Kiwanian Kevin Dean outlines the day's events at the beginning of the session.

required to sign up for the workshops. In order to make the event interesting for as many attendees as possible, the workshops were delivered in three repeating sessions with the different topics offered in varying combinations. The day finished with an open time of refreshments and mingling where the attendees got to know each other. One of the Kiwanians who attended the event was impressed and invigorated everywhere I looked. Key Clubbers were able to learn from their Kiwanis sponsors about college, the corporate world, opportunities in public service, and even how Key Club can play into those things through unique leadership opportunities. Learning from one another in a forum such as this truly exemplifies what it means to be a Kiwanian family.

The club believes that although certain ideal circumstances may have been unique to them, any Kiwanis club could easily undertake this project—and the exciting illustration of Kiwanis International’s recent partnership with the United States Department of Education, “Take the Lead in Preparing America’s Future.” Additionally, although the club does not yet formally sponsor a Circle K club and is actively pursuing that opportunity,

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Dean summarized, “As Kiwanians, we often say that the sponsored youth are the future of the organization. We can better ensure that future by treating youth as equal partners in our common mission, thereby making it obvious why they should stay involved with us after they graduate. Through projects like Key to Your Future Day, the young professionals’ Sponsored Youth Committee, “The idea wasn’t to hold our own experts or an expert on any of this subject matter. It was to pick subject matter that was relevant to the students, and then to present it from our own individual perspectives. We thought this would generate an atmosphere of inquisitiveness and curiosity, and we were right.”

Immediate Past Key Club Governor Kristin Kramer, who was a guest panelist at the event a year ago observed, “Key to Your Future Day was absolutely fantastic. From the professionalism and the eagerness of the Key Clubbers to the down-to-earth nature of such distinguished Kiwanians, I was impressed and intrigued—so much so that I decided to attend. Key Clubbers were able to learn from their Kiwanis sponsors about college, the corporate world, opportunities in public service, and even how Key Club can play into these things through unique leadership opportunities. Learning from one another in a forum such as this truly exemplifies what it means to be a Kiwanian family.

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The club has been approached by IPLG Eric Shinwari, Queens Wells, and Rothman addresses sponsored youth and Kiwanian attendees.

Young Professionals

Kevin Dean

What is a Young Professionals Kiwanis club? This is a question that many people have asked over the past few years. As Chair of the Young Professionals Committee, along with committee members Rich Hall, Alison Mandel and Diane Taranto Horan, our goal is a simple one: to eliminate the need for that question by expanding the scope of Young Professionals clubs in the New York District by at least double its current status. First and foremost, Young Professionals are Kiwanians. A common myth is that such clubs are transitional clubs, meet only on the Internet, or are otherwise not full-fledged members of our organization, and nothing could be further from the truth. Presently New York boasts two active Young Professionals clubs – New York City and Nassau County. Both clubs were formed in 2001 and have continued to grow and perform additional service hours since their inception. The NYC club currently sponsors three Key Clubs and is pursuing co-sponsorship of two Circle K clubs, and both Young Professionals clubs are made up primarily of former members of sponsored youth organizations, including club members and officers, as well as district and international officers of both Key Club and Circle K.

Kiwanis International formed Young Professionals clubs several years ago as an outlet for generating membership interest in Kiwanis by younger citizens. Through the years it has become clear that the model is more viable in cities and suburban areas where there is a substantial enough population of young professionals for potential members. Although not always, Young Professionals members are generally just that; in their 20s and early 30s, and many of them are still in college or graduate school, or in the first jobs of their careers. Thus, although they may be extremely interested in performing service to those less fortunate than themselves, they often do not have the time or resources to belong to a more traditional Kiwanis club.

Young Professionals clubs may meet less frequently than once a week, and may not have meals with their meetings. The concept is that the club conforms to the schedules and needs of its membership (within the confines of the Bylaws of Kiwanis International) in order to maximize their ability to perform service and to promote membership growth. However, Young Professionals clubs pay dues and perform thousands of hours of service annually. For example, the NYC Young Professional club, which currently has approximately 35 members, performed over 2,000 hours of service in the 2004-05 administrative year, equating to more than one hour per member per week.

Most recently, a club was chartered in Washington, DC with approximately 35 members.