

## **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR CAPITAL DISTRICT KIWANIS GOVERNOR**

We all know the COVID-19 pandemic has brought an unprecedented interruption to our daily lives and families including Kiwanis. We need to very carefully follow what our local and national health officials are telling us about this issue. While the hope that this is only for a short period of time, there remains the possibility this could extend to a couple of months or more. It is vital that we listen to when it is safe to resume in person activities.

**At this point, all in-person Kiwanis activities should be suspended throughout the district.** Since many schools and universities have closed and/or moved to alternative forms of instruction, this applies to our service leadership programs as well.

- Key Club District Convention was canceled this weekend
- Key Club District Officer Training on March 28 is delayed, and on-line training is being explored
- CKI Spring Officer Training Conferences on March 21 and 28 are moving to an on-line format instead of in person

We are monitoring the situation for what may happen to our next set of district events – Key Leader and the 2020-21 District Officer Training on April 24-26 and our District Board Meeting and District Foundation Meeting on May 2 but no changes yet. We are exploring possible alternatives though if it becomes necessary to delay or cancel. Our Teenager of the Year program will continue so divisions should arrange to make their final selections. Planning for International Convention in June and District Convention in August are continuing although no in person planning meetings for District Convention are taking place.

I know that practicing social distancing over an extended period will be challenging. We need to be responsible citizens and not fall prey to the temptation of resuming our normal routine too early. We simply do not know enough at this point on what the final outcomes will be - even as we hear initial patients are recovering.

However, this does NOT mean we should stop all Kiwanis activities! The most important thing we can do right now as an organization is to stay in contact with EVERY member. I would recommend that club leaders make regular contact with members and check on their welfare on a regular basis.

There are any number of ways we can continue the work of Kiwanis. A few examples include:

1. Many clubs or divisions are moving to on-line meetings, whether by telecon or the internet. This can be extended to the committee level as well to use this format to plan for activities when we can resume them in person (especially membership recruitment)
2. This is a good time for club secretaries to catch up -- check to see if your membership roster is current, member contact information is correct, file outstanding monthly or election reports. Also, this is a good time to make sure that your club's incorporation status with your state or DC is current.
3. The same goes for club treasurers to make sure the club's books are current and any outstanding invoices have been paid.
4. As I mention before, committee activity can take place over the internet or telephone. This is an excellent opportunity to pause and review your club activities and projects. For

instance, your nominating committee can continue their work remotely to recruit those to serve on your Board of Directors for 2020-21. Club elections may have to be delayed but will need to be held at some point in the spring.

5. Reach out and check on your service leadership program leaders.
6. If your club is running a scholarship award project, your committee can still work remotely on selecting and planning for a recognition ceremony.
7. Your club meeting planner can continue to arrange/reschedule club programs at meetings (once they resume).
8. Work on the grant application your club have been talking about applying for!

The bottom line is that the work of Kiwanis does not have to stop. Clubs should have a plan ready to go when we can resume in person activities. Look for opportunities to still meet your community's needs during this difficult time as well.

I believe that if we take the time to prepare – we will come out of this difficult time and ready to serve our communities. Thanks again for your support, I hope you all and your families are well, and I look forward to seeing many of you soon!

In Kiwanis Service and Fellowship,

David Lurie, 2019-2020 Governor