Kiwanis International Update

June 2009

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Kiwanis story

Removing the stigma of need

Imagine what it must be like for a child to be poor. In school, he’s the one wearing worn and torn hand-me-down clothes. She’s the one whose family can’t afford a birthday party with her friends. They’re the ones who secretly pass a note to their teachers asking for help to pay for the school’s lunch.

In the eyes of Badenweiler-Müllheim, Germany, Kiwanians, all children are equal. So the club takes the bureaucracy—and stigma—out of the local primary school’s lunch program.

The daily meal cost for Müllheimer students is 3.30 euros. A reduced daily rate of 1.50 euros is available, but parents must prove they need financial help. The Kiwanis club’s subsidy eliminates the need for such proof. Plus, the Kiwanis gift can be used to assist students with homework support, music lessons and other educational needs.

All Müllheimer students are treated the same in their school cafeteria regardless of financial circumstances, thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Badenweiler-Müllheim, Germany.—Photograph by Volker Münch
7 steps to excellence

The best way to improve your community is to improve your own club. Kiwanis International’s “Achieving Club Excellence” workbook recommends a seven-step process:

**Step 1: Commit to excellence.** With your fellow members, renew your commitments to the Kiwanis purpose, each other and the club.

**Step 2: Assess club vitality.** Survey members. Ask them what’s good about the club and how it can be better.

**Step 3: Plan your club’s success.** Prioritize strategies and create a timeline to increase and sustain membership, implement meaningful service projects, market Kiwanis to your community and inform members and enhance the Kiwanis experience.

**Step 4: Share your story.** Be prepared to share your Kiwanis experience.

**Step 5: Inform members.** Hold an orientation to give new members the basic information they need to become involved in the club.

**Step 6: Welcome new members.** When you induct new members, plan a meaningful ceremony, introduce them to other members and involve their spouses and friends.

**Step 7: Enhance the member experience.** Focus on relevant, rewarding projects and recognition for achievement.

For more help on improving your club, check out the Achieving Club Excellence Participant’s Guidebook and the Kiwanis Club Excellence Tool.

Present like a pro

A PowerPoint presentation on how to create and give PowerPoint presentations? What a great idea! Download Kiwanis International’s “Effective PowerPoint Presentations” and start presenting like a pro.

Can they find you?

“Find a Club” is the second-most-visited page on the Kiwanis International Web site. That means a lot of Internet users are looking for Kiwanis clubs—possibly yours. Make sure your listing is posted or accurate. If it’s not there, e-mail the Web address and your club name to internet@kiwanis.org.
Tutorials for you

Online tutorials (English) can help your club build and maintain its Web site:

- The [Webmaster Guide](#) links to resources for newbie and experienced Web builders.
- A [user's guide](#) for creating a Web site using free templates.
- [Guidelines](#) instituted by the Kiwanis International board for operating a club Web site.

Go global

The [2009 Kiwanis International Convention](#) is the best place to experience the global reach of our organization. Consider these forums and events that have “international” flair:

**Thursday, 9 a.m.**: Learn about other Kiwanis cultures at the “Kiwanis Around the World” panel discussion.

**Thursday, 10 a.m.**: Get your assignment to interview attendees from all parts of the world at the “Be a Kiwanis Correspondent” forum. (This forum will be repeated Friday at 9 a.m.)

**Thursday, 11:15 a.m.**: Learn how districts are helping grow Kiwanis in developing Kiwanis countries at the Kiwanis International European Federation’s “Sponsor District Program” presentation.

**Friday, 10:15 a.m.**: Learn how the European Federation’s “Open the Front Door, Close the Back Door” program can help your club retain members.

Check your convention program for more details.
Business matters

Club representatives, convened at the 2009 International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, June 25-28, will consider four proposed Bylaws amendments. They propose to:

1. Allow U.S., Canadian and Caribbean clubs the flexibility to pay insurance premiums from either their service accounts, administrative accounts or a combination of both.
2. Allow Kiwanis to continue to grow in developing nations during difficult economic times.
3. Gradually establish October 1 as the same billing date for all clubs.
4. Provide that all members of English-speaking clubs in the U.S. and Canada receive equal benefit from and share equal financial responsibility for the organization’s official publication.

Read the complete text of these proposals.

KIWANIS magazine

Inspiration time

Inspiring! Informative! Those two words could well describe the June 2009 issue of KIWANIS magazine.

Be inspired:

1. Get a glimpse of Kiwanis One Day projects from clubs worldwide.
2. Join Norden District Kiwanians as they deliver clothes, toys and more to families in Albania.
3. Meet a New York soldier who enlisted his troops and fellow Kiwanians to serve orphans in Iraq.

Be informed:

1. Learn how clubs are building their membership through retention.
2. Discover new tools for creating a dynamic Web presence for your club.
Europe’s Flash

The Kiwanis International-European Federation has added an electronic newsletter to keep members informed about Kiwanis activities on the Continent. The Ki€Flash currently is published monthly in six languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, and Romanian). Federation leaders contribute columns on topics from membership development to leadership training. Every issue spotlights a European district and highlights its clubs’ service activities.

The newsletter is delivered at no cost by e-mail but also is available through a button on the KI-EF home page.

If you would like to receive the Ki€Flash, simply e-mail your name, club and e-mail address.

Dates to remember

- **June 4-6, 2009**, The [42nd Annual Kiwanis International-European Federation Convention](#) in Ghent, Belgium.