

Kiwanis in Action

The basic unit in Kiwanis is the local club. Such organization as is required at the District or International level, exists in order to make more effective the work of the local club. In a bona fide attempt to meet the challenge of community service effectively, the local club is organized under a well-designed committee system, with a committee in charge of each of the several community projects. The usual standing committees follow:

- A. Youth Services
 - 1. Boys and Girls Work
 - 2. Key Clubs and Circle K Clubs
 - 3. Vocational Guidance
- B. Citizenship Services
 - 4. Agriculture and Conservation
 - 5. Public and Business Affairs
 - 6. Support of Churches and Spiritual Aims
- C. Kiwanis Administration
 - 7. Inter-Club Relations
 - 8. Kiwanis Education and Fellowship

Detailed records of the work of the several clubs in an area are unified and coordinated through a system of committee reports. Reports

from the various clubs of a division are sent each month to the Lieutenant Governor of the division, who in turn compiles a report which is sent to the District and International officers. Thus, a complete record of the activities of each local club is kept by the higher officials.

To add efficiency, interest and zest to these reports, all of the clubs of a District are classified into five groupings, based on membership in the club. The largest clubs — those with more than 100 members — are designated as being in the "Gold" classification. The next smaller club grouping is designated as "Silver" clubs. The middle size clubs are classified as "Orange." The next smaller clubs are "Blue," while the smallest clubs of the District are in the "White" classification. Thus in any designated activity, clubs throughout the District, that have like interests and are of relatively the same size, are competing one with the other for excellence in the development of their projects. They are meeting the challenge of service in a wholesome, helpful, constructive, and competitive manner. Standing committees are required to make annual Achievement Reports, and prizes are awarded for outstanding achievements in the several areas of service.

Youth Services

The youth program is a fertile field in which to work. Broken homes or negligent parents in and

of themselves pose difficult youth problems. Kiwanis believes that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It maintains the view that the time to eliminate juvenile delinquency is before delinquency begins. Give the youth a recreational program — an outlet for its surplus energy, surround it with wholesome influences — and many of the problems of youth will be solved. In many Iowa communities a diversified, well organized youth program is the primary interest of Kiwanis. Its motto might well be "Serve Youth First."

A perusal of Achievement Reports of Youth Services will reveal a wide variety of projects. Some clubs sponsor a delegate or delegates attending the Hawkeye Boys State. Another club may judge and present trophies and prizes at an annual hobby show, or other community activities. A club may sell a carload of Washington apples — the profits to go to boys and girls activities. The Ames Kiwanis Club helped support a "Tiny Tot Swimming Program," where more than 600 children, ages 2 to 7 were enrolled, and where 215 children learned to swim. The Muscatine Club sponsored a special case of heart surgery that saved the life of a little girl.

Many clubs have a variety of ways of encouraging their youth to continue their educational program. Most clubs in Iowa entertain at commencement time all members of the Honor Roll in

the Public and Parochial Schools of the city. Many clubs invite an outstanding high school student as their guest at each weekly meeting throughout the year. Almost every club sponsors Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Explorer Scouts. It is not unusual for a Kiwanis club to contribute from \$400 to \$1000 or more annually for the transportation and support of a foreign student in their community. Or a club may aid in sending a local student abroad for a year. Most clubs support a liberal loan fund for students who may need financial aid during the school year.

There are also auxiliary youth agencies that Kiwanis seeks to encourage and support. Two of these are the Key Clubs and Circle K Clubs. The term "Key Club" may have a variety of meanings, but in Kiwanis it means a service club for boys from the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades in high school. It is organized in the school under the supervision of the faculty, and operates in the school in much the same fashion as Kiwanis serves the city and community in which it operates. Following the pattern and example of Kiwanis, it has essentially the same officers, the same ideals, motives, and objectives as Kiwanis. Its motto, too, is the same as that of Kiwanis: "We Build."

The Key Club is an organization of Key boys who seek to contribute service and leadership in any situation in which they are placed. Kiwanis feels that it is a pleasure and an honor, as well as

a service, to sponsor such a group. In Iowa, Key Clubs are operating effectively in the high schools of Grinnell, Manson, Missouri Valley, Rock Rapids, and Shenandoah.

Circle K Clubs are organizations of college men having the same ideals and motives, and performing the same functions on the college campus as do their sponsors — Kiwanis Clubs — in the adult community. Circle K Clubs differ from social fraternities in that they are designed as character building groups. Their motto, like that of Kiwanis, is "We Build."

Circle K Clubs are active in Buena Vista, Drake, and Morningside College, and at Clarinda and Mason City Junior College.

Another type of youth educational development is one known as the Junior Achievement program. Although this is not directly allied with the schools, it is a program in which boys and girls from ages 15 to 20 study and outline plans for the operation of small scale business enterprises. Students have counsel and guidance available, but they are urged to develop their own plans and make their own decisions relative to the project in which they are interested. The Mason City Kiwanis Club has sponsored such a program for two years, with some 50 students meeting once a week for guidance and counsel. Business and industrial firms have found this program helpful in recruiting personnel, and now support it financially.

Citizenship Services

Kiwanis seeks to unify urban and rural interest through the activities of its Committees on Agriculture and Conservation. To promote these interests more effectively many clubs seek to inform city folk of the farm problems, and farm groups of the city dwellers' problems. In this connection it is well to note the fact that no one is really self-sufficient, but rather all are interdependent, and that in each of these groups there are advantages and privileges that are not enjoyed by members of the other group.

For the promotion of a better understanding between farm and city groups Kiwanis can contribute much by providing programs throughout the year dealing with such subjects as soil conservation, changing methods in agriculture, and the opportunity of participating in County, District, or State Fairs, or of encouraging the work of 4-H or FFA members by giving prizes and awards for work well done. The observance of Farm-City Week each fall helps promote friendly relations.

The observance of Farm-City Week is now in its sixth year and is becoming increasingly popular throughout the United States and Canada. To aid in this observance Kiwanis International has provided Farm-City kits to be supplied to all clubs requesting them. Each kit contains printed materials designed to assist clubs in carrying forward the activities of the week.

In many Iowa clubs the Agriculture and Conservation Committee carries on a series of projects. The Boone Club sponsors a Conservation Essay Contest. All vocational schools are contacted, and rules of the contest are distributed. Members of the sponsoring committee act as judges, and award a prize to the winner at a regular Kiwanis meeting. The winning essay is then entered in a State-wide contest.

The Boone Club also participates in the annual Iowa-Nebraska Farm Youth Exchange. Two 4-H boys are selected by merit of their 4-H work in Boone County, and spend a week with "foster parents" in Nebraska, with expenses paid by the Kiwanis Club. Upon their return home they are invited to a club meeting to give their impressions of the trip and farm life in Nebraska.

The Kiwanis Club in Ottumwa has "gone the second mile" in its endeavor to cultivate friendly relations with the farmers. The agricultural committee invites three farmers from a given area to attend Kiwanis for three consecutive meetings. Each three weeks a different group of farmers from another section of the county will be guests of the club, with the climax coming at the annual Farm-City banquet in the fall. This plan ultimately may lead to increased numbers of farmers joining Kiwanis.

The Committee on Support of Churches and Spiritual Aims seeks to promote religious interests

in many areas. It advocates that Kiwanians so live that their families will understand the meaning of "giving primacy to spiritual values." It believes in the support of churches as the foundations upon which the spiritual values of life are built. It favors religious education for all who desire it and advocates invocations, especially by lay members, at all club meetings. It emphasizes special topics for Easter, National Brotherhood Week, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It gives encouragement to activities and interests that will stimulate cooperation, friendliness, and good fellowship in all areas of community life.

Kiwanis Administration

For the promotion of friendly associations each Kiwanis Club has a Committee on Inter-Club Relations to stimulate attendance at divisional meetings and at District and International conventions.

A relatively new approach to the study of public service is now being advanced by the Kiwanis International CQ program — "CQ" standing for Citizenship Quotient. Just as "IQ" has come to mean the measure of a man's intelligence, so does CQ represent an individual's citizenship accomplishment measured against his citizenship potential. The CQ program provides a tool of self-appraisal. It presents a series of questions, which if answered fairly, will give the individual an adequate measurement of himself. It is like looking in a mirror to see if one is measuring up to his best.