

THE AKTION CONNECTION



NEWS FROM AKTION CLUB

November 2011

In this issue:

- 2010-11 Contest Winners
- New Orleans TLC
- Featured Club
- Employment issues for disabled
- Member Dues

Aktion Club Contests

Winners for All Categories

Poster Contest

1st Place: Karen Young, Burbank For Fun Aktion Club, CNH District

2nd Place: David Anderson, Aktion Club of Freeborn County, MN-DAK District

3rd Place: Julie Blackmer, Raccoon Valley Aktion Club, NE-IA District

Scrapbook Contest

1st Place: West Hempstead Court, New York District

2nd Place: Burbank For Fun Aktion Club, CNH District

3rd Place: Highlands County Aktion Club, Florida District

Single Service Award

1st Place: Highlands County Aktion Club, Florida District

2nd Place: Arc Fresno Aktion Club, CNH District

3rd Place: Redwing Aktion Club, Minnesota-Dakotas District

Speech Contest

1st Place: Anna Maggio, WDSRA Aktion Club, Illinois-Iowa District

2nd Place: Matthew Herman, WISD Aktion Club, Michigan District

3rd Place: Rachel Schellenberg, Charis Community Aktion Club, CNH District

Congratulations to all contest participants! Trophies, medals, and patches will be mailed in early November. For more information on how your club can participate in the Aktion Club contests, please visit our [website](#).

Featured Club

2010-11 Single Service Contest Winner

The Highlands County Aktion Club wanted to help those in need for the holidays last season after discovering there were several low income families in their area who have children with disabilities in need. Originally, the club wanted to adopt three families; however, the response to this project was so big, that the club was able to adopt five families. The club members agreed that the kids needed not only food and clothing, but they must have toys for Christmas and have Santa Claus deliver them.

Children's Medical Service provided names for the families along with the sizes of their clothes and shoes and a list of educational toys needed, as well as toys on their wish list. A flyer was distributed on December 1, 2010 to all Aktion Club members, Kiwanis members and Ridge Area Arc staff to solicit, money food, clothing and toys. The Aktion Club president organized a group to do the shopping with the monetary donations; a separate group was set up to do the grocery shopping and others helped to organize all of the food, clothing and toys for each family. The club made sure that each child received 4-6 presents.

On December 16, a gift-wrapping party was held to make sure all the gifts were ready to be delivered. Nearly fifty Aktion Club members got to wrap packages in their own way with paper, bows, and tags. They were very proud of their work.

On December 22, the Aktion Club advisor, along with six Aktion elves, and Santa (the Aktion Club president), went out to deliver the presents to the families. Santa was a big hit, and everyone wanted to have their picture taken with him. The club advisor mailed pictures to the family after the event so they could remember the wonderful Christmas they had.

The Aktion Club impacted many lives during this project. The primary objective was to make the holiday bright for five families (22 people). During the delivery of the packages, the club spread holiday cheer to at least seven other families and/or individuals along the way, just by stopping with Santa and visiting.

The message sent out to the community was that people with disabilities can help themselves *and others*.

Club Dues

Has your club paid its 2011-12 dues yet? If not, now is the time! Just go to the [Membership Update Center](#) and update your club information, including new members, and print your invoice. Mail your invoice and check to Kiwanis International, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

To have your club featured in this newsletter, send information to:
kgriffin@kiwanis.org.

Having a Disability and Seeking Work in a Difficult Job Market



Gaining employment can be a difficult task for many individuals in this economy. Add a disability or two to the mix and it is a challenge that may overwhelm you. To help with this issue, the federal and state governments offer resources for individuals with disabilities who want to land a job. Here are

some of the resources listed on the [government's website](#).

- One Stop Career Centers offer many free services to assist job seekers. At these centers, you can find lists of job openings, use computers with Internet access to search for jobs, talk to career counselors about training for a new career and get help writing your resume. Find a [One-Stop Center](#) near you! All you will need to do is enter your city and state to get started.

- EARN, the Employer Assistance and Resource Network, offers online tools and resources to help job-seekers with disabilities find employment opportunities. You can also talk to an EARN Employment Specialist to learn more about local employment service providers by calling 1-866-327-6669 (EARN-NOW).
- Disability Program Navigators (DPNs) are professionals who work in select One-Stop Centers and are knowledgeable about programs and services available to assist people with disabilities in finding a job. Contact information for the DPN in your area can be found on the DPN state contact list.
- The Federal Employment section of the [government's website](#) contains information about jobs with the federal government. On the USAJOBS [website](#) you can sign up to receive e-mails about specific types of government jobs that are located in areas where you want to work. Federal agencies fill jobs two ways, competitively and non-competitively. Job seekers with disabilities may apply for either, as long as they meet the job's qualification requirements and are able to perform the essential duties of the job with or without reasonable accommodation.

Have you heard the news?

The Aktion Club Training and Leadership Conference is going to be in New Orleans, in June along with the Kiwanis and CKI International Conventions. Be sure to check out the videos and pictures from our inaugural Training and Leadership Conference in Indianapolis at: [flicker](#) and [You Tube](#) and [Facebook](#). Make plans to join us in New Orleans!

See you in New Orleans!

Swing on down to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the 2nd Annual Aktion Club Training and Leadership Conference.

The birthplace of jazz welcomes Aktion Club members, advisors and administrators to informative workshops, inspiring general sessions and the chance to connect with friends old and new.

More details to come on the Aktion Club website this fall. "Like" Aktion Club on Facebook--and get updates as they become available.

Kiwanis Aktion Club Service in Action

June 28-July 1, 2012
www.AktionClub.org

- Other resources are available at these websites:

[U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#)

[Talent Knows No Limits](#)

[Topeka Resource Center](#)

[United States Department of Labor](#)

Much of this information was taken from the October issue of the Exceptional Parent Magazine. It is full of valuable resources on disability issues. Check it out at: [Exceptional Parent Magazine](#).

Your Questions

What kinds of questions do you have about being an Aktion Club advisor or working with Aktion Club members? What types of information would help you to be more effective in your role? Please send your question to: kgriffin@kiwanis.org, and I will try to respond in the next edition of the Aktion Connection.

A service club for adults with disabilities.



Aktion Club
A Service Leadership Program
Kiwanis International
3636 Woodview Trace,
Indianapolis, IN 46268
Phone: 317-875-8755, ext.202
Fax: 317-879-0204