



Kiwaniis®

PROMOTING INTER-CLUB MEETINGS



INTER-CLUB DEFINITIONS

An inter-club meeting is a meeting staged by two or more Kiwanis clubs (including clubs in formation), or by a Kiwanis club and any K-Kids, Builders Club, Aktion Club, Circle K Club, or Key Club. Clubs with 20 or fewer members need a minimum of two members in attendance to constitute an inter-club meeting. Clubs with 21-30 members need three members, and clubs with 31 or more members need at least four members in attendance. Visiting groups shall be composed of a minimum of two Kiwanians' plus members of K-Kids, Builders Club, Aktion Club, Circle K Club, and/or Key Club must be in attendance (a lieutenant governor can only be included if he/she is a member of the participating club). Inter-clubbing is a means of supporting Kiwanis' fifth Object, which is "To provide, through this club, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build a better community." This wider scope of Kiwanis can be achieved by arranging visits between clubs in the same town, division, and district, as well as inter-district get-togethers. I have also added, from a member, that inter-clubbing also should include the goal of meaningful interaction and information sharing. The same four people showing up, sitting together and going home again only to repeat week after week makes great data on the report but hardly accomplishes the intent of inter-clubbing.

One of the most important responsibilities of the committee on club meeting is the development of fellowship among members of the Kiwanis family (Kiwaniis Clubs, K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Aktion Clubs, Key Clubs and Circle K Clubs) by having inter-club activities. Through the fellowship gained by inter-club activities, members learn how other clubs function, get to know their neighboring Kiwanians, develop new ideas and a broader interest in how Kiwanis operates, find new ideas for use in their own club, and become better Kiwanians. Inter-clubbing creates fun and strong fellowship.

When Kiwanians visit any K-Kids, Builders Club, Aktion Club, Circle K Club or Key Club, they demonstrate an interest in the activities of the sponsored youth groups. Kiwanians should utilize the opportunity to report back to their club about the visit and urge other Kiwanians to inter-club, so they may learn what the young volunteers are thinking and doing to improve their schools, campuses, and communities.

Though it is usually possible to get enough members to visit another club on an inter-club meeting, it may become somewhat monotonous to plan such meetings month after month, simply to earn credit for inter-club meetings.

Some incentives for inter-club activities are needed for a well-rounded promotion by the committee on club meeting. These should bring about at least two results:

- * Greater interest through specific, meaningful plans.
- * More inter-clubbing by more members.

Inter-clubbing is an excellent means of following up new members' induction training. They will begin to see the broader scope of Kiwanis and learn of the fine work being done by K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Aktion Clubs, Key Clubs, and Circle K Clubs, as well as the relationship between Kiwanis and its youth groups.

Past club, division, and district officers can be urged to remain active in Kiwanis by participating in Inter-club meetings. Current officers can gain valuable experience from such visits by observing how other clubs function. Too often, strong clubs allow other clubs in their own division or district to fall below charter strength because of lack of interest. By inter-clubbing, a strong club can counsel and inspire these clubs through special activities and assistance in fund-raising projects.

Established clubs can help new clubs get the feel of Kiwanis during the first weeks of their existence by setting up a program of inter-club meetings.

Prepare an inter-club membership roster and record participation of club members in inter-club meetings.

District secretaries, lieutenant governors, and chairmen of district committees on club meetings know about existing incentive and can help develop programs if none exist.

Traveling tokens on a division or district level will stimulate greater activity. Plaques or cups, for example, make ideal tokens.

Following are some suggested promotion incentives:

- **Parallel committee exchange.** Plan inter-club meetings as a committee. Arrange to sit with your respective committee. Exchanging ideas and experiences will benefit both clubs. The visiting committee should invite the host committee to return the visit at a convenient date when more ideas can be exchanged.
- **Fellowship sharing.** This is an overall emphasis of which the committee should be well aware. It is a true motivating force and reason for inter-club activities. Each member should be

eager to share fellowship with the members of a club visited and, by the same token, should look forward to every opportunity to share with visitors of the Kiwanis family. In particular, PROGRAM SHARING should be implemented wherever possible. One phase of this involves having one club take a program to another club. Each time this is done, a good delegation from the program-producing club should go with the program.

* **Charter presentation.** The occasion when the district governor presents a charter to a new club is a natural for inter-club activity. Inter-club groups from as many clubs as possible should attend. Not only does this stimulate the new club, but all visiting Kiwanians gain a renewed interest and increased fellowship.

* **New Clubs.** The first year of a new club's life is often the most critical period. It involves a close relationship between the club and its sponsoring club that can make a difference between success or failure. Frequent inter-club meetings by the sponsoring club and all other clubs in the division become vital in this instance. Emphasis should be made that these must be real inter-club meetings and not just token delegations from the visiting club. The older established clubs should invite a new club to return from the visiting club.

President's exchange on a planned division basis. A president's exchange week might be established, in which all clubs in a division could exchange presidents. The visiting president would preside, and the visiting club would furnish the program. A large inter-club group should accompany the president. (NOTE: Be sure at least four members remain behind as a reception committee to ensure a two way inter-club meeting.)

* **Inter-club meetings for an unusual type of program or event.** Inter-clubbing should be particularly active when a club has an unusual or outstanding program. The club should notify all other clubs of this special event. Give ample time for inter-club groups to make plans to attend.

* **Inter-division inter-club meetings.** By planning an interchange of lieutenant governors, accompanied by the members of their home clubs, inter-division fellowship comes alive and inter-club relations take on added direction. Do not overlook inter-district inter-clubbing.

It has been said that ideas breed ideas. From the above suggestions, others will come to mind.