

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE KEY CLUB EVENTS

What can go wrong & how to deal

Not Enough Members

Signs your club is suffering: Technically speaking, your club needs 15 paid members to keep its charter. Some clubs may have trouble even reaching this number. Others may have well over 15 but still not as many in previous years. Many clubs face this issue when an extremely Key Club active grade level graduates. Chances are, if your numbers are down or you don't have enough people signed up for projects you need to take action!

What to do: Come up with a membership goal! Read and utilize the plans for a membership drive that can be found at www.nydkc.org. Hold a club booth, have "Bring a Friend" meetings, and use public relations to spread the word!

Weak Members

Signs your club is suffering: Less than three quarters of your paid members go to each meeting. You can't find enough members to sign up for projects and events. Finding people to chair events is a challenge. When it comes time to elect new officers your old ones find themselves begging people to do the job. Generally speaking, your membership is less than enthusiastic and willing to help.

What to do: Make an announcement that you are going to begin keeping track of each member's activity (your secretary and vice president should work together to *follow through* with this). Perhaps come up with a point system and have a designated number of points each member needs to earn each month to remain in the club. Don't expect everyone to attend everything (people will have prior family, work, and school obligations), but expect them to do their part. Explain to your club that Key Club isn't just a bonus for a resume; it's a commitment they've made to their homes, schools, and communities. If the problem persists seek the advice of your faculty and Kiwanis advisors.

Board/Advisor Disagreements

Signs your club is suffering: It's a sure sign there's a problem when your officers are intimidated to share ideas with each other and/or the club advisor. Also, no decision should be entirely up to the advisor; however as the adult in the situation he/she does have an administrative say. If personal issues are getting between board members you know you also have room for improvement.

What to do: Have a board meeting with all your officers and faculty/Kiwanis advisors. Be up front and discuss the issues you are having. If the students feel the advisor has too much power they should discuss the issue with him/her. Remember, Key Club is a student-led organization but that does not mean the advisor has no authority. If the problem persists you should talk to the school principal, the District Governor, or the District Administrator.

Disconnection with District and International

Signs your club is suffering: If you and the other members in your club don't realize that Key Club is larger than your school. You're definitely suffering if you haven't had any contact with your Lt. Governor. Another sure sign is if your club hasn't been attending District Convention in previous years. If you don't know what the Governor's Project and Major Emphasis Programs are you have some work to do.

What to do: The first step in becoming more active on the district and international levels is to contact your Lt. Governor. If you're not sure what division you're in contact District Governor Amy Lorenc and ask. If you do know look on www.nydkc.org under the District Board: Contacts section. All emails are listed there. Your Lt. Governor will serve as your liaison between the club and district levels. He/she will help you from there.

Low Budget: No Funding

Signs your club is suffering: If your club can't afford to send two delegates to District Convention. If you don't have enough money to front projects (even if they will pay you back). If your treasurer reports that you have 0\$ in your account, or don't even have an account at all.

What to do: Keep in mind Key Club is a service organization so there isn't a high demand for money; however some is necessary. Speak with your school principal to see if your club is eligible to receive funding from the district budget. Ask your local Kiwanis Club for financial help (and be sure to thank them if they assist you)! Also, try taking initiative yourself! Hold a fundraiser (a garage or bake sale work nicely). If you raise money for your club you must make it clear to those who are donating that the money is going to your treasury and not to an organization.

Other Service Organizations in School

Signs your club is suffering: Finding members to join Key Club is hard due to "competition" from other service organizations. You can't find projects to do because other clubs are being asked/taking initiative first.

What to do: Make a point to prove to students at your school that Key Club is the right club for them. Explain that it exists in 28 countries around the world and has over 245,000 members. Speak with your school principal about possibly combining all the service organizations into one Key Club. Have a presentation ready on the entire K-Family, the benefits of having a Key Club, and the problem's you've been facing with so many other service organizations in existence. Never forget that service isn't a "competition" in the aspect that there is a winner and a loser.

If you need help with anything contact the District Board. Good luck on an amazing year.