

New Member Recruitment

Submitted by Janet Butler, Tuscola Kiwanis

Attracting new members is a very important activity for every Kiwanis club. It is even more important now! Each club is working to support Kiwanis International's goal of "one million members by 2015." To that end, the Tuscola Kiwanis Club held a membership recruitment dinner in late August.

Dave Dobson, chairman of the event, created some extra fun for members. All members were divided into 4 teams with a team captain. The teams had the catchy names (think baseball) of Bicker's Bluejays, Butler's Braves, Damler's Dodgers and McCumber's Mariners. Each team

member was asked to submit two names of prospective members to their captain. So...what were we playing for? A Free Dinner. The team who had the most guests attend the recruitment dinner from their submissions won a free dinner.

The team captains submitted the names to the chairman, and letters of invitation went out. All preparations were made ready for the dinner. On the big night, twenty guests arrived. Wow, we thought. This is a great start. We welcomed our guests, shared a meal with them and talked about Kiwanis and its projects and activities. We were hopeful that new members would come from this dinner.

We are happy and proud to report that from the dinner we have ten new members! We believe that one particular segment of the program had a big impact on the guests. Several members got up and told the group why they joined Kiwanis and why they stay. In celebration, Dave Dobson wrote the following poem to welcome our new members:



Dave Dobson
October 2006
Tuscola Kiwanis
Club's poet
laureate

Kiwanis membership grows toward million-member goal

David B. Williams, Public Relations – Kiwanis International

Kiwanis International membership totaled 260,701 in 8,241 clubs as of September 30, 2006. This figure represents an increase of 11,413 members and 124 clubs compared to final figures as of September 30, 2005. The count for 2006 reflects all reported member adds and deletes during the year and all new clubs organized.

"This is great news for Kiwanis and for all those we serve," says International President Nelson Tucker. "This gain is the first measurable progress toward our goal of one million members by 2015, the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis." Club delegates adopted the million-member goal at the 2005 International Convention.

Positive growth was achieved in all four regions of the Kiwanis world: North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe. Our commitment to regional growth plans, positive organizational messages, Kiwanis-branded service, K University, and membership growth (TAG) teams are examples of how we are building momentum," says CEO/Executive Director Rob Parker. "We have established a strong foundation and must continue our commitment to achieving a million members by 2015."

The final figure for each club, division, and district on September 30 is also the official starting figure for 2006-07. Clubs can add and delete members at any time during the Kiwanis year, as well as when the club roster is submitted to each club at the time of annual dues billing. However, member adds and deletes during the year will not change the October 1 starting figure.

Clubs only pay dues for members reported on their corrected club roster, while annual growth achievement is measured by the September 30 final figure each year. To maintain accuracy and avoid confusion, it is important for clubs to report member adds and deletes as they occur. New members should begin receiving Kiwanis magazine and their district newsletter as soon as possible, so they can become informed about the organization they have joined.

Tribute to Our New Members

We're happy to welcome our Newcomers Ten,
Four lovely ladies and six gallant men;
First Come the Russells — Patty and Dan,
Teachers who know how to make lesson plans,
And Janet — Ms. Cox, who'll serve our club well,
Her favorite program — "Saved by The Bell,"
The Mosses are next — Barbara and Art,
They've shown us great promise, right from the start;
A Jerry named Hall we add to our group,
From the *Tuscola Journal* he gives us a "scoop,"
The Landecks have joined us — that's Judy and Ken,
They sold lots of peanuts — that's how they began,
A welcome addition is a man named Jim Lee,
That's legal protection for you and for me;
And finally we welcome our colleague Roy Young,
He'll stand and deliver 'till the last bell is rung,
So we'll see you each Monday and your hand
we will shake,
We're so glad to have you — great Kiwanians you'll make!