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# First President from Austria, First Female Vice President to Lead Kiwanis during 2013-14 Year

Indianapolis, Ind.—Kiwanis members made history this past June at the 2013 Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, electing the organization's first president from Austria and the first woman as vice president. The officers assume their new roles today.

Last June, delegates confirmed Spittal an der Drau, Austria, Kiwanian Gunter Gasser as 2013–14 Kiwanis International president. John R. Button, a member of the Ridgetown, Ontario, Kiwanis Club, will serve as president-elect. And East Lansing, Michigan, Kiwanian Susan A. Petrisin was selected to serve as vice president, putting her in line to be president in 2015–16—the first woman to achieve that role in any of the world's largest service organizations.

"Kiwanis will be focused on two main areas for the next 12 months—The Eliminate Project and the global campaign for growth," Gasser said. "Both are equally important."

The Eliminate Project is Kiwanis's global effort to raise US$110 million to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. MNT kills one baby every nine minutes in 26 developing countries. The project will immunize more than 61 million women to protect them and their future babies from the disease.

Also elected at the Vancouver convention were trustees for U.S. and Pacific Canada: Patricia "Patti" Barsotti, San Ramon Valley, California; Kevin Dean, Suncrest Area, Morgantown, West Virginia; and Patrick R. Ewing, Victoria, British Columbia. Trustee for the Asia-Pacific Region Florencio C. "Poly" Lat, Inter-City Homes, Muntinlupa, the Philippines, was elected during the 2013 Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention. Trustee for the Europe Region, Marcel Kreienbühl,

Gossau-Flawil, Switzerland, was elected at the 2013 Kiwanis International-European Federation Convention. All will serve three-year terms that begin today.

They join Immediate Past President Tom DeJulio of Bronxville, New York; and the following trustees: Lee Kuan Young of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Clinton Green of Napier, New Zealand; Colin Reichle of St. Albert, Alberta; Dennis M. Oliver of Gulfport, Mississippi; Elizabeth Tezza of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina; Jane M. Erickson of Bellevue, Nebraska; James "Jim" Rochford of Peoria, Illinois; Óskar Guðjónsson of Kópavogur, Iceland; Stephen T. Hill of Milford, Connecticut; and Warren F. "Mitch" Mitchell of Greeley, Colorado.

**About Kiwanis**

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14–18, Builders Club for students age 11–14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6–12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit www.kiwanis.org.