



RUMOR VS. REALITY

INSTRUCTIONS: Fold page in half, cut cards apart on dotted line, and place them in a hat. Have people take a card as they come to your meeting or event. Ask someone to stand up and read a “rumor.” Then ask if anyone knows the real answer to that rumor. After everyone has chatted for a bit, ask the person with the card to flip it over to the “reality” side and read the answer. After all the cards have been read, ask whether there are any other rumors people have heard and discuss them.

Tools needed:

- Scissors
- Hat



REALITY: As clubs grow, we encourage them to review their traditions — including the time and date they meet — to be sure they work for everyone. Many clubs don’t meet once a week, sing songs or say the Pledge of Allegiance, yet they are strong clubs that give back to their communities.

RUMOR

Once we pick a time and date for our meetings, we can never change it.

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REALITY: Kiwanis is a non-denominational organization, open to all. You can say a prayer if the rest of your club agrees, but it is not a Kiwanis requirement. Clubs are also not required to say the pledge of allegiance but may do so if the entire club agrees.

RUMOR

Kiwanis is a Christian-based organization, so we must pray in every meeting.

REALITY: Other clubs may be successful in areas where your club is struggling — so reach out and take advantage of their knowledge. We can all learn from one another.

RUMOR

Don’t waste your time visiting other clubs, they’ve got nothing to teach you.

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REALITY: Each club reflects the members in it. You can borrow from old club traditions or create entirely new traditions unique to your club.



REALITY: We can all improve how we lead as we take on a leadership role. That's why Kiwanis has invested heavily in education and training. We encourage our leaders to take advantage of all that we have to offer.

REALITY: Each club is set up to serve its own community, so there is very little chance a member from a club will leave their current club and travel to join a new club.

REALITY: Service projects should reflect the interests of your members as well as the needs of the community. Since communities and clubs both change, it is always smart to review your projects for member interest and community impact.

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RUMOR

If you don't hold a traditional Kiwanis meeting, you aren't a "real" Kiwanis club.

RUMOR

You don't need training to lead in Kiwanis, you just need a loud voice and commanding attitude.

RUMOR

New clubs steal established club members, so help them at your own peril.

RUMOR

Clubs must do the same service projects over and over, or they will never become known for anything.

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REALITY: Attendance is not mandatory, though members are encouraged to attend meetings and events. We understand that things come up and you may not make it to every meeting or activity.



REALITY: Kiwanis attracts volunteers from all walks of life. If you need a lawyer, realtor, banker, teacher, plumber or mechanic, chances are, your Kiwanis club or district has someone who can help you.

REALITY: If members start to miss meetings — reach out. Something in their personal life may be preventing their attendance. One of the strengths of Kiwanis is the relationships we form. Offer to fill them in on what they missed and ask if the club can do anything to help them.

REALITY: Members can be recruited at any time. For example, winter is a great time to invite people. Projects such as making no-sew blankets can be the perfect setting for potential members to meet your club and see how you serve kids in your community.

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RUMOR

Kiwanis club attendance is mandatory.

RUMOR

Kiwanis is not a networking organization.

RUMOR

If members miss more than a couple of meetings, they are probably not strong members and you should just let them go.

RUMOR

The best time to recruit new members for Kiwanis is in the spring.

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REALITY: Benefactors don't want to support projects that are not working either. Establish a task force to examine what's working, what's not working and what can be improved. If the right decision is to stop doing the service project, then stop. Look for a new, mutually beneficial project or part ways with your current benefactor and find a new one.



REALITY: If your club is meeting weekly and during a mealtime, it may be worth examining changing the time, or alternating the day/time — particularly if your club is losing out on adding multiple members because of it.

REALITY: Any member can attend any convention and is encouraged to do so. Find out how people from other places are dealing with the challenges they face and be inspired to take your club to the next level.

REALITY: As a community organization, partnering is always a great idea. We can reach more people, gather more volunteers and make a bigger impact by partnering on projects.

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RUMOR

Our club service project doesn't have the same impact on the community it used to, but if we stop doing this project it will offend the benefactor.

RUMOR

Our club meets weekly at the same time and same location. New members must be able to meet when we do.

RUMOR

Kiwanis district and international conventions are just for leaders so no "regular" members should attend.

RUMOR

Partnering with other clubs on projects is a bad idea that always ends poorly.

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REALITY: Each club is responsible for keeping track of its service projects and the number of hours its members are dedicating to the community. In fact, knowing your impact is a great way to gain strong partners on projects.



REALITY: If you find Kiwanis is taking up too much time, ask yourself: Have I asked my club for help with this? Is there a faster, more efficient way to do this?

REALITY: We are all volunteers taking on responsibilities we may have never had the chance to take on before. Save time and energy by asking for help and learning from others.

REALITY: Becoming club president does not make you the dictator of your club. Members are volunteers and they need to be consulted, appreciated and recognized. Clubs that run on the “dictatorship” model tend to fade quickly.

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RUMOR

Kiwanis international has a large staff that will keep track of everything your club does and all the service hours of your members.

RUMOR

Joining a Kiwanis club is like taking on a second job — it takes up all your time and energy.

RUMOR

Kiwanis members and leaders who ask for help are generally thought of as weak and ineffectual.

RUMOR

When I become the club president, I can do whatever I want, and my club must do whatever I decide.

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REALITY: Things change in the world of Kiwanis — for example, the Kiwanis International Foundation is now the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. Regardless of how long you have been a member, it’s good to reacquaint yourself with the Objects of Kiwanis, the global campaign for children, your district’s projects, Kiwanis’ strategic vision — and more.



REALITY: Kiwanis is about impact. Sometimes that means bringing service organizations together to make a *larger* impact. Partnerships show that organizations can collaborate to improve the community — while each fulfills its own mission and contributes its particular strengths.

REALITY: The annual canned food drive for the local pantry is nice — but what if the organization needs specific items? Perhaps your next food drive becomes a peanut butter drive. Maybe your next no-sew blanket project is sports-related and includes more “masculine” fabrics because the hospital has too many pastel blankets. A simple call to the organization before you begin could make a huge difference in how your donations are received.

REALITY: The club secretary does more than reporting and acting as the club’s official contact. They maintain permanent records, share all communications from Kiwanis International, ensure the club follows brand standards and keep club bylaws up to date. So it’s good to refresh your skills. You can also become an asset at your district or division’s CLE training event. Sit next to a new club secretary and offer to mentor that person.

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RUMOR

I don’t need new member orientation — I joined in 1974.

RUMOR

If we partner with other service clubs, we lose what’s special about Kiwanis.

RUMOR

We don’t need to ask those we serve what would help them best — we just know.

RUMOR

I’ve been a club secretary for 15 years and will not learn anything from Club Leadership Education.