

# KIEFupdate

Kiwanis International European Federation

Serving the children of the world

September 2014

[www.kiwanis.eu](http://www.kiwanis.eu)



# CONTENTS

# SEPTEMBER

	 <b>03/ KIEF President message</b>
	 <b>04/ KI convention at glance</b>
	 <b>07/ KIEF Youth Camp in Romania</b>
	 <b>10/ The ELIMINATE project news</b>
	 <b>11/ Greetings and Thanks</b>



## K. I. E. F. Executive Committee

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President Elect: **Vincent Salembier** (Belux)

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## KIEF President Message



### **We all worked hard!**

We all worked hard this year and found a lot of satisfaction and pleasure to Serve the Children of the World!

During the summer months, the opportunities to meet were many, on the occasion of conventions and events. Some of us were lucky enough to travel to Tokyo and experience the exceptional event of the International Convention of Kiwanis. Europe was honorably

represented, we lived together inspiring moments to meet our friends around the world and especially our Japanese friends. They worked tirelessly to welcome us their best. Those who lived through the "Japan Night for ASPAC and KIEF" will keep an unforgettable memory. As President of the Federation, I had the great honor to be the voice of Kiwanis Europe during the closing session. The ovation that greeted me at the stage showed how is appreciated our presence in the global Kiwanis.

We will keep only the nice souvenirs from this year that is ending. We lived together great times of happiness. We approach the next step with optimism.

Children are waiting for us, we will live up to their expectations. Thank you in advance!

**Marie-Jeanne Boutroy, KI-EF President 2013-2014**

## KI Convention

by Valerie Meoni



**The 99th Kiwanis International Convention held from July 17 to July 20 in Tokyo Chiba allowed many European immerse themselves in the world of Kiwanis for several days. Besides the discovery of the country, meeting with Kiwanians around the world is always a source of discovery, interest and pleasure.**

On Wednesday, the lobby of the convention center was hosting delegates for registration. A real anthill where everyone turned his best, the booths, meetings, delivery of documents, enough to lose your head in a warm and festive atmosphere nonetheless. Here, being Kiwanis made sense, and another dimension. Each district was represented more or fewer, obviously with the predominance of Asian districts nearby. It should be noted that the Kiwanis Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) celebrated its 50th anniversary this year and also held its convention in Chiba. The first Kiwanis club in the Asia-Pacific region was built in Tokyo in 1964. ASPAC now has 800 clubs for about 25,000 members.

On Thursday morning all the participants gathered for the official opening ceremony of the 99th Congress. Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino Kiko honored the ceremony with their presence. Early in afternoon, the candidates for various positions met the Kiwanians and presented their programs. Finally, in the evening, the Japanese district organized a great dinner for Kiwanians from KIEF and ASPAC. In opening the 1,200 participants had the joy of attending a concert of the band of the Japanese Navy, with soprano Yukari Miyake. An unforgettable moment for those who were lucky enough to be present.

For the more adventurous, Friday began with a march for Eliminate, at 7 pm in the streets of the city! Then, throughout the day, as the day before, dozens of conferences were held in the Conference Center Halls, on topics like Eliminate, 100 year Anniversary of Kiwanis, the Key Clubs, the International Foundation, or the virtual tour of Indianapolis. Booklet of program in hand, attendees roamed the hallways to attend one out of the conferences. In the exhibition halls, you could also discover the Japanese arts such as Ikebana (flower arrangement), the Shodo (calligraphy), the tea ceremony, the mysteries of incense ... For the most sports, judo demonstrations, karate, kendo were also available.

The House of Delegates meeting was held on Saturday morning. Not surprisingly, John R. Button, Ridgeway in the Canadian province of Ontario, was elected to preside over the destiny of Kiwanis International. Succeeded him 2015/2016 Susan A. Petrisin, District of Michigan, then 2016/2017 Jane M.



Erickson, Nebraska-Iowa District. Two women will therefore preside over the future of Kiwanis in the coming years.

Also elected trustees (directors):

- United States and Canadian Pacific: Arthur N. Riley, the Capital district, Dewey Smith, District of Georgia; Barbara Thompson, Missouri-Arkansas District.
- At large: Kenneth A. Alovera district south Philippines.
- ASPAC: Koshiro "Kit" Kitazato district of Japan

Delegates then voted amendments and resolutions.

They approved an amendment of Bylaws providing for more severe disciplinary measures to help protect the organization and the youth it serves.

In addition, delegates adopted a resolution asking the Board of Kiwanis International to study the use of online voting on matters of an administrative nature usually processed at the convention. The resolution called to the Board to launch a study on the matter and to submit the report to the delegates at the 100th annual convention in Indianapolis, from 25 to 28 June 2016.

Other decisions of the General Assembly were:

approved:

- Clarify measures relating to modalities to fill a vacancy on the Board of Kiwanis International;
- Allow wider flexibility for the operations of districts in accordance with the proposed revisions to the standard text of the new district bylaws;
- Ensure that every Kiwanis Club of North America enjoys protection / accountability through affordable insurance for directors and officers cost;
- Define More severe disciplinary measures, to help protect the Kiwanis organization and youth we serve.

withdrawn:

-provide Exemption of two years of contributions to Kiwanis International for people who have just recently used the armed forces; this proposal was submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Cascadia (Oregon).

Forwarded to the Committee:

-Delete Mandatory ventilation funds from subscriptions, so they can be used for various media - print, electronic and digital - which Kiwanis members typically use.

Many musical events embellished the general meeting, including Makuhari Sohgo High School Dance Group, made up of very talented young dancers, and the Philippine Luzon Dance Group.

For all participants, this Convention in Japan has been a great moment of conviviality and sharing. Together, all had the same ambition to grow our movement, and Serving the Children of the World.



## KIEF Youth Camp



The tradition of Kiwanis Youth camps in Europe was initiated by Finland and the Baltic States in 2003, the Romanian one is the 12th of its kind. The purpose of these camps is primarily to provide a reward to young Kiwanians aged 13-19 years performed volunteer work in their communities. Besides the chance to give them the opportunity to create lasting cross-border friendships in an environment that provides the prerequisites of good dispositions, youth are offered the chance of participating in self-knowledge workshops, and of a better insight into the system levers that civil-society status may be a determining factor in shaping a smarter society through the promotion and adoption of higher social, business and professional standards. The first and most important objective of Kiwanis community in the world - which counts 600,000 members - is to give priority to spiritual values over material values. Kiwanis objectives are met by members of the organization under the imperative principle of the Golden Rule, "Treat others the way you want you to be treated", a principle universally present in most cultures and religions of the world, urging empathy. Young people in these camps have the chance to learn both mutual empathy from their peers belonging to the same group and from their instructors and local people that they are brought in contact with.

Kiwanis International Youth Camps were hosted so far in Europe by Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Germany and Switzerland, the one in Romania is a first. It is a great honor and responsibility that our country has been chosen as the location for the event by the KIEF Board (European Federation of Kiwanis International).

The choice is due to the fact that the current representative of the Kiwanis Clubs Federation in Romania, Mr. Istvan Tribel member of the Kiwanis Club of Saint George, assumed responsibility for the organization of the camp and led a fruitful campaign to improve Romania's image in the international sphere, at the European conferences and other international Kiwanis meetings. The Padureni camp, administered by the

Ministry of Youth and Sports, is a perfect location for the purpose of the camp, as results from the assessments of the responsible for Kiwanis youth programs in Europe, the Czech Jan Radon: "Through this camp Romania makes its presentation to the world and conditions offered by the organizers are perfect. "Polish Edyta Podsiadly, District Governor of Poland, also present in the camp, as a national group leader also said the good disposition that flooded the camp location, doubled by the delicious food were the perfect ingredients for the camp.

The camp was attended by 48 young people from 7 countries (Romania, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Poland and France) and tutors (facilitators) from Austria, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Romania.

Youth selection was based on recommendations made at the clubs that belong to different Kiwanian European Districts; country representatives were selected on the basis of personal merit individually guaranteed by national committees.

Activities undertaken during July 28-August 3 were mixed and manyfold and some were a real

challenge both for the youth and for the facilitators. Each morning started with gymnastics with instructor Eniko Molnar, followed by workshops, sports and hiking, and also administrative activities. Tuesday, NAA (National Antidrug Agency) and Covasna IJP (County Police Inspectorate) were present at our invitation to give young people counsel. They particularly appreciated each presentation regarding drug-abuse and prevention or about using the Internet safely. Other presentations of facilitators include topics such as "personal values" (Joe Nopp), "Point Kiwanis" (Sandra Kuus), "Leadership" (Jan Radon) and "social belonging and identification" (Silvia Puskas). Painter Ramon together with graphic Robu Oszkar, Saint George Kiwanis Club members, have enchanted the participants with a painting masterclass held amidst the Nature Reservation from Reci. The group covered a n 11 km long walk before the masterclass in perfect good mood. At the site, youth were visited by Deputy Mayor of Sfantu Gheorghe town, Mr.Ferenc Tischler, who congratulated them for the volunteer work each participant provides in their local community. Trip to Peles Castle and Bran Castle gave young people the chance to visit other picturesque places in Romania and verify the location of Bram Stoker's novel. Besides fun activities, sports education. Kiwanian youth also contributed to the completion of a so-called Service Project, a custom of Kiwanian camps, where young volunteers make a lasting gift to the hosting community. The project consisted of building a campfire made of brick and stone, surrounded with logs. They decorated the place with gravel and brick around the center were placed logs used as chair. Each participant drew a personal message on each tree-log. May jokingly, more seriously, the name of the "megaconstruction" circulated among participants was



KiwaniBrickWoodHenge as a reference to the iconic megaconstruction durability of Stonehenge, Great Britain.

I think such events are extremely beneficial both to local communities and our country in general. We took full responsibility as emissaries and ambassadors of our community image and the image of Kiwanis in our local community. The values we promote urge for normality based on the idea that to change society for the better, every member of it has to participate actively; every action, individual or group, is important, even if at first glance it seems to be insignificant. To impose your principles that you believe in, it is necessary to "Be the change you want in the world" (Gandhi), both individually and in the groups you socially identify with. I think the Padureni international camp participants had the chance to verify this principle, and also that the Golden Rule works up where actions are guided by good faith, trust and optimism.

Our gratitude goes to our supporters, especially to Kiwanis International Foundation, to the KIEF board, the Covasna County Council and Sfantu Gheorghe and Padureni Town Hall.

Silvia Puskas

Lieutenant Governor of the Central Division  
Kiwanis Club Federation Romania



## ELIMINATE: a painting saves 1,500 lives in Annecy



Generosity was present at the cruise of the gala dinner that ended in beauty the 47th KI-EF Convention. An artist from Annecy, Kiwanian's wife, had made especially for the occasion a painting to be auctioned for the benefit of The Eliminate Project. Inspired by both the site where the convention was held, the banks of a lake, and by the coloured earths of far countries where our worldwide campaign takes place, the painting, entitled "Lakeside Escape", was assigned for 2,000 Euros to a donor who wanted to remain anonymous. The painting saved or protected more than 1,500 lives!

The start of donations was given at the Opening Ceremony by the Kiwanis Club of Annecy, with a gift of 3,500 Euros. That

motivated a lot of individual donors. In all, more than 7,500 Euros were gathered for The Eliminate Project at the KI-EF Convention, more than 5,600 lives saved in a few hours!

Eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus? Yes, we can!

If you and your club are not yet receiving The Eliminate Project newsletter in your language, make sure to register to receive the most up-to-date information!

<http://sites.kiwanis.org/Kiwanis/en/theELIMINATEproject/MNT/Updates/emailupdate.aspx>



Dear friends this is my last issue of KIEFupdate, Next year a new committee will work on it. Many thanks to all of you for the collaboration. I wish to thanks all KIEF presidents that trusted me, the translators Axel, Paul and Roelant for their precious work and the patience, all the european kiwanian that helped to make this bulletin interesting and enjoyable, we made a long journey together, thanks for your help, your friendships and to be part of my Kiwanis family.

I wish to the new team all the best in Kiwanis Service.

Sincerely yours



*Francesco Valenti*

**Chair communication committee 2009-2014**

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