Governor’s Address:

I hope you are all ready to start another amazing year of service because I am positively beaming to serve alongside you as your Florida District Governor. Originally a south Florida native, I come to you from the Gator Nation as a Health Education and Behavior major and incoming Senior. Four years ago, I attended a senior session about CKI at Florida Key Club DCON. From that moment on, I knew I would join Circle K, I just had no idea at the time as to how much of an impact it would make upon my life. By the end of my first semester with UF CKI, I knew that I was hooked. By January, I had decided to spread my passion to serve onto the rest of the division when I ran for Suwannee Lieutenant Governor in 2010. Since then, I have served as your Florida District Treasurer and the CKI International Growth Committee Secretary. These positions have allowed me to use my CKI knowledge to provide opportunities for even more members to learn about our incredible organization, with the hope that each of them would get bit by the CKI service bug, too.

I have developed a not-so-secret love for the Special Olympics of Gainesville, trying to attend all CKI service opportunities where I might get the chance to work with some of the incredible individuals I have met there. Through this ever-growing interest of mine, I devised my Governor’s Project, Serving the Colors of the Wind, an effort to serve and work alongside individuals with disabilities and health disparities. The great thing about this proposal is that you can decide which groups to get involved with and how you would like to get involved.

One suggestion of projects already brought up by the District Board are working with Best Buddies, the American Cancer Society, Children’s Miracle Network, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association and the list goes on and on. One simple way to get involved with the Governor’s Project while also working with the Kiwanis family is through serving alongside your local Aktion Club! Each of your Lieutenant Governor’s will host a divisional event in conjunction with the Governor’s Project to show you how simple it can be to get involved. The District will also be hosting not one but two District Large Scale Service Projects (DLSSP) this year so be on the look out for those, as well. If project ideas are not already running through your imagination, I have one more: we will be choosing a Spring Family Weekend at Camp Boggy Creek as a district-wide volunteer opportunity for everyone to attend!

As you can see, we have lots of incredible opportunities to appeal to everyone, so I look forward to seeing all of your faces throughout the year as we work together in Serving the Colors of the Wind. I serve because I find it rewarding to support others through service, knowing that the only cost is time and the results are priceless. I cannot wait to learn why all of you serve this year as we start another wonderful year of service, fellowship and leadership, especially in the great company of passionate CKIers! If you ever have any questions regarding the District or International CKI, never hesitate to reach out because I am more than happy to discuss anything and that’s why I am here!

Fasten your seatbelt and hold on tight because we are about to embark on a magical ride of service you do not want to miss!

Sara Fruithandler
On the evening of Saturday, March 31st 2012, the Circle K club of the University of Florida held a fundraising event for the Eliminate Project. We dug into our closets and pulled out our old prom dresses to dance the night away at “CKI Prom: Unite to Eliminate.” Tickets were sold for eight dollars in advance or ten dollars at the door. The event was a great success. Over fifty people were in attendance, including UF Circle K-ers, Santa Fe members, and other guests. We raised a total of $540, and all of these proceeds went directly to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus in countries around the world.

When my service co-chair, Kanyon McLean, and I found out that the governor’s project this year was The Eliminate Project, we knew immediately that we wanted to plan a large-scale fundraising event to benefit this very worthy cause. We thought it would be fun to get everyone together to re-create a high school prom experience and get to wear our fancy prom attire that had been sitting in our closets for years. Months of planning went into this project before it could be made into a reality. After researching venues, we were fortunate to be co-sponsored by UF Hillel, who agreed to allow us to use their venue without a charge. All of the money for the decorations and food purchased for the event came out of our club’s budget, which allowed us to give all of our ticket proceeds straight to Eliminate.

After planning every detail of this event for so long, we were extremely excited to finally host CKI Prom. We pre-sold about twenty-five tickets for eight dollars each, and were pleasantly surprised to have twice that many people show up on the night of the event. Those who hadn’t bought their ticket in advance could buy one at the door for ten dollars. With each ticket, the buyer also received two drink tickets and one raffle ticket. Throughout the night, party-goers could use their drink tickets to purchase one of twelve different “mocktails” that we created, including mock champagne and “CKI on the beach.”

They could put their raffle tickets toward any of the prizes we had accumulated from donations from members, Kiwanians, and the Gainesville community. We also had a contest to choose a CKI Prom King and Queen, which was voted for by putting change or bills into the contestants’ boxes. The boy and girl with the largest amount of money were the winners, and all the voting money was donated to Eliminate. Near the end of the evening, we had cake, announced our King and Queen (congrats, Bobby Nudel and Sam Liebhaber!), and drew names for the raffles.

Between voting, mingling around the bar area, and dancing to fun oldies and 90’s music (along with popular dance hits like The Wop), I think it’s safe to say that all of our guests enjoyed themselves greatly! All things considered, the event was a huge success, and we all had fun planning and executing it. I hope that hearing about this event inspires you to get creative and plan successful fundraisers of your own!

Devon Holder

UF Circle K International
One of the responsibilities I took on as Panhandle Lt. Governor was to plan an event for The Eliminate Project. This was a learning experience to say the least. My friend Sam Kerce, who is the Key Club Lt Governor for our area and member of the Leon High School’s Key Club, asked to work with me on the project. When I proposed the idea of A Night for Eliminate to Sam, he loved the idea and we ran with it.

We began planning at the end of January, and we soon discovered how much time an event like this requires. I think that fear of failure helped to motivate us. Stressful moments came right away as we tried to make reservations with venues and were repeatedly told that the location was booked, cost too much, or wasn’t open to the public. Booking the hall at Saint Paul’s United Methodist was the first major success that we struck in planning this event, but we still had a ways to go.

A few days before CKI DCON in February, I received a call from my board asking if I would consider making this the District Large Scale Service Project and to have it coincide with the weekend of District Officer Training. Making this event the DLSSP meant that we were guaranteed to have a good number of people attend. Now we just had to be sure that the event was worth the long drive to Florida’s capital.

We had to find people willing to perform. We needed people to give speeches. We needed volunteers to work as servers. We needed a caterer. We needed someone to design our fliers and tickets and someone to print them. We needed to advertise, acquire items for auction, make decorations, and the list seemed to go on and on. Then I remembered, this was Kiwanis. We already had all of those things, we just had to ask.

Most of our performers were either members of their respective level of Kiwanis. Our servers were Key Clubbers and CKI members. The decorations were designed by one of Sam’s fellow LHS KCI members, Emily Wilgenbusch, and members of USF’s CKI club were so kind as to assist in the making of our decorations. The fliers were designed by a friend of mine and printed by the family of a friend of Sam’s. Various businesses around Tallahassee contributed items to the auction, and many Key Clubbers volunteered their time to be auctioned off that night as well.

At the end of the night, I must admit I was more than pleasantly surprised to learn that we raised more than $1500 for The Eliminate Project. That is enough to pay for life-saving vaccines to protect 830 women and their future children. I was so proud of this that after everything was cleaned up, and FSU was done tearing up the dance floor, I took to Twitter and Facebook to announce our success. Kiwanis International and the Eliminate Project immediately retweeted my updates and sent thank yous. We received many congratulations and pats on the back, but that wasn’t our goal. We were simply out to raise as much money as we could for an important humanitarian cause.

At the beginning of the night, Sam welcomed everyone to our “First Annual Night for Eliminate”. Considering how well this all turned out, if I am still in Tallahassee for graduate school in a year, I hope that I can go through the stress and fun of planning this event again, and making it even more successful the second time around.

Elora Lee
Florida State University
Each year, more than 300 Circle K’ers from across the globe gather together to celebrate at our International Convention (ICON), this year ICON will be in the beautiful city of New Orleans, Louisiana. The convention offers an ideal setting to reunite acquaintances and make new friends. Learn about other club and district projects. And make personal connections with International leaders and representatives from the Kiwanis headquarters. A special feature of this Convention will be that it will be joint with Kiwanis International.

Here, in this little corner of the American South, European traditions blend with Caribbean influences and the history is as colorful as the local architecture. And the food? It’s the stuff of legend. Around these parts, there’s a saying: Laissez le bons temps rouler. Let the good times roll. And there are plenty of ways to do just that. Convention runs June 27–July 1. Make your plans today!

During international convention, you will have the chance to join CKI members from more than 20 countries and various geographical areas – with different languages and backgrounds – walking side-by-side down the streets of the host city of New Orleans, attend seminars and vote on the organization’s future. Enjoy event highlights, including a keynote address from Becky from the popular television series Glee, an exciting exhibit hall where projects from KI and CKI will be displayed and several subregional events (a Rooftop Pool Party and Awards Ceremony).

The CKI Convention will take place at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place. The hotel is in a great location along the mighty Mississippi River and has fantastic views. It is attached to the Canal Place Mall that includes three floors of upscale stores, a movie theater, and a food court. As if that isn’t enough, the hotel is also adjacent to the French Quarter, is within walking distance to the convention center, and even has a roof-top pool on the 29th floor.
Hello Florida District Good News!
You don’t have to pay for all of ICON/ LSSP on your own!

**Toolkit includes:**
- Checklist
- How-to-guide
- Talking points
- PowerPoint presentation template
- Sample letter
- Fundraising Guide
- Fundraiser planning form

What this plan entail:
1/3 ~ Fundraise 1/3 of the cost yourself
1/3 ~ Ask your CKI club or student activities board to pay or fundraise 1/3 of the cost
1/3 ~ Talk to your sponsoring Kiwanis club or local business about supporting the rest of the 1/3 of the cost

**Registration**
- Early bird registration (on or before May 1) US$195
- Regular registration (May 2 to June 1) US$250
- On-site registration* (after June 2) US$300

**Transportation/Cost**
Shuttle service is available from the airport to the Westin for US$20 per person, one way or $38 round trip. Tickets for the shuttle can be purchased on the ground level at the airport shuttle ticket desk located across from the baggage claim carousels. Taxi rides cost about US$33 for one or two people from the airport. Taxi pick-ups are also on the lower level outside of the baggage claim area. Self-parking is $18/day and Valet is $36/day. Rates are subject to change without notice.

**The Place**
The Westin Canal Place
100 Rue Iberville
New Orleans, LA 70130

CKI attendees will have a flat room rate of US$125 plus 13% tax and a US$2.00 occupancy tax per room, per night. The current cost for an overnight room is US$143.25, per night. Up to four people can share a room. All CKI convention attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. The deadline for attendees to make their housing reservation is June 1, 2012.

Questions?
To receive your own electronic copy of the toolkit contact your District Treasurer Melanie Wolfson or your Conventions Chair Samantha Schneider. You may also visit the Circle International Website for more information.

Melanie Wolfson
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Samantha Schneider
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Southeastern has been chosen for this Kaper’s Member Spotlight. Their presence has been appreciated traveling 270 (5 hours) from Lakeland to be special guest at this year’s DOTC.

How often do you travel for major or non-major CKI events?
We travel for CKI events about twice a semester, usually when CKI is having a district event (like Ideas conference, DCON, or a large-scale service project).

How do your club members spend the time during road trips?
We laugh; we party; we take turns controlling the music; some of us sleep most of the way; some of us catch up on homework, especially near the end of a semester; some of us read; and if it’s raining pretty bad (like this last trip) or if we’re running out of gas with no city in sight (also like this last trip), we pray!

What was the club members’ favorite activity during DOTC?
The after-event clean up and dance party. We love to help out, and we love to have fun! The dinner was enjoyable because we got to interact with other CKI members.

What was the club members’ favorite moment during DOTC?
Our favorite moment was when the man Larry Campbell got up to sing by popular demand during the Eliminate project dinner. He had an awesome voice, and the song was inspiring.

What is your club’s favorite service event to attend or host?
Well, our favorite 3 events are the Kiwanis Pancake Festival every February; Relay for Life every spring, and our own event at Talbot House Ministries where we serve dinner to the homeless once a month.

What are your plans for the club’s future?
We want to become more involved in our Lakeland community, as well as focus on developing more events for the club. We want to continue to reach into the lives we’ve been consistently ministering to (like the retirement home occupants and the kids we work with), but also open up new opportunities to help others. Another focus will be on developing stronger relationships and more opportunities to interact with our fellow CKI clubs.

What does your club think makes them unique?
We constantly remind ourselves that we are representing Christ to the people that we serve. Our motivation to help others comes not only from our love of service and desire to do good for others, but is based in our love of Christ and what He desires us to do for our brothers and sisters in the world. Knowing we are representing Christ as well as Kiwanis helps us to be loving, serving and kind to everyone we meet, and helps us to not give up when we feel worn out or unhappy. It also helps us connect with various ministries and organizations to help others (like Lighthouse Ministries, Talbot House Ministries and Kids’ World Childcare).
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