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Kiwanis Michigan District AKTION CLUB

Michigan District Aktion Clubs Are Alive and Well

by J. Gordon Schleicher

Michigan Aktion Clubs have been something for Kiwanians to be proud of. The number of these Kiwanis Clubs for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities grew to 35 in 2020. Over the last two years though, the Covid Pandemic has affected our Kiwanis clubs and Service Leadership Program clubs. Some Aktion Clubs ceased to function because of closing of agencies that supported them and loss of advisors. But others continued meeting and doing community service. Read below how one Michigan Aktion Club used Zoom to continue to meet online and how other Aktion Clubs are returning to life as the pandemic restrictions are being lifted.

In other good news, this year will mark the return of the Aktion Club Convention in Vestaburg Michigan September 16-17. As usual the convention will feature fun outdoor activity, training for club officers, election of an Aktion Club Governor, club awards, advisor sharing and oh yes, a dance. And the Aktion Club E-newsletter has returned with an issue this month.

As a past Aktion Club Administrator for 14 years, I now serve as interim administrator. Amy Urick, advisor for the Tri-cities Aktion Club, will be the new Aktion Club administrator. She has many years of Kiwanis and Aktion Club experience. We are updating the Aktion Club directory of clubs and contact information so reach out to myself or Amy. Our contact info is listed in the sidebar.



Resources for Restarting Clubs

The last two years have been challenging for all of us. Aktion Club members and volunteers are getting back to attending events and meetings, and it's time to get back to service. **Learn more about the Homecoming campaign: www.aktionclub.org/homecoming**

Additional resources for advisors:
www.aktionclub.org/advisor-e-newsletter



Kiwaniis Aktion Clubs Summer Fun Day!



Lugnuts vs. Beloit Skycarp — Wednesday, June 22nd @ 1:05pm

- Come out for Summer Fun Day with the Lugnuts!
- Get pre-game autographs and meet Big Lug! Don't forget about the inflatables and Big Lug's Playground!
- Group recognition on the scoreboard and public address system during the game!
- Group Raffle - One lucky member from your group will win a special prize!

TICKET ORDER FORM

Order Deadline: Friday, May 20th

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Box Tickets: _____ @ \$11.00 = _____

of Hot Dog Lunch Vouchers _____
@ \$6

Please mail this form with payment for your entire group to:
Jake Darnell at 505 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912

Please make checks payable to: Lansing Lugnuts

For any questions or to order by phone please contact: Jake
Darnell at jdarnell@lansinglugnuts.com or (517)-827-2582



St. Louis Center Aktion Club — Chelsea, MI

J. Gordon Schleicher, Advisor

The St. Louis Center Aktion Club began meeting this year decorating 80 Valentine Cards for SLC staff, caregivers and nurses. The cards contained a prayer to Saint Louis to watch over and protect SLC residents and workers. Each year the club makes and sells Christmas cards as their primary fundraiser. The St. Louis Center is a residential community for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since 1960 the Servants of Charity Congregation of Italy has administered the residential care and life skills training for its 70 residents. The Chelsea Kiwanis Club is privileged to support SLC ministry and Aktion Club.



SLC Carlie Hartwick helps St. Louis Center Aktion Club members

*The attendees
of the last
convention in
September 2019.*

*We're looking
forward to a
great event
this year!*



SAVE THE DATE

Aktion Club Convention 2022

Attend either day, or
both. More info
to come.

Theme: Western attire,
with flamingo flair!

Friday and Saturday,
September 16-17

Rock Lake Christion
Assembly Camp
**7389 Vestaburg Road
Vestaburg MI 48891**
<https://www.rlca.org/>





Christmas Party Fun

Charlevoix-Bergmann Center Aktion Club

by Ed Buday, first Administrator of Michigan Aktion Clubs

The Charlevoix-Bergmann Center Aktion Club after two years of shut-down has resumed action after being an active club since 1999. The shut-down has affected our members in many ways. Thanks to the Bergmann Centers staff whose Love and constant encouragement enabled us to not lose hope and to Tracy Edger, our Advisor, whose support never ended and the Charlevoix Kiwanis Club.

A Christmas Party put on by the Bergmann Centers Staff became our first gathering. The Bergmann Center clients, family members and all Aktion Club members were invited. Everyone looked great as the attire was very cheerful. The time together was joyful with lots of laughter and fun.

After the Holiday Season and a new year, we had our first Aktion Club meeting. It was an experience to witness!! Constant suggestions and ideas as topics were discussed. Seems like everyone had an idea to help



First Meeting of the Year

meet the needs in our community. For fundraisers a chili cook-off took place on Valentine Day and a Pasty Drive is in the works. Our summer schedule includes a baseball game in Traverse City, a Bowl-a-Thon and the Aktion Club Convention.



Chili Cook-Off Winner

CONTESTS

Congratulations 2020-21 winners!

The new virtual platform for collecting submissions also enables Kiwanis to share winning entries.

Learn more here: www.aktionclub.org/awards-and-recognition/



Tri-Cities Aktion Club — Grand Haven/Spring Lake

Amy Urick, Advisor

Our club didn't miss a beat when covid hit — the members jumped right onto Zoom and continued meeting every week, switching to Facebook Messenger video chats to accommodate members who couldn't use Zoom. Some members were called by phone during each meeting so they could hear and speak that way. Through the summer months we met outdoors at parks in Spring Lake and Grand Haven, made cards for nursing homes, volunteered at the Community Garden in Grand Haven, and raised funds by selling candy bars at outdoor concerts. Members saw that a community micro-pantry was constantly empty and stepped up to shop and fill it with the money they raised. This winter we were able to continue meeting indoors with our masks on thanks to the generosity of the Momentum Center in Grand Haven.



Volunteering in the Community Garden



Selling candy at the Spring Lake Heritage Festival Concert



Shopping for the Momentum Center's Micro Pantry

SERVICE IDEAS

Meeting the needs of a community or agency requires some research and effective projects. This could be a fundraising project to support an agency's needs, planting flowers at a nursing home or making cards for sick children. Whatever service or fundraising projects a club chooses, there are many resources to help.

LEARN MORE:
www.aktionclub.org/service-and-fundraising/

