



August 2021

President's message

ART RILEY

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Frequently during this year, I have been emphasizing that Kiwanians are dream makers because their efforts make children's lives better. Members donate thousands of hours to advise students who join a Service Leadership Program, and they invest their own dollars in student scholarships, nutrition programs and other projects.

With each act of service and generosity, Kiwanians demonstrate their belief in improving the future for the kids around the corner and around the world — even when they might not witness the results.

One inspiration throughout this Kiwanis year has been the sight of members continuing to show that spirit during the pandemic. Kiwanians have discovered new ways to serve, adapted service to changing circumstances and embraced new technology that will enable service in the future.

Those adaptations are important. By remaining active, members make growth possible — opening new clubs, helping clubs repurpose their service and coaching clubs of all sizes to recognize new opportunities.

Each step has helped us overcome the adversity of

2020-21 and build the future of Kiwanis. The foundation includes updated leadership education through Kiwanis Amplify, expanded leadership experiences for CKI and Key Club members and greater diversity within clubs.

As we come to the last couple months of the Kiwanis year and the start of the next one, let's keep up our momentum — attracting new members, opening new clubs and shaping the dreams of kids through Kiwanis.



Executive perspective

STAN SODERSTROM

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In June, I gave my report at the Education and Leadership Conference from the event's location in Salt Lake City. Of course, many of you saw it online because of the obstacles to travel and attendance created by COVID-19.

Remote attendance at a Kiwanis conference or convention isn't the preferred option for most of us. But it did make participation possible for many members. And once again, technology struck me as an answer to a key question: How can we guarantee that we'll be stronger as we come out of the pandemic?

As I noted at the ELC, the pandemic is far from over

where people have insufficient access to vaccines and health care. Global prospects regarding the pandemic and Kiwanis' financial future will have to take uncertainty into account.

But in places where the clouds are lifting, one fact seems clearer: Every Kiwanis club should start thinking of itself, at least in part, as an internet club. Busy people, particularly younger adults, are more accessible via digital devices. It's time for clubs to adapt, meeting both in-person and with remote options.

At Kiwanis International, we've started that process too. For example, we've

launched online education programs such as Kiwanis Amplify, meeting people where they are and on their schedule.

That's how clubs will connect with people as well. Throughout our 106 years — including pandemics, depressions, recessions and two world wars — Kiwanis has faced the question of how we can not only survive, but flourish. This recent era of difficulty has given us a fresh reminder of potential and possibility.

