



# Kiwanis®

## Rocky Mountain District

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**Kiwanian**

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### Governor Bert West



I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. As I read newsletters from around the district and listen to stories during our travels, I can assure you Kiwanians all around the Rocky Mountain District are doing their part to help Children around the world.

I would like to mention one person in particular - Felix Cook of the Alameda West Kiwanis Club. When Felix rang the bell, as so many of you did for the Salvation Army, he took his granddaughters along. Not only did his granddaughters sing holiday songs, they learned a valuable lesson about their grandfather and themselves. The attitude of service shown by their grandfather will be a lasting legacy his grandchildren will remember for the rest of their lives. Long after we are gone, our children and grandchildren will have to carry on service to our communities. The lessons they learn today will impact our future for years to come.

I am looking forward to the Midwinter Conference and the exciting Growth Summit with International President Sylvester Neal on Friday afternoon. The opportunity to spend some one on one time with the International President of Kiwanis is an opportunity that doesn't come around very often. On Saturday, President Sylvester will be hosting a forum for Past Lieutenant

[RMD Kiwanis Website](#)

## IN MEMORIAM

Jim Nelson  
Kiwanis Club of Laramie

Robert Baxter  
Kiwanis Club of Casper GK

Joseph Fournier  
Kiwanis Club of Rampart Range

Elgin Mallory  
Kiwanis Club of Grand Junction

Ralph Lange  
Kiwanis Club of Loveland GK

Clark Allen  
Kiwanis Club of Cheyenne

Governors and Past District Governors about staying active and their role as leaders in our district.

Once again the district is having a forum on future leadership hosted by Past Governor Mike Anderson on what it takes to be a district officer and the joys that come with that position. Are you the next candidate for governor elect?

I would like to thank all the club secretaries and club treasurers for their dedicated service. No club would be successful without these hard working individuals. At your next meeting, make sure you thank them for all they do in helping your club provide service to all the children of the world.

Have an appetite for new membership? There are still more than six weeks for your club to have the ***highest net new membership growth*** in the district by opening session of midwinter conference. Sandy and I will bring the smoker to the winning club and provide all the food for Bert's World Famous Tri Tip Dinner.

**"Be ashamed to lay your head on your pillow without first having done some act of kindness for your fellow man."**

Respectfully,  
Bert West

## MIDWINTER CONFERENCE & INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Longmont, CO  
February 25 - February 27, 2011

Click here for fill-in registration form: [Midwinter Registration Form](#)

Click here for Preliminary Schedule: [Midwinter Preliminary Schedule](#)

Some highlights of the conference are:

- **Growth Summit** with Int'l President Sylvester Neal on Friday afternoon
- **Dinner Theatre "Camelot"** at Jesters Dinner Theatre with the Int'l President on Friday evening
- Saturday - **Opening Session** Breakfast, Speaker Dr. David Benke
- Saturday - **"Kids Against Hunger"** food packaging all day
- Saturday - K-Family **Interclub Luncheon**, Speaker Sylvester Neal
- Saturday - Evening of **Awards, Food, Fun, and Entertainment** (Casino Night)
- Sunday - Morning **Board Meeting**
- Sunday - Morning **Session for Club Leadership Education**

**Please join us in Longmont for the Midwinter Conference and International President's visit.**



**SYLVESTER "SYL" NEAL  
KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
2010-2011**

**Light your inner fire**

It's no secret that I have a vision of a Kiwanis that is stronger than it is today. I see a Kiwanis family that is stronger in membership, stronger in leadership and, most importantly, stronger in service. And I'm here to tell you that my pledge as president is to give my all, to do what I can to lead this organization in the right direction-toward strength, stability and success.

And I have ideas on how to get it done.

Being a former fire chief, I know about fires. In the past, I trained, studied and worked hard to extinguish those flames.

Today, you and I set out to light the fire for Kiwanis.

I've given this year a theme, the "Kiwanis Year of the Fire." As chief, I'm going to help you build your own fire, and together, we'll ignite the flame for others until we have a raging bonfire. We have what it takes-that burning passion within each of us to make a difference.

We need that passion more than ever as we face an amazing opportunity to make a difference with The Eliminate Project. Kiwanis, with help from our partner UNICEF, can eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus from the face of the earth. We changed the world one time. We can-and we will-change the world again.

All I ask of each of you is a personal commitment to help improve your club and grow Kiwanis to meet our goals.

Thanks for fueling the fire.

Opening Session Breakfast at Midwinter Conference

**Saturday, February 26th - 7:30 a.m.**

**Robert P Connelly Award for Heroism to be presented to Dr David Benke**

On February 23, 2009, Dr David Benke, a math teacher at the Deer Creek Middle School in Jefferson County, Colorado stopped a shooter from continuing his rampage against students. Dr Benke, at great personal risk to himself, jumped on the shooter, preventing the death of many students. The Kiwanis Club of Grant Ranch nominated Dr Benke for a Robert P Connelly Award, in recognition of his heroism. The Kiwanis International Foundation Board approved the award at their meeting last June.

Kiwanis International President, Sylvester Neal, will present this award to Dr Benke at the Midyear Conference Saturday morning breakfast on February 26, 2011. Dr Benke will then talk about his recollection of the event and the importance of being proactive in situations like this. Be sure to attend this breakfast meeting to help honor Dr. David Benke and to hear his personal story.

## Save the date

### **92d Annual Rocky Mountain District Convention Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs August 11-14, 2011**

#### ***"A Tee Time to Remember!"***

Governor Bert tasked the district convention committee to create a golf outing this summer that all Rocky Mountain District Kiwanians will savor for a long time.

Thanks to Ute Pass Kiwanian and committee member John Todd, we secured one of the finest championship golf courses in the world - **"The Broadmoor"** in Colorado Springs!

The **Annual RMD Kiwanis golf tournament on Thursday, August 11, 2011**, falls on the heels of the 2011 U.S. Women's Open held at the Broadmoor course.

Whether you are a avid golfer, beginner, or just want to see this fabulous course, please plan to join us. This really will be a day of golf we'll remember for a lifetime!

## Key Club District Convention

### **April 8-10, 2011**

It is time to think outside of the box! The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain District Convention is coming up, and the theme this year is **"Unconventional Convention, Not the Same Old Service"**. This is a time for Key Clubbers to reconnect and celebrate their year in service. It is also a chance to come up with fresh, outside of the box ideas for fundraising and service projects. **We guarantee that clubs who attend convention return Enthused, Excited, and Energized about service!**

Once again, the convention will be held at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel in Lakewood, Colorado. The dates are April 8 - 10, 2011. The cost is \$210 for quad occupancy. This includes 2 nights lodging, Saturday luncheon, Sunday brunch, forums and workshops, dances and entertainment, convention T-shirt and souvenirs, talent show and awards night, election of new district officers, and club officer training. We suggest the 1/3 Plan for payment: Kiwanis pays 1/3, Key Club pays 1/3 and the member pays 1/3. This is the ideal situation, but some clubs may need additional help. This year we have made an effort to entice clubs that have not come in the past to attend, so encourage your Key Club to try something new if convention is not one of their usual activities. Once they have experienced a convention, becoming an active club within the district will become a priority that enriches their Key Club experience.

Kiwanians are cordially invited to attend our evening sessions, luncheon, and brunch.

The Opening Session will start the weekend on Friday night with our keynote speaker, Brian Williams, founder of the non-profit organization called **Think Kindness**. *His goal is to inspire thousands of youth across the nation to incorporate Kindness into their daily lives and future careers. He has designed elementary, middle, high school, and corporate programs all based on inspiring individuals to change the world through seemingly small acts of kindness.* We also encourage your club to attend the Interclub Luncheon on Saturday at noon. If you are available, we are in need of judges on Saturday morning for the different contests.

There will be an Advisor Workshop again this year on Saturday morning. This is a must for new advisors and advisors who are looking for fresh ideas and fellowship. As a reminder, sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs should pay 100% of the advisor expenses to come to convention. They serve your students all year long and give up their weekend to attend convention so your club will have an active, relevant Key Club.

For more information, please contact Dave Harris, District Key Club Administrator, at [RMDKCA@aol.com](mailto:RMDKCA@aol.com), 303-989-7994.

## Adopt the Junglemobile for 2011

The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute (KPTI) is now recruiting clubs to adopt the Junglemobile for 2011! The adoption letter and form can also be accessed here:

<http://www.thechildrenshospital.org/junglemobile/adoption.aspx>

For more information about the Junglemobile or Safe Kids Colorado, please contact Mae Hsu at 720-777-8412 or [hsu.mae@tchden.org](mailto:hsu.mae@tchden.org).

## Wheatland Kiwanis Club - Read Around the World project set for February 24, 2011

We set up book readings and invite the pre-schoolers (day care groups & Head Start kids), young home schooled kids and young at heart seniors for snacks, book readings and a book of their own to take home. We hold it at the local book store where there is a warm stove and plenty of rugs to lay on the floor and listen to a good book or two. Last year we had Clifford the Big Red Dog (Kiwanian in costume) there for the reading. We make arrangements with the publishers to send along a costume and with the gift books at their cost. They even paid the shipping both ways for the costume. There were about 175 attending last year and we had awful weather.

We are not sure which story character we will get this year, but it should be fun again. The kids are broken up into groups from 20 - 40 and staggered throughout the day. The seniors sort of show up whenever the mobility bus can get them there - and then they stay until the cookies and coffee are gone. They love being around the little kids and listening to stories too. The kids seem better behaved too with several Great Grandmother and Grandfathers in the room.

The local banks are very good about paying for the snacks and the county delivers the Head Start kids on the school bus, so we do not have to worry about transportation. All the books go home with a sticker that has the Read Around the World (RATW) logo and "A Gift from the Kiwanis Club of Wheatland". It is so much

**fun. You should come up and join us. We would let you read a story or two. For most of the kids, this is their first book to call their own. A lot of smiles go out that door after a great time.**

**For more information on how to have a Read Around the World project, contact**

**Gail Thompson**  
**Kiwanis Club of Wheatland**  
[gail.thompson@starband.net](mailto:gail.thompson@starband.net)

## **Rocky Mountain District NewsBits**

The **Rocky Mountain District Kiwanian Newspaper** is sent electronically to everyone in the Rocky Mountain District of Kiwanis with a valid email address. There is no need to forward to most people in our district as they will have already received a copy. You may, however, want to provide a hard copy of the Kiwanian to those few members that still do not have an email address. If you know someone you think should receive our Kiwanian use the "Forward to a Friend" button at the bottom and encourage them to subscribe.

The **NEW District Website** is up an running. [www.rmdkiwanis.com](http://www.rmdkiwanis.com)

The new site is not currently password protected. Please go out to the site and verify your information if you are a President or Secretary of a club, or any club leadership position; boards, chairs, foundation board If you have information you would rather not have posted or find errors in the information that is posted, please let me know immediately.

Your **Club Newsletters**, if they are being sent to the district office, are being posted on the district website. You are also welcome to submit articles. If you have a club website, post them there first and send us the link in order to save space and time. We hope you enjoy the new RMDK website. Please let us know what you think and suggestions are always welcome.

The Editor and Webmaster reserve the right to choose the articles and information that are posted and to edit them as may be necessary.

## **A KIWANIS TOY STORY**

Santa's local elves were busy making wood toys this past Christmas season. Members of the Longmont Kiwanis Club gathered every Thursday afternoon in President Elect Chuck Everett's garage to saw, sand, assemble and paint toys made from donated salvageable lumber. The toy cars, trucks, trains and doll cradles made from pine, alder or redwood and crocheted gowns and blanket for the teddy bear dolls made by member Marja-Liisa Smith and friends are destined to waiting children locally and around the world. The first shipment for this new service project for children was 43 toy trucks to home care volunteer workers serving HIV/AIDS victims and their families in Lusaka, Zambia. Five representatives from Africa engaged in this work were guests at their February 12, 2010 weekly meeting. Craft Toys for Kids Project coordinator Marv Van Peurseem is seeking local homes for these donated toys at hospital children's wards and medical pediatric facilities, agencies serving kids and families and emergency family responders. Fellow club members and many friends purchase the modestly priced toys which helps defray the cost of the purchased wheels and surface finish.

The Longmont Kiwanis Club Board approved this service project last fall after learning of the successful (3) year experience of a similar project done by the Grand Junction Golden K Club and showcased at the RMDK August convention. They were most helpful for the start up in

Longmont. Thus far, (1/3) of the 40 members plus friends not yet members, are actively participating in this project from soliciting and delivering the donated lumber, helping to produce the toys, identifying recipient agencies and delivering toys.

## February 15th is Deadline for filing form 990

Protect your club's tax-exempt status by filing an IRS Form 990-N by the February 15 deadline. Small, tax-exempt organizations-including Kiwanis clubs-whose gross receipts normally are US\$25,000 or less are not required to file IRS forms 990 or 990-EZ. But the Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires filing of the 990-N electronic form each year; failure to file for three consecutive years could result in revocation of tax-exempt status.

To file, you'll need the name of your Kiwanis club, mailing address, website address (if applicable), employer identification number (EIN), annual tax period date and a statement that annual gross receipts are still normally US\$25,000 or less. See

[www.KiwanisOne.org/form990](http://www.KiwanisOne.org/form990) or

<http://www.kiwanisone.org/Pages/Resources/default.aspx?PageID=470>

for instructions how to file.



### Convention update

#### **Early registration deadline ahead**

If you [register](#) for the 96th Annual Kiwanis International Convention by **January 31, 2011** Kiwanis members save US\$75. Early registrants pay only \$350-that's \$75 less than the standard rate. Adult guests pay only \$100 (a \$50 discount) if registered before January 31.

## Need to Contact the District Office

**Pam Bilby, Executive Director**

**Rocky Mountain District Kiwanis Office**

**Phone: (303) 462-5148 or (866) 462-5148 Fax: (303) 988-8026**

**P.O. Box 280009 Lakewood, CO 80228-0009**

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