



58TH EUROPEAN CONVENTION

Akureyri - Iceland, 16-18 May 2025

KI-E President
Gunnsteinn Björnsson





Dear Kiwanis Friends,

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you in Akureyri, commonly known as the capital of the North. The town has a rich history, it is surrounded by stunning landscapes and natural wonders.

You are arriving during my favorite time of the year, the Icelandic spring, when the migrant birds have returned after spending the winter in more southerly regions and all the nature has awoken from its winter sleep. Akureyri is located not so far from the arctic circle and in May you will have the opportunity to witness our season's variation in daylight. During the convention period, the days will be very long, and it won't really get dark, as the 24-hour daylight is only a month away.

For this 58th edition of the European convention, your Host Committee has put together a programme which will surprise and enchant us all! Alongside the official sessions, inspiring workshops and showcases, we will reinforce our engagement towards increasing our Kiwanis presence in Europe to help improve the lives of more children.

As we carry out our business and learn how we can improve our services, we'll be offering entertainment and fellowship activities where we can have fun and enjoy the company of our fellow Kiwanians.

The partner programme is sure to appeal to many, as it will lead them to discover this breathtaking and unique region of natural beauty.

Learn about our heritage! On Friday, part of our tour will take you to visit the herring fishing museum. The herring fishing and all other fishing have had a huge impact on Icelandic society, turning our nation from one of the poorest in Europe 100 years ago to being one of the wealthiest. I am sure the program will be both informative and entertaining.

Along with the entire team of the Host Committee and many volunteers, I look forward to welcoming you to this 58th European convention during which we'll have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, spend some quality time with friends and shape the future of our organization.

Hearty welcome to Akureyri!

Yours sincerely
Gunnsteinn Björnsson
KI-E President 2024-25

Executive Committee



Gunnsteinn Björnsson
President



Elvio Garozzo
President-elect



Karl Lippitz
Vice president



Josy Glatigny
Imm. past President



Konráð Konráðsson
Secretary



Ralf-Otto Gogolinski
Treasurer

Governors



Richard Baumann
Austria



Guido De Bie
Belgium-Luxembourg



Geneviève Doner Montague
France-Monaco



Achim Härtner
Germany



Guðlaugur Kristjánsson
Iceland-Faroës



Stefano Farese
Italy-San Marino

Governors



Christ van Oevelen
Netherlands



Sverre Hauger
Norway



Wolfgang Brunner
Switzerland-Liechtenstein
and Governor
representative to the EC



Mihai Bobitan
Romania



Richard Whyte
United Kingdom



Jaroslav Jevčák
Czech Republic & Slovakia

Nation Coordinators



Henk Oostdam
Bylaws Advisor



Nathalie Frisch
Resolution Advisor



Eiður Þórvárdsson
Chair Branding, Marketing &
Communication



Franz Nagelseder
Chair Membership



Kristinn Órn Jónsson
Chair Host Committee & Kl
part President



Marien van der Meer
Chair past Presidents
Committee

Advisors and Chairs



Filip Delanote
KI-Trustee



Maura Magni
KI-Trustee



Francesco Valenti
KI-Trustee KCF



Markus Lanz
KI-Trustee KCF

Trustees



Lee Kuan Yong
President Kiwanis International



Michael Mulholland
President-elect Kl



Huang Wu-Tien
Chair Asia



Robert Maxwell
President Kiwanis Children Fund



Paul Palazzolo
Executive Director Kl & KCF

Guests



Lee Kuan Yong



Michael Mulholland



Huang Wu-Tien



Robert Maxwell



Paul Palazzolo





All meetings take place at the HOF Convention Center unless otherwise specified

Thursday, May 15

14:00-18:00 Registration
14:00-15:00 EC meeting
15:15-17:30 Board meeting

Friday, May 16

09:00-17:00 Registration
09:00-09:45 Workshop - Tools for clubs
10:00-10:45 Workshop - Dues uncovered
11:00-11:45 Workshop - LG Summit launched
12:00-13:30 Lunch
14:00-14:45 Workshop - The heart of Kiwanis. A local service project.
15:00-16:00 Meet the candidates
17:00-18:30 Opening ceremony
19:30-23:00 Friendship dinner

Saturday, May 17

09:00-12:00 Registration
09:00-10:00 KI-E Past presidents meeting
09:00-10:00 KCF meeting (TBC)
10:00-12:00 Showcase | European districts in the spotlight
12:00-14:00 Lunch
14:00-17:00 House of Delegates
19:00-00:00 Gala dinner

Partner programme

Meeting point for both Friday and Saturday: Hof Convention Center
Friday
09:15-15:15 Guided tour to Siglufjordur
Saturday
09:45-13:15 Guided tour – Discovering Eyjafjordur

1) Opening of the Convention*

- a. Opening by KI-E President Gunnsteinn Björnsson
- b. Moment of silence
- c. Talk and greet with KI President Lee Kuan Yong and Executive Director Paul Palazzolo
- d. Talk and greet with KCF President Robert Maxwell
- e. Talk and greet with other international guests

2) Administrative decisions

- a. Approval of the recording of the meeting
- b. Nomination of members and chairs of Committee on Credentials & Elections
- c. Approval of the standing rules of the House of Delegates
- d. Approval of the final order of the day
- e. Report and voting procedures
- f. Report and determination of the existing quorum
- g. Approval of minutes of the 57th European convention and the 2nd Special Convention in Luxembourg

3) Report on the KI-E activities

- a. Report on the KI-E activities for 2024-25 by KI-E President Gunnsteinn Björnsson
- b. Report of international KI Trustees
- c. Report of KCF President Robert Maxwell

4) Presentation and vote of amendments

5) Report on the financial situation 2023-24

- a. Summary of the results and remarks by Josy Glatigny, KI-E immediate past president, with detailed explanations by Ralf-Otto Gogolinski, KI-E treasurer 2023-24
- b. Auditors' report and acceptance of the annual accounts with discharge of the board

6) Election / Confirmation of KI-E officers and KI-Trustee

- a. Confirmation of the KI-E president
- b. Confirmation of the KI-E president-elect
- c. Election of the KI-E vice president
- d. Presentation of the KI-E treasurer and KI-E secretary
- e. Election of KI Trustee for 2025-28

7) The year 2025-26 by KI-E President designate Elio Garozzo

- a. Presentation of the goals and objectives
- b. Presentation and approval of the budget
- c. Presentation of the KI-E Board
- d. Presentation of the city for the 2026 European Convention
- e. Nomination of the two auditors for 2025-26

8) Delegates, remarks and questions

9) Miscellaneous

10) Closing remarks by KI-E President Gunnsteinn Björnsson

11) End of meeting

* Should the qualified quorum not be reached, a second convention with the same agenda will be immediately convened.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



KI-E A.s.b.l.	30.09.2024
Dues to be received	0,00 €
Expenses carried forward next year	33 054,99 €
Debtors	2 400,77 €
Bank	635 304,09 €
Total assets	670 759,85 €
Reserve operations	278 910,42 €
Reserve Convention	228 775,00 €
Total reserves	507 685,42 €
Creditors	37 575,69 €
Payables current year	102 000,00 €
Cross charges invoiced	2 246,00 €
Result 2023/2024	13 037,59 €
Result 2022/2023 (to be processed)	8 215,15 €
Total liabilities	670 759,85

OPERATIONS	YEAR 2023/2024 30.09.2024	YEAR 2023/2024 Budget	Difference
REVENUES	113 278	124 900	-11 622
KI-E dues	112 278	114 900	-2 622
Financial income	811	10 000	-9 189
Other income	189		189
TOTAL REVENUES	113 278	124 900	-11 622
EXPENSES	133 333	135 700	2 367
Office Fees MSC Ghent	5 639	5 000	-639
Directory + fanions	370	1 500	1 130
Translation meetings	2 223	1 000	-1 223
Translations	0	500	500
Telephone Fax & Email	483	0	-483
Bank charges	530	200	-330
Accounting fees	525	300	-225
Audit Expenses	0	1 000	1 000
Insurances	5 696	2 300	-3 396
Miscellaneous	2 579	1 000	-1 579
Expenses previous years	106		-106
President expenses	11 512	13 000	1 488
President-elect expenses	6 903	6 000	-903
Vice President expenses	2 262	5 000	2 738
Imm Past President expenses	1 651	4 000	2 349
Secretary expenses	3 484	4 000	516
Treasurer expenses	1 234	3 000	1 766
Advisors expenses	548	4 000	3 452
Trustee expenses	989	4 000	3 011
Representation Conventions Expenses	0	500	500
Board Travel Expenses	13 011	14 000	989
Board Lodging Expenses	17 371	9 000	-8 371
Board Meal Expenses	15 041	6 000	-9 041
Board Meeting Facilities	16 346	5 900	-10 446
Executive committee expenses	229	6 000	5 771
Board Guest expenses	802	3 000	2 198
Training DOT Conference	131		-131
Board Standing Committees	0	1 000	1 000
Grant districts	9 000		-9 000
Social Chair "Back to the Race Project"		10 000	10 000
Membership Coordinator	5 045	12 000	6 955
BMC expenses	4 203	12 500	8 297
Chair Social Project	400	0	-400
Sales Marketing materials	5 020	0	-5 020
SUBTOTAL EXPENSES	133 333	135 700	2 367
Provision for unexpected expenses		12 390	12 390
TOTAL EXPENSES	133 333	148 090	14 757
RESULT OPERATIONS	-20 055	-23 190	3 135



CONVENTION	Year 2023/2024 30.09.2024	Year 2023/2024 Budget	Difference
REVENUES	96 507	95 000	1 507
Convention dues	89 299	95 000	-5 701
Donation from local Goverment	7 208		7 208
TOTAL REVENUES	96 507	95 000	1 507
EXPENSES	63 446	95 000	-31 554
Rent convention Hall	4 200	10 000	-5 800
Decoration Convention Hall	200	4 000	-3 800
Opening Session Entertainment	456	21 000	-20 544
VIPS - KI+KI-E Lodging & Meals		5 000	-5 000
VIPS - KI+KI-E Transportation	2 489	5 000	-2 511
Gifts (participants)	4 759	6 000	-1 241
Audio & Video Equipment	5 490	10 000	-4 510
Interpreters & Equipment	9 138	5 000	4 138
Outsourcing Handling		1 000	-1 000
Convention Host Committee	1 383	5 000	-3 617
Promotional actions		1 000	-1 000
Charges MSC Ghent	1 998	7 000	-5 002
Convention Brochure & Other Materials	2 946	5 000	-2 054
Postage & Mailing		1 000	-1 000
Insurances		1 000	-1 000
Bank Charges Registration Participants	708	1 000	-292
Miscellaneous	1 640	5 000	-3 360
Partner program	433		433
Transport and shuttles	4 775		4 775
Thursday evening dinner	4 943		4 943
Friendship dinner	3 543		3 543
Walking lunch 19.05.2024	14 345		14 345
Expenses Hospitality Youth		2 000	-2 000
SUBTOTAL EXPENSES	63 446	95 000	-31 554
Provision for unexpected expenses		9 500	-9 500
TOTAL EXPENSES	63 446	104 500	-41 054
RESULT CONVENTION	33 061	-9 500	42 561

AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditors of KI-E A.s.b.l., 4 rue Camille Mersch, L-5860 Hesperange (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), in accordance with §13.3 of the articles of association of KI-E.

In accordance with the terms of our appointment, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of KI-E A.s.b.l. as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, which show a balance sheet total of EUR 670,760 and an annual total positive result of EUR 13,006.

The financial statements for 2023/2024 are the full responsibility of the members of the KI-E A.s.b.l. Board. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our activities.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We have obtained explanations and information necessary for performing our audit from the Treasurer. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of KI-E A.s.b.l. as of September 30, 2024 and of its results for the year then ended.

We still have explicit recommendations regarding the yet-to-be implemented start-up of a legal entity for KCP-Europe.

The result of the year 2022/2023 still has to be allocated.

March 13, 2025

Luc H. Joos
KC Gent Golden Prinsenhof
Belgium

Rutger J. Kuipers
KC Laren
The Netherlands

CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT KI-E 2025-2026

Elio Garozzo

District Italy - San Marino



Age	63
Family	Two sons
Education	Law degree; various Master's diplomas in legal subjects.
Occupation	Alternative dispute resolution expert, accredited by the Italian Ministry of Justice; business activity in the tourism sector.
Hobbies	Sailing; tennis; passionate about history and Sicilian folk traditions.
Club	Catania Est
Division	2. Etna Patrimonio (Sicily)

Club

Joined Kiwanis in 1982; President of Kiwajunior club Catania Centro; KC Catania Centro adviser and secretary (3); founder member of KC Catania Est; president (2)

Division

Lieutenant-governor; K.I.A.R.

District

Founding governor of Kiwanjunior (KJ) District Italy; KJ Administrator; K.I.A.R.; Host Committee; Trainer; Member of Constitution and Bylaws Committee; Chair for cyberbullying service(2); Governor 2014-15; District Strategy and Program coordinator; Conventions (26)

Europe

Chair Host Committee KI-EF convention; Conventions (9)



CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT KI-E 2025-2026

Karl Lippitz

District Austria



Personal motivation

Today we stand here united, not as individuals, but as part of a larger movement that wants to change the world. We are here to share a message as old as humanity itself, yet as timely and urgent as ever: the responsibility to care for our community and especially our children.

Let's look around: The world we live in is characterized by challenges. From poverty and inequality to environmental degradation and social injustice, the list of problems is long. But at this moment we must not despair, we must raise our voices and act together. Why? Because we owe it to our children and grandchildren. Because we are the guardians of the legacy we inherited from the generations before us. Because we are the architects of the future that we want to build for future generations.

The call for a sense of community is not a call for passivity. On the contrary – it is a call to action. He calls us to rise up and use our skills, resources and passions for the good of those around us.

There is strength in community. If we join forces, we can move mountains. We can build schools to ensure education for all. We can build hospitals to protect the health of our communities. We can build bridges to overcome differences and create unity.

But that takes courage. It requires sacrifice. It requires the willingness to look beyond our own needs and interests and keep the bigger picture in mind. It may be uncomfortable. It may be difficult. There may be moments when we fail. But let's remember:

every single step we take, every contribution we make, every smile we give is a step towards a better world.

So I ask you today: What will you stand for? Will you sit back and watch the world go by? Or will you rise up and become part of a community that makes history? The choice is ours. But let us remember: In a world full of challenges, the greatest danger is not that we might fail, but that we would never try.

Let's fight together for a better world. Let's stick together. Let's be the change we want to see in the world.

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is a success!

Club

President (3); Secretary (1); Chair member database management (20)

Division

Lt. Governor (2005-06)

District

Governor (2019-20); District Secretary (3); Chair Kiwanis Austria Relief Fund (2012-2018); Kiwajunior Governor (2002-03)

Europe

European Conventions (5)

International

Kiwanis International Convention (1); Committee Growth Africa

Honors

George F. Hixson Fellow (since 2021); Distinguished Governor; Distinguished President

CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT KI-E 2025-2026



Piet Derkx

District Netherlands



Age	70 - Dutch citizenship; born and lived first 7 years in France
Family	Married with Hermie, 3 children, 7 grand children
Education	Technical University - Master's and PhD in mechanical engineering
Occupation	Retired. Prior to that, I was a global technology manager in R&D at Philips Lighting; 36 years of working experience as R&D manager (24 years in the Netherlands, 9 in Belgium, and 3 in China)
Hobbies	Hiking, golf, woodworking, cooking, member of Probus club
Club	Halderberge Rucphen since 1998
Division	Division 6

Club

President (6)

Division

Lt. Governor (2)

District

Governor (3), chair of the Kiwanis Foundation Netherlands (KNF) (2)

Europe

Member Strategy Committee Kiwanis International-Europe (KI-E), co-author strategic plan KI-E (2023-2024)

Personal motivation

Continuity and continuous improvement are my drivers to achieve excellence in an organization. During the KI-E convention in Vienna, in May 2022, I presented a white paper on behalf of the European governors, advocating to develop a strategic plan for KI-E. This initiative was embraced by the board, resulting in an assignment by KI-E President 2023-2024 Josy Glatigny to the Strategic Committee to write a draft strategic plan.

That draft strategic plan was presented to the KI-E Executive Committee (EC) in March 2024. It is my ambition to continue to support the development of the KI-E Strategic Plan. I am convinced that, in the capacity of member of the EC as vice president and president-elect, I will be able to further develop this plan and have it endorsed by the House of Delegates to become a multi-year plan for KI-E.

With my experience in various leadership positions within Kiwanis, I believe I have sufficient knowledge and skills to fulfill this role. My broad international experience in my professional life will certainly contribute to this. I do speak Dutch, English, French and German. I worked for a multinational company (Philips Lighting) as R&D manager in the Netherlands, Belgium and China.

Let's team-up in Europe to enable clubs to continue to support children.

CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT KI-E 2025-2026

Michel Tefnin

District Belgium-Luxembourg



Age	67
Family	Reinilde Vanhengel 4 children; 12 grandchildren
Education	Master in Economics
Occupation	Honorary Auditor Consultant
Hobbies	Family & Kiwanis KC Spa
Club	KC Overijse Druivenland KC Vesdre-Hautes-Fagnes
Division	Vlaams Brabant West

Club

Founding member KC Spa (1991); President (2); Secretary (2)

Division

Lieutenant-Governor (1); Treasurer (1)

District

Sponsoring, International Relations, Organization convention, Treasurer (2), Regional Advisor, Director Kiwanis Belgium Fund (6), Committee on Finance, Membership, Governor 2021-22, Pt Board of Governors, District Conventions (22), Other Districts Conventions (4)

Europe

Treasurer (2), Committee on Finance (3), Member EC (1), BMC (2), Secretary (1); Conventions (14)

International

Conventions (6)

Honours

George F Hixson Fellowship

Personal motivation

First and foremost the work we all do for children in need makes me passionate about Kiwanis! And we are all concerned because by taking care of the children we want to prepare a better world for the future generations, the world of our own children and grandchildren!

The experience I acquired by the different functions I have held within KI-E enables me to identify some of the structure's strengths, as well as areas where I feel it could be improved. This enabled me to draw up an initial global action plan.

First of all, I think the European structure makes sense, as it enables us to act as an intermediary between KI and the European districts. That's why my first point of action will be to strengthen communication between KI, the Ghent office, KI-E and the districts.

Secondly, it should be remembered that the structure of any organization is only meaningful if it makes itself available to its base, i.e. the clubs. This means listening to the needs of districts and clubs, and providing them with the tools they need to address their concerns, in line with their effectiveness. This will be my second area of action.

Thirdly, I'd like to continue the work we've begun on a genuine long-term vision for Kiwanis in Europe, so that we know where we're going together and, above all, have continuity in our actions. Likewise, I believe it's necessary to reflect all together on our current operating model, which no longer seems to correspond to the operating model of the younger generation.

Finally, I'd like to get back to basics: putting the welfare of children in need at the heart of our actions, and the Kiwanians at the heart of our operations.

My global approach is structured on four chapters, but finally based on three major pillars: firstly, ensure that disadvantaged children have a better life; secondly, the leadership that will enable us to be more effective in our operations; and thirdly, the people and the friendship between all members, because it's by working hand in hand that we'll keep the pleasure of putting ourselves at the service of children.

I still remember Baden Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, saying that the only way to achieve happiness is to give happiness to others!

Let's just put this in action! Together we can!



Ralf-Otto Gogolinski

District Germany



Age	72
Family	single
Occupation	Retired. Previously, bank director
Hobbies	Travel, photography
Club	KC Frankfurt an der Oder
Division	Berlin-Brandenburg

Honours

Walter Zeller Fellowship
Distinguished District Secretary
District Life Member

Club

Treasurer (3), Secretary (6)

District

Secretary (3), Treasurer (2), Area-Manager (1),
Lieutenant Governor (2)

Europe

Secretary (1), Treasurer (2)

Francesco Garaffa

District Italy - San Marino



Age	48
Family	Antonella (wife), Maria Eleonora and Filippo (children)
Occupation	Lawyer
Hobbies	Soccer, Travel
Club	Kiwanis Club Juppiter Reggio Calabria, Kiwanis eClub Junior Italia
Division	Calabria Mediterranea

Honours

Tablet of Honor, George Hixson Fellowship Diamond Level 1, Walter Zeller Fellowship Diamond Level 1, Centennial Award, Dr Wil Blechman Fellowship, Distinguished President 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2022/2023, Distinguished Member 2014/2015, Distinguished Lieutenant 2017/2018, Distinguished District Secretary 2019/2020 e 2020/2021, Distinguished Governor 2023/2024, Gift of Kiwanis for The Formula Level Platinum, Ruby K Award Level 100.

Club

President (3),

District

Lieutenant, Secretary (2), Governor

STANDING RULES FOR THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Rule 1

The official language of the Convention shall be English. Simultaneous interpretations shall be available in several languages.

Rule 2

Only delegates with official delegate badges may be present or speak on motions and vote.

Rule 3

Only delegates may be seated in the area designated for delegates.

Rule 4

The House of Delegates shall not be closed.

Rule 5

Any main motion or amendment shall be written in English, signed by the maker and seconder, and presented to the KI-E Secretary before it is moved.

Rule 6

No delegate may speak more than three (3) minutes at a time, unless allowed to do so by the orders of the day or by a majority vote of the delegates.

Rule 7

No delegate may address the assembly a second time on the same question until all delegates who desire to speak on the topic have spoken.

Rule 8

The maker of a motion shall be entitled to speak first in support of such motion or may immediately yield the floor to another delegate.

Rule 9

Debate shall alternate between those speaking for and those speaking against a motion.

Rule 10

Microphones shall be designated by number. Speakers for the main motion shall use the odd-numbered microphone, and speakers against the main motion shall use the even-numbered microphone. The chair will recognize microphones in rotating order.

Rule 11

A delegate shall not speak for or against a motion and move to close debate on the same recognition.

Rule 12

Candidates for the office of International Trustee shall have a nomination speech not to exceed one (1) minute, and shall personally address the House of Delegates for no more than three (3) minutes.

Rule 13

Candidates for the office of KI-E President, President-elect and Vice president shall have a nomination speech not to exceed one (1) minute, and shall be allowed a two (2) minutes acceptance speech.

Rule 14

Candidates whose remarks require other than simultaneous interpretation shall be allowed no more than six (6) minutes for their remarks and interpretation combined. Candidates must provide their own interpreter.

Rule 15

Any candidate who is unopposed for office may be elected by applause.

Rule 16

Nominating speeches for KI-E officers and International Trustees may not be waived.

Rule 17

Debate on any proposed resolution or amendment to the KI-E Bylaws, including all amendments thereto, shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes.

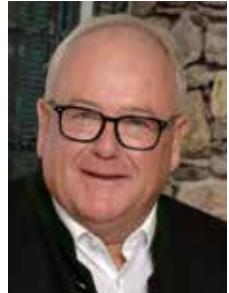
Rule 18

A motion to move the previous question will not be in order until fifteen (15) minutes of debate has taken place or all microphones are clear.

Rule 19

Any of the above rules may be suspended by majority vote.

Jon Fadri Huder



Ebnat-Kappel
SWITZERLAND-LIECHTENSTEIN
Kiwanis Club Toggenburg

Biography

I have been a proud Kiwanian since 1997 and, thanks to the support of my wife and children, have been able to hold many positions of responsibility. The highlights were my year as governor of the largest European District (Switzerland-Liechtenstein) as well as my year as president of Kiwanis International-Europe. During these years, I was able to get to know and appreciate many Kiwanis International employees.

Describe your Kiwanis moment – the moment you knew you were a Kiwanian.

In my 25 years of membership, there have been so many great moments that it is hard to pinpoint one in particular! I have seen so many children's eyes shine so brightly just because of our involvement!

Why did you decide to run for office?

Our organization is facing major challenges. Structural changes will probably be inevitable. In Europe, the process has already begun. As European president, I was very much involved in the reorganization sought and desired by Kiwanis International. I would like to bring this unique experience to the organization.



Josef-Peter Schachermayr



Wien
AUSTRIA
Kiwanis Club of Lentia
Kiwanis Club of Wien-Europa 1
Centennial e-Kiwanis Club

Biography

Kiwanian since 2000. I served as governor of the Austria District in the centennial year and also as European president in 2021-22. At the moment, I am working diligently in the area of marketing for our district and to be a provider of ideas for new marketing campaigns, also in Europe. I have two grown-up children and a 4-year-old toddler. Married to Ruth, former campaign director/Europe. Professionally, I assist the unemployed as a trainer and mentor.

Describe your Kiwanis moment – the moment you knew you were a Kiwanian.

I was a Kiwanian from day one when my club made the decision to approve my membership. There has been more than one situation at different times over the years that has only confirmed to me that my decision to serve the children of the world was the right one.

Why did you decide to run for office?

Kiwanis needs strong leaders who understand both the Kiwanis structure and the mentality of other countries and their members. In Europe, there is a huge difference in members, both culturally and linguistically. This difference also exists in a similar form between the U.S. and all other member countries. My job is to continue to represent other points of view (other countries) on the board.

What qualifies you to become an officer of Kiwanis International?

My Kiwanis experience and my professional background as a marketing manager and trainer in adult education have already prepared me for the office of European president. Leadership roles at all levels (club, division and district) complement my profile to serve as part of the international board.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term in office?

If we continue on our current path, we will lose members in the near future, and our age structure will continue to age. Kiwanis is still mainly composed of members from the U.S., but the situation is changing from year to year, and we need to start listening to other countries and regions. Increasing and keeping members, securing our financial situation and delivery on our mission is my goal.

What strengths do you bring to the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees?

As president of Kiwanis Europe, I have come to know the concerns and sometimes the fears of all Kiwanians in Europe. Transforming this organization into a new organizational form and, at the same time, managing the coordination of different characters to consider different perspectives and being open to new approaches are just some of the many ways I have learned in my professional context.

How have you helped open new clubs, engage new members and strengthen existing clubs?

Since the beginning of my Kiwanis activities, I have not only been involved in finding new members, but have also helped to create several new clubs — including the founding of the first club in Nepal and as a charter member of one of the first international online clubs. As a trainer for Kiwanis, I motivate our members and provide them with the information they need for a successful membership.

PARTNER PROGRAMM



Friday

09:15-15:15 Guided tour to Siglufjörður

Friday's guided tour will take you first to Héðinsfjörður, where its spectacular natural beauty is such that a photo shoot will be scheduled! Then on to Siglufjörður, Iceland's northernmost town and a historic fishing town whose fame and fortune have always been linked to the ebb and flow of the fishing industry. A tiny shark-fishing village in the 1900s, Siglufjörður soon became one of Iceland's largest towns and the undisputed capital of Atlantic herring fishing. You'll visit the Herring Era Museum and watch its show. You'll then walk to the Folk Museum Center to discover the enchanting world of traditional Icelandic music. After lunch, you'll head back to Akureyri.

Meeting point for both Friday and Saturday: Hof Convention Center

Saturday

09:45-13:15 Guided tour – Discovering Eyjafjörður

Surrounded by spectacular mountains, Eyjafjörður is the longest fjord in North Iceland. Rich in Icelandic culture and unbroken history that goes back many centuries, you'll be captivated by its extraordinary landscapes, its saga trails, some beautiful old churches and even an elf gallery!

In Brúnir farm, you'll experience the charm and skills of the Icelandic horses in their natural environment. After the show, you'll get to taste some local delicacies. You'll then continue your tour to Holtsel farm where you'll get to enjoy some delicious homemade ice cream. You'll also get some free time to discover the surroundings and do some shopping. On the way back to Akureyri, you'll stop by Grundarkirkja, a typical country side church made from wood in 1904.





59th EUROPEAN CONVENTION

Catania - Italy
29-31 May 2026

