

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### Tips for effective member recognition

**Say their name.** People like to hear their name.

**Report their contributions to others.** Share with others how much you appreciate their contributions to the club and how glad you are they belong to the club.

*Silent gratitude  
isn't much use  
to anyone.  
-G.B. Stern*

**Applaud extra effort.** Give special notice when someone goes "the extra mile."

**Make it a priority.** Designate a member of your club to be responsible for ongoing recognition of members. Also, encourage all members to consistently point out what others have done for the club.

**Write it.** A handwritten note is one of the best accepted and most valued forms of recognition.

**Do it often.** Effective recognition happens on a consistent, frequent and informal basis—begin with saying "thank you" often!

**Do it in different ways.** Vary your recognition efforts from informal thank-yous and spontaneous treats to more formal events, such as dinners and awards.

**Be sincere.** When you recognize a member, mean it and make it an opportunity to truly reflect on his or her value to your club.

**Recognize the person, not the work.** Phrase the recognition to emphasize the contribution of the member, not the end result. "You worked so hard!" as opposed to, "This is a great party!"

**Make it appropriate.** Match the level of gratitude to the level of effort or achievement.

**Make it clear.** Be as specific as you can about why you're providing the recognition.

**Be consistent.** Establish standards of recognition that can be consistently maintained in years to come and across the board. For instance, creating a member-of-the-year award sets up an expectation for the future. Consistent and regular recognition prevents some achievements from being overlooked.

**Be timely.** The recognition has more impact when given soon after the member's contribution.

**Make it unique.** Getting to know your members and their interests will help you learn how best to recognize individuals and make each person feel special.

# Say thanks the Kiwanis way

## 1-2-3 You Hold the Key!

Say “thank you” to those members who make Kiwanis available for more people. Recognize them with a gift:

**Bronze** key lapel pin when they recruit 1 new member

**Silver** key lapel pin when they recruit 2 new members

**Gold** key lapel pin when they recruit 3 new members

## Ruby K Award

Show appreciation for those Kiwanians who recruit five or more new members during their Kiwanis career with a Ruby K Award, free of charge. Ruby K pins recognize members for recruiting new members—from five up to 100 people.

## Distinguished members

Distinguished awards are given by Kiwanis International to recognize members of your club who are especially dedicated to service, growth and Kiwanis education, and meet established criteria. These awards also are given to recognize clubs and divisions. Distinguished members receive a lapel pin and special recognition at the Kiwanis International convention.

## Life membership

Thank a member who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the Objects and objectives of Kiwanis International with life member status. A gold-tone membership card, desktop award, distinctive lapel pin, lifelong exemption from international dues and more are given to members who are granted life membership.

## Legion of Honor

Extend a token of appreciation to members who have served in Kiwanis for more than 25 years with the Legion of Honor award. These dedicated individuals deserve recognition for having helped make Kiwanis the great organization it is today. Appropriate certificates signed by the international president and the CEO of Kiwanis International, as well as attractive lapel pins which reflect the highest office held by the honoree, are available for presentation.

For information on these forms of recognition, contact Kiwanis International by calling 317-875-8755 or 800-KIWANIS, ext. 411 (US and Canada), or via e-mail to [memberservices@kiwanis.org](mailto:memberservices@kiwanis.org).

Volunteers don't get paid,  
not because they're worthless, but  
because they're priceless.  
—Sherry Anderson