,
Phil Yorston
2007-2008 Immediate Past Governor
Florida Kiwanis District

