

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB DIRECTOR'S GUIDE

**The Fourth Ideal of Apex is
"to promote international understanding and friendship."**

From the very beginnings of Apex, our Founders stressed the importance of establishing and maintaining international relationships.

One of the outcomes of this focus was Apex being a founding Member of the World Council of Service Clubs (WOCO), which would have been impossible if Apexians did not have an international focus.



WOCO

The World Council of Service Clubs was founded by Apex, Round Table, Active 20-30 and Kinsmen in April 1945. Each of these organisations had similar ideals and could see a benefit in banding together to achieve greater things than would be possible if each of the organisations acted separately.

An annual WOCO Convention is held once a year. WOCO is split up into four zones Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific. Each zone hosts the Convention on a rotating basis. In the recent past, Australia has hosted 2 WOCO Conventions, in Hobart and more recently in Adelaide in October, 2000.

WOCO gives Apexians the opportunity to meet with people from all around the world to swap ideas, make friends and organise to help those less fortunate than ourselves. (see Overseas Relief Fund). It also gives us ready-made friends when we travel overseas. It is part of the WOCO tradition to make contact with the local WOCO members whenever you are traveling in their country. You will be made most welcome. You will also be expected to return the favour, but after you have experienced the camaraderie of WOCO, you will be more than happy to do so. To find out the local contact for the part of the world you are traveling to, contact the National IR Chairman, who is listed in the Apex Directory under National Board.

The four founding members of WOCO were from different parts of the world. Apex was from Australia, Round Table was from England, Kin was from Canada and Active 20-30 was from the USA. The WOCO logo is a combination of each of the four founding member's logos. Over the years these Associations have spread out to other countries and now over 50 Associations belong to WOCO. The Kin Clubs of Canada, sadly are not current members of WOCO, as they have removed the age limit from their Constitution and are thus ineligible to be members.



TWINNING

The aim of twinning is to give Clubs a simple but meaningful way of supporting our fourth ideal. Twinning refers to the process of creating an informal alliance with a fellow young person's service club, in this case an overseas club.

This alliance is based upon friendship and fellowship, with an exchange of club and local happenings, information and ideas. This two-way exchange of ideas will broaden your personal and club horizons. It is a bit like a sister-city relationship, except it uses a service club to foster good international relations.

Why would any club want to enter into a Twinning arrangement? Apart from the obvious reason of supporting our fourth ideal of Apex, it gives a club a new area in which to expand its horizons. Your club will gain a new perspective on how to go about being an Apex club. You will gain information as well as friends.

Twinning involves exchanging dinner notices, photos, newspaper clippings, copies of The Apexian in which you appear and hopefully, personal visits.

The best way to set up a twinning relationship is now via the internet. Many clubs have their own websites and certainly WOCO (www.woco.org/), Apex Australia (www.apex.org.au/) and Round Table International (www.roundtableintl.org/) have excellent websites.

KIN CLUBS



Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin Clubs are a purely Canadian organisation of men and women. The association was founded in 1920. Kinsmen are male only and Kinette are female only clubs.

Recent activities of Kin include:-

- Continuing support of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, to the tune of \$1.4million.
- Spearheaded Raise the Flag Day, a patriotic project encouraging Canadians to fly their flag.
- Supported Operation Go Home, a project seeking to reunite runaway teens with their families.

For more information check the website at: www.kinclubs.ca/

ROUND TABLE



Round Table is a worldwide organisation, especially strong in most European countries, but also present in Africa, the Middle East, India, Hong Kong, New Zealand and America. Round Tables exist in twenty-one countries around the world. Round Table was formed in 1927 in England and is a male only association, for 18 to 40 year olds.

In the UK there are some 1125 Tables (Clubs) with some 16,000 members, while in New Zealand there are 44 Tables. For more information about RTBI check the RTI site: (www.roundtableintl.org/) and search for RTBI.

FOUNDER'S FUND

The Founder's Fund was set up in honour of the Founders of Apex. They had a vision of carrying Apex to the world. This fund is designed to bring the brightest prospects from the overseas Apex Associations to Australia for training. The idea behind it is that if we train the young leaders in what it means to be an Apexian, they will spread this message throughout their own Association. Over a period of time, this should improve the quality of Apex overall. It is up to us to make this vision a reality. If you have the opportunity to meet a Founder's Fund guest, make them welcome and pass on some of your Apex skills at the same time.

In every National Budget, there is an amount set aside for the Founder's Fund. This money pays for the international and major internal travel costs of each Founder's Guest. Any other travel costs are borne by the State that hosts them and the local Apexians who volunteer to host a guest for a short time.

A Founder's Fund guest has to pass a number of tests in order to be accepted. They have to be nominated by their own Association. They must be young and healthy. They must be able to afford to stay in Australia for 3 weeks and must agree to address Apex clubs, schools and Conventions on the topic of International Relations. They must furnish a report to Apex Australia outlining the benefits gained from being a Founder's Fund guest. Finally they must share their experiences at their Association's Club, District and National events. The guest may only be in Australia for 3 weeks, but it will take a year to complete the obligations of such travel.

The number of Founder's Fund guests allowed each year is determined by the Standing Orders, as is the way the States are allocated a guest.

If you take the time to involve yourself in hosting a Founder's Fund guest, you will also benefit. It makes you appreciate what we have, when we learn from an overseas Apexian how different life is for them. Your State, through your State President will be invited to host a Founder's fund Guest. Please contact your State President to find out how you can get involved in the next Founder's Fund visit.

MASS TOURS

In any one year, a number of Associations organise a Mass Tour. These are tours of the country organising the tour, for WOCO members, hosted by the local Association. They offer a unique insight into the country you visit, as they are hosted by locals. They also put you in the company of a group of people who act just like Apexians. If you don't think it sounds like fun yet, it is time to retire !

Mass Tours are advertised in the WOCO Directory. Contact our National IRC for details.

BURSARIES

This program was set up as a joint project between Apex Australia and Apex Philippines. Apexians provide the funds necessary to enable a child from a poor family to attend school. This provides a means of escaping from the poverty trap that binds so many people that lack proper schooling. As an initiative that costs little but reaps lasting benefits, this program has no peer.

An Apex club, or an individual, that sponsors a student is not only helping one child. The education gained allows that child to gain a good job and so support the whole family.

To get involved in this project, all you need to do to is to contact the National IRC who will put you in contact with the Bursary Officer. The Bursary Officer will find a student for you to sponsor. You will send the funds to the Apex Accountant. Then you will receive letters from your student, and your club will be able to send letters to the student. Any member of your club would be welcome to visit your student. Just notify the Bursary Officer that you are intending to visit and they will arrange it with Apex Philippines so that your student is expecting you.

OVERSEAS WORK PARTIES

Many Apexians have broadened their horizons through participating in a hands-on service project overseas. Apexians have built schools, hospitals, libraries and community centres in developing areas of the world. These work parties are a State responsibility and if you would like to get involved, please contact your State IRO or your State President. There are work party guidelines that are available from National Office and these need to be adhered to when organising a work party. Don't forget that writing a report on the project is part of organising an overseas work party!

OVERSEAS RELIEF FUND

This fund is used for Apex to help people overseas. It is the fund from which Apex can donate directly to an organisation (for example a WOCO club in an area of need) to help in dealing with a disaster. It is also the fund through which money is channelled to fund overseas work parties.

The fund is set up "for the direct relief of poverty, suffering, distress or misfortune of persons outside Australia. All Funds received and dispersed by Apexians, Apex Clubs, Districts, States and the Association for payment of a charitable nature outside Australia shall be paid and distributed through this fund."

To access this fund, you would need to contact the National President to recommend a candidate for a donation. The National President, in consultation with the National Board, will commit funds as they deem appropriate. If you would like to organise an overseas work party, the work party guidelines tell you how to apply for access to the Overseas Relief Fund and how to go about putting your funds into the Overseas Relief Fund to enable the work party to take place.

As the Overseas Relief Fund is part of the Charitable Fund, all deductions over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

IR ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO *EASILY*

- Organise an International Night. Choose a country, or culture and have the food of that culture served as your meal at the meeting. Have a member of that culture as your guest speaker on that night to tell you about their culture.
- Invite an exchange student to your meeting and have them tell you about where they came from.
- Twin with another club.
- Host a Founder's Fund guest for a night. Show them your hometown and show them a REAL Apex club.
- Send your dinner notice to a WOCO club. Get an address from the IRC.
- Have your club International Relations Officer report at a meeting on overseas news that would interest Apexians.



IR ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO *with EFFORT*

- Organise an International Night and invite the whole District. Have the food of another culture, and have a guest speaker from that culture. You may even invite the Ambassador of that country to your special night. Have a visual display of items, art, scenery and the people on display. See if you can have the local people from that culture put on a show with dances or something similar.
- Attend a WOCO Convention.
- Host a WOCO Convention.
- Go on a Mass Tour.
- Organise an Overseas Work Party.
- Visit your Twin Club.
- Make it a club or district project to send someone..or a group to visit another association.
- Nominate your IR project for State and National Apex IR awards - what better satisfaction after the completion of a major project than to share the idea and to be acknowledged by other Apexians.