Developing college and university students into a global network of responsible citizens and leaders with a lifelong commitment to service.

Looking for the date and time of your Divisional Trainer? Check pages 7-9 for a message from your Lieutenant Governor or page 19 for a list of upcoming district events.

WEBSITE: nedcki.org
FACEBOOK: New England District of Circle K International

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At the March of Dimes, we help moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies. We research the problems that threaten our babies and work on preventing them. And, if something goes wrong, we offer information and comfort to families. Here in Rhode Island, the local Chapter of the March of Dimes has a robust program including community grants, professional education, consumer education, NICU Family Support and Advocacy.

In 2015, with the help of high-level volunteers, such as NED Governor, Karl Uzcategui, our Chapter has been extremely successful in the area of Advocacy. March of Dimes Advocacy is the process of encouraging federal, state and local governments to promote public policies that improve the health of mothers, infants and children. We work with elected officials, secure support from stakeholders, provide public testimony, host lobby days, and more on issues such as access to health care, research to prevent prematurity, birth defects and infant mortality, prevention and treatment to improve maternal, infant and child health, and institutional concerns for tax-exempt organizations.

If you are interested in volunteering at your local March of Dimes Chapter please visit our national website: http://www.marchofdimes.org/chapter_view_all.asp

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Greetings from the Capital City of Rhode Island:

I am excited to welcome you all back to New England for yet another Service Year. With a new year means more friends, more service, and more article submissions for our District Publication.

Have you ever reflected upon your journey in the K-Family? Some of us will be in CKI all four years of college, but might never reflect upon the reason we stayed. It could have started when you attended your first meeting and saw your future advisor literally screaming for service, or when you met your best friend at Fall Conference. Regardless, there is something that drew you in. I encourage each of you to think about this memory and share it. When you are asked at your first meeting by a prospective member why you stayed, you will already have an answer in your back pocket.

“Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action.”

-Peter Drucker

Preparing for the Fall can be a daunting task. You have your Fall recruitment fair, your first meeting, and your opening service projects. If you start planning now, then your first day back will go like a breeze. Here is a checklist to help you prepare:

- Tri-Fold with Photos from Past Events (Recruitment Fair)
- Free Brochures from Kiwanis International (Click HERE)
- In-House Service Project (First Meeting Back)
- Club Bulletin (Introduction to the Year)
- Request a District Visit by emailing your Lieutenant Governor (They could even speak during one of your meetings)
- Advertise Fall Trainer & Fall Conference (Because we have your back)

The above items might seem straightforward, however if you put time into preparing for the year ahead, the rewards are beyond measure.

Thank you Circle K’ers for all that you do in your home, schools, and communities. May this year be the best yet.

Yours in Service,
Karl Uzcategui

Johnson & Wales University | International Business ‘16
2015-2016 New England District Circle K Governor
2015-2016 International Service Committee Chairmen

Hello New England Lobsters!

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who has been writing articles for each edition of Lobster Tales. I love hearing about all of your inspiring projects from all different parts of New England, as well as everyone’s unique Circle K experiences. I look forward to reading more about everyone’s clubs in the future! Be sure to take photos of all of your events if you’d like to share them in Lobster Tales.

The next edition of Lobster Tales is due to be published in October before this year’s Fall Conference, so feel free to start submitting articles as soon as you’re finished with reading this edition!

You can always reach me at emui.cki@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

I’m looking forward to meeting more of you Circle K’ers this fall! See you soon!

Hey Lobsters!

As all you CKI members in Greater Boston know, the Fall season is almost upon us! That means the new school semester is about to start and both old and new students will be looking to join clubs at your school. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your club to potential members interested in community service. Don’t forget to sign up for your Student Involvement fairs to reach out to your peers. I will be doing my best to make an appearance at your tables during the fairs, so I look forward to meeting you all in person!

The New England District Board will be holding the Greater Boston CKI Divisional Trainer on September 26th, from 12-4pm. It will take place at Simmons College in Alumnae Hall. All in attendance will get to learn more about our organization and what we do. Those interested in running for CKI officer positions in the future or would like to learn more about a position they are already in will also get to attend breakout sessions run by members of the District Board. Last, but certainly not least, you’ll get to meet other CKI clubs from our division. Hope to see you there!
Over the past couple months the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee has been extremely busy working on some exciting upcoming projects. Right now a majority of our focus is going into planning a Kiwanis Family social to try and bring the branches of the K-Family together in a way that’s different than the service we normally do. More details about this event will be coming soon, so keep a look out!

The committee has also been working hard on a directory for the district. This will contain all the Circle K’s and the clubs from all the branches of the Kiwanis Family that surround them. The purpose of this directory is for Circle K’s to better know what K-Family clubs are around them to allow for more inclusive social and service events. As you can imagine, this is a hefty task, so we hope to have the directory available to clubs by the end of the service year.

Interested in getting more involved in Circle K?
Want to work on the district board with Circle K members from all over New England?
The Lieutenant Governor position for the Western Division is still vacant! If you would like to learn more about this position, please contact Governor Karl at kuzcategui.cki@gmail.com.

What has the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee been up to?

Planning anything for early fall is always more difficult than planning for early spring. Planning an event in early fall is important though; not only does it kick off the year for your club, but it helps increase your campus’ awareness of your CKI club. Another way to increase recruitment is to have events like “bring a friend to a meeting” or see if a couple different people want to bring snacks to each meeting. The key to keeping the members in the club is a little harder. In order to keep the members in club and to keep them coming to the meetings, you need to plan service projects that the members like. Also, members are more likely to stay in the club if you let different people plan the events so that everyone feels like they are included in the club.
For years, many of us have looked forward to Fall Conference. Why shouldn’t we? It’s the perfect time to meet others who love community service, enjoy fellowship, and want to develop their leadership skills. This year will be yet another memorable one.

October 16 - 18 at a camp site in Andover, MA, 60 young professionals who love life and want to make the world a better place will be meeting together. Previous themes were Teamwork and Empowerment. This year, we’re focus on the development of one’s self, which leads to the enhancement of others. That’s all I can say for now, but there will be more information posted on the New England District’s Facebook page.

The District Events committee and I have been working hard for the past few months in preparation for Fall Conference. We are extremely excited with the theme and curriculum we’ve established thus far and cannot wait for everyone to partake in it. Registration and detailed information about the conference will be sent via email to the Presidents and shared on social media. However, to make the event a success we need YOU to sign up when registration begins.

Special “Thank You” goes out to my team whom you can ask questions to: Bryant Soohoo, Jia Shi, Michael Wray, Deidrae Thompson, and myself Chairlady Trumane Trotman. This year’s conference will be all about escaping to Paradise.

Are you ready to book your ticket?

Trumane Trotman
Events Chair

Hello, New England Lobsters!

My name is Vy Tran and I’m your 2015-2016 Subregion F International Trustee! I oversee Subregion F, comprised of 5 districts: Eastern Canada, New England, New Jersey, New York, and Capital! My goal is to keep you informed about the international level of CKI and support the New England District Board in any way that I can.

P.S. I currently attend the University of Maryland, College Park as an accounting undergraduate. I enjoy watching Netflix and serving my community by teaching and playing with kids! I’m very excited for the opportunity to work with all of you this service year, and really hope that we’ll become the best of friends. Now tell me about you!

STAY CONNECTED!
Please feel free to add me on Facebook or email me at vytran95@gmail.com
Join the CKI Subregion F Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/4974883501/
Like CKI Subregion F’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/CKISubregionF?fref=ts

SUGGESTED SERVICE PROJECT:
Country Heals is a 5 mile walk/run, followed by a festival and a concert that takes place at Wompatuck State Park, in Hingham, Massachusetts. All the proceeds that result from the event go to Tufts Medical Center, and Tufts Floating Hospital for Children. Tufts Floating Hospital for Children encompasses the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute, one of our district projects. The Kiwanis Foundation of New England has a team for this walk and are looking for people to join their team, or to just donate to the cause. If you would like to join the team or donate, go to the Country Heals Website (www.countryheals.org), Search under teams for the Kiwanis Foundation of New England’s page and join or donate from there!

Erin Iverson
During my first week of school at Virginia Tech, I walked around the club activities fair, Gobblerfest, and was literally hit in the face by Circle K. The Club President, Neha Arora, threw a piece of candy that hit me in the face. I got a second piece of candy for the damages and also found out more about the club. I went to the first meeting on Wednesday evening with one of my friends. We decided almost immediately that it wasn’t for us. The room was cramped, it looked like all of the service projects required you to drive somewhere, and the meeting wasn’t really what we expected from Key Club—these weren’t our friends. The next week, I decided to go to the meeting by myself—I had a study hall in the same building anyway. Neha threw more candy at me. I thought, “She should really work on her aim”. I found out that she was my sponsor, which is like a big in a fraternity for our club. I didn’t really know her very well, but she bought my Starbucks; so, obviously she was all right. I still wasn’t convinced about Circle K. However, a few weeks later the club sent out an email saying that someone had backed out of attending Fall Membership Rally. I rode to the event with Neha and one other club officer. We got stuck in traffic and there was a lot of complaining (my personal forte). I didn’t really know either of them, but being stuck in a car changes people. We made it to the event late, just in time for a creepy bonfire, meeting a weird guy in a Captain America costume, and learning that everyone was named Ben. I was unimpressed; however Neha kept offering to take me to get coffee, and how could I possibly turn that down? Neha also forced me to help a new member, Shealor, find her way to our meeting spot for rides before service projects. We decided to go to one of the dining halls before the service project. She spilled soup all over herself. Somehow, she’s still one of my best friends. This continued until a point where it seemed like all of my friends were in Circle K, which is certainly still true.

At the end of the semester, I was inducted officially as a new member of the Circle K Club at Virginia Tech. I was one of the first people to turn in my membership requirement form, and I was chosen as Outstanding New Member, despite arriving late to and not dressing up for the Inductions Ceremony.

When we came back the next semester, someone encouraged me to run for a club officer position, but I was hoping to study abroad in Australia for the fall semester. I eventually decided to run for endorsement from our club to seek district office as our next Lieutenant Governor. I would follow in the footsteps of my best friend, that super country girl.

Looking back, it was probably the most embarrassing election. I had no clue what was happening. I just talked about random stuff and pretended to know what I was talking about. By virtue of running unopposed, I won the election, but I didn’t really impress anyone. Emily Benusa immediately started her quest for James Madison University CKI to raise the most money for The Eliminate Project just to pie me in the face the next year.

That year as Lt. governor was really what solidified my membership in Circle K. I grew significantly as a person from my time on the district board. I didn’t know it when I first met Jennifer Wolff, our District Administrator, but knowing her has certainly changed my life. I wouldn’t have guessed it from meeting her briefly at Fall Membership Rally or from her stern face or stressed out DCON appearance, but I still consider getting to know her as the largest reason I’m so involved in Circle K.

At District Convention the following year, I received an award from our District Governor as Distinguished Board Member. The rest of the District Board was mildly shocked since they thought I didn’t really care at all, but they also thought I hated Jen from my constant use of the hashtag #GetJenFired.

Since then, I’ve run for International Trustee to Subregion F and lost, after which, I worked to build 7 clubs for the Capital District as Club Building & Revitalization Committee Chair and became close friends with Kelly Chan, our Subregion F International Trustee. I’m now serving as the Governor for the Capital District for the 2015-2016 term.

It all began with a decision seven years ago to go to a Key Club meeting. But, as you can see, the people that you meet are the real reason that the Kiwanis family is a family.

Matthew Johnson
Capital District CKI Governor

Want to be featured in the next edition of Lobster Tales! Tell us about your Kiwanis Family or Circle K experience! Email Editor Emily at emuick@gmail.com for more information.
CKIx2015:

SUMMATION

You know the feeling you have after going to an amazing vacation and having come back to reality after a week, but not wanting to? The feeling you get when you meet and bond with individuals you never thought you’d meet? Ever have the feeling of being overwhelmed mentally and physically, but as a positive experience? That is what it is like to attend CKIx.

This past June, I had the pleasure of attending my third International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. What made this year special was that we were there to celebrate our parent organization, Kiwanis’, 100th anniversary. When I first arrived, the Kiwanians at the airport who were there to guide me greeted me with smiles and open arms, which was comforting because this was the first time I had gone ICON by myself.

Over the course of the week, I reunited with old friends from all over the country, who I met through past conventions, and additionally made new friends along the way; all of who share

middle of the city, a Hellogoodbye concert, and many more. In addition, I had the opportunity to tour Kiwanis headquarters for the first time, something I’ve always to do in my 5 years in CKI.

Thankfully CKIx is not a once in a lifetime experience, and you can always attend however many times you want to satisfy your post-convention withdrawal. I highly urge those thinking about attending CKIx next year to go! CKIx will be held in Toronto, which apart from Vancouver 2 years ago, will be the second time ICON will be held on international soil, and for the 4th time since New Orleans, will be held in conjunction with Kiwanis. I urge those interested to reach out to individuals who had attended past conventions. CKIx is not just another convention or event; it is a weeklong experience that offers so many opportunities for one to grow and connect. CKIx creates a ripple effect in your life that lasts throughout your life, especially when it is your first one.

Jia Shi
As a brand new club on campus, the Circle K at the University of Connecticut – Storrs has come a long way so far, and aims to go much further in the coming years. Founded by Asiyah Khan and Soumya Kundu, the club started off really small, but took off rapidly as new officers were appointed and new members were recruited.

There were numerous hurdles to getting started, as is common with any new club at a college campus, especially one located in a rural setting such as UConn. First of all, every successful club needs projects to keep members busy and attract new ones. However, since the campus is located in a very rural area, service opportunities outside the main campus are very limited. Within the campus, there are already hundreds of active organizations working on various different projects and fundraisers, so finding something that stood out was difficult. Nevertheless, with some brainstorming and creative thinking, the club quickly came up with a few ideas. The major one was "Love is in the Air", which was a Valentine’s Day themed fundraiser at the beginning of February. The fundraiser featured soda cans with romantic messages on them and a game for guessing the number of pieces of candies in decorated jars. The event was a great success, and resulted both in a large amount of money that was donated to the Eliminate Project and increased awareness about the club within the college.

Currently, the Circle K at UConn is planning to grow further and incorporate many more service projects and events in its schedule, and we, its members, are very excited to leap into another great year of service.

Jenn Rigby, who recently took the position of President of Northeastern University’s Circle K, has been incredibly active in her club to prepare for this summer and the upcoming fall semester. Despite being in New York for her co-op during the months of May and June, Jenn made sure to attend several meetings through Skype and by phone call to plan events for summer and fall. This included a very successful Blood Drive on June 18th, which was run by the American Red Cross with the help of Northeastern CKI members.

Jenn has also spent a ton of time recruiting new students for her club at Northeastern’s summer Activities Fairs. On July 6th, 20th, and 27th, immediately after returning from New York, she spent several hours manning a table and interacting with incoming freshman students in front of Northeastern’s Curry Student Center. She showed off her skills as a marketing major when she spoke with the students about Northeastern CKI and how they could get involved in their organization. Altogether Jenn was able to get over 100 names of students interested in joining the club! Everyone at Northeastern CKI is extremely excited to have Jenn as their President and knows that she will do an excellent job this year. You’re off to an awesome start, Jenn, keep up the good work!

Jenn Rigby
SUGGESTED SERVICE PROJECT: NO-SLIP SOCKS

Northeastern University (NEU) has long partnered with Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute (KPTI) to make no-slip socks for children during their hospital stay. This service project has remained a favorite among our club members and we hope it sparks ideas for your community too! Whether you are a master painter or a finger-painter, this is a project everyone can do.

The supplies needed for this project include: plain children’s socks in two sizes (infant and child), fabric puffy paint, and of course the time of our wonderful volunteers. Purchase as many socks as needed and a variety of puffy paint colors for more fun! The plain children’s socks can be bought in bulk and the puffy paint can be reused for future service projects.

Instruction for making no-slip socks is as simple as it gets. Grab a pair of socks and flip them so the bottom is facing up. Be sure not to apply paint on the wrong side! Now let your creative juices flow and decorate the bottoms of the socks to your heart’s content. The squeezable puffy paint bottles are easy to use but make sure not to put too much paint onto the socks in order to minimize drying time. At NEU I have seen basic lines to Picasso paintings, but the great part is that every pair of socks is unique and made for an equally special child. If you do not have enough space to let the socks sit out flat and dry for a day, you can layer the socks on parchment or wax paper in a box to prevent smearing as they dry.

We hope this short blurb was useful and provides another idea for a great service project. Contact local pediatric hospitals or children’s centers and bring joy to children with fun and useful no-slip socks!

Michelle Wang
ELIMINATE
maternal/neonatal tetanus

$1.80

café