

# **Governor's Newsletter**

**June/ July 2010**

## **My Kin Friends**

It has been a wonderful year. What a journey it has been, a journey that is quickly coming to an end. I have been privileged to attend some of your meetings, events and festivities. I have enjoyed myself immensely along with the company and fellowship of many fine KIN.

I want to begin this newsletter by thanking everyone on my District Executive for their hard work and dedication to KIN. Without a great team it would have been impossible to get through the year. I extend my thanks and gratitude right from the District Executive, the Deputy Governors, Club Presidents and to the membership.

I must apologize to Deputy Governor Andy Hughes of Minden Zone C, for not mentioning his Spring Zone in my last newsletter. I was terribly remiss in overlooking the last, but not the least of all the important Spring Zone meetings held this year. Sorry Kin Andy. Never the less I understand from all reports that Spring Zone in Minden was a good one and exceptionally well run.

I was fortunate to be able to attend 5 of 6 Spring Zones. I was encouraged by the response of those Kin in attendance and thrilled by the zest and vigour of the Kin that chose to take the time to be involved and attend their Zone Conferences. You are the ones that are keeping the Association alive.

We still struggle to grow our membership- the numbers show that we are holding our own somewhat. Across Canada we are at a plus +6 growth, however in District 8 we are down by -13 members from a year ago. This is taken from the April 30<sup>th</sup> stats. There is still much work to be done to see our District 8 grow

The following is some food for thought as to why our District and the Association is struggling to keep members, as well as to grow.

**SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER, GOOD, BAD OR INDIFFERENT, BUT THEY SHOULD BE PONDERED ON.**

Look at our successful clubs- they have lots of money and success attracts successful people.

Clubs in trouble are that way because of a few reasons, and it is never just one of these reasons but several.

1. They don't raise a lot of money.
2. They don't have a large percentage of professionals as members.
3. They haven't recruited a new member in 2-3 years.
4. If they have, the member left because of the clique or was not made to feel welcome by all.
5. Poor turn over means the same people doing the same things year after year.
6. The club is controlled by a small nucleus of members(not always the executive-but they control the general meeting agendas)
7. The club has either too many or not enough projects. One burns out the members, the other results in lack of interest.
8. The club does the same thing year after year.
9. The club has zero social life as a club.

This having been said, I am sure we (if being realistic) can see where our own club fits. I firmly believe there is much work to be done by many clubs to become more viable and effective to truly fulfill our "Communities Greatest Needs"

I most recently attended DLS/PreTerm 2010-2011 held at Georgian College in Barrie. The DLS portion was conducted by Arlene Gray for in- coming Governor Len Ptak. The weekend was informative and team building. I am most impressed with Vice Governor Len and his team. They have a sound plan with great leadership and are anxious to get down to the business of leading District 8.

Coming up fast and furious is **DISTRICT CONVENTION JUNE 17-19, 2010** being held at Sheridan College Residence and Convention Centre, Brampton Campus, 7899 McLaughlin Rd., Brampton ON. It looks like an informative, fun filled weekend has been planned by the Mississauga Kinsmen. Registration costs have been kept to a minimum.

Registration, accommodations and meals-

Thursday pm to Sunday-\$335.00

Friday am to Sunday-\$290.00

Registration form, proxy form and resolutions can be found and down loaded from the D8 web site [www.district8kin.ca/index.php/DistrictConvention](http://www.district8kin.ca/index.php/DistrictConvention)

Register ASAP the organizing committee have lots of work ahead of them.

I hope to see many of you there, the more the merrier

Attendance is where your voice can be heard and valuable input on the running of the District can be made. Remember if you aren't there to cast your vote or your club's votes you can't make a difference. So please attend and enjoy all the various aspects of Kin- the business portion, the socializing and the heartfelt friendship

National Convention this year is in Halifax Nova Scotia, August 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2010-05-16

All details registration forms, cost etc can be found at [www.kinvention.ca](http://www.kinvention.ca)

Remember "We Are All Family in Kin"

Yours in Kin, Ed Dawson

Governor, District 8