

June/July 2021

President's message**ART RILEY**

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Kiwanians' service gives lasting value to each community. As president of Kiwanis, I see current projects and programs — and a horizon filled with potential. Kiwanis clubs' literacy efforts give preschool children a head start on a lifetime of education. K-Kids and Builders Club offer leadership experience that orients members to a lifetime of service. And Key Club has long shaped national and international leaders' understanding of service leadership. These are only some of the ways Kiwanians invest in a future that offers greater development of youth and adult leaders, Kiwanis

signature projects that address new needs in every community, youth programs that reach more kids, the adoption of new technology by the entire organization and worldwide brand recognition. To achieve this future, members must concentrate on expanded membership, stronger districts, increased diversity, effective partnerships and greater philanthropy. Kiwanis must also embrace continuity of leadership at every level. Leadership collaboration is what ensures our initiatives' success. In fact, this teamwork is currently yielding more club formats, innovative leadership

programs and a vision for the Kiwanis Children's Fund. And it will soon produce new opportunities for youth members and ways to attract younger members. In the hands of committed members, the future is limitless. Such members understand the meaning of service. They see how it impacts kids' potential — and ours. Now is the time to commit your talents to building the future of Kiwanis.

**Executive perspective****STAN SODERSTROM**

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When the tide rises, all ships rise together. It's a basic truth — within the Kiwanis family, and beyond it as well. Over the last several months, I've been meeting via Zoom with senior leaders of Rotary International, Lions Club International and Optimist International. Our discussions sprang from an understanding, early in the pandemic, that we were in these strange times together. We all saw the need to share and learn from each other. As we've done so, I've seen that the lesson expands endlessly, to all of humanity. In fact, this issue shows how connected we really are: one

tribe, as the feature that begins on page 12 puts it. And on page 27, you can read about the universal need for compassion among the human tribe — including even the necessity of cultivating it, which is a core aspect of human survival. Of course, connection matters to Kiwanis clubs as well. Our re-sources can be resources for each other. If you don't know the other clubs in your community, go find them! With technology, it's easier than ever. You might even realize you know some of those clubs' members — and can share ideas, resources, meeting speakers and more.

You can even work with other service organizations. If someone can't join or stay in your club for specific reasons, refer them to one of those clubs. Do it for them, and they might do it for you. After all, it's better to keep people connected to service than to let them drift away. As the last year has reminded me: We can all work together to make the tide rise.

