

THE AKTION CONNECTION



NEWS FROM AKTION CLUB

May 2011

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Activity Reports

Each quarter, Aktion Clubs should be completing an "Activity Report." This report collects data from your club about its activities, service projects, fundraising efforts, Kiwanis family events and number of service hours. It helps us understand all of the wonderful things our clubs are doing to better their communities and build relationships. If you are not aware of this report, you can find it on our website at:

www.aktionclub.org/resources.

This report should be turned in to your district administrator each quarter.

Our members

We are currently making a concerted effort to find out more about our Aktion Club members so we can better serve our clubs. Will you help us? If you work hands on with our club members, please take a few minutes to complete the following survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Aktionadvisorsurvey>

We would love to have responses from all districts! Please forward to anyone you feel appropriate.

Pacific Northwest District "Signs In" with Kiwanis Camp

Northwest Kiwanis Camp is a summer camp for children and adults with disabilities located in Washington State. Sonja, who attends camp there, brought to the attention of the Anacortes Aktion Club that their sign at the foot of the road was very small and inadequate. After corresponding with the Kiwanis Camp, our club voted and agreed to have a proper sign made.

On April 9th, club officers, Laurie Mueller, President, Julie Edwards, Vice President, Sonja Erlandson, Secretary, Austin Schafer, Treasurer, member James Walker along with advisors, Karen Edwards, Doug Erlandson and myself made a ferry trip to Port Townsend to deliver a sign we had made for the Northwest Kiwanis Camp. We boarded the Kingston Ferry on Whidbey Island and took the sign to the camp in Port Townsend. Sharron Sherfick, Kiwanis camp coordinator, greeted us and was very excited and pleased with the sign. Actually, we presented them with two signs. A large one to replace the one at the foot of the road and another sign for the side of their building. Sharron and her group of fellow Kiwanians were very gracious to us. Cody, a camp counselor, gave us a tour of the grounds and showed us through the camp building, sharing their dreams for improvements and expansion in the future.

It was a great experience for the Anacortes Aktion Club to help the Northwest Kiwanis Camp with their signage issues. They felt the real benefit of helping others in the gift of giving.

— Jeri Liggitt



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

Why "intellectual disability" is replacing "mental retardation"

The R-word, "retard," is slang for the term mental retardation. Mental retardation was what doctors, psychologists, and other professionals used to describe people with significant intellectual impairment. Today the r-word has become a common word used by society as an insult for someone or something stupid. For example, you might hear someone say, "That is so retarded" or "Don't be such a retard." When used in this way, the r-word can apply to anyone or anything, and is not specific to someone with a disability. But, even when the r-word is not said to harm someone with a disability, it is hurtful.

Because of this, Special Olympics and the greater disability community prefers to focus on people and their gifts and accomplishments, and to dispel negative attitudes and stereotypes. As language has evolved, Special Olympics has updated its official terminology to use standard, people-first language that is more acceptable to our athletes. For more information, go to: www.r-word.org.

Top 10 Companies for Individuals with Disabilities

What makes a company a good employer for people with disabilities (and their allies)? It isn't just accommodations and flexible work schedules, although those are certainly important. Information collected as part of The 2011 DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity® survey shows these companies make a concerted effort to recruit, retain and promote people with disabilities and to create an inclusive corporate culture for people with both physical and hidden disabilities.

No. 1: [IBM](#)

No. 2: [KPMG](#)

No. 3: [Kaiser Permanente](#)

No. 4: [Aetna](#)

No. 5: [Ernst & Young](#)

No. 6: [Procter & Gamble](#)

No. 7: [Merck & Co.](#)

No. 8: [Deloitte](#)

No. 9: [Sodexo](#)

No. 10: [Starwood Hotels & Resorts World-](#)

This information was provided by DiversityInc.

TLC Update

The Aktion Club Training and Leadership Conference planning is moving along. District administrators will be receiving their "Save the Date" postcards to distribute to those in the district who are invited to attend the TLC. Please contact your district administrator to express interest and for more details.

A keynote speaker has been booked for our event! His name is Cory Johnson. Being born with Cerebral Palsy and suffering a stroke at the age of 11 has not deterred Cory Johnson from living life to the fullest. He uses his life experiences, inspiration and education to overcome the barriers that others impose on him. In addition, Cory is a Kiwanian! Cory was a volunteer at the age of 17 at Kamp Kiwanis. That is when he discovered the possibilities he had within himself. He went on to join Kiwanis, become president of his club, become Lt. Governor and now Governor Elect of the Western Canada District.

He encourages his audiences to see new possibilities within themselves and others. With his own perception on life, he'll challenge you to remove some of your barriers.

We are thrilled to have Cory speak at our Training and Leadership Conference. He is truly an inspiration to all!

A service club for adults with disabilities.



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