

Key Club

John
Goldstein



Greetings and congratulations to all of new club presidents and division lieutenant governors. I would like to thank you for taking on this great responsibility and wish you much success in your administration.

I also want to follow up on my last article about the financial support from the Kiwanis clubs and divisions to the Key Club District Board for its ICON trip. We had more than 75 Clubs (30 percent) contribute anywhere from \$50

to \$7,000 to help send Key Clubbers to the convention. We also had 10 divisions that supported multiple district board members in their divisions. We had about 10 individual Kiwanians who sent money to help send the students to the convention. You should be proud of yourselves, because I am proud of you and I thank you.

As a follow up on the International Convention, I had told you that we had one candidate for International President and two for International Trustee. We are very proud that Laken Kelly (Ogdensburg HS) was elected as one of the 11 International Trustees. Laken will be serving the following Key Club Districts: Florida, Missouri-Arkansas and West Virginia.

While Paul DeSantis and Lillian Xie did not get elected, they ran great campaigns and Gov. Jacob is very happy to

have them back on the district board as his special assistants.

The fall is a busy time for your Key Club lieutenant governor. They will be running Fall Rallies where they will be training the officers from the clubs in their divisions. Some divisions will hold them by themselves and some will join with other divisions. Please encourage your Key Club officers and advisors to attend these when offered.

November is also Kiwanis Family month and Key Club week is Nov. 3-7. Kiwanis clubs should be looking to partner with their Key Clubs on fundraisers, projects and activities. At the very least plan to invite your Key Club officers to one of your November meetings and have them report on everything they have been doing. I know you will be impressed with these outstanding students!

Aktion Club

Debra
Rothman



For the first time since the formation of Aktion Clubs, dues have been raised \$3 so they are now \$8 per member rather than \$5. You can log onto

the MUC, Membership Update Center, to make changes to the roster, download the roster and make a payment.

If there has been a change in an adviser, Kiwanis International must be notified by both phone and an email.

First time users to the MUC, found at www.aktionclub.org, top right hand corner will have to enter their email, set up a password and receive correspondence from KI to allow them to access the site and the roster.

Katie Griffin is the Aktion Club liai-

son at KI and she can help you if you are having difficulty. Adviser guides and member guides are being mailed to all clubs.

I was advised by KI that this year a webinar for advisers will be held to guide you through your year, I will let you know when it is scheduled.

If you have any questions on the process of starting an Aktion Club, please contact me. Check out our Facebook page to see our Aktion Clubs in action. Have a great year with your Aktion Clubs!

Youth Protection

Jim
Mancuso



Please take a few minutes to search New York Times website (www.nytimes.com) for the title "Brooklyn Tech Teacher Was Known as Cool Friend, Until His Arrest" and then read about a current case of "grooming."

In the April 2013 ESK I first wrote about the grooming technique to lure children to covertly abuse them.

A teacher, Mr. Shaynak started grooming children for abuse in simple ways such as offering to buy them lunch or giving them cigarettes. His students viewed him as a cool and hip teacher but one who made suspect requests, including taking pictures of his students to "inspire a nude painting" he wanted to do. While students he proposed the concept to thought what he was asking was odd, they did not want to report it to school officials. Why?

Because they liked him for his "coolness" and did not want to cause trouble for him.

But then things started to get more aggressive and he started sending lewd pictures of himself to the children. Once this started happening, one girl reported him and then the truth started to come out. He now stands accused of preying on seven girls, giving them alcohol and cigarettes, sending them sexually charged photos, taking a few to sex clubs and a nude beach. He then had sex with a few of them after they reached 17 (the legal age of consent). Mr. Shaynak is now under indictment.

All of the signs were missed because these students with whom he had built relationships with viewed him as "one of their own" and he had gained their trust. This is classical grooming. They trusted Mr. Shaynak so much (in addition to cigarettes and alcohol, giving them good grade on tests when none were deserved) that they did not want to tell anyone outside of the student circles in order to protect the predator who was preying on them! Going unchecked, Brooklyn Tech, the high school where he taught, was a virtually unlimited feeding ground with 5,400 students.

The even scarier part is that he slipped under school official's collective noses.

Years before Mr. Shaynak became a teacher at Brooklyn Tech, he was accused of other questionable acts. In 2005, he was accused of beating up an 11-year-old boy. But, because he was never convicted, although a restraining order had been issued, he still passed a NYC Education Department background check!

For Kiwanians there are many lessons to be learned by reading this article. We have to spot this type of behavior before it ever gets to the abuse stage. Secondly, perform background checks. Here is a case where the background check process failed because key facts were overlooked. We cannot afford to do the same, but if we never do a background check at all, we do not give our kids a chance to be protected.

I urge you to learn from this case, taking necessary steps, everyday, to protect our children.

Huntington Installs Field of Honor

The Kiwanis Club of Huntington installed the 5th Annual Field of Honor on the front lawn of Huntington Town Hall on Sept. 7.

Thirty-six volunteers installed 750 flags. The flags will fly through Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7.