

## A Kiwanis International Experience 2006

Thank you Florence Kiwanis Club for allowing me to represent you as a delegate to Kiwanis International 2006 in Montreal, Canada. Those of you who have experienced an international convention understand my appreciation and can relate to the joy of meeting fellow Kiwanians, learning of projects that improve the world one child and one community at a time, and the motivation from others who have a concern for the children of the world. It was educational, rewarding, and entertaining.

Ellen and I arrived for early bird registration and took in as many of the meetings and events as possible. A First Timer's Orientation meeting Wednesday afternoon was informative and beneficial. We were able to clear up some registration glitches early and visit the exhibit hall.

Thursday morning we attended "What Does the New Kiwanis Look Like?" presented by President Steve Siemens, CSP. If the credentials, CSP, are new to you, President Steve certainly fulfilled the expectations one might have of a "certified speaking professional". He truly has an ability and talent for communicating to and motivating an audience. His theme was by changing the way we think about Kiwanis will lead to our success in changing the world-one child and one community at a time. His strategy for effective change will be shared latter.

Another motivating and entertaining presentation followed. Mr. Art Linkletter who featured children on his TV program House Party and wrote the book of interviews with children "Kids Say the Darndest Things" spoke to a large attentive group. At age 94,

Mr. Linkletter spoke for an hour and then, appeared in the opening session to interview a young girl who at the age of ten, saved a five-year-old neighbor from an attacking pit bull.

Several special guests who were recipients of Kiwanis services or programs were introduced. Alex Morton of Macon, Ga. is a ten-year-old boy who loves baseball. Because of his wheelchair, his family traveled to Conyers, Ga so he might play at the Miracle League field. Thanks to local Kiwanians, his home town now has a Miracle League field. Alex and his family were introduced at the First House of Delegates. Special guest, Todd Yaniv, age 20, entertained us Saturday afternoon at the Second House of Delegates. Todd began playing the piano at Kiwanis festivals at the age of seven. At age 12, he captured top honors in piano at the Kiwanis Music Festival in Toronto. Allison and Melanie Kateberg benefited from pediatric trauma equipment provided by Kiwanis after they were hit by a car while riding their bicycles. They survived this near-fatal accident and continue to recovery. The Kateberg family was present at the closing session to further put a face with Kiwanis service. Putting a face with service is something the Florence Kiwanis Club might begin.

After being motivate from several meetings, Ellen and I decided a more serious educational program was in order. We attended a presentation entitled, "How to Explain Death to Children". Such a program could be informative in any community.

While I attended a presentation of "Maximizing Kiwanis Service", Ellen attended a workshop to help children improve their grades. "Bring Up Grades" is designed to motivate the C and D grade students

through recognition and rewards to improve the school grades. Our friends from the Jasper club really bragged on this program.

I encourage each Kiwanis member to spend time at the international web site. You can link it from [www.florencekiwanis.com](http://www.florencekiwanis.com). The president's page includes several short (2-4 minutes) videos of motivational messages from Steve Siemens. Also, the proposed amendments presented to delegates can be read from the "Go for One million, delegates say" report.

International 2007 will closer home and 2008 even closer as in Nashville, Tn. We should encourage attendance from the Florence Club at these meetings to heighten our club spirit and look for new ways to "improve the world one child and one community at a time".

**David Beasley**

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You should also visit our club's website at [www.florencekiwanis.com](http://www.florencekiwanis.com) or [www.florencekiwanisclub.org](http://www.florencekiwanisclub.org) to catch the latest information, read about recent events, and see lots of pictures of our activities. Thanks to David Messer for his work on this site. Florencekiwanis.org will get Florence, Oregon!