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Adopt-A-Club – Get JOVIAL

When meeting quality deteriorates, experienced members may disengage or form cliques, members may miss/skip meetings, others get burned out, or worse. These early warning signs, if addressed promptly, can ward off serious future problems and ensure people can take full advantage of the Toastmasters educational program. Enter 'Adopt-A-Club.'

Pre-Requisite

Leadership from potential adoptee club wants adoption. (No pressure. No coercion.)
Adopting club agrees to adopt the club, with appreciation of honoring the adopted club members.

What is Adopt-A-Club?

A club with members that understand quality meetings that meet member needs, 'adopts' a challenged club to improve quality of club meetings through awareness, interaction, and guidance.

How Long is the Adoption Period?

Six months; contact your Program Quality Director or Club Growth Director to get started.

When Should a Club Be Adopted?

Ideally, a club should be adopted before a club requires the DD/CGD to search for a Club Coach.

What Does Adoption Look Like?

At least three (3) members of adopting club become members of the adopted club. Other members from the adopting club are encouraged to visit. Adopting club members meet with adopted club to clarify club culture, current reason for existence, and member needs. Adopting club members encourage use of the Successful Club Series and Moments of Truth.

How Does It Work? - Get JOVIAL!

Each step must be completed before moving to the next step; though the last step should be throughout!

- Join: At least 3 adopting club members join adoptee club becoming dual members
- Observe: Dual members and others from adopting club (as available) attend and observe adoptee club meetings for at least 3 meetings (participating and fulfilling roles as requested by adoptee club)
- Visualize: Conduct discussion on ideal future state of the club and why the club was formed; include
 - Why adoptee club was created and whether the original reason is still valid. Modify as necessary.
 - What adoptee club likes and wants to keep as part of their club
 - What adopting club observed, using Toastmaster feedback standards (both positive and opportunities for improvement - specific, helpful, motivational)
 - What suggestions adopting club has for adoptee club
 - Standards of what the club will look/feel like in the future, include pre-meeting activities; list becomes foundation for a Meeting Quality Index (MQI), % of club-defined standards met, set by the club
- Create a club tagline or slogan (Vision/Mission module can spark discussion)
- Implement: Operate like envisioned club. Conduct Toastmaster modules (e.g. Creating the Best Club Climate, Moments of Truth, Meeting Roles & Responsibilities, Keeping the Commitment)
- Assess: Score the meeting each week using the MQI
- Learn and Laugh! Be serious about keeping it lite and find opportunities to laugh. Dr. Smedley says we learn most in moments of enjoyment. Ensure the experience and meetings are fun.

Can This Be Combined With A Club Coach Activity?

Yes. Club Coaches are often grateful for additional energy and participation, especially if Club Coaches are from adopting club.

Rewards?

District determination.

It's POSSIBLE!



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Courtesy TK O'Geary, DTM