

Aktion Club In Brief

AKTION CLUB IN BRIEF

Aktion Club is the newest member of the Sponsored Organizations and Programs at Kiwanis International.

Aktion Club is a community-service club for adults who live with a disability. The mission of Aktion Club is:

- To provide these adults an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership skills.
- To serve their community.
- To be integrated into society
- To demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities.

Aktion Club members strive to return to their communities the benefits, help, and caring they have received, as well as develop important skills in the process.

Aktion Club is structured only on the local club level but is supported by the Kiwanis International Office in Indianapolis, Indiana. The International Office provides programs, literature, and opportunities to relate to adults who live with a disability.

Aktion Club has more than 4000 members in nearly 200 clubs.

HISTORY

George D. "Jake" Swartout, 1988-89 Governor of the Florida District, organized the first Aktion Club, for adults who live with a disability, in Putnam County, Florida, in 1987. With the assistance of fellow Kiwanians, Ed Brooks and Dick Wittner, the Aktion Club concept spread throughout the Florida District and, by word-of-mouth, throughout the Kiwanis world. Aktion Club became an official Sponsored Program of Kiwanis International on October 1, 2000.

Today, in addition to the US, there are clubs in Australia, Canada, Jamaica, and Malaysia.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Above all else, Aktion Club is a community-service organization whose members are dedicated to improving their communities. The variety of Aktion Club service work is as broad as the needs it fills. The elderly, the disabled, and the underprivileged are all benefited by Aktion Club-sponsored projects. Virtually any unanswered need is a potential target for Aktion Club, commitment and dedication.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Aktion Club is dedicated to the principle of being member-led at every level of the organization. Aktion Club members are elected to serve as the officers at the club level.

The underlying message Aktion Club members receive is that every member is a leader, developing skills from planning projects, leading meetings, and being part of a team that helps others.

Kiwanis advisors work with the Aktion Club leaders to provide guidance and advisement and to help them develop leadership skills.

THE KIWANIS FAMILY

Each Aktion Club must have one or more sponsoring Kiwanis Club. The program is designed for the Kiwanis members to interactively support the Aktion Club. In addition, most Kiwanis clubs provide financial support of the club and its members.

Kiwanis International is a worldwide organization of 8,400 adult community service clubs in more than 96 nations. It is the parent organization for all the members of the *Kiwanis Family*, a special group of dedicated youth and adults who provide more than 20 million hours of community service to thousands of communities every year. The Kiwanis family includes:

- *Circle K International*, a student-led organization on college and university campuses
- *Key Club International*, a student-led organization for high school students
- *Kiwanis Kids Programs* for elementary students:
 - *Terrific Kids* is a student recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance. Students learn how to establish and work toward achievement of realistic goals.
 - *Bring Up Grades or (BUG)* is a program designed to provide recognition to students who raise their grades into an acceptable range, and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next.
 - *K-Kids* is a "student-led" community service club that teaches members the value of helping others through participation in community service projects and club activities.

MEMBERSHIP

Aktion Club membership is open to adults living with a disability willing to service each year, of good character, and possessing leadership potential. An Aktion Club may not restrict its membership based upon gender, religious affiliation, or ethnicity.

AKTION CLUB MEMBERSHIP

(as of September 30, 2005)

Paid Membership	4,321
Paid Clubs	187
Aktion Club Nations	6

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of Aktion Club pay dues to belong to the clubs. Each new member receives a membership card and handbook. Each club receives officer, advisor, and educational training materials and resources, liability insurance coverage, and ongoing support from the Kiwanis International service centers around the globe.



AKTION CLUB

3636 Woodview Trace • Indianapolis, IN 46268 USA • 800-KIWANIS, ext. 390 • 317/875-8755, ext. 390 •
• Fax 317/879-0204 • E-mail: aktionclub@kiwanis.org • www.aktionclub.org

