

# Kiwanis Insider



Rob Parker • Chief Executive Officer

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To the Leadership of Kiwanis International

Dear Kiwanis Leader:

## **Who's Got Your Back?**

As a Kiwanis leader, I'm sure there are things you have accomplished primarily as a result of your own hard work, talent, or maybe just sheer determination. I also suspect that there are a number of successful endeavors you have been a part of that were only possible with the help of others. Any man or woman who believes they are "self-made" is probably not paying attention to what is going on behind the scenes and all around them. Even hard-driving entrepreneurs ultimately discover the value of having the right people in a position to open doors, challenge conventional wisdom and encourage innovation. This month I am reading "Who's Got Your Back?" The premise of the book is that all successful leaders need an inner circle of "lifeline relationships" that will offer the encouragement, candid feedback and support to help them reach their full potential. Author Keith Ferrazzi says: "A lifeline relationship is one between equals, between peers, between individuals who can be intellectual sparring partners and confidants." Following are some insights from this book that are worth considering:

- We are all entrepreneurs of our own ideas ... a salesperson of ourselves and our opinions.
- Most of us come against personal and professional problems that are too big to solve alone.
- Most leaders have too many nodding acquaintances and not enough close encounters.
- The Internet provides us with more contact, not relationships.
- All of us need the help of others to truly be successful.
- In today's culture we've overemphasized the individual at the expense of teamwork and collaboration.

As you wrap up a year of Kiwanis leadership and/or prepare for a new one, who would you identify as part of your inner circle? Who has permission to point out your shortcomings and challenge you to think deeper or differently? Who are the people you can be transparent with, and who don't judge you when you come up short? Who are the ones who encourage and lift you up, so you can reach the next rung of the ladder? May be worth taking a few minutes to think about who those people are ... and if you are having trouble coming up with any names, it might be time to be more intentional about building your inner circle. Next month I will share some of the strategies Keith recommends to make sure you have the right people in the circle.

## **Board of Trustees to meet in Indianapolis**

The first Kiwanis International Board meeting of the new administrative year will take place in Indianapolis September 29-October 3. This will be the first meeting chaired by International President Paul Palazzolo, and the first for new board members Pam Fleming-Alabama, Piero Grasso-Italy/San Marino, John Button-EC&C, Jerry Pueller-Capital, and Stewart Ross-

Minnesota/Dakotas. Included in this extended meeting will be joint sessions with the boards of the Kiwanis International Foundation and Key Club International, as well as a new trustee orientation. In addition, the board will have a one-day retreat to review longer term/strategic issues. The following committees will also be meeting and establishing their chart of work for this year:

**Committee**

Executive Committee  
Finance Committee  
One Voice  
Leadership Development  
Global Membership  
Kiwanis Family Programs  
International Convention

**Chair**

Paul Palazzolo  
Sylvester Neal  
Randy Delay  
Bascom Allen  
Eduardo Sedillo  
Bernie Knott  
Peter Wuellenweber

**Leadership Matters**

Log on to [www.kiwanisleader.org](http://www.kiwanisleader.org) and join with other Kiwanis leaders as we discuss issues affecting Kiwanis. Express your opinion on one of the topics posted or send me an e-mail at [robparker@kiwanis.org](mailto:robparker@kiwanis.org) with your own idea that you would like to see discussed.

**Pay It Forward**

When you are done reading the Kiwanis Insider, please hit forward and send it to any groups of Kiwanis leaders you think might be interested. We have governors who forward these to their lieutenant governors, who forward to their club presidents, who forward to their members. I have appreciated hearing directly from these local club leaders as they react and respond to the issues we are discussing.

Thanks for leading,

*Rob*

Rob Parker  
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