

# THE AKTION CONNECTION

NEWS FROM AKTION CLUB

## June 2011

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Registration is now OPEN! Once you confirm your invitation with your district administrator, you can go online to: [www.aktionclub.org/tlc](http://www.aktionclub.org/tlc) to register. Remember that each district has an initial limit of 6 people and there will be a waiting list.

Other exciting updates include booking keynote speaker, Brett Eastburn. Brett was born with no arms and no legs and considers himself to have no disabilities. He is an inspirational speaker, as well as a comedian. Check out his [website](#).



## Aktion Club survey

A special thanks to all of you who participated in the Aktion Club survey that was sent out last month! This survey was designed to gather some general information so we can have a better understanding of who our members are. In addition, we want to ensure that our marketing materials reflect our members correctly. The survey was designed so as to keep the members' privacy intact. We will use the information collected internally for the purposes listed above. Thanks again!

## Have you heard the news?

There is big news to share about our clubs! Aktion Club has reached an all time membership high. The current membership is at 9839! Let's continue to grow our clubs and make sure our members enjoy a positive club experience while making their communities a better place to live!

## Featured Club

### "Time For Aktion"

By, Aktion Club Member, Michael Edward L.

It's time for Aktion, make your reaction,  
We can save the Earth, in return for our birth,  
Help those in need, there are plenty to feed,  
We can show the way, just listen to what I say,  
It's time for Aktion, make your reaction,  
Get up & ring the bell, make it all be well,  
Join us & do right, our bond of will is tight,  
You have a choice, just hear my voice,  
It's time for Aktion, make your reaction,  
Don't let the boat fail, we must build a sail,  
United around the rock, we form one big lock,  
You can do it you can be, just repeat after me,  
It's time for Aktion, make your reaction,  
Yes we can do it all, even if we fall,  
We are one big chain, nothing we can't gain,  
If trouble you shall find, just keep in mind,  
It's time for Aktion, make your reaction.

- Michael is a writer, animator, director/editor of film, balloon artist, actor & graphic designer; therefore he appropriately calls himself, "Multi Media Mike". Michael is also a charter member of the Aktion Club of Morris County, New Jersey. He has held the office of treasurer twice, & has been an active member of the club's fundraising committee from the beginning.

To have your club featured in this newsletter, send information to:  
[kgriffin@kiwanis.org](mailto:kgriffin@kiwanis.org).

## Resources for You!



"Stand Among Friends" is a non-profit organization located in Florida that was formed to help all people with disabilities. Their mission statement is: "To promote opportunities for people with disabilities to live a life without limits and experience the highest degree of independence and success in their communities." They have many resources online that could be helpful. They offer programs regarding Employment for People with Disabilities, Disability Sensitivity, Assistive Technology Center & Off-site Demonstrations, Vocational Evaluations, American Sign Language interpreters and Injury Prevention for Individuals with sensitivity loss. In addition to programs, the agency produces and airs an educational television show on the Education Network on Comcast Cable in Palm Beach County. The show, "Life Without Limits," discusses numerous topics of importance to people with disabilities.

## Film Examines Down Syndrome And Higher Learning

A new documentary takes a look at the idea of inclusion through the case of an Oregon woman with Down syndrome who was barred from auditing a university course. This [film](#), "Hold My Hand," was created by four college students and is being entered into a handful of film festivals.

## In the News

### Rosa's Law and Legislature Challenges

U.S. President Barack Obama officially signed bill S. 2781 into federal law on October 5, 2010. Rosa's Law, which takes its name and inspiration for 9-year-old Rosa Marcelino, removes the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from federal health, education and labor policy and replaces them with people first language "individual with an intellectual disability" and "intellectual disability." The signing of Rosa's Law is a significant milestone in establishing dignity, inclusion and respect for all people with intellectual disabilities.



The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. They encompass all ages and all spectrums: autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X and various other developmental disabilities.

The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Many of our Aktion Clubs are affiliated with The Arc because there is a natural connection between the two. If your club is not in contact with your local Arc, you are encouraged to reach out to this organization. They have a wealth of information that could help our members and our clubs! Make a commitment today to find your [local Arc](#) and see how you can work together!

**A service club for adults with disabilities.**



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