



**UNITED IN SERVICE**



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Historic first time meeting** **“United In Service” Summit** of the Arizona leadership of the three largest Service Organizations in the world, **Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary.**

For the first time in history, the top Arizona leaders from all three of the largest service organizations in the world are formally meeting together to discuss ways they can cooperate and support each others' efforts to address the many challenges facing our communities today. Topics will include collaborative projects, assessment of service needs, sharing volunteers and resources, dealing with the current economic situation, fundraising, and membership retention/extension.

The Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary leadership is seeking the input of their most creative, visionary members to participate in this dialogue and help craft the future of Arizona's service organizations. Space at this initial summit is limited to just 20 representatives from each service organization. Represented are over 500 clubs and 10,000 members.

**DATE: Thursday, September 16, 2010**

**TIME: 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM**

**WHERE: Scottsdale Hometown Buffet**  
**1312 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85257**

Intersection: Scottsdale Rd. & McDowell Rd.  
(West side of Scottsdale Rd.; 1/4 mile South of McDowell Rd.)

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**Kiwanis International** – Founded in 1915; 8,000 clubs; over 260,000 adult members in 96 countries.

**Lions Clubs International** - Founded in 1917, 44,500 clubs; more than 1.3 million members in 206 countries.

**Rotary International** – Founded in 1905, 33,976 clubs; over 1.22 million members in over 200 countries.

## **PARTICIPANTS' BIOS**

### **Governor Glenn Smith, Rotary District 5510**

Glenn was born in Colorado Springs, CO and graduated from Colorado State University (CSU) in Ft. Collins, with a degree in Business Administration. After a 42-year career in municipal public finance, he retired in 2007

He joined Rotary in 1995 during his first week of work with the Town of Florence, AZ. He's been in Rotary ever since.

Retirement allows Glenn time to fully pursue his love of micro and landscape photography and custom frame making. He and his wife are contributing partners of the "Artists of the Rim Fine Art Gallery."

There was just the Rotary Club of Payson when Glenn moved to Payson in 1997. As the town and the Club grew, the need for a second club was born and Rim Country Rotary-Payson Club was organized in 1997 with Glenn as a charter member and the charter Treasurer. He was Treasurer for a few years and the Club President in 2003-04. Glenn was his Club's Centennial Rotarian of the Year.

At the District level, Glenn served three years as an Assistant Governor. He also served as a Sergeant-at-Arms for two District Conferences, was on the District PR Committee and was assigned to the District Finance Committee.

Glenn has been married for 48 years to Sherry, a charming and friendly partner with an easy smile. Sherry became an Honorary Member of the Rim Country Rotary-Payson Club in 2003. As District 5510's First Lady, she adds special warmth to all the meetings that she attends with her husband. They will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary within months of the end of Glenn's year as District Governor.



### **PDG Ralph Williamson, Lions Multiple District 21 Council Chair**

Ralph was born in Cleveland, OH and relocated to Phoenix in 1979 with his wife, Past Council Chair Joan. They will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary this year and are the proud parents of three wonderful and supportive children, five grandchildren and two fabulous great grandchildren. Ralph and Joan own Ceramic Tile & Stone Consulting of AZ., Inc. Ralph is semi-retired and the majority of his time is devoted to Lionism. His remaining time is dedicated to the Ceramic Tile & Stone Association of which he currently serves as President for the third time.

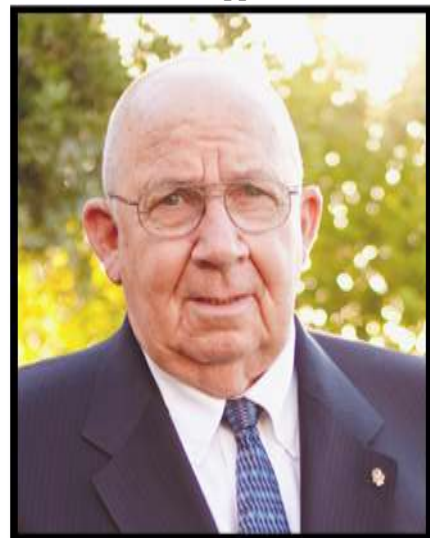
Before becoming a Lion, Ralph was in Rotary. In 1983, after having had the opportunity to help the Lions deliver food baskets to the needy at Christmastime, he joined the Peoria Sunset Lions Club. He has served as Club Treasurer for six years and was 100% Club President twice. In addition to these duties, he also served on the Board of Directors for many years and has been honored as the Club "Lion of the Year" twice.

During his tenure with the club, Ralph has been actively involved with many committees, often serving as the Chair, providing guidance and direction. His Club has honored him for his service with both a Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) and a Progressive MJF. He also received a Progressive MJM from District 21-A.

Ralph served on the Melvin Jones International Foundation Board and has been a Board Advisor for the past several years. He served as the Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer for District 21-A. During this time, he was honored twice as "Lion of the Year" by District 21-A and also received recognition as 100% Region and Zone Chair.

Ralph had the privilege of serving as Governor of District 21-A in 2000-2001. He has also served as facilitator at several club retreats, served as a Conflict Resolution person twice for clubs in District 21-A, has been honored with four International President's Certificates of Appreciation and has received two International Leadership Medals and one Presidential Medal.

Ralph has been Leadership Chair for both District 21-A and Multiple District 21 for seven years. He is the Multiple District 21 Global Membership Team Chairperson. He currently serves as the Council Chair of the Multiple District 21 Council of Governors.



## **Governor “BK” Knappenberger, Kiwanis Southwest District**

Bruce “BK” Knappenberger is a Phoenix Native with a long history of community and Kiwanis service. Kiwanis is a family affair. As a student, he belonged to the Key Club at North Phoenix High School. His father was a member of the Camelback Kiwanis Club until his unexpected death in 1966. His wife of thirty-six years, “Ran,” is also a Kiwanian and is a long-term volunteer for several nonprofit organizations, such as the Phoenix Zoo.

In 2003, BK joined the Kiwanis Club of Phoenix, where he has served as Distinguished President (2005-2006) and as Distinguished Club Secretary since 2007. In appreciation of his dedication and service, his Club presented him with both a George F. Hixson Fellowship and the Southwest District Foundation Kachina Award. The Hixson Award, named after George F. Hixson, the first Kiwanis International President, was created by the Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees to honor individuals for their contributions to the International Foundation. The Kachina Award, similar to the Hixson Fellowship, is given to recognize that person’s contributions to Kiwanis, especially to the Southwest District Foundation.



On the District level, BK served as Distinguished Lieutenant Governor for Division 12 during 2006-2007. Passionate about all of the service possibilities Kiwanis offers, he has attended all of Southwest District and International Kiwanis conventions since joining Kiwanis. BK is the Southwest District Governor for 2010-2011. The Southwest District covers all Kiwanis clubs and programs in Arizona, New Mexico, and El Paso County in Texas.

In 1972, BK graduated with honors from ASU with a BS in Zoology. He joined the Phoenix Police Department in 1973 where he remained for thirty-two years, until his retirement in 2005 as Commander of the Department’s Community Relations Bureau. BK and Ran love traveling around the world and meeting people. It’s difficult to find a location where they haven’t been.

## **Our Facilitator**

Linda Searfoss grew up in Scottsdale and attended Coronado High School. She received a B.S. in sociology and psychology from Northern Arizona University and a M.A. in sociology from Arizona State University.

At age 23, Linda became the Executive Director of Valley Big Sisters. The agency had two employees, a budget of approximately \$11,000 and 30 matched volunteers and children. The Big Sister program grew to more than 300 matched volunteers and children by the time the Valley Big Brother and the Valley Big Sister programs merged in 1986. Since the merger, the agency has grown to be one of the largest of the 508 agencies in the country.



Linda retired from Valley Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2003. Today, she actively serves our community as an instructor, consultant, and mentor for nonprofit leaders and boards. She is an active member of the Tempe Rio Salado Rotary Club.

Linda is a faculty member of the ASU Lodestar Center’s Nonprofit Management Institute (NMI). NMI offers courses taught by outstanding practitioners and academicians. She has conducted numerous workshops at the regional and national level. She is a graduate of Valley Leadership and an instructor for Scottsdale Community College, teaching “Effective Governance in Modern Nonprofit Organizations.”

Linda is also a consultant for St. Luke’s Health Initiatives Technical Assistance Program, a member of the Arizona chapter of the International Women’s Forum, a board member of Coronado Foundation for the Future and an advisory board member for the Arizona Community Foundation Holbrook - Pyle Fund.

In 2001, Linda was selected as a Virginia Piper Fellow. Her sabbatical included studies with the Harvard Business School Executive Education program – “Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Nonprofit Organizations” and “Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management.”



*This initiative is being hosted by the Tempe Rio Salado Rotary Club. For more information call 623-326-7951*