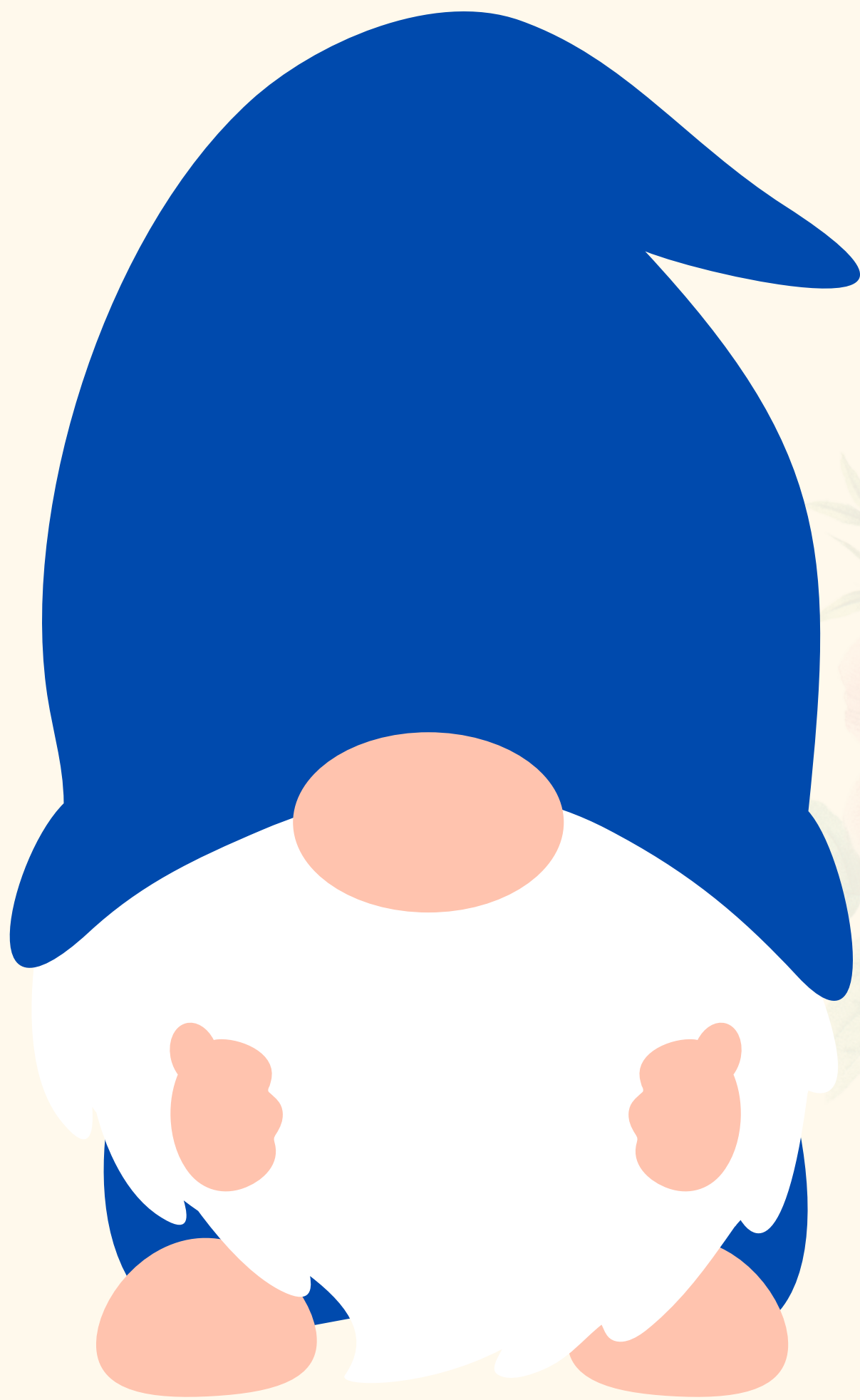




Vol. 1 Issue I.
September 2024

The Jersey Key



Gnomeo's
Garden State

By New Jersey
District Bulletin Editor:
Harshini Asokumar

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NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR



Hello NJ Key Clubbers!

My name is Harshini Asokumar and I am currently a rising junior! My journey with Key Club has been absolutely amazing! I had the pleasure to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Division 12 last year and now I have the honor of representing you as the District Editor! The support within NJ Key Club has been incredible, and I've formed lasting connections. It has given me a platform to positively impact my community and beyond, for which I am eternally grateful. Beyond Key Club, I also adore writing, reading, dance, and going to concerts!

In my role as District Editor, I am fully dedicated to opening new doors for success, through fostering connections between general members and the state board, creating new opportunities, increasing outreach, as well as resources! If you have any questions or concerns, I am happy to answer them, whether in your role as an editor or in any other capacity. Do not hesitate to reach out to me through email. I eagerly look forward to the opportunity to meet each one of you at Fall RTCs and Fall Rally!

Yours in caring and service,

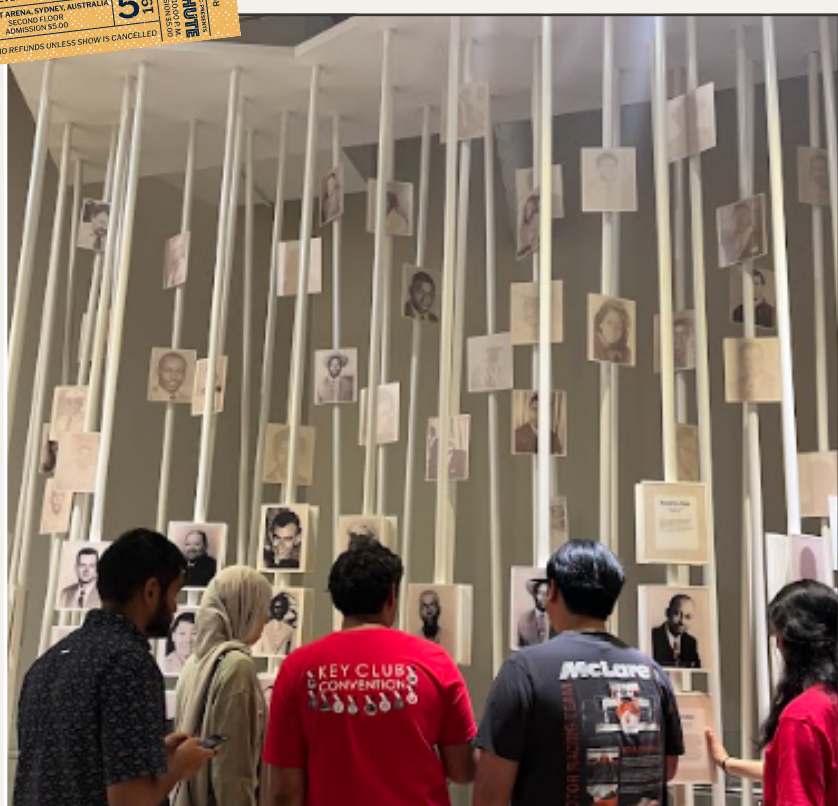


Harshini Asokumar

ICON Recap

By International Programs Committee

International Convention is the largest gathering of Key Clubbers across the world and is a great opportunity to connect with passionate, like-minded individuals. This year, the convention occurred in Atlanta, Georgia, and ten members proudly represented New Jersey.



Martin Luther King Jr. Museum and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights

Ahead of the official convention, our district toured the city of Atlanta and explored its richness and diversity. Being a pivotal hub for the American Civil Rights Movement, we made sure to tour the Martin Luther King Jr. Museum and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, learning about the profound impact that Atlanta had in the fight for equality. We also toured the Breman Museum, the Carter Presidential Library, the renowned Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coca-Cola Museum. These tours were definitely a highlight of the trip and provided us with a deeper understanding of cultural and historical issues.



Georgia Aquarium

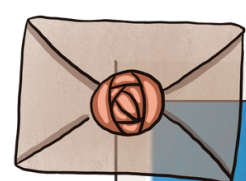
Upon the commencement of the convention, we were quick to trade pins with districts and seek what were described as the most coveted and unique pins of the event. We were fortunate to hear from special speakers and honorees, including an address from the Governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp; social advocacy warrior Rania Zur; Paralympian Evan Austin; actress and Olympian Laurie Hernandez; and a special performance from country star W. B. Sims. Attendees took part in workshops that covered a range of topics, including insights into leadership, service, and increasing membership engagement.



ICON Festivities



Guest Speakers



Lina Mousa elected as International Trustee from NJ

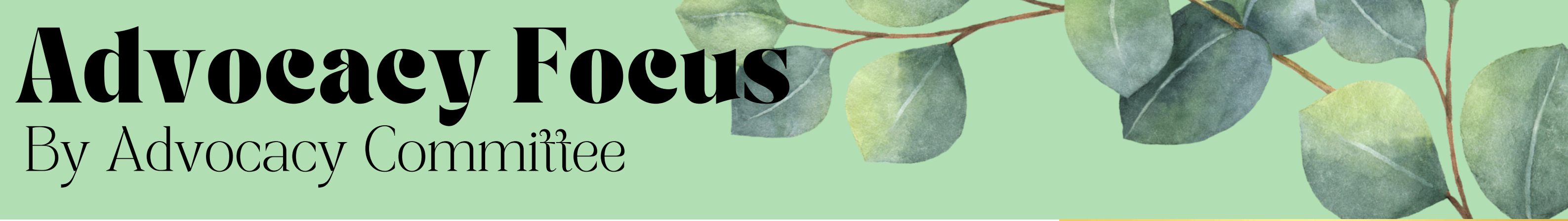
The convention also saw the election of the international board, with our very own Lina Mousa of Division 19 being elected to serve as an international trustee. Amendments to the Key Club International Bylaws were also passed, including an increase in international dues of \$3.00 and the creation of an automatic inflation adjustment mechanism.



Club Awards

Attending ICON is an amazing opportunity to enlarge your horizons and allows you to gain skills and knowledge to enhance your ability to lead and serve in your community. You can attend informative workshops, hear from speakers, and vote on important issues. Additionally, by completing the Global Leadership Certificate, you can attend a special masterclass session led by leadership experts and receive a \$200 stipend. This experience not only enriches your growth but also equips you to further your impact. Next year, International Convention will be occurring in Orlando, Florida, so don't miss your chance to "Disney-fy" your Key Club experience!





Advocacy Focus

By Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee of the New Jersey district of Key Club International. Each spring, the district board votes to pass an advocacy focus for the service year. The purpose of having a statewide advocacy focus is to inspire students to serve their homes, schools, and communities by raising awareness for specific, relevant issues. To this end, it is the responsibility of the Advocacy Committee to provide helpful resources that inform and engage members.

The advocacy focus for the 2024-2025 service year is “Promoting Health Awareness: Awareness and Action for Community Wellness.” This was chosen due to the importance of enhancing community health and well-being. It is essential to raise awareness and provide ways for Key Club members to involve themselves in health-related efforts. The Advocacy Committee recognizes the power of student-led clubs in effecting change. By encouraging clubs to align with these bi-monthly sub-focuses, the committee aims to maximize impact and involvement. Here is a brief description of the bi-monthly focuses and different ways the committee intends to engage students this service year:

KEY CLUB ADVOCACY



Advocacy Liaison



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCPOaXiZ_J_nxms6kG8NskEniL_HloSPvkP3sYXpTBhleiw/viewform?usp=sf_link

KEY CLUB ADVOCACY



24'-25'

ADVOCACY FOCUS

THIS YEAR'S ADVOCACY FOCUS IS...

HEALTH AWARENESS

- FOCUSING ON A DIFFERENT TOPIC EVERY MONTH, WE WILL PROMOTE HEALTH AWARENESS IN A MULTITUDE OF WAYS !!



JUNE/JULY : UN-STIGMATIZATION OF ORGAN DONATION



OCT/NOV : INFANT MORTALITY PREVENTION



AUGUST/SEPT : SUICIDE PREVENTION

DEC/JAN : HEALTHCARE WORKER APPRECIATION

ADVOCACY LIAISON POSITION

June-July: Un-stigmatization of Organ Donation

DONATE

To kick off the year, the committee has emphasized the importance of organ donation, focusing on reducing the stigma associated with it. Service ideas were provided in the informational newsletter released in June. The committee promoted these initiatives by featuring students' stories and testimonials on the district Instagram and in LTG newsletters.



August-September: Suicide Prevention

In an effort to address mental health and prevent suicide, the committee will promote awareness and support activities. The committee plans to organize Walk-a-Thons that raise money for mental health causes and provide resources for support.



October-November: Infant Mortality Prevention

The focus during these months is on reducing infant mortality through awareness and preventive measures. The committee will provide information on safe sleep practices for infants and host workshops on prenatal care.



December-January: Healthcare Worker Appreciation

To conclude the year, the committee will focus on appreciating healthcare workers. Activities will include sending thank-you cards, organizing appreciation events, and sharing stories of healthcare workers' contributions on social media.



‘24-‘25 NJKC Jersey Key District Project

By District Project Steering Committee

Mental health stigmatization has been a prevailing controversy in America for decades, particularly with the mental health of youth. For years, many have often dismissed and neglected mental health struggles in teenagers as nearly 30% of youth report struggling with poor mental health, and over 40% report having suicidal thoughts according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Despite these alarming statistics, mental health continues to be a topic of contention between teenagers, parents, teachers, doctors, and the internet. Thus, as a service organization centered around high schoolers, New Jersey Key Club is thrilled to announce our ‘24 - ‘25 district project, “Mental Health Services and Support,” where we will be focusing on spreading awareness on mental health, mental health services, and ways people can better their mental health across the state.

To further this significant district project, NJKC is working closely with one of our service partners: Erika’s Lighthouse! Erika’s Lighthouse is a non-profit organization centered on raising awareness of depression. With many educational videos for children, teenagers, and parents, insightful presentations, and inspiration posters, the Erika’s Lighthouse website provides a plethora of free resources for anybody, especially Key Clubbers, interested in contributing to the district project. Additionally, we will release informational fliers relating to the distinct project and interactive activities every month in your Lieutenant Governor’s newsletters. These fliers and articles include discussions on mental health, ideas and inspiration to better your mental health, and information on mental health services/support. Furthermore, we will be working closely with many other mental health-focused organizations in the future to develop this district project further.

As Key Clubbers, there are many ways to become involved in the district project. As mentioned above, Erika’s Lighthouse has many interactive and educational resources for Key Clubbers to share with their schools and classmates. Many of the resources are either printable or easily accessible online. By creating a portal account at erikaslighthouse.org, you can gain access to these amazing resources! Additionally, Erika’s Lighthouse has a program where Key Clubs could become affiliate clubs with Erika’s Lighthouse! By becoming an Erika’s Lighthouse affiliated club, Key Clubs receive monthly resources and service projects for Key Clubbers to participate in. This furthers this year’s district project while also building a stronger connection between Key Clubs and one of our service partners.

We hope that through this district project, those who are struggling with their mental health are aware of the outlets, services, and support available to them, especially while in the midst of arguably a critical mental health crisis, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The reach and impact Key Clubbers could have is tremendous, and as a community, focusing on a cause such as this year’s district project could have long-term effects on classmates, peers, friends, and family.

District Project 2024-2025 “Mental Health Services and Support”



Membership Recognition

By Membership Recognition Committee

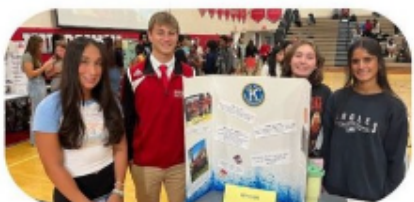
New Jersey Key Club's Membership Recognition Committee is dedicated to honoring impactful members. Throughout the year, we organize events, campaigns, awards, and scholarships to celebrate members' hard work in achieving the goals of New Jersey Key Club and Key Club International. We believe recognition is key to keeping members engaged in their clubs and the larger Kiwanis family.

The New Jersey Key Club District is committed to recognizing and celebrating the outstanding efforts of its members and clubs through initiatives like Spotlight Sundays. Each week, we shine a light on clubs that have demonstrated exceptional dedication to service, leadership, and community impact. By highlighting their achievements, we honor their hard work and the outstanding collective impact that is produced! To further recognize service this year, we will be raffling off Key Club swag to members nominated for Spotlight Sundays at the end of the service year. Additionally, during our "Summer of Service" campaign, we will give away Fall Rally tickets to two members who dedicate their summer to our District Project, focusing on Mental Health Services and Support. Through these efforts, Key Club reaffirms its commitment to fostering a supportive environment for all its members.

Highlight a
Member or Club
through
Spotlight
Sunday by filling
out the form:
<https://forms.gle/sdhUkkd8qJc89Be19>

Spotlight Sunday

Rayna Dadhania, Sean Kirwin, Sabrina Schonewise, and Maya MacAdams



Rayna Dadhania, Sean Kirwin, Sabrina Schonewise, and Maya MacAdams are executive members of Kingsway Regional HS (Division 3). They are **active leaders** in their school community and club, which has **grown under their leadership**. Not only do they have great ideas and energy, but they are **kind, reliable, and trustworthy**. They help run meetings and their club's social media and **work well as a team!**

Spotlight Sunday

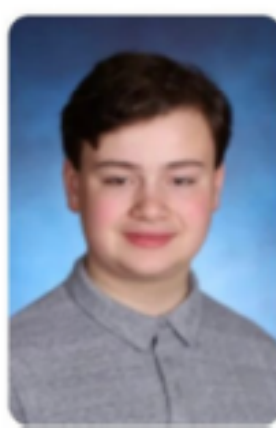
Sophie Schadt



Sophie is from Mountain Lakes High School (Division 17). She took initiative by organizing her school's "Trick or Suites" event to provide fun for differently-abled students at the PG Chambers Schools!

Spotlight Sunday

Connor Musgung



Connor is from Phillipsburg High School (Division 11) and has over 100 service hours. He is a member of FEA, NHS, and STUCO in addition to Key Club.

As his Key Club's Corresponding Secretary, Connor has a **deep love for helping others and bettering his community!** He strives to improve communication within and outside the club whilst always being there for his members and officers!

NEW JERSEY KEY CLUB

SUMMER OF SERVICE

ARE YOU DEDICATING YOUR SUMMER TO SERVICE THIS YEAR? IF SO, APPLY TO WIN A FREE FALL RALLY TICKET!

APPLICATION FORM:



Decorative elements include watermelon slices, lemons, and a cup of ice cream.

To be outstanding means to be exceptionally good. Across New Jersey, Key Club members exemplify this by going above and beyond for their clubs. The Membership Recognition Committee encourages recognizing members who are resilient, collaborative, ambitious, and driven—those who do more than expected, whether staying overtime at events or taking on extra responsibilities. Recognition is vital as it motivates members to be valuable assets to their clubs. Clubs can highlight these leaders through monthly Instagram spotlight posts or offer incentives like gift cards or school merchandise. Every Key Club member is a valuable and "key" part of their community.

Membership Growth & Reactivation

By Membership Growth & Reactivation Committee



The Membership Growth and Reactivation Committee is an integral part of NJ Key Club. As a committee we work with the individual clubs of NJ Key Club, trying to increase their members along with chartering new clubs in respective divisions.

To keep NJ Key Club running smoothly we need to ensure that our clubs are growing and new schools are rechartering Key Clubs. While this is the job of the Membership Growth and Reactivation Committee, it is also every Key Clubber's duty to ensure that their club is prospering to the best of its abilities.

There are several ways to engage the members in your clubs, along with increasing membership. One way to attract new members is during club fairs and spreading the word about regional events such as DECON, where members get to spend their time with friends and elect the new District Board, along with events like Fall Rally, where Key Clubbers gather in Six Flags to speak about their goals on the service year. Furthermore, by hosting events like book drives, bake sales, and more your club can gather funds to attend regional events, while also engaging members to give back to their community.

In hope of increasing membership, at this year's ICON it was announced that starting October 1st, if a school had a Key Club since 1925 and it was deactivated, instead of having to pay the rechartering fee, it would be \$0. For example, if one's club isn't recognized by Key Club International, however they still want to reclaim their club, instead of paying the rechartering fee, it would cost them \$0.

Furthermore, chartering new Key Clubs is just as important as reactivating old ones. To charter a new Key Club, you can reach out to friends from different schools and promote Key Club through your club's Instagram. By doing this, more people will be aware of all of the benefits Key Club has to offer and all the opportunities Key Club International gives.

The Membership Growth and Reactivation Committee is here if you have any questions or know anyone that is interested in chartering or growing their Key Club! Reach out to us at mgrcommittee@njkeyclub.org.





Kiwanis Family

By Kiwanis Family Relations Committee

The Kiwanis Family (K-Family) is a global network of service-oriented organizations united in a mission to improve communities through service!



Kiwanis International: A global service organization dedicated to improving the lives of children. It operates through local clubs, providing scholarships and grants to support service initiatives.



Aktion Club: A service club for adults with disabilities, offering members opportunities to contribute to their communities.



Circle K International (CKI): The collegiate branch, focused on empowering students to continue service and leadership after high school, with opportunities to engage in global citizenship and networking.



Key Club: A high school organization that promotes student leadership through service projects and fundraising. Key Club members can explore post-high school opportunities through CKI.



Builder's Club: The largest service organization for middle school students, where members develop leadership skills through community service.



K-Kids: Elementary school students lead and participate in service projects, building leadership skills early on.

The K-Family Relations Committee works to strengthen ties between these branches, promoting events and helping members transition from one branch to the next as they grow.

The Kiwanis Family Resource Booklet

The Kiwanis Family Relations Committee enhances communication between Kiwanis branches through initiatives like the Kiwanis Family Resource Booklet. This packet highlights the importance of each branch to Key Clubbers and serves as a guide to staying connected within the K-Family. To access the booklet, contact your Lieutenant Governor or the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee chair.

Haley Erickson– Email: herickson@njkeyclub.org
Connecting the K's -
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m2adt4ClgzbsAs933lOWzGrgVVwQZ3jU/view?usp=sharing>

Committee Goals/Initiatives

The Kiwanis Family Relations Committee aims to support members as they transition from high school and Key Club to other branches. This year, the committee has promoted Circle K through presentations at Spring Regional Training conferences, provided registration forms for graduating Key Clubbers, and boosted attendance at the Kiwanis Family Picnic, with over 20 Key Clubbers participating! The committee has also set the date for the Kiwanis Family Prom on Friday, January 17, 2025, at The College of New Jersey's Brower Student Center! Look forward to upcoming news about the exciting event!



Communications and Marketing

By Communications & Marketing Committee

Whether you're a seasoned 4-year NJ Key Club veteran or an incoming freshman just joining the fun, there's one thing every NJ Key Clubber should definitely do: Follow @njkeyclub on Instagram! Following @njkeyclub is a great way to learn about upcoming events, the latest projects, and resources to become more involved within the organization. Additionally, it is a great way to learn about the amazing initiatives of NJ Key Clubs across the state which can help inspire your next service project!

Follow Our
Social Media

Instagram:

@njkeyclub

TikTok:

@nj_keyclub

Coming Soon:

NJ Press Kit!



This year, NJ Key Club is excited to announce that we are creating a new guide on crafting the perfect press kit! A press kit is a collection of promotional materials and information that helps media outlets create articles to recognize your hard work! This guide will have all the secrets to mastering your press kit game. It features an official NJ Key Club press kit template, examples of successful press kits, and a comprehensive list of NJ newspapers. Make sure to check out your LTG's monthly newsletters for more exciting updates!

Additionally, following your division specific instagram account is the perfect way to stay updated with upcoming events/initiatives from your own division and create lasting connections with other schools in your division.



Upcoming Events

By Harshini Asokumar

Fall RTCS and Fall Rally

New Jersey Key Club will host it's fifth year of virtual Fall RTCs on September 28-29 via ZOOM. Through digital workshops, the NJ District Board will discuss how to make the most of your year volunteering, and how to help your Key Club flourish. We want to help prepare you as best we can for any challenges the service year may bring. We are so excited to have Key Clubbers and even some non-Key Clubbers join us in this unique virtual experience. You won't want to miss it—make sure you mark your calendars!



Fall Rally is the **LARGEST** annual gathering of Key Clubbers from all over the state of New Jersey to kick off a new school year of service! This year's Fall Rally will be held on **October 20th** at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ. Even if you're not a Key Club member, you are still able to attend Fall Rally! Make sure to save the date on your club calendars!



Meet the District Board



District Governor
Justin Chen



District Secretary
Abigail Lee



District Treasurer
Rashi Jakhotiya



District Editor
Harshini Asokumar



District Webmaster
Aidan Heaney



Lt Gov Division 1
Benita Mendez Alavez



Lt Gov Division 2
Demi Lu



Lt Gov Division 3
Chase Pogozielski



Lt Gov Division 4
Farhan Labib



Lt Gov Division 5
Riddhi Jariwala



Lt Gov Division 6
Aryahi Chikkala



Lt Gov Division 7
Tyler Cuccurullo



Lt Gov Division 8
Saksham Gupta



Lt Gov Division 9
Ella Buerkle



Lt Gov Division 10
Mia Grossman



Lt Gov Division 11
Caroline Attanasio



Lt Gov Division 12
Andrew Roberts



Lt Gov Division 13
Nidhi Lund



Lt Gov Division 14
Bea Ascalon



Lt Gov Division 15
Marco Osorio



Lt Gov Division 16
Maria Reyes



Lt Gov Division 17
Janvi Singh



Lt Gov Division 18
Ari Kestenbaum



Lt Gov Division 19
Anniha Dorce



Lt Gov Division 20
Henry De Jesus



Lt Gov Division 21
Haley Erickson



Lt Gov At Large
Chloe Chung



Lt Gov At Large
Christine Prince

