

# from the Governor's Gavel

By Mark C. Taylor

## FINISHING STRONG



The Kiwanis Administrative year ends September 30th. I am sure that every Governor in the history of Florida Kiwanis has been struck by the challenge of accomplishing all that needs to be done in the short time that we have to lead. As I finish the year, it occurs to me that we may have many things backwards. Governors spend the first six months doing so many things that are required for administration of the District. Governor's visits, training sessions, encouraging clubs to pay dues and submit reports are things that happen during the first six months. The plan is to encourage clubs to follow the plan and then watch them do so.

Unfortunately, by the time we are ready to watch, many of our club leaders have grown tired. Every Governor I have ever observed asks the members and clubs to finish strong. I will be no different. But I wonder what would happen if a Governor let clubs have their own plan and in the second half of the year remind them of what they planned. We could even hold them accountable to their own plan.

So here's a novel approach...Why don't you decide what your club's priority is and then go accomplish it between now and the end of the year. Some standard priorities are things like creating net membership growth, starting a new Service Leadership Club in a school in your area, educating your club members and officers, or creating a new service initiative. Any of these are great suggestions, but perhaps you have one that is better for your club. I would love to hear yours. What are you going to do to finish strong?



Mark & Sharon Taylor

from the

## "First Lady"

SHARON TAYLOR

### Unique Traditions

Kiwanis has many traditions. Some are well-known, such as the wearing of orange at the International Convention. Others, however, are less well-known, but incredibly interesting. Mark and I have had the unique opportunity to experience many Kiwanis traditions that have been shared by past Governors and their spouses throughout the years. These traditions include receiving a resolution from the Florida Governor and the Cabinet in Tallahassee, and throwing out the first pitch at a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game.

There is one tradition, however, that you have probably never heard of – and I think that it is definitely one of the most special. It is the "Kiwanis Spouse Notebook." Started in 1979-80 by First Lady Myrtle Hogan, the Notebook is a fascinating collection of thoughts, advice, and guidance that is passed on each year to the newly-elected Governor's spouse. The Notebook is in the form of letters – all originally hand-written, although now most are done on the computer – which aim to encourage and assist the incoming "First Spouse." The beauty of the Notebook is that it is, in essence, a history of "life in Florida Kiwanis" over the past 30 years. The changing role of women in Kiwanis is chronicled in the pages of the Notebook. It is truly a treasure of the Florida District.

As Mark's year as Governor draws to a close, I am beginning to ponder what words I will write, not only to my successor, Nancy Liddell, but also to those men and women who will follow after us. I am proud to be able to include a letter in this very special book. This is one Kiwanis tradition that, I hope, will be around for a very long time.