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Letter from camp

Two young brothers, named Spencer and Sefano, went to camp, and what a weekend it turned out to be. The Kiwanis Club of Fort Montague, Nassau, the Bahamas, sponsored the two lads' adventure to Eleuthera—a paradise of pink and white sand beaches off the island's eastern shore.

Sefano was so excited about the experience he wrote about it. Here's an excerpt:

"When we got on the boat, the first thing we did was buy snacks. After eating, we sat down and talked to our friends who we had just met. Then before we knew it we were in Eleuthera.

"On the bus we sang songs and soon we had to go to bed. (The next day) we played tag and took a short walk to the beach. We swam and went crabbing before returning to the campsite for dinner. Afterwards, in our cabin, we wrestled and jumped on the bed. Then the first person to go to sleep we pasted with toothpaste and laughed.

"In the morning, we played a game where we would tie a spoon around our backs and try to pick up balls for prizes. We also had Bible verses to study, and I won the first prize for remembering my verse. Spencer came in second.

"We had lots of fun at camp and hope Kiwanis sends us again. Next time we hope our brother, Maskco, will be old enough to go with us.

"Thanks, Kiwanis!"
Convention updates

Meaningful lives

Next June, Kiwanians can learn about the power of servant leadership from the man who wrote the book on the subject: Kent Keith.

Keith, author of The Case for the Servant Leadership, will address a forum at the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, June 25-28. Described as "an inspiring speaker and author whose mission is to help people find personal meaning in a crazy world," Keith cites the universal importance of service, defines key practices of servant-leaders, and explores the meaningful lives of servant-leaders.

Yearn to learn

If you want to learn more about Kiwanis, about leadership, about membership recruitment, about life, about personal growth, about serving the world’s children with a Kiwanis heart … go to Nashville, Tennessee, for the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention, June 25-28, 2009. The array of forums and workshops will equip you with effective lessons on a variety of topics.

Pick your favorite track:

- **Leadership Tracks**
  Specialized tracks geared toward making you better at the job you were elected to perform:
  - Governor
Lt. governor
  • Club president
  • Club secretary

• Growth Tracks
  • Club membership
  • TAG orientation for beginners
  • Advanced TAG training

Select from the many workshops and forums:

  • Working with volunteers
  • Succession planning
  • Club meetings with impact
  • High impact leadership
  • Empowering others to invite
  • Marketing your club
  • Going from good to great
  • TAG: Vision, goals, structure
  • Achieving club excellence
  • Organizing a young professional club
  • Master club builders
  • Mentoring: the club counselor
  • Innovative membership ideas
  • Why another Kiwanis Club in the community
  • Membership best practices

For updated information about convention forums, check the International Convention Web site regularly.

Nashville quiz

To make sure you’re ready for the 2009 Kiwanis International Convention, June 25-28, we have a quick quiz about the host city. Which type of music is Nashville, Tennessee, known for? Choose as many as apply.

  1. Jazz
  2. Country
  3. Rock ‘n’ roll
  4. Gospel
  5. Classical

Find the answer at the bottom of the page.

Leadership blog

Moving from ‘have-to’ to ‘get-to’

Kiwanis International CEO Rob Parker regularly posts on Kiwanis’ leadership blog (English). A recent posting focuses on the importance of exciting club meetings:

Many of our clubs have well-planned meetings, interesting programs, friendly atmosphere and wonderful food, but that’s not universally true. For some Kiwanis members, the meeting ritual is something they feel they “have” to do. Our challenge to those clubs is to start a dialogue among members about what changes are needed to make meetings something they "get" to attend.

What if one meeting a month was replaced with an evening social event that was a ton of fun? What if you replaced one of the weekly meetings with a Saturday service project? What if your club reduced its meeting time to 45 minutes from start
to finish so working members could fit it into their schedule? What if one meeting a
month was held in a unique setting like a museum, an art gallery, city hall, symphony hall, ball park, a large tent outdoors, a member’s home, or whatever
interesting venue you could think of? What if? ...

So my question to you is: What kinds of things would change your Kiwanis meeting
from a "have" to a "get" to? And if your club is already a "get" to, tell us why.

Two new club election options

Kiwanis clubs can take advantage of new election options, a result of amendments adopted at the 93rd Annual Kiwanis International Convention this past June.

The new options include:

1. Any/all club officers now may be elected to either one- or two-year terms, as determined by each club.
2. Clubs now may use electronic balloting methods to elect officers.

To take advantage of either option, clubs first need to amend their bylaws with Kiwanis International. Clubs should begin the process now so the proper rules are in place before club elections are conducted in April/May 2009. A revised Standard Form for Club Bylaws includes language for these options.

Satellite launchings

Satellite groups are a new way Kiwanis clubs can grow by expanding into new neighborhoods, communities, even generations.

What is a club satellite? A small group of individuals who become members of an existing, host club, but can meet and plan activities separately.

Why start a satellite? Kiwanis clubs can expand wherever and whenever circumstances do not support the formation of a charter-strength club. For example:

- Small towns
- Ethnic neighborhoods
- Business parks
- Retail locations
- Young adults
- Parents of Kiwanis’ Service Leadership Programs

How many members are needed? There is no minimum.

What are the host club’s responsibilities? Assist the satellite in obtaining and maintaining a high level of commitment, activity, and enthusiasm, while providing administrative oversight.

Do satellites elect officers? No. A satellite operates basically as a committee of the host club. A chairperson may preside over meetings.

Do satellite members pay dues? Yes, to the host club, which pays the appropriate dues and fees to Kiwanis International and the district.

What about financial accounts and records? The host club’s secretary and treasurer must maintain all records and bank accounts, and its board must approve all bills, payments, and deposits. However, arrangements can be made to separate monies raised and distributed by the satellite.
Can satellite club members hold office in the host club? Yes.

Can a satellite group become a separate Kiwanis club? Yes, if it attains the required number of members to qualify for a Kiwanis charter. (The members of the new club would not be counted as a membership loss from the host club.)

If you have more questions, contact Kiwanis International.

Deadline ahead

The deadline to submit proposed resolutions and Kiwanis International Bylaws amendments is approaching. Proposals must be received by Kiwanis International no later than February 15, 2009.

The following may submit proposed amendments and resolutions:

- A club by majority vote of its membership. Proposals cannot be accepted from a club board or an individual Kiwanian.
- A district by a majority vote of its board of trustees or its house of delegates.
- The Kiwanis International Board.

Resolutions relate to service matters and usually call attention to a social concern or challenge.

Amendments propose a change to the International Bylaws regarding administrative issues of Kiwanis International and its member clubs.

Nashville answer

If you chose all of the music styles, you’re correct. Though perhaps best known as the home of the Grand Ole Opry and country music, Nashville lives up to its “Music City USA” alias, composing, playing, producing, and listening to country, rock, classical, jazz, gospel, and more.

This June 25-28, Nashville will host the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. Be there for the fellowship, education and the music!