Be the


## Be the President

Congratulations on your election to one of the most crucial roles of the club. The club president position is vital to your club's success and requires much dedication to the upcoming tasks. Your primary efforts consist of running club meetings, creating club activities and service projects, and maintaining communication between your board and your lieutenant governor. One of your most important tasks is finding what works best for your club. While you are making important club decisions, ask members for their input. Make sure to work with your board, as well as your advisor, outside of club meetings to ensure your club's success. Best of luck on the opportunity-filledyearahead.

## Official duties

Your Key Club will be as strong as your officer team, and that team is designed to empower each officer to carry out his or her own duties. When your officers work with one another, the team's success will take precedence over individual success. Below is a list of official duties related to your position, but feel free to add to it based on the needs of your club.

## Forget about the fast lane. If you really want to fly, just harness your power to your passion.

## OPRAH WINFREY


#### Abstract

Establish a climate of enthusiasm, support and open communication within the club. Make sure all members feel their voices are heard and their hard work is celebrated.


Keep members connected and engaged through well-developed and frequent programming.

Create strategies, conduct evaluations and work to set goals aimed at continuous club improvement.

Ensure all club and board meetings are well planned and executed. Make sure your meetings keep members engaged; have clear organizational structure and follow parliamentary procedure; have up-to-date information from Key Club on local, district and international levels.

Assist your club officers in completing annual achievement reports, contest and award applications and the necessary steps regarding club dues.

Develop membership recruitment goals throughout the year. Once members are inducted, be sure to help them become actively involved.

Develop necessary relationships with school administrators, faculty advisors and Kiwanis clubs.

Manage the club election process. Set a date in February for elections and inform members about the process.

## Checklists



## Be the Visionary

Sharing a vision will set the club up for future success. Being visionary means thinking of goals for the club and agreeing on ways to achieve and evaluate them.

Try to make sure goals are SMART: Specific / Measurable / Achievable / Realistic / Timely
A goal should be specific, described as thoroughly and completely as possible. Each goal should be measurable; ideally the progress and success can be identified by a percent or number. The goal set should be achievable—reasonably difficult but not beyond the club's skill set. Lastly, establish a goal that can be achieved in an established and reasonable timeline.

Along the way, you'll want to monitor the club's progress toward the goals. To make sure you get an honest understanding of your progress, be sure to include your members, executive board and advisors in the process of evaluation.


At keyclub.org, you can find goal planning tools to help you and your executive committee plan specific goals for the year.

## Be the Delegator

Delegating can be a challenging but necessary part of your role. It is important to remember you are only one part of a team and you'll need to trust others on your team to contribute to the success of your club. When delegating, keep in mind the following:

- Set clear expectations, responsibilities and limitations. Keep people connected throughout the process to the overall club goals and create individual project goals.
- Include your advisors in the process. They may have ideas about whom to assign tasks and what kind of guidance to give.
- Choose appropriate tasks. Club members have a variety of talents, skills and interests. Give them the chance to work on projects and tasks that fit. Also, give them a voice in decision-making. Allow input on how to accomplish a specific task, and use that input whenever possible.
- Be supportive and trustful. When you assign a task, allow people to learn through the experience. Avoid looking over their shoulder or micromanaging. Be sure the expectations and time frames of each task are clear, so check-ins will be productive.


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Did you know your club can receive up to US\$2000 in grants from Key Club International for your service projects through the Youth Opportunities Fund? More information and grant applications can be found online at keyclub.org/yof. Applications are due annually on October 15. There is one grant cycle per year.

## REMEMBER!

All applications must be submitted electronically. No paper applications will be accepted.

## Be the Problem Solver

As president, you'll be expected to solve problems. Sometimes there will be problems with a project. Sometimes there will be problems among members. Sometimes they'll be your own. Whatever happens, the first thing to remember is to keep your head on straight. Too often when problems arise, people forget to think clearly or get caught up in emotions.

When a problem arises be sure to ask yourself and others to define the problem. Ask yourself and others the what, where, when and with whom the problem might be connected. If there is a problem between club members, be sure to stay neutral and open, and listen to all sides of the story. After identifying the problem, seek the input of people you trust as to how it might be solved. Problem solving is an area where your advisor may have some key knowledge or advice for you. Once you have made your decision, come up with some clear indicators for correction, and make them clear to those involved.

# To handle yourself, use vour head; to handle others, sise your heart. 

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

## Be the Motivator

At some point this year you might notice a shift. Certain members may stop coming to meetings. Board members may drop the ball. Maybe you don't always feel as into your own role as you did at the beginning. A loss of motivation is nothing to fear! Just ask yourself these questions:

Is there a loss of purpose? Do they/you still believe in the mission? Are they/you able to connect your actions to impact?

Is there a loss of ownership? Is there freedom in how tasks/work/goals are completed? Are individual wishes and ideas valued?

Is it something outside of the organization? Is there something in your/their work, school orhome life that is taking over focus or maybe something you/they need to focus on instead?

After reflecting on these three questions, the next course of action is to ask questions, to find out how you can get people back on track. If you want to help people, you'll sometimes need to ask hard questions. Make sure to be sensitive and thoughtful when listening to the feedback and concerns from members.

## You can also keep these 5 tips in mind when trying to help others stay motivated:

- Be fair, honest and consistent-show no favoritism.
- Survey your membership to see what group members want or need and provide avenues for recognition.
- Give individual attention and demonstrate your understanding of members and accepting their strengths and weaknesses.
- Provide honest feedback—praise their successes publicly, and privately give constructive criticism to help them learn from their mistakes.
- Involve members in goal setting and decision-making process and clarify your expectations of members and their expectations of you.


## Advice:

When people are involved, especially your friends, conflicts and problems can get complicated. One way to begin to understand the conflict is to have each person write out five sentences about what they believe the problem is, why the problem exists and what they believe needs to be done to fix it. If they only have five sentences it sometimes helps people narrow their thoughts more, and helps you understand where things may have gotten personal. With your advisor present, use the writings as a starting point toward a resolution.

## Be the Organizer

One of your main jobs as president is to organize your meetings. When planning a club meeting, the following should provide a good outline:

## Before the meeting

- Set an agenda.
- If a speaker or guest is expected, confirm details with them.
- Invite members of your sponsoring Kiwanis club.
- Assign someone to greet new members and make them feel
 welcome and informed.
- Stick to a regular day and time.
- Meet with your advisor(s) to review the agenda and get questions answered.


## At the meeting

- Lead the meeting with support from other officers.
- Remember, your meeting is a representation of your service, so make sure it's organized and engaging.
- Start out with a short icebreaker or quote.
- Host guest speakers.
- Share upcoming service projects and why they need the club members' support.
- Participate in a project. Find service ideas in the online service project guide.
- Evaluate your last project.
- Thank everyone for attending.


## After the meeting

- Clean up.
- Distribute the minutes to all attendees.
- Send greetings to members who could not attend.
- Ask members who did attend to let non-attendees know what happened.

PAUL JOHN, MICHIGAN DISTRICT, CLUB PRESIDENT

## Be the Architect

As the club president, you won't be building skyscrapers, but you will be building relationships. It's important to lay a foundation for your club at a variety of levels.

## Members

As the president, the relationships within your club should always be important to you. One of Key Club's core values is inclusiveness, and it is your duty to encourage that environment among your club. One way you can encourage members to bond is to provide enough opportunities for members to learn about one another. Even if they don't become instant best friends, they'll learn to appreciate each other. Ask your advisor if you can arrange social gatherings for your club to reconnect at the beginning of the year, offer opportunities to meet potential new members and celebrate successes. Once you have established a budget, create a committee of members to plan each event-this is where that whole delegation lesson comes into play.

## The greatest teader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things. RONALD REAGAN

## Officers

Your club officers will spend lots of time together this year. They may start out as best friends, or they may start out as adversaries. No matter what, your goal should be to help your officers learn to work as a team. One great way to get club members off to a great start is to plan a retreat at the beginning of the term. This can be a way for you to learn more about your team and set goals. A great way to encourage this type of teamwork is to include team building activities. Be sure you choose activities with a purpose. Each activity should be aimed at encouraging a topic important to your success, such as communication or working together. You can find lots of activities online, but remember: the most important part is to talk about the activity, what skills you used, and how you can incorporate those skills later in the year.

## Advisors and other adults

Some of the most important relationships you can develop and foster are with the adults who will help you along the way. Remember to set up regular meetings with your club advisors so that you can establish your joint expectations for the year and decide how you will communicate. You may also consider setting up meetings with school administration to introduce yourself and learn more about each other. It is also important to consider the relationship you have with your sponsoring Kiwanis Club. Kiwanians are happy and proud to have you as part of the Kiwanis family. They want to learn about members of your club and the good works you accomplish. A great way to connect is to reach out to your sponsoring club and set up times for your members to visit their club meetings. You may also invite Kiwanians to your club meetings, service projects or fundraising events. Be sure to involve your advisors in the process of inviting Kiwanians so they can be prepared to include them.

## Know your resources

Key Club International wants to help you succeed-so we're providing as many resources as possible. Listed below are just a few you might consider as your executive board brainstorms ways to support and build your club. You can find more resources at keyclub.org or through the weekly Key Club email. Not receiving the weekly email? Have your club advisor or secretary update your email address in the Membership Update Center at keyclub.org/muc.

## Service ideas

Idealist.org - idealist.org<br>Volunteer Match - volunteermatch.org<br>Hands on Network - handsonnetwork.org<br>Youth Serve America - ysa.org

National Youth Leadership Council - nylc.org
Project Happiness - projecthappiness.org
Volunteer Canada - volunteer.ca
Canadian Volunteer Directory -
canadian-universities.net/Volunteer

## Partners

Did you know Key Club International has preferred charities and partnerships that can offer you great opportunities for service to your community or abroad?

For more information on partnerships and preferred charities visit:
keyclub.org/partners

## Key Leader

Key Leader is a weekend experiential leadership program for today's youth leaders. It focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership development experience. By participation in a hands-on, weekend event, Key Leaders learn that leadership comes from helping others succeed. The program is designed to identify and empower emerging student leaders and move them beyond where most other leadership programs end. Thousands of students on four continents have and will become Key Leaders. Learn more about Key Leader
 and what programs are happening in your area at key-leader.org.

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Below is a list of our most commonly used acronyms.

AAR - Annual Achievement Report
IP — Immediate Past
CKI — Circle K International
CMN — Children's Miracle Network
DCON — District Convention
ICON — International Convention

KCI — Key Club International
LTG — Lieutenant Governor
OTC — Officer Training Conference
YOF - Youth Opportunities Fund

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