The K-Family went Picnicking in July

The NJ District Circle K and Brookdale Community College club hosted Kiwanis-family members from around the state on Saturday, July 19 from 1 to 4 PM at Thompson Park in Jamesburg, NJ. Around 40 Circle K’ers, Kiwanians, and Key Clubbers took part in an afternoon of barbecue, games, service, and fellowship. Plenty of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chips, salads, and watermelon were enjoyed by all on this very hot summer day with temperatures in the 90s. Several District Board members manned the grill and made for fine cookout. I even took part in cooking a few hamburgers. With the hot day, plenty of drinks were needed and 10 cases of bottled water were graciously donated by the Wegmans store of Manalapan, NJ, of which I received as a member of the District K-Family Committee. The day was a hot one, but a great time was had by all who came out, from Key Clubbers to Circle Kers, and to Kiwanians.

Give Blood at TCNJ CKI’s Blood Drive!!!!

TCNJ Circle K is hosting our second blood drive with the American Red Cross on Thursday, Nov. 6th from 10 AM to 4 PM in Travers/Wolfe Main Lounge. Please sign-up online at www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate and enter sponsor code 13579. Your unit of blood donated could save up to 3 lives. Anyone who is 17 years old, healthy, at least 110 pounds and has not donated in the past 56 days is eligible to donate and encouraged to do so!!!
From Saturday, August 2 to Wednesday, August 6, New Jersey Circle K members, including myself, participated in multiple service projects at LSSP (Large Scale Service Project) in Denver, Colorado, the Mile High City. We arrived in the morning to afternoon on August 2nd and settled in at the Cherry Creek Hotel in Denver, while we met and reunited with Circle K friends new and old from around the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. It was awesome to meet so many people that I met at LSSP and ICON last year in Portland, Oregon again in addition to meeting many newer members that came to LSSP for their first time. Before even settling into my room, I had a little picnic lunch with fellow Circle Kers from Florida and other districts in the little park across the street from our hotel. We tried playing Frisbee after lunch, but tired very quickly due to not being adjusted to the higher altitudes in Colorado. It was my first experience at high altitude (5,280 feet and up) and my body was not fully prepared for this, coming directly from near sea level in New Jersey. LSSP officially began at night on August 2nd when attendees were broken up into fellowship groups by country, as our event was Olympics-themed, just prior to the Summer Olympics. I was placed on Team China and we made our team poster involving pandas!!

The next morning, Sunday, August 3rd, we started our service with the Salvation Army at their Denver Area Warehouse and Rehabilitation Centers. The Salvation Army has their major goal of providing all necessary services for alcohol and drug rehabilitation of adults with separate male and female rehabilitation centers where those needing help live, recover, and change their lives in the course of six months. The tasks for Circle K members varied from cleaning and painting living quarters, offices, and dining room areas to working in the warehouse, offloading thousands of donated goods and sorting these goods to stripping old mattresses for sale of the box springs as scrap metal. I spent my time cleaning the dining room, greeting the people in rehabilitation when they had their Sunday morning snack, and then the rest of the time I stripped old mattresses with box cutters. The mattress job was a tough one, but was successful with use of plenty of strength and determination. During the late afternoon, we returned to the hotel and had a bingo game night with fun prizes after dinner.

On Monday, August 4th, we continued our service with the Salvation Army at their shops around the Denver metro area and also at the Warehouse where we worked on Sunday. I was placed on a bus and not told where I was headed but the day involved everyone heading to the Salvation Army Warehouse and Rehabilitation Centers at the Salvation Army store in Northglenn, CO, a Northern suburb of Denver, while the other persons on my bus, including former TCNJ member and International Vice President Kaitlin McCann, went to the Boulder, CO store. At the Northglenn store, my group of 20 people and our group leader, Sub-region B Representative Ronald Liu of the Cal-Nev-Ha district, worked on cleaning the store, moving new merchandise into the store, and organizing the store better. My group finished all of our work by 1 PM and we had to stay at the store until after 3 PM, so we simply hung out on the couches that were for sale and watched old movies and read old books. It was such a relaxing way to spend volunteering time!!! We took some funny pictures as a group too, to waste some more time!!! After a return to the hotel, there was a choice of all participants to either attend the Colorado Rockies vs. Washington Nationals game or to stay at the hotel for a pool party. After an adventure on 2 buses and some walking, we arrived at Coors Field and proceeded to our bleacher seats in Center Field. Although we were seated far away from the infield, it was a really nice stadium experience and interesting to see baseball played at a mile up.

(See continued on Page 3)
International Benefits of Paying Dues

By: Eric Hotchkiss, Sub-Region F Representative

It’s Dues Season!

Hello CKI!

Yes, it is time again where we have to collect dues from you! I know nobody likes to shell out money especially to do community service! But, let me highlight some great things that CKI gives back to you as a dues paid member.

Better World Books
If you go to the Better World Books website (http://www.betterworldbooks.com) you can look up your textbooks and buy them. Then after you find the ones you want you get a 10% discount for being a CKI member, just email your District Governor for the password. Plus they are a great service partner and they will be helping our friends in Texas affected by hurricane Ike get new textbooks for a reduced price or for free.

Leadership Development
There is a leader inside each and every one of us from the freshmen to the senior in college. With all of the many leadership opportunities from being a club committee chair, club officer, district chair, district officer or to being on the international board everybody has a chance at developing their leadership skills and tapping all of that leadership potential inside all of us.

Scholarships
The Kiwanis International Foundation and District Kiwanis support there are over thirty scholarships that are available to all CKI members. Some of the scholarships are even worth $1000 towards transit to a conference, convention or service project that fact is that sometimes accidents happen. Know that you are safe and insured under our CKI insurance policy.

These are just a few of the MANY benefits that you can get if you are a paid member. Please pay your dues and start receiving your benefits now!

LSSP Story Continuation

Unfortunately, no fly balls came to us, but I got myself a souvenir baseball and pennant as a remembrance.

For our third and final day of service on Tuesday, August 5th, we turned our attention to the issue of homelessness in Denver by helping out the Denver Rescue Mission. The Denver Rescue Mission was having a carnival for low-income and homeless children to get a free backpack and school supplies for the new school year the Saturday after LSSP. Our job was to compile 7,000 backpacks full of supplies and to make games out of wood and other materials for the carnival. My task was to help with painting and reconstruction of some of the older games, while many other people assembled the backpacks and painted and built tons of new games. Our final task of the day, in the afternoon, was to remove wood chips out and to get at least half of the sandbox constructed with new sand. We even got filmed and photographed for local TV and newspaper broadcasts!!! Our final day on Wednesday, August 6th, consisted of a morning of fellowship competition of various Olympic/field events between the various countries, and then a boarding of buses to take us to our International Convention (ICON) hotel, the Sheraton Denver in downtown Denver, where we stayed until Sunday, August 10th when we returned to New Jersey!!!
Insight 2008 – ARRR You Ready?!?

By: Elizabeth Connelly, 2008-2009 District Con-Con Chair

For those unfamiliar with this fall district event, Insight is, in short, one amazing weekend. From Friday night to Sunday morning, Circle Kers get to go to Camp Mason in northern New Jersey and just have fun.

Are you thinking to yourself – I’m not much of a camper? No problem! The cabins that we stay in have heat and running water, so it’s just like staying in any other room you may have slept in before.

Some highlights of the weekend include a bonfire with marshmallow roasting (or marshmallow fights, if you prefer), a challenge course, a service project, a dance, and food that is definitely better than what you get at your dining hall! And, most importantly, you get to meet lots of new people and, at the same time, get to know the people from your own club a lot better.

So get ready for this year’s Insight from November 14-16! Be prepared to meet and make new friends through team building activities or general ridiculousness that I’m sure will follow from marshmallow fights or the Saturday night dance!! Get ready to get your pirate-ness on, but watch out for planks, eye patches and ticking alligators (Peter Pan reference anyone?! – or was it a crocodile). But most of all get ready to have one of the greatest times of your life!

And if this doesn’t get you pumped for Insight, take it from some recaps from participants from last year!!

“My favorite example of teamwork within my team was on the adventure course at the tire swing. The goal was to get our blue team, No Boys Allowed, through the tire swing one by one. The whole team helped everyone up and down; physically and mentally by cheering each other on. In the beginning some people were a little hesitant on going through the tire. They had no problem helping others up, but they didn’t really want to go themselves. But by the time it was their turn, they felt pretty confident that they could do it and knew they had the support of the rest of the team. That’s one of the best aspects of teamwork, there is always a group of people around you to catch you when you fall, figuratively and literally in this case! “ ~Elizabeth Breen, last year general member of TCNJ Circle K, 2008-2009 club Treasurer

This year’s insight was a great experience both officially and unofficially. Unofficially, it was nice to have a break from school, school work, and apartment life for a small time period. To those who didn’t go, please make sure you make the trip next time. As I’m sure any of the new comers will tell you, it was worth it. In closing, I’d like to add that Insight has always provided a safe haven for people to open up, and share themselves with others, in a way they never thought possible. But one thing I truly enjoy is the ability to not just open up, but to be opened up to. By being able to be that person someone feels comfortable talking to is one of the greatest things in the world. ~Brian Pluchino