

Cream of the Crop



Fall 2018

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Table of Contents

Note from the Editor.....	3
Governor's Letter.....	4
DCON Promotion.....	5
Dues.....	6
Youth Opportunities Fund.....	7
Service Partners.....	8
Cause Partner.....	11
Collaborative Partners.....	12
Major Emphasis.....	13
Club Spotlight.....	14
Key Leader.....	15
Contact Information.....	16

A Note From the Editor

Hello Nebraska-Iowa Key Clubs!

School has finally started, and with it, the Key Club season! Hopefully your Key Club has kicked off the year with some strong meetings. Now is the time to get new members to join Key Club, so make be to advertise it around your school. I know it is a busy time of year, but I appreciate you taking the time to read my Fall Bulletin!



The Nebraska-Iowa District is lucky to have an amazing trustee assigned to our district! Foster Hillis is from the Texas-Oklahoma District, and our knew International Trustee! He has been doing a great job, and we are excited to see what he has in store for us this Key Club year!

We were extremely upset that this year's Fall Rally was canceled. The estimated attendance rates were through the roof, and we could not have been more excited. However, as spooky season starts, another opportunity approaches. District Convention is nearing, and I am so excited to be able to share this experience with you all. This year, DCON is Clue-themed, with puzzles and mysteries laced throughout the conference. In addition, District Convention has many activities and opportunities (pg. 5) More information will be sent to clubs as DCON nears. We hope to see you there!

If you have any question, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask the District Board! Keep serving your community!

Yours in Service,

Alex Drahos

Nebraska-Iowa

Governor's Letter

Hello Nebraska-Iowa Key Clubbers,



My name is Tatum Vondra, and I am so honored and humbled to be serving as the 2018-2019 District Governor. I am a senior at Milford High School in Milford, Nebraska, and I look forward to continuing the growth of our district this year.



I would like to start by welcoming you to the second issue of Cream of the Crop. This bulletin will contain a variety of information ranging from District Convention Promotion to information about and how you can do an incredible service project for free! I encourage you to use all the information presented in this bulletin, as they will be very beneficial to you!

To anyone who was planning on attending Fall Rally, thank you so much for your willingness and excitement to be involved. We are so upset that the weather didn't cooperate and are looking to plan a Regional Fall Rally in the early weeks of November. We would LOVE to see you there. I would also like to invite you to this year's District Convention March 1-3rd in Nebraska for an awesome weekend of leadership training, meeting new people, and learning the beauty of service.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me! Best of luck to you and your year of service.

Yours in Service,

Tatum Vondra
Nebraska-Iowa District Governor
Key Club International



District Convention



Sleuth for service with us this year at District Convention! This Clue-themed event will have Nebraska and Iowa Key Clubbers solving a mystery over all three days, while celebrating service and all accomplishments of the year.



Why: District Convention is the biggest district event all year. There are numerous workshops, elections, leadership activities, service projects, and even a dance. On top of all this, friendships and memories are created, and last for years.

When: District Convention will be held on March 1st to March 3rd. It will be at a hotel in Nebraska. More details will be sent out soon!



How: Registration and details will be sent to all clubs at a later date.

Please contact the District Board with any questions or concerns!



Dues

The Nebraska-Iowa District charges \$13 per Key Club member. This is a non-negotiable fee, and must be paid in order to consider a student an official Key Club member. Dues must be paid by **December 1st**.

Early Bird Dues: Clubs that pay dues before November 1st have paid early bird dues. This means that they will be rewarded and recognized for their prompt payment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if students cannot afford dues?

If a student is not able to afford Key Club dues, there are several solutions. The student/school should contact their Kiwanis Advisor, and ask for assistance. If this does not work, the Lieutenant Governor of the area should be contacted, and the district will find a solution.

What are dues used for?

Every organization has expenses to pay. Dues help Key Club International pay for things such as marketing material, items for members, insurance for all Key Clubbers at events, and more. Key Club International does its best to set the dues payment as low as possible.

Youth Opportunities Fund

The Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) is an endowed fund that provides Key Clubs across the world with funding for their service projects. To apply, go to the Key Club website, and fill out the application. All applications are due by October 15th.

Here's what those applying need to know:

- YOF grants are given only to Key Clubs and/or club members in good standing.
- There is only one funding cycle for the Youth Opportunities Fund. **The application must be received by October 15 at 11:59 PM EST.**
- Clubs may request funding assistance ranging anywhere from US\$100 to US\$2,000.
- The committee typically funds those clubs who are asking for a portion of the total cost of the project, and clubs who are working with other organizations to fund and complete the project.
- Notification of the Key Club International Board's decision will be emailed to all YOF applicants the first week of January.
- Applicants must use the online YOF grant application.
- Distribution of grant funds may be detained if club dues are not current or if required documents are not uploaded (YOF grant letter of agreement).
- Guidelines for filing the application are also listed in the Key Club Guidebook under Board Policies.

Service Partners



nickelodeon

Key Club International has partnered with Nickelodeon in attempts to better children and their futures. Nickelodeon has two large programs; Worldwide Day of Play, and the Big Help Initiative

The Worldwide Day of Play is a program that encourages children to get away from the TV or internet. Its goal is to have children spend time playing outside and exercising.

The Big Help campaign puts kids into action to do something about issues communities face. Kids and adults work together to plan events and activities in the following areas: health & wellness, education, service, and environment.

The United States Army is another Key Club partner. The U.S. Army offers several programs to youth.

One such instance is the March to Success Program.

The March to Success Program provides an online study course for students. Its goal is to prepare students for standardized tests and to improve school work and review material. Additionally, the U.S. Army offers tools for educators and parents to track their students. This program has specialized courses for STEM, college preparation, a mission/financing, and more.

Through the U.S. Army's partnership with Key Club, your home club is provided access to local battalion support and resources.

Service Partners



Landscape Structure Inc. has been creating innovative playground equipment since 1971. The goal of Landscape Structures is to encourage inclusive play, with unique playground designs to include all children. Additionally, Landscape Structures use playgrounds to fight childhood obesity and build social skills. Moreover, they provide grants to replace broken, old, or hazardous equipment. Grants are also provided by: Lowe's, Aetna Foundation, Hasbro, and Walmart.

Key Club has teamed up with the Thirst Project to dominate the global water crisis. The Thirst Project raises money to build freshwater wells in developing countries. In addition, the Thirst Project works to educate students about the 663 million people in the world who do not have access to clean water. Over the last 7 years, the Thirst Project has provided clean water to over 280,000 people and raised over 8 million dollars. As a Key Clubber, you can help by raising money for the Thirst Project, participating in Thirsty 30, and spreading the word through the Dirty Little Secret Campaign.

Service Partners



Since 2014, Up with People and Kiwanis International members have teamed up to reach a common goal—serving our communities, inspiring youth, and expanding our impact in the world. Up with People programs open a door to service and intercultural understanding, whether it is through a local show, leadership, cultural workshops, or more.

Up with People is helping Kiwanis expand partnership to Europe and Asia. Through this, Up with People strives to serve the children of the world and empower youth to act.

Squads Abroad provides affordable opportunities for your club to volunteer abroad and make a meaningful impact in under-resourced schools around the world.

Each trip also includes fun and engaging cultural activities that provide new perspectives. Squads Abroad's home-base model provides safe and private accommodations for Key Clubbers to enjoy healthy meals, relax after a day of service, and reflect on the experiences that have been shared.

Kiwanis Gives Online

Kiwanis Gives Online is powered by Access Development, a team-friendly crowdfunding platform just for Key Club. This program specializes in helping your club achieve its fundraising goals through an online fundraising service.

Kiwanis Gives Online not only creates and manages your entire campaign(s), but provides rewards to anyone who donates.

Cause Partners



National Pancake Day falls on February 27th each year. On this day, IHOP donates proceeds to the Children's Miracle Network hospitals. Key Clubbers can assist with this event by promoting National Pancake Day around the community, and by encouraging restaurant patrons to support the Children's Miracle Network.



**Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals**

The Children's Miracle Network provides financial support to families that must pay thousands of dollars in medical bills. Since 1983, this program has raised \$5 billion dollars to help those in need. The CMN has provided support to 170 children's hospitals, 97 corporate partners, and millions of kids. Key Club members can assist CMN by working together to sponsor fundraising events and conducting service projects at local hospitals



Since the 1940s, Key Club has worked with March of Dimes to positively impact babies around the world. Premature birth can be extremely harmful to both the baby, and the mother. Kiwanis members are continuing to serve by supporting the March of Dimes all year long by hosting service projects, raising funds, and educating communities about the crisis of premature birth.



UNICEF is an organization dedicated towards children. Working with United Nation bodies, UNICEF helps to provide for children's needs in more than 150 developing countries through healthcare, basic education, safe water, and other forms of sanitation. Key Club can collect funds for UNICEF by participating in events like Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

Collaborative Partners

KCorps



Project Happiness

K Corps is Kiwanis International's youth exchange program for Key Clubbers. Through the program, clubs, families, and youth develop strong global relationships and intercultural communication skills by attending meetings, experiencing fellowship, raising funds for various causes, and more. It's a chance for Key Clubbers to serve others in host communities half-way across the world!

Project Happiness inspires and empowers club members to create happiness within themselves and their communities by addressing bullying at its core. Project Happiness shares exercises, discussions, games, and tools based on neuroscience, positive psychology, and mindfulness to rewire the brain for happiness. Look through the Key Club Guide to Project Happiness to see what you can do!

See the Key Club website for more information!

Major Emphasis: Children: Their Focus, Our Future

Since 1925, Key Club International has provided more than 12 million hours of service to homes, schools, and communities each year. From building bridges, collecting over six tons of food, and thousands of dollars raised for cancer research, Key Club International plays a vital role in serving children of the world.

In 1946, the organization was challenged to build a program to bring together all Key Clubs and members to focus energies on making an international impact. This program is still followed today through the Major Emphasis: Children: Their Future, Our Focus.

To fulfill the Major Emphasis, Key Club International serves children in many ways. By working with Key Club International's partner organizations, clubs serve children by aiding other organizations committed to serving children. Key Club International celebrates its three partnerships: UNICEF, March of Dimes, and Children's Miracle Network.

The Key Club service initiative is another element of the Major Emphasis and is created on a two-year basis. All the hands-on service provided to children by Key Club International members are directed to a single area of need, to make a substantial impact.

Each year, at Nebraska-Iowa's District Convention, an award is given for an outstanding Major Emphasis Project. Projects such as:

- Dance Marathons
- Leaf Raking
- Color Runs

are examples of applicable projects/activities for the Major Emphasis award. Any club in the district can send in an application before the District Convention. We hope to see your club's projects!

Linn-Mar High School

Club Spotlight

Linn-Mar Key Club's efforts over the past year have raised thousands of dollars, and served hundreds of hours. Linn-Mar Key Club has kicked off their school year by raising \$1,400 for UNICEF. This comes after successfully finishing several events last school year. They reportedly assisted with leaf-raking at a local museum, making dog toys, tie blankets, and more. However, Linn-Mar says that most of their year is spent preparing for their large Dance Marathon. Every March, Linn-Mar gathers the local community and school together for their annual Dance Marathon. Raffles, speakers, Zumba instructors, and more are just some things one would find at Dance Marathon. Last year, Linn-Mar Key Club raised over \$3000 from the dance. This year, the Linn-Mar officer team says, "We are planning to double our attendance and profits regarding Dance Marathon, as well as expand our service opportunities and fundraising overall." Great job Linn-Mar Key Club!





Key Leader



Key Leader is an interactive leadership program for high school students, held from November 9th to the 11th in Ogden, Iowa, at Sunstream Retreat Center.

The Key Leader mission is to provide a life-changing experience that inspires young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership and helping others succeed.

The program is built on five essential principles that reflect that mission:

- Personal Integrity
- Personal Growth
- Respect
- Building Community
- Pursuit of Excellence

The event is open to all students who have completed eighth grade. The all-inclusive cost of \$250 for each student includes lodging, meals and all activities.

To register for Key Leader, please go to www.keyleader.org. All students must complete a basic registration form. Please note that participants who register within 14 days of the event will be charged a \$25 late fee.

This year's professional Key Leader facilitator is Tracey Devereaux from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Tracey has more than 13 years' experience in various education systems, including extensive experience in designing curriculum programs and guidelines to fit the needs of learning environments. Offering a rare blend of creative and strategic strengths, Mr. Devereaux assisted the start-up of several unique education systems throughout the province of Nova Scotia. He currently is employed by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, where he designs and implements individualized curriculum for mid to high-end young offenders.

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Questions, comments, concerns? Reach out to us.

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