



# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup>

## CLUB OF EASTON



## October Klatter 2025

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Kiwanians,



Happy Kiwanis New Year! This is my first President's Letter. I am both humbled by this office and I am also very excited to see what this Kiwanis year brings. It has certainly been a very busy month already.

Special thanks to Scott Fisher for the great job he did as President this past year. His mentorship in my year as President Elect was invaluable.

Congratulations to Janet Owen! On October 18<sup>th</sup> Janet was appointed to serve as the 2025-2026 Pennsylvania District Governor-Elect. Wishing you all of the best, Janet!

We are truly a club and also a family that is dedicated to children and to our community. Our service projects are always open to all members as long as you have the proper clearances (see the last 2 pages of this newsletter).

This year we will be focusing on increasing our membership and on encouraging all members to participate in committees. These committees and activities are not limited to our meeting times. They are listed each week in Bill Walter's Monday Message, so if you see something join in.

This month was a busy one for our club. We had the installation of officers, the Fire Fighter of the Year Luncheon, a great speaker, and members involved in service projects as well as participating in community events. Did you see those pirates in the Halloween Parade?

As I end this letter, I will repeat what I said at the installation. I cannot do this job alone. Our club needs all of you with your unique gifts and talents. I am so thankful for all of you as I say, "Go Kiwanis Club of Easton!" Looking forward to an exciting year!

In Kiwanis Service,

Sue Gallagher



This meeting began with Scott Fisher, President, leading opening exercises. Scott Fisher read a letter from Michael Mulhaul, International President of Kiwanis, reflecting on this past Kiwanis year and giving encouragement for the year ahead. Scott then shared Words of Inspiration on leadership and transitions.

Scott held a brief business meeting before turning the meeting over to Lt. Governor of District 17/18, Janet Owen, to conduct the Installation of the Club Officers and Board Members for 2025-2026.

### Installed were:

**Sue Gallagher – President**

**Scott Fisher – Immediate Past President**

**Cathi White – Vice President**

**Bill Walters – Manager of Special Projects**

**Rosemary Kocher – Secretary and Treasurer**

**Chris Paltz – Board Member**

Thank you, Janet, for presiding over the installation of officers and for your inspirational words to all of the newly installed officers as well as expressing our thanks to Walter Howell and James Owen for the past service as board members.

Thanks also to Scott Fisher for a job well done as President of the Kiwanis Club of Easton, 2024-2025. You did a great job. We appreciate all that you have done and will continue to do as you serve children and our community.

22min Installation Video <https://youtu.be/2uIY184vROU>





## October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Palmer Kiwanis Golf Outing....

Palmer Kiwanis has a great day for its annual golf outing fundraiser for scholarships. Lt Gov Janet was there along with Scott Fisher driving a few balls.



## October 4th + 11th - Miracle League helpers....

On October 4, 2025, Kiwanis members, Walt Howell, Janet Owen, Chris Paltz and Cathi White joined B.J. Metz, Rotarian, to volunteer at the Miracle League Concession. What a great way to spend beautiful fall day!



Easton Kiwanis Members were on hand to volunteer for the last Miracle League game on October 11!

Thank you, Easton Kiwanis members, Neil and President Sue Gallagher, and Priscilla Martinez-Perez and crew! Thank you, BJ Metz, Easton Rotary for always being a good friend to all of our volunteers! So nice to meet BJ's wife, Kristi, and Jen McKenney. Great working the concession stand with Sue Trinchere too. Already looking forward to next year! This is Kiwanis! Helping! Connecting! Engaging! Always focused on helping our community in small and big ways!







### October 5th - Equi-librium helpers....



On October 5, 2025, members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton joined Equi-librium for the Open Gate Farm Tour. This annual event is organized by Penn State Extension – Northampton County.

On an 18-acre historic farm in Nazareth, Pennsylvania, Equi-librium provides healing through horses by implementing equine-assisted services to help individuals with physical, developmental, behavioral, and psychological challenges.

Visitors enjoyed a beautiful day with their horses, community partners and educational demonstrations. Easton Kiwanians, Sue Gallagher, Rosemary Kocher, and Janet and James Owen also enjoyed the day there providing information on Early Childhood Education, Easton Kiwanis and having horse stickers for the children.

Thanks so much to Jessie Shappell, Executive Director of Equi-librium and Easton Kiwanian, for inviting us to participate.



## October 8<sup>th</sup> - Easton Firefighter of the Year award....

The meeting was opened by Firefighter Anthony Castillo's daughter ringing the Kiwanis Bell. That was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America. President Sue Gallagher recited the "Fireman's Prayer" after which she expressed deepest sympathy from the Kiwanis Club of Easton on the recent passing of Firefighter, Tyler Weidner.

Sue then welcomed members of the Easton Fire Department, visiting friends and dignitaries, members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton and guest of honor Anthony Castillo and his family. Anthony then introduced his family, his fiancée, his mother and his two daughters.

Scott Fisher gave the Invocation and Walt Howell gave an overview of the award. Walt also introduced Chief Henry Hennings who held a Moment of Silent in memory of recently deceased Tyler Weidner.

Chief Hennings proceeded to introduce Anthony Castillo, who was chosen by his fellow firefighters for this award for his exceptional service, courage and dedication to our community. In the past year he has had two successful CPR saves and a water rescue that exemplified his skill and professionalism. He has gone above and beyond and is committed to excellence, teamwork, and the safety of those he serves.

Anthony was awarded a Plaque from the Kiwanis Club of Easton for his distinguished service. He was given a Certificate of Recognition from Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure, presented by Jessica Berger, Deputy Director of Administration for Northampton County. State Representative Bob Freeman also recognized Firefighter Castillo with a Certificate of Achievement presented by Councilwoman, Crystal Rose. Crystal Rose, also a Kiwanis Club member representing Unity Bank, presented Firefighter Castillo with a gif basket and gift card.

Kiwanis Club of Easton also recognizes the importance of family support for firefighters. Kiwanis Lt. Governor of the 17/18 District and Easton Kiwanis member, Janet Owen, presented bouquets of flowers to Anthony's fiancée and his mother, as well as a celebration bouquet for one of his daughters and a gift bag of books for his youngest daughter.

After the presentations, Anthony gave a very heartfelt and inspiring speech about his life, the challenges he faced and how he eventually became a firefighter which he called the best job in the world.

Thanks also to councilman Frank Pintabone and Tara Zrinski, Northampton County Controller, for joining us today and for all who came to honor Firefighter of the Year, Anthony Castillo.

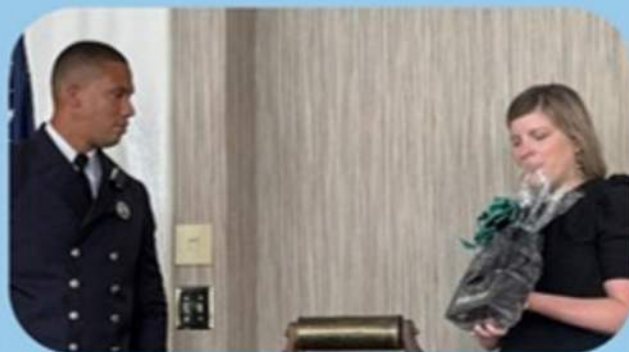
After the buffet luncheon and cake Firefighter Castillo's daughter ended the ceremony by ringing the Kiwanis Bell. Beautiful family, Firefighter Castillo!!

Thank you so much for all that you do.

28min Installation Video <https://youtu.be/qshKdcNlvco>









Our meeting for today was held at SURV Restaurant. Sue Gallagher opened the meeting with members saying the Pledge of Allegiance and then singing God Bless America. She introduced our speaker Zee Haroon and our guest Peter Cochran.

Ken Wildrick shared Words of Inspiration on the topic “Let’s Agree to Disagree” and Scott Fosher shared events that happened on This Day in History.

Our speaker was introduced by member, Jeremy Clark, who himself a veteran, said that veterans’ concerns and charities are very important to him. He has been friends with Zee for many years.

Zee’s presentation was about helping veterans in his work as a Peer Support Specialist. He shared his personal experience after being deployed for combat at 19 years old to Iraq and then returning home after his service was finished. His own experience with PTSD and substance abuse led him to the work he does today.

Veterans for Warriors is a nonprofit peer support model for veterans. Zee is employed full time in the Vets2Vets division on their 24/7 phone line. This is a Global Initiative and he often speaks with 40 Veterans, including call backs, a day on various concerns from the veterans and their familymembers.

This was a most informative presentation and one that is so necessary for returning veterans. Thanks to Jeremy Clark for inviting Zee to speak with us and to Zee for sharing this valuable information. Several questions followed his presentation.

Click here for the 39min Kiwanis You Tube channel <https://youtu.be/DetKyHdbo9gfor>.



**From Zeshan Haroon**  
Peer Support Specialist  
October 15, 2025

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What to expect when you call  
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Understanding, guidance, confidentiality and referrals to local resources if needed  
Follow up after your call to ensure that you have found the answers you need to move forward with confidence





## October 11<sup>th</sup> - Past Presidents from Easton & Phillipsburg meet at Prok Roll Palooza Festival in Phillipsburg....

Past Presidents Neil Gallagher (Kiwanis Club of Easton) and Helene Meissner (Kiwanis Club of Phillipsburg, NJ) met at the Pork Roll Palooza Festival in Phillipsburg where Phillipsburg Kiwanis had a community booth.



Also participating in the Pork Roll Palooza were Phillipsburg Railroad Historians. Neil Gallagher is a member. Pictured is a memorial stone in memory to Neil's father, Anthony, a founding member of the Railroad Historians and dedicated to his work on the Pennsylvania Railroad over the years.

## October 16<sup>th</sup> - St Janes K-Kids....

St. Jane's K-Kids meeting was held on October 16, 2025 with 14 students present. They were making card for First Responders and Posters for Veterans Day. Thank you, faculty advisor, Christi Johnstone, and Easton Kiwanians, Kathy Heller, Walt Howell, Rosemary Kocher and Sue Gallagher for helping with this meeting. Great to see Mrs. Okula there too.





## October 20<sup>th</sup> - Team Northampton Special Olympics....

The Board of the Kiwanis Club of Easton voted to donate in a Club Grant, \$500 to *Team Northampton Special Olympics* for their Fourth Annual Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding Winter Invitational. Special Olympic Athletes and Coaches from all over Northeastern PA will be there to participate. These funds help provide the athletes the opportunity to participate in the January 26<sup>th</sup> event free of charge.

## October 9<sup>th</sup> + 16<sup>th</sup> + 23<sup>rd</sup> - Forks Educational Reading Center....

Kiwanis Club of Easton had 3 opportunities for volunteers at Forks Early Learning Center this month. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, Cathi White read to preschoolers which she did again on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cathi said, "I was able to read to 19 preschoolers on Thursday, October 23, 2025. I had 5 different pumpkin books and took a small craft for them to do. They seemed to really enjoy the time. I have a card that they made for me that I will bring to the next lunch meeting."

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, club members, Rosemary Kocher and Janet Owen, participated in the Center's FALL FESTIVAL by making Dirt Cups with Worms! Yum!!

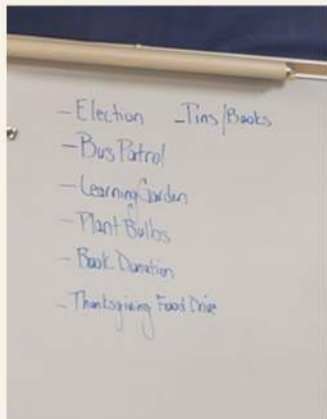
Thank you Rosemary, Janet and Cathi and thanks to the Forks Early Learning Center for giving Easton Kiwanians the opportunity to volunteer at the center.



## October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Shawnee K-Kids....

On October 23, 2025, there were 36 students and 3 adults in attendance. It was their Election Day for the offices of President, V.P., Secretary and Treasurer. It was enjoyable to listen to the speeches the students gave for the positions. They also discussed future plans for the Buddy Bench, the Learning Garden, Planting Bulbs, Book Donation and a Thanksgiving Food drive. This is a good group of students. Mr. Ellison always does a great job!!

Thank you, Mr. Ellison and Easton Kiwanians, Chris Paltz and Cathi White.





Pennsylvania Kiwanis Rose Sale packing and delivering day! The Rose Sale is one of our major fundraisers. Although we got off to a rocky start with our rose delivery delayed, we got nothing but smiles with each dozen delivered.

Thank you to Rosemary Kocher for organizing this. Thank you to everyone who sold, packaged, delivered and PURCHASED!!!! You made an ordinary day into an extraordinary one!!!!!!

*Never forget to stop and smell the **roses!***



### Commentary from Past President Scott Fisher - GROWING OUR CLUB....

As Chairperson of the Membership Committee, I look forward to sharing with you a few thoughts on club membership growth each month in the “Klatter.” Together, we’ll explore ways to grow, nurture, and sustain our club’s greatest asset – our members. The only way we can continue helping children is by maintaining a vibrant, expanding, and fully engaged membership committed to our mission. Success starts with focus: welcoming prospective members to meetings and service projects, encouraging active members to take on leadership roles, and personally reconnecting with those whose involvement has waned. Our committee – Neil Gallagher, Cathy Heller, Chris Paltz, Janet Owen, and Rosemary Kocher, looks forward to making this our most successful year yet in membership growth. We need your ideas and involvement, and if you’d like to join us, we’d love to have you! More to come in next month’s update!





What a great afternoon! On October 26, 2025 members from the Kiwanis Club of Phillipsburg (NJ) and the Kiwanis Club of Easton came together to participate in the Phillipsburg/Easton Halloween Parade.

It started with an invitation from Emily Scharf (President & Social Media/Public Relations Chair New Jersey District of Kiwanis International Foundation and Membership Chair, Kiwanis Club of Phillipsburg) to the Kiwanis Club of Easton to join their club in the parade.

A few days prior to the parade members from both clubs gathered at Emily's home to begin preparations. The theme was Pirates.

On Parade Day, members of both clubs, donned their pirate costumes, decorated the pickup truck complete with both club banners and began to walk the parade route. What an amazing experience for all involved. Thank you so much Emily and Phillipsburg Kiwanians for including us in this fun tradition.

Members of the pirate crew from Easton Kiwanis were Neil Gallagher, Walter Howell and Priscilla Martinez-Perez and her sons. Thanks to Scott Fisher, Neil Gallagher, Rosemary Kocher and Janet Owen for donating candy!! The kids along the route were delighted!



### UPCOMING S.L.P. & COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

Why not plan to attend our "youth club" meetings

**SLP Meetings:** As long as you have your valid PSP Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse History Clearance, you can join Walt and other members at any meeting you are available. You can download the documents at

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAG2562wScQ/TnTFFK4X19B8KJ7j\\_tZjXA/edit](https://www.canva.com/design/DAG2562wScQ/TnTFFK4X19B8KJ7j_tZjXA/edit) Make sure Walt has a copy of your documents.

**Shawnee K-Kids** meetings. Thursdays 7:30AM; Nov 20; Dec 11; Jan 29; Feb 26; Mar 19; Apr 16; May 14.

**St. Janes K-Kids** meetings. Thursdays 2:15PM-3PM. Nov 13, Dec 4, Jan 8 + Jan 22, Feb 9-13 K-Kids Week, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 16, May 7 + May 21.

**FORKS EDUCATIONAL CENTER**-reading for children

2<sup>nd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> Thur 11am



At the PA Kiwanis District Board meeting held October 18<sup>th</sup>, our own Lt. Gov. Janet Owen is no longer Lt. Gov. but she has accepted the position of PA Kiwanis District Governor-Elect.



## **Anniversary Joined Kiwanis**

Skip Fairchild - 11/20/1985  
Joanne Cappellano – 11/4/1987  
Dean Young - 11/1/1988  
Rosemary Kocher – 11/11/2021



Roger Conners - Nov. 3  
James Owen – Nov. 3  
Kathy Presto – Nov. 24

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Nov 5 – SURV and program is: Dr. John P. Balmonte, professor at Lehigh "Microbial Services from the top of the world, to the bottom of the ocean, and to the United Nations" . Microbes in oceans - who knew that was important to us humans! Past Gov Tom Harp visiting also.

Nov 12 -- T.B.A.

Nov 15 -- Pa Governor, Barb Byer-Carter, visit to Division 17/18, 9AM to noon  
@ White Haven Library

Nov 19 – SURV and program is: "Global change, Local impacts: Understanding environmental issues in the Lehigh Valley" - Rachel Hogan, Executive Director, Nurture Nature Center

Nov 26 -- Breakfast interclub with Palmer at Williams Restaurant

Dec 4 -- IU20 Annual Christmas Party Service Opportunity

Dec 6 -- Easton Kiwanis Club Christmas Party-music by Ken Wildrick, potluck meal

Dec 17 --Luncheon Meeting at SURV

Dec 24 – no meeting-Christmas Eve

Dec 31 – no meeting-New Years Eve

2026 begins-1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays-speakers, 4th Wed Hybrid Board Meeting (somewhere)

May 13 – Easton Police Officer Award-Pomfret Club

Aug 12 – Easton EMS Award-Pomfret Club

Oct 14 – Easton Firefighter Award-Pomfret Club

## **Contact Easton Kiwanis**

[www.EastonPaKiwanis.org](http://www.EastonPaKiwanis.org)

[www.facebook.com/easton.kiwanis](https://www.facebook.com/easton.kiwanis)

[www.youtube.com/@eastonpakiwanis](https://www.youtube.com/@eastonpakiwanis)

[info.EastonKiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:info.EastonKiwanis@gmail.com)

Easton Kiwanis normally meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 11:45AM  
*check our Facebook page for further information*

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# YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

UPDATED OCTOBER 2022

These policies can be found in Kiwanis International Policies and Procedures as **Procedure 432**.

*All adults working with youth under the age of 18 at any Kiwanis event are required to read/understand, agree to and abide by these policies.*

**EDUCATION:** Every Kiwanis club is expected to inform and educate its members on these policies, best practices and required actions for individuals who become aware of youth in potentially harmful situations. This education must occur annually, including providing a copy of these policies to each club member. Every Kiwanis district is expected to provide an educational forum or workshop at every district-produced convention and conference regarding policies and best practices for adults working with youth, using materials provided by Kiwanis International.

**CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS:** Kiwanis International requires clubs to have a clear criminal history background check for any club member serving as an advisor to any Service Leadership Programs club. The check must be conducted and verified by Kiwanis International. Any person without a clear criminal history background check may not serve as the advisor. Approved background checks shall be valid for no more than two years. Kiwanis advisors shall acquire a new criminal history background check upon their initial appointment to the position.

**CHAPERONE:** A chaperone is defined as a Kiwanis member, faculty member, parent, legal guardian or person who is in loco parentis, twenty-one (21) years of age or older, who has been approved by the school or agency and registered with the school or agency to accompany the youth members at the specific event. All chaperones (club members and non-members) participating in any single-day or overnight Service Leadership Programs event must have a clear criminal history background check and must have completed Kiwanis International youth protection training. Additionally, chaperones must follow all applicable policies and procedures.

**CHAPERONES FOR OVERNIGHT EVENTS:** A minimum of one adult per 10 students must be serving as chaperones during the entirety of an overnight event.

**CHAPERONES FOR SINGLE-DAY EVENTS:** A minimum of one adult per 50 students must be serving as chaperones during the entirety of a single-day event.

**OVERNIGHT EVENTS:** All adults (club members and non-members) registered for or staying overnight at any Service Leadership Programs event must have a clear criminal history background check and must have completed Kiwanis International annual youth protection training. However, parents/guardians of participating students who are not chaperones may attend the event for a maximum of one overnight stay without a criminal history background check.

**OVERNIGHT STAYS:** While attending a Kiwanis event that requires an overnight stay in a hotel or camp/ conference setting, adequate adult chaperoning is expected and must include no fewer than one adult male for each ten or part of ten youth males, and one adult female for each ten or part of ten youth females. Except for a parent sharing a sleeping room or other sleeping quarters (e.g., a tent) with his/her own child, no adult should share a hotel or dormitory sleeping room or other sleeping quarters with a youth. In the event that sleeping quarters consist of multiple beds (such as in a bunkhouse or camp cabin), adults may share the sleeping quarters with youth members of the same gender, provided that two or more adults are present.

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS FOR SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS:** Kiwanis International requires all SLP district administrators to complete an application process, which includes submission of a completed application, having a clear background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International, completion of Kiwanis International youth protection training and any other elements that may be required by Kiwanis International. After receipt of an individual's application and verification of all required elements, Kiwanis International will review the information and decide, in



its sole and absolute discretion, whether the individual is accepted to become an SLP district administrator. Kiwanis has no obligation to allow an individual to become an SLP district administrator based solely on a "clear" background check. Denial may be appealed via the process outlined in Procedure 197.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING WITH KEY CLUB AND CKI**

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Each Key Club district administrator and CKI district administrator shall hold an annual meeting, either in person or virtually, with Kiwanis International staff and the district Youth Protection manager to discuss respective Key Club and CKI district events and activities and the status of the respective district Key Club and CKI programs.

**TRANSPORTATION:** When transporting youth, the best practice is the "rule of threes," with at least three people in the vehicle at all times, along with documented approval from a parent or guardian for the transportation arrangements. When both of these conditions cannot be met, one of them should be. All transportation decisions should be made in accordance with local laws and school policies.

#### **USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA AND OTHER SUBSTANCES:**

While attending any Kiwanis event that is produced primarily by or for the benefit of youth, adults are expected to refrain from using or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and/or marijuana products, even if prescribed for medicinal use. In addition, the use and/or possession of illegal drugs or the improper/illegal use of legal drugs is prohibited.

**MEDICATIONS:** The possession of prescription and non-prescription medications by youth at a Kiwanis event should be permitted only by the written permission of the parent/guardian.

**REPORTING:** If a Kiwanian observes troubling behavior involving a youth at a Kiwanis event or becomes aware of a situation that is illegal or potentially unsafe for a young person at a Kiwanis event, they must immediately contact the appropriate personnel at the event, as well as provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate. All local, state, provisional and federal laws regarding reporting must be followed. If the Kiwanian becomes aware of the troubling behavior after the event, they must contact leaders of the event and provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate. Kiwanis

International now offers a 24-hour, confidential helpline at 1-866-607-SAFE. The helpline can be used if you think a youth has been harmed or their safety and well-being are at risk.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:** All documents bearing personal information of any youth attending a Kiwanis event, including registration forms, medical information forms, permission to treat forms, etc., should be treated as confidential. Processes that protect this information must be created, including minimizing the number of people who have access to any such documents. The documents shall be maintained a minimum of three years or longer, as may be required by applicable state/provincial laws and regulations. After the maintenance period has expired, the documents shall be destroyed in a way that maintains confidentiality, such as shredding. The disposal and destruction of all confidential information shall conform to applicable state/provincial laws and regulations.

**YOUTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA:** For any social networking site that involves requesting a connection (such as inviting someone to be a friend on Facebook), adults should never initiate such connections with youth. If a youth requests such a connection from a Kiwanian, the Kiwanian should use their best judgment in responding. Adults should treat their interaction with youth on social networking sites as though the interaction were occurring in public, in front of other adults and young people. In other words, if it would not be appropriate to say something to a young person in public, it should not be said as a comment on a social networking site, either. Kiwanians should refrain from interactions that can be seen as excessive (such as constantly "liking" or commenting on a person's posts on Facebook). Prior to posting any media online, such as photographs, obtain permission from all individuals (or parents, for minors) who appear in that media; it could be illegal to do otherwise. See Kiwanis International Policy B for complete social media guidelines.

**BEHAVIORAL OR HEALTH ISSUES:** Kiwanians are often seen by a young person as adults to trust with personal and/or sensitive information. Kiwanians should refrain from counseling youth and should instead find, or assist the young person in finding, appropriate expert assistance.

**CONFLICTS WITH OTHER RULES:** Whenever these policies conflict with local school policies or rules, or local, state/ provincial or national laws or regulations, the highest applicable standards for conduct shall prevail.

