

Builders Clubs

Joanne Underwood



I think most Kiwanis Clubs who look to charter a Builders Club are already sold on the fact that the Builders Club will make a positive impact on the students who join it and through them, a similar impact on their school and community. What may be scaring off some Kiwanis clubs is not knowing exactly what their responsibility is to the Builders Club. That is what I hope to explain here.

A sponsoring Kiwanis Club makes contact with a Middle or Junior High School, and "sells" the principal or administrator on the value of having a Builders Club in their school. If you need help doing this, you can reach me,

one of the district's Builders Club Committee members, an advisor from another Builders Club, or your Lt. Governor to help you. We can get you a DVD from International, you can copy articles from the ESK, go on line to the Builders Club website, etc. But don't be afraid, you know what a Kiwanis Club is; a Builders Club is simply a student run Kiwanis club (with the guidance of a faculty and a Kiwanis advisor).

Once the school, school district, or a community organization agrees to have a Builders Club, there are chartering papers to be filled out and sent (along with a chartering fee) to Kiwanis International. These forms are not hard to complete. The club needs to appoint a Kiwanis Advisor to the Builders Club. The Faculty Advisor and the Kiwanis Advisor can get to know each other while getting these forms completed.

The Kiwanis Advisor does those things that Kiwanians do best. They make sure the student officers are

trained so they know what their job as president or secretary is, and how to run a meeting. That doesn't mean the advisor has to train them; they can get members of their Kiwanis Club who have held these offices to explain the basics to the Builders Club officers.

The advisor then helps the officers when they have questions or problems with their duties. And, as with your Kiwanis Club, there are lots of resources available from Kiwanis International to help do these things. For the Kiwanis Advisor and any Kiwanians who choose to become involved, it's a project they will quickly become very proud of.

This age student knows no limits, has an abundance of energy and time for their projects. They will in many cases, outshine the sponsoring Kiwanis Club!

All of which means, with your community and your Kiwanis Club will be so much better because you chose to sponsor a Builders Club. What are you waiting for?

Key Club

John Goldstein



Happy New Year fellow Kiwanians. While we have started the new year, 2014, we in Kiwanis are already 3 plus months into our administrative year. However, Key Club's administrative year is almost over. The administrative year for Key Club starts in April right after the annual District Leadership Training Conference. This year the Leadership Training Conference (LTC) is being held March 28-30 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center and Albany.

I would like to remind you of the following. The Key Clubs should be holding their club elections in February so

the new officers can attend the LTC in March. The new officers usually shadow their predecessors through the end of the school year. They should then hold an officers planning meeting sometime in June, July or August. This will prepare them for a great start in September.

The Lt. Governor should be elected in January so he or she can be installed at the LTC in March. We also elect the District Governor, Secretary and Treasurer and endorse any candidates for International Office at the LTC. The first Key Club District Board meeting is held at the end of April.

How can you help? You, as Kiwanis Key Club Advisors, should work with your Key Club Advisor to make sure that the club elections take place in February. Then you should be ask your Kiwanis Club to help finance the LTC attendance of your new Key Club Officers. This year the cost for a student to attend the LTC is \$275. We recommend that the Kiwanis Club pay one-third for

three to four officers. We also recommend that the Kiwanis Club pay the LTC registration for the Key Club Advisor. This year the Advisor registration is \$300.

I also want to mention the Key Club International Convention in Anaheim, CA. The date for the New York District tour is June 30 through July 5. The cost will be approximately \$1,400 and will include a tour of the City of San Francisco and the surrounding area and Yosemite National Park. We will need your financial assistance to help send the District Board to this great training event.

Finally, I want to talk about the Youth Protection guidelines. Kiwanis International asked that all Kiwanis Advisors to our Service Leadership Programs have background checks. There are other guidelines but this is the most important and I encourage all Kiwanis Key Club Advisors to attend the Key Club workshop at the Mid-Winter Conference in February.

RJK Middle School Builders Club is Busy

Members of the RJK Middle School Builders Club were busy this Fall with many community service projects.

They collected \$140 by selling pink paper ribbons for \$1 each to parents, teachers and students to promote awareness of Breast Cancer and to raise money for services offered by the Women's Health Center of the Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, New York. The ribbons were proudly displayed on the school's main lobby bulletin board.

The students sent holiday greeting

cards and included personal messages to veterans at the Veterans Medical Center at Castle Point. They wanted these veterans to know that their services and commitment to our country are appreciated and they wished them good health and a happy holiday season.

They are now collecting items that will be delivered to the Sullivan County SPCA animal shelter in Rock Hill. Another project that is under way is making tie fleece pillows as a "give back" project for residents of the

skilled nursing unit at Catskill Regional Medical Center. The students will deliver the pillows to the residents in January.

The Builders Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Monticello. Middle School Technology Teacher William Oefelein is the Club's Advisor and Jane Sorensen is the Liaison to the Builders Club as well as the Kiwanis President.