

Biographical sketches

Candidates for Kiwanis International office

2013 Kiwanis International convention
Vancouver, B.C., Canada



The Objects of Kiwanis International

The following principles have guided Kiwanians' work since 1924:

To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.

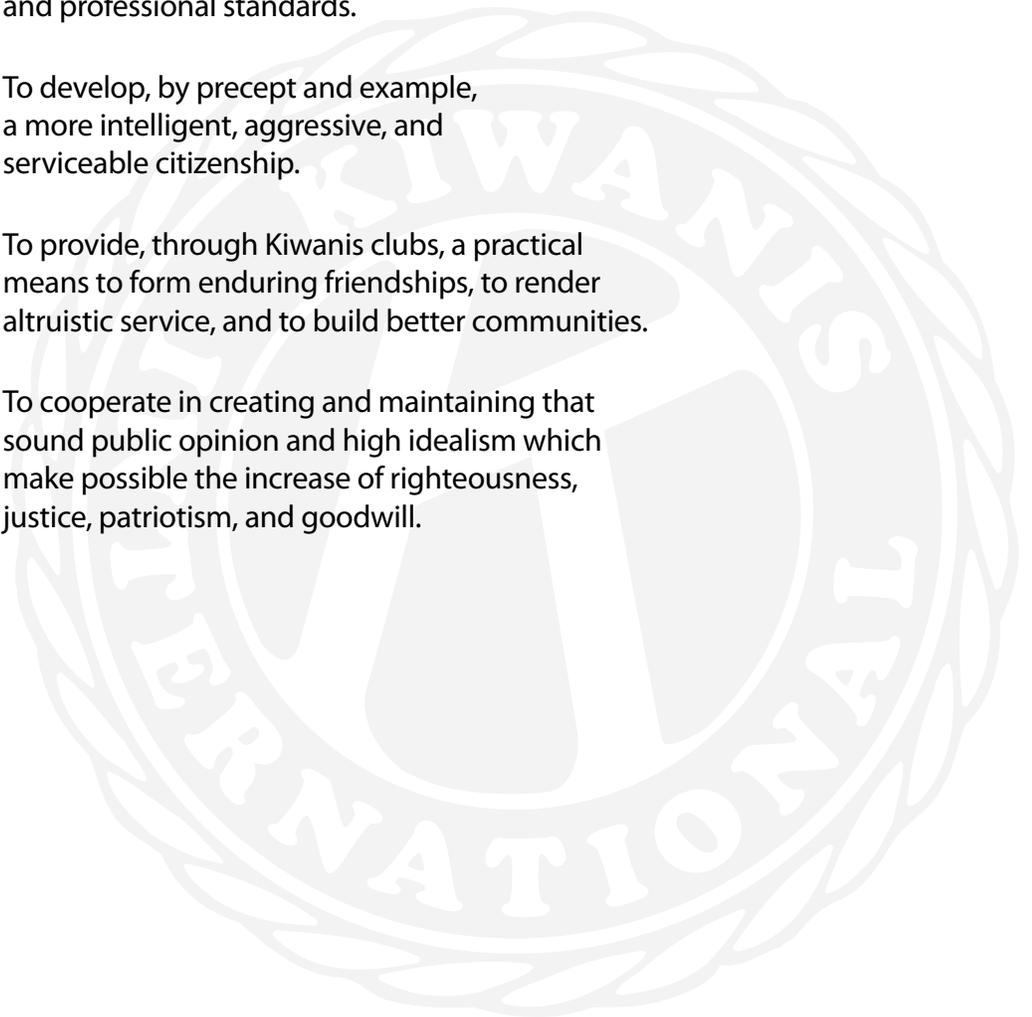
To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.

To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.

To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.

To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.



CONTENTS

Candidates for each office are listed alphabetically by office. Candidates or their campaign committees provided the information contained herein.

For president

Gunter Gasser 2

For president-elect

John R. Button 3

For vice president

Susan A. "Sue" Petrisin 4

Sjoerd R.J. Timmermans 5

For trustee—United States and Pacific Canada

Patti Barsotti 6

Kevin Dean 7

Patrick R. Ewing 8

Arthur N. Riley 9



Gunter Gasser

Kiwanis International president candidate

Club: Spittal an der Drau

District: Austria

What experience and strengths would you bring to the board as president?

First, I bring my passion for service and leadership. My many years of membership in Kiwanis have instilled in me a strong desire to serve. As I have come to know the values of Kiwanis, these have become deeply rooted in me and I live according to them. I am a “Kiwanian for Life.” I am ready to give back to Kiwanis and to offer all my strengths and knowledge of leadership.

Second, with my technical and economic qualifications garnered as a senior manager working in different cultures and countries, I can help Kiwanis meet the many challenges of the future. I am a team player. I can work with a diverse group of people and am able to understand the complexities of an international organization.

My experience includes strategic thinking, setting goals and plans while looking at ongoing operations the financial resources which are vital to a healthy organization.

Third, I will always keep in mind that it is the club and the member that are the basis for the success of Kiwanis.

What is your Kiwanis moment, a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

When I was counselor to the Rocky Mountain District, I visited the convention in Cheyenne, Wyoming. At the same time, the Aktion Club convention was taking place. I said hello to every single member. A young Kiwanian sitting in a wheelchair kept holding my hand and asked me to go on speaking because he had the feeling that my voice gave him so much strength. I went on talking and told him about my home country. I was deeply moved and felt that with my talk I was able to give this lonesome Kiwanis friend a feeling of global friendship and belonging to the Kiwanis family.

Biographical information

Family: Wife, Christiana; one son; one daughter.

Profession: Former executive board member of building and insulating materials companies.

Education: Doctorate, Montan University Leoben; graduate engineer for Mechanical Engineering/Economics, Technical University, Graz.

Hobbies: Skiing, hunting, traveling, sports, Boy Scouts.



John R. Button

Kiwanis International president-elect candidate

Club: Ridgetown, Ontario

District: Eastern Canada
and the Caribbean

What experience and strengths would you bring to the board as president-elect?

I was fortunate to have been raised in a household where service to the community was an integral part of the family fabric. I believe that those of us who have been blessed by geography, opportunity and circumstance need to be a blessing to others.

I bring my passion and dedication to Kiwanis as well as my motivational, leadership and fundraising skills. I chaired my club's Iodine Deficiency Disorder campaign, which raised over US\$186,000 (a world leader) and my division's campaign, over US\$340,000 (also a world leader). When my hospital needed an MRI scanner, I chaired a campaign team that raised US\$3.5 million in 2 ½ years (one year ahead of schedule). And most importantly, I bring Debbie.

I have been caring for and advocating for children and families for over 35 years. As a family doctor, I made countless decisions daily, often, tough decisions. Over the years, I have delivered hundreds of babies and am committed to improving maternal and neonatal health. I was in at the beginning of The Eliminate Project. I have shared my passion for the campaign across the Kiwanis world. I want to be there, in 2015, when we proudly proclaim that we, Kiwanians, have eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus.

What is your Kiwanis moment, a Kiwanis experience that made a difference in your life?

Late one November night in 1994, while traveling home from a medical society event, my car was struck by a stolen pickup truck, driven by a drunk driver who ran a stop sign at 140 kph (90 mph). My wife sustained a serious closed head injury from which she died two days later. I was left with a broken leg, a broken arm, a broken breast bone and a broken heart. Upon arriving home from the hospital, a member of my Kiwanis club was waiting in the driveway with a warm embrace and words of concern and consolation. Over the next weeks and months, my family and my Kiwanis club nursed me back to health. I was no longer a member, I was a Kiwanian.

Biographical information

Family: Wife, Debbie; one son; one daughter; one granddaughter.

Profession: Family physician (recently retired).

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Science (University of Western Ontario); Doctor of Medicine (University of Toronto).

Hobbies: Music, reading, photography, wood carving, bird watching, the outdoors.



Susan A. "Sue" Petrisin

Kiwanis International vice president candidate

Club: East Lansing

District: Michigan

Why did you decide to run for office?

I have a genuine passion for making a difference in the lives of others. I illustrate an exemplary work ethic, a drive for results and a commitment to excellence. It is my responsibility as a Kiwanis member to give back to the organization I love.

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

My Kiwanis International family experience, through Key Club, Circle K, Kiwanis International, the Kiwanis International Foundation and as an executive committee member of The Eliminate Project has prepared me to lead our organization. I also bring more than 27 years of professional work experience. Check out www.suepetrisin.com to learn more.

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

The handprint I hope to leave is one of passion, determination and excellence. That we are true to our purpose as an organization and move forward, ever growing and evolving. That we begin to move beyond our barriers and distractions, perceived or real, and further establish Kiwanis as the global leader in community service.

Biographical information

- 32-year member of the Kiwanis International family: Key Club International, Circle K International, Kiwanis International Foundation board, Kiwanis International board, The Eliminate Project campaign executive committee
- Michigan State University (MSU) Alumni Association Associate Director; 27-year employee
- Master's and Bachelor's degrees, MSU; Franklin Covey certified facilitator



Sjoerd R.J. Timmermans

Kiwanis International vice president candidate

Club: The Hague

District: The Netherlands

Why did you decide to run for office?

I have two reasons. First, I care about our organization and want to fight for a stronger Kiwanis. Second, after having a lot of benefits during my membership, I decided to dedicate my free time after retirement to this great organization/family.

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

My background and professional experience has allowed me to travel all over the globe. With the experience of dealing with all cultures in the world, I'm prepared to lead this family to a greater future.

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

Our average age is too high at this moment, like in most service clubs. I will do my utmost to create a strong rejuvenation policy and make Kiwanis more attractive also for younger members.

Biographical information

Sjoerd has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Den Haag for the past 22 years. President in 1997–98 and 2002–03. Lieutenant governor 2005–2007. Distinguished governor of the Netherlands District in 2008–09. Veteran of the tourism and travel industry, consultant and lecturer of a university for tourism. Sjoerd is married and has two children and two grandchildren.



Patti Barsotti

Kiwanis International trustee candidate

Club: San Ramon Valley, California

District: California-Nevada-Hawaii

Why did you decide to run for office?

Serving on and presiding over Kiwanis International committees has provided awareness of what can be accomplished by accepting additional leadership responsibilities. Kiwanians' passion for service, my excitement as The Eliminate Project region coordinator for USA 4 and the teamwork of our Kiwanians inspires me to do everything possible to shepherd ideas to strengthen and grow Kiwanis.

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

Over 23 years of hands-on Kiwanis service and demonstrated volunteer leadership skills, coupled with 40 years in the financial profession, all provide a solid foundation allowing me to step forward, to continue to learn and contribute. Please see www.pattibarsotti.org for a detailed list of background and qualifications.

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

As a past Kiwanis International officer, I would like to look back and say I inspired a little piece of our success in strengthening our Kiwanis organization by growing membership and increasing service and motivating others to get involved, thereby changing the world.

Biographical information

Joined Kiwanis in 1989, fellow members and service have taught me what it means to be a Kiwanian. Honored to be District Life member, and Tablet of Honor recipient, Hixson, Dunlap and Charter Zeller Fellow. Super distinguished, with honors hall of fame, lieutenant governor 2000–2001. Distinguished district governor 2005–2006. www.pattibarsotti.org/patti'slifeofservice.



Kevin Dean

Kiwanis International trustee candidate

Club: Suncrest Area, Morgantown and New York City Young Professionals

District: West Virginia

Why did you decide to run for office?

I was elected to a one-year term on the Kiwanis International Board in New Orleans. I am running for a full term in order to fulfill the pledge I made last year—to help solve the membership challenges we have struggled with for decades, especially in North America.

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

- Current member of the Kiwanis International Board
- Distinguished designation as club president, lieutenant governor, and district governor
- Active club and district involvement in both West Virginia and New York
- Built or participated in building eight Kiwanis clubs
- B.A. Georgetown University, Masters in Public Administration New York University

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

My greatest hope is that when I complete my service on the Kiwanis International Board, the organization will have once again begun to grow on a regular, recurring basis and on a large scale across most of the districts in North America. I will work diligently to ensure this result.

Biographical information

- First joined the Kiwanis Family 30 years ago at age 15
- Distinguished Key Club governor and current assistant administrator
- 20 years in CFO and other senior finance positions in the healthcare industry
- Wife Larissa is a Kiwanian, distinguished district secretary and Circle K administrator



Patrick R. Ewing

Kiwanis International trustee candidate

Club: Victoria, B.C.
and Cascadia (Internet club)

District: Pacific Northwest

Why did you decide to run for office?

- To counsel and assist governors
- To support a strong role for districts
- To promote members' financial interests
- To bring my skills, abilities, experience and a younger perspective to the Kiwanis International Board
- To examine new solutions to address continuing challenges
- To help our organization explore new ways to grow

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

- Integrity, compassion, dedication, experience
- Good people-person: team builder, conflict resolver
- Analytical and innovative; strong policy/finance background
- Service on Kiwanis International committees: K-Kids, Growth (2011–12 chairman for Americas), The Eliminate Project
- Thirteen years making a difference at the district level; roles include governor, chairman (membership, marketing), magazine editor, K-Kids administrator.

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

- Identifying non-dues revenue and other ways to ease the financial burden on members
- Pursuing opportunities to increase Kiwanis' appeal to young people
- Proposing enhancements to bylaws and policies
- Promoting multi-year fiscal planning and access to financial information
- Championing the interests of the Kiwanis family (Service Leadership Programs)

Biographical information

- First Kiwanis project was in Grades 6 and 7 (school crossing guard)
- Served six years in CKI and seventeen years in Kiwanis
- Director (Finance) in civil service with nineteen years' experience
- Education: Law (JD), Health (BSc)
- Met wife Kristina in CKI; reunited through Kiwanis and married in governor year



Arthur N. "Art" Riley

Kiwanis International trustee candidate

Club: Westminster, Maryland

District: Capital

Why did you decide to run for office?

My desire to be a Kiwanis International trustee is based on my love for Kiwanis and my support for the organization's objectives. I want to contribute to Kiwanis by assisting in the promotion and branding of Kiwanis, to continue the expansion of Service Leadership Programs and to position Kiwanis to grow and prosper.

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

My experience in Kiwanis, business and community organizations has prepared me to be a trustee. I have acquired and demonstrated the ability to explore new ideas, build effective teams, manage challenges and arrive at consensus with large teams. I enjoy working with people in planning, evaluating, organizing and implementing new ideas.

How will you leave your mark on Kiwanis?

If I am to make a mark on Kiwanis, I want it to be that I assisted in strengthening Kiwanis, and that I did all I could to advance the opportunity for all children to be healthy, to achieve their full potential and to become leaders.

Biographical information

A resident of Westminster, Maryland, Art is a product of the Capital District. A pharmacist by trade, Art owned a professional pharmacy that specialized in medical equipment and supplies. He has been married to Vickie for 40 years and they have three adult children and three grandchildren.



Kiwanis[®]

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