



The Columbia Connection

August 2004

2004-2005 Columbia Division, Pacific Northwest District of Circle K International

Fellow Kiwanis Family Members,

For some of us, summer is nearing an end. For others, summer never began. Others still have a while until they have to worry about school starting. Whatever the case, I hope we are all still continuing to serve our communities in whatever way we can. Circle Kers, make sure you are getting together with your boards to discuss ideas for the upcoming school year, and take some time for yourself to relax before the madness begins again! To the rest of the K-Family, let us continue to find ways to work together in our communities and strengthen the ties of our family. Take care and stay cool!

Laura McInnes

Laura McInnes, Columbia Division Lt. Governor



A Letter From Your District Secretary!

Hello Columbia!! I hope that everyone's summer has been full of sun and good times! Soon, it's going to be time to head back to school, and there are a couple of things to keep in mind as you prepare to build yourself a strong service team for this coming school year. What was it that attracted you to Circle K and motivated you to remain a member of the group? Think about the answer to that question as you consider recruitment techniques and set up projects for the fall. Have projects set up in advance that have been favorites for your club members in the past. Your perspective members will want to feel helpful, and they'll want to make valuable contributions to your community. Show them how much fun it is to be a Circle K-er! Also, provide your club members with resources for them to do individual service on a regular basis. This way, if they're unable to attend some of your club's planned projects, they can find a volunteer opportunity that works with their schedule. Make sure that all individual service hours are getting reported. You can make an incentive program to ensure that this gets done. Service is the backbone of our organization, so don't forget about our district's 25,000 hour service goal and your division's goal of 1,600 hours. As of the end of July, your division is well on its way with a total of 453 hours. Goals are a great way to keep your club members motivated, so continuously update them on your progress. Congratulations on a great start, and I'm looking forward to seeing your division's accomplishments as you strive to reach your goals. Have a great last month of the summer, and don't forget to get out there in your communities a few last times before heading back to the classroom.

Elisa Salazar

Elisa Salazar, PNW District Secretary



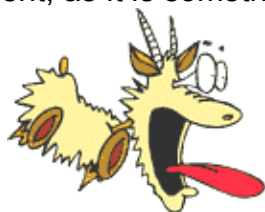
Help Others Help the Hungry!

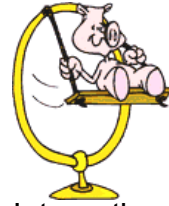
Every year, our District Governor chooses a District Project to address a certain need. This year, our Governor, Brian Egger, has chosen his project to be "Because No One Should Be Hungry." Food security is an important measure of a healthy, well-nourished community. Food insecure households lack sufficient financial resources to obtain enough food for all of the family members. Therefore, they must rely on a number of coping strategies such as eating less, reducing the quality of food for their family, accessing federal food assistance and/or getting help from emergency pantries and kitchens. By donating, volunteering and advocating for local food banks and emergency kitchens PNW Circle K'ers Can help reduce the number of households suffering from food insecurity with hunger. Remember, hunger goes on both locally and nationally, so there are many ways in which we can help with this problem. If you are interested in helping come up with ideas for hunger related projects or incentives for clubs to participate in the District Project, then the District Project Committee is for you! Contact either District Project Committee Chair, Meredith Hogan (merberry343@yahoo.com) or myself if you are interested in this committee.



Membership Development

Each fall, we work to recruit new members for our clubs. We participate in club fairs, we hang up flyers, and we spread the word about Circle K all to attract new life for our organization. But what do we do to educate our new members about what Circle K is all about? It is not rare to find members of any branch of the Kiwanis Family that do not truly understand the entire picture. They do not know that the Kiwanis Family consists of six branches: Kiwanis, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, and Aktion. They do not know the mission of the organization or how it works. They do not know that we are an international organization. If we want to retain members, one of the best ways to do so is to educate them about our organization. The more a person knows about a group, the more enticed they are to continue in that group and learn more about it. As Circle Kers, we really need to focus on membership development. When you introduce a new face to your club, make sure they know what Circle K and the Kiwanis Family is all about. A good way to do this is to make membership packets. In these packets, include general information on Circle K and the Kiwanis Family, websites that they can use as resources, information on how they can get involved (service projects, committees, officer positions, district and international level positions, events that they can attend...), contact information, scholarship opportunities, benefits of becoming a paid member, and a calendar for the year. Play Circle K trivia games during meetings: a way to have fun and learn at the same time! The more ways that a person sees that they can get involved, the more they are going to want to take advantage of those opportunities, and the stronger a member you gain. You can either develop your own material, or you can find material on the Circle K International website (www.circlek.org). Talk it over with your board, and decide on a good way to educate your members. If you are already doing so, great job! I would like to hear any other ideas you have on membership development, as it is something I am always interested in.





Let the Competition Begin!

At the Summer Board meeting this past weekend, us board members on the International Service Committee were sitting around the hot tub discussing ideas to increase and encourage international service, when Peach Arch Lieutenant Governor, Craig, and I had a brilliant idea! I was discussing how amazing the Columbia Division is, and he was trying to convince me that the Peach Arch Division is better. So, we decided that it would be a wonderful idea to have a competition between all of the divisions in the Pacific Northwest District. In case you forgot, there are 7 divisions: Cascade, Columbia, Crater Lake, Inland Empire, Peach Arch, Rainier-Capital (Rain-Cap), and Snoqualmie. We will be starting a competition to raise money for international foundations / charities using the papier-mâché piggy banks that we learned how to make at the Portland District Convention in 2003. We will have until January 31 to raise as much money as we can using this method. The district that collects the most money will receive 10% of the earnings from each division to send along with their raised money to the foundation / charity of their choice. All remaining funds will be donated to the foundations / charities for each respective division.

So how are we going to raise all of this money, you ask? First, make the piggy banks at a meeting. The time spent to make the banks counts towards your service hours. At the next meeting, the members can help paint the banks. This is really a lot of fun. WSU did it this past year, and the members enjoyed it. Next, the banks need to be distributed around the community, the communities surrounding yours, and the Kiwanis clubs and respective K-Family clubs in your communities. On campus, you can dress up as a pig or wear a sign-board and walk up and down your campus square or mall to collect money. There are many ways to raise money other than just leaving the banks sitting on a counter. Make sure that when you do leave it at a counter, for instance in a check-out line at a grocery store, that you leave an informational sheet with it that describes who you are, what you are doing, why you are doing it, and so on. Make sure to leave e-mail addresses and websites that people can visit.

Look out for more information soon on this competition as well as instructions on how to make the piggy banks! Columbia Division, we have some work cut out for us! What? Did I just hear a "Thanks a lot, Laura!?" Well, you are very very welcome! :o)

Columbia Division Point System!

As of today, the total points for each club are:

Central Washington University:	77
University of Idaho:	98
Washington State University:	93



Great job so far! It is wonderful to see the accomplishments each club has made so far! Keep up the amazing work! The POST deadline has been extended to this Friday, August 13th, if you decide you would like to submit another article for 10 points! Again, you can refer to my section on the PNW website (www.pnwcirclek.org) for the point breakdowns.