Be a Dan… don’t give up…open that club!

Steps to Recruit and Building a Local Kiwanis Club
By Gov. Brian E Wells



Introduction: “Kiwanis Rocks!!” and so does Dan

Let me introduce you to Kiwanian Dan Rutt. I met Dan last year as then Governor John and myself traveled to Aurora, NE to talk about establishing a club in Aurora. Dan had recently moved to Aurora from Hastings, NE.

“I miss my Kiwanian friends”, Dan told me to answer my question of why a club in Aurora. Several past governors had attempted to develop traction in Aurora but couldn’t get a commitment from the city. Dan made a go of it with the membership team of Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District and with help from Jay at KI. Sadly, we couldn’t get the mayor, school superintendent etc. to commit to a club. Dan refused to take no for an answer. He then started recruiting people in town, who like himself recently moved into town. Within a few months, Dan had recruited 10, then 12 now 15 and more in the planning! We will soon celebrate an organizational night with the newest Kiwanian Club in the Nebraska-Iowa District.

Even though the club hasn’t chartered yet, they have started on their first project (books for young students) with the help of a local bookstore. Dan was and is relentless in his pursuit to establish likeminded servant leaders to help children and community.

Can you be the next Dan in your community? We are currently looking for two more club sponsors of Kiwanis Voices Clubs (18–26-year-olds). If interested reach out to me….be like Dan! Make a difference in a child/young person’s life!

Some quick review… Kiwanis International is a global community of clubs, members, and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children and strengthening communities. If you are inspired by leaders like Dan, who have successfully started Kiwanis Clubs in their communities, this guide will walk you through the process of recruiting members and establishing your own club.

Step 1: Learn About Kiwanis

Before launching a new club, familiarize yourself with the mission, values, and activities of Kiwanis International. Visit the official website and read about their service projects, organizational structure, and

member benefits. Understanding the purpose and impact of Kiwanis will help you communicate its value to potential members.

Step 2: Assess Community Needs

Identify opportunities for service and engagement in your area. Consider collaborating with local schools, nonprofits, and civic organizations to determine where a Kiwanis club could make the greatest difference. This will also give you ideas for potential projects and partnerships once your club is established.

Step 3: Recruit Founding Members

Begin by reaching out to friends, family, colleagues, and community leaders who may be interested in joining. Host informational meetings, attend local events, and use social media to spread the word. Aim to recruit at least 15 committed members, as this is often the minimum required to charter a new club.

- Prepare a compelling pitch about Kiwanis.
- Share stories of impact and service.
- Emphasize leadership development and networking opportunities.

Step 4: Connect with Kiwanis International

Contact your local Kiwanis district or Kiwanis International directly for guidance. They will provide resources, support, and may assign an advisor to help you through the chartering process. You'll also receive materials for meetings, recruitment, and community outreach.

Step 5: Organize Initial Meetings

Schedule regular gatherings with your core group to establish club goals, elect officers, and plan community service projects. Use these meetings to foster camaraderie and enthusiasm among members. Consider inviting guest speakers from existing clubs to share their experiences.

Step 6: Complete the Chartering Process

Work with your district or Kiwanis International representative to submit the necessary paperwork and fees for official recognition. Once chartered, your club will be able to participate in Kiwanis programs, access resources, and have a greater impact in your community.

Step 7: Launch Your First Service Project

Kick off your club's activities with a high-impact project that addresses a local need. This will help establish your club's reputation and attract additional members. Promote your project through local media and social channels to raise awareness.

Step 8: Grow and Sustain Your Club

Continue recruiting new members, building partnerships, and organizing service projects. Encourage active participation, recognize achievements, and foster a positive club culture. Regularly review your club's progress and adapt to evolving community needs.

Conclusion

By following these steps, you can be like Dan and make a significant difference in your community through Kiwanis. Leadership, service, and teamwork are at the heart of every successful club. Start today and inspire others to join you in serving children and improving lives.

Remember, "Kiwanis Rocks!!"