

October 04, 2022

Executive Director Wolff –

I write to you today to express my intent to run for the position of Capital District Kiwanis Governor-Elect for the 2023-2024 administrative year.

The weather is hard to predict. While there are tools and resources available to forecast phenomena like snow, wind, and rain, we are often reminded that there are weather events that cannot be fully predicted. No one is certain of when a hurricane will develop, what path it will travel, and where it will make landfall. No one is certain of when a tornado will develop, where it will touch down, and how much damage it will inflict. No one is certain when a small snowstorm will stall, becoming a ferocious blizzard that immobilizes a city or town, strands commuters, and shuts down a power grid. The weather is hard to predict. We are often only given a few days, or a few moments, to prepare. The weather is truly an unstoppable force of nature.

World events – and even everyday life events – can feel as unpredictable as the weather. We are often only given a few days, or a few moments, to prepare. No one is certain when a natural disaster, like an earthquake or flood, will devastate a community. No one is certain when a fire will leave a family without a home. No one is certain when a change in the economy will leave an individual without consistent employment. No one is certain when a child will leave school on a Friday afternoon without the food they need for the weekend. No one is certain when a visit to a doctor will end in a serious diagnosis. Every moment in life can be a moment of uncertainty. A single instant can change your life and throw it into a state of flux, slamming and jarring you with the same feeling as a tornado touching down in your backyard. Challenges in life are as unpredictable as the weather. Challenges in our world, in our communities, and in our personal lives often feel like an unstoppable force of nature.

I believe that Kiwanis can also be an unstoppable force of nature. We can mobilize quickly and address issues within our communities. We can rally together to support families in need. We can collaborate to solve problems. We can muster support for children who are facing food insecurity. We can mentor and uplift individuals of all ages and all levels of ability who need support, encouragement, and love. We can provide attention to every individual and remind them of their worth, their potential, and their importance. We can draw attention to issues of inequity and inequality that permeate our organization, our community, and our world. Challenges in our world, in our communities, and in our personal lives may feel like an unstoppable force of nature, but they do not need to be.

As Kiwanis members, I think we must work diligently to be the most unstoppable service organization in every community. However, to truly be unstoppable, we need to do better. We need to do better as individuals, as clubs, and as an organization. We need to **Elevate Our Impact** in seven key ways.

- E**ncourage collaboration between clubs, divisions, and regions to elevate our fellowship
- L**everage opportunities to elevate honest dialogue and decisive action around improving diversity, equity, and inclusion within our clubs, Kiwanis, and our communities
- E**xpand the growth and club-level support of service leadership program (SLP) clubs to elevate our support of youth and adults with disabilities

Vocalize the needs and concerns of non-traditional clubs, such as e-clubs, to elevate inclusion

Augment opportunities for greater hands-on service to elevate our social impact

Target the growth of Kiwanis in strategic new communities to elevate our physical presence

Engage members in meaningful education and leadership experiences to increase retention and elevate our leadership pipeline

In the years ahead, we must take intentional, strategic, and collaborative action to elevate our impact. I propose this is done by:

- Focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization to ensure that members of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, religion, sexual orientation, and level of ability possess a sense of belonging and feel safe within our organization. We must actively identify and address instances of discrimination, disrespect, inequity, and hate within Kiwanis that create a toxic organizational culture and hinder our ability to ethically serve children and the communities in which we reside.
- Supporting our student leaders in service leadership program (SLP) clubs by providing mentorship, guidance, and support through positive interactions with caring and compassionate adults while offering financial support to alleviate financial inequities that may prevent youth from joining and clubs from serving.
- Spotlighting non-traditional Kiwanis clubs, such as e-Clubs, and using their inclusive and innovative models as a means of expanding service opportunities, as well as opportunities to recruit and retain members representing more dimensions of diversity.
- Listening to the needs and concerns of current Kiwanis members and valuing their feedback and ideas to create a more just and inclusive Kiwanis organization at the club, division, and district levels.
- Developing resources to encourage clubs to engage in greater levels of hands-on service in the community.
- Growing Kiwanis by chartering new clubs in new communities not yet served by our organization.
- Directing knowledge, resources, and funding, in partnership with the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation, to clubs and communities where the greatest needs are unmet.
- Building relationships between members of clubs, as well as within clubs in divisions and regions, to foster greater fellowship and forge bonds between individuals who may not normally have the chance to interact.
- Providing meaningful education and leadership experiences to all Kiwanis members to enhance the membership experience, develop future leaders, and increase retention while also adding a value proposition to assist clubs in attracting new members.

I have included a resume of my Kiwanis activities and achievements for your use and review. Should you require additional information from me, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours in service and Kiwanis spirit,



Joshua I. Hiscock, Ph.D.
Kiwanis Club of Ellicott City (MD)
Kiwanis Club of Capital – Next Generation e-Club