Two community service organizations rule students can attain dual membership

BY RACHEL SHEPHERD

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With all the conflict over whether college kids are making the right decisions, it was refreshing to hear the debate at the Pennsylvania Circle K Convention (PACK) the weekend of March 28-30.

After long deliberation, PACK decided to amend the bylaws that would allow Circle K members to participate in both Circle K and the Kiwanis club, though students could

not hold an office in both.

It passed, but with much controversy.

"I think that in small areas it can be quite beneficial," said Kiwanis member Cheryl Wilson. "But it takes a very devoted person to participate in both." Wilson spent all four of her college years as a member of Circle K and is currently Circle K advisor at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC).

Wilson noted that Circle K, with more than 12,000 members, is the world's largest collegiate service organization. "Kiwanis and Circle K can be quite demanding at times and if one has superior time management skills they might be prepared for the challenge."

The benefits of dual membership include increased communication between Circle K and Kiwani and a breakdown of possible stereotypes held of Kiwanis and Circle K members. Also, a dual member is more likely to join Kiwanis after college graduation if he or she was a member during their college years.

Amy Brown has personally been affected by the bylaw. Brown is currently the Lieutenant Governor for PACK. She held the office of secretary in Kiwanis until she chartered the HACC Circle K. Because she was in both, which

the rules forbid, she had to resign both her position and membership in Kiwanis.

"I understand having to resign my position as secretary, but I should have been allowed to retain at least my membership in Kiwanis," she said. "I stand completely behind this amendment."

"I think dual membership is a great idea," said Kristen Egrestis, current vice-president of Circle K at the Penn State Harrisburg campus. "It allows college students to have interaction with the Kiwanians and to really see what the 'K Family' [Key Club, Circle K, Kiwanis] is all about...and we all know getting students' foot in the door as a member is half the battle."

Whose rule is this anyway? Ashley Fisher, HACC Circle K president said,

"It is Circle K International that is being pigheaded. Kiwanis International sees nothing wrong with doing a dual membership."

Fisher explained that she grew up with Kiwanis in her hometown and that if she had to choose between the Middletown Kiwanis club or HACC Circle K, Kiwanis would win hands down.

"They have done so much for the Key Club I was in and I feel I owe them membership," she said. "It was a good experience for the youth to interact with people their own age and also people of another generation."

It may be a good experience to participate in both, but there are drawbacks. These include members being "stretched too thin" as well as the distinct line that some view separating a Kiwanis member from a Circle K member. Wilson advised to "pick one and give it your undivided attention"

The amendment was passed by the House of Delegates for PACK with a vote of 53-1

The student who voted against it was a representative of the University of Pennsylvania (UPENN). He said, "There is no reason to be in both. We do enough as it is."

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Business owner gives money management lecture

From the Student Activities Office

Press Release

Brian C. Shedleski, President of Shedleski Investment Services, Inc., recently conducted a financial management lecture entitled "Money Power" at Penn State University, Harrisburg campus. Mr. Shedleski operates his own investment business and is a professional speaker/educator, who conducts investment seminars and lectures throughout Pennsylvania and was pleased with the large number of attendees. Approximately fifty students, faculty, and staff attended the one hour lecture, which focused on important financial concepts including interest rates, credit cards, budgeting, and the psychology of money management.

The lecture was designed to motivated and encourage students to make instant changes in their financial behavior in order to improve their money management skills. "I think 'Money Power' was a huge success, stated Carol McNamee, Assistant Coordinator of Student Activities for Penn State Harrisburg. "It seemed like everyone was entertained and certainly learned a lot."



