

June 24, 2010

95th Annual Kiwanis International Convention 2010
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

I am sure that you have heard the phrase “What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas”. For the most part my bulletin this week will deliver a lot of the information about the convention that I am willing to share. But remember there are some things that only Vern Gray, LeAnn and Les Zetmeir, Rich Emerson, Heidi and Scott Pankow and Paul Denning will know because THEY were in Las Vegas!!!

On Thursday, June 24th, we arrived at the Las Vegas Convention Center to be greeted by people from all over the world. Check in was a breeze because the volunteers behind the window was obviously very experienced in what they were doing. There were several districts that were taken care of at each window and even though the lines were long they moved quickly. Now with my packet in hand, Paul and I headed over to the exhibitors booths that were set up and then ended up in the Kiwanis Store for a little shopping. The “Group from GJ” grabbed some lunch and then went into largest room of the convention center to listen to Colin Powell. Cast members of the Jersey Boys sang the National Anthem and then General Powell was introduced by Paul Palazzolo, Kiwanis International President. General Powell delivered a wonderful speech that made me laugh, cry and inspired me all in the same breath. This is one part of the convention that I feel very fortunate to have been a part of. There were many workshops that were offered throughout the day and the day wrapped up with an Alumni Reception at the Margaritaville at the Flamingo Hotel.

Friday, June 25th we were at Bally’s Hotel for District caucuses at 7am!!! This informative meeting educated the delegates on the amendments that would be presented and the candidates that would be up for election. That same afternoon we went back to the convention center for the business session that President Palazzolo presided over. There were 14 amendments that were voted on through an electronic device and a room that was filled with over 2400 delegates and additional Kiwanians/guests as spectators. I have never heard so many “amendments to the amendment” in my life. After all was said and done, amendments were passed and officers for Kiwanis International were placed into office for the new year. That evening we attended the Jay Leno Show. This is one funny man and delivered a great hour and a half of some very funny material.

Saturday, June 26th was another day of workshops, breakfasts, luncheons and the closing session for an awesome 2010 Kiwanis International Convention. I am very proud and honored to be a part of this event and encourage others to attend future conventions. Next year it will be in Geneva, Switzerland!!!

Until next week.....Roxie Denning, Bulletin Editor