

Circle K

John Keegan



Oct. 1 marks the start of new Kiwanis year and also a time of new beginnings and renewal of established commitments for your Kiwanis club. We ask that you continue your commitment to your Circle K sponsorship by meeting with your Circle K club counterparts and find out from them how you can help each other.

If you don't sponsor a Circle K club this would be a good time to start one.

The well-being and strength of the Circle K club is the responsibility of the sponsoring Kiwanis club under which it is chartered. Sponsorship is a continuous endeavor and long-term commitment built on an understanding of shared expectations and mutual goals.

New York District Circle Ker's have been very busy this year. They have been doing community service on the local, district and International level. They are willing to help you with your projects such as cleanups, pancake breakfast, etc.

The Circle K year is from April 1 to March 31. I know if you ask a Kiwanis club they will tell you the great satisfac-

tion you get from working with the young adults.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see an article about the requirement of background checks. All Kiwanis advisors to a Circle K club are required to have a background check.

I can be reached with any questions you may have by email johnnyk11@juno.com, phone (732) 350-6170 you will find that I am rather prompt in replying.

As I close this message I want to let you know that we will be having our District Convention at the Albany Hotel March 14-16, 2014. The convention honoree will be Mary Jean Sprague who is the Kiwanis advisor at New Paltz. She is a dedicated Kiwanian.

Key Club

John Goldstein



While we Kiwanians are just starting our new administrative year, our Key Clubs are half way through their year. We have more than 11,000 students in more than 240 clubs in the New York District. They have already volunteered thousands of hours and donated tens of thousands of dollars to a variety of char-

ities. These charities range from local causes to District charities like Kamp Kiwanis and the Eliminate Project.

Key Club Gov. Paul DeSantis and his board of Lt. Governors have already started planning for this years District Leadership Training Conference. The conference will be held on March 27-30, 2014 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany. We will be expecting more than 800 Key Clubbers and advisors to attend this fantastic event. We have planned more than 30 fun and educational workshops for the students and adults.

Does your club sponsor a Key Club? if not why not? The Key Club is an investment in the future of Kiwanis and our

world. These young people want to give back, want to be involved and Kiwanis and Key Club are the perfect partners to make this happen. Give me a call and I am ready to help you start a Key Club in your local high school.

Already sponsoring a Key Club? Please be sure to be actively involved in their meetings, projects and fundraisers. Invite the Key Club officers to your Kiwanis meeting and get to know the wonderful young people who are involved. Invite the Key Club to join you in a community service project - you will love the energy and excitement that Key Clubbers bring to everything they do!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Key Club Administrator.

Builders Clubs

Joanne Underwood



For YEARS in our Club Leadership trainings, we were told NOT To USE ACRONYMS, and then your trainers (I've been one) promptly talked about our SOAPS (Sponsored Organizations and Programs) and for the last few years SLP's (Sponsored Leadership Programs). For most Kiwanians, SLP's are just letters when in reality they are one of the most important things we have and do in Kiwanis. SLP's are our K-Kids, our Builders Clubs, our Key Clubs, or Circle K's and our Aktion Clubs. They are all very important parts of our K-Family, and every Kiwanian needs to truly understand how important they are to our Kiwanis, our community's and our country's future. The SLP that I want to talk to you about is the one I'm involved with, the one I have seen have a tremendously positive impact on the lives of its mem-

bers.

Builders Clubs are the reason I am still a member of Kiwanis and probably always will be.

A Builders Club is a student-run organization at the Middle or Junior High School level, sponsored by a Kiwanis Club and guided by a faculty Advisor and a Kiwanis Advisor. That doesn't sound like a really big deal, but trust me; Builders Clubs are REALLY BIG deals. I taught at least one and sometimes six Middle/Jr. High History classes each of the 36 years I taught school. I love this age group! They are enthusiastic, energetic, young people on the brink of becoming adults; who think they ARE adults. In short they are in that dreaded age of Puberty. An age when kids are extremely vulnerable, going through big changes in their lives: physically, mentally and emotionally. It is a pivotal and crucial point in their lives. While wanting to be independent, they need direction and support from adults. It's one of the most difficult times for their parents too, because at this age, kids don't want to be told what to do. Sadly, many parents just throw their hands up in frustration. Opportunity or disaster is just waiting to happen. How can we help? The answer is a

Builders Club.

You and your Kiwanis club can help kids at this age to develop into self-confident, productive young adults filled with real self-esteem, capable of standing up to peer pressure and even stand up to drugs and drug dealers. These young people are a credit to themselves, their families and their communities. It's easy to do, just sponsor a Builders Club! I saw it happen to my students, every year. Not one of my students who became involved in our Builders Club was ever suspended again, at least not while they were in that school; and, my school had the highest poverty rate of any school in our school district.

You as Kiwanians can make a difference! I'll tell you more in the next ESK, but until then, start looking into getting a Builders Club started in your community. If I can be of any help, just call me (585) 342-7654 or write me at 91 Jewel Street, Rochester, NY 14621. Or, you can walk up to your Lt. Governor and ask them, "How do I start a Builders Club". You really will be changing your community, one child (one Builders Club) at a time.