

Centennial Kiwanis Internet Club

Two evenings into the Kiwanis International Governor Elect training, seven new Governors-Elect gathered for dinner. Gary Cooper (Carolinas District), Chuck Gugliuzza (Florida District), Diana Keplinger (Ohio District), Steve McNally (Nebraska-Iowa District), Bob Munger (Pacific Northwest District), Bob Raub (Pennsylvania District), and Sherry Scudder (Minnesota-Dakotas District) started the evening off recapping the first days of training. As the conversation continued, the group brain-stormed ideas about how to lead their respective Kiwanis Districts in "The Way Ahead" over the next years. While discussing the challenges identified by Kiwanis International President-Elect Dr. John Button, one concept identified was to form an Internet Kiwanis Club comprising (primarily) members of the Governors-Elect class.

Governor-Elect Steve from the Nebraska Iowa District exclaimed "Wouldn't it be great"! Others expanded on the idea. "Wouldn't it be great" to use the Internet Club to stay connected, to share ideas, and to support each other as we work through our Governor-Elect year. "Wouldn't it be great" to continue the club as we grow into our District Governor roles, inviting the next class of District Governor-Elects to join and to build synergy in moving Kiwanis forward into the new centennial. "Wouldn't it be great" to show the Kiwanis world what can happen with creative thinking, a common purpose, and dedicated members working toward yet-to-be-developed common goals. The idea for a new club was born!

The group agreed that if a new Internet club could be chartered, a surprise announcement to Kiwanis International President-Elect Dr. John Button would be in order. At this point, Dr. John had led our class for two days -- inspiring the group to be creative leaders, to think out of the box, and to communicate with each other frequently. He challenged us to grow Kiwanis, support Project Eliminate, and celebrate the Kiwanis Centennial. Dr. John also encouraged us to have fun, enjoy fellowship, and perform relevant service in our respective districts as Governors-Elect and Governors.

As with organizing any new club, recruitment was the next step. For the Centennial club, recruitment began next day. For the fledgling Internet club, it was by individual word of mouth to ensure Dr. John would not become aware of the surprise we might have in store for him. The intent was to hold an organization meeting that evening, if a minimum of 15 prospective members could be found. Since enthusiasm for the new Internet club was easily generated, the number quickly surpassed 15. The organizational meeting was held late that evening, and initial dues were collected from 24 members. Since the group was inspired by Dr. John, he was unanimously recruited in absentia for the new organization.

As required with any new club, an election of officers and board of directors was held. Bob Raub was elected as President, Brian Bell (Capital District) as Secretary/Treasurer, and Diana Keplinger, Hilde Meyer (Norden District), and Jim Smith (Indiana District) as Directors. Club bylaws were voted on, and minutes of the organizational meeting were prepared. All the necessary paperwork and new member fees were hand delivered to the Kiwanis International Headquarters the following morning by Bob Raub, Bob Munger and Brian Bell. It was a great day, or so we thought.

However, enthusiasm chilled when a few members of the Governors-Elect class, who became aware of the club building efforts after the fact, felt excluded. They expressed their disappointment and reservations about how the process was handled. Although the intent had always been to offer membership to everyone, once the charter strength was achieved, this had not been effectively communicated.

After sleeping on the situation, our newly elected "class president", Brian Bell suggested that we try to clear the air and hopefully allow the new club to move forward with the support of all the class members. He scheduled our first class meeting to be held that afternoon. Of course, wishing to maintain a level of secrecy to avoid spoiling the surprise for our International President-Elect, the class meeting needed to be clandestine as well. At the class meeting, Steve McNally provided a comprehensive explanation of how the idea for the Internet Club was born and how the process played out from there. Some members were still upset.

The class therefore voted to withdraw the paperwork and postpone formation of the new club. This permitted more time to address the concerns of the class members, and to give them the information they needed to decide whether they wished to join this new venture. Hopefully, providing answers to their appropriate and reasonable questions would reenergize our organizational efforts. Needless to say, some left the Governors-Elect training wondering if the Centennial Internet Kiwanis Club would ever be formed.

As the holidays approached, some of the prospective members of the new club continued to work through the concerns that were raised during the class meeting. Internet meeting software plans were explored and some testing of on-line discussions was conducted. A key milestone was the confirmation that all 24 original members were still committed to seeing the formation of the new Internet club. Other class members expressed interest and submitted applications to join the club as well. A decision was made to move ahead after most of the class reconvened in Indianapolis for the Service Leadership Program (SLP) Conference in January.

By this time, more than six additional members had signed on, and another class meeting was held. The Governors-Elect in attendance were told of the continued interest in forming this

new Internet club and that the application for charter would be submitted. On January 10, 2014, the application to charter the Centennial Internet Kiwanis Club was formally submitted to Kiwanis International with the names of 34 initial members representing most of the North American Districts and six districts in the European Federation and Asia-Pacific.

The way forward for this new club remains a work in progress. However, club members are already offering ways to provide service, raise funds, and be a productive club in our Kiwanis family.

Formation of our Centennial eKiwani Club

October 2014 Newsletter article

The new Centennial Internet Club is a rare Kiwanis club in several ways. It's one of the relatively new breed of clubs existing in the digital world. It received its charter at a Kiwanis International convention: the 99th annual convention in Japan this past July, to be exact. And it has one of the most geographically diverse memberships of any Kiwanis club anywhere with members from 10 nations.

It all started, explains charter President Bob Raub, two evenings into the Kiwanis International Governors-Elect training in November 2013, when seven of the future district leaders gathered for dinner.

"By this time," Raub says, "Dr. John had led our class for two days, inspiring the group to be creative leaders, to think out of the box and to communicate with one another frequently as we experience ways to grow Kiwanis, increase our Eliminate impact and to enjoy fellowship in our respective districts. It was discussed that should a new Internet club be chartered, a surprise announcement to Kiwanis International 2014-15 President Button would be in order.

"As with any new club, recruitment took place the next day. For the fledgling club, it was by secretive individual word of mouth to ensure Dr. John would not get word of the surprise we might have in store for him. The intent was to hold an organizational meeting that evening if the requisite 15 members could be identified (for chartering).

Enthusiasm easily generated well more than 15 interested individuals, and the organizational meeting took place late that evening with initial dues collected from 24 members. Since the group was inspired by Dr. John, he was unanimously recruited in absentia for the new organization.

"As required with any new club, an election was held with Brian Bell selected as secretary/treasurer; myself (Raub) as president and Diana Keplinger, Hilde Meyer and Jim Smith were elected board members.

"Other governors-elect expressed interest and submitted applications to join the club.

"On January 10, the Centennial Internet Kiwanis Club's application for charter was formally submitted to Kiwanis International with the names of 34 initial members.

"At the 99th Kiwanis International Convention in Japan, the Centennial club's charter was presented to the club by one its members, Kiwanis International President-designate John Button. Shortly after presenting the charter, Dr. Button received his charter member certificate and pin, along with 18 other club members.

"The club is doing things. Service hours are accumulating as individual members perform service attributed to the Centennial club, and the club supports The Eliminate Project with one Walter Zeller already attributed to one of its members. A service project for the 100th Anniversary celebration in Detroit, Michigan, is planned, and the creativity of members continues to suggest other ideas for service.

"Although membership is not limited to the 2014-15 class of governors, it is the hope of the Centennial club to attract new members from among the next class of governors in order to turn over this new club to new members with new ideas for service throughout the world."



Kiwanis®

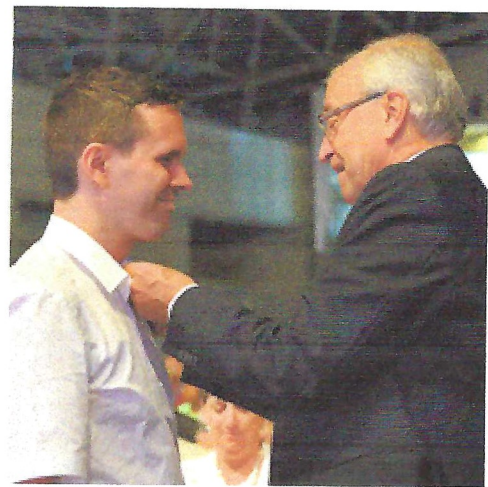
PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT

Centennial E-club opens



Nov 09, 2014 | Posted in Newsroom

The new Centennial Internet Club is a rare Kiwanis club in several ways. It's one of the relatively new breed of clubs existing in the digital world. It received its charter at a Kiwanis International convention: the 99th annual convention in Japan this past July, to be exact. And it has one of the most geographically diverse memberships of any Kiwanis club anywhere with members from 10 nations.



It all started, explains charter President Bob Raub, two evenings into the Kiwanis International Governors-Elect training in November 2013, when seven of the future district leaders gathered for dinner.

“By this time,” Raub says, “Dr. John had led our class for two days, inspiring the group to be creative leaders, to think out of the box and to communicate with one another frequently as we experience ways to grow Kiwanis, increase our Eliminate impact and to enjoy fellowship in our respective districts. It was discussed that should a new Internet club be chartered, a surprise announcement to Kiwanis International 2014-15 President Button would be in order.

“As with any new club, recruitment took place the next day. For the fledgling club, it was by secretive individual word of mouth to ensure Dr. John would not get word of the surprise we might have in store for him. The intent was to hold an organizational meeting that evening if the requisite 15 members could be identified (for chartering).

Enthusiasm easily generated well more than 15 interested individuals, and the organizational meeting took place late that evening with initial dues collected from 24 members. Since the group was inspired by Dr. John, he was unanimously recruited in absentia for the new organization.

“As required with any new club, an election was held with Brian Bell selected as secretary/treasurer; myself (Raub) as president and Diana Keplinger, Hilde Meyer and Jim Smith were elected board members.

“Other governors-elect expressed interest and submitted applications to join the club.

“On January 10, the Centennial Internet Kiwanis Club’s application for charter was formally submitted to Kiwanis International with the names of 34 initial members.

“At the 99th Kiwanis International Convention in Japan, the Centennial club’s charter was presented to the club by one its members, Kiwanis International President-designate John Button. Shortly after presenting the charter, Dr. Button received his charter member certificate and pin, along with 18 other club members.

“The club is doing things. Service hours are accumulating as individual members perform service attributed to the Centennial club, and the club supports The Eliminate Project with one Walter Zeller already attributed to one of its members. A service project for the 100th Anniversary celebration in Detroit, Michigan, is planned, and the creativity of members continues to suggest other ideas for service.

“Although membership is not limited to the 2014-15 class of governors, it is the hope of the Centennial club to attract new members from among the next class of governors in order to turn over this new club to new members with new ideas for service throughout the world.”

For more information, click [here](#)

2793 Old Post Road; Ste. 12
Harrisburg PA 17110

Phone: **717-540-9300**
Toll free: **717-540-9300**
Fax: **717-540-1018**
Website: <http://www.pakiwanis.org/>

© Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International. All rights reserved.

[content management, website design, e-commerce and web development services in Erie, Pennsylvania](#)