



Membership-New Club Building and Existing Club Strengthening

Working together, teams of Florida Kiwanians did a lot of new club building and club strengthening this year. Upwards of thirty of our members from all over the State volunteered to participate in those activities. They formed nine new clubs that either have been chartered or are in process of being chartered. There's most likely going to be a new Kiwanis club in Puerto Rico, too!

This membership "team", as I like to call them, learned more about how to grow Kiwanis and help others at the same time. Now these members are ready to help other members and clubs grow and strengthen. I stress the words "team" and "teamwork" because that's what Kiwanians have been doing ever since we got started over 100 years ago. It's more effective, so much easier and a lot of fun when we form a team of club members familiar with the community, develop an action plan with the committed team, go out to the community sharing the rewards of service and invite others to join us. There's more recognition of Kiwanis when we do that, too!

It seems that there is a common misconception that the Membership Committee/team will come in and do the legwork necessary to either strengthen the club or build a new one. Without the involvement from the club, how will members ever learn how to strengthen their own club and support themselves, establish relationships in their community or build a new club if others are doing it for them? No, our job is to coach and offer guidance, show you resources available and help clubs develop a plan.

So, does your club have an action plan for improving membership? Are you engaged in it or waiting for your successor to take office and get the ball rolling? What are you waiting for? If your club has a plan, are you looking at how you're doing every year? If your club doesn't have a clue what to do, do you want help? The Membership Committee is ready to assist you, share best practices, help you form a team and a plan, then, guide you to strengthening your club or building a new one.

Take that first step and learn more about club strengthening or building, by contacting the Membership Committee through the District office. Let's work together, not alone, but side by side on growing Kiwanis! As a wise person once said, "let's strike a path and leave a trail"! Together, we can do so much more to make a difference in the lives of children!

Jim Gillies, Florida District Membership Coordinator