Circling the Empire
The official publication of the New York District of Circle K International

2017-18 Issue I • Spring Edition •
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Hey there New York District Circle K,

I’m Rebecca Lopez, and I am beyond honored to be serving as your 2017-18 District Editor. I am a rising second year studying Civil Engineering Technology at Rochester Institute of Technology. I love talking and eating and, I am not shy to say this, I have a monumentally short attention span, but hey no one is perfect. This is my fourth year in the K-Family and couldn’t be happier to say that. I have made life-long friends and grown in ways that only this organization can foster. For the summer, I will be home in New York City, or more specifically—which contrary to popular belief is part of the city—in Staten Island. While home, I will be available to volunteer, hangout, and answer any questions you may have.

This is the Spring Edition of *Circling the Empire*, read on for ideas for service in the summer and COMMITTEES! Make sure to check out the Committee Column to meet the chairs, their goals, and of course, apply.

My goal for the year is to send out five issues of *Circling the Empire*, one for each season and a post-DCON edition. Each new edition will be packed with reflections from the previous months, updates on district goals, and much more. I want to emphasize members in each edition, so to all secretaries: it would be helpful if you fill out the Member of the Month section in your MRFs with some detail. There will be a section in each CTE for member spotlight and I will try my hardest to have most of the articles written by members rather than the District Board. After all, CTE is for you to see what has been going on in other divisions around the district.

Finally, please reach out to me if you need help with anything, I am planning an info session on how to use the Brand Guide and other graphics in the coming weeks for editors/webmasters but, anyone is welcome to join in! I am so excited to serve you as your District Editor and even more excited to learn about how Circle K impacts your lives!

Yours in Service,
Rebecca Lopez
Hello New York District Circle K! My name is Jack and I am thrilled to be serving alongside you this year as your District Governor. I have been a part of the K-Family for over a decade since I joined K-Kids back in the 4th grade. Since then I served for 4 years as a Key Clubber in my home state of Colorado, and joined CKI at New York University as soon as I started in the fall of 2014. There, I am entering my final year, pursuing my B.S. in Integrated Digital Media and Social Entrepreneurship. I’ve had the honor of serving in many Circle K positions including Club President, District Chair, International Ambassador, District Secretary, and now as Governor, alongside a board of driven and ambitious servant leaders. As we enter the summer and finish up our first quarter of the service year (it goes fast!), we are eager to mobilize and engage members from around the state.

To each of you reading this, here is your official call to action, to fill the warm summer months with service projects and social impact, that many believe comes to a halt when classes do. Whether you’re on campus, visiting home, working a internship, or across the globe, there is always a way to serve the community, and our NYCKI Service in the Summer initiative can help you do just that, so read on the learn more. We have set several strong goals for our clubs to work towards achieving this year (nycirclek.org/goals) working in their communities and on projects like the our District and Governor’s Projects, but we will only get there with the service, leadership, and fellowship of everyone. So pick up that shovel, visit that retirement community, fundraise for clean water, volunteer with youth, find a project you are passionate about and let’s get their year off to a great start. Please feel free to get in touch with me and any member of the board whenever we can be of help (nycirclek.org/board) and follow us on our social media accounts to stay in the loop!

Best,

Jack

Jack Luszczak
Hi Everyone!

My name is Julia Dressler and I could not be more thrilled to be serving you as your 2017-2018 NY District Secretary. I have already met and worked with so many club secretaries from across the District and I am honored to work so closely with such a great group of Circle Kers.

Before I jump into my goals for the year, I would like to tell you a little bit more about myself. I am currently a sophomore at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. I am majoring in Communications and have about a million minors (feel free to ask if you’re really curious). I have a strong love for ice cream, tattoos and pretty wall art. Whenever I’m not working you can probably catch me watching live music of some sort. I started my K-Family journey in Key Club my freshman year of high school and have been hooked ever since. I absolutely love Circle K and the K Family because I truly believe that we are making a huge, positive impact on our world.

Now, I know many of you have heard of my plans at the District Convention, however, I would like to take this time to briefly go over some of my goals for this service year. My goals for this year are to work with your Club Secretaries to help the District to Connect, Know and Initiate. All of these goals will be completed primarily through communication. About every other month I will have one-on-one check ins with club secretaries. I also will monthly have “Know-and-Go” Sessions via Google Hangout which will educate Secretaries on a specific topic each month which they can then pass along to their clubs. I will also publicize statistics received from Monthly Report Forms on our website to show more transparency to the District. Also, on the first of every month, Secretaries and Presidents will receive my monthly newsletter, “Secretary Snippets” with important information relevant to their role.

Finally, as many of you may be aware of, Secretaries will now not only fill out a NY District MRF via Google forms but also submit an International MRF through the Membership Update Center. If you, or your secretary, are still having trouble submitting either form please let me know and I would be happy to help.

Thank you for your interest in what my plans are and about how I am making this position my own. I genuinely appreciate all that you do for Circle K, your communities and ultimately our world. If you ever have any questions about anything regarding Circle K feel free to reach out to me in any way and I would be happy to help! Happy Summer!

Yours in Service and Charity,

Julia Dressler
Hi Circle Kers!

I’m Kate Wong, your NYDCKI District Treasurer for the upcoming service year! I’m currently entering my junior year at NYU, studying Economics. In my free time, I like to play the guitar and practice Tae Kwon Do. This year, I am excited to work closely with all clubs, no matter how large or small, in our District to come up with successful fundraisers for the Governor’s Project, District Project, and club funding. I will be here to assist and connect club treasurers to reach an increase in membership of 20% in each club. I am open to all feedback from all members and officers, please don’t hesitate to contact me throughout the year!

Yours in Service,

Kate Wong
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Western Division Lt. Governor  Sayef Iqbal
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I pledge to uphold the Objects of Circle K International, to foster compassion and goodwill toward others through service and leadership, to develop my abilities and the abilities of all people, and to dedicate myself to the realization of mankind’s potential!

March of Dimes marchofdimes.org
Every day 1 in 8 babies born in the U.S. arrive too soon. Circle K members help by raising funds annually for March of Dimes programs to help prevent prematurity. The March of Dimes currently focuses on raising awareness of prematurity and reducing the rate of premature births.

Our Motto:
Live to serve, love to serve!
Youth with Disabilities

This is a great way to get involved with your local Aktion Clubs!

Some other ways to get involved are through:
- Walks
- Fundraisers
- YMCA/PAL
- K.E.E.N.

Governor’s Project

Water – the Key to Life

SDG6
- Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world’s poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.

There is no specific organization you must work with but a few possible organizations are:
- The Thirst Project
- UNICEF WASH
- Generosity
Total Service Hours: 20,000

Total Funds Raised: $30,000
- Governor’s Project: $3000
- District Project: $3,000

Membership Goal: 20% increase per club

Chartering Goal: Net +5 active clubs (either charted or reactivated)

Interclubs: 125
*Fun fact: you only need two members from each club to be considered an interclub

Kiwanis Family Events: 125

DLSSP Attendance: 175

New York Speaking Attendance: 125

District Conventions Attendance: 200 members; 75% of active clubs
Being a part of a newer Circle K club, going to conventions was an experience that stressed me out for a hot minute. Would the friends I had made at previous conventions be there? Would they be meeting up with friends they had met at other conventions and leave me out? But, I should have known better. DCON was just as wonderful as every other convention, and the people were even better.

I had the pleasure of being on current District Secretary Julia Dressler's campaign team, and I loved having the opportunity to cheer and support my friend and club president on to victory. The club fair was a huge success, and I had a lot of fun teaching my friends how to make bracelets to donate to a children's hospital. My friends and I jammed out at the dance party, and had an eventful ride home, filled with music and laughs.

I was fortunate to have made it to all three conventions this year and I hope to do the same in the upcoming year, as the experience of getting to know people from all over the state has been my favorite part of Circle K. It is always more fun to perform service when the people working next to you are your friends who share the same passion to do good in this world. In doing these conventions, I know that I will have so many people to talk to in the fall at DLSSP. I hope to see my old friends and to make new ones along the way. Here's to the new year!

Emma Powers
Canisius College Treasurer
As a four-year Key Club District Convention attendee, I didn’t have very high expectations for CKI DCON. Why? Far fewer people join CKI, and even fewer attend DCON. I expected CKI DCONs to comprise mostly of the same old officer workshops, award banquets, and mediocre meals. In some ways, it did, but there were a few moments that defined my DCON experience, evoking the same kind of enthusiasm I felt at past conventions and reminding me why I’m still a member of the K-Family.

I’m normally used to seeing over a thousand people at DCON and feeling a little lost amongst seas of Key Clubbers, but the first thing I noticed was the convention’s coziness. I was happy to see familiar faces from New York Speaking and feel a sense of belonging amongst everyone else. Of course, we always aspire to recruit more CKI members and send more people to District Convention, but I think there’s also something to appreciate about the close fellowship we currently have at district events. I love going to district events because they let me meet so many amazing people dedicating themselves to improving their communities and leaving their mark. The keynote speaker was an exemplar of why our service matters. She spoke about her daughter’s battle with cancers and why St. Baldrick’s truly matters, which gave all of us context on the work we do. Blindly fundraising and volunteering for organizations may seem trivial and unhelpful, but hearing the stories of people we’ve helped makes everything feel that much more helpful.

The other moment that really resonated with me happened during the awards ceremony. I didn’t think I would get emotional during the awards ceremony, especially considering this was just my first year in Circle K, but I was certainly wrong. The Unsung Hero award goes to a Circle K’er who works extremely hard but may not get the recognition he or she deserves. As Governor Jerry described the impressive accomplishments of the recipient, I couldn’t help but feel so happy for whoever would receive the award. I remember countless times when I felt like my work went unnoticed or unappreciated, so I was glad that NYCKI presents an Unsung Hero award. I was even more excited when I found out Cornell Circle K’s very own Nikita was the Unsung Hero. Her zeal for Circle K is contagious, and she is incredibly deserving. As Circle K’ers, we must remember that even though it may seem like our work goes unnoticed, there is a grateful stranger on the receiving end of our service.

My first Circle K District Convention experience surpasses anything I could’ve expected. It rekindled my passion and commitment to the K-Family and serving others. While it’s so easy to get bogged down with daily struggles and personal problems, it feels so gratifying to help others. CKI DCON was a reinvigorating experience, and I look forward to continuing my service as a club officer. Live to serve, love to serve.

Brendon Nguyen
Cornell University Editor
On April 15th, the Iroquois and Southern Tier Divisions held their Regional Training Conference at Syracuse University. Although attendance was low due to Easter weekend, the attendees had a lot of fun. We participated in ice breakers, team building activities, our annual Scavenger Hunt, and officer and member training! Lastly, we talked about division updates, upcoming events and opportunities in New York Circle K. Overall, this divisional was a success. It was a full day of fellowship and leadership. Not only did the attendees learn about their respective positions, but they also spent the whole day getting to know other Circle K’ers from this area. I am excited to see what the 2017-2018 service year has in store for us all!

Yours in Service,
Sandra Wong
During the month of March, Tracy went above-and-beyond to help the club and organize events. As the newly-elected president for the 2017-2018 year, she prepared herself for her position by becoming actively involved in our month's fundraiser for Relay For Life. For the fundraiser, the club sold DŌ, a booming cookie dough business near NYU. Through her participation and advertisement of the event, as well as the other members, we were able to sell out, raising $120 in 9 minutes! Furthermore, her enthusiasm and active participation in the general meetings and board meetings for our training made the club environment much more inviting towards others. She truly demonstrated service, leadership, and fellowship throughout the month.

Naile Ruiz
New York University Secretary
Member of the Month – April

Ralph Huang

Ralph demonstrates his devotion and enthusiasm toward CKI during Month of April. Not only did he attend all general body meeting for the month of April, he is always eager to offer a hand to help. Whether it is tabling for a bake sale, helping with baking the night before, or just getting cups for the party at the last meeting, Ralph is always up for the tasks. Aside from his helpfulness, he is friendly toward everyone and always up to hang out with his Circle K Family. We appreciate Ralph's contribution to CKI!

Jing Li
Stony Brook University Secretary
I, along with the rest of CCNY Circle K’s e-board, chose Justin as our May Member of the Month because of his explicit dedication for service. This past service year he served as our club’s vice-president, but he has continuously been a devoted member. He stands as one of the members with the highest amount of service hours. This past service year, he served over 140 hours, as well as over 23 individual hours. He consistently shows his dedication to Circle K by not only taking part in our own events, but by making sure to connect with other clubs and other Circle K members at their events. Many can account for Justin’s passion for fellowship and getting to know others. I can confidently say that Justin brings a certain enthusiasm to Circle K, and I believe anyone would agree. As a rising sophomore, I only joined Circle K this past September and Justin had a huge role in making me feel like a part of our club, whether he was approaching me at events or introducing me to others. In the month of April, he completed a total of 9 hours by attending both of the service events we held— the Hemophilia Spring Event at the Bronx Zoo and Walk MS for the National MS Society. He also attended NYU’s Relay for Life event and even volunteered outside of the club by delivering food to the homeless.

Ashley Kate Preza
City College of New York Secretary
Service Spotlight

If you have an event that you feel should be showcased to the district in future editions of *Circling the Empire*, submit an article about the event on our website:

www.nycirclek.org/cte-submission

*This form can also be used to submit non-service related articles for the newsletter.

If you have any questions email Rebecca at: rebecca.lopez@nycirclek.org
Mark Your Calendars!

**DLSSP:**
September 22-24th
Kamp Kiwanis in Taberg, NY

**New York Speaking:**
November 3-5th
Georgian Lakeside Resort in Lake George

**District Convention:**
March 15-17th
Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY

**Water Walk:**
Saturday, July 29th
Hi Circle K!

My name is Gavin Li and I am the New York District Key Club Governor! I hope break is treating y'all well! School is (finally) almost over for us high school students. So a little update from Key Club: our fundraising and service hour goals are $150,000 and 110,000 hours respectively. Just recently, our Key Club Endorsed District Project has also been voted for, the project being Sunrise Day Camp.

Yours in Love and Service,
Gavin Li
Meet the Committee Chairs

Alumni & Kiwanis Family Relations
Chair Michelle Feng
My name is Michelle Feng and this year I have the opportunity to serve as your Alumni & Kiwanis Family Relations Committee Chair. During this term, we will be executing more Kiwanis Family Relations events throughout the district as well as appointing new committee members to become liaisons for the various branches of the Kiwanis Family. If you are interested in meeting new people throughout the Kiwanis Family or if you simply like event planning, then consider applying!

Awards
Chair Grace Rosado
Hey Circle Ker’s, I did not grow up with any cool nicknames so you could just call me Grace. I am extremely excited to serve as your Awards Chair! This Fall, I will be a junior at the City College of New York where I major in Political Science and minor in English and Italian. After my undergraduate, I will be attending law school, hopefully outside of New York City (maybe Chicago).

I was introduced to Circle K through a three day camping trip to Kamp Kiwanis. In the one weekend it amazed me how college students were working together to prepare the camp for winter, organizing the camp fire, talent show, and other activities that weekend. Since then, I have served as Editor and now as Co-President for my home club. I have watched as our club, other clubs, and members prosper through the organization. I see college students work so tirelessly that they often forget all the great things they have accomplished. This is why I applied for awards chair. Recognizing someone for their hard work allows them to take a step back and reflect on their amazing accomplishments. We have many great members who have pushed their clubs forward. I have witnessed how awards bring people closer together and makes them a part of our family. My priority as awards chair is to build and strengthen community. The K family is a huge support system whether that be through awards, scholarships, friendships, or anything else. I want to organize my committee in such a way that allows for creativity, especially when it comes to fellowship awards. Also, I hope to encourage increase the number of award and scholarship applications by making the process as seamless as possible. If you agree with anything I have written so far, I hope you will take the time to fill out the application and join the awards committee.
Meet the Committee Chairs

Club Building and Strengthening Chair Jackie Healy

Are you interested with working with people from all over the state to make NY Circle K clubs the best they can be? Well then the Club Building and Strengthening Committee is perfect for you! Hi, my name is Jackie and I’m the committee chair for the "CBS" committee and I’m super excited to work with everyone to enhance the NYCKI district. On this committee we will work together to help build new clubs on campuses that don’t have Circle K yet and also strengthen the clubs who need a little help; hence the name building and strengthening. If you are interested in helping clubs improve their recruitment and retention; or you have a passion for leadership and want to help develop those skills for others then this committee is perfect for you!

Conferences and Conventions Co-Chairs Peony Tse and Sarah Moughal

The Conferences and Conventions Committee is Co-Chaired by Sarah Moughal and Peony Tse! Both are food enthusiasts and are working hard to make every convention as successful as it can be! Sarah is a rising senior studying accounting and art. She is a huge fashion and art history fanatic! She is always upbeat, laughing, and extremely extra! She is looking forward to having lots of fun this service year! Peony is a rising sophomore who loves meeting and interacting with new people. Her goal is to always be a helpful hand to anyone who needs one. She hopes that you will join the committee so that you can take part in making District events fun, engaging, and exciting for everyone! You will gain experience firsthand managing and executing projects.

JOIN CON-CON!!

Laws and Regulations Chair Tracy Tin

Hello! My name is Tracy Tin and I am your current NY District Laws & Regulations Committee Chair for the 2017-2018 term. I am currently a junior at NYU studying Math Education. To tell you a little bit about myself, I was in Key Club throughout my four years in high school and have been an active member of Circle K International since my freshman year. My goals as the District Laws and Regulations Chair include ensuring that every officer knows what their responsibilities are and have access to their bylaws, making sure that the candidates and delegates know the policies when running for office, and working on potential changes in the regulations of the NY District bylaws to improve and better our instructions and organization. If you are interested in learning and working on what manages and regulates each club and our organization, then this is the right committee for you!
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<th>Marketing</th>
<th>Service Initiatives</th>
<th>Technology</th>
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<td><strong>Co-Chair Edgar Hu</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chair Ryan Coffey</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chair Andrew Hoover</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Co-Chair Rongfei Jiang</strong></td>
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<td>There are two co-chairs for the Marketing Committee: Edgar Hu and Rongfei Jiang. Edgar: I am a rising senior at Stony Brook University majoring in psychology &amp; political science. I was past Distinguished Lieutenant Governor for the Long Island Division and the immediate past District Treasurer. I basically stuck around to make sure our district’s marketing is on point. Rongfei: I am a rising junior at Syracuse University studying sociology, women’s and gender studies. I am also president of Syracuse University CKI. Our goals for this committee is to consistently post on our social media platforms promoting district initiatives, district events, and district resources. More importantly, we want to promote what you and your club is doing more this year! Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat @nycirclek !!! We also will accept requests for marketing materials in the near future!</td>
<td>Hello Everyone! My name is Ryan Coffey, and I am the Service Initiatives Chair for NYCKI! Service is what brings us all together, and is the common bond that unites our organization of passionate members. Our goal for the year is to bring as many service opportunities to you throughout the year, to help grow your club and develop a more active membership. We will also be organizing all of the service activities at our District Conventions, starting off with DLSSP in September! I hope to see you there, and if there is anything you need from me or the committee throughout the year please feel free to ask! Take care, and I hope you have a wonderful summer filled with service!</td>
<td>Hello! My name is Andrew Hoover and I am the Technology Committee Chair. Have you ever used the NY Circle K website before? My committee is in charge of the upkeep and maintenance associated with running it! I am part of the Oswego Circle K, and believe it or not, I have only been a part of this organization for about 5 months. (Talk about diving in head first.) However, this isn’t by any means my first time managing a website. My goals for this year include keeping the district website as current and up to date as possible and as quickly as possible, making sure that everyone has all the information and resources they need. I also want to continue to add extra functionality to increase the value and usefulness of the site, as well as preserve the current design to make things easy to navigate and pleasing to look at. If you are tech savvy, enjoy using HTML, CSS and JavaScript, design oriented, or just interested in the idea of managing an important website for an organization, you should join the district technology committee! It’s a great opportunity to build skills, gain experience and get more involved with Circle K. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:Andrew.hoover@nycirclek.org">Andrew.hoover@nycirclek.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If you have any questions, feel free to email me at Andrew.hoover@nycirclek.org.
Apply for a committee today!

Apply for one, or all of, there is something for everyone.

Committees are great ways to get more involved in Circle K and help the district more smoothly.

Application deadline is Friday, June 16th

Apply at: www.nycirclek.org/committees1718

RUN. CRAWL. SWIM. APPLY.
• Get involved with Kiwanis
  – For Kiwanis, summer is just like any other season. Chances are, they may be even more active during the summer. Make sure to ask them about any upcoming events they have and how you can help!
• Animal Shelter
  – Volunteer at your local animal shelter to help walk dogs or upkeep.
• Soup Kitchen, Food Bank, and Homeless Shelter Trips
  – Contact your local soup kitchen and schedule a day to help prepare and serve a meal with your club
• Park/Beach/Community Cleanup
  – Help pick up trash at a location near you
• Participate in Walks
  – Make a team at any of the many walks for charities that take place over the summer
• Water Drive
  – Hand out free water and educate people on the Global Water Crisis. Accept any donations for a charity which helps fight the Global Water Crisis
• Visit a Nursing Home
  – Spend a day playing games or just talking with the elderly, they are sure to love it!
• Help in a community garden
  – Do some weeding and planting for a community garden in need
• Kids Enjoy Exercise Now
  – Spend a day volunteering with K.E.E.N to work with youth with disabilities [http://www.keenusa.org/volunteers](http://www.keenusa.org/volunteers)
Where’s NYCKI