

Kiwanis Education Spots for Club Newsletters and Meetings

1. The first Kiwanis club was organized in Detroit, Michigan, USA, in 1914. The group received a charter from the state of Michigan on January 21, 1915—the day that is regarded as the birth date of Kiwanis. The club's name is Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1 in recognition of its heritage.
2. Kiwanis was created by a professional organizer named Allen Simpson Browne. His concept for the new organization included the exchange of business among the members. However, the Detroit club had been organized only a few weeks when the members became involved in their first service project. During the next five years, Kiwanians would debate the basic purpose of the organization: mutual business exchange or community service.
3. The first name suggested for the organization that became Kiwanis was “Benevolent Order Brothers.” But Oattie Robertson, a charter member of the Detroit No. 1 club, didn't like it. “It seems to me,” he said, “that Benevolent Order Brothers is a mighty peculiar name for an organization of businessmen. Who wants to be a BOB?”
4. The name “Kiwanis” was coined from an expression of the American Indians in the Detroit area, which was found in Bishop Baraga's dictionary of the Otchipew language. The expression “Nunc Kee-wan-nis” meant, broadly, “we trade” or “we share our talents.” As a coined word, however, “Kiwanis” has no meaning except as the name of a leading international service club.
5. Kiwanis International conventions began when the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland invited representatives of other clubs to meet there in May 1916. At that time there were a total of 16 clubs with 1,924 members. A Kiwanis International convention has been conducted every year since then, except for limited conferences in 1943-45 due to wartime travel restrictions. Today, the usual attendance at an International convention is about 12,000.
6. The first president of Kiwanis International was George F. Hixson of the Rochester, New York, club. He was elected at the first convention in Cleveland in 1916 and re-elected the next year. He is the only International President to serve for two terms. The Hixson Fellowship of the Kiwanis International Foundation is named in his honor; Hixson medals are presented to donors who have contributed at least \$1,000 to the Hixson Endowment Fund or the Worldwide Service Project.
7. Kiwanis International's continuing service focus is called “Young Children: Priority One.” This program seeks to serve the special needs of young children from prenatal development to age 5 in four areas: maternal and child health; child care and development; parent education and support; and safety programs and pediatric trauma care.
8. Kiwanis became international with the organization of the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton in Ontario, Canada, in November 1916. However, the organization's official name, “Kiwanis Club,” was not changed to “Kiwanis International” until the Constitutional Convention in Denver in 1924.
9. The first Kiwanis headquarters, a two-room office, was opened in Chicago in 1918. Kiwanis continued to rent larger and larger offices in the “Windy City” until 1957, when the first Kiwanis International building was dedicated. This building served Kiwanis for 25 years but was eventually outgrown. In 1982 the sale of this valuable property allowed construction of a larger building in Indianapolis, a site with lower costs and greater convenience than downtown Chicago.
10. Club delegates approved in principle the establishment of Kiwanis districts at the Providence, Rhode Island, convention in 1918. The purpose of Kiwanis districts is to promote communication and interchange between clubs and assist in carrying out the administrative responsibilities of Kiwanis International. Most of the original 29 districts were organized by the end of that year.
11. From 1915 to 1919, the organization of new Kiwanis clubs was managed by a professional organizer, Allen Simpson Browne, who can be credited with creating Kiwanis. In return for building new clubs, he received a portion of every new membership fee. This arrangement led to increasing controversy about the

purpose and control of the organization. The problem was solved when Kiwanis International “bought itself” from Browne at the 1919 convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Club delegates raised \$17,500 on the convention floor to purchase Browne's rights to the Kiwanis name and organization.

12. The first Kiwanis motto, “We Build,” was adopted in 1920. It was proposed by Roe Fulkerson, first editor of the Kiwanis Magazine, who later said, “God inspired me to write those two words—We Build. I am prouder of them than any other accomplishment in my life.” It was replaced 85 years later.

13. About 140 staff and supporting personnel work at the Kiwanis International Office in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, which includes the staffs of Key Club International, Circle K International, and the Kiwanis International Foundation. Kiwanis International also operates regional service centers in Europe, South America, and Asia to serve the needs of clubs in those regions more efficiently.

14. The 1924 convention in Denver, Colorado, became known as the “Constitutional Convention.” In the process of finalizing a complete International Constitution and Bylaws, Kiwanis officially adopted the name Kiwanis International and the six permanent Objects.

15. Until 1962, Kiwanis clubs were limited to the United States and Canada. But club delegates to the 1961 convention in Toronto approved the extension of Kiwanis to the rest of the world. In April 1962, the Kiwanis Club of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, became the first club to be organized outside the two founding nations. Today, Kiwanis clubs are active in more than 70 nations and geographic areas.

16. The first Object of Kiwanis International is “To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.”

17. The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees has 20 members including the Executive Director. These include the President, Immediate Past President, President-Elect, Vice-President-Treasurer, and 15 Trustees. The officers serve for one-year terms, and each year a group of Trustees are elected to three-year terms. An additional nonvoting officer, the International Executive Director, is appointed by the Board and is the only salaried officer.

18. English is the official language of Kiwanis International. However, key administrative and program literature is published in up to 13 additional languages, and simultaneous translation is provided at International conventions when required by a sufficient number of members.

19. A “service project” is defined by Kiwanis International as “an activity, consistent with the Objects, objectives, and policies of Kiwanis International, which is devised or planned by a Kiwanis club or a club committee and performed by members of the club for the benefit of others.”

20. The first President of Kiwanis International elected from outside the United States was the third, Henry J. Elliott of Montreal, Quebec, who served in 1919-20. Seven other International Presidents have been Canadian. The first International President elected from outside the two founding nations of the US and Canada was Ian Perdriau AM, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Melbourne, Australia, who served in 1994-95.

21. Only chartered Kiwanis clubs are members of Kiwanis International. Each Kiwanian is a member of his or her club; no individual is a member of Kiwanis International.

22. Kiwanis membership surpassed 10,000 in 1919 and reached 100,000 in 1928. Membership fell below the 100,000 mark during the economic depression years of 1931-1939, but again surpassed 100,000 in 1940. In 1952, membership passed the 200,000 mark and reached 300,000 in 1979.

23. Kiwanis International’s first Worldwide Service Project was initiated in 1993 and formally launched in 1994. The project is designed to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) as a world health problem. Iodine is an essential micronutrient in the human diet. About 1.5 billion people live in iodine-deficient areas of the world, and half of them are children.

24. The creation of a Kiwanis International Foundation was proposed in 1937 by International President F. Trafford Taylor. The foundation was publicly launched at Kiwanis International's 25th anniversary celebration in Detroit in 1940. Walter Zeller, past governor of the Ontario-Quebec-Maritime District, initiated the foundation's funds by donating 25 US silver dollars. These were used to decorate the anniversary cake, and slices were auctioned for a total of \$625. Today, the Kiwanis International Foundation receives more than \$1 million each year in donations and bequests (plus Worldwide Service Project donations).

25. The second Object of Kiwanis International is "To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships."

26. Article XI of the International Bylaws states: "After their election and before their assumption of office, all officers of Kiwanis International and of the districts thereof shall be known and designated by the title of the offices to which they have respectively been elected followed by the term 'designate.'" Kiwanis International has formal offices titled Governor-Elect and President-Elect. To avoid confusion prior to October 1, successful candidates for Governor and President are referred to as Governor-designate and President-designate.

27. Monies received by Kiwanis clubs from fund-raising projects in which the public participates or from members or others for service activities sponsored by the club must be segregated from the administrative funds of the club and used only for the club's service activities. Only the actual costs of the fund-raising activity can be charged to the service account. Nor can interest earned by the service account be transferred to the administrative account. All nonservice operating costs of the club must be charged to an administrative account, which is funded by member dues and fees.

28. The creation of districts is authorized by Section VI of the International Constitution. The International Board creates and supervises districts and establishes their boundaries. The district governor is the chief executive officer of a district and also an officer of Kiwanis International. Districts are organized into divisions, and the chief executive of each division is the lieutenant governor.

29. The goal of Kiwanis International's Worldwide Service Project is to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) as a major world health concern. Iodine is important for proper brain and nervous system development, so iodine deficiency is especially dangerous during prenatal development and early childhood. IDD is the leading preventable cause of mental retardation in the world today. Kiwanis has now funded IDD projects in more than 90 nations.

30. Key Club International is Kiwanis' oldest continuing youth-service program. The first Key Club "for key boys" was organized by the Kiwanis Club of Sacramento, California, in 1925. The concept of a service club for high school students spread to other Kiwanis clubs, and Key Club became an official program of Kiwanis International by 1942. Today, more than 200,000 young men and women belong to Key Clubs in more than 4,500 high schools throughout the US, Canada, and a growing number of other nations. Key Club International is run largely by its members, who conduct conventions and elect officers each year at the district and International levels.

31. The third Object of Kiwanis International is "To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards."

32. Iceland has the highest per capita Kiwanis membership among the Kiwanis nations. About one in every 200 Icelanders is a Kiwanian, compared with about one in every 1,000 Americans.

33. There is no such thing as membership transfer from one Kiwanis club to another. After leaving a Kiwanis club, a former Kiwanian must be elected to membership in another Kiwanis club by that club's board of directors, exactly like any new member. However, if a current member is moving to a new community, the club secretary can send a referral card to the Kiwanis club(s) in the new community, and the Kiwanian who is moving is encouraged to attend meetings of the clubs in the new area and choose one to join. He or she does not need to be sponsored by two members of the new club but can apply for membership directly.

34. The official emblems of Kiwanis and other Kiwanis-family members' registered marks are created and controlled by the International Board of Trustees. No other organization or enterprise can use the names or emblems without prior consent of the International Board. Clubs, divisions, districts, and other official Kiwanis entities are licensed to use Kiwanis-family names and emblems on stationery, bulletins, and other items reasonably necessary to their operation, provided that such items are not resold for profit. Protection of our Kiwanis-family names and emblems from unauthorized use is imperative to maintain the reputation and public confidence Kiwanis has earned over many decades.

35. All solicitations for funds by a Kiwanis club must be confined to the area in which the club functions, except by mutual agreement of clubs in a division, district, or area of solicitation. No member, club, or commercial enterprise may circularize for sale any product or service, solicit funds, or promote any program or project to Kiwanis clubs or members within a district without prior approval of the district board, or outside the district without prior approval of the International Board.

36. The fourth Object of Kiwanis International is "To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship."

37. Kiwanis International's continuing service focus is called "Young Children: Priority One." The Priority One Advisory Council is a group of more than 30 child-related organizations that advise Kiwanis on the Young Children: Priority One program and offer local partners to clubs for collaborative projects. Every Kiwanis club is urged to conduct at least one major Young Children: Priority One project each year.

38. Club bylaws provide that the club's board of directors shall determine the policies and activities of the club, elect and discipline members, approve the budget and all bills, and have general management of the club. But the club board cannot bind future boards to a continuing policy or project. Committing the club to a project lasting more than one administrative year requires a two-thirds vote of the members at a designated club meeting.

39. The International Council consists of the International Board of Trustees, the Past International Presidents, the President of the European Federation, Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Chairman, and the district governors. The Council can enact or amend International Bylaws by a two-thirds vote. Such amendments remain in force unless rescinded at the following International convention.

40. Each Kiwanis club in good standing is entitled to two voting delegates to each International convention and three voting delegates, two of whom must be the club president and president-designate, to each district convention. An alternate for each delegate also may be elected and will assume the delegate's duties if the delegate is unable to serve.

41. There are four categories of membership in a Kiwanis club: active, privileged, senior, and honorary. All members enter Kiwanis as active members. The privileged class of membership was closed in 1963, and this class will cease to exist when the last privileged member leaves his club.

42. The first International convention staged outside the United States and Canada was in Vienna, Austria, in 1983, marking the 20th anniversary of the organization of the Vienna club, the first in Europe. The second International convention outside North America occurred in Nice, France, in 1993. Taipei, Taiwan, hosted the 2001 convention, the first in Asia.

43. Circle K International is a sponsored program of Kiwanis International. Circle K is a service club for collegians and has about 14,000 members on some 525 university, college, and junior college campuses. Circle K affairs are largely managed by its members, who stage annual conventions and elect officers at both the district and International levels each year.

44. Senior membership is open to Kiwanians who have held active membership in one or more Kiwanis clubs for at least 10 years and no longer can meet regular attendance requirements due to health, business, or other extenuating circumstances. Senior members enjoy all the rights of membership, including serving as a club officer. However, since senior membership is granted because the member cannot meet regular attendance requirements, a senior member would not normally be a candidate for a club office.

45. Eliminating iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) is the objective of Kiwanis International's historic Worldwide Service Project. The easiest way to prevent IDD is by iodization of salt, which has eliminated IDD in most developed countries. The goal of the Worldwide Service Project is to raise US\$75 million to finally eliminate IDD by salt ionization and public education in all the remaining at-risk areas of the world. The project surpassed this goal in contributions and pledges in 2001.

46. Persons who have performed a distinguished public service may be elected to honorary membership in a Kiwanis club. Honorary members must be re-elected annually. Honorary members may attend meetings and other club activities but cannot vote or hold office in the club. Honorary members do not pay membership fees or dues, but the club provides each honorary member with a subscription to KIWANIS magazine.

47. The fifth Object of Kiwanis International is "To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities."

48. All active, privileged, and senior members of a club who are in good standing are entitled to vote on proposed amendments to club bylaws, the election of club officers, directors, and delegates to conventions, and any proposal that would constitute an assessment of members in addition to the annual dues.

49. The Kiwanis Legion of Honor recognizes Kiwanians who have been members for 25 years and longer (membership need not be continuous or in the same club). Special lapel pins indicating Legion of Honor membership at five-year intervals are available from the Kiwanis International Supplies Department and should be presented to qualified members on the appropriate anniversaries. Since the Legion of Honor began, more than 780 Kiwanians have been recognized for 60 years, 170 for 65 years, 20 for 70 years, and three for 75 years.

50. Kiwanis International's official publication has appeared continuously since 1917. It was first called "The Kiwanis Club." Two other titles, "The Hornet" and "The Torch," were tried in 1918-20, but quickly abandoned for the simple descriptive title "The Kiwanis Magazine." In 1976, this was further abbreviated to simply "KIWANIS." Beginning in 2004-05, the magazine is published in seven languages and distributed to all Kiwanians around the world.

51. Perfect attendance is defined as an earned attendance credit for each week during a period of 12 consecutive months. Credits can be earned by attending your regular club meeting or the meeting of another Kiwanis club, participating in a club project, attending a regular meeting of your club's board of directors, attending a Circle K, Key Club, or Builders Club, K-Kids, or Aktion Club meeting, and other ways. Credits for nonmeeting activities, such as projects, usually are limited to one credit per month for each type of activity. The club secretary's guidebook has a complete set of Official Attendance Rules.

52. Club bylaws prevent the club from being used for any political purpose or, as a club, from actively participating in the political candidacy of any person. But this does not mean that the club cannot take an interest in public affairs. Article XIV, Section 1, of the Standard Form for Club Bylaws states, "This club shall seek, by fair discussions at its meetings and in other ways, to keep its members informed on all questions of public importance and any proposed legislation affecting the community, state, province, or nation in which this club is located." Equal time is normally given to opposing political candidates or supporters on each side of controversial issues.

53. Any member is entitled to receive a perfect attendance tab for each period of 12 consecutive months during which the member achieved a perfect attendance record. The 12-month period does not need to coincide with the calendar year or Kiwanis administrative year. Neither Kiwanis International nor the districts maintain individual attendance records; this is a responsibility of the local club.

54. An inter-club meeting is one which is jointly planned and held by two or more Kiwanis clubs, or by a Kiwanis club and any Kiwanis Junior, Circle K club, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, and/or Aktion Club and duly announced as such in advance through club notices. No less than a visiting group of four, composed of Kiwanians or a minimum of two Kiwanians plus members of a Circle K club, Key Club, and/or Builders Club sponsored by the visiting Kiwanis club, must be in attendance. To qualify for inter-

club credit, the meeting must be an official meeting of the host club. Conventions, division council meetings, and similar events do not normally qualify.

55. The sixth Object of Kiwanis International is “To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.”

56. Each year, Kiwanis publishes an International Directory, listing every Kiwanis club in the world, its time and place of meeting, and its president and secretary. The directory is provided to district and International officers. Clubs and members can purchase a copy from The Kiwanis Store. Much of this information also is available on-line at kiwanis.org/locator.html.

57. Kiwanis is not a “professional classification” organization. Any number of members from a particular business or profession can belong to a Kiwanis club. Of course, each club should strive to represent a broad spectrum of its community.

58. The organization date, when a new club meets officially to elect officers and adopt its bylaws, is the official birth date of a Kiwanis club and is celebrated as the anniversary in future years. The charter presentation is conducted a few weeks later, allowing adequate time to plan the event. All members elected before the charter date are considered charter members.

59. The European Federation of Kiwanis International is composed of the eight districts and nondistricted areas of Europe: the Iceland-Faroes, Norden, Netherlands, Belgium-Luxemburg, France-Monaco, Switzerland-Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, and Italy-San Marino districts, and areas such as the Iberian peninsula and eastern Europe. The European Federation has more than 1,000 clubs and stages an annual convention to elect federation officers and promote Kiwanis goals and training.

60. Kiwanis was defined as “an organization for men” in the constitution adopted at the Denver Constitutional Convention in 1924. In 1987, after more than a decade of debate throughout the organization, delegates at the convention in Washington, DC, voted overwhelmingly to eliminate gender as a membership requirement. Today, about 18 percent of worldwide Kiwanis membership is female and about 29 percent of all new members are women.

61. Kiwanis Asia-Pacific is composed of the seven districts and nondistricted areas of Asia and the Western Pacific: the Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippine Luzon, Philippine South, Malaysia, New Zealand-South Pacific, and Australia districts, and areas from Sri Lanka to Tahiti. Kiwanis Asia-Pacific has 700 clubs and conducts an annual conference to elect regional officers and promote Kiwanis goals and training.

62. Kiwanis International does not “grade” club reports or award points for specific club activities. Grading plans are administered by districts to promote club excellence. Questions or proposals regarding district grading plans should be directed to the district secretary or your division’s lieutenant governor, who is also a member of the district board. Kiwanis International does analyze annual club reports to obtain important statistical information about Kiwanis membership and service and to select clubs for special awards.

63. Builders Club is a Kiwanis-sponsored service club for students in junior high and middle schools. Each Builders Club is a local project of its sponsoring Kiwanis club, and there is no district or International Builders Club structure. More than 1,000 Builders Clubs currently are sponsored by Kiwanis clubs to provide service and leadership experiences to junior high and middle school students.

64. The Kiwanis administrative year begins on October 1. Originally, clubs and districts operated on the calendar year. However, Kiwanis International officers were elected at the annual conventions in early summer and assumed office immediately or, beginning in 1950, on August 1. This led to many problems of budgeting, programming, and leadership. For example, each International President worked with two sets of district governors and club presidents, and vice versa. Finally, in 1969 the administrative year beginning October 1 was adopted for all levels of Kiwanis organization.

65. There is no such thing as “life membership” in Kiwanis. However, Kiwanis International does grant Life Member Status in return for a payment equal to 15 times the current International dues. The number of Kiwanians granted Life Member Status in any year is limited. Kiwanians seeking Life Member Status must have been members for at least three years and be approved by the club board. Payment may be made by the individual member, but Life Member Status often is obtained for a member by his or her club as a form of special recognition. Clubs are not billed for International dues for members with Life Member Status. But these members do continue to pay the KIWANIS magazine subscription fee and the general liability insurance fee, as well as club and district dues.

66. Club bylaws set a limit of 90 minutes for a club meeting, from the time when the meeting is called to order until it is adjourned. Clubs are required to conduct meetings at least twice per month. To receive attendance credit, a member must be present for at least 60 percent of a meeting.

67. K-Kids is a Kiwanis-sponsored service club for students in elementary schools. Each K-Kids club is a local project of its sponsoring Kiwanis club, and there is no district or International K-Kids structure. The K-Kids program was officially adopted by Kiwanis International in 1998.

68. Kiwanis International’s address on the World Wide Web is www.kiwanis.org. This Web site includes the texts of official Kiwanis documents, extensive information on club administrative and service topics, an on-line Kiwanis supplies catalog, the latest organizational news, and links to clubs, districts, and individual Kiwanians around the world.

69. In 1998, the Kiwanis International Board adopted the slogan “Serving the Children of the World” for use on Kiwanis letterheads, publications, and literature. In 2005, the House of Delegates at the Honolulu International Convention approved “Serving the Children of the World” as Kiwanis International’s official motto to promote greater public awareness of Kiwanis’ primary service focus and worldwide scope.

70. Aktion clubs are Kiwanis international’s newest sponsored program, officially adopted in 2000. Aktion club is a service club for youth and adults with disabilities, who elect officers, raise funds, and choose and conduct community-service projects with guidance from their Kiwanis sponsors. More than 300 Aktion clubs are now providing their members with leadership and service opportunities.

For clubs in the United States and Canada only:

71. The Kiwanis general liability insurance program is not accident insurance. It does not cover accidents that may occur during fund-raising and service projects when no negligence or evidence of failure to provide proper supervision is found. The insurance protects members, clubs, districts, and Kiwanis International against legal liability, which generally accrues from a negligent act or failure to act, resulting in bodily injury to a person or damage to property.

72. The Kiwanis general liability insurance covers fund-raising and service activities involving the public as well as club activities confined to the membership. Because a high percentage of public liability exposure is the result of a club’s fund-raising and service activities, clubs are permitted to allocate from revenue of fund-raising projects, as a legitimate expense, all premium charges over and above a basic sum of 25 cents (US) per member per year. The 25 cents must be paid from the club’s administrative account.

73. Kiwanis dues cannot be claimed as a personal tax deduction. As nonprofit corporations, Kiwanis clubs do not pay taxes on income. But Kiwanis clubs do not qualify as deductible charities for members or donors who provide the club’s income. This is why some clubs, districts, and Kiwanis International have established charitable foundations to receive tax-deductible donations for service purposes.

74. US Kiwanians cannot claim Kiwanis dues as a personal tax deduction. However, Kiwanis dues may qualify as a deductible business expense when a business pays the costs of Kiwanis membership for an employee. Such a business deduction must also meet the “ordinary and necessary” test and other requirements for deductible business expenses. Kiwanians should consult a qualified tax adviser on all tax questions.