



The Show Must Go On...

A report of the fabulous Florida District Convention in Jacksonville

By Steve Cummings, District Chair, Public Relations

The 91st annual Florida District Convention will be remembered as a gathering marred by the tragic and untimely death of First Lady Nancy Liddell one month prior to its commencement and the celebration of Governor Mark Taylor's fabulous year of service highlighted by his successful "A Day at the Ballpark" project and his first lady's Guardian ad Litem campaign, reaching out to support abused and neglected children who necessitate advocacy.

Hundreds of intrepid Kiwanians braved the torrential rainstorms brought on by Tropical Storm Fay, traveling to the convention site at the fabulous Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel where they were treated by a thoroughly professionally trained hotel staff who made our stay incredibly enjoyable by cheerfully accommodating every request.

As the convention was officially dedicated to the memory of first lady Nancy Liddell, Governor Elect Dave unveiled the First Lady's Project for 2008-2009 named "Hats and Hugs" asking clubs to donate caps to pediatric cancer patients who are sensitive about losing their hair.

District Chair of Education, Richard Wongsam, worked tirelessly coordinating fifty different workshops providing multiple opportunities for members to enhance their knowledge.

With 161 Kiwanis clubs seating delegates, the representatives selected Tom Ramiccio from the Kiwanis Club of Lake Worth over Florida Kiwanis Foundation President Dick Klein, from Naples, as our next District Treasurer. Both candidates sported outstanding records of accomplishments to our organization.

With no further nominations from the floor, Dave Liddell was named District Governor and Donna Parton will assume the post of Governor Elect.

Donna Parton announced that no new dues increases are required at this time, but may be needed in the future if our membership diminishes.

District Secretary George Langguth announced that Governor Dave Liddell has scrapped Education Days and replaced them with five Zone Conferences scheduled throughout Florida in the first three months of 2009.

The delegate body passed a resolution in support of Stan L. Storey for Vice President of Kiwanis International at the International Convention in Nashville that will convene in June 2009.

Florida District Key Club Governor Travis Benaiges, from Barbara Goleman High School in Miami Lakes, eloquently spoke about his agenda for the 13,200 Key Club members who he supervises throughout the Florida District.

Additionally, CKI District Secretary, Sonia Gabrilovich shared the great strides in service and membership accomplished by our college level K- Family membership.

Immediate Past District Governor Phil Yorston awarded the Kiwanis Club of the Gulf Beaches as Club of the Year and the Kiwanis Club of Weston as an Honorable Mention.

Weston Club President Ed Wallach graciously accepted the honor on behalf of his club acknowledging Club Secretary Rhea Taie for her inspiring leadership.

The Saturday evening banquet was highlighted by Governor Mark announcing Lt Governor Terry Luster as the Outstanding Lt. Governor and recognizing both Steve Cummings, District Chair for Public Relations, and Eddie Lee, District Chair for Membership, as his outstanding District Chairs for 2007-2008.

Let's hope and pray that the weather will be more cooperative when Florida Kiwanians gather next August for the District Convention in Orlando.

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