



ABOVE: Great meeting with the New Lenox Manhattan Club. They have started calling and connecting with ‘absent’ members in an effort to reengage—and have been promoting Kiwanis everywhere they go. So far, they’ve added 6 new members to their roster!

BELOW: Thanks to the members of the Steger Club for a great visit! Members gave updates on current and upcoming projects and we talked about increasing club awareness through a low and no cost social media presence.



Suspended Service

In my visits, I’ve talked about how some of the clubs in the Division are struggling. I’ve also been pretty honest (some might say blunt) in my view of KI’s focus on starting new clubs when its clear we have some clubs that are barely hanging on. It seems to me that more effort should be placed in retaining and strengthening currently charter clubs.

The Park Forest club has been struggling for a while. I’m the 3rd LTG that has tried to mediate and mitigate some of the issues that are at the center of their struggles. Unfortunately the club is now on ‘suspension’ status - while new, current, and former leaderships’ infighting has challenged efforts to move forward. To compound the issues, no governing documents are available (i.e. bylaws, meeting minutes, corporate reports, etc.) that would provide any of us trying to help the necessary information to assist.

I understand every club, like every event, has a life cycle. And all of us know that it takes effort to keep a club going and members motivated. I do remain hopeful that we can come to a resolution for the Park Forest Club, its members, its Key Club and the Park Forest community. If it is the end of its life cycle, I hope those who want to continue to serve with fellow Kiwanians will join one of its neighboring clubs.

I will continue to advocate for more support of existing clubs—even if it means diverting efforts to open new clubs.

Does everyone know where and when your Club meets? Try this: Google your Club name and review the information that is out there. If the Village, Park District, or Community Board, etc. has your meeting date, time or contact info wrong (or doesn’t list it at all) —contact them to get it added or corrected... and invite them to a meeting. Adding Club information to other websites (& linking to your website) is an easy, cost-effective way to increase your online presence.

Illinois-Eastern Iowa District Governor’s Visit & Mid-Winter Meeting

A big thanks to everyone who attended the Governor’s Visit at Frankfort Club’s Kiwanis Special Games and the Mid-Winter Meeting after the event. Thanks to Governor-Elect Tom Willis and Special Assistant Lindsay Yannotta for volunteering at the event and attending the Meeting and a special thanks to the Frankfort Club for allowing us to be a part of your day. What a spectacular morning!

Governor Dustin talked about what’s happening in and around the District as well as some events coming up and things to watch for from KI—including the importance of service/service hours, and the proposed KI \$30 per member dues increase.

It was also a nice way to catch up with each club, and talk about a possible Division KNRF event. Noemi asked for feedback on hosting a Kiwanis Night at a Thunderbolts game. We would get discounted tickets to sell to members and friends, with the additional funds going to KNRF. Hosting it at the ballpark would also be an opportunity to share information about Kiwanis to all in attendance. We’ll share information as soon as we have details. If you have ideas or input, let us know.

Make plans for an Interclub to present the Traveling Gavel to another club in our Division. I can’t wait to see your creativity!

Travel Gavel Schedule:

Frankfort presents to Chicago Heights → Chicago Heights presents to Steger
→ Steger presents to Watseka → Watseka presents to Kankakee
Kankakee presents to New Lenox/Manhattan → NL/M presents to Joliet



The “Traveling Gavel” is back in circulation since Governor Dustin broke open a treasure chest pinata and presented the gavel to Noemi, President of the Frankfort Club.



Have information to share? Send to:
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Upcoming Kiwanis Events—Mark Your Calendars:

June 21-24, 2023	Kiwanis International Convention	Minneapolis, MN
August 3-6, 2023	I-I District Convention	Bloomington, IL