

Induction of new members

The induction of new members is a special opportunity to welcome people into your club. This step is a memorable experience that helps the new members feel like they're a part of something important—your club. When you invest in their introduction, you let new members know they're valued and appreciated.

Some clubs have a formal—or maybe even unique—tradition for welcoming new members. That's great! Whatever your club's method, you can use these ideas to help make the experience personal. Regardless of how you do it, be sure that it happens, it's timely and it reflects your club's style and spirit.

IDEA 1: OPEN WITH THE KIWANIS OBJECTS

Ask the sponsoring member and the new member to come to the front of the room. Introduce the new member to everyone in attendance (or have the new member introduce him- or herself). As a way to reaffirm everyone's commitment to the ideals of the club, read the six Objects of Kiwanis. These Objects have been unchanged since 1924, and every member who has joined since has agreed to these common principles. Offer the new member his or her Kiwanis membership pin and certificate.

IDEA 2: STICK TO A SCRIPT

Here's a suggested format for those clubs that prefer to follow a formal script.

PRESIDENT:

Kiwanis is something so good that each of us loves to share it. What better way to show our love for our club and our community than to welcome a new member into our club? Today we're very pleased to welcome _____ (new member) to our club. He/she is sponsored by _____ (sponsoring Kiwanian). _____ (sponsor), would you please introduce us to _____ (new member)?

SPONSOR:

Thank you. I take great pride in presenting our newest member, _____ (new member). (share information that the new member is comfortable sharing with those in attendance) I'm honored to be _____ (new member's) sponsor.

PRESIDENT:

We welcome you to this global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. Would you, _____ (sponsor), please place the pin on _____'s (new member) lapel? (Sponsor pins new member with "K" member pin.)

_____ (new member), by presenting you with this certificate of membership, I welcome you, on behalf of the entire membership, into the Kiwanis Club of _____.
(Present membership certificate to the new member.)

_____ (sponsor), the club thanks you for your willingness to share the values of service and fellowship in Kiwanis with _____ (new member). A new member for our club means new ideas, new enthusiasm, greater fellowship—and greater service. (If there is some recognition piece for the sponsor, it can be presented now.)

Today we have brought into our club a new member. Let's all stand and welcome _____ (new member)! (Applause) As we adjourn, I would encourage you to introduce yourself to _____ (new member) and let him/her know why you love our club and what you love to do for our club and community. Thank you!

Transition: timeline

Your year of service as club president involves two big transitions for your club: your preparation as incoming president and your follow-through as you become immediate past president. Here's a synopsis of some of the tasks the club president will coordinate to make the transitions seamless.

By September 30, host your club president's planning conference to plan for the coming Kiwanis year (see pages 62–63 for details).

At the first or second regular club meeting in October, schedule your club president's address to introduce new club leadership and to share major goals, the annual budget and a schedule of events for the upcoming year (see page 64 for details).

During a regular club meeting between January 1 and May 15, hold your annual club meeting to elect officers and directors for the following year and hear annual reports from the club president, secretary and treasurer (see pages 65–67 for details).

At the end of September or beginning of October, conduct the installation of club officers and directors (see pages 68–72 for details).