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My Fellow Kiwanians:

I welcome you to the new Kiwanis administrative year! Today marks the dawn for new opportunities and successes in Kiwanis. Greetings on this the first day of the 2008/09 administrative year!

I am excited by the prospects embedded in our theme for the year – *“Embracing Challenges; Creating Opportunities”*. This will move us to create a year of Excellence in Kiwanis Service! With a clear vision and positive leadership, every club in our district can succeed, excel and have a distinguished year. Let us rise up and serve our communities in an energetic, passionate and committed manner. Let us do it for our clubs and for our children.

The 2008-09 district goals were developed so that we may maintain our focus on our service initiatives, while engaging in a process of renewal and growth in our clubs. With this in mind, these broad goals are meant to stimulate the following processes:

1. **Step Back and Look Forward:** I believe that before you can change the present, you have to look into the future and see what your club and community can be. Doing more of the same does not always work, so take some time to examine and analyse your club and what you have been doing; **create a 3-year strategic plan** and implement that plan.

Move away from the “My Year / Your Year” philosophy.... It is unhealthy and unprogressive. With a new team approach, you will see positive changes for your members, club and community. We need to create this foundation in order to attract new members, enhance the experience of existing members and reduce attrition.

2. **Prepare your Members for Leadership:** Education and Training is not an option it is compulsory! We have to focus on building our leaders. Build Leaders to be visionaries; leaders who are willing to think out of the box at all times and move Kiwanis forward. Remember, every club member is a potential president and every member plays a leadership role in one way or the other. **Make use of all training opportunities.....** invest in the future of your club and Kiwanis.

3. **Constantly Refuel and Service the Engine:** If you drive a car each day without refueling you are going to run low, deplete and ultimately come to a standstill. The same applies to your club. **Continuously recruit new members.** New members mean new ideas, new energy and additional hands to serve and create greater fellowship.
4. **Serve with Passion:** Members join to serve. Carefully select projects and involve members. Support and involve the SLP Groups, implement meaningful YCPO projects, involve the community, improve PR and marketing, have joint activities, support our district-wide project focusing on children in the Caribbean with HIV/AIDS change the world – one child and one community at a time.
5. **Make your club Effective and Activities Fun:** Include, involve and inspire. Create an atmosphere of fun and fellowship not only for members, but for their extended family. Let Kiwanis and your club be the place that members want to be. Communicate continuously and effectively. The EC&C District Website will be enhanced for your use so keep tuned and informed.

Fellow Kiwanians, with a vision of excellence, we can make 2008-09 a year of great success. Ralph Waldo Emerson said *“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”* We need new trails and you are the ones to leave them.

As your servant leader and cheerleader, I wish you all a great Kiwanis year. Thanks for your dedication and commitment as we serve the children of the world.

To a year of Excellence in Kiwanis Service and Fellowship!

Sheron

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2008-08 District Governor