Enhance Kiwanis Education with a Focus on Member Retention

This month let’s talk about the “E” in International President Poly’s definition of GREAT – Education. One of our premier District programs which has been used as a model by at least one other district is our Mid-Year Education Day (MYED). I am sure that many of us “seasoned” Kiwanis members view MYED as a day to reconnect with fellow Kiwanians, learn about awards/honors earned in the previous Kiwanis year, eat good food, and yes hopefully learn something new. But I have charged Kelly Brown, MYED Chair and Jason Miller, Leadership Development and Education Chair to look outside of the box to develop a day where both new and seasoned Kiwanians increase not only their Kiwanis knowledge but also their Kiwanis passion. I truly believe that increased knowledge and increased passion will increase our member retention rates. Both Kelly and Jason will be publicizing in a number of venues their plans and ideas.

However, I have added three new components to our MYED activities that are targeted towards first time attendees and new Kiwanians that are members of newly chartered clubs in Past Governor Dan’s year and my year. We work hard to charter new clubs, but sadly only half of newly chartered clubs make it past 5 years. We HAVE to do a better job in connecting with new clubs and their members about the “WHY” behind Kiwanis. Knowing the “why” will increase the passion of and motivation for what we do – improving the lives of children/young adults in our communities and around the world.

New component #1 – We will continue reduced event costs for first time attendees. In addition, two new Kiwanians in each newly chartered club will be able to attend MYED this year as my guest.

New component #2 – I will ask that each of the above attendees attend a new first session led by me “Kiwanis 101 – The Why behind Kiwanis”. This session is NOT about CLE training, meeting organization and Kiwanis structure. It will be about the importance of our mission and building the passion that will not only inspire the actions of our new members, but hopefully inspire them to invite new members to their clubs. Of course, “seasoned” Kiwanis members can also attend.

New component #3 – This component will be limited to new attendees – Koffee with the Gov MYED will begin at 9 am. Koffee with the Gov will start at 8 am. The purpose of this event is twofold. First to discover personally why people join Kiwanis (and we need to make sure that we as an organization support those needs) and Second, provide an environment where new members can reach out to other new members and develop a support network as needed.

We are going to have a great MYED. Please join me in Lewis Center as we continue our goal of growinggreatclubs.
Top Ten Reasons to Host the Ohio District Kiwanis Convention

The Ohio District of Kiwanis is looking for Kiwanis Divisions and Kiwanis Clubs interested in hosting the 2021 and 2022 District Conventions. Here are the Top Ten reasons why your division and/or club should host a Kiwanis District Convention:

10. You don’t have to travel.
9. Expose more of your club members to the district.
8. Showcase your community.
7. The feeling of pride and accomplish of helping to plan the district’s premier event.
6. The opportunity to work closely with the Ohio District Governor.
5. You get input on the menu selections for meals.
4. There is no better way to spend a weekend in August.
3. Being able to add some “fun” into the convention.
2. Deciding what goes into the registration “goody bags.”
1. Developing your leadership and event planning skills.

If your club and/or division is interested in hosting either the 2021 or 2022 Ohio District Kiwanis Convention, please e-mail Lanton Lee at executivedirector@ohiokiwanis.org. Upon receiving your e-mail expressing interest, additional information will be provided on the requirements needed to serve as a successful host of the District Convention.

Lanton Lee
Executive Director
ExecutiveDirector@ohiokiwanis.org

Have news to share?
The Buckeye Bulletin is always looking to share good news about the terrific service that our clubs are doing. To share your club’s story in the Buckeye Bulletin, please submit an attached photo of your club members in action. A brief description of the project and who will be benefitting from the activity should be included. If this is a signature project or a new project, that information should be included as well.

You never know, your project could inspire another club in the district to do something similar in their community. We are also interested in your Service Leadership Program clubs’ activities since they often do amazing projects with minimal resources available to them.

Send articles to: info@ohiokiwanis.org. We will use them as space allows.
There are two Kiwanis initiatives that exemplify the Kiwanis mission to empower communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children. The 2018-19 First Family Project, Kamperships, helps 4H program youth who wish to participate in summer camping experiences and the support provided by Ohio District Kiwanis members making a difference in the lives of thousands of kids who participate in community programs.

Governor Faith Levine is promoting a unique project to support the long-established and Ohio-founded 4H youth programs. 4H has a long history of supporting programs that promote leadership and service education for youth in Ohio. Over 183,000 Ohio youth participate in 4H programs each year. These programs extend beyond the well-known agricultural programs to include STEM, public speaking, the arts, and healthy living. The First Family project promotes the gifting of Kamperships for 4H members to attend one of the 14 Ohio 4H Camps. Attending a 4H camp helps youth build life skills, develop confidence, foster independence, promote resilience, and teach community service skills. Kamperships will be donated through the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation by depositing the funds into the First Family Project account. Contributions may be made via credit card on the ODKF website or by a check given to Governor Faith at official Governor’s visits. Kamperships may be designated to assist 4H youth in specific county/extension office locations or for a special 4H camp experience designed for youth with one or both of their parents serving active duty in any armed force. Governor Faith’s goal is to have every K family club contribute at least one Kampership.

Additional Kampership information is available on the Ohio District Kiwanis and the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation websites. Be sure to check out the First Daughter’s video at https://youtu.be/Vwedg4v6rAo.

Within the Kiwanis organization, there are many configurations of how Youth Services committees and Service Leadership Program committees manage responsibilities. Even if your club doesn’t have a Youth Services committee or doesn’t sponsor an SLP, your club can be of assistance to young people in your community.

Understandably, service clubs are often approached for financial support by community and national charitable organizations. Kiwanis clubs can certainly offer financial support but, more importantly, Kiwanis can offer peoplepower to help community children’s programs. It is important that requesting organizations know that Kiwanis is a true service organization.

Some of the service projects that Ohio Kiwanians support with human and financial resources include: scouting programs; food distribution programs including food pantries, backpack, and summer food service programs; county fair activities that involve students and adults; summer camping programs (in addition to Kamperships); school safety programs, bike rodeos, and recreation activities in partnerships with local police and sheriff departments; collaboration with local charities to undertake larger projects; community events and festivals that involve children; Boys’ and Girls’ State programs; school pancake days; college and career fairs; school programs that teach robotic and computer skills; student recognition programs; and community flag display programs. These projects are only a fraction of the ways in which Kiwanis clubs support programs that benefit young people in our communities.

Visits to other clubs and attendance at division council meetings, conferences, and conventions provide excellent opportunities to share ideas, projects, and procedures. By Growing Great Clubs, we can continue and even expand our impact on kids and communities.
Best Practices: Engaging Your Service Leadership Programs

Lanton Lee, Executive Director

Service Leadership Programs are one of the best experiences our clubs can offer students and adults with disabilities in a local community. These programs include K-Kids clubs for elementary school students, Builders clubs for middle school students, Key Clubs for high school students, Circle K clubs for college students, and Aktion Clubs for adults with disabilities. We also have Terrific Kids and Bring Up grades for elementary and middle school students along with Key Leader, our high school leadership development weekend. Many of our clubs sponsor one or more of these programs in their community.

The best way for your club to engage your Service Leadership Programs is to ensure that you are fulfilling your obligations of sponsorship each year. The sponsoring Kiwanis club must recognize that sponsorship is a continuous endeavor and long-term commitment - not merely a periodic effort or short-term project. The Sponsoring Kiwanis club agrees to provide the following:

1. Ensure at least one member of the sponsoring Kiwanis club serves as the Service Leadership Program’s Kiwanis Advisor who is responsible to the Kiwanis club for all club activities.

2. Have at least one member of the sponsoring Kiwanis club attend each weekly meeting and all events of the SLP club. This individual should report back to the Kiwanis Club on the activities.

3. Provide for the financial stability of the SLP club by assisting its Board of Officers in the implementation of sound fiscal policies, preparation of responsible budgets, accurate record keeping, and the planning and execution of needed fundraising activities in accordance with the SLP’s sponsoring facility’s rules. Maintain an expense line item in the service account.

4. Meet with the school principal or facility manager each year to ensure a strong relationship and a clear understanding of purpose.

5. Ensure required International and District membership dues and sponsorships are collected and submitted within the established timelines.

6. Ensure all elected SLP club officers receive proper training. This can be through training offered by the Ohio District or through sponsoring Kiwanis training.

7. Hold an annual meeting with Kiwanis and SLP club leadership to strengthen Kiwanis-Family relations and ensure support and understanding of roles. Hold a planning session with the SLPs prior to the meeting.

8. Host or participate in joint activities. Kiwanis Clubs should take care that participation is reciprocated between the Kiwanis Club and the SLP.

9. Invite SLP club members to attend Kiwanis meetings and encourage regular attendance.

10. Encourage attendance by financial support to SLP club members at all Ohio District and International events applicable to the SLP to ensure SLP members are provided training opportunities beyond the club level.

Circle K International

If your Kiwanis Club worked each year to fulfill these requirements you would be engaging your Service Leadership Programs and ensuring the well-being and strength of your sponsored Service Leadership Programs.

For the clubs that sponsor one or more of our SLP programs you were sent an Annual Sponsorship Requirements Form to review and sign for the 2018-19 year. Thank you to those clubs that have returned your commitment forms. If you have not reviewed and signed your form you can download copies here to sign and return for each of your sponsored Service Leadership Programs.
There are many different approaches to recruiting new members for your club. Here are some ideas to use:

**Club Websites**

If you don’t have a website, consider creating one. There is a lot of information that you can include such as when the club meets, location, new member information with application form, types of fundraising, projects in the community plus pictures. The Mason Club in Division 5 has an excellent one at www.masonkiwanis.org. This website has everything you need to know about this club. They just had two new member prospects visit the site. I have heard on several occasions that people who have moved into an area visit Kiwanis websites and end up joining that club.

**Social Media**

In this day and age some people only communicate by Facebook, Twitter etc… This has been a very successful means of “getting the word out about your Club.” Like websites this is a great means of communication. If you don’t have someone in your club that can do social media or a website, it would be worth the cost of having it done.

**Past LT. Governors**

Some Divisions have Past Lieutenant Governors Committees who actually recruit for a club or clubs in their Divisions. These are experienced individuals who know the area and the clubs involved. If not, there are usually one or two that can be useful if teamed up with someone from your club. Bob Williams, who is the Past LT. Governors’ Association Secretary can send you a list of Past LTG’s in your area. He can be reached at 419-433-3798 or rwill731@aol.com.

**Club Senior Members**

Every club has several members that either have been a member for a number of years or joined when they were older. These people have an excellent approach and interaction when talking with individuals in their age group.

**Try Something Different**

If your club hasn’t had an Open House, this is a great way of getting exposure for your club as well as developing contacts that can be recruited now or later. It will take about two months to set up properly. Have an agenda, show slides of the club or displays and have the Mayor or high-ranking official speak for a few minutes as well as your best speaker in the club. Have some good food!

**Helping “One Child at Time” Kiwanis Club of North Ridgeville Provides Amtrykes**

In 2016, The North Ridgeville Kiwanis Club learned of the Amtryke Project, which was the First Family Project of the 2015-2016 Ohio Kiwanis Governor, Amy Zimmerman. The opportunity to help one child at a time be more active, have fun and develop independence touched the heart of the club members. Funding is made possible through club fund-raisers, and they have also had the help of the Ohio Kiwanis Foundation.

Amtrykes are therapeutic tricycles modified to meet the particular needs of the recipient. As the child grows, the Amtryke can be modified and is used for therapy, strengthening muscles and improving motor skills. Amtrykes have been found to create independence and mobility, and to provide social opportunities.

As of today, the Kiwanis Club of North Ridgeville has been able to provide customized Amtrykes to three children. They have just recently provided their fourth Amtryke to the North Ridgeville Education Center, so that many of the school children can benefit. Their work continues with the next Amtryke fitting already underway as they plan their upcoming February Spaghetti Dinner.
It’s hard to believe we are already approaching the end of our first third of the administrative year. Hopefully everyone has settled into their officer roles and have their clubs running smoothly. For those of you who might have hit a bump or two on the path of leadership, please know, there are resources for you.

The Kiwanis International website, www.kiwanis.org has a series of educational webinars that can provide some guidance to club officers, board members and committee chairs. By clicking on “Member Resources” and logging in (you may need to sign in for the first time and set up a password), you will see under the heading “training” there are classes for a wide range of club leaders. These will help you understand your role within your club and help guide you with duties typical for your office.

Copies of the Leadership Guide can also be downloaded from this location or you can contact Kiwanis International and request a copy of the Leadership Guide and officer handbook at 1-800-KIWANIS.

Officer education classes will be taking place again in late spring in your area. While some of the material does not change, attending the classes, does provide the opportunity to learn about new developments in the world of Kiwanis Leadership. It also provides an opportunity for “newbies” to learn from members who may be repeating their term of office. As a club officer years ago, I found it comforting to meet other Kiwanians who were also in the same role. It made inter-clubbing more enjoyable and provided terrific ideas to try with my own club.

Current and incoming Lt. Governors will be sharing information with clubs regarding educational sessions and locations and registration information will be made available in the Buckeye Bulletin and the Ohio Kiwanis website.

Finally, I hope everyone will take the opportunity to attend the Kiwanis Mid-Year Education Day. Focusing on educating the member, this is a tremendous opportunity to learn more about Kiwanis and the various ways we can serve our communities in a meaningful way.

Belden Village Kiwanis Family Works Together to Support Various Charities

November proved to be a busy month for the Belden Village Kiwanis Club with two major projects: The snack bar for the Jackson Craft Show sponsored by the Jackson High School Key Club Nov. 17 and Tailgate Against Hunger at the Malone and Walsh football game Nov. 10.

Attracting some 3,000 shoppers each year and 71 vendors the annual craft show generates funds for the Key Club to help future leaders go to leadership camp through scholarships and support a select group of local charities. Sponsored by the Belden Village Kiwanis Club, the Key Club has 110 members from grades 9 through 12.

Kiwanians cooked up and served some 250 hot dogs and chili dogs, 200 sloppy joes, and an array of caramel apples, nachos, hot pretzels and drinks during the event. Key Clubbers stage the show featuring a wide variety of vendors, while the club also conducts raffles and a bake sale, reports Key Club advisor Jennifer Koladin.

On Nov. 10, the Belden Village Club partnered with Malone and Walsh universities, the Canton Aktion Club, Jackson High School Key Club and Glen Oak Key Club for the annual Tailgate Against Hunger raising cash and donations providing 11,006 pounds of food to the Stark County Hunger Task Force.

The Malone University Enactus Club and Walsh University Business Club members and Key Club members collected food and money throughout the month and along with Aktion Club members collected donations from the crowd arriving at the game. Over the last nine years, Tailgate has provided more than 100,000 pounds of food to feed the area’s hungry through the Stark County Hunger Task Force.

Snack bar – Plating hot dogs, chili dogs, chips and sloppy joes, (left to right) Bill Johnson, Ronda Egert and Nancy Wise-Miller of the Belden Village Kiwanis Club prepared lunches for shoppers during the annual Jackson Craft Show sponsored by the Jackson High School Key Club.
LOOKING FOR AN ODKF GRANT? THINK “OUTSIDE-THE-BOX”!

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation offers District Kiwanis Clubs the opportunity to submit grant proposals that address our focus on “Safe & Healthy Kids” as well as community projects that improve the lives of children and families. Grant requests for projects sponsored by and showing involvement of qualifying Ohio Kiwanis Clubs in the form or volunteer service and financial involvement are welcomed. Partnerships with local agencies, organizations and other Kiwanis Family Clubs are also an integral part of all successful grant applications. Ultimately, the ODKF Grants Program is to help encourage and support the Kiwanis Clubs of the Ohio District while helping to make Kiwanis a “household” word in every Ohio community!

Obviously, the lifeblood of a Kiwanis Club is its membership. A second factor in determining a Kiwanis Club’s viability revolves around the projects it undertakes to improve the lives of children and the Club’s community.

Projects can be small or large; they can happen once or be repeated annually; and many times, it might be an on-going project that runs all year long. Every project needs to have a positive result for children; for a community; and also, for the Kiwanis Club performing the project. And while we are discussing projects, Clubs need to make sure they are getting the most “bang for their buck” by accessing and using the ACE tools on the KI Website to determine the current needs of each community and re-analyze the effectiveness of each project.

Let’s go one step further since we are looking at the kinds of service projects ODKF funds through grants. Each Kiwanis Club should be asking if any of their service projects is a signature project. “Is this a service project or event that my Club is known for and identified with?” Why should this be at the top of your list? It’s important for your Club to have a signature project that your club is identified with. If none of the service projects your Club currently does can be considered as such, then perhaps you need to work on developing one! What is a signature project? A signature project is one that includes all of the following criteria:

- Recurring: At a minimum, the project should take place annually.
- Brand enhancing: The project should be designed to elevate the Kiwanis brand in the local community with opportunities for public relations activities, such as using the Kiwanis name on the project, media mentions, etc.
- High impact: The project should have a demonstrable positive impact on the community; this impact should be measurable in monies raised, children served, flags hung, playgrounds built, etc.
- Membership focused: The project should support opportunities to strengthen membership and develop new partnerships.

For any Kiwanis Club that determines that none of their service projects fall into signature project category – consider working on identifying a need in your community and adopting it as your Club’s signature project. As these kinds of projects might need extra time, effort and financial support to get off the ground, identify whether-or-not it would meet the basic requirements of an ODKF Grant. New Club projects are an ideal reason to apply for a grant!

Typically, successful grants that receive funding from any foundation, government entity or organization are for new programs or projects -- grants awarded by ODKF look for similar originality. Likewise, most grants are not intended to become a source of funding for an existing project or as funding over multiple years, but more as an “incubator” to get a new or improved project up and going. Clubs that have identified a program or project that would like to apply for a grant, may visit the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation website at ODKF.org to find the guidelines for grant applications as well as a downloadable application form. ODKF maintains three grant cycles each year as follows:

- October 31st for decisions in December
- March 31st for decisions in May
- June 30th for decision in August

As the first cycle for this year has been completed, we are seeking grant applications for our 2nd cycle which ends in March. Don’t hesitate to contact ODKF if you have a question about the form or necessary documents to support your application.

Make plans now to attend this year’s Mid-Year Education Day on March 23rd when ODKF will be presenting three forums, one of which will be on the basics of writing a winning Foundation grant and presenting some past awardees to tell how they were able to put together their grants and how their projects are progressing!
Kiwanis Club of Cincinnati by Alyson Gerwe, President

At the Cincinnati Tuberculosis Sanatorium, cheers arose on December 25, 1921, as a three-room school building was presented by the Kiwanis Club of Cincinnati. The school building was gifted for the use of the children temporarily living at the sanatorium, so that every child there may have not only the regulation work, but, in addition, elementary manual training and home economics. On weekends, the school rooms were used as play rooms.

In 1916, the year the Kiwanis Club of Cincinnati was founded, Cincinnati looked a lot different than it does today. Streetcars were used as public transportation. Tuberculosis, influenza and pneumonia outbreaks claimed the lives of hundreds that year. In 1916 Cincinnati, there was little help from the government or established non-profits for the poor of the city.

The early 1900s was a period of prosperity and success for many, which in turn increased the ability to give back. The release of Andrew Cargnegie’s Gospel of Wealth thirty years earlier promoted the idea of owing a duty to society and encouraged donating to causes. This sense of duty to society and the unmet needs of the poor laid the groundwork for the founding of organizations like Kiwanis.

Education, health, and the needs of underprivileged children has always been the focus of the Kiwanis Club of Cincinnati. Cincinnati Kiwanis converted four abandoned street cars into a machine shop and industrial school for boys in 1928. For 30+ years, since 1929, the club sponsored the Scouting’s Big Show, which showcased the crafts and skills of the local Boy Scouts.

For the first 50 years, Cincinnati Kiwanis was half social club and half philanthropic organization. Members met every week, with their meeting agendas printed in the newspaper and full meetings broadcast weekly on the radio. Their meeting programs were diverse and included musical guests, politicians, and explorers.

Flash forward to 2001. Members were still meeting every week, still very formal and traditional, and still donating thousands of dollars a year to meet the needs of the children of Cincinnati. But times change, and so had the culture of the young professionals of Cincinnati. The older members were less able to draw new members into the club as it was, and they were declining in membership due to aging.

Enter Amy Zimmerman and the alumni from the University of Cincinnati Circle K Club who were interested in continuing their Kiwanis Family experience through doing hands on service projects with a Kiwanis Club. The older members of Cincinnati Kiwanis agreed to try some of the newer projects the young renegades had in mind and let them run with them. The influx of new Circle K alumni members doubled the size of Cincinnati Kiwanis and their service projects continued to draw new members into the club.

Today, education, health, and the immediate needs of the children in our community continue to be our focus. We have added servant leadership development to our mission.

Each month, you can find Cincinnati Kiwanians doing hands-on service projects, like packing nutritious meals for the weekend for students experiencing food insecurity, reading to young students through Read Around the World, mentoring young students through the classroom we adopt each year, and cooking for single mothers and the children experiencing homelessness. We also do projects throughout the year like cheering at a half marathon with students from our sponsored leadership programs, sponsoring a free Thanksgiving dinner for a low-income neighborhood, and hosting book drives.

Our service leadership programs that we sponsor at the University of Cincinnati and Wesley Chapel Mission Center are developing our community’s leaders of tomorrow. Cincinnati Kiwanis has sponsored the University of Cincinnati Circle K Club since the 1970s. The Builders Club and Key Club at Wesley Chapel Mission Center are new programs in an area of town where there aren’t many opportunities for leadership development. And our members support Key Leader through leadership roles (like Brian Yacucci has for the past twelve years), chaperoning the event and covering the registration for Key Club members who couldn’t otherwise afford to attend.

We now meet just once a month for a board meeting that is open to all members. We do not have speakers at our meetings, and we socialize through our service projects or purely social events instead of at traditional meetings. Hands on service projects require members to work together to complete a task and this always builds comradery. You might also find us grabbing a drink to catch up after a service project, playing as a team at a local trivia night, or kayaking together down the Little Miami River.

As you can tell, we like to mix things up with our service projects and our social events. This keeps things fresh for our members and attracts many other volunteers besides. Our members are from all over the Tri-State area instead of one neighborhood, which means that our service projects vary in location as well to meet the needs of our members. Wherever there is a need, Cincinnati Kiwanis is there to help just as it has been for the past 102 years!
We need our Mid-Year refresher because we can get caught up in our daily life and when that happens, those great intentions can become fleeting thoughts. MYED will energize you and get you focused on making those great ideas become reality.

We’ve re-designed this event to include workshops along with education forums. All forums will be laid out in tracks like: **New Members/Clubs, Service, Fundraising, Membership, Branding, and more** so attendees can choose which area they want to focus their learning...follow one track or jump over to another one, whatever suits you.

For new members, **Kiwanis 101** will teach you all you need to know about this amazing organization you’re now part of; “old-timers” could learn a thing or two as well!

If you don’t have a website or a Facebook page, bring your laptop and build one during your workshop!

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Koffee with the “Gov”. Governor Faith Levine will host a coffee hour with “First-Timers” at 8:00AM to get your first day off to a great start! Be sure to arrive early for this opportunity.

The Mid-Year Crew has listened to your feedback—we have freshened-up the courses you love and constructed new forums to meet your needs.

**Our goal is simple...THE BEST MID-YEAR EVER!**

*We want you to have fun while you learn new things, fill-up on fabulous food, and enjoy the fellowship of our K-Family. Let’s sell-out the conference center this year!* 

Be sure to mark your calendar and get registered for **Saturday, March 23** at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center (just outside of Columbus).

Opening session hosted by Ohio Kiwanis District Foundation will start at 9:00 AM. We will conclude the day around 5:30 with a social gathering so you can have fun fellowshipping with friends old and new.

**Mid-Year Registration is now open at OhioKiwanis.org**

Early Bird cost is $75 per person (Includes All Forums, Refreshments and Lunch) Cost increases to $85 after February 23.

**The first 50 “First-Timers” to register will receive a $15 discount.**

Exhibitor tables for clubs, individuals or companies interested in promoting fundraisers, service projects or selling merchandise are available, visit [OhioKiwanis.org](http://OhioKiwanis.org) for more info. We look forward to seeing you there! More details to follow in future publications.

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**Mid Year Education Day** was developed as a way to educate the average member about different aspects of our organization they might now otherwise learn as a club member. It is a terrific tool to demonstrate the global reach of our Kiwanis Family. Workshops to familiarize members with our service leadership programs, service project ideas, leadership opportunities and to meet like-minded service oriented individuals across the state.

This is a one-day, inclusive event with a focus on education of our members. Everything is on site, and there is no extra charge for parking, meals or “special” events.

Different entities of Kiwanis and our partners will have display tables for browsing and gathering additional information and chair-people will be available to answer questions.

Please join us, for a relaxing event that focuses on education for our greatest resource, YOU, the member.
Several year ago, when I was working full time in Michigan as a high school administrator and advisor of the Key Club, I was approached by the current Lt. Governor with a request to replace him the next year. I turned him down, saying there was no way I had the time to serve in the post. Now as I serve my third term as Lieutenant Governor (LTG) here in Ohio, I know that if I knew what was required of a LTG, and what one gets from serving, I realize that serving as a division Lt. Governor isn’t as tough as it appeared to have been.

Part 1 – What are the Benefits of Serving as the LTG

One may be asking the question, “what do I get out of serving?” One of the most obvious benefits of serving as a Lt. Governor is an increase of leadership and organizational skills. There is no way of performing the responsibilities of a Lt. Governor without becoming better organized and a more distinguished leader. While performing those day-to-day and weekly tasks, one must also be working on events that are months in the future.

Serving as a Lt. Governor will also increase your circle of friends with similar interests state-wide, and in some cases nation-wide – serving children. From other members on the district board to district committee chairs and other district leaders to Kiwanians from across the globe met at District and International events, one’s circle of friends and acquaintances grows tremendously. One will also increase one’s knowledge of Kiwanis, its programs and operations. One also increases one’s knowledge about the way the District and International are governed and how the organization makes its decisions, and you will be a part of that process.

Finally, one will become better acquainted with the Kiwanians in the clubs that make up their divisions, from the current leaders to the leaders that will be the future of these clubs. In addition, in visiting other clubs, you will observe other ways clubs operate and run their meetings. One might discover methods and programs to bring back to improve your club.

Part 2 – What the Ohio District Expects for the Lt. Governor

The primary role of the Lt. Governor is to be the link between Kiwanis International, the Ohio District and the club in his/her division. This includes reminders to the clubs of District and International events, and decisions pending at the District and International level. In this role, the district expects the LTG to visit each of the club in the division a minimum of three times a year.

Before officially taking office, the LTG should visit each club to introduce her/himself and to make arrangements for officer installation. The second visit is that installation. This should be a formal ceremony to install the incoming president and other officers and members of the club’s board of directors. It should also include the retirement of officers and board members that are leaving office, and thanking them for their service. In many clubs, the ceremony involves presenting pins to the new and retiring officers. Many clubs use this visit to present plaques honoring their outgoing president. It may be appropriate at this visit for the LTG to share with the division clubs his/her goals and expectations during the coming year. The third visit should occur in the middle of the LTG’s term of office. This is a chance to touch base with the club and exchange information between the division clubs and the district. During this visit the LTG should note any red flags that are apparent about the way the club is running. These may be problems with membership or any other issues reflecting the club’s function.

The district also expects the LTG to visit a club board meeting. There is a visitation check list that has items that can only be observed at a board meeting. This includes whether or not a club has formally adopted a club budget. It may also include the determination of whether or not the club is adhering to its bylaws or other red flag issues that affect the operation of the club. If there are any concerns noted from any of the visitations, they should be shared privately with the club president.

A second expectation is that the LTG hold divisional council meetings. The frequency of council meetings varies from division to division. Some divisions meet monthly, and some meet quarterly. The purpose of the council meetings is to provide the opportunity for clubs within the division to communicate with each other, and to share information from the District and International with the division. This could be a forum to address any concerns clubs may be facing. It is also an opportunity to encourage club participation in District or International events, such as Kiwanis One Day, The Midyear Education Day and District and International conventions.
The third expectation of the District is for the LTG to serve on the District Board of Directors. This includes participation in four meetings a year. These are generally scheduled shortly after the beginning of the Kiwanis year, in early December, a meeting at Kiwanis Midyear and at District Convention. An LTG is selected to represent the Board on the District Foundation Board, on the Committee for Finance and Structure and to serve as Class president. The class president also serves on the district’s Executive committee, composed of the District Governor, Governor-Elect, Immediate Past Governor, District Secretary and the District Treasurer.

The final expectation of the District is that the LTG find his/her successor. Many divisions have a process that selects the LTG and the LTG-elect. Otherwise, this is a task for the LTG to work on the entire year. The LTG should offer to tutor a prospect in aspects of the LTG’s responsibilities. After the new LTG takes office, the Past-LTG should be available to mentor the new LTG for the first few months of the new term.

Part 3 – What the LTG Can Expect from the District

The Ohio District of Kiwanis will provide training to all of the incoming Lt. Governors. This training conference usually occurs in late April or early May. This is the first official meeting of the LTGs. The District will reimburse the LTG for automobile mileage while performing official LTG business. This includes club visits as well as travel to District events such board meetings, District Conventions and Midyear Education Day. The District will also provide partial reimbursement for hotel expenses for District events and District and International convention registration. The LTG has access to the funds in the Division checking account which is funded by division dues. These funds could be used to offset expenses accrued for division council meetings, the Governor’s Official Visit and other causes approved by the LTG.

Note:

The position of Lieutenant Governor in the Ohio District is a voluntary, elected position within the district. Each division produces their own Lt. Governor by either an election process or by appointment. It is a one year term and candidates are typically required to have served as a club president. Individuals interested in serving as Lt. Governor, should notify the current division officers or contact the Ohio District Kiwanis Office.

Attention Club Treasurers and Secretaries

990 Tax Return Final Notice

All Kiwanis Clubs (regardless of size) must file a Form 990, Form 990 EZ, or a Form 990-N with the Internal Revenue Service by no later than February 15, 2019. Failure to do so could result in loss of your Blanket Exemption from Federal Income Taxation.

For additional information, please click on the following link on the Kiwanis International website: [http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms](http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms).

Please take steps to complete this form, it is a relatively simple document to complete and much easier to complete than reapplying for exemption status.