

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
**KIWANIS CLUB OF NEW LONDON, CT**  
**A KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION HONOR CLUB**



**SERVING GREATER NEW LONDON SINCE 1940**

**WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12:15 PM**  
**THE PRIVATE ROOM, CLARKE CENTER**  
**MITCHELL COLLEGE**  
**437 PEQUOT AVE., NEW LONDON, CT 06320**

**CLUB OFFICERS 2009-2010**

**PRESIDENT:** John Russell                      **PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Richard Cheatham  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Andrea Kaiser            **TREASURER:** William Everett  
**SECRETARY:** Martin T. Olsen Jr.            **IMM. PAST-PRES:** Thomas Moriarty  
**DIRECTORS (1 YEAR):** LCDR Andrew Ely, USCG, Sherry Lombardi, Ted Nelson,  
Glenn Hamler  
**DIRECTORS (2 YEARS):** Jim Sylvester, John Vincent, Pam Stevens Moriarty

**LEGION OF HONOR:** John Kashanski (56), Frank Penny (40), Gordon Jackson (38)  
and Bruce Patterson (25)

**PAST LT. GOVERNORS:** John Kashanski (1971-72), Frank Penny (1980-81), Gordon  
Jackson (1982-83), Martin T. Olsen Jr. (1996-97), Robert Grills (2008-2009)

**LIFE MEMBERS:** Martin T. Olsen Jr., John Vincent and Frank Penny

**HONORARY MEMBER:** Helen McCartin

**DIRECTOR KIWANIS FOUNDATION OF NE:** Martin T. Olsen Jr., Robert Grills

**PAST DISTINGUISHED GOVERNOR:** Martin T. Olsen Jr.

**VOL. LXVII No. 10**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

**BOB & VALEDA GRILLS HONORED**  
**EVENT NETS OVER \$14,000 TO KICK OFF VALEDA GRILLS PRE-K**  
**READING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT, JOHN KASHANSKI COMMUNITY**  
**SERVICE FUND AND KIWANIS CLUB OF NEW LONDON NB KING**  
**SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT**



Over ninety people attended the honor banquet at the Alumni Center at the US Coast Academy to recognize **Bob** and **Valeda Grills** for a lifetime of community service on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Featured speakers were New London Mayor **Rob Pero** who presented Bob with a *Proclamation* (see photo, submitted by Rich Cheatham). **Father Joseph Castaldi** from St. Joseph's Church discussed Valeda's tenure as church secretary in a thoughtful, yet humorous manner. Former Congressman **Rob Simmons** offered insight into his relationship with the Grills and how he and Valeda share the same birthday- February 11<sup>th</sup>. **Dick England**, Immediate-Past Governor of the New England District of Kiwanis, shared his memories of Bob and Valeda in their roles with the district and Kiwanis Foundation of New England. **Carol Ballestrini**, fellow club member and owner of Ballestrini's Childcare Centers, enthusiastically spoke about joining Kiwanis and the impact both Bob and Valeda has had and how their friendship has grown. It is now ten years that the New London Kiwanis has sponsored Reading is Fundamental (RIF) at the Ballestrini Childcare Centers. New London City Councilor and Past Distinguished Governor of the New England District of Kiwanis **Marty Olsen** discussed his longtime friendship with the Grills that spans over twenty-five years. **Bob Grills** closed the speaking with a thoughtful, and at times emotional, overview of Valeda's and his community service and thanked club members- over half the club in attendance- Kiwanians who traveled from afar along with friends and neighbors for attending and their support. Although this

dinner was planned last July, much thought went into how Bob and the club could recognize Valeda in perpetuity after her sudden passing last October for her outstanding contributions, especially working with children and her love of reading. It struck a chord to initiate the *Valeda's Pre-K Scholarship Endowment*, which will provide opportunities for preschoolers to gain access to books, literacy and the joy of reading. In an effort to get this worthy endeavor going, Bob Grills and the Grills family has contributed \$10,000 with the club donating \$1000 of the function proceeds. Approximately \$2000 will support the John Kashanski Community Service Fund and \$1000 the Kiwanis Club of New London NB King Scholarship Endowment. The club thanks all those who contributed to this very special evening. A special thanks to **Jim Sylvester**, event coordinator, and his committee consisting of **Rich Cheatham**, **Bob Grills** and **Marty Olsen**.

### **DR. BRUCE PATTERSON ENTERS LEGION OF HONOR**



Past Distinguished Governor Marty Olsen welcomed **Dr. Bruce Patterson** into the *Legion of Honor* and presented him with a certificate and twenty-five year president's pin. Bruce joined the Kiwanis Club of New London on September 12, 1984 and served as President 1987-88. The Legion of Honor is a Kiwanis service award that requires twenty-five years of membership. Dr. Patterson has served on the Scholarship Committee and Golf Committee over the years. Recently he has actively supported the Defenders partnership, Ham & Turkey Sale and been a Golf Tourney sponsor. The photo, submitted by **Rich Cheatham**, features from left to right: President John Russell, Marty Olsen and Dr. Bruce Patterson.

### **ACTIONS OF THE BOARD**

The Board of Directors took the following actions at their meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>:

- ◆ Approved renewal of our partnership with the Connecticut Sun for the 2010 WNBA season. The club will buy ten tickets for seventeen home games at \$80 per game and request club members voluntarily buy and/or sell the games. The club will be recognized at each game by the public address announcer as well as electronically. The club will also have two opportunities during the season to have a display table on the concourse to promote the club and Kiwanis. The club will also have one game to participate in the pre-game ball exchange.
- ◆ Approved up to \$480 plus \$160 donated by David Stender in the memory of Valeda Grills, to send Mitchell College Circle Kers to the New England Circle K District Convention the weekend of February 26-28 in Concord, NH.
- ◆ Approved \$1000 to be used to help send Key Club students to the New England District of Key Club District Convention the weekend of April 9-11 in Springfield, MA. As of this board meeting, members from Fitch and Montville are planning on attending.
- ◆ **2010 Scholarship Committee:** Glenn Hamler (chair), Sherry Lombardi, Rich Cheatham, Jim Sylvester and Ted Nelson.
- ◆ **2010 Nominating Committee:** John Russell, William Everett and Rich Cheatham

### **READING IS FUNDAMENTAL**

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR: RICH CHEATHAM**

**Volunteer Readers Needed**

Readers are needed at 9:30 AM on Wednesday mornings at the Waterford and Niantic locations and Thursday mornings at the Salem center of Ballestrini's Childcare Centers. The adult readers will read two books to 10-12 three to five year old preschool children. Contact Rich Cheatham at 860-271-6608 or [richcheatham@hotmail.com](mailto:richcheatham@hotmail.com) to volunteer or sign-up at a club meeting. This project qualifies as an official Kiwanis International Young Children Priority One and Read Around the World program.

**Kiwanis**  
**Young Children**  
Priority One

## FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

### JOHN RUSSELL: CHAIR

February 17: **Laurel Holmes**, MSW Director, Office of Community Health, Outreach and Partnership, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

February 24: **Peter J. Corcoran**, Special Agent, United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General

### GUESTS

**Suzanne Maryeski**, last week's speaker, came back for lunch on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to check us out. Also visiting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> was **Andy Lockwood**. Andy submitted membership applications for himself and his wife, **Loreen**.

### PAST PROGRAMS



**Kent Ward**, Program Director for Heavy Hitters USA, was the speaking program on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A New London native, Kent has always been athletic and initiated this program to reach out to the non-athletic and disenfranchised as a means to build confidence, discipline, self-esteem and other life skills. Over nine years in New London, Ward has seen over three hundred sixty kids from age four through the early twenty's learn skills in boxing, wrestling and judo. Heavy Hitters USA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and located on the second floor of 367 Bank St., New London. Kent's enthusiasm and passion for this program shone through like a bright light in darkness. To learn more about Heavy hitters USA, visit <http://www.heavyhittersusa.org>. President John Russell on left and Kent Ward on right are in the photo submitted by **Rich Cheatham**.

Six members braved the snowstorm on February 10<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed a casual roundtable meeting. **Marty Berliner**, New London City Manager, the scheduled speaker will be rescheduled at another time.

### ODDS & ENDS

**Pam Stevens Moriarty** was elected on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to fill a board vacancy for a two-year term.

Online registration is now available on the district website: [www.newenglandkiwanis.org](http://www.newenglandkiwanis.org) for the **Mid-Winter Conference** that will be held the weekend of March 5-7, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza in Worcester MA. Please use the online registration, as it is a simple and quick way to register for the conference.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Key Club New England District Convention:** Springfield, MA, April 9-11, 2010

**Kiwanis Cruise to Bermuda:** May 21-28, 2010

**Kiwanis International Convention:** Las Vegas, NV, June 23-26, 2010

**New England District Convention:** Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA, August 20-22, 2010

### KEY LEADER: SPRING 2010

March 12-14  
Camp Sunshine  
Casco, MA

May 14-16  
Camp Hayward  
Sandwich, MA

### DRAWINGS

February 3: **Chris Sinnett**

February 10: **Gloria Dover**

### NEWS & VIEWS PATRON(S)

**William C. Everett**